

Clarion

THE BETHEL UNIVERSITY



FOR SOME, DACA
HITS CLOSE TO HOME

WASHED BY WATER

ROYAL RECAP

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Sophomore Blake Hottle attempts an extra point kick in the football season opener against the University of Dubuque on Sept. 2. The Royals lost 32 to 26 in double overtime.

PHOTO BY JAKE VAN LOH

CORRECTIONS FROM AUGUST'S ISSUE

Pg. 2 : "On the Cover" incorrectly spelled the name of senior Abbey Schmitz.

Pg. 6 : The new electrical engineering major is part of the physics department. There is no science department.

Pg. 25 : Rio de Janeiro is incorrectly spelled on the map of Brazil.

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For some, DACA hits close to home

BY MADDIE DEBILZAN
& SARAH NELSON

Bethel's campus responds to President Donald Trump's announcement to end a program from Barack Obama's administration.

Taz Song'ony, executive director of the United Cultures of Bethel, spent her Wednesday evening watching an indigenous Aztec group dance for their freedom.

The junior reconciliation studies and theatre major participated in a protest against President Donald Trump's decision to end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals plan in front of Hennepin County officials, which involved a sacred ceremony through dance. A "beautiful protest," she said.

Although Song'ony makes it clear that she comes from a privileged point of view – she has American citizenship – she has friends who aren't so lucky. She went to the DACA protest to stand in solidarity with them.

"If the roles were reversed," she said, "I'd expect my friends to do the same for me."

On Sept. 5, the Justice Department announced it is ending DACA, an Obama-era program that allowed undocumented immigrants who arrived in the U.S. as children to remain in the country. The Trump administration said it will give

Congress six months to find a replacement program.

Two days after the announcement, Bethel University Provost Deb Harless sent a campus-wide email stating the university "is deeply troubled" by the decision, and "implore Congress to act wisely and swiftly to pass legislation to protect and care for persons who have been covered by DACA."

According to Harless, Bethel leadership is careful when considering sending a campus-wide email. But on this particular issue, Harless said she, President Jay Barnes and Chief Diversity Officer Ruben Rivera didn't hesitate.

"It just felt like we had to respond," Harless said. "The immigrants affected by this are our neighbors."

Bethel Student Senate, according to student body vice president Sterling Harer, reached out to Harless prior to the campus-wide email to make sure Bethel would give voice on the issue.

Posters voicing solidarity with DACA/DREAMer students started to pop up throughout campus, specifically on the

doors of faculty offices. The yellow poster, which states "Protect all undocumented people. No human being is illegal," was circulated by philosophy professor Sara Shady, who received the design from a student.

Shady also said her reaction against the Justice Department's statement was a no-brainer.

"I know we have DACA students on our campus and not all students are aware of that," Shady said. "It's easy for us to think about it in the abstract, but for DACA students on our campus, I want them to know they are loved and cared about and the community understands their vulnerability and wants to stand in solidarity with them."

Political science professor Andrew Bramsen said the DACA issue is complex, and the difficult nature stems from the fact that DACA is an executive order, not a law.

According to Bramsen, there are two ways to interpret what the Trump administration is doing. The first, and Bramsen said most dominant narrative, is that Trump is an anti-immigration candidate who is looking to fulfill promises to his base. Trump's past rhetoric, Bramsen said, supports this.

Alternatively, one could view this situation as Trump pointing out that DACA should have gone through Congress in the first place in order to prevent the program from being pulled by future presidents. In this scenario, Trump does have a point, Bramsen said.

Fears surrounding the situation are not illegitimate, Bramsen also said. As of now, nothing will happen, for the problems are not immediate. But six months from now, there is uncertainty over whether Congress will pass an alternative action, or if Trump will indeed deport the undocumented immigrants.

Reiterating a point made by his friend, Bramsen said the pro-life movement ought to include DACA as one of their concerns.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops refers to Trump's decision as "unacceptable and does not reflect who we are as humans." The United Methodist and Evangelical Lutheran Churches took similar stances.

"We're talking about children whose parents have made decisions on their behalf," Bramsen said.

Bethel students in North Village taped a poster on their door voicing solidarity with DACA/DREAMers.



PHOTO BY CALLIE SCHMIDT

Act Six: A culture of leadership

BY HANNAH TOUTGE

A program designed to recruit and support young leaders is a main contributor to increased diversity within the Bethel student population.

Meti Regassa sits at a table in front of the Royal Grounds, head bent over her open laptop, putting finishing touches on homework. A first-year student at Bethel, Regassa is a recipient of the Act Six Scholarship, the only award offering full-tuition scholarships for urban leadership, according to the Act Six page on Bethel's website.

Act Six is in its third year at Bethel under the Intercultural Student Programs and Services department. The scholarship is named after the biblical passage, Acts 6, which describes how seven individuals were chosen to act as leaders to ensure their community was properly cared for.

The program selects young men and women who hold promise of becoming leaders in their communities, especially students from diverse and urban settings.

"It's not just a scholarship, it's equipping and empowering students to be leaders," said Jenny Lee, Bethel's admissions counselor for first impressions.

Colleges admit students to the program in the hopes that when Scholars

graduate, they'll use their strengthened leadership skills to better communities similar to the ones they came from.

