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DEMOCRACY IN AFRICA

Nations like Senegal are making leaps toward democracy while others are falling behind.

▶ See page 6



TO DRINK OR NOT TO DRINK?

Conversations about alcohol are conspicuously absent in the Calvin community.

▶ See page 8-9



EXTREMELY LOUD

...and *Incredibly Close* is one of Jonathan Safran Foer's most popular novels. Read a review here.

▶ See page 10



MY HEART IS FULL OF YOU CALVIN COLLEGE CHIMES

March 30, 2012
Volume 106 - Issue 24
CLUBS.CALVIN.EDU/CHIMES

Supreme Court tackles constitutionality of healthcare bill

BY RACHEL HEKMAN
Staff Writer

On Tuesday, the U.S. Supreme Court Building looked like a movie theater the night before the premiere of a popular movie.

No, the Supreme Court, headed up by Chief Justice John G. Roberts, was not holding a viewing of the *Hunger Games*; rather, Tuesday marked the beginning of the Supreme Court's official review of the Affordable Care Act, President Obama's healthcare reform bill that was passed by Congress two years ago in March of 2010.

With some attendees waiting in line since last Friday, the courtroom where the nine Supreme Court justices met this Tuesday was packed to capacity. People who weren't lucky enough to procure tickets to the proceedings swarmed the exterior, with demonstrations by multiple organizations surrounding the building and spilling down the street.

Several prominent politicians have attended these demonstrations, including former

Republican presidential candidate Michele Bachmann, current candidate Rick Santorum, and former Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry.

Monday was the prelude to the proceedings, with justices meeting for around 90 minutes to hear arguments from lawyers as to whether or not the court actually has the authority to hear the case yet. According to the *New York Times*, an 1867 law states that taxpayers can't challenge taxes in court until said taxes actually become due.

"Penalties for violating the health care law's individual mandate to obtain health insurance do not take effect until 2014, and they must be paid on federal tax returns in April 2015," notes *Times* journalist Adam Liptak.

Despite this, Monday's arguments seemed to indicate that the nine justices are ready to hear the case now in order to investigate the law's constitutionality, rather than waiting to try it as an unpopular tax.

See "Court," page 7



FILE PHOTO

Crowds formed around the steps of the Supreme Court building in Washington, D.C. beginning last Friday. Citizens were waiting in line to observe the healthcare hearings this week.

New Sufjan EP features rap, autotune

Continuing shift toward electronica, Sufjan's sound distinct and unique

BY JON HIELKEMA
Staff Writer

Since releasing his Steve Reich-inspired ode to the maligned Brooklyn-Queens Expressway, "The BQE," Sufjan Stevens has

put out a string of recordings that has both confirmed his place as the ultimate thinking man's pop artist and seen him explore new musical realms. After 2010's "The Age of Adz," an LP that transplanted a heart of electronic chaos into the serene, fussy world of

Stevens' previous indie folk work, it's impossible to know what to expect from the Michigan-born musician.

Confirming this unpredictability is "Beak and Claw," an 18-minute EP put out on the Anticon label, best known for abstract electronica and experimental hip-hop. Joining Sufjan are two Anticon "stars," Son Lux and Serengeti (combined they form s/s/s.) The former makes lush orchestral electronica and the latter is a Chicago rapper with many of the same lyrical preoccupations as Stevens himself, albeit expressed in a different style. In 2006, this collaboration would have looked even more absurd on paper than it already does, but Sufjan and Serengeti have appeared together before in a remix of Stevens' cover of the Castanets song "You Are the Blood" that appeared on the "Dark Was the Night" compilation. All three have highly distinct musical voices, and the result could have been an interesting but convol

FILE PHOTO



Stevens' latest creation is a collaboration with Son Lux and Serengeti.

See "Sufjan," page 11

Grad wins Jeopardy

Former Chimes staffer goes two nights

BY KATERINA PARSONS
Staff Writer

Nine years ago, graduating senior and *Chimes* head copy editor Cathy Guiles wrote in her last issue of *Chimes*, "Don't worry, Calvin — I promise you'll get to see me on 'Jeopardy!' someday."

This wasn't the first time she wrote about Jeopardy in *Chimes*. When Cathy was a sophomore at Calvin, she fulfilled a long-held ambition and went in for a live Jeopardy audition. *Chimes* published the full account she wrote about the audition process, as well as her dreams to someday appear on the show. Though she didn't make it that time, she concluded; "I'll have to try again next year for a chance to bring glory to Calvin — and show the world how smart I am at the same time."

Well, this year, after going on from Calvin to earn a master's degree in journalism and obtaining a job as a copy editor in Washington D.C., Cathy Guiles finally got a chance to show off her intelligence — as well as make Calvin look good. She recently competed on, and won, Jeopardy — not once but twice — taping three shows, which aired last week.

"I was most surprised by how intense it can be," Cathy said in an e-mail interview. "The lights on stage, cameras

all around, other contestants who are just as smart as you, if not smarter ... It looks a lot easier on TV than it is in person."

Cathy spent time brushing up on trivia and memorizing facts, but she said that the most helpful thing she did was "practice ringing in with a pen. I discovered that ringing in with my index finger worked best, and I learned to time myself so I wouldn't respond too early."

Though her physical training certainly gave her an edge, her experiences as a Calvin English major also helped her win. One of the categories in her second game was "Authors with Mass. Appeal." "I almost ran that one," she wrote on her blog, "Getting Emily Dickinson, Nathaniel Hawthorne and Henry David Thoreau — all of whom I studied during [the] 'New England Saints' class ... For a few seconds at least, it paid to be an English major."

The game Jeopardy rewards its contestants for knowing a little bit about everything, asking questions from science, literature, history and popular culture. Perhaps more Calvin students should consider a run on Jeopardy, as the core requirements prepare us all to be better game contestants. In an interview with Calvin, Cathy Guiles affirmed, "I think going to Calvin, going to a liberal arts college, really helps you out because you study so many different subjects."

See "Game," page 3

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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

Stores pull pink slime from shelves

BY JASMINE WILSON
Staff Writer

On March 7, 2012, two scientists who were formerly with the FDA referred to "pink slime," a term coined in 2002 by Gerald Zirnstein. The news report alleged that "pink slime" was unsafe, because instead of using "real meat," it is made from the connective tissue scraped from the animal carcass and, in order to kill the E. coli and other bacteria, sprayed with ammonia gas.

Another thing that contributed to the controversy was a viral video in which celebrity chef Jamie Oliver throws a hunk of beef fat in the washing machine with household ammonia, saying, "You just turned your kids' food into dog food." Oliver and others protested that the federal government buys the pink slime for public school lunches, and primarily through social media, a campaign was started to rid schools and stores of pink slime.

Two weeks ago, the USDA announced that schools would be able to opt out of buying school lunches that contained pink slime.

Supporters of using the material refer to it as "Lean Finely Textured Beef" or LFTB. According to the American Meat Institute, LFTB is a "category of beef products that uses high technology food processing equipment to separate lean meat from fat because doing it by hand would be impossible. LFTB products prevent

the waste of valuable, lean, nutritious, safe, beef by using technology to do what hands cannot."

Deborah Kotz of The Boston Globe wrote an article on Wednesday, saying, "While no doubt, the beef product — which is made from discarded fat and connective tissue trimmings — is cheap to produce and makes



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

"Pink slime" has sparked controversy in the meat market, with schools, suppliers and stores pulling it off their shelves.

those burgers less costly, there's no evidence it makes beef less safe, or even less nutritious."

Nevertheless, the controversy has been very effective at reducing the sales of meat with the LFTB product. Craig Letch, director of food quality and assurance for Beef Products Inc., said the business had taken a "substantial" hit. According to the Chicago Sun-Times, and three of the four processing plants where the beef product is made have suspended operations.

Major supermarkets and even fast food chains have promised to stop using the product. Meijer says that they will no longer sell any product with LFTB as soon as April. Meijer Public Relations Director emailed local ABC news channel WZZM13, saying, "Meijer sells 12 different varieties of fresh ground beef, one (of

contain LFTB."

Likewise, Spartan Stores issued a statement to WZZM13 saying, "Spartan Stores suppliers have verified that they do not use this process. None of this product referred to by the media as 'pink slime' are in any Spartan Stores-supplied products."

Gordon Food Service, which provides much of the food at Calvin, issued a slightly different statement, "Gordon Food Service offers a variety of ground beef products, many of which do not contain 'Lean, Finely Textured Beef' (LFTB). We encourage GFS Marketplace customers who wish to avoid LFTB to ask a store associate for assistance." At this time, however, they are not pulling the items from their shelves, assuring customers that "all ground beef products sold by Gordon Food Service are purchased from USDA approved suppliers who are required to follow federal guidelines to ensure food safety and quality."

Some are under the impression that ABC News damaged Beef Products Inc., in what can only be referred to as a smear campaign. Using media attention and derogatory language such as "pink slime," the company has reduced business due to customer demand. The three plants that were forced to suspend operations produced about 900,000 pounds of the product per day. In 2007, Beef Products Inc. received a prestigious award for food safety, called the Black Pearl. Only one is given each year by the International Association for Food Protection.

Some critics are concerned that the loss of LFTB will drive the price of beef up.



Campus Safety Report

Tuesday, 3/14

-Campus safety received a report of a stolen bicycle from the bike racks outside of Hekman Library. The bicycle was described as a blue Giant Attraction men's bicycle. The bicycle was later located by the victim at a different bike rack.

Wednesday, 3/15

-Campus safety investigated the disappearance of a confiscated bicycle from the storage facility at 1320 East Beltline. The bike had been confiscated in December and placed in storage. When officers went to the storage facility to retrieve the bicycle for the student, they were unable to locate it. It is unknown who might have removed the bicycle from the building.

Thursday, 3/16

-Campus safety was contacted by a student who lives in Eldersveld Hall about unknown persons throwing snowballs and rocks at the window of their residence hall room, damaging the window. The student had no idea why their window was being targeted.

Thursday, 3/22

A campus safety employee patrolling campus observed a light pole propped up against the northeast corner of the Huizenga Track and Tennis Center. While investigating the suspicious condition, the campus safety employee observed two white male teens flee from the area. The campus safety employee followed and attempted to stop the two subjects, who fled west and disappeared into the neighborhood near Hampshire Street. The Physical Plant was contacted to pick up the unused light pole and store it in a more secure location.

Sunday, 3/25

-Campus safety responded to Timmer Hall to take a report of threats sent to a student by text message from an ex-boyfriend. After taking the information from the student, they were encouraged to obtain a personal protection order from the courts. Campus safety sent the ex-boyfriend, who was not a Calvin student, a no-trespass letter from the college. The student was also told to call campus safety if the ex-boyfriend showed up to campus or tried to make contact.

the 12 varieties) had the potential to contain the LFTB (we have five different suppliers who provide us with the pre-ground beef that we use when we grind this one variety of fresh product in our store.) Two of those five suppliers occasionally use LFTB...but USDA does not require them to list it as an ingredient. We have told them we will no longer accept their product unless they certify it is LFTB free. So, by the beginning of April, we will be 100% free of any product that could

Senate Corner

Senate has two great events coming up this month so watch out for them!

POWDERPUFF

All Calvin women, PowderPuff is back!!

Date: Friday, April 20, 2012

Time: 4-7 p.m.

Venue: Phi-Chi Field

If you would like to get an annual PowderPuff 2012 t-shirt, the cost will be \$5. Please bring your money to the student senate office. (A t-shirt is not required to participate, but encouraged. We will inform you sooner to the game what color shirt you should wear to represent your grade level.)

Invite your friends and bring any questions to student senate!

Keep telling your friends and forming a team! The deadline to sign up is April 5.

To sign up, visit student senate's Facebook page.

SERVICE DAY

Want to give back to your community?

Want to be a part of the Annual All-Campus Service Day?

Check out one of these four great options!

1. Spend a day at Calvin's gorgeous Camp Waltman Lake! Be part of the renovation of this exciting gift to Calvin College. Be prepared to work outside cleaning up around the lake!
2. Help out at the Friends of Grand Rapids Parks Tree Sale. They need you to help people find their orders when they arrive and load the trees in peoples cars. Also you'll be cleaning up the park for the local children to enjoy.
3. Serve? On campus? FREE CAR WASH! Come out and serve the Grand Rapids community with a free car wash. Come ready to flag down people on Burton or polish a freshly washed Corvette.
4. Mystery option! More information to come!

Physics students win NASA grant

BY AVERY JOHNSON
Staff Writer

Calvin students Sam Van Kooten and Dan Van Noord, physics majors with astronomy minors, have received a NASA-funded grant for their research in asteroids and variable stars. These grants will further their research that they began as freshmen last year. Van Kooten's area of research is called "Collisional History of the Koronis Zone" and Van Noord's is "Studies of Contact Binaries".

Van Kooten's research is centered on asteroids, specifically their strength and behavior. He created a computer program just after his freshman year that computes the probability of two asteroids colliding over long periods of time and the likelihood of the same collision happening at different speeds. He uses his program to explain why the asteroids are the way they are now by tracing back to a collision.

When describing his research, Van Kooten said, "There is a good catalog of hundreds of thousands of asteroids in the asteroid belt. We can basically have a computer trace their orbits backwards in time, and when we do this, we find that sometimes a number of asteroids will all come to the

same point in space at the same time. This means those asteroids are the debris from a catastrophic collision at that point and time." Van Kooten plans to work in Colorado with a collaborator who runs simulations of asteroid collisions.

Van Noord is focusing on star systems, or contact binaries, whose stars are close enough that they touch and may merge eventually. His goal is to learn about how that may happen. He

of 198 million stars, identifying the binary ones and studying the ones with the shortest orbital periods. He added, "What we are looking at here is the cutting edge of this field. We are studying systems that we are discovering pretty much in real time, and we are learning all sorts of new things."

The \$2,500 NASA-funded Michigan Space Grant Consortium (MSGC) that they both received allows them to expand on their research. Physics and astronomy professor Deb Haarsma said, "It gives opportunities for students and faculty to do research in space science and engineering, and it provides funding opportunities for science outreach in the community." Calvin is only one of two included in MSGC in this state that is a solely undergraduate institution.

Both students have been working with professors on their research; Van Kooten has been working with Larry Molnar, a physics and astronomy professor, and Van Noord is working with Molnar as well as physics and astronomy professor Steven Steenwyk.

Van Kooten and Van Noord also point out the opportunities that they have at Calvin that they could not find anywhere else. Van Kooten said, "Calvin has a really large telescope for a college this size, and I've been able to work with that telescope almost since I've arrived here."

Van Noord added, "At other institutions you wouldn't get this kind of access to telescopes or computer time."



PHOTO COURTESY OF CALVIN.EDU

Two students are researching asteroids and contact binaries with the MSGC.

says, "By us understanding the fate of the close contact systems, we can understand the fate of most binary systems in our galaxy ... This helps explain how stellar evolution occurs and how it might occur differently in binary systems." He is using a catalog

Calvin made partner

BY TYLER SLAMKOWSKI
News Co-Editor

Calvin College recently was given a "full partner" designation from the organization Partners for a Racism-Free Community. The organization seeks to present and develop a racism-free community in Grand Rapids. Calvin is one of five organizations in the area with the full partner status.

To reach this coveted status, Calvin had to demonstrate improvement in six categories of anti-racism efforts: engagement of leadership; internal practices and policies; external collaboration and relationships; contractor, vendor and supplier practices; client, congregation, customer and marketplace practices; and measurements and results.

"What's good about this is it's somebody else's standard," said Michelle Loyd-Paige, Calvin's dean for multicultural

affairs, in an interview with Calvin News & Stories. "When we use our own mirror to look at ourselves, we look so good, and we don't see that it's one of our carnival mirrors."

The level one designation that Calvin received is meant to demonstrate a commitment to the mission of an anti-racism community. To reach the next level, Calvin would have to institute anti-racism policies in every division of the college. While this is the next goal, there is a long way to go.

"We tend to think, 'We've got 'FEN,' so it's good,' she said, referencing Calvin's anti-racism document: "From Every Nation" or "FEN," authored in 2004. "Our 'FEN' document puts us so far ahead of some of our peer institutions," Loyd-Paige said. "We could stop there and pat ourselves on the back. But when we have an outside agency coming in and holding us to a different standard — that tells us a different story."

GAME: alumna wins big

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Much time has gone by since Cathy wrote that article about her audition. "The audition process is much different now than it was when I was in college," she said, "but this time around, I wasn't as nervous playing against the other people trying out, and I felt more comfortable chatting with the contestant coordinators. For the real game, I learned not to be intimidated when other players rang in first,

but to hang in there and keep trying."

