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# Chimes

THE OFFICIAL STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF CALVIN COLLEGE SINCE 1907 | JANUARY 20, 2017 (REPRINTED MAY 2017) | Volume 111 - Issue 16

## Program offers career prep, scholarship



BY JOSH PARKS  
Editor-in-Chief

A new cross-curricular program will pay Calvin students to prepare for careers and life after college. Calvin LifeWork, which will launch next year, offers “modules” in four major categories: vocation, career readiness, leadership development and financial literacy.

Modules will be offered both in person and online, and they will progress throughout a student’s four years at Calvin. Each year will have a different focus depending on students’ needs during that stage of their education. From first year to senior year, these themes are

“discover,” “equip,” “experience” and “launch.”

*“We want people to think about vocation from the moment they arrive at Calvin, and we want them to think about it broadly.”*

The LifeWork program begins as soon as students arrive on campus or even before. Students can take the Jobzology career assessment once they’re admitted. First Year Seminar will act as one of the modules.

“We want people to think about vocation from the moment they arrive at Calvin, and we want them to think about it broadly,” said Sarah Visser, vice president of student life.

Upon completing all of the modules, students will earn a \$3,000 dollar scholarship during their senior year.

“We really believe that this program is a game-changer,” said TaRita Johnson, director of the career center. “It’s going to set Calvin apart from other colleges and universities. It’s paying students to prepare them.”

The task force that developed the program was led by Johnson and included faculty members as well as staff from advancement, financial aid and other college divisions. The project was chartered in September of 2015 and presented to the board of trustees in October of 2016.

SEE “LIFEWOR,” PAGE 3 ►

PHOTO COURTESY CALVIN.EDU

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“diversity” of children’s needs. She decried the “one-size-fits-all” model of public education and emphasized a return to local control, saying local communities must be “freed from burdensome regulations from Washington.”

*She decried the “one-size-fits-all” model of public education.*

Despite her stated passion for the unique needs of individual children, however, she deflected questions about the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), which ensures that public schools provide all the services necessary for children with disabilities without burdening the family with the cost.

SEE “DEVOS,” PAGE 5 ►

## Pro athletes create legacies

BY MARK PELESS  
Online Editor

In December of 2014, LeBron James was a couple of months into his return to the Cleveland Cavaliers. The Cavs, of course, were enjoying the dominating presence of their home-state superstar for the first year since James left Cleveland in order to “take [his] talents to South Beach and join the Miami Heat.”

*When political and cultural dialogue in this country is focused on inequality in various forms, premier athletes are stepping up and lending their voices.*

At 12-7 and having won six games in a row, James’s Cavs walked into Brooklyn with momentum. The NBA itself was on the cusp of revitalization with the emergence of Stephen Curry

and the Golden State Warriors, and several teams in both the East and West harboring top-tier teams and players. The storyline with James and the Cavs seemed to add more spice to an ever-changing basketball narrative.

The story that night in Brooklyn wasn’t about Kevin Love’s double-double, Dion Waiters scoring 24 off the bench or the continual inconsistency from the Nets.

The Cavs ended up winning by 22 points, and had to travel back to Cleveland the next day to play the 15-4 Toronto Raptors. Still, the story which resonated on television networks and news websites was a t-shirt.

Warming up for the game, James was wearing a black shirt with white lettering: “I CAN’T BREATHE.” James wasn’t the only player on the court wearing the shirt; his teammate Kyrie Irving and Nets players Deron Williams and Kevin Garnett were wearing similar shirts. It started a few days earlier when the shirt was first worn by Chicago Bulls star Derrick Rose.

SEE “ACTIVISM,” PAGE 4 ►



PHOTO COURTESY NEWSWEEK

## Senate grills DeVos

BY CAROLYN MUYSKENS  
Local Editor

The Senate confirmation hearing for Betsy DeVos, nominee to head the Department of Education, allowed DeVos to express her passion for school choice and respond to criticism relating to conflicts of interest. But at times the hearing revealed gaps in her knowledge of the field of education.

DeVos’s hearing, which was before the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, began at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 17.

Republicans spent much of their questioning time — five minutes allotted to each senator — building a case for DeVos’s confirmation, praising her efforts to create more options for school choice and confirming with DeVos that she would return educational policy decisions to state and local control.

Throughout the hearing, DeVos had little time to speak herself besides in an opening statement. Republican senators asked questions that could often be answered with a sim-

ple, “I look forward to working with you on this issue.”

Democratic senators, in contrast to the Republicans, felt the urgency of the five-minute question limit and pressed DeVos to explain her views on issues such as the privatization of public education, campus sexual assault, the high rates of failure in Michigan charter schools and how DeVos would ensure that federal civil rights laws be upheld in schools receiving taxpayer money through a voucher program.

*DeVos explained her views on issues such as the privatization of public education, campus sexual assault, the high rates of failure in Michigan charter schools.*

In DeVos’s opening statement, she framed school choice as the best way to approach the



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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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THE OFFICIAL STUDENT  
NEWSPAPER OF CALVIN  
COLLEGE SINCE 1907

## Highlights from the January Series

### "I'll Push You: A Story Of Radical Friendship"

BY HANNAH BUTLER  
Staff Writer

Steadfast friends Justin Skeesuck and Patrick Gray have known each other for 42 years. In fact, the two were born only 36 hours apart in the same hospital. As 20-year-olds, Skeesuck and Gray did not know the adventure that was in store for them in 2013. Skeesuck majored in graphic design, becoming one of three or four in his graduating class to succeed in his field after graduation. Gray became a nurse in bedside and trauma units, later working in hospital administration.

The two came to Calvin College in order to share about their 500-mile pilgrimage through northern Spain. They completed the popular French route of El Camino de Santiago in 2013 in a total of thirty-four days. The speakers sat side-by-side while they were being introduced by Jordan Daley, a graduate of Calvin who hiked El Camino de Santiago during a Calvin May interim.

"The concept of pilgrimage is different for every single person," Gray emphasized in a conversation with Calvin students before the talk. For Gray, it is the introspective nature of a pilgrimage that uniquely shapes every pilgrim's journey. For audiences across the nation, Skeesuck and Gray's journey is astounding for one key reason. By the winter of

2010, Skeesuck had lost mobility in 60-70 percent of his upper body and all his lower body, meaning that Gray and others were required to push Skeesuck and his 250-pound wheelchair the entire way.

Skeesuck was traveling for basketball with a friend when the truck they were in rolled off the highway at about eighty miles per hour. Six months later, Skeesuck noticed paralysis in his foot while playing soccer with friends, but it would take years for doctors to finally diagnosis the symptoms of the rare, life-threatening disease in his body.

Setting the tone for their talk, footage from their upcoming documentary, "I'll Push You," depicted the everyday challenges of the hike — Gray navigating the three-wheeled chair through mud-covered boulders and steep slate, brushing Skeesuck's teeth in the early morning, and weeping over the thought of losing his best friend to such a debilitating disease. Although the physical challenge of the pilgrimage was expected, one of the unexpected challenges for Skeesuck was "the monotonous nature of [the trail]."

"Because you just get up and walk 15-20 miles a day. Then do it again and again, times 34 ... and you just get into a rhythm after a while," Skeesuck explained. Later, talking about an approximately 150-mile stretch of Spanish plateau known as the Meseta, Skeesuck added that the Camino "does a lot to you because there is really nothing to look at, so you have a lot of mental kind[s] of things you're dealing with and working through."

During their presentation, Skeesuck and Gray told stories

from their time on the trail and how they received provision from complete strangers. For Skeesuck and Gray, the pilgrimage provided a space for them to connect with those around them. On a day that began in the valley of Villafranca and ended in a mountain town so high that clouds pass through the pastures, twelve fellow pilgrims waited at the base of the mountain pass to O Cebreiro. Without prompting from either Gray or Skeesuck, these pilgrims intended to help Gray carry Skeesuck in his wheelchair up the notoriously arduous mountain side. Alternating between bits of asphalt and winding dirt paths, the pilgrims hiked together, six holding up the wheelchair while six followed behind carrying two backpacks each. By the end of the day, the pilgrims were joined by a Spanish police escort, supporting their efforts as well.

"Humans have a hard time accepting help," Gray stated to the audience when they had finished showing photos of their jour-

ney up the mountainside. Yet, through this steep climb to O Cebreiro, Gray realized that "denying help from others is denying their joy in life." Evidence of his point were the big smiles at the end of the day on the faces of all those who had helped make that climb possible.

Gray and Skeesuck have been told time and again that they have an "abnormal relationship, especially between two guys in our culture." When asked in a Q&A session about the friendship between them, Gray stressed the importance of being intentional and pursuing time and adventure with each other. True to form, the duo's adventuring will not be stopping with the release of their documentary. Instead, Skeesuck and Gray are developing an idea for a television show in which both the Skeesuck and the Gray families would travel around the world completing "bucket list things" and highlighting an active non-profit organization in every location of each episode.



PHOTO COURTESY CALVIN.EDU

### "The EU and Global Governance"

BY MATT LEISTRA  
Staff Writer

Todd Huizenga, former US diplomat and Calvin College graduate, spoke on Friday about the European Union (EU) and what, he says, are its corrosive effects on democracy.

The EU was the actualization of a "utopian desire to achieve peace by limiting sovereignty and building international institutions to enforce international law," Huizenga said.

