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Chimes

THE OFFICIAL STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF CALVIN COLLEGE SINCE 1907 | FEBRUARY 10, 2017 (REPRINTED MAY 2017) | Volume 111 - Issue 18

Campus Bible study kicks off

BY KATHRYN MAE POST
Religion Editor

On dreary afternoons around mid-February in Grand Rapids, remembering to remain hopeful can prove especially challenging. Yet as a Christian community, Calvin College has particular reason to hope even on the most miserable days.

Calvin College has particular reason to hope even on the most miserable days.

This semester, Calvin students, faculty and staff will explore the reason for this hope as they learn about apologetics through Calvin's campus-wide small group study.

Calvin students, faculty and staff will explore the reason for this hope as they learn about apologetics through Calvin's campus-wide small group study.

The six-week study begins this week (February 6-12) and will cover questions such as "Why trust the Bible?" "Is Jesus the son of God?" "If God is good, why so much suffering and evil in the world?" "What to do with hell?"

Chaplain Mary Hulst will also preach on these topics during the next six weeks of LOFT.

SEE "STUDY," PAGE 9 ►



PHOTO COURTESY CALVIN.EDU

Students can gather in small groups to discuss apologetics.

Tie-breaking vote confirms DeVos



Mike Pence cast the deciding vote for Betsy DeVos on Tuesday.

PHOTO COURTESY THE NEW YORKER

BY CAROLYN MUYSKENS
Local Editor

With Vice President Mike Pence's tie-breaking vote, the Senate confirmed Betsy DeVos, a Calvin College alumna, to be education secretary Tuesday morning.

DeVos now holds the highest governmental position a Calvin College graduate has ever had: a seat on the President's Cabinet.

Tuesday's vote followed an all-night demonstration by Democrats, who held the floor for a full 24 hours in opposition to the nomination.

Democrats sought to persuade one more Republican senator to vote against DeVos's nomination; two Republicans had already pledged to vote "no," leaving the predicted vote a 50-50 tie.

When none of the Republicans budged and the confirmation

came to a vote, Vice President Mike Pence was called upon to cast a tie-breaking vote in favor of DeVos, the first time the Senate has needed a tie-breaker in the confirmation of a Cabinet appointee.

DeVos's 51-50 confirmation was the narrowest yet in the formation of Trump's cabinet; no nominations so far have been rejected by the Senate.

SEE "DEVOS," PAGE 5 ►

Interim class studies drug use at Calvin

BY MICHAEL LENTZ
Campus Co-Editor

This past interim, nearly forty Calvin students took a class entitled, "The Complex World of Drugs." The class, which was offered as both a DCM and a non-DCM, included a diverse mix of lower and upper-level students. The class was taught by Professors Kurt Ver Beek and Jo Ann Van Engen, the professors who lead Calvin's Honduras semester.

The class examined global drug use and drug policy, yet it also explored on drug use at Calvin

Ver Beek and Van Engen stated during the course that their interest in drug use and drug policy grew out of their work in Honduras and the amount of drug traffic and governmental control in that country. The course also included a Skype presentation and interview with a Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) officer, as well as a presentation by the Grand Rapids Police Department.

The class examined global drug use and drug policy, yet it also explored on drug use at Calvin, specifically through data collected by the class in the form of a brief survey. The data dis-

played alongside this article demonstrates some of the findings of the survey (see page 3).

According to Lauren Anderson, a senior nursing student, the survey was created by Ver Beek and Van Engen and made available to students on the first day of class. Each student was required to get at least four of their friends to take the survey, with the ultimate participation goal of around five-hundred Calvin students. Ultimately, the data presented in the class (and alongside this article) is data from approximately three hundred Calvin students.

The survey asked participants two kinds of questions. The first was intended to determine student perception of drug use at Calvin, and the second was more focused on determining actual student drug use at Calvin.

According to the survey results, the perception is that Calvin students use heroin, ecstasy, prescription painkillers (without a prescription) and underage alcohol consumption at higher rates than they are actually used (overestimated by approximately 10, 5, 3 and 3 percent, respectively). On the other hand, marijuana and ADHD medication were both used at higher rates than predicted (approximately 25 and 2 percent higher, respectively). According to this survey data, cocaine use was perfectly predicted.

SEE "DRUGS," PAGE 3 ►



PHOTO COURTESY FORBES.COM



PHOTO COURTESY CALVIN COLLEGE

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Professors Ver Beek (left) and Van Engen (below) led the class in their research on drug use.



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

Just Citizenship series builds connections

BY JULIANA LUDEMA
On-Call Writer

Matt Walhout, the dean for research and scholarship, kicked off the Just Citizenship Forum Monday, framing the series by giving the intergenerational audience a chance to air their political concerns, exploring the importance of the verb “equip” in Calvin’s mission statement.

At the ReGathering last week, Dr. Laura Smit challenged Christians to engage in hard and deep conversations. Walhout called this a “theological springboard,” framing the Just Citizenship series as one of its applications:

“We want to see and hear from people who have different views of what’s going on in the world today,” he said. “We want to face the difficulty of building connections across different ways of seeing things.”

Walhout told the story of Bayram Akbulut, a student he met in Hungary. After Akbulut showed interest in studying abroad and learning about different religions, Walhout arranged for him to spend a semester at Calvin.

Akbulut, who emigrated after a failed coup in Turkey, sup-

ported the Islamic government in power. This meant he had few shared values with the people he met while in the U.S., yet those he encountered reached out to him, working to bridge the divide by sharing intelligent conversation. This way of reacting to diverse thought is what Walhout hopes to encourage throughout the Just Citizenship series.

Walhout encouraged the audience to split into small groups and talk about an aspect of political concern. He hoped people would end up in groups with those sharing different views and encouraged groups to consider what it’s like to see things differently and why it might be important to reach across the divide.

Attendees discussed current issues ranging from immigration to abortion to the rural-urban divide. This discussion time “was really beneficial” for junior Kelli Grimm:

“It was really interesting knowing nothing about the other people in my group, where they were coming from, what their situations were or if they would agree with me. It changed the way I approached the conversation.”

For many audience members, this opening session was valuable, but philosophy professor

Matt Halteman pointed out that sometimes you simply don’t share a coherent vision of the world with other people and there is no common ground. In that instance, he said, “maybe we have to be in solidarity with people we agree with.”

The verb “equip” can sum up Calvin’s mission statement, said Walhout. He explained becoming equipped can mean both a social know-how, how to interact with those around us, and an internal communication that builds you up and prepares you to go out into the world.

He pointed out that, in French, “l’equip” means “team.”

“It’s not ‘us against them,’ but it’s trying to talk to each other and consider the voices we don’t normally listen to,” he said.

Walhout also encouraged people to discuss ways to move forward, both through practically affecting the government and considering diverse perspectives. Audience members gave ideas ranging from political postcard writing parties, to creating a dating-style app where people could meet up and discuss differences to simply think through what you believe.

The Just Citizenship series is every Monday at 3:30 in the chapel.



Guests await speaker Matt Walhout.

Dance party embraces old school

BY DANIEL HICKEY
Staff Writer

Students poured into the Fish House on Friday night to dance with friends to hip-hop, soul and pop classics. The “Fantastic Beats and Where to Find Them” dance party gave students a fun way to kick off the first weekend of the semester.

The Fish House was no normal coffee shop once Martin Avila and John “Moose” Williamson arrived on the scene. Avila and Williamson, who appeared as DJ MA and DJ Maxx, came prepared with headphones, track jackets and milk crates full of their go-to records. They weren’t kidding around. The floor was cleared, party lights were brought out and dual turntables were set up, all in preparation for the evening’s all-vinyl dance party.

The room was packed for most of the night and the re-

ords kept spinning for nearly four hours’ worth of old-school pop, funk, soul and hip-hop. Students danced and sang along to hits like Michael Jackson’s “Man In The Mirror,” Run-DMC’s “It’s Tricky” and Charles Wright’s “Express Yourself,” at times breaking out into large-group line dances and even some brief dance-offs.

Williamson, research and program coordinator for the Student Activities Office, said he was happy with the “great crowd” of students who came to the event. He also commended their willingness to really have fun and enjoy the music, even though he assumed that not all of the songs would be familiar to everyone.

Avila, the coordinator of multicultural student programming and intercultural student development, said he was happy with the turnout and that he has plans to host more DJ events in the future, hoping to play different types of music he didn’t have time to play during “Fantastic Beats.”

