

CALVIN COLLEGE



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Fun. plays to sold-out crowd, Calvin's biggest ever

BY KATE PARSONS
AND RYAN STRUYK
On-Call Writer and Online Editor

Two months ago, more than 800 students waited as long as seven hours to get tickets for Fun.'s concert at Calvin. And Wednesday night, those same students cheered and danced on the open floor of the Van Noord Arena as Fun. presented a crowd-pleasing concert. The band, which has exploded in popularity over the last year, played Calvin's biggest concert to date.

Since the release of the tickets, the show sold out of its 5,000-seat capacity. Ken Heffner, director of student activities, affirmed, "It's the biggest show Calvin's ever done."

"When we booked them we were thinking maybe they would sell out the Hoogenboom," said Heffner, referring to the college's older, smaller gym. "Then things

really changed over the summer." This was in part due to Fun.'s album "Some Nights," which was released early last year. "Some Nights" included hits like the title track and the single "We are Young," which has gone five times platinum.

In light of the increasing popularity, the concert was moved to the 5,000-seat Van Noord Arena. This is the first concert the arena has ever sold out, setting a new record at Calvin.

Almost 2,000 Calvin students bought tickets for the concert, a number that, at nearly half the student body, also marks a new record. According to Heffner, "We've never had this number of students at any one event before."

Selling out the Van Noord was "a bit of a surprise," said Heffner. "The whole music industry has been in decline for the last 10 years. The kinds of bands that can fill a room that size are in short supply."



PHOTO BY KERRY WADE

Lead singer Nate Ruess was impressed with the crowd's size and energy.

It was a big show for Fun. as well — the second biggest show they have ever headlined. During the show, lead singer Nate Ruess stared out at the huge crowd and quipped, "I don't think I've ever seen this many people in my life!"

Fun. brings energetic show

From the edgy rock beat of songs like "It Gets Better" to more acoustic feel of "The Gambler," Fun.'s songs span a wide variety of music. Along with the electric guitar, bass guitar, stand-up piano and flugelhorn are integrated

See "Fun.," page 3

Children's lit conference inspires

BY CATHERINE KRAMER
Staff Writer

On Friday, Nov. 9, 15 Calvin students took a bus down to the Mazza Museum Weekend Conference at the University of Findlay in Ohio.

about picture books and children's literature in general.

English professor Nancy Hull coordinated the Calvin trip, inviting those from her Children's Literature classes and other interested students to join. She saw this experience as a way to connect the content of the class

great for them to mingle with other adults and students, and to see how it all applies to what we talk about in class."

Students had the opportunity to hear from some very influential authors and illustrators in the field in children's literature. Presenters included David

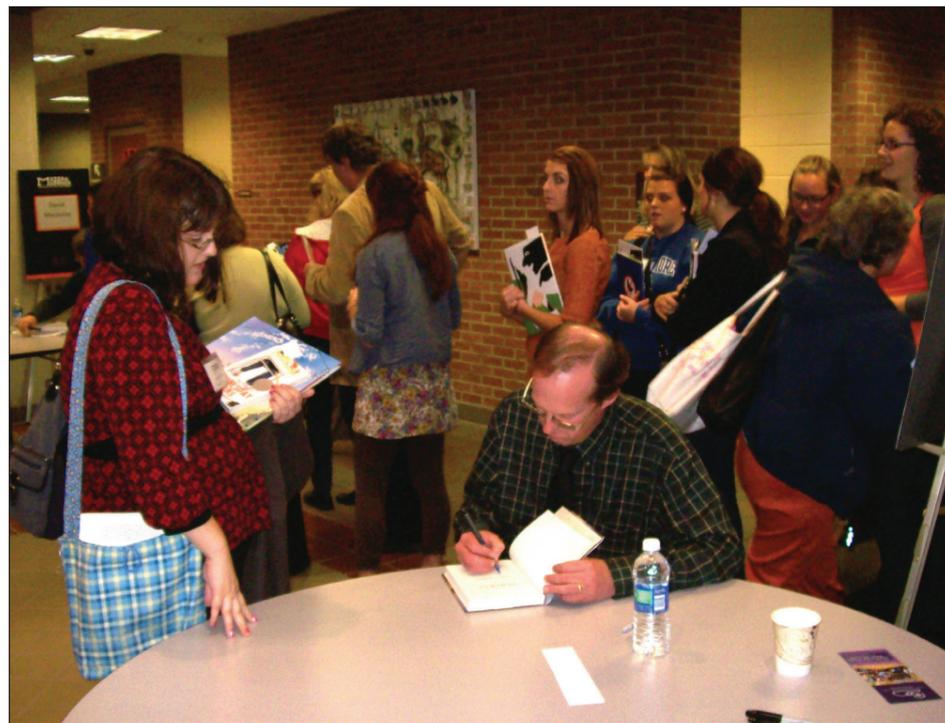


PHOTO BY ANNA LAMBERS

Professor and author Gary Schmidt signs a book at the Mazza conference.

The Mazza Museum Weekend Conference, which ran from Friday evening until late Saturday afternoon, is an annual gathering for people who are passionate

with the real world.

"I wanted my students to see the passion of the authors and people involved with children's literature," said Hull. "It was

the museum is particularly invested in the importance of illustrated boo-

See "Lit," page 2

Athletics go 6 for 7

BY MITCH BLANKESPOOR
Staff Writer

This fall sports season, which ends this weekend, has been a memorable one for Calvin. The Knights captured six of seven possible Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association championships outright in varsity sports, marking the first time any school accomplished this feat in the conference's 125-year history.

Men's and women's cross country, men's and women's soccer, men's golf and women's volleyball all won conference championships. The women's golf team qualified for the MIAA's NCAA Spring Qualifying Tournament, but finished fourth in the conference.

The men's cross-country team captured its 26th straight MIAA title, winning the final MIAA Jamboree with 20 points. Senior Dan Kerr earned the MIAA Most Valuable Runner Award for the second consecutive season. Joining Kerr in earning All-MIAA honors were eight other Knights. Kerr, Job Christiansen, David VandeBunte and Rhett Morici were named to the All-MIAA first team. Sophomores Steven Haagsma and Josh Ferguson, juniors Sam Kirk and Philip Spitzer and senior Kevin Peterson were named to the All-MIAA second team.

This past week, the men's

cross-country team captured its 17th straight Great Lakes Regional Championship with 36 total points. With its win, Calvin earns a trip to Terre Haute, Ind., and the national meet this weekend.

According to Calvin head coach Brian Diemer, the team is excited for the final race of the season.

"We had a very encouraging men's race," said Diemer shortly after capturing the regional title. "The challenge now is to keep those guys going for one more week and I'm confident we can do that. Our team is very excited and looking forward to the challenge of racing for a championship next week."

The women's cross-country team also captured the MIAA title, defeated defending champion Hope in the final MIAA Jamboree by 11 points. The championship is the program's 23rd in 25 years. Junior Nicole Michmerhuizen was named the MIAA's Most Valuable Runner. Joining Michmerhuizen in being named All-MIAA were six other Knights. Alyssa Penning, Kimby Penning, freshman Mackenzie Diemer and junior Alyssa Oram earned spots on the All-MIAA first team. Katie Ardinger and Christine Hartley were named to the All-MIAA second team.

The women's cross-country team placed third at the Great Lakes Regional meet with 105 points, finished behind Oberlin (95 pts) and champion Hope (91 pts). The Knights received an at-

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THE OFFICIAL STUDENT
NEWSPAPER OF CALVIN
COLLEGE SINCE 1907

Calvin Gospel Choir draws diverse performers and audiences

BY RAENOSA HUDNELL
Guest Writer

The Calvin College Gospel Choir is welcoming everyone to worship with them at their annual fall concert this Sunday at 3 p.m.

The choir hopes its audience enjoys the music as well as a worship experience that they are not typically used to.

"Visitors can expect to clap, praise, dance, sing along, have fun and worship with us," says senior Mark Campbell, Gospel Choir steering committee chairman. "We want an interactive worship experience that is set in the gospel music tradition."

The Calvin College Gospel Choir started in the late 1980s and developed fully in the early 1990s as a student-led organization that began as a gospel ensemble.

The group developed during a casual conversation at the Knollcrest dining hall when students decided to elect a leader and form an official gospel choir.

The group's first rehearsal drew over 45 students. As the years went by the choir's membership increased.

But it was not until 2003 that the gospel choir became an official ensemble of the Calvin music department.

This choir is considered unique to Calvin College because the style of gospel music is different from the worship music that is typically played in Christian Reformed churches.

Gospel music originates from the African American tradition of spirituals, blues, jazz and West African music.

Both musically and ethnically, the Calvin College Gospel Choir has been considered the most diverse musical ensemble on campus.

"Gospel choir brings people

The choir works to celebrate all cultures and people, showing that gospel music is used as a style of worship by many groups of people.

"Along with American English, the choir has sung music in Spanish, Korean and many African languages," said Sawyer, "This choral ensemble draws

ship him and have fun all at the same time," junior member John Morris said.

"We are encouraged to have fun, feel the music and worship God. At all Gospel Choir concerts I look forward to ministering to people. Seeing our music touch other people always makes me feel like we have done what we set out to do at the beginning of the semester."

Those sitting in the audience during the concert will not only see a diverse choir on the stage but will hear a variety of worship music.

"The concert will represent Calvin College and its varied worship styles," Sawyer said. "It will be a wonderful worship service that encourages the believer to reflect on God's grace."

The concert will also give its audience the opportunity to learn about the choir's upcoming travels. The choir will be touring in Argentina this May.

The choir is not only happy to share their music this Sunday but ultimately just happy to give the Calvin community the opportunity to have another worship experience.

"I am looking forward to how God will touch the hearts of the people who will be in the audience," said member Chan Min Anh.

"I have been to many Gospel Choir concerts here at Calvin and I always leave with the feeling that I have not only heard good music and great singing, but that I have been able to reflect on my own relationship with God."



Calvin College Gospel Choir is one of the the most diverse musical ensembles on campus.

from literally all over the world to form a family and a body of believers who are willing to share not only singing but an interest in worshipping God," junior Gospel Choir member Victoria Reese said.

"We are one of the few choirs who represent what the kingdom of God looks like."

Although the worship style may not be what some of the Calvin community is used to, the choir has shown how students from any background can worship together.

"The Calvin College Gospel Choir provides a forum in which gospel singers and musicians are able to transcend cultural differences," said Dr. Charsie Sawyer, professor of music at Calvin and Calvin Gospel Choir director.

from diverse academic programs and musical skills."

Over 10 nationalities are present in the Calvin Gospel Choir.

The choir reflects the Calvin community's vision of every nation, tongue and tribe working and worshipping together. Coming together as a diverse group of people is what some members of Gospel Choir enjoy most.

"I enjoy the community and the atmosphere of worship we create as a family, and we all come from completely different backgrounds," said Brooke Boomsma, a third year Gospel Choir member.

Other members also enjoy how the groups of students come together to worship.

"I love the fact that we can use our gifts for God's glory, wor-

Auctions benefit local charities

BY MEG SCHMIDT
Staff Writer

For only \$5, Calvin students could have held a paper plate, heaped with cold whipped cream, and, facing any CLC member they chose, launched it right into the CLC member's fearful face. This month, Calvin College dorms are taking part in a campus wide service auction, and so far, the events have been filled with laughter, competition and people with pie smashed in their faces.

To take part in this auction, students have been encouraged to offer up any special service they can perform — from making simple friendship bracelets to wiping snow off of fellow students cars. These entries are then auctioned off, and the money is donated to a charity specific to each dorm.

