

March 31, 2000



Community gathers for Summit on Racism

Participants develop ways to combat covert racism

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Mosaic floor: Does it divide or benefit the Calvin community?

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Seeing life from a different perspective

Writers reflect on spring break service projects

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KNIGHTS WIN IT ALL

■ 2,000 Calvin fans make the trek to Virginia to see it happen

BY NATHAN BIERMA
Staff Writer

It was quite a scene when the buzzer went off. Too bad Aaron Winkle missed it. He didn't see the crowd jumping up and down, his teammates mobbing each other at center court, or the confetti and fireworks exploding from the scoreboard (thanks to an overachieving Salem Civic Center staff), in celebration of basketball nirvana.

Winkle was either conducting a close-up examination of a square inch of hardwood in front of his face, or he was in a world of his own as he knelt on the floor, crouched all the way to the floor, his body heaving.

One wonders just how much history was flashing before him at that climactic moment. Maybe he was thinking back to when he came to Calvin, when the team was a shell of its former championship self, led by an unknown first-year coach, marred by transfers and disciplinary suspensions.

Then again, if profound introspection eluded him, or any of the victorious Knights amid the euphoria, they could be forgiven. These were the Knights who refused to be jostled off



courtesy Sports Information

The Knights defeated Wisconsin-Eau Claire 79-74 last Saturday in Salem, Va., for the championship that completed their climb to the top.

balance, teetering back to sit erect after each blow, stubbornly surviving.

On paper the whole season looks like a breeze. Undefeated against D-3 opponents. Ranked number one in the nation. Stars like Winkle and freshman Jeremy Veenstra. A bench from here to the corner.

The court reveals a good deal more sweat. The team sagged at times, struggling through inconsistent stretches,

searching for their championship mettle. The final two games in Salem, Va., would test them perhaps more than any others along the way.

They would get more than a few clues of championship glory from a faithful following that had done its best to recapture the furor of the

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Festival takes over campus

BY BETH HEINEN
Associate News Editor

With the total number of participants reaching almost 1,700 – including over 100 speakers and a number of student volunteer organizers – there are a lot of things at the Festival of Faith and Writing that have a tendency to fall apart.

Fortunately, English Professor Dale Brown, director of the festival, Jane C. Knol, student director, and their committee of 21 student volunteers are up to the challenge. They have been preparing for months in order to be ready for the biennial writer's conference held on Calvin's campus. The three-day event began yesterday and runs through tomorrow evening, featuring notable speakers such as Chaim Potok, Anne Lamott and Maya Angelou.

Getting big-name speakers to come to such an event is not something that happens overnight. This year's conference has not even drawn to a close, and already Brown and his students are working on recruiting authors for the 2002 festival.

"One way I get people's attention is by the festival's reputation," said Brown. "I tell them, last year we had Elie Wiesel, and we've had John Updike, Annie Dillard, Madeleine

L'Engle ... That makes them interested in coming." However, Brown said he primarily "reads a lot, and looks for stuff that seems to have something going on with religion" when it comes to deciding which authors to invite.

Once an author is invited, a final confirmation of his or her attendance at the festival is "sometimes easy, sometimes long, involving months of back and forth negotiations," said Brown. In the case of Oscar Hijuelos, who was invited to the 2002 festival, they negotiated to reach a final payment for his speech of \$12,500 – which, according to Brown, is quite comparable to other speakers.

With big-name speakers charging so much for their time, the cost of running such a production is not cheap. The festival has a budget of over \$35,000, but it is also a non-profit event. Thus, many things are paid by way of advertisers, ticket prices and donors.

The previous four festivals have made some money, said Brown; but this year, he said, they are just trying to break even. Plus, some writers have certain specifications that they require for every place that they go.

festival
of faith
&
writing

See Festival, page 3

BFA majors present artful finales

BY MATT POOLE
Staff Writer

Each spring a new crop of Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) majors hustles and bustles to craft a finale to their four years at Calvin. This finale, a group show highlighting the work of two or three students, is the coming out party of artists soon to join the "real (art) world."

