

## CALVIN COLLEGE



WOMEN'S RUGBY PAGE 3



ARTPRIZE STARTED PAGE 6



CAMPUS SAFETY PAGE 5



WRECKING BALLS PAGE 11

# No. 1 Knights beat No. 2 Hope in three sets

*The Dutch put up a tough fight but Calvin was able to defeat them for the eighth consecutive match*

BY BRIAN EXNER  
Staff Writer

In a continuation of the Calvin-Hope rivalry series, the No. 1 Knights held strong on their home court, winning an eighth consecutive match against the No. 2 Flying Dutch.

They did so in a mere three sets — 25-17, 25-21 and 28-26 — even though Hope had earned the No. 2 spot in the national rankings just earlier that day.

Although they swept the match, the Knights went down 2-0 in each of the first two sets.

Coach Amber Warners said that it shows the resilience of the team. “We need those growing moments to help us get better,” she said.

By putting the Dutch on the move constantly, the Knights were able to win the battle mentally, causing many errors.

Warners pointed out Hope’s

unusually-high 13 service errors, saying it changed the game. “If you had to pinpoint one difference, [it was serving],” she said.

Each of the sets had close moments where the two teams

Hope began the set by earning a point, but after the teams battled back and forth for eight points apiece, Calvin went on a 6-0 run to bring the score to 14-8. Hope never gave up, narrowing in

The teams exchanged blows again until kills from Laura Danhoff and Megan Rietema finally put the game away by a score of 28-26.

“The last point is just like any

seemed to disagree, as they capped their already energetic support with an eruption of cheers.

Maggie Kamp was Calvin’s best hitter once again finishing with 16 kills.

She said that she knew the crowd had her back.

“The crowd adds so much energy to our team ... It’s just awesome to know that we have such a great support system that is with us no matter what,” she said.

Rietema was also a reliable support system providing 31 assists. The defense also played a huge supporting role, as the Knights had 72 digs on the night.

Kristi Zietse had 21 of those digs, Rietema had 12 and Elise Biesbor provided 11.

The next home game is on Wednesday, Sept. 25 as the Knights take on Adrian.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CALVIN.EDU

Although the third set was the hardest-fought set for the Knights this year, the Knights still defeated the Flying Dutch in the first three sets of a possible five.

fought for the lead, but it came down to the wire in the last set.

on Calvin until the Dutch were finally able to tie it at 23.

other point in the game,” said Rietema, but the student section

Sept. 25 as the Knights take on Adrian.

# Draft of new core would slash course load

*Core committee outlines rough plan to reduce requirements by one-third*

BY LAUREN DEHAAN  
Local Editor

Calling the current core “unsustainable” and “too large,” a rough draft for a new core curriculum would cut the number of core credits from 74 down to 49 to 52.

The current draft includes a new eight-credit, two-course introduction to the core — which would replace First Year Seminar and Developing a Christian Mind — that is structured around philosophy and religion.

It also includes a much smaller foreign language requirement and several combinations of current categories. According to the model, the combinations would include departments such as English, CAS and art history; political science, sociology and history; and biology and kinesiology.

The plan would not affect current students.

The committee hopes to present broad recommendations for core to the Board of Trustees at its January meeting, according to Bruce Berglund, chair of the core curriculum committee.

“These recommendations will not include specific core structure,” Provost Claudia Beversluis said. “We will bring [a specific plan] to faculty senate in the spring.”

According to the model drafted by the committee, core would be divided into “six areas of knowledge”

that will be comprised of courses spanning multiple departments.

“The logic behind making broader, interdisciplinary

categories is that we are trying to reduce core in a way that wouldn’t target specific departments,” said Berglund.

The committee’s outline would expand instruction in written and oral rhetoric, include a new focus on visual rhetoric, and offer room for more elective courses — a total of 12 “pick-and-choose” credit hours.

The plan removes the one-credit cross-cultural engagement (CCE) requirement and instead integrates it throughout the other classes. “The CCE category will be incorporated into the overall core,”



PHOTO COURTESY OF CALVIN.EDU

Committee chair Bruce Berglund said, “The logic behind making broader, interdisciplinary categories is that we are trying to reduce core in a way that wouldn’t target specific departments.”

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THE OFFICIAL STUDENT  
NEWSPAPER OF CALVIN COL-  
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## Buck Fridays carnival offers new, monstrous attractions

BY ANNA DELPH  
Photography Editor

More than 1,100 students and staff attended last Friday night's "Monsters University" carnival on commons lawn. The event featured popular music, dancing, carnival games and discounted food.

Many students gave the event favorable reviews.

"It's awesome getting to meet new people and see what the school does for fun," said Michael Hsu, a freshman. "Look at all the people here; people means success."

In the midst of orientation season, the carnival, which usually attracts on-campus freshmen and sophomores, was also heavily attended by upperclassmen such as Carrie Ott, a junior.

Ott was impressed by the amount of people who showed up.

"Any event that can get a fourth of campus to show up is pretty good," said Ott.

John Britton, head of Buck Fridays, said the program's main objective is to connect Calvin students with each other. Buck Fridays' next event, the Art Prize Scavenger Hunt, will try to connect students with Grand Rapids.

"Our goal is to be fun and interactive," Britton said.

The carnival was themed after "Monsters University" to coincide with the showing of the movie the night afterward. Students loved the theme and thought it was a fitting choice.

"What's better than being in touch with your inner child at the college level, right?" said Rebekah Kreisler, a fifth-year senior.

"It's really cute and creative," said Julia Lee, a sophomore. "I

wish people would dress up for it and we could give prizes for the best ones."

The carnival featured new attractions which were especially big hits.

One of the most popular features was the fire spinner. Kevin Higby, who has been spinning

original songs.

A large projection screen near the dance floor showed scenes of the crowd, clips from "Monsters University" and live video from a photo booth which had been set up so students could interact with the camera and the crowd.

60 volunteers, 30 of which were orientation leaders.

Student organizations also played a part in the festivities. Britton said Buck Fridays invited student clubs to run a table or an event. The martial arts club, the gender equality club,



PHOTO COURTESY OF ANNA DELPH

This year's carnival theme was based on the new Monsters University movie.

since he was a boy, was hired by the Student Activities Office to do fire spinning routines a few times every hour. The routine included spinning a bar which was on fire on both ends, as well as blowing fireballs from his mouth.

Students preferred the DJ and light shows to the student bands of the past, saying that it's easier for everyone to dance to popular music than

The live video feed became like a stage and let people be more interactive with the event. Students used it to show off their dance moves, embarrass their friends and do comedic stunts.

Many people and groups were involved in putting on the carnival.

"It takes a lot of people to run this," Britton said, adding that the event was staffed by more than

Dialogue, student senate and the multicultural student development office were all present.

Students mentioned that the size of the crowd did put somewhat of a damper on the event.

"I think the lines are a little long," said Kreisler, "but that's to be expected with how many students we have. Plus we'd rather dance!"

## CORE: Drastic changes expected in the near future

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Berglund said.

The health and fitness requirement would also be reduced from three semester hours to two.

The committee is re-evaluating the core curriculum due to a number of problems that have emerged over the years in regards to the nature of core in the education of students.

The committee began by examining complaints about the size and structure of the current core and then "investigated concerns that can be confirmed,

supported or refuted with enrollment data and other evidence," says the draft from the committee.

These confirmed concerns included the fact that many majors at Calvin allow for exemptions in core so that "the different requirements of certain programs and the inconsistent application of high school exemptions produce a number of practical problems," says the document.

"We started out with different models and then investigated how core has affected enrollment, students with two majors and stu-

dents not being able to graduate on time because of core requirements," said Berglund.

Another problem with core that the report seeks to address is the growing number of students who take core classes during the summer at community colleges or other institutions and transfer in the credits. The report acknowledged that more than 300 full-time Calvin students transferred credits during the 2011-2012 school year.

"Without changes in the transfer policy or in the core curriculum, other departments that serve

core will likewise find themselves competing with these easy online courses in the near future," says the committee's document.

But for now, the committee's report continues to generate discussion in academic departments across the campus.

"I think it is still far too early to predict any kind of final outcome," said Jeff Bouman, a member of the committee. "Now the larger community has some work to do in discussing and debating and doing more research into particular questions and concerns."

## Student life division appoints new positions in diversity office

BY SIERRA SEVELA  
Guest Writer

This past May the Calvin board of trustees met to approve a new budget while also approving the new position of dean for both the international and multicultural student development offices.

New student development employees include Christina Edmonson, who will act as interim dean for both offices, and Leslie Washington, who is replacing Ebonie Atkins as the program coordinator for the multicultural student development office (MSDO). Esther Kwak joins the international student development office (ISDO) as a part-time program coordinator.

This is the first year the two offices have shared a dean. So why the change?

Linda Bosch, assistant dean of ISDO, and Nicole Parker, program coordinator for MSDO, said the number of international students and students of

color at Calvin are increasing. International students make up 10 percent of the student body and students of color make up 12 percent, twice what they were five years ago.

Bosch says the offices need more exposure.

"The idea is the dean would take these programs and make them more visible," Bosch said.

Parker agreed that a dean would add visibility for both offices. She said the new dean will create structure and give the offices a bigger voice on campus and a better support system.

"It's a great change, especially as Calvin continues to move forward in our commitment to issues of diversity," Parker said.

Edmonson is not new to Calvin. She spent last year working in the Broene Counseling Center. She has BA in sociology, a master's degree in marriage and family counseling and a PhD in psychology.

Edmonson shared her thoughts on what she believes the offices should focus on this upcoming year.

"We have the privilege of being a community that is growing in its racial, ethnic and national diversity," Edmonson said. "It is essential that all of our students feel that Calvin College is their home."

"We are after both retention and flourishing for the good of the individual student and Calvin College," Edmonson said.

Washington joins the MSDO as an additional program coordinator who will work alongside Parker. She has her MA in history and has taught college courses about Asia and the world and Africa and the world.

Washington shared what she hoped to accomplish through her new position.

"I hope to guide students in their understanding and appreciation of the various cultures that are represented in the Calvin student body, with the particular goal of reconciliation," Washington said. "We are seeking to honor God in our relationships with one another as we endeavor to fulfill the command of our Lord to 'love your neighbor as yourself.'"

The ISDO works to help international students feel more at home and supported, Bosch explained. They give the students opportunities to showcase their cultures with programs like Rangeela and festivals that build community. Bosch expressed excitement for a new program where international students would be matched with international upperclassmen as a way to promote community and to integrate them into Calvin's campus.

Parker explained MSDO deals more with issues of race and social justice. The office exists to create a community where all students feel they belong and feel they are supported. MSDO sponsors UnLearn week, educational programming and various lectures throughout the year.

Amid the addition of new staff members, the offices are working to articulate their goals for the upcoming year.

"I think that there are a lot of great things that are to come," Parker said, "We are still in that goal-setting stage."