Cathy certainly did keep trying, and was able to keep the promise she made years ago. Cathy's victories demonstrate a Calvin grad and Chimes alumni doing well in the world. They show how much you can accomplish with dedication and determination. And it can't be overlooked — her fulfilled promise adds even more credence to the well-known fact that everything within the pages of Chimes can be held as sacred truth.



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Former Chimes head copyeditor Cathy Guiles kept the promise she made to readers years ago.

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Prof's Say the Darnedest Things



"No Alex, don't have a sex change."
- Professor Dhuga, Latin

"So what if Tennyson meant to write about a suicidal goat? 'Baaah, I'm old and I have arthritis."
- Professor Saupe, English

"Hello everybody. Wow, I don't recognize you with your clothes on."
- Professor Nordling, music

"I don't mean to brag, but sometimes I'm really on the ball."
- Professor Urban, English

CryptoQuip

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

Clue: Y equals T

RS YAO GXDYRGA ARUACZSPG,
DSO VDBCP RIZURSO YAO
IDGY NDNBCZQ GDBN RG
XCZS XADVPOQ

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Super Crossword BIOPICS

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|
| <p>ACROSS</p> <p>1 Potassium, e.g.</p> <p>6 pole</p> <p>11 Scott's "The Quartet"</p> <p>14 "Nova" network</p> <p>17 Idolized</p> <p>19 Fandango</p> <p>20 Maestro de Waart</p> <p>21 "Hulk" Ferrigno</p> <p>22 George M. Cohan</p> <p>25 Link letters?</p> <p>26 Grant or Tan</p> <p>27 Crow's toe</p> <p>28 CPR provider</p> <p>29 Tenor Mario</p> <p>31 Svelte</p> <p>32 TV's "___ & Greg"</p> <p>36 "El Cid" star</p> <p>37 Stardom</p> <p>40 Like pie?</p> <p>41 Squirrel away</p> <p>43 Thomas More</p> <p>49 Small shots</p> <p>52 Bother</p> <p>53 Japanese dog</p> <p>54 Social misfit</p> <p>55 Throw in the towel</p> <p>56 Cio-Cio-San's sash</p> | <p>57 '86 Janet Jackson hit</p> <p>58 Fresh</p> <p>60 Billie of "The Wizard of Oz"</p> <p>61 Merino</p> <p>63 I.M. the architect</p> <p>64 Manage</p> <p>65 With</p> <p>49 Down, Thomas Jefferson's</p> <p>66 Edwin Booth</p> <p>72 Line</p> <p>75 "Confound it!"</p> <p>76 Cubic meas.</p> <p>77 Mosque figure</p> <p>81 Marine leader?</p> <p>82 Helps with the dishes</p> <p>84 Sao ____, Brazil</p> <p>86 Nev. neighbor</p> <p>87 Privy to</p> <p>88 Decree</p> <p>89 Moving</p> <p>90 Cotton ___</p> <p>91 Bleak</p> <p>92 Billie Holiday</p> <p>97 Biblical city</p> | <p>98 Journalist Jacob</p> <p>99 ___ podrida</p> <p>100 Western desert</p> <p>103 Sherbet flavor</p> <p>105 Coup d'___</p> <p>108 Fight site</p> <p>109 Actress</p> <p>110 Applaud</p> <p>111 Make wine divine</p> <p>114 Glowing</p> <p>115 Robert Stroud</p> <p>122 Dram</p> <p>123 Chou En-___</p> <p>124 Prepared a potion</p> <p>125 Aftershock</p> <p>126 "Ask ___ Girl" ('59 film)</p> <p>127 Terminate</p> <p>128 Frequently</p> <p>129 Electrical inventor</p> <p>DOWN</p> <p>1 Author</p> <p>2 Dairy-case buy</p> <p>3 Oscar's cousin</p> <p>4 Genesis vessel</p> <p>5 Parasite</p> <p>6 Overly</p> <p>7 Foster's "Dog Tray"</p> <p>8 ___ Aviv</p> | <p>9 Palindromic preposition</p> <p>10 Transmit by bytes</p> <p>11 The Mertzses' income</p> <p>12 Suffix</p> <p>13 Unhappy</p> <p>14 Rocker</p> <p>15 Movie chimp</p> <p>16 Largest African nation</p> <p>18 Sandwich shop</p> <p>19 Cellist's need</p> <p>23 Blocker or Aykroyd</p> <p>24 Piles up</p> <p>30 Timber tree</p> <p>31 Decimal base</p> <p>32 Hold up</p> <p>33 Baseball's Chase</p> <p>34 Dolt</p> <p>35 Bread or booze</p> <p>36 Jurist</p> <p>37 Party</p> <p>38 Lab critter</p> <p>39 Adage</p> <p>42 British pol</p> <p>44 Mozart's "Cosi ___ tutte"</p> <p>45 Giraffe kin</p> <p>46 Up and about</p> <p>47 Tall story?</p> <p>48 First name in photography</p> <p>49 See</p> <p>65 Across</p> <p>50 South African activist</p> <p>51 WWII gun</p> <p>55 Resembling</p> <p>58 Couches</p> <p>59 Datebook abbr.</p> <p>60 Candy quantity</p> <p>62 Cold-shoulder</p> <p>64 Transformer part</p> <p>67 Actress Peggy</p> <p>68 Polishes prose</p> <p>69 "Stop, sailor!"</p> <p>70 Time of your life</p> <p>71 "Dallas" matriarch</p> <p>72 Wisecrack</p> <p>73 Skeleton part</p> <p>74 007's school</p> <p>78 Tycoon</p> <p>79 Historian</p> <p>80 IQ crew</p> <p>82 "The Aeneid" queen</p> <p>83 TV's "Everybody Loves ___"</p> <p>84 Dated</p> <p>85 Solid circle</p> <p>88 Grow dull</p> <p>92 Endearing</p> <p>93 Nest egg</p> <p>94 Diarist</p> <p>Anais</p> <p>95 Light carriage</p> <p>96 Fate</p> <p>97 ___ Antonio, TX</p> <p>100 Mediter-ranean island</p> <p>101 Sky stalker</p> <p>102 Dock</p> <p>104 Stallone role</p> <p>105 Building wing</p> <p>106 Diplomacy</p> <p>107 In pieces</p> <p>109 Saharan</p> <p>110 No gentleman</p> <p>111 "Babes in ___" ('37 musical)</p> <p>112 Sheffield slammer</p> <p>113 Biblical book</p> <p>116 Charleson or Carmichael</p> <p>117 Rottweiler's remark</p> <p>118 Take-home</p> <p>119 Be in debt</p> <p>120 Marsh</p> <p>121 Fairway accessory</p> |
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King Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
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52				53			54				
55				56			57				

ACROSS

1 Army rank

6 Huge

9 Matterhorn, for one

12 Eat away

13 Tramcar contents

14 Knightly address

15 Trapshooting

16 "Alas!"

18 Motivated

20 Urban fleet

21 Tackle moguls

23 Listening device

24 Wheels of fortune?

25 Scull lineup

27 Hosiery fabric

29 Large constrictor

31 Zeroes

35 Precise

37 Campbell's product

38 Analyze

41 "___ Wiederseheren"

43 Greek H

44 Undo a dele

45 Followed

47 Slight footing

49 Staffordshire ceramicware

52 Shade

53 Latin 101 word

8 "Golly!" brand

9 Black tea of India

10 People will bend over backward to do it

11 Fourth estate

17 Cupcake enhancements

19 Woman of letters?

21 Bribe

22 Bandleader

24 Singer Rawls

26 Scabbard

28 Yoga position

30 Anti-acne

32 Square-dance party

33 Historic boy king

34 Resort

36 Frankness

38 Autumn bloom

39 Filched

40 Appears to be

42 Persnickety

45 Ticklish

46 Muppet

48 LummoX

50 P.I.

51 Geologic period

DOWN

1 Month (Sp.)

2 Deluge

3 2001 David Spade movie

4 Baltic Sea feeder

5 Fix a stubborn knot

6 Section of NYC, with "The"

7 Unyielding

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Cancer research progresses

BY JONATHAN HIELKEMA
Staff Writer

Researchers at the Stanford University School of Medicine have announced a possible cancer treatment breakthrough, one that has the potential for treating a wide variety of solid cancers. Early trials in controlled environments and in mice show that these treatments, which target a specific protein, train the immune system to attack the cancerous tissues. This can stall the growth of tumors or even eliminate them.

The treatments are inhibitors that block the production of a certain protein called CD47. In normal cells, CD47 acts as a deterrent against the immune system targeting the body's own cells. Cancer cells also produce this protein, and in much higher amounts. Scientists led by Stanford researcher Irving Weissman first discovered this phenomenon in leukemia, but the more recent research has broadened our understanding of this protein in cancers. According to the report, this is the only known protein target that is so ubiquitous across all types of cancers, making treatments along these lines quite versatile in their potential application.

In an interview with “Science” magazine, Weissman explained it this way: “What we’ve shown is that CD47 isn’t just important on leukemias and lymphomas. It’s on every single human primary tumor that we tested.” Those involved with the project tested

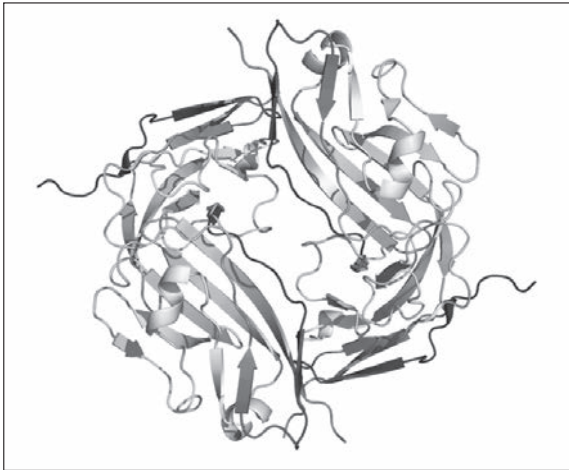
their theories by taking human cancers and implanting them in the feet of mice, and then applying the treatments to gauge the results. What they found was that their treatments were highly successful in treating lymphomas, leukemias and a variety of other tumors including ones from the prostate, colon, brain and liver. The treatment inhibits the re-

leased “with minimal toxicity,” according to Weissman. In other words, there were few negative effects on the operation of healthy cells. The only side effect the scientists noted was a slight reduction in red blood cell count, which could be rectified by combining the treatment of tumors with small transfusions. Moreover, this

reduction was not permanent but temporary. The treatment was not one hundred percent effective, and there is still much to learn about how CD47 inhibition can be used to treat cancer. Still, the biology community is optimistic. The research is still a few years away from producing a market product that can be administered to humans, but real human trials are set to begin within the next two years, not just at Stanford but across the academic community.

“This is exciting work and will surely trigger a worldwide wave of research designed to convert this strategy into useful therapies,” said Robert Weinberg, a professor from the Whitehead Institute in Massachusetts. “Mobilizing the immune system to attack solid tumors has been a longstanding goal of many cancer researchers for decades.”

With these new findings, that goal appears much closer to being reached.



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Inhibiting the production of protein CD47 (structure shown above) could be beneficial in treating tumors.

lease of the CD47 protein, which acts as a chemical signal that tells macrophages (a kind of immune cell that consumes harmful elements within the body), in effect, to refrain from dining on the cell. Normally, the protein functions to protect cells like red blood cells and bladder cells from being ravaged by the immune system, but cancers have co-opted its production to protect themselves from immune response.

According to the Stanford press release, these results were also

Cameron explores sea

Associated Press

In James Cameron’s fantasy films like “Avatar” and “The Abyss,” the unexplored is splashed in color and fraught with alien danger. But on his dive to the deepest place on Earth, reality proved far different: white, barren and bland.

Yet still otherworldly — and amazing.

“I felt like I literally, in the space of one day, had gone to another planet and come back,” Cameron said Monday after returning from the cold, dark bottom of the western Pacific Ocean, seven miles below the surface. “It was a very surreal day.”

Cameron is the first person to explore the deepest valley in the ocean since two men made a 20-minute foray there more than half a century ago. He spent about three hours gliding through the icy darkness, illuminated only by special lights on the one-man sub he helped design. That was only about half as long as planned because his battery ran low.

This deepest section of the 1,500-mile-long Mariana Trench is so untouched that at first it appeared dull. But there’s something oddly dark and compelling about the first snippets of video that Cameron shot. It’s not what you see, but where it puts you. There is a sense of aloneness that Cameron conveys in the wordless video showing his sub gliding across what he calls “the very soft, almost gelatinous flat plain.”

“My feeling was one of complete isolation from all of humanity,” Cameron said.

It may not have looked all that dramatic and, in a way, Cameron was “doing exploration with training wheels,” said Andy Bowen, who heads the deep submergence lab at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution.

But it was an amazing start.

The images “do lack the visual impact of highly colorized 3-D spectacular representations of the ocean,” Bowen said. But there are still “dramatic discoveries to be made.”

The minute-long snippet, released by trip sponsor National Geographic, is just a coming attraction. Cameron will keep diving in the area, some 200 miles southwest of the island of Guam. And he is already filming it in 3-D for later viewing.

To Cameron, the main thing was to appreciate just being there. He didn’t do that when he first dove to the wreck of the Titanic, and Apollo astronauts have said they never had time to savor where they were.

“There had to be a moment where I just stopped, and took it in, and said, ‘This is where I am; I’m at the bottom of the ocean, the deepest place on Earth. What does that mean?’” Cameron told reporters during a conference call.

“I just sat there looking out the window, looking at this barren, desolate lunar plain, appreciating,” Cameron said.

He also realized how alone he was, with that much water above him.

“It’s really the sense of isolation, more than anything, realizing how tiny you are down in this big, vast, black, unknown and unexplored place,” the “Titanic” director said.

Cameron said he had hoped to see some sort of strange deep sea creature that would excite the storyteller in him, but he didn’t.

He didn’t see tracks of small primitive sea animals on the ocean floor, as he did when he

dove more than five miles down several weeks ago. All he saw was voracious shrimp-like critters no bigger than an inch. In future missions, Cameron plans to set our “bait” — like chicken — to draw in more deep sea life.

Cameron said the mission was all about exploration, science and discovery. He is the only person to dive there solo, using a lime-green sub called Deepsea Challenger. He is the first person to reach that depth — 35,576 feet — since it was initially explored in 1960.

There had been a race to reach the bottom among rich and famous adventurers. Sir Richard Branson, founder of the Virgin Group, has been building his own one-man sub to explore the ocean depths. Cameron’s dive was “a fantastic achievement,” Branson told The Associated Press.

Branson said he hoped to be the first to explore a different deep-sea location, diving later this year to the deepest part of the Atlantic, the Puerto Rican trench, which is only five miles from his home. Just shy of six miles deep, the area has not been explored yet.

Branson also hopes to join Cameron in a tandem dive of solo subs. “Together, we’ll make a formidable team,” he said.

While Cameron’s dive was far longer than that of U.S. Navy Capt. Don Walsh and Swiss engineer Jacques Piccard 52 years ago, he didn’t reach the trench walls because he was running low on battery power. He said he would return, as would the sub’s Australian co-designer, Ron Allum.

“I see this as the beginning,” Cameron said. “It’s not a one-time deal and then moving on. This is the beginning of opening up this new frontier.”

“To me, the story is in the people in their quest and curiosity and their attempt to understand.”

The trip to the deepest point took two hours and 36 minutes and started Sunday afternoon, U.S. east coast time.

His return aboard his 12-ton sub was a “faster-than-expected 70-minute ascent,” according to National Geographic, which sponsored the expedition. Cameron is a National Geographic explorer-in-residence.

The only thing that went wrong was a hydraulic failure that kept Cameron from collecting rocks and critters and bringing them back to land.

“The reality of exploring such an environment is that at times it can be very boring; exploring these environments isn’t always about some dramatic highly visual discovery,” Bowen said. “The scientific process is exhausting and sometimes it takes a significant amount of sweat, if you will, to uncover secrets.”

Cameron did sweat — and shiver.

When the 6-foot-2 Cameron climbed into the cramped sub, his head hit one end and his feet the other. It was warm outside because it was near the equator; it was toasty inside, temperatures topping 100 degrees Fahrenheit, because of the heat given off by the sub’s electronics. It felt “like a sauna,” he said.

But as he plunged into the deep, it grew cold inside the sub as the waters outside dropped to around 36 degrees, he said.

The pressure on the sub was immense — comparable to three SUVs resting on a toe. The sub shrank a full three inches under that pressure, Cameron said.

