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CHIMES

December 10, 2010
Volume 105 - Issue 14
clubs.calvin.edu/chimes

Pointing

Standing in the corner
you look so solemn,
covered in bright lights
and bulbs the color of the sky.

You tower above,
reaching to the heavens,
star upon your peak,
a sign pointing.

The jovial colors on your
branches — red, blue, and gold —
brighten the room, revealing the
treasures once hidden below.

The day has passed, the gifts are gone,
yet there you remain. Eternal.
Always pointing to something bigger.

PHOTO AND POEM BY JON BEHM

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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
NEWSPAPER OF CALVIN
COLLEGE SINCE 1907

CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY NEWS

DeVos Hospital opens

BY CHARLES LAPASTORA
Guest Writer

After three years of breaking ground, the much-anticipated Helen DeVos Children's Hospital was dedicated Friday.

The hype surrounding the new hospital was very much lived up to. On Saturday, a community open house took place, bringing in more than 16,000 people who came to take a peek at the architectural beauty and outstanding, state-of-the-art technology. The hospital towers over downtown Grand Rapids at 14 stories high; its presence is known with those driving down Michigan Ave., passing by those wavy lines we all wonder about.

Anne Veltema, marketing communications coordinator for the children's hospital, acknowledged that "hopefully we will never have to see them, but kids need hospitals."

With world-class technologies and a child-friendly environment (two qualities that are of utmost necessity for a parent or family wanting their loved little one to receive the best treatment and care possible), this surpasses your standard children's hospital. They are the only full-service hospital in this part of the state. It

is supported by more than 150 pediatric specialty physicians. The building contains everything from an emergency room to the only radiation facility in West Michigan to special family amenities. There are pieces of art created by more than 8,000 kids and teens that flow throughout the building and play structures that help aid in the healing process (kids need to have fun, too).

Veltema pointed out that parents "don't plan it coming, it just happens" when their kid gets ill or hurt.

The hospital provides tremendous support for the family on top of the state-of-the-art care their child is receiving. The computer lab offers parents a place where parents can do business and work while staying with their kids (there are also special overnight rooms where families can stay in case of emergency).

Up until the big day of the official opening of the building on Jan. 11, 2011, the staff, including the doctors are working on moving in and getting their offices ready. We in Grand Rapids truly have a state-of-the-art facility that is ready to serve kids of all ages.

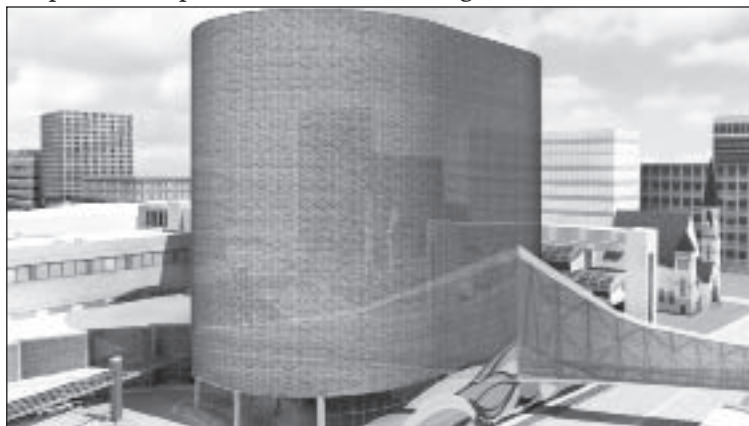


IMAGE COURTESY OF ANNEVELTEMA

The new Helen DeVos Children's Hospital is now open.



Campus Safety Report

Tuesday 11/30

-Campus Safety responded to a property damage car accident in the southwest parking lot. The driver of one vehicle was unable to stop in time when pulling into a parking spot, striking the parked vehicle in the next parking spot.

Wednesday 12/1

-Campus Safety took a report of a minor, one-vehicle property damage accident at the Burton St. entrance to campus. A vehicle slid on the icy road and struck a curb, bending a tire rim on the vehicle.

-Campus Safety employees investigated a complaint of damage to property at Eldersveld Residence Hall. During a snowball fight outside the room, an unknown individual threw a snowball with a rock in it at a dorm room window, breaking the window and cutting one of the students inside the room.

Thursday 12/2

-Campus Safety employees responded to a medical call on the first floor of VanderWerp Hall. A student was not feeling well and wished to go to the hospital. The on-call Resident Director was contacted and, with the student's RA, transported the student to Blodgett Hospital.

-Campus Safety employees responded to a medical call on

the second floor of Hekman Library. A student fainted during class. The student was monitored until feeling better. No additional medical attention was wanted or needed by the student.

-Campus Safety took a report of a larceny of an iPod from a student who said the iPod was stolen from the basement of Schultze Hall. The student said the iPod was left in the basement on Nov. 24, and upon returning on Nov. 25, the iPod was gone.

Saturday 12/4

-Campus Safety employees investigated a suspicious situation in the west parking lot of the Spoelhof Fieldhouse Complex. A door on a vehicle was discovered partially open and the steering column appeared to have been tampered with. The owner was identified and contacted. It was determined that the owner had been working on the vehicle, which was disabled, and had not been tampered with.

-Campus Safety took a report of a theft of money from a residence hall room on second Eldersveld. The money was taken from a student's room sometime between Nov. 1 and Nov. 8. Money was also allegedly taken from the student's suitemates' room during the same period. There were no known suspects at the time the report was filed.

'Wednesday' hits stage

BY JASMINE WILSON
Staff Writer

In 2008, Professor Gary Schmidt from the English department won a second Newberry Award for his book "The Wednesday Wars."

Now, two years later, the book is being turned into a stage play. It will first be performed at Calvin during Interim break, but from there it could make its way onto stages across the country.

"The Wednesday Wars" is a book about a young boy whose teacher hates him and forces him to read Shakespeare as a punishment. Schmidt confesses it is based off of a teacher he himself had in elementary school, except the real-life teacher was much worse than the character he wrote in the book.

In the book, Holling Hoodhood is a young seventh grader who is the only protestant in his class, and every Wednesday afternoon his classmates either go off to catechism classes because they are Catholic, or go to Hebrew school because they are Jewish. Hoodhood is the only student left, leading him to believe that his teacher, Mrs. Baker, hates him since she would otherwise have her Wednesday afternoons free. It turns out that she does not hate him, she is a good teacher, and she goes through a series of Shakespeare plays with him that in some way relate to his real life experiences.

Kirsten Kelly and Brian Farish adapted the work into a stage-performance. Kelly is leading a workshop of the play during Interim and directing the play. Kelly is a Calvin alum who is currently working on directing a new feature documentary on teen homelessness which will be released in 2012.

Hoodhood is going to be played by Matt Cambridge, a junior at Calvin. Schmidt met with him over coffee and was surprised by how perfect he is for the role. Cambridge explained that he wanted to discuss the character with Schmidt so he could have some further insight as to what is

going on in Hoodhood's mind as he does certain things.

Cambridge decided to audition after hearing about the part from a friend. He is not a part of the theater company, but has been interested in theater for a while, and thought Interim would be a good time to try it out. After reading the script, he auditioned the next day. Said Cambridge, "I was excited, and a little overwhelmed, when I found out I would be playing the part! I bought the book immediately and read it straight through. I loved it! His humor made me laugh out loud."

Andrew McClelland plays Hoodhood's father. McClelland and the rest of the cast are able to help edit the piece as they rehearse. According to him, this is not an unusual practice. Said McClelland, "The work that we do here at Calvin is setting it up for when it will be performed in Chicago. It is not unusual for this sort of method to happen. The theater is a collaborative process."

McClelland, who has also read the original novel "The Wednesday Wars," said, "The book translates very well to script form, the way Schmidt wrote it to begin with. Since it is written from the perspective of Hoodhood, it lends itself very well to a narrator who can fill in the gaps for the audience."

Schmidt wanted to make it very clear to the Calvin Theater Company (CTC) that he is not trying to control how they do this work. He recognized that it was quite an honor that his writing had chimed with Kelly, and he said that was exactly what he as an author would want from a reader. He really wants the scenes to be their own, however, especially since the media are so different and he himself is not a stage-writer.

There will be six days of performances at Calvin, some of which will only be open to schools. They will be performed and open to the public in the Gezon Theater on Jan. 29 at 1:30 and 7:30 p.m., Feb. 3-4 at 7:30 p.m., and Feb. 5 at 1:30 and 7:30 p.m. Tickets can be purchased online at the box office for the student price of \$5.

CLASSIFIED

HOUSES for RENT on WOODLAWN; 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, three gathering rooms, air, walk to campus, garage, private backyard. \$1200. 616-443-7501 June 1-May 25.

8 can rent side by side duplex. Each side has 4 large bedrooms, living and family room, kitchen, 2 baths, air, low utilities, laundry hookup, deck. Less than 10 min from campus. Englewood off 28th St. (near BW3) \$900. 616-443-7501

NEWS BRIEF

Christmas tree glows

At LOFT this past Sunday, the service involved a little more than the typical message and singing. The worshipers ventured out into the December cold.

With the Christmas season now in fullswing, prayers of hope, joy and peace for all men are rising up in force. At LOFT, everyone who wanted to could participate in a communal decorating of the Commons Lawn Christmas tree. You can hardly walk down the path without noticing the now glittering, ornament-laden tree.

These decorations, however, are no ordinary ornaments. Each clear orb contains a slip of paper. On ever slip is written the name of a person being prayed for and an example of God's continuing work.

The frigid weather did not stop those gathered, like Whos around the tree, from singing Christmas hymns and the doxology. Now the tree glows brightly with the season's light and the prayers of the saints.

Calvin gets new land for Christmas

BY AMANDA ELLIOTT
Staff Writer

The season of Christmas is in the air as Calvin College accepted a gift this past Monday. Unwrapped and valued at \$1,000,000, Calvin received 320 wooded acres of camp ground on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Brook Cherith Camp.

After taking into account Calvin's current financial crunch, Samuel Wanner, Director of Financial Services, looked into accepting this land on President Byker's mandate that "this can't be a net expense to the college."

An approximate 45-minute

drive from campus, the camp is located in Pierson Township in Montcalm County. The camp ground is situated around a 35-acre lake, Lake Waltman, and consists of 20 buildings including a lodge, horse barn, camper cabin and bath houses, and includes recreational features such as a new zip line.

The land was originally acquired by a group of churches and used as a summer camp for the Pioneer Girls Club. The Brook Cherith Camp celebrated its 39th year and has decided to close operations and donate the property to a non-profit organization that shared a common faith.

Wanner said, "Calvin filled the bill for them."

As the camp is closed for the season, Wanner alluded to the many conversations that need to happen around campus with such departments as Student Life, HPERDS, Physical Plant, the biology department and student senate as to what to do with the camp.

Already, Calvin has received numerous phone calls from rental groups and intends to lease the house on the property in order to make this gift an asset to the college.

Wanner closed saying, "It's a great gift and the opportunities for the future — there's lots of them."



FILE PHOTO

Calvin has been given a 320-acre campground about 45 minutes from campus.

'All the world's a stage'

BY ALICE KEYES
Staff Writer

While clinging to the climbing wall, Romeo unfurls a hand to stroke fair Juliet's cheek in the unconventional performance "Shakespeare on Location."

The performance took place Dec. 2-4 and involved 11 different locations around campus, which included a lecture hall, a tunnel and the climbing wall.

"In class I gave my students the challenge, 'Let's use space, let's use our campus in a different way,' and this is the result," theater professor Stephanie Sandberg said.

The play was constructed and directed by students as a part of a theater course and contained scenes from 10 of Shakespeare's plays including "Much Ado about Nothing," "A Midsummer Night's Dream" and "Hamlet."

"The point of the class was to analyze Shakespeare's works and come up with ways to perform it so that ultimately we would better understand it for ourselves," junior Josh Boerman said. "People who don't know much about Shakespeare see a lot of the different sides of his works — comedy,

tragedy, and history. I think it is the ability to have that range that was an advantage of this format."

In addition to directing the scenes, class members acted in them and recruited others from the student body to perform.

"For me, the language was pretty hard to adjust to at first," freshman Dirk Knibbe said. "You just have to learn to speak clearly. And if you're watching us perform you really just have to suspend your disbelief for a little bit since there aren't costumes."

The nature of the performance allowed students to dress in modern apparel and encouraged interaction between the actors and audience.

"The phrase that first comes to mind is that it's a people's play," senior Nikki Adams said. "Because it isn't on a stage and is placed in different locations around the campus, and when I went it was a school night, there were people winding in and out of the performance. There's really no physical separation between actors and the observers. By having the actors always in plain sight and the scenes in ordinary places, it places less emphasis on the magnificence of the scene and more on the timelessness of Shakespeare's words."



PHOTO COURTESY OF CALVIN.EDU

Thespians enacted famous Shakespeare scenes across campus.