The EU government includes the European Commission, which corresponds to the

American executive branch but also retains the sole authority to propose legislation, and the European Parliament, which has the power to approve or deny the Commission's proposals.

Huizenga has two gripes with the EU: the European Commission has the power to carry out and propose legislation, a clear violation of the separation of powers, and the Commission is not elected by the people of the many European countries.

The Commission is therefore not accountable to the people their proposals and actions affect. Huizenga sees this as a violation of western democracy and a menacing omen for American democracy.

Huizenga sees the unaccountable bureaucrats of the

European Union as the counterparts to American bureaucrats, employed by various federal agencies, that are increasingly distanced from the American people their regulations affect.

While the separation of powers inherent in the United States Constitution is still intact, the lines are beginning to blur: "Congress passes laws that delegate its legislative power to governmental agencies, staffed by unelected civil servants, that develop the laws with which we must comply."

The cause of all this, Huizenga said, is the evolution of personal freedom. Freedom used to be based in absolute, objective truth, grounded in human nature and illuminated in the Federalist Papers: all humans

have dignity, but are still sinful. This led to a system of rights that protect the public from government overreach in areas such as religion, press and speech.

Now, Huizenga stated, freedom is based on relative, subjective truth, fueled by the rise of postmodernism "where truth is in the eyes of the beholder" and "human rights stands for the right to choose one's own personal truth, and be liberated from the truth of others, while imposing your own truth on everyone."

Thus, America has a system of rights produced and enforced by the government. This could be a slippery slope leading to the fall of American democracy.

### "The Very Good Gospel"

BY MICHELLE HOFMAN  
Features Editor

Lisa Sharon Harper took the stage on Martin Luther King Jr. Day to speak on her own experiences of using the gospel, something she knows much about as chief church engagement officer at Sojourners. Harper has gained experience in places from Ferguson to New York, and even as far as Germany

She began by sharing two stories from a pilgrimage that she took part in 13 years ago. Harper talked about two main destinations of the trip: the Cherokee

Trail of Tears and sites of the civil rights movement. For each destination, Harper asked "What does the gospel have to say about this?"

The first site was Dahlonega, Georgia, the location of the first gold rush in America. In the end, it led to the forced march of Cherokees and other Native Americans along the Trail of Tears. While at this site, Harper's group visited a memorial for the miners. They noticed that there was hardly any mention of the Cherokees besides a small section noting the parceling of the Cherokee land.

This was personal for Harper, because one of her ancestors walked the Trail of Tears. She asked, "What does the Gospel have to say about this?" What

would the Gospel have to say to her ancestor, as she suffered on that long walk?

The King Center in Atlanta was also personal for Harper because she had a slave ancestor on the other side of her family, Leah Ballard, who was forced to be a "breeder."

Ballard had 17 children with several different masters. Again, Harper asked herself whether she could go up to her ancestors and give them the message that she had been taught for so long to share: that they were depraved and sinful, but God loved them and would forgive them and give them eternal life. "Was that a message that would make them rejoice?" Harper asked her-

self. And the answer, she decided, had to be "no."

Harper asked, "If the gospel is not good news to the most oppressed, then is it good enough?"

This idea sent Harper into a year-long depression. But eventually this led her to take a closer look at the Gospel, and what "shalom" really meant. She studied the first two chapters of Genesis. She looked at how God created light, and how the light cut through the darkness. In the same way, Harper knew that God would use light to cut through evil and sin.

She ended with the following words: "God sees. God is light. He will cut through the darkness. He cares about your oppression. Amen."

## "A Historical Perspective on our Wild 2016 Election"

BY CAROLYN MUYSKENS  
Local Editor

Doris Kearns Goodwin, who President Le Roy introduced as America's "historian-in-chief," began her talk by admitting that, as a historian, she was a bit out of her comfort zone in analyzing current events.

But "in the end," Goodwin believes, "history is about telling stories, examining the contours of the past [...] so that we, the living, can learn." This philosophy gives Goodwin her impetus to

apply her fifty years studying the history of the presidency to our current election.

As a presidential historian, Goodwin has traced the characteristics that have defined good leadership in past presidents. She lamented that an election cycle does not focus on questions such as "What kind of leadership attributes have the candidates shown?"

While Trump characterizes himself as a "winner," Goodwin noted that it was loss, adversity, and failure that made great leaders of the past who they were. She described how Lincoln and FDR learned patience, humility, resilience and empathy from the adverse situations they faced in life.

Good presidents, Goodwin argued, surround themselves with their critics—people who are willing to challenge the president's assumptions and authority. Thus, Goodwin considers it encouraging that several members of Trump's nominated cabinet have expressed disagreement with the President-elect's views.

A successful leader must also have "the ability to inspire the best performance from your team by setting an example," Goodwin said. She emphasized "the ability to relax and replenish one's own energy," and the ability to control negative emotions and manage stress.

Finally, a good leader needs good communication skills.

Goodwin pointed out Lincoln's "unmatched ability to communicate with his countrymen" and FDR's skill in captivating the entire nation each time he spoke on the radio. Today, Goodwin said, we live in the era of the Trump tweet, in contrast to George Washington's "gift of silence."

Goodwin believes that a historical perspective offers us some hope for the future. As divided as our country seems now, during Lincoln's presidency the country literally split in two. Lincoln's successes show that "however broken our political culture, when the right person is in the right place at the right time, great things can happen."

### NOTABLE MENTIONS

### COMING UP

- ▶ **River City Improv**  
Jan. 21, 7:33 p.m.  
LadiesLiteraryClub
- ▶ **SAO Film**  
"Birth of A Nation"  
Jan. 21, 8 p.m.  
CFAC Auditorium
- ▶ **Men's Home Basketball Game**  
vs. Hope  
Jan. 25, 8:00 p.m.  
Van Noord Arena
- ▶ **Kill-a-Watt Finale**  
Jan. 23, 8:30 p.m.  
Johnny's Cafe
- ▶ **January Series**  
Ongoingthroughout  
Interim@CFACAudi-  
torium

# Res life kicks off Kill-a-watt

BY MICHAEL LENTZ  
Campus Co-Editor

On Monday night, Jan. 9, the dorm sustainability coordinators, in partnership with Residence Life, hosted a Kill-a-watt kickoff event in the Covenant Fine Arts Center.

The event began with a video narrated by poet Clint Smith which strongly encouraged viewers to consider their role in the proper care of the earth.

After the video, Devani Antuma, a sustainability coordinator, took the stage to introduce the Vice President of student life, Sarah Visser, one of the evening's two keynote speakers. Visser began by pointing out that her young daughter, who was sitting in the audience, is her inspiration to advocate for creation care and environmental stewardship.

Visser spoke about the role of creation care in the pursuit of shalom. Visser cited Cornelius Plantinga (author of the DCM standby "Engaging God's World"), who describes shalom as the "webbing together of God, humans and creation." Shalom, by this account, is not just about peace between people, Visser pointed out, but it's about right relationship between God and people, between people and other people and between people and creation.

Visser stated that as Christians we are called to many things—particular jobs, relationships and places—but each of those individual callings fit into the broader fabric of our larger callings to

steward the earth, love our neighbor and seek shalom.

After Visser had finished, Antuma took the stage again to host a riotous game of "sustainable jeopardy." One representative from each dorm seated at a long table competed to answer questions related to the environment under the topics "Be Green," "Celebrities" and "Sustainable." Though there were answers from each dorm throughout the game, KHvR dominated the competition.

The second keynote speaker, professor Dave Warners, spoke last, sharing a biblical word and some of his passion for environmental justice. He discussed the story of the Babylonian king

Belshazzar and the writing on the wall.

In the story, Daniel interpreted the writing from God to be a warning to the Babylonians against using sacred goblets from the temple for their own glory. Warners, in turn, used this story as a charge to the students to consider what "sacred goblets from the temple," what things of God's creation, are we abusing for our own glory? Warners provided the example of the mountaintop removal of many of the Appalachian Mountains.

Next, Warners challenged the students to consider what the writing on the wall says today. He claimed that today's writing on the wall might be something

like global warming or the rapid rate of species extinction.

Finally, Warners asked students to consider their role as modern-day Daniels, with the ability and responsibility to interpret the writing on the wall—to consider the evidence of the effects of climate change and humanity's role in the perpetuation or reversal of environmental decay.

Warners charged the students to talk about these issues, participate in Kill-a-watt events and lifestyle challenges and encourage others to get involved as well.

To check campus-wide progress or for an update on Kill-A-Watt competition rankings, go to [killawattblog.wordpress.com](http://killawattblog.wordpress.com).

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ▶ **Interested in writing for Chimes?**

Email [chimes@calvin.edu](mailto:chimes@calvin.edu)



PHOTO COURTESY CALVIN.EDU

## LifeWork

▶ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

In part, Calvin LifeWork is a response to demographic trends in the both the local and nationwide workforces. As baby boomers age and retire, many jobs will open up that will need to be filled by recent college graduates.

"We have to be prepared, because there's going to be a mass exodus [in the workforce]," Johnson said. "This is a concern for colleges and universities across the country, and employers as well. It really is a war for talent right now."

Both a nationwide survey by the National Association of Colleges and Employers and Calvin's own research found that the skills most desired by employers include critical thinking, teamwork, communication and work ethic.