“It’s a very weird environment,” he said. “I can’t say it’s very comfortable. And you can’t stretch out.”

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Pope Benedict XVI visits Cuba

BY PAULINA HEULE
Staff Writer

Pope Benedict XVI arrived in Cuba on Monday, declaring himself a “pilgrim of charity,” just days after criticizing the island’s Marxism. The pope stressed the importance of realizing that Marxism is an obsolete model in need of change.

“I am convinced that Cuba, at this moment of particular importance in its history, is already looking to the future, and thus is striving to renew and broaden its horizons,” Benedict said.

The Pope’s visit comes 14 years after Pope John Paul II’s landmark visit to the Communist-ruled island.

In his speech at the airport, Benedict called John Paul’s visit “a gentle breath of fresh air which gave new strength to the church in Cuba.” Upon arriving in Santiago, Cuba’s second-largest city, Benedict was received by President Raul Castro, senior Roman Catholic clerics and large crowds of people tapping drums and chanting Benedict’s name.

While at the airport, the pope told Cubans to “strive to build a renewed and open society, a better society, one more worthy of humanity, and which better reflects the goodness of God.” He added, “It is touching to see how God not only respects human freedom: he almost seems to require it.”

The pope’s visit comes at a crucial time for the Roman Catholic Church in Cuba, as the church has decided to play a mediating role between the Cuban people and the Castro government. The government itself is undergoing major economic reform, and tensions have been high.

Yet, political change continues to lag. Many Cubans are hopeful that Benedict’s visit could foster more change.

Benedict’s arrival in Cuba came after a nearly three-day stay in Mexico’s central Guanajuato

state. While there, he spoke against the drug trafficking, crime and violence that plagues the heavily Catholic nation.

When asked about Cuba on his plane on the way to Mexico, Benedict said, “Today it is evident that Marxist ideology, in the way it was conceived, no longer corresponds to reality.”

In regard to these comments, the Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodriguez said his government “considers useful the exchange of ideas ... and will listen with all respect to his holiness.” But, he added, “The Cuban people have deep convictions, developed throughout the length of our history.”

In Santiago on Monday a mass was held in the Antonio Maceo plaza where a large portrait of the Pope was hung next to the one of Fidel Castro. An estimated 200,000 people gathered, including several groups of pilgrims from Miami.

Rolando Pereda, a Cuban American restaurant owner who traveled to Santiago from Miami, said he prayed that Benedict would give a message of change that reaches the Castro brothers. “I am here because I am Catholic and Cuban,” he said.

“I have faith things can finally change in this country, the change we Cubans so desire, and that the regime will finally end.”

Yet, many at the Mass were not certain that the Pope’s visit would lead to more freedom. “I came to experience two hours of liberty, as did many people here,” said a former railway worker who gave his name only as José Antonio. “Look around you, everyone is breathing. But he [the Pope] will leave, and darkness will fall again.”

Investigation digs deeper into Xilai case

BY GREG KIM
Staff Writer

Law turned to crime. Such is the nature of the details that are emerging from an ongoing investigation into Bo Xilai’s once-admired anti-crime security force, Da Hei, and its methods of investigation. The investigation is part of the fallout of the international scandal that brought about Bo’s dismissal from his post as the Chinese Communist Party Chief of Chongqing earlier this month.

In June 2009, Bo launched an anti-crime campaign in the inland city of Chongqing. Da Hei, the security arm of this campaign, was employed to crackdown on the high levels of organized crime.

In 10 months, the Da Hei arrested nearly 5,000 people. Among them were corrupt police officials, judges and wealthy businesspersons.

They are part of the upper, government-affiliated portions of society, against whom many of the Chinese harbor discreet discontent. Cracking down on the rich and corrupt placed Bo on a platform of national praise.

His public support for a socialist culture, much like that which existed during the time of Mao Zedong, also came to the foreground. He harkened back to that period by encour-

aging people to sing the old national songs and to wear red clothing.

With such popular support and significant political influence, Bo seemed to be on track to find his place on the Politburo’s Standing Committee — a nine-member body that, according to the BBC, “effectively runs China.” China’s national leadership

the affair revealed that Wang had gone to the US consulate after he had told Bo of his family’s implication in the death of Neil Heywood, a British citizen and acquaintance of Bo’s family.

The British government is now asking the Chinese government to launch an investigation into the death of Heywood, who had apparently died of alcohol consumption last November.

Bo’s relation to Heywood, too, is also under question.

The Chinese government is yet to respond to these requests. It did, however, launch an investigation into the Da Hei.

It has now become clear that the Da Hei has been used as a security network to promote the self-interest of Bo. Operating un-

der the mandate of Bo’s campaign, the Da Hei was used to target oppositional businesses and political figures while sheltering Bo’s friends and allies.

Numerous cases citing the Da Hei’s use of extrajudicial procedures, such as the torture and extortion of detainees, have also been reported. This is a severe blow to Bo, whose base for popularity largely rested on his campaign for justice.

As more details of investigations surface, the once popular Bo appears to be to be mired in public disgrace both nationally and internationally.

Many long-standing critics of Bo have found relief that the egregious practices of the Da Hei have finally come to light.



Investigation of Mr. Bo Xilai revealed many dark secrets.

FILE PHOTO

Democracy makes significant strides in West African countries

BY JOSH DELACY
Staff Writer

Incumbent President Abdoulaye Wade of Senegal peacefully conceded defeat after Sunday’s presidential election, just days after a military coup overthrew the democratic government in neighboring Mali.

The two events epitomize the mixed fortunes of democracy in West Africa.

Wade, was defeated by his former prime minister, Macky Sall, after serving two terms as president and leading the country for 12 years. While in office, he created a constitutional amendment that limited the presidency to two terms, but he disregarded it in his own losing bid for a third term.

The public organized street protests against Wade’s attempt to flaunt the term-limit amendment. “We put him in power, and we had hope,” Senegalese voter Lamine Diop told The New York Times. “But he’s tried to force things, and that’s it.”

Rising inflation and unemployment also motivated Senegal to elect Sall over Wade. Sall promised to lower prices on basic foods and to shorten presidential terms.

Mere hours after the election ended, Wade called his opponents and admitted his defeat, alleviating fears that he would cling to

power and deny the election’s results.

Regional and international leaders praised Wade’s conces-

its challenges, continues to register significant progress towards democracy and transparent elections.” The United Nations and

opposite turn last week. Mali’s military, led by Captain Amadou Haya Sanogo, seized control of the government. The president, Amadou Toumani Touré, is believed to have escaped into hiding.

Over a thousand citizens protested the coup on Monday, gathering in Bamako, Mali’s capital, and demanding a return of democracy.

The Obama administration called the coup “a mutiny” and urged the military leaders to return control to civilians. The United States also suspended all non-humanitarian aid to Mali.

“We want to see the elected government restored as quickly as possible so that we can get to the elections, which are scheduled to go forward shortly,” said

Victoria Nuland, spokesperson for the State Department.

“This is an unacceptable situation, where democracy is being undermined in Africa, and it’s got to be restored,” Nuland later added.

The contrasting events of Senegal and Mali mirror the overall state of democracy in West Africa. Democracy is growing in some states — Niger and Guinea both gained civilian rule in the past 18 months when military leaders stepped down. Across Africa, 17 elections occurred last year. But most of those elections were disputed. Nigeria, for example, experienced a violent and chaotic election last spring.

In other countries, longstanding regimes remain strong. In Equatorial Guinea, Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo continues his 30-year rule. And military coups, although much less frequent than in the 1960s and ’70s, still occur, as the recent ousting of Mali’s president shows.

Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan praised Senegal’s election for its potential impact on West Africa. “If there was ever any doubt, this election has proved that the foundation of Senegalese democracy is rock solid. This is good for the Senegalese people and also for our sub-region, especially at a time one of our brother countries is facing grave challenges to constitutional order,” he said.



Abdoulaye Wade quietly accepted defeat as democracy retook over Senegal.

FILE PHOTO

sion. Jean Ping, African Union commission chief, said the election showed that “Africa, despite

European Union likewise lauded the results.

In Mali, democracy took an

Santorum yells at reporter, stays in race

BY NATHAN SLAUER
Staff Writer

As the contest for the GOP nomination drags on, presidential candidate Rick Santorum continues to make headlines. Despite trailing behind rival candidate Mitt Romney, Santorum still has managed to receive plenty of attention from the national media. This wide-scale coverage is largely due to comments made by Santorum regarding a highly publicized conflict between himself and a reporter.

At a rally in Wisconsin Santorum told his audience to "pick any other Republican in the country. He [Romney] is the worst Republican in the country to put up against Barack Obama. Why would Wisconsin want to vote for someone like that?"

Following the rally was an autograph signing session and a period in which members of the media could ask the candidate questions. Jeff Zeleny, a reporter from The New York Times, asked, "You said Mitt Romney is the worst Republican in the country. Is that true?"

Santorum's response to Zeleny was heated and, in the opinion of some, rather controversial. "What speech did you listen to? Stop lying! I said he was the worst Republican to run on the issue of Obamacare. And that's what I was talking about!" exclaimed Santorum.

"Quit distorting my words. If I see it, it's bulls---! Come on, man! What are you doing?"

Santorum commented about his clash with Zeleny, saying that "I'm ready to take on The New York Times. Earlier today, while campaigning in Wisconsin, I criticized Romney and Obama for their outrageous healthcare legislation. Predictably, I was aggressively attacked by a New York Times reporter all too ready to defend the two of them, and all too ready to distort my words. Let me assure you, I didn't back down, and I didn't let him bully me. I think it is high time that conservatives find the courage to expose the liberal press for what they are, a defender and enabler of Romney's and Obama's liberal agendas."

To add to this statement, Santorum requested \$30 contributions to his campaign, giving the explanation that "a subscription to The New York Times cost approximately \$30. That's how

much I am hoping you will be willing to contribute to join me in my fight to become the next president of the United States. A fight we must win if we are going to kill Obamacare, and replace it with a healthcare plan that will not raise your taxes, will keep you in charge of your family's medical decisions, and will preserve the freedoms guaranteed to each of us in the Constitution."

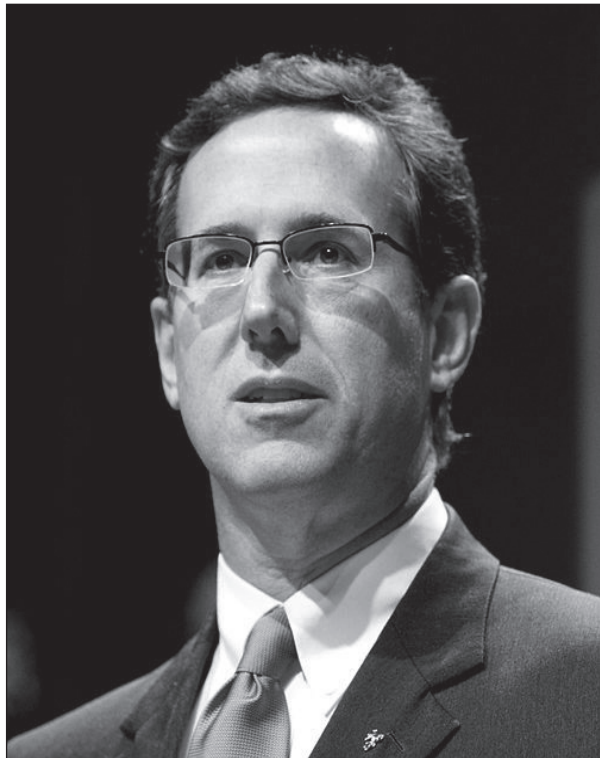
The response to Santorum's scuffle with the media appears to be mixed. Some, primarily Santorum's more conservative supporters, proclaim Santorum to

the reasoning behind this statement being that "If we only have a two-month campaign, their money advantage ... won't make as much difference. There's only so much money you can spend in two months. ... If we have a nominee next week, all of the money advantages they have now are going to be trained on destroying whoever the nominee is. Our feeling is we have just as good a chance of getting there as [Romney] does. It's going to be hard for anybody to get there," claimed Santorum.

Regardless of his determination to frequently criticize both Romney's candidacy and position on issues as well as to prolong what some call Romney's inevitable victory in the GOP nomination process, Santorum refuses to state his unwillingness to put himself forward as a running mate for Romney. When asked in an interview with the Christian Broadcasting Network if he would be willing to run as a vice presidential candidate rather than a presidential one, Santorum answered, "Of course. This is the most important race in our country's history. I'm going to do everything I can. We know their future and all of our children's future is at stake in this election, and I don't want to be the guy who has to sit with my granddaughter 20 years from now and tell stories about an America where people

once were free. I don't want to have that conversation. I'll do whatever is necessary to help our country."

It is unknown if Romney would be as open to the possibility of running against Obama with Santorum as a running mate. This potential pairing seems unlikely to many. Ryan Williams, a spokesman working for Romney, called out Santorum's antics with the media as mere "panicking in the final stages of his campaign." "Rick Santorum is becoming more desperate and angry and unhinged every day," said Williams. "He sees conservatives coalescing around Mitt Romney and he's rattled by the backlash caused by his suggestion that keeping Barack Obama would be better than electing a Republican." Given this negative description of Santorum by one of Romney's own aides, it appears improbable that their two campaigns could eventually mesh together to compete with Obama.



FILE PHOTO

Rick Santorum argued that a longer primary campaign and a shorter general election campaign would be better for the GOP.

be a hero for taking on the media and what they view as the media's bias towards liberals. Others think that Santorum was not in a way "viciously attacked" by The New York Times as he describes it and that Santorum's public outcry was a ploy to create new interest in his political campaign.

Just how long this campaign will last is a mystery. Although receiving support from many, including, most recently, the voters of Louisiana, where Santorum recently won the GOP primary, Santorum looks unlikely to receive the 1,144 delegates needed to take the nomination. Holding 273 delegates, less than half of the 563 delegates maintained by Romney, Santorum remains determined to stay in the race as long as he can. This stance, according to Santorum, lies in the best interest of the Republican Party strategically.

Santorum describes a short general election campaign as the "best thing that could happen,"

COURT: Justices to hear health care case

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

On Tuesday, the justices tackled the question of the individual mandate, specifically. Opinions seemed divided by partisan lines, with important "swing-vote" Justice Anthony Kennedy "laying into" what he saw as excessive governmental authority, according to the Los Angeles Times.

LA Times journalist Noam Levey writes that "Chief Justice John G. Roberts, Jr. suggested that the government might require Americans to buy cell phones to be ready for emergencies. And Justice Antonin Scalia asked if the government might require Americans to buy broccoli or automobiles."

This may mean trouble for the individual mandate, understood by both opponents and supporters to be the main selling point

of Obama's reform law. Without the mandate, some estimates indicate that government spending would increase considerably. Other estimates see the spending as being either negligible or worth the impact of other programs initiated by the bill. On Wednesday, justices tackled just this question. What if they ruled that this individual mandate unconstitutional? What kind of impact would that have on the other 450 provisions of the Affordable Care Act?

The fact that the justices are even considering the consequences of such a decision signals to many onlookers that they have already made their decisions regarding action.

"I think the individual mandate is gone, based on the questioning," said CNN senior analyst Jeffrey Toobin. "It sure looks like there are at least five votes to get

rid of the individual mandate."

As the Affordable Care Act is extremely political, some observers of the Supreme Court expect the vote to fall along partisan lines. Currently, the Supreme Court is almost evenly divided between ideologies, with five justices leaning conservative (Scalia, Kennedy, Thomas, Roberts and Alito) and the other four tending liberal (Ginsberg, Breyer, Sotomayor and Kagan).

Now that the arguments are over, the real work of the case begins. Over the next few days, the justices will meet in private to discuss their opinions, and Chief Justice Roberts will assign individual judges to write majority and minority opinions.

The Court will announce its ruling on the constitutionality of the Affordable Care Act sometime in June 2012.

Stocks jump after speech

Bernanke defends low interest rates

BY ALDEN HARTOPO
Staff Writer

In what was seen as a spectacular rebound in its worst week so far this year, the S&P 500 stock market index reached a four-year high following Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke's speech last Monday in Arlington, Va.

Attempting to balance both optimistic and pessimistic attitudes towards the economy, Bernanke assured investors

icy will be disappointed," stated Diane Swonk, chief economist at Mesirow Financial in Chicago.