# Women's rugby team gets a coach and implements new changes for the year

BY LEAH JONKER  
On-Call Writer

Going into their fourth year as a club, the women's rugby team is making critical changes, expanding from the coachless team with hand-me-down jerseys they were in 2010.

For the past three years, the women have worn the men's old rugby jerseys.

"They don't exactly fit, and they look and smell far from new, but they have done all right for our team," said Becca Broekhuis, the senior captain.

"They were ripped, stained and two sizes too big," said Maria Sedjo, senior co-captain of the team.

But this year, the team has been approved to receive new jerseys, designed specifically for the build and shape of women.

"It was a little rough for awhile, but we were always grateful for the guys. It was just time for us to get our own," Sedjo said. "If Calvin didn't approve, we would have been disappointed."

Though the jerseys don't say "men's," it was obvious by their fit that they were not designed for the team, Sedjo said.

Broekhuis admitted that playing in these uniforms was uncomfortable while competing against teams like Michigan State.



PHOTO BY TORI JONES

The Calvin women's rugby team is getting new uniforms to replace their hand-me-downs.

"The student life department recently switched the way in which student organizations can request funding for the more expensive items they purchase," Broekhuis said. "Any organization, regardless of size or budget can request funding for an item that will be used

for several years to come. It's called a 'capital items request.'"

"It's a really good way to help some of the smaller organizations like women's rugby to grow without increasing their annual budget," Broekhuis added.

However, not all of the changes were by request.

Calvin also recently required the team to find a coach. "When I heard that the rugby team was going to be pulled if they didn't find a coach, I knew it was me," said Andy DeVries, Calvin's regional gift officer.

"I've never seen a rugby game. I don't know anything about

rugby, but I've always cheered for the underdog," DeVries said.

Due to the team's tight budget of \$2,000, half of which is raised by the girls, DeVries' position as coach is volunteer only. But it's not about the money.

"I can make a difference," DeVries said, "All I have to do is be there, just show up. The girls [Broekhuis and Sedjo] are the real coaches."

DeVries coaches by the motto, "hard work beats talent if talent doesn't work hard."

Coming into the team having only the experience that 198 downloaded pages of rules and strategies could teach him, DeVries believes in the success of the club based not on the score, but on the attitudes of the girls.

"If we come out of the game having had fun and worked hard then we'll call that a win," DeVries said.

"Our team," said Broekhuis, "is about enjoying time with each other and getting to play rugby."

With these new adjustments to the team, Broekhuis and Sedjo are excited for the new season, anticipating a new confidence and motivation.

"I think the new adjustments have helped us establish ourselves as an organization," Broekhuis said. "They encourage women to keep playing rugby at Calvin even after Maria and I graduate."

# Three freshmen students appointed to student senate

BY CAITLIN GENT  
Guest Writer

Freshmen Jonathan Manni, Hannah Biggs and Laura Steele joined student senate to represent their fellow students last Thursday after a rigorous application process. All three went through multiple interviews to achieve their new rank.

According to Connor Schmidt, a junior senate cabinet member, the candidates first filled out a paper application and gathered 100 signatures from fellow students. After a first round of cuts, the remaining candidates attended short interviews with the cabinet. Finally, the cabinet selected six applicants to move on to the final group interview. According to Schmidt, the final interview had multiple parts.

"The students were faced with mock situations to solve — budget crisis, funding, etc.," Schmidt said. "They also worked together in pairs to interview each other."

Schmidt said the cabinet closely evaluated the final candidates on their performance in the in-

terview. "We were looking for candidates with strong leadership skills but a humble attitude," he said. "We were looking for senators who had excellent interpersonal skills and were willing to work hard in order to better Calvin College."

The new senators also commented on the intensity of the selection procedure. Biggs and Steele agreed that the hardest part of the interview process was the final interview. They split into teams of two, interviewed another team and were instructed to evaluate the other team's performance.

"We had to analyze and critique other people's strengths and weaknesses and report back to the panel [of cabinet members]," Biggs said.

The new senators had their own visions for student senate and its role in campus life.

"My vision for senate this year is that we would serve our community and our campus in



PHOTO COURTESY OF STUDENT SENATE

Freshmen senators (from left) Hannah Biggs, Jonathan Manni and Laura Steele.

ways that are relevant and effective," Biggs said. Biggs said she and her fellow senators will work together to see this vision into reality.

Steele added to Biggs' vision statement, specifically addressing

the class of 2017.

"It's also important to help the freshmen get settled," said Steele. "This year's student body is different than in past years, and [student] senate should act according to their needs and

wants."

Looking forward to a full academic year in office, the new senators expressed their excitement for the following year.

"I can't wait to see our work affecting people in tangible ways," Biggs said, smiling. Steele nodded her assent.

"I'm looking forward to helping students fall in love with Calvin and the great opportunities it has to offer," she said.

After seeing them through the interview process, Schmidt said he is looking forward to working with the new senators.

"All of cabinet is beyond impressed with each of their skills, talents and attitudes," he said. "They are beyond awesome and we are looking forward to seeing their contributions this upcoming year."

# New members join enrollment management division senior leadership team

BY VALERIE GREER  
Guest Writer

The senior leadership team (SLT) of the enrollment management division welcomed three new members this September: Tasha Cruz, associate director of college readiness; Nunana Nyomi, associate director of international admissions; and Tom Van Eck, associate director of enrollment research.

While these members are maintaining the same positions as before, the president's office added them to the SLT in order to offer more diverse representation in leadership and gain new perspectives on the issues that the enrollment management division faces.

All three of the new members agree that they will each bring an important and diverse

outlook to the SLT.

"In the scene of enrollment, all of these voices are important to have," Cruz said. "They each interact with different demographics and situations."

Cruz herself is in charge of reaching out to and interacting with middle school and high school students. Cruz said she provides resources to "help students navigate the process more easily."

In the past, Cruz has worked for Entrada, a program in which racial and ethnic minority high school students take summer courses at Calvin.

Cruz said her close interactions with younger age groups enable her to offer new ideas about the enrollment process. She believes that the change will bring different voices to the table.

Nyomi works with international students and explains that

the population is always growing, and agrees that this new leadership addition will benefit the SLT.

"Demographic trends are shifting," Nyomi said, "and as Calvin seeks to position itself in a sustainable manner for the future, it is important to consider the impact of key enrollment decisions on the audiences that are growing significantly."

Nyomi calls himself a "third-culture kid" and has lived in several different countries. Nyomi has also held a variety of different admissions roles. He believes his experience with different cultures will offer new diverse ideas.

Van Eck's roles are more research oriented.

"My primary duties involve coordinating enrollment reporting for the college, both internal and external reporting needs," Van Eck said.

Besides coordinating enrollment reporting, Van Eck also works with admissions and retention statistics and helps evaluate the enrollment division's programs and initiatives.

Van Eck said that the expansion will provide broader input to the decisions made by the college. He said his addition to the leadership team in particular will highlight the importance of "met-

rics and performance indicators."

Cruz said that ultimately, these changes will help reflect Calvin's dedication to diversity.

"In the scene of enrollment, all of these voices are important to have," Cruz said. She explained that because of this decision, Calvin College will do a better job of upholding its mission to represent every tribe and nation.

The article titled "LOFT ends 15-year-old 'Grow in Grace' tradition" published on Sept. 13 contained the following errors: Greg DeMey is spelled Mey not May; Cale Cooper didn't ask Greg DeMey to include "My Friends," he invited Greg DeMey and Greg Kett to move LOFT to Calvin's campus after it had been going at LaGrave Ave CRC. "My Friends" is original to LOFT; "My Friends" is not sung at Paul Ryan's high school. The blessing song tried last week is included in the book "Common Prayer for Ordinary Radicals." Chimes regrets these errors. Corrections have also been made online.

# Grand Rapids OKs food trucks at art museum

## Alternative dining option will bring variety to downtown Grand Rapids

BY JOHN MICHAEL LASALLE  
Guest Writer

Last Thursday, the Grand Rapids Planning Commission unanimously approved a special land use permit for the Grand Rapids Art Museum (GRAM) to host food trucks on Wege Plaza, in between the museum and Rosa Parks Circle.

The request was made by GRAM CFO Randy Van Antwerp in time for ArtPrize. The proposal states that a truck would normally operate for breakfast and lunch three days a week, with additional hours for special events.

The permit allows up to two trucks to operate 200 days a year from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday, and 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

The permit is the first in downtown Grand Rapids allowing food trucks on private land, though food stands are permitted on certain downtown streets.

Previous discussions of food-trucks have raised opposition from restaurants who are worried that food trucks will draw business away from their establishments.

The GRAM’s proposal intended to address these concerns by only offering food that was not available from nearby restaurants and other mobile vendors. No restaurateurs spoke

against the proposal at the commission meeting.

Lynce Wells, a local urban planner at Williams Works, is supportive of the permit. “Food trucks provide another dining

option for downtown dwellers and visitors alike.” Current nearby dining options include T.G.I. Friday’s, The Dog Pit, Angel Thai, Cinco de Mayo, Leo’s and Parsley Mediterranean Grille.

The move is part of a trend of greater acceptance of food trucks in Michigan. In August, the Michigan Economic Development Corporation awarded almost \$78,000 in grants

to help food trucks start or expand their businesses.

According to Wells, “In places like Traverse City, food trucks are seen as an important business incubator, often translating into a fixed restaurant and an important component of their downtown economic development strategy.”

In addition to food trucks, which stay in one location while operating, Grand Rapids allows food carts and mobile vendors, such as ice cream trucks, to operate downtown.

The GRAM proposal highlights Wege Plaza’s assets, such as under-utilized covered outdoor dining areas and convenient public facilities. Food trucks will be required to recycle and compost in keeping with the GRAM’s Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) Gold certification.

Adjacent Rosa Parks Circle hosts a variety of events throughout the year, such as ice skating during the winter and, until recently, swing dancing every Tuesday during the summer. The GRAM is also a focal point of ArtPrize.

What the Truck, a local food truck run by The Winchester, will be at the GRAM during ArtPrize. Other area food trucks, such as Papa Joe’s Southern BBQ, run by Joe Mitchell, have expressed interest in operating downtown.



PHOTO COURTESY OF GRAND RAPIDS ART MUSEUM

The new permit is the first to allow food trucks on private property in downtown Grand Rapids; it comes after \$78,000 in grants were awarded to help food trucks start or expand business.

# ArtPrize returns to Grand Rapids

## Popular GR art competition displays art throughout the city

BY BEN RIETEMA  
On Call Writer

With a giant hummingbird sculpture, pandas made out of old tires and a mosaic of President Carter made entirely out of peanut shells, ArtPrize has swept into Grand Rapids. The event officially began Sept. 18 and continues for 19 days, until Oct. 6.

ArtPrize, now in its fifth year, has again transformed downtown Grand Rapids into an extended art exhibition.

“The interesting thing about ArtPrize is that it’s everywhere downtown,” senior David Ryou said. “It’s just covered in art. It really gives the city some flavor.”