Calvin's graduates are typically strong in these "soft skills," but students are often trained in them "haphazardly," Visser said. Calvin

LifeWork will provide ways for students to build these strengths more systematically.

"A lot of employers say that Calvin students are too humble," said Johnson. "They don't necessarily know how to articulate their strengths."

Typically, Calvin students are stronger at actual jobs than during the interview process. Calvin LifeWork will incentivize students to better develop job search and interview skills during their time at Calvin.

"We're hopeful that after practicing these kinds of things for four years [students] feel equipped to go out and do them," said Visser.

Surveys of Calvin students and especially parents led to the inclusion of financial literacy training alongside the other modules.

While the \$3,000 scholarship is only available beginning with next year's incoming class, current students will also be able to learn from the modules.

Many of the program's components are things the career center has already provided, but currently students don't take advantage

of them until their junior or senior years.

"We're hoping that the increased visibility of a program like this will also attract our current students and encourage them to engage the resources found in the career center throughout their time at Calvin," said Visser.

Calvin has focused recently on increasing recruitment and retention, and Calvin LifeWork aims to help reach both of those goals. Since few other schools have anything like this, it offers Calvin a competitive advantage in the fight for new students. And

tuition support and a path to success after graduating will hopefully give students more reason to remain at Calvin.

Since one of the modules is an internship, Calvin LifeWork will rely on connections between Calvin and area businesses. Almost 60 percent of 2015 Calvin graduates are currently living in Michigan, with 40 percent in Grand Rapids.

Calvin LifeWork is designed to prepare students for whatever they choose to do after college, be it in Grand Rapids or across the world.

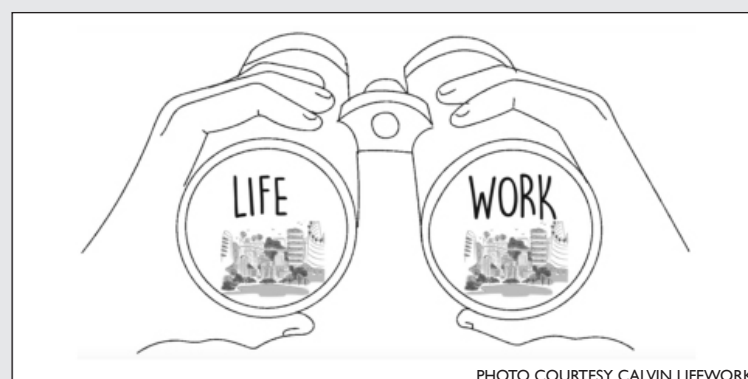


PHOTO COURTESY CALVIN LIFEWORK

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



## Activism

► CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The players were showing support for the family and memory of Eric Garner, who died earlier that year in July after an altercation with police in Staten Island. Garner's final words, "I can't breathe," became the rallying cry for a movement in the US which protested police brutality.

The lasting image of one of the country's premier athletes in one of its most popular sports was the beginning of something new. Professional athletes are often looked up to and idolized; children wear their numbers and emulate their actions while adults still support athletic figures from their own youth. As Derek Jeter once said, "You're a person a lot longer before and after you're a professional athlete." Athletes from all sports are starting to take advantage of their celebrity and enormous platform.

For many years players from the NFL, NBA, NHL and MLB have participated in their communities by working with and mentoring youth, helping those in need and raising awareness for the most pressing issues facing their team's cities. There are various awards in each league which recognize these efforts, and many players have left greater legacies off the field than on it. While these acts of kindness and philanthropy are never understated, some of the most iconic moments in sports history have been exhibitions of activism

within the confines of each sport itself.

In 1968, two American Olympians stood atop the gold and bronze pedestal with their gloved fists raised in the air until the end of "The Star-Spangled Banner." With them, standing on the pedestal with a silver medal, was an Australian runner wearing a human rights badge along with the American runners. Those Americans, Tommie Smith and John Carlos, were expelled by the International Olympic Committee after their demonstration.

The event was immediately described as a political protest in the name of Black Power, but Carlos said it wasn't a "Black Power salute" but a "human rights salute."

During the same time period Muhammad Ali, the greatest and most decorated boxer of the decade, was a champion of the civil rights movement. The actions of Carlos and Smith are forever commemorated by political and social activists, and the recent death of Ali sent shockwaves through the world not just because of his dominance of his sport, but because of his life outside of it. As the years went by, many athletes took over the American airwaves from Reggie Jackson to Bo Jackson and Michael Jordan to Michael Irvin, notwithstanding the significance of Jim Brown and Jackie Robinson. But there is something happening now with the star athletes of the 21st century that didn't happen with the ones who came before them.

For all of his magnificence with the basketball, Michael Jordan has taken some criticism for not using his platform to advocate for the outcast, the disenfranchised and the downtrodden. Whether this criticism is fair or not, it does illuminate the impact that doing so has had because of athletes like LeBron James, Carmelo Anthony, Reggie Bush and even people that Jordan played with and against.

Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, an opponent of Jordan, was recently awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom along with Jordan. Jordan received the award for his cultural impact on the United States and his sport; Abdul-Jabbar, one of the most proficient scorers in the history of the NBA, received his partly because of his societal impact.

Abdul-Jabbar's story of faith and activism, along with the story of Craig Hodges, made headlines in around Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Hodges played with Michael Jordan, and won the NBA Championship with the Bulls in 1991 and 1992. Something happened after the 1992 title, however, that would shake the course of Hodges' life.

When the Bulls visited the White House, as most championship teams in the US do, Hodges had something in mind other than just a handshake with George H.W. Bush. The LA

Riots occurred right before the team visited, and violence in the United States was permeating throughout conversations and people's minds.

Hodges, dressed in a dashiki, went to the White House with the intent to give Bush a letter detailing all of the problems facing the country. Hodges never played another minute in the NBA after that, and he argues that it was because he stood up for his people.

Today, athletes are embracing modes of activism like Hodges stronger and more unified than ever. When Colin Kaepernick knelt down during the national anthem, he continued to talk about issues that minorities face. Several players throughout the NFL supported Kaepernick by doing the same or another form of protest. Kaepernick, who is hardly the up-and-coming star he was a few years ago, still decided to use his position as a professional athlete to highlight something entirely unrelated to sports. What used to be a solitary event, like the 1968 Olympics, or in 1981 when NBA player Lloyd Bernard legally changed his name to World B. Free, has become a common occurrence among athletes.

Now, when political and cultural dialogue of the country is focused on inequality in various forms, premier athletes are step-

ping up and lending their voice. In perhaps the best example of this, four NBA players took the stage at the 2016 ESPY Awards: Carmelo Anthony, LeBron James, Dwyane Wade and Chris Paul. These behemoths on the court espoused calls to action in communities, recognized racial division and implored action and change.

While there can certainly be discussion over issues and how to handle them, it is tough to deny the growing impact that professional athletes are making because they are standing up and speaking out.

After that December game in Brooklyn, James was asked if what he and his teammates were doing "was a Cavaliers thing?" In recognition of humanity and not athletics, James simply responded, "It's not a Cavs thing, it's a worldly thing."

Van Jones of CNN said in respect to the dual athlete-activist role that there is a "LeBron generation," and they "want to dominate on the court in their athletic role, but they also want to be relevant."

The NBA as a league is making social strides in new arenas unlike anything the United States has ever seen from a sports organization, and professional athletes will continue to play new and significant roles in its dialogue.



PHOTO COURTESY DISNEY/ABC FLICKR

## Calvin men's basketball loses to Kalamazoo

BY PURUN YEO  
Sports Editor

Beginning with a win against Geneva at Springfield, Ohio, on December 30, 2016, the Calvin men's basketball team went on a five-win streak, only to be broken this past week by an away game at Kalamazoo.

The Knights had beaten Geneva easily, with a score of 80-57. Next up was Triune, and despite the away disadvantage, Calvin won by a small margin of 66-64.

The third victory the Knights secured was against Albion, this

time at home. The first half of the game went back and forth, but by the second half Albion had solidified a lead. However, in the last few minutes of the game, Calvin players made crucial shots that closed the gap. The game ended with a close score of 71-70.

Unlike the past two games, the fourth and fifth games were won comparatively easily. The Knights played against Olivet next and won by a comfortable margin of 87-69. The next away game at Alma was won 95-86.

This past week on January 18th, the Knights played an away game against Kalamazoo. In the

first half, Calvin fell behind to Kalamazoo by nine points. After halftime, the Knights redoubled their efforts to overtake their opponents. Their efforts, however, were matched by the Kalamazoo team. Both team scored 42 points each in the second half. The game ended with the score of 70-79 for Kalamazoo, ending the win streak Calvin had.

On January 16, Calvin junior Michael Wilks was named Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association (MIAA) player of the week. Wilks scored 28 points and 22 points against Alma and Olivet respectively, and was central to Calvin's five-win streak.



