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CANADA, AU REVOIR

The Mounties are in an uproar. Canada to face annihilation. William Shatner is helpless.

▶ See page 6



CHEESE OUT?

Pranksters? Aliens? Art collectors? Bandits? The cheese is gone, and everyone is sad about it.

▶ See empty grass patch



E-'NORM'-OUS

Staff icon Zylstra takes his talents to the ring. He is not likely to survive the ladder match.

▶ See page 11



CALVIN COLLEGE CHIMES

April 1, 2011

Volume 105 - Issue 24

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Radiation treatment research increases

BY ALLISON SCHEPERS
Staff Writer

The recent earthquake and tsunami in Japan have raised many questions about the dangers of nuclear power and the possibility of nuclear disaster. It has also exposed a gap in the area of treatment of radiation poisoning. Thousands of people have been exposed to radiation from the Fukushima nuclear plant. Efficient methods of detection and treatment are desperately needed, but unfortunately this technology is not available.

Radiation causes a large range of injuries, making it complicated to treat. Exposure to radiation can cause burns, bone marrow and gastrointestinal damage, lung scarring and increased cancer risk years later. Yet outside of an immediate blast zone where open wounds and burns easily identify injuries, there's no quick way to tell who received a large dose.

The detection tests used on Japanese power plant workers only detect radiation on the skin or clothing, not how much radiation a person has absorbed, said medical physicist David Brenner, director of Columbia's Center for Radiological Research.

Currently there are only a few

proven therapies for radiation injuries. For acute radiation syndrome, which occurs following massive exposure to radiation and causes symptoms within days or weeks, steady supportive care such as increased fluid intake, infusions of blood-clotting platelets and infection-fighting antibiotics are recommended. To guard



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

The nuclear crisis in Japan has inspired a global push for radiation research.

against longer-term harm, doses of potassium iodide can protect against future thyroid cancer by shielding the thyroid from one type of fallout, radioactive iodine.

The United States is currently researching radiation detection and treatment as part of its pre-

cautions against terrorism, but these treatments could also be used in the event of a natural nuclear disaster such as an earthquake.

The federal Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA) funds late-stage research of promising radiation treatments, among other things. It has invested \$164 million for research in anti-radiation treatment candidates since 2008, and \$44 million for radiation testing, in hopes of adding such products to the nation's emergency medical stockpile soon. The National Institutes of Health and the Defense Department have also contributed funding to radiation research.

The projects include a radiation test requiring just a prick of the finger and an injection that protected monkeys' bone marrow and gastrointestinal lining (the two areas most susceptible places for radiation damage) from lethal doses of radiation. Research is also being done on medications that are currently used to increase infection-fighting blood cells in cancer patients, to determine if these could also be effective for radiation victims.

Italy's PM a defendant in four trials

BY CHRISTINE BENNETT
Staff Writer

On Monday, Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi appeared in court for the first time in eight years. The hearing at the Milan courthouse was about a case of alleged tax fraud and embezzlement, and it is only one of the four recently opened or reopened cases against Berlusconi.

In this case Berlusconi was accused of buying film rights at inflated prices for his media company, Mediaset, and shaving off a certain amount of sums to reduce the tax liabilities of the company. His eldest son and several executives of the company are also being prosecuted with him.

Berlusconi dismissed the accusations as "ridiculous" and called himself "the most accused man in history and the universe." He insisted that he had stopped running any of his companies since getting involved in politics. "Unfortunately, communism in Italy never surrendered and never changed," he said, claiming that the courts were run by judges and magistrates who would do anything to get him out of power.

Apart from the Mediaset case, the Prime Minister is also a defendant in three other trials. The most serious of these is one which involves accusations of abuse of

power and paying a minor for sex. Berlusconi met an underage Moroccan dancer who goes by the name of Ruby at several parties at his residence, and he allegedly paid her for sex.

Both Ruby and the Prime Minister deny this, though Ruby did admit receiving a gift of €7,000 (close to \$10,000) after a party. This case opens on April 6. Of the other two cases, one involves another media company and the other involves bribing a British lawyer, David Mills, to lie under oath.



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Silvio Berlusconi is in the middle of a legal firestorm.

In January of this year, Italy's Constitutional Court relaxed part of a law that had granted Berlusconi and some of his ministers immunity from court cases. The current court cases were allowed to open or re-open due to this suspension of his immunity. Though Berlusconi has been involved in many trials over the course of his political career, he has yet to be convicted; most of his cases ended in acquittal or were dropped due to the statute of limitations running out.

VerMerris to say farewell

BY TYLER SLAMKOWSKI
News Co-Editor

Folks come into our lives, and folks leave our lives. We have all experienced the difficulties of letting go and moving on, but this year, we will feel these emotions as a community as we say goodbye to our current Director of Health Services, Nancy VerMerris, who is retiring at the end of this school year.

An alumna of Wheaton College, Columbia University and Grand Valley State University, VerMerris became the Director of Health Services in 1998. The job entails that she manage the day-to-day operations of the health center as well as work in various leadership teams and committees, such as student life.

"When I began my tenure in 1998, the health center had been in basement of Heyns Hall for 25 years and had long before outgrown the original space," said VerMerris. "I tried to learn what the best colleges and universities were doing. I sought advice and feedback on campus and began working with many colleagues to re-imagine campus health and to expand our services... Certainly the sentinel moment for me came in 2009 when Health Services was relocated to a beautiful state-of-the-art facility- just in time for the H1N1 pandemic!"

One of the most noted aspects of VerMerris' tenure is her bringing Health services into the mainstream of modern health care. Her focus was to make the health care model at Calvin focused more on the leadership of Nurse Practitioners and requiring less doctoral supervision.

While this is encompassed in many ways simply by the attitude of the department, many practical changes have brought about this change as well. VerMerris advocated for not just general family doctors but specialists that are on-campus regularly to meet student needs, including an orthopedic doctor and an ADHD doctor. Additionally, VerMerris worked to bring greater cohesion between Health Services and the Broene Counseling Center, especially in the administration and regulation of mental health medications.

The cornerstone of VerMerris' work, however, has been the requirement of all students to have insurance, manifested in what we now know as "KnightCare." Requiring health care was and remains a contentious issue for Calvin, especially in light of rising tuition costs. Yet VerMerris remained a staunch advocate that if international students are required to have health insurance, then the same requirement ought to be extended to all students, especially at a time when students avoided health care because of fees.

As VerMerris said in the March 10, 2000 issue of *Chimes*,

"Philosophically, I think that in order to create equal access to health care for all of our students, they all need to be insured. There are too many students telling me 'I don't want to do that test' or 'I can't afford that medicine because I don't have health insurance.'"

Along with the tangible success of KnightCare, Nancy VerMerris also has a strong reputation with the administration. Highly sought after as a go-to person for medical questions as well as a sought after committee member in general, VerMerris is credited as bringing a new perspective in the Calvin community.

"Nancy has been one of my most trusted colleagues," said Shirley Hoogstra, Vice President for Student Life. "She has been unflappable in a crisis. She has the kindest and most compassionate heart for students. She always wanted the best for people who came to Health Services. I will miss her as a colleague, but also as a friend."

With VerMerris' retirement, Calvin is now in the process of finding a new Director of Health Services. According to Hoogstra, the candidates are "excellent," but the Calvin community will dearly miss this beloved administrator; it is clear that whoever takes over for Nancy VerMerris will have very large shoes to fill.

"I have been privileged to be part of an incredible team of colleagues within the Student Life division who continue to work very hard to make this mission come alive, and I will miss the close friendships I've had at Calvin," said VerMerris. "My Health Services colleagues are very dear to me. Change is never easy, but I'm not afraid of it; I welcome new opportunities to grow."



PHOTO COURTESY OF CALVIN.EDU

Seasoned director of Health Services to retire.

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Chimes is the official newspaper of Calvin College. The mission of Chimes is to serve the community of Calvin College in a variety of ways: we aim to reform, review, challenge and foster dialogue within the community.

THE OFFICIAL STUDENT
NEWSPAPER OF CALVIN
COLLEGE SINCE 1907

CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY NEWS

SLC trip achieves goals and inspires students

BY MARY SEERVELD
Guest Writer

Every spring, the Service-Learning Center provides many opportunities to meet new people, help the less fortunate, and get a little perspective outside the infamous Calvin bubble. Most trips head at least eight hours out, to Saint Louis, Boston, Knoxville, even as far south as Mobile, Ala. and Biloxi, Miss. But one trip advertised a destination shockingly close to home: Three Rivers, Mich. is not even eighty miles from Grand Rapids. What prompted this deviation from the usual practice of sacrificing untold amounts of fossil fuels in Calvin's quest to serve the world?

In fact, the 7,500-person town of Three Rivers is the home of a nonprofit founded and run by Student Life staff members Rob and Kirstin Vander Giessen-Reitsma, whose office is about five feet from the Service-Learning Center. (Mystery solved.)

Their nonprofit, *culture is not optional, or *cino, seeks to actively participate in a Christian redemption of culture. *cino rescued a condemned school building in 2009 and bravely pledged to renovate the school into a center that could help serve the needs of the surrounding underprivileged neighborhood.

Accordingly, they crafted a Service-Learning trip centered

around a continuing commitment to engaging community and culture. "We want it to be about a new way to experience everyday life, not a week-long exception," says Kirstin.

Participants are meant to come away with an understanding of place, rule of life, buying local, food systems and routine piety that directly affects the way they live their lives.

This year's trip was a definite success both in service and learning. The students and their mentors spent the mornings hard at work on the future community center or making crafts that could be sold to raise funds for further construction. By the end of the week, the ugly drop ceiling and cold fluorescent lighting in the main hall had been replaced, revealing an airier, friendlier hall much closer to welcoming children back inside.

In the afternoon, everyone spoke with locals who were also helping grow the community. In the process, the students learned about sustainable local farming, small town journalism, racism in education, art in community, pastoral care, small business ownership and how to build a rule of life.

Throughout these conversations, the importance of place resurfaced again and again. The connection between the patronizing of local businesses and the health of the local downtown was

inescapable. The rise of malls and big-box stores has led to the decline of downtowns not only in Three Rivers but nationwide.

This trip confronted students with the fact that their purchasing decisions matter. But did the lesson sink in?

For Junior Renée Girard the answer is a resounding yes. "Once I got back, I automatically started incorporating what I had learned. I looked up local farmer's markets and different local businesses in Grand Rapids that I could support." For Renée and others on the trip, a closer look at life in Three Rivers translated to a closer look at their own lives. Even the experience of making dinner every night was transformative, highlighting the joy of coming together to cook something healthier, tastier and cheaper than any processed food.

Although Rob and Kirstin's hope of teaching this year's crop of students how to live healthier, more connected lives was realized, their work is far from done.

Rather than continue dividing their time between Calvin and

Three Rivers, they will be leaving next year to focus on *cino.

"If we're going to make more progress, the kind of progress we need to make, we need to build more relationships with the community, and that takes time," said Rob, explaining their reasoning.

Despite the Vander Giessen-Reitsma's departure, the connection between *cino and Calvin will remain. Service trips to Three Rivers will still be available, and *cino is currently offering four internship positions this summer that they seek to fill with Calvin students. Rob, Kirstin and all the students who have worked with them are hopeful about the future of Three Rivers and will



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARY SEERVELD
Students cooked with homegrown vegetables and explored the arts during spring break.

continue pouring their love and effort into the community.

Calvin oil spill contaminates Seminary Pond

BY SEAMUS BOAZ ACKBAR
News Co-Editor

Calvin College has once again attracted unwanted attention. On Thursday, March 31, a semi truck carrying freshly drilled oil from the oil well near the Calvin Seminary hit a patch of black ice, breaking the oil tank and dumping nearly 30,000 gallons of oil into the nearby Seminary Pond. The disaster comes at an inopportune time for the college, which is already in financial stasis as a result of last week's annual Discernment Festival.

The Calvin College "El Libre de Responsabilidad" oil well, drilled in the woods near Calvin Theological Seminary in 1995 to commemorate President Byker's inauguration, has provided low cost fossil fuel to residents of the Saudi Peninsula for nearly two decades. With approximately 12 million barrels produced quar-

terly, the well has been a major source of funding both for the college and its sponsor, PepsiCo.

"That first day at Calvin, I thought I smelled fresh-flowing oil somewhere on the campus," said President Gaylen Byker. "After the inauguration ceremony, I put on my handy rollicking boots and tramped out into the woods. The oil was right where I expected it: the place I willed it to be. Though I recognized the potential environmental risks, I just pretended there weren't. Then Thursday's catastrophe happened."

Currently, there are approximately 316 species of fish and waterfowl at risk from the oil spill, as well as the cattle in the nearby Knollcrest factory farm. Environmental Protection Agency officials have come to the campus to combat the damage, but success has been minimal. Administrators are currently assessing if a more competent gov-

ernment agency should also be enlisted, such as FEMA.

Yet the environment is not the only victim of El Libre's bedlam. Much of the administration's yearly pay comes directly from the well's profits, freeing up the college's other revenue to lower tuition and facilitate culturally relevant events, like the concert at the beginning of the year featuring The New Pornographers. Additionally, many alumni from the art, philosophy and sociology departments have been employed upon graduation to provide cheap labor for the lucrative El Libre.

"I never would have imagined that El Libre de Responsabilidad would have caused this kind of destruction," said Jafar Van O'Grady, a 1984 studio art major. "The well has provided me a transition between college and my art career for the past 27 years, and many of my friends depend on the minimal pay and mediocre benefits to pay rent to their parents. But now it seems like that's all about to change."

In the next few days, it is ex-

pected that a number of preventative measures will be established to protect seminary students, such as curfews, restrictions on smoking areas near the spilled oil and limits on time spent with God. Religion professors, however, have been given freedom to slather the oil on their theology, especially those who still do not accept the recent discussions of evolution, Genesis and the beatification of N.T. Wright.

The final date of cleanup is still uncertain, as President Byker is struggling to establish the Saudi Arabia campus by next fall. Ken Heffner, Student Activities Director, is currently leading the cleanup team, where he has emphasized the theological significance of what he calls "Calvin's greatest triumph since the Chimes."

"I'd like our students to use this as an opportunity to discern God's feelings about irresponsible oil use," said Heffner. "Personally, I feel that El Libre de Responsabilidad is a perfect time to reflect on our use of responsible freedom; it's a great day to be Reformed and to be at Calvin College."



Campus Safety Report

Monday, 3/21

-Campus Safety responded to a suspicious vehicle that had been traveling southbound in the northbound lanes of the East Beltline before leaving the road and coming to a stop on the lawn next to the East Beltline parking lot. The driver of the vehicle fled to the east, crossing the lot and going into the Nature Preserve. The Grand Rapids Police Department was called and responded to the scene. The driver was not located and the vehicle was impounded.

Friday, 3/25

-Campus Safety responded to suspicious activity in the first floor kitchen of Huizenga hall. An unknown person gained entry into the building by removing

the screen and climbing through the window of the kitchen. This occurred sometime between 8 a.m. on Thursday, March 24 and Friday, March 25 at 10 a.m. The building was searched, but there was no trace of the invader.

Sunday, 3/27

-Campus Safety employees investigated a complaint of a violation of the student code of conduct. There was a report of the scent of alcohol and marijuana on the second floor of VanderWerp. The students were identified and interviewed, and the Grand Rapids Police were called to assist two of the involved students who were not Calvin students. The students were cited as minors in possession of alcohol, and the information was forwarded to Judicial Affairs for further action.



PHOTO COURTESY OF GRIFFIN JACKSON
Gaylen Byker has taken heavy criticism for Thursday's oil spill but is, for the moment, blissfully unconcerned.

'Love Wins' inflames myriad philosophical controversies

BY JASMINE WILSON
Staff Writer

"Are you a universalist?" That is the question Rob Bell has been facing the last few weeks since the marketing began for his new book, "Love Wins: Heaven, Hell, and the Fate of Every Person Who Ever Lived." The book debuted at No. 2 on The New York Times Hardcover Advice & Miscellaneous best-seller list for the week of April 3. Rob Bell is the pastor of Mars Hill Church in Grandville, Mich., the author of numerous books and star of the popular "Nooma" video series. None of those books or short films stirred up quite as much national controversy as "Love Wins," however.

