Body Talk

Remember when Teams included a ball and matching t-shirts, and Zoom was a peculiar children’s show on PBS with its own language (Ubbi-Dubbi)? Oh the good ol’ days. If you are like me, you are sleeping well, not necessarily from peace of mind, but simple fatigue. There are lots of jokes about meetings being wearisome, but put them online, and the theme multiplies. Our bodies weren’t meant for this.

We started as dust, and that was intentional. One obvious element of humanity is our embodiment; these earthen vessels are meant to move, interact, and relate. Typically, a colleague’s head turn, forward lean, or audible inhale means she wants to speak, and that can’t be communicated through a screen. Delivering a well-timed comment is like playing whack-a-mole, always flailing a half beat behind until the buzzer goes off. Communication today requires less movement, but more energy.

Students feel it too. They have been deprived of the late-night trips to Taco Bell, and the study sessions that turn into laugh fests. Now, they have to fend off their parents wondering how they can sleep ‘til noon and still get their homework done. We’ve been telling them for years to get their eyes off their phones; now we’ve reversed the message. For them and us, the memes and parodies of isolated online life have become just like the real thing—tired.

It’s helpful to know there’s good reason for my end of week exhaustion, namely, what was once natural and subconscious has become a new problem to solve. Experts point out that our bodies normally do the heavy lifting of communication through things like eye contact, tone, expressions, gestures, and weight of responses. Our bodies are smarter than we thought. Now more than ever, I thank God for our bodies. I’m grateful for the runs and the dances, the waves and the welcomes, but also the subtle winks and nods, the blushes and tears. The incarnation reminds us that these jars of clay we walk around in are etched with glory. It may be a little while before we are allowed to return to our fully embodied social lives, but the big picture remedy of weariness remains the same. “Come to me…and I will give you rest.”

Brian Bolt, dean of education

Results of Faculty Senate Elections

Elections to fill openings on the coming year’s Faculty Senate have concluded, and the Committee on Governance announces the following results:

- Lew Klatt (English): senator from the ALE division
- Anna Greidanus (Dept. of Art and Art History), Kyle Heys (Center for Student Success), and Dwight TenHuisen (Spanish): at-large senators
- Jolene Vos-Camy (French): vice chair

Online Course Evaluations Have been Launched

Course evaluation forms have been sent to students via email. Here are some helpful tips to make the evaluation process a success:
• Please encourage students to complete the evaluation at their convenience before the end of the day on May 15.
• Ask students to check their email for a message from "Course Evaluations" that includes links to evaluations for each of their classes.
• Tell students that their responses are completely anonymous, and that you will only see results after grades are released.
• Tell the students in your own words how useful the evaluations are for helping you improve the course.

Going over this information at the start of the evaluation period will set the stage for a strong response rate in your classes and for Calvin as a whole. To log in to the system go to smartevals.com and use your Calvin credentials.

**Coming Up on Campus**

**Monday, May 4–Friday, May 8**

• Daily chapels are posted here
• Cultural Competency Professional Development opportunities are posted here
• President LeRoy Virtual Office Hours, Thursday, May 7, 4:00–5:00 p.m.