

CALVIN COLLEGE



RECOVERY IN JAPAN PAGE 4



UBUNTU FOR PHONES PAGE 5



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RAVEN REVIEW PAGE 7

Senate passes \$5,000 picnic tables, senators split

BY RYAN STRUYK
Online Editor

Student senate voted to spend almost \$5,000 on putting four picnic tables near the Hekman Library last Tuesday night, but senators were divided on the issue.

"We are spending too much money on something that doesn't necessarily have overwhelming student support," said senator Nathan Slauer, who voted no on the proposal.

Executive vice president Josiah Sinclair disagreed. "We've done

past surveys where the student want is pretty high," he said. "Over the summer, I think they will be used a lot."

The proposal passed by voice vote, but both Slauer and cabinet member Ashley Holmes voted no. Holmes declined comment on her vote.

"We are spending more than \$1,000 for each picnic table, and several hundred dollars is going to put our logos on it," continued Slauer. "Symbolically, we're supporting our own organization more than student opinion."

Putting senate's logos on the

tables will cost between \$400 and \$800, according to estimates.

"I personally think that the fact we're spending several hundred dollars to put our logos on it is poor choices in spending," said Slauer.

The funding comes from student senate's "\$10k initiative," an opportunity for student senate to fund student ideas.

A student first proposed the idea last fall, and senate has been working with physical plant on plans for landscaping and location.

Another idea before senate on Tuesday night was to move

the community garden from the Knollcrest East apartments to the west campus, so that it would be in a more noticeable location.

Senate voted to give the leftover funds — about \$3,500 — to that project, leaving it \$1,500 short. Sinclair is optimistic that an additional fundraiser and extra funding from senate's budget will make up the remaining \$1,500.

But Slauer thought the funding should have gone to the community garden, which had the explicit support of some student groups, first.

"The community garden project is more clearly representative of student groups coming in and [senate] representing them," said Slauer. "Although we're supporting the community garden project, we're not doing it as fully as we could."

Sinclair said that plans had already been in the works for the picnic table project for several months.

"Physical plant was poised to go with a pretty substantial partnership there," said Sinclair.

The landscaping around the picnic tables is slated to start during spring break.

Student section photo wins #WeAreCalvin contest

BY RYAN STRUYK
Online Editor

Senior Drew Sikkema's photo of Calvin's student section during the women's volleyball national finals game took home place in student senate's #WeAreCalvin campaign, gathering 102 of the 1,287 votes cast.

"This picture taken during the championship volleyball game is not only a testament of how great Calvin athletics are, but shows a mighty display of where you can go with 1,500 students behind you," said Sikkema.

Sikkema said that his photo highlights the importance that

letics in the Calvin community, especially the student body," he said.

Sikkema is involved with the Calvin Game Day program, which promotes student participation in and awareness of Calvin athletics.

Second place went to senior Rachel Geib's photo of speech pathology students with 76 votes, and junior Lori Dykstra's photo of two years' worth of Calvin-related tickets took third with 63 votes.

"I love a good opportunity to show some Calvin pride at a game, support peers at or take part in a performance, save money at the movies or adopt a new

as prizes.

A total of 194 photos were submitted during the week-long campaign. Student senate initiated #WeAreCalvin to collect Calvin students' priorities and share them with the planning and priorities committee and the board of trustees.

Junior Yeaji Choi, student body president, said that the major themes that students highlighted

were study abroad programs, residence life, the speech pathology program, the Calvin community and co-curricular activities and events.

"Through this project, we're able to realize that Calvin students value investing in more than an education within the classroom," said Choi. "We also learned that Calvin student highly value relationships and community life."

She plans to present a summary of the results to the planning and priorities committee and the board of trustees, as well as to make all photos and

votes available to Calvin leaders. "Because Calvin students value learning in the classroom and outside the classroom, we hope that administration will con-



Rachel Geib's photo of the speech pathology majors won second place.



PHOTOS COURTESY STUDENT SENATE

Drew Sikkema submitted a photo of sports fans to win first place.

students place on athletics at Calvin.

"As the school moves forward in its financial planning, this picture affirms the impact of ath-

favorite band," said Dykstra. "Calvin gives me all of these opportunities."

Winners received gift certificates to the campus store

tinue investing in linking those opportunities to create a wholesome liberal arts experience," Choi continued.

Senate hopes that these photos would help inform the prioritization process sparked by the college's financial troubles.

"The fact that Calvin students validated the importance of programs, opportunities and experiences through this photo contest enables administrators to make further decisions with more confidence," Choi said.



Lori Dykstra, third place, displays event tickets.

See page 11 for two opinions on the #WeAreCalvin campaign

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

THE OFFICIAL STUDENT
NEWSPAPER OF CALVIN COL-
LEGE SINCE 1907

Carnival overshadowed due to overlap with 'Les Miserables'

BY KELLE DRAGT
Staff Writer

Due to a scheduling conflict between the student activities office's showing of 'Les Miserables' and Nite Life's last event of the year, the carnival attracted fewer students than Nite Life had hoped.

"We put so much effort into this event and were overshadowed by 'Les Miserables.' It's disappointing," said Daniel Joo, one of the four interns working for Nite Life.

The showing of the widely-popular "Les Miserables" was changed from Friday night to Saturday night, causing the under-attendance at the Nite Life event.

However, many of those who attended enjoyed their night.

The carnival was the last event of the year and went from 8:30 p.m. to midnight, with music provided by DJ Zhem.

The athletic center was filled

with assorted bounce houses including an obstacle course, jousting, a giant slide and basketball hoops.

"The carnival was so successful in the fall, that we thought that this would be a great way to end with a bang," said Joo. Students, such as sophomore Melinda Loubser and junior Sydney Carrick agree.

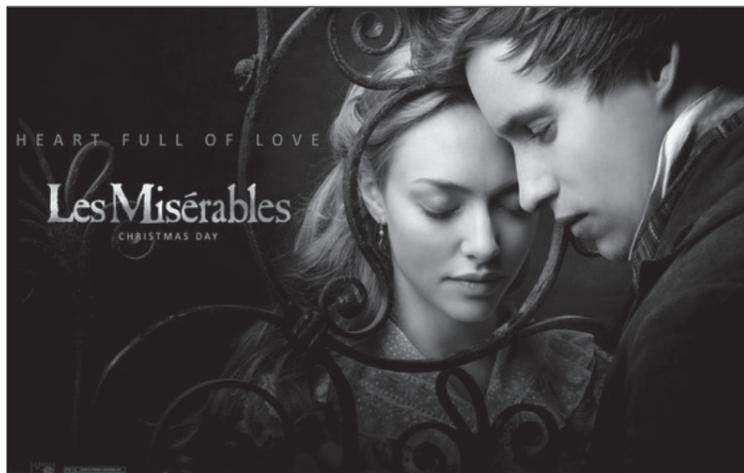
"We are having a lot of fun here tonight," said Loubser.

With the variety of activities available,



ROVING WEBCAM

Although a lot of effort was put into advertising for the carnival, turn-out was still low because the event overlapped with a showing of "Les Miserables."



Student senate adds third cabinet-level position before elections

BY RYAN STRUYK
Online Editor

One month before next year's student senate elections, senators voted to add a third cabinet position, the vice president of public relations, to next year's structure. Senate currently has a president, executive vice-president and two cabinet-level positions. This change reverts back to the 2011-12 governing structure, which had three cabinet spots.

The new vice president's main role is to "communicate to the student body concerning student senate's operations and initiatives," according to the amended constitution passed last Tuesday.

The role will be involved in creating posters, managing social media and coordinating the student senate website.

"Social media and public relations are going to be a big part of student senate heading into the future," said MD Perry, a sitting cabinet member on senate.

This frees up the role of the vice president of representation, another cabinet-level position, to spend more time managing students who sit on faculty governance committees around the campus.

Sitting executive vice president Josiah Sinclair hopes that freeing up the vice president of representation's position will highlight the role of governance committees on campus.

"This year, senate decided to make [governance] a focus and to work hard to ensure quality representation on governance committees," said Sinclair.

Several governance committees make decisions around Calvin's campus under the authority of faculty senate. Each committee has at least one student representative, appointed by student senate.

"If you think student opinion should be heard and involved in making decisions about Calvin's future, there's a place for you on student senate," he said.

Sinclair also said that this year has proved to be too much work for a two-person cabinet, and that adding another position will help distribute some of the work.

"This switch back is more of an acknowledgement that there's too much work for four people," said Sinclair. "Last year's tweak did not improve our structure, so we are reverting back to our old structure."

"This also clears up the plate of the executive vice president to do some of the administrative duties that get left behind in the busyness of student senate," said Perry.

Last Tuesday's change comes as the third major constitutional amendment in three years for Calvin's student government.

In 2010-11, a three-person executive team governed senate. The following year, they reduced the executive team to two people and introduced a new cabinet with three people.

In 2011-12, following the resignation of then-cabinet member

Moon Jung, the senate decided to narrow the cabinet down to two members.

This is the structure that senate currently uses.

The addition of the new role will introduce another \$1,500 position into senate's budget. The executive vice president makes \$1,800 per year and the student body president makes \$2,500 per year.

The money will come from SARC, a fund designated for budgeting for all student organizations at Calvin.

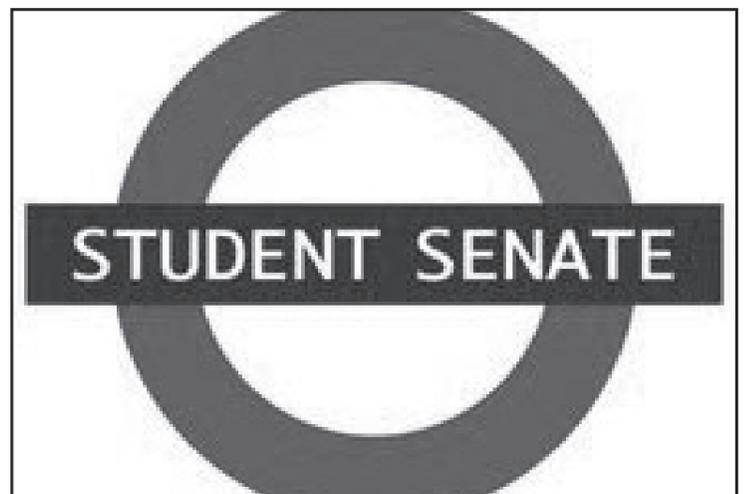
Student senate also changed the name of the vice president of programming to the vice president of operations.

Sinclair said that this change reflects the change in senate's activities from hosting events and maintaining programs to initiating more projects and interacting with the administration.

The election for executive team and each of the three cabinet level positions is scheduled to take place on Friday, Apr. 19.



PHOTO BY RYAN STRUYK



CALVIN.EDU

Last Tuesday's change comes as the third major constitutional amendment in three years for Calvin's student government.

CAMPUS SAFETY REPORT

3/4/2013

Campus safety took a report of damage to a personal vehicle. The incident allegedly occurred in the KHvR parking lot (lot 8) with bumper stickers that had been placed on the vehicle. When the owner removed the stickers, paint was removed from the vehicle as well. It was unknown who placed the bumper stickers, or when they were placed on the vehicle.