On the other hand, some have interpreted Bernanke's statement on accommodative policies as an open door for another round of monetary stimulus from the central bank. "The Bernanke speech reiterated that the Fed may not do anything now, but they aren't taking further policy options off the table," said Bill Stone, chief investment strategist at PNC Asset Management Group. Over past years,



FILE PHOTO

Bernanke's speech at the Economic Policy Conference hosted by the National Association for Business Economics led to a one-percent jump in all major US stock markets.

during the Economic Policy Conference of the National Association for Business Economics (NABE) that the central bank would maintain a near zero interest rate policy until the end of 2014. In addition, Bernanke defended the Fed's successful efforts to reduce unemployment through stimulating growth while announcing that the Fed would support "continued accommodative policies."

"Further significant improvements in the unemployment rate will likely require a more rapid expansion of production and demand from consumers and businesses, a process that can be supported by continued accommodative policies," explained Bernanke.

According to Reuters, these comments saw the "three major U.S. stock indexes climb 1 percent or more and all 10 S&P 500 sectors advanced." In the meantime Businessweek reported that "oil traded near the highest level in three days in New York on speculation fuel demand will rise" while the San Francisco Chronicle reported that the "dollar fell against its higher-yielding counterparts."

Nevertheless, experts have been quick to point out that the speech did not direct its attention to the possibility of considering new measures towards controlling an economy that was already reaching its capacity. "Those who are looking for a major shift in Fed pol-

through two rounds, the Federal Reserve has already injected \$2.3 trillion into the economy to spur growth.

Unfortunately, according to Bernanke, long term unemployment could leave "lasting scars" on the economy stating that "millions of families continue to suffer the day-to-day hardships associated with not being able to find suitable employment." Moreover, he has also expressed concern on the group of individuals who have been unemployed for more than six months. In fact the New York Times reports that "more than 40 percent of the unemployed are in this category, compared with less than 25 percent after other recent recession."

This could consequently lead to a negative effect on worker skills, which studies have shown are associated with permanent declines in "wealth, health and earnings potential along with deteriorating skills." "Because of its negative effects on workers' skills and attachment to the labor force, long-term unemployment may ultimately reduce the productive capacity of our economy," stated a grim Bernanke.

The Business Times attributes Bernanke's desire to avoid reversing current policies to his entitled stance as an economic historian as he believes that such was the mistake "policy-makers made during the Great Depression when they raised interest rates too soon, prolonging the road to recovery."

DRINK RESPONSIBLY



BY JACKSON HALL
Features Co-Editor

Last summer I missed a performance by Portland-based band Horse Feathers at Founders Brewing Co. in Grand Rapids — a truly tragic loss. While the wound still stings, I need not worry about missing another 21+ show, as I turned 21 a week ago. Not only do I now have more concerts to choose from, but more drinks to choose from; I can legally purchase and drink alcohol.

However, it struck me this past week that I had not once thoughtfully considered how I should drink. I began digging for motivation, but came up empty-handed. I realized that I was trying to access a discussion that, for the most part, is not occurring in the Christian community.

In the absence of critical conversations, I — like many others — try to create my own conversation and end up babbling nonsense in the process. Our collective community is not talking about alcohol enough, and as a result, complicating our individual coming of age moments. The moment we young adults turn 21, we find ourselves swimming upstream in a very volatile, highly fermented river.

Student Activities Director Ken Heffner is a proponent for the conversation about alcohol in the Christian community, offering students opportunities to join the discussion in past years.

Drunk driving compromises faculties, lives

BY KATIE HALL
Features Co-Editor

Alex Edwards looked out for my father and mother when they opened their business. He stopped by their office every night at closing time to make sure everyone was safe. He set up a code word between my parents so that if anything ever went awry they could call him, and he'd make sure the cops would be on their way. He even let their little girl, me, into the back of his store to make her own pizzas. It was the highlight of any day I spent at my parents' chiropractic office. Alex showed me everything there was to know about making a pizza, and, for a little girl, it was a treat each and every time. I'd sometimes stop by to get a soda, dollar in hand. Of course, he'd never let me pay, but I always brought that dollar anyway.

I remember the last time I made my own pizza. I was 16, and it was a Wednesday. I'd spent an hour or so with my parents and strolled over to visit my old friend. If I'd known that would be the last time I'd see him, I would have sprinted over there and hugged him until my arms were numb. I would have told him how important he was to my parents. I would have told him that I loved him. I would have told him to stay home August 20, 2005.

But I didn't know. So I made a pizza, while we spoke casually and joked flippantly. I brought it home with me, bit into a slice and continued eating like that: casu-

Heffner says about drinking alcohol, "The fundamental question to ask is, 'What is the right way to do this?'... And you need to be imaginative."

However, it is increasingly difficult to pinpoint such a proper way; the model is lost amidst misguided motivations for drinking or abstaining. Various problems exist within the individual, the Christian community and in our culture that convolute the drinking experience.

The Individual Problem

Heffner explains that when he observes young adults indulging in alcohol to excess, he sees "kids looking for intimacy. However, what they're talking to their friends about is nothingness, it's empty — they've wasted all that time."

Why do many young adults, including myself, think that alcohol is the primary binding element needed to fulfill our social needs and connect us with others? Why is the act of filling our blood with alcohol so important to my and others' weekends?

Having a few (or a few too many) drinks certainly helps in socializing more fluidly. I can personally attest to this alluring social force. It is easier to meet strangers and talk with friends when inhibitions begin to fall to the wayside. However, the conversations taking place are almost always increasingly more frivolous and inane each drink past sobriety.

It is understandable that many

of us view alcohol as a primary means for connection; alcohol is tightly woven into the fabric of community in cultures all around the world. In bars, clubs and restaurants, at house parties, in churches, at concerts and at weddings, people drink alcohol to enhance the celebration.

However, it is easy for me to forget that alcohol does not bring people together. People bring people together; alcohol is strictly secondary.

Heffner says, "We so badly want to connect with each other." We do not want to be alone. We want communion, love, human touch; we want to feel wanted. While alcohol can certainly enrich an atmosphere in certain ways, it cannot directly fulfill one of our deepest, most human needs: to not be alone. In fact, alcohol will often only leave us far more alone.

The Community Problem

The problem created by the community is equally as disadvantageous for clear thinking concerning alcohol. Heffner points out one of the problems on the institutional Christian level noting that "We don't know how to be celebrative people." He explains the Gnostic thinking of the church, saying, Christian establishments or societies "have a disdain for the doing of things, for stuff, for creation, for bodies, for celebrating."

In this way, faith-based groups can completely abandon the notion of healthy alcohol consump-

tion as a means to protect people from the negative aspects of drinking, such as alcoholism or drunk driving. While this philosophy may be grounded in good intention, it does the community a great disservice: it eliminates a dialogue.

It is the lack of conversation about and awareness of alcohol in the Christian community that hinders young adults when they begin drinking or turn 21. Students do not see, for the most part, healthy uses of alcohol in Christian settings.

By ignoring the subject, the Christian community is perpetuating the negative side effects of reckless drinking; by not offering good examples to the community, they leave young adults to their own, often-misguided devices in handling alcohol.

Additionally, the Christian community is proving right the Gnostic perspective by only talking about alcohol when it is causing a problem and not when it is aiding in Christian celebration.

Alcohol is not taboo. Drinking alcohol is not sinful. Alcohol can cause problems, but that is an unacceptable reason to ignore the topic altogether.

The Cultural Problem

As a culture, we have obscured the purpose of alcohol down to the vocabulary that surrounds it. The word party itself is often associated with drunkenness and frivolity (especially in a college environment), when it should represent a joyful celebration un-

fettered by negative connotation.

Heffner says when a host throws a party, he or she is "making the thing happen, creating the party; that's a job [and] it can be a signpost of the kingdom."

There is absolutely nothing inherently seedy about a party with alcohol. In fact, a good party, with good music, good lighting, good friends, good food and good alcohol can glorify the kingdom of God.

Another negatively charged term I hear these days concerning alcohol is "snob." For some reason, when a person carefully considers what they want to drink and decides to spend more money on a higher quality product, they are acting in a snobbish way.

Particularity is not a sign of snobbery but of intentionality. Heffner discusses the strengths of purchasing local and craft brews, saying, "When someone puts greater care into the making of the beer, it's more expensive; it's better. But you're only going to drink two of them. You care more [as a drinker]."

While everyone may not have the means to purchase and enjoy more expensive alcohol, doing so should not be looked down upon. Cheap options exist in every market; we have the opportunity to purchase terribly crafted computers, food items, furniture, clothing, vehicles and, of course, alcohol.

Yes, someone can just as easily abuse a thirty-dollar bottle of Maker's Mark whiskey as he

or she can an eight-dollar bottle of Canadian whiskey. However, at least personally speaking, I handle a more expensive, more carefully crafted product with far greater care as a consumer.

The Solution

Each of the above problems has a hopeful antithesis. The individual has the power to overcome an unquenchable need for connection, the community has the opportunity to join in on the dialogue and we have the power to change the cultural discourse on alcohol.

I am in no way an authority on this subject. I have yet to align myself with a clear modus operandi in terms of drinking. I am certain that my own laziness and unwillingness to completely cut myself off from the 'fun' of drinking are holding me back from owning up to a clearly-defined model for drinking in my life.

However, I am trying to makes sense of it all. I am trying to engage in the conversation. It is the discussion we all desperately need to be having. All areas of our lives deserve critical engagement, including alcohol consumption.

If we truly believe the earth to be redeemable — if we believe that we can bring kingdom living to the world here and now, then we have no excuse to ignore the prospect of kingdom drinking.

Regardless of personal opinion, personal habit, societal mores or cultural norms, the conversation about alcohol is absolutely worth having.

Myths surrounding binge drinking warrant care, investigation

BY KENDRA HAAN
Staff Writer

Binge drinking is something almost all students have heard about (and probably encountered) during their college years, yet many urban legends still seem to surround this phenomenon. According to the Center for Disease Control, binge drinking means drinking to the point of exceeding the legal driving limit of a 0.08% blood alcohol concentration. This usually corresponds to four or more drinks on one occasion (within about a two hour time period) for a woman or five or more drinks on a single occasion for a man.

In order to clarify the fuzzy perception surrounding this practice, I've compiled a brief list of common myths surrounding binge drinking and attempted to shed some light on the realities.

MYTH 1: Calvin students don't drink to excess. Despite the overwhelming evidence to the contrary that I've seen during my time here, many people still believe that Calvin is school with few parties and a dry campus. In fact, "The Princeton Review" consistently ranks Calvin among the top 20 "stone-cold sober"

schools in the United States. The reality is that almost all students here will come into contact with binge drinking during their time here. Apparently, students at Calvin are bent on proving the reputation created by "The Princeton Review" wrong.

MYTH 2: Eating a big meal, drinking water or sweating can help you sober up faster. Although eating a big meal before drinking may delay the initial onset of the effects of drinking, it does not prevent you from getting drunk in any way. Also, drinking water or coffee cannot help decrease your blood alcohol content (BAC) (although hydration may help deal with the symptoms of a hangover) and neither does activity or "sweating it out."

These actions may cause you to temporarily feel less drunk, but your BAC will still be the same as before, so watch out, especially if you are planning to drive. The only thing that can really sober you up is time.

MYTH 3: Men and women of the same size will get drunk at the same rate. Women tend to have a higher percentage of body fat than men, which leads to a slightly higher concentration of alcohol in their lower percentage of body water. Men also have a

higher proportion of dehydrogenase, an enzyme that breaks down alcohol. This means that a girl keeping on par with a guy during a night of heavy drinking will have a tendency to get more intoxicated than he will. Ladies, be careful and don't feel bad if your male friends can out-drink you. Know your own limits.

MYTH 4: Mixing different drinks causes you to get drunk faster. Many myths circulate about different combinations of drinks and their different effects, but the reality is that your level of drunkenness is caused by the percentage of alcohol in the drinks you consume, not the type of drinks. Assuming your drinks are of standard size, a bottle of beer, a glass of wine and a one and a half ounce shot contain roughly the same amount of alcohol.

MYTH 5: Binge drinking causes alcoholism. Intoxication and alcoholism are not the same thing. Many members of Alcoholics Anonymous believe that people are born alcoholics and that alcoholism is not caused by external factors, which would imply that a night of binge drinking is not a sign of alcohol dependency on its own.

MYTH 6: It is impossible for college students to drink

in a responsible manner. Although many dangers such as alcohol poisoning, auto accidents and date rape are associated with heavy drinking, students do have opportunities to drink responsibly.

Taking simple precautions such as programming taxi company numbers in your phone, or arranging to have reliable designated driver bring you home, having a friend with you to monitor your behavior and alcohol consumption and making clear standards for yourself can make all the difference.

Drinking is a personal choice, but it is sure to remain a part of the college experience in some way for almost everyone.

Whether or not to engage in binge drinking is a personal decision, but you should never ignore the realities and possible implications of this decision. A few simple precautions can prevent an enjoyable evening from turning into a horrible mistake. So stay informed, take care and have fun.

Around Town

Editors' bar picks

Billy's Lounge

Free pool. Lots of events. Located in the heart of Easttown.

Founders Brewing Company

Accommodating space. Finely crafted beers (\$2.50 pints Mondays).

Meanwhile Bar

Friendly staff. Cheap but strong drinks. Great specials. Cozy environment

Stella's Lounge

Over 200 whiskeys. Vintage arcade games. Fantastic burgers.

The Viceroy

Prohibition theme. Amazing vintage drinks (no shots or appetini's here).

On The Rocks

Editors' drink picks

OLD FASHIONED - Whiskey, bitters, simple syrup or brown sugar, orange rind, maraschino cherry

MOJITO - White rum, sugar, lime, sparkling water, mint

DIESEL - Lager, cider, blackcurrant cordial

BLUE LAGOON - Vodka, blue curacao, lemonade, cherry

BARACK OBAMA - Whiskey, amaretto, simple syrup, pineapple juice

7 and 7 - Seagram's Seven Crown, 7-Up

White Russian - Vodka, cream, Kahlua (Make a Black Russian by skipping the cream)

Student reflects on implications of familial alcoholism

"Alcoholism is the only disease you can get yelled at for having. Damn it, Otto, you're an alcoholic." 'Damn it Otto, you have lupus.' 'One of those two doesn't sound right.'

-Mitch Hedberg

BY ERIC HUIZING
Staff Writer

When my father was young he drank too much. He is older now and has since quit, but now I am young. What does that mean? The World Health Organization has classified alcoholism as a genetic disease that is often hereditary, most commonly in men. What does that mean? My chances of

becoming an alcoholic are double or triple most of yours. What does that mean? I drink. What does that mean?

When I was young it meant that Dad got mad sometimes. It meant tears. When I was young my father was an alcoholic. Regardless of whether or not alcoholism is a disease, it can sure cause hurt like one. My father's alcoholism could have ruined my family, it could have led to my parents splitting up, it could have led to abuse; but it didn't. When I was a little older my father went to rehab, over and over again. It was not quick, nor easy, nor painless, but my father stopped drinking and has been sober for over 15 years. What does that mean?

I'm 21 years old. What does that mean? It means that I'm the legal drinking age. It means that

I can go to bars. It means that I can take shots. It means that I can drink beer. It means that I am at the stage in my life when it is most common to develop alcoholic tendencies.

I've only talked about alcoholism with my dad once, but it was enough. I asked him a lot of questions, but I only really remember one. I asked him if he worried about me. I asked him if he worried when he saw me drink. He did, but he also said that he trusted me, and he hoped that I would learn from his mistakes.

So what does all this mean? I think it means that I love my dad, regardless of the past. It means alcoholism, disease or not, is a problem for countless people. It means that certain people are genetically predisposed to alcoholism. It means that I'm in charge of

my own destiny, but that I have to realize who I am and where I come from. It means that alcohol can be different things to different people. Science tells me that my father has a disease, and that I might have it too, but I know that I, my father, my brother and millions of other people out there have something more than a disease — we have a choice. Just like everyone, I have a choice.



Classic French film highlights cultural values

BY JOHN MORTON
Staff Writer

Coincidence is a concept that sometimes Americans don't quite know how to handle. When confronted with such traditional American ideals as the self-made man (or woman) and Benjamin Franklin's famous admonition that “God helps them who help themselves,” the idea of trusting one's affairs and life decisions to chance or coincidence seems precarious.

What makes Krzysztof Kieslowski's “Trois couleurs: Rouge” so refreshing is exactly the way that the film's European sensibility embraces this wonderful and mysterious influence of events outside of one's control.

In the early 1990s, Kieslowski, a Polish filmmaker working in France, undertook a trilogy of films based on the three colors of the French flag and their three corresponding social values. The final film of the trilogy, 1994's “Trois couleurs: Rouge” (hereafter simply referred to as “Red”), addressed the idea of “fraternity,” after 1993's “Bleu” examined “liberty” and 1994's “Blanc” tackled “equality.”