Junior Elyse Hill said, “I wasn’t expecting there to be so much old school,” but she added later, “It was still good.”

Sophomore Taj Smith said she appreciated hearing some older music as well, but wished some of the selections would have been more danceable.

Both Hill and Smith felt the event did well with serving different student audiences who likely have different tastes in music, providing a fun atmosphere for a variety of Calvin students.

“It was nice to bridge two groups,” said Hill, in reference to SAO and MSDO-affiliated students who attended the event. Their one recommendation

for next time: mix in some newer music to balance out the old-school.



DJ MA and DJ Maxx perform in the Fish House.

Exhibit celebrates black inventors

BY ALEX JOHNSON
Guest Writer

As a part of the celebration of Black History this month, Multicultural Student Development Office and Student Senate joined together to host the Black Inventors and Inventions Traveling Museum. This museum was meant to highlight some of the many objects invented by African-Americans and the lives of important inventors throughout American history. Set up in the corridor connecting Hiemenga Hall and the Fireplace Lobby, the museum presented an array of different objects – from the ice cream scoop to the refrigerator truck.

The museum showcased inventors throughout history by displaying their inventions with their name and the patent number. Some notable objects include George Crum (c. 1824-1911) who invented the potato chip, Madam C. J. Walker (1867-1919) who invented her own line of hair products for black women, Sarah Boone (c. 1870-1900) who invented the ironing board, John Arthur Johnson (1878-1946) who invented the wrench, William C. Davis (1926-) who invented the process to improve instant mashed potatoes, James E. West (1931-) who invented a cheaper and improved microphone and Lonnie Johnson (1949-) who invented the super soaker.

There were a few newspaper articles posted alongside the inventions, giving additional information about the inventor’s biography and providing insight into each inventor’s attitudes towards their own inventions.

Davis, for example, was proud of his innovation with instant mashed potatoes but

was also passionate about the additional work he has done, particularly in testing a herbal tonic which his father swore by. These postings brought out the story and history behind the common object and its creator or improver.

A part of the museum noted how many inventors have been lost to history, either because their ideas were stolen or they were a slave and their master took ownership of their innovation.

Inventors like George Washington Carver (c. 1864-1943), were able to get their education during the era of Reconstruction and take ownership of their own inventions. Carver was the head of the agricultural department at the Tuskegee Institute, founded by Booker T. Washington, and invented many uses for crops easily grown by sharecroppers like peanuts, pecans and sweet potatoes (he did not, however, invent peanut butter).

Garrett Morgan (1877-1963), who invented the smoke hood (gas mask) and three-signal traffic light, stands as a reminder of how prejudice plagued the lives of these successful inventors. After publicly demonstrating the effectiveness of his mask by saving the lives of workers trapped in a tunnel under Lake Erie, many fire stations around the world ordered the mask. Some of those orders were cancelled once they were aware that Morgan was an African American.

Recognizing the past in the tangible innovations of African-Americans, who impact everyday life is a sign of respect and adds to the complexity of African-American history. Learning about this history nurtures hope for future advancements in safety and wellness, and perhaps fun.

Drugs

▶ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

When compared to national statistics for college-age students (18-25 years old), the Calvin students surveyed align closely with national averages. The Calvin students surveyed use marijuana, prescription painkillers, and consume alcohol underage at slightly higher rates than the national average (approximately 2, 3, and 15 percent, respectively). Cocaine, Heroin, Ecstasy and ADHD medication were all used by the Calvin students surveyed at slightly lower rates than the national report (approximately 4, >1, 2 and 7 percent, respectively).

According to Anderson, the professors and the students did have some reservations concerning false reporting:

“When friends were taking it, there were definitely questions like: ‘is this anonymous, like, will people find out? Who’s gonna know?’ And some people did answer honestly, but some people were like, ‘I’m not gonna answer honestly because I don’t feel comfortable.’”

When reflecting on the comparison of Calvin data to national data, Anderson remarked, “I think we want to believe, as a Christian institution, that our results would be drastically different than the national average, but this shows different — we’re quite comparable.”

Because this was the first year this course had been offered, Anderson appreciated the mix of perspectives and the age range of the course:

“A lot of people had different reasons for being interested in the course, some people want to go into policy, some people had friends who do drugs, or they might do drugs, or know people who are doing drugs.”

Commenting on the importance of studying drug use at Calvin, Anderson said, “I knew illegal drug trafficking was something that had many repercussions, but I don’t think I realized the magnitude that these poor farmers, in Colombia and Bolivia [farmers that supply raw materials used to produce drugs like cocaine and heroin], like American army officers are flying planes over and eradicating their crops, trying to decrease cocaine [traffic] in the U.S.”

The course gave Anderson a more holistic and involved perspective of the drug trade and the way it impacts people beyond users, dealers and law enforcement — it impacts global economy and global relationships.

She explained, “Just thinking about the impact that drugs have on everyone, even if we’re not directly...that’s where a lot of dollars are going. To keep people

in jail and to keep them alive, because a lot of the reasons that people stay [in prison] is for these minimum drug charges.”

Speaking of the reasoning behind having a class about drugs at Calvin, Anderson said, “I think it’s important as a Christian institution, as Calvin, to be talking about this because we are here to learn how to engage with the world and I think it’s necessary to know what’s going on so that we can make educated decisions and prayerful decisions in how we approach policy and how we see that God holds all things together, and learn how we can participate with God in shalom, and figuring out what that looks like, rather than keeping [drugs in] a secular box, and God in a spiritual box.”

“I came away from the class with many more questions than answers, but also that hope that, at Calvin, we can continue talk-

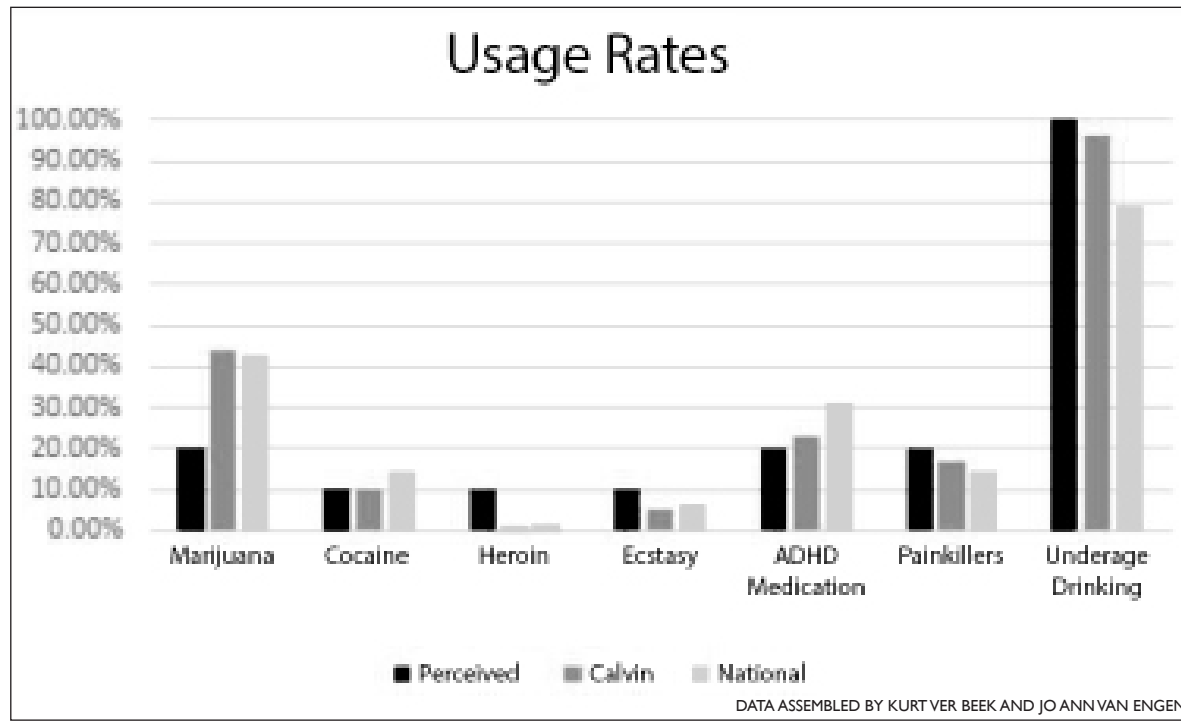
ing about difficult things that we don’t know the answers [to] yet. I think this was a class that did that very well.”