3/5/2013

Campus safety was called to Johnny's to investigate a suspicious person who was staring at some of the students there. The suspicious person was identified and it was discovered that he was a friend of a current student. The visitor said that he was visiting Johnny's to get some food. He apologized for making other people nervous and said he would take care not to behave

similarly in the future. He was told that if there were any additional complaints he would not be allowed to come on campus.

3/7/2013

Campus safety responded to the Prince Conference Center on a report of a suspicious person who was attempting to obtain a room in the hotel under fraudulent pretenses. The subject was identified and ordered to leave the hotel. She was told not to return to campus or the police would be called and they would be arrested for trespassing.

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King Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Bakery buys
 - 5 Youngster
 - 8 Treaty
 - 12 Australian city
 - 14 Reverberate
 - 15 Like spread sheets, e.g.
 - 16 Slender
 - 17 Scepter
 - 18 Each
 - 20 Hybrid eating utensil
 - 23 Entanglement
 - 24 Bohemian
 - 25 Refrigerator decorations
 - 28 Humor
 - 29 Gave a darn
 - 30 Regret
 - 32 Grieved
 - 34 Intentions
 - 35 Primary
 - 36 Sag
 - 37 "— & Louise"
 - 40 To and —
 - 41 Emanation
 - 42 Ivy League university
 - 47 List of options
 - 48 Catholic prayer
 - 49 "Hey, you!"
 - 50 Remiss

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- DOWN**
- 1 Atl. counterpart
 - 2 Altar affirmative
 - 3 Conger or moray
 - 4 Wet cement mixture
 - 5 Sort
 - 6 Mrs. McKinley
 - 7 Mad
 - 8 Small
 - 9 Liniment target
 - 10 Stylish
 - 11 Color quality
 - 13 Beyond control
 - 19 Frogs' hangout
 - 20 Witnessed
 - 21 Proper partner?
 - 22 "Beetle Bailey" dog
 - 23 Carpenter or Black
 - 25 Crazy
 - 26 Threesome
 - 27 Japanese wrestling
 - 29 Study all night
 - 31 Kreskin's claim
 - 33 Diacritical
 - 34 Scents
 - 36 Snare or tom-tom
 - 37 Pack down tightly
 - 38 Shades
 - 39 Sea eagles
 - 40 Show off your muscles
 - 43 Eggs
 - 44 Lingerie item
 - 45 Mid-afternoon, on a sundial
 - 46 Some small batteries

Super Crossword WILLIAM VII

- ACROSS**
- 1 Dilapidated condition
 - 10 Hawaii-born U.S. president
 - 15 Acute
 - 20 Unlike death and taxes?
 - 21 Marsh bird
 - 22 One healing
 - 23 Former Philippine president going around something?
 - 25 Baseballer Pee Wee
 - 26 "A," in Arles
 - 27 Scriptwriter Ephron
 - 28 "— minute!"
 - 29 Mambo king Puente
 - 31 Had food
 - 32 "Who Said Gay —?" (song from "Can-Can")
 - 34 Tender of Andean animals?
 - 37 LummoX
 - 41 —-mell
 - 42 Many-acred home
 - 43 Things keeping baby sheep from straying?
 - 47 Actor Waggoner
 - 49 Newspaper opinion piece
 - 50 Prefix that means "egg"
 - 51 Caustic cleaners
 - 52 Zaragoza's river
 - 55 — buco (veal meal)
 - 57 Spilled the beans
 - 59 Medusa's activity?
 - 65 Not open
 - 67 At the acme
 - 68 See
 - 69 Cow noise
 - 70 Proclaims, biblically
 - 71 Wicked
 - 73 High-tech greeting
 - 75 Flurry
 - 76 "Friday Night Fights" aier
 - 79 Idi of infamy
 - 80 Car houser
 - 82 People trying out covered wagons?
 - 86 Turn to mush
 - 88 Hammered item
 - 89 Word repeated after "qué"
 - 90 Big name in synthesizers
 - 92 HDTV brand
 - 93 Walked
 - 96 Staff symbol
 - 98 Silky fabric worn by a primate?
 - 101 Stop up again, as a wine bottle
 - 103 "S'il — plait"
 - 106 Portable PC
 - 107 Be cleverer than a famed candy man?
 - 110 Ivy League Philly sch.
 - 114 Simple card game
 - 115 Spot for a mail slot
 - 116 67-Across, in poetry
 - 117 Neighbor of N. Dak.
 - 120 "— do not!"
 - 121 Conveyed via a conduit
 - 123 They're hidden in seven long answers in this puzzle
 - 127 Pianist's exercise
 - 128 "The stage —"
 - 129 Absolve
 - 130 Turf again
 - 131 Unfeeling
 - 132 Velodrome competitions
 - 2 A former Mrs. Trump
 - 3 More tender
 - 4 Singer Ocasek
 - 5 He played TV's Al Bundy
 - 6 Old El — (taco brand)
 - 7 Shortened form, for short
 - 8 Kovalchuk of the NHL
 - 9 Salesperson, for short
 - 10 Response to a great retort
 - 11 "— Mucho" (1944 #1 hit)
 - 12 Meyers of the screen
 - 13 Every 30 days or so
 - 14 Hollywood's Dickinson
 - 15 Young haddocks
 - 16 Color tone
 - 17 Hiker's guide
 - 18 Paraphrase
 - 19 Dressed up fussily
 - 24 Suffer
 - 30 Sticky pine product
 - 33 Diminish
 - 34 Zodiac beast
 - 35 Sterling silver, say
 - 36 Tavern chair
 - 38 Singer Crystal
 - 39 Plant — of doubt
 - 40 "Hey ... you"
 - 43 Ton
 - 44 Guacamole base
 - 45 Hundred cubed
 - 46 One next to you on a plane, e.g.
 - 48 Soft throws
 - 53 Plant that flowers
 - 54 Act of retaliation
 - 56 More cunning
 - 58 Point
 - 60 Hokey actor
 - 61 Wiggling fish
 - 62 Mental pictures
 - 63 Electric razor brand
 - 64 The Almighty
 - 66 The Beatles' "— Woman"
 - 70 Baglike part
 - 72 Pantry raider
 - 74 Vid shooter
 - 77 Stay with, as a decision
 - 78 Gallup —
 - 80 Aggregation
 - 81 After — (kind of)
 - 83 Fund
 - 84 Regarding
 - 85 Samms or Watson
 - 87 Khaki
 - 91 Fly ball's antithesis
 - 93 Touring actor
 - 94 Bring back together
 - 95 Ink squirter
 - 97 Earth's highest peak
 - 99 Tarzan actor Ron
 - 100 PC software
 - 102 Relieved (of)
 - 104 Golf toumey
 - 105 Kind of pony or pooch
 - 108 Pueblo builders
 - 109 Prior to, in poetry
 - 111 Computer of the 1940s
 - 112 Nick of "Affliction"
 - 113 Butler on "The Nanny"
 - 117 Skirt type
 - 118 "How are you?"
 - 119 Goose of Hawaii
 - 122 Tokyo, previously
 - 124 Bear, in Madrid
 - 125 Neighbor of S. Dak.
 - 126 Playtex item

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Mob targets Pakistani Christians

BY KEMAL TALEN
Guest Writer

An angry mob in Lahore, Pakistan, exacted its own retribution for a crime of blasphemy by burning down the homes of several Christian families.

Over 3,000 angry demonstrators in violent outburst vandalized and burned the homes and businesses of a Christian settlement in the Badami Bagh neighborhood. Reporters on the scene claim that demonstrators broke into homes, looted them and burnt the remaining belongings outside.

The mob was provoked when blasphemous comments made by a Christian against the prophet Muhammad circulated in the majority Muslim neighborhood. There were no reported fatalities, but twenty police officers were injured from suppressing the mob.

The recent violence in Lahore has gained international attention because of a controversial case that occurred in August of last year, in which a 14-year-old Christian girl was accused of blasphemy and placed in high security prison for three weeks. Police officials claimed that the girl was put in prison for her own protection against violent uproars.

The case caused an outcry from both the Pakistani population and the international community. Blasphemy courts have been used to persecute religious minorities since the establishment of blasphemy laws in 1986.

In the most recent contro-

versy, Sawan Masih, a 28-year-old Christian, was accused of making derogatory comments against the prophet Muhammad, a serious crime. Masih's barber had informed the police of the

Minorities Alliance, also condemned the violence and insisted that the government provide Pakistani Christians with lawful protection against acts of violence.

Animosity between Islam and Christian faiths is not atypical in Pakistan, a predominantly Muslim nation. Laws in Pakistan aim to curb religious violence by imposing harsh punishments for blasphemy against all religions. Punishments for blasphemy range from a small fine to the death penalty. Minority religions are often treated with suspicion and hostility under these laws while human rights organizations continue to criticize the Pakistani government for tolerating blatant acts of injustice in their judicial system.

Joseph Colony, the targeted neighborhood of Saturday's mob, was set ablaze, but not before many Christian families fled the area fearing a violent uproar. Zohra Yusuf, chairperson of the HRCPC, said the provincial government “totally failed in providing protection to a minority community under siege.”

Provincial law minister, Rana Sanaullah, told reporters that no one who committed the acts of violence will go unnoticed under the laws governing the province.



A Christian church in Murree, north of Lahore.

blasphemous comments three days prior to the riot. Masih was detained on the night before the riot and could be fined or put to death if found guilty. According to a senior police official, the mob wanted the police to hand them over Masih.

“At least 160 houses, 18 shops and two small churches were burnt by protesters,” said Dr. Ahmad Raza of the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCPC).

The President of Pakistan, Asif Ali Zardari, called for further investigations of the unfortunate incident and denounced the acts of violence as tarnishing the image of the country.

Shamaun Alfred Gill, a spokesman for the All Pakistan

Japan still recovering

BY JULIA GHO
Staff Writer

Two years ago, Japan was devastated by a magnitude 9.0 earthquake, which was followed by a tsunami. Now, two years later, Japan prepares for the memorial of the second anniversary of the disaster in which 19,000 people died.

Following the earthquake and tsunami, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) made an effort to help affected families by mobilizing their network of partners. UNICEF workers in emergency relief locations also traveled to Japan to help. The workers distributed water, clothing and other supplies, made evacuations and tried to create relatively stress-free environment for the children. When the situation stabilized a little more, mother and child care services were provided as well as the reopening of schools and other activities. The Japan Committee for UNICEF continues to focus on three areas: psychosocial support, child protection and child-friendly reconstruction plans.

Ms. Akamatsu, chairperson of the Japan Committee, stated, “We will use this approach to continue extending assistance in

a manner that supports the activities of the UNICEF associations of each prefecture of Japan and of local governments and individuals.”

Another result of the disaster is the amount of debris in Japan and in the ocean. The Japanese government estimates that 1.5 million tons of debris were released into the Pacific Ocean, immediately following the disaster.