"It's not about leaving our neighborhoods, getting an education, and running away to the suburbs," Regassa said. "We're going to go back and invest in the communities that we came from the way (Act Six) invested in us."

Regassa grew up in Minneapolis and attended Edina High School. While at EHS, she was involved in Black Student Union, Multicultural Group, and community service work. Now a nursing major at Bethel, she's looking forward to a future of hard work and self-improvement in order to better the world around her.

"I want to change my community and have some sort of impact in the lives of people around me," Regassa said.

Like Regassa, Breck School graduate Chemeer St. Urbain was also involved in numerous service-oriented programs in high school, such as Reading Partners and Community Bridges. Chemeer was also the yearbook editor and contributed to the school newspaper.

As an international business major,



PORTRAITS OF METI REGASSA (RIGHT) AND CHEMEER ST. URBAIN (LEFT) | PHOTOS BY JOSH TOWNER

St. Urbain strives for a career in international affairs, working with different international organizations and nonprofits. As optimistic and driven as these scholars are, participating in a program like Act Six is not without its challenges. Besides the demanding coursework – Act Six has its own curriculum and homework assigned to students in the program on top of their regular classes – scholarship recipients report feeling anxious despite their success.

“I’m afraid to tell people that I’m a Scholar. I feel like people will think I don’t deserve to be here because I’m on such a big scholarship,” Regassa said. “It’s not just the way I look. We’re all good students.”

Lee agrees: the scholarship is not based off of ethnicity, a presupposition that supports a stigma that she is determined to change.

“It’s really based off of their merit and work,” Lee said. “We’re looking for

high-caliber, high-quality students.”

In recent years, the majority of high school graduates have been first-generation college students and students from urban areas. Act Six is a critical program for providing resources for students who otherwise might not even apply to college.

“You cannot live in a perpetual cycle of poverty and minimal education,” Lee said. “The market (trend) needs to change.”

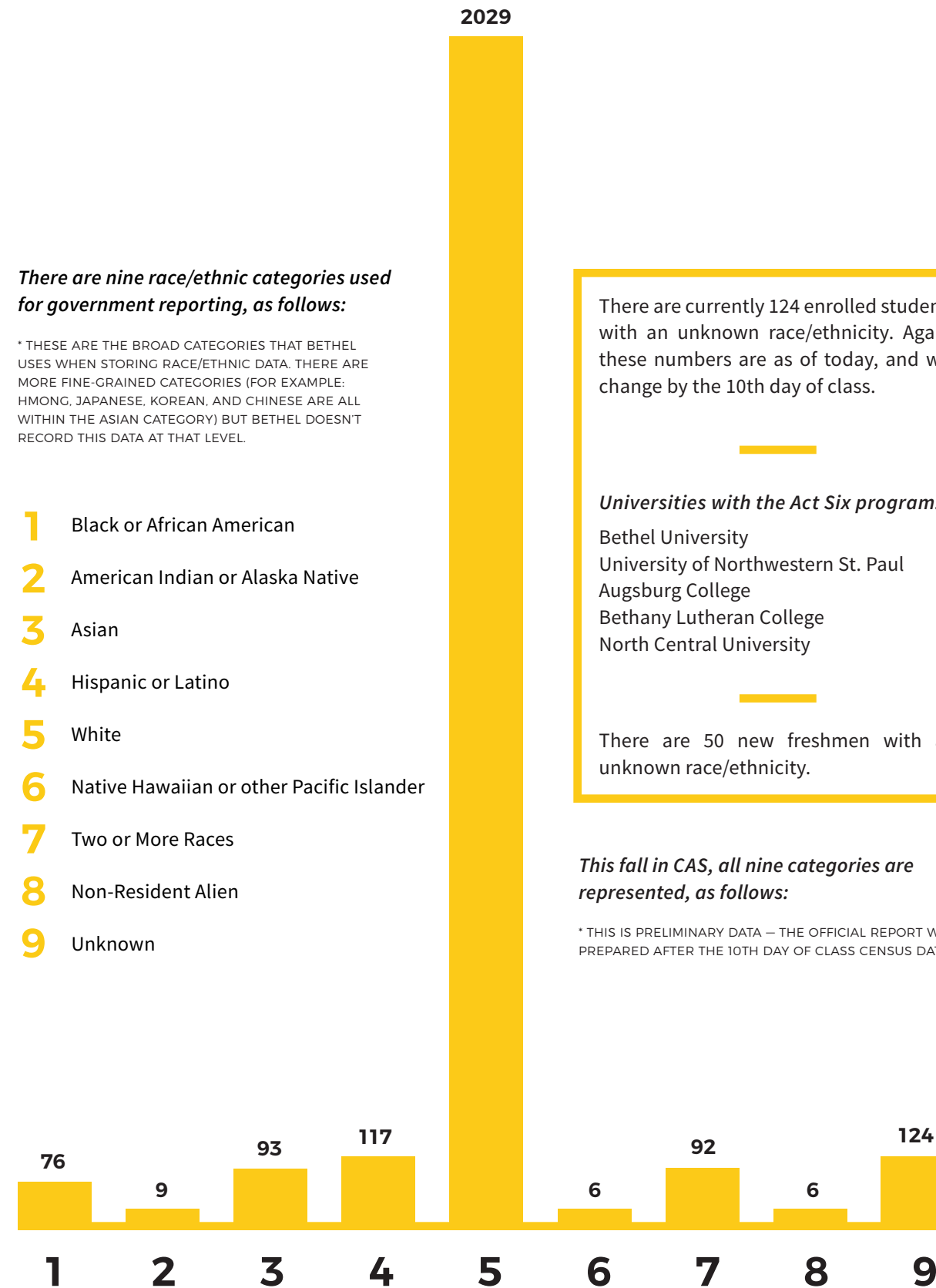
In a predominantly caucasian setting like Bethel, it’s important to welcome students from diverse backgrounds to better the experience of the greater community.

