

CHIMES

2007-2008

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FAX: (616) 526-8670*Chimes is the official newspaper of Calvin College. The mission of Chimes is to serve the community of Calvin College in a variety of ways: we aim to reform, review, challenge and foster dialogue within the community.*THE OFFICIAL STUDENT
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PLO: speaker inspires tension and discussion

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bers voiced skepticism and irritation towards Saleem's message.

The first question came from a Muslim man who said he had lived in the United States for 29 years and had been married to a Christian woman for 28 years.

"Are you charging money for this?" he asked. He added that he had checked Saleem's first two quotations from the Qur'an and they were incorrect.

Saleem answered that the money was none of his business.

"The truth is the truth," said Saleem in reference to the allegations of incorrect quotations. "The truth shall set you free."

The second question came from a Muslim physician.

"Your message is wrong," he said. "Don't tell these innocent people lies."

Saleem responded by reminding the audience of the role physicians played in aiding and carrying out terrorist attacks in England.

A Calvin student referenced Saleem's statement that his friend Mohammed was in heaven.

"Must Muslims convert to Christianity to be saved?" he asked.

In response, Saleem professed his belief that his friend was innocent and not yet to the age of accountability, and children under this age go to heaven, according to teachings in Christianity.

Another question came from a Muslim physician and the President of the Muslim Association. He asked what Saleem would advise Palestinians to do in their current situation.

Saleem claimed that Palestinians were given Jordan to live in, and that unfortunately, they were not trying to achieve peace and would not be happy until they had all the land.

Not only did Saleem's lecture raise controversy Monday night, history professor Douglas Howard has raised questions as to the truth of Saleem's story.

"The History Department was asked to help sponsor this speaker," said Howard, "and so I looked into him a bit and saw some red flags. I advised the history department to decline to sponsor."

The more Howard investigated the more concerned he grew.

"I went to the sponsors of the event and said 'I think he's a fraud, we should cancel,'" said Howard. "I presented the evidence I had, but they were not convinced. We have had a lot of crazy speakers here at Calvin, and that's fine, but it was the fraudulent part that bothered me."

As part of his evidence, Howard pointed to a small video clip on Saleem's website for Koome ministries in which Saleem claims a member of his family was the mufti, the Grand Wazir of Islam.

"Wazir is a variation of vizier," said Howard. "The Grand Vizier was a political role in the Ottoman empire. No Muslim would ever claim that in connection with the role of mufti, which is a scholar of Islamic texts. Its like someone saying they were the governor of Christianity."

Gehm jumped to Saleem's defense on this.

"Grand Wazir can be used as a synonym for mufti," said Gehm. "That's how he uses it on his website. You can do the research if you want."

Also a matter of concern for Howard was two men with whom Saleem often appears in speaking engagements. The three together are known as the three ex-terrorists.

One of the men, Waleed Shoebat, had large portions of his personal story denied by Rev. Alex Awad, President of the Council of Evangelical Churches in Palestine. In a letter answering allegations made by Shoebat, Awad shows

problems with his timeline and his poor knowledge of the Christian leaders in Palestine.

"We urge God's people everywhere not to jump on this sensational bandwagon," said Awad. "Christians are called by God to prayerfully use the gift of discernment."

"We think [Saleem] has concocted a similar story after converting to this fundamentalist Christianity," said Howard.

Howard was joined at the lecture Monday night by his friend, Habeeb Awad, a Palestinian Christian who is the international student advisor at Hope College.

"I'm quite disappointed," said Howard. "I had told a lot of people I would be speaking up and challenging this guy, but the question session ended before we were able to."

Both Gehm and Rispens remain convinced of Saleem's sincerity.

"We really don't want to get into a debate," said Gehm. "We've done our research and give Professor Howard's accusations due diligence. There is no doubt in our minds that Mr. Saleem is who he says he is. We don't want to create any more controversy."

Howard also found irritating the manner Saleem presented his story.

"What we had was a tent meeting revival sermon sponsored by academic organizations here at Calvin College,"

said Howard. "His personal story gives him credibility as an anti-Islamic preacher — but it is not verifiable and without it he's no different from other fundamentalist preachers and there's plenty of those out there."