The ArtPrize event began in 2009 when entrepreneur Rick Devos created a grassroots competition that allowed the public to vote for their favorite art. After the first year that featured over 1,200 artists from 41 states and 14 countries, ArtPrize has only grown.

Last year, the event hosted 400,000 visitors, who are introduced to the city and its downtown.

“It was a great experience; it

opened me up to Grand Rapids,” senior Chanmin Anh said.

ArtPrize winners are chosen by viewers who vote to distribute the \$560,000 of prize money, which is given to the top ten artists. Yet the prize money pales compared to what the local economy

start from Rosa Parks Circle and are marked by signs on the ground.

However, Ryou notes some of the best works are in unexpected places. “You’ve really got to look around,” he said, “The art’s everywhere — inside and outside of buildings and on the ground.”

The unexpected is key in the event. ArtPrize enables lesser-known artists to exhibit their art and to get their name out.

The first ArtPrize winner, New Yorker Ran Ortner, went from an unknown struggling to get by to having thousands view his painting, “Open Water No. 24.”

Anh, a New York native, enjoyed Ortner’s piece the most. “The immensity of it ... It really looked like you were at the beach,” he comments.

Other entries in the past have included an 18-foot high, 100-foot long “Nessie” — a sculpture resembling the Loch Ness monster — in the Grand River and a giant hovering steam pig nicknamed Parsifal.

While Calvin College is not playing host to a steam pig, it is hosting venues on campus and at its downtown (106) art gallery at 106 Division St. SE. This year the gallery features the monochrome work of ten artists in the exhibition “DELINEATION.”

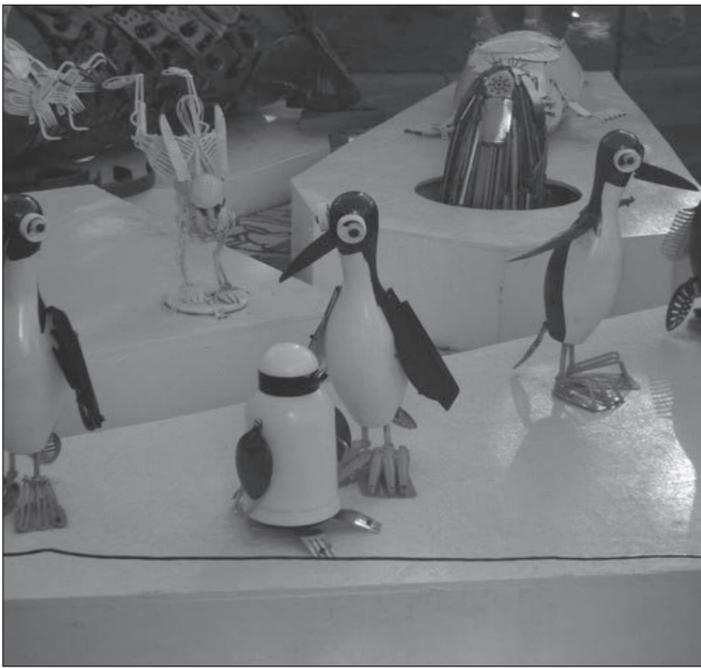


PHOTO BY BECKY JEN

ArtPrize visitors can vote for art using their mobile devices.

gains from the event, which has been estimated to be \$15.4 million.

To make voting easier, a mobile iPhone and Android application (app) is available. The app contains a feature that finds ArtPrize pieces that are close to the user and allows viewers to register and vote.

Along with the app, several self-guided walking tours are offered to aid viewers. The tours

# GR’s buses win award

## Calvin students find bus system practical

BY ERICKA BUITENHUIS  
Guest Writer

Grand Rapids’ busing system, The Rapid, was recently named “The Most Outstanding Mid-Sized Transportation System” in North America for 2013.

Many students, however, are not fully aware of the benefits that this nationally-recognized busing system brings, including not needing to find parking or worrying about getting separated from a caravan of friends’ cars.

Between classes, friends and homework it might prove to be a challenge to find a few hours of time to go exploring, but students who have tried it say that it is well worth the time.

“I think you would be at a disadvantage to choose to stay inside the Calvin bubble,” said freshman Kara Bilkert.

Grand Rapids has a variety of events and venues to choose from, such as ArtPrize, swing dancing and various festivals throughout the year.

Besides being close to a city that has lots of events going on, Calvin students can also purchase a discount card from campus safety or the Service Learning Center (SLC), reducing the cost of a one-way ride to 50 cents.

Some students have found riding The Rapid to be an intimidating endeavor.

Freshman Kira Rosol has lived in Grand Rapids for many years, but she had never used the busing system before coming to Calvin.

“It was a different experience,” says Rosol, “I got out of my comfort zone.” To her surprise, Rosol found that the bus system was not nearly as confusing as she had thought. She admits that she found it even more relaxing because she was with a group of friends. “Just don’t go alone for the first time,” suggests Rosol.

Getting a map of the routes from the SLC a few days before exploring also proved to be a helpful tool for some, as planning ahead left time to ask others for tips and advice.

“If you’re ever confused, don’t be afraid to ask the bus driver for guidance or helpful tips for your trip,” states freshman Amanda Skowbo.

The Rapid doesn’t give change back in the form of cash, but rather on a small card that serves as a voucher to pay for future use of The Rapid.

Besides planning ahead, junior Emily Veenstra says that time management is key for a smooth ride:

“Never be crunched for time — it removes the stress and makes the ride a more enjoyable experience.”

Skowbo also notes that mistakes are possible even with the best of planning.

“We accidentally got on southbound bus when we should have boarded a northbound. We ended up at Central Station instead of Calvin!” recalls Skowbo.

“With good time management and a lot of laughs, we still had plenty of time to get back to Calvin for dinner!”

Despite occasional mishaps, students recommend trying the Rapid at least once. “College is for trying new things,” states Rosol, “It’s an adventure.”

“ Student volunteers expressed feeling simultaneously pleased to be able to help, and dismayed that so much help was necessary.

Natasha Strydorst, “Grand River cleanup” ”

# 2013 Ig Nobel prizes awarded for absurd research

BY JOHN MUYSKENS  
Sci-Tech Editor

The 2013 Ig Nobel prize winners were announced Thursday, Sept. 12 at Harvard University. Each year the magazine “The Annals of Improbable Research” awards researchers who make the strangest contributions to science; “achievements,” according to the Ig Nobel prize website, “that first make people laugh, and then make them think.” The categories this year include medicine, psychology, biology, astronomy, engineering, physics, probability and public health. The prizes, handed out by actual Nobel laureates, have been awarded each year since 1991, and this year’s winners are no less absurd.

The 2013 medicine winning paper, “Auditory stimulation of opera music induced prolongation of murine cardiac allograft survival and maintained generation of regulatory CD4+CD25+ cells” studied the effects of music listening on mice with heart transplants. The study found that the heart transplants survived longer in mice exposed to opera and Mozart than those exposed to New Age music, like Enya.

The psychology prize winner, “Beauty Is in the Eye of the Beer Holder: People Who Think They Are Drunk Also Think They Are Attractive,” examined the effects of alcohol on self-perception. The study found that participants (who, the abstract points out, were non-students) who thought they had consumed alcohol and later delivered a speech rated their performance better. “However,” the authors write wryly, “ratings from independent judges showed

that this boost in self-evaluation was unrelated to actual performance.” This research complements an early study documenting the “beer goggles” effect where intoxicated individuals perceive increased attractiveness in members of the opposite sex.

Ig Nobel winners are often far more imaginative than they are practical. The physics winners studied the possibility of humans running on the surface of water as the basilisk lizard and water strider insects do. They concluded that under the moon’s gravity, some human runners would be able to avoid sinking. An anti-hijacking system for airplanes won the engineering prize. Detailed in US Patent 3,811,643, the system involves dropping the would-be hijacker through a trap door, imprisoning the hijacker in a capsule, dropping the capsule through bomb bay doors and parachuting the capsule safely into the arms of waiting police officers, summoned via radio.

The Ig Nobel subjects range from the extraordinary to in-depth discussions of the extraordinarily mundane. On the extraordinary side, the winners of a joint prize in biology and astron-

omy discovered that dung beetles navigate by the Milky Way, making them a part of the small club of known celestial navigators (birds, seals and humans). On the everyday side, a group from Japan won the chemistry prize for its investigation of the enzyme that makes people cry while cutting onions. The winners of the

anyone but war veterans. The police later arrested Konstantin Kaplin, a disabled man with only one arm, for clapping as part of a protest.

The winners with the most absurd experimental procedure were Brian Crandall and Peter Stahl who swallowed a shrew without chewing and

procedure for reimplantation which, according to the authors, “should be successful regardless of the method of anastomosis, provided that the amputated part is not mutilated, decomposed or partially eaten by a duck.”

A few choice winners from previous years include “Leaning to the Left Makes the Eiffel Tower Seem Smaller,” “How to Procrastinate and Still Get Things Done,” “Dizziness in Disc Throwers is Related to Motion Sickness Generated While Spinning,” “Swearing as a Response to Pain,” “Microbiological Laboratory Hazard of Bearded Men,” “Are Full or Empty Beer Bottles Sturdier and Does Their Fracture-Threshold Suffice to Break the Human Skull?,” “Does Knuckle Cracking Lead to Arthritis of the Fingers?,” “The Role of Auditory Cues in Modulating the Perceived Crispness and Staleness of Potato Chips,” “The Role of Armadillos in the Movement of Archaeological Materials: An Experimental Approach,” “The Definite Article: Acknowledging ‘The’ in Index Entries,” “Ultrasonic Velocity in Cheddar Cheese as Affected by Temperature,” “The Significance of Mr. Richard Buckley’s Exploding Trousers: Reflections on an Aspect of Technological Change in New Zealand Dairy-Farming between the World Wars,” “The Effect of Country Music on Suicide,” “An Analysis of the Forces Required to Drag Sheep over Various Surfaces,” “Chickens Prefer Beautiful Humans,” “An Ecological Study of Glee in Small Groups of Preschool Children” and “Farting as a Defence Against Unspeakable Dread.”