“I think (Act Six) recognizes that (Bethel) isn’t the picture of what the Kingdom is going to look like,” Lee said. “It won’t be all white, scandinavian students...By having these scholars here, it exposes more of what’s out there.”



You cannot live in a perpetual cycle of poverty and minimal education. The market (trend) needs to change.

- Jenny Lee, Bethel’s admissions counselor



There are nine race/ethnic categories used for government reporting, as follows:

* THESE ARE THE BROAD CATEGORIES THAT BETHEL USES WHEN STORING RACE/ETHNIC DATA. THERE ARE MORE FINE-GRAINED CATEGORIES (FOR EXAMPLE: HMONG, JAPANESE, KOREAN, AND CHINESE ARE ALL WITHIN THE ASIAN CATEGORY) BUT BETHEL DOESN'T RECORD THIS DATA AT THAT LEVEL.

- 1 Black or African American
- 2 American Indian or Alaska Native
- 3 Asian
- 4 Hispanic or Latino
- 5 White
- 6 Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
- 7 Two or More Races
- 8 Non-Resident Alien
- 9 Unknown

There are currently 124 enrolled students with an unknown race/ethnicity. Again, these numbers are as of today, and will change by the 10th day of class.

Universities with the Act Six program:

- Bethel University
- University of Northwestern St. Paul
- Augsburg College
- Bethany Lutheran College
- North Central University

There are 50 new freshmen with an unknown race/ethnicity.

This fall in CAS, all nine categories are represented, as follows:

* THIS IS PRELIMINARY DATA – THE OFFICIAL REPORT WILL BE PREPARED AFTER THE 10TH DAY OF CLASS CENSUS DATE

Washed by water

Bethel hosts its first baptism service this November.

BY SARAH NELSON



PHOTO BY MADDIE CHRISTY

Campus Ministries will be hosting a baptism service for the first time in Bethel history this fall.

Though the official date is undecided as of yet, the baptisms are likely to occur in mid-November at the Seminary chapel, according to campus pastor Laurel Bunker.

The fall service is hoped to be accompanied by a spring baptism that may take place in the outdoors, according to Bunker.

For years, Bunker says she tried to receive the green light to perform a baptism service on campus. She met resistance from those who felt baptism is a rite of the church versus a Christian university.

To that, Bunker recognized how many millennial students are not necessarily attached to a church, whether this is because of student's new home in college or not finding a church right away. For these kinds of students, Bunker believes a baptism at Bethel would be much more personal with friends by their side.

And so, Bunker says, she declared Campus Ministries would go ahead with the service.

"I just said we're doing it," Bunker said, laughing.

Her supervisors, she said, affirmed her desire to move forward with the baptism, saying they "can't keep asking permission" from those who aren't involved with the day-to-day ministering of students.

Since Bunker announced at the Koinonia worship service Aug. 27 that Campus Ministries would host a baptism service this fall, she has received an "avalanche" of responses. According to Bunker, the event has received possibly

the most positive feedback from a Campus Ministries-orchestrated project. One of those responses include a recent Bethel graduate hoping to participate.

Preparation sessions will be organized for those hoping to be baptized to help students understand the history of the practice. For those who have been baptized as infants, Bunker and assistant pastor Jason Steffenhagen want to assure the baptism service will not replace their infant baptism.

In the evangelical world, baptism is symbolic of a decision one makes once they understand salvation. For those anticipating push-back from their parents over their decision to be baptized at Bethel, a question and answer session may be held in the months leading up to the service.

"There is something unique and special about it (baptism) that is a marker in their (students) journey. That tells the world and tells themselves that this is who I am," Steffenhagen said. "This is one of those things that when we get through hard times we can look back and remember when we were baptized and the commitment God made to you." Bunker agrees.

"These are students who are wanting to stand before their friends and others and say 'I take my faith seriously,'" Bunker said. "It also flies in the face of a culture that says millennials are walking away from Jesus. No, they're not. Our students are saying 'We're sold out. Yeah we have some issues with what we see in churches sometimes, but that doesn't mean we're walking away from Jesus. We take it seriously.' I think it's pretty exciting."

Beyond the bubble: Musical Thiry

BY ALAYNA HOY

*Bethel alumni, songwriter and artist releases
his debut alt-country album "Stages".*

Ben Thiry sat on the couch of his Nashville home, social media accounts open and announcement posts ready to rock and roll. Thoughts raced through his mind, but there Thiry sat, absolutely frozen.

What if no one listens? He wondered. Worse, what if no one cares?

The clock ticked on. Two hours passed, maybe three. Anxious thoughts equaled doubt equaled paralysis.

For months and months Thiry's "passion project", an 11-song album titled "Stages", orbited around a narrow universe, existing only in quiet spheres between his computer and his imagination. Until today; June 30. The release day for his debut record "Stages". That vulnerable moment to put his work, his love, his music to the test.