Schultze Eldersveld partnered with, as Daniel Paulson said in his opening introduction "that magical place, Roosevelt Park Community CRC." This is a church in downtown Wyoming, dedicated to helping struggling Hispanics in the area with ESL programs and afterschool tutoring. Pastor Jackson of Roosevelt CRC came up before the auctioning event and said a few words.

"I cannot keep this money," he began. "It must be given back to the community. You all have a dedication to our ministries, and the community is aware of what you are doing."

"You might think that nobody here notices what you did, but somebody did" he emphasized, meaning Roosevelt Church.

The opening speech was followed by the actual fast paced

and hectic auctioning event. Bids often went over \$50, (encouraged by the right to pie someone in the face for every \$50 donation).

Highlights included lullabies before bed, encouraging notes written on a dorm room door, and even wiping the snow off of the winner's car, all sold for around \$30. Other popular entries including determining a friend's wardrobe for a week, having two fully dressed bodyguards for a day and a spontaneous "re-arrange your room" prank. During the whole event, a silent auction was being held in the background. These entries generally went for a much lower price, from \$5 friendship bracelets, to an \$8 secret handshake.

However, the best seller of the evening was a much-coveted "Dinner for two with president LeRoy."

The bidding started at \$20, and after a good deal of back and forth bidding, ended up being sold for \$152. All the while in the background, standing on protective plastic sheets, dorm CLC members were being pied in the face (for only \$5 a pie).

"There were a lot of really fun prizes! Personally, I won the RD parking spot for the last week of interim!" says Hannah Zwart, a freshman who participated in the bidding. "It was really fun!"

At the end of the night, the auction ended up with over \$2000 to donate to Roosevelt Park Community CRC, and participant's pockets felt very much lighter.

But Pastor Jackson words still seemed very appropriate. "Nothing you do for the Lord" he said, "is in vain."

LIT: Students attend conference

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

-ks for children.

"People underestimate the value of visual literacy compared to print literacy," said Calvin alumnus Terry Olthouse, education coordinator at the Mazza Museum.

"We stress the importance of images and pictures, and we really work to honor the marriage of words and images."

The conference began with the presentation of the Mazza Medallion of Excellence for Artistic Diversity to David Macaulay, the Caldecott Award-winning author and illustrator of "Black and White" and "The Way Things Work."

The next morning, attendees were treated to the collaboration of the husband-wife team of Philip and Erin Stead, who won the 2010 Caldecott Award for their book "A Sick Day for Amos McGee."

Later that morning Gary Schmidt addressed the crowd. The only non-illustrator speaking at the conference, he made clear that visual art was not his strong suit.

"I can't draw," said Schmidt. "If you don't believe me, just ask my middle school art teacher."

Despite his lack of artistic abilities, Schmidt was able to

connect with the crowd, receiving hearty applause and a standing ovation.

"I really enjoyed Professor Schmidt's talk," said junior Jodi Erbeling. "It was definitely powerful."

The day also featured speeches and demonstrations from David Ezra Stein, Jon Muth and Mo Willems.

Willems, who wrote and illustrated "Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus," gave the final presentation of the conference. He took the crowd step-by-step through his pigeon-drawing process, giving instructions and advice along the way.

"Never fall in love with a drawing," Willems said as he began sketching. "You may own the copyright, but your audience owns the meaning."

Throughout the weekend, the students benefited from the chance to interact with authors, illustrators, teachers and librarians who were invested in this kind of writing and education. "I was inspired by all the supporters present at the conference," said junior Tanice Mast.

"All the librarians and teachers are there because they believe in the power of stories, words and pictures. It's incredibly encouraging to a student in writing because it reinforces the care you also hold for these things."

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Petition urges Calvin to become more LGBT-friendly

BY ZACHARY VAN WYK
Staff Writer

More than 1,100 people have signed a change.org petition encouraging Calvin College to become more welcoming to LGBT students.

Recent Calvin alumnus Joel Meredith formed the petition in response to Calvin's ranking as the No. 11 most LGBT-unfriendly school in the country on the Princeton Review's annual list.

The petition will be sent to newly-inaugurated President Le Roy.

"When faced with the hard reality that the Princeton Review highlights, we feel that the response has been underwhelming at best," states the petition.

The Princeton Review ranks schools each year in a number of categories based on surveys completed by students at each school. Calvin has been on the LGBT-unfriendly list for several years.

"Year after year we make the list. Year after year we're told by school officials, 'We realize that we're not perfect, but we want everyone to know that they have a place on our campus regardless of their sexual orientation.' This poll clearly shows that not everyone has a place on Calvin's campus," it continues.

Change.org is a website that hosts petitions about various causes. Once a student, alumnus, faculty, staff member or community member electronically signs the petition, they are given the opportunity to state why they chose to sign it.

Many hoped it would better the lives of their friends or family.

"In the nearly 30 years I have taught at Calvin, I have had a number of gay students in my classes," commented Larry Herzberg, a professor at Calvin.

"Some have shared with me their pain at having to hide their true identity at Calvin," he continued. "A few have left the col-

lege because they feel it is not a welcoming place for people like them. I would like to see us live up to our ideal of being a loving, welcoming community."

Both LGBT students and heterosexual students are citing reasons to sign the petition.

community at a time when we are seeing many leave the church because they feel unwelcome," he continued.

Meredith is optimistic that the petition will encourage change at the college. "We are excited about the future of Calvin College,"

education, SAGA, RA training and dorm programming, as well as in many classes, we regularly address various aspects of LGBT experiences and issues."

As the college hosts this conversation, the official statements of the college also seek to include

community acceptance based solely on their orientation." It goes on to say that explicit homosexual practice is "incompatible with obedience to the will of God."

Mary Hulst, college chaplain, suggested ways that Calvin can

become a more accepting community while maintaining the church's position on homosexuality.

"We need to help each other speak well of members," she said. "There are certain words that we should simply never say. Always assume someone in the room is LGBT or knows someone who is LGBT."

"Every member of the community has a part to play in their own interactions with others to be caring, respectful, fair and Christ-like," said Hoogstra.

Hulst also encouraged LGBT students at Calvin to continue the dialogue.

"Come and talk with me or another chaplain," said Hulst.

"We want to hear your story — no, we need to hear your story. LGBT students think they are the only person here that is gay or lesbian or has

this issue. It creates loneliness, and they need to know that there are incredible resources around to help with this."

There is hope from many members of the Calvin community that the petition would be successful in steering the college toward becoming a welcoming and loving place.

"We are at a moment of great possibility and potential here at Calvin," said Elders. "At this point, I strongly believe that some sort of change is necessary in order to create space for both acceptance and support at our college."

"We don't get to opt out of this conversation as Christians. These are our brothers and sisters and Jesus calls us to love well," said Hulst.

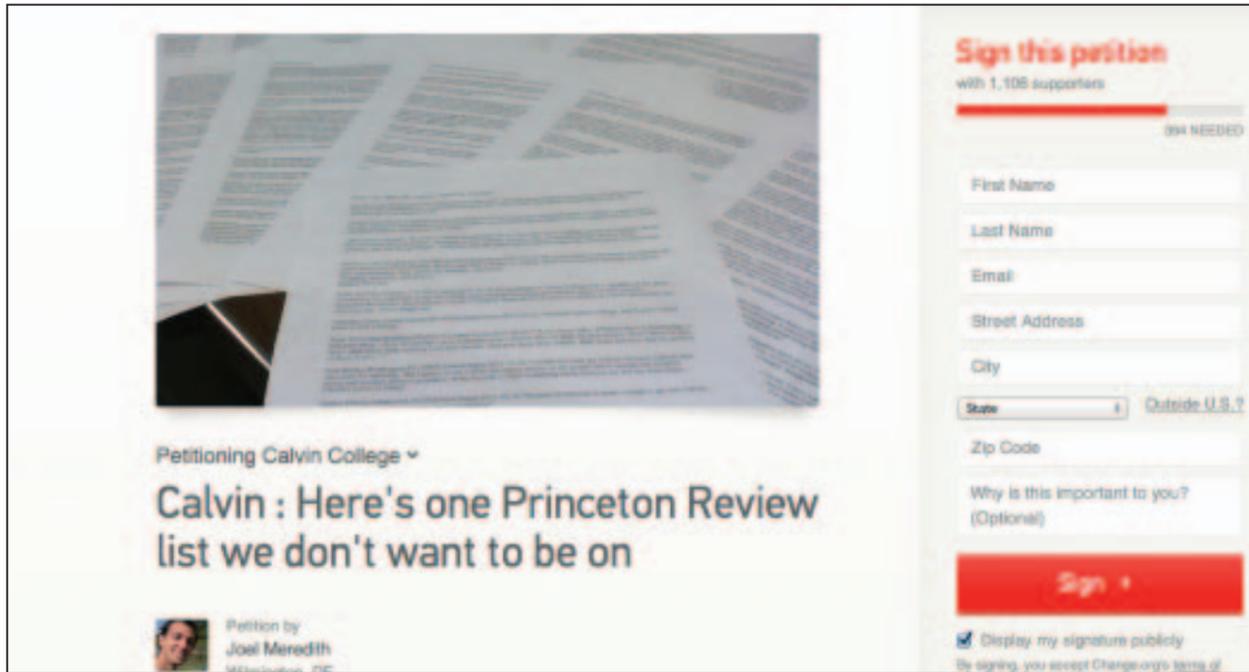


PHOTO COURTESY OF CHANGE.ORG.

After Calvin was voted No. 11 on the Princeton Review's annual list of colleges that are unfriendly towards LGBT students, Joel Meredith, an alumnus of Calvin College, started a petition on change.org.

"As a friend of many who identify as part of the LGBTQ community, I have vicariously felt their pain and their suffering," said senior Tara Elders.

"Our creator has called us to love," she continued. "To me this means that we should welcome these individuals into our community and allow them to be their authentic selves rather than marginalizing them."

Meredith said the petition addresses both a surface issue and a deeply rooted problem.

"Of course, we would like to get the school off of the Princeton Review's top 20 list, but ultimately the list is symptomatic of the problem, not the problem itself," he said.

"Calvin could, and should, be a shining light for the Christian

reads the petition.

"Welcoming and advocating for LGBTQ students is not acting unfaithfully toward denominational positions on homosexuality; rather it is acting in the wise, compassionate, ever-reforming character that the Reformed tradition holds to, and more than that it is acting in the nature of Christ's expansive love for all God's children."

In response, Shirley Hoogstra, vice president of student life, highlighted a continued conversation that Calvin hosts on campus each year.

"We need to continue to learn together how to address difficult and emotive topics in a civil, humble way," said Hoogstra. "Through the Sexuality Series, the annual LGBT panel, peer

LGBT students and welcome them as fellow children of God.

"Calvin's stance is that all members of our community, including those who identify as LGBT, should be treated with respect, justice, grace and understanding in the spirit of Christ," said Hoogstra.

Because of Calvin's affiliation with the CRC, the college adopts the denomination's position that marriage is meant to be between a man and a woman.

The CRC's position on homosexuality says that homosexual orientation is a

"condition of disordered sexuality that reflects the brokenness of our sinful world," according to the denomination's website.

The position states that homosexuals "should not be denied

FUN: band performs with energy, rates performance in "top two"

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

into their songs, giving the music a different twist.

"Their style is so much different than any band I've ever heard," said sophomore Josh Schalk.

Regardless of which song they were playing, the show maintained an enormous amount of energy. The band jumped and danced around the stage, and the auditorium popped with sound.

"I think they were better in concert," Schalk added. "The environment, the energy, the way the music was produced was better than anything you could have in a digital copy."