The controversy began a few weeks ago when Rob Bell released a short video advertising the upcoming release of the book. The video was posted on Feb. 26, and in between that time and March 15, when the book was released, the controversy was stirred. Before the book was even able to be purchased and read, people across the web and blogosphere began declaring Bell a heretic since it seemed as if he was promoting universalism. John Piper infamously tweeted "Farewell, Rob Bell," including a link to a blog by Justin Taylor called "Rob Bell: Universalist?" that initiated the controversy.

The release date was originally March 29, but the publishers decided to release the book earlier than schedule, expecting the controversy to aid book sales. Some Christian bookstores have refused to carry the book, how-

ever, such as LifeWay Christian Stores. Berean Christian Stores allows customers to special order the book, but does not carry any in stock at any of its 18 locations. Baker Book House in Grand Rapids, on the other hand, ordered almost 500 copies to meet the expected demand.

In the March 11 edition of the *Chimes*, Matthew Dodrill wrote an article in which he thought what was more fascinating than universalism per se was the evangelical response. Dodrill commented, "I believe many evangelicals are trying to protect something that is not worth protecting."

Paul Chaplin, a Calvin alum who has been following the controversy, had a similar comment. He thought the response was based on Bell's alleged impact on evangelism. Hell is a powerful convicting tool that many evangelists use. But according to Chaplin, "I think people are worried that if there isn't the threat of hell, why would anyone bother believing, or converting. Threat (even threat with a smile

and a hug) should not (and need not) have any place in bringing people to Jesus — the good news is good enough." Chaplin went on to say, "For those who are trying to slowly change a common (and understandable) perception of Christians as outwardly gentile with a venomous undercurrent of judgment just waiting to burst out, the reaction of many con-

been very popular in Christian circles, his approach might not be translatable to wider culture. As Krahn notes, "Some may see the release of 'Love Wins' and its surrounding controversy as Rob Bell's brass ring moment, when he crosses over from 'rock star in the church world' to an even more popular rock star of mainstream spirituality."

some point whether you want to be there or not." Then he went on to tell a story.

At the end of the interview, however, Bell said very honestly, "I love the discussion, I love the speculation, I love all the theories, but ultimately ... I want to see [everyone] experience good news, I want [everyone] to experience love ... I realize in these questions I stumble a bunch. I realize I wander all over the place. I'm not a theologian, I'm not a scholar, and I'm not very smart, but I do know that there's good news, and I've seen it in action. And that's worth talking about."

In terms of the actual content of the book, Richard Mouw, president of Fuller Theological Seminary, has blogged in support of the book. "Let me say it clearly: I am not a universalist. I believe hell as a condition in the afterlife is real, and that it will be occupied. I think Rob believes that too. But he is a creative communicator who likes to prod, and even tease us a bit theologically." Mouw suggests that Bell's eschatology (or his beliefs about the what happens when we die) lines up with C.S. Lewis and is in fact, orthodox, not heresy. Mouw asks, "Why don't folks who criticize Rob Bell for wanting to let too many people in also go after people like that who want to keep too many people out? Why are we rougher on salvific generosity than on salvific stinginess?"

Calvin students have the opportunity to have their books signed and possibly hear from Bell himself. He continues his book tour here in Grand Rapids on Sunday, April 3 at Barnes and Noble on 28th street at 3 p.m.



The release of Rob Bell's new book, "Love Wins," has incited great controversy throughout many Christian circles.

servative evangelicals to "Love Wins" saw many palms smack foreheads as we saw so much good work undone so quickly."

According to Michael Krahn, one of the many bloggers who weighed in on this discussion, Bell's aim with this book was to appeal to a wider audience than just those in the church. In 2007, the Times did a profile on Bell saying that while he has

while watching the video, and there were those on both sides of the issue, some appreciating his comments and some hating them. The most common frustration was that Bell would not directly answer the questions.

For example, when he was asked "Are you a universalist?" he replied, "No. If by universalist you mean there's a giant cosmic arm that swoops everyone in at

Biblical. *Authentic.* *Contextual.* *Life-Changing.*

At Calvin Theological Seminary we are deeply invested in the personal and spiritual formation of every student. Rooted in Reformed theology, our program is designed for developing pastors and nurtures the individual growth and development essential to this important calling.

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SUDOKU

LANGUAGE LESSONS

with Amy and Michelle

The editors of the Oxford English Dictionary decided just two days ago, on March 30, that next edition of the OED would no longer include the definition of the word “gullible” with which most Americans are familiar. Instead, they said, the word’s definition would harken back to an older meaning of the word “gull” — to swallow or guzzle. In future editions of the OED, then, “gullible” will be defined as capable of being eaten or swallowed.

Profes Say the Darnedest Things

“And there is Professor Winkle, who is neither rugged nor beautiful.”
- Professor Noe, classics

“Don’t you wish your girlfriend was hot like me?”
- Professor Stehouwer, psychology

“If you look around and see all those couples at Johnny’s, they aren’t happy; they’re stupid.”
- Professor Holberg, English

“Sometimes Grand Rapids is called the city of churches, or as I like to call it, GRusalem.”
- Professor Luttkhuizen, art history

Do your professors entertain you with their wittiness, impropriety and general hilarity?

If so, send those quotes posthaste to chimes@calvin.edu

King Crossword

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ACROSS

1 Ballyhoo

5 Astronaut Grissom

8 On the rocks

12 Wander

13 Suitable

14 Protuberance

15 Something unexpected

17 Forum wear

18 Charged bit

19 “Pop Goes the —”

21 Whiskers

24 Relative standing

25 Capri or Wight

26 Land boundary finder

30 Sheep’s call

31 Impaired by age and dampness

32 Past

33 Smith and Jones, e.g.

35 Worry

36 Census statistics

37 Arouses boredom

38 Incite to action

41 Tavern

42 Hawaiian

6 Boom times

7 Managers

8 Amount consumed

9 Dove’s calls

10 Advantage

11 Transaction

16 Scepter

20 A deadly sin

21 Drool

23 Birthright

24 Winglike

26 English county

27 Three feet

28 Curved molding

29 Deteriorates

31 Creche trio

34 Character

35 Way out there

37 It holds the mayo

38 This and that

39 Simple

40 Roe provider

41 Author Harte

44 Coffee vessel

45 Mentalist

46 A Bobbsey twin

47 Hair coloring

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Super Crossword IN LINE

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ACROSS

1 School tool

6 Sahara vision

12 Crestfallen

15 Pigskin prop

18 “Carmen” and “The Consul”

20 Genesis peak

21 In-your-face item?

22 Director Ashby

23 SIDE LINE

27 Extremity

28 Nurse’s helper

29 East ender?

30 Sly trick

31 Composer Thomas

32 Rocky’s rival

36 Author Antonia

38 Mingo’s portrayer

41 Fiddling emperor

42 Turn of phrase

44 SKY LINE

52 Nonclerical

53 New Jersey athletes

54 Scuba site

55 TV’s “— Fly Away”

57 Mischief-maker

58 Rhone feeder

59 Has on

61 Singer

Khan

63 Naldi or Talbot

65 Sty guy

66 Mardi —

67 Went white

68 HAIR LINE

74 Breakfast fruit

77 Jeroboam contents

78 Color

79 Criticize

83 Speak one’s mind

84 Accent feature

86 Singer Vaughan

88 Mrs. McKinley

89 “Lorenzo’s —” (’92 film)

90 Dividend

91 41 Across’ tutor

92 Be a pest

93 LIFE LINE

99 Took on board

100 “— No Sunshine” (’71 hit)

101 Content completely

102 Aptitude

105 “— and Misdemeanors” (’89 film)

107 Act like a chicken

110 Belligerent deity

111 Reminder

112 Shade of

green

113 Year, in Yucatan

116 BLOOD LINE

124 Actor Chaney

125 Past

126 Expects the worst

127 Maris or Mantle

128 She’s a sheep date

129 — down (destroy)

130 Petrarch product

131 Kingdom

DOWN

1 Dressing gown

2 “Once — a midnight dreary . . .”

3 Balloon material?

4 Be human

5 Tracking tool

6 Medieval weapon

7 Bother

8 Math abbr.

9 Meyers of “Kate & Allie”

10 Boyle’s concern

11 Lucy’s landlady

12 Made cotton candy

13 Broadcast

14 Thieves’

head-quarters?

15 Anatole France novel

16 Combs of baseball

17 Glue guy

19 Pelt

24 Chemical suffix

25 Poultry purchase

26 Wise guy

31 — blond

32 Leg joint

33 Pride of the pumped-up

34 “— pro nobis”

35 Prune

36 Vassal’s holding

37 Linear measure

38 “— a day’s work”

39 Biscayne Bay city

40 “Aida” setting

43 Club cost

45 QB’s stats

46 Bounded

47 Shun

48 Beatles beater

49 Cocky

50 Medicine bottle

51 Actress Sommer

56 Youngster

59 Squeezed out the suds

60 Vacation sensation

61 Numbers man?

62 Kansas city

64 Soon

66 Show one’s teeth

69 Vane letters

70 Serengeti sahib

71 Cut of meat

72 Blender setting

73 Show one’s feelings

74 Bovine bellow

75 “The Ramayana,” e.g.

76 Coloratura Pons

80 Neighbor of Niger

81 Man or stallion

82 Patrick of “A Clockwork Orange”

84 Shake-spearan infinitive

85 Kind of print

86 Factions

87 Owns

90 Leonine

91 Reasonably balanced

94 See 109 Down

95 China’s — Biao

96 Skater

Babilonia

97 Amis’ “Lucky —”

98 Sound of disapproval

102 Under the — (secretly)

103 Cupid’s missile

104 Sierra —

106 Philharmonic section

107 Bleak critique

108 Whirlpool

109 With

94 Down, fragrant container

111 Cornfield critter

112 Only

113 “Puppy Love” singer

114 Gallagher of Oasis

115 Utah city

117 Actor’s lunch?

118 Self-esteem

119 Theater sign

120 Word with take or hang

121 Solo of “Star Wars”

122 Coleridge composition

123 “— Good Cop” (’91 film)

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Bachmann weighs presidential bid

BY JOSEPH MATHESON
Nat-World Co-Editor

It may seem a little early to look forward to the 2012 presidential contest, but those who actually intend to run generally start looking at strategy and raising funds somewhere around now. One of the Republican candidates who seems to be starting to put those networks in place is Michele Bachmann, a Republican member of the House of Representatives from Minnesota.

Although Bachmann has not yet announced that she intends to run, many strategists suspect she will. In an interview with Matt Lauer on Today, when directly asked if she would be running for the presidency, she responded that she probably won't make the decision until the summer. Nonetheless, she recently visited both Iowa and New Hampshire, two crucial states in the presidential primaries. It is also suspected that she will form an exploratory committee in the next few months to start raising money for a presidential bid.

Bachmann already has a nationwide network of supporters and donors due to her strong adhesion to conservative causes that have made her popular with groups such as the Tea Party. In talks in Iowa, Bachmann has suggested that she would certainly consider running if she felt she needed to, saying “I'm in to make sure Barack Obama is a one-term president. I am in, in terms of 2012, to make sure that we do have a rock-solid conservative.”

What exactly a Bachmann

presidential run might look like is unsure, although her interview with Matt Lauer presents some clues. Although she did say she hadn't decided if she would run or not, many of Lauer's questions were related to what she would do if she were president and were very similar to presidential policy questions. Speaking about Libya, Bachmann said that she would



Michele Bachmann seems to be preparing for a 2012 presidential bid.

not have engaged in military missions against Libya, saying: “I don't think that's in the American interest.”

She also already has a close group of people who could form her inner circle should she run. Some of these include Ed Brookover, a veteran at

Washington Republican politics, Rebecca Donatelli, a specialist in online fundraising, Andy Parrish, Bachmann's current chief of staff in her congressional office, Guy Short, who was in charge of raising the 13.5 million dollars for Bachmann's Congressional run and Kent Sorenson, a leader of the Tea Party movement in Iowa. A presidential run by Bachmann has many possible implications. For conservatives such as Tim Pawlenty, it could mean extra competition in Iowa, a state he might hope to carry to gain momentum. For others like Sarah Palin, it could mean a split base, due to the similar styles and target audiences. The established Republican Party might also be miffed should Bachmann run and do well, since there is no love lost between Bachmann and the established Republicans.

Democrats, however, might be enthused about Bachmann's presidential run. With her penchant for controversial quotes that garner a great deal of attention, the Democratic Party would have a large amount of ammunition to throw at her. Recently, she was quoted as denouncing the “black-robed masters” in Iowa, while referring to judges. Since Bachmann's appeal is primarily to the conservative side of the Republican Party and not to moderates and independents, President Obama could capitalize on her somewhat attention-mongering reputation to win over moderates and independents in his bid to stay in office.

Whatever Bachmann ultimately decides, the presidential race is already looking to be important and possibly even entertaining in 2012.

Geraldine Ferraro passes away Trailblazer dies of myeloma at 75

BY NATHAN SLAUER
Nat-World Co-Editor

On March 26, 2011, Geraldine Ferraro died after a long battle with multiple myeloma, a type of blood cancer. She struggled to cope with the illness for twelve years before passing away in the Massachusetts General Hospital at the age of 75.

“Geraldine will forever be remembered as a trailblazer who broke down barriers for women and Americans of all backgrounds and walks of life,” said President Obama in a recent statement.

Ferraro was born on Aug. 26, 1935 in Newburgh, New York. Her parents were first-generation Italian immigrants — her mother a seamstress and her father the owner of two restaurants. Following the death of her father at the age of eight, Ferraro and her mother moved to South Bronx, where the pair lived with little income. Ferraro's mother, unlike other members of her family, was determined that Ferraro get an education. Ferraro eventually fulfilled her mother's wishes by earning both a B.A. from Marymount Manhattan College and a degree in law from Fordham University.

Following graduation, Ferraro worked as an assistant district attorney, later working for the U.S. House of Representatives. Ferraro was chosen by the Democratic candidate Walter Mondale as his running mate against Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush in the 1984 presi-

dential election. Until that point, no woman had made a bid for the White House. While Mondale and Ferraro lost the campaign for the Presidency that year, many still saw the run as a victory for women.

“If we can do this, we can do anything,” said Ferraro during a Democratic National Convention.

Many have drawn inspiration from Ferraro's story. “To think,” says Ann Richards, “of the numbers of young women who can now aspire to anything.”

Following Ferraro's vice presidential run, Richards ran successfully in an gubernatorial election in Texas, and served from 1991 to 1995.

Two women have attempted to run for higher office 24 years after Ferraro. Sarah Palin, the former governor of Alaska, ran as the Republican running mate for Senator John McCain while former U.S. Senator Hillary Clinton ran in the Democratic primary against current President Barack Obama.

Following her campaign, Clinton said, “I am a woman and, like millions of women, I know there are still barriers and biases out there, often unconscious, and I want to build an America that respects every one of us ... although we weren't able to shatter that highest, hardest glass ceiling this time, thanks to you, it has about 18 million cracks in it and the light is shining through like never before.”

While no woman has broken this “glass ceiling” yet, many believe that it is only a matter of time, thanks largely to the groundwork laid by Geraldine Ferraro.

President Obama defends policies Obama draws contrast between Libya and Iraq

BY DAVID RYOU
Staff Writer

On Monday, President Obama gave a national speech addressing the progression of events in Libya amidst the American and European pressure on the Gadhafi regime for the past few weeks.

During the speech, Barack Obama fiercely defended the U.S. military involvement in Libya against skeptical Republicans and several politicians from the Democratic Party, stating that “the U.S. intervention had prevented a possible massacre from occurring.”

He was also careful in making several distinctions between the unpopular Iraq War, which he actively opposed against during the Bush presidency. From the previous wars in which the U.S. military was involved in, Obama drew on two lessons that the U.S. could learn from.