From the "Iron Man" of baseball to the founder of Kiva, Calvin College presents the 2011 January Series—the award-winning free liberal arts education delivered in 15 weekday, lunchtime lectures. For the 24th year, thousands from around west Michigan will gather on the Calvin campus to hear pioneers in their fields speak on the power of micro-finance, challenges of autism, gang intervention, schools for AIDS orphans, narcissism in the age of entitlement and much more. And thousands more will join the conversation by watching a live feed at 30 remote webcast sites across the continent or by listening online. For details on the series, including presenter bios, remote site locations, online listening instructions, archived presentations and more, see www.calvin.edu/january.

the January Series


	<p>5 Wednesday</p> <p>KRISTA TIPPETT Einstein's God: Conversations about Science and the Human Spirit <i>Underwritten by The Center for Excellence in Preaching</i></p>	<p>6 Thursday</p> <p>KELLY CLARK Faith and Freedom in Contemporary China <i>Underwritten by I.C.N. Foundation</i></p>	<p>7 Friday</p> <p>THEARY SENG Daughter of the Killing Fields <i>Underwritten by Barnes & Thornburg</i></p>
<p>10 Monday</p> <p>TEMPLE GRANDIN All Kinds of Minds: The Importance of Developing Each Person's Unique Strengths <i>Underwritten by Bill & Elaine Stoub</i></p>	<p>11 Tuesday</p> <p>ANDY CROUCH Playing God: Creativity and Cultural Power <i>Underwritten by The Gary and Henrietta Byker Chair in Christian Perspectives</i></p>	<p>12 Wednesday</p> <p>FATHER GREG BOYLE Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion <i>Underwritten by Holland Litho Printing Services</i></p>	<p>13 Thursday</p> <p>GLENN GEELHOED Mission to Heal <i>Underwritten by Spectrum Health</i></p>
<p>17 Monday</p> <p>NIKKI TOYAMA-SZETO in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Beyond Multi-Culturalism to True Community <i>Underwritten by The Christian Reformed Church in North America</i></p>	<p>18 Tuesday</p> <p>JACKSON KAGURI The Price of Stones: Building a School for My Village <i>Underwritten by Celebration Education Fund - Schools for Sierra Leone</i></p>	<p>19 Wednesday</p> <p>DONALD WORSTER John Muir and the Religion of Nature <i>Underwritten by Meijer, Inc.</i></p>	<p>20 Thursday</p> <p>CAL RIPKEN, Jr. The Keys to Perseverance <i>Underwritten by Peter C. Cook and GMB Architects + Engineers</i></p>
<p>24 Monday</p> <p>SAJAN GEORGE The Future of Education <i>Underwritten by The Calvin Academy for Lifelong Learning</i></p>	<p>25 Tuesday</p> <p>JEAN M. TWENGE The Narcissism Epidemic: Living in the Age of Entitlement <i>Underwritten by Sam & Corinne Aardema-Bosch</i></p>	<p>For online listening and archives of past lectures, visit</p> <p style="color: #003366; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">www.calvin.edu/january</p>	

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

SUDOKU

Profes Say the Darnedest Things

"What you all need to realize is that this philosophy class is like Vegas; whatever happens here needs to stay here."
- Professor Halteman, philosophy



"Sometimes I think: 'Why did I devote my entire life to studying China? I hate China!'"
- Professor Bays, Asian studies

"You know you're a nerd when you get a good chuckle out of a litotes."
- Professor Engbers, English

Chimes is in desperate need of some crazy quotes from your professors. Write them down during class and send them to chimes@calvin.edu

LANGUAGE LESSONS

with Amy and Abby

During December, people don their hats, coats and mittens and head out into the blustery snow to go caroling. But the word "carol" didn't always have the connotation of Christmas that it does nowadays. When the English first appropriated the word from the French in the late 13th century, they used it to mean a ring dance, when people would hold hands and dance in a circle. By extension, the word was also applied to the joyous songs played on these occasions. In the 1500s, people started using the word to refer mostly to religious songs, and the association with Christmas soon followed. So next time you sing "Deck the Halls," make everyone join hands and engage in a session of good old-fashioned ring dancing. Good luck when it comes to slower songs like "O Holy Night."

EMOTIONAL STATES

Super Crossword

<p>ACROSS</p> <p>1 Zhivago's love</p> <p>5 Touch up the text</p> <p>9 It should be square</p> <p>13 "Don't — it!"</p> <p>18 Act like Etna</p> <p>20 Birdbrain</p> <p>21 Garfield's pal</p> <p>22 Fragrance</p> <p>23 Tennessee cry of denial?</p> <p>25 "— Shuffle" ('77 song)</p> <p>26 Long walks</p> <p>27 Pleasant</p> <p>28 Jeroboam contents</p> <p>29 Way up</p> <p>30 Vend</p> <p>31 Get — (be successful)</p> <p>32 Mikita and Musial</p> <p>33 Find the sum</p> <p>36 Spring holiday</p> <p>39 TV's "— Sharkey"</p> <p>40 Mature</p> <p>44 North Carolina cry of encouragement?</p> <p>47 Seizes suddenly</p> <p>51 Join the leisure class?</p> <p>52 Item for 37 Down</p>	<p>53 Live on lettuce</p> <p>55 Coasted</p> <p>57 Texas cry of sympathy?</p> <p>58 Feel wretched</p> <p>59 Writer Rand</p> <p>60 Second</p> <p>62 EMT's skill</p> <p>64 Everything</p> <p>65 Dickens character</p> <p>66 Yak</p> <p>69 Pennsylvania cry of disgust?</p> <p>73 — Moines, IA</p> <p>74 He'll bend over backward for you</p> <p>76 Grazing ground</p> <p>77 Permit</p> <p>78 Witch doctor</p> <p>79 Hoopsters' org.</p> <p>80 Exec's deg.</p> <p>82 Utah cry of revulsion?</p> <p>88 Chihuahua dough</p> <p>89 Chihuahua snack</p> <p>91 Italian port</p> <p>92 Dwell</p> <p>93 "Scat!"</p> <p>95 Illinois cry of surprise?</p> <p>97 Sampras</p>	<p>98 Weeding tool</p> <p>100 Duration</p> <p>102 Chemical suffix</p> <p>103 Buy off</p> <p>106 See 129 Across</p> <p>108 Orient</p> <p>112 Uproar</p> <p>113 Mr. Diamond</p> <p>114 Least liberal</p> <p>119 Gravel-voiced</p> <p>120 Thailand, formerly</p> <p>121 Michigan cry of chagrin?</p> <p>122 Senator Kefauver</p> <p>123 Cultural grp.</p> <p>124 Nautical adverb</p> <p>125 Concluded</p> <p>126 Hackneyed</p> <p>127 Big man on campus</p> <p>128 Cunning</p> <p>129 With 106 Across, legendary drummer</p>	<p>6 Barbie or Ken</p> <p>7 Unemployed</p> <p>8 Sock part</p> <p>9 "Le Misanthrope"</p> <p>11 Helped playwright</p> <p>12 Composer Delibes</p> <p>13 Massachusetts cry of contempt?</p> <p>14 Author Jong</p> <p>15 Symbol</p> <p>16 Forebodings</p> <p>17 "Boss"</p> <p>19 What you used to be</p> <p>24 Actor Kilmer</p> <p>28 Baby basset</p> <p>29 Egyptian viper</p> <p>31 Playwright Fugard</p> <p>33 Taj town</p> <p>34 Sleuth Nancy</p> <p>35 Kids connect them</p> <p>37 Jockey giant</p> <p>38 Darjeeling dress</p> <p>39 Revolutionary Guevara</p> <p>41 Drollery</p> <p>42 Psychic</p>	<p>Geller</p> <p>43 Inclination</p> <p>45 Tennyson tale</p> <p>46 — rummy</p> <p>48 About</p> <p>49 Bank deposit?</p> <p>50 Burn a bit</p> <p>54 Quiet author</p> <p>56 Colors</p> <p>59 Maugham's "Cakes and —"</p> <p>61 Pro-gun grp.</p> <p>63 Saucedpan</p> <p>64 Drillers' org.</p> <p>65 TV's "Murder, — Wrote"</p> <p>66 Huff and puff</p> <p>67 Feels sore</p> <p>68 Impertinent</p> <p>69 Cops' org.</p> <p>70 — grease</p> <p>71 Indeed</p> <p>72 Grievance</p> <p>75 "Typee" sequel</p> <p>79 Sgt. or cpl.</p> <p>80 — Carta</p> <p>81 Improve oneself, in a way</p> <p>83 Turn right</p> <p>84 DDE's predecessor</p> <p>85 Tiny coin</p> <p>86 Genesis setting</p> <p>87 Hawaii's state bird</p> <p>90 Veneration</p> <p>91 Freeway</p>	<p>sounds</p> <p>94 Idaho cry of excitement?</p> <p>96 Jack of "The Odd Couple"</p> <p>99 Poetic preposition</p> <p>101 "Hiroshima" author</p> <p>103 Good time</p> <p>104 Dread-locked one</p> <p>105 Set in motion</p> <p>106 Kevin of "In & Out"</p> <p>107 Range feature</p> <p>109 Actress Meyers</p> <p>110 Seafood selection</p> <p>111 Accent</p> <p>112 Mus. directive</p> <p>114 — contendere</p> <p>115 Summit</p> <p>116 "The Never-Ending Story" author</p> <p>117 WWII gun</p> <p>118 "The — Is High" ('80 hit)</p> <p>120 Crestfallen</p> <p>121 LummoX</p>
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CryptoQuip

This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

Clue: Q equals S

N OIPQQ FWBNVCK QBYZFK

QFCENIHQ APJPZ OPF JPZW RYF.

KYFQ YD DCAQ VNZVIKCFP

King Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Mine output
 - 4 Mel of baseball lore
 - 7 Bull's off spring
 - 11 Sandwich shop
 - 13 Lawyer's payment
 - 14 Sandwich cookie
 - 15 Platter
 - 16 E-mail alternative
 - 17 Eastern potentate
 - 18 Villain's look
 - 20 Madeline of "Blazing Saddles"
 - 22 Taxi
 - 24 Nuanced
 - 28 Continue
 - 32 React to a pun
 - 33 Lotion additive
 - 34 Symbol of intrigue
 - 36 Greek liqueur
 - 37 Violin virtuoso
 - 39 Profligate
 - 41 Standard
 - 43 Homer's interjection
 - 44 Grouch
 - 46 Chutzpah
 - 50 Martial art

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
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37			38		39		40			
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56			57					58		
59			60					61		

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <p>53 Lair</p> <p>55 Regrets</p> <p>56 Related</p> <p>57 Writer</p> <p>58 Cut quickly</p> <p>59 Simmons or Kelly</p> <p>60 Blunder</p> <p>61 TV Tarzan portrayer</p> <p>Ron</p> | <p>7 Film directors</p> <p>8 Branch</p> <p>9 Hawaiian memento</p> <p>10 In support of</p> <p>12 Scoop holder</p> <p>19 Beam of light</p> <p>21 Embrace</p> <p>23 Acknowledge</p> <p>25 Go</p> <p>26 Lounge around</p> <p>27 Carbon compound</p> <p>28 First murderer</p> | <p>29 Additionally</p> <p>30 Bellow</p> <p>31 Fresh</p> <p>35 Lousy</p> <p>38 Automobile</p> <p>40 Trinity member</p> <p>42 Punch-bowl accessory</p> <p>45 "Cheers" request</p> <p>47 Mystical character</p> <p>48 Bridal cover</p> <p>49 Catch sight of</p> <p>50 Binge</p> <p>51 Guitar's cousin</p> <p>52 Cacophony</p> <p>54 Neither partner</p> |
|---|--|--|
- DOWN**
- 1 Probability
 - 2 Harness part
 - 3 Otherwise
 - 4 Vacationing
 - 5 Ship-building wood
 - 6 Largest of the 48

Foreign students face mistreatment

BY RACHEL HEKMAN
Staff Writer

Yes, Thanksgiving is long over, but that doesn't mean the time for giving thanks is over, too.

Look around you. You are probably reading this on the campus of one of the best Christian colleges in the nation. You have running water, heat, a roof over your head and dozens of academic and social resources at your disposal.

Whether you like it here or not, you have to admit that we Calvin students have it pretty good.

Many foreign exchange students, however, aren't so lucky.

The Associated Press recently published a report on the state of United States' student visa program — or, more accurately, the abuses of the program.

What the AP found in its several-year-long investigation was an alarming number of foreign students being forced into virtual slavery in the so-called “Land of the Free” — some were forced to work in strip clubs instead of restaurants; “some live in apartments so crowded that they sleep in shifts because there aren't enough beds,” according to the report.

Each year, the U.S. government grants as many as 150,000

J-1 visas to foreign college students. The program, officially called the J-1 Summer Work and Travel Program, provides work and additional education opportunities for foreign college students during their summer breaks.

However, many of these students — who think they've caught a lucky break — are ensnared by unlicensed and fraudulent third parties. These companies often pose as employers, job consultants and private tutors, charging exorbitant fees of the students for usually minimal service.

Human rights activists have been criticizing the American government's lack of regulation in this industry for some time.

According to the director of Florida State University's Center for the Advancement of Human Rights, “There's been a massive failure on the part of the United States to bring any accountability to the temporary work visa programs, and it's especially true for the J-1.”

The Associated Press reports that in 2006, the eastern European country of Belarus warned its citizens not to apply for J-1 visas because of an uptick in crimes against Belarusian students in the program.

Meanwhile, the students who do apply and come to American

shores are often trapped without jobs or housing. According to the AP, the Ocean City Baptist Church (Maryland) served free meals to over 1,700 needy students with the J-1 visa.

Even students who do manage to get hired as seasonal workers often find their pay docked for “room and board” by unscrupulous employers who then pack them into “filthy, sparsely furnished apartments so crowded that some endure ‘hotbunking,’ where they sleep in shifts,” according to the AP. Sometimes, hourly pay for these students can end up being less than \$1 — far below federal minimum wage.

In response to the increased number of student and organization complaints, the State Department has begun to retain records of cases and attempt to address the problems that face foreign students, but “for the many J-1 women who end up working in strip clubs, whether by choice or force, the changes can't come soon enough.”

As a Ukrainian woman said of her employer, “He said, ‘Well, [...] if I have to sell you, I'll sell you.’”

Another woman commented, “It was almost normal that he screamed, that we worked 14 hours, that we ate on the floor.” “That was our America.”

Edwards passes away

Associated Press

For years, Elizabeth Edwards prepared her family for the day she would be gone, talking bluntly about the cancer consuming her body and writing a letter to leave for her children with life advice on topics such as how to pick a church — or even a spouse.

The preparation continued in her final days, when she made sure Christmas decorations were up in their Chapel Hill home and became the source of comfort to those closest to her.

“That was sort of who she was. She was always, always the shoulder to lean on,” said family friend John Moylan. “And, even at the end, she remained a very strong person. I think they all took their strength from her.”

youngest children appeared to be coping well with the loss. He said the home, while consumed with sadness, also has a feeling of celebration as family and friends remembered stories of Elizabeth Edwards' life. In part, he said, that was because of her never-look-back attitude.

“I think that spirit of Elizabeth is so branded in Emma Claire, Jack and Cate, that the kids will be fine,” Saunders said.

In the final days of Edwards' rapidly declining health, Saunders relayed a story about how Jack had jumped onto the bed with his mother to say that he loved her. She smiled at him and said, “I love you too, sweetie.”

John Edwards was at her side around the clock. He is deeply upset by his wife's death, Saunders said, but is also focused on attending to the children. He recalled asking Edwards what



FILE PHOTO

After a six-year battle with cancer, Elizabeth Edwards, wife of former Senator John Edwards, passed away.

Edwards, 61, died Tuesday from cancer — six years after she was diagnosed the day after the 2004 election when her husband John was a vice presidential candidate.

Since her cancer returned in an incurable form in 2007, Edwards had talked openly about the expectation that the disease would take her life before long. She had hoped to live several more years, enough time to see her youngest child, 10-year-old Jack, graduate from high school and possibly see the oldest, 28-year-old Cate, have a child of her own.

But Edwards also said over the years that she was talking directly with the kids about death. Meanwhile, she had been penning a letter that her children could use as guidance for their lives ahead. It was an idea she came up with two decades ago after watching the movie “Terms of Endearment,” in which the mother knew she was dying and gave advice to her children.