Colored lights flashed through the arena and the air was shot full of confetti. The audience also caught on to Fun.'s energy, clapping, crowd-surfing and singing along with every song.

Earlier, Nate Ruess claimed the show might be in his top three favorites, but by the end of the night, the lead singer held up two fingers and said, "This is in the top two!" As 5,000 voices raised his music to the roof, he shouted "Top two!"

LGBT equality advocacy

The concert had garnered a lot of attention, both positive and negative, in the weeks leading up to Wednesday's show. Some community members disagreed with the college's decision to invite the band, who usually bring

a marriage equality organization with them on tour.

At the conversation with the band hosted by the Student Activities Office on Wednesday afternoon, Fun. spent several minutes talking about its passion for marriage equality.

During the conversation, Jack Antonoff, the group's guitarist, said that when Calvin requested that Fun. not bring marriage equality advocacy booths with them, he initially did not want to come.

However, he went on to say that he didn't want to turn his back on LGBT students at Calvin.

"To be in a place where there is some opposition to us made it clear that there was possibly more impact to be had," said Antonoff. "It's so much more important to be here," he said, comparing the stop at Calvin with concerts for more "like-minded people."

From the stage, Antonoff also said that "a dollar for every ticket sold has been donated toward

the furtherment of gay rights in America."

Calvin restated that the money has not come from the college, as originally requested by Fun. Chimes is unable to confirm whether the band itself plans to

were also present outside the concert in an unofficial capacity. Calvin had requested that The Ally Coalition not bring its booth to the concert.

"On every other tour stop, we invited our fans to join us and take action through a TAC photobooth and table," read a card that one of the members passed out. "We were not allowed to bring a TAC booth tonight."

Fun.'s message speaks to students, parents

Aside from the culturally-relevant issue of LGBT rights, Fun. appeals to students and adults alike because of their thoughtful songwriting.

One reason Fun.'s music is so popular at Calvin, Ken Heffner believes, is that their songs seem uniquely suited for college students.

Christian Becker, a cultural discernor in Beets-Veenstra, agreed. "There is more to their music than meets the eye. There's not a profound philosophical subject to all their songs. But, when



PHOTO BY MICHELLE RATERING

Fun. performed phenomenally, demonstrating not only their talent, but also their fantastic group chemistry.

donate the money from its own profits.

"Some of us here believe in God and some of us don't, but those of us who do know that God loves black people, white people, men, women and ... we also know that God loves gay people," said Antonoff, from the stage.

Members of Fun.'s nonprofit group, The Ally Coalition (TAC),

you actually start to listen, you hear a story and a message. It's not just the average pop band," he said. "They really speak to our age demographic."

"They are tapping into all the excitement and ambivalence of separating from parents and becoming an adult," said Heffner. "That ambiguity of that deep connection with family while at the same time trying to become your own person — they've given that a voice like few pop artists have done."

The many references to family means that another demographic extension includes parents, who are going through life changes along with students.

Roxanne Pikaard of Grand Rapids is the mother of a 25-year-old, and attended the Fun. concert with her husband. "I feel a little self-conscious being here," she said, looking around at the mostly younger audience. She listens to Fun. with her daughter. "I'm here for the music," she said, "but I definitely listen to the words. And some songs, like 'The Gambler' are really about parents."

The song, which is written from the perspective of parents, shows a range of emotional depth that goes beyond typical pop music.

"Fun.'s lyrics really have thought behind them," said Schalk, "which is something I respect."

Regular Coffee kickstarts

BY BRITTANY BEEZHOLD
Staff Writer

Stacks of burlap bags full of green coffee beans, fragrance wafting heavily through the air from the roaster, tins lined up like little soldiers. From the corner of Wealthy Street and James Avenue, Rowster New American Coffee launches the coffee subscription service called Regular Coffee Company. Regular Coffee is pioneering a new way to experience and purchase coffee.

As the managing partner of Regular Coffee and president at Rowster, Kurt Stauffer emphasizes the communal efforts made to formulate the concept, identity, production and marketing of Regular Coffee.

“The key was creating a broad team with focused talents that we could tap into by providing them with an opportunity to share their creative voice,” said Stauffer. “The driving philosophy was to make this not my project or company or idea, but rather, make it an expression of Grand Rapids' creative essence, work ethic and scrappiness.”

In comparison, bags of coffee off of grocery store shelves are manufactured in large quantities through a variety of automated machinery. Instead, Regular Coffee expresses quality and the humanistic element intentionally involved in receiving beans from farmers to handing a tin of roasted beans into customers' hands.

“Regular is our idea to eliminate as many of the steps between getting the pallet of coffee at our roaster and to your door,” said Stauffer. “That way we can help these little shareholder farmers who are fairly impoverished produce more coffee and at least get compensated for the time and

successful in reaching their financial goals.

“Only 10 percent of all submissions actually meet their goal,” said Stauffer.

Not deterred by the statistics, Curtis and Stauffer moved forward with an open mindset and exceeded their funding goal of \$10,000 on Oct. 12, 2012.

Convinced individuals were prepared for the idea of a coffee subscription service, Stauffer and Curtis were pleased by the variety of people who supported Regular Coffee.

“The fact that most of our backers were people we didn't know also supported our theory that the world was ready for the Regular Coffee concept and that they understood what we were trying to communicate,” said Stauffer. “They felt like they needed to own our package and product on their countertop.”

For Regular Coffee, 165 people pledged their support. In response, following Kickstarter's protocol, Regular Coffee sends out a variety of rewards corresponding to the dollar amounts pledged.

Rewards range from letterpress posters and store credit to custom Regular T-shirts and monthly subscriptions to Regular Coffee.

“Now that the Kickstarter has ended with successful funding, we have been working on getting the rewards fulfilled,” said Curtis.

Looking toward the future, Curtis, Stauffer and the team of baristas continue to utilize Rowster's space and equipment to roast beans for Regular Coffee during lulls throughout the day or after hours.

Stauffer credits the efforts

Grand opening of Mitten Brewing Co.

BY RYAN HAGERMAN
Staff Writer

Robert Wanhatalo, with his full red beard, loves to brew. He has been brewing for several weeks to prepare for the grand opening of Mitten Brewing Co., making more of the brewing company's signature beers, like the peanut butter and chocolate Cracker Jack porter, but has also been coming up with other recipes. Wanhatalo loves to tinker with recipes and explore new flavors.

“Early on I learned recipe formulation, the basics of, and as I grew more comfortable in that regard I would play around with things a little more, just trying things out,” he explains. “Sometimes when messing with adjunct flavors, you can come up something really, really good and crazy, or it could be the worst beer ever.”

Currently, Wanhatalo works at the Mitten Brewing Co. as brewmaster. Mitten Brewing Co. is a Detroit Tigers themed nanobrewery. Located at an old firehouse on Leonard Street, the brewery had its “sneak peak” while the Tigers were playing at the World Series.

One of the joys of working at the Mitten Brewing Co., Wanhatalo describes, is the community within the brewery, such as listening to the World Series “cranked all the way up” while brewing in the back.

“Those things make it fun,” he explains, “I look at people in offices, doing the same thing every day. Here, you don't know what's going to happen.”

Wanhatalo never had scho-

lastic experience with crafting beers, but that didn't stop him from learning the craft. He first started brewing at The Hideout as an assistant brewer. When they offered the position while he was in college, Wanhatalo dropped everything and accepted the position.

“I get a call — I was in a final exam — and Ken McFale, who was the former owner of The Hideout Brewing Co. called me up and said, ‘Hey, want to come out and brew with me?’ I was like, ‘Hell yeah!’ So that day I didn't sign up for any more classes, I called my job and says ‘Hey, I'm giving you my two weeks notice, I'm gonna go brew beer,’” Wanhatalo says.

Before The Hideout, Wanhatalo had no experience brewing. Now he has been brewing for three years, and in a head brewing position for one year.

“[Ken McFale] was really taking a chance with me coming in there, having never done it, not even on a homebrew scale, and basically just took his time [with me],” Wanhatalo explains, “for which I am forever grateful, of him just taking his time just showing me everything, and making it understandable and comfortable.”

Wanhatalo appreciates his learn-as-you-go experience but also thinks that a more scholastic approach can be beneficial.

“I can see [the advantages of] both,” he says. “Honestly, I would like to do a year of schooling and develop certain aspects of my brewing skills. But right now, I'm good with what I got.”

However, Wanhatalo claims that some lessons are only learned through hands-on experience.

“I can also see an advantage where I started, diving in head first and not looking back,” he says. “You learn from your mistakes, but you don't want to make mistakes, so you pay a lot more

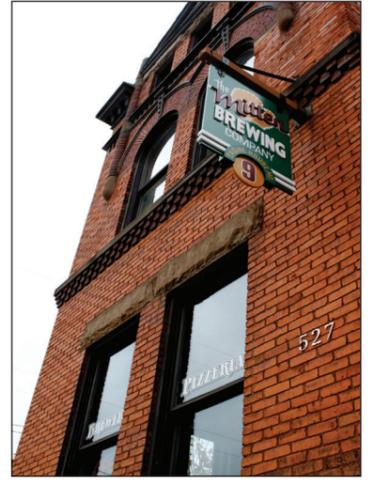


PHOTO BY RYAN HAGERMAN

Mitten Brewing Co. opens on Friday, Nov. 16.

attention. That's something you don't learn at school. You learn that on your own.”

Wanhatalo has also enjoyed being a part of the greater brewing community in Grand Rapids. Occasionally, the breweries come together for community projects.

“Our next project is coming up, the brewer's festival at Fifth Third Ballpark,” he says. “That's the fun about it: it's us doing a citywide high five, and I think it really piques the interest of the consumer when they know how closely together we work.”

The date for Mitten Brewing Co.'s grand opening is Friday, Nov. 16. Find them at 527 Leonard St. NW.



PHOTO BY BRITTANY BEEZHOLD

Regular Coffee's Kickstarter project was a rousing success.

energy that goes into producing quality.”

In addition to the quality of coffee beans, Stephen Curtis, vice president of Regular Coffee and Rowster, highlights Regular Coffee's tasting notes. Complete with a caramel sweetness and dried fruity aroma, Regular Coffee has lightly roasted yet full bodied taste.

“We call it a crowd pleaser,” said Curtis. “The goal is not to have it taste like ‘Regular Coffee’ but more to be the best ‘regular coffee’ you've had.”

Through Kickstarter, an online funding platform, Curtis and Stauffer were able to test how their product would be received not only within the marketplace, but also in Kickstarter's highly competitive atmosphere for funding.

Although Kickstarter is a means to raise funds for innovative ideas, projects submitted on Kickstarter are not always

and overwhelming support by the team at Rowster with the successful launching of Regular Coffee.

“Working with a bunch of workers that are willing to make sacrifices and give their time and talents so freely is a blessing and an amazing experience,” said Stauffer.

Intending to contribute to the creative essence of Grand Rapids, community impact is significant to Regular Coffee.

“We would love Regular Coffee to be a part of the fabric of what makes Grand Rapids an awesome place to call home,” said Curtis.

Encouraging the ideas of innovative, creative people, Stauffer quoted Arthur Ashe, “Start where you are, with what you have, and do what you can.”

For more information on Regular Coffee Co, visit www.regularcoffee.com.

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Presidential campaign spending tops 2008 figures

BY LAUREN DE HAAN
Staff Writer

An estimated \$6 billion was spent on the 2012 election cycle, which is almost \$700 million more than the previous record-breaking expenditures of the 2008 election cycle. This money was spent by the campaigns, outside groups and independent organizations.