It is not clear how much debris is still floating in the ocean and how much might reach the U.S.

ogy, especially for disasters, the March 11, 2011 disaster was unprecedented. The magnitude 9.0 earthquake was the highest ever recorded and the tsunami heights were higher than predicted.

Takeshi Koizumi, a senior coordinator of international earthquake and tsunami information, stated, “I think it is true to say that Japan has the world's highest quality systems in relation to issuing near shore tsunami warnings. This is

not only because of our hardware or software, but because of Japan's experience. But we had not expected 9-plus magnitude earthquake. On March 11, 2011, we followed procedures correctly and issued a tsunami warning in three minutes — but our first warning was underestimated. We have to learn from these experiences, which is why we have upgraded our systems.”

Mr. Koizumi saw firsthand the disaster caused by the earthquake and the tsunami, finally fully comprehending the full impact of the disaster. He said, “We must always be prepared to update and upgrade our tsunami warning systems based on real cases in order to minimize casualties.”



Tons of debris from the tsunami are floating in the Pacific Ocean.

shoreline. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has said that beachgoers may notice the increase in debris on the shores in the following years. Many things have already washed up on the shores such as buoys, balls, a motorcycle, and a small boat. FedEx has volunteered to return items, hand-delivering the items to the owners.

Although Japan has invested very heavily in high-level technol-

Falkland votes

Islanders decide to stay with Britain

BY RACHEL HEKMAN
Staff Writer

Who knew a tiny series of islands off the coast of a massive continent could cause so much drama?

Those islands are not the British ones this time — at least not the British islands off the coast of Europe.

The Falkland Islands are a group of small islands several hundred miles off the coast of Argentina in southeast South America. The territory is technically an archipelago, about 4,700 square miles spread over more than 770 individual islands. It is also a British Overseas Territory, meaning that though they enjoy independent government, they acknowledge the British king or queen as sovereign and can rely on the United Kingdom (U.K.) for defense and foreign affairs.

The Falklands' British affiliation is a somewhat modern development, however. Over the course of its history, the Islands have been the source of imperial fighting, with ownership of the region bouncing between France, Spain and Great Britain for the greater part of the last four hundred years, depending on which empire was at war with which. For most of the 19th and 20th centuries, though, Great Britain (now the U.K.) laid sole claim to the islands.

After World War II, when the U.K. experienced a massive economic downturn, the nation of Argentina took the creation of the United Nations assembly as an opportunity to pursue negotiations with the U.K. to take possession of the Falklands. The islands had been useful for the U.K. during the war when they were used as a strategic point for naval maneuvers around Cape Horn, but they were now a source of economic strain for the British government.

The final tally came in on Tuesday night with 99.8 percent of the islanders voting to remain as a British territory.

The negotiations failed in the 1960s and were discarded, largely because the roughly 2,000 inhabitants of the islands preferred to remain under British control.

In April 1982, however, tensions reached a breaking point due to internal crises in Argentina, including a devastating economic depression and a tricky transfer of power between military dictators. The government of Argentina invaded the Falkland Islands on April 2, surprising the British government with that overt act of war.

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher gave immediate approval for the UK to go to war with Argentina to protect the Falklands, the majority of whose citizens were of British origin and still wished to remain under British control. The United Nations condemned the hostilities, putting pressure on the U.K., but also demanded that Argentina withdraw from the Falklands.

In response, the United States under President Ronald Reagan lent U.S. Navy vessels to the British military, concerned that Argentina would turn to the

Soviet Union for support if not quickly defeated.

The war lasted just over two months, ending on June 14, 1982, with the surrender of the commander of the Argentine garrison in the capital city, Stanley. The U.K. suffered just under 260 casualties while Argentina suffered 649.



The Falkland Islands' flag.

As a response to the war, the British government poured more economic and social resources into the Falklands in an attempt to both make reparations to the residents for the damage done by the war and to convince them that British oversight was best. As of 2013, the Falklands remain under British rule.

Argentina has by no means relinquished its claims to the region, however. In 1994, the government rewrote its constitution, adding a line that asserted its rightful ownership of the Falkland and South Sandwich Islands.

In response to this pressure, the government of the Falkland Islands held a referendum on Sunday and Monday to ask its roughly 2,900 residents whether or not they wish to remain a British Overseas Territory. Of the 1,517 adults who participated in the voting (more than 90 percent of those eligible to do so), all but three voted yes to remaining a territory of the U.K.

Rather than the vote being a legally binding treaty, though, the British majority (including the pro-British government) hopes the result will be a “wake up call” to the international community, especially Argentina.

The Argentinian government has been placing sanctions on the important Falkland tourist business in an effort to persuade the region to submit to Argentine control. So far, the only result has been a flagging Falkland economy.

Despite the overwhelming amount of pro-British sentiment in the Falklands, BBC News reports that “Argentine President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner has said the inhabitants' wishes are not relevant in what is a territorial issue.”

An Argentine senator denounced the vote as a “publicity stunt” having “no validity for international law.”

In response, British Prime Minister David Cameron has urged Argentina to respect the Falklanders' decision, warning that the United Kingdom “will always be there to defend them.”

The final tally came in on Tuesday night with 99.8 percent of the islanders voting to remain as a British territory.

In light of the results, Prime Minister Cameron told the press, “The Falkland islanders couldn't have spoken more clearly. They want to remain British and that view should be respected by everybody, including by Argentina.”

According to the Telegraph, President Kirchner dismissed the outcome, calling the event a “parody of a referendum.”

The decades-old diplomatic drama over these islands seems set to continue despite the referendum.

Canonical gives a promising peek at Ubuntu for phones and tablets

BY JOHN MUYSKENS
Sci-Tech Editor

I'm always excited to see a new mobile operating system. Therefore, as soon as Canonical released the Ubuntu for phones developer preview, I had to try it out. While the developer preview experience was shaky, the OS shows exciting promise. Ubuntu for phones is a compelling alternative to the three major mobile OSs (iOS, Android, Windows Phone).

As a new OS without an established user base, Ubuntu is free to experiment with new possibilities for user interfaces in ways that Apple and Google can't. Apple's efforts in smartphone user interaction design first yielded the iPhone and then iOS which is designed for both phones and tablets. iOS's chief user interface is an easy to use but inflexible grid of app icons. The grid of icons is nothing new to graphical user interfaces, but Apple polished it to the point where it has become itself iconic. Google iterated upon the app grid paradigm, giving the user more flexibility in screen layout, home screen widgets that extend app capabilities, a drop down notification menu and the ability to change system defaults like the browser or camera to custom third-party apps.

But Android's approach is fundamentally similar to that of iOS: swipe through grids of apps, touch the one you want, and it launches. Microsoft's foray into the mobile market, Windows Phone, took a new tack. Their interface features a minimal, vertically scrollable panel of tiles which blur the line between apps and widgets, both displaying information on the home screen and launching their requisite app when selected. These design ideas are also present in Windows 8 and Windows RT on the Surface, as they are Microsoft's attempt to converge their user experience across multiple OSes.

Ubuntu takes Microsoft's convergence idea a step further, offering a phone that can transform into a full PC or media center when using an external monitor. These interfaces are tailored to respective platforms, yet share consistent user experience appropriately named “Unity.” Ubuntu for phones borrows features from all of these OSs while adding some new ideas.

The user interface design will feel familiar to users of Ubuntu on the desktop, yet it is distinct from its competitors. A survey: iOS looks like a graphic design student's wet dream, Android's post-Singularity interface is futuristic to a fault and Windows Phone manages a cluttered minimalism. Ubuntu is good-looking, futuristic and minimal, but in a unique way with a friendly, human touch. The eased curves of Ubuntu's icons give it a casual feel not found in any other mobile OS. By comparison, even iOS feels uptight. These curves also echo those of Google's Nexus devices, on which Canonical chose to demo their OS. Ubuntu looks even better on tablets. The Nexus 10 tablet seems like it was built to be an Ubuntu flagship device. In fact, it looks better running Ubuntu than Android.

What really sets Ubuntu apart is the innovation in terms of gesture-based user interaction. Multi-finger gestures on the iPad demonstrated that there was a lot more possibilities for touch screen interaction than swipe and pinch-to-zoom. Ubuntu performs

as expected for normal touch gestures, but swiping in from an edge of the screen will trigger a special action. Swiping from the left reveals a dock of frequently used apps, from the right takes you to the previously used app. Swiping from the top reveals quick settings and messages which can themselves be navigated through a clever horizontal swipe. And in apps, swiping from the bottom gets you to settings and search. Even more importantly, this works the same in all apps (I'm looking at you, Android developers). It's a huge boon to usability and Canonical should “patent the hell out of it” if they can before Apple invents this and sues them for it. As great as

me to get used to coming from an OS that rarely discerns edge-swipes, and at first, you will mis-swipe. But the value and ease, not to mention fun factor, is apparent. The gestures are also a pleasure to use on the Nexus 4 — its curved glass front “melts” into

from the grid of icons, but you'll encounter it less frequently than you will on iOS and Android. Instead, the home screen features a few recently used apps, your most contacted friends, recent messages, music and popular videos. You can scroll down the home screen like on Windows Phone, but you can also scroll to the left or right to view additional screens featuring music, people, apps and videos. This OS is designed to do what most people do with their

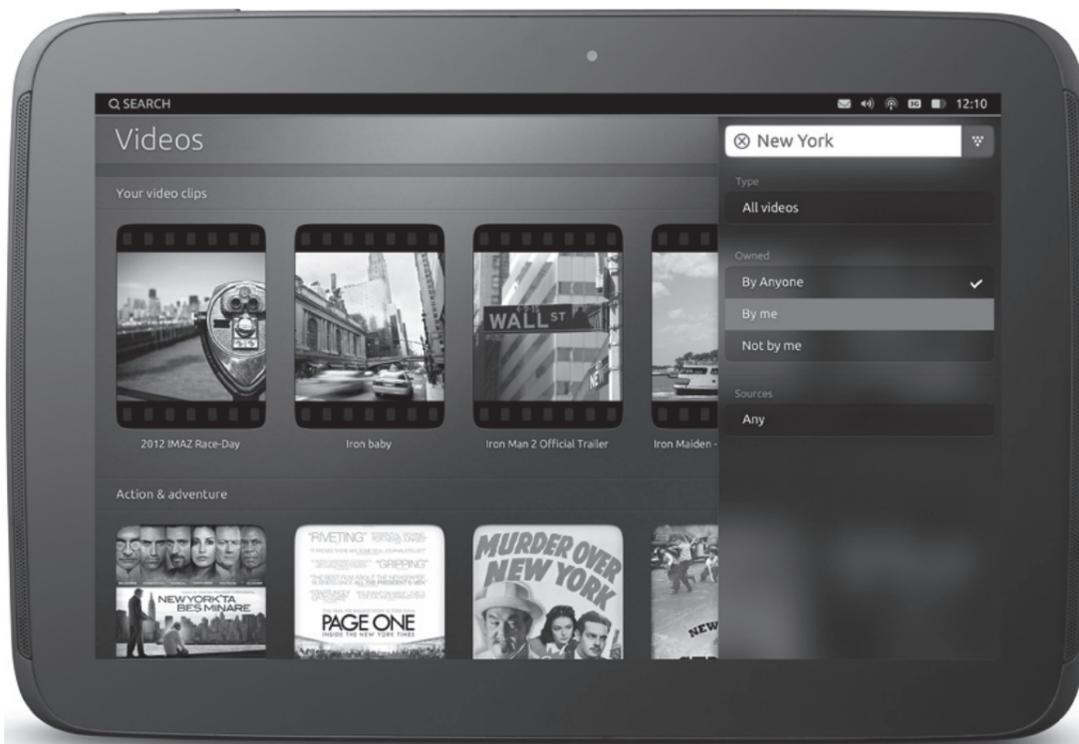


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things and search. Even more importantly, this works the same in all apps (I'm looking at you, Android developers). It's a huge boon to usability and Canonical should “patent the hell out of it” if they can before Apple invents this and sues them for it. As great as

the sides of the phone and makes edge-swiping a tactile experience. Turning on the phone reveals a lock screen not unlike customized Android, but featuring a beautiful visualization of recent activity on the phone. It lacks an obvious unlocking prompt.