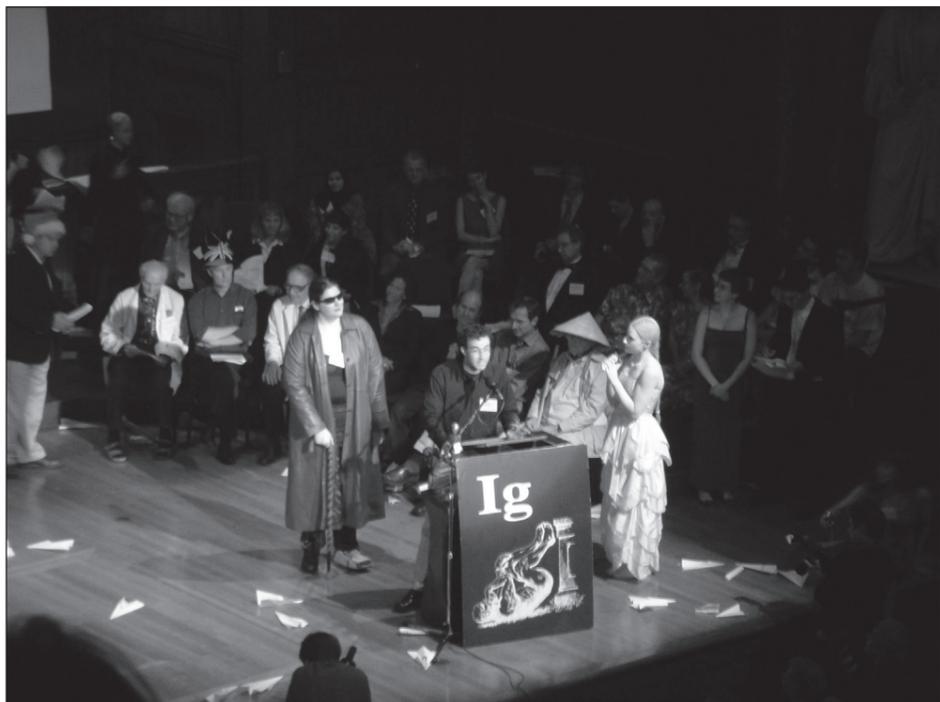


PHOTO BY JEFF DLOUHY

The Ig Nobel award ceremony attracts an eclectic crowd at Harvard University.

probability prize found that the longer a cow sits, the more likely it is to stand up, while the length of time a cow has been standing has no bearing on its likelihood of sitting down.

The peace prize went to both Alexander Lukashenko, the president of Belarus, and the Belarus State Police. Belarus outlawed applause in public directed towards

“carefully examining everything excreted during subsequent days.” They reportedly did this to observe the effects of the human digestive system on various bones.

Last, but not least, the public health prize went to “Surgical Management of an Epidemic of Penile Amputations in Siam,” which documents a surgical

## Grand River cleanup raises pollution awareness

BY NATASHA STRYDORST  
Guest Writer

About 900 west Michigan residents combed around 30 miles of the Grand River and its tributaries’ banks last Saturday morning for refuse littered along them, according to the Mayors’ Grand River Cleanup website. As was soon apparent, “refuse” can be a fairly broad category: volunteers encountered everything from human waste, in the form of soiled diapers, to electronic debris, to all manner of paper and plastic detritus along the banks, in the river and suspended on trees and fences.

Donning green shirts and rubber gloves, teams of participants were sent off to different sections of the river and its tributaries to collect garbage as well as recycling along the banks. This year marks the event’s 10th anniversary, and its record number of volunteers was a testament to its ongoing success as an annual community project.

Grand Rapids’ Mayor Heartwell, alongside Walker’s Mayor Holt, Wyoming’s Mayor Poll and Grandville’s Mayor Buck hosted the event, complete with complimentary breakfast, lunch

and t-shirts, on the bank of the Grand River in Sixth Street Park. Last year’s cleanup removed approximately 20,000 pounds of trash from the Grand River area, bringing the event’s cumulative total to 110,000 pounds.

For all the garbage that can be picked up, there remain the pollutants that can’t. Calvin’s Plaster Creek Stewards list E. Coli, sediment, toxic substances, fertilizers and thermal pollution as top

creeks and rivers. Urban runoff is a major contributor of toxic substances because salts, pesticides and other contaminants enter the water from street drains. Thermal pollution stems from the same source: paved surfaces feeding water into the creek influences its temperature, causing changes to the ecosystem.

Student volunteers expressed feeling simultaneously pleased to be able to help, and dismayed that

so much help was necessary: the amount of garbage in the watershed can be discouraging to witness first-hand. But observing the watershed’s predicament personally is precisely what the event aims to allow — it isn’t just about the cleanup, but about the knowledge of its necessity. A major goal and accomplishment of the Mayors’



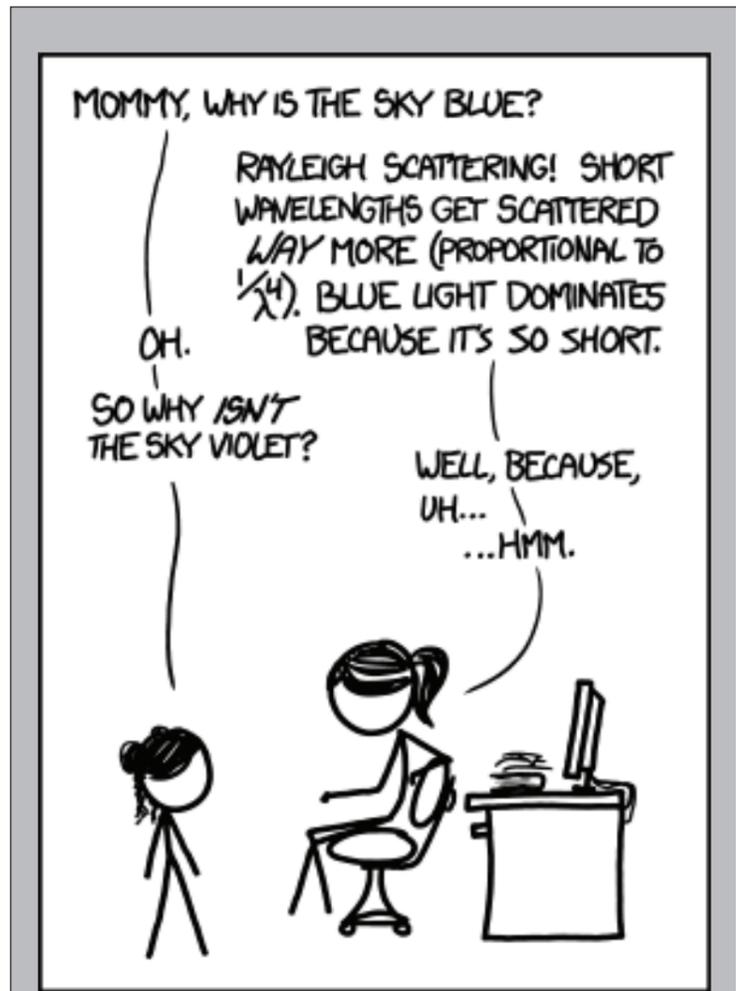
PHOTO COURTESY WMEAC

Volunteers wrestle a boat out of the Grand River on Saturday.

contaminants to the watershed. E. Coli and fertilizers originate from rural and urban areas; both livestock waste and leaky sewage pipes contribute to the pervasive bacteria presence, while fertilizer enters the creek as runoff from farms and green spaces within the city. Sediment comes from the creek itself — being washed into the water from the bank when flooding erodes the land around the watershed’s streams,

Annual Grand River Cleanup is to raise the awareness of participants and their networks of threats to the watershed and of ways to protect fresh water reserves.

For those who learn best by doing, the cleanup is an event that incorporates themes of environmental management with an annual hands-on experience in the watershed itself, plus the bonus of free food and t-shirts.



XKCD COURTESY RANDALL MUNROE

Feynman recounted another good one upperclassmen would use on freshmen physics students: When you look at words in a mirror, how come they’re reversed left to right but not top to bottom? What’s special about the horizontal axis?

# THE FIFTH ANNUAL Art

# Prize

September 18 - October 6, 2013



PHOTOS COURTESY OF RACHEL KRAMER

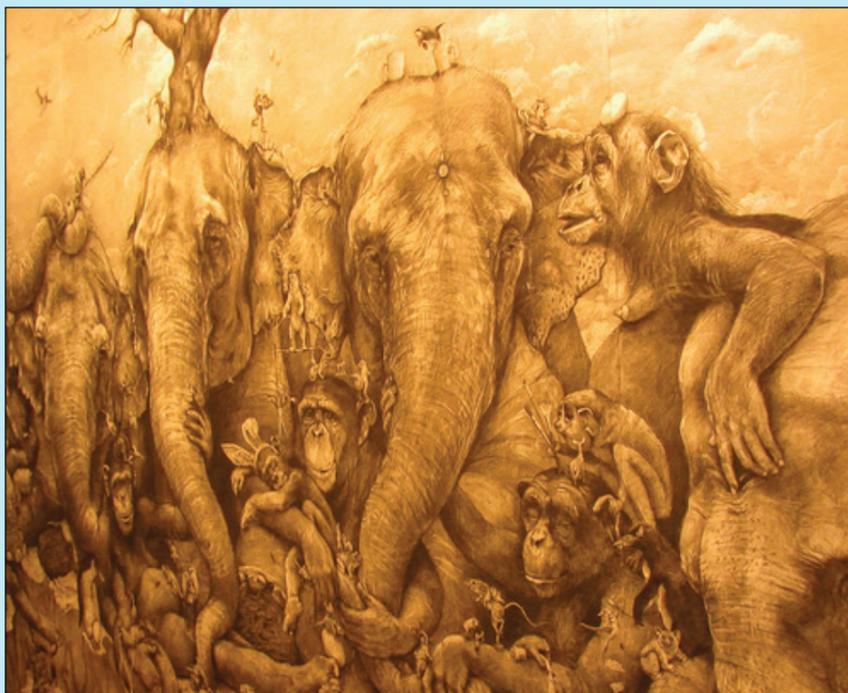
## WHAT IS IT?

ArtPrize is an annual art competition that takes place in downtown Grand Rapids. The public votes for their favorite entries and the winner receives a prize of \$200,000.



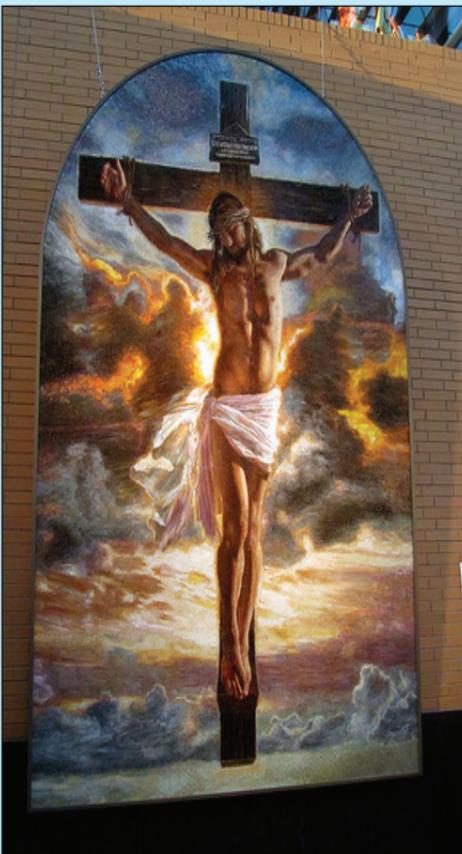
## WHERE DO I START?