"We're going to keep working on this guy and also work with the local Muslim population — try to repair some of the damage. It's my hope to bring in some of the professionals and leaders of the Islamic association ... maybe put together a panel that would be of interest to different academic groups on campus before the end of the semester."

Rispens explained his original hope in bringing Saleem to Calvin was to facilitate discussion on campus.

"We wanted to raise discussion about how Christians should respond to the Muslim world," said Rispens. "We need to respond; we need to understand. We wanted to raise awareness."

He said he hopes to have further discussions on this topic at upcoming meetings for CCR.

"It was good that people were able to see both sides [Monday] night," said Gehm. "The most important part of the lecture was the message Mr. Saleem left us with: you have a responsibility to dig deeper. I really hope students take that to heart."



CAMPUS SAFETY REPORT

Wednesday 10/30

-At 4:56 p.m. a resident at the Rho-Tau apartments stated that she observed two young male subjects take her unlocked bicycle and ride away on it going east on Burton Street.

-At 8:20 p.m. a resident of Theta-Epsilon reported that at 8:15 p.m. she was studying in her room when an unknown male subject entered her room. When the subject saw that the resident was in the room the subject ran out of the room and ran out of the building. The suspect is a black male dressed in a black hooded sweatshirt and black pants.

-At 10:13 p.m. Campus Safety investigated a violation of the campus alcohol policy in Alpha residence hall. The information on the student involved was turned over to the Judicial Affairs Office.

Friday 11/2

-At 5:11 p.m. Campus Safety investigated a reported threat made by one student toward another. The students involved were interviewed and the student that made the threat stated that he had used poor judgment in his choice of words. The student receiving the threat stated that she did not feel that the threat was genuine. The information on the incident was turned over to the residence hall staff for follow-up.

Saturday 11/3

-At 1 a.m. a staff member at Noordewier-VanderWerp residence hall reported a can with a flaming liquid burning on the roof just below the sundeck. The flame was extinguished and no damage was found to the area.

Monday 10/22

-At 7:24 p.m. staff at the Gezon Auditorium reported that sometime between 3 p.m. on Friday, 10/19 and 5 p.m. on today's date a CD player was taken from the control room.

Wednesday 10/24

-At 11:10 a.m. a student reported that on the evening of Monday, 10/22 she left her bicycle locked to the bike rack on the north side of the Spoelhof College Center. The student stated that when she returned for the bicycle on today's date the bicycle was missing. The bicycle was described as a maroon Shasta mountain bike.

-At 7:42 p.m. Food Service personnel reported an odor of gasoline near a storage area in the Commons. The area was checked and a power washer with a leaking fuel tank was removed from the area.

Sunday 10/28

-At 10:23 a.m. Campus Safety investigated a report of two bicyclists colliding on the roadway near the east end of the Crossing. The victims were evaluated at the scene and both elected to seek their own treatment if needed.

Monday 10/29

-At 4:30 p.m. Campus Safety investigated a two vehicle accident in the Fine Arts Center parking lot. A vehicle pulling into a parking space struck the vehicle in the adjacent space causing damage to the parked vehicle.

Corrections

The Rapid Ride on Oct. 12 provided some incorrect information about the Ryerson Public Library. First, the library is actually referred to as the Grand Rapids Public Main Library. Second, library cards are free for all city residents with valid proof of ID. Replacement cards for those that are lost or stolen are \$1. We apologize for any confusion that may have resulted from these errors.

The news brief entitled "President Byker appears in Harper's Magazine" (Nov. 2) contained a number of confusing or inaccurate statements. It incorrectly implies that the article was printed in Harper's Magazine rather than published by them online. It fails to make clear that Erik Prince is not himself a major donor to Calvin. It restates information which was incorrectly stated in the Harper's article: while it claims Karl Rove's grandmother and her two sisters attended Calvin, a Grand Rapids Press article (May 21, 2005) quoting Calvin and Hope records states the three women "attended Calvin and Hope College"; the Harper's article also confuses Dick DeVos with his father Richard DeVos — Dick is not a "big Calvin College donor," according to Calvin's Phil DeHaan. We apologize for the lack of research and clarity that should have made this brief better.