David “Mudcat” Saunders, a political adviser and Edwards family friend, said the two

he planned to do now, to which the former North Carolina senator vowed simply: “I'm going to be the greatest father there ever was.”

Added Moylan, “His full focus is on those children.”

Three decades after the law school sweethearts married, Elizabeth Edwards separated from her husband about a year ago following his affair and after learning that he fathered a child with his mistress during his second campaign for the White House. He still faces a federal investigation into campaign finances.

A family friend said Wednesday that Elizabeth Edwards will be honored Saturday at Edenton Street United Methodist Church in Raleigh. The friend spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because details of the plans have yet to be announced by the family.

The public is allowed to attend the event, set to begin at 1 p.m. The family is still working on burial plans.

Mourners were asked to make donations to the Wade Edwards Foundation, which was created in honor of Edwards' son who died in a car crash at age 16.

President Obama cuts tax deal

Associated Press

President Barack Obama on Wednesday rejected claims that he betrayed Democrats by cutting a deal with Republicans on Bush-era tax cuts and implored his party to back the compromise, arguing it could jump-start the economy.

Speaking to reporters at a joint appearance with Polish president Bronislaw Komorowski, Obama said economists predict higher job growth in 2011 and 2012 if Congress passes the agreement and urged lawmakers to examine the details of the deal and “get this done.”

The White House has been leaning hard on fellow Democrats to support the tax deal that would extend the cuts at all income levels for two years, extend jobless benefits for the long-term unemployed and cut the Social Security payroll tax for a year.

But House Democratic leaders protest that the overall package gives up too much to the wealthy. They're putting Obama on the defensive, even as the deal picks up support among GOP lawmakers and business groups.

The president forcefully rejected suggestions he had abandoned his allies to strike an agreement with the GOP.

“I think it is inaccurate to characterize Democrats, writ large, as quote-unquote betrayed,” he said.

Obama sent Vice President Joe Biden to Capitol Hill Wednesday afternoon to urge resistant House Democrats to support the package. Biden lobbied Senate Democrats on Tuesday.

Some Democrats are unhappy that Obama agreed to extend expiring tax cuts not just for the middle class but also for higher earners, and that he agreed to impose a lower estate tax on wealthy heirs. Both provisions are seen by many Democrats as giveaways to the rich that will do little to help the economy.

In return, Democrats would get extended jobless benefits for people who have been unem-

ployed for long stretches. Workers would also see their share of Social Security payroll taxes cut by nearly a third for the coming year, a boost in take-home pay meant to encourage spending and aid the economy.

“So far, the response has not been very good,” House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said. She called the estate tax provision “a bridge too far.”

If Democrats kill the package, it would mark a stunning defeat for Obama and a huge political bet that voters will blame Republicans as much as Democrats for an impasse that would lead to higher taxes starting Jan. 1. Many congressional insiders doubt that Democrats will take that gamble. But liberal lawmakers' discontent is hard to measure in the wake of last month's big election setbacks.

The potential for additional job growth was a key talking point at the White House Wednesday and officials released independent economic analyses that supported their contention that the agreement would contribute to economic expansion.

“This is the right thing to do,” Obama said. “I expect everybody to examine it carefully. When they do, I think they're going to feel confident that this is the right course — while understanding that for the next two years, we're going to have a big debate about taxes.”

Senior White House adviser David Axelrod said Wednesday he believes disenchanted Democrats will decide to vote for the package when they realize how angry voters will be “if they wake up on Jan. 1” with a substantial tax increase, roughly \$3,000 a year for a typical family.

He said Obama had no choice but to accede to Republican demands for continuing existing rates for the wealthy in order to spare higher rates for the middle class. He also said the president was forced to make concessions to protect the jobless.

In an interview on NBC's “Today” show, he said it would

be “borderline immoral” to allow taxes to go up in the midst of economic hard times.

If Congress fails to act this month, taxpayers at every income level face a significant tax increase at the start of the year. The new Congress — with Republicans controlling the House and Democrats the Senate — still could extend the tax cuts retroactively next year. But that would make it difficult for employers to withhold the proper amount of taxes from workers' pay.

Payroll companies say it's already too late for many employers to adjust withholding by the start of the year, meaning many workers will have to make adjustments, regardless of what Congress does.

Despite their minority status, Senate Republicans last week blocked Obama's long-promised bid to end Bush-era tax cuts for households earning more than \$250,000. Republicans insisted that all the tax cuts be extended, for rich and poor alike.

Under the proposal cutting back Social Security payroll taxes, workers would pay a 4.2 percent tax rate instead of 6.2 percent — a \$120 billion tax cut for workers, starting on Jan. 1.

Households making between \$40,000 and \$50,000 would get an average tax cut of \$810 next year, according to an analysis by the Tax Policy Center, a Washington research group. Households making between \$100,000 and \$200,000 would get an average tax cut of \$2,162.

The package would continue other programs such as enhanced tuition tax credits and tax breaks for businesses that hire new workers. It would impose a 35 percent federal estate tax, but each spouse could exempt up to \$5 million from taxation.

Under current law, the estate tax, which was repealed for 2010, is scheduled to return next year with a top rate of 55 percent.

Officials said that, overall, the proposal could increase federal borrowing by \$900 billion.

Rain falls, land slides

BY JOESPH MATHESON
Staff Writer

More than 100 people are missing, feared dead, after a landslide crushed part of a Medellin suburb Monday. The hillside, weakened after weeks of Columbia's heaviest rains in decades, collapsed at about 7 p.m. GMT, burying around 50 homes. Rescue workers have pulled out 23 bodies, but more than 100 people remain missing under the debris, in the latest tragedy occurring as a result of the torrential rains that could leave as many as two million homeless in Colombia.

The mayor of Bello told Colombian radio that 123 people had been trapped. "Among the 23 bodies are 11 children," added John Rendon, disaster coordinator for the state Medellin is located in. Local authorities suspect at least nine of these children were playing in a park when the landslide occurred. Resident Claudia Patricia Molina described the landslide "as if

dent Juan Manuel Santos said that "the tragedy the country is going through has no precedents in our history," while flying over a particularly hard-hit region.

Hugo Chavez, president of the neighboring country of Venezuela, which has also been hit hard by the torrential downpour, blamed the rain on global climate change caused, for the most part, by what he calls "criminal" capitalism. Chavez, who personally accommodated 25 homeless families in his presidential palace as well as ordering other government institutions to do the same, declared in a weekly opinion column that "the environmental imbalance capitalism has caused is without doubt the fundamental cause of the alarming atmospheric phenomena."

From this, he goes on to conclude, "The developed nations irresponsibly shatter the environmental order, in their desire to maintain a criminal



FILE PHOTO

After heavy rains caused a landslide in Medellin, Columbia, 23 people are dead and over 100 are still missing.

someone had placed a bomb," although she was four blocks away visiting friends when her home was flattened. The disaster was described by another resident, Jose Cardenas, as "an announced tragedy."

While landslides are nothing new in Colombia's mountainous Andean region, they have been particularly bad recently. The weather phenomenon known as La Nina, caused by colder than usual water currents along the Pacific coast, has made this year especially rainy, which weighs down hillsides, causing more landslides than normal. Colombian presi-

development model, while the immense majority of the earth's people suffer the most terrible consequences." Chavez has also been under considerable political pressure since the rains, leading him to excoriate upper-class Venezuelans as well.

Whether or not you think this tragedy is caused by capitalist excess, we can all agree that this event is certainly a catastrophe, one resident telling local newspapers that "my aunt, my mother, my little brothers are buried there — by God, let them be found alive." They will be in all our prayers.

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Concorde jet disaster in court

BY ALEESA RIBBENS
Nat-World Co-Editor

In the summer of 2000, Flight 4950 to New York went up in flames and crashed into a nearby hotel shortly after taking off from Charles de Gaulle airport in Paris, France.

On Monday, a French court ruled that U.S. company Continental Airlines and one of its mechanics are to blame for both the crash and the 113 people who died as a result.

Previous to Flight 4950's take-off, a titanium strip fell off a different Continental plane while it departed. The titanium strip shredded the Concorde's tire causing a fire to start in its fuel tank.

The U.S. based airline was fined \$200,000 and was ordered to pay an additional million euros to Air France for damaging its reputation.

John Taylor, a mechanic employed by the airline who allegedly installed the titanium strip incorrectly, was fined €2,000 and received a 15-month suspended prison sentence for involuntary manslaughter.

Taylor's former supervisor, Stanley Ford, and three French officials who were also accused of involuntary manslaughter were found to be not guilty.

According to CNN, "The charges said the engineers could have acted much earlier to correct

well-known design flaws in the plane."

While many of the victims' families have already received compensation from Air France, EADS, Continental and Goodyear Tire, the court ordered EADS, the Concorde's manufacturer, to pay 30 percent of the total compensation.

CNN reported that the airline



FILE PHOTO

The Concorde jet crashed in the summer of 2000.

issued a statement claiming the verdict to be "absurd" and accused French authorities of "shift[ing] the attention and blame away from Air France," who was in charge of both "operat[ing] the flight and maintain[ing] the aircraft."

The Guardian reported that Continental plans to appeal and that, according to the airline's lawyer, Oliver Metzner, they believe that "this is a ruling that projects only the interests of France. [It] has strayed far from the truth of the law and justice."

In an statement issued by spokesman Nick Britton,

Continental stated that "portraying the metal strip as the cause of the accident and Continental and one of its employees as the sole guilty parties shows the determination of the French authorities to shift attention and blame away from Air France," which was run by the government at the time of the accident.

Allegations are being made that French officials are to blame since they have known about problems with the Concorde plane for 27 years and have done nothing to change them.

The American Free Press noted that three French aviation officials who were acquitted are being charged in a separate lawsuit for failing to do anything about the dozens of jets that had "tire blow-outs or wheel damage that in several cases pierced the fuel tanks" over the 27 year period.

However, this trial has been put on hold until the outcome of the current trial is made clear.

Air France states on their website that they "welcome the decision of the criminal court which recognizes Continental's full criminal and civil liability in the Concorde accident."

Additionally, the airline stated that, "To find that any crime was committed in this tragic accident is not supported either by the evidence at trial or by aviation authorities and experts around the world."

Suicide bombing takes new toll

BY JOSH DELACY
Staff Writer

A suicide bomb attack in northwestern Pakistan killed over 40 people on Monday and wounded at least 70 others.

The attack occurred in a government compound in the semi-autonomous tribal region of Mohmand, halting talks between government officials, tribal elders and local anti-Taliban groups.

A Taliban spokesperson has claimed responsibility for the bombing, according to the BBC.

Two suicide bombers disguised as police officers entered the government building, located in the town of Ghalanai.

One of the attackers detonated his bomb in a sitting area inside the compound. The second bomber exploded seconds later at the building's security gate, where he had been stopped.

Mohmand officials said that the compound was equipped with metal detectors, but a power outage prevented the devices from discovering the bombers.

One witness told the Los Angeles Times, "Suddenly there was a huge blast. I fell on the ground. When I stood up, there was another blast. As I again fell to the ground, I saw people running in panic."

The attackers had filled their suicide vests with bullets in order to increase the damage.

About 25 survivors were rushed to Peshawar hospital for

treatment. Tribal elders, police officials and two journalists were counted among the dead.

The body count could have been higher, since, according to Amjad Ali Khan, the region's top civilian official. "Mondays are public days and usually we have two thousand to three thousand tribesmen," he said. "Thank God, it was prayers' time. Otherwise the casualty figure would have been



FILE PHOTO

On Monday, the latest attack in a string of suiciding bombings took the lives of over 40 people.

much higher."

Amjad Ali Khan is believed to have been a target of the attack, but he survived without injury.

Warning pamphlets 20 days earlier preceded the bombing, ordering peace committees and tribal militias to stop fighting the regions' militants.

Mohmand is a stronghold for Taliban and al-Qaeda forces, according to the BBC, and its heavy forests and mountainous terrain has allowed these militants to operate with ease, traveling at will across the nearby border with Afghanistan.

Umar Khalid leads Mohmand's Taliban, although his forces are more active in neighboring Afghanistan than in Pakistan.

Still, the militants have killed

thousands of people in Pakistan since the country's military began operating against the Taliban in 2007.

Terrorist attacks in Mohmand have increased in the past year, with Monday's serving as one of the most deadly.

On Nov. 5, suicide bombers attacked a mosque in Dera Adam Khel, killing 67 people. Locals had formed an anti-Taliban militia in the area.

In July, over 100 people died in a double suicide bombing — an attack against tribal elders in the village of Yakaghund.

A pickup truck filled with explosives detonated near the town of Lakki Marwat on Jan. 1 of 2010. The attack killed 96 people, many of whom were militia members who were playing volleyball.

Mian Ifikhar Hussain, province Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa's information minister, said that Pakistan must increase its border security if it wishes to reduce the Taliban presence in the country. He encouraged Pakistan's counter-terrorism divisions to work alongside U.S. and Afghan forces.

"There is a need for an organized and comprehensive strategy in the fight against terrorists in Afghanistan, the tribal areas and Pakistan," Hussain said. "Otherwise we will keep suffering. There are predictions that this wave of terrorism may continue for the next 14 years. God knows what will happen if terror keeps hitting us for 14 more years."

Humans are a species unlike any other on the planet

BY MATTHEW KOH
Staff Writer

Of all the creatures that have ever wandered Earth, humans are among the most peculiar and wondrous.

In the 100,000 years of *Homo sapiens*' existence, they have come to dominate the world in ways that make the dinosaurs seem mere figureheads during their rule.

Humans have spread far and wide through the planet, making nests for themselves across the seven continents, from freezing plains to burning deserts.

Humans have also established themselves as the predator par excellence — they are the top of every food chain and only rarely other beasts' prey.

Like some other primates, humans are bipeds, though they spend much more time on just two feet than any other animal.

Humans are unusual among mammals (other than some primates) in the dexterity of their fifth digit, which allows them to grip objects with some strength.

Human females have an average height of 5 feet 4 inches and weight of 67 kg; males average 5 feet 7 inches and 82 kg.

Humans have proven themselves among the most versatile of species. Without aid they can attain a top land speed of 37.58 km/h, which places them amongst the top 20 fastest land animals.

Though not equipped for water travel, humans have been known to reach speeds of 8.46 km/h in that medium.

Humans have also been observed climbing trees and cliffs, as well as traversing a variety of terrains.

Though other animals' ocular abilities may exceed humans' in certain categories (distance, color spectrum, etc.), when considered as a whole, human eyes are amongst the best in the animal kingdom.

Human eyes can focus on objects up to 32 km away, easily detect movement, and see many more colours than the average animal.