When it comes to actually decreasing drug traffic at Calvin, Anderson said, “I think it starts with talking about things, just like people are talking about politics post-election, how that has become a hot topic.”

Anderson came away from the class with a fresh interest in exploring the reasons why Calvin students turn to drugs.

She said, “I want to know why people want to get numb? Why do people want to get hammered? Why do people want to do all these things? I think that’s when you start to get answers.”

Knowing the reason why someone may turn to drugs can lead to a productive discussion and proposition of possible alternatives.



NOTABLE MENTIONS

COMING UP

- ▶ **Improv Show**
Saturday, February 11, 8 p.m. @ CFAC Recital Hall
- ▶ **SAO Movie Fantastic Beasts**
Saturday, February 11, 8 p.m. @ CFAC
- ▶ **Political Panel**
Monday, February 13, 3:30p.m. @ Chapel
- ▶ **Career Fair Prep**
Wednesday, February 15, 3:30p.m. @ Hiemenga Hall
- ▶ **Open Studio Night**
Thursday, February 16, 6 p.m. @ Spoelhof Center Gezon Lower Lobby
- ▶ **Cold Knight Plunge 2017**
Friday, February 17, 5 p.m. @ Seminary Lawn
- ▶ **Praise Night with Gospel Choir**
Friday, February 17, 9 p.m. @ Seminary Lawn

Student life holds Cokes & Clubs 2.0

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BY HANNAH BUTLER
Staff Writer

Student organizations enlivened the Hoogenboom Gym with smiles, with cleverly themed posters and cans of Coke for the second round of Cokes & Clubs this year. 61 out of 69 student organizations and eight Calvin-sponsored groups attended the event.

Up and down the rows of tables, groups of friends mingled and gathered to ask for information from club representatives. Students attending Cokes & Clubs 2.0, especially those transferring for the spring semester or arriving back from studying off-campus, received reassurance that they were welcome at Calvin College.

Cokes & Clubs 2.0 provided a space for student organizations to explain their purposes in more depth. For example, the rescue team, Liberty in North Korea (LiNK), with its headquarters in Los Angeles, has attended Cokes & Clubs since the founding of the organization to spread awareness about and fundraise for North Korean refugees escaping and resettling outside of their country.

“Just by telling people what our organization is and about North Korea,” stated Jiho Jeong, a third-year student at Calvin, “there are a lot of people who sometimes don’t know or think that the government brainwashes people, but that was in the past. What is happening now is there are many North Koreans who are escaping, and they are starting to understand the reality of their country.”

Likewise, the physical, occupational and recreational therapy (PORT) club, which may seem restricted to students pursuing a career in therapy, explained that they host events throughout the year which are inclusive of all majors. During Cokes & Clubs 2.0, representatives of the organization welcomed majors of other fields and guaranteed that the terminology and topics of club gatherings and speaking events would not “go over their heads.”

With a chance to hear explanations of club events and goals, students had the resources they needed to choose a club that supported their interests. This year, the Calvin Video Game Sphere hosted weekly events on Fridays with steady attendance and monthly tournaments, both open

to all students. One of their representatives recognized the benefit of expanding their membership through Cokes & Clubs 2.0.

“We’ve had lots of sign ups from the last one,” stated a representative, “Not so much from this one ... because people already come to the first semester. But for any other student who just transferred in or just couldn’t go to the first one, you can say it brings more members to our group.”

Jesús Delgado, coordinator of campus involvement and leadership, explained another reason for the lower attendance in the spring in comparison with the fall semester:

“With this being the second year we do Cokes & Clubs in the spring,” he stated, “we had over

350 students attend this event. Of course, our spring numbers tend to be lower than in the fall primarily due to location. In the fall, Cokes & Clubs is in the middle of Commons Lawn (a place students must walk past to get to their classes or residence halls) whereas when we have it in the Hoogenboom Gym, it becomes a destination that students must get to, which is a hassle during the cold winter days.”

If you are interested in becoming involved with a student organization, but were unable to attend due to a schedule conflict or the freezing temperature, it is not too late for you to join. Please see the full list of student organizations on the Offices and Services page of the Calvin College website for club contact information.



The Board Game Guild recruits new members for the 2017 spring semester.

▶ Interested in writing for *Chimes*?

Email chimes@calvin.edu

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



Hope women's basketball crushes 1st place dream

BY TANNER VINCENT
Guest Writer

The women's basketball team suffered a crushing blow to their race for first place in the MIAA Conference in their game against Hope College on Feb. 1. The Flying Dutchmen edged the Knights by a score of 63-55 in overtime. Hope snapped the Knights seven game win streak with the recent defeat. This was only the third time in the history of the Rivalry that a game has gone to overtime, with Hope winning 55-53 in 1995 and Calvin 63-58 in 2007.

Winkelman also was proud of the team, saying that they "played their guts out, and played as hard as they could play," showing in the near-comeback the resilience that marks the women's team.

Both teams were 18-2 prior to the game, with conference title and national aspirations. Entering the game, Hope was tied for first place in the conference with Trine at 10-1 with Calvin standing second at 9-2.



Calvin College senior Anna Timmer dribbles through the Hope defense.

Additionally, the game had national ramifications with Hope ranked ninth in the Women's Basketball Coaches Association Division III Top 25 poll and 10th in the D3hoops.com Top 25 poll. Calvin was ranked behind Hope in the WBCA standings at 24th.

This was the second meeting between the two rivals this season, with Hope also claiming

the first victory at the DeVos Fieldhouse with a score of 82-61. The Flying Dutchmen came out to a hot first quarter last Wednesday, running up a score of 11-4 in the first five minutes, forcing Calvin to use a timeout. Despite a jump shot by senior Lauren Goldthorpe after the timeout, at the end of the quarter the Flying Dutchmen were up 17-8. At the end of a

low-scoring second quarter, the Flying Dutchmen were up by a score of 23-16.

Coming out of halftime, the Knights took advantage of the break and began to create a shift in momentum. Ali Spayde and Anna Timmer helped the Knights go on a 5-0 run, to which Hope would respond with seven unanswered points. Becca Richard of the Knights

then scored back-to-back three pointers, which with help from teammates narrowed the game to a one-point margin and gave the Knights their first lead by the end of the third quarter, 36-35.

The fourth quarter was a contest of wills, with Hope scoring early to make the score 47-40, and then each team going back and forth in scoring. A deep three-pointer by Rachel Warners with under a minute to play tied the game at 49, with the Knights holding off the final Flying Dutchmen offensive to send the game to overtime.

In overtime, Hope went on an 8-0 run and controlled the final period, forcing Calvin to foul Hope. Hope then secured their victory with four free throw points with a final score of 59-51.

Coach Chuck Winkelman noted Calvin's 21 turnovers and Hope's resultant 25 points off of those turnovers in remarking on the final score, saying we "weren't ourselves in the first half."

However, Winkelman also was proud of the team, saying that they "played their guts out, and played as hard as they could play," showing in the near-comeback the resilience that marks the women's team.

Calvin's next game at home is on Feb. 15 against Albion, with the MIAA tournament to follow on Feb. 24 and 25.

Knights of Calvin: Dani Rae Wascher



BY RACHEL KIM
Guest Writer

Name: Dani Rae Wascher
Year: Sophomore
Sport: Volleyball
Major: Strategic communication

Introduce yourself:

Dani Rae Wascher is from Albuquerque, New Mexico. She is an Outside Hitter/Defense specialist for Calvin's volleyball team. Wascher was introduced to volleyball by her 6th grade PE teacher and, soon after, joined an all-year travelling club team. While Dani has previously participated in soccer and track, she has been focusing on volleyball for the past nine years.

Why did you choose Calvin?

"[When applying to Calvin] I loved how Calvin put a lot of value on the community, and making sure that everyone feels

welcome and at home."

Growing up as an athlete, Dani has learned to strongly value skills and principles that are applicable to not only her sport, but her daily life. The teamwork she has built up throughout her volleyball career has translated into a strong appreciation of a sense of community and strong communicational skills.

"I am motivated to be a better version of myself."

Not only was Dani impressed by the community at Calvin, but she was impressed by the liberal arts education that Calvin offers. By having a well-rounded education, Dani believes that Calvin will prepare her to "handle any type of situation through critical thinking," which will

be important for her future as a communications major.

What skills have you learned from playing hockey?

"Personally what motivates me is knowing that each day I can strive to become a better version of myself and hopefully grow into the kind of person I want to be."