"I've never worked so hard on anything in my life," said Thiry, who wrote, produced, played and edited the album from start to finish. "I had to remember I'm proud of it. I

feel like it represents me, my ability, my talent."

So with a surge of courage, Thiry clicked the button to post and shared his creation.

Thiry bought his first guitar when he was 10 years old. It was a bright blue, \$30 wonder, about three quarters the size of a standard instrument, with strings that felt like plastic and rubbed his fingers raw.

Though no one else in his family played, soon it was clear that young Thiry had found a calling.

Fast-forward almost a decade and Thiry enrolled at Bethel University. College proved a transformative time for the musician. He majored in marketing, met his wife-to-be and became the primary songwriter for Bethel student rock band Manalive.

In his sophomore year, Thiry started listening to country music.



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY ALAYNA HOY

“What attracted me to country music was how honest and great the songwriting was,” Thiry said. “I never really had the goal of being the person out front on the stage.”

So after Bethel, Thiry relocated to the homeland for anyone pursuing a dream in country music and songwriting: Nashville, Tennessee. The first months were tough and lonely. His girlfriend, friends and family in Minnesota felt a world away. To make ends meet while working on his album, Thiry worked at an event venue.

He estimates he spent between \$400 and \$500 on the entire record. The funds mostly went toward hiring a drummer for seven of the 11 songs, as well as a back-up vocalist.

Truly a labor of love, Thiry worked relentlessly in his free time to write, record and edit each note of “Stages”. He hopes the stories and lyrics portrayed throughout the record can serve as a sort of “glorified business card” to launch his songwriting career.

“My main worry is to fight my own personality to make something happen,” Thiry said. “It is a constant strug-

gle for me to get myself out there and networking is not a strength.”

In the end, Thiry feels that “Stages” is an album of relatable stories for audiences of his generation; those looking to find themselves in the college and post-college age range. The record reflects the struggle for identity and pursuit of a dream that went into creating it.

“Look for your own approval, instead of the approval of everyone,” is Thiry’s advice to young people pursuing careers in the music industry.

Look for your own approval, instead of the approval of everyone.

“I never expected for this to be a big payday. The most rewarding thing is just knowing that people listened to it.”

To check out Thiry’s debut album, “Stages”, visit his Spotify, iTunes, SoundCloud or Bandcamp pages.

Carcinogens in your cabinet

BY HANNAH TOUTGE

Want to find out how toxic your personal care products are? There's an app for that.

What if you were told that your shampoo, toothpaste, and deodorant were all toxic?

A cheekily-named app helps consumers understand the truths about the beauty industry and make informed decisions about what they purchase. “Think Dirty, Shop Clean” allows users to scan or search for products, then gives an overview of the item, including information such as carcinogenicity (the level of cancer-causing chemicals contained within the item), developmental and reproductive toxicity, and allergies and immunotoxicities. The Dirty Meter™ rates each hazard on a scale of 0-10, 0 being safe and 10 being “dirty.” Descriptions of dirty products warn consumers against purchasing the item. The app provides an ingredients list for each product, and recommends similar, cleaner products for those looking to make the switch.

Think Dirty was developed by Toronto native Lily Tse, born out of her decision to research the many causes of breast cancer, a diagnosis familiar to her family. Tse found that the ‘toxic’ ingredients in common cosmetic and personal hygiene products were some of the leading causes of breast cancer, among dozens of other life-threatening diseases.

“There are hormone disruptor chemicals in many products that have been linked to breast cancer,” Tse wrote. “I was shocked [that] the cosmetics industry was not regulated like the food and drug sectors. And like most women, my lipgloss and shampoo are products I would never think to describe as ‘toxic’ or [containing] cancer-causing chemicals.”

Tse’s past work as an art director as well as an increasingly urgent plea for transparency in the beauty industry helped her to see an opportunity to make this information more readily available for the average consumer. Similar calls for awareness from organizations like the Campaign for Safe Cosmetics and the Breast Cancer Fund inspired Tse to finally begin work on her app.

In a recent press release, Tse wrote, “Three years ago, I was moved by a short animation produced by the Campaign for Safe Cosmetics. I had the ‘Aha!’ moment when the story resonated with my personal experience of not [being] able to understand cosmetics labels. Then I realized there’s a need for a tool like Think Dirty. Fast track 3 years later, partnering with the Breast Cancer Fund and the Campaign is a dream come true. They inspired me to take daily actions to shop for

Tse found that the ‘toxic’ ingredients in common cosmetic and personal hygiene products were some of the leading causes of breast cancer, among dozens of other life-threatening diseases.



PHOTO BY JAKE VAN LOH



We as a Bethel community can be extra mindful of what we are using and putting into our own environment — as an act of loving our neighbors and stewarding God’s gifts to us.

- Dr. Paula Soneral, Associate Professor of Biological Sciences



my health and the environment.”

Elise Ogden, a freshman at Bethel and a long-time Think Dirty user sings Tse’s praises. Coming from a family with a history of skin cancer, Ogden explained how knowing the full facts about the products she used was important to her. After being introduced to Think Dirty via an online toxicology course, Ogden was quick to make the switch to a “clean” bathroom cabinet.

