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AIRBAND

Come watch your friends lipsync to crazy songs and rock out under neon lights.

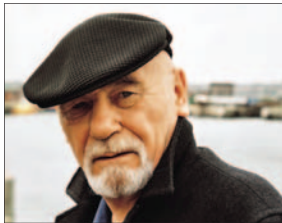
▶ See page 3



REDWALL MOURNS

Children's author Brian Jacques passes away at the age of 71.

▶ See page 9



'SPEECH' INFORMS

"The King's Speech" raises awareness about the issues that stutterers face.

▶ See page 15



CALVIN COLLEGE CHIMES

February 11, 2011

Volume 105 - Issue 18

CLUBS.CALVIN.EDU/CHIMES

Go, Pack, go: Lombardi trophy returns to Green Bay

BY JON BEHM
Sports Editor

For the first time in 14 years, the Vince Lombardi Trophy is heading back where it belongs — Green Bay.

On Sunday the Packers disposed of the Pittsburgh Steelers with a final score of 31-25 in Super Bowl XLV, reclaiming the Lombardi trophy and returning it to Tiletown, where Vince Lombardi coached the Packers to victories in the first two Super Bowls.

"This is where [the Lombardi Trophy] belongs," linebacker A.J. Hawk stated. "As long as the Packers have lived, it's going to be great to bring that back."

Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers was named MVP behind a 304 yard, three touchdown performance, the icing on one of the greatest postseasons in the history of the game.

"Aaron's proved that he's one of the best, if not the best, quarterbacks in the game today," wide receiver Donald Driver commented in a post-game interview.

Favored to win the game, the Packers did not disappoint, as



AP PHOTO

Nick Collins (36) celebrates with teammate Clay Matthews (52) after returning an interception for a touchdown during the first quarter of Super Bowl XLV.

they built a quick 21-3 lead and then hung on despite injuries to three key players (Driver, CB Charles Woodson, and CB Sam Shields) to become only the second No. 6 seed to win the Super Bowl. Ironically, the only other No. 6 seed to win the Super Bowl was the 2005 Steelers.

"Wow! It's a great day to be great, baby," said wide receiver Greg Jennings, a Kalamazoo native, who carried the team on his back via a two-touchdown performance.

With the injury to Driver, Jordy Nelson stepped up, snagging nine passes for 140 yards and one 29-yard touchdown. Jennings two touchdowns came on passes of 21 and 8 yards.

"We've been a team that's overcome adversity all year," Jennings stated. "Our head captain (Woodson) goes down, emotional in the locker room. Our No. 1 receiver goes down, more emotions are going, flying in the locker room. But we find a way to bottle it up and exert it all out here on the field."

The Packers did indeed face

See "Green Bay," p. 12

U.S. hikers come to trial

BY JOSEPH MATHESON
Nat-World Co-Editor

The trial for three Americans detained in June 2009 and charged with illegal entry and espionage began on Sunday in Tehran, heightening tensions in the already tense relationship between the United States and Iran. The Americans, Joshua F. Fattal and Shane Bauer, both 28, and Sarah Shroud, 32, the fiancée of Mr. Bauer, were arrested on the border between Iran and Iraqi Kurdistan after allegedly crossing into Iran illegally. All three issued not guilty pleas, according to their lawyer, Masoud Shafiee.

Only two of the three actually appeared in person, since Ms. Shroud was released on bail for medical reasons and has failed to return as per the requests of Iranian officials. She will probably forfeit the \$500,000 bail, and is being tried in absentia in the meantime. The other two are being held in the notorious Evin prison in Tehran as the trial proceeds.

All three Americans have denied knowingly entering Iran. Ms. Shroud, in an interview in

November, said that the three Americans were hiking near the border when an Iranian soldier gestured to them from off the path. When they walked over to him, she explained, he pointed to the path and said "Iraq," and then pointed to where they were and said "Iran." After American passports were found in their bags, they were arrested and taken to the capitol.

There does seem to be a political motivation behind this trial, as Iran has accused Americans of spying often in the past. President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has specifically brought attention to the fate of Iranians being held in U.S. jails, suggesting that this case might be used as a bargaining chip in the increasingly tense debate over Iran's nuclear arms program or possibly merely to release Iranians, as in the case of French academic Clotilde Reiss, who was tried and then released shortly before France released Ali Vakili Rad, an Iranian convicted of the assassination of a former Iranian prime minister in suburban Paris. Both governments claimed the releases were unrelated. However, President Ahmadinejad also said that he would ask the judiciary to



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS PHOTO

The prisoners are being held in Evin Prison.

See "Hikers," p. 5

Calvin's own to perform in "Manon"

BY CHARLIE LAPASTORA
Staff Writer

Just picture yourself getting nervous or anxious before that big event you've been working so hard for. Whether that be giving the final presentation in business class after all the studying and late nights scrambling putting those Powerpoint slides together last minute; thirty minutes before the big game against Hope — your soccer team has been practicing pretty much every day throughout season for this chance to kick Hope's butt; right before it's your turn to enter stage left of your biggest performance to date, your last performance on stage your senior year — it's time to show 'em what you've got one last time; even right before you have a talk with that special someone to 'DTR' (determine the relationship); or having to apologize to your parents for lying to them. All these things require guts and therefore we all can relate to getting those butterflies immediately before a big event in our lives. In Tanteliniana

F. Rasendrasahina's case, those butterflies came a little earlier.

Otherwise known as Fitah, this Calvin junior has something special — a voice. Originally from Madagascar, where he's lived

years ago. Coming back in 2009, people from the Calvin music department recognized his talent and encouraged Fitah to explore it here. Calvin's music department gave Fitah financial aid,

along with being sponsored by a few people in the area to help pay tuition. Right away he jumped at the chance to attend Calvin and quickly transferred from the University of Madagascar, where he spent three years. There he majored in international civilization and law. That would soon change as he switched to music this past year at Calvin.

In Madagascar, Fitah started to sing at the age of five, when his mother took him to church choir. It grew on him as he started singing as a soprano, then as an alto and eventually a tenor. He was trained by Korean and Irish missionaries. In Fitah's own words, "That music side of me really grew fast, so I became more interested in learning classical music, opera and everything that goes with that. I decided to become a professional singer." Oh, how beautiful the plans God has for us. Finding his talent in Madagascar and coming to



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS PHOTO

Giacomo Puccini penned the opera "Manon Lescaut" in 1893. Rasendrasahina will perform in Opera Grand Rapids' production of the opera.

most of his life, Fitah's amazing journey has brought him here to Grand Rapids. Calvin is all too familiar for him as his dad attended Calvin Seminary 12

See "Opera," page 3

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THE OFFICIAL STUDENT
NEWSPAPER OF CALVIN
COLLEGE SINCE 1907

CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY NEWS

Regathering highlights students' experiences abroad

BY GRIFFIN JACKSON
Managing Co-Editor

Originally scheduled for last week Wednesday, the snow day forced the postponement of Calvin's annual Regathering convocation to this past Tuesday.

Hundreds of students, staff and faculty gathered in the CFAC at 10 a.m. to worship together and to hear stories of God's work over the interim and fall semester. It also served as a time to bring together many of the students who had been away from Calvin on semesters or interims abroad.

The worship team led those gathered in songs of praise, drawing from a variety of languages to emphasize the diversity of God's creation and the experiences of Calvin students. After a brief period of worship, Chaplain Mary Hulst introduced the subject of this year's Regathering.

She spoke about the way that Calvin students and faculty go out into the world not only as students, but also as Christians. We are tourists, but more than that, we are sojourners going out into God's vast creation.

"We go out as pilgrims," said Hulst. "We go out expecting to see how God works."

Certainly, many of the students and faculty who had ventured beyond Calvin's campus, and even those who remained here, were able to see God's hand moving in their own lives and in the lives of those around them.

Luke Adams, a senior who went on the semester to China last fall, spoke about his experience in Beijing. He noted his feelings of being a tourist in a foreign land where everything seemed new and different. He talked about the beauty of Chinese culture and architecture. But he also spoke of the comfort of friendly faces and the simplicity of a class cheese pizza.

Sometimes, God is apparent in the grandeur of big things, said Adams. "And sometimes God is in the familiar things," he said.

Philosophy professor David Hoekema spoke next about his experience leading the semester in Ghana. He described a variety of the events and projects with which the Calvin group was involved.

The Calvin team had the privilege of celebrating Ramadan with Ghanaian Muslims. They also took part in the harvest festival

with some Ghanaian chiefs and elders. Hoekema and his students were also involved with schools and medical clinics in Ghana.

One of the most unique experiences on the trip to Ghana was the privilege to establish a new relationship between Calvin and a remote farming village. The students participated in the culture of the village, and students on future semesters will continue the work begun there. One student was even given the great honor of being made a Queen Mother, a position of great renown in the village culture. Needless to say, this was the first time such an honor had befallen a Calvin student. Hoekema emphasized that, though the honor was presented only to one student, it was meant to be given to the whole Calvin group.

In imitation of the lessons pronounced by Queen Mothers already in the village, Hoekema expressed the recognition that had been shared with the Calvin group: that all wisdom must come from God and that we cannot rely on ourselves.

That dependence on God was seen perhaps even more clearly by students who took part in the Amazing Race interim that took them to Phoenix, Arizona.

Seniors Kaitlin Diemer and Alison Tuuk spoke about one particularly frightening experience they had while on the interim. At one point along the race, Diemer and Tuuk were waiting at a street corner bus stop. A car pulled up to the place where they were waiting and a gunman stepped out of the car, demanding their things.

Naturally frightened, Diemer and Tuuk watched as the man made off with some of their belongings. Fortunately, no one was physically injured.

Immediately following the robbery, Tuuk prayed with Diemer about what had just happened. Diemer, who was a bit more reluctant to see God's hand at work, said that she felt compelled to read her Bible that night. The words she read in the Psalms and from Matthew 6, calling us to store up our treasures in heaven where thieves cannot break in and steal, "gave me great peace," said Diemer.

Diemer and Tuuk, along with the other students who were on the interim, recognized God's protection and providence in the experience.

"This experience turned into an amazing way to glorify God,"

they said.

Certainly, these stories of adventure and life-changing events are powerful reminders of God's work, both near to Calvin's campus and far

away. The Regathering time did well to gather the Calvin community back together, and to remind us of the importance of being gathered together with God.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BETH SAUL

Beth Saul and Kara Zondervan, juniors, participated in the Amazing Race interim.



PHOTO COURTESY OF DAN VANSLOOTEN

Students also traveled throughout Europe during the Engineering interim; the trip included a visit to the Louvre.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CASSAUNDRRA BELL

The interim trip to England took Calvin students through London and much of the country.



Campus Safety Report

port the student to Blodgett Hospital for further treatment.

Saturday, 2/5

-Campus Safety employees responded to a medical call on the first floor of Heyns Hall. A student had sliced her finger with a pair of scissors. The injury was bandaged and the student was advised to seek additional medical attention if the bleeding did not stop.

-Campus Safety employees responded to a medical call on the first floor of Beets Hall. A couple of students were continuing a snowball fight in the hallway. One of the students had broken a window to the kitchen and cut his wrist. In addition to Campus Safety employees, Life EMS responded and evaluated the injury. The student's wrist was bandaged, and the student decided to seek additional treatment on his own.

Monday, 1/31

-Campus Safety employees responded to a medical call in the Morren Fitness Center at the Spoelhof Fieldhouse Complex. A visitor, while touring the facilities, was feeling dizzy and nauseous. Campus Safety employees stayed with the visitor until transportation home was arranged.

Tuesday, 2/1

-Campus Safety employees responded to a medical call at Bolt-Heyns-Timmer residence hall. A student was having difficulty breathing during an asthma flare-up. Grand Rapids Fire Department and Life EMS responded to the scene as well. After the student was evaluated by paramedics, it was agreed upon to allow a friend trans-

Classified

House for Rent: 4 bedrooms, 3 family rooms, 2 full baths, garage, walking distance to campus, air, private backyard. 1859 Woodlawn. 616-443-7501

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Opera: Student takes stage

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Grand Rapids have opened up an array of doors for Fitah. And what better way to use this talent than to be cast as one of the main roles in the upcoming performance by the Grand Rapids Opera! Yes, Fitah is performing this upcoming weekend, Feb. 11 & 12, at 7:30 pm, at the DeVos Hall in downtown Grand Rapids. The opera is "Manon Lescaut," written by Giacomo Puccini. Perfect around the time of Valentine's Day, this performance explores love, beauty and tragedy. Fitah is playing Edmundo, the student. Fitah's butterflies, though, have already passed by. The butterflies came earlier this week as he was thinking about the two big nights coming up.

So, what does Fitah think of his opportunity to come to Calvin, which led to a main role in an opera that thousands will attend? He is "completely thankful and grateful for it." Unlike those cocky and arrogant superstars we see like Terrell Owens and Chad Ochocinco, I believe Fitah is a true, wholesome superstar in the making — one who is very humble and soft-spoken. As we'll see this weekend, his voice can overpower an arena, captivate an audience and move through the souls of people. The human voice can speak to the heart — "the human voice is the most beautiful music instrument."

From the first day he sang, at age five, to being one of the first undergraduate students ever to be in a professional opera show

with the Grand Rapids opera, Fitah has a God-given talent that he uses every day to give glory to his maker in heaven. In his words, "I am very happy that God has given me this gift — a voice. Everything that I do has purpose. My gift, as a singer — the main focus is to honor God [through that] and contribute to the flourishing of the kingdom of God. I am nothing but a servant. I believe that I have a goal from God and for God." God does have a plan for Fitah, and as a fellow Calvin student I am encouraged to see a fellow believer use what God has given him for the glory of God.

Just as the Amp energy drink commercial said — "There's always a moment before every moment" — that moment in Fitah's life happened to be this past week. Those butterflies have already passed through his stomach and he's ready to go.



FILE PHOTO

Fitah is to perform this weekend at DeVos Hall in the opera "Manon Lescaut."

"Calvin's Got Talent" to premiere Saturday

BY ANDREW STEINER
Staff Writer

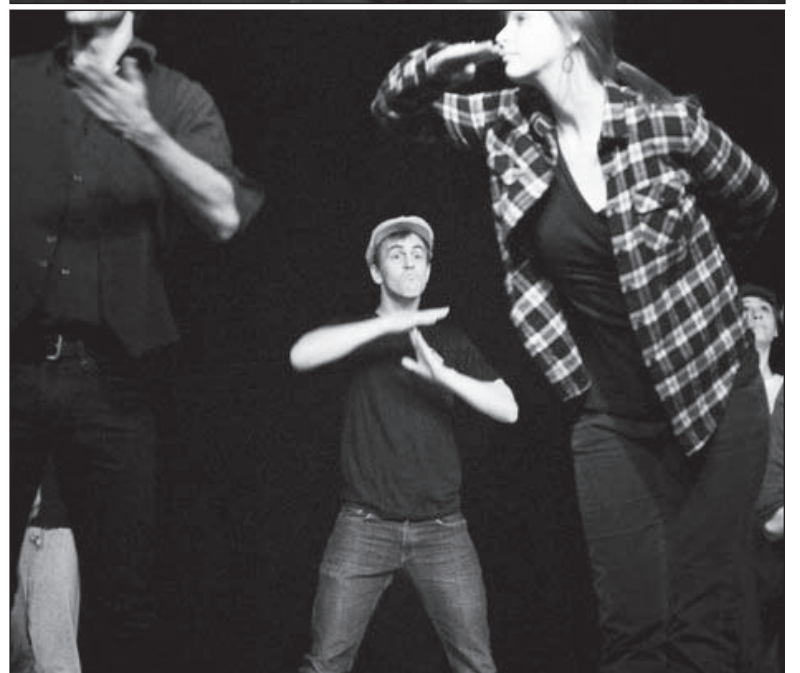
Tired of pop stars blundering through civic hymns? Weary of the yearly parade of tone deaf contestants cluttering your TV screens? Unable to remember the last time there was something worth shelling out 10 bucks to see at the multiplex? Come to Airband 2011 tomorrow evening, Feb. 12. The event will begin at 8 p.m. in the Hoogenboom Gymnasium.

Airband combines lip-synching, dancing and musical theater to create what has become one of Calvin's most popular student events. The Improv-hosted show serves as the full-color finale to uKnight Week. This Saturday marks its 27th performance.

Awards based on form and presentation will be given to the top three acts by a panel of judges. The coveted People's Choice Award will be bestowed upon the act that receives the loudest applause.

Tickets are \$5 and are currently on sale at the Box Office in the main lobby of the Covenant Fine Arts Center. The event typically sells out, so those who want tickets should act quickly.

Support your friends and classmates! If you're looking for something exciting and entertaining to do this Saturday night (or scrambling for a Valentine's date idea), Airband is sure to please.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF CALVIN.EDU

Pictured above are students performing last year's Airband. Airband 2011 premieres Saturday in the Hoogenboom Gym.

Tonedeafs to pay tribute to James Taylor

BY TYLER SLAMKOWSKI
News Co-Editor

Sometimes, the past comes back to haunt us. What do we do, however, when the past returns to remind us about what is most important? This is exactly the situation that Calvin College will have this coming weekend with the upcoming performance of Glenn Bulthuis and the Tonedeafs as they perform the music of James Taylor.

Glenn Bulthuis is an alumnus of the Calvin music program, having performed his first full-length concert in the Fine Arts Center in 1977. The concerts continued in the FAC each spring, with the first sold-out show occurring in 1980. The Tonedeafs, the band that grew out of these FAC performances, is composed entirely of Calvin alumni from the 70s and 80s. From there The Tonedeafs added more players, videos and special effects; shows grew from one sold-out show in the FAC to two and three full

evening shows.

On the past shows, Bulthuis said, "The shows continued through the 1990s. Three more albums were recorded. Three children were born. Jobs changed, but the shows continued, and in 2007 we had our 30-year anniversary show at Calvin in the quaint Ladies Literary Club. Through it all, it's been a great way to bring friends together and laugh about our days at Calvin and life in the U.S.A."

This year, The Tonedeafs will be playing the music of American guitarist James Taylor, along with a few "Calvin songs." Known for hits such as "Fire and Rain" and "You've Got a Friend" in the 1970s, the music of James Taylor is iconic of the American musical tradition.

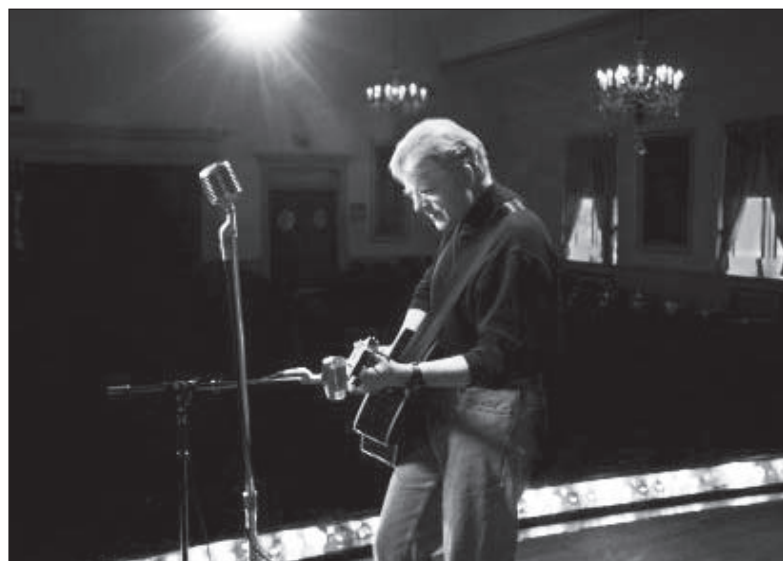
"By my college years, I'd sort of developed a 'James Taylor' style of playing guitar, so apart from the Beatles', his music was probably the most influential in determining my musical direction and songwriting style," said Bulthuis. "I've always been a

James Taylor fan, since he first hit the scene in 1969. I literally took out every James Taylor LP and CD I own and played through every album, every song and made notes."