First, Obama pointed out that during President Clinton's service in office, Clinton had failed to intervene and prevent the reckless slaughter of the Rwandan genocide in 1994. The second lesson was learned during the G.W. Bush presidency — President Bush poorly relied on a well-structured international coordination to assist U.S. actions in the Middle East.

Yet despite President Obama's “good” intentions, many critics are anxious to see how the current intervention by the United States, United Arab Emirates and NATO

in Libya against the oppressive Gadhafi forces will turn out. Bruce W. Jentleson, a professor from Duke University, pointed out the political risks involved in such an intervention that would permanently affect Obama's political profile.

“If this succeeds,” Jentleson stated, “[Obama] will have demonstrated he's a president who can make multilateralism work, and use American power in ways that are effective for a 21st century world.”

Although only 47 percent of respondents approved of U.S. military intervention against Gadhafi's government in Libya, according to a Gallup poll conducted last week, Obama continued to argue that the mission in the oil-rich Libya is “clear and focused.”

Unlike the raging war against al-Qaeda in other parts of the Middle East, Obama is cautious about deploying ground forces in Libya — which would lead to an exhausting draining of U.S. resources from the already-depleted economy. Instead, the United States is continuing to implement a no-fly zone over Libya, while taking out Gadhafi's air defenses through American and European airstrikes.

Although Gadhafi's forces have retreated from the previously captured cities of Libya such as Ajdabiya, the question remains: how will the U.S. and the European allied powers remove Gadhafi from power?

According to sources, Obama

did not exactly outline the time of U.S. involvement in Libya. Despite such speculations, Obama emphasized Monday that the U.S. would focus on shifting the command of operations from the U.S. to NATO. Such shift in command would still not solve the problem of removing Gadhafi from power, however.

But the flurry of questions that surrounds the current issue of the U.S. involvement in Libya did not alter President Obama's strong position on “securing our interests and values,” as he stated in his speech.

“The United States will not be able to dictate the pace and scope of this change,” Obama stated. “Only the people of the region can do that. But we can make a difference. I believe that this movement of change cannot be turned back, and that we must stand alongside those who believe in the same core principles that have guided us through many storms: our opposition to violence directed against one's own citizens; our support for a set of universal rights, including the freedom for people to express themselves and choose their leaders; our support for governments that are ultimately responsive to the aspirations of the people.”

Whatever the views of the actions taken by Obama in Libya, it is clear that there is a need for a philosophy that takes into account the interests of America, Libya, the Libyan people and the world at large.

Pillow war rocks Capitol

BY CHAD HAMMERSTEIN
Nat-World Co-Editor

The tense political situation in Washington exploded recently as members of the House of Representatives, the Senate, and other politicians in Washington violently attacked one another with pillows, blankets, teddy bears and, in a notable instance, an entire mattress on Thursday. Rage had been building for several days over the recent partisan budget debate before the simmering situation finally boiled over. The day of the brawl, President Obama had been scheduled to give a speech on the budget debate. In the speech, he advocated the parties working together to find a workable compromise in order to keep the government running. At the end of his speech, Speaker of the House Jim Boehner reportedly stood up and yelled, “Nuts to that!” before striking Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi in the torso with a large fluffy pillow.

The violence quickly spread as members of the Democratic Party retaliated, flinging large woolen blankets over groups of Republicans and assaulting them with pillows, in some cases stolen off of couches. Ben Quayle, a Republican from Arizona, said, “They were much more organized than we were expecting. Democrats usually have a hard time working together, but I have to give them credit for their use of blankets.”

Despite the Democrats being in the minority in the House, Republicans were unable to

gain a decisive victory. Michele Bachmann, a Republican from Minnesota, reportedly charged at President Obama, swinging a pillow in each hand, but was flattened by Vice President Joe Biden with an entire mattress. She is still in the hospital with severe bruising. “She deserved it,” Biden commented.

The brawl spread out of the room, encompassing the Senate and most of the Capitol building. Battles raged through most of the day as politicians ran rampant through the Capitol building as emergency services convened outside and police cordoned off the building. President Obama was reportedly ambushed by several Republican senators in the confusion and was found later lying on the floor with feathers around him from the vicious pillow beating.

Some people actually broke past the police barricade and ran into the Capitol building brandishing pillows and stuffed animals. Karl Rove overpowered two police officers with a two-foot plush giraffe, and Stephen Colbert managed to sneak into the building dressed in red footie pajamas.

A Fox News spokesman said, “Fox News does not condone the use of violence to achieve political goals.”

The entire staff of the MSNBC News staff attacked the police with Snuggles and throw pillows but was ultimately repulsed by a police mattress wall.

America mourned as the ugly spectacle was revealed, pillows covering the floor of the Capitol, politicians staggering about in the devastation. Strict regulations should be enforced on pillows to prevent a tragedy like this from occurring again.

Ammunition explodes in Yemen

BY TAYLOR VANDERVEEN
Staff Writer

An explosion destroying an ammunition factory in southern Yemen Monday added to the unrest and building tension the country has been feeling for some time.

There is debate about the cause and the death toll of the blast, but reports agree that the number of deaths is between 80 and 120, with as many as 45 injured. Those working with the wreckage expect to uncover many more men, women and children.

The scene is a bleak one, painted by a doctor working in the nearby hospital as "a catastrophe, the first of its kind. There are so many burned bodies. I can't even describe the situation."

The factory, which made rifles, munitions and road construction explosives, was taken over on Sunday by Islamist militants. They reportedly took what they needed and then left it to locals to loot as they pleased.

Some reports say that a lazily discarded cigarette set off the explosion in the factory. The Governor of Abyan Province, where the factory is located, is putting together a committee to look into the explosion and garner more evidence as to what the root of the problem was.

This demolished building is a problem among many throughout Yemen. Brewing unrest is bringing civilians together, perhaps knit together with courage from the successes of revolutions in Egypt and Tunisia, and they are demonstrating their unhappiness with the rule of Ali Abdullah Saleh.

The opposition is not the only

force at work against the government. The action this weekend included a skirmish between a local al-Qaeda group and the Yemeni government on Sunday. Three al-Qaeda members were killed and another six were arrested. In another encounter on Sunday seven Yemeni soldiers were killed and another seven wounded from an al-Qaeda attack in Marib.

Saleh, the leader of the nation since 1978, insists to his people that he is the best one to be in power to combat the terrorists.

This does not stop the demonstrations that have been going on for months, with complaints of a corrupt government, lack of political freedom and a high unemployment rate.

Yaseen Norman, the leader of the largest of the opposition groups JMP, spoke out about the situation. "Saleh has not learned a lesson from the millions who are demanding he step down. All the different initiatives and negotiations that take place are only there for Saleh to buy himself more time," he said.

These negotiations he is referring to might be Saleh saying he will accept the calls for constitutional reforms and parliamentary elections, adding that he will not run for president in the next elections.

The U.S. has seen Saleh be a useful ally in their fight against al-Qaeda. When asked about the situation and how it might change if Saleh is taken from power, U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates told reporters that they will continue to watch the situation unfold, pleased with their past interactions with the Yemeni leader yet acknowledging the large amount of unhappiness sprouting from his citizens.

Disaster strikes Canada

BY LIAM EKO
Nat-World Co-Editor

The Department of Earthly and Astrological Disasters (DEAD) alerted the United Nations of the inevitable impact of a meteor sometime early next week. The trajectory of the meteor — the size of which is said to rival that of Greenland — has been calculated and is said to impact somewhere in the vast emptiness of Canada (pretty vague, eh?). In addition to this tragic news, DEAD has also issued tornado, hurricane and tsunami warnings to those living near the Pacific and Atlantic coasts. DEAD is urging that all those who wish to survive these disasters to head north.



All of Canada is to be destroyed in the next week. Hide yo' kids, hide yo' wives and hide yo' husbands 'cause a meteor is a-comin'.

President Barack Obama has made the decision to close down the Canadian-American border in hopes of preventing a mass exodus of polar bear-riding Canadians. Additionally, Obama has requested that DEAD head up the efforts to return those Canadians who currently reside in the United States.

"I am very worried about those Canadian citizens who are away from their families right now," responded Doug Graves, vice president of DEAD. "My first thought was to send them back home so that their final moments may be in the arms of their families."

Major Loon, a Canadian citizen, was very concerned about the news of Canada's inevitable destruction. "My family has lived

in the same igloo for about the past 70 years. At least our family will be able to recover our most cherished possession, our maple leaf collection."

Many wise Canadians have already begun their journey toward the Arctic ice shelf. President Obama and Prime Minister Stephen Harper have been negotiating a more logical approach for the diaspora of Canadian citizens and have come up with an ingenious approach.

Beginning Monday of next week, any persons carrying ketchup chips covered in maple syrup will gain free passage to Antarctica, the next safest location.

DEAD is positive that the damage from the meteor, tornadoes, hurricanes and tsunamis is confined to Canada only. Diane Yung, DEAD's public affairs representative, urges Americans not to worry about the safety of the Canadian race. "Every step is being taken to help protect those from the up in coming natural disasters. Luckily for us, the high density of Mounties coupled with herds of moose will block the subsequent impact waves from the meteor collision."

Humanity can sleep peacefully knowing that every precaution is being taken. Obama, with the assistance of DEAD representatives, feel that no one should worry. "We are confident that Canadian history will be preserved through word of mouth: a few short stories and maybe some parables."

Nuclear plant has ecological implications

Soil contaminated by plutonium radiation heightens fear

BY GREG KIM
Staff Writer

On Monday, March 28, the Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO) reported that trace levels of the radioactive substance plutonium were found in five places in the soil around the Fukushima Nuclear Reactor. This raised an alarm for those working in and around the site, but authorities stressed that the amounts of plutonium that were found are in no way harmful to humans. TEPCO officials additionally stated that efforts to get the situation under control in the reactors would continue unhindered by the recent findings.

The discovery of plutonium around the plant is a significant development in the ongoing crisis at Fukushima nuclear plant. The first reason is that the half-life of plutonium is much longer than that of other radioactive elements and therefore poses a more serious threat if it were to be released into the environment.

An element's half-life is the amount of time it takes for the element's mass to decrease by half. Radioactive iodine, which has been found in various foods and water supplies in Japan, has a half-life of around eight days. There were three isotopes of plutonium discovered in the soil around the plant. Plutonium-238 has a half-life of 87 years, Plutonium-249, 6,500 years, and Plutonium-239, 24,000 years. With such a long half-life, plutonium carries a much larger potential for environmental harm than other radioactive materials. As it was

found in trace amounts, however, the plutonium will be harmless to both humans and the environment.

The second reason for concern in finding plutonium outside the plant is the resulting implications regarding the condition of the reactors. Much of the damage resulting from the earthquake and failure to cool the reactors is still undetermined. However, accord-



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS PHOTO

An aerial photograph of Fukushima nuclear power plant in Japan. Areas up to 135 miles away have been contaminated by plutonium radiation.

ing to Denis Flory, the Deputy Director General of Safety at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the "presence of plutonium outside the plant means there's been degradation of the fuel in at least one of the six reactors." The degradation of the fuel had been suspected by the IAEA, but the findings serve as sure proof of such damage. With such recent findings, the TEPCO and IAEA are stepping up efforts in testing the soil and water around the reactor for further leaked radioactive materials to correctly assess the extent of the damage done to the reactors.

In the past few weeks, traces of radioactive material have been found in seawater and various foods. Things such as vegetables, milk, and drinking water from sites close to the reactor have been deemed "unsafe" for infants to consume. In Tokyo, 136 miles south of the reactors, the tap water has been contaminated by iodine and deemed unsafe for babies. The Tokyo municipality has recently handed out 240,000 bottles of safe drinking water to 80,000 families with babies. Following the reports of iodine discovery, residents of Tokyo have bought out supplies of bottled water in stores across the city.

The Japanese government and outside agencies have two enormous tasks laid out for them. First is to locate the missing in the earthquake and tsunami aftermath and provide shelter for the hundreds and thousands who have lost their homes. Second is the problem of radioactive fallout from the damaged reactors. With the discovery of contamination in the tap water and traces of plutonium in the soil, the pressure has increased for those working in and around the nuclear reactors to assume control over the

reactors, assess the damage and contain the fallout.

Another thing that has escalated is the debate over reactor safety. The IAEA has recently called a nuclear safety summit to discuss reactor safety measures in light of the recent developments in Fukushima. On the whole, more than 11,000 have been confirmed dead from the earthquake and tsunami, and the death toll is forecasted to top 18,000. Total costs from the damage are expected to be around \$310 billion, which USA Today points out will make this "the most expensive natural disaster on record."

Libyan conflict continues, Gadhafi still involved

BY JOSEPH MATHESON
Nat-World Co-Editor

The conflict in Libya between government forces loyal to Col. Muammar el-Gadhafi and rebel forces intending to oust Gadhafi from government has been a back-and-forth conflict.

The rebel movement, which started strong, was on the verge of defeat by better organized and better armed loyalists, but upon the introduction of a strict no-fly zone and a U.N. security resolution to protect civilians that has resulted in allied airstrikes against mostly Gadhafi's forces.

After taking the critical crossroads city of Ajdabiya, the rebels are pushing along the coast towards the Mediterranean city of Sirte, Col. Gadhafi's birthplace. Although the rebels have made gains since the institution of a no-fly zone and allied airstrikes, they have encountered difficulties pushing towards Sirte.

However, Vice Adm. William Gortney, director of the Pentagon's Joint Staff, believes "the regime is preparing to dig in at Sirte, setting up a number of checkpoints and placing tanks throughout the city."

Fighting has been ongoing in Wadi al-Ahmar, a valley east of Sirte with much more challenging terrain than the flat coastal roads the rebels have been seizing recently.

The two sides so far have been evenly matched, both sides using machine guns, rocket-propelled grenades and anti-aircraft missiles to contest the valley.

Amongst the confusion of the



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS PHOTO

Muammar Gadhafi continues to influence government decisions even after being removed from his official position.

battles that have spread through cities, many people have gone missing.

From cities such as Ras Lanuf, Ajdabiya and Benghazi, dozens of people have gone completely missing, some believed to have been taken by government forces pulling out of territory recently conquered from the rebels.

Often when the cell phones of the missing men are called, Gadhafi loyalists answer the

phone and either outright say or insinuate that the men have been taken.

One such man, Ahmed Saad, disappeared on March 19 while taking supplies to his family in Benghazi. When relatives called his cell phone, the man who answered said, "You will find Ahmed in the hell made by Muammar."

According to Omar Bodabous, a volunteer with the Red Crescent, the list of disappearances documented by that organization runs to at least 255.

The international response to the situation in Libya has been fragmented at best. French President Nicolas Sarkozy and British Prime Minister David Cameron have said in a joint statement that "Gadhafi must go immediately."

But Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov suggested that actions in Libya by Western governments has exceeded the limits of the U.N. security resolution to protect civilians and that "intervention by the coalition in what is essentially an internal civil war is not sanctioned by the U.N. Security Council resolution."

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton met in London with foreign ministers from the Arab League and other countries in the meantime to discuss an endgame for the situation in Libya and how best to proceed.

Hopefully this discussion will yield a clear strategy for interacting with Libya to engender a peaceful, stable solution to the unrest in the country.

Prototype unveiled for an artificial leaf

BY GENEVA LANGELAND
Staff Writer

Move over, Mother Nature — not all leaves grow on trees these days.

“A practical artificial leaf has been one of the Holy Grails of science for decades,” says Daniel Nocera, a researcher at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Scientists envision a world filled with tiny solar cells that mimic photosynthesis by harnessing solar power to split water and produce electricity.

Past scientists have come close, but the results tended to be unstable and wildly expensive.

Nocera and his team, however, have produced a prototype of an artificial leaf whose low cost and high efficiency make it feasible for use even in developing nations.

Nocera introduced his creation at the March 27 National Meeting of the American Chemical Society.

The solar-powered contraption is about the size of a playing card and contains an inexpensive mix of silicon, electronics and catalysts.