phones: communicate with friends and consume entertainment. The individual screens blur the line between screens, apps and widgets. For instance, the People page displays recent status updates from friends at the top,



Ubuntu's new mobile OS provides a consistent experience across phones and tablets

Jelly Bean is, I will be haunted by this feature until we get a stable version of Ubuntu. Even though the developer preview has little actual functionality in terms of apps, the swiping navigation still impresses. It was hard for

Instead, to unlock the phone you can either swipe in from the left side of the screen revealing a dock of apps that will be familiar to the desktop Ubuntu user, or the right side revealing the home screen. It's nearly impossible to get away

behavior you might expect from a widget, and displays a contact list if you scroll down, which provides the richer experience you would expect from an app. This could get confusing for users since there is also a contacts pane

built into the phone app as well. The music and videos pages have similar issues, especially since there are media player and music apps too. It wasn't clear to me if these pages were intended to be a proxy for the media player on the device or if they are a storefront to entice me to purchase content. The way it looks to me, there is a lack of clear demarcation here. The objective is that if you search for “Mumford & Sons,” you'll not only find your copy of “Sigh No More” but you'll also learn that you can download the deluxe edition of ‘Babel’ for only \$11.49. While this feature promises to make it dead simple for you to access and purchase content from vendors like Amazon or the Ubuntu One Music Store and I wouldn't mind Canonical making some money, I do hope that my OS won't waste much of its time or mine trying to sell me stuff.

A problem I can foresee is the management of large numbers of apps. The limited preview that I played with lacked any sort of app organization scheme like folders on iOS and Android. Ubuntu keeps the half dozen apps you use most frequently right at your fingertips, but the app you use once in a blue moon may take more effort to find. A strong search tool will make the difference here. What they have looks and feels promising to me, but the version in the preview was limited in functionality.

Of course, having large numbers of apps at this point would be a good problem for Ubuntu to have. Many apps like Facebook and Gmail are simply links to the mobile sites with HTML5 integrating notifications into the OS. To remedy the dearth of apps, Canonical promises a compelling software development kit, allowing app development in familiar programming languages like C++ and JavaScript.

The developer preview is available for most recent unlocked Nexus devices — the Nexus 4, 7, 10, and Galaxy Nexus. I found the installation instructions professionally written and easy to follow, but keep in mind that I'm a computer science major and an Android enthusiast. If you aren't comfortable using the command line (or don't know what that is) don't attempt this. I wouldn't recommend it anyway, as the installation process involves wiping your device's memory and the developer preview itself is disappointingly sparse in functionality. The developer preview was laggy to the point of unusability for the first hour, but then it suddenly became satisfyingly smooth. Up until then, the only positive thing I could say about Ubuntu for phones was that it made my Nexus 4 pleasantly warm. Reader, my overheating CPU was truly a comfort for my icy hands on a cold morning. Fortunately, the smoother version allowed me to experience Ubuntu's main feature — innovative gestures.

While my experience with the developer preview did give me a taste of what it will feel like to use the new OS on a mobile device, I wasn't able to try out Ubuntu's killer app — a converged mobile and desktop experience in one device. Ubuntu promises to provide a pleasant and productive experience whether you are using your device as a phone or as a PC with a keyboard, mouse and monitor. Canonical is pioneering the future of personal computing. If they can deliver Ubuntu as a seamless experience, they'll have me, doubtlessly among many others, as an avid user.



My Teacher's Glock

Safety In The School Place

BY MAXWELL HOWARD
Features Editor

For some time, we have had security guards with guns in schools. We have had metal detectors, evacuation drills and lock-down procedures. But lately, Michigan lawmakers are wondering if this is enough. In the wake of the Sandy Hook and Aurora shootings, Michigan Republican senator Mike Green of Mayville is pushing for the next step, namely, the ability for teachers and faculty to carry guns on school grounds.

Revisiting a legislation (called Senate Bill 59) proposed in 2007, Senator Green aims to bring the bill back to life, granting authority to the superintendent of any school district to allow or permit individuals including faculty, staff and parents to carry concealed firearms in the previously “gun-free” zones of school districts. In Senator Green’s view,

“The only way you can deal with people of that nature is to deal with another gun. The NRA proposed hiring cops [for every school]. I don’t believe that’s the way to go, but if we had somebody inside that was trained to use a weapon, that would be able to

do some of the same things as a cop, that would probably have more of an effect on perpetrators.”

Indeed, in a weird twist of fate, Senate Bill 59 was approved for the legislature not 24 hours before the Dec. 14 Sandy Hook Elementary shooting. The bill, however, was vetoed shortly after by Governor Rick Snyder because he believes that both public and private institutions should have the right to allow or prohibit concealed weapons. In response to the rejection of the bill, Governor Snyder wrote:

“I believe that it is important that these public institutions have clear legal authority to ban weapons from their premises. Each is entrusted with the care of a vulnerable population and should have the authority to determine whether its mission would be enhanced by the addition of concealed weapons.”

Despite the hesitant feeling of the state of Michigan, individuals and their local communities are beginning to find less direct ways to allow school staff to carry concealed weapons. In Delton-Kellogg Schools, a school district only thirty minutes from Calvin, thirty-one adults have recently started training in a Delton Township Police Department course in becoming a reserve officer. Among the group of

trainees watching surveillance footage of both the Sandy Hook and Columbine shootings is an assistant principal for the local Delton middle school. Within 12 short weeks, the assistant principal will now have the legal right to carry a concealed weapon into the school.

What are we to think of this?

I’m not talking specifics — I’m not even trying to make an argument. What I want is signs of empathy. What I see, though, is a whole lot of pointed fingers. As I read different accounts of these events, I saw a few common themes: anger, righteousness and self-proclaimed piety to name a few. But I do not say this to encourage you to ignore the opinions of others. There are genuine solutions to these problems, but that is not what I am speaking to at this moment. What I am speaking to is simple. I am not here to argue with Republicans or Democrats. I am not here to assert my two-cents immediately.

No, I am writing this to call attention to the fact that teachers are beginning to feel like they need to bring guns into their classrooms. I am writing this because I never thought it possible that an assistant principal for a small town middle school would have to carry a concealed handgun to work.



“ Now, I must talk about Miss Kunis. My word ... was she ever a pain to watch!

Christian Becker, “Oz the Great and Powerful” ”

‘Oz’ packs fresh stories on a trip down memory lane

BY CHRISTIAN BECKER
Staff Writer

The 2013 spring movie season kicks off with a welcome return to the land of Oz. This may not be the same Oz you remember from watching the classic 1939 film, but there is still plenty of visual wonder to make up for that. “OZ: The Great and Powerful,” directed by Sam Raimi (“The Spider-Man Trilogy”), is a prequel to the original film. It tells the story of Oscar Diggs (James Franco) in his first encounter with the magical land of Oz and how he became the great and powerful “wizard.”

From the trailers, this looks almost like a carbon copy of Tim Burton’s take on “Alice and Wonderland” a few years back — a movie I was not too fond of. Even the posters look exactly the same. Put this preconceived notion behind you, because “Oz” is a movie able to stand on its own two feet and it brings some fresh ideas to the fantasy table, for better and for worse.

The beginning of the film is my favorite part. We get to see a smaller aspect ratio along with it being in black and white. This is a throwback to the early days of cinema and is a wink and a nod to the way the original had been shot. Tracking shots of the carnival where Oz worked and the way some sounds were put in made me feel as though I was watching something from the 1930s. It was a treat to take in this simple form of filmmaking.

‘Raven’ serious and tragic

BY JON HIELKEMA
Staff Writer

“Here we all are born into a struggle/To come so far but end up returning to dust.”

Those lines serve as the prelude to an extraordinary album, inviting listeners to perk up their ears and listen closely. Coming in the middle of a furious, bass-heavy workout, which itself forms only one part of the sprawling “Luminol,” the lines indicate the gravity of the record.

Steven Wilson has never been afraid to be seen taking himself and his music seriously, and this carries over into all six of the songs on his third solo album “The Raven that Refused to Sing (and Other Stories).” Throughout his career he has summoned influences from Joy Division to Metallica to The Beach Boys but mostly draws on the heady heyday of British progressive rock from the early 1970s.

Wilson, coming off of extensive touring for his second album “Grace for Drowning,” developed “Raven” in tandem with a new band that features expert musicians like Theo Travis (woodwinds), Guthrie Govan (guitar), Nick Beggs (bass and Chapman Stick), and Marco Minnemann (drums).

Their expertise invests the songs with a sense of play and real chemistry, which was no doubt aided by the spontaneity of the recording process. Putting together the whole record in about a week, plus time for adding strings and some Mellotron synthesizer overdubs. Contributing beautifully whether in more structured sessions or the many improvised solos, is Wilson at the lead, lending his unique voice to the songs.

Of the six songs included on the album, three stretch longer than ten minutes. To say they stretch is to slight the craft of each piece, though, since each song emerges organically over

Many clever characters and themes come into play that allude to events coming later in the film, making for a fun and thoughtful puzzle to piece together. Once Oz leaves Kansas and is sucked up in a twister to this whimsical and colorful land, the screen opens to wider range and the CGI feast begins.

At first, I was in awe of the amazing things the effects artists are able to do in order to transport you to this world and give you endless amounts of eye candy. But, once Oz starts to interact with the characters and the relationships begin to develop, some cringe-worthy dialogue that comes off as attempted humor and heartfelt warmth just falls flat.

Not everything about the story and characters are this way, but you can definitely feel the pacing issues from this point on. Nothing is worse than watching a movie where you can tell the writers meant for the line or situation to be funny, but failed.

The performances range from good to just plain terrible. Let’s start with the good. James Franco was not the first choice to play Oz, but he still held his own and ended up giving a very solid and lovable performance.