The show itself will take place at 7:30 p.m. on Feb. 11 and 12, this Friday and Saturday, at the Ladies Literary Club (61 Sheldon Avenue SE).

"It's just a joy to do this show. It's a lot tougher musically than the Beatles show we did in January, but it's good work and a good challenge," said Bulthuis. "We've had a great relationship with the folks at Calvin College over the past 34 years of doing concerts for them, and we are hopeful that we'll draw a good crowd."

Tickets for the show are available in the CFAC Box Office, and are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students.



FILE PHOTO

Glenn Bulthuis and the Tonedeafs have been gracing Calvin's stages for over 30 years.

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	1		6			8		
		2			1		5	8
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	8	7		4				1

SUDOKU

Prof's Say the Darnedest Things

"I promise to stay awake for the whole class."
- Professor McMullen, economics

"All Inuit are bald. Hillary Clinton is Inuit. Therefore, Hillary Clinton is bald."
- Professor Wykstra, philosophy

"You engineers know that stuff ... Build the wrong kind of bridge and you'll cross the wrong river."
- Professor Norman, computer science

"If you have a dog that can do algebra, you may bring that dog to the test."
- Professor Molnar, physics

"I walked down the hallway and it hit me — the mystical look of the transference of indescribable wisdom."
- Professor Herrick, philosophy

Heard any of your professors crack a joke, let out a Freudian slip or say something really weird? Let us know.

chimes@calvin.edu

King Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12				13					14		
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			18				19	20			
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			36					37			
38	39			40	41						
42				43	44				45	46	47
48				49				50			
51				52				53			

ACROSS

1 Put one's foot down?

5 Level

9 Boston — Party

12 Tittle

13 Staffer

14 Massage

15 Suburban parent, maybe

17 Exist

18 Elbow counterpart

19 Loop in lace

21 Superhero garments

24 Work station

25 Oodles

26 Not to be tossed aside?

30 Chum

31 Bed cover

32 Summertime mo.

33 Cast members

35 As well

36 Covered walkway

37 Sword handles

38 Wan

40 Canaanite's deity

42 Mainlander's memento

43 Wife of a links nut

48 Bobby of

hockey

49 Always

50 Protuberance

51 Dine on

52 Pedestal feature

53 Leaves

DOWN

1 A sib

2 Excessively

3 List-ending abbr.

4 Small bundle

5 Passenger's payment

6 Rickey flavoring

7 Commotion

8 Storm

9 Part of a mouse,

10 Franc

11 Help in crime

16 Navy rank (Abbr.)

20 "Life — cabaret, ..."

21 Team leader (Abbr.)

22 Winged

23 Pullover garment

24 Union fees

26 Comical Caroline

27 Ending for musket or market

28 Insatiable desire

29 Vanity

31 Mooched

34 Multipurpose truck

35 Under the weather

37 "Hee —"

38 Lotion additive

39 Antitoxins

40 Wasn't colorfast

41 Frizzy hairstyle

44 Eggs

45 "Cock-a-doodle- —!"

46 Rhyming tribute

47 Film director Craven

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LANGUAGE LESSONS

with Amy and Michelle

Do you ever get frustrated with the intense amount of homework assigned? Have you ever been really annoyed with your roommate? Maybe those Hope fans are getting a little out of hand. Well, consider pummeling an inanimate object to release some of your pent up energy!

The word "pummel" comes from the noun "pommel," which is the hilt of a sword. While the modern usage of pummel usually refers to the utilization of fists in a fight or aggressive tactics in a brawl, the French word likely originated from swordsmen using the pommels of their swords to pummel plebeians into submission.

TRICKY BUSINESS

Super Crossword

1 Dollops	62 Bright	of "Sirens"	8 Stink	51 Entire range	beginning
5 Russian ruler	64 Part of MST	110 Word form for "minute"	9 "— of You" ('84 hit)	52 Senator Kefauver	98 Ignites
9 '87 Peace Prize winner	65 Mediocore	111 Salon request	10 — Branco, Brazil	53 Cozy rooms	101 Conductor Klemperer
14 Incur. as bills	67 Mason's need	112 La-la lead-in	11 Caravansary	55 Pants	102 Christie sleuth
19 "Thanks —!"	68 Any	114 Castle material	12 Like fine wine	56 Each	104 Bandleader Brown
20 Dingy digs	69 Deplores	117 Contaminate	13 Tulsa type	58 Monty's milieu	105 Till
21 Jargon	70 Scandinavian computer?	121 NBA handicappers?	14 Brit. fliers	59 Loon's relative	106 Laughed loudly
22 Crop up	73 Puts another worm on the hook?	127 "One really thick steak, please"?	15 Psychic Geller	61 Demi or Dudley	107 Disreputable
23 Clothing store?	75 Composer Janacek	129 Simpson of fashion	16 More congenial	63 It multiplies by dividing	108 Aquatic animal
25 Gary Cooper in "High Noon"?	76 Chip off Woody's block	130 Paul of "American Graffiti"	17 PC enthusiasts	66 Declare	111 Unexpected obstacle
27 Asian nation	78 Archaeological site	131 Currier's partner	18 Parisian papa	69 Bendix role	113 "Excuse me"
28 Jab	81 Class ring?	132 Siegmeister or Wiesel	24 Mata —	70 TV host Robin	115 Exiled dictator
30 Genetic info	82 Galley feature	133 Greek sandwiches	26 Singer Georgie	71 Major artery	116 Dark blue
31 Poetic preposition	83 Absolutely adored	134 Atlanta campus	29 Significant years	72 Swanky	118 Run in neutral
32 Stoltz or Severeid	84 "— Gay"	135 AMEX rival	33 "Take — leave it!"	74 Soprano Gluck	119 Sedaka or Simon
34 Actress Perlman	86 Socialite Perle	136 Take-out order?	35 Sounded like a serpent	75 See	120 Dendrologist's concern
38 Brazier bits	90 Anti-knock stuff		36 Seth's son	77 Block	122 Arafat's grp.
41 Seats picked up in the Senate?	92 Glisten	DOWN	37 Evaluate	78 Go off track	123 Part of USAR
45 Bank (on)	94 Chaos	1 Stare stupidly	39 Divulge, with "out"	79 Print-shop supply	124 Funnyman Philips
46 Tai — (martial art)	95 Puppeteer Lewis	2 Dairy-case purchase	40 Bronte heroine	80 Emulates O'Meara	125 Turn pages to feather?
47 Recruit-to-be	96 Israeli dance	3 Piglet's papa	41 Detective Charlie	83 With 75 Down, "Gigi" author	126 Farm feature
48 Baseball's Sammy	97 Counterfeit	4 Meryl of "Marvin's Room"	42 Nonstandard contraction	85 Turn pages	128 Nationality suffix
50 Coaxed	99 States, for short	5 Even if, informally	43 A swan was her swain	87 Andrew of "Melrose Place"	
54 Plane place	100 Mighty mite	6 Trace	44 Country star Brooks	88 "Guarding —" ('94 film)	
57 Bedroom furniture	103 Marina statistics?	7 As well	46 Comic Margaret	89 Flock o' docs	
59 Elbow —	107 Corelli composition		49 Strong suit	91 Irish island group	
60 Available	109 Macpherson			93 Inland sea	
61 Photo finish				94 Big	

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Temple location prompts boarder aggression

BY TAYLOR VANDERVEEN
 Staff Writer

On the border between Cambodia and Thailand lies the 900-year-old Hindu temple Preah Vihear. Like so many other religious sites, it has become the center of a long-lasting feud that is proving both messy and dangerous.

Cambodia and Thailand have been locked in an intense border dispute over this temple for years without resolution. Each nation wants to claim it for its own, and neither wants to back down without a fight.

This past weekend, the feud was refreshed with fervor in the two square mile zone, resulting in a few deaths and injuries throughout the weekend: the worst fighting the area has endured in years.

The catalyst to the whole affair was the flag Cambodia flew in front of the Wat Keo Sikha Kiri Svarak pagoda that rests within the disputed area. They refused to take it down, angering Thailand and rousing the military on each end.

Friday marked the beginning, with a fight lasting about two hours and leaving four dead: three Cambodians and one Thai soldier. Each side declares that it was not the one to begin the skirmish.

Saturday brought about a smaller gunfight, with the loss of

one Thai soldier.

Sunday continued the battle, with gunfire being heard throughout the night. As many as twelve wounded are reported to be at a hospital in Thailand's Sri Sa Ket province, two of whom are villagers.



FILE PHOTO

Hostility intensifies as Cambodia and Thailand argue over a single holy landmark.

Weapons being used in the dispute include guns, rocket launchers, heavy artillery and tanks.

With the danger of the battles very close to those living in the area, thousands on both sides of the line have left or been evacuated, seeking safer places to stay during the conflict.

The effects are reaching the economies as well. The Association of South East Asian Nations expressed their concern

about this to the rivaling nations Saturday.

In 1962 it was established by the International Court of Justice in The Hague, Netherlands, that the temple belonged on Cambodian soil, with the observation that the building was “an outstanding masterpiece of Khmer architecture.” This did not, however, settle the matter.

The dispute continued after that, Thailand firmly saying that the area's boundaries were never completely determined. The temple is on a cliff, and Thailand says that it is much easier to access from their land.

The struggle continues, though the United States is imploring both nations to calm down and use “maximum restraint” in their dealings with each other. This was said on Friday, though, and two days of fighting have followed.

Colonel Sansern Kaewkamnerd, Thai army spokesman, was quoted as saying “At this point, the ceasefire has not been achieved. We are negotiating on all levels, but meanwhile we have to respond and defend ourselves.” The spokesman also seemed positive that Thailand was ready to fight for this important building.

Resolution of the conflict remains to be seen, and nobody seems sure how long the fighting will continue, or how many more fatalities there will be.

HIKERS: Three captured in Iran Americans accused of espionage on trial

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“look at the case with maximum leniency.”

This further underscores the power of the Iranian judiciary system, which answers directly to the country's ruling clerics and not to Ahmadinejad. This is especially important given that the judge overseeing the case, Judge Abolghasem Salavati, is known for sentencing a number of opposition protesters to death after Mr. Ahmadinejad's re-election in June 2009.

This particular case has received a great deal of attention, including a high-profile

visit by the mothers of the three detainees, which was organized by Iranian officials, citing “humanitarian” reasons for allowing the visit which included a meeting between the mothers and the relatives of Iranians held in U.S. jails. Mr. Ahmadinejad specifically drew parallels between this case and that of Iranian Amir Hossein Ardebili, who was sentenced to five years in prison after pleading guilty to plotting to ship sensitive military technology to Iran.

Despite the tense political relationship between the two nations, we can all hope that the truth will be found, and justice will be served, regardless of political motivations.



FILE PHOTO

Shane Bauer (left), Sarah Shourd (center) and Josh Fattal (right) stand trial for spying and crossing illegally into Iran from Iraq. The three Americans have been imprisoned since their apprehension in early July of last year.

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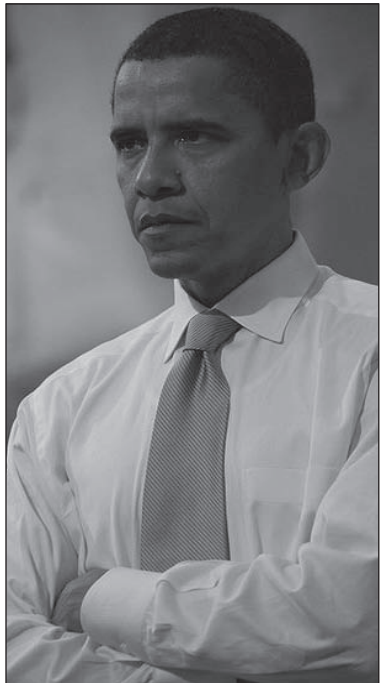
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Obama upsets Chamber

BY DAVID RYOU
Staff Writer

On Monday, President Obama visited the U.S. Chamber of Commerce to re-approach the hostile relationship between the administration and the Chamber's top business officials in hopes of improving business relations and accelerating economic recovery. Since the Republican takeover in political seats in last November's congressional election, the Democratic president has begun to focus more on business with the chamber's members



FILE PHOTO

Obama is considering new approach to U.S. Commerce.

and less on his familiar traditional allies in organized labor.

This new approach differs strikingly from his approach during the first two years of his presidency, during when he clashed with the Chamber on some of the major issues on his domestic agenda, including healthcare, corporate bonuses and financial regulations. According to some people in the financial services sector, during a televised interview with the president in 2009, Obama stated that he had not run for office to be "helping out a bunch of fat cat bankers on Wall Street." Bruce Josten, a top

lobbyist for the Chamber, recalled a spokesman for Obama "calling him out" during a Sunday talk show last year.

Despite the existing tensions between the two groups, President Obama has already taken certain policy actions and proposals recently to reach out towards the cynical members of the chamber. Some of his recent actions include: proposal to take on the corporate tax system (which would lower the current 35 percent corporate tax rate), completion of the South Korea trade deal, freezing wages for federal employees (which was approved by businesses), ordering a review of federal regulations, supporting the extensions of the tax cuts from former President George W. Bush and yielding to the Chamber's criticism of the healthcare law by not relieving small businesses of new tax reporting requirements.

But most notable and pleasing to the chamber and other business groups were the President's three top-level appointments of William Daley as White House chief of staff, Gene Sperling as chairman of the National Economic Council and Jeffrey Immelt as chairman of the President's Council on Jobs and Competitiveness.

Along with part of his outreach toward the Chamber, Obama also challenged the businesses and the Chamber.

"Supporting businesses with this kind of 21st century infrastructure and cutting-edge innovation is our responsibility," he stated. "But businesses have a responsibility too. If we make America the best place to do business, businesses should make their mark in America. They should set up shop here, hire our workers, and pay decent wages, and invest in the future of this nation. That's their obligation."

According to sources, Chief Executive Tom Donohue told newly appointed Sterling that he was comfortable sparring with the Obama administration and working constructively together. Although many labor leaders are feeling abandoned, many business advocates are beginning to reconnect with the White House to focus on the serious issues of our economy.

Reagan's 100th birthday celebrated

BY JOSEPH MATHESON
Nat-World Co-Editor

Feb. 6 was the one hundredth anniversary of the birth of Ronald Reagan, the fortieth president of the United States. This anniversary has led to an outpouring of remembrances of the Gipper, to a much greater extent than almost any other president. There has certainly been quite a hubbub about the so-called "Great Communicator," not just about the man and his policies, but about the legacy he left behind.

Ronald Wilson Reagan took office in 1981, right at the end of a hostage crisis in Iran where 52 Americans were held hostage for 444 days and then released on the day of Reagan's inauguration. Reagan is lauded by conservatives for his policies, especially his economic policies, known as "Reaganomics."

Congressman Christopher Lee resigns

BY NATHAN SLAUER
Nat-World Co-Editor

On Feb. 9, 2011, Representative Christopher Lee resigned from his seat in Congress. An Internet gossip site revealed the news that Mr. Lee had been involved in the sending of several racy e-mails and photos. Following this revelation, the Congressman decided it was best that he step down.

The pictures that were sent featured Mr. Lee posing suggestively in front of a mirror. The recipient of these photos was a 39-year old divorced lobbyist; the woman had posted a notice on Craigslist under the "women seeking men" section, seeking to find a man who would "prove to me not all CL men look like toads?" Mr. Lee described himself to the woman as a "fit fun classy guy." During the exchange of e-mails, Lee was caught in several lies saying that he was age 39, not 46; divorced, not married; and a lobbyist, not a congressman. After an online

search, the woman discovered that Mr. Lee was not being honest about his whereabouts.

When word of the situation hit Congress, Mr. Lee sent a letter to Speaker of the House John Boehner, announcing his intention to relinquish his current position.

"I regret the harm that my actions have caused my family, my staff and my constituents," he said. "I deeply and sincerely apologize to them all. I have made profound mistakes and I promise to work as hard as I can to seek their forgiveness."

Mr. Lee had held his office for two terms, representing a district in New York as a member of the Republican Party. Some Republicans have declared their disappointment with the situation, having seen Mr. Lee as a potential upcoming star within the party. The timing of this incident, too, was not in the Republicans favor. Republicans on the floor of the House of Representatives lost a vote on a bill demanding financial compensation from the United Nations due to inner turmoil and a similar revolt occurred the day before.



FILE PHOTO

Lee stepped down from House seat following photo scandal.

The 2011 tax season is just around the corner; changes in the works

Associated Press

The Bush-era tax cuts have been extended, the alternative minimum tax is patched and capital gains rates are set.

Tax breaks are in place for students and teachers, and for the most sizable estates.

Congress established some of the parameters for the 2011 tax year even before the year began.

The big question confronting lawmakers was whether to extend the Bush tax cuts and for whom. Democrats had argued that the nation's richest taxpayers should be excluded from any extension. But as a part of a compromise deal worked out with President Obama, Congress approved an extension for all taxpayers through 2012. The net result: Workers won't see their take-home pay reduced because of taxes.

In fact, they'll actually see an increase.

Congress declared a 2 percent payroll holiday in 2011, temporarily reducing Social Security withholding. People who are self-employed will see the savings when they file their estimated taxes.

"People are going to spend it or they're going to save it" depend-

ing on their goals and financial situation, said Greg Rosica, tax partner with Ernst & Young. "It's a great opportunity to look at it as an opportunity to increase their 401(k) or make an IRA contribution."

"That could multiply tax savings," said Barbara Weltman, author of tax guides for J.K. Lasser. "If they give to charity, it's tax deductible. If they put it into an IRA, that's deductible."

Other options could be to put it in a 529 plan to save for a child's education, or open a Roth IRA and create tax-free income for retirement. A note of caution: Roth IRA contributions are not tax deductible.

The reduced withholding for Social Security took the place of the Making Work Pay tax credit, which had been in place for 2009 and 2010. That credit was worth up to \$400 for individuals and \$800 for married couples filing jointly, but was phased out for those at higher incomes.

For those people and others, the payroll holiday will work out better. Earnings up to \$106,800 are subject to the Social Security payroll taxes. That means a maximum savings from the payroll tax holiday of \$2,136. Also, unlike the Making Work Pay credit, the

payroll holiday does not phase out at higher incomes.

Some lower-income workers will be worse off, however, said Weltman. A married couple earning less than \$40,000 a year or an individual earning less than \$20,000 gets a smaller benefit under this year's tax break.

For tax year 2011, the standard deduction increases slightly to \$11,600 for married couples filing joint returns, \$8,500 for heads of households, and \$5,800 for singles and married couples filing individually. The personal exemption increases to \$3,700, up \$50 from 2010.

Congress in December patched the alternative minimum tax to adjust for inflation for tax years 2010 and 2011. The AMT exemption for 2011 is \$74,450 for joint returns, \$48,450 for singles and heads of households, and \$37,225 for married couples filing separately. Without the patch, millions more Americans would be subject to the AMT.

Other 2010 tax provisions in effect for 2011 include:

A top capital gains rate of 15 percent.

Personal exemptions and itemized deductions won't be phased out for higher-income taxpayers.

The American Opportunity

credit, an expansion of the Hope credit. Qualified taxpayers can get a credit of up to \$2,500 toward tuition and other fees at colleges and universities.

The maximum \$4,000 deduction for qualified tuition and fees.

The option of deducting state and local sales tax, geared mainly toward taxpayers in places that don't have state income taxes.

The maximum \$250 deduction for out-of-pocket expenses incurred by teachers in grades kindergarten through 12.

The deduction for mortgage insurance.

Some of those credits and deductions phase out at higher incomes.

By the same token, some credits and deductions in place for 2010 were allowed to expire and are unavailable to taxpayers for 2011.

Among them is the first-time homebuyers credit. A smaller homebuyers credit for people who had owned homes before also expired. An exception was made, however, for active duty military and members of the Foreign Service or intelligence community stationed overseas. They may still qualify for the maximum \$8,000 credit if they enter into a contract to buy a home by April 30, 2011. There are income limits and

Misconceptions and political fervor aside, Ronald Reagan is one of the most influential modern presidents and on his anniversary it would be fitting to remember him for what he was. He was called "the Great Communicator" partly for his skill at public speaking, but more for his energetic warmth and personal charm. Whatever you may think of his political opinions, he certainly had a knack for saying what he thought plainly and pithily, from the "evil empire" to "government is not a solution to our problem, government is the problem."