When asked if it was difficult to transition to healthier products, Ogden said, “Not at all. I was ready to put in the work, and I knew it would only benefit me in the long-run.”

Consumers often find that natural or “clean” products cost more than items pumped with carcinogens and other toxins. Ogden takes a pragmatic approach to this issue.

“My dad always says, ‘You can’t put a U-Haul on a horse,’ meaning that you can’t take material objects with you after you die. In the grand scheme of things, objects don’t really matter. Your body is the only certain thing that you’ll have throughout your whole life, so you need to take care of it. Shopping clean is one way to do that, and Think Dirty makes it really easy.”

Although initially appealing to many, the Think Dirty app and other

methods of “shopping clean” are often met with skepticism. Freshman David Eldridge studies biochemistry at Bethel and explains why he chooses not to use the app despite its widespread appeal.

“I don’t know how accurate it is,” Eldridge said. “Through the classes I’ve taken for my major, I’ve discovered lots of really reliable sources for this same kind of information.”

In another press release, Tse wrote that Think Dirty’s rating system is “based on third party non-profit science, environmental organizations, and government agencies including Health Canada Hotlist, European Union Health Commission Cosmetics Directive, the Breast Cancer Fund, David Suzuki Foundation and National Cancer Institute.” These sources lend credibility to the app and encourage peace of mind in users questioning the reliability of the information.

As a biochem major, Eldridge frequents sources such as The National Center for Biotechnology Information, which leave little to be desired in terms of information and grounds for credibility. For someone with an intense interest in the medical field, it’s no problem to look up the same information from Think Dirty on a medical database. But for someone with less



PHOTO BY JAKE VAN LOH

of an interest in science, Think Dirty is a simple, easy way to find those facts.

Eldridge said that he appreciates the way Think Dirty rates products on a scale of 0-10, because the simple numbers are “easier for the average reader to understand than having to sift through piles of medical research. The app makes that information more accessible to the public, and encourages people to learn more about the products they’re using.”

Eldridge emphasized that he hopes people “put more time and consideration into the things they’re putting on or into their bodies and the things they’re exposing themselves to,” whether that means using the Think Dirty app or just being more conscientious when shopping.

Dr. Paula Soneral, associate professor of biological sciences at Bethel said that although she’s not entirely familiar with Think Dirty, she thinks it could be a great tool for people wanting to learn more about what they’re putting into their bodies.

Soneral said, “I generally encourage my students to investigate any substance on an ingredients list that seems suspicious to them. For example, the American Cancer Society website* keeps a comprehensive list of known or probable carcinogens. Perhaps the Think Dirty app is a useful

tool for identifying substances, which individuals can investigate more in greater depth for potential carcinogenicity.”

Soneral also spoke about what happens when toxic products get washed down the drain - and the carcinogens with them. “That waste ends up becoming something that, ultimately, another person may put in or on his/her body. Then that person is losing the power of choice.”

Soneral hopes to encourage consumers to increase their mindfulness of this harsh reality.

“There’s a lot of value in thinking about [the impact our choices have] in our immediate community,” Soneral said. “We as a Bethel community can be extra mindful of what we are using and putting into our own environment – as an act of loving our neighbors and stewarding God’s gifts to us. Sometimes it’s easier to change a habit if we understand the impact it may have on someone else. Perhaps that’s motivating.”

The Think Dirty mobile app launched in the summer of 2013 with more than 68,300 popular products listed. Today, the app boasts 651,392 registered products graded on the 0-10 toxicity scale. How do your products rate?

For more information, go to www.thinkdirtyapp.com, or download the free Think Dirty app for iOS and Android in the App Store.

*Read about what the American Cancer Society has to say about carcinogens at <https://www.cancer.org/cancer/cancer-causes/general-info/known-and-probable-human-carcinogens.html>.

From the streets of LA to the halls of Bethel

BY LAUREN CLYNE

Bethel welcomes new communications professor after years of hands on experience and training from one of top film schools in the country.

The newest hire in the communication department believes he has reached the “pinnacle” of his academic career at Bethel University. Nickolaus Swedlund graduated from one of the top film schools in the country, the American Film Institute (AFI). Two years ago he premiered his first feature film, “All the Time in the World” at the Twin Cities Film Festival.

Swedlund, like many others, had to fight for the life he wanted in Los Angeles for many years. He recalls days spent as a production assistant on seasons three, four and five of the hit television series, “America’s Next Top Model.”

“It’s not as glamorous when you work on the show,” Swedlund said. Nevertheless, his undergraduate degree in Mass Communications from Biola University and time spent working on the ANTM set helped launch him further into the film industry.

Swedlund dreamed of directing since junior high. A crew member from ANTM told him that in order to have a shot at making this dream a reality, he would have to attend

a top film graduate school. So, Swedlund applied to The American Film Institute. When he was waitlisted, he took the news as a “soft no.” But then, a month before the program started, Swedlund received a call. A director from India had dropped out and a spot had opened up.

“Immediately I said yes and I upped my Netflix DVD to eight out at a time and I watched about five movies a day to prepare,” Swedlund said.

At AFI, Swedlund absorbed lessons from Academy Award winning filmmakers and script writers seven days a week for two years. He has written seven feature length scripts and is currently raising funds to make his second feature film called Junk.