Furthermore, humans' visual acuity (which determines the sharpness of an image) is very

rarely paralleled.

But physical prowess is far from humanity's greatest strength; that title belongs instead to their ingenuity (which might be due to humans having the greatest brain-to-body ratio).

Though their flesh is relatively unprotected and their limbs are not the strongest, humans have risen to rule many more powerful animals.

This is mostly due to humanity's unparalleled ability to adapt to their environment.

They compensate for their lack of physical covering by taking the skin of better protected animals, by weaving together leaves or by processing other substances.

They make up for their lack of strength by fashioning tools out of rocks, metal and other material.

They tear down forests and carve up mountains to make their homes, drastically altering the landscape in the process.

Some of the tools humanity has created have an intrinsically deadly purpose. With these, otherwise weak humans are able to kill the most ferocious of beasts.

Once they have positioned themselves as the strongest animal in the region, humans typically set about capturing more docile beasts and making use of their labor and/or meat.

The tools of humans have, particularly in the last thousand years, enabled them to attain a level of dominance unheard of in the world's history. Thousands of kilometers of earth have been stripped bare and replaced with ground manufactured by humans.

On this human-crafted ground, they have constructed mammoth objects, some the approximate size and height of a small mountain, others large enough to encase a forest.

Humans have further supplemented their abilities through manufacturing objects that allow them to travel at enormously fast speeds through land, water, air and even beyond the planet.

These vehicles are also able to transport tremendous amounts of animals and material, allowing humans to move themselves and their goods throughout the world.

Human domination is not without its threats, however.

Apart from ants, the single greatest danger to the human empire comes within the species themselves.

Unlike other animals, humans lack an ability to form an equilibrium with nature, constantly devouring more and more resources in vain attempts to satiate their infinite greed.

When other beasts no longer pose a significant threat to human wellbeing, humans almost inevitably become hostile to one another, forming packs and clans which often attack and kill or enslave other human groups.

Even when there is relative peace, human individuals have been known to turn on each other, killing and robbing one another.

Human societies also typically tend towards stratification, where certain groups identify some insignificant trait to distinguish themselves from others they wish to subordinate or alienate.

Members of subordinate groups are often killed, maimed or taken aside for the benefit of the ruling group.

For a long while, humanity's self-destructive tendencies were relatively innocuous to the species as a whole. However, as they attain more and more deadly tools, insignificant conflicts can escalate very quickly.

In the last one hundred years, humans have killed over 150 million members of their species in war. Furthermore, they have developed the ability to destroy the whole species a thousand times over through incredibly powerful devices.

When they are not busy killing themselves, humans seem to enjoy destroying the world around them.

If human rates of growth and consumption continue, it is not too unforeseeable for them to sap the earth of all natural resources. They may have already destroyed more than a thousand species, and there is little evidence that this trend will stop.

Humanity's thirst for destruction is mitigated somewhat by a curiously contrasting capacity for compassion, seen in all members of the species to some degree



FILE PHOTO
Humans are adept at running, swimming and climbing. They have also changed the face of Earth more than any other animal.

or another.

Humans have been observed caring for the weak and vulnerable both in and out of their communities. Parentless children are not uncommonly adopted by adults and older human are often provided for in human societies.

Some humans seek to protect other animals from their kin; humans have also been observed to care for another animals purely for pleasure (though sometimes not of the other animal).

They have also developed impressive means of healing themselves and those around them.

Through careful practice and specific tools, humans have been able to almost double their life expectancy. Some humans also benefit other animals with these abilities.

The tools humans have crafted are not merely limited to utilitarian purposes. Humans have been observed using a wide variety of instruments to create sounds pleasing to their ears.

They have also been known to mark usually monochrome surfaces to create meaningful symbols and intriguing images.

Humans have also developed methods of communication

beyond the immediate, passing information through a variety of symbols.

Humans typically have a limited amount of sexual partners with polygamy (almost always polygyny) being the most common form of union, though some humans have preferred monogamy.

Like some other animals (including dolphins and primates), humans have been observed having sex for reasons other than reproduction.

Also like some other animals (such as Japanese macaws and some species of penguins), homosexual partnering is not uncommon among *Homo sapiens*.

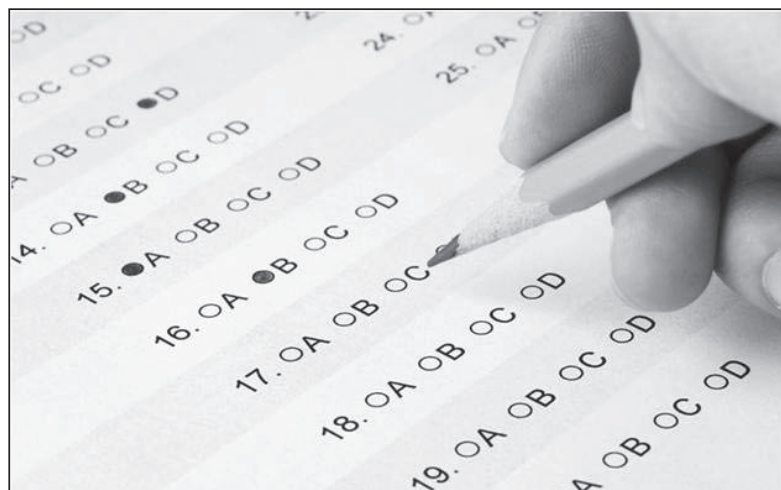
Humans are without a doubt one of the most contradictory animals you'll ever meet, but they're also one of the most amazing.

With the aid of tools, they're the most destructive animal by far, but they're also the most creative; the most powerful and poetic.

Though they overestimate their value in comparison to the rest of the world, believing somewhat simplistically that might makes right, humans are still one of the truly astounding features of this world.

At the end of the day, humans are mind-blowing.

Visualizing exams may help students minimize stress



FILE PHOTO
Practice exams can teach your brain how to handle the real thing so that during the exam, you can waste less brain power being stressed and spend more energy acing the exam.

BY GENEVA LANGELAND
Staff Writer

Picture yourself in biology class, staring at a blank page. You shift uncomfortably and attempt to block out the persistent sniffles emanating from the class invalid. Your pen feels oddly bulky.

This is your fourth exam, and you've completely forgotten the

life-cycle of a fern.

Now picture yourself turning the exam page, only to sigh in relief at the familiarity of the next question. Suddenly, the diagrams of gametophytes and sporangia come flooding back, and you breeze through the remainder of the exam.

Visualizing ourselves taking exams can help soothe nerves long before we enter the class-

room. Cognitive psychologist Art Markman of the University of Texas studies the brain's mechanisms for coping with stress.

He suggests that picturing a stressful situation and mentally running through scenarios of success and failure can psychologically prepare us for the real event.

Markman acknowledges that this can be disquieting. "It's obviously a helpless feeling," he told *Discovery News*. "Thinking about stressful situations can cause stress, so we don't like to talk about them until we're faced with them."

But steering away from exam fears can be detrimental. "The more averse you are to putting yourself into a stressful situation," Markman cautions, "the more that stress is going to affect your performance when you finally have to encounter it."

Sian Beilock, a psychology professor at the University of Chicago, published a book in September that backs up many of Markman's claims about brain function under stress.

Beilock discussed her book, "Choke: What Secrets of the Brain Reveal About Getting It

Right When You Have To" in a Sept. 23 interview with Katty Kay on NPR.

She says in the interview that stress harms "if we're doing a task that requires a lot of working memory, which is essentially your mental scratch pad." Exams would certainly qualify. Problems arise because "these pressure situations essentially zap some of this cognitive horsepower," leading to the heart-stopping panic of forgetting the central tenets of Plato's worldview.

As Beilock says, "In academic situations, those students highest in working memory rely a lot on the prefrontal cortex to show what they know." But since stress short-circuits working memory, students "end having less of the resources that they normally rely on to show their superior performance."

Beilock's advice for avoiding brain freeze is simple: rehearse and don't overthink.

"A lot of research suggests that if we mimic just a little bit the types of situations we encounter, that's enough to get us accustomed in a real do-or-die situation," she says.

Unlike the SATs, practice col-

lege exams are rare. Rely instead on imagination. Visualize the stressful situation. Plan how to get past it. Come to grips with the possibility of failure. If you're practicing a speech, purposely scatter your notes onto the floor and make yourself recover smoothly. Picture yourself turning in an exam and walking confidently out of the room.

Beilock also suggests reconsidering your bodily reactions to stress. Rather than interpreting a racing heart and sweaty palms as warning signs that you're about to panic, view them as motivators for kicking your brain into gear.

She even recommends writing about your exam-related anxieties; "cognitive outsourcing," she calls it.

"Once [worries] are down there and you've thought about them, reappraised them a bit, you're less likely to be consumed with them when the test is on."

Of course, setting aside time to journal about being stressed isn't very likely to improve a stressful cramming session. But Beilock's other suggestions require little time and effort, just a willingness to picture the worst and hope for the best.

CHRISTMAS IS A TIME

Taking back Christmas for God

BY JUSTIN MAJETICH
Staff Writer

When I was little, I remember my father giving my aunt Karen a small lawn ornament for Christmas. It was a statue of Santa Claus kneeling, with hat in hand, at the foot of a manger. Of course, in the manger, lay the infantile Christ, Son of God incarnate in cheap ceramic.

To my father, this was a statement of Christ as the origin and essence of Christmas — culture put in its place, things set right. To my aunt, who does not necessarily profess Christianity, this was probably an awkward gift, which, being a loving and respectful sister, she accepted with gratitude and continues to place in her front yard from year to year.

When I was younger, I saw the gift as both a little awkward and countercultural, but today, what used to seem like a little piece of counterculture looks like counter-culture or, as you may have reasoned, culture. Ironically, the ceramic statue, which at the surface level seems to subjugate culture to Christ, is, contrarily, a subjugation of Christ to culture.

The conversion of this simple image into a cheap and useless commodity to be consumed by hoards of Christmas shoppers legitimizes any countercultural idea the object ever embodied. Once again, the machine has taken a dysfunction within its system and manipulated it into a function, and you can almost hear a sly, self-satisfied Santa Claus (or research and development office) cackle, "Muhaha, come, silly Christians. Eat from my hand. Eat it!"

But should this commercialization of Christ and Christmas alarm Christians? Is Santa (jumble up those letters and you get Satan! Oh no ...) the new Saul — persecutor of the faith? I don't think so.

While I do see consumerism and commercialization as contrary to the Christian ideals of selflessness, humility, and generosity, we are kind of stuck in a culture saturated with them. That doesn't mean we should partake in consumerism, but does it mean we should muster the saintly troops and take Christmas back for God?

Even if Christmas were stripped of its commercial byproducts,

including exorbitant consumption, Christmas trees and Santa, what would that change? Would multitudes fall prostrate before the metaphysical manger of baby Jesus, offering to him their hearts, promptly and sincerely? Of course not; Christmas would simply be ignored by those who choose to ignore Christ.

This is our culture. Christians must accept that Christmas has been expanded — even redefined — to include Santa, shopping sprees and Will Ferrell in green tights. This is not a surrender. The Christian is not called to change culture but to be changed within culture.

Furthermore, Christians can sincerely celebrate Christ's incarnation within a broader culture which disregards it. While our culturally contemporary Christmas has marginalized Christ to some extent, the Christian's responsibility is not to force him back into the center. Instead, the Christian is to practice Christmas responsibly, as always, pursuing selflessness and expressing love to others.

I assure you, Santa does not diminish God's glory; if that were the case, what a pitiful god he would be.



When Christmas sounds bad

BY ALEESA RIBBENS
Nat-World Co-Editor

"All I Want for Christmas is My Two Front Teeth"

This song gives children the hope that the big gaping hole in their mouth will be filled overnight. Didn't this child ever receive education on dental care? Adult teeth take time to grow in. Santa didn't bring me my front teeth when I asked, but they grew in eventually.

"I Want a Hippopotamus for Christmas"

I could base my dislike for this song solely on the fact that it contains the most annoying vocals I have ever heard. But in addition, hippopotamuses are vicious animals. What sane person would ever want one? Also, Tinker Toys are pretty boss. Anything that says otherwise, I automatically dislike.

"8 Days of Christmas"

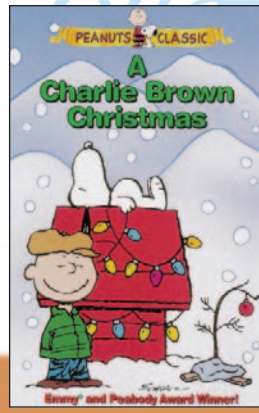
For those of you who have no clue what song this is, be thankful. This Destiny's Child original is something that should never be attached to the wonders of the 90s. Yes, it feels like Christmas. I really wish they would stop asking.

"The Little Drummer Boy"

Besides being one of the most inaccurate Biblical accounts I have ever heard, this song is about five minutes too long. I would be perfectly fine if this song was never played again, pa rum pum pum pum.



Christmas movies we love. You should too.



KENDRA HAAN
Staff Writer

Knitting: Although many of you may rule out this option, as you don't know how to knit, there is still plenty of time before Christmas to learn some simple skills that can create great Christmas gifts. For a beginner, the best option would probably be a knit dishcloth. Grandmas especially love these.

All you need are straight needles (around 4.5mm or US 7) and worsted weight cotton yarn (I would recommend Lily Sugar'n Cream brand). From there you can choose as basic or complicated patterns for dishcloths as you like.

Easy-to-follow knitting instructions and help videos can be

found at www.knittinghelp.com, and the most basic pattern for a knit dishcloth can be found at www.allfreecrafts.com/knitting/dishcloth.html. Once you get the pattern down, dishcloths become one of the simplest ways to create handmade, personal gifts for family members and friends. Everyone uses dishcloths, and after trying them, many say they prefer knit dishcloths to store-bought ones.

For more advanced knitters, warm weather clothing is a great option for Christmas gifts. Scarves, hats and mittens can be personalized to fit and coordinate with any friend's winter ensembles. Scarves can be quickly and easily created using larger needles and almost any kind of yarn.

Hats require a bit more skill, but are probably the most fun

to make. Gloves or mittens may only be an option for experienced knitters, but they are sure to impress your friends and loved ones. Patterns for all varieties of winter wear can be found online.

Baking: One of the simplest ways to spread holiday cheer is through the gift of food, especially sweets. Almost anyone on your Christmas shopping list would probably appreciate a small bag of treats, and it is an inexpensive, fun way to show friends and family how much you care.