In the end, political differences did not matter much. As Ed Rollins, Reagan's 1984 campaign manager, says, "At the end of the day, if the country likes you, they'll give you the benefit of the doubt." Although Reagan wasn't significantly more popular than other Presidents for most of his two terms, there was one thing people who met him could agree on: he was likable.

limits on the price of the home. For those already in their homes, a limited credit is available for new windows, doors, furnaces or other energy-efficient improvements installed in 2011. A more-generous credit for energy-efficient improvements expired at the end of 2010.

A year from now, when it's time to do your 2010 taxes, remember that professional tax preparers will have been required not only to register with the IRS, but also to have passed a competency exam. Certified public accountants and others who meet other qualifying standards are exempt from the exam.

Since many things already are in place for 2011, Rosica says people should do some planning now. For example, if you're thinking about selling your home in the next year or two and the value has increased, should you sell it in 2011 since the lower capital gains rate are in effect only until the end of the year? The same with selling a business. "All items ought to be on the list to be examined," he said.

There's one big caveat: The economy, political environment and many other factors can change. And Congress still has a full year to amend the tax laws.

Special effects overshadow Super Bowl halftime performance

BY GRIFFIN JACKSON
Managing Editor

More than 110 million people tuned in to watch the Super Bowl last Sunday. That beats out last year’s Super Bowl to claim the record for viewership in the United States. Fortunately, the game between the Green Bay Packers and the Pittsburgh Steelers was a good one (unless you’re a Steelers fan). Even the commercials, at least those that weren’t extremely violent or extremely GoDaddy.com, were pretty worthwhile. The musical performances before the game and during the halftime show were something of a different story.

I was looking forward to Christina Aguilera’s rendition of the national anthem and to the halftime show starring the Black Eyed Peas. Not that I’ve been all that opposed to recent Super Bowl halftime show headliners, but it’s nice to have something a bit more current after six years of, shall we say, less current artists. After the Justin Timberlake and Janet Jackson fleshy fiasco in 2004, the halftime shows have been a bit more reserved. Paul McCartney, the Rolling Stones, Prince, Tom Petty, Bruce Springsteen and The Who are all quality acts, but it was time for a shake-up.

Before we get to halftime, let’s take a brief look at Aguilera’s pregame performance. Let me say up front that she has an amazing voice. No one can take that away from her. And, despite varied opinions about showy and over-stylized renditions of the national anthem, she really did sing with a lot of power and a lot of poise.

Unfortunately, her nearly unmatched vocal talent, at least regarding the 2011 Super Bowl, will be overshadowed by a few botched lyrics. Aguilera sang, “Whose broad stripes and bright stars, through the perilous fight / What so proudly we watched at the twilight’s last gleaming.” The actual lyrics are “Whose broad stripes and bright stars, through the perilous fight / O’er

the ramparts we watched were so gallantly streaming.”

To her credit, she did not get too tripped up over the mistake. She immediately returned to the correct lyrics and finished marvelously. Aguilera has taken quite a bit of flak for her gaffe. Granted, she is a paid professional who has sung the national anthem at huge venues before; she should not have messed up. However, we all ought to be a bit more sympathetic to the reality of human error, especially on so large a stage.

“I got so lost in the moment of the song that I lost my place,” she

well-received. Was it too much to presume that their halftime show would be equally well-received? Perhaps.

The four-person group, composed of Will.i.am, Fergie, Apl.de.ap and Taboo, descended onto the stage at midfield, amidst the jumping crowd of several hundred groupies/dancers dressed in white. The Black Eyed Peas had, by all appearance, just stepped off the set of the movie “Tron.” Fitted in tight, black leather outfits, the four wore what looked to be 3-D glasses and suits that flashed in various patterns throughout the show. Fergie wore some sort of sil-

few bloopers in sound quality. The mics did not seem to function very well, which wasn’t helped by Fergie’s extremely flat vocal performance or the general lack of live singing/yelling talent among the others.

After a quick but somewhat blunder-ridden start, surprise guest Slash appeared on stage, trademark top-hat sparkling. However, Axl Rose must have forgotten to show up, because, for some reason unbeknownst to anyone watching the show, Fergie took over the vocal to “Sweet Child O’ Mine.” The rendition was still a bit below pitch, but

on Usher’s microphone. But hey, we can’t get everything we want. There can be no doubt, however, that Usher can dance. Really, he can. I’m not kidding. I was a bit worried for a moment that he would be forced to join Donald Driver on the sideline after destroying his hamstring while jumping over Will.i.am into the splits. Fortunately, he’s a professional and knew that the show must go on.

The show concluded with classics, “Where is the Love?” and “The Time.” What kind of hip-hop artists would they be though, if they couldn’t do a little political free-stylin’ for a new verse of “Where is the Love?” Will.i.am tried out a few new lyrics: “In America we need a get things straight / Obama, let’s get these kids educated / Create jobs so the country stay stimulated / This is dedicated to all the immigrants.” The auto-tune actually made the whole thing sound pretty okay by the end.

I think the group knew they would need some help to make the show stand out. They must have asked themselves, “What is the only thing that could make this performance more incredible?”

Well, glowing silver men with silver-painted cardboard boxes on their heads, of course. Actually, the dancing, lightshow, costumes and awesome glowing people-arrows around the stage were probably what saved the whole show.

Overall, it was not the best halftime show I’ve seen by any stretch. The Black Eyed Peas are a great studio band. There’s no denying it. But, their live show presence is something less spectacular.

Ultimately, I was not disappointed with the halftime show. I was entertained. There were definitely some slip-ups, not to mention some poor singing and technical difficulties, but overall, the show as a whole, especially with a mix of so many top singles and a pair of great guest artists, was enjoyable enough to keep me watching.



The Black Eyed Peas performed at the halftime of Super Bowl XLV with guest appearances by legendary Guns N’Roses guitarist Slash and R&B sensation Usher.

told CNN apologetically.

She sounded great and handled the mistake well. The critics need to let it go.

Possibly more memorable and far more questionable in its quality was the halftime performance by the Black Eyed Peas. I, along with many other young Americans, was anticipating a great show. The Black Eyed Peas have put out some great hits and some of the most danceable, catchy tunes of the last decade. Their records have been very

ver, electronically-charged armor over a short skirt. Honestly, they looked pretty cool, but they may have taken this whole return-to-Super-Bowl-halftime-from-the-space-age too far.

Though most spectators were temporarily blinded by the seizure-inducing light show at midfield, the audience could cheer to Black Eyed Peas favorites, “I Gotta Feeling” and “Boom Boom Pow.” Self-censored and suffering the effects of microphone confusion, the show started off with a

served as a nice tip-of-the-hat to more classic rock fans.

From there, the Black Eyed Peas moved into a set of “Pump It” and “Let’s Get it Started.” Again, some mic issues scarred the performance, but the popularity of the songs and the addition of a boss drumline and trumpet chorus pulled them through.

Probably the best part of the performance was Will.i.am’s breakout of “OMG” with Usher. It would have been especially cool if the tech guys had turned

The weekly hipster hype: Valentine’s Day

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

Valentine’s Day is for suckers. No, really it is. I mean who needs a significant other?

The only thing significant others are good for is for going and getting your coffee as well as the occasional

removing of a moth from the house. And really who needs someone to get coffee with (moth capturing is essential though). Hipsters can go get coffee by themselves — it’s less to share

and way more practical when it comes to the amount of caffeine intake needed daily to keep up the hipster appearance.

Who wants to share things anyway? Like, hey, let me take half of your smoke because I love you; wait that doesn’t sound like love, that sounds like someone is using you for your resources.

But, of course not all signifi-

cant others are like that.

Sometimes they are nice to look at and perfect to cuddle with, however the statistics of hipster people like that out there (especially here at Calvin) are slim to none; meaning that no one will ever be exactly what you are looking for, so you either should re-evaluate your expectations or

You will also most likely, watch movies that are either indie-love stories, or completely anti-Valentine-esque, as to be ironic and laugh in the face of love (despite the only thing that is holding you together to the person sitting abnormally close to you, with unwashed hair, is love).

Then you will probably go out to some vegan-diner, that you are to sit on the ground as you dine, or something like that.

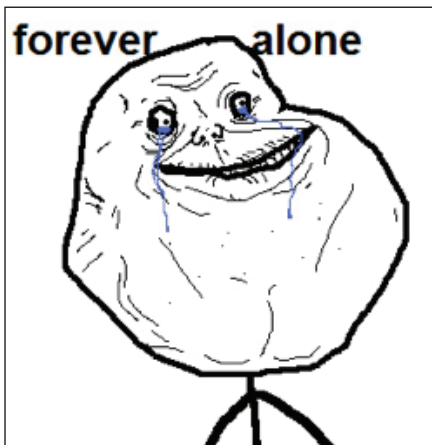
It’s that place around that one street — never mind, it’s too obscure, you’ve probably never heard of it.

Hipsters! Take heart! There are many others in your place of singularity, regardless of your beliefs that you couldn’t possibly relate to anyone else in the same circumstances as yourself.

Instead of wallowing on your lack of a significant other to share plaid flannel shirts and mittens with, decide to... well, I don’t know. Forever alone.

realize you are going to be single forever. (See photo: “forever alone.”)

However if you do find someone, you will most likely decide to celebrate, meaning that your day will probably have it filled with vases of dandelions someone froze from last year as well as cute little dinosaur monster cards to brighten your day.



Upcoming Events



Canasta
Wed, Feb 16; 8pm, Fish House
FREE!

Andrew Ripp
Thu, Feb 24; 7:30pm, CFAC
\$10 public; \$5 w/ Calvin ID

FILM: Tangled
Fri & Sat, Feb 25 & 26; 7pm & 10pm, CFAC Recital Hall
FREE!

Christopher Williams
Mon, Feb 28; 8pm, Fish House
FREE!

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Franco performs with poignant brilliance

BY NICK KEELEY
Staff Writer

Trapped with nowhere to go. A fierce struggle to survive with limited resources. An unforgiving desert locale. Literally stuck between a rock and a hard place. For five days in 2003, this was the life of Aron Ralston, a mountain climber who fell into a crevice in Moab, Utah. Ralston's entrapment drives the narrative of "127 Hours," a stylistic and beautiful film looking at one man's determination and will.

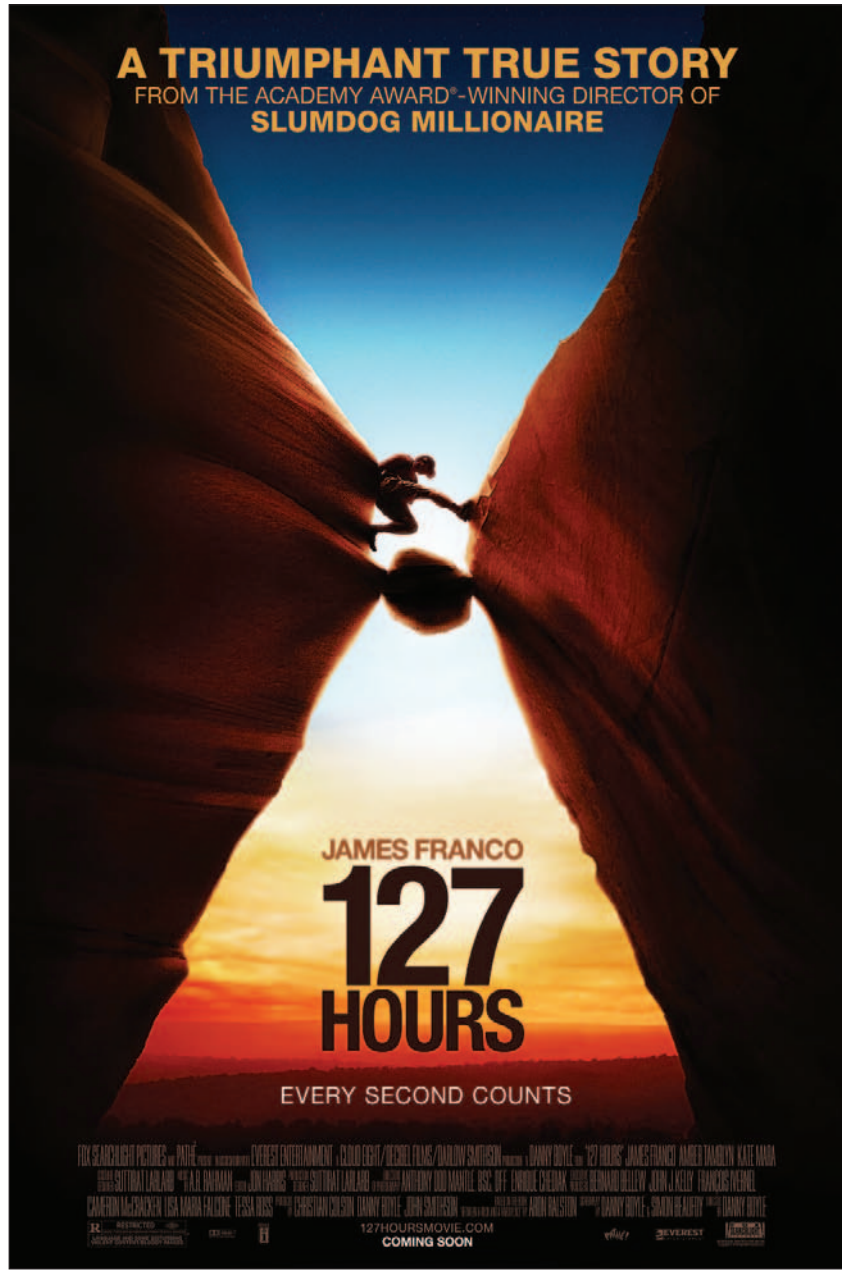
As the film opens, it is hard to empathize with Ralston, played by James Franco. With the character choosing to ignore his mother's phone call, director Danny Boyle sets up the unlikable qualities of Aron: he's cocky and very self-centered. After showing two girls around the canyons, Aron leaves as if he had never met them, heading towards his destiny.

Shortly after, Aron is trapped, forced to take drastic measures to ensure his survival. As the 127 hours go on, Aron increasingly has more and more hallucinations, eventually leading to a self-realization of the faults within himself.

"127 Hours" succeeds on many levels. What could have been an unbearable experience with slow pacing and spurts of boredom turned out to be a film with stylistic flair and quick editing. This is due to Danny Boyle, Oscar-winning director of "Slumdog Millionaire," who works wonders with the script and visual look of the film. Boyle's unique style

is especially evident in one hallucination where Ralston imagines himself being carried away by massive amounts of water, only to wake up still trapped. The film's pacing, which is very fast, can also be attributed to Boyle, who creates a claustrophobic feel for the film that adds tension to the audience's experience of Ralston's predicament.

The technical aspects of the film are also unique. Anthony Dod Mantle's cinematography captures the troubles of Aron Ralston's situation, in both the claustrophobic sur-



roundings of Ralston and the outside world around him. This is evidenced by a shot of Ralston trapped, while the camera zooms back to show that all that surrounds him are canyons. A.R. Rahman's score, rather than quiet and relaxed, proves to be loud and high-octane, effectively adding more tension to Ralston's entrapment.

"127 Hours" also succeeds due to its wonderful screenplay by Boyle and Simon Beaufoy, who won an Oscar for adapting "Slumdog Millionaire." Adapted from Ralston's book "Between a Rock and a Hard Place," "127 Hours" is full of pow-

erful scenes, as Ralston comes to terms with his faults. The film is able to fully get inside the person of Aron Ralston, allowing for the audience to gradually empathize with him. When Ralston finally does what he has to do to free himself – a scene that is disturbing and painful to watch – the audience is able to become immersed in his pain and suffering due to their connection to Ralston. This immersion helps to explain why there have been numerous reports of fainting at the sight of this scene.

None of the film's power or Ralston's determination and will would have worked were it not for James Franco. Giving a perfect performance in every way, Franco is able to make the audience forget that he is acting due to his natural charisma.

Franco knocks every emotion out of the park, especially during a scene where his sanity is questioned as he interviews himself as if on a game show.

Instead of coming off as hokey, Franco's talent and naturalism allows for the scene to be funny and heartbreaking, culminating in a single line of dialogue that haunts and captures heartbreak, regret, and guilt. In controlling the screen for 90 minutes, Franco gives a performance for the ages.

A stylistic, claustrophobic and powerful look into the heart and will of a fallen and broken man, "127 Hours" is one of 2010's best films, thanks heavily to the director Danny Boyle and actor James Franco.

Nominated for Best Picture and Best Actor at the Academy Awards, "127 Hours" is a must-see film.

'Blue Valentine' evokes intense emotion

BY COLLEEN M. KEEHL
A&E Co-Editor

"Blue Valentine" is not a movie one should be fooled into watching for Valentine's Day just because the title has the word "valentine" in it.

This is an intense movie, which one should be emotionally prepared to view because it evokes a depth of feeling that far surpasses the cliché cute shallowness of what one often associates with the Feb. 14.

Directed by Derek Cianfrance, and starring Ryan Gosling and Michelle Williams, this film is a depiction of love in its rawest form displayed through sometimes short, but always poignant glimpses of the arresting and emotional train-wreck the characters embark on.

"When I was growing up, I had two nightmares," said Cianfrance, according to "The Age." "One was nuclear war. The other was that my parents would get a divorce ... [As] a filmmaker, I had to confront that, because it's the job of the artist to confront their own darkness."

And this movie does just that; it confronts love and the relationships it brings together and breaks apart. However, this movie is more than just watching a confrontation. It is a wild journey that takes the audience for a turbulent ride with Dean, Cindy and later Frankie, their 6-year-old daughter.

Dean is a painter who loves his family "like crazy." All he aspires to is to be a loving father and husband, but he finds it hard to be the latter when Cindy won't let his love or connection through. She is the breadwinner of the

family and has been worn thin by three years of raising Frankie and taking care of the family. However while growing tired Cindy has also grown cold toward Dean and, at one point, seems to consider the option of moving to a better area for a better job. She

perhaps even Dean's sudden habit of drinking more beers. No matter what Dean does, nothing can repair what was broken.

Though there is a slowly digressing and painfully bleak atmosphere, there are touching instances, as well as the hope

"Everyone's to blame and everyone's innocent; there are no simple definitions. Life isn't full of heroes and villains; life is full of complicated, contradictory people. And I thought I would make a film that was more like life. That would provoke people. Then you

total of 12 years to create the picture of the slowly disintegrating marriage. However Cianfrance wasn't planning for those 12 years alone. "[He] wrote 67 versions of the script, often rewriting on the basis of improvisations or day-long conversation with the actors," said Stephanie Bunbury.

The actors Cianfrance chose were a perfect fit. In 2003, Williams entered the picture and in 2005 Gosling did as well after having read the script, which he thought was amazing. However, Gosling did not feel cut out to be the dad, due to his young age, so Cianfrance said that they could shoot the young part then and the older part in 6 years.

This drastic change of face, from young and freshly in love, to tired and 6 years older, was portrayed realistically because of the delay in filming. It added a realistic and believable depth to the film and the relationship between actors.

The title of the film came from a Tom Waits song, "Blue Valentines," which pertains to love that was lost: "I cut my bleeding heart out of every night/And I die a little more on each St. Valentine's Day..."

Although this movie is not a romantic comedy, it is filled with a plethora of romance; whether trying to win someone over or realizing that romance that was once so vivid has grown obsolete.

It was a lovely, brilliant and evocative movie that leaves the viewer realizing how close to home this subject hit; no wonder Cianfrance won the CFCA award for "Most Promising Filmmaker," because "Blue Valentine" was tremendous.

It is rated R for vast amounts of sexual incidents situations, swearing, drinking and smoking.



simply does not feel the same way anymore about the relationship that saved her.