One of the reasons for this groundbreaking spending was that both President Obama and Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney declined federal public financing. This is largely due to the results of the 2010 Supreme Court case *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* in which the court held that the First Amendment prohibited the government from restricting independent political expenditures by corporations and unions.

This deregulation of campaign financing reinforced the creation of super PACs — organizations that campaign for or against a candidate and seek to influence federal elections. This election season, Priorities

USA, the main super PAC supporting President Obama, raised \$63.7 million; Restore Our Future, the main super PAC supporting Mitt Romney raised \$131.6 million.

This growth of unlimited fundraising and the role of outside groups in elections has intensified

has become a race to raise money. According to tallies by CBS News, President Obama attended 221 fundraisers in 24 states, Washington, D.C. and Puerto Rico — far more than any other incumbent president. During the same period, he attended 101 campaign ral-

an expectation, I think, among many of these individuals that the rewards will go beyond mere gratitude,” Krumholz said.

While both candidates raised large amounts of money, the bulk of where their money came from greatly differed. Romney was very successful in luring big-money backers who contributed mainly to super PACs. Many of these backers contributed a million dollars or more. President Obama, on the other hand, had almost 4 million small donors who contributed up to \$2,500 to his campaign online or via text. These donors accounted for about 56 percent of his fundraising. Altogether, each candidate raised nearly as much as the entire field did in 2004.

In recent weeks, some Republicans have suggested lifting caps on contributions to candidates, a shift that would abolish the only other vestige of the post-Watergate reforms, which put a limit on campaign spending.

“It opens the floodgates even more,” said Rep. Chris Van Hollen, D-Md., who has pushed for more disclosure and limits on outside spending. “I don’t think it’s good for the process for people to have to spend even more time raising money to have an insurance policy against super PACs.”

This outside spending is also highlighted in House and Senate races. Political scientist Tony Corrado says that’s because state-wide and district-wide campaigns are relatively cheap. “As you think about it ... one donor can

finance the entire advertising for an independent group in a particular Senate or House race.”

In both chambers, but especially the House, Democrats did more in 2012 to compete but not match the number of Republican races in which their candidate outspent their opponent.

Michael Malbin of the nonpartisan Campaign Finance Institute said, “The last time the independent spending totals significantly favored the Republicans, this time there was more of a party balance.”

“The race to become president has become a race to raise money.”

The result of this was not that one party had an advantage purely based on the amount of money spent, but that the playing field was more financially balanced.

In this election, Malbin said, the money still mattered, but only to a point. “Once you have substantial amounts of money on both sides and both candidates are well known in their districts,” he said, “then the incremental effect of more money goes down.”

Many outside groups that were active in 2010 were even more active in 2012, so the record spending is likely to increase for the 2014 and 2016 elections. According to Federal Election Commission data, the Romney and Obama campaigns spent \$30.33 every second of this election cycle.



President Obama and Governor Romney spent a record \$6 billion during campaign.

the already large role that money plays in political campaigns. For one thing, it has expanded the role of donors and investors and increased their influence in the outcomes of elections and also in policy. The increased role of outside groups has also changed the way in which candidates campaign.

The race to become president

lies in 9 states. Likewise, Mr. Romney was so busy with fund-raisers that he averaged only about one public event a day.

Sheila Krumholz, executive director of the nonpartisan Center for Responsive Politics, says the big donors to outside groups — on both sides — have their own agendas. “There is

Voters decide on marijuana legalization

Washington and Colorado legislation on marijuana possession and use at odds with federal laws

BY JOVIANUS HARTOPO
Staff Writer

“The Rocky Mountains just got a whole lot higher,” said Matt Ferner of the Huffington Post as Colorado becomes one of two states which have passed a historic referendum calling for the legalization of marijuana which is set to become what critics are calling a “constitutional showdown.”

While the eyes of the world were locked on to the results of the tight presidential elections last week many may have not realized that Colorado voters passed Amendment 64, which will “amend the state constitution to legalize and regulate the production, possession, and distribution of marijuana for persons age 21 and older,” CNN reports, making Colorado the first state to end the prohibition of marijuana within the United States.

The last time Colorado voted on the issue was in 2006 where it saw the measure voted down.

Along the same line, CNN also reports that the state of Washington voted in support of the marijuana legalization for adults while also calling for a “25 percent tax rate imposed on the product three times: when the grower sells it to the processor, when the processor sells it to the retailer, and when the retailer sells it to the customer.”

The Huffington Post has cited that “Washington state analysts have produced the most generous estimate of how much tax revenue legal pot could produce, at nearly \$2 billion over five years.” Moreover, legalization in Colorado could “produce hundreds of new jobs, raise millions for the construction of Colorado public schools and raise around \$60 million annually in

combined savings and revenue for Colorado’s budget,” states a new report by the Colorado Center on Law & Policy.

Yet the third state to put the issue into vote, Oregon, voted a strong no to the ballot initiative regarding the same issue of marijuana legalization entailed in Measure 80.

In local news, Grand Rapids passed Proposal 2 for the decriminalization of marijuana use with 58.9 percent voicing their support on the issue. In essence the proposal comprised of making “marijuana possession and use a civil infraction instead of a misdemeanor crime.”

Nevertheless the spotlight remains on Colorado and Washington as its outcome cites a “more apparent conflict between state and federal law,” explains Professor Mikael Pelz of Calvin College’s political science department.

In fact, Colorado’s Democratic governor, John Hickenlooper cautioned that voters should not “break out the Cheetos or gold fish too quickly,” referring to the case of the munchies where marijuana smokers desire high-fat or sweet foods.

Federal law classifies marijuana as an illegal narcotic and according to the Christian Science Monitor, the U.S. Department of Justice has asserted that it will not change its enforcement policies stating, “In enacting the Controlled Substances Act, Congress determined that marijuana is a Schedule I controlled substance. We are reviewing the ballot initiative and have no additional comment at this time.”

Moreover, former DEA administrator Peter Bensinger has

stressed that “Federal law, the U.S. Constitution and Supreme Court decisions say that this cannot be done because federal law preempts state law”.

Kevin Sabet, a former senior adviser at the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy has affirmed that “Once these states actually try to implement these laws, we will see an effort by the feds to shut it down”.

The Colorado governor, himself a vocal opponent of the measure, stated prior to the election that “Colorado is known for many great things — marijuana should not be one of them,” while adding that “Amendment 64 has the potential to increase the number of children using drugs and would detract from efforts to make Colorado the healthiest state in the nation. It sends the wrong message to kids that drugs are OK.”

While the governor has 30 days to formally proclaim a part of the amendment towards individual behavior, the Colorado Independent has reported that “it will be several months, perhaps as long as a year, before Colorado adults 21-and-over can enjoy the legal sale of marijuana.”

The Office of National Drug Control Policy has iterated that “According to scientists at the National Institutes of Health, the world’s largest source of drug abuse research, marijuana use is associated with addiction, respiratory disease and cognitive impairment.”

On the other hand, Mason Tvert, co-director of the Colorado pro-legalization campaign has expressed satisfaction with the outcome stating “Colorado will no longer have laws that steer

people toward using alcohol, and adults will be free to use marijuana instead if that is what they prefer. And we will be better off as a society because of it.”

Tvert has also argued that “The public health costs of alcohol use overall are approximately eight times greater per person than those associated with marijuana. And alcohol use is associated with violent crime. Marijuana use is not.”

“Colorado will no longer have laws that steer people toward using alcohol, and adults will be free to use marijuana instead if that is what they prefer.”

Brian Vicente, also a co-director of the campaign to regulate marijuana in Colorado has warned that “It would certainly be a travesty if the Obama administration used its power to impose marijuana prohibition upon a state whose people have declared, through the democratic process, that they want it to end.”

On the federal front the outcome has sparked a degree of uncertainty in regards to responding towards the issue. The Washington Post quotes one high-ranking law enforcement official involved in the decision who was not authorized to speak publicly as stating “I really don’t know what we’re going to do.”

On a global scale, the outcome has created substantial implications for international efforts to win the war against drugs. The

Huffington Post reports that Mexico, Belize, Honduras and Costa Rica states that “It has become necessary to analyze in depth the implications for public policy and health in our nations emerging from the state and local moves to allow the legal production, consumption and distribution of marijuana in some countries of our continent.”

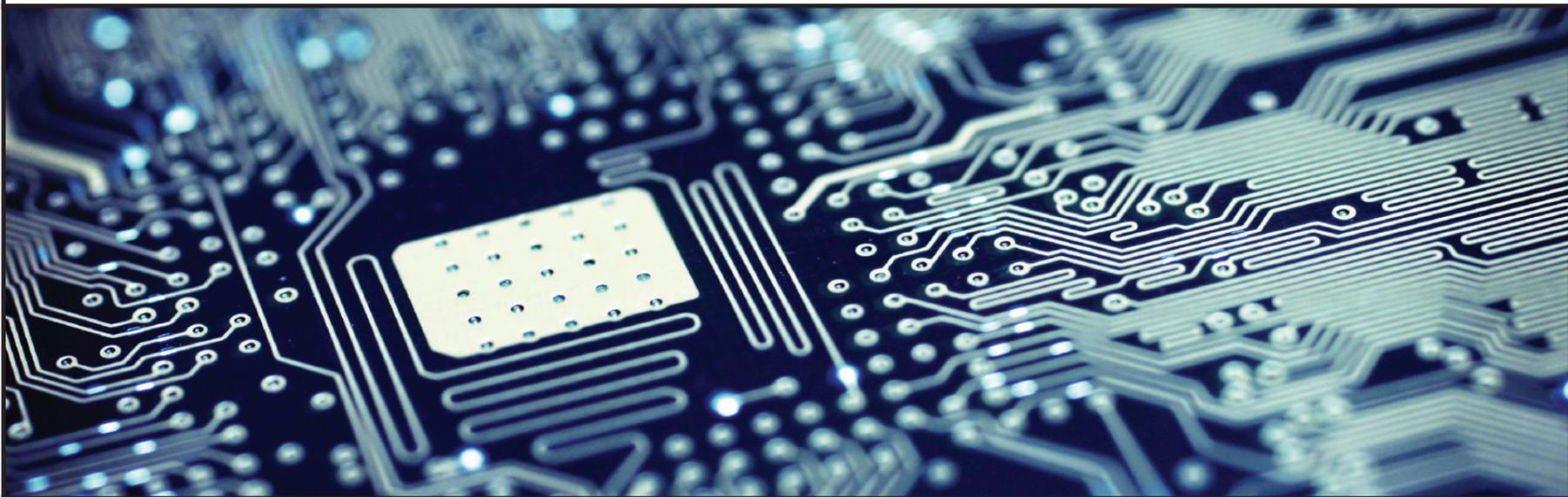
Luis Videgaray, head of Mexican President-elect Enrique Pena Nieto’s transition team, has expressed concern regarding the outcome of state legalization pointing out that “Obviously we can’t handle a product that is illegal in Mexico, trying to stop its transfer to the United States, when in the United States, at least in part of the United States, it now has a different status.”

In comparison to the outcome in both states is the city of Amsterdam, Netherlands where “what has been de facto legalized is only the retail sale of 5 grams (about a sixth of an ounce) or less [while] Production and wholesale distribution is still illegal, and that prohibition is enforced.”

Nonetheless hope remains for supports for marijuana legalization as is echoed by Ethan Nadelmann, executive director of the Drug Policy Alliance who tells TIME that “There’s a possibility that the Obama administration will consider refraining from intervening to the extent they are persuaded that the state has come up with a responsible regulatory model that addresses their concerns.”