Simply bake your favorite holiday cookie recipe, wrap two or three cookies in an individual package with red or green cellophane, and tie with a festive ribbon to create a cute gift that is appropriate for almost anyone. Add a to/from tag to personalize it. Another great non-cookie op-

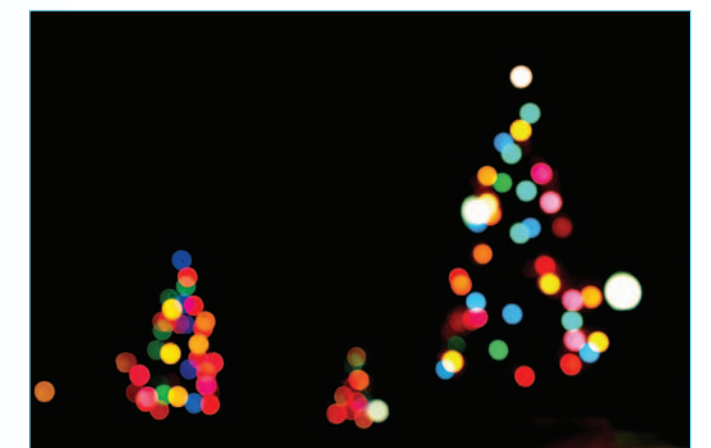
tion is peppermint bark (recipe available at www.joyofbaking.com/candy/PeppermintBark.html). As long as the sweets are homemade, this type of gift shows just the right amount of care without being too showy or expensive. It's great for casual friends or coworkers.

Christmas Cards: Get creative! Pull out all of those old craft supplies that seemingly have no use, and combine them to create personalized cards for family or friends.

These can be as serious or silly as you like, but they will spread holiday joy no matter what. If you need extra inspiration or holiday images, pull out Christmas cards from previous years (or buy an inexpensive pack) and cut out pieces to use in your original creations.

Make, bake, share Christmas cheer Winter captured

PHOTOS BY: DAVID RIBBENS



Mendes to direct latest Bond film

BY ERIC THAYER
Staff Writer

Prepare to have your face blown off by countless explosions, shootouts and smooth-talking foreign guys: James Bond is returning to the big screen. Bond, Ian Fleming's claim-to-fame, has his 23rd film set for a hopeful release in November 2012, and the film community can't help but wonder, “What's next for James Bond?” Since the makers of Bond 22 chose to title the film “Quantum of Solace,” there are only four original Fleming titles left that could possibly be used for this next installment in the series: “The Property of a Lady,” “The Hildebrand Rarity,” “Risico” and “007 in New York.” Foregoing all witty Home Alone 2-related remarks, I must say that the last one doesn't quite have the same ring to it as the rest. But regardless of the title, the film is bound to be a crowd-pleaser, as the previous 22 have been.

Not surprisingly, Daniel Craig will return for his third performance as 007, and Judi Dench will once again take up her role as M,

Bond's go-to lady at MI6. What is surprising about this particular Bond production is the rumored director: Sam Mendes. For those of you who aren't familiar with Mendes' work, allow me to summarize. Mendes began his career as a theater director in England, and his extreme attention to detail required in theater made its

which are films worth watching. What's odd about choosing Mendes as the director for this next Bond film is the way his style differs from that of a typical Bond film. Anyone who has seen “American Beauty” or “Away We Go” will never confuse them for “GoldenEye” or “Dr. No.” Even “Jarhead” and “Road to Perdition,” films closer to the action-packed blockbuster style of Bond, differ in significant ways.

Though Mendes' previous work doesn't fit the typical Bond style, it's not the first time such a director has been chosen for a Bond film. 2008's “Quantum of Solace” was directed by Marc Forster, who also directed films such as “Stranger Than Fiction” and “The Kite Runner.” 1999's “The World Is Not Enough” was directed by Michael Apted, who has done films like “Nell,” “Gorillas in the Mist,” and “The Coal Miner's Daughter.”

It will be interesting to see how Mendes' background in theater affects how he approaches a Bond film, but unfortunately we have to wait until 2012 to find out. Let's hope the martinis are still shaken, not stirred.



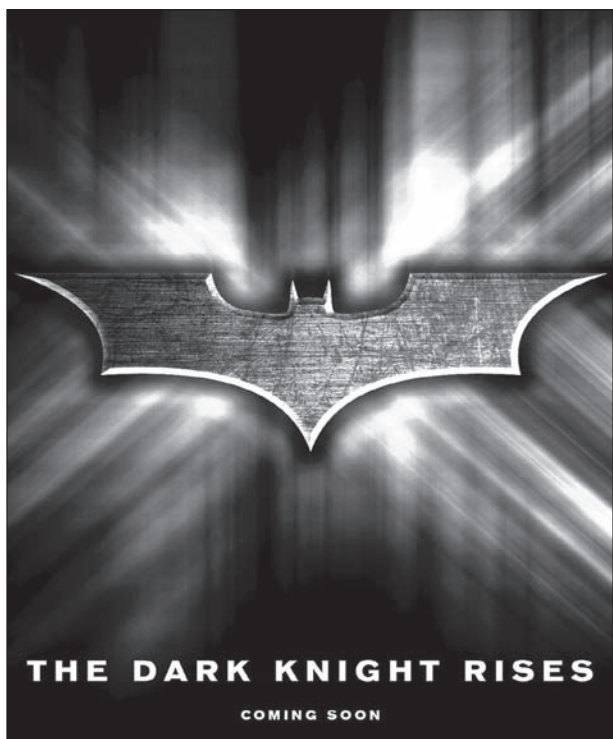
FILE PHOTO

Mendes directed films such as ‘Away We Go’ and ‘American Beauty.’

way into his film directing style. Mendes' most well-known film, “American Beauty,” is a beautiful and slightly disturbing portrayal of an upper-middle class family with some serious issues. “Away We Go,” starring John Krasinski and Maya Rudolph, is his most recent film, which follows a young couple expecting their first child as they travel the country looking for the perfect location to raise a family. He also directed “Revolutionary Road,” “Jarhead” and “Road to Perdition,” all of

for the next film to close out the Joker's story arc. While more of Ledger's Joker would be a great thing, it would appear far too gimmicky to have him appear in one scene. Christopher Nolan, who has always said that the Joker would not appear again, dispelled the rumor soon after, saying that Ledger's performance is best left only in “The Dark Knight.” Another topic of will he or won't he return surrounds Harvey Dent/Two Face, played expertly by Aaron Eckhart in “The Dark Knight.” While some, including Eckhart himself, want Two-Face to come back, Eckhart and Nolan have confirmed that Two-Face also won't resurface. This works for the best seeing that, as the end of “The Dark Knight” clearly shows, Harvey Dent is dead. The far more likely villain to return is Scarecrow, who is probably at Arkham Asylum after being detained at the beginning of “The Dark Knight.”

While it would be nice to see the Joker and Two-Face in the next Batman film, Heath Ledger's tragic death and continuity make it impossible for it to happen. As for who the villain or villains will be, it's anyone's guess, as only Christopher Nolan and his writing team know at this point. No matter who the villain ends up being, I have faith in Nolan to deliver another great film. July 20, 2012 couldn't come sooner!



FILE PHOTO

villain Hugh Strange. While wonders of what new characters will be seen in “The Dark Knight Rises” continue, the Internet is also full of rumors surrounding villains previously seen returning. Several weeks ago, the Internet exploded with the possible news of unused footage of the late Heath Ledger resurfacing

The weekly hipster hype

BY COLLEEN M. KEEHL
& MICHELLE RATERING
A&E Co-Editors

It's the most wonderful time of the year, it's the hap-happiest season of all! But no, seriously, it really is the most wonderful time of the year.

Finally, it is snowing and wearing over four layers of clothing is deemed acceptable, as is wearing all the ugly sweaters that you have hoarded in your closet for the past six months.

You have also whipped out your father's snow-boots and some mittens you made out of old sweaters, but that's okay, because it's a marshmallow world out there. But, the fashion (in a very loose sense of the word) is just one of many great reasons why this is the most wonderful season of all.

Now that Christmas is almost here, the list of the newest and greatest technologically advanced items it acceptable,

because it is the season of giving and what could be better than that? Asking for a new iPhone, a new computer, maybe a new model of the newest vacuum cleaner that sucks all the crumbs out from under you before you have time to even realize they are there. Who knows? The options to fill your newest hipster needs as well as things to make you look like a better one are unlimited.

Plus, the best part of gifts is giving, right? Well, of course it is. It is one of the few times a year (depending on if you do this on birthdays) that you can give someone a piece of your artwork and ask them what they think without sounding like a pretentious jerk constantly asking about your masterpieces (and the receiver will have to say they love it, no matter what, because it is a present!).

Another wonderful thing about this time of year is baking. Making things like coffee cake, rum balls, fruit cake, peppermint bread — it is all just splendid. But because you like to be on the more obscure, “screw tradition” end, the thought of making dinosaur-

shaped or Star Wars cookies for your family and friends, instead of Christmas angels and trees sounds way more alluring to your hipster side.

So find some velociraptor, t-rex, Darth Vader and Death Star cookie cutters and go to town. Take that, traditions!

So out with old traditional shapes of winter and in with not-so-original newer ideas. Forget making snow-angels and men, how about you make some snow shaped Bjork-like figures or perhaps some iconic people you have been trying to embody for the past year, and call it a day. Who will look better in your yard than Avery Tare or Morrissey or even better, Jeff Mangum.

But with the absence of all the traditional factors of Christmas, some traditions are direly needed. Such as “White Christmas,” that great movie from 1954, with Bing Crosby and Danny Kaye. Well, if you don't know, it is a quintessential Christmas movie that is so vintage (and wonderful) that is



good enough to watch every day, especially on Christmas Eve (as are “Christmas in Connecticut,” “Meet Me in St. Louis” and “The Family Stone,” if you were wondering).

What is better than Christmas music? Well, to be honest, a lot of things. Christmas music, since it is played from Thanksgiving until New Years Eve, can get old, really fast.

You can only listen to that donkey song so many times before you go crazy. So make a wonderful Christmas playlist which includes nothing from the new “Glee” Christmas soundtrack and, instead, only super great hipster/indie/rock Christmas song as well as old holiday songs that are so vintage that they are great and play away.

Although there are so many other great things about this season, such as no school and playing with the Harry Potter Legos you bought for your brother for Christmas, we from A&E hope you have a great holiday! Happy Christmas all!

And as Seth Cohen would say Happy Christmukkah (come on, we are old enough to admit that we all religiously watched The O.C.).

Iconic house on the market

BY COLLEEN M. KEEHL
A&E Co-Editor

Where are all the negotiators going to go to do their business? Well, surely not to mansion where the godfather resided and did all his business, now that it is up for sale.

This eight-bedroom, 24,000-square-foot house that parts of “The Godfather” were filmed in has just been put on the market for a little under \$3 million due to the death of the 90-year-old owner in November.

This home was shown in many pivotal scenes of the iconic mobster film, such as the marriage of Don Corleone's daughter or the famous opening conversation in the Don's office.

And if you are not so keen on the Mafia, and the property's history doesn't make you feel compelled to make a down-payment, perhaps the pub in the basement will be a selling point. If you're interested, be sure to make an offer they can't refuse.



FILE PHOTO

While this house isn't in perfect shape, its history makes it priceless.

The A&E editors' top ten of 2010 picks

BY COLLEEN KEEHL AND
MICHELLE RATERING
A&E Co-Editors

"Richard Yates" By Tao Lin

Tao Lin's publisher was supposed to send me a copy of this book, but it never came in the mail. Due to my love of Lin (as well as all of his other works), I bought it and did not regret spending the \$10.17 plus shipping. This book so surreal and

wonderful, as characters Dakota Fanning and Haley Joel Osment (not the celebrities) text, online chat and eventually talk. A novel by Richard Yates is read, everything ends melodramatically sad, and it is just as lovely as "Eeeee Eee Eeee."

"The Selby: is in your place"

This cool project was created by extraordinary photographer Todd Selby. Basically, he goes inside creative individual's homes, be it apartments, studios or mansions, and takes artistic photos of their imaginative spaces; making sure to capture all of said individuals' unique taste and style. It was originally a website but soon snowballed into book, and if you look at it, you will not be able to stop even if you have one ounce of imagination in your blood.

"Radar Detector" by Darwin Deez

This song (which is wonderful) as well as the music video by New York City based band Darwin Deez, makes me unbelievably happy. When I turn it on I cannot help but smile, seriously. His voice paired with lyrics like "You and I go shopping and fall asleep inside the mattress store" and his dancing just makes me beyond joyful. Did I get my point across?

"2081"

"2081" is a 25-minute film depiction of the short story "Harrison Bergeron" by Kurt Vonnegut. Basically, if you love his dystopian, dark rendition of the future or even if you have an appreciation for film, then you will like this.

"Doctor Who" series 5

"Doctor Who" is a wildly popular British television show, and this program isn't just for sci-fi nerds. The latest series of "Doctor Who", starring Matt Smith and Karen Gillan, is a phenomenal show packed with adventure, attractive actors and actresses and graphics just barely passable for the modern age. A must see for everyone, everywhere.

Vampire Weekend's "Contra"

The most recent of Vampire Weekend's work, their second album is filled with a variety of musical styles, mixing auto tuned songs in with sampled M.I.A., all smooched between the rest of the album's indie rock vibe.

Revived Polaroids

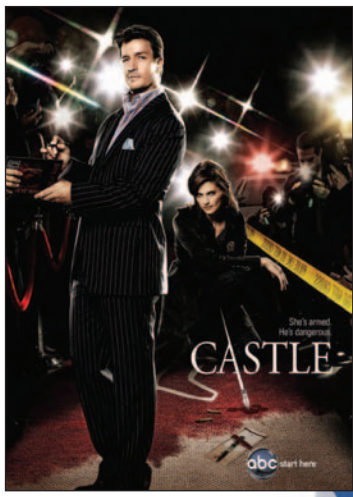
Just when I thought my land camera was going to be out of film for forever, Polaroid releases a new instant camera. Even though the new camera is priced around \$80, the revival of the technology is thrilling.

"Inception"

What is there to say about Inception? A must see film, that's for sure. Discover the rest for yourself.

"Castle"

A writer helping a team of New York Police Department officers solve murders? This is my kind of show. Witty dialogue, a phenomenal cast and interesting plots make this a personal favorite.



Aerial art promotes ecological awareness

BY COLLEEN M. KEEHL
A&E Co-Editor

When a topic starts to impact a community to a great degree, actions to prevent negative extremes are usually taken.

In the case of global climate change, an issue that is affecting the world at large, over a dozen major places around the globe participated in a project to show that a change needs to take place.