Whether it is through pursuing academics or pushing herself on the volleyball court, Dani strives to do the best she possibly can. By staying humble, Dani is able to point out specific areas in which she can improve and works to better herself in all areas of her life.

"I think that being a part of a team sports helps you to hold teammates accountable and to grow as a player, but more importantly as a person. I am motivated to be a better version of myself... and to know that I am constantly growing is something that keeps me motivated."

Upcoming Events

Feb. 10-17

Ice Hockey at Davenport

Friday, Feb. 17
6:30 p.m.

Swim & Dive MIAA Championships

Wednesday, Feb. 15

W Basketball at Adrian

Saturday, Feb. 11
3 p.m.

M Basketball vs. Kalamazoo

Saturday, Feb. 11
7:30 p.m.

W Basketball vs. Albion

Wednesday, Feb. 15
7:30 p.m.

M Basketball at Hope

Saturday, Feb. 18
3 p.m.

Recent Results

Feb. 1-8

Ice Hockey at Aquinas

Friday, Feb. 3
4:3 (Calvin)

Ice Hockey vs. Aquinas

Saturday, Feb. 4
4:2 (Aquinas)

M Basketball at Olivet

Saturday, Feb. 4
83:70 (Calvin)

M Basketball vs. Alma

Wednesday, Feb. 8
66:68 (Alma)

W Basketball vs. Trine

Saturday, Feb. 4
46:54 (Trine)

W Basketball at Olivet

Wednesday, Feb. 8
62:49 (Calvin)

Local agency details impact of refugee ban



Bethany Christian Services helped resettle this Sudanese family in West Michigan.

BY CAROLYN MUYSKENS
Local Editor

In the wake of President Trump's executive order halting all refugee entrance to the U.S. and the subsequent restraining order on the order, refugee resettlement agencies have been scrambling to continue to provide their services and advocate for those in danger around the world.

In Grand Rapids, there are three organizations who take in and support refugee families, including the local branch of Bethany Christian Services.

Chimes spoke with Kristine Van Noord, Bethany Christian Services' program director for refugee services in West Michigan.

Chimes: Could you describe what part Bethany plays in the refugee resettlement process?

Van Noord: Maybe it would be helpful if I just briefly explained the process. A refugee flees their first country and goes into a second country and when they are there, they register with the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) as a refugee and they receive that refugee status.

If it's determined that they cannot live viably in that second country or return to their first country, then they would be considered for refugee resettlement. Less than one percent of all refugees in the world are resettled into a third country.

In the United States, that process is run by the Department of State, and the Department of State contracts with nine national resettlement agencies that welcome refugees into the US. The Department of State brings the refugees through an extremely rigorous vetting process.

It involves five national agencies, like the FBI and the Department of Homeland Security, and it takes a minimum of two hundred days to go through the security clearances and medical clearances and an average of about two and a half years to go through it.

When they get towards the end of that process, they are then referred to one of those nine national agencies.

Every city has a different number of resettlement agencies. Here in Grand Rapids, for example, there are three. Bethany Christian Services, an affiliate of Church World Service, Samaritas, which is Lutheran and EMN, which is Episcopalian.

Clients are first placed in cities based on if they have family or friends there. If they do not, and they are what are called free cases, then they would be placed in a city that could best meet

their needs, so the cases are just allocated to different cities based on if they have that language capacity or if they're able to serve any additional needs they might have like medical issues or things like that.

Church World Service allocates cases to us, and usually about a couple weeks before they would arrive, we prepare for their arrival.

We rent an apartment or a house for them [...] we often engage a church or community group co-sponsor that can provide additional assistance and friendship to the family, we meet them at the airport, we help them apply for benefits, we do all different kinds of cultural orientation, help them apply for social security, get registered in school and English classes, get involved in an employment program so that they can find and maintain employment, everything that you can imagine would be necessary.

Chimes: How many refugees does Bethany resettle in West Michigan every year?

Van Noord: Last year we resettled 366, plus an additional number of what are called Cuban entrants [...] This year it was supposed to be 420.

Chimes: That's how many were scheduled for this year?

Van Noord: Yes, what's called "allocated." There were 420. With our other programs like employment and health and the healing center for survivors of torture and trauma, all together we serve about 800 clients per year.

"The reality is that the refugee program is a life-saving program."

Chimes: So have there already been specific cases of refugees who were scheduled to come to Michigan who were blocked while the ban was in effect?

Van Noord: Yes, at the initial time of the executive order we had 15 clients that were scheduled for arrival.

We found out on the Saturday evening after the executive order came that those scheduled prior to Feb. 3 and not from one of the included countries would be able to arrive. We had four people that arrived last week, and then we had an additional 11 people whose flights were cancelled.

One of them is a Syrian older woman, and her case was cancelled, and then we had a Congolese family of ten that was also cancelled. Since the executive order is currently invalid, the Congolese family has been rescheduled for next week, and

we are still waiting for the Syrian mother to be rescheduled.

Chimes: What has the response to the executive order been among the refugees you serve who are already in the U.S.?

Van Noord: We've done a lot of briefings with them so that they are very aware of what's happening [...] We have talked to a lot of refugees that still have family in those refugee camps that are very concerned.

Refugee camps are often not very safe situations, and people many times have major medical needs that cannot be addressed in the camps, and so people are very concerned for their family and are wondering how long they will be delayed. Those from Syria and the other included countries are very concerned about whether or not they can get their family here.

They also are fearful for themselves and what that means for them here in the United States. They feel like the order has said that they're not welcome here, and so even though they feel welcomed by the people of West Michigan, they're trying to reconcile what that means for them, are they really welcome here in the United States or not.

Chimes: Could you see Bethany shifting towards more advocacy and political work if the executive order gets reinstated?

Van Noord: Well, we already have, we've been advocating quite a bit.

We have sent a letter to the President and Vice President Pence and are communicating with all of our legislators and letting them know about the great need of refugees.

The reality is that the refugee program is a life-saving program, and so we are extremely concerned for the lives of refugees that are still in the camps, and it's also a family reunification program, so it's bringing families back together, restoring families, and that's something that Bethany is extremely committed to. We're very concerned about the ability to help families be restored as well.

Chimes: What gives you hope moving forward?

Van Noord: I think the outpouring of welcome from people and the desire to advocate and to volunteer and to get involved has been extremely encouraging.

We've heard from a lot of people that they really want the United States and Michigan in particular to continue to be a welcoming place. The U.S. has a very long history of welcoming refugees and Bethany has a long history of being a part of that. We've heard from a lot of people that desire that to continue, and so that's been very encouraging and it gives me hope.

DeVos

► CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

She has faced a staunch opposition that mobilized against her in unprecedented numbers. In the week before the Tuesday vote, the Senate offices reportedly fielded an average of 1.5 million calls a day, a number that Sen. Brian Schatz, D-Hawaii, said was a record high for the Senate.

The reaction at DeVos's alma mater has been mixed.

Calvin president Michael Le Roy said, "We congratulate Betsy [on her confirmation] and we pledge to pray for her as she takes on her important tasks and duties in the days, weeks, months and years to come. Her portfolio includes higher education, so we also stand ready to be a resource for her if she should need that as she pursues her work."

Le Roy described DeVos's new position as her pursuing her vocation:

"Calvin students are called to make a difference as Christ's agents of renewal and our hope is that when they graduate they will continue to be receptive to God's calling," said Le Roy. "In accepting the nomination, Betsy, too, is living out the value of service for the common good she learned on Calvin's campus almost four decades ago."

In late January, thousands of Calvin alumni signed a letter opposing DeVos's nomination. The letter concluded: "Our undergraduate education prepared us to be engaged and informed citizens who support public servants who seek to serve effectively and competently. This is precisely why we oppose the nomination of our fellow alumna."

"Betsy, too, is living out the value of service for the common good she learned on Calvin's campus."

The letter was widely covered in local media outlets, and the story was even picked up by The Washington Post on January 24.

In response to the high-profile opposition in the Calvin community, alumni supporters of DeVos created a Facebook page called Knights for Betsy DeVos.

Allan Hoekstra, a member of the Calvin board of trustees who has worked for the DeVos family, circulated a letter calling DeVos and her husband "generous, gracious, compassionate and genuinely

interested in the betterment of our communities and our nation" and supporting the nomination.

DeVos, in her first speech to education department staff as secretary, promised to reach out to critics as well as backers:

"I am committed to working with everyone and anyone — from every corner of the country, from every walk of life, from every background and with those who supported my nomination and those who did not — to protect, strengthen and create new world-class education opportuni-



ties for America's students," DeVos said.