Given sunlight and a bucket of water, the “leaf” works quickly and efficiently.

Solar energy excites electrons in the chip, but instead of being used to charge a battery as

in conventional solar cells, the electrons drive the splitting of water molecules.

“I can take the chip and put it in [a] bottle of water and just go and hold it up to the sun and you would start to see hydrogen and oxygen bubbles coming out,”

more efficient than the natural version; a single chip can produce enough energy to power a house in a developing nation for a day.

The current leaf prototype can run continuously for 45 hours before showing a decline in performance.

These efficient natural mimics are also relatively inexpensive, thanks to Nocera’s discovery of cheap and powerful nickel and cobalt catalysts.

“The artificial leaf shows particular promise as an inexpensive source of electricity for homes of the poor in developing countries. Our goal is to make each home its own power station,” Nocera said.

“One can envision villages in India and Africa not long from now purchasing an affordable basic power system based on this technology.”

Don’t look for a green revolution yet: Nocera and his team still have kinks to work out before the system will be commercially viable.

They’re currently searching for an inexpensive means of capturing, storing and using the hydrogen and oxygen gases.

But their creation shows that a society powered by renewable energy is still within our reach.



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS PHOTO

Artificial leaves would mimic the efficient process of photosynthesis happening inside real leaves.

Nocera told his fellow chemists at the meeting.

The hydrogen and oxygen gases can then be captured and used in fuel cells to generate electrical energy.

Nocera’s leaf is about 10 times

Tiger numbers grow in India

Associated Press

India’s latest tiger census shows an increase in the numbers of the endangered big cat, but threats to their roaming territory could reverse those gains, officials said Monday.

The census counted at least 1,706 tigers in forests across the country, about 300 more than four years ago, a government official reported.

Environment Minister Jairam Ramesh called the increase good news but cautioned against any complacency in efforts to save the iconic animal from extinction.

“The rise in numbers is the result of sustained efforts, but the shrinking of tiger corridors is alarming,” Ramesh said.

Wildlife experts who conducted the census said tiger corridors, which are the routes frequently used by the big cats to move from one reserve to another, had declined sharply as huge power projects, mining and roads cut into their habitats.

“Securing these corridors should be taken up as a priority,” said Rajesh Gopal, director of the National Tiger Conservation Authority.

But with India pushing ahead with its economic agenda, the threat to the tiger increases as the government tries to juggle the competing claims of development and wildlife conservation, Ramesh said.

Unlike earlier tiger estimates, when pugmarks of individual

tigers were counted, this time conservationists used hidden cameras and DNA tests to count the cats in 17 Indian states where tigers live in the wild.

“The count is more scientific this time and therefore more accurate,” Gopal said.

The census included 70 tigers in the eastern Indian Sunderbans Tiger Reserve, which had not been counted in the last census in 2007. Not counting the Sunderbans population, the latest count reflects an increase of about 16 percent.

The 2007 census had shown 1,411 tigers, a sharp fall in the population from about 3,600 five years earlier.

A century ago, about 100,000 tigers roamed India’s forests.

Shrinking habitats have brought the wild cats into conflict with farmers who live near tiger reserves and poachers who kill the animals for pelts and body parts.

The release of the latest tiger census results coincided with the start of a three-day international conference to follow up on progress made at the 2010 St. Petersburg summit of 13 countries that are home to wild tigers.

At the New Delhi meeting, countries will present strategies to implement the Global Tiger Recovery Program adopted in St. Petersburg, which includes plans to double the tiger population by 2022 and crack down on poaching and trading in illicit tiger pelts and body parts.

Have you spotted a tiger on Calvin’s campus recently?

Contact Campus Safety immediately.

Calvin students discover new planet, make contact with alien life

BY KATE FA'BRIE
Sci-Tech Editor

Two Calvin students received a surprise this week when a class project they were working on turned into something more — much more.

Kyle Roelvliet, a sophomore from Nome, Ala., and Aleesa Ribbens, a junior from the demilitarized zone in the Appalachian Mountains, were working over spring break on a simple project for their core astronomy class that required them to build a telescope and discover a previously unknown planet.

Roelvliet and Ribbens were pleased when on March 19 they discovered a small, Mercury-sized planet about 56 hundred (a billion-trillion-hundred) light years away.

“I was so happy,” said Roelvliet. “If we hadn’t found something, my GPA would have tanked over this project.”

The students decided to name their planet for their favorite missionary and, after urging from the development office, one of Calvin’s biggest donors.

The new planet Ames-Werpstra-Knoflook Aardenbruggedorp is more easily remembered by the abbreviation AWK-Aard.

AWK-Aard has already been submitted to the Universal Planetary Committee for inclusion on the Planets That Are Completely Real list.

Ribbens hopes that the planet will remain on the list for at least three years.

“We all know that planet designation is never permanent. Just look at Pluto. But I hope we can get at least some time on that list,” she said.

After discovering AWK-Aard, Roelvliet and Ribbens were not ready to end their project.

They both remained on campus over spring break, designing a complicated transmission and communication device that they assembled on top of the Science Building.

Night after night for six nights, the dedicated students would send radio broadcasts in the direction of AWK-Aard.

They transmitted audio recordings of what they consider our civilization’s most important documents — The Canons of Dort, Thomas Paine’s “Common Sense,” and Tyra Banks’ “Beauty Inside & Out” — with the hope that life forms on AWK-Aard might receive the message.

“We waited and waited,” said Roelvliet, “but we were confident, because if any institution would be the first to contact alien life forms, it would be Calvin.”

On the seventh night, at 7:07 p.m., surrounded by seven members of the Chimes staff and seven Knollcrest employees, Ribbens and Roelvliet heard a signal transmit back to Earth.

“It sounded like something

from another world, which is why we knew it was,” said Ribbens.

The signal, the students said, can only be described as the noise from a blender, a vampiric alpaca and Justin Bieber all rolled into one.

A recording of the signal, for those who want to hear it, will be played at Sunday night’s LOFT service.

The two students, soon after hearing the signal, brought in Don Snaggle from the Less Commonly Taught Languages Department.

Snaggle specializes in science fiction languages. He picked up on the alien form of communication almost immediately.

“I cracked it in about five minutes,” Snaggle said. “It was an honor to help.”

With the brass decoder ring that Snaggle made for them, Roelvliet and Ribbens were able to translate the alien messages in no time.

“We learned that their society is almost a mirror image of ours,” said Ribbens, “except they are about five years ahead of us. For example, they are already using the iPhone 8, and they have had flying cars for ten years already.”

Residents of AWK-Aard seem polite but reluctant when communicating, Ribbens said, possibly because they do not want to share their secrets with us.

Another possibility is that



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS PHOTO

The planet discovered by Calvin students, which the students have named Ames-Werpstra-Knoflook Aardenbruggedorp, is located in the outer rim of the Sombrero Galaxy.

planet is under the close watch of a suspicious government.

The students are already receiving international recognition for their communication with the AWK-Aardians.

Thirty-two countries have already passed along their congratulations, and an anonymous source at Campus Safety showed

proof of a pending Nobel Peace Prize nomination for the students.

When told of the possible call from Stockholm on the horizon, Roelvliet just shrugged.

“I only wanted to finish my sophomore year off by finding a girlfriend,” he said, “but a Nobel would be cool, too.”



What makes us beautiful

Advertising deceives, promotes unattainable beauty

BY KATIE HALL
Features Co-Editor Abroad

Strong and delicate. Soft and smooth. I want the granite bone structure encased with velvety skin, the shiny smooth perfectly tanned legs that glisten like they've been rubbed with melted butter like corn on the cob.

The fashion and advertising industry have asserted, with commercials, runway shows and print ads in magazines, their idea of the perfect woman, of true beauty. And unfortunately for us normal people with our blemishes and slight paunches, the bar is has been set impossibly high. 5'8"-5'11." 34"-24"-34" (bust, waist, hips). Flawless.

The fashion industry creates clothes that can only be worn by the thin and perfectly proportioned, and they establish new trends that don't flatter anyone else. For an example that's caused us to laugh and cringe, look at ultra low rise jeans and the breaking debut of the muffin top. The muffin top is a perfectly avoidable faux pas. If you wear your jeans

at a respectable height on your hips and they're not pinching your skin, it shouldn't be a problem. But with most mall stores carrying these low rise jeans, it's becoming harder to find anything else.

Ad companies create products to tell us what our problems are. Large pores? We've got a detoxifying scrub, minimizing astringent and light reflecting lotion to fix that. Getting old? Stores like Meijer have shelves filled with anti-aging, wrinkle-reducing, skin-firming creams, gels and ointments. Because according to the magazines and televisions out there, you are flawed. Wrinkles will reveal your age and disappoint you and those who see you. Which forces one to draw the conclusion, "Growing old is bad. Conceal age at all costs."

Weight loss ads feature a size 4 twenty-something year old. Anti-aging products are offered from a young 30-year-old with silver hair who looks like she's never frowned in her life.

But this system is cyclical. We see the fashion and beauty standards, and by buying into them,

we allow them to take root in society and evolve to even more stringent, unattainable heights. And we end up feeling insufficient and self-conscious when we can't match up to the ideal.

Celebrities sense it too. The over-botoxed faces that can only smile with one corner of an upper lip and the emaciated bodies of diets gone too far. Celebrities eight years ago compared to celebrities now. Even the infamously anti-social Lady Gaga has obviously shed a few pounds in her new music video "Born This Way", especially when you compare it to her body in "Beautiful Dirty Rich".

We all fall victim every so often. Admittedly, I've often been intimidated by the shadowing beauty of my closest friends. I've been ashamed of the hereditary and laughter-induced lines of my face, which crease when I furrow my brow that's become more prominent every year since 7th grade.

Every morning I wake up, wash my face, choose my garb and glom on all manner of cosmetic enhancers: eyeliner, blush,

cover stick, eye shadow, lipstick when I want to feel dramatic, mascara when there's time. I don't think it's inherently wrong to do this. I like makeup and expressing myself through interesting colors, styles, etc. It becomes a problem for me, however, when I realize how dependent I am on my mask, how I'll grab my makeup bag and quick add some eyeliner in the car if I don't have time.

But I can't call myself a victim, and I can't call the fashion and advertising industry criminals. Ideally, they're creating beauty and trying to help me. I can't argue that. I buy the products, and they often do exactly what the company says.

But I still have confidence issues, because I know I will never look like Gisele Bundchen. And it seems selfish and shallow to focus on attaining beauty to this extent, but I know from experience how deep down this issue goes. I know that I've bought into the system that I criticize; I know it's hard to feel confident after watching America's Next Top Model. Thumb through an issue of Vogue. Then look in the

mirror. It's hard not to do some comparing.

There's no magic switch to turning on confidence and contentment. But I know I'm aware of the fallacies, of the excessive use of photoshopping required to make these women (who are already beautiful) look gorgeous in its purest sense. I know I'll sometimes feel guilty after eating a brownie, or ugly when trying on one of those new one piece pants suits things in H&M. But,

Expectations cause disorder

BY JACKSON HALL
Features Co-Editor

Easily the saddest result of our societies' projection of what beauty is the possibility of eating disorders. Often, the unrealistic appearance of women in the media puts pressure on young women to be thinner than they naturally or healthily should. As <http://www.casapalmera.com> (a website for an eating disorder treatment center) says, "Just 20 years ago, models weighed approximately 8 percent less than an average woman. In today's perfectionist society, the average model weighs 23 percent less than the average woman. Unrealistic standards such as these often cause eating disorders in women."

Not only do models now weigh considerably less than normal, but also with image-altering technology, women often appear far thinner than they are in actuality. This perversion is extremely dangerous when young women or men begin to compare themselves with the images they see in the media.

Sarah Ten Broek, a counselor at the Broene Counseling Center at Calvin College says, "Although there is evidence that eating disorders may be caused by a variety of factors such as heredity, family-of-origin and trauma, I think the media plays a very unfortunate role in sending the message that there is a very narrow vision of what beauty and success look like, and that certainly appears to be 'thin.'" When magazine covers are plastered with pictures that glorify extremely thin women and completely disparage normal looking people, it is difficult for many people not to go to any extreme to look like the images they see."

College-aged females are especially susceptible to the dangers of eating disorders. <http://www.examiner.com> cites in an article for national eating disorder

1. external beauty isn't the most important thing in the world. 2. I know that often times it's difficult to believe #1 when you're feeling down on yourself. 3. The ad industries and fashion world provide a service that I want and I can't hate them for that. 4. Contenting myself with my body, my face, is something that can't be done overnight, but I know that it'll get better if I can learn to love myself.

awareness week 2010, "91 percent of women surveyed on a college campus had attempted to control their weight through dieting, 22 percent dieted often or always."

Websites like <http://www.casapalmera.com> or others have great resources for those struggling with eating disorders or those who know someone who is struggling with an eating disorder. For those looking to talk to someone, the Broene Counseling Center here at Calvin College is a wonderful resource for anyone struggling with an eating disorder or those who know someone struggling in such a way. The center is conveniently located on campus on the top floor of the Spoelhof Center.

Ten Broek says, "We [the Broene Counseling Center] are a good place to visit because we can provide a safe and non-judgmental space for people to tap into the unique issues that may be contributing to his or her eating disorder. We are also a great place to find other resources that can compliment therapy such as a nutritionist referral or other necessary medical help."

If feeling too apprehensive to actually go in, one can simply visit the center online by going to <http://www.calvin.edu/admin/broene>.

The site not only gives information on what the center offers, but it also provides resources for parents, faculty and staff, includes an online screening and features external links and resources for the various areas of interest or concern one might want to learn more about.

For more information on eating disorders, you can go to <http://www.allianceforforeatingdisorders.com/> or <http://www.nationaleatingdisorders.org/>

Beauty throughout the ages: how standards have evolved

BY KENDRA HAAN
Features Co-Editor

Images of women have become ubiquitous in our culture. Women's bodies are used in advertising, artwork and entertainment. The female form is known and appreciated as the epitome of beauty and grace in artwork and seen as a sex symbol in much of entertainment and advertising. As women take in glorified images of female bodies in the ads, commercials and television they see every day, they start to compare their own bodies to these images, and in almost every case, they find that they don't match up to the standard. What they don't often think about is what exactly defines the standards of beauty for women in America, and why these standards exist.

Tall, thin, young women with perfect skin and normal facial features represent the current mainstream standard of beauty in the U.S. Models must have an almost impossibly tall and thin body type, and actresses, while allowed the luxury of being shorter, must have thin bodies, thick hair and beautiful features. Normal women actually attempt to hold themselves to the same standards as the models and actresses glorified in the media, which often leads to unhealthy eating habits, loss of self-esteem and depression.

The simple reason behind the creation of an impossible-to-attain standard of beauty is economic. Forcing women into this losing battle against their own bodies assures growth and profit in the cosmetic, diet product and plastic surgery industries. Even the very small percentage of women who possess the ideal body type presented by popular culture cannot help but age, which means no woman can ever keep up with the standard of beauty she sees around her.

However, cultural standards may not be the only reason for our current views of beauty. Research shows that some standards cross the boundaries of cultures, ages and times, and may, in fact, be innate. The basic idea of this research is that men will always seek a mate who is healthiest and best able to bear children, and

women will always seek a mate who is strongest and most able to provide for his family. Thus, each sex values physical characteristics that indicate the desired traits in the other.

This evolutionary perspective on beauty accounts for men's desire for young women with symmetrical features, perfect skin, wide hips and large busts. All of these traits can be associated with either health or fertility. Since men across time and cultures seem to commonly value these traits, their preference for these things may be more biological than cultural.

However, these potentially innate standards of beauty do not

cause their extra weight indicated a higher status (more food). Since food is not so scarce in America today, extra weight is seen as a disadvantage rather than a status symbol.

However, today's standard of thinness was not always the norm. If we look more closely at American culture throughout the years, we can see how women have been continually manipulating their bodies in an attempt to gain power by creating or fitting into certain cultural ideals.