Whatever causes this change of heart cannot be pinpointed; maybe it is the enduring love Dean has to offer, or maybe his lack of motivation for more, or

that Dean constantly holds onto for so long.

Cianfrance states that broken relationships can happen for a plethora of reasons, and like the movie portrays, some of the times the reason is never really explained.

tell me what happened."

To create this realistic and at times, almost-too-close-to-home portrayal of love and loss, a lot went into the makings.

According to "The Age," Cianfrance "wrote over 67 versions of the script." It took him a

FILE PHOTO

Wikileaks rights bought

BY MADELINE TRACY
Staff Writer

Remember a couple of months ago when the conspiracy of WikiLeaks was all over the news? Country leaders were banding together to fight group leader Julian Assange and the either crippling or liberating (depending on your view) information that WikiLeaks was posting to the web for anyone and everyone to view.

Well, here's another WikiLeaks story for you, just in case you haven't already had enough.

Julian Assange's story has everything needed in an epic tale: conspiracy, war, being on the run from the government and, of course, sex.

A story that is apparently so interesting and popular that it's worth \$1.5 million. That is, a \$1.5 million book deal that went through at the end of last December. Julian Assange is apparently not pumped to be writing a biography of his adventures, but is writing it in order to pay for his mounting legal fees and to keep WikiLeaks afloat. A manuscript is expected in March.

But apparently, a book cataloging these events is not enough. At the end of January, Josephson Entertainment and Michelle Krumm Productions optioned the rights to make a film based on the book "The Most Dangerous Man In the World" by Andrew Fowler, an unofficial biography of, of course, Julian Assange. Producer Barry Josephson says,

"Like 'All the President's Men' in its day, 'The Most Dangerous Man in the World' is this generation's suspenseful drama with global impact."

Chances are, the movie will Hollywood-ify the true story, not unlike "The Social Network," but the story will prove to be just as interesting.

While a movie and a book deal are to be expected with such a wildly popular subject, there has been one piece of the WikiLeaks saga that has come as a surprise.

There have been controversial nominations for the Nobel Peace Prize time and time again, but the choice to nominate Julian Assange still caused some to raise eyebrows.

The initial thought is that WikiLeaks has caused conflict between government and people as well between various governments, so why would Assange be given an award for promoting world peace?

Associated Press has the answer: "A Norwegian lawmaker has nominated WikiLeaks for the 2011 Nobel Peace Prize, saying Wednesday that its disclosures of classified documents promote world peace by holding governments accountable for their actions."

I suppose it begins to make sense when you think about it that way. Either way, the winners will not be announced until Dec. 10 in Stockholm, Sweden.

That's all for updates in the WikiLeaks world, but stay tuned, for I am quite sure that there will be more to come.

Famous author dies unexpectedly

BY MICHELLE RATERING
A&E Co-Editor

On Monday, Feb. 5, Brian Jacques died suddenly after suffering a major heart attack.

Doctors operated on the aortic aneurism, but were ultimately unable to save his life.

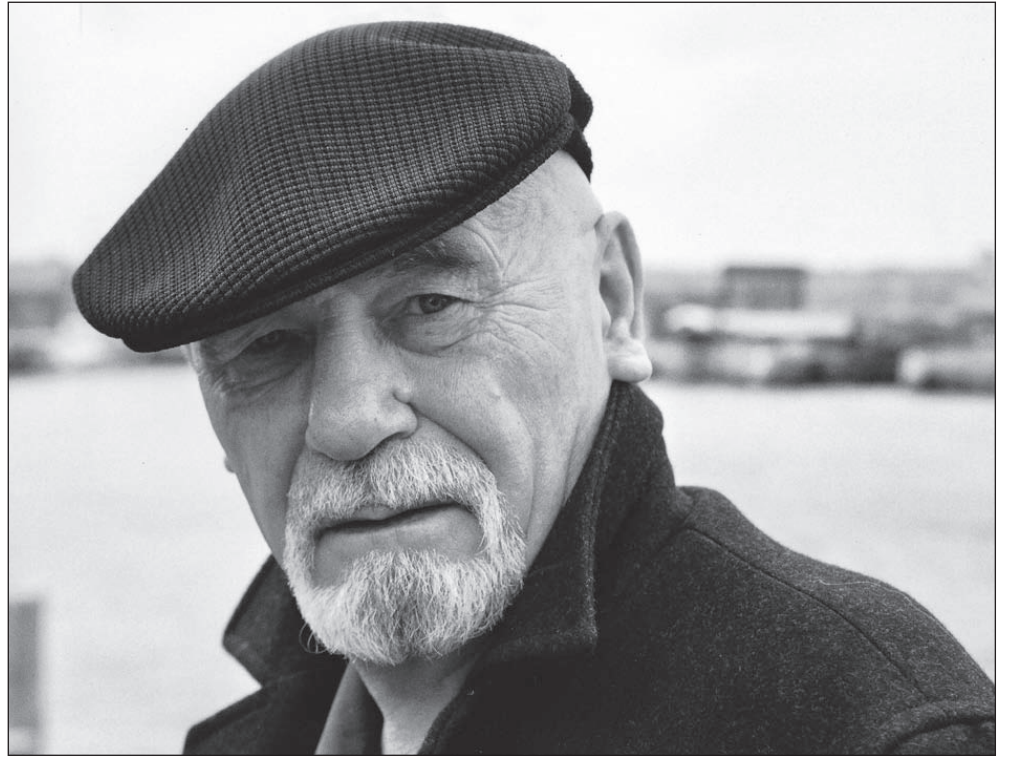
Born in Liverpool in 1939, Jacques left school when he was 15 to become a seaman.

Upon his return home, he dabbled in a wide range of jobs, among them bus driver, policeman, postmaster, longshoreman and railway fireman. He published various poems and short stories and, in 1979, had a popular weekly radio show called "Jakestown," which aired on BBC Radio Merseyside for

over 30 years.

Jacques wrote over 20 books for his "Redwall" series, a progression of novels about the adventures of various groups of anthropomorphized wild animals. His latest release, "The

In addition, he published two collections of short stories and two books in the "Castaways of the Flying Dutchman" series. Jacques was awarded an honorary doctorate of letters by the University of Liverpool in 2005,



FILE PHOTO

Jacques left the literary world with many broken hearts as the unexpected death took the brilliant children's novelist.

"Sable Queen", was published on Feb. 5, only three days before his death. "The Rouge Crew," the twenty-second book of the cycle, is set to be released in May.

and received an honorary fellowship from Liverpool John Moores University in 2008. Jacques, 71, is survived by his wife, two sons and granddaughter.

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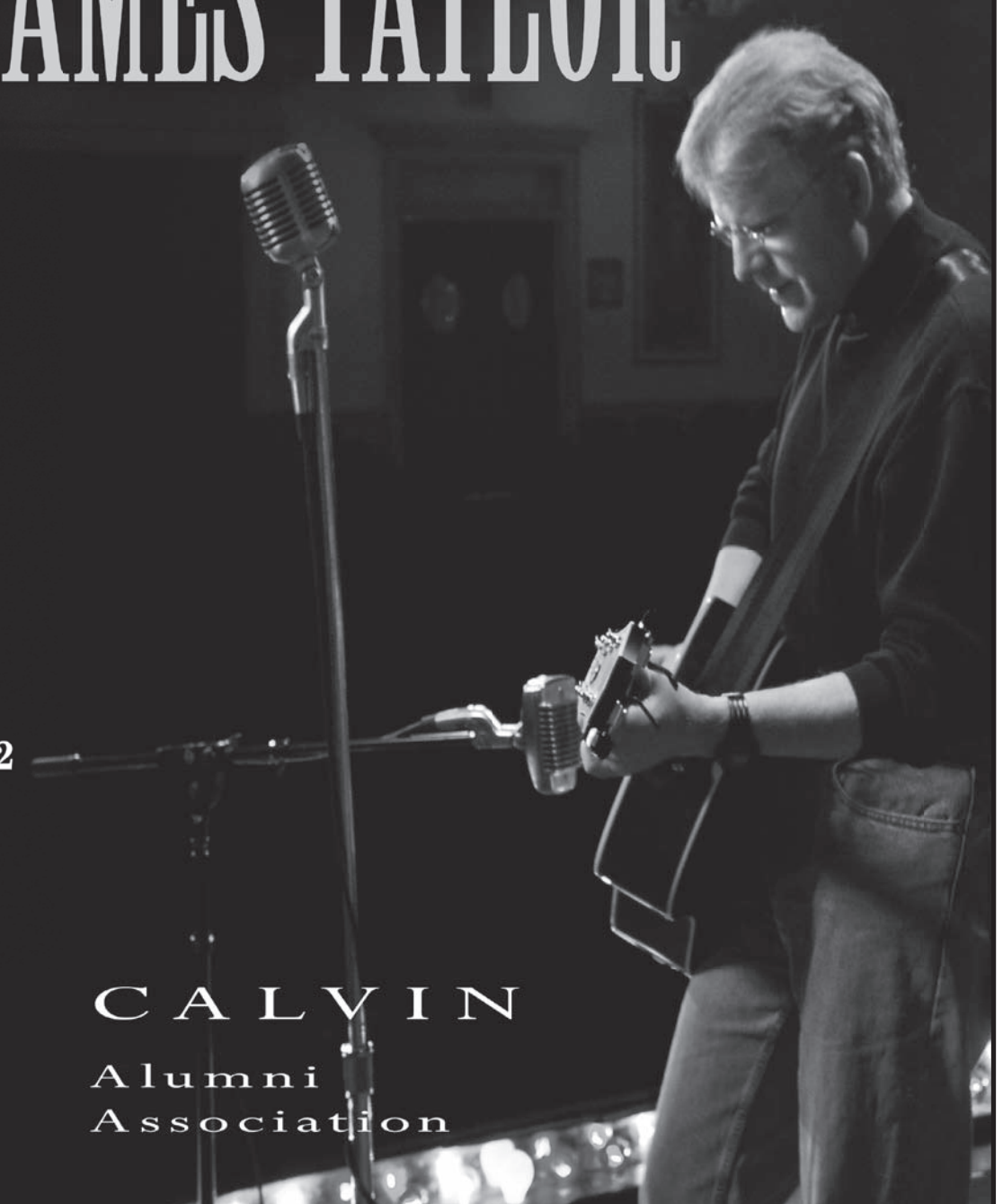
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Valentine's Day, for better or for worse

Valentine's Day origins shrouded in mystery



BY KENDRA HAAN
Features Co-Editor

Each year people around the world set aside Feb. 14 as a day to celebrate love. Although traditions may differ, the spirit of the day remains the same. It is a day

Holiday offers consumerism, commoditization, not much more

BY JACKSON HALL
Features Co-Editor

Victor Hugo writes in "Les Misérables," "To love another person is to see the face of God." While walking through any major department store in February, however, one might think "to love someone is to see the face of an animatronics-powered gorilla wearing a leather jacket and singing, 'Wild Thing.'" We are readily approaching Valentine's Day, and the commoditization of love is bursting at the seams.

While the Valentine's Day celebration once explored love in legitimate and thoughtful ways, such can hardly be said today. The individual can still attempt to express true adoration on Feb. 14, but the consumerist climate surrounding the celebration cripples nearly all chances of sincere emotional expression.

How can someone feel genuine about buying his or her sweetie a Valentine's Day gift when Americans spend nearly \$15 billion on retail each Valentine's season? Even worse than this routine approach to buying gifts for lovers on a mass marketed day

notes and candy have not always been around. In fact, the story of Valentine's Day remains a mystery to this day, but many theories and romantic stories surround this particular mystery.

One thing we do know is the name "Valentine's Day" comes from a Catholic saint — Saint Valentine. The problem with this fact is that there are at least three commonly recognized St. Valentines in the Catholic Church today. Not surprisingly, all of these men allegedly were martyred on Feb. 14. Several St. Valentine myths combined with one ancient Roman festival are probably what resulted in the Valentine's Day we recognize today.

So who was this St. Valentine? One story claims he was an especially romantic priest who performed marriages during the third century in Rome. Believing that unmarried men made better soldiers, the Emperor Claudius II had banned marriages at this time. Valentine met eager young lovers in secret places and performed illegal marriage ceremonies for the couples. Once his secret operation was discovered, he was put to death for breaking the law.

Others claim Valentine was not a hopeless romantic, but a man of great compassion. In this version of the story, Valentine was killed for aiding Christians held in Roman prisons where they were often beaten or tortured. Perhaps the association of St. Valentine with love comes not from a ro-

mantic relationship here on earth, but from Valentine's great love for the Lord, which led to his death as a martyr.

Another account of St. Valentine establishes him as a romantic figure and explains the tradition of cards and notes on Valentine's Day. In this version of the story, Valentine is held in prison himself, and during his incarceration he falls in love with the jailor's daughter. Before his death, he wrote her a letter that became known as the first valentine. He signed it "From your Valentine," a phrase that has lived on through the centuries.

Regardless of what really happened in the life of St. Valentine, he has been associated with love or romance since the Middle Ages, and by that time he was known as one of the most popular saints in England and France.

Why we celebrate Valentine's Day on Feb. 14 is also unclear. One theory states that people began celebrations of St. Valentine in mid-February to commemorate his death. Another theory supposes that Christians chose the middle of February to celebrate Valentine's Day in order to combat the ancient Roman fertility festival known as Lupercalia. This pagan festival included sacrifices and pairing off of men and women in the town. The Catholic Church may have used Valentine's Day as a way to "Christianize" Lupercalia and put an end to the practices of the festival with which they did not agree.

As the years went by, sincerity is sincerity, regardless. Almost every year my mother gives me a Valentine's Day goodie bag and/or card with a lovely little note. Despite the many problems surrounding the holiday, my mom still takes the time and effort to put something together to remind me of her love for me. And while this is sweet, even sweeter is her constant love and support on every other day of the year.

While I stand behind my views of the perversion surrounding the holiday, I do not condemn it completely. There is nothing wrong with showing appreciation or love for someone, so long as it is reflective of a constant, true love. Whether approaching the holiday in anticipation or disgust, no one should take Valentine's Day too seriously.

If you want to show love to friends, family or a significant other on Feb. 14, go ahead. But don't purchase the junk from the department stores, don't expect too much, don't buy your girlfriends trashy lingerie expecting a good night and, most importantly, don't marginalize the mystery and beauty of love.

blog.seattlepi.com/boomerconsumer/archives/161916.asp

Since then, people all over the world have continued to observe this special day of love on Feb. 14 by exchanging valentines, candy hearts, chocolates and other gifts. Whatever its roots, Valentine's Day remains a time to express our true feelings and spend time with loved ones.

history.com/topics/valentines-day

Do you and your significant other loathe the hype of Valentine's Day? If so, take the opportunity to spend quality time with each other in an alternative fashion this Valentine's Day. Here's a breakdown of an anti-Valentine's Day date night.

Attire: Get as comfortable as possible. Throw on a big hoodie, a pair of your favorite jeans or sweats and those embarrassing, fluffy socks you don't usually wear in public.

Gifts: Forget about it. If you feel so compelled, go gag. A silly gift can be fun, but can even connote the same pressures often associated with serious gift giving.

Food: Go order as much Taco Bell or McDonalds as you can, and enjoy it in all of its greasy, sloppy wonder.

Entertainment: Go see "Blue Valentine": a beautiful film that goes against the typical, Hollywood love story. Or go rent a horror movie. "The Shining" and "Rosemary's Baby" are prime examples of loving marriages gone horrible wrong.

Dance party — invite some friends over, choose some favorite songs, turn up the volume and forget about Valentine's Day entirely as you lose yourself in the music.

Go bowling — instead of planning a serious romantic date, enjoy this inexpensive and fun pastime with a few friends.

Fine dining — instead of going out to restaurants filled to the brim with couples gazing longingly into each other's eyes, stay in and cook yourself a gourmet meal that includes all your favorite foods.

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Wallow in self pity

Many people are secure with the single life. For them, Valentine's Day is a day like any other. For many others, however, such is not true. Whether it's because of a recent heartbreak, a long span of loneliness or other reasons, Valentine's Day is a difficult holiday to get through. In such a scenario, wallowing in self pity is often the only option.

Listen to some sad songs:
 "Blue Sky Blues" — Ryan Adams
 "Drunk Kid Catholic" — Bright Eyes
 "Lack of Color" — Death Cab for Cutie
 "Delicate" — Damien Rice
 "Heart of Life" — John Mayer
 "In Stitches" — David Bazan
 "Re: Stacks" — Bon Iver
 "You Always Hurt the Ones You Love" — Ryan Gosling
 "One Trick Pony" — Bruce Springsteen

Watch some movies to make yourself even sadder: try "Love Actually," "When Harry Met Sally," or "Annie Hall."

Eat yourself into oblivion: Make yourself a heart-shaped ham sandwich, heart-shaped pizza or heart-shaped pan of brownies and consume it in its entirety . . . all by yourself.

Single and happy

Happy Valentine's Day

Love,



Cut out and enjoy this festive valentine. Don't worry about the other side of the page.

GREEN BAY: Rodgers, Packers claim Super Bowl XLV

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

plenty of adversity on their road to the Super Bowl. Starting running back Ryan Grant was injured on opening day, exposing a hole that the Packers never truly filled all season. Late in the season, Rodgers had to sit for a while due to concussions. Pro-Bowl-caliber CB Al Harris was lost from the beginning of the season. Clay Matthews was battling hamstring injuries all year long.

In fact, when all of the Packers' injury reports for the season were totaled, an astonishing 206 injuries were reported.

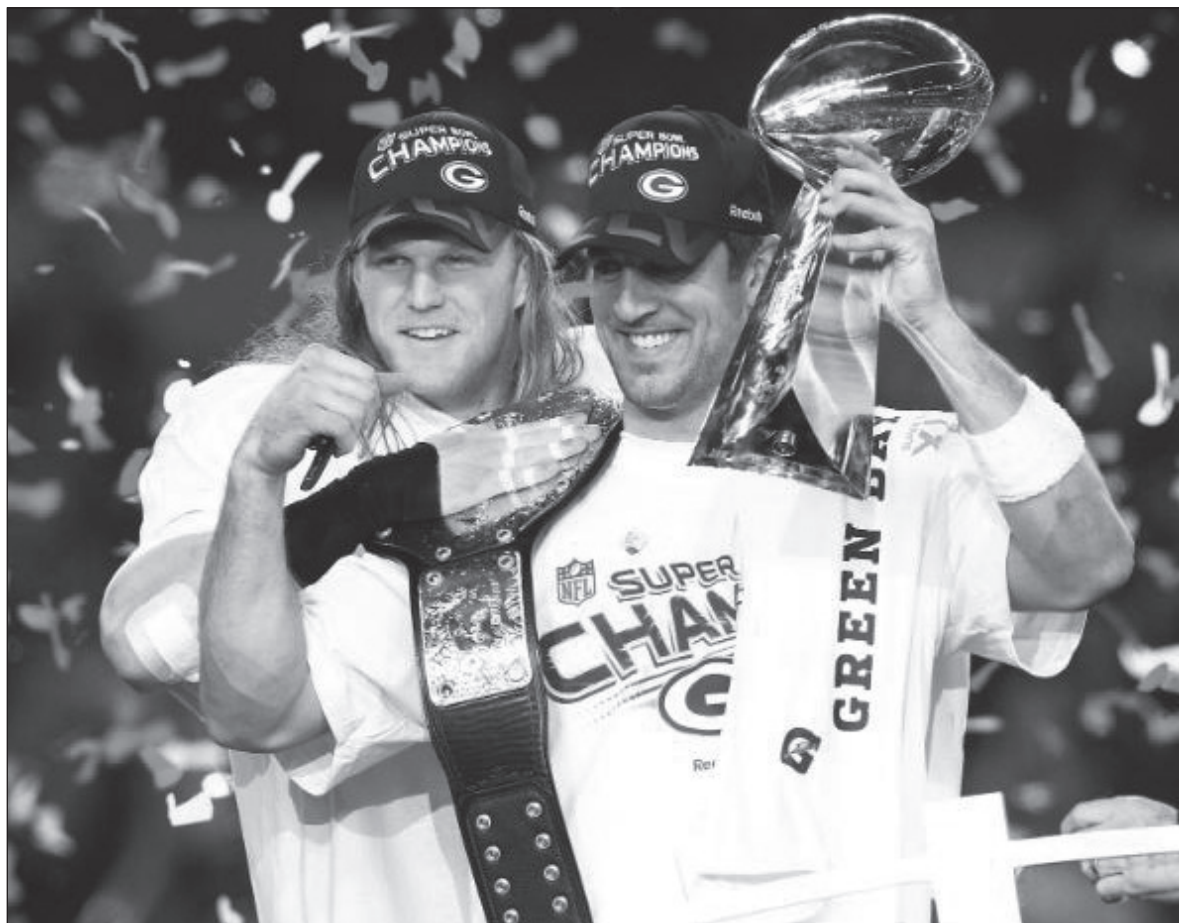
As if the slew of injuries was not a large enough obstacle for Green Bay, the Packers also had to win their final two games of the regular season just to claim the final wild card seed. Those wins came against the New York Giants and NFC North and eventual NFC Championship round rival Chicago Bears.