Buck Fridays is hosting an ArtPrize scavenger hunt to celebrate the beginning of this year's competition. The hunt will be scored through a smartphone app you can download for free. The evening will be wrapped up with a concert featuring Breathe Owl Breathe and The Soil and the Sun at Ladies Literary Club at 10 p.m. For more details, visit [buckfridays.com](http://buckfridays.com).



## HOW DO I VOTE?

The first step in voting for your favorite pieces at ArtPrize is creating an account on their website ([artprize.org](http://artprize.org)). Then you can check in at any voting site or at the ArtPrize HUB downtown (41 Sheldon Blvd. SE). After that, you can cast your votes online, via text message or through their mobile app.



## HOW IS CALVIN INVOLVED?

Numerous Calvin alumni have pieces of art in this year's competition. Additionally, Calvin's (106) Gallery has work from 10 different ArtPrize participants on display.



Brian Diemer, “Calvin women win”

## Golf wins Jamboree

BY JESS KOSTER  
Sports Co-Editor

The Calvin men's golf team won the second MIAA Jamboree of the year at Adrian College's Lenawee Country Club. In last Friday's com-

The Knights had an extremely strong team performance, with nearly every team member shooting a season best. They were led by senior Jake Hoogstrate, who shot a 73 and finished in fifth place individually. Junior James Van Noord and sophomore Justin Crow had rounds of 74. Senior Mark Allen



PHOTO COURTESY OF CALVIN.EDU

**Jake Hoogstrate had a career day to lead the Knights.**

petition, the men won with a score of 298. Adrian finished three strokes behind Calvin. This result moves the Knights into second place in the MIAA, placing them only one stroke behind leader Adrian.

finished out the team with a score of 77. David Smith of Kalamazoo was the individual champion with a 70.

The Knights will look to continue their recent run of strong play at the third MIAA Jamboree on Sept. 18 at Olivet College's Bedford Valley CC.

## Soccer stuns Hope

BY SYDNEY CHIPMAN  
Staff Writer

The Calvin men's soccer team dispatched rival Hope College Tuesday afternoon at their home field, taking the 5-1 victory and their first win of the season.

“Calvin vs. Hope games are always exciting games to be a part of,” said senior Samuel Hanover. “This game is always in the back of our heads. We played our type of soccer today and things started to click. We still have a ways to go to be where we want to be, but we took a big step in the right direction.”

In their MIAA season opener, the Flying Dutchmen came to the field ranked No. 8 in the nation. Calvin had a record of 0-3. “It was a very crucial game,” said sophomore Chi Soo Park. “We had tough results from past two tournaments, so getting a big win today against our rivals was a huge moment for us.”

More than 1000 fans showed up to watch the game.

About 15 minutes in, Hope was able to break down the Knights' defense and score the first goal of the game. However, the Knights were quick to answer back. Just over a minute later, junior Travis Vegter blasted in an unassisted goal to tie up the game. “Travis' goal was a highlight because it tied the game and was an absolute rocket,” said Hanover.

That wasn't it for Calvin in the first half. 29:15 into it, senior Zach Willis scored from 25 yards

off an assist from sophomore Taylor Pruis. “Zach Willis' goal was his first ever against Hope, and also means he has scored against every team in the MIAA in his career,” Pruis explained. “The Hope game is always the biggest of the year so it was awesome for him to come through.”

Calvin came back from the half just as strong, with freshman Stephen Hooker scoring his first collegiate goal on an assist from Pruis, who had two assists for the night and also scored Calvin's last two goals in the second half to put them at their 5-1 final with assists from Willis and sophomore Jon Filippini.

For Calvin, this game was not only a great start to their MIAA season, but a way to help fight malaria in Africa. “The fundraiser before the game is a program called Knight of Nets,” explained Honeycutt. “For each T-shirt purchased, \$6 went to buy a bed net for families in Africa to prevent malaria that strikes a majority of that region.”

For the Calvin men, Tuesday's game was not only about the rivalry, but helping those in need any way they could. “It is such an honor to be part of something much greater than ourselves,” said Honeycutt. Park agreed, adding, “To support this fundraising with soccer is really honoring.”

The team returns to action Friday, Sept. 20 when it travels to Bluffton.



PHOTO BY COLTON CREDELLE

**Taylor Pruis scored 2 goals.**

## Calvin women win Knight Invite

BY ANDRE OTTE  
Guest Writer

The men's and women's cross country teams got their first true test of the season this past weekend at their home invitational. Twenty-seven teams arrived early Saturday morning on a day that offered a refreshing break from the midweek heat.

The women kicked off the morning by placing first, putting four runners in the top 10 overall and seven in the top 20. The individual title went to freshman Cassie Vince, who has been the top finisher for the Knights in both of their races so far this year. Vince pulled away from the rest of the field with a time of 17:40.2, 13 seconds in front of the second place finisher.

Senior Nicole Michmerhuizen ran 18:08.2, taking fifth place. Seniors Alyssa Oram and Rebekah Folkema and juniors Kimby Penning, Sarah Danner and Lizzie Vanette rounded out Calvin's top seven finishers, with 6 runners under 18:40.

“I'm really excited about the prospects that we have this year. An experienced front runner in Nicole, a very talented freshman in Cassie and a chase pack that is extremely mature and desires to work together to finish off races and the season,” said coach Brian Diemer after the race. “This team is on a journey and is going great places.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF CALVIN.EDU

**Cassie Vince claimed the individual title for Calvin.**

Vince was named the NCAA Division 3 Runner of the Week for her performance.

The men came into Saturday's race with a lot of questions

needing to be answered. Losing six of last year's top seven and bringing in many talented freshmen, it was uncertain how the young team would handle this first challenge. Despite the uncertainty, the team took a good first step, finishing third behind St. Francis (Ill.) and Aquinas.

Freshman Zac Nowicki lead the way with his seventh place finish in a time of 25:15.3. Following him was a pack made up of juniors Josh Ferguson and Jacob Kuyvenhoven, seniors Philip Spitzer and Sam Kerk, and freshmen Jonathan Schaap and Nate Vanhaisma, separated by a mere 12 seconds.

When asked how he thought the team performed, Diemer said, “They showed a lot of promise, a lot of excitement. You have to be patient with a young team with so much energy. We have come together, but a lot of work still needs to be done to blend this team. Development is going to be key.”

Next for the Knights is Sept. 28 when they travel to Adrian College for the MIAA Jamboree. Both sides are looking strong early and will be favorites in the conference. When asked about the rest of the season, Diemer said, “It's going to be a fun year.”

## Volleyball remains undefeated

BY BRIAN EXNER  
Staff Writer

The Calvin women's volleyball team headed east this week as they took on Trine and took part in the Wittenburg Fall Classic. The team continued to impress as they won all five games in three sets.

The first game of the week against Trine saw the Knights improve their regular season winning streak against MIAA opponents to 42 games, taking the game 25-18, 25-11, 25-18.

Laura Danhoff led the team in kills with eight and three other players supplied five kills apiece. Megan Rietema continued to be a leader as she supplied seven kills and 20 assists. Elise Biesboer provided solid service as she ended the game with three aces.

The ladies then headed to the Wittenburg Fall Classic, first squaring off against Washington University in St. Louis, a team ranked No. 6 in the nation. The first two sets were not easy as the two powerhouses traded blows with each other. The Knights prevailed, however, winning both sets by a score of 25-17. In the third set, Calvin faced a little more adversity. Washington-St. Louis was within one point of breaking the Knights' streak

of consecutive sets won when back-to-back kills by Rietema and Maggie Kamp helped the Knights find a way to tie the game and then take the lead.

The game ended with excellent service by Kristi Zietse. The third set finished 26-24, the first time this season that the Knights have had to score more than 25 to win a set. Kamp finished the game with 16 kills and Ellie Diepersloot followed with eight.

Game two of the Fall Classic against Heidelberg went a bit more smoothly for the team, as

the Knights with her 35 assists.

On Saturday, the Knights started the second half of their four games by facing Mount St. Joseph. The games were won by scores of 25-11, 25-16 and 25-17. Kamp provided 11 kills, Diepersloot followed with seven and three other players each had five. Rietema provided 31 assists and nine digs, while Zietse held her own in the back with eight digs.

The final game of the weekend saw the Knights face another top ten team in No. 8 Otterbein. This game was a defensive showcase as Calvin compiled 50 digs and Otterbein had 48 of their own.

The Knights were able to find the floor in the end, again winning in three sets, 25-12, 25-19 and 25-22. Zietse and Biesboer kept things together on the defensive end for the team, recording 13 and 10 digs respectively. Offensively, the Knights continued to showcase their balanced attack, as Kamp and Rietema were able to create 11 and 10 kills respectively. Danhoff followed with eight apiece.

The next game for the Knights is the Knight of Nets game on September 17th against Hope, who is now ranked #2 in the nation by the polls released by the NCAA on Tuesday. This makes the game a showdown between the two top-ranked teams in the nation.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CALVIN.EDU

**Maggie Kamp led the Knights in kills for the tournament.**

they went on early runs (7-2 and 6-2) in the first two sets, winning the sets 25-17 and 25-13. The third set again involved some sloppy play near the beginning, but after battling for their first seven points, the Knights came back to take an 11-7 lead, eventually winning by a score of 25-19. Kamp finished with 12 kills; Emily Crowe had 11. Rietema again led



# CAMPUS SAFETY REPORT

9/11/13

Campus Safety took a report of the larceny of a bicycle from the bike rack outside of Rooks VanDellen Residence Hall. The bike was a green and silver Schwinn Ranger. The bike had been locked up prior to being stolen. The bike was registered with Campus Safety. The victim was encouraged to also report the bike being stolen to the GRPD.

9/13/13

A Campus Safety officer was approached by a individual who said they parked an unlocked Origin 8 Cutler bicycle outside of Zeta Lambda and went inside to visit some friends. When the individual came back out the bike was gone. Video surveillance showed an unknown male walked up the bike and rode off on it. The bike was a rental bike belonging to Calvin College.