DeVos also indicated during her confirmation hearing that she intended to follow Trump's policy agenda for the education department during her tenure.

Though education was not a major focus of Trump's campaign, he did call for an end to Common Core and proposed a voucher system that would give 11 million low-income children \$12,000 a year each to attend a school of their choice. Trump's proposal would total \$20 billion in spending, which would have to be approved by the spending-averse Republican Congress.

As education secretary, DeVos oversees the implementation of federal education law, in particular, anti-discrimination laws like the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, and she came under fire for avoiding or appearing not to understand these laws in her confirmation hearing.

NPR points out that education spending is largely under state and local jurisdiction, with less than 10 percent of K-12 funding coming from federal funding.

Even so, DeVos holds a measure of power unprecedented for a Calvin College graduate, at least for the next four years.



DeVos began work as education secretary Wed., Feb. 8.

Congratulations Betsy DeVos, Class of '79 Calvin College, our new U.S. Secretary of Education.

Thank you for your dedication and service to our nation. We are truly honored that a fellow alumni will have the opportunity to make such an important impact on the lives of children across the country. We look forward to your future accomplishments.



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PHOTO COURTESY MOVIEPILOT

Neil Patrick Harris plays Count Olaf, a character that calls for several bizarre costumes and odd voices.

Lemony Snicket finds life in Netflix

BY BRANDON SCHREUR
Arts & Entertainment Editor

“Look away,” the theme song for the new television series “A Series of Unfortunate Events” forewarns us. “This show will wreck your evening, your whole life and your day. Every single episode is nothing but dismay.”

The warning will likely fall on deaf ears, as long-time Lemony Snicket fans have been clamoring to see the return of the Baudelaire orphans on screen since the failed one-off 2004 film of the same name. An eight-episode season released exclusively to Netflix last month, “A Series of Unfortunate Events,” is based off of the popular young adult novels written by Snicket.

An eight-episode season released exclusively to Netflix last month, “A Series of Unfortunate Events” is based off of the popular young adult novels written by Snicket.

The show revolves around Violet (Malina Weissman), Klaus (Louis Hynes) and Sunny (more often than not a CGI baby) Baudelaire, and the unwanted attention they obtain when their parents leave behind a small fortune after tragically being killed in an unexpected house fire.

Specifically, it’s Count Olaf (Neil Patrick Harris), a maniacal and lunatic wannabe actor, who has taken on an obsession with the orphans and the money he is set on stealing. And, almost inexplicably, he just so happens to own legal guardianship over the Baudelaires after their parents pass away.

The Baudelaires find themselves evading danger from Olaf and his accomplices, being placed in one dysfunctional house to the next, all of which seem to end only in disaster after disaster (as if in a series of unfortunate events, if you will).

The show is narrated by Lemony Snicket himself — portrayed by Patrick Warburton (Kronk from “The Emperor’s New Groove”) — who often interjects to define certain words or reveal something he believes would be to depressing to show on screen.

The first season of “A Series of Unfortunate Events” covers the first four of the novels — “A Bad Beginning,” “The

Reptile Room,” “The Wide Window” and “The Miserable Mill.”

While the 2004 film adaptation — which saw Jim Carrey in the title role of Count Olaf — was a rather loose interpretation of the novels that was received with mixed reviews and failed to gain enough traction to warrant further sequels, the Netflix series adaption retains great loyalty towards the source material by paying great attention to detail, and it has gained quite a following because of it.

While those who haven’t read the book may become frustrated by the show’s constant tonal shift and campy humor, which admittedly does cause problems from time to time, “A Series of Unfortunate Events” tells an appropriately dark story with enough intrigue and enjoyment to balance out some of the show’s more uneven moments.

Neil Patrick Harris commits wholeheartedly to the role of Count Olaf, and he seems to be having the time of his life portraying the character. While Malina Weissman and Louis Hynes may not be the most charismatic duo to ever lead a show, they certainly deliver fine performances given their age. The additions of actors and actresses such as Joan Cusack, Aasif Mandvi and Alfre Woodard (“Luke Cage”) help boost the show’s credibility as well.

The real unfortunate event here is that Netflix has yet to announce a release date for Season 2.

“A Series of Unfortunate Events” may not be as essential viewing for TV fanatics and media scholars as it is for fans of the novels from their youth. While the CGI might not up to par with something you would see in “Game of Thrones” and there’s an occasional cringe-worthy moment every now and then, the show also boasts a good amount of fun within the absurdity of its story that help viewers overlook some of those problems.

The real unfortunate event here is that Netflix has yet to announce a release date for Season Two.

“Elle” is a bizarre new turn for Paul Verhoeven

BY BRANDON SCHREUR
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Paul Verhoeven — creator of a number of some of the best guilty pleasures the 1980’s had to offer, such as “Robocop,” “Starship Troopers” and “Total Recall” — doesn’t seem like the type of director to create a French film and an Oscar-pick with many controversial themes.

“I got a lot of scripts sent to me of books, but nothing I wanted to do. It was repetitive, or sci-fi I’d done before. I was looking for something different that I had not done. An adventure that I was not sure if I could do,” said Verhoeven in an interview when asked how he came to directing this property. “It’s important as an artist to do things that you don’t know, to jump into the unknown. It’s true, you have to challenge yourself.”

Verhoeven has certainly found subject matter different from anything he’s done in the past indeed. Released as part of Celebration! Cinema’s February Indie Picks at the Woodland Theater, “Elle” (which means ‘she’ in french) is a foreign film that’s based on the novel “Oh...” by Philippe Djian.

“Elle” tells the complicated story of a woman named Michèle (Isabelle Huppert) and her somewhat troubled life. After be-

ing assaulted in her own home in the film’s opening scenes, Michèle makes the choice she will personally track down the attacker instead of calling the police.

Michèle’s decision to take matters into her own hands comes, in part, from how she was raised from her father — who is now in prison after forcing Michèle to witness a traumatic event when she was ten years old.

Isabelle Huppert gives a stand-out performance that has earned her an Oscar nomination.

However, finding the perpetrator is only a minor concern of Michèle. She’s busy caught up at work managing a video game design company, constantly attempting to reconnect with her ex-husband Richard (Charles Berling) and trying to convince her son Vincent (Jonah Bloquet) that he’s making a terrible mistake by dating his monster of a girlfriend.

“Elle” is a film that is divisive in content and certainly isn’t for everyone. There are several scenes that can become rather uncomfortable, and the

longer it goes on the more bizarre it seems to become. However, it’s all done with specific reason as “Elle” is much more a character study of Michèle than it is a thriller.

Verhoeven goes to great lengths not to over-explain some of the more bizarre elements in the film, rather leaving it opened ended for the audience to draw their own conclusions. “I felt it was more interesting to give the audience information about what happened to her, and to see the road she takes mostly in the third act, and not say what one has to with the other. It’s up to the audience to make that connection, so it didn’t felt like a cliché, not banal. It’s more interesting when it’s not so ‘A follows B.’”

Isabelle Huppert gives a stand-out performance that has earned her an Oscar-nomination for Best Actress in a Leading Role. While Emma Stone will likely win for “La La Land,” it does not diminish Huppert’s work, since she is the reason that this character works.

“Elle” is a complicated film that requires multiple viewings in order to fully understand. While it will turn some viewers away because of the subject matter, and others away because of the subtitles, it’s easily some of the most mature work that Verhoeven has ever done.

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Calvin's Residence Halls: *a brief history*

BY MADALYN BUURSMAN
Staff Writer

Calvin College's campus includes expansive dorms with various living-learning communities that offer many unique opportunities. Throughout their first two years at Calvin — or longer, if they become an RA — many Calvin students find a life to be very comfortable in all the dorms Calvin has to offer. Calvin has seven dorms in total: BV, BB, BHT, KHvR, NVW, RVD, and SE. Some research into the backgrounds of these residence halls has yielded a brief history into each, as well as some interesting facts.

Beets-Veenstra

BV was one of the first two dorms built on the Knollcrest campus; at the time, Calvin also had a second campus on Franklin St. The dorm was built in 1962.

Beets, the men's hall, is named after Henry Beets. Henry Beets was an editor for *The Banner*, the official CRC magazine for twenty-five years, 1866-1891. Veenstra, the women's hall, is named after Johanna Veenstra, who worked as a missionary in Nigeria from 1919 until her death in 1933.