CLASSIFIEDS

DUPLEXES for rent. 2981 and 2983 Englewood. Nice neighborhood. Plenty of parking. Each side has 6 rooms plus kitchen, 2 full baths, washer, dryer, new appliances, deck and yard. Sliding rates for 3-5 people. \$750-\$1000. Sign by Nov. and get July free. 616-257-8518 or 443-7501. Helpful management John and Sally.

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Student receives prestigious honor

BY GRIFFIN JACKSON
News Co-Editor

You may have seen her at one of her fashion shows. You may have heard her talking at chapel. Or perhaps you have seen her sitting in the classrooms of Hiemenga Hall.

Cheryl Brown, an energetic senior, was just named Calvin's Woman of Achievement. The honor seems like another step in Brown's streak of accomplishment.

For years, Brown has been recognized as outstanding in her work around campus and in the community.

"I have been very busy since I arrived here on campus. Freshman year I was on Student Senate, Calvin Improv, Gospel Choir; I was all over the place," said Brown in an e-mail interview.

Since her arrival at Calvin, she has consistently brought to

Calvin and to Grand Rapids her special, original gifts. Among these exceptional talents are writing, rapping and acting. She has also been a student mentor, participated in Calvin theater productions and emceed events on and off campus.

The Woman of Achievement Award is given to outstanding women around the community who propel that community forward.

"We are world changers and leaders for the great tomorrow. Our actions are of care and concern for those around us," said Brown.

Several women from Calvin were eligible for the award, which is why Brown says she feels particularly honored to represent the college.

Brown described her feelings when she found out about her award: "I was very surprised. Carol Rienstra contacted me to let me know that I was nomi-

nated as an honoree. I still am quite floored."

Pearl Shangkuan of Calvin's music department was also among the top seven women honored.

"Calvin College was recognized twice. It's no wonder we are one of the best Christian schools in the country," said Brown.

Brown plans to reach out to be a more direct role model for girls. She also has been booking speaking and singing engagements around Grand Rapids.

Brown has become a rather prominent figure around Calvin and, if her plans come to fruition, she will continue to become more and more recognized around the community.

Brown says of her plans for the future, "I plan to continue worshipping God the best way I know how, and that is by being me."

Building security approved

BY KATHY HOOGEBOOM
Editor in Chief

Faculty Senate met late Monday to consider changes in classes, college structural issues and the new building security policy.

The Academic Building Access Policy incited the most debate. As proposed by the Planning and Priorities Committee, the new policy would standardize academic building closing and opening times.

It defined standard access hours, exception access hours when card access and groups of at least two people would be required, and extraordinary access hours when a letter of permission logged with Campus Safety at least 24 hours in advance (within business hours)

must be carried and, again, groups would be required. The policy also instated a \$100 fine to be assessed to any student in violation.

Both Henry DeVries, vice president for Administration, Finance and Information Services, and Shirley Hoogstra, vice president for Student Life, emphasized that the new policy was important for improved safety on campus.

The senators soon agreed that the fine was certainly an unjust way to approach punishment. With students in a wide variety of financial situations, a steep monetary consequence offers incredibly unjust treatment: some students would effectively walk away with no more than a slap on the wrist while others could struggle to afford the next month's food.

The vice presidents were quick to argue that without the fine, motivation to follow the policy would no longer exist. However, Senate voted without dissent to amend the policy to exclude the fine.

The concerns of students needing equipment and resources only available within academic buildings and requiring later hours to accommodate full class and work schedules were discussed next. Another amendment was proposed and approved: to extend the "exception" card access hours from midnight to 1 a.m. on weeknights.

Hoogstra soon expressed concern over the library likely coming under pressure soon to extend its hours until 1 a.m.

Despite debate over the feasibility of frequently granting permission slips or requiring the presence of more than one student outside of "exception" hours, the policy was approved as amended without voiced dissent.

Hoogstra expects the policy will go into effect within about two weeks of last Monday after

SENATE Corner

BY MIKE FABER

Hello Student Body, I hope the semester is finding you well (yeah right) as things start to pick up speed... we've just a little over a month to go! Student Senate is likewise looking to wrap up a few projects for this semester and beginning to look to 2008 already.