For example, flappers in the 1920s used their appearances to establish themselves as equals with men. They rejected corsets, cut their hair to bobs and wore

and showed off their curves. Although they would be considered large compared to models today (Marilyn Monroe would have been around a size 6 or 8 in today's clothing, as opposed to the size 0 or 2 expected of models today), they flaunted their femininity and sexuality.

During the 1960s, new wave feminism and civil rights campaigns caused women to reject traditional roles as wives and mothers, which brought on another wave of androgynous fashion (e.g. Twiggy, a stick-thin British model, who gained extreme popularity in 1966).

The Sexual Revolution of the 1970s brought more voluptuous female bodies back into the picture, but the 80s saw a new trend with the fitness craze that swept the nation. As women became obsessed with "buns of steel" and "rock-hard abs," they began to find power in body-building as opposed to sexuality. The 1990s saw the rise of the "heroin-chic" look with Calvin Klein model Kate Moss and others like her, whose tiny figures marked a turning point in women's fashion. Instead of searching for power in physical fitness, women began to define themselves by the power to resist, the discipline to deprive themselves.

From that point on, women's desire to be thin has only increased, as models and popular actresses appear thinner and thinner, and women continue to determine their self-worth by their weight, counting calories and pounds and deconstructing themselves into imperfect parts.

From this brief history, we can see that standards for beauty are culturally affected as well as biologically. Either way, women cannot escape these standards, but perhaps we can all take a bit of comfort in the fact that cultural standards are always subject to change, and perhaps America will at some point move back to a healthier ideal for women's bodies.

<http://www.media-awareness.ca>, <http://www.evoyage.com/Evolutionary%20Feminism/ModernStandardsBeauty.htm>, http://hubpages.com/hub/Standards_of_Beauty_An_Illustrated_Timeline



account for America's obsession with tan, thin female bodies. These standards have more cultural roots. For instance, during times when lower-class people often labored outdoors, pale skin was the idea for women because it indicated higher status, whereas now, tan skin is not a sign of hard work but of leisure, which makes tan skin the currently desired trait.

Our culture's obsession with thinness follows a similar trend. In times when food was scarce, women with larger bodies were considered more beautiful be-

baggy dresses. Some even bound their breasts to appear more boyish. They engaged in activities that flaunted women's newfound freedom such as dancing, smoking cigarettes and listening to jazz music. In order to prove that they were as good as their male counterparts, they imitated them.

As women began to feel more secure in their rights, they began to embrace their curves again and flaunt their femininity. The 1940s and 1950s saw an increase in female sexuality with the emergence of the pin-up model. These models wore skimpy clothing

Site reveals cosmetic disasters

JACKSON HALL
Features Co-Editor

In our appearance-fixated society, advertising, whether in the pages of a magazine, on the side of a city bus, on a company's website or on a highway billboard, is persistent in altering the human form for the benefit of a corporate image.

If a model is not beautiful enough for the company, they can make him or her more beautiful by a few clicks of a computer mouse in a program like Adobe Photoshop.

One can make a person thinner, a person's hair thicker or darker, eyes, lips or nose bigger or smaller and bust-lines even bustier.

Even sadder than this perversion of human appearance is the extremely poor attempt companies make to manipulate images. The results of altered photos can be painfully obvious — especially when you already know the appearance of the celebrity who is being doctored.

Not only is it obvious when someone looks far more beautiful (to popular standards) than normal, but also when someone doesn't have as many fingers as they should, or when a person's head is obviously facing a different direction than their body is facing.

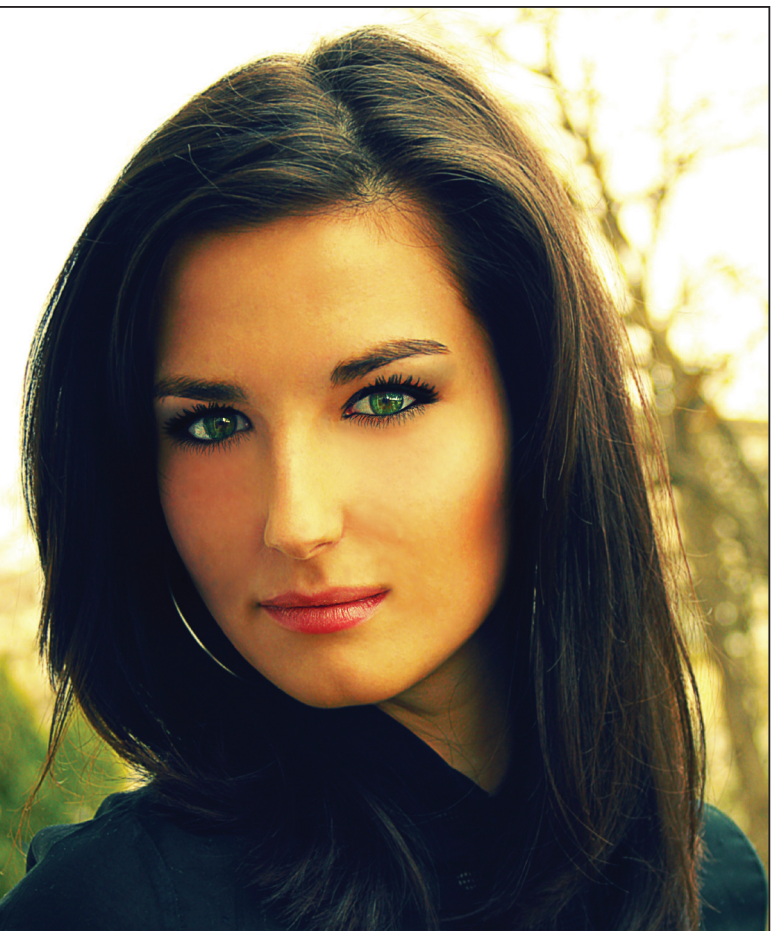
This image alteration becomes easier each time Adobe releases a new edition of Photoshop. One feature in the most recent available edition, CS5, is the content aware tool. With this tool, you can simply select anything in the frame that you wish to discard and the program will eliminate the portion with startling accuracy. The line that divides what is certain and what is not is becoming increasingly unclear in printed images in media.

The website, psdisasters.com (Photoshop Disasters) is a blog with the simple mission of exposing and poking fun at horribly and obviously altered images. As the side bar of the website reads, "Have you seen a truly awful piece of Photoshop work? Clumsy manipulation, senseless comp-

ing, lazy cloning and thoughtless retouching are our bread and butter. And yes, deep down, we love Photoshop." Magazine covers, fashion spreads and Victoria's Secret ads are frequently cited examples of Photoshop disasters on the website.

While the consistent manipu-

lation of images in magazines, catalogs, websites and advertising doesn't seem to be slowing down, it is nice to know that websites like psdisasters.com exist to yell back to the companies, "We can not only see that you're changing these images, but you're doing a terrible job at it!"



Here is an example of how easy it is to manipulate an image to make a person appear more beautiful in terms of societal standards. Katie Hall, features co-editor abroad, used simple techniques in Adobe Photoshop to make this already beautiful woman appear more fit for a magazine cover. Techniques used include: Gaussian blur, feathered brush, feather and refine edges, liquify, forward warp tool, pucker tool, burn tool, dodge tool, lasso tool, lighting and color replacement.

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The Feature Section's *Feature Section*

How to oppress a Middle Eastern nation on a tight budget!

Step 1: Scrunch your face

Step 2: Detest the will of the people

Step 3: (optional) Wear a neat hat!

“Am I worried about The Miz? Yes. He’s been doing this much longer than me and is the current champion. Do I think I can beat him? Without a doubt.”
 -Norm Zylstra, “Calvin staff member follows dream,” p.11

Softball bookends spring break trip

BY TIM CLOVER
Staff Writer

Sticking with their annual Spring Break tradition, the softball team traveled to Tucson, Ariz. for a slate of games last week. The team played 10 games in Tucson, and the trip served as the kick-off for the season.

On Saturday, March 19 the Knights played two games to get their season underway. The team played two games each day through Thursday, March 24. Although the team did not achieve quite the results they were hoping for, it served as a good learning experience and jumping off point for the season.

St. Olaf College was the team’s first opponent of the campaign, and the Knights had little trouble dispatching them, notching a 12-6 win.

Freshman Lina Avila tossed every pitch for the Knights and picked up the win. Sophomore Hannah DeWeerd powered Calvin’s offense, going yard for her first home run of the season and fourth of her college career. Avila also chipped in by notching two hits, knocking in two RBIs and scoring two runs. Four other players had one hit apiece in help-

ing their team to victory. The Knights held St. Olaf to just six hits and controlled the game right from the opening pitch.

In Saturday’s second game, Calvin matched up with Otterbein College. The Knights gave their best effort, but Otterbein brought defeated Calvin 11-3. Sophomore Shelby Mast and freshman Danae Miedema split the pitching duties for Calvin. Errors plagued the Knights in game two, leading to six unearned Otterbein runs. Sophomore Ashley Oosterink, freshman Shelby Sheehan, senior Sass VanRooyen and junior Marie Prins provided the offense for the Knights, each notching one hit.

Heading into their final day of games on Thursday, the Knights were still looking for their second win of the season. Calvin ran into stiff competition from UW-Eau Claire on Monday and Pacific College and Hastings College on Tuesday, so the team was hungry for another victory.

On Thursday afternoon, Calvin matched up with St. Catherines University and beat them in a thriller, winning 14-13 in eight innings. Calvin overcame two deficits on its way to victory.

Early in the contest the Knights trailed by four runs, but

Avila erased the deficit single handedly, smashing a grand slam to tie the game. In extra innings, Calvin once again found itself down by four runs heading into the bottom of the eighth inning. Refusing to give up, the Knights stunned St. Catherines by scoring five runs in the bottom half of the inning to win the game. Sophomore Lauren Spoelstra pushed the winning run across the plate on a sacrifice hit.

Sheehan and Prins led the offensive charge for the Knights. Sheehan racked up four hits and Prins notched five while also knocking in three runs. In the pitchers circle, Miedema went the distance for Calvin and notched her first collegiate win.

The win over St. Catherines put a positive spin on the trip for the Knights and showed their resiliency. Although they were not as successful in Arizona as they would have liked, Calvin emerged from under the Tucson sun with a 2-8 record.

The Knights continue their season tomorrow as they travel to face off with Goshen College. The opening pitch is slated for 1 p.m.

Knights rewrite records

BY JON BEHM
Sports Editor

The swimming and diving teams closed out their season in phenomenal fashion last Saturday at the NCAA D-III Championships, as the women finished in 24th place and the men garnered a 25th place finish.

The three-athlete contingent for the Knights was not intimidated, as two school records fell and all three athletes earned All-American status.

For the women, sophomore Elizabeth Counsell and freshman Elise Kaufman made the trip to Knoxville, Tenn. for the competition. Kaufman competed in the one-meter dive and garnered a 13th place finish with 282.70 points, good enough for an All-America honorable mention.

“I was really proud of the way Elise competed,” said diving coach Aaron Paskvan. “She gained a lot of confidence with her performance on the one-meter board.”

Counsell had a strong couple of days in Tennessee. She started her Championships experience off on Friday, as she competed in the 100 breaststroke. She finished in a time of 1:04.85, good enough for 16th place and an All-America honorable mention.

As impressive as that might be, though, her shining performance came the next day in the 200 breaststroke, where she broke her own school record in the morning prelims, finishing in seventh in a time of 2:19.56, which narrowly edged her previous school record of 2:19.74. The seventh-place prelim run boosted Counsell into the evening finals, where she finished

in a time of 2:30.61 to maintain her seventh-place position and give her All-American honors.

“I’m really pleased and proud of Elizabeth,” commented head coach Dan Gelderloos. “She saved her best for last and really came up with a gem of a swim.”

The only male Knight to make the trip to Knoxville was freshman Andy Krafft. Being the only competitor did not deter Krafft, however, as he single-handedly gave Calvin a top-25 finish.

Completing his outstanding freshman campaign, Krafft took third on the three-meter board in record breaking fashion, shattering his own record he had set earlier in the day. In the morning prelims, Krafft scored 526.80 to establish a new school record. In the evening finals, his score of 551.40 not only shattered his previous record, but gave him his second All-America performance of the meet.

Two nights prior to his impressive three-meter board finish, Krafft claimed second in the one-meter board. His dive of 459.0 made Krafft only the second male diver in Calvin history to claim All-America honors and was the best finish by an MIAA men’s diver since 2003.

Krafft’s national meet is the best combined set of finishes by a Calvin male diver since Bill VanEe claimed second on both the one and three-meter boards at the 1985 NCAA D-III Championships.

“I had a lot of fun at the national meet,” said Krafft. “I was pleased with my performances on both boards this weekend. It’s been a long year but at the same time I’ve really enjoyed diving again.”

Baseball invades Tucson

BY MARK ZYLSTRA
Staff Writer

Calvin’s baseball team was able to enjoy the warm and sunny Tucson, Ariz. weather over spring break to the tune of a 4-3 record. The team played seven games in six days against other D-III teams from around the country.

The Knights opened up their trip by taking both ends of a double-header against Norwich. Game one went Calvin’s way by an 11-5 score. Calvin’s bats came out hot as the team managed to score eight runs in the first two innings to grab a stranglehold on the game. Leading the 12-hit attack was senior DH Andrew Bosma who went 3-5, driving in three runs and scoring three more. Fellow senior Peter Steiner also bolstered the offense with a two-run homer.

Game two of the twinbill was an even greater offensive effort for Calvin. The Knights exploded for 22 runs which was plenty to give Steiner the victory on the pitching mound. Steiner pitched five strong innings, allowing just two earned runs and striking out seven. He also picked up two more hits and scored three more runs in the game. Left-fielder Jake Van Alten also had a nice day at the plate; he had two hits and drove in four runs.

The next day Calvin played a single game against Buena Vista University, and they were again victorious by a count of 9-6. Calvin’s offense continued its strong spring break effort led again by Bosma who had two hits including a double and three RBI.

On the mound, ace Keith Spoelstra earned the win by going six innings, yielding five runs. Senior Jeff Groenewold finished

off the game, earning the save in three innings by giving up just four hits and one run.

The next two games were not as friendly for Calvin as Hamline University beat them 14-4, and Buena Vista got revenge on the Knights by downing them 11-4.

Hamline jumped on Calvin early by scoring six runs in the first three innings, and though the Knights ended the game with eleven hits, they could only manage four runs. One bright spot was Van Alten, who went a perfect four-for-four from the plate.

Against Buena Vista, Calvin was locked in a tight game for most of the way, and went ahead 4-3 in the top of the eighth, but Buena Vista exploded for eight runs on the bottom half of the inning and the Knights couldn’t recover from the blow.

Calvin’s sixth game was more of a pitcher’s duel as Calvin and opponent UW-Superior were both scoreless through four innings. Calvin then went up 3-0 before Superior was able to push two runs across. Calvin’s pitching and defense would hold firm, however, and their offense provided some insurance in the last inning to account for the 5-2 final score. Sophomores Ben Cok and Tyler Tos along with Bosma all recorded two hits in the game, with Cok and Tos each scoring twice and Bosma knocking in two runs. Sophomore Drew Vos earned the win by hurling five innings of two-hit ball, conceding only one earned run.

The final game of the trip was another battle with Superior, but this time Calvin struggled both offensively and defensively. The Knights only managed four hits and two runs. Superior swung hot bats, pushing across 15 runs in the seven-inning game.

Tennis teams see mixed results

BY JON BEHM
Sports Editor

The Calvin tennis teams met mixed results in their spring break trip to Orlando, with both teams garnering a 2-3 record in their time in Florida.

The men’s team opened up competition on Monday, March 21, dropping a hard-fought opening match to Hamline University before posting a resounding victory over North Central College on Tuesday, March 22.

Calvin fell behind early against Hamline, dropping to 1-2 after doubles play with the Knights’ lone doubles point coming from the team of senior Roland Eldridge and sophomore Preston Phillips at No. 1 doubles.