In Defense of Technology

Why we say we hate technology



and what technology says about us

BY MAXWELL HOWARD
Features Editor

I do not know if the constant quoting of Henry David Thoreau is, in a way, particularly fixed to my generation, or if he is another passing fad — a man too quotable for his own good. It is hard to meander upon Facebook or Twitter or Tumblr without someone (ironically) quoting, “I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately.” Maybe she will delete her Facebook account tomorrow. Most likely, she will only whine about it.

As I continue to see Thoreau invoked though, I see a trend which does not surprise me — an idea that Kevin Kelly refers to as the “Will of Spoons.” In his book “What Technology Wants,” Kelly linguistically treats technology as an autonomous force. He refers to convergently evolved ideas or inventions that are made by different people in different places at the same time (like the automobile and the light bulb) as things that were bound to happen because of the forces of their circumstances. What Kelly argues for is a set path that technology guides us down — a path that we have set ourselves upon because of our propensity to create.

In a lot of ways, I see my own generation viewing technology in this way, as a malevolent force. There is the tendency to view technology as something that must be overcome — that individuals need to be free from the grasp of warping technology. Although many would not articulate their distaste for technology in this way, I can often hear the rhetoric from my peers of a hate for technology as a force. There are the obvious complaints that sites like Facebook time-wasting and eroding a sense of actual community. There are those who are frustrated by the reliance we put in technology now — that television siphons our attention, that the massive and instant access to information is leading us to learn facts instead of knowledge. And while all of this is true, it misses the point.

Despite how we view technology, it is a tool in every sense of the word. The way in which technology affects me tells much more about the person that I am than that of the technology in question. When

we blame machines and products of our minds, we indict ourselves. When we grow wary of production of bombs and drones and articles of war, we should be frightened not of a malevolent force, but of ourselves. We are the creators.

Tools do not shape us — no, they only have the ability to embolden what is already inside of us. Granted, this works both ways, for better and worse. On one hand, our destructive nature is emboldened. We create articles of death. We harness atomic energy. We emit dangerous levels of carbon dioxide into our atmosphere. But on our other side, our creative nature faithful to establishing attitudes of peace, we can create beautiful, awe-inspiring things. We have the ability to look ahead and choose our futures — (to quote Jason Silva) to “project distinct and delightful future possibilities in our heads, so that we may choose the best of all possible futures, and then pull the present forward to meet it.”

For peace, we can do things we once only dreamed of. We can cure what was once incurable. We can connect friends, family and loved ones from across the globe in a matter of seconds. We have an unprecedented amount of information at our fingertips with which we can expand our mind. We now send citizens into space. We collide particles in 27 kilometer tunnels to unravel the mysteries of the universe. What we can do inspires awe (at least in this writer).

So when we criticize technology, what are we really doing? Are we personifying technology? Do we lend it a voice not its own? In a short answer, yes. By creating a false recognition of technology as a force we throw ourselves out of the equation. We say that Tumblr is taking our time, when it is really you who is committing the act. By removing ourselves from the equation (and blame) we fall into self-fulfilling prophecy.

Thoreau writes, “Men have become the tools of their tools,” and I can agree with this in a certain way. When we ignore our role with technology, we fall into the temptation of letting it wash over us indiscriminately. When we are aware of it, though, technology can add so much to life.

“We engage with music when it is well-crafted, thoughtful and good; not when it aligns with every point on our list of beliefs.”

Will Monte, “Fun. concert pleases fans”

Fun. concert pleases fans old and new

Highly anticipated concert sells out, fills Van Noord Arena

BY WILL MONTEI
On-Call Writer

In light of the recent controversy surrounding Fun.'s presence at Calvin, it's easy to forget that they are first and foremost a group of performers.

They aren't a group of politicians or leftist radicals. They're artists.

Regardless of your beliefs, Fun. deserved a presence at our college by the merits of their art alone.

Glitzy lights, big stage, sold-out arena — never before has such a bombastic concert been held at Calvin. Not only was this the biggest concert Calvin has ever hosted, but it was one of the biggest crowds Fun. had ever performed for.

I've seen Fun. live several times now. It's been a pleasure to watch them go from an ignored opening act at a Paramore concert to headlining sold-out shows. But after seeing them before, I was worried that I've seen all that they have to offer — what if I get bored? I've over-listened their music to the point of chronically skipping them when listening to my iPod on random.

But halfway into the opening song “Carry On,” I leaned over to my friend and said, “I forgot how great Fun. shows are!” The drums are loud and bright, the guitar and piano play off each other with happy riffs, and Nate Ruess' voice soars over it all with more sincerity and power than

the entire top 40 chart combined.

Fun. burst from song to song without ever stopping to catch their breath; lengthening songs in places and adding plenty of musical interludes. As a live act, they excel.

A Fun. show wouldn't be a Fun. show without being...fun. They don't write dance music, but they do write music brimming with joy. At the end of “Barlights,” when the lights were

But live, it works. Towards the end, Ruess asked the audience to sing along with him, which they eagerly did, and for a while, he just stood and listened.

In response, all he could say was, “Wow. You guys are awesome.”

Thankfully, the night's set list included a good mix of old and new. Unfortunately, some of Fun.'s best tracks from the old album still got left by the wayside. I was really hoping for “Be Calm” or

“Walking the Dog,” but both were left out to make space for more music from “Some Nights.” And, of course, the show wasn't without its message.

During the encore, before playing their song “One Foot,” lead guitarist Jack Antonoff said, “Some of us here believe in God and some of us don't, but those of us who do know that God loves black people, white people, men, women and ... we also know that God loves gay people.” He's right, of course. But, right or wrong,

it doesn't matter.

We engage with music when it is well-crafted, thoughtful and good; not when it aligns with every point on our list of beliefs.

At the end of the show, right before the very last song, Nate held up two fingers and breathlessly told the audience “Two. Top two show.”

After all the hubbub leading up to this show, I'm glad we could give that to them.



PHOTO BY MICHELLE RATERING

A burst of paper confetti exploded out of two large cannons and into the audience during the final phrases of Fun.'s song “Barlights.”

brightest and the music loudest, Fun. flooded the arena with confetti while jubilantly singing “I feel alive.”

Whether stomping and fist-pumping to “Some Nights,” waving their phones during “Stars,” or zealously singing every word of every song, the audience always fed Fun.'s atmosphere. One of the highlights of the night was their performance of their chart-topping single “We Are Young.”

Normally, I don't like this song.

is tense and it's entertaining to watch them butt heads throughout the episodes. Buzz Sugar's Becky Kirsch describes the situation perfectly.

“If you're a fan of American Horror Story or Friday Night



FILE PHOTO

Lights, you know what a joy it is to see Britton in action,” Buzz Sugar's Becky Kirsch gushes. “She's a perfect fit for Rayna, whom you root for but never

Lewis a powerhouse performer

BY CHRISTIAN BECKER
Staff Writer

The biggest thing you'll hear about Steven Spielberg's biopic about our nation's 16th president is how spot-on Daniel Day-Lewis looks as Abraham Lincoln. Pictures surfaced on the Internet months ago, and people were immediately hooked by them. Daniel Day-Lewis is such a great actor that his appearance in the movie should be the only selling point needed.

In fact, just look at the poster. It's a black and white picture of him, and that's it. The more I look at this poster the more I realize how it perfectly reflects the movie as a whole. It's truly a pure acting piece. This is a film about a brief-but-important moment in Lincoln's life that doesn't have much flavor to spice it up, but it's an interesting history lesson nonetheless.

The powerhouse performances are the driving force behind this film. Day-Lewis embodies Lincoln

perfectly and his actions and expressions alone are enough to convince you of this.

He is not the standout for me personally, though. The actor who really steals the show is Tommy Lee Jones as Thaddeus Stevens. He brings much needed energy to the screen and seeing where his character goes provides great entertainment.

Other standout performances that I must mention include Joseph Gordon-Levitt as Lincoln's eldest son and David Strathairn as his Secretary of State. Both these actors aren't given the amount of screen time I was hoping for, but they make the best of what they do have. The rest of the cast is in fine form, just not memorable. They are more of an afterthought. You look at someone like John Hawkes or Jackie Earle Haley and you think, “Okay, they are really good,” but when thinking back on the movie, they aren't the ones that come to mind at all.

Overall, this is about Lincoln and his men trying to get amendment to the constitution passed to

abolish slavery. It makes for an interesting premise and is one that should be noticed by everyone.

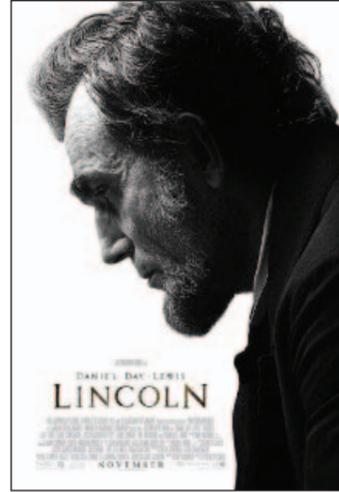
But there were many other side stories and other things going on around and to the characters that I would have loved to see more of. The relationship Lincoln had with his sons and his wife were some of my favorite scenes and I really loved watching them interact, but their screen time was, unfortunately, limited. The way the film was structured, I would be sitting there loving what was presented one minute, really getting sucked in, and then other times I would feel bored and uninvolved with that was happening on screen. I think instead of a feature film,

this may have worked better as a miniseries, telling Lincoln's full story in such a hyped-up way. It worked out well for John Adams back in 2008. I'm sure this would have been even superior to that.

When working on a period drama, the “look” is key. Everything in this film, from the lighting to the costumes, was done to perfection. Even the

way it was filmed made you feel like you were watching something older, something we don't see too often these days. Shots are stable, no real camera tricks, just old-fashioned stuff. But the most impressive thing about its look is Abe Lincoln. Everything from his beard to his coat is exactly how I always pictured him in my mind and what I've seen in history textbooks.

If it sounds like I didn't like the film, I just want to get this out there: I did like it. I thought it was a good film, just not the one I was really hoping for or expected from the great Steven Spielberg. I felt with a running time of two and a half hours, I would have had my fill of knowledge of Mr. Lincoln and the time period itself, but I feel like the story was holding back and we only got to see them scratch the surface of what they could have done. Still, with entertaining scenes sprinkled throughout, powerhouse acting and a look and feel that makes you feel as if you are actually there, this is a movie that should not be ignored.



FILE PHOTO

ABC's 'Nashville' a welcome addition to music show lineup

BY SIERRA SAVELA
Staff Writer

I wouldn't necessarily call myself a country music fan. I would say, however, that I'm a mild appreciator of the genre. But even with my tendency to be open, I was still a little hesitant about watching ABC's new show, “Nashville.” My first impression was that it is just ABC's attempt to compete with other networks that also have musical series like Fox's “Glee” and NBC's “Smash.”

It didn't seem to catch my eye in any way but I watched it nonetheless. I can say with confidence that this show is entertaining and will probably only get more compelling with time.

The show “Nashville,” unsurprisingly, is about the country music industry and politics of Nashville, Tennessee. Connie Britton stars as Rayna Jaymes, a country superstar who is forced to face the reality that her fame and

success is fading. She has no option but to team up with a younger, rising star, named Juliette Barnes (Hayden Panettiere) in order to save her tour. Now if that doesn't sound interesting enough, there are about a dozen other characters, each with their own compelling story, issues and skeletons.