To the Bethel community, he says, “I’m very blessed to be here so I hope I can make an impact and help the Media Production and Digital Filmmaking majors grow,” Swedlund said. “I want Bethel to be the Christian film school of choice because I would have come here out of high school, but there was no film production major here.”



PHOTO BY JOSH TOWNER

FUN FACTS

WHAT’S YOUR FAVORITE MOVIE?

“Choosing a favorite movie for me is like choosing a favorite child—I just can’t. It depends on the day. But if I have to hone in on something I’m going to pick ‘Black Hawk Down,’ but also ‘Tree of Life.’”

WHAT’S YOUR FAVORITE TV SHOW?

“Probably ‘Arrested Development.’”

WHAT’S YOUR FAVORITE BETHEL FOOD?

“I genuinely like the salad bar. It’s fantastic. But, I haven’t had time to wait in line for the stir fry section yet.”

WHAT’S YOUR FAVORITE PLACE IN THE TWIN CITIES?

“Can I say home?”

The Nichols family empties their nest

BY AIDAN RUCH



The Clarion interviewed twins Mathieu and Marcus Nichols, two first-year Bethel students. All four kids of the Nichols family will be attending Bethel this year. Micah, the oldest, in his last year, the twins in their freshmen year, and Maddy, the youngest, in her first year as a Post-Secondary Education Option student. When the twins moved into Edgren and Maddy moved into Nelson during Welcome Week, their parents displayed an #emptynest sign on their car.



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY MATHIEU & MARCUS

AR: What is it like having all your family at Bethel?

MATHIEU: I personally am really enjoying it. It's fun because our older brother Micah knows what's going on and everything. What to do, where to go...What not to do, as well. And we've got a younger sister here also.

MARCUS: It's good that she's here because then she's not home alone and this way we can keep an eye on her, and she been supportive of us. It's nice having four siblings here.

MATHIEU: It makes it really feel like home.

Marcus: Which it already did, but this adds another extent to it.

AR: What's it like being a twin here at Bethel? Have you ever tried switching roles and showing up for different classes?

MATHIEU: We only have one class which has been fun. We get to sit together and the professor knows what's up.

MARCUS: It's a psychology class, so there are actually a lot of studies on twins, so the professor said that he was going to mess with us a lot and have a lot of fun.

MATHIEU: And having a twin on campus is really fun. I've got a built-in roommate.

MARCUS: Yeah, we've lived together our whole lives. It's basically as if we've lifted up our stuff and brought it to a new place.

It's also nice because it gives you another network to connect with – different friends and people and a bigger social life. It gets your name out there and makes you part of the community.

AR: Marcus, you have had multiple open heart surgeries. What was that like from both your perspectives?

MATHIEU: Two years ago Marcus had his last open heart surgery. So at that point in time we were both juniors in high school and it was good because the surgery went well and the recovery went well and there were a lot of people at school praying for him. It was really great because of that support we are able to be here at Bethel today. And the support here from all the kids at Bethel has also been really great.

MARCUS: There was a lot of support at my public school, but the reason why I chose to go to Bethel was because of the support I got here. The football team actually sent me an autographed football with all their names on it. Just the warm community, the people who didn't even know me but prayed for me and wished me well just because they knew my family made me feel like this was a place I could call home, a shelter.

This interview has been edited and condensed.

Royal recap

BY CONRAD ENGSTROM

*Sports updates and highlights
from Aug. 27 through Sept. 10*



FOOTBALL

- Started the season with two losses: one at home to Dubuque 32-26 in double overtime and one on the road to Carthage College 31-0
- Bryce Marquardt became the all-time leader in receiving touchdowns with 26 in the Dubuque game
- Upcoming: the Royals travel to Moorhead to play Concordia and then return home to play St. Olaf

MEN'S GOLF

- Took fourth place in the Augsburg Classic on Sept. 2
- Noah Bragg shot 3 under for the tournament, taking second place

MEN'S SOCCER

- Started the season 1-3-1 getting their first victory Sept. 10 against Northland College

VOLLEYBALL

- Started the season 7-1 including a trip on the west coast to California for the Pacific Coast Invitational and won 4-0
- Played in the Pointer Invitational at the University of Wisconsin and finished 2-1
- Upcoming: Conference play starts Sept. 12

WOMEN'S GOLF

- Christine Piwnica was the medalist at the College of St. Benedict Invitational
- Piwnica's score of 2 under par 70 was the lowest in Royals' history

WOMEN'S SOCCER

- Started the season going 3-1 highlighted by a 15-0 win over Iowa Wesleyan University

Comeback kick

BY TATIANA LEE

How Alicia Halikas, a Bethel University soccer player, overcame a destructive home life.

Halikas anticipates her header in her soccer game on Sept. 1 against Augustana.



Alicia Halikas dagged a fierce glare into her father. “Go ahead and do it.”

His eyes flooded with tears. Halikas knew he wouldn’t actually knock her teeth out. “Get out of my face!” Halikas’ dad cried.

It wasn’t the first time she was threatened by her father and it wouldn’t be the last.

Alicia Halikas is a senior biokinetics major at Bethel University. She plays center forward for the Bethel Women’s Soccer team.

“She brings positive energy,” Bethel University women’s soccer coach Amanda Maxwell said. “Last season, in some tough games, Alicia scored some crucial goals.”

Halikas grew up in Chicago with both of her parents. Her father dealt with anger management issues and her mother was diagnosed as bipolar, and struggled with drug addiction and alcoholism.