Speaking in a universally understood language — art — residents and artists around the world collaborated in creating art pieces that can be seen from space to support 350 EARTH, a climate art project to promote awareness as well as offer visions of how change can help solve the calamity.

When dealing with a crisis of this level of importance, creating art seems like an unorthodox step to take, but in this case, it is working out well.

Communities, schools and citizens are coming together to show how the global climate change has affected them recently, especially after going through one of the three hottest years ever recorded.

By creating large images from a variety of materials including people from the community, as

well as in some cases, red organic food dye, blue tarps and creativity, these art pieces depict all sorts of things from polar bears and eagles to simple outlines of children, bugs and the sun.

Examples of these communal masterpieces are scattered across the globe.

In the Dominican Republic, hundreds of people clad in white stood in a formation outside while holding umbrellas, representing the rise of sea level.

In Cairo, Egypt, hundreds of students formed a scarab beetle to remind society to re-examine the relationship to energy.

In Cape Town, South Africa, locals created a sun made from high-powered solar cookers (each of which lasts for 10 years while protecting the

environment and requiring no fossil fuels).

The number 350 in 350

If the number exceeds that level, a crippling amount of damage will occur and global change will



This polar bear aerial art was created by artist Daniel Dancer and made with people of the community kneeling in position.

EARTH is the parts per million carbon dioxide that is the safe level in our atmosphere.

accelerate. 350 EARTH is "implementing real climate solutions in our communities, demonstrating

the benefits of moving to a clean energy economy" while trying to "focus on the systemic barriers to climate solutions, changing political dynamics whenever possible," reports www.350.org.

"Our hope is that we can shine a spotlight on the work of existing organizations, highlighting everyone's incredible work and knitting these many efforts together for a powerful and unified call to action — a call that is global, scientific and specific."

"By providing a common platform with the 350 target, we can help to stitch together a whole that is truly greater than the sum of its parts, a diverse movement that speaks with one collective voice."

350 EARTH was co-founded by author, environmentalist and activist Bill McKibben.

Through this organization, he wants "to bring attention to a large-scale issue [by] encourag[ing] large-scale creative demonstrations," reports NPR.

No major breakthroughs on climate change have occurred yet, but making people aware of EARTH 350 is a step in the right direction for making a change, and hey, as well as it being eco-friendly, it is pretty cool to look at, too.

FILE PHOTO

Hope slashed and iced in Knight victory

BY TIM CLOVER
Staff Writer

Calvin vs. Hope is one of the best rivalries in college sports, and the greatness and intensity of the rivalry spills over onto the ice twice a year. Last weekend Hope and Calvin met for a home and home series, and the games lived up to their billing.

The first game was played on Friday at the aging Eagles Ice Center and Calvin fans were fired up. Nearly one quarter of the student body squeezed into the bleachers sporting their black Calvin Hockey T-shirts. When the team took the ice they were greeted with an atmosphere of excitement and anticipation. The team was eager to provide the thrills, and they did not disappoint.

The Knights came out of the gate flying, playing physically and generating scoring chances. Calvin had the Dutchmen on their heels until a call gave Hope

a five minute powerplay.

Stellar play from sophomore goalie Trevor Boardway and Calvin's penalty killers allowed the Knights to hold the Dutchmen scoreless on the powerplay. Shortly after killing off the penalty, Calvin drew first blood as junior Reed Loney put the Knights ahead 1-0, firing a shot through the Hope goaltender's five-hole.

Hope struck back a short time later to tie the game 1-1, but Calvin kept the pressure on, and junior Jarod Balog scored late in the period to put the Knights back on top. When the buzzer sounded for the first intermission the Knights held a 2-1 lead.

Going into the second period, Calvin knew it was essential to come out with a strong effort and not let Hope back into the game. It certainly looked like that would be the case, as less than a minute into the second senior Ben Regts took a cross-ice pass from Balog, beat two Hope defensemen, and fired the puck top-shelf. But Hope

stormed back in the period's final stages with a flurry of offense and scored two goals to tie the game at 3-3, setting up a dramatic third period.

The teams traded chances throughout the third, and Boardway kept the score tied with outstanding play. With Boardway standing firm at one end, the Knights looked for the goal that would bury the Dutchmen at the other. With eight minutes left in the game they found it. Loney scored his second goal of the game from almost the same exact spot as the first, sending the sold out crowd into a frenzy.

When the final buzzer sounded, the scoreboard read Calvin 4, Hope 3. Calvin players jumped off the bench and mobbed Boardway, who was the hero for the Knights.

“The goaltending was probably the difference in the game,” said Calvin head coach Mike Petrusma.

“I also want to thank our fans,” Petrusma continued. “The atmosphere tonight was tremendous and I know that gave our boys a lot of jump and an extra energy boost.”

Round two of the rivalry took place the next day, with the teams facing off in Holland at the Edge Ice Arena. The game began with up and down action, as both teams traded scoring chances and played physical. But the period turned to Hope's favor as the Dutchmen scored three unanswered goals and Calvin faced a steep climb to get back into the game.

The Knights began chipping away at the Dutchmen's lead in the second period, as freshman Brent Harris scored on a wrap around to give Calvin some momentum. Calvin kept pressure on the Hope net, but the Dutchmen goalie stood tall, holding the Knights to their single goal.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CALVIN.EDU

Until this past weekend, the Knights had not beaten the Dutch since the 2005 season.

Hope took advantage of their keeper's strong play and was able to score again to go ahead 4-1 at the close of the second period.

Early in the third, Harris notched his second goal of the game to pull the Knights to within two, and the Calvin players continued to play hard, looking to put a dent in the Dutchmen's lead. But Hope closed the door on Calvin, scoring again to make it 5-2 and it stayed that way until the final whistle.

Despite being bested on Saturday, the Knights took several positives out of the weekend. Their win on Friday was the

first time they have bested the Dutchmen since 2005, and for the team's seniors, it is especially meaningful.

The end of Saturday's game also marked the end of the first half of Calvin's season. The team boasts an 11-6 record, but it aims to build off the first half and finish the season strong.

Ultimately, the team would like to get back to the national tournament to have a shot at their second national title, and if their play against Hope this past weekend is any indication, the Knights look to be in great shape to accomplish their goals.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CALVIN.EDU

Sophomore keeper Trevor Boardway was solid between the pipes for the Knights, enabling them to achieve the victory.

Knights drop below .500 mark

Men's basketball lost two games in the MIAA/CCIW challenge

BY MARK ZYLSTRA
Staff Writer

The men's basketball team came up short in two battles at the MIAA/CCIW challenge hosted by Carthage College over the weekend.

On Friday, the Knights dropped an 86-64 decision against the Thunder of Wheaton College, which is ranked 21st in the national polls.

The Knights played nearly even with Wheaton for the first half as they entered the locker room down 41-39, but it was Wheaton who would jump out to a 59-41 lead after just five minutes of the second half had gone by.

Wheaton's 18-2 run was fueled by three unanswered three-pointers, including two by Jeremy Plederer. Calvin was never able to climb back into the ballgame after that spurt because of a poor shooting night overall; the Knights connected on just 36.5 percent of their attempts throughout the game.

Wheaton, by contrast, lit up the nets. The team hit 56.1 percent from the field, and also poured in 13 three-pointers on just 25 attempts which translated into a 52 percent clip from long range.

Calvin head coach Kevin VandeStreek was not pleased with the second half performance, commenting, “I thought we played pretty good defense for the first 20 minutes but in the second half, we played very

individually and that came back to haunt us. If we want to be successful, we have to play together, particularly against a strong team like Wheaton.”

The Knights were led in defeat by senior Brad Schnyders who scored 13 points in just 16 minutes off the bench. Calvin's two leading scorers of the year, sophomore Tommy Snickers and senior Danny Rodts, were held to just 11 and six points, respectively.

The second game of the challenge for Calvin would be a tighter one, but the Knights would fall again against a talented Carthage team, ranked 18th in the most recent D-III polls. This time, it was a poor first half that Calvin could not overcome.

Carthage opened up a 45-32 halftime advantage as Calvin committed nine turnovers and made just three of seven free throws in the first 20 minutes. However, Calvin played a much more aggressive second half and cut the lead all the way down to two with 1:51 left. Nevertheless, the Red Men connected on a three-pointer with the shot clock winding down on the next possession to go ahead 83-78. Carthage then rattled off five of six free throws down the stretch to seal the 88-80 win.

Calvin's comeback was led by Snickers, who had a career night. He scored 33 points and pulled down 12 rebounds — both career highs — for his first ever double-double as a Knight. Snickers connected on 13 of 22 field goal

attempts and went 2-for-3 from beyond the arc.

Rodts also had a good game from the floor. He went 6-for-11 from the field on his way to a 17-point effort. Sophomore Matt DeBoer and Schnyders contributed well off the bench; DeBoer scored nine points and had five rebounds and Schnyders added eight points and six boards on the night.

Up next for the Knights is a non-conference road match-up with the Trolls of Trinity Christian on Saturday. There, Calvin will hope to get back into the win column and back up to the .500 mark on the season. Calvin is currently 3-4.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CALVIN.EDU

The Knights have struggled so far this season.

Thoughts from Behm's brain

BY JON BEHM
Sports Editor

With the last *Chimes* of the fall semester upon us, there are a number of things that are running through my brain. Besides the fact that I am stressed beyond belief with term papers and final projects, I also happen to be deprived of sleep beyond what any rational human should be. Therefore, my thoughts this week are going to be epic.

1. I'm a bit worried about the men's basketball team. They have all the talent that they need to be good, but they just can't seem to put together two halves in order to stay on top for a whole game. Until they can figure out how to do that, it's going to be a long season for the Knights and the Knight faithful.

2. In case any of you were in a coma and missed it, LeBron James returned to Cleveland for the first time since betraying his hometown. The Cavs were destroyed by the Heat, but despite what many people say, that's not what really matters. It was not about gaining the W in the win column. It was about gaining the moral victory over LeBron by letting him know that we truly and deeply despise him.

3. Keeping with that note and tying into the end of the semester theme, I wrote a 16-page term paper for my CAS 305 class entitled “Dissecting ‘The Decision.’” I took an in-depth look at all of the persuasive techniques used by all six of the teams that met with

LeBron during the free agency period. When it came down to it, LeBron chose the Heat because he felt closer family ties to Dwayne Wade and Chris Bosh than he did to the entire city of Cleveland. What an ungrateful spoiled star.

4. I feel that this could be a magical season for the women's basketball team. They have come roaring out of the starting gates in MIAA play. I don't want to get too far ahead of myself, but I honestly feel that they can make a pretty deep NCAA run this year if they keep the intensity and focus that they have displayed so far this season.

5. I'd like to congratulate the hockey team. It was nice to see them beat Hope this year. A big shoutout to their keeper, Trevor Boardway, too. He played a great game between the pipes. Hopefully it is only the beginning of things to come for the team.

6. The swimming and diving teams had a good showing last Thursday through Saturday as they hosted the Calvin Winter Invitational. Sure, they did not take first, but given some of the competition that they were up against, there is no shame in their placings. Keep up the good work, guys.

7. Just want to plead a bit on behalf of all of the Calvin athletes and stressed students out there. Professors, please remember that while we are all students, some of us have a very demanding extracurricular life. Cut us a bit of slack if we're pressed for time. I can guarantee we would all appreciate it.

Knights shoot to 2-0 start

BY MARK ZYLSTRA
Staff Writer

The MIAA season has begun for the Calvin women's basketball team. Unlike the men, the Knights begin conference play well before Christmas break, and they have done so in stellar fashion.

The Knights defeated Adrian College on the road on Thursday in a convincing manner, winning the game 75-40. They began the game on a 15-2 run and held a 35-17 lead at the break. The Knights were bolstered in that half by shooting 53.6 percent from the floor while holding the Bulldogs to just 33.3 percent.

In the second half, the home team was unable to creep back into the contest as Calvin continued its hot shooting. The Knights poured in 61.5 percent of their shots in that half and stifled Adrian to only 25.9 percent.

Leading the shooting charge for Calvin was junior Courtney Kurncz. She was a perfect six for six from the field and also drained both of her three-point attempts, totaling 14 points.

Sophomore Carissa Verkaik continued her impressive play by scoring 21 points on 10 for 15 from the field in just 23 minutes of play. Sophomore Julia Hilbrands also had a great night. She scored 13 to go along with four boards in a reserve role.

Two days later, Calvin traveled to St. Mary's to take on the Belles. The Knights expected a challenging game from St. Mary's, but they were able to get off to a solid start and build a double-digit first half lead. They held a 36-26

advantage at the break, and St. Mary's never got closer. Calvin finished the game strong with a 21-point victory, 76-55.

Calvin again outshot its opponent considerably. The Knights shot 45.8 percent from the field and St. Mary's only mustered 28.8 percent on their shot attempts. The Knights also enjoyed an outstanding night from the free throw line, as they made 15 of 16 from there.

Leading the Knights was sophomore forward Ally Wolffis. She poured in a career-high 21 points. She also earned a double-double by collecting 10 boards.

Verkaik scored in double figures for the seventh time in as many games this season by scoring 17 points. She also snared eight rebounds as well.

Led by Wolffis and Verkaik, Calvin dominated St. Mary's on the glass by a count of 50-34 which helped contribute to the win as well. Junior guard Jill Thomas also pitched in with nine points and four assists to lead Calvin in that category.

Head coach John Ross praised the effort his team showed. "We played with a lot of guts tonight. It was a huge win for our young team on the road. Any win on the road is good but this one was even more special because it was against a really good team."

Calvin's MIAA record is now at 2-0 with an overall record of 5-2. The Knights will continue their trend of road conference games on Saturday as they travel to Kalamazoo to take on the Hornets. Then they will enjoy playing on their home floor in an MIAA matchup against Albion the following Saturday.

Fall sports review: Un-freakin-believable

BY JON BEHM
Sports Editor

I made a bold statement earlier this year, one that was, in fact, not Hope College-related. I claimed that Calvin sports would win 10 MIAA titles this season.

While I received a few insults due to this prediction (mostly from Hope students who have nothing better to do than read my rants online), they were mostly due to the fact that people believed I was giving our sports teams here at Calvin too much credit. Most people were saying that Calvin would be lucky to claim five titles, due to how much talent they lost from last year.

Let me make this plain and simple. We were wrong. Not just the people who said the Knights would claim five titles, but also myself, who claimed they could take 10 titles.

With all of the fall sports finally wrapped up and the semester winding down, it shows just how wrong we all were.

At this point, Calvin has claimed only five MIAA titles. I would like to take this moment to point out that I said the fall athletes would gain us five titles. Even more impressive than my predicting prowess, let me remind you all of this.