Connie Britton is fantastic. If you have ever seen Friday Night Lights, you know just how talented she is. Her acting is raw, never forced; it's refreshing. Panettiere also does a fantastic job playing the bratty girl you love to hate. The rivalry between the two

Paul White. It was so chilling and catchy that after the pilot ended I immediately bought it on iTunes and I haven't stopped listening to it since. Even Hayden Panettiere's character resembles a more scandalous and more country-sounding Taylor Swift. Her songs have that same pop-country crossover feel that Swift is so popular for. All the songs are really well written and well performed.

If for some reason the music aspect doesn't appeal to you, the show really does have much more to offer. The storyline is compelling and acting is great. Like Tim Goodman wrote for the Hollywood Reporter,

“All in all, it's an entertaining hour of fine acting, writing and ambition,” writes Tim Goodman for the Hollywood Reporter. “Even if you're not a country music fan, the rest of ‘Nashville’ is singing a different, intriguing tune.”

Watch Nashville, Wednesdays at 10 p.m. on ABC.

ORCA vs. Narwhal: Romney’s tech campaign falls short

BY ANDREW PRUIJ
Staff Writer

This campaign season we saw the rise of memes and GIFs as political communicators. While it is unclear that they had any effect on the outcome of the campaign, their widespread existence can likely be attributed (beyond their humor) to increased technology access. One place that this access is seen to be increasing is in the role of the mobile device.

In an attempt to harness the power of smartphones for his campaign, presidential candidate Mitt Romney developed a program code-named ORCA. ORCA was to be “a web app to search for and mark off voters as they left the polling location,” reported Adi Robertson in *The Verge*. Created and managed by Romney’s campaign, the program “was supposed to be incredibly efficient and allow the campaign to streamline, from its War Room at the Garden in Boston, the efforts to maximize turnout of Romney backers,” according to POLITICO sources.

Furthermore Republican volunteers, such as John Ekdahl according to his posting on Ace of Spades HQ, were promised that “Project ORCA is a massive undertaking — the Republican Party’s newest, unprecedented and most technologically advanced plan to win the 2012 presidential election.” It is not unreasonable then that many Republicans had high hopes before the campaign that it would compete with Obama’s Narwhal program come election day.

The results on election day, however, were far from satisfactory. Amidst claims that the system had crashed and maybe even been hacked, a number of logistic problems became apparent in what some people now call “Romney’s fail whale.” The *Verge* summarized the problem: “Orca seemed to suffer from a combination of technical errors and a confusing training program that made it easy to think something had gone wrong even at the best of times.” Among the things that went wrong with the ORCA program were the FAQ, site navigation and setup instructions, system failure and their phone in help line.

Missing and incorrect informa-

tion in FAQs/guides provided for the volunteers in the ORCA program should of been a warning sign from the beginning for things to come. The most obvious error was that bringing a chair was listed twice on participants’ to-do lists, while other instructions were left off. Important instructions such as the need to get a pass in order to remain at the polls resulted in many volunteers

in those stores because the app was actually a “web app,” an arm of an actual website.

In his review of what went wrong with ORCA, John Ekdahl looked at the second problem, “Setting up forwarding [from http to https] is the simplest thing in the world and only takes seconds, but they failed to do it.” Because the web address for ORCA didn’t forward, those who navigated to

wrong. In addition, the reset PIN function was not operational.

If campaign volunteers had not given up by this time, they were next faced with the problem of getting help. This was a problem because the helpline only worked intermittently. When the whole ORCA system went down for half an hour during peak voting, many people just got up and left the phone banks. The Washington

summarize the results of the day “30,000+ of the most active and fired-up volunteers were wandering around confused and frustrated when they could have been doing anything else to help.”

While acknowledging that there were problems, Romney campaign digital director Zac Moffatt pointed out that it was not as bad as some made it seem. Moffatt told *Ars*’s Sean Gallagher that “91 percent of counties in the targeted states came in, and that we had 14.5 million people who were marked as having voted. And there were 4,397 reports of incidents that we were able to pass to our legal department.” In addition Moffatt pointed out that, “It’s really hard to go up against someone who has four years of lead time.”

On the other side of the aisle, Obama’s Narwhal program seems to have met with better success. The program has been working “below the surface, invisible to the outside world” claims Sasha Issenberg, who writes for *Slate*. The goal of the Narwhal program is to develop long term unified voter profiles that fuse “the on-line activist, the offline voter, the donor [and] the volunteer.” The resulting data efficiency allowed Obama’s canvassers to no longer knock on the doors of those who have already volunteered and switched over email lists from donations to volunteers when the maximum amount was reached.

On their blog, Media Research TV says that Michael Slaby, Obama’s integration and innovation officer, believes his program promotes “treating people like people.” And that any magic the Obama campaign has comes through its grassroots approach both in person and through technology. This grassroots approach has taken the last four years to build.

Future candidates can learn some important lessons from both of these technological campaigns. First, that developing a good system that both gathers and allows access to data takes time and careful planning. Second, that the human element must not be ignored. If you want a program to be used by the masses, it needs to be understood by the masses. Third, an election campaign contains many elements, and while no single element will make or break it, every element is important.



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Poll watchers used the Romney campaign’s ORCA app to keep track of those who voted.

being kicked out.

Not to mention the fact that the system required volunteers to print out 60+ page PDFs (if they received them at all) the night before the election. One volunteer described the situation as unreasonable saying, “They expected 75-80 year old veteran volunteers to print out 60+ pages on their home computers?”

The next problem that many volunteers experienced was with the navigation instructions to get to the “web app” portion of ORCA. Initially, many people thought ORCA would use a traditional Apple or Android app. However, users were frustrated when they couldn’t locate the app

the site normally (starting with http or www) couldn’t view the secure (https) page on which it was hosted. This resulted in more confusion over whether or not ORCA was even up and running throughout the day.

Once a volunteer had gotten over the first two hurdles, he or she faced one more problem: the log in. Throughout the course of the day, people continued to report that they couldn’t get into the web app to provide updated information to the campaign headquarters. It turns out that a large portion of those who could not log in were in Colorado and North Carolina, where some reports say every PIN issued was

Examiner received a report that “somebody said ORCA is lying on the beach with a harpoon in it.”

A key factor in ORCA’s death was an insufficient beta testing process that may never have been “stress tested” from the Boston campaign center, before it was turned on at 6 a.m. on election day. This was not helped by campaign aides who continued to insist that ORCA was not “problem-plagued.”

It is not surprising then, that there were poor results. John Ekdahl said, “I never got a call to go out and vote. So, who the hell knows if that end of it was working either.” He went on to

the liver has been poor because standard chemotherapy’s effect is limited by the unwanted damage the drug causes to the rest of the body.” These effects include fatigue, nausea, sudden hair loss and other damage to organs and general health.

The solution that was found for this issue was to cut off the liver from the body temporarily and immerse it in chemotherapy drugs, thus minimizing the damage caused by the toxic chemicals.

The liver is not removed from the abdomen. Instead, it is cut off from the body’s bloodstream for around 60 minutes with

inflated balloons. At that point, the liver is filled with the drugs. Once the opera-

tion is finished, the liver is reconnected to the body, but not before the vast majority of the drugs are filtered out of the blood, thus minimizing the effects of the drug on the rest of the body.

“To cut off an organ from the body for 60 minutes, soak it in a high dose of drug and then filter the blood almost completely clean before returning is truly groundbreaking,” said Dr. Stedman.

He also emphasized that this treatment technique was not exclusive to the liver. Though it would be difficult if not impossible to apply to organs like the heart, it could be used with respect to the co-

lon, breast, kidneys, and lungs.

“In 20 years’ time the idea of injecting a drug which poisons the whole body for a cancer in just one small area will seem bonkers” (BBC).

This new option for treatment, officially known as percutaneous hepatic perfusion (PHP), has been tested in the United States, Germany, Ireland, France and Italy for years, and studies are promising significant improvements in patient health. “Results of a recent study in the U.S. showed patients who received PHP survived five times longer before the disease progressed than those who had standard chemotherapy” (Daily Mail).

With one in three people being affected by cancer at some point in their life (CDC), there is an urgency in discovering new methods for combating the spread and fatality of the disease in those who are affected. This new technique and many others are contributing to a sense for cancer victims that it is not only survivable but increasingly easier to treat in many cases.

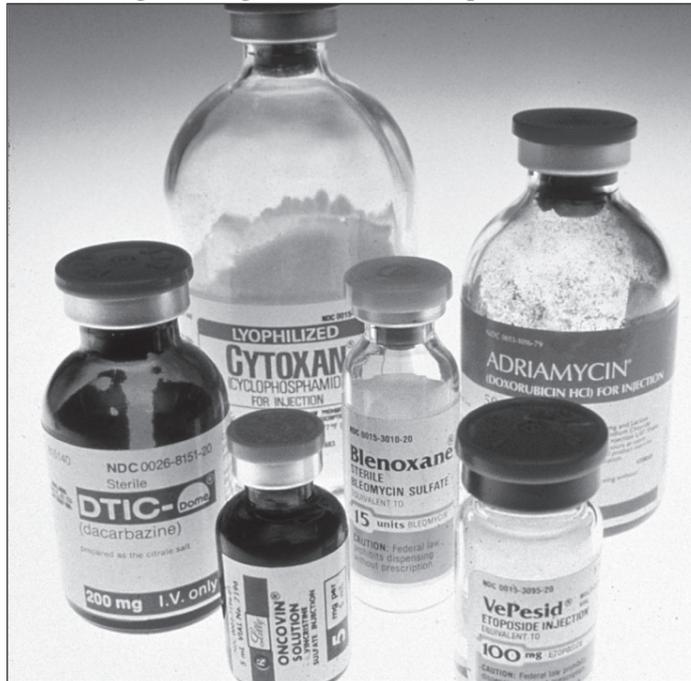
New chemotherapy technique improves cancer survival rates

BY JONATHAN HIELKEMA
Staff Writer

Although it claims hundreds of thousands of lives per year in the United States alone, cancer is, in many cases, a treatable disease. There are, however, still significant challenges for patients who are undergoing cancer treatment, and one of the most difficult is that cancer treatments are toxic to healthy tissues as well as to cancerous tumors. However, a new technique for administering chemotherapy being pioneered in the United Kingdom could prove advantageous for decreasing the risks associated with cancer treatment.

At the Southampton General Hospital, doctors treating two patients were confronted with a problem: their patients were afflicted with a rare form of eye cancer that spread to the liver.

Dr. Brian Stedman, a consultant radiologist, told the BBC, “Previously, the outlook for patients specifically suffering from cancer which has spread to



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Targeted chemotherapy minimizes chemo drug damage.

“ I have been around a long time, and have never seen a school go six for seven in conference championships in a league as tough as the MIAA.

Jim Timmer, “Calvin boasts great fall season”

Men win regionals, women take third

Both teams will run at nationals this weekend in IN

BY JEFF MEITLER
Staff Writer

The Yule Golf course in Alexandria, IN was the setting for the second-place nationally ranked men's team to win their 17th consecutive regional title and qualify for nationals while the No. 6 ranked women placed third, only 12 points out of first place.

On the men's side, the top 15 places were littered with Calvin runners. Senior Dan Kerr was in dominant form, dueling with Bill Jones from St. Francis in the second half of the race for the honor of regional champion. Both runners took turns leading, and Jones barely edged out Kerr across the finish line in 24:26. After the race the two could be seen chatting and taking pictures together, not an unusual activity for Kerr, who is in his fifth year of racing.

Senior Nick Kramer, who hadn't raced in two months, stuck with the chase pack and finished fourth in 24:49. Senior Job Christiansen ran alone almost the entire race between the chase pack and a large pack behind him, holding his own in a very talented field and finishing in sixth place with a time of 25:13.