Interestingly, first Beets was a women's floor for a couple of years, and rumor has it that students created t-shirts, quickly banned by the college, saying "men on top, women on the bottom, that's the way we like it."

Noordewier-VanderWerp

Also built in 1962, NVW is the second of the first two dorms built on campus. Students lived in this dorm before the paths on campus were even paved.

Noordewier is named after Jacob Noordewier, a CRC pastor who helped raise funding for the church's Theological School, which is now the Calvin Seminary. VanderWerp is named after Douwe VanderWerp, who taught CRC seminary students before Calvin Theological Seminary was established. Though the dorm started as an all-men's dorm, it has since changed and VanderWerp is the men's hall and Noordewier is the women's hall.

Rooks-Van Dellen

In 1966, Calvin College expanded by building two dorms, RVD and SE, Rooks is named after the first dean of Calvin College, Albertus Rooks. Van Dellen is named after Idzerd Van Dellen, a CRC pastor who started a tuberculosis hospital in Denver, Colorado.

While today Rooks is the women's hall and Van Dellen is the men's hall, first Van Dellen, like first Beets, was temporarily a women's floor in the school year of 1993-1994. Unfortunately for the girls, the dorm was again made a men's floor the following year, kicking out all of the female residents.

Schultze-Eldersveld

Built at the same time as RVD in 1966, SE is the dorm every other dorm loves to hate. From 1996-2001, the dorm won every Chaos Day with the exception of 1998, further cementing its reputation as the "jock" dorm. The dorm also won Chaos Night this year.

Schultze is named after Calvin Seminary professor Henry Schultze, who was also president of Calvin College for a little more than a decade, his term stretching from 1940 through 1951. Eldersveld is named after Dr. Peter Eldersveld, a CRC radio pastor.

Boer-Bennink

Built in 1968, BB was Calvin's fifth dorm. Boer is named after the college's first professor, Geert Boer. Bennink is named after B.J. Bennink, who worked at six different Christian schools throughout the Midwest. The dorm has a mascot of a boar's head, and has a tradition of Wild Boar Day.

Bolt-Heyns-Timmer

BHT first began in 1970, when the school built Bolt and Heyns. Later on, in 1981, Calvin added on Timmer. Timmer is now a non-traditional dorm; third Timmer is full of studio apartments for juniors and seniors. Meanwhile, on the first floor of Timmer, there is currently the Wellness floor, a living-learning community focused on healthy living. The dorm is also the only dorm to have rooms in the basement, or on the "ground" floor.

Bolt is named after Jacob and Christina Bolt, CRC missionaries. Heyns is named after Garrett Heyns, the first person to receive Calvin's distinguished alumni award in 1966; he is known for his work on improving prisons. Timmer is named after Johannah Timmer, Calvin's first female faculty member, who worked in the English department.

Kalsbeek-Huizenga-van Reken

The newest dorm on campus, Kalsbeek-Huizenga was built in 1988. The school added on van Reken in 2008 as the school's only co-ed dorm. Each floor in van Reken is a living-learning community.

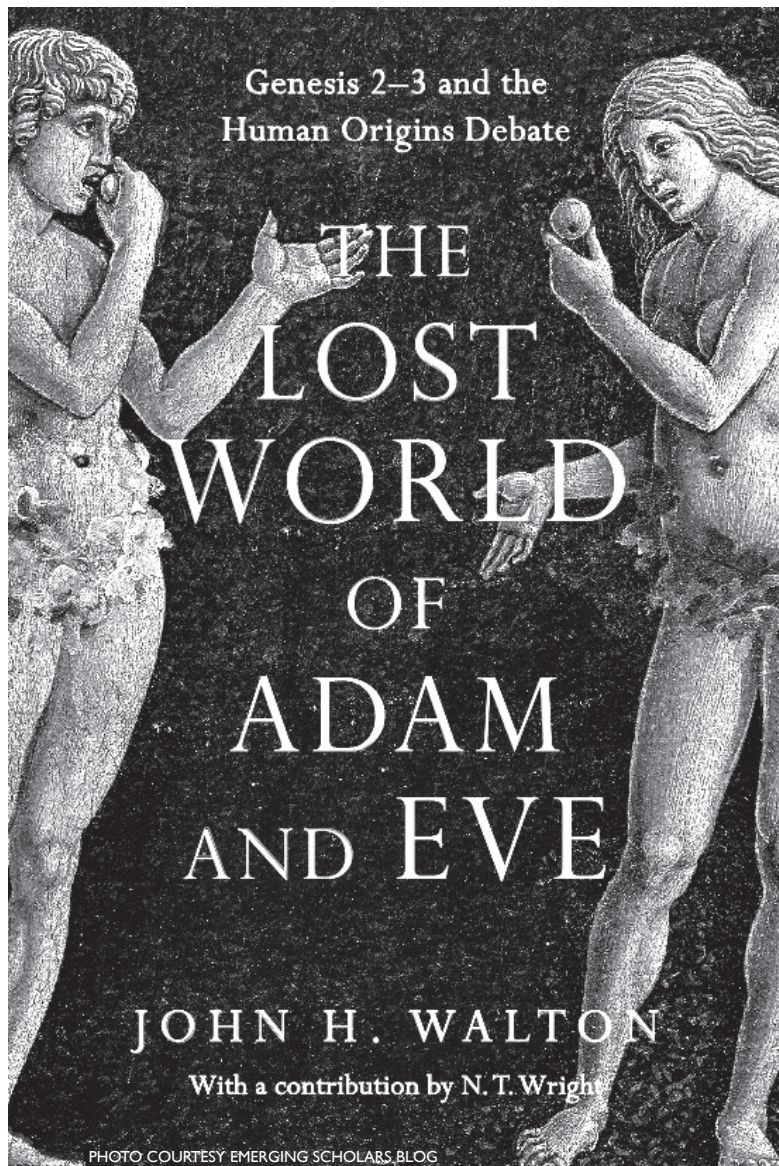
First van Reken is the creation care floor, focusing on environmental issues and outdoor recreation; second van Reken is the grassroots floor, focusing on race and ethnicity throughout this country, as well as many grassroots movements; third van Reken is the honors floor, focusing on good study habits.

Often referred to by residents as "KHvFar," KHvR is the farthest away from academic buildings, although as the newest building it is also the nicest.

Kalsbeek is named after Wilhelmina Kalsbeek, a CRC missionary to China. Huizenga is named after Lee Huizenga, a missionary doctor to China. Van Reken is named after a family who worked for many missions, and who gave scholarships to missionary kids at Calvin.

Many students go into college with the expectation of finding friends for life. Through the interconnectedness found throughout Calvin's seven residence halls, many students find lasting friendships in their dorms, whether they are living in the oldest building on campus or the newest.

Wheaton prof speaks on Genesis



John H. Walton's book, published in March 2015, won the 2016 Christianity Today Biblical Studies Award of Merit.

BY JOSHUA POLANSKI
On-Call Writer

John H. Walton, author and professor of Old Testament at Wheaton College, spoke on interpretations of Genesis at last Monday's Christian Perspective in Science seminar.

The lecture, "The Lost World of Adam and Eve," was hosted by the Science and Religion forum and was packed with an enthusiastic audience of students and members of the Grand Rapids community.

Walton's work as an academic focuses primarily on ancient Near Eastern cultures. Through his studies, he has been "propelled by the quest to pursue an understanding of the faithful interpretations of scripture." Walton concluded that the most faithful interpretations remain faithful to the original context of the scriptures.

Walton proposed that the original meaning gets diluted by our "cultural river." This metaphorical river consists of the current norms in our culture, or more simply, the way we

naturally think. Living within the American culture, our "river" acknowledges democracy, social media and many other aspects of our experiences.

At one point during the lecture, Walton startled the audience by passionately insisting that "the biblical writers have no knowledge of our cultural river!" He apologized by telling the crowd in a light-hearted manner, "Sorry, I'll calm down."

After informing the audience about the need to submerge into the ancient Near Eastern culture to understand the text, he analysed Genesis 2-3 through the lens of its own "cultural river."

Walton baffled the crowd with his knowledge of biblical Hebrew as he interpreted the significance of Adam and Eve's names, the importance of a recurring introductory phrase and how, according to the original language, God most likely cut Adam into two pieces to form Eve.

The guest speaker voiced his beliefs that Adam and Eve were historical people, but he chose to interpret them from their "archetypal identity." Walton emphasized that focusing on Adam and Eve's narrative, within the original context, will result in a meaning more focused on human identity and purpose, rather than origins.