The playoff road was no easier for the road warrior Packers. They had to travel through a tough Philadelphia team before knocking off an Atlanta team that had only lost two games at home in the past two seasons. Finally, they needed to go for a second win-or-go-home game against Chicago. All of their hard work and perseverance led to a date with the Steelers, the most decorated Super Bowl team of all time.

Packers coach Mike McCarthy had all the confidence in the world that his team would emerge victorious. He had his players fitted for championship rings on Saturday night.

“That was just a vote of confidence for us,” Woodson stated. “Get fitted for your ring. I don't know when we'll get them, but it'll fit.”

Green Bay got on the scoreboard early, with Rodgers finding



Aaron Rodgers (right) hoists the Vince Lombardi Trophy while teammate Clay Matthews Jr. gives Rodgers a replica WWE World Heavyweight Championship belt, paying homage to Rodgers' touchdown celebration of putting the belt on. Rodgers was named the game's MVP.

Nelson on a 29-yard pass. Nelson was one step ahead of a shattering hit by Defensive Player of the Year Troy Polamalu, but still crossed the endzone plane for a 7-0 Packer lead.

The Green and Gold didn't wait long to score again. On the first pass of the next possession by Steelers QB Ben Roethlisberger, Nick Collins stepped up and snagged a 37-yard interception which he returned for a TD, solidly putting the Packers in the driving seat, 14-0.

The Steelers managed to get

onto the scoreboard via a 33-yard Shaun Suisham field goal. The Packers stuck back late in the second quarter, though, as Rodgers found Jennings for a 21-yard strike to gain a commanding 21-3 advantage in which Polamalu completely blew his coverage.

“I had some opportunities to make some plays,” Polamalu commented. “I was just off a step here or there.”

Looking to coast into halftime, the Packers defense slipped a bit, allowing Pittsburgh to strike back with less than two minutes

remaining as Roethlisberger found Hines Ward for an 8-yard touchdown to enter halftime trailing 21-10.

The Steelers came out strong in the second half, scoring a quick touchdown in the 3rd off of an eight yard rush by Rashard Mendenhall. Pittsburgh had a chance to further close the gap in the third, but Suisham was unable to nail a 52-yard field goal, and the fourth quarter began with the Packers still holding a slim 21-17 advantage.

With a tight game on the line,

the true playmakers are expected to rise to the occasion. This is exactly what happened as Defensive Player of the Year snub Clay Matthews Jr. jarred a ball loose from Mendenhall early in the fourth quarter. The Packers recovered and converted the turnover into an 8-yard touchdown pass to Jennings.

The Steelers would not quit, though, and struck back on the ensuing possession with a 25-yard strike from Roethlisberger to Mike Wallace. The Steelers opted to go for two and were successful on a pitch to oft-forgotten Antwaan Randle El, cutting the Green Bay lead to three at 28-25.

Green Bay would ice the game on a Mason Crosby 23-yard field goal and the defense would do the remainder of the work, holding off the Steelers and giving the Packers a 31-25 Super Bowl victory.

“You play to be world champions,” Matthews said, “and that's what we are today.”

Often thought to be one of the best quarterbacks in post-season history, Roethlisberger struggled throughout the game. At times he showed flashes of brilliance, which is why he finished with 263 yards and two touchdowns. However, his two interceptions, particularly the pick-six to Collins, dropped his passer rating to 77.4, one of his lowest in his post-season career.

“I feel like I let the city of Pittsburgh down, the fans, my coaches and my teammates,” Roethlisberger commented. “It's not a good feeling.”

The Packers brought the Lombardi Trophy home with them and presented it to the city at Lambeau Field on Tuesday in front of more than 56,000 fans.

“We're champions of the world!” Rodgers told the stadium. “It's been a great journey, the last six years with you guys ... We've got the greatest fans in the world!”

Thoughts from Behm's brain

BY JON BEHM
Sports Editor

Wow. I don't even know where to begin with how awesome this week was in the sporting world. I guess I'll just get into it. Here are my sports thoughts of the week.

1. Troy Polamalu is Defensive Player of the Year. By my count, he is directly responsible for 14 Packers points. The first seven coming off of a hit on Jordy Nelson that a Defensive Player of the Year should be able to use to keep the player out of the endzone, the second seven coming off of his terrible pass coverage on Greg Jennings (who put the team on his back). Oh, and what did Clay Matthews (my personal pick for Defensive Player of the Year) do? Force the fumble that led to what proved to be the game-winning touchdown? Oh, yeah. Clearly, Polamalu deserved the award.

2. For all you Pittsburgh fans who filled my inbox with hate mail, I'm expecting the apology e-mails any time now. I can't tell you how many people sent me hate mail calling me biased for my analysis in *Chimes* last week and claiming the Steelers' defense was clearly superior. What? Packers three takeaways, Steelers none? Yeah. Who was so biased and terribly wrong?

3. I've said it before, and I will say it again right now. The men's basketball team is far too dependent upon the 3 balls for their wins. If they can't shoot it, they

lose. If they can shoot it, there's a good chance they will win. They need to figure that out. Fast.

4. In my haste to finish my pages last week, I completely forgot to add some of the things that Kim Wigboldy told me about the banner raising. So, here it is: “I was humbled being in such a great crowd of people who have worked hard to achieve what we did. I looked around at the girls I was standing with, and they are incredible. I love Calvin, and I am so happy to represent the National Champions for the rest of my life! God is good, and he put each one of those girls on the team for a reason.”

5. In response to an article by Mr. Griffin Jackson in my section last week (“Detroit feels Cleveland's pain”) I would like to comment that I whole-heartedly agree with everything he said, with the exception of one sentence: “The Browns, however, still have little reason to hope.” I disagree. The Browns have a very good chance of winning the Super Bowl next season. As many people know, the NFL may not have a normal season next year; the players may be going on strike. Should this occur, I believe that the Browns will win the Super Bowl. Why? They are so awful that this will be their only chance of winning — when there are no other teams to stand in their way. Still, though, there is a good chance they might lose to some high school varsity team, so I'm not getting my hopes up too much.

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Knights demolished by rival Dutch in 100th meeting

BY JON BEHM
Sports Editor

In the 100th meeting of the women's basketball Calvin-Hope rivalry, the Knights found themselves on the wrong end of a blowout, with the Dutch claiming a resounding 70-48 victory at Hope's DeVos Fieldhouse last Saturday.

The loss for the Knights is their first in MIAA play, where

their 12-1 MIAA record holds a half-game lead over Hope's 11-1 mark. Hope's only conference loss came at the hand of the Knights, as Calvin defeated the then top-ranked Dutch 56-55.

Saturday's contest looked to be similar to the last meeting, as neither team was able to gain a very sizeable lead over the first 17 minutes of play. However, unlike the meeting at the Van Noord where Calvin dictated the pace and control of the game, Hope

held a steady lead all throughout the half, with Calvin only having the lead when junior Jill Thomas nailed a three in the opening minutes to give Calvin a 3-0 lead.

Despite not claiming the lead, though, the Knights were able to keep the score close in the first 17 minutes. The widest gap Hope was able to open was a seven-point advantage with 5:36 remaining. A quick 4-0 run by the Knights off of free throws by sophomores Julia Hilbrands, Carissa Verkaik and Kelsey Irwin cut the gap to two at 20-22 with 3:29 remaining in the half.

Unfortunately for the Knights, though, Hope went on a scoring rampage, outscoring Calvin 15-3 over the final 3:29 to enter halftime in a 23-37 hole.

"I don't know if we got tired or let up, but that shouldn't have happened," Thomas commented about the end of the half. "One of the problems — our biggest problem — was turnovers. We weren't taking care of the ball. We weren't valuing our possessions."

The Knights looked ready to make the game a fight as they began the second half. Calvin quickly cut the 14-point deficit in half via a 7-0 run to start the half. A field goal by sophomore Ally Wolffis capped the run and brought the score to 30-37.

Hope was not about to give the lead up easily, though and brought the lead back to double-digits at 11 with 18:06 remaining in the half.

Verkaik would fight for the Knights getting back to within a difference of seven, by making two shots. That was the closest Calvin would get for the remainder of the game, as Hope would quickly take control via a 22-3 run, which included a seven-minute scoreless span for the Knights, which would give the Dutch a 26-point advantage at 37-63.

"We came back [early in the half] and before you know it, it was basket after basket by Hope," Thomas said.

After breaking the drought via



a jumper by freshman Kirstin Tripp, the Knights were unable to fight back and close the gap, eventually falling to Hope by a score of 48-70.

"We have to give [Hope] credit," Verkaik said. "They played a very good game. But I think the loss is a learning experience. It will bring us closer together and we'll be ready for the next game."

Two very uncharacteristic things led to the Calvin loss. First, Calvin allowed 70 points in the game, compared to its season average of 48.6 points allowed

per game. Second, the Knights committed 34 turnovers, which translated into 38 Dutch points.

"I think our confidence went down," Verkaik said of the high turnover count. "Once we made one turnover, we would make another one. We lost confidence in ourselves. Once you do that, the other team kind of has an advantage on you."

The Knights were led by Verkaik, who finished with 11 points and eight rebounds. Thomas and Wolffis chipped in with seven points each, while Irwin tacked on five points coming off the bench.

Despite the loss, Calvin still holds the all-time advantage in the series against Hope, 62-38. The game also marked the 92nd game for Hope in the DeVos Fieldhouse. They are 91-1 all-time in the facility, with Calvin notching the only blemish in Hope's record.

From here, the Knights continue to focus on MIAA play, as another loss would drop them into second and give Hope control of the conference. They continue their schedule on Wednesday in their regular-season home finale.

"We're going to use [the loss to Hope]," Thomas stated. "Short memory. It's over. It's done with. We're not invincible. I think we needed to feel what it's like to be on the other end of a blowout to give us that final push to the end of the year and through the tournament."



PHOTO BY JON BEHM

Defense, normally a strong point for the women's basketball team, was absent Saturday as Hope wrung Calvin for 70

Swim & dive teams split meets, locations

BY LUKE LEISMAN
Staff Writer

A day of split competition led to split results for the Calvin swimming and diving teams last Saturday.

Due to scheduling complications, the Calvin men's and women's swimming and diving teams participated in two MIAA dual meets on the same day, one at Albion, and the other at Olivet. Thus, the Knights had to split up their squads to compete on Saturday. The Calvin women defeated Albion 169-124 and Olivet 150-85, while the men fell to Albion 150-112 and to Olivet 154-131.

In a record-breaking performance, Calvin freshman Andrew Krafft led the Knights at Olivet. On the three-meter board, Krafft topped the second oldest men's

swim and dive record. Krafft's score of 311.10 beat the previous record set by Bill VanEe in 1985 by over 10 points. Additionally, Krafft shattered his own school record on the one-meter diving board with a first place score of 332.20 points. Both record-breaking scores were also NCAA III qualifying scores.

Along with Krafft, the men's squad at Olivet was led in the pool by sophomore Stephen Kraft who had a huge day, winning the 200 IM, 100 breaststroke and 200 breaststroke. The Knights also picked up victories from sophomore Mathias Bares and junior Ross Battoclette.

Over at Albion, the Calvin men picked up a pair of wins from freshman Casey Harless in the 100 backstroke and 200 backstroke and junior Greg Gorham in the 100 breaststroke and 500 freestyle. Sophomore Devin Heitz and freshman David Doud also turned in wins for the Knights.

While the Knights certainly felt the effect of the split team, they used it as a chance to get more swims in before conference finals in two weeks.

"Of course having a split team is never an ideal situation ... especially since we're so [tightly] knit, but we made the best with what we had," said junior Bridget Scott. "People had to swim extra events here and there to make sure we had a full roster. It turned into another chance to swim some main events before conference."

On the women's



PHOTO COURTESY OF CALVIN.EDU

Due to scheduling complications, the Knights had to compete in two meets at the same time, one at Olivet and the other at Albion. As a result, the teams had to separate as well.

side, the Knights hurdled the obstacle of a split team with style across the board.

At Olivet, senior Monica Bressler, sophomore Rachel Colasurdo and sophomore Samantha Klaasen all cashed in two wins apiece, putting the Knights in good position for the win.

Sophomore Stephanie Fox, junior Briana Seaks, freshman Elizabeth Schleh and junior Gillian Morris also turned in wins for the Knights at Olivet to head a strong overall team performance.

At Albion, Calvin had a number for multi-first place finishes. Sophomore Shelby Cloyd won the 200 freestyle and 500 freestyle. Senior Brianna VandenEnde won the 100 backstroke and 200 backstroke, while sophomore Elise Kauffman was a winner on

the one-meter and three-meter boards.

Scott was inspirational with a win in the 1000 freestyle, while freshman Samantha Musolf, freshman Maria Sedjo and sophomore Elizabeth Counsell also turned in wins for the Knights.

Senior Marian Cardwell was a work horse for the Knights, swimming the toughest line-up of the night: the 1000, 200 fly, 200 IM and the 200 free relay.

"I have to say the [trophy] for the toughest lineup goes to Marian Cardwell," said Scott. "If you don't know much about swimming, all you have to know is that's not easy!"

From here both Calvin teams prepare for the MIAA Championships, scheduled to be held Feb. 17-19 at Jenison High School.

"We are really excited heading

into MIAAs," said Scott. "The women's team is hoping to keep up our winning streak and grab our 7th conference win. There isn't one girl on our team right now who has lost a conference title, but that being said, going into this meet we need to make sure we aren't assuming we're going to take the win."

With the Knights' winning streak, other teams will be on the hunt to unseat the meet favorites.

"We have a huge target on our backs," said Scott. "Remembering that we're the team that everyone wants to beat is extremely important."

Still, Calvin looks well poised heading into the meet.

Said Scott, "All season has been building up to conference, so we're all excited it's so close and we will soon have the chance to see what we can do in the water."



PHOTO COURTESY OF CALVIN.EDU

The Knights continue to prepare for the upcoming MIAA championships.



**CALVIN
KNIGHTS
BASKETBALL**

Knights drop another

With a loss to Olivet, Calvin drops to 11-10

BY MARK ZYLSTRA
Staff Writer

Another Saturday, another tough loss for the men's basketball team.

A week after suffering a heart-breaking loss to rival Hope, the Knights fell at the hands of fellow MIAA opponent Olivet, whom they had defeated by four points earlier in the year at Calvin's Van Noord Arena.

Olivet was out for revenge in this matchup, and they were able to defend their home court by a count of 71-69.

The game was hotly contested from the beginning, and the halftime buzzer saw the teams knotted at 36. Neither team was lighting up the nets in the half as Calvin shot only 39 percent from the floor including 2-for-10 on three-pointers, and the Comets shot 40 percent from the field, going 4-for-10 from long range.

Fortunately however, Calvin's leading scorer, sophomore Tom Snickers, started well by scoring nine points to go along with five rebounds in the first 20 minutes of play.

Senior Danny Rodts also got off to a good start by putting in seven points and grabbing seven boards.

Coming out of the locker room, the Knights took a slight lead and held it for the first five minutes of play.

That was when the reigning MIAA MVP Michael McClary exploded by scoring seven straight Olivet baskets, while the Knights could only muster three points during that stretch. The 14-3 run put Olivet up 55-47 with 11:23 to go in the game.

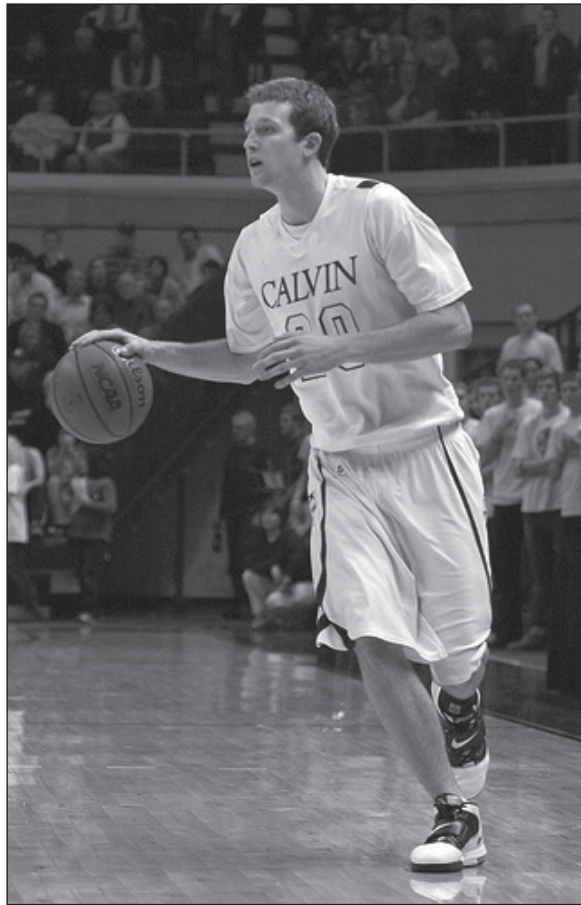


PHOTO COURTESY OF CALVIN.EDU

The Knights have struggled in league play this season. Their loss to Olivet dropped them to 6-4 and a three-way tie for second in the MIAA.

Despite the outstanding streak by Olivet's senior leader, Calvin climbed back with a 6-0 run of its own to make the score 55-53. Calvin stayed close the rest of the way largely thanks to Snickers and Rodts, but was unable to find enough scoring or get enough stops to gain the lead. The Knights cut the Olivet lead to two points with eight seconds remaining on a Rodts three, but Olivet's Jaren Edsall calmly made both free throws on the ensuing possession to seal the win.

The Knights finished the game with a respectable field goal percentage of 42, but they uncharacteristically shot very poorly on three-pointers. They made only 3 of 18 from downtown for a 17 percent clip. Calvin also only made 6 of 11 free throw attempts in the second half which proved costly in the two-point loss.

Snickers and Rodts both finished the game with double-doubles, which was a bright spot for Calvin. Snickers scored 19 and grabbed 10 boards, and Rodts added 18, also snaring 10 rebounds. Senior Brent Schuster also played a solid all-around game, scoring seven points, and collecting eight boards and three steals.

McClary finished the game with 29 points and nine rebounds for the Comets, who shot just 41 percent from the floor and 50 percent from the free-throw line in the win.

Coach Kevin Vande Streek expressed his disappointment in the Knights' inconsistency of late, saying, "When we do play hard and with enthusiasm and invest all we have to offer, we are a very good basketball team. To get that consistency is the real challenge and we haven't been able to find it so far."

The Knights have only a few weeks to find that consistency as they are now 11-10 overall and 6-4 in the MIAA, which puts them in a three-way tie for second in the conference with Albion and Olivet.

Calvin has just four regular season games remaining to prepare to make a run in the conference tournament which begins Wednesday, Feb. 23.

They host Alma (5-15, 1-9 MIAA) on Saturday in their final regular season home game of the year.

Hockey heads to post-season

BY TIM CLOVER
Staff Writer

On Friday night, the Cardinals of Saginaw Valley State University (SVSU) rolled into Grand Rapids for a game against the Knights of Calvin College with their heads held high.