Calvin was only able to grab three points in singles play, with senior Andrew DeVlieger winning at No. 2 singles, Phillips winning at No. 4 singles and sophomore Philip Reinken winning at No. 6 singles. The three points were not enough, though, as the Knights fell by an overall score of 4-5.

The Knights rebounded from the close contest with a dominant 9-0 victory over North Central. The momentum of the

win carried over into Wednesday, March 23, as the Knights gained a 6-3 win over Colorado College. In the win over Colorado, Calvin swept the three doubles points and gained singles victories from DeVlieger at No. 2 singles, sophomore Brian DeMaagd at No. 3 singles and sophomore Jarrod Brower at No. 6 singles.

The momentum of their two victories had run out by the time they ran into regionally-ranked UW-Whitewater on Thursday, March 24, however, as the Knights dropped the decision 0-9.

With Friday being the final day of competition for the Knights, they found themselves facing off against the always tough Norse of Luther College. Despite a hard fight, the Knights fell to the Norse by a final score of 2-7.

The Knights were swept in doubles competition, but were able to gain wins at No. 4 singles by freshman Loukas Peterson and at No. 5 singles by Brower.

Despite an identical record in Orlando, the women’s tennis team found themselves in tightly contested matches nearly every day they played.

Starting off their tour on Monday, the Knights faced off against George Fox University and Huntingdon College, winning both matches after hard-fought contests. In the win over George Fox, the Knights were able to split the six singles matches to enter doubles play tied at 3-3. Calvin claimed two of the three doubles points behind solid play of No. 1 doubles seniors Melissa Oosterhouse and Kaitlin Spoelhof and No. 3 doubles freshmen Bethany Zoerhof and Lauren Schlagenhauf and emerged with a 5-4 victory.

In their win over Huntingdon,



PHOTO COURTESY OF CALVIN.EDU

The men’s tennis team went 2-3 in their spring break trip to Orlando, Fla.

Oosterhouse, Spoelhof, senior Michelle Busscher and sophomore Elise Doezema claimed singles victories, with Oosterhouse and Spoelhof claiming wins at No. 1 doubles and Busscher and Doezema winning No. 2 doubles.

The Knights resumed action on Wednesday as they faced off against regionally ranked St. Olaf. Calvin fell by a final score of 2-7, with Oosterhouse and Spoelhof picking up the only Knight victories at No. 1 and 2 singles, respectively.

On Thursday, Calvin faced more stiff competition as they dropped a hard-fought decision to UW-Whitewater by a final tally of 4-5.

Calvin garnered wins at No. 1 doubles (Oosterhouse and Spoelhof), No. 1 singles (Oosterhouse), No. 2 singles (Spoelhof) and No. 3 singles (Busscher).

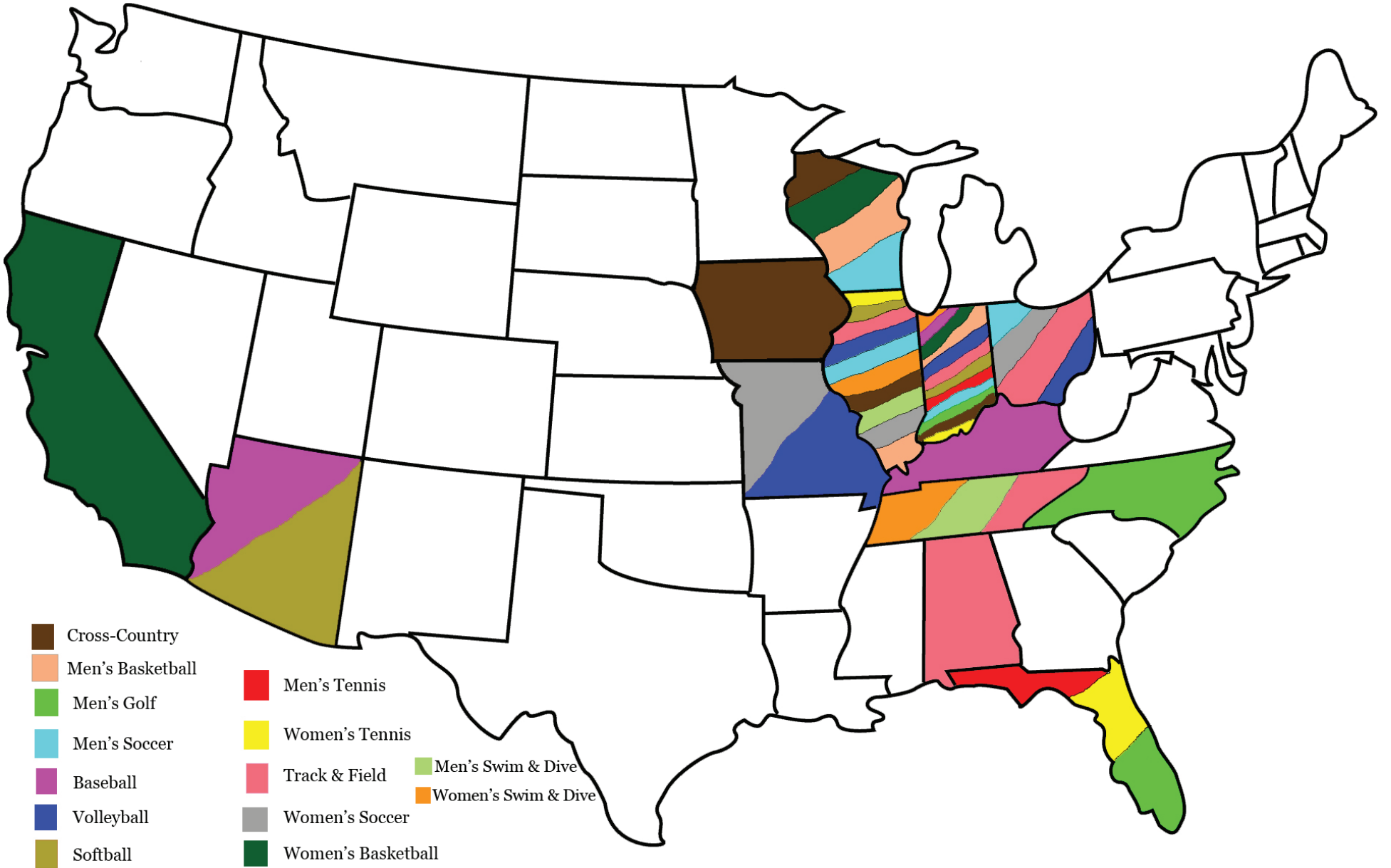
The Knights finished off their spring break tour with a date against Luther College. After yet another tight contest, the Norse were able to get the best of the Knights, with Calvin falling by a 4-5 mark. The scoring was identical to Calvin’s previous match, with the Knights gaining victories in No. 1 doubles, No. 1 singles, No. 2 singles and No. 3 singles.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CALVIN.EDU

Senior Melissa Oosterhouse has only lost one singles match so far this season.

Knight Nation: Calvin athletes travel the U.S.



Calvin staff member follows dream

BY CAPTAIN CHARISMA
Sports Editor

Perhaps you wanted to be a fireman when you grew up? Maybe a policeman? A doctor? A sports editor for *Chimes*? Well, at this point, most of you have probably given up on this goal. However, there is one amongst us in the Calvin community that has risen above his self-doubt, the monotony of a full-time job and all the naysayers surrounding him.

Chances are you have heard of Norm Zylstra. The chances are even better than you have been befriended by him on Facebook. If you have not heard of him, though, do not be surprised if he is a household name by Monday.

Norm has spent a large part of his life amongst the Calvin community. However, the former Coordinator of the Student and Young Alumni Program is stepping outside of his office and into the squared circle. Yes, Norm Zylstra has decided to pursue his childhood dreams and become a professional wrestler.

"It's something that I have wanted to do all my life," Zylstra commented. "Ever since I was

young, I would go out in the backyard and wrestle with my friends. It wasn't until I lifted up one of my friends on my back and slammed him to the ground one day that I realized that I could actually be good at this."

The dream was never dashed for Zylstra, as he continued to work on developing his skills and competed in local promotions under the name of Captain Zippy.

"I've learned a lot over the years," Zylstra said. "I have been able to master moves like the powerbomb, the GTS and the stunner. In fact, I recently added a few submission moves to my repertoire! I can now do the Sharpshooter, Hell's Gate, the Figure-4 Leg Lock and the Anaconda Vice."

While working a local show at Grand Rapids Christian High School over spring break, Zylstra was spotted by a WWE scout. After seeing Zylstra's fluid motion in the ring and the great reaction from the crowd, the scout was impressed. Once Zylstra hit his finishing move — a moon-sault double foot stomp that he affectionately named the Captain Crush — it was all but a done deal for Captain Zippy.

"I'm so excited," Zylstra said. "The fact that I'm finally achieving childhood dream is fantastic, but my debut match is going to be the greatest moment of my life."

Zylstra will be making his WWE debut at the grandest of all stages, Wrestlemania XXVII. While the WWE has mandated that Zylstra drop his Captain Zippy persona, he is

more than fine with that.

"I'm going to be Norm Zylstra," Zylstra said. "I don't need any flashy names or gimmicks anymore. I've finally arrived."

His match, for the prestigious WWE Championship, will be against the current WWE Champion The Miz. The Miz is known for using dirty tactics and his disciple Alex Riley to keep his title. However, Zylstra will have a considerable size advantage, as Miz is only 6'1" and 231 lbs.

"Am I worried about The Miz?" Zylstra commented. "Yes. He's been doing this much longer than me and is the current champion. Do I think I can beat him? Without a doubt."

Norm has been working on a new finisher for the match. It is a modified shining wizard in which Zylstra, rather than using his kneeling opponent's knee for leverage, simply uses an enzuigiri to knock his opponent out. He calls the move the Knight Nation.

"While I may be leaving Calvin for the time being, I will always be a Knight at heart," Zylstra commented. "In fact, I'm planning on painting my face half maroon and half gold for my big match."

By headlining Wrestlemania, Zylstra will join an elite group of non-full-time wrestlers who have headlined the grandest stage of them all.

"My name is going to go down with the likes of Mr. T, Muhammad Ali, Regis Philbin and Snooki," Zylstra said.

If Zylstra is worried about anything going into Wrestlemania, he is not hinting it. In fact, he only seems concerned with representing Calvin to the best of his ability.

"Can you imagine?" Zylstra inquired. "Not only can Calvin claim over half of the MIAA titles this season and a National Championship, but we might also have the WWE Championship to put in the Van Noord. That would be fantastic!"



PHOTO COURTESY OF NORM ZYLSTRA

Norm Zylstra will be competing for the WWE Championship at Wrestlemania XXVII.

Golf shines in Florida

Knights claim second in the Sunshine Invitational

BY JON BEHM
Sports Editor

The men's golf team traveled to Port St. Lucie, Fla. over spring break to participate in the Sunshine Invitational and begin preparations for their spring season, which includes their upcoming NCAA D-III Tournament appearance they earned in the fall season.

The Knights had an excellent showing in the Sunshine State, finishing in second place in the two-day, 36-hole event, finishing behind Williams College by a mere three strokes.

Heading into Friday, Calvin held a five-stroke lead over Williams, but the Knights were unable to hold the lead over the course of the final day. Still, the Knights had a solid two-day showing, shooting 299 on Thursday and 300 on Friday.

Senior Eric Doezema paced the Knights, finishing fourth in the individual standings with a score of 148 (73-75).

Sophomore Ben Kuiper was hot on his heels, finish-

ing in fifth individual with a score of 149 (76-73).

Senior Jess Hendriksma also had a solid showing, finishing ninth individual behind a score of 154 (78-76).

Rounding out Calvin's finishers were freshman Jake Hoogstrate (157, 76-81), sophomore Dave Sarkipato (158, 82-76) and sophomore Mike Fennema (159, 74-85).

The men's golf team will be back in action on April 11 when they compete at the Vic Cuiss Invitational at the Jackson Country Club in Jackson, Mich.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CALVIN.EDU

The men's golf team finished three strokes out of first place at the Sunshine Invitational in Port St. Lucie, Fla. over spring break.

Cayvan DVD Spotlight: ‘The Mosquito Coast’ features Ford differently

BY JOHN MORTON
Staff Writer

While watching “The Mosquito Coast” (1985), another film came to mind: Francis Ford Coppola’s “Apocalypse Now” (1979). There are many similar features are there: a river voyage, the organic grandeur of the rainforest, a sense of isolation and the element of madness. However, in Coppola’s film, the jungle becomes an incubator for the latent madness in a great military officer, and his obsession is grand and tragic. In comparison, the protagonist of “The Mosquito Coast” is a pathetic man driven by a pathetic goal: ice.

Fed up with American consumerist culture, inventor Allie Fox (Harrison Ford) decides to get out. Prophecying nuclear war on the horizon, Fox packs up his wife (Helen Mirren) and children and trades middle America for the jungles of Belize. When his patriotism is called into question, Fox says, “Nobody loves America more than I do. That’s why we left. I couldn’t bear to watch.” Through the eyes of Fox’s eldest son, Charlie (River Phoenix), the audience watches as Fox buys a small village (the ultimate consumer act) and sets out to forge a utopian community on the riverbank. He plants crops, builds houses and constructs a massive ice machine with the aid of his family members and his new “subjects,” all of whom call him “father.” All the while he spews an incoherent and contradiction-laden litany from the only podium he has as a “big fish” in the “little pond” of a primitive jungle.

In Allie Fox, screenwriter and Calvin alumnus Paul Schrader, who also penned the screenplays for “Taxi Driver” and “The Last Temptation of Christ,” delivers another stark portrait of a man in crisis. A Harvard dropout with more patents pending than certified, Fox seems unable to finish anything he starts. Fox’s grand experiment eventually succumbs

to flaws both within and without his utopian schema that he never anticipated. After the destruction of his village, Fox’s madness becomes more and more pronounced. It becomes evident that the only things he believes in are his personal obsessions. The final third of the film shows Fox slipping deeper into denial about the futility of his beliefs as his family try to find a way out of their predicament.

The central feature of “The Mosquito Coast” is an engrossing and energetic performance by Ford. With the roles of Han Solo and Indiana Jones largely behind him, this 1986 image of Ford shows the earliest glimpse of a middle-aged man. As Fox, Ford suppresses his typical macho charisma behind wild eyes and ludicrous speeches. Relatively unique among American actors, Ford is comparable perhaps to Humphrey Bogart for his ability to channel his machismo into a variety of different roles in addition to than stereotypical action hero. Bogart himself starred in another great river/jungle film, John Huston’s “The African Queen” (1951), but for the role of Fox, Ford seems

to have borrowed from Bogart’s manic performance in “The Treasure of the Sierra Madre” (1948). In Roger Ebert’s words, “It is a brilliant performance — so effective, indeed, that we can

completion of his ice machine (named “Fat Boy,” a conflation of the names of the two atomic bombs dropped on Japan), he realizes his goal. Regarding his machine in human terms, comparing its components to organs and calling it “he,” Fox unwittingly contradicts his own diatribes against consumerism, introducing a commodity to the jungle that its natives neither want nor need. With no one to use his product, Fox and his sons make a grueling trek to deliver a block of ice to an isolated tribe that Fox expects to treasure it “like a diamond.” When his village is harassed by local rebels, Fox’s ice machine serves a different purpose that completely undermines his utopian ideals.

“The Mosquito Coast” was director Peter Weir’s second American film, produced between “Witness” (1985) and “Dead Poets Society” (1989). Lacking the strong heroes and moral triumphs of these Academy Award-nominees, “The Mosquito Coast” nevertheless demonstrates competent craftsmanship. The lush cinematography of the jungle stands in contrast to dreary imagery of the America the Foxes leave behind, and the production design highlights the ludicrous contrast of a proto-industrial civilization arising in the midst of the jungle. Composer

Maurice Jarre departs from the exuberant style he utilized in David Lean’s epics for a more surreal and dreamlike score.