PHOTOS COURTESY CALVIN SPORTS INFORMATION

### Upcoming Events

Jan. 20-25

**Hockey at Michigan State**  
Friday, Jan. 20  
7:00 p.m.

**Swim & Dive at DePauw**  
Saturday, Jan. 21  
1:00 p.m.

**W Basketball at Kalamazoo**  
Saturday, Jan. 21  
1:00 p.m.

**M Basketball at Adrian**  
Saturday, Jan. 21  
3:00 p.m.

**W Basketball vs. Alma**  
Wednesday, Jan. 25  
5:30 p.m.

**M Basketball vs. Hope**  
Wednesday, Jan. 25v  
8:00 p.m.

### Recent Results

Jan. 13-18

**Ice Hockey vs. Davenport**  
Friday, Jan. 13  
9:0 (Calvin)

**Ice Hockey at Davenport**  
Saturday, Jan. 14  
9:1 (Calvin)

**W Swim & Dive vs Albion**  
Saturday, Jan. 14  
2nd, 151-147

**M Swim & Dive vs Albion**  
Saturday, Jan. 14  
2nd, 158-142

**M Basketball**  
Wednesday, Jan. 18  
Calvin: 70  
Kalamazoo: 79

**W Basketball**  
Wednesday, Jan. 18  
Calvin: 67  
Rochester: 52

# Dozens turned away from Rep. Amash's town hall

BY CAROLYN MUYSKENS  
Local Editor

Around one hundred gathered around the doors to the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum in the freezing rain last Tuesday, Jan. 17, waiting to hear if they would be allowed inside.

They had come to participate in U.S. Rep. Justin Amash's town hall meeting, open to residents of Amash's third congressional district, which covers Calhoun, Barry, Ionia and most of Kent County, including Grand Rapids.

Fifteen minutes before the town hall was set to begin, security stopped allowing people inside. Twenty minutes later, Rep. Amash came outside to say he believed it was "a fire code issue."

One member of the crowd shouted, "Can you do it out here?" Amash apologized and encouraged the sizable crowd that had gathered to attend his next town hall meeting. He went back inside, and a security guard

shut and locked the doors to the museum before walking away.

According to security staff, the museum auditorium's capacity is 252.

Staff from Amash's office said that the auditorium at the Gerald Ford Presidential Museum is one of the largest spaces they have ever used for a town hall. They also said Amash's regular town halls have never run out of space before, according to The Grand Rapids Press.

Inside the town hall, Amash explained his recent "no" votes on the latest bills, emphasizing his issues with the "shameful" recent budget bill, which will, according to Amash, increase the U.S. debt by \$9 trillion over the next ten years.

When Amash tried to assure constituents that the recent budget that was passed was not an Obamacare repeal, the audience pushed back and demanded that Amash call it the ACA, citing the problem that many citizens don't understand that the ACA and Obamacare are the same act. After sev-

eral tense back-and-forths, Amash finally conceded and called it the ACA for the rest of the night.

Asked about the ACA repeal, Amash said he supports repealing the ACA, but under a system where the repeal would only come into effect for each state once that state had come up with a replacement. He argued that as different states come up with different innovative systems for replacing the ACA, the best methods will "rise to the top," and eventually be adopted by all states.

Amash, a Republican, also decried the partisan divide and the us-against-them mentalities that both parties have taken up.

For his part, Amash has always been willing to go against his own party if he feels a bill violates his principles, which are to uphold the U.S. Constitution.

And Amash has been a vocal critic of President-elect Trump. Amash said he held President Obama

accountable and plans to hold President-elect Trump just as accountable, and criticized his fellow Republicans for not doing enough to join him in holding Trump accountable.

When asked by a constituent how he plans to deal with Trump, he said "Have you seen my tweets?" Amash was refer-

ring to his active Twitter account in which he recently called Trump out for criticizing Rep. John Lewis by saying "Dude, just stop."

Later that evening, Amash used that Twitter account to thank his constituents and to say, "We may need to rent an arena next time!"



Amash explains to constituents that he can't let them inside.

## DeVos

▶ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

DeVos said that states should decide whether or not they will enforce IDEA. When Sen. Maggie Hassan (D-New Hampshire) pointed out that the IDEA is federal law, making it DeVos's responsibility as potential head of the department to enforce it, DeVos said she "may have confused it." Hassan, who has a disabled son, urged DeVos to educate herself about this civil rights policy.

Sen. Michael Bennet (D-Colorado), a charter school advocate like DeVos, asked, "What have you learned about the failures of the Detroit public and charter schools that has informed [sic] your decision making as the secretary of education? What went wrong there that is going to go right as a result of your philosophy on how we ought to move the country forward?"

DeVos's answer: "Actually I believe there is a lot that has gone right in Detroit and in Michigan in regard to charter schools [...] The idea that there isn't accountability is 'false news.'"

Sen. Franken (D-Minnesota) asked DeVos to take a side in a key educational debate: whether to assess students by measures of proficiency or measures of growth. DeVos answered, "I would correlate proficiency to competency and mastery, so that each student is measured according to the advancement that they're making in each subject area."

Franken immediately pointed out, "That's growth. That's not proficiency. The growth they are making is growth. Proficiency is an arbitrary standard."

Franken gave DeVos several more opportunities to answer the question about where she stands on the debate between growth and proficiency, during which DeVos said she was merely trying to clarify what the question was.

Franken, clearly incensed, said, "This is a subject that has been debated in the education community for years [...] I was kind of surprised, well, not that



surprised, that you don't know this issue."

Several of the Democratic senators also complained that DeVos's ethics paperwork hadn't yet arrived and called for a second hearing in which they could discuss that paperwork. Chairman Alexander denied this, as well as calls for a second round of questions, maintaining that the committee must follow "the golden rule" and treat this candidate as the committee did President Obama's nominees for secretary of education.

Other senators questioned this claim of precedent since the hearings for other departments' secretaries, both this year and in the past, have contained either multiple rounds of questioning or multiple hearings.

DeVos, for her part, maintained that she is "a strong supporter of public education." She defended herself against criticism of her and her family members' donations to groups that hold anti-LGBT views, stating,

"I fully embrace equality and I believe in the value of every human being." In response to questions about potential conflicts of interest, she stated categorically that she would divest herself of any interests that the Office of Government Ethics deems to be a conflict.

She added that she, like Trump, will take a salary of \$1, just enough "to make me official" as an employee of the government, and that she will forgo a tax loophole that would allow her to save hundreds of thousands of dollars while serving on the Cabinet.

DeVos advocates for scaling back the role of the department she hopes to lead. "It won't be a federal agency that makes students succeed," she said, but rather the choices of parents to do what is best for their children. "For me, it's simple. I trust parents and I believe in our children."

The committee is scheduled to vote on DeVos next Tuesday, Jan. 24.



## GVSU hosts debate between journalists

BY CAROLYN MUYSKENS  
Local Editor

As a part of Grand Valley State University's Common Ground Initiative, a series that seeks common values in our politically divided culture, GVSU hosted Nikole Hannah-Jones and Jason Riley to speak on the topic "Race and the American Dream" last Tuesday, Jan. 17.

Riley is a senior fellow at the Manhattan Institute and a member of the Wall Street Journal editorial board. Hannah-Jones is a staff writer for the New York Times magazine. She won a Peabody award in 2016 for her reporting for "This American Life" on school segregation.

The two accomplished black journalists faced off in a discussion on the state of "the American dream" and its intersections with race.

In Riley's view, the American dream is alive and well, especially for black Americans. Riley pointed to the progress that's been made, particularly due to the civil rights movement, and said that the opportunities are out there for blacks to succeed, if they will take them.

To Hannah-Jones, however, "race and the American dream have been in opposition" throughout America's history. She says black America has had to form its own definition of the American dream; for black Americans, the American dream is to simply be treated as full citizens of their country.

The conversation dug deep into the racial disparities in education and the extent to which racism affects these educational outcomes.

The two speakers clashed over the role that integration plays in school success. "This idea that the focus should be on the racial makeup of the school and not on the performance of the school" frustrates Riley, who asked why people assume that black children can only

learn if they are sitting next to white children. Riley pointed to majority black schools that have high success rates.

But Hannah-Jones, who has done extensive reporting on the issue of school segregation and integration, explained that resources like money and teachers follow white students.

Looking back on the history of school reform, she argued, "there has been one school reform policy that has closed the achievement gap: integration." In 1988, the peak of school integration, the achievement gap between white and black students was the narrowest it has ever been. Hannah-Jones lamented "the lack of political will to [implement] that one reform that we know works."

Riley argued that the election of a black president shows that the opportunities for blacks to have power in society already exist, but individuals need to make better choices and take those opportunities, whereas Hannah-Jones reminded the audience that our country is only one generation out of legal apartheid, and thus racist structures and social norms are naturally still pervasive.

Riley lamented a national discourse that encourages race consciousness and socializes black people and people of color to see themselves as the victims of a system. Thus, Riley argued that the solution to racial disparities in society needs to come from a change within black culture.

Hannah-Jones retorted, "I reject the notion that there is something inherent in poor black culture that has led to racial disparities."

The moderator asked a final question: how can we work together to address this issue of race? In the end, Hannah-Jones and Riley both agreed that political empowerment for blacks has not led to economic empowerment for blacks, and this is a problem for society.

The Common Ground Initiative is a project of the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies at GVSU.

## THE ALUMNI BOARD: SOME ANSWERED QUESTIONS

BY BRIANNA BUSSCHER  
Guest Writer

Most Calvin students have probably visited the Alumni Board Room or at least walked past it on the second floor of Commons Annex and wondered at what purpose it might fulfill. We assume that there must be an Alumni Board and that its members must use the room, but what is this elusive Alumni Board, who are its members and what do they do? It may come as a surprise, but the Alumni Board and its members serve an important role for both students and graduates of Calvin College.