The Cardinals had plenty of reason to be confident, as they had won the ACHA Division III national title the past two years. For the Knights to send the Cardinals back to Saginaw with their heads down instead of up they would have to give an intense, spirited performance similar to the one they had against Hope on Dec. 3.

They did just that.

Right from the opening faceoff, Calvin was flying, hitting the Cardinals early and often.

This intense physical play allowed the Knights to flawlessly run their fore-checking system, causing the Cardinals defense to panic with the puck.

Midway through the first period, the Knights capitalized on a powerplay, as junior Chuck Hofbauer fired a low shot just inside the post to give Calvin a 1-0 lead. The Knights continued to heavily pressure the Cardinals goal but were unable to attain another goal during the period.

Entering the second period the Knights aimed to build on their lead and keep their foot on the gas.

While the team brought a strong effort, sophomore

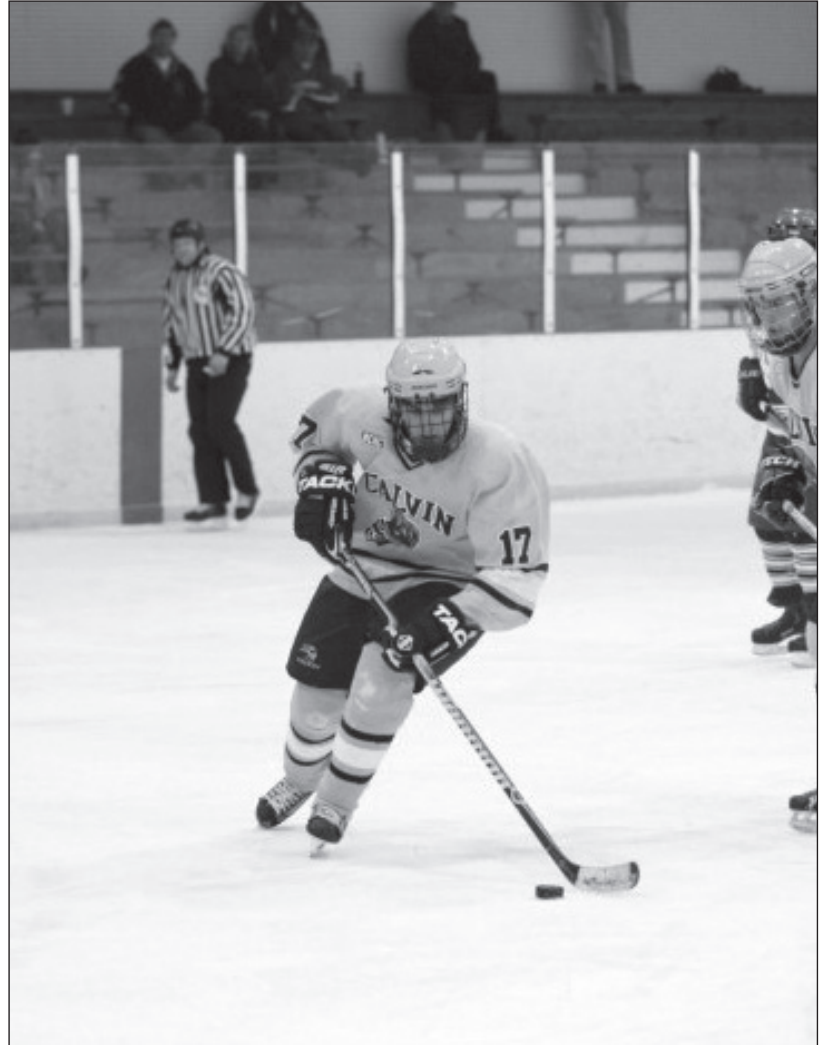


PHOTO COURTESY OF CALVIN.EDU

The Knights picked up a big win over Saginaw Valley State University last Friday, all but guaranteeing them a spot in the upcoming ACHA regional tournament.

goalie Trevor Boardway did his job, making several key saves to maintain Calvin's delicate 1-0 lead.

The Knights continued to press for their second goal of the game and freshman Brent Harris delivered it, stuffing a wrap around past the SVSU goalie early in the second.

Shortly after Harris's goal, freshman Seth Meekhof picked up a pass from junior Scott Plakmeyer and fired a shot on goal from just outside the blue line.

His shot sailed past the Cardinals keeper into the upper corner of the goal.

Near the end of a shift in the second period, freshman Mitch Otte corralled a long pass and went in

alone on the Cardinals keeper.

Sensing a SVSU defenseman closing in on him, Otte fired a snap shot into the top corner of the goal that knocked the water bottle off the top of the net, a rare occurrence that is lauded by hockey players.

With a 4-0 lead, the Knights entered the third period feeling good about their play, as they had one of the top teams in the country at their mercy. However, they knew they couldn't let up and give the Cardinals a chance to get back into the game.

With Boardway kicking every single shot he saw aside, the team committed to defense and never gave SVSU a chance to come back.

With the win the Knights guaranteed themselves a spot in the ACHA regional tournament and will be in the running for a very high seed.

"Our goal is obviously to win the tournament and get back to the national tournament where we belong," junior Caleb Bosma commented. "We can beat any team in the country."

The team has already notched big wins against top ranked Davenport, Hope and Saginaw this season, so they have what it takes to rise to the occasion in big games.

With their offense coming together and Boardway providing stellar goaltending, the Knights look to be in a good position to accomplish their goals.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CALVIN.EDU

Calvin handed SVSU, the two-time defending national champions, a solid 4-0 defeat.

UPCOMING EVENTS: FEB. 11 - FEB. 17

Men's Basketball

2/12 vs. Alma, 3 PM
2/16 @ Trine, 7:30 PM

Men's Tennis

2/11 GR City Tournament
2/12 GR City Tournament (cont.)

Women's Basketball

2/16 vs Alma, 7:30 PM

Indoor Track & Field

2/11 GVSU Big Meet, Noon
2/12 GVSU Big Meet, 9:30 AM



“I would ask how these people are going to face their grandchildren and admit to them that they failed their future.”
-Prince Charles, “Prince Charles criticizes global warming skeptics,” p.16

‘The King’s Speech’ brings hope to stutterers

BY ALLISON SCHEPERS
Staff Writer

With the Academy Awards only two weeks away, almost everyone has heard the buzz surrounding “The King’s Speech.”

The film leads the Oscar pack with 12 nominations, including Best Actor and Best Picture.

But the critics aren’t the only ones noticing the film; it has also garnered positive feedback from people who struggle with the same speech impediment as the film’s main character, King George VI.

King George VI took England’s throne reluctantly in 1936 after his brother abdicated, and received the daunting task of leading England through World War II.

Tortured by his stutter, the King sought the help of unorthodox speech therapist Lionel Logue, who worked with him for almost 20 years.

The film has been praised by stutterers of all ages, parents, teachers and speech therapists, both for bringing the little-understood speech impediment to center stage and revealing truths and myths about stuttering.

Stuttering, or stammering, is a speech disorder in which the flow of words is interrupted by involuntary repetitions and prolongations of sounds, syllables, words or phrases, and involuntary

silent pauses or blocks in which the stutterer is unable to produce sounds.

The term “stuttering” covers a wide spectrum of severity: it ranges from barely perceptible impediments to extremely severe symptoms that make oral communication almost impossible.

Stuttering affects almost one percent of the global population. It typically begins in early childhood as kids are learning to speak and is more common in boys than girls.

About five percent of children stutter, but most outgrow it.

The cause of stuttering is unknown. Scientists have identified three genetic mutations likely associated with some cases of stuttering, but much of the condition remains a mystery.

Speech therapy, including many of the methods utilized by Lionel Logue in “The King’s Speech” has been found very effective in treating a stutter. Singing, or similar techniques of maintaining continuous airflow while speaking are some of the most common methods used to improve stutterers’ speaking abilities.

Stutters may also disappear when talking to infants or animals, talking in a foreign language or acting.

Actress Emily Blunt (“The Devil Wears Prada,” “The Young Victoria”) struggled with stuttering until she landed a role in a school play and realized



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS PHOTO

Colin Firth and Helena Bonham Carter star in “The King’s Speech,” a movie about King George VI of England working to overcome his stutter. The film has raised awareness about stuttering.

her stutter disappeared while acting.

Many others actors and public figures have also stuttered, including James Earl Jones, Nicole Kidman, Tiger Woods and Vice President Joe Biden.

“The King’s Speech” has brought stuttering into the spotlight by portraying a successful

world leader who overcame a speech impediment to successfully deliver many effective public addresses. Perhaps most importantly, it shows that people who stutter are not mentally slow, a stigma that all people who stutter must contend with.

“People who stutter — their minds are perfectly good, and

they’re not deaf, and they don’t need to be told to breathe. They know how to breathe. What they need ... is to be listened to,” said Susan Hardy, whose 14-year-old son stutters.

For Erik Yehl, an 11-year-old Chicago boy who began stuttering in preschool, the movie’s powerful message is, “I’m not stupid.”

Fiber optics come to Cuba

Associated Press

A long-awaited undersea fiber-optic cable linking Cuba with the outside world arrived on the island on Wednesday, promising a bandwidth bonanza for a country saddled with exorbitant telephone rates and among the slowest Internet connection speeds on the planet.

The cable connecting Cuba with key ally Venezuela was brought ashore in the eastern resort of Siboney in a ceremony attended by dignitaries from the two countries, the state-run Prensa Latina news agency reported.

The cable is not expected to be operational until the summer, but its arrival is a landmark for an island that often feels cut off from the outside world, 52 years after Fidel Castro’s revolution turned it from decadent American playground to crumbling Soviet satellite.

When finished, the cable is expected to increase Internet speed 3,000-fold and be capable of handling about 80 million simultaneous phone calls.

That’s good news in a country where Web pages open at the speed of molasses oozing out of a jar.

A recent report by Akamai Technologies Inc. said Cuba has the second slowest Internet speed in the world, besting only the tiny Indian Ocean island chain of Mayotte.

And that’s for those lucky enough to have online access.

A report last year by Cuba’s National Statistics Office said only 2.9 percent of the population had used the Internet over a 12-month period, most through work or school — the lowest level of Internet penetration in the Western Hemisphere.

Deputy Information Minister Jorge Luis Perdomo told reporters at a technology conference

this week that, for now at least, Cubans would continue to be able to connect solely through their jobs or through school.

He said the limitations were not the result of any political concern over what increased connectivity will mean, but rather a product of the sorry infrastructure on the island and the time it will take to improve it.

Still, widespread Internet activity is sure to be a wild card on an island with a state-controlled media, a closed political system and where opposition groups are often marginalized or worse.

Last week a video began circulating on blogs — including one maintained by well-known activist Yoani Sanchez — that appears to show an Interior Ministry official warning a group of government employees that Cuba’s enemies hope to use the Internet to attack the island.

“We are not ‘fighting’ new technology,” the official says. “But we must understand it, use it in our interest and know what our enemy means to do with it.”


The official repeatedly brings up the case of Alan Gross, a 61-year-old American subcontractor detained in Cuba since Dec. 2009 on suspicion of spying.

Washington has said he was distributing communication equipment to the Jewish community. Cuban prosecutors are seeking a 20-year jail term.

The man in the video, who was not identified, said Gross was carrying satellite phones and technology that would have created unauthorized Internet networks.

“Technology in itself is not a threat,” the man says. “The threat is what is done, or what can be done, using technology.”

Cuba has had no reaction to the video, nor has it confirmed its authenticity.





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Prince Charles criticizes global warming skeptics



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS PHOTO

The prince of Wales spoke at an E. U. conference in Brussels earlier this week.

BY KATIE FABER
Sci-Tech Editor

The prince of Wales spoke on Wednesday at the European Union headquarters and scorned climate change skeptics for “playing a reckless game of roulette with the future,” the Telegraph reported.

He spoke before members of the European Parliament and other policymakers at an E.U. conference in Brussels on global warming.

Prince Charles spoke harshly against those who ignore “the vast body of scientific evidence” when it comes to global climate change.

“I would ask how these people

are going to face their grandchildren and admit to them that they failed their future; that they ignored all the clear warning signs,” he said.

The Prince also lashed out at those who think the data on climate change are accepted too quickly, or that scientists do not view the data as critically as they otherwise would.

“Their suggestion that hundreds of scientists around the world ... are somehow unconsciously biased creates the implication that many of us are, somehow, secretly conspiring to undermine and deliberately destroy the entire market-based capitalist system,” he said.

But problems with the environment are linked to economic problems, Prince Charles said.

“I cannot see how we can possibly maintain the growth of GDP in the long term if we continue to consume our planet as voraciously as we are doing,” he said.

Skeptics of global warming were not the only targets of the Prince’s speech; he also criticized environmentalists for focusing their marketing efforts “on what people need to stop doing.”

If we are constantly told that living environmentally friendly lives means giving up all that makes life worthwhile, then it is no surprise that people refuse to change,” he said.

Instead, Prince Charles suggested, environmentalists need to emphasize the benefits of sustainable living and “make it cool to

have less stuff.”

He ended by challenging the E.U., asking if they would be “courageous enough to seize the moment, set Europe on a course for survival and economic prosperity and so earn the endless gratitude of our descendants.”

While the Prince’s speech was met with applause by EU members, there were some who were still skeptical of his message.

Nigel Farage, the leader of the Independence Party in the United Kingdom, accused Prince Charles of “scaremongering,” reports The Telegraph.

Farage was especially concerned because subsidized wind farms, if built as planned on land owned by the British Royal Family, could earn the royals an extra \$60 million a year.

“It is not certain that CO2 is leading to global warming. It is certain that the measures we are taking against it are expensive and flawed — especially wind turbines. The Royal Family will be one of the biggest beneficiaries of wind farms,” Farage said.

Roger Helmer, a member of the European Parliament, was also concerned.

“Even if global warming is man-made, the actions we are taking will achieve a result too small to measure, and even that’s only in 100 years time,” he said.

“We might as well sacrifice a golden calf to the sky gods. It would be equally ineffective, but much cheaper.”

Walrus will not be added to endangered list

Associated Press

Pacific walrus need additional protection from the threat of climate warming but cannot be added to the threatened or endangered list because other species are a higher priority, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) said Tuesday.

Walrus will be added to the “warranted but precluded” list, said agency spokesman Bruce Wood, a designation under the Endangered Species Act that allows delays in listing if the agency is making progress listing other species and does not have resources to make a decision on others.

“The threats to the walrus are very real, as evidenced by this ‘warranted’ finding,” said Geoff Haskett, the service’s Alaska region director, in a statement.

“But its greater population numbers and ability to adapt to land-based haulouts make its immediate situation less dire than those facing other species, such as the polar bear.”

He said cooperation with Alaska Native groups, the state and other partners could lessen the long-term impact of climate change for the walrus and help it avoid an endangered listing.

The decision was condemned by the Center for Biological Diversity, which in 2008 petitioned to list walrus as threatened or endangered, citing threats to walrus’ sea ice habitat. Center spokeswoman Shaye Wolf said the warranted but precluded designation is a black hole for imperiled species. Some have been so designated for more than 20 years.

“This decision acknowledges the walrus is facing extinction due to climate change, but the Obama administration is withholding the protections that could help the walrus survive,” Wolf said.

Scientists at the National Snow and Ice Data Center have tracked a steady decline in sea ice in recent decades. Climate models have projected that summer sea

ice could disappear by 2030.

Alaska’s walrus population spends virtually the entire winter in the Bering Sea on the edge of sea ice that forms every year. In spring, as temperatures warm, ice melts and the edge of the sea ice moves north.

Older males spend the summer in the Bering Sea, foraging from islands or remote coastal shores.

Females and pups, however, ride the ice edge through the Bering Strait and into the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas, diving to the shallow continental shelf in search of clams as pups rest above them, safe from predators.

In recent years, summer sea ice in summer has receded well beyond the continental shelf over water too deep for walrus to dive to reach clams.

Walrus in three of the last four years congregated by the thousands on Alaska’s northwest shore. Larger numbers took refuge on the Russian side of the Chukchi Sea.

The Fish and Wildlife Service was under a court-ordered deadline to decide by Jan. 31 whether to recommend walrus for listing. Woods said the decision will be reviewed in a year. However, he noted that walrus are relatively low on the list of species on the “warranted but precluded” list.

The lower the number, the higher priority, Woods said, and walrus have been deemed a nine.

The state of Alaska has taken an aggressive approach in objecting to Arctic endangered species listings, arguing that populations have not crashed. The state sued to overturn the listing of polar bears and has given notice it will sue over designation of critical habitat.

Upward of 90 percent of state general fund revenue comes from

the petroleum industry, and state officials have been looking to offshore drilling in the Beaufort and Chukchi Seas, prime habitat for polar bear and walrus, to keep oil flowing in the trans-Alaska pipeline as on-shore reserves diminish.

U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski said walrus already are protected under the Marine Mammal Protection Act and that she was disappointed by the decision.

“Once USFWS went down this road with the polar bear listing, where the agency used highly variable modeling to project 50 years into the future possible impacts of projected loss of sea ice, it was inevitable that more listings of other Arctic species would follow,” she said.

“I believe that the future listing of the walrus will be premature and highly speculative until we have verifiable science which shows that the projected loss of



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS PHOTO

Walrus were deemed more adaptable than other endangered species like polar bears.

habitat does endanger a currently healthy species.”

The proposed listing was endorsed by the Federal Marine Mammal Commission, which oversees marine mammal conservation policies carried out by federal regulatory agencies.

“Without question, the warming of the Arctic is destroying, modifying and curtailing walrus habitat and will continue to do so in the foreseeable future,” the commission said in a letter to Rowand Gould, acting USFWS director.

Diet soda linked to risks

Associated Press

It’s far from definitive proof, but new research raises concern about diet soda, finding higher risks for stroke and heart attack among people who drink it every day versus those who drink no soda at all.

The beverage findings should be “a wake-up call to pay attention to diet sodas,” said Dr. Steven Greenberg. He is a Harvard Medical School neurologist and Vice Chairman of the International Stroke Conference in California, where the research was presented on Wednesday.

A simple solution, health experts say, is to drink water instead.

Doctors have no chemical or

risk were seen among people who drank a mix of diet and regular soda.

Earlier studies have tied diet and regular soda consumption to greater risk of diabetes and a group of weight-related problems called the metabolic syndrome.

Some diet soda critics have suggested it can promote a sweet tooth, affecting behavior and how much of a person’s diet comes from sugary sources rather than healthier fruits, vegetables and grains.

These sorts of studies just observe groups of people and are not strong enough evidence to prove risk.

“It’s too preliminary to suggest any dietary advice, but other big studies should look at this question,” Gardener said.

Greenberg, of the stroke as-



FILE PHOTO

Diet soda has been indirectly tied to risk of stroke and heart attack, possibly due to the habits of those who drink it often.

biological explanation for why diet soda may be risky. It could be that people who drink lots of it also fail to exercise, weigh more, drink more alcohol or have other risk factors like high blood pressure and smoking. However, the researchers took these and many other factors into account and didn’t see a change in the trend.

“It’s reasonable to have doubts, because we don’t have a clear mechanism. This needs to be viewed as a preliminary study,” said lead researcher Hannah Gardener of the University of Miami.

But for those trying to cut calories, “diet soft drinks may not be an optimal substitute for sugar-sweetened beverages,” she said.

The numbers come from the Northern Manhattan study, which enrolled about 2,500 adults over the age of 40 in the New York area from 1993 to 2001 through random phone calls. Half are Hispanic and one-fourth are black, making it one of the few studies to look at these risks in minorities, who have higher rates of stroke.

Participants filled out a standard survey about their diets at the start of the study, and their health was tracked for nearly 10 years. In that time there were 559 strokes or heart attacks, 338 of them fatal.

Daily diet soda drinkers (there were 116 in the study) had a 48 percent higher risk of stroke or heart attack than people who drank no soda of any kind (901 people, or 35 percent of total participants). That’s after taking into account rates of smoking, diabetes, waistline size and other differences among the groups.