In the "done" pile, we've got: the return of the "Take Your Prof To Lunch" program (stop by our office for vouchers), a Senate retreat, a soon-to-be-released Student Senate Survey, a highly-successful Masquerade Dance, a Nintendo Wii given away, retribution of a couch by way of a stolen bust (curse you Chimes!), dozens of committee meetings, Student Savings Club produced and promoted and tons of representation of students in the face of a ruthless and unfor-giving administration.

What, I hear you asking, do we have left to do? We're

currently working on a few proposals that will further represent students at the highest levels of decision-making here at Calvin. We're in a dialogue with several members of the administration — keep your ears open for more information in this regard soon.

As always, we would love your feedback and interaction in this process.

Stop by our office in Commons Annex or e-mail us at ideas@calvin.edu to join in the discussion.

Finally, this semester is going to see a first at Calvin — a Variety Night/Events Fair, which combines the fourth annual Variety Night program with student organizations displaying their interests at the event, in the FAC on Dec. 1st. We're currently auditioning acts for the Variety Night (auditions are the 13th, 14th, and 15th), so if you have a hidden talent, or want to perform for your peers — come sign up!

STUDENT SENATE

Calvin professor honored with YWCA award

Music professor and chorus master of the Grand Rapids Symphony Chorus, Professor Pearl Shangkuan, was recently given the YWCA Tribute Arts Award for 2007.

As an award winner, Shangkuan was featured in a YWCA documentary shown Wednesday. The showing occurred in the DeVos Place.

The YWCA has been honoring uniquely talented women for 30 years. Now, Shangkuan will join the ranks of 150 other women selected for the award over the years, all of whom, as described by the YWCA, represent "a distinguished sorority of leaders and trail-blazers."

Calvin participates in energy conservation conference

On Friday, Nov. 16, the "Plugging the Leaks: Energy Conservation and Efficiency" conference will be taking place at the Eberhard Center of Grand Valley State University.

Myriad public and private schools of Michigan will send representatives to learn more about current and future energy issues. The conference will bring these issues to center stage and hopes to influence Michigan schools to think harder and to generate more discussion about energy conservation.

Among Calvin's representatives are Academic Dean Janel Curry, Vice President Tom McWhertor, and physics professor Matt Heun. Also to attend are Marty Kushler of the American Council on an Energy Efficient Economy and a member of the Energy Committee of the New Jersey Higher Education Partnership for Sustainability, Paul Meierdierck. The collaborative effort hopes to raise awareness and enliven talks about the future of energy.



Dialogue goes digital for 40th issue

BY COURTNEY HEXHAM
News Co-Editor

On Monday, Dialogue, Calvin's journal of commentary and the arts, expanded its criteria and launched its first-ever Dialogue-sponsored contest, a camera phone contest, which will run until Nov. 16.

Coming up on issue 40, Dialogue's mission has always been to encourage cultural and artistic insight within its cover. At one time, Dialogue was primarily a forum for opinion essay, according to Dialogue editor Beth Oliver.

Today, each issue showcases articles, interviews, stories, poetry, book reviews, visual art and satire all gathered from Calvin's community.

But Dialogue wants to go one step further as it approaches its 40th issue and welcome in the digital age.

"Life gets increasingly tech-oriented and instantaneous," said Oliver. "Through Facebook, text messaging and blogging, our understanding of what makes a valuable venue

for sharing ideas must also change."

Oliver, a senior and studio art major, hopes that the contests will get more people involved with the student-run magazine.

"If Dialogue's role on campus is to 'enhance productive discourses and nurture artistic growth' but the old formats aren't appealing to people anymore, Dialogue has a challenge to engage the new formats," Oliver said. "This in no way intends to diminish the more traditional formats, but rather to embrace the new and the old."

In what she calls "Generation Digital," possibilities are endless as well as instantaneous.

"Any submission from a camera phone is welcome," said Oliver. "This contest is mostly meant just to be fun, but also to encourage the idea that any person can contribute to the culture here at Calvin."

Each individual is limited to three submitted images, which must be taken via camera phone.

Prizes for the contest include



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Dialogue editor, Beth Oliver, shows off Dialogue's latest zine, just one more display of the organization's unique projects.

an SAO flex pass, donated by Ken Heffner, and a Schuler's Books and Music gift certificate.

More details of submission can be found on the Facebook group made for the event.