### What is the Alumni Board?

The Alumni Board is a group of Calvin alumni dedicated to building and strengthening Calvin's alumni network for the benefit of both students and fellow alums. Calvin's extensive web of alumni spans the globe — Calvin alumni live in ninety-nine different countries — so wherever students go, there is likely a Calvin grad nearby. Alumni are often very willing to come alongside new graduates, connect them with people and companies and help them become acquainted with the area. From this huge pool of alumni, twenty-some are selected to serve their fellow Calvin graduates as members of the Alumni Board for three years.

Mike Van Denend, Director of the Alumni Association, said that Alumni Board members see their work as a “two-way street”: they seek both to serve the college and to find ways for the college to serve alumni.

The Alumni Board began as a West Michigan regional board in the late 1940s and expanded to an international board in 1991. Mirroring this shift, the board's bylaws require that members consider the full range of alumni diversity when selecting future members. This allows the alumni association to better understand and serve a variety of people and groups.



PHOTO COURTESY CALVIN ALUMNI ASSOCIATION/SUSAN BUIST

### Who are the Alumni Board members?

The members of the board come from an assortment of backgrounds, locations and fields. Their jobs range from working at Microsoft, to serving as an army chaplain, to playing the organ at church. Recent grads and long-time graduates, French language, mathematics, music, elementary education and biology majors, natives of Chicago, Ontario, Ghana, South Korea and Grand Rapids alike; these people represent a wide range of cultures, languages and peoples. Take the board officers (pictured above) for example.

#### President: Oludare Odumosu

Oludare (middle), or Dare, came to Calvin from Nigeria and graduated with a biology major and biochemistry minor in 2005. He now works at a pharmaceutical company doing business management and heads an eco-friendly eyewear brand in his spare time. Dare loves to sing, and he led worship at a church in California during his graduate student years. He describes

himself as “an unserious person who does the most serious things and loves to find the fun in everything.”

#### President-elect: Sierra Asamoah-Tutu

Sierra (left) grew up in Gallup, New Mexico as the youngest of four children and attended Rehoboth Christian School before coming to Calvin. After graduating with an interdisciplinary degree, she earned her masters in social work. Sierra currently works in the American Indian community in Minneapolis, Minn. as a therapist through Healing Generations. She believes that we are all deeply connected to each other and hopes to make a positive impact in the world through education and healing work.

#### Secretary: Cheryl TenBrink

Cheryl (right) calls Kalamazoo, Mich. home, but lived in California and Florida as a preacher's kid. At Calvin, she studied economics and business and earned a Spanish minor before graduating in 1981. She

went on to work as a mortgage loan officer before taking on the sizable job of being a stay-at-home mother to three children. Cheryl uses her keen observation skills and her talent in photography to document Alumni Board meetings and activities, likely making the current members the most photographed group in Alumni Board history.

The other eighteen board members have equally unique and colorful stories, and each is pictured below along with their name and current job. The board members encourage input and ideas from students and alumni and can be contacted by emailing [alumni@calvin.edu](mailto:alumni@calvin.edu).

### What do they do on campus?

Board members meet three times a year in the aforementioned Alumni Board Room, and are very active on campus during this time. At their next meeting, held February 2 through 4, the board members will participate in the K4L “Network and Nosh” event, dine with students who received Interim scholarships, review the next issue of Spark and attend Friday

chapel. They will interview professors for Alumni Association research grants, brainstorm ways alumni can be involved in the admissions process and vote on candidates for the Distinguished Alumni Award.

The Alumni Board will also be talking with Calvin Prison Initiative (CPI) staff to discuss how Calvin will engage with the soon-to-graduate CPI students, some of whom are imprisoned for life.

Three of the board members, Twana, Rosanne, and Christine, will be speaking at events hosted by the Speech Pathology, French and History Departments.

### What do they do in their hometowns?

After meeting on Calvin's campus, board members return to their hometowns for what is the majority of their work: serving alumni and connecting them to Calvin. They do this in a number of ways, but one of the most common ways is by telling fellow alums stories about what's happening on campus. Each board member also has specific ways in which they strengthen and connect with their network.

For example, Dave Vellenga hosts a remote site for the January Series in Tucson, Arizona. He and several others will be hosting remote sites at restaurants for the Calvin-Hope men's basketball game on February 18. In Denver, Colorado, Cathy Van Donselaar planned a send-off ice cream social for students before they left for Calvin this past fall. Several members hosted admissions recruiting events in Denver, Kalamazoo, Dallas and Chicago. Currently, Dave Tannor is coordinating the interview process for the Black Alumni Network Textbook Grants, another board project.

In everything they do, the Alumni Board members seek to engage with, inspire and strengthen alumni relations through events and by keeping alumni connected to Calvin College. They work to ensure that, despite having graduated, Calvin students never have to leave Calvin behind.



PHOTO COURTESY CALVIN ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

### Current Alumni Board members and their occupations

Bruce Buursma '73, communications professional  
 Laura Caprara '92, graphic designer and social media strategist  
 Twana Graves Davis '93, speech-language pathologist  
 Jonathan Hirte '08, legislative director in the office of Congressman Tim Walberg  
 Jim Jenkins '87, principal program manager at Microsoft  
 Tim Katt '09, technology platforms executive  
 Casey Kuperus '97, talent finder at an employment company  
 Rosanne Lopers-Sweetman '77, kinesiology and physical education faculty  
 Gene Miyamoto '77,

chief operating officer at a healthcare company

Christine Jacobs Mouw '88, museum curator  
 Nate Plantinga '94, attorney at Miller Johnson  
 Jeff Pyun '93, U.S. Army chaplain  
 Brianna Sas-Pérez '11, neighborhood planning director  
 Valerie Stegink Sterk '83, organist/pianist and music coordinator at her church  
 Dave Tannor '06, math and science program director for Baker College Online  
 Cathy Van Zeelt Van Donselaar '88, learning specialist at an elementary school  
 David Vellenga '60, retired Albion College economics professor  
 Lisa Kuyers Zylstra '80, school administrative assistant

## Season four of BBC's "Sherlock" debuts to disappointing results

BY BRANDON SCHREUR  
Arts & Entertainment Editor

We've seen several different on-screen portrayals of Arthur Conan Doyle's infamous duo Sherlock Holmes and John Watson throughout the past few years. Robert Downey Jr. and Jude Law starred in a couple of generally well-received blockbuster films directed by Guy Ritchie; Jonny Lee Miller and Lucy Liu operate together in the CBS show "Elementary"; and even Ian McKellen has delivered a very different take on the character in the 2015 film "Mr. Holmes."

Yet none of these interpretations have gained the same momentum or fanbase as Benedict Cumberbatch and Martin Freeman have in the hit BBC series "Sherlock." Beginning its run in 2010 from creators Steven Moffat and Mark Gatiss (who also plays Mycroft Holmes in the show), "Sherlock" follows a high-functioning sociopath and a retired war doctor as they share an apartment and solve mysteries together in modern day London.

With "Sherlock" airing on BBC — making it a British se-

ries — the show's structure is set up different than most American television shows are. Each season contains only three episodes, but each episode is 90 minutes in length, creating a sense of three shorter films rather than a large number of disconnected episodes.

Season three of "Sherlock" debuted to mixed reviews in January of 2014, a disappointing notion seeing as the first two seasons are highly praised amongst critics and fans. After a long hiatus (apart from the single episode Christmas special entitled "The Abominable Bride," which aired in 2016), fans are finally able to return to 221B Baker Street to see how season four will fare.

This time around, season four of "Sherlock" gives us mysteries and clues such as smashed statue heads of former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, a serial killer disguised as a celebrity living in England and a highly elaborate prison holding one of the world's most dangerous criminals. And, much like season three, we're met with mixed and often frustrating results in a season that is unable to live up to the first two.

The season starts off on a rather unflattering note with



Benedict Cumberbatch returns as the infamous detective Sherlock Holmes. PHOTO COURTESY BBC

"The Six Thatchers." While the re-introduction to the show's beloved characters offers a welcome sight, "The Six Thatchers" becomes an overly convoluted mess which can never firmly settle on a single storyline. With a forgettable and unconvincing climax, "The Six Thatchers" marks one of the weakest entries in "Sherlock" to date.

While "The Lying Detective" — the second episode of the season — is an improvement over "The Six Thatchers," it also emphasizes an underwhelming and rather dull mystery for the heroes to solve. Despite the brilliant premise of a serial killer who poses himself as a powerful businessman named Culverton Smith (Toby Jones) — a man who is remarkably good at hiding his alter-ego — the episode ultimately amounts to nothing by its end.

"The Final Problem," the third and final episode of the season, has created the most controversy for "Sherlock" fans. While it stands out as being more exciting than the rest of the season has been thus far, the episode also finds itself going way too over-the-top in a highly elaborate and convoluted plot involving a jail break that at times feels like a "Saw" movie. While "The Final Problem" boasts some interesting ideas and a decently satisfying ending montage to the season, the execution is done poorly.

Season four isn't necessarily as bad as it is disappointing. The show has certainly taken a few steps down, but it doesn't yet reach a point of being unwatchable. Benedict Cumberbatch and Martin Freeman once again fit

back into their characters nicely and deliver entertaining portrayals of the beloved characters. Other returning characters — such as Mycroft, Mrs. Hudson (Una Stubbs) and DI Lestrade (Rupert Graves) — add warm presences during the season's slow moments.