The emphasis on Ford’s performance leaves something to be desired of the others, especially Mirren’s, whose complicity with her husband defies explanation. The rest of the Fox family and most of the village natives never exhibit much character, and although Phoenix’s Charlie speaks through voiceover, his lines seem precocious and vague. However, performances by Conrad Roberts as a plucky native and Andre Gregory as a fraudulent missionary stand up next to Ford’s.

Schrader based his screenplay off Paul Theroux’s novel of the same name and includes a couple savagely satiric vignettes that highlight Schrader’s personal ambivalence toward Christianity. The caricatured missionary character, Reverend Spellgood, provides Ford’s Fox with a worthy opponent for scathing exchanges of dialogue and Scripture-quoting. When Spellgood tactlessly offers Fox a copy of the “Blue Jeans Bible,” Fox remarks to his children, “Look! It’s just what I warned you about!” In a later scene, the Fox family finds a native congregation watching a televised broadcast of one of Spellgood’s sermons, attentive to a big-screen TV at the front on a church in a trance-like state.

Despite handsome production values, the pacing of the film lags during its final third, and the film ends having run out of steam. A rousing ending would be inappropriate for this downbeat story, but Weir and Schrader seem to have grown tired with it, as viewers may do themselves. Still, “The Mosquito Coast” is worth a look, especially for the performance by Ford and its bold treatment of subject matter. If you’re looking for a cheerful story, though, take a pass on this one.

“The Mosquito Coast” is rated PG and contains mild language. The DVD copy at the Hekman Library is in good shape.



FILE PHOTO

hardly stand to spend two hours in the company of this consummate jerk.”

And the ice? Fox’s dream of bringing ice to the jungle is born when a client slights his ice machine by using it on an asparagus farm. “Ice is civilization,” Fox muses cryptically, and with the

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and get this credit over with.

-Glenn

Director gives insight on 'Hamlet'

BY ERIC THAYER
Staff Writer

If you've been around Calvin's campus at all in the past several weeks, then you've probably seen advertisements for or heard announcements about CTC's upcoming production of "Hamlet." And if you've seen the advertisements, then you've probably realized that this isn't your grandparents' version of Shakespeare (assuming your grandparents are into Shakespeare, that is). Director Stephanie Sandberg graciously agreed to answer a few questions about the upcoming production and what's behind her vision for this Shakespearean classic.

Chimes: Out of all possible choices, why choose to perform "Hamlet" this semester?

Sandberg: For the past decade, I've been doing a Shakespeare every few years, first "Richard III" and then "The Tempest." Last year when I was teaching "Hamlet" in a class, I realized that I had a very good idea about the play and that it was timely. I was talking to a number of my male students and they were talking to me about these very intense feelings of apathy that they felt about the tragedy of life. They saw so much difficulty and pain in the world, and yet had no sense at all of how to face it, how to even struggle with it. Then I was reading about many new studies in male psychology that have been exploring this same apathy, to the point that there has been an increase in cases of male depression between the ages of 18 and 30 — this increase is about 25 percent since 2001! A 25 percent increase in cases of male depression is very significant. And so I saw in Hamlet, in the character, an opportunity to explore this kind of apathy.

Chimes: How did you go about cutting down such a lengthy play to make it manageable for a college production?

Sandberg: We cut it from about four hours down to two. It was a fascinating process — fun, too. But you really have to decide which story about Hamlet you want to tell. And I wanted to explore this idea of a young man struggling to find a sense of purpose amidst the tragedy of his life and unable to do so for a very long time.

Chimes: "Hamlet" is obviously a play that's been done many times before. How do you hope to set this production apart?

Sandberg: So, in lieu of exploring the idea of male apathy/depression, I read another study that pointed to the increase in male "play" and specifically how the playing of games (whether video, sport, computer or otherwise) has led specifically to an increase in male depression. So, I was looking at the play and seeing that Hamlet's major action is the action of play -- in order to face the tragedy of his father's murder, he plays his way through it. He plays with his friends Horatio, Rosencrantz and Guildenstern; he plays with his love relationship with Ophelia; he toys and plays with the emotions of Polonius and his mother and stepfather/uncle. He is trying to find some sense of purpose and finds it only through play. He even uses play to prove the murder with the playing of a play ("The Murder of Gonzago") and then he ends up facing his own death because he accepts the wager of a game — a game of swordplay. This play is ultimately what kills him. In the process, however, he does mature and learn to face death. Some of his words in Act V (specifically, the lines about the fall of a sparrow, which are a reference to

Matthew chapter 10 — Christ's words about the sparrow). He is ready to face anything, whether in play or in life. Or are they the same? That's what we're led to question.

Chimes: This is related to the last question a bit: Based on the advertisements, this production doesn't have your typical "Shakespearean" feel to it. Where did the idea for the advertisements come from, and will their unique nature show in the play at all? If so, how?

Sandberg: Yes, as we are dealing with play and the concept or theory of play and how it affects reality, we created the poster that shows a sense of playful decay and playful nightmare. The other ads with the hybrid faces and darkness of human emotion, are also reflective of the kind of acting style we've been exploring. It is unique. We've been playing a lot and exploring a lot — the tragedy and horror vs. the idea of play has been central to our understanding of this text.

Chimes: Why has Shakespeare been so popular for hundreds of years?

Sandberg: He is called the best known playwright of all time. He is performed in hundreds of countries, with every generation and we keep reinventing him and reinventing him with every new era. What is so timeless is that he is a humanist playwright. It's very important for Shakespeare to be reinvented with every generation, for us to find new voice for these stories that are central to our human understanding. He is the most important playwright of the Western tradition and is certainly performed everywhere (India, China, Africa, Indonesia, Latin America and so on). Many scholars have called him the most important playwright ever, and Harold Bloom has made the claim that "to be or not to be" is now quoted more often than the Bible and is certainly better known than any single scripture. Of course, he was often quoting scripture, so knowing Shakespeare is like knowing scripture, in some sense!

Chimes: What do you hope to send your audience away with?

Sandberg: I want them to leave with this story fresh in their hearts and minds. This is one of our most enduring tales, and it teaches us about the possibility of life within the midst of apathy and sorrow. By becoming familiar with it through story — through narrative — like we do with the story of Job, like we do with the story of the Israelites suffering in the wilderness or the story of Christ suffering temptation, torture and death. Thank God for the truth in these stories that helps us to face life! We are blessed by them, whether they are fictional or real.

Chimes: Best part about putting together a Shakespeare production? Worst part?

Sandberg: Best part is the excitement of working on the language and making it alive for an audience today. We are playing this show in the round, in a very intense setting. We built a new theatre into the lab theatre and the action/story takes place all around you — in front of you and above you even. It is very, very intense and fun. We have reinvented the story for our audiences and we love every minute of it. Worst part? I cannot think of anything bad about it at all. It's the most exciting and wonderful work and I love it! The designs of this show are just gorgeous — with contemporary couture style costume and an original score that is played by the actors (composed by David Fuentes). This production is just so wonderful and it was an amazing process to work with all of these designers, technicians and actors in Calvin Theatre Company.

FCC sets unexpected radio regulations

BY LACERATE MONGREL
A&E Co-Editor

Thursday, after much preparing, the FCC announced that the regulation of music played on the radio will be taken to an unexpected extreme within the next month due to the unhappiness of explicit materials flooding into the ears of a mediocre audience.

With plans of reformatting ever played on the radio to a certain criterion structured by the FCC, the aim is to change all music being transmitted, from that of complex dynamics and musical textures to a more primitive synthesized state.

"Since the FCC demands all music to be released in a form in which the music will be simpler, it will be more accessible to a general audience," said the Media organizer of CBS radio frequencies, Oger Borris.

The FCC hopes that this will help everyone feel less inferior when music that the listener may not be acquainted with comes on, so through giving everything a more primitive and understood texture, the public will get the idea of

the musical themes instantly. "That's the genius of this, a lot of the new music will have technologically — altered single — drum beats that are hard to distinguish from one another, so that songs will be impossible to forget."

This change, which will be the most serve transition to ever occur in radio frequency history, began based off an idea that has since haunted FCC coordinator Ralph Winchestic since the 90s, after listening to an epoch of music that was deemed the "greatest of all time" by the Genius Book of World Music Records. That's right, it's the music that was birthed from the creation of video games and the need for atmospheric melodies to assist the player get through the boring as well as rigorous levels of games.

"Life is like a video game," said Winchestic. "You start, jump over things — sometimes kill things — and hope that you don't fall into an never ending abyss. So with that in mind, what better structure of music is there to come out?"

"Turning all and every music into an 8-bit format is the greatest thing the FCC, or anyone, has thought up since the creation

of music itself," said New York Times' own Jimmy Jaaz.

This music reformat will take over 66 years to complete every songs ever aired on the radio, but it will not prohibit songs from being played.

As soon as they are reformatted, the music will instantly added to a playlist that will constantly air on the radio as more songs undergo this process.

"The new 8-bit songs will be constantly looped and the list will slowly grow and grow and grow," said Winchestic.

After surveying the general public's music taste, the Musical Tastes Researchers, found that a shocking 0 percent would be angered at this change of formatting played on the radio.

When questioned about the no one opposing this change, the researches stated that 17 out of 18 people don't really care what is playing on the radio, because no matter what, the public will listen to "whatever is doled out," said Bob McGrufferly, natural radio music observer.

The expected date of this new regulation taking place is next April 15 at 3:34 a.m. So get ready to tune in to a radio station and hear 8-bit music.

APR 7
AN ACOUSTIC PERFORMANCE BY **MATISYAHU**
with My Brightest Diamond
Covenant Fine Arts Center; Apr 7, 9pm; \$25 or Festival Pass*

APR 8
THE CIVIL WARS
with Arum Rae & Sleep Experiments
Covenant Fine Arts Center; Apr 8, 8pm; \$15 or Festival Pass*

APR 9
JON FOREMAN & VIENNA TENG
Covenant Fine Arts Center; Apr 9, 8pm; \$15 or Festival Pass*

APR 25
THE DECEMBERISTS
with Justin Townes Earle
Spoelhof Fieldhouse Complex; Apr 25, 8pm; \$10 w/ Calvin ID

“When I read ‘Love Wins,’ there were several times when I wondered ‘Hmm. Did Jesus really say that?’ or ‘Is that what Paul meant?’ or ‘Have I been misreading this for years?’ -Griffin Jackson, “‘Love Wins’ calls for careful reading,” p.15”

FROM THE EDITOR

Happy April Fools' Day, Calvin College.

Today is the perfect day to practice your creativity. In decades (and even centuries) past, media outlets and clever individuals have foisted all sorts of baloney on gullible viewers and friends.

In the 1950s, a Dutch television news program announced that the Leaning Tower of Pisa had, at long last, given into gravity and toppled over. In 2007, the front of page of Wikipedia featured an article heralding George Washington as the inventor of instant coffee. In 1957, the BBC even convinced many of its viewers that Swiss farmers grew spaghetti on trees. Another BBC April Fool's Day win occurred in 1976, when astronomer Patrick Moore announced on the BBC Radio 2 that planetary alignment would cause a temporary decrease in Earth's gravity. Many people excitedly called into the radio station to confirm that they had felt the gravitational anomaly; one woman even proclaimed that she and several of her friends had floated around her living room. In 1998, Burger King announced that southpaws all around the world had cause to rejoice: a new burger aimed at lefties would be available at BK (according to the advertisement, excessive condiments would drip down the right side of the burger rather than the left.



Now, I'm sure that most of you aren't going to be able to convince your friends of such implausible things — though I'm sure you'd be surprised at how many people you can deceive if you announce something in an assertive tone. I once made an offhand remark that the most common disease amongst ants was “chronic ant-itis.” Three people immediately queried, “Oh, really? Cool.” Granted, people are naturally more suspicious on April 1, but see how many ridiculous things you can get away with saying. Hey, you never know. If you pull a clever enough prank, professor Bytwerk just might award you a sweet stone gargoye.

So as you go through today, my friends, practice discernment (oooh! Calvin buzzword) as you see, hear and read absurd stories and crazy pranks. It's the perfect time of year to crack out your Calvinistic skepticism and your liberal arts critical thinking skills.

~ajs

Obama does things right in Libya

BY BRANDON BURKHART
Guest Writer

Most people know of the recent civil unrest in the Middle East. In Egypt weeks of protests led to the resignation of Hosni Mubarak. Spurred by this success, more riots broke out across the Arab world as people hoped for more freedoms. Protests began in Libya on Feb. 15 and Muammar Gadhafi responded with brutal assaults on protesters, killing many innocent civilians. Shortly after, Obama verbally condemned the bloodshed. That was a bold move because the U.S. doesn't run the world and it's not our place to tell an Arab dictator what to do; that is the United Nations' job.

The U.N. did step in shortly after and imposed sanctions on Gadhafi and his family. Surprisingly, these U.N. sanctions did not stop the atrocities; I couldn't believe the Libyan leader dared defy the U.N. Consequently Obama began to build a consensus among world leaders for the strongest of measures — a no fly zone — which even received support from the Arab League. It was only another two weeks of civilian deaths and misery in Libya until the U.N. Security Council approved a no fly zone by a vote of 10-0 (with 5 nations abstaining from voting).

This procedure is a momentous change for the U.S., especially compared to our past actions in Iraq. We are now securing world approval before we do anything. Under Bush, U.S. soldiers arrived at Baghdad in three weeks, but under Obama, in just four weeks we were able to secure international approval for a no fly zone! Obama did everything the right way. Sadly, local politi-

cian Justin Amash has called the President's military operations unconstitutional because Obama didn't ask permission from the U.S. Congress.

Well, Amash should calm down because the U.N. is above our government and is the only permission Obama needs.

Obama deserves praise for the speed of his actions, because a normal resolution put to the U.N. would have taken much longer to pass. Nonetheless, taking time is a good thing in situations like these because it allows for measured and well planned strategies instead of brazen and foolhardy decisions to jump in and help people. If that warmonger McCain had won back in 2008, U.S. troops would have ended the fighting in Libya by now. However, under Obama, America knows better than to rush. In fact, I would have been happy to wait four months to rescue Libyan civilians.

Taking a long time to think about every possible consequence of our actions is a great idea. And while we are pondering these actions, we should also consider how the U.S. appears in the world's eyes. When we invaded Iraq, we didn't make any friends and we offended many other nations. That was really bad, but Obama has been trying to rebuild America's reputation as a methodical and passive nation, and he's been doing a pretty good job at it.

Regrettably I do have one minor caution for Obama regarding civilian deaths. When we started bombing Gadhafi's tanks and other military targets, we endangered civilians. Collateral damage is the worst outcome in any war, which is why Obama and NATO should be more restrained in future operations. They should

do less in Libya so as to not cause civilian deaths. The Arab League recently withdrew their support for the no fly zone when they actually saw how the U.S. and its European allies interpreted “no fly zone.” I fear Obama may be going beyond the U.N.'s resolution by trying to oust a dictator. We have to consider how the Arab League feels about the U.S. invading another Muslim country in the Middle East. America's standing in the world should be our number one goal and helping Libya should be secondary. We need to appease and humble ourselves before Arab leaders.

Maybe it is best if the U.S. leaves Arab nations alone for a while. Everyone knows we only “help” because we want oil and this humanitarian stuff is just a charade. Look at how much free oil we got from Iraq over the last few years; it's all about the oil!

In any case, protests and political demonstrations are rare in the Middle East and are unlikely to happen again, so the U.S. has a singular opportunity to show how peaceful and forgiving we are to known supporters of terrorism. If we just wait long enough all the protests will die down and things will return to normal.

Nonetheless, I have complete faith in Obama, and I say that with the same earnestness with which I spoke last week about ceasing to print the *Chimes*. The president is a decisive man and has probably thought deeply about all these issues. I'm sure as long as there is international support to remove Gadhafi then we will continue to enforce the U.N.-sanctioned no fly zone. As soon as other nations have decided what the U.S. should do, we can listen to them and continue building a better image of America around the world.