Walton closed the seminar with a few closing remarks about how faithful interpretations can still lead to different conclusions, followed by a brief Q & A.

Aside from being an Old Testament professor, John H. Walton is also a distinguished author and editor. His publications include "The Lost World of Adam and Eve" and "The Lost World of Genesis One: Ancient Cosmology and the Origins Debate."

Walton announced another publication coming later in the year concerning the Flood narrative in Genesis.

The Christian Perspectives in Science seminar series will continue hosting guest speakers throughout the spring.

Study

▶ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Associate chaplain Joella Ranaivoson, who played a major role in preparing the small group study and created the study guide, defined apologetics as "giving reason for the hope that is in you as a Christian." The study will equip participants to strengthen their relationship with Christ and to express their faith in ways that draw others to Christ.

"Don't be scared to join a group because you have questions about the faith. This is a place and time to engage those questions with other people."

"Giving reason for the hope that you have is relevant for Calvin because we are a community that seeks to follow after Christ, and this is part of our discipleship — growing in faith and understanding of what we believe and the God we love and serve," said Ranaivoson.

"For members of our community who don't yet believe," Ranaivoson went on to say, "this is an opportunity to explore in an intentional, thoughtful way what it is that this community we're a part of is so committed to."

To prepare for the study, the chaplains discussed some of the major faith questions students reported struggling with, and developed themes and topics from those questions. The study also incorporates insights from several key texts such as Timothy Keller's "The Reason for God" and N.T. Wright's "Surprised by Hope" and "Simply Christian."

It is not too late for members of the Calvin community to consider joining or leading a small group study.

Ranaivoson said, "This is an opportunity to learn and deepen in community your own understanding of the Christian faith wherever you find yourself on the faith development spectrum." The study's emphasis on community allows group members to learn from one another while also keeping each other accountable.

"Don't be scared to join a group because you have questions about the faith," said Ranaivoson. "This is a place and time to engage those questions with other people."

This small group study does not require any readings or preparation, but the weekly study guides provide extra resources for participants looking to learn more. Ranaivoson, Hulst and associate chaplain Matt Postma are also available to answer questions.

"If you feel any inkling toward joining a group," Ranaivoson said, "I hope you follow through on that. We welcome you."

To learn more or to lead or join a group, visit calvin.edu/go/bible-study/go/bible-study.



Calvin students participate in a weekly small group study.

Looking at local churches: Redemption City



Redemption City Church worships outside at Aquinas.

BY KATHRYN MAE POST
Religion Editor

Redemption City Church is a welcoming, down-to-earth church community located at the heart of Easttown. A recent church plant, Redemption City meets at the arts and music center at Aquinas College, just a few minutes from Calvin's campus.

One reason for Redemption City Church's location is so that it can focus on its vision, which, according to the church website, is "seeking to be a redemption movement in the heart of the city that transforms lives, forms communities, renews the city and impacts the world through church planting."

Sophia Medawar is a sophomore studying theater and religion at Calvin. She has

been attending Redemption City for about 8 months, and she has been involved through teaching Sunday school, volunteering in the nursery and playing piano for the worship band. One reason she continues to attend is the humility of those in leadership:

"Everybody in leadership there genuinely has a servant's heart and a passion for community within the church," said Medawar.

The humility of the church leaders helps create an inviting atmosphere at the church.

Medawar said, "There are lots of opportunities at Redemption City for people of all ages and cultures, and I am excited to see how it grows in the coming years." Even though most of the congregation consists of young families or young adults, the church's emphasis on authenticity makes everyone feel at home.

Music at Redemption City gives space for worshipers to honor God in whatever way they choose.

Medawar said, "It's an environment where people are free to lift their hands or clap and praise the Lord very outwardly, but it's not overbearing in that sense for the more reserved worshipper."

There is intentional variety in the songs sung at Redemption City; songs veer from the typical contemporary Christian music repertoire or may consist of modern arrangements of traditional hymns.

"It's obvious that the band is there to help the congregation worship and not to display or draw attention to themselves," said Medawar, "I absolutely love the worship experience at Redemption City."

Other key aspects of worship include weekly communion and weekly invitation to accept Christ. Sermons are characterized by a relatable, conversational tone which Medawar says creates a "very casual and warm environment."

Another way Redemption City welcomes members and visitors is by inviting them to join

community groups, small groups that meet weekly in homes throughout Grand Rapids.

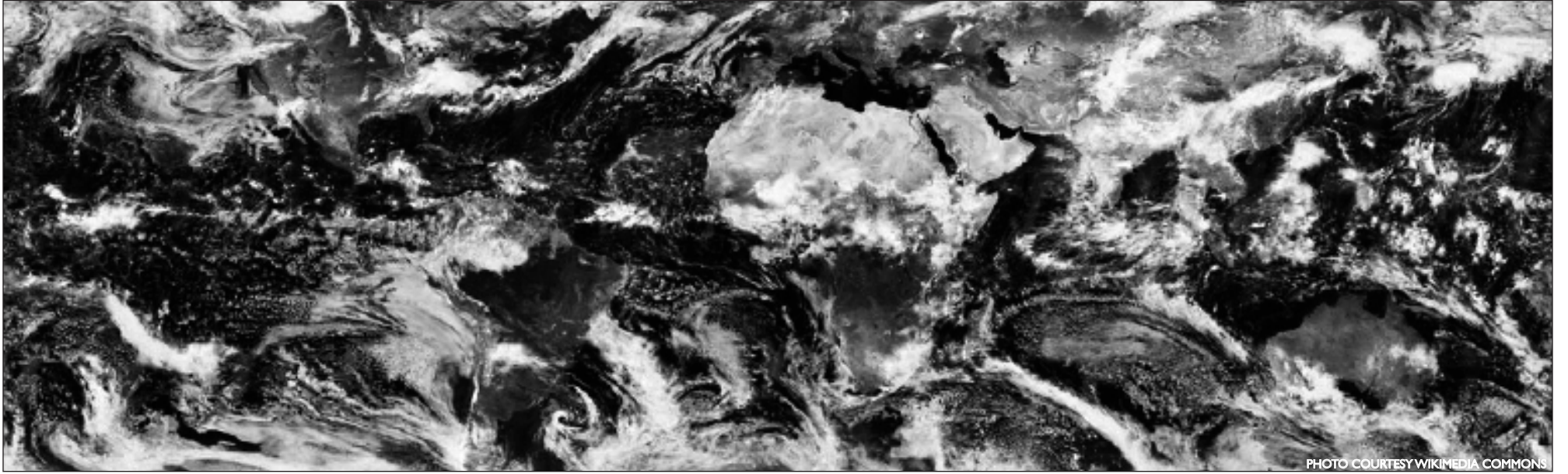
"Any church member is welcome to join whatever community group meets closest to their own home, or whatever community group meets at a time they can attend," said Medawar. "The community groups are an excellent way for the congregation to get together in the Lord's name and be a blessing to one another."

Because it's such a young church, Redemption City has limited racial and cultural diversity. Nevertheless, the church is committed to becoming a transformative body of believers that welcomes all who come through its doors.

Overall, Medawar says she would recommend this church to Calvin students because of its inviting environment, casual tone and many opportunities for students to get involved.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

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Calvin's diverse ignorance

BY MARK PELESS & JD CROFT
Online Editor & Guest Writer

Nothing like a good ol' election to bring us back to the playground. When I was in fifth grade, one of my best friends was this kid named Timothy. Timothy was a huge Buffalo Bills fan, had the fashionable bowl cut of the day and liked playing basketball. But he thought that he had a problem — Timothy was short. Our group of friends thought nothing of it; we included Timothy in all of our games and never poked fun at him. Timothy, on the other hand, took offense to the fact that he was shorter than everyone else. Every time he would get in a fight with someone else, he would automatically bring up his height disadvantage as the reason that person had a disagreement with him. When that person would deny the allegation, Timothy would proceed to yell and run at the other person, fists swinging. Timothy wasn't a bad guy, he just felt like he had something to prove to everyone else. He out-yelled and out-fought everyone in self-defense, even if the dispute wasn't personal.