While all three films are excellent, and “Bleu” is commonly regarded as the best of the lot, “Red” is possibly the most watchable of the trilogy. Don't be dissuaded by the lofty ideological underpinning of the trilogy, or the French dialogue, because “Red” is first and foremost a compelling and enchanting human drama.

Young student and part-time model Valentine (Irene Jacob) leads a busy life in Geneva, but despite her constant interactions with people and a tenuous long-distance relationship with an unseen boyfriend, true relationships evade her. When Valentine's photographer for an advertising campaign asks her, “Will people recognize you?”, she simply asks, “Who?”, indicating her loneliness. This all changes when Irene hits a dog with her car, the first of many coincidences that determine the course of the film.

The dog's owner is a grizzled and disillusioned former judge (Jean-Louis Trintignant) whose hobby is eavesdropping on his neighbors. Although Valentine is initially disgusted by the way he listens in on private phone conversations and spins paranoid theories, the two form an unlikely friendship. The judge's personal history and emotional scars mirror those of Auguste (Jean-Pierre Lorit), a young law student and protagonist of the film's main subplot. As Valentine comes to terms with her relationship to the

judge and his rationale for spying on his neighbors, Kieslowski grapples with the implications that arise from either the distance from or intimacy with one's peers and neighbors.

Within the confines of a relatively simple story, the film weaves a rich text out of narrative, thematic and cinematic threads. As with the other two installments in the series, Kieslowski generously highlights his scenes with the titular color. During his opening sequence of Valentine's boyfriend placing a phone call from London, the camera embarks on a speeding, sinuous journey following the phone line from the wall jack to subterranean wires, whizzing beneath the waters of the English Channel and finally resurfacing and racing to Valentine's apartment in Geneva. Not only is this a virtuoso display

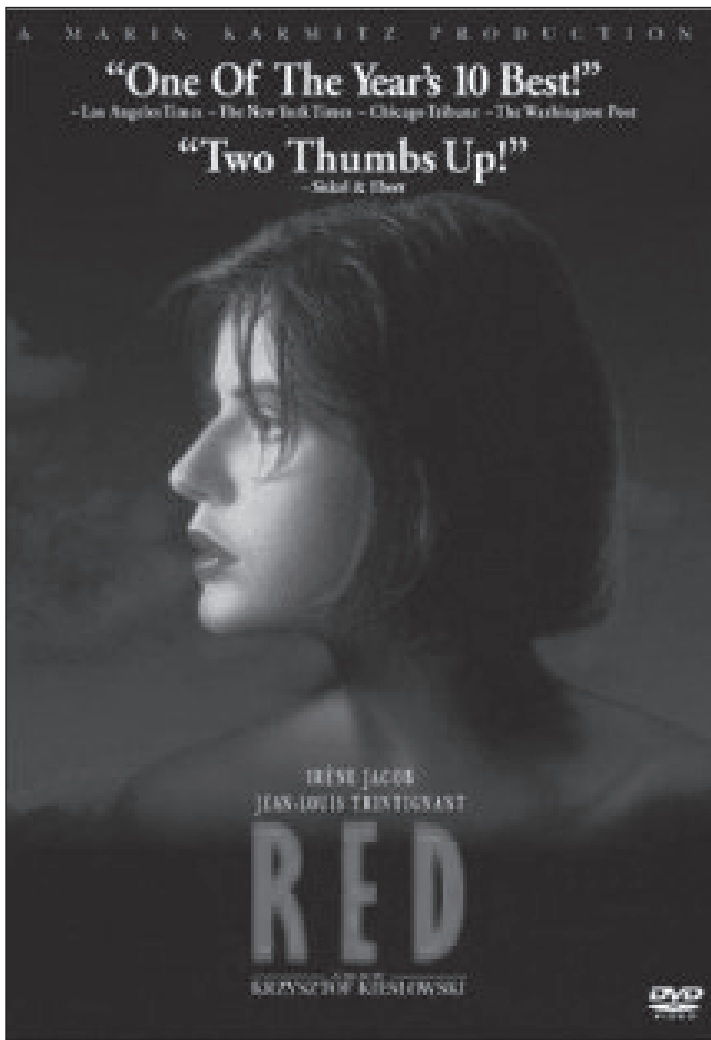
fashion stories from the themes they discussed. As they did with Kieslowski's earlier 10-part miniseries on the Ten Commandments, “The Decalogue,” the duo eschew easy or straightforward issues to the conundrums of daily life that crop up in “Red.” In looking back on his former role as an arbiter of justice, the judge says of those he convicted, “Given their lives, I would steal, I'd kill, I'd lie. Of course I would. All that because I wasn't in their shoes, but mine.”

For Kieslowski devotees, “Red” revisits material from the rest of the director's repertoire. In addition to Piesiewicz, Kieslowski enjoyed repeated collaborations with Jacob and Preisner. The film references fictional 18th century Dutch composer Van den Budenmayer, a person created by Kieslowski and mentioned in multiple previous films. Those who have already seen “Bleu” and “Blanc” will recognize familiar figures such as an elderly woman struggling to discard a glass bottle and a handful of people appearing on a news broadcast in the film.

With a running time of 99 minutes, “Red” offers a level of richness that is refreshingly concise, shaming films that run longer without managing to achieve the same level of sophistication. The film is rated R for a single brief but fairly pronounced sex scene involving nudity, a designation that seems just a trifle harsh. In addition to this scene, the film also includes one or two thematic references, sexual but scarcely prurient.

The Hekman Library has all three installments of the “Three Colors” trilogy available, as well as a handful of Kieslowski's other films, including the entirety of the “Decalogue.” Sadly, the disc for “Red” skips badly through one scene that is critical for understanding some of the backstory of the film. This should not dissuade you from viewing the film, and even the troublesome scene may be overcome by viewing that sequence of the film on a second DVD copy that is on long-term reserve at the Cayvan Center for a French class. If you enjoy foreign films, dramas, or are a Kieslowski fan, the entire “Three Colors” trilogy is highly recommended. If you can't stand subtitled films or if drama isn't your thing, you may want to pick something else.

Also, if you're an underclassman Calvin student who's enthusiastic about great films and would like to continue this column next year, email John Morton at jjm26@students.calvin.edu.



FILE PHOTO

of camerawork, but it also primes the audience for the themes of communication and alienation. Kieslowski's camera movements are sweeping and sumptuous, and the accompanying music by Zbigniew Preisner runs the gamut from joyful to despairing to contemplative. Although the narrative is pretty straightforward, the intricate editing scheme and the plotting of the film are best served by a very attentive viewing. More than once, Kieslowski sets up compositions or includes slight details that anticipate coming events in the film, and these are immensely rewarding to recognize.

For all three installments of the “Three Colors” trilogy, Kieslowski co-wrote the screenplay with longtime collaborator and former lawyer Krzysztof Piesiewicz. Although Piesiewicz knew nothing about filmmaking, he and Kieslowski would have long conversations about social issues, and Kieslowski would

festival of faith & writing

In conjunction with the Festival of Faith and Writing, coming to Calvin April 19-21, this column in Chimes will feature biographies of authors attending the festival as well as reviews of their work.

Foer's novel instrospective

BY SABRINA LEE
Guest Writer

From tambourining to jewelry making to bilingual joking (“I kicked a French chicken once ... it said ouef”), Oskar Schell is a spirited and somewhat precocious nine-year old. Rather particular, he only wears white, and, with the exception of dehydrated ice cream (the dessert of astronauts), he only eats vegan. “Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close” begins as he is inventing, his term for imagining, “What about a teakettle? What if the spout opened and closed when the steam came out, so it would become a mouth, and it could whistle pretty melodies, or do Shakespeare, or just crack up with me?” But his quirky inventing also turns poignant, “What about little microphones? What if everyone swallowed them, and they played the sounds of our hearts through little speakers ... I wonder if everyone's hearts would start to beat at the same time ... at the finish line of the New York City Marathon it would sound like war.”

Beneath all of his wandering thoughts and the random facts that swirl around in his brain, Oskar confesses he has “heavy boots.” Having lost his father, who was his best friend, on 9/11, Oskar carries a grief and guilt unknown to most nine-year-olds and feels abandoned in a broken world until he finds a mysterious key in a blue vase in his father's bedroom closet. With this discovery, Oskar is determined to find the lock — 1 of 162 million locks that Oskar has calculated exist in New York City. His one clue, the word “Black” written in red on the envelope that enclosed the key, prompts him to visit the 472 people in the phone book whose last name is Black in hopes that someone will be able to help him uncover his father's secret.

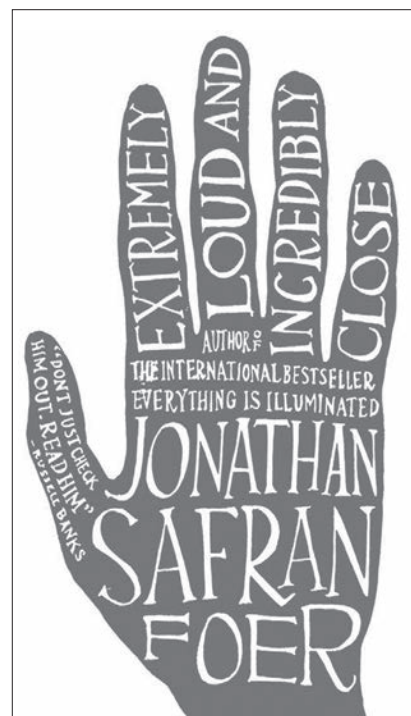
Even though Oskar is the main protagonist, “Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close” is narrated by two other voices as well — Oskar's grandparents, who survived the bombings of Dresden, Germany in WWII, an experience that profoundly, albeit chillingly, speaks to the shock of 9/11. Through their letters that appear between Oskar's chapters and complement his story, we are able to

piece together their lives.

Scarred by the sight of blood and bodies and haunted by the memory of his lost, beloved Anna, Thomas Schell Sr. has lost the ability to talk and struggles to survive each day. All of his chapters are meditations on the joy that turned to pain in Dresden and followed him to America. Entitled “Why I'm Not Where You Are,” his letters are written to the child (Oskar's father) he abandoned before he was born.

Each of Oskar's grandmother's chapters, entitled “My Feelings,” is addressed to Oskar. She, too, focuses on the joy and pain of Dresden. Being Anna's younger sister, her broken relationship with Thomas Schell Sr. has been more than strange as they each tried to help the other live day by day.

With these three narrators



FILE PHOTO

Jonathan Safran Foer has created a postmodern novel, characterized by fragmentation and mixed media. Interspersed throughout the text are pictures, pages printed with single phrases, and a flipbook. Much of the prose is stream of consciousness. Oskar flips from fact to story, his grandmother tries to sort out her feelings and his

grandfather tries to say all the things he wished he had been able to voice.

“Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close” is reminiscent of Virginia Woolf's “Mrs. Dalloway.” Everyone has secrets, and even the most seemingly ordinary people are haunted by past loves, traumas and regrets. We see this through the three narrators but also through all of the Blacks that Oskar visits. With each of these encounters, Jonathan Safran Foer reminds us that little things like looking at each other and picking up phones are important. As the characters struggle through their pain and grief in a world that can change in a heartbeat, they echo Mrs. Dalloway's observation “that it was very, very dangerous to live even one day.”

Even though “Life is scarier than death,” something Anna once told Thomas, these three characters continue to search for ways to live. Thomas Schell Sr. returns to face a life he abandoned forty years ago. Oskar's grandmother begins to sort through her feelings. And Oskar's quest for the lock to his father's key is not only an odd sort of treasure hunt, but ultimately unlocks the potential for cross-generational healing.

Admin/Personal Assistance needed;
Responsibilities include: taking messages, preparing reports. Must be dependable and hard working.
Inquiring applicants are to reply to
barryfisheroffer@gmail.com

Eisley brings ethereal tones, power to CFAC

BY WILL MONTEI
Staff Writer

Eisley, a five piece alternative rock group from Texas, performed at the Covenant Fine Arts Center on Tuesday, March 13.

Consisting of three sisters, a brother, and a cousin Eisley is among the few successful family bands out there. The boys, Weston and Garron DuPree, who play drums and bass, don't attract much attention to themselves in the back of the stage. The stars of the show are the three spunky sisters; Chauntelle, Sherri and Stacy.

Sherri and Stacy do most of the vocal work, taking advantage of their familial chemistry to create the sweeping harmonies that have garnered them so much praise. They're just as pitch perfect live as they are on the album, if not more so. Because much of the subtle orchestration and ambience of their music was lost in the "wall of sound" that live music necessitates, their vocal performance was critical at setting the tone for each of their songs.



FILE PHOTO

Eisley is currently one of the only popular bands composed entirely of family members.

With control and bravado that so many vocalists in the genre just don't have at their live shows, Sherri and Stacy captivated the audience. Especially in songs like "The Valley," "Watch it Die" and "Many Funerals," their voices were all at once beautiful and

little more. Regardless, the flaw in her performance was miniscule in comparison to the raw power of Eisley's sound.

That raw power, however, would have benefitted even more from a backdrop with spacey projections, or some extra lighting to go with the music. In angsty songs like "Ambulance" and "Sad," some of the intensity was lost in the lofty theater, and some extra mood lighting would have added a desirable touch of intimacy and theatricality. With a name derived from Mos Eisley, a spaceport in the Star Wars universe, and with their latest EP being inspired by the works of sci-fi author Ray Bradbury, some spacey atmospherics wouldn't have hurt. That being said, Eisley did a good job of letting the music do the talking. They had some occasional stage banter about childhood crushes on Fred Astaire and their love of musicals, but it was never too much, and it was never awkward.

Overall, it was a good showcase from a young band just hitting their stride and easily one of the better shows at Calvin this year.

haunting. Chauntelle, despite laying down some awesome riffs on the guitar, wasn't as enjoyable to watch. Maybe it was because she was having problems with some of her guitar gear, but the intensity behind much of what she was playing was lost because she simply didn't look like she was enjoying it. Hopefully, when her gear is working, she lets loose a

Dystopic 'Hunger Games' thrilling, enthralling

BY NICK KEELEY
Staff Writer

In film, adaptations of best-selling works of literature have often been scrutinized by moviegoers. All it takes is one change or omission to a beloved story for a film to receive backlash from fans.

A recent example of a film that strongly captures its book's themes and characters is Gary Ross's adaptation of "The Hunger Games." Wonderfully and thrillingly brought to life by its director and actors, "The Hunger Games" is one of the year's first great films.

Based on the mega-selling novel by Suzanne Collins, "The Hunger Games" tells the story of Katniss Everdeen (Jennifer Lawrence), a strong-willed 16-year-old girl who takes care of her mother and sister in District 12, the poorest of the 12 districts that make up the imagined world of Panem. When Prim, Katniss's younger sister, is selected for the Hunger Games, a brutal television event in which 24 kids are put in an arena to kill each other until only one remains, Katniss volunteers to take her place. Alongside her fellow tribute Peeta Mellark, Katniss is taken to the outlandish Capitol to take part in the Games, forced to fend for her life under the watchful eyes of her nation.

"The Hunger Games" succeeds as a film in a number of ways. Director Gary Ross takes a careful approach to the film, rendering it a faithful adaptation of its source material. Ross perfectly captures the gritty and brutal nature of the storyline, as evidenced by the bloodbath scene, in which half of the Tributes, the participants in the Games, are viciously killed right at the start. Ross also takes several risks in his filmmaking that work effectively to convey the film's grittiness.

One is the use of shaky cam cinematography. While best used during the Games, the film's fluid use of shaky cam speaks to its raw

and natural atmosphere. James Newton Howard's score, while muted and subtle, additionally captures the gravity of the film's mood. In addition to its filmmaking techniques, the film's look is stunning, thanks to sterling production values that perfectly contrast the raw and drab nature of the districts with the outlandish and vibrant Capitol. The film's production values are additionally showcased by its costumes, vibrantly crafted by Judianna Makovsky to convey the quirks and over-the-top nature of the Capitol and its inhabitants.

In addition to its great direction, "The Hunger Games" fea-

ture their harrowing situation.

The only problem with the script is that it somewhat tones down the book's critique of our culture. In the book, the notion of the Hunger Games itself functions as a metaphor for our culture's penchant for violence and reality television. While the critique is noticeable in the film, a deeper exploration of that critique would have made the film all the more stronger.