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**SUDOKU**

## King Crossword

**ACROSS**

- 1 Army rank
- 6 Huge
- 9 Matterhorn, for one
- 12 Eat away
- 13 Tramcar contents
- 14 Knightly address
- 15 Trapshooting
- 16 "Alas!"
- 18 Motivated
- 20 Urban fleet
- 21 Tackle moguls
- 23 Listening device
- 24 Wheels of fortune?
- 25 Scull lineup
- 27 Hosiery fabric
- 29 Large constrictor
- 31 Zeroes
- 35 Precise
- 37 Campbell's product
- 38 Analyze
- 41 "— Wiedersehen"
- 43 Greek H
- 44 Undo a dele
- 45 Followed
- 47 Slight footing
- 49 Staffordshire ceramicware
- 52 Shade provider
- 53 Latin 101 word

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| 55 |    |    |    | 56 |    |    | 57 |    |    |    |

- 8 "Golly!" brand
- 9 Black tea of India
- 10 People will bend over backward to do it
- 11 Fourth estate
- 17 Cupcake enhancements
- 19 Woman of letters?
- 21 Bribe
- 22 Bandleader Kyser
- 24 Singer Rawls
- 26 Scabbard
- 28 Yoga position
- 30 Anti-acne
- 32 Square-dance party
- 33 Historic boy king
- 34 Resort
- 36 Frankness
- 38 Autumn bloom
- 39 Filched
- 40 Appears to be
- 42 Picky
- 45 Ticklish
- 46 Duel tool
- 48 Lummo
- 50 P.I.
- 51 Geologic period

## Super Crossword BIOPICS

**ACROSS**

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

**DOWN**

- 1 Author Angelou
- 2 Dairy-case buy
- 3 Oscar's cousin
- 4 Genesis vessel
- 5 Parasite
- 6 Overly
- 7 Foster's "Dog Tray"
- 8 \_\_ Aviv

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| 81  |     |     |    |    |     |     | 82 | 83  |     |     |     | 84  |     |     | 85  |     | 86 |     |     |     |
| 87  |     |     |    |    |     |     | 88 |     |     |     |     | 89  |     |     |     |     | 90 |     |     |     |
| 91  |     |     |    |    |     |     |    |     | 93  | 94  | 95  |     |     |     |     |     | 96 |     |     |     |
|     |     |     |    |    |     |     | 97 |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | 99 |     |     |     |
| 100 | 101 | 102 |    |    |     |     |    | 103 | 104 |     |     |     |     | 105 | 106 | 107 |    |     |     |     |
| 108 |     |     |    |    |     |     |    | 109 |     |     |     |     |     | 110 |     |     |    | 111 | 112 | 113 |
| 114 |     |     |    |    | 115 | 116 |    |     |     | 117 | 118 | 119 | 120 |     |     |     |    | 121 |     |     |
| 122 |     |     |    |    | 123 |     |    |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |    | 125 |     |     |
| 126 |     |     |    |    | 127 |     |    |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |    | 129 |     |     |

“ Now the duo has released a self-titled album that delves even further into tangled psychedelia.

Jonathan Hielkema, “MGMT album”

# Flawed “Metal Gear Rising” still fantastic fun

Follow-up to “Metal Gear Solid” series takes an action-oriented approach to its gameplay

BY NICK VANZALEN  
Guest Writer

As a huge fan of the “Metal Gear” series, “Metal Gear Rising” was one of my most anticipated games for 2013. Even with the change of focus from stealth gameplay to a more action-oriented approach, I couldn’t wait to experience another installment of one of my favorite franchises and delve deeper into the lore of “Metal Gear.” What I got was an outright flawed game that somehow ended up being one of the most fun and over-the-top games I’ve ever played.

Created by PlatinumGames Inc., “Metal Gear Rising” is a hack-and-slash style game, which is a change from the usual stealth-focused gameplay. The story takes place four years after the events of “Metal Gear Solid 4,” with the player taking over the role of the cyborg ninja, Raiden, who was the protagonist in “Metal Gear Solid 2” and a major supporting character in “Metal Gear Solid 4.” The story begins with Raiden on a mission to protect the president of an unnamed country when the members of a militant group known as Desperado kidnap the president. In his efforts to stop Desperado, Raiden uncovers their plans, which include starting a war by killing numerous world leaders and creating an army of cybernetic child soldiers. The story doesn’t delve further into the series’ lore beyond the technological

advancements already in “Metal Gear Solid 4,” which makes the story more accessible to those who may not be familiar with the rather complicated story of

this regard? I’d have say that it absolutely does.

The combos in this game utilize light and heavy attacks in order to take out opponents.

the game goes into bullet time. By moving the right stick of the controller in any direction, Raiden will cut in that same direction. If the player manages to hit certain weak spots, a small

quick time event will flash. If the player successfully completes this quick time event, Raiden will absorb the energy of opposing cyborgs and restore himself back to full health and Zandatsu energy.

In terms of making the player feel that Raiden is as awesome as he was in the cutscenes of “Metal Gear Solid 4,” the Zandatsu mechanic is only the tip of the iceberg. Within the first minutes of the game, Raiden is tasked with destroying a rogue Metal Gear Ray (a giant robot, hundreds of feet tall). What occurs throughout this encounter is just as ridiculous, if not more, than anything that Raiden has done previously.

Not only does Raiden pick up the entire robot and throw it, but he jumps onto a series of missiles in order to reach the robot to finish it off. It is sequences like this that make players feel like the game achieved its purpose in that regard.

However, the combat system, while fun, has a few issues. For starters, the developers decided

to map the block mechanic onto the same button as light attacks. The only way to perform a block is to press the light attack button while simultaneously pointing the left stick toward the opponent you are attempting to block. The way this block mechanic was designed makes the combat system extremely exploitable. By constantly jamming forward on the left stick and frequently pressing the light attack button, the player essentially becomes unhittable while still being able to deal damage, as the block will only activate if an opponent is actually attacking.

The amount of quick time events needed to kill enemies is another annoyance, as is the game’s upgrade system. “Metal Gear Rising” allows for the player to purchase new combos for them to perform, but doesn’t give the player any indication of how to actually perform the combo they just purchased. Additionally, the stealth mechanic that is used in the game is barely functional, seemingly shoehorned into the game purely because it’s a “Metal Gear” title.

All in all, despite the glaring flaws of gameplay, it’s amazing how much fun there is to be had in “Metal Gear Rising.” While it may feel easy due to the broken blocking mechanic and the constant full-heals that Zandatsu gives the player, the game ends up being so entertaining that it’s easy to forget your frustrations when you’re cutting an entire helicopter into tiny bits.



FILE PHOTO

“Metal Gear.”

One of the challenges faced by the designers at PlatinumGames in creating “Metal Gear Rising” was to give players the satisfaction of feeling like they were actually controlling Raiden as a ninja, the way he appeared in the cutscenes of “Metal Gear Solid 4.” So, does the game succeed in

The weapon for heavy attacks is changeable, starting with the default sword at the beginning of the game, with Raiden gaining the weapons of bosses he defeats as optional replacements.

Another ability within Raiden’s arsenal is the Zandatsu mechanic. When enabling Zandatsu, Raiden is frozen in place while the rest of

## MGMT’s new album fascinating and bizarre

Self-titled release deals with themes of aging, love and loss

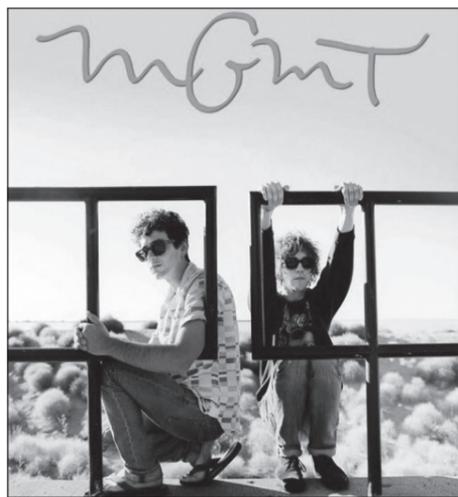
BY JONATHAN HIELKEMA  
Staff Writer

Artists that become surprise pop music stars tend to provoke concerned and eager questions from their audiences about their longevity. The way the artists deal with their newfound commercial relevance largely determines the narratives critics and audiences tell about them throughout their careers. MGMT’s phenomenal single “Kids” launched them to stardom, especially in the United Kingdom. Since their first album, “Oracular Spectacular,” Ben Goldwasser and Andrew VanWyngarden, the two Wesleyan University graduates who form the core of the band, have shown little inclination to try to recapture their previous successes. Now the duo has released a self-titled album that delves even further into tangled psychedelia, making it both unlikely to attract much commercial success, leaving it a fascinating outlier in the world of crescendo-driven rock music.

“Oracular Spectacular” had its share of danceable pop numbers and even “Congratulations” tended to develop its songs in relatively straightforward ways — “I Found a Whistle” was basically a campfire singalong. Now, however, MGMT is jettisoning progression for metamorphosis. The songs rarely, if ever, center around big moments or rousing choruses. Only one song, a cover of Faine Jade’s “Introspection,” even has a chorus, with the rest of the tracks evolving in a slow and intricate fashion, usually accumulating an incredible amount of sonic density along the way.

None of these songs, therefore,

pack much immediate appeal. Their virtues lie in their detailing and their appeal is more like the slow unfurling of a mystery than a grand revelation. This



ette is relatively unchanged from “Congratulations,” featuring a similar array of organic and synthetic drum sounds, savagely distorted guitars and creeping bass. With his voice mostly cloaked in effects and buried in the mix, VanWyngarden has no trouble sounding as alienated and strange as the extraterrestrials from the opening song. Unlike older songs like “Flash Delirium,” these songs can feel not only meandering but almost sterile. The way they draw out tension can at times strain and irritate more than intrigue, especially when the tracks merely

fade out rather than offer any kind of clear ending. The album’s thornier, more imposing surface obscures some of its own virtues just by being so dense. While it is heartening to see the band continuing to pursue its psychedelic muse, there is undoubtedly a degree of listener satisfaction lost or at least deferred.

The songs in the album are overfull, claustrophobic and at times bizarre, but while they never entirely cohere they are also fun and surprisingly listenable. This is especially true after several listens, when the overall purpose and thematic thrust of the album becomes more apparent. Dealing with aging, time, love and loss, “MGMT” is a worthy successor to “Congratulations” and in some ways even surpasses it.

FILE PHOTO

unapologetic lack of pop conventions is complemented by the band’s signature sense of irony and detachment, both in time and space. In the final song, the vocals lend some insight into the album: “The signs keep changing on me/Like a shimmering bell/Long waves enveloping me/And my plastic mind/So chewed and shrieking all the time/Feels it whirling by.” These sounds and lyrics evoke a sense of both dread and playfulness, the former exemplified by the percussive “Cool Song No. 2” and the latter by “Your Life Is a Lie” and “Plenty of Girls in the Sea.” By no means has MGMT lost their sense of humor, and the control of mood and meaning here makes the album worth listening to even after a dispiriting initial listen.

The band’s instrumental pal-

## Graphic novels illustrate China

BY KATYA BRINK  
Guest Writer

Rarely in stories does an author provide both sides of a historical war. In “Boxers” and “Saints,” two graphic novels by Gene Luen Yang, two characters represent opposite factions of the Boxer Rebellion, a historical conflict in China which erupted in 1900. Four-Girl, a young Chinese girl, embodies the Chinese Christians who allied with the West and Little Bao represents a group of rebels known as the Boxers.

In “Boxers,” Yang portrays a young peasant boy named Little Bao, who is angered by the western invaders of Chinese land and culture. Little Bao’s traditions have been trampled on by the missionaries and his father has been unjustly beaten by foreign soldiers. Thus he joins the Boxers and fights against the westerners.