New campus opens more study opportunities

BY MAJOR LOON
Op-Ed Co-Editor

Calvin is taking a step in a new direction — a hajj, if you will. This is one pilgrimage that I can happily get behind. The change opens up all kinds of new opportunities for students and departments, while at the same time being a significant revenue source for the college.

In case you have not heard already, President Byker announced last Wednesday that Calvin is opening a new satellite campus in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. After his most recent visit, President Byker said of Saudi Arabia, “Obviously, it controls a tremendous amount of oil, which is awesome. Additionally, it is the seat of the Islamic religion, so that's kind of cool. It has many other important features, but mostly it has oil.”

The new campus will allow the business department to vastly expand its opportunities for off-campus study. Curriculum for an entire semester abroad is currently being drawn up. Students will be able to help manage a multimillion-dollar business onsite, as there is an oil well at the center of the campus. It's about time this campus fell into some money.

The political science department also recognized the potential of the new location.

“International relations is usually more of a theoretical discipline,” Professor Illari al-Qinton commented. “This will offer students the opportunity to take a more hands-on approach. It's a dirty, dirty business, politics, es-

pecially in the House of Saud, and now we get to be a part of that.”

An Arabic language program has long been missing at Calvin, and the Riyadh expansion allows such a program not only to be created, but upon its creation, to be one of the best programs available to American students. The total immersion environment is unparalleled among other offerings. Basically, all other schools will want to be us. The admissions department expects Calvin's national rankings and stock value to see a considerable increase with the new program.

The religion department will also see benefits, being able to offer a comparative religion course in Islam at the new campus.

“The majority of students think the Kaaba is located at 2850 Kalamazoo Avenue,” a professor quipped. “The new interim will help remedy this sad situation.”

I applaud the donor that made this possible and see it as a move in the right direction for Calvin. If you've ever seen “Lawrence of Arabia” or “Aladdin: Return of Jafar,” you will definitely appreciate all the history, tradition and culture that this satellite campus will bring to Calvin. Plus, Calvin will put up two new gas stations on campus — one on the little island in the Sem Pond, and one connected to the back of Schultze Hall. That gas is going to be cheap, cheap, cheap, if you know what I mean. What? You want diesel? Unleaded? Crude? I'm going to get a Hummer. No, I'm going to get two Hummers; that's how cheap this gas is going to be.

Yes, there will be some downsides. Calvin had to cut a deal with

the Saudis in order to make this whole Operation “Drillin' and Chillin'” work out. Conditions: alcohol is even more strictly forbidden than it is now; no open-house hours ever again; and a dress-code that will make this place look like the Jedi Temple. Oh well. It's not so bad when you think about all that black gold.

Seriously, I couldn't be giddier

about this. Instead of following the long, gradual, money-losing endeavor that is higher education, Calvin can now be an efficient, self-supporting business and gain the national recognition that it deserves. Did I mention the high-quality students we're going to be able to suck in? It's going to be like quicksand.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PRESIDENT BYKER

President Byker basks in the Saudi sun by the new campus.

Letter to the editor

This letter was truncated last week and is reprinted here in full.

Dear Editor,

It's difficult to know how to reply to Mr. Slamkowski's article last week responding to my own piece on roommates. What I can only describe as a scathing attack on my writing, character, and strangely enough, my opinion.

Mr. Slamkowski's article took what I was under the impression to be a unique and personal perspective on the issue of privacy at Calvin College (or lack thereof) and turned it into a “vainglorious appeal for a single room,” a self-centered, un-Christian, manipulative attempt to get what I want.

When I first read Mr. Slamkowski's article, I was horrified — was it possible that my article had really come off that way? If it has, I deeply apologize; that was not at all my intent. I had to re-read my own writing to make sure that the essay I had carefully worded was not the selfish campaign to secure a room for myself Mr. Slamkowski believed it to be. I still cannot see how one could so grossly misinterpret what I had written. Perhaps my conclusion threw Mr. Slamkowski off?

Either way, the narrow-minded rebuke I received from Mr. Slamkowski's article was inappropriate, and, I believe, a poor and hypocritical piece of writing. If my article deserved no place in the *Chimes*, Mr. Slamkowski's article brought its content to a new low.

Charis Medendorp, '13

Reformed students have a conversation with Rob Bell about 'Love Wins'

GRIFFIN JACKSON
Managing Editor

The intent of this article is to engage the broader questions posed by Rob Bell, pastor at Mars Hill, in his latest and most controversial book "Love Wins." Because many more readers will have seen the short film introducing the book than will have read the book itself (and because the film lends itself to a more concise response), the following addresses the film. Much credit is due to a friend of mine, Jonathan Brubaker, a senior at Moody Bible Institute in Chicago, Ill., with whose considerable input this was composed.

Below, in bold, are the questions, verbatim, posed by Bell in the film that acted as a forerunner of his book. The promo can be seen at <http://www.vimeo.com/20272585>.

The following is intended to convey a conversation between Bell and some concerned, Reformed Christians. Almost inevitably, this sort of conversation will result in a battle of proof texts (Bell's book is loaded with Scripture references), but we believe what follows is a far more accurate and encompassing interpretation of Scripture than that which he offers.

Disclaimer: what follows does get fairly preachy. Maybe *Chimes* isn't the best place for something like this. But maybe it is. So, here's an attempt at an respectful, yet firm conversation with Rob Bell.

Will only a few select people make it to heaven? And will billions and billions of people burn forever in hell?

Like it or not, Scripture says the answer is yes. Jesus said, "But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it" (Matt. 7:14).

If that's the case, how do you become one of the few? Is it what you believe or what you say or

what you do or who you know or something that happens in your heart? Or do you need to be initiated or baptized or take a class or converted or being born again? How does one become one of these few?

That is a universal question. Fortunately, Scripture presents us with an answer. Being "one of the few" does have to do with what you believe and who you know. Jesus said, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:6). You must know and trust in Jesus Christ. Furthermore, conversion or being born again or being born from above is something that happens in your heart. Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again" (John 3:3). That's the short answer. Of course, this raises deep theological questions about everything from predestination and election to justification and sanctification, but those issues are tangential to the basics of knowing Christ and believing in him.

Then there is the question behind the questions. The real question: "What is God like?" because millions and millions of people were taught that the primary message, the center of the gospel of Jesus, is that God is going to send you to hell unless you believe in Jesus. And so what gets subtly sort of caught and taught is that Jesus rescues you from God.

This seems an inappropriate phrasing. Clearly, Rob, you're question subtly attempts to make God harsh — to make him look like the bad guy. Granted, many people do think this way. But, perhaps it's more accurate to recognize that God does not send us to hell as much as we send ourselves to hell when we reject Christ. The wages of sin is death. Therefore, Jesus doesn't rescue us from God. He rescues us from ourselves — from our own sin and

the just punishment of that sin.

But, in order to avoid beating around the bush, the answer is yes, those who reject Christ will spend eternity in hell. Scripture makes that clear; "... the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power" (2 Thess. 1:7-9).

You're right to say that Jesus saves us from the wrath of God. There's nothing subtle about that in Scripture. Because God is righteous and just, God's justice must be satisfied. This happens at the cross. Cue theological issues of guilt and atonement. When Jesus died on the cross, he paid the penalty for sin that we should have paid because we sinned against God. And because Jesus' life and sacrifice were perfect, Christ satisfied God's just wrath. Now, because Christ paid the penalty for sin and experienced God's wrath, those who trust in Christ will not have to experience it for themselves. Isn't that great news? However, those who do not trust in Christ will rightfully pay the penalty for their sin by experiencing God's just wrath in hell. Sin must be paid for.

But what kind of God is that, that we would need to be rescued from this God? How could that God ever be good? How could that God ever be trusted? And how could that ever be good news?

Again, you're asking the wrong questions. At least, your phrasing presumes too much. Are we really being "rescued from this God?" Aren't we being rescued by and to this God? Scripture says that we are being rescued from our sin. Divine justice demands that we be separated from God. After a person commits a crime, it would be foolish to ask why they would need to be rescued from the jus-

tice system (especially if it were a perfectly good and right system). Children who disobey their parents or employees who disobey their bosses don't "need" or even deserve to be rescued from the right and just response. But, I thank you, Rob, for reminding us here that love, in fact, does win.

The Scriptures make it clear that God is "the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger and abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sins of the fathers to the third and fourth generations" (Ex. 34:6-7). God is holy and righteous, eternally perfect and awesome. That power, that mercy, that grace, that love, is good. God is not subject to anyone or anything. Furthermore, his word is truth (John 17:17). And in him, there is no lie. Therefore, how can he not be trusted? How can that not be good news?

This is why lots of people want nothing to do with the Christian faith. They see it as an endless list of absurdities and inconsistencies and they say, "why would I ever want to be a part of that?"

Sadly, you're right. Many do reject Christianity because they see it as unappealing or absurd. But, for those who recognize its truth, it is not a matter of liking the faith or rationalizing every detail. We believe because we are called to, because we are confident it is true, because the Holy Spirit has transformed us: "For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God" (1 Cor. 18).

If you believe the Scriptures are true, the better question is why anyone wouldn't want to be a Christian. Why would you want to pay your own penalty for sin when Christ already paid it? The ultimate reason people want

nothing to do with Christianity is because they are "dead in [their] transgressions and sins ... gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath" (Eph. 1:1-3). We reject God and his good news because of our fallen natures. Before Christ saved many of us, we didn't want any part of it either.

See, what we believe about heaven and hell is incredibly important because it exposes what we believe about who God is and what God is like.

Absolutely correct. And what we believe about heaven, hell and God should come from Scripture.

What you discover in the Bible is so surprising, unexpected and beautiful, that whatever we have been told and been taught, the good news is actually better than that, better than we could ever imagine.

I completely agree that the Bible teaches something surprising, unexpected and beautiful. And I believe that this good news is Jesus Christ.

The good news is that love wins.

Yeah, it does. But that's not all. A more precise and more promising statement would be "Christ wins." You see, one day, Jesus will say, "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life. He who overcomes will inherit all this, and I will be his God and he will be my son. But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars — their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death" (Rev. 21:6-8). Now, for the thirsty who recognize Jesus' ability to quench their thirst, to pay their debt, to bear their load, to meet their need, that is good news.

'Love Wins' calls for careful reading

BY GRIFFIN JACKSON
Managing Editor

Rob Bell, in his latest book "Love Wins," provides one of the most beautiful pictures of salvation, heaven and divine love I have read. Unfortunately, being beautiful, sounding nice or being what we want it to be isn't evidence of its accuracy, credibility or truth.

I won't critique the entire book here; other, wiser men and women have done that. And, for my position (and the general Reformed position), read the article "Reformed students have a conversation" above. Here I will offer only a brief word for those who have read or intend to read "Love Wins."

First of all, read the book. Especially if you want to join the conversation, read it for yourself. It's an easy read with good, valuable questions and thought-provoking ideas.

Second: don't just read the book. Read responses to the book. There are dozens of blogs and online discussions already out there. I would highly, highly recommend the review by Kevin DeYoung, a Grand Rapids native who is now a pastor at University Reformed Church in Lansing. He says many of the things I (and many in the Reformed tradition) would like to say, and more. His response is titled "God is Still Holy and What You Learned in Sunday School is Still True: A Review of 'Love Wins,'" and is available at the blog, "The Gospel Coalition." Regardless of your view of the book, this review will

be a great companion and should be required reading for everyone who reads "Love Wins."

Third: in your reading, recognize the point of the book and the tactics employed. The point of the book is to persuade, not just to say, "Hey, what about this?" And the tactics, like those of many persuasive writers, appeal to emotions as much as evidence. When Bell writes things that sound like this: Only a harsh, mean God could allow anyone to go to hell; universalistic, postmortem repentance is a mainstream, orthodox Christian idea; or the notion that some people are saved while others go to hell is ridiculous. He's trying to stir an emotional response.

Along with ideas like these, Bell also uses stories, both beautiful and tragic, buzz words, provocative language, hundreds of question marks and sometimes ambiguous Scripture references to draw readers in. I don't hold that against him one bit (except for the ambiguous references). That's effective writing. I would probably do that too. But, in your reading, read closely. Recognize that none of these things are actually evidence. Granted, he does provide some evidence, but be sure to distinguish between mere evidence and good evidence, as well as between evidence and moving or angering or pretty language.

Fourth: be open. When you read "Love Wins," get into it; feel the stories; think hard about the issues. Recognize that you don't have all the answers, I don't have all the answers and Bell doesn't have all the answers.

Still, remember that some answers are closer to the right, true answer than others. Have an open mind. And, as your mind is opened, make sure to maintain a filter. Christian tradition, your church, other Christian authors, Religion 121 and your own reason should all be a part of that filter. However, none of those filters can replace the authority of Scripture, which brings us to the final point.

Fifth (and most importantly): read "Love Wins" while holding a Bible, preferably a good study Bible (pretty much any good study Bible) in your other hand. Bell uses a lot of Scripture. Unfortunately, he uses a lot of Scripture vaguely and out-of-context. When I read "Love Wins," there were several times when I wondered "Hmm. Did Jesus really say that?" or "Is that what Paul meant?" or "Have I been misreading this for years?" However, as soon as I went to Scripture to validate what I was reading, I found that many of Bell's Scripture references don't actually say what he wishes they said. Look for yourselves. Judge for yourselves.

When you read "Love Wins," think, remember, discuss, examine, compare and maybe even pray. And in your response, don't take my word for it. Don't take Bell's word for it. Don't take DeYoung's word for it. Don't take your parents' or your pastor's or even Calvin's word for it (unless it comes up on a test; then take Calvin's word for it). Consult them all, but please, in the end, attempt that which is far easier said than done, and take God's Word for it.

Leading orientation fulfilling

BY MATT CAMBRIDGE
Guest Writer

Everybody remembers their first day at Calvin, right? Coming to college, whether you are a first-year student out of high school, a transfer student or a non-traditional student, entering Calvin is a big deal. It's no summer camp.

What is the first thing you remember about Calvin? Maybe it is feeling nervous before leaving your parents. Maybe it is your crazy RA who seemed to be way too excited to meet you. But for me, it was my Quest group, led by my Orientation Leader. I think this is the case for a lot of people. Quest, for me, was an experience that calmed my nerves, reminded me that I was not alone in feeling nervous and anxious and gave me the tools I needed to get involved, which is just what I did.

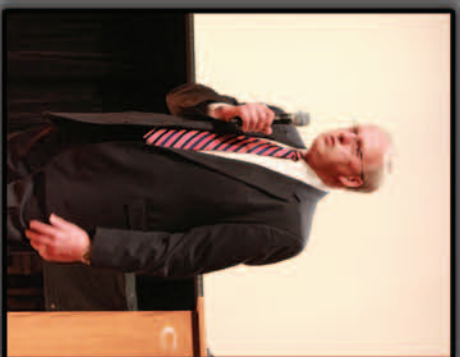
When talking with a mentor last week on spring break and reflecting on my time at Calvin, the only thing I could think to say was, "I couldn't have planned it any better." The experiences and people I have had the blessing to know have made Calvin a life-changing place for me. Experiences

like Dance Guild, Young Life, and tour guiding have been great, but experiences like serenading with fellow 3rd Bolt members and playing Super Smash Bros have been no less memorable.

One of the most fruitful experiences I have had at Calvin has been being an Orientation Leader. Over the past two years, I have had the privilege of welcoming new students into the community that welcomed me, facilitating group community and discussions about serious issues every college student faces and helping new students realize that they are vital members of this community. Getting to do this with 45 peers who shared these same passions was especially exciting.

So, does that sound exciting to you? If you have found a passion or niche at Calvin and it excites you, whether it was in the classroom, athletics or an extracurricular activity, you have a story to tell! Being an Orientation Leader can be a great way to share it and directly affect the lives of students. You can be the first at Calvin to directly share the love of Christ in joining with faculty, staff and the rest of the Calvin community welcoming them with both arms open. I urge you to prayerfully consider this role and its potential place in your life.

Mr. T says, "Express yourself, fool."
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What's Your
Big Idea?
Bizplan 2011

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