Along with its direction and writing, "The Hunger Games" boasts a superb cast. As Katniss, Oscar nominee Jennifer Lawrence gives a magnificent performance, perfectly capturing Katniss's will, vulnerability, primitive survival abilities and rebellious nature through her fantastic expressions. Alongside Lawrence, Josh Hutcherson gives a strong performance as Peeta, capturing his strengths and weakness strikingly well. The film's eclectic supporting cast all strongly capture their characters, from Woody Harrelson's drunken mentor Haymitch to Stanley Tucci's scene-stealing performance as the over-the-top Games commentator Caesar Flickerman. In a role more prominent than that of his character in the book, Wes Bentley commendably and sympathetically plays Head Gamemaker Seneca Crane, while Elizabeth Banks showcases the bizarre quirks of District 12 manager Effie Trinket.

In addition, the film's two young actresses, Willow Shields and Amandla Stenberg, hold their own with their older costars, strongly conveying the power and vulnerability of Prim and Rue.

Both intensely thrilling and powerful, "The Hunger Games" is an entertaining and captivating moviegoing experience. Fresh off of a record-breaking \$152.5 million opening weekend, "The Hunger Games" is a film that will please and enthrall both fans of the novel and newcomers to the story of Katniss Everdeen. With its strong direction and performances, it is a must-see film this spring.



FILE PHOTO

tures a well-written screenplay that capably conveys the book's rich plot and characterizations. Written by Ross, Billy Ray and Suzanne Collins, the script is a faithful adaptation of the novel, with minor changes, such as the source of Katniss's mockingjay pin, made to better serve the film's pacing and timing. The script does a particularly strong job in its characterizations of the major characters, namely Katniss and Peeta, allowing for newcomers to the story to fully believe in and root for the protagonists in

Nunes' first LP Kickstarter funded

BY ZACH WAASDORP
Staff Writer

Some days, you check your email and there is nothing but student news, a few random advertisements or coupons and an email from a concerned professor wondering why you missed the last week of class. Other days, you check your email and Ben Folds is asking you to open for him on his next tour. At least, that might happen if your name is Julia Nunes.

Nunes (pronounced "noonz") is a twenty-three-year-old native of New York, who grew up in a small town on the outskirts of Rochester. On leaving the state for college, she started a video blog on Youtube to keep in touch with friends at home. Some of her vlog entries fea-



FILE PHOTO

tured her playing a ukulele and singing mostly covers, including Ben Folds' "Gone." When the video came to Folds' attention, he sent the email asking for Nunes to open for him on his most recent tour. Nunes herself thought the email was spam and didn't respond to Folds until a manager contacted her mother.

While Youtube contributed to Nunes' discovery, the Internet further encouraged to her success. Nunes started a campaign on Kickstarter, a web platform for funding people's ideas and projects. She began with a goal of \$15,000 to record and produce an al-

SUFJAN: collaborative EP eclectic

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

-uted mess. "Beak and Claw," as a product of this singular collaboration, is logically quite a singular piece of music, and in many ways a wonderful one as well.

The EP is pretty much unclassifiable, so I won't attempt to box it in. It's a highly experimental work that incorporates everything from Laurie Anderson-style spoken word social satire ("Octomom," which also features a shredding jaw harp solo) to soundscapes that would be ambient and tranquil if the performers weren't tearing them up with precision, space-age beats (seen especially on the six-minute opener, "Museum Day"). There is little in the way of acoustic instrumentation, and rapping and spoken word feature more than singing. Though there is plenty of Sufjan Stevens crooning, most of it is repetitive choruses warped by autotune. His voice is naturally suited to technology like this because, in an odd way, his voice sounds more human and broken when robotized than does his normal, quietly celestial voice.

"Beyond Any Doubt," the best track of the four on offer is especially indicative of how

well the three were able to integrate their specific styles into a coherent group product. It opens with some gorgeous ambient sounds that are chopped up by the insistent hip-hop beats and Serengeti's droll, witty rapping. "I had everything solved/from solving world poverty to moving to Montreal/Then, reality bites." The song speaks to the dissolution of certainty that comes with age. Stevens, singing through a vocoder here, uses his voice almost to be at one with the synths. His sincerity and passion, still evident under the heavy application of distorting electronic effects, are a perfect counterpoint to Serengeti's wry deadpan, giving the song a range and depth I often find lacking in some of Serengeti's solo work.

bum. Within one day, she raised \$19,000. She has since raised nearly \$78,000.

The album, which was released earlier this month, is entitled "Settle Down." It features eighteen tracks, six of which appeared on previous self-produced albums.

It features songs of home, songs about relationships and a fair amount of lyrics of relationship and family advice to herself. Nunes' voice is a deep rich alto, a bit reminiscent of Sugarland, yet with an indie feel. Nunes' broader appeal is found in her vlog personality. She connects with her fans on a very personal level.

Even throughout her Kickstarter campaign, she kept fans very updated, including videos of herself in the studio, preparing, recording and sharing her personal thoughts and excitements. Nunes is very much a small-town girl who is slowly realizing her great success and maintaining an incredibly genuine sense of self and her own personality. Friends of Nunes that watched her earlier blogs still watch the same girl on her blogs today.

Her lyrics even more deeply bring fans close to her, as she sings about friends, relationships and home, even referencing "the Rochester skyline" in her track "I Will Go Anywhere With You."

Nunes is doing revolutionary things in the music industry, essentially skipping the music production industry, while singing about the old and familiar. She is likely to inspire many new artists with her personality and personal endeavor.

For everyone who wants to collect everything Stevens is involved in (I raise my hand as one of them), this is an essential. It's often funny, sometimes completely brilliant, and features some of the most interesting sonic ideas I've heard so far this year. Sure, the year is young and this record is short. Sure, you could call this record bizarre and inconsequential. I don't quite look at it that way, however, and consider this a compelling piece of music and another milestone in each of these three musicians' careers, well worth the \$4 cost.



FILE PHOTO

The trio behind s/s/s is Sufjan Stevens, rapper Serengeti, and modern orchestral mastermind, Son Lux.

Baseball leaves Arizona with .500 record; splits MIAA play

BY MARK DEHAAN
Staff Writer

Traveling down to Arizona hoping to put in a strong training trip and some training games, the Calvin baseball team returned home with a 5-5 overall record ready to jump into league play.

The Knights left Grand Rapids on Thursday, and in their first day of training Friday, faced NAIA opponent Dickinson State and Division III college Norwich.

Calvin swept their Friday contests, defeating Dickinson State 5-3 and Norwich 14-6. Against Dickinson, freshman Grant VanPutten led the Knights on offense, going 2-for-4 with two runs scored and two stolen bases. On the mound, senior Joe Lambers lasted five innings, striking out seven and earning the win. In relief, Cory Laster came in to pick up the save for Calvin in the 5-3 victory.

Against Norwich, senior Jake VanAlten hit 3-for-5 with three runs scored to lead the Knights offense. Adding two hits each for Calvin was freshman Dan Miedema, freshman Johnathan VanByssum, and freshman Spencer Schuiling. Freshman southpaw Nate Schepers had a strong outing on the mound for the Knights, going six innings and striking out seven batters to earn his first collegiate win. Closing out the 14-6 win for Calvin on the mound was freshman Ben Guilfoyle and sophomore Bret Zinn.

On Saturday, Calvin faced off against another Division III opponent, Hamline College. The Knights split with Hamline, winning the first game 11-10 and losing the second 6-2.

In the first game, Van Alten once again led Calvin on offense, going 2-for-3 with two runs scored. Junior Tyler Tos mirrored Van Alten's stat line, going 2-for-3

with two runs scored as well. The Knights tallied three triples on the afternoon, the first come from senior Scott Tipton which brought in three runs. Junior Ben Cok and sophomore Kyle Spoelma hit the other two triples. On the mound, sophomore Grant VanderWall earned the win, while junior Jack Jorgenson came on in relief to earn the save in the 11-10 victory.

In the nightcap, Cok hit an RBI triple and Tipton an RBI double, but Hamline was able to plate four runs in the fifth inning to take control and not look back, handing Calvin the 6-2 defeat.

After a break on Sunday, the Knights returned to the diamond on Monday, facing off against Wisconsin-Superior in a doubleheader. Wisconsin-Superior took both contests, the first at 9-1 and the second by a score of 14-4.

In the opening game, Calvin gave up four runs in the bottom of the first inning, allowing Superior to grab an early lead. The Knights could not respond, and their only offense came in the top of the fourth inning on a solo shot by Cok.

In game two, Calvin again fell behind early as the Yellow Jackets plated five runs in the top of the second. In the bottom of the fourth, the Knights cut Superior's lead to 9-4 with three runs, two on an RBI single by Cok. But, Wisconsin-Superior responded with three runs in the top of the fifth, putting the game out of reach and closing out the 14-4 loss for Calvin.

In their final game of training on Tuesday, Calvin bounced back from their pair of losses on Monday with a nine inning, walk-off victory over Luther College. In the top of the second, the Norse drew first blood with a pair of runs to take the 2-0 lead. Calvin responded with a run in the bottom of the second and two in the third to take the 3-2 lead. Luther plated two in the sixth to

take a one run lead before Calvin knotted the game on a RBI sacrifice bunt by freshman Austin Evenhouse in the eighth. In the bottom of the ninth, Calvin took the contest as a pair of walks and a sacrifice fly allowed Tos to make it to third with two outs. Junior Jack Jorgenson then came to the plate, hitting a single to bring in the go-ahead run and end the game. Lambers earned the win for the Knights, pitching the top of the ninth in relief.

The win gave Calvin a 4-3 record over their spring break training trip, boosting their overall record to 5-5. Returning to Michigan, Calvin faced a home-and-home doubleheader matchup against Trine to open league play.

Calvin split the away doubleheader, taking the first game 9-7 and losing the second 1-0. With the games rained out on Friday, Calvin traveled to Trine on Saturday to face the Thunder. In game one, Trine grabbed a 1-0 lead in the bottom of the first before eight unanswered runs gave the Knights an 8-1 advantage heading into the bottom of the fifth. In the fifth and sixth innings, Trine scored six runs to cut Calvin's lead to 8-7 before a run in the seventh and some stellar relief pitching allowed Calvin to hold on for the win. Lambers earned the win while Laster grabbed the save. Tos went 4-for-5 in the game with four RBI to pace the Knights on offense.

The second game, unlike the first, lacked any sort of sustainable offense. Strong pitching from the games starters, VanderWall for Calvin and Popp for Trine, shut down the offenses on either side. Unfortunately for the Knights, Trine was able to plate a run in the bottom of the sixth, taking the 1-0 lead into the final inning. In the top of the seventh, Calvin was able to move a man to second base with two outs before a strike-out ended their hopes of

a rally. Cok and Spoelma were the only Knights who got a hit off Popp, while VanderWall held the Thunder to just three hits. The 1-0 loss moved Calvin to 1-1 in the MIAA, with a doubleheader at home against Trine on Monday.

On Monday, just as they had the Saturday before, Calvin took the first game of the pair, earning a 7-2 victory, but dropped the second game, losing 6-3.

In the first contest, Trine once again struck first, bringing in a run in the top of the second. Calvin responded in the bottom half of the inning, taking advantage of two Thunder errors and four hits to plate four runs to take the 4-1 lead. Strong defense from

hits. Cok scored twice along with an RBI, while VanPutten scored once to go with a single RBI. Spoelma was 1-for-3 with a 2 RBI double in the four run fourth.

In the second game, another strong pitching battle was brewing between Calvin's Schepers and the Thunders Siddons before three Calvin runs in the fourth put the Knights up 3-0. Unfortunately for Calvin, pitching began to break down in the sixth, and on one hit and two errors, Trine plated six runs to take the 6-3 lead. The Knights could not respond in the final two at-bats, and after a promising start, dropped the contest 6-3.

The Knights, now 7-7 overall



PHOTO COURTESY OF STEVE VANDERMOLLEN

Steve Vandermolen pitches in relief against Luther College. The Knights went on to win the game 5-4.

the Knights, including four double-plays, stifled the Trine attack for the rest of the game as Calvin added three more runs en route to a 7-2 victory. Leading the Knights on offense was VanPutten, Tos and Cok, who each tallied two

and 2-2 in conference play, host Olivet at home for a doubleheader on Thursday then travel to Olivet Saturday for another doubleheader. The Comets are also 2-2 in the MIAA, and 5-7 overall.

Men's tennis falls short in Orlando

BY JOSH YONKER
Sports Co-Editor

Just three days after the men's tennis team swept Cornerstone University, the team hosted Grand Rapids Community College. The Knights continued their winning ways, beating GRCC 8-1.

The Knights swept the doubles competition with 8-2, 8-2 and 8-6 victories. The first doubles team of juniors Brian DeMaagd and Preston Phillips won 8-2 as did the second doubles team of sophomore Loukas Peterson and junior Phillip Reinken. Calvin's third doubles team of sophomore John Strikwerda and junior Jarrod Brower closed out the doubles competition with an 8-6 victory.

DeMaagd opened up the singles competition with 6-1, 6-2 victory over GRCC's first singles. Phillips followed with a 6-1, 6-3 victory of his own. Peterson and Reinken followed with 6-1, 6-1 victories in third and fourth singles. Calvin's only loss came in the fifth singles. Brower put on a good fight, dropping the first set 3-6. He responded with an 6-4 victory in the second set, but dropped the decisive third set 8-10. Senior Vashan Wright closed out the single with a 6-3, 6-1 victory.

Three days later, the Knights kicked off their annual Spring break trip in Orlando, Fla. against Grinnell College. The Knights dropped the match 3-6. The Knights first doubles team of DeMaagd and Phillips kicked off the competition with an 8-3 victory.

However, the second and

third singles teams dropped their matches by scores of 4-8 and 1-8. On the singles side, Calvin got off to a slow start. DeMaagd dropped the first singles match 1-6, 2-6, and was followed by 3-6, 0-6 and 3-6, 6-4, 7-10 losses by Peterson and Reinken. Calvin's first victory in singles came in the fourth singles match when Phillips beat Grinnell's fourth singles competition 6-4, 2-6, 6-2. Calvin split the final two matches in the singles competition as Wright dropped the fifth singles match 0-6, 3-6 while Brower won his match in sixth singles 3-6, 6-4, 10-8.

The next day, the Knights took on Wisconsin-Oshkosh. The Knights played well, but couldn't grab a victory, dropping the match 5-4. Calvin got off to a slow start, dropping both first and second doubles 4-8 and 3-8. Brower and Strikwerda got the Knights on the winning side by sweeping third doubles 8-0. Just like doubles, the singles dropped their first two sets. DeMaagd lost in first singles 7-5, 4-6, 1-6, and Reinken dropped second doubles 1-6, 1-6. The Knights bounced back with back to back victories in third and fourth singles. Phillips represented Calvin in third singles, winning 7-5, 6-4, and was followed by Peterson who won 6-2, 6-4. Once again, Calvin split their final two matches in singles, with Brower dropping fifth singles 3-6, 6-1, 1-6 and Wright winning sixth singles 6-2, 6-3.

The third game of the Florida trip had the Knights playing Hamline University. For the second straight day, the Knights lost a close match, dropping the match 5-4 again. The Knights' first vic-

tory came in second doubles when Peterson and Reinken defeated Hamline's second doubles team 8-4. The win wound up being the only victory in the doubles competition. DeMaagd began the singles competition for the Knights with a 6-1, 7-5 victory. Unfortunately for the Knights, the next victory for the Knights didn't come until fourth singles when Reinken won 6-1, 6-0. The fifth and sixth singles split yet again, with Wright dropping fifth singles 6-4, 3-6, 3-6 and Brower gaining another victory in the sixth singles spot 6-2, 7-6.

The final game of the Knights' spring break trip came against Lawrence University. Calvin came out strong, and swept Lawrence 9-0. DeMaagd and Phillips played in first doubles, winning 8-3. Peterson and Reinken followed with an 8-5 victory and Strikwerda and Brower closed out the doubles with an 8-2 victory. DeMaagd began the singles competition with a 6-4, 6-1 victory. Next, Peterson won 2-6, 6-2, 10-6. Reinken and Phillips played in the third and fourth singles slots, and won 2-6, 7-5, 11-9 and 6-1, 6-2. Calvin closed out the singles competition with Brower winning fifth singles 6-1, 4-6, 6-4 and Wright finishing sixth singles 6-2, 6-1. The victory raised the Knights season record to 3-3 overall.

The Knights will be traveling to Wheaton next, where they will play two matches. The first match takes place at 10 a.m. on March 31 when Calvin plays host Wheaton. Four hours later, Calvin will take on Judson.

Outdoor track begins

Track and field opens season in Tennessee

BY JOSH YONKER
Sports Co-Editor

This year, the MIAA decided to create the MIAA track and field athlete of the week for both men's and women's teams. Calvin took all four in only the second week of awards as senior Nick Kramer took the track award and junior Aaron Meckes took the field award for the men's team while senior Jodi Hoekstra claimed the track award and sophomore Hillary Banning took the field award for the women's team.