No significant differences in

sociation, called it “a real-world” look at possible risk.

Dr. Maureen Storey, senior vice president of science policy for the American Beverage Association, said in a statement that there is no evidence “that diet soda uniquely causes increased risk of vascular events or stroke.”

“The body of scientific evidence does show that diet soft drinks can be a useful weight management tool, a position supported by the American Dietetic Association.

Thus, to suggest that they are harmful with no credible evidence does a disservice to those trying to lose weight or maintain a healthy weight.”

The beverage group’s statement also noted researchers didn’t adjust their results for family history of stroke. Gardener, the researcher, said that’s not “a substantial weakness.”

The same federally funded study also looked at a more conventional health risk — salt. It found higher risks for people eating more than 1,500 milligrams a day. That’s the limit the American Heart Association recommends, but last week’s new dietary guidelines from the government say it’s OK to have a little more.

Researchers found that stroke risk rose 16 percent for every 500 milligrams of salt consumed each day. Those who took in 4,000 or more milligrams of salt had more than two-and-a-half times greater risk of stroke compared to those who limited themselves to 1,500 milligrams.

A teaspoon of salt contains about 2,300 milligrams of sodium. About three-fourths of the salt we eat, though, comes from processed foods, especially tomato sauce, soups, condiments and canned foods.

Do you like mammals? Computers? Toxins?
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Historical not hysterical: reflections on Harlow, Schneider articles

BY CLARENCE VOS
Religion Emeritus

Last fall we were challenged to do some thinking about the historiography of the Bible and the historicity of persons portrayed in it. The articles by Professors John Schneider and Daniel Harlow in "The Perspectives on Science and the Christian Faith" forced us to rethink and reflect on some essential doctrines of the Christian faith. The Christmas holidays offered a welcome reprieve. But now it is time to sit down and do some serious reflecting on these matters. Why? Because we may be certain that many will think that the articles of Harlow and Schneider are a serious challenge to the "faith-once-and-for-all-held-by-the-Calvin-community." This could create hysteria. I don't see how that could help us.

Why do I choose *Chimes* as the podium to air my views? Maybe because for the last 25 years I've missed the classroom. This might be my last chance to have a chat with Calvin students. I began teaching at Calvin in 1961, and I may have had your parents (even grandparents?) in my classes. I must tell you that those classes raised some of the same matters that Harlow and Schneider deal with. Not precisely the same questions — scientific research has advanced substantially since then. The major problem for that generation was the fairness of "in Adam's fall, we sinned all." I did acknowledge that it was difficult to "distill" original sin from the Old Testament, but that the Western Church had followed St. Augustine on the legal (i.e., the condemnatory) emphasis of Adam and Eve's act, no doubt assuming that Paul meant to teach "federal theology" in the Romans and Corinthian passages. We did talk about the fact that the Eastern Orthodox Church viewed the matter differently than we in the Western Church did.

Students in those days also had doubts about the historicity of the first chapters of Genesis. They had questions about Cain's wife. Who were the men who would seek Cain to kill him? This forced us into discussing the historicity of the Bible. My attempt to help them was to acquaint them with what is reputed to be Abraham Kuyper's way of dealing with the matter. His view was that the historiography of the Bible is not that of a camera, but of an artist's brush. I tried to explain to them that Kuyper's perspective had been very helpful to me in various ways. It helped me with the so-called Synoptic Problem. (i.e., Matthew, Mark and Luke telling the same story but not agreeing on all the details. As artists, the gospel writers [guided by the Artist] were not so concerned about exactitude as they were about the heart of the message, or the specific point they wanted to make). The first two chapters of Genesis are also akin to the Synoptic Problem: They each describe the same event, but do not agree on details. I assured them that they should have no doubts about the authenticity of the stories since the Holy Spirit was the Artist in both cases.

Sometimes this led to a rather extended discussion. Students trained in a more literal reading of the Bible often found this a bit hard to swallow. This is very understandable. We moderns are trained for precision; we value exactitude. But is it for us to set the mode that the Almighty must follow in communicating with us? Is it not better for us to learn

how he did it? Moreover, it is important to recognize that three thousand years ago the thinking, and the interests of humanity and the thought patterns they used may have been very different. Besides, it may be healthy skepticism to question whether our mode of thinking and communicating are superior to that of millennia ago. In any event, it cannot be disputed that the Bible is ancient literature. In studying it we must adjust to that time. It is inappropriate to demand that ancient literature conform to our ways and standards.

The reason Kuyper's perspective intrigues me is that I have learned that there is more to life than the camera can grasp. I tried to "play ball" with my students by asking such questions as: If you had never seen your grandfather, what would you cherish more, his photograph, or his portrait? (Assuming of course that both were professionally and excellently done.) Students were not agreed as to which they would choose. But it soon became apparent that it depended on the priority of interest. If the interest was primarily on grandpa's physical features, the photograph had priority. If the interest was on personality or character, the artist's work had priority. I'm quite confident that the class saw that there are times when the non-literal genre is more appropriate and/or more effective than the literal, even in telling history. A classic example would be the prophet Nathan's telling King David the story of the neighbor's lamb. David did not need to be informed, he needed to be reformed or conformed to the will of God. I recall a poet saying that "God-talk transcends the words." Certainly that is true of Jesus' use of parables. It is also true of revelation via dreams. The dreams of Joseph and his contemporaries comes to mind, as well as the apostle Peter hearing the words, "Rise up, kill and eat." Much more was at stake than Peter receiving license to savor an Iowa pork chop. That should be sufficient to convince us that "God-talk" demands reverent reflection.

Contemporary artists have sought to tell history in an "artistic" way. Sometimes I would show my class Peter Blume's "Eternal City" as an example. Not that I considered it such high art, but it was at least an artist's attempt to show how he evaluated Mussolini, and obviously no camera could match it. Yes, Blume had the details all wrong (intentionally, of course) but it made clear what he meant. And just because Blume had the details wrong doesn't mean Mussolini is not historical, Blume was trying to say what Mussolini did in history. In short, we must allow the artist some liberties to express what he wishes to express. And if and when a photograph is placed next to the work of art it does not necessarily trump the work of art. But the photograph will help to catch the artist's intent.

I told my classes that, in my opinion, we had a lot to learn about the historiography of the first chapters of Genesis. How much of it is "artistic" and how much of it approaches the camera type of historiography? My guess is that now, 25 years later, we still have much to learn. Discretion dictates caution and tentativeness. But the Christian faith is not hanging in the balances on such issues. But it cannot be ignored if we are to understand and properly relate the two books of revelation, namely, general and special revelation, we will need to reexamine our interpretation and understanding

of them.

That does not mean that further research and reflection is irrelevant. In fact, I must thank Professors Harlow and Schneider for taking up the challenge. Personally I must say that I am not satisfied with the way in which the Western Church has dealt with original sin and federal theology. Let me explain:

While writing my dissertation in The Netherlands, I scanned an article in a German periodical, but I did not think that the article was relevant to my thesis, so I replaced it on the cart to be shelved, and foolishly retained no bibliographical details. But some of the claims the author made have haunted me since. The present interest in the historicity of Adam prompts me to share with the Calvin, which I hope is a sympathetic, community, a new way to view original sin. The author of this article felt that the Western Church had a myopic or incomplete view of original sin. He felt that the Western Church saw the prohibition of Genesis 2, "Thou shalt not eat ..." in a too limited way. Like all of God's commandments, this command also was for the benefit of mankind. Not that there was anything toxic in the fruit. The author suggested that the command was an invitation to a higher level of life. Conscious self denial was the gateway to a higher and more abundant life. At first I was very skeptical. I have not found this interpretation in any Western Church commentaries. But I also had to admit that it was difficult to find that legal, or Augustinian emphasis on original sin in the Old Testament. In fact, several passages seemed to militate strongly against it, (i.e., "I hate that proverb, 'The fathers have eaten sour grapes and the children's teeth are set on edge.'"). In perusing the Old Testament I felt I could find instances of this theme of self-denial, although instances in the negative/opposite examples prevail:

- a) Noah's over indulgence in wine was an "opposite" example.
- b) Abraham is called to sacrifice his son. He obeys and then is given the promise of becoming the progenitor of a people as the stars of heaven (Gen. 22).
- c) Saul's theft of the loot is an opposite example.
- d) David's indulgence with Bathsheba, again an opposite example.
- e) Solomon and Rehoboam's choice of oppressive opulence are negative examples. Some have said that Rehoboam was the first to deal with a Tea Party. It hardly proved to be a win-win situation.
- f) The widow of Zarephath's self-denial gives her and her son life.

The trump card for the thesis of self-denial is, of course, in the New Testament. He who came to give his followers life that they might have life more abundantly also spelled out the requirements. "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves, and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. (Matt. 16:24f. NRSV).

Let us see if we can make a plausible reconstruct of how the history of Genesis 1-3 might be viewed, using some of the possibilities we have discussed above.

If it is appropriate to speak of pre-Adamites, as was common in the 19th century, and/or hominids as scientists do presently, then may we assume that at a certain point, according to the sovereign good will of the Creator, he chose a hominid to let him — and his spouse — bring

this species to a nobler level of life, a life that had much in common with his Creator. This Creator, who we have come to know as "the one who spared not his own Son, but gave him up for us all," deigned that this hominid should be lifted to the level of humanity by sharing in that orientation of mindset in which he denied himself for the sake of others.

In the animal stage these hominids probably differed little from the pigs at the trough at which the big ones pushed the little ones away. Self-centered motivation is still the accepted morality of the day in the animal world. The big pig that pushes the little pig from the trough is not immoral. But the Almighty had something nobler in mind for humans. For this human to properly bear the image of God (i.e., function as God's vice-regent on earth) he had to share the mind (attitude) of God. To deny himself the fruit of one tree in the garden was a kindergarten lesson in becoming like God. The sad reality is that humanity failed its first kindergarten lesson. God's invitation that humans should become more like him is declined. Humanity still wished to be self-determinative, self-centered and selfish. The Old Testament story demonstrates how little humans have advanced, if at all.

This view of original sin is different from what we find in the Western Church. I hope I am not unfair to Western Church theology when I say that it tends to make original sin a one-time act (einmalig, the Germans would say) in the distant past, an act that is neutralized by the work of Christ. It has tended to become a nonfunctioning museum piece. It has become a noun. The view I attempted to portray above is a verb, a verb in the continuous present tense. Every time we humans make our mental/moral decisions in a self-centered way, we are following the suggestion of the serpent and eating the forbidden fruit. Original sin is repeated again and again. Then we are really "in Adam" when instead we are called to be "in Christ." Is that not the story of history?

Does this not result in a "Christianity" in which we make our "profession"? But then, by some kind of emulsion process, we mix it with POP culture (POP stands for Pleasure, Opulence and Power). Where is the emphasis on self-denial, cross bearing and following Jesus? Yes indeed, one of the church's venerable confessions reminds us that for true comfort (i.e., peace of mind) we must realize that "we are not our own, but belong to Jesus Christ, our Savior." But even the confessions tend to be propositional and polemic rather than pastoral. This does not mean that Augustine was in error. It is not a matter of either the Western theology or the Eastern theology, it is a matter of both/and.

That does not mean that we throw in the towel and admit the triumph of Narcissus. (Cf., Jean Twenge, GR Press, Jan. 24, 2011, B1). Maybe this generation is becoming more self-centered. But I doubt that any generation has escaped the struggle with egotism. But, by the grace of God, it is possible to see the beauty of self-denial. Permit me a small parable:

A fairly self-centered teenager was elated when the prettiest girl in the community agreed to go on a date with him. By the second or third date he noticed a beauty the camera could not capture. In her conversation she rarely used the first person pronoun. Her interests were the needs and joys of others. He saw that she was not

stuck in the muck of me-myself-and I. This young man was no saint, but here was a beauty he refused to let go. He learned that that beauty never dimmed.

By the grace of God we can recognize the beauty of Christ's self-sacrifice, and treasure the selflessness of his followers. If it is true, as sociologists are suggesting, that our society is becoming more self-centered, then the Christian community must draw attention to the beauty of Mother Teresa and others like her — a beauty the camera fails to catch.

Coming back to the first chapters of Genesis, there can be little doubt that they are recording events which help to explain not only conditions as they now are, but also our relationship to our Creator. The exact nature of that historiography is not easily determined. While I have found Kuyper's distinction between the historiography of the camera and the painter's brush helpful, I am not sure that it is adequate in grasping the historiography of the first chapters of Genesis. And it seems to me that in seeking to determine the nature of that historiography, we must be guided by what aids us in understanding the needs of humanity and the message of the Bible.

I'm suggesting that we give the historiography of the early chapters of Genesis another name: Let us call it pastoral historiography. I think it has much in common with Nathan's story as he tells David about the lamb. If your definition of historiography is limited to camera historiography, then Nathan's story is probably not history. But it is history. It is describing an event in a powerfully pastoral way. The story reveals an event in a way that meets the spiritual needs of the hearer. The Bible was not given to us to satisfy our curiosity concerning astronomy, or biology or chemistry. History has made it abundantly clear that God prefers to have us enjoy the thrill of discovering the beauty, vastness and power of creation through observation and reflection, i.e. science. The Bible, however, is God's love-letter to a lost race.

We must be grateful to modern science for giving us the camera historiography of the created world; it may not always be completely accurate and in need of revision. But placing this data deliberately along side the story in Genesis may help us to see more clearly what the artist wishes us to see.

If one is limited to the "camera" concept of historiography, then one will miss much of the message of the Bible. Sometimes the way in which the biblical writers tell the story it comes close to the "camera" type; but at other times it is quite different. I hope some young scholar writes a dissertation on Biblical Historiography before I die.

Persons of equal perception and equal piety may come to conflicting conclusions as to whether or when ha'adam is to be understood as humanity or one individual. What is important for an educational institution is to search rather than to judge. We have much to learn. Let our response be a communal effort to understand the manifold ways the Bible records the historical, and not get hysterical.

Professor Vos is retired from the Religion and Theology department. His area of study was Old Testament theology. He thought that this article, though somewhat hastily produced, and offering tentative conclusions, might be helpful for students to see that the issues discussed in the articles by Harlow and Schneider have a history at Calvin.

FROM THE
EDITOR

When introducing his song “National Brotherhood Week,” the ingenious Tom Lehrer used to say, “I know there are people who do not love their fellow man, and I hate people like that.” Lehrer, of course, was joking, but David Cameron’s recent speech against state multiculturalism reminded me of Lehrer’s paradoxical quip.

In some ways, I think Cameron overstated his case and came across as discriminatory. He asked European governments to strive for “a lot less of the passive tolerance of recent years and much more active, muscular liberalism.” Active, muscular liberalism is *not* always the answer, and the dominant culture should not have the right to force everyone else to completely subscribe to the majority’s societal values.

However, I think that many people are lashing out too strongly against Cameron’s vision of an ideal government. While cultural empiricism is certainly problematic, a country that’s too tolerant to hold people accountable for their own discriminatory practices is not any better. One of Cameron’s concerns was that

too much government tolerance for ethnic traditions left too much space for inherently racist beliefs and practices.

That reminded me of a presentation someone — unfortunately, I can’t remember who — made during UnLearn Week my freshman year. “Minorities can’t be racist,” the speaker said, positing that only the majority can discriminate against those who are beneath them in the social hierarchy. I’m still flabbergasted that her definition of racism wouldn’t cover, say, a Japanese-American employer refusing to hire a Korean-American worker.

Cameron also raised the issue of cultural practices that run counter to the law. Should minority cultures be allowed to break the laws of the country they live in simply because their worldview permits it? The answer should be a most emphatic “no.” How would the government function if pockets of the country operated under their own laws? Not only would such immunity elevate the protected status of minority practices above those of the majority, but it would hamper the very way lawmaking and peace-keeping work.

~ajs

Letters to the editor

Better recycling facilities
needed

Dear Editor,

Know those plastic blue containers emblazoned with three white arrows chasing each other in a circle? Contrary to popular belief, they are not chamber pots or roommate confinement units; rather, they are recycle cans. Theoretically, you fill them with used bottles, boxes and paper, which you then haul out to the shed outside your dorm and deposit into the appropriate bins.

What really happens?

After a couple weeks of procrastinating, you realize that your recycle can is no longer visible under the avalanche of Sierra Mist cans in the corner. So, grumbling, you haul everything down the stairs, and, braving the cold and dark, stumble into the sketchy shed. Once inside, you realize it’s too dark to really see anything, and the bins are always overflowing anyway, so you toss your recyclables in the general direction of where you think they should go. Turning to retreat, you step in a rotten banana peel, or a slimy pile of wet newspaper, or a dead rat... You get the idea.

Calvin College needs to provide better recycling facilities for its residence halls. Currently, they are cluttered, unsanitary and woefully in-

adequate for the volume of recyclables generated by the student body. Better facilities will encourage us to recycle more — which is, as Kill-A-Watt taught us, a critical step in creation care.

Neil Gilbert, ‘14

Marine parks harm animals

Dear Editor,

In the last edition of the *Chimes*, I noticed an ad for Pepsi, offering a promotion for SeaWorld tickets. This troubled me, since I’ve been reading up lately on the carefully hidden costs of keeping killer whales and dolphins in captivity. While it is true that SeaWorld has greatly contributed to marine mammal research, many of these animals suffer for it. Dolphins and orcas kept in captivity often show clear signs of stress, such as stomach ulcers, grinding their teeth and listlessness that is not seen in the wild. Dolphins have demonstrated tool use, one of the objective signs of intelligence, by using sponges to protect their mouth when foraging in shallow waters. Like wolves and humans, orcas live in tight family groups.

Tilikum, the former killer whale star of SeaWorld Orlando, has been involved in three human deaths. Since the last one, Dawn Brancheau, one of SeaWorld’s trainers, he has been kept in total isolation from other orcas 24/7. One can only imagine the anxiety and frustration felt by

Tilikum, as well as the pain of loss to Brancheau’s family and friends. I’d like to ask the Calvin community to consider the implications of visiting marine parks on spring break.

Stephanie Luttrell, ‘11

Building hours questioned

Dear Editor,

In case anyone has missed it, the temperature has dropped quite a bit over the past week or so. Personally, I have no problem with cold weather; I have grown up in it and have learned to live with it. However, I do enjoy the sanctuary of a warm building.

Recently while attempting to get to the library after visiting a friend in NVW, I attempted to escape the wind by cutting through Commons Annex. It was locked. I was shocked at this, as my watch only read 10:30. As a result, I had to trudge through the snow and fight the wind, something I was none too happy about.

Upon reaching the library, the first thing I did was look at the Calvin website to see when the building are supposed to be locked. They are, in fact, locked at 10 p.m. However, academic buildings are accessible via I.D. cards until 1 a.m.

I am not sure who would need to address this issue (the administration, Campus Safety, etc.) but something needs to be done so that Commons Annex can be walked through during these cold times.

Jay Danforth, ‘11

Artificial intelligence will never replace human cultural activity

BY JOHN KLOOSTERMAN
Op-Ed Co-Editor

Despite looking like an animated globe that glows green when speaking with a voice reminiscent of Microsoft Sam, next week’s TV star will be a computer named Watson. Watson will appear on Jeopardy next week and will likely defeat its opponents, including Ken Jennings, soundly. Watson is a powerful artificial intelligence system, a tour de force of natural language processing. Contrary to what you might think, artificial intelligence (AI) systems are not that uncommon and are neither as esoteric nor as futuristic as they are made out to be.

You likely have a computer running an AI algorithm within a few feet of you right now and have probably already interacted with one today. You can fire up the chess program that is likely installed on your computer to meet an AI in mock battle. Several photo applications can do face recognition to tag photos automatically and learn the particular features of your friends’ faces. Google learns from your searches which kinds of things you are interested in and chooses which contextual ads to show based on your history.