The original choices for the role were Robert Downey Jr. and Johnny Depp. Not sure if these two gentlemen would have been

better or worse but, all-in-all, I did enjoy seeing Franco in this role having fun with it. He has a

say about Rachael Weisz. She didn’t do anything memorably bad, but nothing exciting or memorable to make it a great performance either.

Now, I must talk about Miss Kunis. My word ... was she ever a pain to watch! She was the textbook definition of miscast. Giving away her role would technically be a spoiler, so I’ll avoid going into further detail. Just know she’s bad — really bad!

As Oz travels the land in search of the witch he is sent to destroy, the audience gets a peek at more visual spectacle. Unfortunately, some of it is really useless. I love it when the effects work with the movie by moving the plot along and having meaning as to why they were placed there in the first place. Some of the effects, though, were just cheap tricks to show off how big the budget was and how over the top they could make it.

Thankfully, the over the top visuals are few and far between. Speaking of visuals, I don’t know what it was about the look of the Wicked Witch of the West in this one, but I didn’t buy it. When a villain in a 1930s film looks and sounds more threatening than one today, you know you have a problem.

That being said, this is one film you’ll want to see in 3D. It is a spectacular use of 3D technology, not only having things pop out



FILE PHOTO

certain charm that I like to see, especially in a character like this who starts off as a greedy prick.

The three lead women are Rachel Weisz, Mila Kunis and Michelle Williams. The best of the three is Williams, who plays Glinda, a gentle, soft-spoken guide to Oz. She has this kind, tender spirit that works in the world. There isn’t a whole lot to

visuals, I don’t know what it was about the look of the Wicked Witch of the West in this one, but I didn’t buy it. When a villain in a 1930s film looks and sounds more threatening than one today, you know you have a problem.

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“They are a very good team, but they have more to lose as the number one team. Also I think we are just as good if not better. so I’m really excited to play them.”

Tyler Kruis, “Men’s basketball”

Men’s basketball makes it to Sweet 16

BY SYDNEY CHIPMAN
Staff Writer

The men’s basketball team is headed to the Sweet 16 for only the seventh time in Calvin’s history after winning their second round game against Wisconsin-Stevens Point on Saturday 67-58.

“As far as being the seventh team in history to do this, it is an honor to be a part of such an elite tradition,” says senior Bryan Powell. “We have found success because of our ability to perfect our individual roles for the better of the group. This is truly a special team and despite all the attention, we need to remain focused for the remainder of the tournament.”

Over the weekend the boys traveled to Stevens Point, Wisconsin to play for a spot in the Sweet 16 against host team Wisconsin-Stevens Point. Despite Stevens Point scoring first, the Knights were able to come back and grab the lead the rest of the first half, keeping it close and never leading by more than 6 however. After going into the locker room up 29-25 at the half, the Knights never surrendered their well-earned lead and began to slowly pull away from Stevens Point halfway through the second half.

“We actually did not play our best,” says junior Tyler Kruis. “Our team can play way better than what we did. To win next time we need to keep playing our game, play

together, and play with toughness. If we do this I think we can go even farther.”

Sophomore Jordan Brink led the Knights offensively, putting up 21 points for the team. Senior Tom Snickers ended with 14, Kruis had 10 and junior Mickey DeVries chipped in with 9. The Knights out-rebounded Stevens Point 38-31 and ended with a better shooting percentage for the night, shooting at 33.3 percent from the 3-point line and 46 percent for their total field goals.

In their first round of the Sweet 16 the Calvin men will be traveling to top-ranked St. Thomas on Saturday.

“I’m not worried about St. Thomas at all,” says Kruis. “They are a very good team, but

they have more to lose as the number one team. Also I think we are just as good if not better. So I’m really excited to play them.”

“St. Thomas will most likely be the best team we have faced all year,” says Powell, “but this is what the tournament is about; to be the best you have to beat the best and we are confident that we can do just that.”



The Knights will travel to St. Thomas to play the Tommies on Saturday.

Michmerhuizen takes second in 5k

BY JEFF MEITLER
Staff Writer

This weekend Nicole Michmerhuizen took second place at NCAA D-III Indoor Track Nationals in the 5,000-meter run at North Central College in Naperville, IL. She ran a time of 16:57 in her breakout performance and lost to eight-time national champion Christy Cazzola by less than a second. I sat down with her to recap the experience:

Jeff: Congrats on second in the nation! What were your expectations going into the race?

Nicole: I definitely wasn’t expecting to be second, but I was hoping to be an All-American, which is top eight.

How did you feel right when you finished?

When I first finished I was kind of in shock, I had just gotten second, but I had also just been passed by Cazzola.

Who was the first person you wanted to see after?

Well, I saw the coaches first, Coach Rick Otte came up to me and was super excited. We talked to Cazzola for a bit, then I saw Al and Diemer and they were very excited! I got a “Diemer hug.”

What were you thinking during the race since you led almost the entire way?

At first I was a little bit worried about leading, but then I thought “I just have to keep going at this pace, I can do it, if I can make a big enough gap they won’t be able to catch up.”

Why did you lead almost the entire race?

I led because I like feeling like I am in control of the race and what to expect next. It doesn’t bother me to lead.

At what point did you know Cazzola was hot on your tail?

Right before she passed me. I couldn’t hear anything, so I didn’t know until she was right next to me. I was trying to watch the live feed and see who was behind me, but I could see no one. I didn’t think about looking behind me at the time. I couldn’t hear anything because the cheering was so loud!

What kind of training do you do in preparation for a race like this?

For most of the winter until a couple of weeks before the race I was running 70 miles per week. I lift twice a week and do core as well. I was feeling pretty good in the weeks leading up to the race. Sometimes I would wonder if I was tired, or just nervous, but the day before the race on the warm up Diemer told me that he could tell I was going to do well. That was reassuring.

What advice would you give to young runners?

I guess I would say that if you put in the hard work and trust in your training and persevere you never know what is going to happen. Don’t be afraid to set big goals because you never know what God is going to do or what you are going to accomplish. This was never in the plan three years ago and I could never have envisioned this. There are a lot of coaches, teammates and supporters from the Calvin community who have helped me get to

this point.

What was the peak of your high school career and how have you come so far?

My best race in high school was 21:07 which I ran at Portage senior year. People always ask me this, and I am a little unsure what to say. I have been blessed with amazing coaches and my teammates are a big part of it too. In high school I came from a low mileage program and I have found better training in college. Running has become something I really love to do now and I think I also gained a lot of confidence in myself in running and other parts of life. It has been cool how that has played out in all areas of my life.

What did you do to celebrate your national runner-up finish?

We went out for dinner at Culvers because we wanted to get back to Grand Rapids and almost every restaurant in the area was full. It wasn’t what I would have chosen, but I was very hungry. If I had my choice, I would have chosen pizza. We also stopped for ice cream which was nice.

One random fact the readers don’t know about Nicole?

A lot of runners like peanut butter, but I don’t. I like it in bars or sweet things, but I really think it tastes gross plain. And no, I am not allergic.

What are you going to run this spring season and what are your goals?

I am going to run the 5k and 10k. My goals are to qualify for nationals first, then of course and place as high as I can.

Going for the win?

If I can — we will see what happens.

Any final words?

I just feel really, really blessed to have had this experience, it is something I am going to remember for a very long time. I have been blown away by all the support — people sending emails, writing notes — I have felt so much love from the Calvin community which has been amazing. It is still sinking in, little by little.

Nicole will take a break for a while and travel with the rest of the track team to South Carolina for two outdoor meets, but she will not be racing.



Nicole Michmerhuizen led for a majority of the race but finished less than a tenth of a second from first place.

Hot Seat: Kathryn Wrobel

BY JESS KOSTER
Sports Editor

Jess Koster sat down with sophomore Kathryn Wrobel from the women’s swim team. She was on the winning 800-meter freestyle relay at the MIAA Championships meet. She was named All-MIAA for the second year. This is Hot Seat:

Koster: How old are you?

Wrobel: I am 19.

Where are you from?

I’m from Arden Hills, Minnesota.

How many siblings do you have?

I have one older brother.

What’s your major?

I’m a bio-chem major with a psych minor.

What brought you to Calvin?

The combination of athletics, Christianity and academics.

What first got you interested in swimming?

My mom was a swimmer and I really excelled through swim lessons and so she was like, “do you want to try it?” and then I just fell in love.

What is the best part of swimming?

I think the team. Swimming is seen as an individual sport but the team atmosphere with training and competing together is great.

What is your best swimming memory?

Probably when I was 11, our relay won like the 11-and-under state championship. That’s when I really fell in love with swimming.

What do you do in your free time?

I like to cook a lot and I like to run and just hang out with friends and family.

What’s your favorite sports team?

Minnesota Twins.

Favorite movie?

That’s a tough one. I like Finding Nemo, Legally Blonde and Remember the Titans.

Favorite books?

The Harry Potter series.

What do you hope to do when you grow up?

I either want to go to med school or grad school in neuroscience.

Who were your influences growing up?

My mom and my dad and then I have a really good family friend, Deb, who has really influenced my life.

What is your fondest memory

of swimming at Calvin?

I think this year when our team won the ninth straight MIAA Championship just knowing I was part of a legacy not only me and the team but like a legacy.

If you had to pick one person, historical or living, to have lunch with, who would it be?

I don’t know. I guess President Barack Obama.

What is one of your most embarrassing moments?

When I was growing up, I did dance with my best friend and I completely just screwed up the dance recital and I did the wrong move at the wrong time and everyone was just staring at me.

Dogs or cats?

Dogs.

What is the best Calvin dorm?

Bennink.

What is one thing you cannot survive without?

Italian food.

If you were stranded on a desert island, which of your teammates would you eat first?

Umm...

Shelby Cloyd.

Commons or Knollcrest?

Knollcrest.

Long walks on the beach or quiet candlelight dinner?

Long walks on the beach.

What is the last book you read?

“The Casual Vacancy” by J.K. Rowling.

If you could trade places

with any other person for a week, living or dead, real or fictional, who would it be?

Umm... I guess like Abraham Lincoln.

What’s the last movie you went to see?

“Jack Reacher.”

If Hollywood made a movie about your life, who would you like to see play you?

Blake Lively.

What is the best pizza topping?

Sausage.

What came first: the chicken or the egg?

The chicken.

What is your pre-swim ritual?

Uhh... I eat pasta. I like blast my music either in my dorm or in my house and just get really pumped and excited.

What kind of music do you listen to for your ritual?

Usually just pop music, but I really like Taylor Swift or “Remember the Name.”



CALVIN.EDU

“ Helping all students, orthodox or not, religious or not, find their place here is a challenge I hope Calvin College has the courage and foresight to take on.

Jon Hielkema, “Books and communities” ”

OPINION AND EDITORIAL

FROM THE EDITOR



It's very likely that in elementary or middle school you completed a worksheet called “Survive the Wild” or “Desert Island.” (And you probably spelled it Dessert Island, which is altogether more appealing.) For the activity, you teacher asked you to find a partner and fill out a list of 15 things you would take with you if stranded on the open sea or on a deserted island.