The five titles that Calvin claimed were over half of the eight possible MIAA titles for fall sports, and the Knights only participated in seven of those sports. And, with only 10 remaining sports, the Knights only have to win half of them to prove me right and gain an unprecedented 10 titles.

Let me emphasize this. Even if the Knights claim 10 titles (which I firmly believe they will), I still consider my prediction wrong. I am wrong because these Calvin athletes are so much better than I be-

lieve anyone expected.

Six teams made the NCAA tournament (a school record): men's and women's cross-country, men's and women's soccer, men's golf and volleyball.

The men's and women's cross-country teams easily claimed the MIAA crowns. They then steamrolled over regionals (as usual) and traveled to Waverly, IA, for nationals, where the women claimed ninth and the men eighth.

The women's soccer had a rough regular season. They were unable to obtain the MIAA title, but did garner the second seed in the MIAA postseason tournament. The Knights turned the two seed into an NCAA automatic bid when they won the MIAA tournament, but fell at the hands of Otterbein, which advanced to the Final Four before losing to the eventual champions.

The men's soccer team was able to claim a share of the MIAA title with Hope, but had to snag an at-large bid to the NCAA tournament as Hope garnered the automatic bid. With the success of last season's NCAA finals appearance fresh in their minds, the Knights made a splash in the tournament, advancing to the elite eight before being bested by UW-Oshkosh.

The men's golf team, tired of sitting on the MIAA sidelines for so long, shocked everyone and claimed its first ever MIAA title, winning the honor in the final MIAA event of the season. The Knights entered the event trailing Trine by 19 strokes only to emerge the champions by a meager edge of two strokes. They will compete in the NCAA event during the spring season.

Finally, and most definitely not the least by any possible means, the volleyball team did what it has never done in the history of Calvin volleyball. The team won the national championship.

After falling to Hope in the finals of the MIAA tournament,

the Knights gained an at-large bid into the NCAA tournament. The Knights were given one of the toughest roads to the title. They had to knock off No. 2 Wittenberg in the sweet sixteen before defeating No. 3 Juniata in the final four and No. 1 Emory in the finals. Words cannot do justice to how amazing the feat was for the team.

Now are you starting to understand why I consider myself wrong? If not, let me throw some more statistics at you.

Calvin had four MIAA MVPs (junior Rebecca Kamp — volleyball, senior Carly Prins — women's soccer, junior Jodi Hoekstra — women's cross-country, junior Nick Kramer — men's cross-country). The Knights also had four athletes given All-America honors (junior Rebecca Kamp, sophomore Lizzie Kamp, and freshman Megan Rietema — volleyball and junior Nick Kramer — men's cross-country).

I could give you stats upon stats to convince you that I'm wrong (believe me, I never try this hard to prove myself wrong at something) and that the Knights are indeed much better than the 10 MIAA titles I predicted. If I have not convinced you at this point, I give up. I will just have to rely on the help of the athletes, who will prove me wrong.

To receive 10 MIAA titles would indeed be an amazing feat. I still think they will win 10 if not more. But even if the Knights do not claim another MIAA title this year, the year was still a success. The Calvin athletes will have still proven me wrong. They have already gone beyond what I believe anyone here at Calvin, let alone the nation, expected of them. I have never been more proud in my life to be wrong. And that's the truth.



Swim and dive teams host annual Calvin Winter Invitational

BY LUKE LEISMAN
Staff Writer

A strong showing from both the men's and women's swimming and diving teams at the second annual Calvin Winter Invitational last weekend has the Knights looking forward to a strong year in conference action come January.

The three-day event from last week Thursday through Saturday finished with the women taking second to D-II Grand Valley State University, and the men 5th.

From here the Knights travel to Florida for their annual Christmas break training trip, and then return to action at the

Chicago Classic on the weekend of Jan. 14.

D-II Grand Valley looked good on both the men's and women's sides, taking first with a whopping 1,331 and 1,223 points respectively, with several individual swimmers setting meet records. Calvin was right in the mix, however, with several national-qualifying performances already at this point in the season.

"Our meet went really well; most everyone swam faster than we usually do in the middle of the season," said senior Monica Bressler. "It was a good way to get a taste of what the three-day conference meet is like with prelims and finals every day."

The morning prelims and eve-

ning finals format of the Calvin Winter Invitational duplicates that of conference finals, and thus functions as good preparation for the stricter upcoming competition.

"It was exhausting, but really good," said freshman Andy Krafft, who had a big meet on the diving boards. "There were a lot of people from our conference there, so it was good to get to know who I will be competing against and to see them dive."

The divers performed especially well, with Krafft highlighting the evening for the Knights, winning the three-meter diving competition with an NCAA III qualifying score of 463.00 points. Sophomore Elizabeth Counsell

said, "Andy on the diving board has had a fabulous season."

Sophomore Samantha Klaasen showed off on the one-meter diving board, placing second with an NCAA III qualifying score of 415.35 points, while senior teammate Carmen Brummel also posted a high score of 318.55.

After some tapering this week, the swimmers also turned in good times.

"The Invitational was what I was hoping for and actually more," said Counsell, who had a standout meet, making national cut times in both the 100- and 200-breaststroke. "The rest that our team got before this meet really gave us some strength to swim fast. I also really enjoyed having the big teams there such as Grand Valley State University because they brought some really good competition."

For the men, sophomore Stephen Kraft placed fifth in the 200-breaststroke, while sophomore Mark Rushlow placed seventh in the 100-butterfly.

Junior Greg Gorham also turned in a strong 100-breaststroke, while freshman Peter Johnson looked good in the 200-fly and 400-IM, sophomore Mathias Bares turned in a great mile, and sophomore Sam Allison broke 50 seconds in his 100-free for the first time.

"The guys haven't been up with the girls in the past," said Krafft. "But this year the guys are really improving, and that really showed."

The women, strong as always, were led by Counsell, along with

sophomore Rachel Bos who placed second in the 100-free-style, senior Caitlin Alexander who finished third in the 100-butterfly, and Bressler who placed fourth in the 200-backstroke.

Sophomore Shelby Cloyd dropped 30 seconds in her 1650-free, while junior Bridget Scott also turned in a strong performance.

Said Counsell, "We are looking stronger and having better practices than last year."

In addition to good times, the swimmers looked good under pressure.

"Even if swimmers didn't swim well during the prelims session, they came back and swam well at night," said Counsell. "That was one of our goals at this meet."

In terms of areas to improve, the Knights were slightly disappointed in their relays.

"Our relays weren't as fast as we were hoping they would be, but they will definitely be a lot faster at the end of the year," said Bressler. "We should be able to get all of them to nationals this year."

After hard conditioning in Coral Springs, Florida, Calvin returns to action in January with the Chicago Classic and several MIAA dual meets, leading up to the big MIAA championships in February.

Said Bressler, "Hopefully we will see some people start posting some impressive performances and see our relays get a lot faster as we refine our racing techniques and start focusing on swimming fast rather than just training hard."



PHOTO BY JON BEHM

In the second-annual Calvin Winter Invitational, the Knights fared well against tough competition.

FROM THE EDITOR

Three years ago, in an effort to promote sustainability, Calvin College switched to online evaluations. While better for the trees and the environment, this decision was not good for student response rates. Caught up in the hustle and bustle of the last weeks of classes, students often feel like they can't be bothered to complete their class evaluations.

But evaluations don't take very long to complete, and students don't realize how important they really are. As students, we are constantly graded and appraised by our professors throughout the semester. The good ones tell us how we can improve, and the bad ones assign us a grade with little to no explanation. Now, I don't know about you, but I know that I get extremely frustrated when professors don't give me feedback on how I'm doing and don't tell me how I can improve.

But unfortunately, students tend to give very poor feedback to their professors. Last semester, my intercultural communication professor told us that only three or four students out of the 25 or so people in the class actually filled out the evaluation. Clearly, this low level of feedback does not help the professors. The few students who do respond tend to be the ones who feel vehemently about the class or the professor; consequently, the submitted evaluations sometimes display a harsher view of the professor than is fair.

Part of our duty as current

Calvin students is to make sure that we do all we can to improve the college for future generations of students. And one easy way to help that goal is to complete your course evaluations. Good professors deserve to be encouraged. They deserve to know that you found their class helpful, that their hard work trying to teach you math, literature, biology, video production or whatever subject they happen to teach paid off. After they have labored with us for a full semester and put up with countless awful first drafts, we really owe it to them to let them know how influential they have been.

Likewise, we owe it to future generations of Calvin students to let those less-than-stellar professors know why their classes were not up to par. Unless we tell them what's wrong with their teaching style or the way they grade papers, they will never change. Just as our work will not get much better if professors don't tell us why they mark us down, professors' teaching will not improve unless we tell them what needs to change.

But while I would obviously encourage you to fill out your course evaluations, I will issue a word of caution: don't fill them out too soon. I often wait until the last day or two that evaluations are still open to submit mine. Sometimes a professor will do something in the last week of classes that makes you change your mind. Once an evaluation is submitted, though, there is no changing it. So make sure that you have all the information that you need before you submit your evaluation.

Have fun grading your profs, classmates!

~ajs

Letters to the editor

Christmas giving must include need

Dear Editor,

The first snow has fallen, the second advent candle has been lit, and exams are only a few days away, signaling the beginning of the Christmas season; a season to embrace and be aware of the gifts we have been given, to assess our fallen ways, and praise God for giving us his only begotten son. My experience of Christmas however has been disillusioned by the embracement of consumerism, the obligation to squander money on dispensable gadgets, and the praise of toys colorfully wrapped under a pine tree. My assumption is that this diversion from the original Christmas message is not isolated to my life, but has been an experience that many of you have felt, whether knowingly or not; an experience driven by media, the feeling of inadequacy and the need to fuel capitalist America. It is this market driven experience that drives the American consumer to spending a gross 450 billion dollars annually on Christmas presents — presents, more often than not, given out of abundance, to increase abundance.

As Christians we are called towards self examination and to challenge each other, therefore, it is my challenge for you to move away from this mindless consumption, and instead, to give. Give to those who actually have need; give to the destitute, the sick, the lonely; give to those people who live outside of the comfortability and familiarity of this Calvin bubble. In celebration of Jesus' birthday, let us give, not only to those close to us who share our relative abundance, but also to those who live the

daily insecurity of scarcity, those people who Jesus calls us to give to.

This Christmas, consider donating in the name of one of those who you were planning to buy for. Consider buying a goat through Heifer International. Consider buying a well through Blood: Water. Consider calculating the cost of your Christmas list and reallocating that money towards a more just and noble cause, a cause far more important than the newest fashion trends or technological gadget. God has blessed every one of us with the necessities we need to survive and live a comfortable life, but too many among us exist devoid of such necessities, let alone comfort. So, let our thanks for the gift of life in Christ overflow to the benefit of those who have need, not to those who have plenty.

James Wood, '12

Chung profile excellent

Dear Editor,

I loved the profile on Alexa Chung by Colleen Keehl! I have been following Chung's career and fashion-sense for a few years now, and I find her attitude to be breath of fresh air. Seeing her featured in *Chimes* makes me happy. She's smart and funny, and the profile captured her well. Thanks for highlighting a young woman with such a delightful sense of herself.

Erin O'Connor-Garcia,
Student Development Office

Parody Perfect

I voraciously cheer Mag Kim's article "Satire Succeeds." It was

a brilliant piece of parody and perfect in its methods. Evocative of the writing of Mark Twain, my favorite part was his use of the philosophical technique of "attacking straw men" — claiming that the previous author contended that "treating others as equals being merely a noble cause, and not on par with Christ's teachings." Prudently, he ignored the point of the previous author that we should do as Jesus did and balance social justice and evangelism (and instead implied that Jobadiah had somehow denied that treating others as equals had any merit), for he realized that this knowledge would have rendered his parody complete poppycock. Deeeelightful!

Jakeniah Cale Christiansen, '11

"Like a Little" liked a lot

Dear Editor,

In the Chimes office: Male, Blonde. You're sitting across the room from me and I don't understand why you have such a negative opinion of this website. P.S. You're pretty cool.

In response to the Op-Ed piece ran last week where Griffin Jackson called the new website Like a Little a "travesty," I feel that Mr. Jackson is making a big deal out of nothing.

I had no interest in viewing the website until I picked up an issue of *Chimes* and was persuaded by the article to check it out.

While I agree that it is pretty ridiculous, I don't see how, as Mr. Jackson claimed, Facebook is a "more valuable time-wasting endeavor."

If in the end, they both waste your time, why not mix it up every now and then?

Aleesa Ribbens, '13

Choosing courage in a culture of fear

BY HANNAH DE JONG
Staff Writer

each other.

Katie: it's been a pleasure to sit next to you in the *Chimes* office creating headlines we both know I won't get away with.

Stephen: the self-proclaimed "office pet and backup *Chimes* mascot." Thank you for getting me involved.

Andrea: despite your disagreement, "Seasons of Love" is a great song.

Jon: despite the fact you always are picking on me, I know you enjoy working with me. Asians are awesome.

Griffin: make sure you look for him on the same record label as Kanye West. If not that, then look for his name in the byline of a first-rate newspaper. He's an expert at writing headlines.

Abby: my phenomenal co-editor who will one day run this place (or at least *Chimes*). Thanks for putting up with my awful headlines and procrastination.

While this may not mean much to those of you who are reading this, know that my fellow *Chimes* staff is excellent.

Along with thanking them for such a memorable experience, I'd like to encourage them to continue the work they have started at Calvin, to keep being the honest voices of this school.

And I'd like to encourage you too. Join *Chimes*. It is something you'll never regret.

Who knows, maybe you'll walk away with the same thing I am: a family.

A goodbye to the *Chimes* staff

BY ALEESA RIBBENS
Nat-World Co-Editor

As the end of the year approaches and my time at Calvin is winding down I would like to address something that has influenced my life over the past year: *Chimes*.

The *Chimes* staff is made up of some of the smartest people I have encountered at Calvin. These people, as much as they try to deny it, truly care about this institution.

This past semester, each one of them has spent countless hours every week putting together an honest and (mostly) unbiased account of what is happening in the world around us.

I have been immensely blessed to call them my co-workers, my co-editors, my friends.

Amy: the marvelous editor-in-chief whose not-so-secret obsession with "Dr. Horrible's Sing-Along-Blog" always manages to put a smile on my face.

Jackson and Katie: the siblings whose synergism is somehow both ridiculous and hilarious at the same time. You should get to know them.

Colleen and Michelle: the A&E co-editors who we all know are hipsters, even though they claim they are not.

Johnny K: who is letting me write this; even though it was due two hours ago.