Sometimes a computer that seems “intelligent” is not even an AI system; a very simple set of rules can produce what seems to be spookily intelligent behavior in a program. For an algorithms class last semester, I had to write my own artificial intelligence program to play the simple board game Mankalah. The professor supplied an easy computer player named Bonzo to test my program against. Bonzo followed two simple rules, but it took a lot of work for me to write a program to beat it. I was certainly as angry at Bonzo as I would have been at an intelligent being.

A program called Eliza takes the same approach to language processing. Eliza is often presented as a psychiatrist, asking the user to share her or his problems. Eliza is very convincing given what she is — a list of rules about how to transform the user’s input back into questions. Eliza does not “understand” the meaning of what is said; it just replaces pronouns and verb tenses to rehash what the user has already said.

Google operates by using human intelligence indirectly to solve the problem of which web pages are relevant. The way Google ranks a particular page is based mostly on how often humans writing web pages link to it. Google’s algorithm does not know how authoritative or useful a page is, but the algorithm leverages the human intelligence that went into selecting good links when websites are written. Cleverbot (cleverbot.com) is a descendant of Eliza based on this concept — it responds based on previous human responses; it can be your companion next time your friends have left you behind on a Friday night.

Watson, on the other hand, is a genuine AI system, which IBM built to push the envelope of artificial intelligence. A Jeopardy-playing computer is a challenge worth the effort, since it needs to be good at several tasks that are inherently hard for computers. The questions do not have a rigid structure, and often contain puns or other word games, which makes them hard for a computer to parse. The answers cover a large range, from pop culture to literature to world history, and randomly finding stored information is hard for a computer to do. On top of this, humans are very good at these things, so the computer has very little time to process the question, come up with possible answers and

choose the best one.

Google, in fact, is not terrible at simple “Jeopardy.” It quickly finds the correct answer to “This reformer was born in Geneva in 1509” and “This philosopher divided substance into form and matter.” However, it cannot handle word problems or less descriptive clues.

Watson is an impressively large machine. It has about 3000 processor cores and 16 terabytes of RAM. It works by using many algorithms in parallel and selecting the answer that the most algorithms converge upon. Next Monday through Wednesday, Watson goes up against Ken Jennings and Brad Rutter on Jeopardy. If it wins, everyone ought to be amazed, but nobody ought to be surprised.

Now if we can get computers to do things well that once seemed to be exclusive human activities, such as being good at game shows or playing chess, that raises questions about what will happen when computers get better at a larger range of things. Ostensibly, at some point computers will become “intelligent” enough to figure out activities to do on their own.

Right now, we use computers to search, store and disseminate information for us and perform calculations that would be tedious for us, freeing humans to be intelligent and computers to do the gruntwork. Humans are doing something they count as worthwhile, while using the computer as a tool to accomplish their purposes. I do not think this model is going to change, even as computers become faster and capable of solving more complex problems. In other words, I do not think there is a point to computers becoming intelligent to the point of autonomy.

To illustrate what I mean, consider word processing software. When I was small, the first

word processing program I used was WordStar. To use WordStar, you had to memorize a list of keyboard shortcuts; for instance, Control-R would scroll down to the next page. I am surprised people ever had patience to work around a program like this.

Today, most people around here use Microsoft Word for word processing. It is much nicer to use than WordStar, since you can use a mouse, see exactly what the document will look like when you print it and spell check your document. We have used the greater power of more recent computers to make us more productive. However, no matter which word processor you use, even if you are using “ed,” the basic model is the same: a human is writing by entering text into the computer.

Now if the computer became more powerful to the point that it became intelligent and autonomous, it might learn how to write by itself. This would not be a useful feature. If my computer offered to write my article for me, and even if I knew it was competent enough to trust, I would turn it down. I find writing an article a fulfilling experience, and getting the computer to do it instead would defeat the point of writing in the first place.

I think this can be generalized: there is no point having a computer become more than a tool for humans to use, because humans find fulfillment in doing cultural activities themselves. Andy Crouch, who was here for a January Series lecture, defines culture as “making something of the world,” and identifies this as our human telos. It would not be valuable if computers become competent at culture-making, should they become intelligent.

The questions we are the most interested in and the activities we find the most fulfilling have to be done by us. We’ve been trying to answer basic metaphysical

questions for thousands of years, and I don’t think we would want to build Deep Thought even if we could.

Take music as an example. People love listening to and making music, even when they are not very good at it. Computers are used as tools right now to generate beats and instrument sounds and keep off-key singers in tune. Humans have a vision for what the music will be like, and computers are one of the ways musicians bring that vision about.

There is already such a thing as algorithmic music, which can be very good. For instance, Arvo Pärt’s piece “Fratres” was composed following strict patterns for notes in each voice. Steve Reich composed pieces like “Piano Phase” that embody a predetermined process. These types of pieces raise a question of meaning, since we would still like to think the composer imparts some meaning to the work, despite being less involved in its creation.

But if we took this a step further and had the computer compose the music, there would be something that makes music good that would be completely lost. While there is software, such as Noatikl, that generates background music, something stands in the way of such music being countable as culture. Nobody would go to watch a computer orchestra after the novelty wore off, and nobody would want to watch “Jeopardy” with three computer contestants.

Therefore, artificial intelligence is not as scary as people make it out to be. Watson is a very complex AI system which happens to be in the news, but most people interact with AI during the course of a day. The futuristic scenarios where computers become intelligent and autonomous is also not a worry because there is no reason for computers to become that way.

'Pure capitalism' a presumptuous approach to economy

BY ELIZABETH VANDER HEIDE
News Co-Editor

In Mr. Slamkowski's article in a previous issue of *Chimes*, he proposed a solution to the current economic crisis: "pure" capitalism. Well, by golly, anything "pure" should be successful. "Pure" love would be the abolition of violence, greed, and poverty. "Pure" honesty would eradicate corruption in government, medicine, and business. So, of course, "pure" capitalism would give every average man, woman, and their 2.4 children the possibility of hoisting themselves up by the bootstraps. And, let us not forget their prerogative to use the word "I" to the death. Yes, because in the heart of America, we don't already have a festering obsession with ourselves.

Mr. Slamkowski has assumed that every American citizen is completely responsible for their own misfortune, and therefore the poverty, hurt, and corruption that exists is self-reflective. For example, if a father is laid off from his job of 27 years and given an unemployment check for 30% of his original salary, his anxiety is his responsibility. After all, this is America — he could start his own business! Realistically, not every Joe, Jack, and Jane is cut out for beginning a business, no matter how much education or opportunity he or she receives. If this country was full of leaders, who would they hire? Financial stability is not black and white. To criticize those who cannot get back up on their feet again is cruelty. If the jobs working under other citizens are non-existent, what, then, does Mr. Slamkowski suggest they do?

So many Americans are caught between two options: wait for employment, or risk starting a new business. This is an almost-guaranteed waste of money, especially with the rise of corporate chains. These chains drive consumers, like you and I, to buy what is cheap and available,

such as textbooks from Amazon or electronics from Best Buy, rather than the shop owned by our neighbors in Easttown. The demand will remain (I cannot change majority thought with a *Chimes* article, sadly), and every American will exercise his or her "right" to spend dollars where he or she chooses. These large companies shut the doors of hundreds of local businesses across the nation each year — businesses started and run by citizens that were doing what capitalism encouraged them to do. However, only so many positions are available at each large chain, and often they pay less and work employees harder than a locally-owned business. So, with a scrawny list of job openings in the paper and online, and even fewer that an individual may be qualified for, what's an unemployed American to do? I'd hazard a guess nearly every pair of eyes that scans this article know someone the economy has affected recently. Suggesting an emotionless solution to the economy reduces their struggles to facts and numbers.

Not everyone can afford property. Not everyone *needs* property, frankly. The "American Dream" of owning land has resulted in thousands of miles of roads clogged by, you guessed it, gas-fueled vehicles. Don't start me on the environmental and social consequences of the American determination to seize all we can before the guy next-door does.

Mr. Slamkowski constructed assumptions contradicted once one steps out of West Michigan and encounters the stories of families and individuals shattered by capitalism's miserable reign in America. Capitalism gives a cheeky thumbs-up to greed, self-importance, and narcissism by placing the importance on the individual rather than the very brothers and sisters that share our streets.

At socialism's "heart" (does capitalism even have one?), the goal is equality. Each person

should be treated equally and given equal chance. Unfortunately, capitalism holds freedom higher than equality, declaring citizens free to monopolize and corrupt the economy — even at the expense of this country's citizens. Socialism is not about becoming a drone that worships the government. At its core, it cares about every citizen equally, and wants to give those citizens an equal right to life (via medical care), liberty (via secure employment), and happiness (the result of self-less sharing).

Now, don't start waving your hands in the air and shouting, "She's a socialist!" — I believe that citizens should be free to start and operate their own businesses. I also believe that because humanity is corrupted, many businesses don't listen to the cries of laid-off workers. The market will never "correct itself" because, unfortunately, there have been liberties given, and those liberties have been abused.

Regulation is what keeps Verizon from monopolizing the cell phone market (weren't there about half a dozen more options only five years ago?). Mr. Slamkowski could argue that cell phone users would simply stop paying for cellular bills as they rose, but we won't. We want our cell phones, and, like gasoline, we'll pay twice as much for it if we have to.

Regulation also keeps corruption in check. If the government isn't holding businesses accountable for abusing their employees, who will? You may argue that the employees will leave, or the word will spread that the business is corrupt. The employees won't leave, because employment is scarce. The word will not spread, because the employer is free to deny it. When no one is in charge, the power is seized. You don't leave a child to raise itself without rules or discipline, and Americans act like children.

Oh, and taxes won't solve much. American businesses don't like taxes, and they won't pay

them. After all, there won't be any regulations that say they have to, will there? They don't need to invent new, safer business methods to avoid paying taxes — they've been avoiding them for years with their current methods of loopholes and feelings of entitlement.

I'm also wondering how the proposed "Department of Private Business" differs from basic governmental control. It's business regulation, no matter what you rename it.

Mr. Slamkowski's most dangerous assumption is how easily the economy could be fixed. "With the speed of the Internet ... it would be easy to ensure that all consumers are aware of what they are buying". News flash: not everyone can afford the internet, let alone a computer. Who's stopping these businesses from posting false information? Oh wait, that's right, the govern—ahem. Department of Private Business.

"Underpayment" should be interpreted as, "Studies show that the average family of 4 cannot survive on minimum wage, even when living with the bare necessities." Even if Mom and Dad made enough money to put food on the table, a roof over their heads, and clothes on their back, saving money for purchasing that house would be unthinkable. Vacations would be left wanting, and, if so chosen, their children would bear the expense of paying their way through college. But wait! The government helps pay for tuition. Oh wait ... that's not pure capitalism. Never mind.

A factory worker can produce upwards of a thousand parts a day. How is that less than a doctor that spends five minutes staring at my chart? Mr. Slamkowski assumes that the factory worker has *chosen* his or her profession, and therefore *chooses* his or her wages. It's easy to say, coming from the dominant upper-middle-class culture in America, where college is assumed to be the graceful step between childhood and your first Lexus.

Not everyone wants to work 12 hours a day doing repetitive

work, or any labor-intensive work for that matter. But these citizens put more effort in on a daily basis than most of us will ever do in our future professions. And to show them appreciation, we tell them they don't deserve as much compensation as we do.

Workers can't unionize, because businesses try their best to stamp out any unions before they start. Many workers sign contracts that, in legal jargon, bar them from creating a union before they can begin working. Making unions easier to start may sound good for the workers, but the business-owners will certainly find a way to keep their year-end bonus checks, fair or unfair.

Many small businesses have a hard time affording the current government minimum-wage. That's common knowledge. But multi-billion-dollar businesses have more money than they know what to do with. These companies will do whatever it takes, even moving out of the country, to save on employee wages. Sound backwards?

You know who's a terrible monopoly? A.I.G. It is not run by the government, and so corrupt that it begged America to pay for its mistakes two years ago.

In the United States, we must be lukewarm about capitalism. A cautionary approach to any system is necessary, as no method is flawless, nor does one system work for every body of people that implements it. Socialism is not perfect, and neither is capitalism. However, treating fellow citizens as though their lives are worth less than others is wrongdoing. Citizens that cling to this sense of entitlement are bound to be helpless when their financial securities fail. The morality of capitalism is self-preservation, and it places emphasis on greed and false security, rather than on one of the most basic human rights: equality. Giving suffering individuals the care and support they deserve as a human being is logical, caring, and it works. It's not political to have a heart.

United States needs to carefully consider use of power, influence

BY JACK MUSSER
Alumnus Contributor

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'Pure capitalism' a presumptuous approach to economy

BY ELIZABETH VANDER HEIDE
News Co-Editor

In Mr. Slamkowski's article in a previous issue of *Chimes*, he proposed a solution to the current economic crisis: "pure" capitalism. Well, by golly, anything "pure" should be successful. "Pure" love would be the abolition of violence, greed, and poverty. "Pure" honesty would eradicate corruption in government, medicine, and business. So, of course, "pure" capitalism would give every average man, woman, and their 2.4 children the possibility of hoisting themselves up by the bootstraps. And, let us not forget their prerogative to use the word "I" to the death. Yes, because in the heart of America, we don't already have a festering obsession with ourselves.

Mr. Slamkowski has assumed that every American citizen is completely responsible for their own misfortune, and therefore the poverty, hurt, and corruption that exists is self-reflective. For example, if a father is laid off from his job of 27 years and given an unemployment check for 30% of his original salary, his anxiety is his responsibility. After all, this is America — he could start his own business! Realistically, not every Joe, Jack, and Jane is cut out for beginning a business, no matter how much education or opportunity he or she receives. If this country was full of leaders, who would they hire? Financial stability is not black and white. To criticize those who cannot get back up on their feet again is cruelty. If the jobs working under other citizens are non-existent, what, then, does Mr. Slamkowski suggest they do?

So many Americans are caught between two options: wait for employment, or risk starting a new business. This is an almost-guaranteed waste of money, especially with the rise of corporate chains. These chains drive consumers, like you and I, to buy what is cheap and available,

such as textbooks from Amazon or electronics from Best Buy, rather than the shop owned by our neighbors in Easttown. The demand will remain (I cannot change majority thought with a *Chimes* article, sadly), and every American will exercise his or her "right" to spend dollars where he or she chooses. These large companies shut the doors of hundreds of local businesses across the nation each year — businesses started and run by citizens that were doing what capitalism encouraged them to do. However, only so many positions are available at each large chain, and often they pay less and work employees harder than a locally-owned business. So, with a scrawny list of job openings in the paper and online, and even fewer than an individual may be qualified for, what's an unemployed American to do? I'd hazard a guess nearly every pair of eyes that scans this article know someone the economy has affected recently. Suggesting an emotionless solution to the economy reduces their struggles to facts and numbers.

Not everyone can afford property. Not everyone *needs* property, frankly. The "American Dream" of owning land has resulted in thousands of miles of roads clogged by, you guessed it, gas-fueled vehicles. Don't start me on the environmental and social consequences of the American determination to seize all we can before the guy next-door does.

Mr. Slamkowski constructed assumptions contradicted once one steps out of West Michigan and encounters the stories of families and individuals shattered by capitalism's miserable reign in America. Capitalism gives a cheeky thumbs-up to greed, self-importance, and narcissism by placing the importance on the individual rather than the very brothers and sisters that share our streets.

At socialism's "heart" (does capitalism even have one?), the goal is equality. Each person

should be treated equally and given equal chance. Unfortunately, capitalism holds freedom higher than equality, declaring citizens free to monopolize and corrupt the economy — even at the expense of this country's citizens. Socialism is not about becoming a drone that worships the government. At its core, it cares about every citizen equally, and wants to give those citizens an equal right to life (via medical care), liberty (via secure employment), and happiness (the result of self-less sharing).

Now, don't start waving your hands in the air and shouting, "She's a socialist!" — I believe that citizens should be free to start and operate their own businesses. I also believe that because humanity is corrupted, many businesses don't listen to the cries of laid-off workers. The market will never "correct itself" because, unfortunately, there have been liberties given, and those liberties have been abused.

Regulation is what keeps Verizon from monopolizing the cell phone market (weren't there about half a dozen more options only five years ago?). Mr. Slamkowski could argue that cell phone users would simply stop paying for cellular bills as they rose, but we won't. We want our cell phones, and, like gasoline, we'll pay twice as much for it if we have to.

Regulation also keeps corruption in check. If the government isn't holding businesses accountable for abusing their employees, who will? You may argue that the employees will leave, or the word will spread that the business is corrupt. The employees won't leave, because employment is scarce. The word will not spread, because the employer is free to deny it. When no one is in charge, the power is seized. You don't leave a child to raise itself without rules or discipline, and Americans act like children.

Oh, and taxes won't solve much. American businesses don't like taxes, and they won't pay

them. After all, there won't be any regulations that say they have to, will there? They don't need to invent new, safer business methods to avoid paying taxes — they've been avoiding them for years with their current methods of loopholes and feelings of entitlement.

I'm also wondering how the proposed "Department of Private Business" differs from basic governmental control. It's business regulation, no matter what you rename it.

Mr. Slamkowski's most dangerous assumption is how easily the economy could be fixed. "With the speed of the Internet ... it would be easy to ensure that all consumers are aware of what they are buying". News flash: not everyone can afford the internet, let alone a computer. Who's stopping these businesses from posting false information? Oh wait, that's right, the govern—ahem. Department of Private Business.

"Underpayment" should be interpreted as, "Studies show that the average family of 4 cannot survive on minimum wage, even when living with the bare necessities." Even if Mom and Dad made enough money to put food on the table, a roof over their heads, and clothes on their back, saving money for purchasing that house would be unthinkable. Vacations would be left wanting, and, if so chosen, their children would bear the expense of paying their way through college. But wait! The government helps pay for tuition. Oh wait ... that's not pure capitalism. Never mind.

A factory worker can produce upwards of a thousand parts a day. How is that less than a doctor that spends five minutes staring at my chart? Mr. Slamkowski assumes that the factory worker has *chosen* his or her profession, and therefore *chooses* his or her wages. It's easy to say, coming from the dominant upper-middle-class culture in America, where college is assumed to be the graceful step between childhood and your first Lexus.

Not everyone wants to work 12 hours a day doing repetitive

work, or any labor-intensive work for that matter. But these citizens put more effort in on a daily basis than most of us will ever do in our future professions. And to show them appreciation, we tell them they don't deserve as much compensation as we do.

Workers can't unionize, because businesses try their best to stamp out any unions before they start. Many workers sign contracts that, in legal jargon, bar them from creating a union before they can begin working. Making unions easier to start may sound good for the workers, but the business-owners will certainly find a way to keep their year-end bonus checks, fair or unfair.

Many small businesses have a hard time affording the current government minimum-wage. That's common knowledge. But multi-billion-dollar businesses have more money than they know what to do with. These companies will do whatever it takes, even moving out of the country, to save on employee wages. Sound backwards?

You know who's a terrible monopoly? A.I.G. It is not run by the government, and so corrupt that it begged America to pay for its mistakes two years ago.

In the United States, we must be lukewarm about capitalism. A cautionary approach to any system is necessary, as no method is flawless, nor does one system work for every body of people that implements it. Socialism is not perfect, and neither is capitalism. However, treating fellow citizens as though their lives are worth less than others is wrongdoing. Citizens that cling to this sense of entitlement are bound to be helpless when their financial securities fail. The morality of capitalism is self-preservation, and it places emphasis on greed and false security, rather than on one of the most basic human rights: equality. Giving suffering individuals the care and support they deserve as a human being is logical, caring, and it works. It's not political to have a heart.

United States needs to carefully consider use of power, influence

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The great Christian theologian and political philosopher Reinhold Neibuhr wrote in "The Irony of American History", "Modern man lacks the humility to accept the fact that the whole drama of history is enacted in a frame of meaning too large for human comprehension or management." Living in the shadow of World War II and the tension of the Cold War, Neibuhr was appropriately skeptical of human beings as managers of history. He acknowledged the pervasive reality of human sin and the limited scope and depth of human knowledge. These characteristics defined his pragmatic political wisdom.

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MINORITY REPORT: THE REHEARSAL

Photos and layout by Emmanuel Appiah-Berko