Halikas spent many nights alone in her room crying, not knowing what she did wrong or how she could help the situation. Often her father would get upset with outbursts of vulgar language over simple tasks, such as not

putting the clothes away or washing the dishes.

Her junior year of high school, Halikas reached for her phone in her backpack. Her dad called. He spoke quickly and insisted she come home right away – Halikas’ mother wasn’t doing well.

As it turned out, she was in a closed garage with exhaust humming from the car engine.

When Halikas came home her mother lay in bed, silent and motionless. She was intoxicated with an overdose of prescription medicine in her system, on top of the monoxide poisoning from the car exhaust. Halikas called the police.

While she was on the phone her dad screamed.

He didn’t want her to call the police. He didn’t want to pay for the ambulance bill or the increased insurance rates.

Fifteen minutes later, Halikas’s mother looked up at her daughters from a stretcher with weak eyes, “You’re the reason this happened.”

Halikas was raised by her parents along with an older brother and sister. She picked up soccer at a young

PHOTO BY JAKE VAN LOH



Halikas stands next to family at the Red Dress Gala for her sorority her sophomore year of college.

age from her grandfather. She continued her soccer career at Andrew High School Tinley Park.

After high school Halikas attended Chapman University and joined a sorority where she found herself surrounded by friends who drank their weekends away and had no faith. Halikas no longer used soccer as her outlet from troubles. She decided to leave.

"I wanted something that would grow me closer to my faith," said Halikas. "I didn't have a faith."

After Halikas's best friend Julia Hangartner encouraged her to come to Bethel, she knew it was right for her. Halikas transferred to Bethel University her junior year of college.

"Bethel impacted me by showing me what having a faith looks like, and implementing it into my life," Halikas said.

Hangartner also noticed this change. Halikas's family was not faith-based. After Halikas came home from Bethel, Hangartner could see the change herself.

"Everyone at home tells her she's different, but in a good way," Hangartner said.

Halikas learned what it means to have a faith and to be committed to it. She shows this in her actions on the field by not getting angry or picking fights.

The hardest thing Halikas ever went through was feeling like her mother's life was in her hands.

"My mom changes a lot. Right now she's in a stage where she wants to be like me."

Halikas seeks therapy regularly. When she told her mom she went to therapy her mother quickly called a therapist and began going as well.

"I don't talk to my parents much now," Halikas said. "It's easier that way."

Halikas' favorite color is blue. She loves lobster, reading her Bible and sitting on the beach while reading a book. Halikas found her identity through soccer, but when she came to Bethel she found that soccer can be her outlet, but God is her identity.

"I found God teaching me lessons through soccer that were applicable in my life," Halikas said.

Halikas does not resent her childhood or the way she grew up. Instead she found a way to use her past to connect with other hurting friends by sharing stories and empathizing what others have gone through.

After all, Halikas said, a bad hand of cards doesn't have to define your game.

“

I found God teaching me lessons through soccer that were applicable in my life.

”



Halikas and Hangartner pose on the field during junior year of high school.



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The Clarion considers opinion articles on any topic, for the opinion section in print or online-only. Opinion articles that run in print will also be published online. We are most interested in articles that are timely and relevant to current events or articles that respond to stories in The Clarion. We want articles that are personal and speak to specific issues or events. Although we consider them for publication, we generally do not publish articles that are solely theological exegeses.

The opinion section acts as a public forum, especially in response to controversial topics or opinions. Writers

may submit as many articles as they like to The Clarion and they will be considered for publication as long as they add to public discussion. However, The Clarion only allows one response per writer per topic. Writers may not respond to those who respond to them via The Clarion.

Articles typically run from 400 to 650 words, but submissions of any length will be considered. Although we do not generally consider unfinished works, The Clarion staff may work with writers to edit pieces for publication. All submissions must be original, and exclusive to The Clarion. If you submit an opinion piece to The Clarion we cannot guarantee publication, but we will let you know within a week of your submission. Submissions may be sent by email to ajp87848@bethel.edu.

Athletes' social responsibility in today's world

BY GODFREY MPETEY

Athletes hold an important platform on current events and social issues that affect all.

I idolized athletes since a child for their aggressiveness and relentlessness. Their attributes shaped the way I play sports. Ray Lewis, the former linebacker for the Baltimore Ravens, is the reason I wear number 52 on my football jersey. His ferocious leadership and personal characteristics drove me to become a better player on the field. While I admired their passion for football, my newfound admiration of athletes stems from what happens off the field.

On Aug. 25, Hurricane Harvey swept through the state of Texas, stretching throughout Louisiana and bordering areas. The damage left hundreds of thousands of people into evacuation, leaving families displaced from their homes. Damages are reported to cost more than \$180 billion. ABC News reports the elevating floodwater resulted in at least 60 deaths alone.

J.J. Watt, an all-pro defensive end for the Houston Texans, partnered with You-Caring to fundraise relief aid for victims of Hurricane Harvey. With the help of fellow athletes and celebrities, Watt fundraised more than \$20 million. The aid provided 10 semi-trucks filled with necessities such as bottled water and diapers as countless volunteers hurled packages to people in need.