My other best friend was named Anthony. Anthony always wore his hat backward, loved to skateboard and was friendly to everyone he met. But Anthony had a flaw that was quite apparent — he liked feeling better than other people. Whenever the teacher would make a mistake, he would be the first to point it out, causing the class to burst out in laughter. He would also make fun of other students when the opportunity presented itself, which was often funny in the opinion of most, but also left the targeted person feeling bad. Anthony felt that he was superior to everyone else; after all, his friends were immature kids, and he seemed like the only one who realized it! As you can guess, Timothy and Anthony never got along that well. Whenever they

had a disagreement, Timothy would immediately take personal offense regardless of what happened and would then accuse Anthony of having the worst intentions for his "vile" actions. In response, Anthony would act cool to Timothy's face, but then absolutely rip into him once his back was turned, talking about how immature, stupid and annoying Timothy was.

Both boys had good hearts. Neither knew how to truly listen.

Here we are, with a new president and a college divided. Many liberals I run into are easily offended and hyper defensive. Many conservatives I run into are smug and somewhat apathetic to the concerns of others. These are often the faces and voices you are met with at Calvin when social and political topics come up.

Calvin has made strides in recent years towards creating and supporting candid dialogue for various issues. UnLearn Week has perhaps been the most direct approach, while open discussions have manifested themselves in student org sponsored events and spontaneous classroom talks. The last six months have proven that there is room for discussion surrounding various issues, and students have taken it upon themselves to foster dialogue.

That is, if fostering dialogue begins with stating an opinion and ends with muting any dissenters. The student body is comprised of 18–22-year-olds, so reason and understanding often give way to emotion and discord. That isn't to say that Calvin and its students are incapable of holding a rational and productive discussion; only that this often is not the case. Shutting oneself off from differing opinions allows an irrational mode of thought to drive speech and actions.

It's easy to become impassioned by the latest issue-making headlines, but it's harder for those passions to turn into real change. Calvin, which once had a campus with many working

class families, is now mainly comprised of students and families who fail to realize just how small the world around them is.

I don't want people to ignore the actions of their country, and there are many who have responded with action to things throughout the last half-year wonderfully. Calvin has often inflated their students' sense of responsibility, causing them to believe that they should be Christ's agents of renewal for the entire world. While this may be inherently true, the realization of this call by immature minds leads to an inflation of the ego that often results in an out-of-focus worldview, when in reality the biggest impact a student can make here and now is in their own community.

This all gets lost because we can't even have conversations. I wish all of us Calvin students could take a second and realize that maybe we're wrong, or what we stand for is right but we're representing it in a poor way, or that we may be right but open dialogue doesn't mean allowing one side to be heard while muting another. We need to truly start using our own discernment as well, and not piggy-back off of the rhetoric of another without trying to get the full view of a subject.

Considering the historically Dutch influence on our school, Calvin has come very far in creating a community which is open to diversity. However, diversity is more than just a student body made up of 14.7 percent racial minorities. True diversity includes diversity in thought, politics, economic status, skills, interests and culture. But diversity is only worth something if we can humble ourselves, walk across the aisle and dare to truly listen to someone that is different than us.

The dangers of social media

BY DAVID HARTWELL
Guest Writer

A little while ago, I shared an article on Facebook titled "Scientists say giant asteroid could hit earth next week, causing mass devastation." One person, however, fell victim to the article, replying "whoa!" If you clicked on the article, it stated that it was a complete farce, but did offer an almost quite equal frightening statement: that 59 percent of links shared on social media have never been clicked on before. With technology and social media at the palm of our hands in every hour of our day, it is crucial that as students at Calvin, we seek to think deeply, act justly and live wholeheartedly.

One of the benefits of going to Calvin College is the variety of different courses one has to take. This makes the individual a well-rounded citizen, enabling them to think about the broader issues of the times. For instance, an engineer who comes to Calvin will be better at reading reports through taking a literature class. The professors in these core classes makes your mind stretch — that is, digging deeper into the read-

ing is required. Online, though, that does not seem to be the case, as 59 percent of people have taken away what they learned from an article by not reading it. If we are to fulfill God's calling of being informed citizens, we need to read, think and then respond.

One word that could perfectly encompass the past election cycle is "unpleasant." People also felt, and make others feel, that way on the internet. In fact, the unpleasant climate got so bad that, per the Pew Center, 39 percent of social media users took steps to block or unfriend people publishing political content. The majority of people that took this step was because the other person wrote something offensive. We are called as Christians to act justly and to love our neighbors. Therefore, if we are to engage in political talk online, let it be with humility and grace so that both sides might come away having gained a new perspective.

At Calvin a significant part of our time is devoted to the core curriculum. Visiting the example before, the engineer might feel discomfort from Plato's cave. However, the engineer will still receive gains from the experience, such as learning how to think. Social media users could

learn from the engineer situation. The Pew foundation conducted a study about political polarization and the media. The study resulted in finding out that conservatives are more likely to read only one news source. On the flip side, liberals have a significant higher chance to unfriend someone because of their political friends. If you are a self-identified conservative, branch out to different news sources. Liberals, move your mouse away from the unfriend button from your conservative friend. It might be unpleasant at first, but you will realize what you think about politics and why you think it that way.

Technology has come a long way in the ten years. Over the last month, social media was mobilized in such an efficient way that 600,000 people got on the streets to protest a new law in Romanian, that critics say help corrupted governmental officers stay in power. While social media and technology can be useful, it can be used for harm and the past election exemplified. Thankfully, an education at Calvin can combat these harms.

Labeling resistance

BY NATHAN STRIPP
Guest Writer

The past year, and the past three months in particular, have been an incredibly interesting time to be both a historian and a Christian in this country. Now I will not pretend to be without bias, I am deeply concerned by a president who happily accepts comparisons to Andrew Jackson, blatantly denigrates our judicial system, refers to the media as the "opposition party," restructures commonly held facts to fit his narrative and eliminates any internal dissenters. These are all hallmark traits of authoritarian rule, and believe me I do not use that word here flippantly. Yet while I could use this space to argue for why our current situation is likely to push our constitutional foundations to their breaking point, I am not naive enough to believe that a well-worded op-ed will change anyone's mind. Instead I want to speak to those who agreed with all I have written so far and are wondering where we can possibly go from here.

Several weeks ago, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was invoked as a reason for all of us to just slow down and love each other. To be clear this is a not an accurate representation of the complete person of Dr. King, nor is it fair to use his legacy in such a way. Yet there is a bit of truth that we who resist can glean from Dr. King's message of love in his reluctance to broadly label those with whom he disagreed. When we generally disparage those who voted for Trump we make it infinitely harder to get those individuals to understand the perspective from which we see the world. It is in this vein that Dr. King's statement that only love can drive out hate is applicable, if we want to be people who truly love to a radical degree, we must be willing to love those who we see as the oppressors as well as those who are oppressed.

Dr. King's message of love, however, was not a passive acceptance and silence regarding situations seen as unjust. He spoke freely of his grave disappointment with the "white moderate" in a letter he wrote from a jail cell after he was arrested for breaking a law he saw as unjust, which he argued is a person's moral responsibility. This same letter was a direct response to eight white clergymen and their "call for unity," which would have preserved the status quo of discrimination and oppression. Dr. King knew that simple disagreement was not enough; he was willing to take a controversial stand. But when he did that he did not do so in anger or demonizations, even though that was the way many acted in response to him. Rather he refers to the people with whom he

disagrees as "fellow clergymen," emphasizing the things they have in common before moving on to discuss the key places where they are opposed and taking the stand he needs to take.

So where does this leave us, we who see many parallels between the fight of Dr. King and the fight of today's politics? This does not mean that we should simply be silent on injustice, far from it. The types of injustice that many of our brothers and sisters are currently facing or may face in the future as a result of this administration's decisions regarding housing and urban development, health and human services, education, and more are real and must be combatted with all we have. But if we desire systemic change we cannot do this in a way which alienates more people, that's what got us into our current predicament. There is a distinct difference between calling certain actions, policies and systems racist and labeling people as racist. Labeling individuals and groups who you do not know well as racist (even if it is true) shuts the door on conversation and then we do not help those who are affected by that racism. So talk in person with someone you disagree with. Form friendships, show interest in their life and learn to care about them. Then you can breach the uncomfortable topics and talk about what you believe in, seeking common ground and a new perspective on the fight against injustice.

I understand that I write this from a position of privilege — there are many discriminatory systems and people which I will never have to face and therefore have a much easier time not responding in anger. But if we truly want to create systemic change which respects the humanity of all people, we must find it in us to humanize those with whom we disagree. We must continue to go high, no matter how low this administration may go. We are strongest when we fight together. Though this won't always be possible, we must give it our best shot; not in spite of the people who are being oppressed, but because of them.



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