Yet much of the momentum is gone and the writers have seemed to lost sight with what made the show popular to begin with. Such things as over-explaining Sherlock's thought process, constantly hinting at yet never fully utilizing a fan-favorite character from season two and repeatedly pitting Sherlock against lackluster villains bring "Sherlock" down to its knees. It seems the new season of "Sherlock" once again finds itself reserved to a rather elementary level.



PHOTO COURTESY DEN OF GEEK

Toby Jones plays a serial killer in "The Lying Detective."

## Martin Scorsese's "Silence" tells a quiet story of 17th-century missionaries

BY BRANDON SCHREUR  
Arts & Entertainment Editor

"It's amazing that, with all the things against the film, that it got made and it's going to be shown," said Martin Scorsese, director of the critically acclaimed film "Silence." "There was a lot of sacrifice, a lot of problems, a lot of delays. But this is where I felt I should spend my time."

Scorsese has been working on "Silence" for the past 28 years. In 1988, his religious-themed film "The Last Temptation of Christ" was met with much controversy and backlash from some communities. Shortly after its release, Scorsese began working on "Silence" — a film that also deals with religion and questioning faith — with rigorous craftsmanship, making sure the themes were handled in the right manner.

Now, despite the many roadblocks and obstacles Scorsese had to get past, "Silence" has finally been released. Starring Andrew Garfield, Adam Driver and Liam Neeson, it's safe to say that the film was worth the long wait.

Seventeenth-century Japan, the place where even the mention of the gospel could get you imprisoned or even killed. It is also the place where Father Ferreira (Neeson) was sent by the Catholic church as a working missionary. He never returned.

There have been unconfirmed reports that Father Ferreira denounced the faith and now

peacefully resides in Japan. Others think this is impossible, seeing how Father Ferreira was a dedicated Catholic, and instead believe he must be dead. In order to settle the matter, Father Rodrigues (Garfield) and Father Garrpe (Driver) request to go to Japan to search for Father Ferreira and find out what really happened.

They know their journey will be a dangerous one. Despite knowing of and being able to hide in a small Christian community, everyone else in the country wants the two of them killed. And once Father Rodrigues and Garrpe find the true horror that awaits them, their faith is indeed tested and ultimately brought to its limits, seeing

just how much they are willing to endure.

Based on the 1996 novel "Silence" by Shusaku Endo and thematically similar to the 1986 film "The Mission" (the one you probably had to watch in your DCM class), which also starred Liam Neeson as a missionary, "Silence" is a thought-provoking film that contains a captivating

story and outstanding acting.

Andrew Garfield, who has given two stellar performances this year with "Silence" and "Hacksaw Ridge" and is bound to be nominated for at least one of them, shines in the lead role by giving a daring and committed performance. Adam Driver, whose character is often contrasted with Garfield's, is also great. Driver has become one of the most talented up and coming actors of this generation. And while Liam Neeson isn't in the movie for long, his role serves as important to the larger story, and he plays it well.

As with many Scorsese films, "Silence" clocks in at nearly three hours long. However, despite the long runtime, the film rarely slows down or feel like it goes on for too long.

While not as re-watchable or gleefully entertaining as some of other Scorsese films like "Goodfellas" or "The Wolf of Wall Street," "Silence" is a masterfully crafted, quiet film that has much going on underneath the story. Faith is hard. Sometimes you wait and wait for an answer and it never comes. Sometimes there are no right answers. Scorsese tackles these large questions with dignity and class, creating a film that is always careful not to preach at us but rather invites us to experience the hardships of Father Rodrigues and Garrpe. "Silence" is a film that people and film fans are bound to be talking about for years to come.



PHOTO COURTESY NOLAN FANS

Martin Scorsese worked on "Silence" for twenty-eight years.



## Gay Christians share stories

BY GWYNETH FINDLAY  
Head Copy Editor

United by a faith life on the margins, more than 1,400 people gathered in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, for the annual Gay Christian Network conference Jan. 5–8.

A group of Grand Rapids community members, including a number of Calvin students, faculty, staff and alumni, attended the conference. Including alumni from across the country and Canada, close to 20 people connected with Calvin were in attendance.

“The support of people — people you can be real with — made it worthwhile,” says junior Kai Giles. “It was nice to engage in intentional conversation to build stronger relationships that I wouldn’t have built otherwise.”

Giles also attended the 2016 conference in Houston, Texas. “Regardless of how many times you go, the community is

large. You always feel so much of a connection,” she says. “It’s a moving and breathing safe space.”

The Gay Christian Network conference bills itself as “the world’s largest LGBTQ Christian event.” This year’s theme was “stories inspire,” focusing on the power of storytelling and God’s ability to speak through people’s stories.

The conference featured four keynote speakers, five breakout sessions and a liturgical worship service. The keynotes came from Jane Clementi, Rev. Dr. Paula Williams, Rt. Rev. Gene Robinson and Dr. Ling Lam. Rev. Emmy Kegler spoke at the Sunday morning service.

Clementi is founder and executive director of the Tyler Clementi Foundation, an organization working against bullying perpetrated by schools, families and churches. Williams is a former megachurch pastor and national transgender advocate. She now serves on the board of the Gay Christian

Network. Lam is an onsite counselor at Google in Silicon Valley. He also provides pro-bono therapy with A Home Within, an organization concerned with the emotional needs of foster children.

In 2003, Robinson was the first openly gay and partnered bishop consecrated in the Episcopal church. He delivered the invocation at the inauguration of Barack Obama in 2009. He has been retired from the clergy since 2013 and now serves on various boards with Lambda Legal.

Kegler is pastor of Grace Lutheran Church in Minneapolis. In 2016, she spoke at the conference’s Women’s Retreat.

Darren Calhoun, worship leader at Urban Village Church South Loop in Chicago, lead and organized worship for the weekend. Calhoun will be a guest at Calvin in March for the Sexuality Series event “Sexual Orientation, Change, & Healing.”

The night of Jan. 6, the conference hosted a concert of Bobby Jo Valentine and Everyday Sunday. Valentine, raised in a conservative Baptist church, has won two “Songwriter of the Year” awards from the West Coast Songwriter’s Association. Everyday Sunday made news in May 2016 when frontman Trey Pearson came out as gay. Pearson is the only remaining member of the band, which has been active since 1997.

The Gay Christian Network began as an online message board in 2001. It was a project of Justin Lee, author of “Torn: Rescuing the Gospel from the Gays-vs.-Christians Debate.” This year’s was the 13th annual conference.



Rev. Dr. Paula Williams speaking at the GCN conference.

## Persecution high, falling

BY KATHRYN MAE POST  
Religion Editor

Despite notable instances of religious intolerance, religious persecution rarely takes place in the United States. Because of this, it can be easy to forget that a significant number of the world’s population experiences religious persecution on a daily basis.

Religious persecution is essentially the violation of a person’s right to religious freedom. Article 18 of the Declaration of Human Rights states that “everyone has the right to freedom of ... religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.”

Religious persecution can take many forms, from denying the right of group assembly to compulsory conversions, torture and death. According to the Center for Studies on New Religions, which studies deaths resulting from religious persecution, 2016 saw more than 90,000 Christians killed for their religious beliefs.

The study reports that 30 percent of those killed were the victims of Islamic terrorism, and about 70 percent of those persecuted were in Africa, often killed at the hands of groups such as Boko Haram. The full report on religious persecution will be released by the Center for Studies on New Religions in February.

Breitbart News reported that Massimo Introvigne, director of the Center, “told Vatican Radio that around half a billion Christians in the world are unable to express their faith completely freely, while around 90,000 — one every six minutes — died for their faith in the past year alone.”

PJ Media said that the countries with the most violence against Christians are Iraq, Iran, Yemen, Syria, Afghanistan, Somalia, Sudan, Libya and Pakistan, and that “North Korea tops the list of countries with the most extreme persecution against Christians.”

Although the numbers are staggering, persecution against Christians is decreasing. There were fewer Christians killed for their faith in 2016 than 2015, when 105,000 Christians were killed for their faith.

Some countries have responded to concerns about religious persecution. PJ Media reported that the Hungarian government has taken steps to address religious persecution by appointing a deputy state secretary for assisting persecuted Christians in September. This position is newly created, and specifically targets persecution of Christians.

While Christianity remains the most persecuted religion in the world, members of every religion experience persecution for their faith.

Religious persecution remains an extensive global issue that is often overlooked due to its controversial nature. Decreasing persecution requires local groups, countries and the international community to acknowledge and address it.

## Sikhism in America: a search for freedom

The faith of Nikki Haley’s family has a tenuous history in the US

BY MATT LEISTRA  
Staff Writer

South Carolina governor Nikki Haley, President-elect Trump’s nominee for U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, will be the highest-ranking woman of Sikh heritage in American government history, if confirmed.

Sikhism was born in India in the 15th and 16th centuries. Sikhism is a monotheistic faith that believes that unity with god is achieved through a rejection of the five thieves (ego, anger, greed, attachment and lust) and a lifetime of service to humanity.

Furthermore, Sikhs have a long and distinguished history of military service in both the United States and countries around the world given the value Sikhism places on resisting oppression. Additionally, the Sikh scripture, Guru Granth Sahib, is strongly in favor of equality between men and women and equality in general, a stark departure from traditional Indian culture that divided society into different castes.