Amid a turbulent social and political

climate, athletes are fulfilling their duties of social responsibility. Athletics create platforms for their participants. Three-time NBA Champion LeBron James spoke about racism last spring when his home in Los Angeles was vandalized with racial slurs.

"Being black in America is tough." James said about the incident. "We got a long way to go for us as a society and for us as African Americans until we feel equal in America."

Athletes are believed to remove themselves from the hard-hitting questions. They are told to take the Charles Barkley route and profess "I'm not a role model." My first experience with athletic isolation happened last fall during homecoming week. While the Royals' football team prepared to face St. John's, my heart laid elsewhere. A week filled with school spirit was coated white, marking Blue Lives Matter over a symbol of solidarity.

When I addressed the team about the Kresge courtyard rock incident in September of last year, voices cried to forget and move on. We have a bigger things to think about. That moment presented me with two perspectives. First, athletes have created an isolation tool, meaning their involvement in athletics removes their

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voice on external conflicts. Second, silence became inexcusable when those conflicts were delivered to our front door. This was not an incident at the University of Minnesota or Alabama. This was our so-called "sanctuary." Continuing to silence myself from social issues is remiss.

Colin Kaepernick, former San Francisco 49ers' quarterback, finds his career in limbo for kneeling down during the National Anthem, fighting against "a country that oppresses black people and people of color." Seattle Seahawks star Michael Bennett released a statement regarding an incident after the Mayweather-McGregor fight when Las Vegas police officer pressed a gun to his head and handcuffed him, only to later release him after identifying the All-Pro defensive end.

"This fact is unequivocally, without question why before every game, I sit during the national anthem" Bennett said regarding the Aug. 26 incident. "Because equality doesn't live in this country and no matter how much money you make, what job title you have, or how much you give, when you are seen as a "Nigger," you will be treated that way."

I may be an athlete, however, once I remove the pads and jersey, I am an individu-

al with a platform to enlighten and liberate human beings. Who are we not to let our light shine? As athletes, it's important to utilize our platform to lift the voices who go unheard. Stats, scores, points and tackles are crucial, but who you are and what you do for others is important for our eternity.

“

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The constitutional case to end DACA

BY SAMUEL KRUEGER

Although Barack Obama's program began with good intentions, we must honor Congress and the Constitution.

Every summer after school I return to my job at the country club in my hometown. I like my job there because the schedule is flexible and I get to meet all sorts of new people. We like to joke that the kitchen doesn't discriminate.

As I sat in the near the pool on a slow day, my friend George came over and we started talking. He told me the story of his arrival in the United States and how his situation is difficult. He isn't a citizen, but he is able to stay. If he left the country, they wouldn't let him back in.

What he described to me is the life of an immigrant who is living the U.S. without legal permission under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program.

Sept. 5 marked the beginning of the end for Barack Obama's DACA program. That may be distressing for some, but I believe this may be the start of something better and most importantly, something constitutional and permanent.

So what is DACA? It is a program initiated by the Obama administration to protect immigrants whose parents came to the United States without legal permission.

While I believe illegal immigration degrades the dignity of those who came here

legally, I believe many of these people are valuable to our country. So while many – if not most – of these people have protections outside of DACA, some do not. Their residence in the United States hinges on these next few weeks.

I, like many other Americans, agree that children should not be held accountable for the actions of their parents.

President Trump agrees, too. Shocking? Not really. This is Trump's way of forcing congress to work together once and for all. Trump is smart. He knows how to win and he knows how to come out on top. What better way to unite the country than to have a bipartisan vote on a topic that has been red-hot for years?

Trump issued a statement Sept. 6, confirming my suspicions.

"In effect, I am not going to just cut DACA off, but rather provide a window for congress to finally act," Trump said, "we will resolve the DACA issue with heart and compassion – but through the lawful democratic process."

While sounding tough on immigration, both Trump and Attorney General Sessions believe Congress will act to provide legislation that will make these protections

Ending DACA is not just the most practical thing to do, it is the most constitutional thing to do.



permanent. In other words, DACA will carry on in the form of a law passed by congress rather than an administrative program. Congress will be forced to act on this issue, and draft the bill that contains those protections.

Both sides of Congress are desperate for a major victory and if Trump can force them to get along it will be seen as a win for his administration.

As a believer in the Constitution, I believe that DACA should end.

The President is given certain powers over immigration into the United States, which makes it hypocritical for democrats to berate Trump for issuing a travel ban and yet praise Obama for granting these privileges for people affected by DACA. One could argue that these immigrants are refugees. That still means that DACA was an overreach of executive power. The Immigration and Nationality Act states that the President must consult with Congress before making any decision about refugee admittance.

I applaud Trump for continuing to lessen the power of an executive branch that has grown out of control over the last several decades. I also believe that Congress

and the American people are reasonable enough to extend these protections in a way that honors the constitution.

Ending DACA is not just the most practical thing to do, it is the most constitutional thing to do.

So before anyone has a heart attack or starts crying "racist," and the Huffington Post already has, let's wait to see if Trump signs the bill that will inevitably reach his desk. If it receives a veto, it will be a sad day for all Americans. If it gets a signature, Trump may just prove that he really has perfected the art of the deal.

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Photo of the issue

Las Peñas in Guayaquil, Ecuador

PHOTO BY ERIK HOKANSON



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Submit it to Josh Towner at jdt52429@bethel.edu for a chance to be featured as our Photo of the Issue.