The following Saturday, the track and field teams traveled to Memphis, Tenn. where they participated in the Rhodes Open. The Knights faced stiff competition as they faced several teams from Division I and II.

Both the men and women's teams got off to a good start in the first event, the 10K meter run.

On the women's side, Hoekstra took second place with a time of 37:01.90. Sophomore Nicole Michmerhuizen finished just a minute and a half later, which was good for fourth place. On the men's side, Calvin placed first through third with Kramer taking first overall with a time of 30:16.42. Junior Matt VanderRoest followed him, finishing in 30:27.31. Ten seconds later, senior Dan Kerr crossed the line.

Later in the day, junior Greg Whittle took first overall in the one mile run with a time of 4:14.61. He later came in seventh place in the 800 meter run, finishing the race in 1:58.01.

The men also had a good day in the field events as the Knights placed in the top ten in the high jump, pole vault, discus, javelin and the shot put. In the high jump, sophomore Matt Christians jumped 6-4 and sophomore Evert Geerlings jumped 14-0 in the pole vault, both good for seventh place.

Meckes had a good day, taking second in the discus with a throw of 150-5 and first in the shot put with a throw of 50-4. Senior Justin Kremers closed out the Knights strong showing in the javelin, taking sixth after a throw of 165-8.

The women also had several notable finishes. After the 10K meter, the next notable finish came in the mile run. Senior Kaitlin Diemer took ninth place, finishing in 5:14.04.

Later in the day, Calvin got a seventh and ninth place finish in the 800 meter run from junior Kayla Brase (2:19.12) and sophomore Rebekah Folkema (2:20.49). Freshman Christina Geating finished in sixth place in the pole vault, jumping 10-0" and freshman Carmen Bilbao took tenth with a jump of 9-0 1/4".

The next meet for the Knights takes place Saturday at 1 p.m. as they participate in the Grand Rapids Open at Houseman Field.

Men and women's spring golf seasons open over break

BY JESS KOSTER
Sports Co-Editor

The women's golf team opened its spring season last Friday in Lake Wales, Fla. against Nebraska Wesleyan. They beat Nebraska Wesleyan 404-367. Sophomore Carlia Canto scored an 87, freshman Jackie Reichert scored a 90, and juniors Elise Doezema and Rachel Whitaker scored 92 and 98, respectively.

The men's golf team also travelled down to Florida to play in the Sunshine Invitational in Port St. Lucie. They teed off against Williams College and Trinity College. The Knights played in a two day event. After the first day, Calvin had a six stroke advantage over Williams College and a 12 point advantage over Trinity of Connecticut. Sophomore Ross Ryzenga shot a 75. Junior Ben Kuiper shot a 76; freshman Jon Cook shot a 79. Sophomores

Mark Allen and Kory Kiefer shot 81 and 88, respectively. Freshman Michael Wierenga shot an 82. The Knights had a score of 311 strokes by the end of the first day.

Four Knights competed as individuals: seniors Jake DeBoer and Brian Haverdink, sophomore Jake Hoogstrate and freshman James VanNoord. DeBoer shot an 80, Haverdink and Hoogstrate both shot an 82 and VanNoord an 88.

The second day, the team

competed at the Ryder Golf Course. Wierenga shot a 73, and VanNoord was not far behind with a 74. Ryzenga and Cook both shot a 75. Allen shot an 80 while Kuiper shot an 81. They scored a 298 as a team to finish in first with a final score of 609. Williams was second with 626 and Trinity of Connecticut was third with 631.

For the individuals, Haverdink shot a 75, DeBoer a 78, Hoogstrate a 79 and Kiefer an 80.

Ryzenga finished the tournament in second place with a total of 151 strokes and earned a spot on the all-tournament team. He was joined on the all-tournament team by Cook who finished tied for third with 154 strokes. Wierenga finished tied for sixth with 155 strokes. Kuiper and Haverdink tied for eighth with 157 strokes.

The men's golf team does not compete again until April 10 in Jackson, Mich.

Young tennis team learns from trip

BY JESS KOSTER
Sports Co-Editor

The women's tennis team travelled down to Orlando, Fla. for their spring break trip this year. In their first match they faced off against 15th ranked Grinnell College of Iowa. Grinnell lived up to its ranking by beating Calvin 9-0.

Freshman Ali Roode suffered her first loss at this meet losing 6-2, 6-2. Junior Elise Doezema came close to defeating her opponent in the first set but lost with a score of 7-5.

The doubles teams proved more aggressive with freshmen Megan Visser and Samantha Reitsma losing with a score of 8-4. The second doubles team of Doezema and sophomore Bethany Zoerhof lost with a score of 8-3. The third doubles team of sophomore Lauren Schlagenhaut and junior Jordan Ipema was the

fiercest, losing 9-7.

Later that same day, Calvin faced off against Hamilton College of New York. First singles Visser defeated her opponent 7-6, 6-3. Ipema suffered a narrow loss in the second singles game with scores of 6-7, 7-6, and 11-9. Roode defeated her opponent in three sets with scores of 3-6, 6-3 and 10-8.

Visser and Reitsma defeated their first doubles opponent 8-3. The Knights lost the match 6-3.

They took a day break before playing against Hamline University of Minnesota. This was a very close matchup. Visser, Schlagenhaut and Ipema all played tough but could not pull it out in the end. Fourth singles Reitsma beat her opponent 6-1, 6-1. Fifth singles Doezema beat her opponent 6-0, 6-1. Sixth singles Roode beat her opponent 6-0, 6-2. First doubles Visser and Reitsma defeated their opponents 8-6. Second doubles team

Zoerhof and Doezema lost a tough set 8-5. Third doubles Schlagenhaut and Ipema defeated their opponents handily with a score of 8-2. The Knights lost 5-4.

The next day Calvin faced off against William Smith College of New York. Second singles Schlagenhaut faced a tough defeat losing 6-2, 7-6 and 7-2. Fourth singles Reitsma lost 4-6, 6-1 and 10-7. The Knights lost 9-0.

Their final match of their trip was against George Fox University from Oregon. The Knights' sole victors were fifth singles Zoerhof and sixth singles Roode. Zoerhof won 6-3, 6-1. Roode won 6-3, 6-1. The Knights lost 7-2 bringing their record to 2-8.

Calvin's next matchups are at Kalamazoo on Saturday and then they host Alma on Monday and Albion on Wednesday.

Softball team looks ahead to MIAA action

BY JOSH YONKER
Sports Co-Editor

Over spring break, the softball team traveled to Tucson, Ariz. for their annual trip. The Knights kicked off play on Saturday, March 17 against Gustavus Adolphus, and played in a double header everyday through Thursday, March 22, a grand total of ten games.

The Knights kicked off play with a tight 3-2 loss at the hands of Gustavus Adolphus. Freshman Trista Brownlee took the loss for the Knights, giving up only one earned run on five hits, one walk and four strikeouts over six innings. Lina Avila hit a two run homer in the top of the first, but after that, the Knights' offense was silenced and was only able to muster up three more hits.

Freshmen Christie VanderMeer, Merin Cok and Kelsey Pollock each added a hit for the Knights.

The Knights didn't fare any better in their second game as they just couldn't get their bats going. The Knights went without a hit and struck out 12 times in the second game against Trinity University of Texas. Avila suffered the loss on the mound, giving up nine runs (seven earned) on 14 hits.

The Knights thankfully had Sunday off, and tried to determine how to fix their struggles on offense. However, even with the day off, the Knights' luck did not change. They scored only 15 hits over their next three games, and were outscored 26-5 over that stretch. The Knights finally broke the streak when they beat Carleton College on Tuesday. The Knights had an impressive 13 hits, and held their opponent to four hits in an 11-3 victory. Every Knight who batted had at least one hit with VanderMeer, Cok and Avila each contributing two hits, and seven others one hit each. Freshman Catherine Hillbrands led the way for the Knight with a homer and three RBIs, her first hit and homer in college. Avila, VanderMeer

and Cok contributed two more RBIs each. Brownlee was on the mound for the Knights and pitched a stellar game, giving up only three runs (one earned) on four hits. She also struck out six while walking none. The victory raised her season record to 2-2.

The next morning, Calvin went on to claim their second straight victory. The Knights defeated Augsburg 8-2. Avila was on the mound for the Knights again, and pitched a good game. She gave up two earned runs on eight hits, six strikeouts and two walks through seven innings. Senior Marie Prins played a great game on the offensive side, going 4-4 with three RBIs. Avila once again had a homer and three RBIs. Cok also contributed two hits and two RBIs.

Unfortunately for the Knights, their brief two game win streak was snapped by Whitworth who beat the Knights 11-2. The Knights reverted back to their offense from their first five games. VanderMeer and Avila each had two hits, but the Knights only had six total hits. Brownlee suffered the loss for the Knights, giving up 10 earned runs on 15 hits and one walk.

The Knights dropped the next game also, losing 9-4 to undefeated Carthage. The Knights had six different players with one hit in the game. Brownlee was on the mound once again, and gave up seven earned runs on 14 hits and three walks. She also had six strikeouts.

The final game of the trip came against Carleton College. Despite only having five hits in the game, the Knights pulled out a slim 5-3 win thanks to some good pitching from both Avila and Brownlee. Avila started out the game, but pitched just two innings. Brownlee came in and relieved Avila and pitched a spectacular final five innings giving up no runs on only four hits, three strikeouts and no walks. The victory raised Calvin's season record up to 5-7 overall.

The first day back from spring break, the Knights traveled to

Concordia University where they played a double header. Game one was a close one for the Knights as they started out up 2-0. Concordia came back, scoring four unanswered runs of their own. Calvin then came back and tied the game up 4-4 after five innings of play. Concordia went on to score two runs over the next two innings, and held the Knights scoreless, giving Concordia a 6-4 victory. Prins led the way for Calvin with a hit and two RBIs. Calvin had four other players with one hit each. Brownlee suffered the loss as she pitched seven innings and gave up four earned runs on 11 hits, three walks and two strikeouts.

In game two, the Knights came out of the gate fast, scoring two first inning runs off an Avila homer. Avila homered again in the fourth, and gave Calvin a 4-1 lead. Unfortunately, Concordia came back and scored four runs in the top of the fifth and another in the seventh. Concordia went on to win 6-5. Avila led the offense with three hits, two runs and five RBIs. Prins and VanderMeer each also had two hits. Avila was on the mound, and pitched the entire seven innings. She gave up six runs (two earned) on six hits, two walks and two strikeouts. The loss dropped Avila's season record down to 2-4.

"We're just going to keep working hard and gear up for league play. I know this team is capable of doing it, looking forward to keep working at it" said head coach Sharon DeKleine. "Lina was awesome. Hitting, fielding, leading by example — she just did a great job."

Next up for the Knights is the Wheaton College Tournament on Friday. They take on Wheaton first at noon, and then Chicago at 2 p.m. The Knights kick off MIAA action a week from yesterday when they head to Saint Mary's.

Krafft an All-American

Calvin sends three swimmers and divers to nationals

BY JESS KOSTER
Sports Co-Editor

Sophomore Andy Krafft and juniors Elizabeth Counsell and Mark Rushlow travelled down to Indianapolis for the NCAA D-III Swimming and Diving Championships. These three athletes had a "home-court" advantage since they are all from Indiana.

On Thursday, Counsell swam in the 200 freestyle where she placed 42nd with a time of 1:57.74. Rushlow swam in the 100 butterfly and placed 19th with a time of 50.07.

Friday, Counsell swam in the 100 breaststroke where she placed 19th with a time of 1:06:02. Rushlow swam in the 100 backstroke and placed 35th with a time of 53.09.

Saturday, Counsell placed 21st with a time of 2:22:53, in the 200 breaststroke. Rushlow competed in the 100 free and placed 47th with a time of 46.64.

On the diving side of things, Krafft competed in the three-meter diving on Wednesday. He opened the competition by hanging back in the middle of the pack of 22 during prelims. With his final four dives he moved up to fifth place with a prelim score of 504.30. In the finals, he moved up to second place in the first three dives. In the final two rounds, he was down by 20 points but he narrowed the gap with a great fifth dive that put him within five

points of the leader. Krafft dove early in the final round, moving into first place. The former leader scored 48.1 points to edge past Krafft for the title by 1.1 point. Last year, Krafft placed third in this event.

Friday, Krafft dove in the one-meter competition hoping to improve on his second place finish from last year. He passed his points total from last year with a score of 472.70 compared to last year's 459.00. He placed sixth this year.

In Krafft's four opportunities

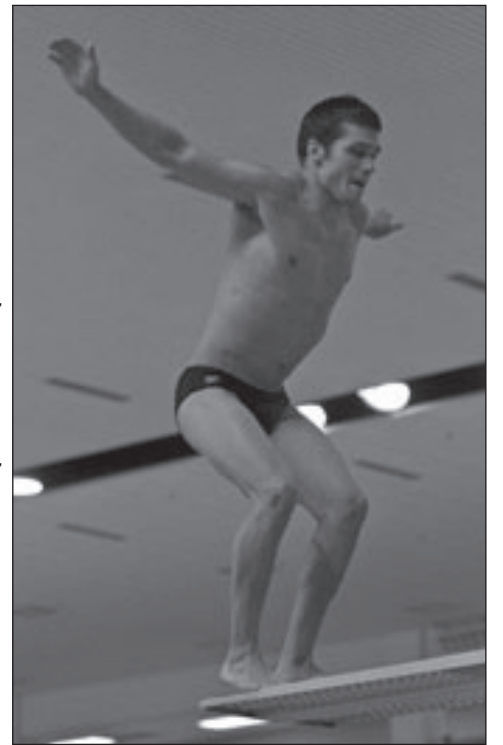


PHOTO COURTESY OF CALVIN.EDU

Krafft was named an All-American for the second straight year.

at being All-American, he has delivered every time.

ori·ent·ol·o·gy (noun)

1. the science of hospitality
2. an introduction, as to guide one in adjusting to new surroundings
3. the education of new students around transitional issues and curricular and co-curricular resources



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FROM THE EDITOR



If you've been reading any editorials this year, you may know that I'm part of Calvin's education program. It's a great program and I love my classes, but the problem is that many of the meaningful discussions I have are about the subject, as is most of the free time thinking I do. Several times a week in one of my classes, I think, "Oh, I could write an editorial about that!" But variety is the spice of life, and I'm guessing you'd all get pretty sick of it.

This week, though, I'm caving. And I'm musing about the most essential, general of questions — what is the purpose of a teacher in the classroom?

We've probably all been in classes where the teacher seemed useless. While reading and applying knowledge are important parts of the educational process, students don't really need a teacher present to read a book and answer comprehension or analysis questions. We read and learn every day without assistance, so sitting in a classroom where the teacher simply goes over the reading or the answers to yesterday's homework never feels productive.

There are some in the field of education who would argue that most learning can be done independently. They believe that students should be left to their own devices because then they are in control of both what and how they learn. Personal interests can be taken into account, and unique learning styles can be catered to. Advocates contend that things like curriculum, assignments and schedules are largely un-

helpful, and that teachers needn't be part of the picture. Only when students are left to pursue personal interests at their own pace, these scholars say, will they be fully engaged and excited about learning.

I would argue, though, that a teacher is an essential part of the classroom. Yes, individual interests are important and students need options, but teachers and structure need to be part of the classroom for two main reasons: guidance and questioning.

Without the guidance of a teacher, students are bound to fall victim to what I call "Wikipedia syndrome." You know, when you originally want to read information about Foucault's theory of knowledge-power, but get sucked into his ideas about prison design and the Panopticon, then follow the trail of links into the world of prison design and culture — just because it's interesting. You're left with some basic ideas about knowledge-power plus a lot of unconnected information. While this may be a fun way to learn, it is neither an efficient nor effective one. Students left unsupervised and unguided will develop random pockets of shallow knowledge. It is a teacher's job to guide education, creating a structure for students to follow and pointing them down the right path when they stray.

It is also in the job of teachers to answer questions. This sounds pretty basic, but imagine a classroom where there was no teacher or one where the teacher was unfamiliar with the subject you were studying. While I can easily read a book and learn about Javascript web design, there's almost no way I

could master it without having access to an expert when I had questions. Teachers are direct founts of knowledge that can give immediate answers, unlike books, where answers are hidden mid-chapter or not mentioned at all.