Liz: someone I've known since high school but for some reason hadn't gotten to know until we joined *Chimes* this semester. I'm thankful we finally got to know

bedside table at night. The news, which is really about selling something to gain viewers, fits under this category.

Politics thrives on fear. Politicians come into office largely because they promote themselves as able to address a national fear. The irony is that they can never solve the problem they claim to have the key to, or there would be no reason to have them in office any longer. So people are kept in a constant state of fear in order for candidates to collect their frantic votes and justify their stay in power.

Even Christianity, as Bader-Saye points out, isn't free from using fear to affect people's behaviour. One Christian t-shirt company prints, "Every time you take a breath, seven people go to hell. Don't be one of them." What a great conversation starter. The church, too, often uses fear to encourage commitments, donations and attendance with the overused language of depravity, retribution and saving souls.

What does fear do to us? How does the gun on the bedside table change how we view our world? How do people who are united by a desire to defeat a common fear rather than a desire to pursue a common good go about life? For one, it makes us adopt an ethic of security. Bader-Saye describes this as security and safety being our highest goals. We feel as though we can justify anything we do if we claim we are just "trying to be safe" or "protecting ourselves." In short, we will stop at nothing, including merciless violence and false accusations, to ensure no harm comes to us.

But fear itself isn't bad. We

fear because we have love for something. And it is unwise to be reckless or overconfident to the point of fanaticism. But we live in a culture of excessive fear, where the notion of holding dear the things we love has been distorted into hurting ourselves and our neighbor because we feel these things will be taken away. This is the problem of fear: it prevents us from loving others and eventually destroys exactly what we were afraid of losing. The rotten fruits of disordered and excess fear are pre-emption, suspicion and accumulation. We protect ourselves from the objects of our fear by making the first strike, assuming the worst in people and surrounding ourselves with a cushion of stuff.

Instead of these shadow virtues, Bader-Saye urges us to act out of providence in peacemaking, out of courage in hospitality and out of hope in generosity. Christians don't have to live in fear. We know the world isn't going to hell. We know God is good, although we are not always safe. We know the myth of scarcity is false, and that God provides. Courage comes with the knowledge that the one who is greater than us is drawing all things towards a peaceable end. Love and hospitality involve taking a risk by extending ourselves to the stranger, giving them the benefit of the doubt. While the story contains twists and turns as the world goes against the grain of God's purpose, it isn't over. Trusting God without living in fear frees us to truly love others, and that is a risk I'm willing to take.

2010 year in review: disasters, pestilence and Toy Story 3

BY GRIFFIN JACKSON
Op-Ed Co-Editor

It won't be long now. In 21 days, 2010 will be only a memory. Before we leave behind the Year of the Tiger and hop into the Year of the Rabbit, let's take a glance at the year that was. Here's a quick, fairly biased look at the highlights and lowlights of this year's politics, business, science, sports and pop culture.

In national news, the explosion on the Deepwater Horizon oil rig and the resulting oil spill likely tops the 2010 headlines. The blast killed 11 men, pumped 200 million gallons of crude oil into the Gulf of Mexico over three months, ran BP over \$30 billion in cleanup costs and compensation to decimated fishing, tourist and restaurant industries and will continue to affect the region's ecosystem for years. A couple gems did emerge from the tragedy: we learned that there are, in fact, no walrus in the Gulf and that Kevin Costner has a future in engineering enormous vacuum cleaners.

Park51, frequently misrepresented as the "Ground Zero Mosque," has seen massive resistance across the country and especially in New York. Not far away, Wall Street saw slow and debatable recovery. Foreclosures and unemployment continued to stagger. The Obama administration achieved, with considerable trouble, universal health-care reform. Never mind that in this year's midterm elections the Democrats were absolutely thwacked, losing control of the House, considerable ground in the Senate and numerous gubernatorial races as the country went red. Healthcare, bailouts, the

budget deficit, taxes, the wars and immigration were all key issues.

Speaking of immigration, the Arizona Immigration Law, Senate Bill 1070, hit the books and hit the fan this spring. The attempt to prevent illegal immigration has been interpreted as futile by some and as patently racist by others. Most Americans support the law, but the cities of San Francisco and Los Angeles actually "boycotted Arizona."

South of the border, the troubles are of a different kind. The drug wars in Mexico have reached new extremes and have caused almost 10,000 deaths this year. Farther south, 2010 saw a terrible tragedy turn into a story of hope and rescue. Images of 33 Chilean miners trapped half a mile underground haunted television screens for the 69 days of their subterranean imprisonment. Miraculously, all of the miners survived.

2010 was the year the Iraq War saw the American pullout and the year that the War in Afghanistan saw increasing American presence. Both wars still rage in American foreign policy. In Iraq, Operation New Dawn commenced, permitting the pullout of most American troops from the country. In Afghanistan, troop surges were accompanied by a changing of the guard as General Stanley McChrystal was replaced by General David Petraeus.

Also in the Middle East, the Gaza Freedom Flotilla was repelled by the Israeli military, causing international uproar. Nine Turks were killed. The incident strained Turkish-Israeli relations and prompted Turkey to step onto the stage of world powers, using its diplomatic weight to rally the world to its cause.

In the past few weeks, the

WikiLeaks controversy has stirred a huge international response. Julian Assange, the man behind the leaks, feels he represents the freedom of information and of speech. His actions have in some ways threatened global diplomacy, foreign policy and personal politics. However, international outrage may mean that Assange is the one in jeopardy now.

Mother Nature was very active this year as well. Earthquakes in Haiti, Chile and China rocked the world. The eruption of an Icelandic volcano grounded European air travelers for weeks. Floods in Pakistan ravaged a country already in trouble and an enormous chasmal sinkhole opened in the center of Guatemala City.

Musically, the year saw the continuing ascent of two of the most promising young talents on stage. I'm not sure what they're promising, but catchy, extremely-repetitive choruses and danceable, beyond-their-years lyrical genius are definitely on the menu. Miley Cyrus still can't be tamed and Justin Bieber keeps breaking hearts and topping charts, and he's just like baby, baby, baby oh. We found out that Rihanna really loves the way "you" lie, unless, you might recall, the "you" is an old, abusive boyfriend. Seriously, have you seen the music video? Irony. Train made a comeback, Drake may or may not have found his love and Lady Gaga, who did manage to find someone named Alejandro, stayed very bizarre. Also, and not to be forgotten, Ricky Martin officially came out. Apparently, this was news to some people. I thought everyone already knew this.

Do you ever feel you like you've been too entertained? Me

neither, but I've heard that's the way some fans felt after such an "unbelievably fabulous" opening season of "Glee." The second season has kept up the momentum, but some Gleeks are beginning to jump ship, probably because their attention has been stolen by none other than Mr. Glenn Beck. Get this: when I Googled "Glenn Beck's rival," I found a lot of "Jon Stewart" and one poll that said "Barack Obama." That's amazing and incredibly frightening. Between Beck, Sarah Palin's Alaska-based reality show and Bristol's "Dancing with the Stars," the Tea Party owned not only the lion's share of the political spotlight, but also had enough airtime to start its own television network. Maybe they should look into that; Oprah will need a replacement.

In movies, Ridley Scott's "Robin Hood," "Iron Man 2," "Toy Story 3," "Twilight 3" and "Harry Potter 7, Part 1," were all enormous hits. Don't worry, 2010 had more than quality sequels to offer. The box office also felt the "Clash of the Titans," "The Book of Eli," "Inception" and a reimagining of "The A-Team." Frankly, there were a lot of people pitying the fools behind "The Expendables," which turned out to be quite expendable indeed.

In other entertainment and technology news, the iPad was, or so I've heard, incredibly popular. Somehow, I've still never seen one; they must run in different circles. Jon Stewart and Stephen Colbert are still the funniest men in news, politics or television, whichever you prefer. Mark Zuckerberg has dealt with a lot of heat this year, but billionaire status and reaching over 500 million Facebook users worldwide may make it bearable. Also,

and most importantly, the most popular search on Yahoo.com for 2010 was "How to tie a tie," from which we can deduce that neither the fine motor skills nor the general know-how of men has much increased in 2010.

This year was a big one for athletics. The Winter Olympics in Vancouver and the World Cup in South Africa were global hits. The New Orleans Saints won the Super Bowl in a fourth quarter rally, the San Francisco Giants out-pitched and out-hit the Rangers in their five-game World Series victory, baseball saw three perfect games this season (if you count Armando Galarraga's, which is our civic duty), Rafael Nadal took three of tennis' slams to Roger Federer's one, Serena Williams won half of the Opens and, in golf, Phil Mickelson and three first-time champions split the majors.

Equally newsworthy, sports headlines saw Tiger Woods slowly return to golf, looking more human than ever; LeBron took his talents to South Beach and joined the Miami Heat, but that hasn't exactly panned out yet; you can't hit people in football anymore without being fined, which may be good for Brett Favre, who could actually disintegrate if hit again, but will still somehow manage to keep his streak alive.

In summary, 2010 was not great in terms of economics, politics, natural disasters, getting along, Miley Cyrus or fashion intelligence. However, we did have some awesome games and we got to watch 33 Chileans emerge from a two month stint in a mine shaft. And hey, we all had a birthday this year. So, a year older and a year wiser, 2011 looms just ahead. And this year, let's make a pact: we will learn to tie a tie.

Choir facilities in remodeled CFAC unacceptable

BY STEPHEN MULDER
Contributing Alumnus

On Wednesday, Oct. 20, the newly renovated Covenant Fine Arts Center was formally opened and dedicated. In most respects, the building has been vastly improved and now includes — among other amenities — an expanded art gallery and a gorgeous (both visually and acoustically) 240-seat recital hall.

But despite the improvements, I can't help but feel sadness — and at times, even bitterness — whenever I think of the CFAC. That's because, for at least one department, the new building is a step in the wrong direction. While the P.R. surrounding the new building has been nothing but glowing, the choral department is now moving into facilities that are substantially worse than they were 18 months ago.

The old choir room, previously known as Swets Hall, has been converted into a multipurpose room. The old green room — the long, narrow room directly behind the stage — has been designated as the new choral rehearsal room. Unfortunately, the green room — which was never designed to be a choral rehearsal space — is wholly inadequate as a choir room, and if the choirs are not moved soon, the future health of the entire program may be at stake.

Fortunately, the solution is both simple and inexpensive — all that the college needs to do is move the choirs back into the multipurpose room. But in order to get there, everyone involved — including the planners who invested themselves in the origi-

nal project, the choral department itself and the college administration — must be willing to let go of their pride, anger and resentment, and instead focus on making the best possible decision for the students.

It is not my point to direct anger or to assign blame to any one person, office or committee. While most of the initial outrage about the situation was directed at the college administration and the building committee, it's clear to me that the choral department itself shoulders a fair degree of the responsibility. While no one from the choral department served on the committee, the fact that the department did not check up on the planning and did not start pressuring the college until after the building was complete is particularly troubling. While the current situation could have been easily prevented before construction even began, the fact that it wasn't is an indictment of everyone, not just a single committee.

In any case, how we arrived at this situation is irrelevant, as nothing at this point can be structurally changed. The renovations are done, and the college is facing a budget crisis. I know Calvin can't just build a new room or knock out a wall. The building is the way it is.

Now, let me explain who I am. From Fall 2006 to Spring 2010 — my entire four-year stay at Calvin College — I sang with Calvin choirs, including Campus Choir (under Sean Ivory), Men's Chorus (under Dr. Keith Brautigam) and Capella (under Dr. Joel Navarro). I'm now in my first season of singing with Calvin College Alumni Choir under Dr.

Pearl Shangkuan.

While I was not a music major, the choral program has been — and shall remain, as long I sing with the Alumni Choir — an extremely important part of my education and experience at Calvin. I care deeply about its well-being and its future. And that's why it grieves me to see the program — after an expensive renovation of the FAC facilities — in worse physical shape than when I first entered it four years ago.

The dimensions of the long, skinny green room (which remains virtually unchanged from its pre-construction state) are woefully inadequate. When the choir is placed along the long wall (as it was for the Capella reunion concert a few weeks ago), the room isn't deep enough; the conductor can't step back far enough to really hear the blend. When the choir is situated along the short wall (as it is currently configured), there is very little room on each side, and the fabric panel running along the long wall (used for sound dampening) makes it quite literally impossible for singers on the leftmost end of the choir to hear anything out of their left ears. In either case, the ceiling is too low, especially for those standing on the top level of the risers.

The new multipurpose room (which Alumni Choir tested during its Nov. 22 rehearsal) is a much better room for choral rehearsal — not surprisingly, given that it used to be the choral room. It is wide and deep enough to fit a large choir comfortably and give the conductor enough room to operate, without wasting too much space. The acoustics are better and the singers can hear

each other well, something that isn't true of the green room.

I also understand that the multipurpose room has a purpose (or rather, many purposes) of its own, and giving it back to the choral program would have its own consequences. I understand why the Office of Conferences and Campus Events would be loath to give it up; it's a nice room, and it makes a good space for small receptions or event storage. I'm sure that Campus Events requested the room during the planning stages, and I'm sure it would frustrate the office to have it taken away now.

But I also must ask: which is more important to an academic institution — an extra room for intermittent staging and receptions (which can also be held, albeit less gracefully, in one of the CFAC lobbies or the green room) or an adequate choir room, where students must practice every single day?

As a member of Capella last year, I tolerated rehearsing in the Chapel undercroft because I knew it was a short-term assignment. As a member of Alumni Choir, I can suck it up and tolerate

the green room for now — I only need it one night per week. But if I were still a member of Capella, and had to sing in that space every day, I would feel particularly cheated. And if I were a prospective student, I would be appalled.

The choral program needs an adequate choir room to call home, worthy of both the college and the impressive new building in which it resides. Not just for the students, faculty and staff who use the building every day, but also for the future health of the program.

Calvin already has a difficult time attracting and retaining high-end vocal talent. How will prospective voice students feel when visiting campus, touring a newly renovated fine arts center with a state-of-the-art recital hall — and then seeing the choirs practice in a room that was clearly never intended to be a choir room when it was built?

I urge the college to make the difficult but necessary choice, and ensure that its choirs have a beautiful room of their own. Only then can the new CFAC really feel like a blessing, rather than a burden.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR must include the writer's name and class. Letters received without a name will not be printed. The editors reserve the right to edit any letters. The length of the letter should be no longer than 250 words; longer letters may be shortened at the editor's discretion. The deadline for all letters is 5 p.m. on Tuesday for print on the following Friday. Send letters to chimes@calvin.edu with "Letter to the Editor" in the subject line, or send your comments through our website: www.calvin.edu/chimes

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EXAMS!

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