Just outside of the top ten in 11th was senior David Vandebunte in 25:26, in the midst of a breakout season himself. Thirteenth was senior Matt VanderRoest in 25:29. Junior Greg Whittle was 24th in 25:56 and junior Sam Kerk completed the team in 26:06. The

team scored 36 points, which was more than enough for the win.

The race marked the returns of both All-American and steeplechase national champion Nick Kramer, recovering from a femoral stress-fracture, and All-American Matt VanderRoest, who had shin problems. Kramer hadn't raced since the first race of the year, the Knight Invite, which he won with ease. Both athletes will be key ingredients in the quest for a national title next week.

“We had a very encouraging men's race,” said Calvin head coach Brian Diemer. “Nick Kramer and Matt VanderRoest were our wild cards going in and they were terrific. The challenge now is to keep those guys going for one more week and I'm confident we can do that. Our team is very excited and looking forward to the challenge of racing for a championship next week.”

The fifth-place nationally ranked women's team had a few positives as well, but they didn't quite do enough to get the automatic qualifying bid for nationals. Hope's women won the meet with 91 points. Oberlin took second with 95 points. Calvin grabbed

third with 103 points.

Two women finished in the top ten; junior Nicole Michmerhuizen finished fifth in 21:49 and senior Alyssa Penning finished ninth in 21:59. A breakout race from sophomore Kate Ardinger was a highlight for the girls' team, placing 18th in 22:16. In 36th was sophomore Kimby Penning, and 38th was freshman Mackenzie Diemer to round out the scoring. Junior Alyssa Oram finished 42nd and Lizzy Vannette 63rd.

“We had a little separation with our second group,” Diemer said. “The key for our runners is to stay in contact with a teammate and we got broken up a bit with that strategy. We are still hopeful that our team will receive an at-large selection for next week and if that happens, we will use the lessons learned today next Saturday.”

This weekend both teams will be competing for national titles in Terre Haute, IN. The men are looking to end their six-year title drought and the women hope to get back on the podium.



ANDERSON UNIVERSITY
Greg Whittle ran well at regionals.

HISTORIC: Calvin boasts great fall season

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

large bid to the national meet. According to head coach Brian Diemer, there is much work to be done to get ready for nationals.

“The key for our runners is to stay in contact with a teammate and we got broken up a bit with that strategy,” said Diemer shortly after the regional meet. “We will use the lessons learned today next Saturday.”

Coming off of an appearance in the NCAA National Championship game a season ago, the Calvin men's soccer team began the season under first-year head coach Ryan Souders. The Knights captured the MIAA regular season and tournament championships with a record of 16-3-1 (12-1-1 MIAA)

after beginning the season 2-3. Calvin advanced to the NCAA III Men's Soccer Tournament for the sixth straight year. Calvin fell to DePauw 3-0 in the first round.

The senior class, consisting of Nick Holtrop, Joe Broekhuizen, Dan Nederhood, Jared Rushlau, Trevor Bushhouse and Chris Nance graduate as the most successful class in Calvin history. Besides this season's accomplishments, they have made two appearances in the NCAA Division III national finals as well as a quarterfinal appearance.

According to head coach Ryan Souders, the senior class has left a lasting impact on the men's soccer program.

“Losing and ending a season never becomes normal,” said Souders. “If our senior class is judged on today, things are kind of lost in translation. This is a group of guys that elevated what was a very good program to a program that expects to win the conference, expects to be in



CALVIN.EDU
Senior Nick Holtrop was named MIAA MVP in men's soccer this year.

the national tournament, and expects to play many games in the national tournament. That is quite a legacy to leave; to take a program that was and is very good, to the next level, is a huge accomplishment to them and an incredible job on their part.”

Holtrop, Broekhuizen and Nederhood were named All-MIAA. In addition, Holtrop earned the MIAA Most Valuable Player award.

In the MIAA preseason coaches' poll, the Calvin women's soccer team was picked to finish fifth. The Knights proved everyone wrong, winning the conference on the final day of the regular season with a 2-1 overtime

win over Adrian. A week later, Calvin defeated Hope in overtime in the MIAA Tournament finals, earning a trip to the NCAA Division III Women's Soccer Tournament. Calvin headed to Dubuque, Iowa, to play Aurora University. Calvin shocked the 19-1-1 Spartans, winning again in overtime 1-0. Calvin's season came to an end a day later, however, as the Knights fell to host Loras College 4-2, ending the season with a record of 16-5-1.

According to head coach Mark Recker, Calvin fans have a lot to look forward to in coming years.

“All in all, we had a great season,” Recker said. “We had a very young team and proved a lot of people wrong. I'm excited to see what this group can do going forward.”

Four Knights earned All-MIAA honors. Senior Francesca Smith, junior Danielle Carter and freshman Taylor Ten Harmsel earned spots on the All-MIAA first team. Freshman Sydney Kinney was the lone Knight on the All-MIAA second team.

The men's golf team captured its second MIAA title ever and second in three seasons. The Knights finished ten strokes ahead of rival Hope. Seniors Ben Kuiper and Dave Sarkipato earned All-MIAA honors. Calvin will take part in the MIAA's NCAA Spring Qualifying Tournament and will host two of the three rounds at Watermark Country Club. The course is located approximately five minutes from Calvin's campus.

According to Calvin head men's golf coach Brian Bolt, the

Volleyball on to nationals

BY JUSTIN VANDEN ENDE
On-Call Writer

The Knights never really seemed to be in total control of their game Saturday night, but it wouldn't matter because in the fifth set — with their season on the line — the Knights delivered.

The No. 1 Calvin's volleyball team won its second NCAA D-III regional final in three years in front of more than 1,700 fans, defeating No. 2 Wittenberg University 23-25, 25-18, 23-25, 26-24, 15-12.

“We talked about being relentless all day and I think we did that,” said Amber Warners, Calvin's head coach.

The match lived up to the hype as the top two teams in the country battled for the regional championship for a third year in a row. “That was a really epic game,” said Wittenberg head coach Paco Labrador.

Wittenberg had eliminated Calvin last year en route to a national championship — no doubt a motivating factor for the Knights.

“Last year was in our minds all game,” said Calvin sophomore Emily Crowe. The tension was high in Van Noord Arena throughout the match.

“It kind of felt like the national championship,” said Wittenberg junior Andrea Behling.

Warners agreed, saying that the level of competition in this region is higher than anywhere in the country.

“This regional could have been the national championship all

weekend,” she said.

The Knights came out hitting strong, but their true game never seemed to come to them. It was an internal battle for the Knights all game long as they made a fair number of unforced errors.

“We were ahead in all the stats except the score,” said Warners, talking about the losses in the first and third sets. “The good thing is, [the team's] upswing was better than their downswing tonight.”

Indeed, the Knights got it together in a big way for the fifth set, thanks to some superb play from the back row and from Crowe. “I've always loved fifth games because I love being under pressure,” said Crowe.

Calvin had an incredible 18 team blocks compared to Wittenberg's 8 blocks. Senior Jen Pluymer led the defense with 20 digs while senior Kelly Gordon had 18.

Lizzie Kamp tallied 24 kills on a .352 attacking percentage, while also contributing 15 digs.

Junior Megan Rietema was named most outstanding player in the regional tournament after the game: she finished with an outstanding 13 kills, 51 assists and 15 digs.

The Knights will play in the national quarterfinals on Thursday at Hope College, the home of this year's national tournament.

“I'm pumped for nationals at Hope this year. It's kind of like a second home for us,” said Rietema.

The last two years these teams have met in the regional final, the winner has gone on to win the national championship.

final round conditions at Albion were difficult.

“We are thrilled to finish as [regular season] league cham-



CALVIN.EDU
Senior Lizzie Kamp, number 13, was named MIAA MVP in volleyball this year.

pion,” said Bolt after the Knights clinched the league title. “Playing out in front as the league leader creates pressure, but our guys fought through and turned in the scores to get the job done. The conditions today were not easy. The wind was very brisk and the pin placements were difficult.”

The women's volleyball team finished the regular season with a record of 28-2. Calvin swept the MIAA regular season, drop-

ping only two sets in the process. The Knights earned the MIAA Tournament title with a thrilling five-set victory over Hope. This past weekend, Calvin hosted and won the Great Lakes region in the NCAA Division III Volleyball Tournament, defeated defending national champion Wittenberg in the finals. The Knights move on to the national quarterfinals, which will be played at Hope College this weekend.

According head coach Amber Warners, her team needs to remain focused during the entire week.

“Winning the MIAA and regional titles are great accomplishments,” Warners said. “But we have a lot to work on to get ready for nationals. We are going to try and get better each day, and take one match at a time.”

Senior Lizzie Kamp was named the MIAA Most Valuable Player. Joining her in being named All-MIAA were junior Megan Rietema, sophomore Emily Crowe and freshman Maggie Kamp.

Jim Timmer Jr. has been director of men's athletics at Calvin, his alma mater, since 2006. He has never seen any school, let alone Calvin, have this much success in a single season.

“I have been around a long time, and have never seen a school go six for seven in conference championships in a league as tough as the MIAA,” Timmer said. “It is a testament to the hard work of our coaches and student-athletes.”

The fall sports season will end this upcoming weekend, but this season will have a lasting impact on sports season to come.

“Success breeds success,” said Timmer. “The more success you have, the greater the chance is for you to sustain that success.”

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CAMPUS SAFETY REPORT

11/7/2012
Campus safety took a report of a larceny of a bicycle from the bike rack outside of Kappa apartments. The bicycle, a black Trek, was stolen sometime between 11/6/12 and 11/7/12. The bicycle had been locked up at the time and was registered with campus safety. There was no suspect information and were no witnesses to the theft. The student was given the information on the bicycle and advised to make a report with the Grand Rapids Police Department as well.

11/9/2012
Campus safety took a report of the larceny of a Calvin College flag from the flag pole outside of the Spoelhof College Center. The flag was stolen sometime between 11/8/12 and 11/9/12. There were no witnesses and no known suspects to the theft.

11/9/2012
Campus safety took a report of a larceny of money from an apartment in Lambda Hall. The theft occurred sometime between 11/7/12 at 6:00 p.m. and 11/9/12 at 12:00 p.m. There was no known suspect or witness to the theft

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Visual Arts Guild presents our annual fall event, sub_arts: KNOTS! Located in the Spoelhof Center basement, this is a free event today from 6 p.m.- 9 p.m. There will be student art, activities, food and fun! Submissions for student art is still welcome — just drop it off in the painting studio (SC 101). FREE T-SHIRTS if you submit and/or volunteer! For more information please contact Megan McCrary at mym3@students.calvin.edu.

DID YOU KNOW?

The weekly campus safety report as well as each week's chapel schedule are available on our website, www.calvin.edu/chimes.