You probably began by listing the essentials. Your fourth grade mind knew that things like water, food (or fishing equipment, if you were clever), a tent and a knife were necessary if you wanted to survive for more than a couple of days. But those things only took up about 10 spots. The remaining five items ventured into

the realm of happiness and creature comforts. Would you take something slightly practical but unnecessary, like soap? Would you bring company, like a dog? Or would you bring entertainment, like a book or a sketchpad?

You argued with your partner, discussing the merits of a toothbrush versus swim goggles. Ultimately, you compromised and left class knowing that while it was an interesting experiment, it was very unlikely this would ever happen to you.

Flash forward 15 years, and log on to www.theburninghouse.com. It's the twentysomethings version of that desert island scenario, and it could happen when you're least expecting it.

The blog-style site asks a simple question. “If your house was burning, what would you take with you?” Respondents submit

their answers in the form of a photo, most artfully taken, picturing the items they'd grab on the way out the door. A bulleted list, sometimes with explanations, accompanies the image.

I could browse this site forever. It's in part (the smaller part, to be sure) because of the beautiful photos people take of things neatly organized and the precise descriptions they give. I love the artifacts of people's lives, and my type-A brain is pleased with the arrangements.

But what I love more is the tension. These photos are a sociologist's dream.

I can't say it much better than the site's ever-present sidebar: “It's a conflict between what's practical, valuable and sentimental.”

The practical: almost everyone grabs their passport. It's probably the most important document you own. One girl took her inhaler. Most people bring some sort of backpack or suitcase — you know, to carry all their stuff in. Cell phones are also very popular. These are the strictly practical.

Almost everything else falls in multiple categories; it's both sentimental and valuable or valuable and practical. A handful of

folks bring some money — practical and valuable. Possibly the most common item is a camera. Practical because many of the submitters are artists who need the cameras to make their living, but cameras are often valuable as well. Many people take their computers or hard drives, which may seem practical, but then they'll specify that it's because of the photos or music on those machines; they don't want to lose the memories.

But then there are the strictly sentimental things. The memories, the items we love. Almost everyone includes at least one piece of clothing. That's totally replaceable, right? Your friends will give you something to wear until you're back on your feet. There's something about a favorite sweater, however, than can make everything feel all right. Maybe you just aren't you without your signature hat or scarf.

Photos are strictly sentimental. So are stuffed animals and diaries and vinyl records and dishes. But these are the things we can't really replace. Where else will you find a 23-year-old stuffed rabbit with a velvet nose that's been worn away? How many Polaroids do you have of your dog hiding un-

der the kitchen table? And the books — the majority bring at least one. Sure, you can buy another copy, but was it a gift from your best friend? Have you underlined and dog-eared it?

I'd add a fourth category: comfort items. They're not practical or valuable or sentimental. I'll admit, I don't understand many of them. So many women bring makeup and perfume. Cigarettes are also common.

I'll let you explore on your own now. The central question, one that might keep you going back every day, is what would I bring? We all have a lot of stuff. It's comfortable and convenient. But if you really had to whittle it down, what would you toss in a backpack?

This could be an essay about keeping things simple, about prioritizing and clearing out the clutter. “Simplify, simplify, simplify,” urged Thoreau.

“I think one ‘simplify’ would have sufficed,” retorted Emerson. Too often we feign simplicity, no? Don't fake it.

Do, however, decide what you'd take.

-ajz

Books and communities support non-CRC Christianities

BY JON HIELKEMA
Staff Writer

Maybe it was the intense Philadelphia heat that drew me into the modest old meeting-house. Perhaps it was historical curiosity — Philadelphia can be intoxicating for historians — or the quiet calling of what I name God. Whatever it was that took me into that place, I came out more uncertain of my position within Christianity than ever before. Since the beginning of this academic year, I have known that I was leaving the Reformed tradition, and much that passes for accepted Protestant orthodoxy, behind. This leaves me with significant and essential disagreements with Calvin College's confessional heritage and the vast majority of its institutional messaging.

Nonetheless, I am mostly at peace with those disagreements, and so I have not come to criticize one of Calvin's positions. I could certainly dispute some of those, and finding students and communities that could support a budding Christian deviant was a challenge. That said, my experience here as a progressive Christian has been a largely positive one. As a matter of fact, I have Calvin — just as much as the Quakers or the Internet — to thank for my departure.

How could this be so? While Calvin has a strong foundation in the CRC's confessions and scriptural interpretations, and does an admirable job of sticking to that message while allowing for marginal deviation from it in the name of academic freedom, they left one building untouched. Classrooms and curricula might be saturated in Calvinism, but what of the Hekman Library? I can with a high degree of certainty state that that superficially stodgy, conservative building is a hive of heresy. Lovers of liberalism and alliteration can follow me in calling themselves Hekman Heretics.

It started with visits to the fourth floor. Books about American religious history, especially those telling the stories

of the Quakers and Unitarians, showed me that these are deep historical traditions with both intellectual integrity and a track record of advancing the American conversations about matters from Scriptural criticism to slavery. Philosophical theologies like those of Charles Hartshorne and the “death of God” movement presented a vision of Christian faith that attacked the problems of faith in modern life without automatically assuming that traditional interpretations should hold sway. What's more, book after book enriched my own understandings of faith in ways that made sense to me. For the first time, I could speak about religious matters openly without feeling embarrassed by their incongruity with so much of my own experience. I am now simultaneously more strongly committed to Christianity and more heretical than ever before.

Becoming a Hekman Heretic can feel like a lonely proposition. Even Hekman's fourth floor is packed with Calvin seminarians who are arming themselves against the very arguments you hold dear, destined to preach good old-fashioned orthodoxy in some church or another. Good for them, you might think, but where can I find some decent conversations about this matter?

Every Hekman Heretic should start with the books. That will, however, soon grow tiring without a supportive community. Many people at Calvin do have more liberal theological views, but corraling them is harder than herding cats. It is easier, unsurprisingly, to find a sympathetic church community in the area. Despite the sheer density of forbiddingly orthodox congregations, one can find some communities that can offer support for those of a more progressive theological bent. Those inclined toward a more traditional service with liberal content might gravitate toward the

beautiful architecture and beautiful aural and visual liturgy of Fountain Street Church. While it lacks ties to any denomination, it is rooted in the centuries-old American liberal religious tradition. If you find yourself more inspired by the sermons of William Ellery Channing than Jonathan Edwards, that might be the place for you. A smaller Unitarian congregation, All Souls Community, also meets near campus. While these churches are not actively hostile to traditional Christianity, they certain fall outside of that stream.

One small note to those who might feel intimidated by the thought of going to a Unitarian church: not too long ago — only a couple of centuries back — Unitarians were old-guard Puritans. They were so-called “standing order” churches in New England that rejected Calvinist doctrine but kept the relatively sparse liturgical tradition and intellectual emphasis. I have found that the cultural overlap between the Christian Reformed and

Unitarian Universalist traditions to be quite large, and the forms of the service will likely be quite familiar to most Calvin students. The situation is more complicated than I can discuss at the moment, but any Hekman Heretics would do themselves a favour to look at the fascinating and often eerily similar histories of our two denominations. Schismatics are schismatics, whatever their orientation.

Perhaps leaping into the multifaceted, pluralistic world of Unitarian Universalism is a step of faith too far. Forming a perfect bridge between the sometimes freewheeling eclecticism of the Unitarians and the elastic, grudging tolerance of, say, the United Methodists lies the United Church of Christ. There happens to be one close at hand, East Congregational, and if one looks past its unfashionable website one could find a Christ-centred but flexible church, with strong preaching and a beautiful old worship space.

My own trek into creedless

Christianity led me to the Grand Rapids Friends Meeting, a small, dedicated group of Quakers who worship in silence every Sunday morning. It is a unique experience, sitting in communal silence and opening up to listen to and receive the Word. Egalitarian — there are no paid clergy — and existing in a living tradition that stretches back four hundred years, Quakerism can be a the conduit to a more introspective and expansive faith.

I would urge the Calvin community, particularly the institutional authorities and Campus Ministries most especially of all, to recognize that there are lively religious discussions going on on campus. Many of these straddle or even fall outside the discursive boundaries of Christian Reformed theology. Helping all students, orthodox or not, religious or not, find their place here is a challenge I hope Calvin College has the courage and foresight to take on. Just remember: there is always the library.



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Released documents not enough for financial accountability

BY DAVID CRUMP
Professor of Religion

It is no secret that Calvin College is in deep financial trouble. What remains a secret, however, is knowledge of exactly how we got to where we are today. Yes, an independent, investigative task force has issued its report after months of “analysis and study,” but the full report apparently will not be made public. President Le Roy recently issued a summary of the report for public consumption, and the chairman of the Board of Trustees has published a letter on the college website. While these two documents are certainly a step in the right direction, neither of them is acceptable as the final accounting of our current predicament.

After confessing that “stronger board oversight may have” produced a different financial outcome, the Board’s letter devolves into a diversionary lament over the insurmountable economic and systemic factors confronting “many colleges” today, implying that our current difficulties are in large part an unavoidable consequence of national trends.

But that just doesn’t wash. Painting a poodle to look like a pointer will never make a lap-dog hunt. Neither should these kinds of diversionary tactics fool us now.

It gets worse. The real problem we are told is that “Calvin has been living beyond its means.”

Excuse me? Undoubtedly, some people have been living the high life. Maybe the Board has been ordering pheasant under glass and caviar when they come

to Grand Rapids for their oversight meetings, but I do not know any faculty or staff members who have been living high on the hog.

I suspect that a more apt summary of Calvin’s financial debacle would mention the Board’s lackadaisical contentment with living well below its institutional responsibilities. Where were their educated minds and budgetary acumen while this boondoggle was unfolding? Their letter, quite noticeably, does not include a single jot or tittle of anything resembling an admission of responsibility, much less an apology to the men and women who will suffer the real world consequences of the board’s failure to provide genuine oversight.

The letter’s concluding benediction is especially offensive. I find no consolation in knowing that the board has prayed together, offering their “hearts to God,” asking for his blessing. The last thing we need right now is the repetition of more Calvin mantras. How about a public confession that asks for forgiveness within earshot of the employees who will be joining the unemployment lines? How about a letter of apology to the students who will soon be dealing with class sizes larger than ever before? Thankfully, Shirley Hoogstra, vice president for student life and a long-time cabinet member, has been exemplary in this regard, offering an example for others to follow by publicly apologizing before faculty senate.

The task force summary released by the president is very helpful and important, but it still has serious flaws. We are

finally given an explanation of the investment scheme that got the college into this mess, but the description itself raises serious questions about the moral compass of Calvin’s past leadership. For example, were donors told beforehand that the funds they were contributing to a college building project were actually being diverted into speculative investments so that the college could make a profit on their generosity? If they were, I for one would like to hear about it. If I were a donor, I would like to have known about this plan long before the ink was dry on my check.

I do not know if this is standard operating procedure for college capital campaigns. I do know that a friend of mine, the CFO of a local corporation with a Harvard MBA, was shocked when he learned about the re-routing of funds that got Calvin into its current difficulties. Is my friend out of touch with modern-day fund raising? Or should we be more than shocked at hearing this news?