“Boxers” features more action sequences and vibrant colors than “Saints.” In the Boxer Rebellion, the Boxers believed they channeled spirits of the Chinese opera. Little Bao transforms into an emperor of China and Chinese spirits and culture influence him in his crusade against the westerners.

Little Bao’s inner conflict is wonderfully illustrated by his opera characters, with his spirit pushing Little Bao to commit heinous acts. He may have excellent reasons for retaliating against the West, but his methods and actions show the Boxers’ atrocious means for ending western imperialism.

The other novel, “Saints,” shows the character of Four-Girl and the positive aspects of western influences on China. Emotionally abused by her grandfather, Four-Girl finds solace in Christianity, converts to Catholicism and joins a Catholic village. As the story

progresses, the village will endure the attack of the Boxers.

In contrast to the many fights in “Boxers,” “Saints” reflects more on Four-Girl’s conversion to Christianity and her inner strife. Yang utilizes a black and white color scheme for “Saints,” but switches to yellow images in the depiction of Four-Girl’s visions of Joan of Arc. Through Joan, Yang highlights Four-Girl’s development in her Christian beliefs.

Four-Girl has an admirable faith in the midst of her struggles in the rebellion and other Chinese Christian characters are also shown to find comfort in their faith. Thus, “Saints” portrays the positive influence of Christianity in the life of some Chinese people.

Still, one can understand the Boxers’ negative reaction to Christianity and their association of Western religion with the depiction of the Catholic priest, whose judgmental attitude towards Chinese culture and religion contributes to Little Bao’s dislike of western imperialism. In contrast, “Saints” shows Christians in neither a positive nor a negative light, but takes a neutral stance.

Both “Boxers” and “Saints” can be read and purchased separately. Since the books parallel and complement each other so well, one should read both graphic novels. “Boxers” and “Saints” show the admirable traits and faults of both sides of the rebellion.

Neither graphic novel condemns or pardons either side for the triggering of the Boxer Rebellion. By showing the experience of both Four-Girl and Little Bao, Yang finds a rare balance between sides in a rebellion where, in Christian circles, the Boxers are often perceived as the bad guys and the Christian missionaries as angelic saints.

# Encounter Church moves to permanent building

CARISSA VANHAITSMA  
Guest Writer

This past Sunday, Encounter Church held the grand opening service for its new building, located at the intersection of 44th and Kalamazoo.

Brian VanSoelen, pastor of worship and community life, found an old fitness center for sale near where the church usually met. The Encounter leadership team decided to buy the fitness center and renovate it to use as a church space.

Along with worship and week-

Endeavor Elementary School. Because Encounter only had a week-to-week contract with Endeavor, the location of the services was always at risk of change.

VanEyk and VanSoelen started Encounter Church along with other groups from different churches who, according to VanEyk, “wanted to do things differently.”

When Encounter began, around 30 people worshiped in Endeavor’s cafeteria. As Encounter expanded, VanEyk felt that the church needed a bigger and more permanent space.

VanEyk wanted to attract people who were not necessarily churchgoers. “We started [the church] ... to reach people that weren’t like us at all,” VanEyk said.

Encounter Church’s mission is to “make disciples,” according to VanEyk. VanEyk and VanSoelen wanted to reach people who “were un-churched or under-churched.” VanEyk reflected on who began attending the church.

“It turned out to be a lot of de-churched people ... quite a few people who quit in college,” VanEyk said. “The people

who came [to Encounter] were very similar to myself and Bryan [VanSoelen] ... They were almost all young families or people who would be having kids soon, mostly people in their 20s and 30s.”

The area Encounter serves has a large population of young families and not enough churches, VanEyk said.

VanEyk said that he and VanSoelen found the best way to keep people from leaving church is to reach them when they are in college. The church planting team made a conscious effort to reach out to specific campuses, including Grand Valley and Calvin. The number of college students attending Encounter Church fluctuates from 60 to 100.

VanEyk also emphasized Encounter’s goal to train young leaders.

“Encounter is a place to cultivate leaders. It is place to train people who will be leading in churches in the future and allowing them to lead now,” VanEyk said.

Shane Brandsen, junior at Calvin and an resident assistant in Beets-Veenstra, is one of the leaders being cultivated at Encounter.

Brandsen assists in worship almost every week, playing guitar and singing.

Brandsen heard about Encounter from his sister, who knew Pastor VanSoelen. Both Brandsen’s sister and VanSoelen encouraged Brandsen to get involved. As a result, Brandsen has been participating in Encounter’s worship since the church began.

“Shane is an awesome guy,” VanEyk said. “He is one of the leaders who has grown along with the church.”

Brandsen enjoys connecting with other college students at Encounter and also appreciates the opportunity to lead worship.

Brandsen says that Encounter encourages its college students to become more involved beyond just attending church on Sundays.

“We are not treated as college students that have nothing to offer,” Brandsen said. “Pastors Dirk and Bryan encourage us to find a way to get involved.”

“Encounter is a place to not only receive a gift from God, but a place to give back and become a part of the church,” Brandsen said.



PHOTO COURTESY OF DIRK VANEYK

Encounter is now meeting in new location at 44th and Kalamazoo.

Dirk VanEyk, lead pastor at Encounter, planted the church in October 2010. It has since grown to over 300 regular worshippers, including 60 to 100 college students each week.

Two years ago, VanEyk and

ly programming, the new facility will be used for community outreach, so Encounter leaders chose to keep the racquetball court from the old fitness center.

Until recently, Encounter’s congregation worshiped at

## ‘Equip your prayer life’ begins

Tuesday night prayer group kicks off its fourth semester

BY NATHAN GROENEWOLD  
Religion Co-editor

Jared Votaw, resident director (RD) at Boer-Bennink, held his first prayer session of the semester Tuesday night, a program he began to equip the prayer lives of Calvin students.

Twenty-two students attended the event, scheduled to meet Tuesdays at 8 p.m. in the Bennink basement. Votaw taught on John 15, explaining what it means to abide prayerfully in Christ. He also led students in developing a plan to carefully cultivate their prayer lives. During the session, students had the opportunity to pray with and for each other, in order to practice what they were taught.

Votaw, who has been an RD in Boer-Bennink for three years, first implemented his idea for a time of prayer and teaching in the spring semester of 2012. In past prayer sessions, Votaw has taught on praying through confession, fasting and forgiveness and students have gone on prayer walks and have prayed for spiritual healing.

Senior Kendra Kosirog, who attended most of the prayer sessions last year, talked about why she began attending.

“Every night is something interesting, rarely talked about in church,” said Kosirog.

Votaw stressed the central vision he had for the program.

“My first and foremost reason for doing this is to grow an intimate desire for Christ in students,” Votaw said. “I think that’s my heart.”

Votaw also hopes that students will be more effectively equipped to see God’s kingdom, to see when God “nudges them to reach out to someone” or to pray for a specific person. He also said part of seeing the kingdom of God is recognizing answered prayers.

Votaw stressed the need for

students to develop intimacy with God.

“A lot [of students] generally don’t spend time with God or cultivate a relationship with him,” Votaw said. “And after all, prayer is simply talking with God.” The evenings of teaching and prayer help students begin to see the presence of God that is “made known when we start looking for it.”

But Votaw said that seeing the presence of God is only the byproduct of growing closer to Christ, the main focus of the meetings.

“We come to dig into the Bible,” Kosirog said.

She praised Votaw for his dedication to the teachings.

“He spends a lot of time in prayer before each meeting,” Kosirog said. “Jared is a man of integrity.”

Votaw makes sure that ev-

Sophomore Maleah Walters said last year her shoulder was miraculously healed during one of the prayer sessions. On that night Votaw taught about healing prayer and after the teaching, Walters reluctantly allowed two students to pray over her injured shoulder.

“As they prayed the muscles in my shoulder felt like they went from warm to cold and warm to cold — it was a sensation unlike I’ve ever felt before,” Walters said.

After the prayer, she found she could move her arm in any direction without pain, impossible before.

“God had used these guys to minister to me and demonstrate his power. How cool is that?” Walters said.

Votaw said many students are surprised by the ways they



PHOTO COURTESY OF MALEAH WALTERS

Jared Votaw teaches students to abide in Christ through prayer.

ery voice at the prayer session matters. He welcomes different opinions at each meeting, in order to try to make the sessions a “spiritually safe place.”

“Any student can come, stay, leave or simply observe,” Votaw said.

Each session Votaw teaches for a half hour and then has the students break into small groups to apply the teaching through prayer.

Students say they have witnessed emotional and spiritual healing at the sessions.

## Turn shame to grace

BY RUTHY BERENDS  
Guest Writer

Author and speaker Anne Marie Miller spoke directly and honestly about overcoming sexual immorality and porn addiction in her lecture “Speaking Freely about Sex, Shame and Grace” at the Chapel Tuesday evening.

Seeking to overcome the “awkward and uncomfortable battle” for sexual purity, Miller spoke from her own personal experience with sexual abuse and porn addiction, using Biblical text to drive her point home.

“It is in our nature to hide when something goes wrong. But when you read the Bible you begin to see a pattern of God’s faithfulness, that God wants us to open up and be vulnerable with him,” Miller said.

Miller’s lecture, cosponsored by the sexual assault prevention team (SAPT) and campus ministries, was the first of this year’s Sexuality Series.

“We try and address porn every year in conjunction with the SAPT that’s cosponsoring [Miller’s] talk because porn, sexual assault and rape culture all go together,” Sexuality Series Director Julia Smith said.

“We have to educate ourselves and hear people’s stories and try and live differently. Try and push back against these forces in culture that try to objectify women — and men. It goes both ways,” she said.

Miller, the daughter of a Southern Baptist pastor, shared how she suffered sexual abuse from a youth pastor after moving to Dallas at age 16.

Amid such abuse, her lack of knowledge about sex only led to more questions.

“Sex was a taboo topic in my house,” Miller said, “so I turned innocently to the Internet to figure out what was happening.”

Yet after typing “sex” into the search bar online, simple biology and basic definitions was not what she found; and the more she found, the more she searched.

“I began to regularly look at porn,” Miller said. “I found I could project myself into the pictures of these beautiful women, filling my loneliness by living through them.”

Miller’s curiosity led to a secret addiction that would last for the next five years. Eventually, however,

a friend dismantled Miller’s shame when she confessed her own similar struggles with porn addiction.

Such vulnerability encouraged Miller to share her own story, and set her on the road to recovery.

“Something tangible and palpable in my chest happened that night,” Miller said. “When you confess to another the way it talks about in James 5:16, the healing that happens means a spiritual heaviness is removed.”

After confessing her hidden hurt and addiction, Miller and her friend entered into a relationship of prayer and accountability, “allowing God to enter into that community to bring about change and healing.

“Confession is the beginning of transformation,” Miller said.

And confession has led Miller to where she is today — traveling, sharing her story and encouraging people, particularly young adults, to talk openly about sex, shame and the hope that exists because of God’s grace.