The Sikh faith came to America over 100 years ago and has faced an uphill, sometimes bloody, battle to achieve equality. After the terrorist attacks of September 11, Sikhs were the victims of many hate crimes because of the similarity of their outward appearance to that of Muslims. The Sikh faith requires its male members to wear a turban and keep their facial hair unshaven.

These physical similarities resulted in horrific stories like that of Pabjot Singh, who was assaulted by five young men near Central Park who punched and kicked him after screaming “Terrorist, Osama, get him.”

Years after 9/11, hate crimes against Sikhs continue to terrorize the community, for example the mass shooting at a Sikh Temple in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, that killed six people in 2012.

The exact number of Sikhs in the United States is difficult to measure with any certainty, because the U.S. Census Bureau doesn’t collect information regarding respondents’ religious beliefs. Estimates from the 2010 Religious Congregations and Membership Study put the number of gurdwaras, or congregations, at 246, and the actual number of adherents as somewhere between 200,000 and 500,000.

Sikhism has had a perpetual relationship with the American

court system as the subject of religious freedom debates. These debates revolve around the five articles of faith Sikhs are required to have on them at all times: Kesh (uncut hair), Kara (a steel bracelet), Kanga (wooden comb), Kaccha (cotton underwear) and Kirpan (dagger). The Sikh prohibition against cutting one’s hair has prohibited many from serving in the United States Armed Forces, which has strict requirements on facial hair length.

Moreover, the Kirpan, short steel dagger, can be thought of as a weapon, which creates a problem for Sikh children attending public schools. The U.S.

government has worked with the Sikh population to institute religious exceptions to the grooming requirements of Sikhs in the military, and some states like California have allowed Sikh students to tightly sew dull bladed Kirpans into their sheaths so they would not be dangerous or capable of being drawn.

Though Governor Haley is a practicing Christian, she still attends the occasional Sikh service with her parents. Her heritage may provide motivation to protect religious minorities around the world.

Haley was the subject of racial slurs in her 2010 campaign

for governor when a Republican state senator called her and President Obama “ragheads,” and she has recently been insulted by Ann Coulter on Twitter, wrongly identifying her as an immigrant and implying that meant she “does not understand America’s history.”

If Haley is confirmed as the next U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, she will surpass former congressman Dalip Singh Saund, a three-term representative from California who suffered a stroke just before his 1962 reelection bid, as the highest-ranking member of the U.S. government to have a Sikh background.



Nikki Haley, governor of South Carolina, is of Indian Sikh heritage.

PHOTO COURTESY THE HUFFINGTON POST

# SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

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## Campus Safety Report

The campus safety department took a report of a larceny of a wallet from an employee's purse in their office in the Spoelhof College Center. The office was unlocked and open at the time of the larceny. There were no reported witnesses to the theft, and it is unknown who took the wallet. The theft was also reported to the Grand Rapids Police Department.

Reported 1/12/2017

### Super Crossword

#### Answers

M	A	R	K	S	O	F	F	R	E	G	R	E	T	S	A	B	B	A	
O	S	O	L	E	M	I	O	A	R	M	E	N	I	A	S	O	U	L	
C	O	M	I	N	G	T	O	A	D	E	A	D	E	N	D	S	U	M	O
K	N	E	E	S	T	R	I	J	A	M	B	I	L	B	O				
E	S	T	I	L	E	A	R	T	D	E	R	I	V	E					
S	T	E	L	L	A	M	A	R	I	S	P	S	Y	A	B	S			
C	A	N	O	E	O	R	E	S	A	E	R	O	A	C	R	E	S		
A	V	O	W	A	L	S	S	T	A	N	D	I	N	G	O	R	D	E	R
P	E	R	L	I	T	D	I	D	E	S	I	N	E						
E	D	S	E	L	S	A	N	I	M	A	L	S	N	E	S	S	I	E	
V	A	L	R	E	N	E	Y	O	S	S	I	N	S						
F	R	E	E	Z	E	B	R	A	N	D	E	D	O	U	T	I	N	G	S
L	A	X	L	Y	E	E	L	S	A	R	A	L	E	D	E	M	A		
O	T	T	U	R	N	U	P	U	P	A	N	D	A	W	A	Y			
P	R	I	O	R	Y	P	E	R	O	L	E	Y	R	S					
G	O	O	D	W	I	L	L	A	M	B	A	S	S	A	D	O	R		
R	I	V	E	N	A	N	I	S	E	T	C	O	M	M	A				
A	S	E	A	J	A	P	A	N	E	S	E	A	L	P	H	A	B	E	T
T	O	R	T	A	L	A	M	O	D	E	T	O	U	R	D	A	T	E	
A	N	T	E	W	I	Z	A	R	D	S	E	G	R	E	S	S	E	S	

### King Crossword

#### Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.

B	A	B	E	S	A	D	S	P	A	T	
B	A	R	N	A	C	L	E	A	R	C	O
C	H	A	R	C	O	A	L	V	I	N	E
A	M	T	I	M	A	G	E	S			
W	E	D	G	E	S	C	A	N			
E	R	I	E	C	H	A	R	T	E	R	
T	I	S	P	O	T	T	Y	V	O	W	
C	H	A	R	L	I	E	D	E	A	R	
B	I	L	K	W	I	N	D	Y			
E	X	H	U	M	E	C	O	S			
P	R	O	S	C	H	A	R	M	I	N	G
E	Y	E	S	S	E	N	Y	E	L	P	

### Weekly SUDOKU

#### Answer

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

### Weekly SUDOKU

#### Answer

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

## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

### DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging  
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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### FOR FANS OF GORE

- ACROSS**
- 1 Ditzzy types
  - 9 Stains, as with blood
  - 16 Yearn (for)
  - 20 Hellish
  - 21 Powder from chili peppers
  - 22 Drive- —
  - 23 Meat-curing company?
  - 25 Look as though
  - 26 "— Fideles" (Yule carol)
  - 27 Inning divisions
  - 29 Form of jazz
  - 30 R&B singer with the 1965 hit "Hold What You've Got"
  - 33 Last time you'll ever pull into a garage?
  - 39 Gerund ending
  - 40 Angry music genre
  - 43 Placed (down)
  - 44 Tasting rich and sweet
  - 45 Messenger bringing news to cows?
  - 50 See 13-Down
  - 51 "It's the end of —!"
  - 52 Lance of the O.J. trial
  - 53 Real bargain
  - 55 Observe
  - 58 "Let's hear it"
  - 60 Ger.'s home
  - 62 Stephen of "Citizen X"
  - 64 Croft of video games
  - 65 "The Catcher in the Rye" author's tune penner?
  - 71 Old crone
  - 74 Lav in a pub
  - 75 Build — (make one's home)
  - 76 Geller of psych acts
  - 77 Lamb suckler
  - 78 Obsolete provider of stability?
  - 83 Slangy suffix with buck
  - 84 Vehicle-towing org.
  - 85 Cong. member
  - 86 Looked hard
  - 90 Turf again
  - 92 Division of Islam
  - 96 Trunk bone
  - 98 Very brief time
  - 99 Movable kayak fin
  - 101 "You already know the answer is 'team spirit,' right?"
  - 104 Large arboreal snake
  - 107 Russian city
  - 108 Co. suit
  - 109 Paver's goo
  - 110 Shoes worn in the Sahara?
  - 113 In recent days
  - 116 "My life" book
  - 117 Eight, in German
  - 118 Practically Edison's middle name
  - 123 Piece from "The Domestic Oratorio"?
  - 131 NY Met, e.g.
  - 132 Came
  - 133 #1 Bruce Springsteen album of 1980
  - 134 Emmy winner
  - 135 Not unfeeling
  - 136 Blood vessel to the heart
  - 1 Belittle, informally
  - 2 — fix (stuck)
  - 3 Eagles' org.
  - 4 Insinuate
  - 5 Groom's counterpart
  - 6 Added on
  - 7 Dogs' jinglers
  - 8 ATM feature
  - 9 Cold dessert
  - 10 Scratch, e.g.
  - 11 Off — mile
  - 12 On Social Sec., say
  - 13 With 50- Across, workers' advocates, for short
  - 14 Sufficient
  - 15 Summoned
  - 16 "— true!"
  - 17 Nickname of Boston's locale
  - 18 Louisiana cuisine style
  - 19 Like camels
  - 24 Liveliness
  - 28 Bone-to-muscle joiner
  - 30 Holy war
  - 31 Bridge bid, briefly
  - 32 White heron
  - 34 Styled after
  - 35 Some vermin
  - 36 Chanteuse
  - 37 Sit in neutral
  - 38 Language for a Sherpa
  - 41 Me, to Gigi
  - 42 Many a time
  - 46 Warlike god
  - 47 Refrain
  - 48 Puma
  - 49 Be worthy of
  - 54 Boost
  - 56 Flight staff
  - 57 Tortoise rival
  - 59 Novelist Mario Vargas —
  - 61 Casino city
  - 63 "That's —!" (film-set cry)
  - 66 Greek I's
  - 67 Sleep cycle part
  - 68 Old fast fliers, briefly
  - 69 People who aren't you
  - 70 Meet, as the challenge
  - 71 I-beam relative
  - 72 River in Switzerland
  - 73 Gives short shrift to
  - 79 "Well, — here!"
  - 80 Man-goat god
  - 81 Computer of the 1940s
  - 82 N. Mex., before 1912
  - 87 Calf catcher
  - 88 Showiness
  - 89 Plow maker
  - 93 A noble gas
  - 94 Egghead
  - 95 Brain gain
  - 97 "Farewell!"
  - 100 Entrapments in lies, e.g.
  - 102 In bad health
  - 103 Small aquatic rail
  - 104 Financial co. for which the Boston Celtics' arena is named
  - 105 Comic Charles Nelson —
  - 106 On dry land
  - 111 Done to — (well-cooked)
  - 112 NBC fixture since '75
  - 114 Plant life
  - 115 Tune's text
  - 119 1999 Ron Howard film
  - 120 Feel sore
  - 122 Noted coach
  - 124 Family gal
  - 125 A Gabor
  - 126 Riled, with "up"
  - 127 Keats poem
  - 128 A Gardner
  - 129 O.T. book
  - 130 Pitching stat