If such investment plans are not standard procedure, then I would also like to know if the people responsible for hatching and implementing the investment scheme have been asked to apologize to the generous men and women who once believed in the mission of Calvin College.

The task force summary begs for these questions, and many others, to be addressed. Yet, it too lapses into a vague description suggesting that Calvin has fallen victim to an impersonal systemic failure devoid of any human agency. To make matters worse, college employees who stand up and ask for direct answers to

these questions are accused of searching for “scapegoats.” They have also recently been subjected to pious homilies about how unspiritual it is to ask for personal accountability in public.

The Biblical, theological, pastoral and psychological fallacies at the heart of these accusations would require a much longer article. Suffice it to say that the Christian’s responsibility to forgive those who sin against us resides just next door to the Lord’s injunction that we confess our sins to him and to one another. Certainly, my responsibility to be forgiving is not contingent on anyone else’s confession of guilt. But when the sins requiring forgiveness are committed by the leaders of a group, and the consequences of those sins damage the group, then the group has God’s own warrant to expect that confession and repentance will be made to the group.

The discussion of sin and forgiveness also begs the question of whether personal offense is the most appropriate or useful category for addressing the social fall-out of Calvin’s problems. The entrenched confusion of “community” versus “institutional” paradigms in analyzing the college’s organizational issues has never been helpful. It certainly is not helpful now. A battered wife who follows Jesus does need to forgive her (ex-)husband, but she is perfectly justified in reporting him to the police, pressing charges and expecting him to be punished to the full extent of the law. Certainly, members of an educational institution who learn that financial mismanagement has negatively affected their ability to do their jobs are not

necessarily impious in wanting to know who was responsible.

Did the task force conduct a forensic audit? I assume they did. What were the legal conclusions, and what was their basis? Have legal actions been discussed? Has such action and a more thorough disclosure been waived after the signing of non-disclosure agreements? Why were Calvin’s financial records a disjointed mess when our new president arrived in town? Was this evidence of incompetence or an attempt to bury information as part of a cover-up? There is nothing unspiritual about asking these kinds of questions and wanting to know specifics.

Yes, the financial task force report clarifies the organizational mechanisms that brought Calvin College to its current financial crisis. But looking forward to a healthy, communal future will be difficult, if not impossible, as long as the sins (or should we say, standard risks? negligence? irresponsible behaviors? criminal acts?) of the past remain shrouded in secrecy. How can we collectively anticipate a better future when we are denied a full accounting of the past? We are asked to trust the powers that be, but misplaced trust is part of the problem that got us to where we are in the first place. There may be room for discussion about what level of specificity is feasible in public conversation, but that question has not been explicitly addressed in either of the recently released documents. If the promise of transparency does not extend into the past as well as all the way to the top, then that promise is not only empty, it is potentially toxic.

Critique of LOFT sermon missed central themes

BY GABE GUNNINK
Staff Writer

Two weeks ago in Sunday LOFT, Pastor Mary offered students a sermon on Christian sexual ethics. Last week, the Chimes ran an article labeling this sermon “problematic” and claiming it defended “the current American evangelical picture of appropriate sex.” However, I found the sermon not problematic but profound and would like to lend another voice to this conversation.

In her column, Becca aptly points out Pastor Mary’s establishment of sex as having both procreative and unitive features. However, her article describes Pastor Mary as suggesting that “sex must always be unitive and procreative in its proper form” and as defining sex as “any time an orgasm happens.” It then cites a demonstration in which students attempt to successively adhere and separate pieces of duct tape and finish with mangled messes of gray. She claims this exercise as proof that Pastor Mary subscribes to the “current American evangelical picture of appropriate sex” and the idea that after unbiblical sexual activity, the worth of one’s soul is “destroyed.”

Instead, I would argue that Pastor Mary presents this demonstration as a representation of the damage that comes from underestimating the unitive power of sex. Pastor Mary offers oral sex as an example of a practice that we view as “safe” because it does not engage sex’s procreative side. However, this stance ignores the powerful binding

aspect of sexual relationships and threatens to lead us to emotional tearing and injured intimacy. After the demonstration, Pastor Mary states, “the unitive aspect of human sexuality is like duct tape; it is designed to stick us to another person.” The duct tape isn’t meant to tell us we’re worthless. It’s meant to tell us we’re worth more.

Additionally, the previous article suggests, “The duct tape analogy went no further” than Pastor Mary’s declaration: “This is what [unbiblical sex] can do to your soul.” However, Pastor Mary does in fact describe the importance of this unifying aspect extensively, defending it both biologically and biblically. She describes a chemical in our bodies, oxytocin, that increases during sexual activity and “bonds you to another.” She says it’s so strong “that you may actually like the person after you have sex with the person more than you did before you had sex with the person” and adds, “It’s like we were created for that!” She makes the idea clear: sexual faithfulness is not merely something prescribed by the Bible, but something that is affirmed by nature and designed to bind us together.

This power of sex is something Pastor Mary warns us to treat with great reverence, citing two passages from “a very sexy love poem,” the Song of Solomon. The first is a piece of advice from the enamored bride to her friends, the maiden chorus: “Do not stir up or awaken love until it is ready.” God’s gift of human sexuality, it says, is overwhelmingly joyful and good. Yet, the beloved herself warns her friends that sex is not something to be messed around

with or taken as less than it is. We do this when we try to isolate only the physical pleasure of sex and ignore its inevitable binding function.

Pastor Mary then goes on to describe the fresh epiphany of the maiden chorus. The maidens talk about a young sister of theirs who is not yet ready for full sexuality and say, “If she is a wall, we will build towers of silver on her. If she is a door, we will enclose her with panels of cedar.” They are proclaiming that they will protect her and take joint ownership of her sexuality. They want her to have what the bride has and know that it will not come from sexual irresponsibility. It is this irresponsibility that Pastor Mary is referring to when she holds up the crumpled duct tape and calmly says, “And so, when you mess around with sexual stimulation with another person, you may feel safe...but this is what it can do to your soul.”

Becca also correctly notes in her article that Pastor Mary introduces the communal nature of sexuality. This is where that comes in. We must begin to hold each other accountable in our sexual lives. This doesn’t require dragging your housemate away by his hair if he’s giving his date a kiss good night. What it does require is looking out for each other. It means asking our friend if she’s moving too quickly with that new guy. It means talking with our roommate about his sexuality if we don’t fully understand it. It means lending a listening ear. It doesn’t mean treating others like torn and tattered tape, but reminding them that they are, by nature and by design, so much more.

And so, I firmly believe that Pastor Mary was not trying to impart judgment on anyone, define Christian sexual ethics, or prescribe a list of practices to which we all must adhere. Instead, she was acting as a member of the maiden chorus; she brought her message to LOFT because she loves us and because she wants us to experience the true power of sexuality done well. She wants us to know that we deserve “the beauty of unitive love.”

I would strongly invite you to watch the sermon online at www.calvin.edu/faith. It’s in the LOFT 2012-2013 archives, and the sermon begins at 46:26.

Thus, while Becca and I may disagree on the meaning behind March 3rd’s LOFT sermon, there is something we both certainly agree on: we need to continue conversation on these issues. In fact, Wednesday afternoon I sat down with Becca at the Fish House and talked with her about Pastor Mary’s message. I think we both learned that writing, while a beautiful medium, is not very flexible and cannot replace

sitting down and taking the time to talk. I discovered that Becca has very valid concerns about the sermon’s implications regarding social stigmas attached to certain sexual backgrounds in many Christian circles. Likewise, I hope that Becca recognized my view that the sermon was intended to show the power of sexual intimacy rather than reinforce messages of intolerance. But regardless of the opinions we walked away with, I greatly appreciated the privilege to talk with her and truly learned a lot.

No matter what our opinions or views, the path leading to healthier sexual lives involves constant conversation. It requires us to take joint ownership of each other’s sexualities and encourage each other toward relationships that bind deeply. I hope that we can find these conversations on campus often and add to them positively and responsibly when we do, and I thank Pastor Mary so sincerely for her willingness to provide us with such a brave, beautiful example of how to do just that.

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#WeAreCalvin not representative

BY GREG KIM AND ADAM WHITE
Nat-World Editor and Guest Writer

From March 4 to March 10, the Calvin Student Senate put on the #WeAreCalvin project. The project was a way for students to participate in the prioritization of college resources over the next five years. The initiative had considerable institutional backing, but it failed to prompt representative student participation.

The idea was simple. Take a photo, upload and hashtag it and let people vote. More votes meant more student body value.

Yeaji Choi, the student senate president, said on the Calvin website, "We felt that social media was an easier way for students to interact with one another."

The project leveraged the wide reach of social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to rally student involvement. Senate would then take the top 25 most voted-for photos and pass them on to the planning and priorities committee, which is in charge of long-term financial planning for the college.

On Monday, March 4, the project took off.

Senate circulated #WeAreCalvin t-shirts, buttons, posters, cards and dining hall table markers. The senate Facebook page featured a video of President LeRoy encouraging students to participate.

By Wednesday night, around 70 photos had been posted with the "WeAreCalvin" hashtag.

The next day, on March 7, professors read a mandatory announcement in class from the Provost's office, urging students to upload and "like" more pictures.

At 12:00 p.m. on March 10, Senate closed the voting for the #WeAreCalvin project.

At final count, the top entry posted by "Drew" had 102 votes. His picture featured a group of Calvin students cheering at an event, and read, "Proud to be part of this team."

"Rachel"'s "We love the SPAUD program!" came in second place. It had 76 votes, an even more surprising statistic considering that speech pathology and

audiology students make up only 4 percent of the student body.

The rest of the top ten entries represented a variety of interests. "Lori" held up a fanned stack of tickets from the concerts, movies and sporting events she had attended at Calvin. "Clair" entered a photo of her "planking" in the library. "Rok Dam" and "Connor" spotlighted Calvin staff members, Rikako and Patsy, respectively. "Nathan" uploaded a picture of two men at a urinal holding books, "engaging in all things." The remainder presented group interests such as women's rugby and off-campus programs.

If the senate carries on with its plan, these entries will be presented as the interests of the student body — sports to SPAUD to urinals. Yet a photo with 102 votes is hardly representative of a student body of roughly 4,008 students.

Senate's strategy counted on the wide reach of social media platforms, coupled that with extensive advertising, and wagered on a broad response.

It is fair to say that student participation for this survey was minimal.

Students posted a total of 194 entries. A staggering 159 entries (83 percent of the total) received 0-10 votes. And in fact, 49 entries (25 percent of the total) had zero votes.

#WeAreCalvin was a project set in place by student senate to channel public interest. A governing body is rightly endowed with the task of creating effective institutions, or "projects," through which the public can express its interests, expecting that they will shape policy.

Social media is no proper forum for such a task. It is a medium that pools both variety and reach, but reach is no guarantee of responsiveness, and variety also applies to the range of good to poor quality responses that users can easily post.

Senators must realize that their representation of the student body cannot simply take into account the breadth of student interest in any given subject, the primary strength of a social media-based data source.