All of this is to say that teachers are essential to the classroom. While we students may have various poor experiences with them or personal preferences for certain teaching styles, that does not mitigate the importance of having a guide in our learning. "Sure," you're thinking. "This is all pretty obvious. Teachers have always been a part of school and we have always needed them." But imagine a Calvin College without professors. Where would we be if we were left to our own devices, studying medicine or biology or the political system of South Africa alone in the library. I doubt we'd get very far.

What this editorial is turning into is a "hip hip hooray!" for teachers, and an encouragement not to take them for granted. We are blessed at Calvin with an extremely high-quality, caring, knowledgeable group of professors who love what they do. They are constantly available to guide our learning, answer our questions, or even just sit and talk about spring fashion or Rick Santorum or the best way to grow a tomato. Take advantage of them.

~ajz

Orientation leaders needed

Build relationships with incoming freshmen

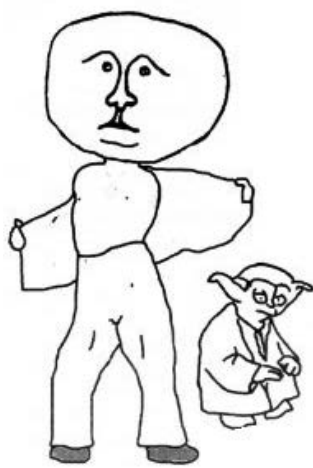
BY TARA ELDERS
Guest Writer

We all remember the first days of QUEST, don't we? Colorful numbered balloons covering Commons Lawn, endless name exchanges and, lest we forget, the plethora of team building games such as the legendary Cyclops Tag or Bob the Weasel. The three and a half days of QUEST orientation are packed with activities such as The Great Ball Challenge, Step-Up Dramas and StreetFest, but I believe that there is so much more to the week of QUEST. Having worked as an orientation leader for the past two years, I have found rich reward in this amazing leadership opportunity. And now as one of the interns working on the orientation board this year, I would like to encourage others to consider applying for an orientation leader position for this coming fall.

From my personal experience as an orientation leader, I have had the privilege of getting to know 22 incoming students each year, and watch as they established friendships with others in the group as well. One of the advantages of being an OL is the opportunity for some truly wonderful relationships to form. An orientation leader very well might be the first face a new student comes in contact

with, the first smile, the first friend. Coming to college can be extremely scary and overwhelming, but an OL can help reduce this anxiety and build strong trust among his or her group. Calvin strives to help students transition successfully to the campus environment, and orientation leaders play an essential role in this process. They guide students around campus, participate in all orientation activities, assist in the teaching of Prelude classes and are a warm and sincere mentor.

Both commitment and dedication are required as part of being an OL, and the position will surely push you to develop as a leader. But what I love most about the job is that once you are an OL, you are always an OL. Meaning, your relationships within your QUEST group don't just end with closing session or at the Sem Pond Reflection; rather, they extend throughout your whole college career. Even after the first semester, an Orientation Leader is still someone to come to for encouragement and advice. Is the job challenging? Yes. But is it rewarding? Unbelievably so. If you want to help welcome new students this fall, I invite you to apply today for an Orientation Leader position. Applications are available on Calvin's website (<http://www.calvin.edu/orientation/>) and are due by April 5.



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Letters to the editor

Online courses an opportunity for Calvin

Dear Editor,

My name is Seth Palmer, I am a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Military Police Regiment and alumnus of Calvin College from the class 2009. I am writing you in response to an article you wrote about Calvin College's new online program. I first want you to know I found your article very engaging. A friend showed it to me and inquired as to my thoughts on it and I found myself sitting down not only to glance over it once, but to read through it multiple times. However, having read it, I find myself in disagreement with you on several points. I write to you because I wish to, in the most respectful manner, voice my opinion to you not only as a Calvin alum, but as a student of history, and a current member of our nation's military.

I wholeheartedly agree with you that taking an online college course leaves a student bereft of the great experience that they would have had in an actual classroom. My memory of a former professor walking in and writing the date "1922" on the board and, lecturing completely from memory impressed me as an aspiring academic to no end. This act of lecturing with no notes was made more impressive by the fact that he also managed to keep the class engaged and awake all at the same time for an hour. Also, it is true that, as you say, Calvin students tend to be overachievers. Yet I feel that this would move Calvin to want to offer incoming high school seniors online courses so that they may get a taste of what Calvin is like before taking the plunge. Calvin is not an inexpensive school, as we all know, (just look at my bank account and all my student loans);

if I were a prospective incoming student I would want to get a taste of what I would be getting into before I formally enrolled and started paying thousands of dollars a semester instead of several hundred for a summer. I highly doubt the professors of the history, astronomy, or classics departments will drop their standards simply to pander to unsuspecting high school seniors. This leads me to my next point, as of why a hard academic college is a good opportunity and why high school seniors can handle more than we think.

Americans tend to think everything is a right, which is only natural to do so; our very nation is built on the idea of rights. However, in retrospect, many things are, more often than not, privileges. A good education, such as one at Calvin, is a privilege. Why not offer it to everybody we can as much as we can? I can tell you with utmost confidence, that when I and my fellow Army peers who are history majors debate history, I find myself winning most of the debates. Why? Am I smarter than these other Soldiers? Am I more "squared away," as we say in the Army (that means I always perform my tasks to the highest standard)? Certainly not. It simply means the education I received from 2005-2009 was exemplary, and it has helped me get ahead. This education is a great thing to offer young people thinking about Calvin. If they take these online courses and find them too hard, then let them opt not to enroll, because freedom of choice is definitely a right. Every person should be offered this opportunity for an excellent education.

Whether or not these prospective high school students choose to go or not is, like I said, up to them. I do not think that if they

choose to forgo Calvin it is because "life is too hard" for them at the moment. Yes, the senior year of high school has enough drama, enthusiasm and romance to make multiple bad reality television shows, although, me, my friends and plenty of others have been able to cope.

Finally, and dearest to my heart, history. Now I am very sure that you used your online history course just as an example, not because you dislike the discipline. But here is why I find history to be important and why we should try to expose a college level history course to prospective students that is academically demanding. It is because there is a practical application in history that is constantly overlooked. One studies history to learn the past, so that they may understand the present, and in doing so, improve the future. As people of this earth, as good Christians, Americans, citizens, human beings, what have you; it is our responsibility to be informed and knowledgeable of one another's culture and views.

The world we live in is becoming ever more globalized and interconnected via media and technology, and will continue to do so. With this, the side effects of ignorance can be far worse and in some cases deadly. Just recently, U.S. Military service members burned several Korans in Afghanistan. The Afghans in turn rose up, since their culture places such a high esteem on their holy book. This spurred greater violence in an already war-torn country, causing even more U.S. service members to be killed. If people would only attempt to educate themselves about the history, culture and beliefs of others, then they would understand where those others are coming from and what they hold dear. In doing so, people would make intelligent and informed decisions when they interact with others. I use that example not to stir up a controversial Christianity/West vs. Islam/East argument, but

because it is relevant to me as a soldier. If Terry Jones had realized the same thing, and had not burned a Koran in Florida, there would be many UN workers still alive today and not murdered by Afghans upset over the insult. If the soldiers at Abu Ghraib had been mindful of this as well, the U.S. casualties following the incident would not have increased drastically. This is not in any way pardoning the murders of innocent civilians or U.S. service men and women by insurgents and paramilitaries in Afghanistan and Iraq; nothing can pardon the loss of my fellow brothers and sisters in combat. It is merely an argument that these events could have been avoided. Where do we start avoiding these types of events? Education. Educate our civilians so that their actions do not bring harm to our soldiers, marines, sailors and airmen, and educate all of the Military too so they make the right choices when deployed. Everyone should at least have some idea of the other people in the world around us and history is probably the greatest tool for doing so. Now, more than ever, history is important because it is a window that allows us to learn about others, and in doing so, we will become more knowledgeable and less likely to say, do, write, or act in a manner that has vast negative repercussions beyond what we thought possible. I am not arguing for everyone to become a politically correct, tweed wearing, pipe-smoking historian. Simply a cognizant and aware individual, attentive to the fact that what he or she might do could possibly affect a different place all the way across the globe.

With that I am finished disagreeing. Once again I do so in the most respectful manner without meaning to be rude to you or attack your view points. Too often these days I find public discourse turning into a sham of disrespect and insults (like some radio hosts I could mention but won't). I hope

you read this as attentively as I read your article.

Seth D. Palmer
Second Lieutenant,
U.S. Army

Americans privileged to live in Christian nation

Dear Editor,

What makes a nation a "Christian" nation? Isn't it the principles on which the country is founded and governed?

History shows it was Judeo-Christian principles that guided America's founding. This is not to say that all the forefathers were confessing Christians, but rather the foundation they set for the country was consistent with Biblical concepts and values.

Jesus said that a house divided cannot stand, Mark 3:25. He was talking about values; values that govern an individual, a household and even a nation. The day that America makes the mistake of trying to become all things to all people by moving away from its distinct Judeo-Christian heritage is the day it will decline from greatness and cease being a blessing to others. Our "globalist" thinking friends in Europe have already experimented with "multi-culturalism" only to back-track due to disastrous results.

Christian values allow freedom to continue ringing in America. The two are intertwined. Try carrying a Bible down a street in Saudi Arabia and see how much religious tolerance you get. Or try living in atheist China and then decide if you'd rather live under that rule for your duration. This doesn't mean other countries don't have many good things to offer or that Christian nations don't have issues, but on balance, countries influenced by Christian values are the most free. I, for one, am thankful for the opportunity to live in a Christian nation.

Daral Smalligan, '88

The Wright Stuff

With Tom Wright

Episode II: On popular writing, Platonic dualism and critiquing the government

In this second part of the *Chimes*' interview with New Testament scholar N.T. Wright, who spoke at the January Series earlier this year, he discusses how he has come to write both thick academic volumes and accessible popular books, as well as what he has to say to us at Calvin.

Now you've been a writer for both popular and scholarly audiences. Why both?

Well, because people have asked me to do stuff, and I thought, "That sounds like fun."

When I was an undergraduate, I remember a friend who was a publisher of a magazine that went around churches saying to me once, "Can you find a student who can write a piece on such-and-such for our autumn issue?" And I remember scratching my head and thinking, "I guess I'll give it a shot." I actually enjoyed doing it — just a little 700-word piece on whatever it was — and thinking, "That's rather fun." And I've always had that in the back of my mind. So I've done quite a lot of journalism.

I was asked at one point, when I was still very much working as a scholar and writing scholarly books, when I was in school, I was asked to

write a weekly column for the "London Church Times," which is the main Anglican newspaper. So I have a weekly column, 500 words, on the biblical readings which were coming up in the lectionary that Sunday. You have three readings: Old Testament, Epistle and Gospel. And of course a lot of preachers looked to the Church Times on Friday to have help for their Sunday sermon. So you say it here, and you know it's going to come out there.

But actually, I *really* enjoyed doing that. There's a kind of exciting discipline, a sort of miniaturist discipline, about being able to say something with enough quirkiness and a little touch of humour or a sidelong allusion to something. I would usually write 700 or 800 words and then edit it down, then it comes really tight; I enjoy doing that. Then, it was having done that for four or five years, I was about to give up, and my publisher said, "Though there's books by William Barclay expounding the New Testament, about two pages per passage, they're very dated now — somebody needs to do a new thing, and we think it should be you." I think if I hadn't done those things for the newspaper, 500 words every week for five years (and I used to do them in batches of four or five), I mightn't had the courage to say yes. ... But I did enjoy that.

And the other thing, to be brutally honest, is that I have four children who are in their teens who are eating us out of house and home. So if someone's going to pay me an extra thousand pounds or something to do this kind of a book, which I can do rather quickly, then economically it makes sense.

This is not your first time at Calvin, and here we pride ourselves in not being escapist, that kind of thing and we think we're pretty moderate. But what do we need to hear?

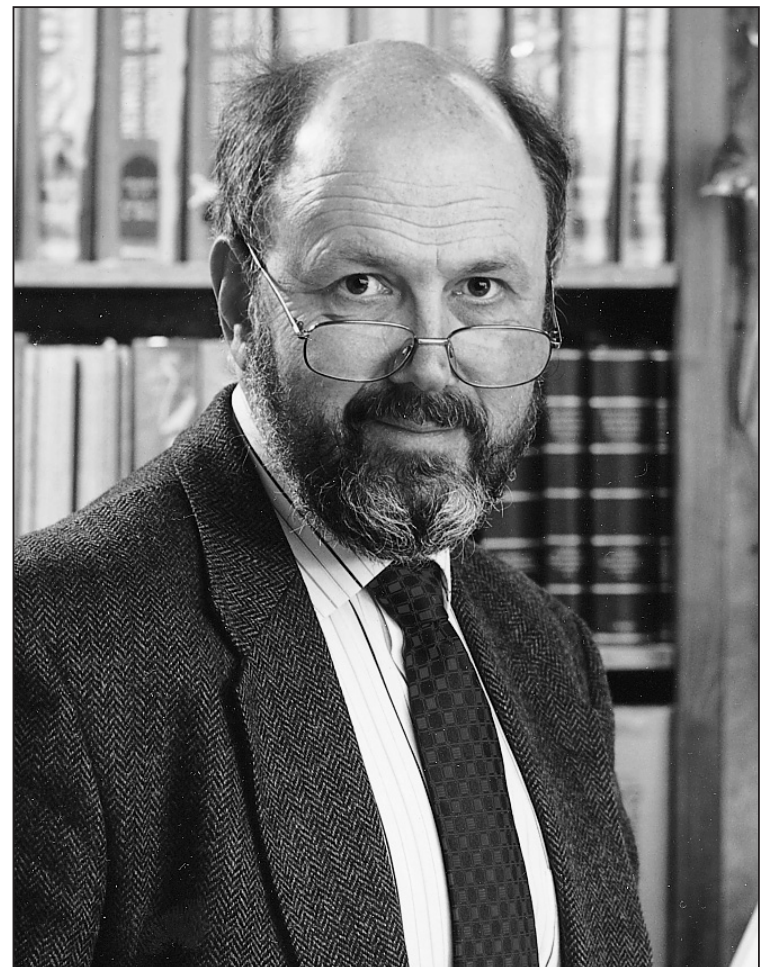
One of the reasons I like coming to Calvin is precisely because of what you just said. There you are, very much from where I sit, in the North American Evangelical world, but you don't suffer from many of the diseases that many other North American Evangelicals do. I suppose when you react against the dualism of Platonism, the dualism of dispensationalism, all of that, the danger always is then simply to be very positive about culture, and simply to be very affirming. Historically, the danger then is that you slide off into some sort of pantheism. I very much doubt that happens at Calvin.

But I think learning how to critique without dualism is hugely important, and it's important not least in the political sphere. When people critique, and it happens in my country, if you say I disagree with this policy that our government is saying, people will say you're being anti-American or anti-Israeli or anti-British. Actually, I believe in the goodness of good government, but part of that is that the church's role is to hold the government to account. The media think it's their role. In

fact, I've actually seen that carved in stone in a radio building in Chicago, "The role of the media is to hold the powers that be to account." Actually, that used to be the church's job, and we have backed off from it.

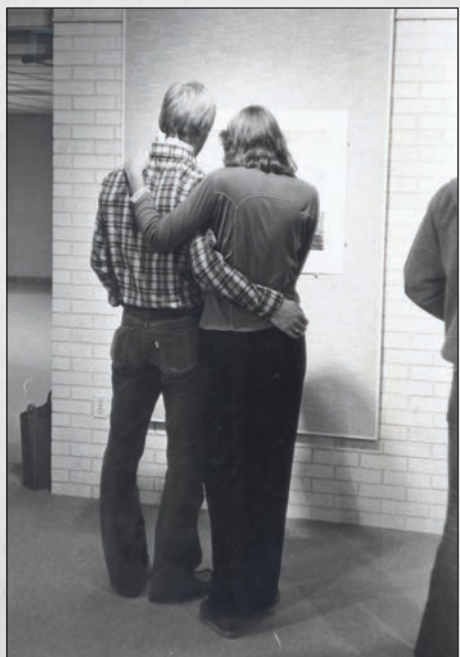
So to learn how to critique positively, but when necessarily to include within that positive critique a sharp [message], saying: the government wants to do X, but that is clearly the wrong policy and here's why, or it is re-

fusing to do this, but actually we should. And in America at the moment, you are such a polarized society — I feel it every time I come — and the culture wars have got worse. It would be lovely to think that people in the robust intellectual tradition that Calvin represents could be among those who manage to transcend that and say, "yes, but," "no, but" or whatever. But that's tough, because there are people out there watching.





A LOOK BACK



FROM THE ARCHIVES