Junior Jeremy Smith, who has heard Miller speak three times, expressed how her lectures open the door for honest communication.

“I feel free to be human, and I can be honest and love God with my struggles,” he said after Tuesday’s talk. “She covers some really difficult topics in a way that is very graceful and honoring to God ... in a way that shows our humanness.”

Julia Smith also expressed her thoughts on the possible impact of Miller’s work.

“There are not many women that will speak publicly about porn addiction,” Smith said. “And now that whole story of pain and abuse that she went through is being used for good.”

Senior Kandin Unger echoed Smith’s thoughts.

“For the large majority of women who probably feel pretty alone in issues like this, it’s pretty incredible to hear someone speak so vulnerably about it.”

“ We have the capacity to resist, to question and to go further than what appears acceptable.  
Jonathan Hielkema, “Calvin’s culture of safety” ”

## FROM THE EDITOR



Over my last 18 months of being on leadership at Chimes, few things have really surprised me. But this week, my jaw dropped a little bit and my eyebrows went up when I learned this: Calvin could have a new core in May.

That story is slapped on the front page of our paper this week for two reasons: first, it’s very important, and second, the clock is ticking.

Now, if we were to play a word association game with the word “core” here at Calvin,

you might think about writing a philosophy paper at 1 a.m. or waking up early to take that physical education class.

And some of us might think about core helping us become well-rounded people and giving our resumes a boost. Most importantly, I think, core gives us the tools to usher in God’s kingdom in whichever square inch we find ourselves in down the road.

But while we can all agree that core is important, the gray areas with the change come in the nitty-gritty: do we still accomplish our

goals with two physical education credits instead of three? Can we let students choose between writing and speech instead of making them take both? How about philosophy and history? Can we integrate cross-cultural engagement core into the rest of the curriculum and still communicate the importance of diversity?

I think it’s easy for us to shrug our shoulders and play the “we’re just students” card in a conversation like this. After all, to a lot of us, core is just a checklist that we can’t wait to finish.

And while faculty dominate the ideological debate behind changing core, we students have something critically valuable to add to this conversation: we live in the nitty-gritty. We live in the details. We’re living the checklist.

“Let’s face it,” said the core committee’s report. “A core curriculum ... is as much about

practical concerns as principles.” We students see something that faculty cannot—the full picture from the ground level. And while the philosophical debate behind the reasons of core might be a conversation best suited for faculty, the practical debate is not.

So how can we students join this conversation? We can start by talking with our profs. Ask them what they think of the new core and tell them what you think. Find out who represents your department on faculty senate and tell them your thoughts.

We students also have a couple formal avenues. We have a student representative on the core committee, Katie Vogel. She told me that she welcomes feedback and encourages people to email her their thoughts (kla22).

Another avenue is student senate. I think student senate would

serve the students well by initiating an intentional conversation around core this fall, so they can represent the student interest well when this comes to a vote in faculty senate.

And finally, we here at Chimes offer an avenue. It’s our job to make sure we have this discussion in the open and that all voices are represented, to make sure you know about these plans before it’s too late to have your say and to make sure you have a platform to say what you think. We welcome opinion pieces and letters to the editor telling us your point of view. The new core could be in effect as early as next year. Let’s not let this opportunity to shape future generations of Calvin students slip through our fingers.

~rjs

## Letter to the Editor

### College rankings given too much attention

Dear Editor,

Each year I cringe whenever the college rankings are released (“Calvin jumps in national

liberal arts college rankings.” “Princeton Review ranks Calvin No. 8 on LGBT-unfriendly list” and two additional articles in the Sept. 12, 2013 issue of *Chimes*). I am disappointed that *Chimes* chose to address them so extensively.

When was the last time a copy of US News and World Report appeared in your mailbox? During six months in 2008, publication of their print edition went from weekly to bi-weekly and later to “about once per month. In November 2010, the magazine moved to an online-only format (see <http://www.usnews.com/>). It now prints only “special

issues” on college rankings and hospital and personal finance guides. Those publications, along with any advertising contained therein and at its website, are its primary source of revenue. Clearly the annual editions of rankings keep them in business and have done so for several years.

If, as you report, the Princeton Review hasn’t surveyed Calvin

students since December 2010, then none of their rankings of Calvin after 2011 are credible. Period.

In the future, I’d encourage *Chimes* to devote far less attention to Calvin’s place in the annual college rankings or, better yet, ignore them altogether.

Dennis Holtrop ‘90

## Calvin’s culture of safety

BY JOHN HIELKEMA  
Staff Writer

Every year, it seems, the Princeton Review’s ranking of Calvin College as one of the most LGBT-unfriendly campuses in the United States raises protestations from Sexuality and Gender Awareness (SAGA) leadership and the administration. This publication dutifully reports on such matters, and for the last two years has used the same photograph of smiling and colorfully dressed students as the header photo for the articles. Of course a college that is officially inhospitable to sexuality in general and tied to a church with a restrictive position on LGBT sexual expression is going to rank poorly compared to institutions free of those constraints. This is, however, not a piece about the college’s college rankings, but rather the nature of their statements, which reveals how the mantra of “safety” has become ingrained into the college culture.

SAGA’s leadership issued a statement noting that “we are very proud of ... the consistent support that Calvin’s administration has shown in the pursuit of a safer campus for all.” Julia Smith, the director of the Sexuality Series, also noted that safety was the primary concern: “We fully recognize that Calvin needs to become a more hospitable campus for minorities of all kinds.” Furthermore, Smith noted that the opportunity to have Wesley Hill and Justin Lee on campus was a positive development because both of them resist “polarizing” rhetoric. I feel fairly assured in thinking that the primary goal of the administration, at least on this issue, is focused around making the campus safer.

At one level, of course, everyone on Calvin College’s campus needs to have basic personal security. Making the campus a safer place for LGBT students would certainly be the first step to improving the quality of life here and allow those students to acquire a more assertive and active voice on campus. Closely tied to this rhetoric of safety, however,

is the consistent message from Calvin that it is a moderate place that seeks to avoid extremes. You see this latter message appear everywhere, from Smith’s positive appraisal of Hill and Lee to the SAO’s mission to develop a “third way” between separatism and accommodation in cultural studies. At Calvin, the middle is the privileged position: civility, moderation, discernment and safety are high priorities on campus. Even the official Christian Reformed position on same-sex relationships is characterized in official material as a moderate position, despite its continued prohibition of all sexual activity between two people of the same sex.

The college finds it advantageous to characterize itself as seeking reasonable, moderate positions because of its strange and often paradoxical position as an institution. Because it wants to be taken seriously as a place of learning, it permits professors and students to embody a much wider range of views and behavior than an institution like Liberty University. On the other hand, it is still ultimately beholden to the policies of the conservative Christian Reformed Church (CRC).

This places the administration in an unenviable position, having to balance between the liberality of liberal arts education and the unencumbered pursuit of knowledge and the entrenched political-religious interests of a church whose members often champion Christian education as a means of sheltering their children from the world. Calvin, therefore, embodies the tip or surface of an evangelical, Reformed bubble. It has to educate us, the students, in a credible way so that we will not be overwhelmed by the horrors of a world that thinks evolution is a broadly settled question and that nothing is wrong with watching movies that contain swearing.

On the other hand, they have to push us through this delicate membrane slowly, so that all of this new learning won’t threaten our faith too much. Everything has to be carefully manicured and padded so that the bubble

students, whom I characterize as coming from the CRC but who actually come from many conservative denominations these days, feel comfortable and don’t complain too much. It helps that, right down the interstate in Holland we have Hope College, where a more radical gay-straight alliance has been alienated from that institution’s administration. It serves as a lovely warning for what might happen at Calvin if we rock the boat too much. Those who question the foundations of their faith or even leave the church while attending here are in for an even more stressful time.

Every student, I reiterate, needs security. Given that security, however, we should not simply acquiesce to whatever the college preaches to us, going this far and no further. As we find ourselves growing more confident in our identities, we need to poke our heads out of the ground and start asking questions.

If, like me, you come from a church bubble, start poking and prodding it. Ask whether the college’s “moderate” positions are really so moderate and whether moderation is truly the best position to take on a given issue. Work hard and excel in your classes, but don’t forget to interrogate the professor’s assignments, to challenge them even as they challenge you. Take the heralds of the incarnation seriously when they say, “Be not afraid.” Remember the world is often a more beautiful and fulfilling place when looked at from the margins.

What we need to do as students is recognize that we have the capacity to resist, to question and to go further than what appears acceptable. I hope that, as this new school year continues, we will kick the walls out of our padded comfort zones and realize that another world is possible, even if it will require risk and sacrifice to bring even a sliver of that world to light.

## ‘Wrecking Ball’ shocking

BY ROSELLE PAZ LANDOY  
Guest Writer

This year Miley Cyrus reappeared on the music scene with a bang. Cyrus used the music video for her single “We Can’t Stop” to remind everyone, once again, that she is no longer the innocent girl who once lived the “best of both worlds.”

The second big event of Cyrus’ return was her controversial performance at this year’s MTV Video Music Awards alongside musical artist Robin Thicke. I thought it would be impossible for her to top that performance—surely there was no way that she still had something in her how-to-completely-shock-everyone bag. Unfortunately, I was wrong. Enter Cyrus’ music video for her new song, “Wrecking Ball.”

First off, I would like to start by complimenting the song itself. Lyrically, it’s a beautiful song that a lot of people could relate to. The Billboard website even predicts that the song is headed towards the number one spot for the First Hot 100 this coming week.

But enough about the song—this is about the video.

The video starts with the vulnerable-looking 20-year-old facing the camera as a tear rolls down her cheek. Now, that doesn’t sound so bad, right? Skip a few seconds to the first chorus and one will see why there has been so much controversy behind it: As the video progresses, Cyrus is shown licking a sledgehammer

and sitting and swinging on a wrecking ball ... naked.

According to “Huffington Post,” Cyrus defends her video during a radio interview saying, “I think the video is much more, if people get past the point that I’m naked and you actually look at me.” She later adds, “If you look in my eyes I look more sad than actually my voice sounds on the record. It was a lot harder to do the video than it was to even record the song. It was much more of an emotional experience.”

So why didn’t she just wear clothes while doing the video? Perhaps it was to show even more vulnerability, but that doesn’t explain the senseless making out with the sledgehammer. Or maybe it’s another way to show the world that she is a grown woman and can do whatever she wants. Either way, I don’t understand why she chose to do a video in this way.

We may never know the actual reason.

The only thing I do know, however, is that if I look past the nakedness and the sledgehammer business, I can really see and hear the emotion that is in this song. In parts of the video where they only show Cyrus’ face, I could see the pain of whatever she was going through and it almost—almost—made me feel sorry for her. The message in this song is clear—she’s hurt after all she’s done for a guy and all he did was, well, wreck her.

But do you know what wrecked me? This video.

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