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13	14	15		16	17	18	19		
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121																						
131																						
134																						

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# dialogue

from the pages of

## Rubin's Vase

Jonathan Gorter (2014)

Do not give me a vase  
Between black silhouettes  
Of faces  
Too afraid to act  
Frozen in frame  
Unable to change the iconic image  
They form between them

They please and tease our mind's eye  
But my heart aches for more  
If only I could tell them  
To move closer  
That they deserve each other  
That they can love  
That they can live  
That they can move  
And resurrect the stagnant dead air

I want to shout to them  
"Break the vase, please break the vase!"  
But they remain still  
Frozen in frame  
Too afraid to kiss  
Preserving a useless unscrupulous image  
Of a hollow vase

Give me shards of glass on the floor  
And two faces  
Alive  
And so close  
That I cannot see even with a microscope  
The space between them

## Love thy neighbor

BY MAX MADEWELL  
Guest Writer

I have been a student at this wonderful academic institution that is Calvin College for almost five years, and I have enjoyed my time here very much. Despite that, however, I think we can all agree the last year or so has been a brutal one for all of us. Never in my life have I seen us all so divided as a people, as a country and as a nation. I have seen former friends of mine despise me left and right because of differing political allegiances in the past year's election cycle or because of a worldview that I do not share or agree with. I have seen usually calm and collected people get zealous and spiteful towards those who disagreed with them, branding their opponents names that they frankly do not deserve. Words like racist, fascist, misogynist, sexist etc. used to be words that were only spoken if the charges were serious enough, now they are used like candy — using them on others in an attempt to silence or suppress their voice under threat of stigma and/or social humiliation. I know this is the case not only because it has happened to dear friends of mine but because it has happened to me, as well as all across the U.S. These harsh words have lost their meaning and weight. I think part of this is due to the fact that the last several generations (mine included) have been raised with the notion that we are right, we know what's best and it's us against the world. We have a vision of what the world is or should be, and by



PHOTO CREDIT: WIKIMEDIA

God, we will protest, become activists and raise our voice to those who refuse to yield! To be fair, I don't think this is a bad thing. In the 1960s, this was the same attitude that created the counter-cultural movement which broke the chains of more authoritative norms, demanded more transparency from the government, and created a desire to spread a vision of peace, equality and love across the U.S. and the world. What would they say if they saw how much vitriol, bitterness and anger both sides of the political spectrum in the U.S. have expressed over the past few months? What would Martin Luther King Jr., a man of peace who emphasized tolerance, love and civility, say about the violence and riots that have erupted over the past few months?

As a Christian, I believe that in order to spread the word of God effectively across the world, tolerance, compassion, civility and understanding have to be in place. If any one of those are lacking, the word of God will never reach the ears of those who either reject him or have not heard of him. I believe in spreading his word through civil discourse and discussion in the open marketplace of ideas. Calling people names, acting out of spite towards our brothers and sisters both in Christ and of the world will not contribute to the spreading of God's word but will in fact recede its influence. You all may have fears about what happened last year, bitterness, maybe even anger. But I ask you all as a fellow Calvin student, Christian and American, in the name of God, forgive. Forgive your enemies, forgive your friends and forgive yourself. Engage with your brothers and sisters in thoughtful dialogue and discourse and learn from one another. It is the sharing of opinions and ideas that make us all grow as we are as diverse and different in hearts and minds like every flake of snow. "Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification" (Rom. 14:19).

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

### 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.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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:

KELSEY POWERS - KMP37@STUDENTS.CALVIN.EDU  
VICTOR LYNDE - VEL2@STUDENTS.CALVIN.EDU

### POLICIES

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.

Chimes accepts submissions from all Calvin students, faculty and staff. Alumni may also submit letters to the editor.

The deadline for submissions is 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday for print on Friday.

## Sanctity of human life Sunday

BY VICTOR LYNDE  
Op-Ed Editor

This past Sunday was Sanctity of Human Life Sunday. Last week, we remembered and grieved the deaths, the murders, of 58 million unborn children who have lost their lives to abortion in the United States since 1973.

We remember most clearly that we live in a culture of death, a culture where abortion is not just grudgingly accepted, but is embraced, a culture where five states have legalized euthanasia. There may come a time when our great, great grandchildren look back on us with the same disgust we have for our ancestors who tolerated slavery and refused to stand with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.; they may look at us with disgust because we didn't

do enough to preserve the sanctity of life.

However, despite the difficulty in imagining the gravity of this tragedy, we can still be hopeful. I am hopeful because of the sovereignty of God in all things. When I look at the work the Lord has done in the past few years, the lives that have been changed because of God's hand of grace in the pro-life movement, I can look to the future with both hope and faith. From the exposure of Planned Parenthood's profiting from fetal tissue and organ "donation," to the advancement in ultrasound technology, to individual stories of redemption I believe God is slowly healing the American conscience of the scarring it's endured under its toleration of abortion. I and many others have witnessed the lives that have come from spiritual death to spiritual life through tragedy. Women and men alike have been united with Christ because the tragedy of abortion broad-

sided them when they least expected it. Many have felt God's grace and their eyes have been opened to the light at the end of the tunnel, a light of unity and freedom in Christ. How great are the will and the grace of our God if he can take something so terrible and bring about something beautiful from the ashes. The hidden will of God is something we may not see for a long time; in fact, we might never see its fruit. But the revealed will of God, the Bible, tells us to have faith and joy when trials come our way because of the Holiness and the Sovereignty of God.

Job was a man who had much and lost everything. His children died, his property was taken, his friends scorned him, and even his wife told him to curse God and die. But Job persevered, believing in the perfect will and sovereignty of God. When he heard that his beloved children were dead, Job 1:20-21 says, "Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head and fell on the ground and worshiped. And he said, 'Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.'" Even at the end of the book of Job, when he questions God and God rebukes him, Job repents and declares "I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted."

May we live daily for the glory of God, praying for the end to the mass-killing of the unborn and the changing of hearts and minds in a culture that embraces death.



PHOTO COURTESY WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

## Greetings from St. Petersburg, Florida

BY MELANIE FOX  
Guest Writer

Greetings from "Harness the Wind: Learn to Sail and Learn to Lead," an interim course in St. Petersburg, Florida. Like many a Calvin student, I chose to be a deserter in the annual war against winter. I was drawn by a desire for adventure and the need of PER credit, so I joined a group of nineteen other students to learn the art of sailing.

We began simply enough, by memorizing basic terms and maneuvers. If you bow in the front, exposing yourself, the people in the back will become stern. Sailing the five-person, moderate-sized Colgate 26s mostly consisted of making sure the sails were properly trimmed, not running into things and taking selfies. Then we moved onto the 420s.

We would be using these winged coffins for racing. The 4.2 meters boats held only two people, one to steer and command and the other to act as mobile ballast. Each person also controlled a sail, which often resulted in a shortage of hands.

My partner and I were compatible, but different. When she took the lead we expertly navigated every turn with speed and placed well in practice races. When I led, we went aground, nearly capsized,

and spun around in circles. On one occasion, I also drew blood from my partner by knocking her in the head with the boom, the horizontal beam attached to the mainsail and mast that violently swings like an irate toddler when the person steering is a complete nincompoop.

Before I sound like an incompetent, wilted pansy, please note the difficulties of steering a 420. During turns, the tiller and mainsail work deviously together to rip themselves from

your hands. Letting go is an option like spinning, flipping and decapitating your teammate with the boom are options. On top of all that, you must maintain an optimal angle to an ever changing wind, while avoiding the other bewildered newbies zigzagging in and out of your blind spot and charging towards the same point as you. Everyone ends up becoming a Pollock painting of scrapes and bruises. There is no forgiveness.

I do recognize that I was at no risk of dying. I was at risk of swearing. A lot. Which is like dying on the inside. Slowly.

In true Calvin fashion, the professors introduced themes of increased self-awareness into the class. I thought that those were unnecessary. After all, I didn't need to be thrown into a speeding fiberglass shell of doom to know that I am generally risk-averse and have the coordination of a newborn Thomson's gazelle. I am an adult now. I make caseroles. At this point in my life my personal epiphanies are minute — finding a new freckle would be a huge discovery. Yes, I know, some readers are thinking, "Just wait until you start making goo-goo eyes at some guy, forward your career, get a house, have 'future Calvin students,' change jobs, have a midlife crisis, miss a car payment, and get a puppy, etc." How about no.

For now I am happy learning that I enjoy working on sailboats, just not skipping the little ones.



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# PHOTO ESSAY

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