Adequate representation must also consider a qualitative analysis of precisely how much stu-

dents care about a particular interest.

Perhaps a good number of students enjoy attending Calvin sporting events (albeit only 102 by #WeAreCalvin's standards), but Calvin Dining Services did not receive any votes. Neither did the Business department, nor the physical plant, nor health services nor Dance Guild.

The project clearly lacks the "How much?" or "Why?" components that are essential in any budget prioritization process. The #WeAreCalvin project's oversimplified and under-representative results are not fit to be used in this complicated process.

Statements on the #WeAreCalvin page such as "What should Calvin look like in five years?" and "What should we be considering in the planning process?" certainly imply that the results will affect decision-making.

But how? The project rests on hazy implications, resulting from such ambiguous statements. Transparency is a must in order for the public to lobby its interests. People need to know beforehand how their input will matter. This is the only way to guarantee that their input will be taken seriously.

Students need to know that their interests and values will generate more than a few votes and a "prize." A prioritization process requires people to defend their interests, but people will not likely rise to the occasion if they do not know the significance of their participation.

Transparency is a prerequisite for legitimacy, and legitimacy is a prerequisite for meaningful participation.

A project that is a part of a budget prioritization process cannot sacrifice transparency for the sake of simplicity. Budget prioritization will affect the college for the next five, even ten years. If student body input is truly valued in this process, there needs to be a clearer mechanism reliant on a more legitimate medium of public input in order for there to be meaningful participation.

Social media inadequate

BY KAYLA VANDERPLOEG
Staff Writer

We all have seen the posters, buttons and t-shirts for #WeAreCalvin, a campaign designed to give the college feedback about what is important to us. The goal of the campaign is that students will submit a picture that represents what they love most about Calvin. This can be anything — subjects currently range from pictures of squirrels in the snow to pictures of a LOFT service or a recent basketball game that we won. In the end, students will vote on the pictures they like best and, according to the video posted by student senate, "the number of likes a picture receives will show the committee how valuable it is to the student body."

But I love Calvin College because of the diversity we promote. The Calvin College that I love prides itself in giving a voice to minority opinions and interests, the Calvin College I love triumphs a culture of discernment and seeing God's common grace. So to decide what's important to us as a college by championing the organization or event with the most votes on their picture makes absolutely no sense to me. How do you visually represent a wide diversity in interests, opinions and backgrounds?

#WeAreCalvin emphasizes quantity over quality. I could take a picture of a massive, super entertaining program like Airband, which sells out consistently every year, and it would get a ton of votes. It's a visually appealing picture, and it relates across the board to Calvin students. But I don't really learn, grow or share in intentional community when I attend Airband. Sure, I love it, and I always have a great time, but Airband isn't the reason I attended Calvin College. In contrast, I do a lot of less visually-stimulating activities that don't get a ton of participation, but they're the ones that really shape my Calvin experience for the better. For example, I've taken a course in and attended several events sponsored by the gender studies department. The department is tiny, and it only offers a minor; in fact many

of the courses are only offered every other year because it's so small. But the discussions I've engaged in and the perspectives I've learned from have been completely transformative to the way I see the world and the way I understand other people. How do I put that into a visually-appealing Instagram?

Another example would be the opportunity I have to work in the costume shop with the Calvin Theatre Company. I've been able to witness firsthand all of the awesome things that theater teaches people, and I've been able to gain and improve upon a skill that I was passionate about that I would never have had the opportunity to improve if I couldn't work in the costume shop. But most importantly, I've been blessed to share in an amazing community of my coworkers in the program, and I've had an opportunity to really connect with them in a way that I wasn't able to connect with others in other Calvin activities. The costume shop, and by extension, the Theatre Company, is kind of like a family to me here. Please explain to me how I could sum that up in a picture that will rapidly generate massive amounts of likes.

I know that we're struggling with the budget right now. I know that money needs to be cut somewhere and that requires prioritization on the part of the College. But what makes Calvin different, what makes us special, what makes us Calvin College is our appreciation for and encouragement of diversity. Our acknowledgement that God rejoices in both art and nursing, and that both deserve equal attention and validation as something worth studying. To create a hierarchy of "what's important to us" would be to change who we are as a college. Martial arts club is just as important as Dance Guild, a theater major is as informative as an English education major and Visual Arts Guild allows students to discern and engage with culture just as much as a Fun concert. We are Calvin College. We don't all think the same way, and we don't all come from the same perspective, but that's what makes us, us.

'Look Me in the Eyes' told truth about sexuality

BY MEG SCHMIDT
Staff Writer

I raised my hand to ask a question during a play. It was a really small moment; I caught my hand and quickly corrected myself before anyone around me noticed. But still, for a second, I forgot that I was an audience member, in a theater, with people all around me and a program in my hand.

I blame David Ellens for that small mistake of mine. What he has produced isn't a play, not really. Instead, a conversation was taking place on stage, the kind of conversation that usually only happens late at night with close friends. And all I wanted to do was join in.

Maybe it was the setting. The Christmas lights strung throughout the theater made a warm, safe atmosphere; there were bowls of popcorn on stage, and the actors themselves felt and looked like people I personally know and love. Each time an actor came on stage, introduced themselves, and let us get to know them, I found myself thinking how much they reminded me of a friend I have, or a couple I know.

By using characters and stories we can all associate with, the play connects in some way to our own lives and forces us to think about how we personally identify with our own sexuality.

In a lot of ways, I think this can be an incredibly frightening thing. Each view and experience with sexuality was imperfect in some way — even (and maybe most surprisingly) within the context of married life.

But this imperfection made the play relatable to us, the audience. Though it would have been an incredibly easy thing to do, we weren't shown a completely depraved sex maniac, or a rapist or someone perfectly content with his or her own sex life. The play was meant to open up discussion, here, in our everyday lives, about the word no one ever seems to want to say.

Sex.

Why does no one ever want to talk about it? This is a point raised by Nurse Lori's exasperated line concerning an uneducated and sexually nervous patient, to whom "No one was saying anything!"

It's due to a strange kind of guilt and shame we have towards sex, words which again and

again crept up in the interviews. Rebecca and Andy both admitted to feeling shame at being naked for the first time in front of their spouse, and on the other end of the spectrum, we have Emily, a girl who has never been in a relationship, even after graduating from Calvin. What is her response to her sexuality meant to be? Pride at her ability to be alone? Or (and here's that word again) shame?

I have an idea about this. From middle school onwards, our lives become a cacophony of mixed messages.

We live in a visual culture that is — quite frankly — obsessed with all things sexual. To be attractive you must be sexually attractive. "50 Shades of Grey" is one of the best selling books of all time, and it is impossible to walk down the street without some subliminal message creeping through about our appearance and the sex appeal of others. I really don't think, if I tried, I could find more than ten women I know who are completely comfortable with their own bodies — think about Emily, who complains about the fact that she doesn't "have big boobs!" This is the result of living in a visual culture that is self-deprecating

and harmful.

But in retaliation against these messages (and this is the culture I grew up in), sex is turned into something that one should be ashamed of. There are moments when I wonder if I should feel guilt about my sexuality, it gets lumped into the same category as drugs and alcohol, and we are warned — again and again — never to sleep with someone before marriage.

Sex becomes a bad word.

Sex becomes something one should feel guilty about and never discuss, even after marriage.

I think the result of this silence is that people are getting hurt.

Take the married couple, Rebecca and Andy. Sex is still a struggle for them, even after six years of a loving marriage. Or Kyle, a college boy who has just broken up with a long-term girlfriend because of a refusal to be honest about their boundaries. Or perhaps Meg best illustrates this. A dedicated Christian, for a moment she got lost in the strange, wild side of college and lost her virginity in her freshman year of Calvin. "All I was thinking of was — when will this end?" she admits.

I don't want to make judg-

ments about people's choices, especially in this context, but I can't help but wonder if she had been open about what she was going through, honest about her sexuality, in dialogue with people she trusted, would the same thing have happened?

I was deeply touched by each of the actors (and director) I saw on the stage that night, and I couldn't say I had a favorite — but it was something Meg said that I think touched me the most. After all the abuse she had been through, and describing the trauma she experienced with her father, Meg began to talk about the absolute love and adoration she felt for her current boyfriend.

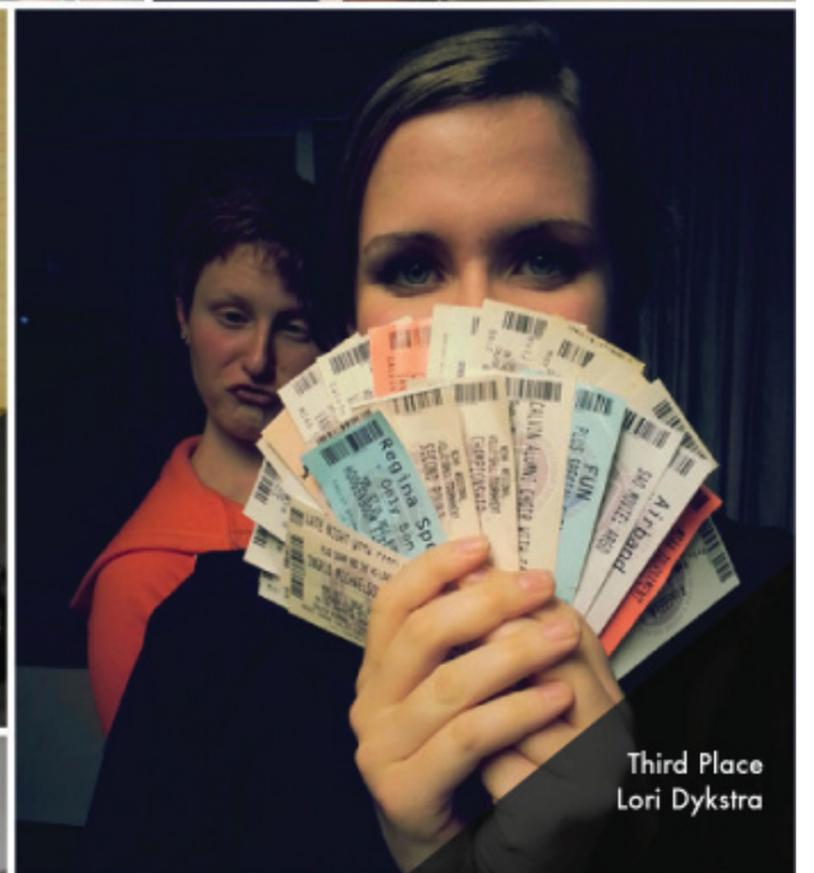
"I'd never kissed anyone with my eyes open before," she admitted. As she talked about that moment more, she commented on how there was a true intimacy in that kiss, an honesty that was both humbling and beautiful.

I love that.

If "Look Me in the Eyes" did anything for me, it taught me what I think true intimacy should be. Intimacy (as well as sex) should be just like that kiss, an honest, shared experience that is "both humbling and beautiful."



First Place
Drew Sikkema



Third Place
Lori Dykstra



Second Place
Rachel Geib