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Spinning toys
- 5 — -relief
- 8 Help with a crime
- 12 Beehive State
- 13 Every last bit
- 14 Crooner Jerry
- 15 Use a teaspoon
- 16 Spy-novel org.
- 17 "... and to — good-night!"
- 18 Alaskan brown bear
- 20 "GWTW" hero
- 22 To the — degree
- 23 Trail behind
- 24 Spoof
- 27 Locales for snuffing
- 32 Commotion
- 33 Gun lobby grp.
- 34 Wrestling surface
- 35 Confined
- 38 Moist in the morn
- 39 A billion years
- 40 Prepare Easter eggs
- 42 Surprise attack
- 45 Chocolate-

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| 42 | 43 | | | | | 44 | | 45 | | | 46 | 47 | 48 |
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- coated treat
- 49 "Buenos —"
- 50 Playwright Levin
- 52 Corn territory
- 53 Lobs' paths
- 54 Book spine abbr.
- 55 Blueprint additions
- 56 Create
- 57 Conger, e.g.
- 58 T, in Morse code
- 5 Tennis stroke
- 6 "The Greatest"
- 7 Thick chunk
- 8 Computer user's icon
- 9 Situation
- 10 Model Macpherson
- 11 Rend
- 19 What @ means
- 21 Last (Abbr.)
- 24 Jongg preceder
- 25 Praise in verse
- 26 Retort
- 28 — Lanka
- 29 Court pastime
- 30 Deviate off course
- 31 Pigpen
- 36 Fluffy dessert
- 37 Type units
- 38 Just said no
- 41 Rocky's greeting
- 42 Leading man?
- 43 Actress Sorvino
- 44 Apiary home
- 46 Gaucho's weapon
- 47 Temple University team
- 48 Humorous poet gden
- 51 Fish eggs

DOWN

- 1 Walrus feature
- 2 "Beetle Bailey" dog
- 3 Remunerated
- 4 Psychiatrist

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CryptoQuip

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

Clue: **A** equals **D**

TZ NLPHWLAX TN RHKYMTMO

SDH KYS LZ PLBMSKTM

IRTPWTMO, AL SDHX NSBAX

SDHTY IRTZZ MLSHN?

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“ We college students get so caught up in schoolwork that we seem to have lost the ability to read for pleasure.

Abby Zwart, Editorial

”

FROM THE EDITOR



Thanksgiving break, in all its culinary, commercialistic, drowsy and familial goodness, is coming soon. Next week, in fact. You're ready, aren't you? It's an oasis of a weekend before finals panic sets in, and the food is just so much better than the dining hall or Tuesday's dry, leftover pasta.

It's also a great time to catch up on homework. Or maybe even get ahead? Nah. I know you've got a lot to do this break. You have to power through two whole hours of Uncle Louis' war stories, sit on the couch watching (or avoiding, in my case) football for the next three, and then get in line at 5 a.m. to buy that much-coveted box set of "Gilmore Girls" for only \$2.54. It's a tough life, I know.

But if I may, I'd like to add one more activity to your list. Read a book.

"What?!" you exclaim.

"Psh. I don't have time to read a book." Well, do you have time to pin fourteen recipes for pumpkin pie/cheesecake/muffins/bars/playdough/candles/cement to your board "OMG delicious!!" on Pinterest? I thought so. You have time to read a book.

We college students get so caught up in schoolwork that we seem to have lost the ability to read for pleasure. We simply don't have time to fit in Stephen King between Satre and Steinbeck. And even if we had time, we're just really sick of reading. I read a good 20-30 pages of textbooks and journal articles every day, and after all of that, I really just want to veg out and watch "The Walking Dead." Or sleep. Maybe.

Don't you miss the days when your mom would drive you to the library and you'd fill a totebag so full with books that you had to drag it over to the checkout desk because it was too heavy to lift?

Was that just me? Oh.

But didn't reading used to be fun? It could be mindless or exciting or transporting. Stories and characters could enthrall. They were memorable.

Pick out a book to read over the long weekend. Give your brain a break. You can pick something easy, I won't tell. Read a young adult novel. Honestly, I'm thinking about rereading "The Hunger Games." It's really good, okay? Or maybe I'll run to the store and grab a copy of Louise Erdrich's "The Round House," which won the National Book Award Wednesday night. Can't even think about reading a whole novel? You're pathetic. But, try a book of poetry. Heck, half a book of poetry. Schuler's has a great poetry selection and a bunch of really enthusiastic staff people who can help you pick out something good.

Really, just read something for fun. I don't care what it is. I might even accept a magazine. TIME or something if that's your idea of fun. Don't let that pleasure reading part of your brain turn to mush. You might need it when you're old.

~ajz

Methodology of ranking questionable

BY JULIA SMITH
Sexuality Series Director

I have followed with interest the recent *Chimes* reporting on LGBT issues, especially the question of Calvin's place on the Princeton Review "LGBT-unfriendly" ranking list. The list is attention-grabbing, but before making too many assumptions, we should take a moment to understand it more fully.

Schools in the Review's "top 373 colleges" (not all schools in the nation, as has been claimed) take the survey once every three years. They can offer it to as many or as few students as they choose. The Review's website states that the average number of respondents per school is 325, and at least one school has only ten. Nothing prevents a school from sending the survey to a targeted group of students. The scores of the 20 ranked schools in each list are not given — there may be wide variance between them, or not; we just don't know. What we can say is that the ranking lists are impressionistic, haphazard and not scientifically valid.

At Calvin the entire student body is invited to take the Princeton Review survey via student news. This last happened in Dec. 2010, so our rankings in both

2011 and 2012 were based on that information. Our 2013 rankings will also be based on the same results, since we don't take the survey again till Dec. 2013. Note that other schools on the list take the survey in different years, so their results affect Calvin's ranking place even though our score remains the same for three years.

The LGBT unfriendly list is based on answers to the question, "Do students, faculty, and administrators at your college treat all persons equally regardless of their sexual orientations and gender identity/expression?" It's really 3 questions in one, each of which raises further questions. And it has no room for nuance or a diversity of theological convictions. Are we talking about students using slurs and saying "that's so gay"? There is too much of that language among Calvin students (our own survey from fall 2011 found that 82 percent of respondents have heard "that's so gay" or other offensive language from Calvin students). Are we talking about students feeling uncomfortable because a professor seems more conservative or liberal than they would like? Are we talking about the stated theology of the Christian Reformed Church? Are we talking about equality in financial aid? Grading? Admissions? Concerts? Gender-

neutral bathrooms? Are we talking about people asking if you're dating and assuming you're straight? Are we applying the question to ourselves: "Do I treat all people equally?"

Calvin's own 2011 Sexuality Series survey showed that LGBT and questioning students do feel less safe than their heterosexual peers at Calvin, especially emotionally. We all need to be aware of this, and strive to be a more supportive community. Interestingly though, the data also showed that the overall estimation of the student body regarding LGBTQ students is inaccurate: LGBTQ students believe they are faring significantly better than students in general think they are. I believe it's important for us to recognize this perception gap, without in any way minimizing the struggles that many non-heterosexual students do face.

It is also worth remembering that all our students come to Calvin bringing assumptions with them. By the time they are seniors, 70 percent of respondents agree that a person can be gay (referring to orientation, not sexual activity) and Christian. This compares to only 45 percent of first year respondents who agree. So the CRC's message that no one is excluded on the basis of sexual orientation is being heard. The other main plank of the CRC's and Calvin's position — that Scripture prohibits same-sex partnerships — is also held by a majority of students who took our survey.

So let's understand the Princeton Review ranking lists. More importantly, let's ask Jesus to lead us through the interconnected set of topics raised by sexual difference and cultural change in our society. There are complex issues of theology and hermeneutics at stake, of justice in a pluralist democracy, of sexual ethics, biology and psychology. And, of course, the well-being of all people, dearly loved by God.

Letters to the editor

Student news needs redesign

Dear Editor,

I am writing about "Why you should read student news," by Catherine Kramer. The student mail is probably best described as the daily spam that piles my inbox. After the first few days of my college career when I was caught up in the college hype, I would diligently read everything that came to my student mail. However as the days slowly progress and the times spent on reading books and texts on screens prolong, the task of simply reading the headlines for the student mail became an incredibly arduous task. Judge me for my laziness but most college students are drowning in the ocean of reading assignments. When students are trying ever so hard to escape any more reading, the last thing they want is another standardized times new roman font or the equivalent headlines of upcoming events. I don't dare argue about the importance of the student news and Catherine has done an amazing job demonstrating the necessity of it, but I think the format of the mail could be more enticing. I suggest that the emails should have colors that enable the headlines to grab the eye's attention and also use different fonts to stylize. I believe student news should be different from the lackluster readings from school, and an effective way to do this is to make it more exciting.

Yechan Lim, '16

Efficacy of petition doubtful

Dear Editor,

I read and signed the [LGBT change.org] petition. I had a friend that was considering attending Calvin, he was openly gay at his high school but hesitated often when he was enrolling because he was unsure of how people would react towards his sexual orientation. He ended up not attending Calvin, not necessarily because of his sexual orientation, but because of other reasons, but one of his reasons was he was unsure whether or not he would be welcomed into the community. Being a supporter of LGBT rights and people, I want them to feel welcomed into a community that is supposed to be a loving one, devoted to serving God. It makes me sad because, so far in my first semester here at Calvin I have felt welcomed despite where I've come from, and what I've been through. To see that a group of students is somewhat singled out because of their sexual preference makes me sad since we are supposed to be a loving community. However, I don't know what signing a petition will do to change the attitudes and positions of people towards LGBT students. I hope we can change our position but I do not count on it very much.

Caitlin Smits, '16

Volleyball article captured spirit of game

Dear Editor,

I really enjoyed the article "Volleyball wins regional title in five-set thriller verse Wittenberg." I attended the game, and I thought the article gave a very accurate description of the atmosphere of the game. There was indeed tension to be felt in the area, due to the lead going back and forth between the two teams. Calvin pulled through, even though it never really felt like they hit

their stride. I loved the quote by the head coach Amber Warners about being relentless, and I feel that they were. Calvin volleyball fought for every point, and they came through victorious in the end. Go Knights!

Lora Huizingh, '16

Operation Christmas Child concert a win-win

Dear Editor,

I am writing about last week's article, "Student senate looks to fulfill mission with Operation Christmas Child concert." I think that this is an amazing opportunity for Calvin students to get involved with not only our community, but with the world. Often, we tend to overlook those who are less fortunate than us and forget that there are many families who are unable to provide gifts for their children at Christmas. For many children, even the smallest gift can mean the world to them, and this is why I believe that Operation Christmas Child is a great cause. We live in a society that is so centered around material things, especially at Christmas times. By getting involved with Operation Christmas Child, we can begin to realize that the greatest gifts are not those that we can buy, but are those that are priceless. Also by involving Bennett in the cause, it will bring in many more students, as concerts at Calvin tend to be very popular entertainment events. The band will be able to get exposure, while also contributing to the Operation Christmas Child cause by having 50 percent of the proceeds donated to the cause. It is a win-win situation that many Calvin students will find appealing, as we love music and helping out our community.

Erin Frantz, '16

Obama ushers in American paradise

Dear Editor,

No people group should be more excited for the future and more specifically the next four years of Barack Obama than college students! We certainly have a lot going for us right now. Firstly we will be facing loads of new jobs, probably more than there are people to fill them, all with good salaries. Life will be good when we're all earning a lot more. Secondly we'll all have free health care. Nevermind that it's paid for by those rich snobs who make more than \$250,000; they don't deserve their money anyway. 50, 60 percent tax rates are not nearly enough; if they make that much they should pay all of their income to the government. Obama's energy policies are surely going to make life easier as well. By 2025 we'll all have limitless free green energy, and we'll be able to drive all those stylish, roomy, electric cars; because they barely use any energy. And lastly, the social utopia. Not only will we have no guns or weapons for people to hurt each other with, but we will have freedom to live any way we want, regardless of anyone's spiritual opinions.

Scott Kamp, '13



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

ANNOUNCEMENTS can be submitted by Calvin students, faculty and staff to be printed in *Chimes* at no cost. Announcements can be sent via e-mail to chimes@calvin.edu or dropped off at the *Chimes* office during the week. Announcements must be received by 5 p.m. Tuesday to run in Friday's paper. Please stick to a limit of 160 characters and send with the subject line "announcement."

Calvin: a recollection

a small glimpse of what our campus was like fifty years ago