This Wednesday, the first of three such shows opened what promises to be a vibrant display of diverse talents. Consisting of works from Jill Bonner, Jessica Getchell and Luke Moore, the current exhibition is visually diverse and spacially dense, keeping the eye and mind busy with distinct styles and perspectives.

From Bonner's figurative drawings and ceramic sculpture to Moore's community-based and installation pieces to Getchell's enigmatic painterly/sculptural forms, this exhibition features

multiple media and conceptual foci. A dynamic experience is the result of this diversity, making a placid response hardly possible.

The view from the doorway of the gallery visually summarizes the variety

within the space as Moore's "Human Bridge," a steel walkway a foot off the ground arching over the limp body of a person lying underneath, was foiled by Bonner's gestural figure studies visible in the background.

The steel grate bridge over the casually clothed figure was ambiguous in its intention, but direct in its challenge. The gesture of crossing the walkway posed a complex situation, to walk into the gal-

lery, one must walk over/on the back of this person. The figure did not stir during the experience, passively allowing scores of viewers to cross over him. The purpose of this exercise was



photo by Poole

Jill Bonner's 'David.' Bonner is one of three BFA seniors currently showing works at the Center Art Gallery.

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Community gathers at Calvin for Summit on Racism

By TIM THOMPSON
A&E Co-Editor

Last Friday, Calvin hosted Summit on Racism 2000, an annual, community-wide event convened to shape proactive strategies that will combat racism in Grand Rapids — particularly institutional, covert racism. Titled “Facing the Past, Forging the Future,” the day-long event drew about 650 participants from the greater Grand Rapids area.

Last year (the inaugural year of the summit), the event was held at Aquinas College. Darlene Meyering, president of the Grand Rapids Center for Ecumenism (GRACE) and director of College Relations at Calvin, described Calvin’s choice to host the event, saying, “We knew they [Aquinas] had turned people away due to size constraints. ... We discussed that if the Summit were done on our campus during Spring Break, we would easily be able to accommodate a large group.”

Describing Calvin’s goals in hosting the Summit, Meyering said, “Many in Grand Rapids perceive Calvin as an isolated, insular place — breaking down that image in the community takes events like the Summit.”

Tom McWhertor, vice president for Enrollment and External Relations, who also helped organize the event, echoed Meyering. “Calvin is very committed to overcoming the history that tags along with us on this issue. And we have been for a long time, but I don’t think that the community has seen that. The Comprehensive Plan is not a really public document, and for varieties of reasons, some of which have nothing to do with Calvin, we are pictured as sort of this lily-white place out on the Beltline,” he said.

Meyering added, “[Our] facility is convenient and the perfect size [for this event], and we would like to host it again next year.”

Edie Rucker, host of a popular morning radio show on WGUV, provided live, on-site coverage of the first half of the Summit. Rucker said, “My coverage gave a general scope, yet focused in on certain areas with my guests.

“I’ve never broadcast my show from Calvin before, so that was wonderful, and the people here were cooperative,



courtesy Racial Justice Institute

The Summit drew more than 650 participants from the Grand Rapids area.

very good with what they did,” said Rucker.

The Summit opened with a short collage of video clips showing members of the Grand Rapids community commenting on the nature of racism in the city — “the barriers in Grand Rapids to accessing the goodness of Grand Rapids.”

After a general welcoming from President Byker on behalf of the college, Ben Johnson, White House staff member at work on the President’s Initiative on One America, gave a short talk praising the “most diverse White House in the history of this country.” Johnson also pointed out still-existing economic gaps, educational gaps and “disparity among races” in American society.

Next, representatives from task forces initiated at last year’s Summit presented summaries of their work over the past year. These “sector reports” were categorized under the headings of business, community, education, government, media and religion.

After the sector reports, Summit participants joined break-out groups that met in classrooms throughout the FAC and Hiemenga Hall. These “action committees” paralleled the work of

“I think it was monumental that Calvin came forth and said that the Summit could be held here this year. It shows that Calvin is in support [of efforts] to combat the disease and sin of racism. It let the community see that Calvin is trying to be involved with fighting racism,” said Travis.

similar committees at last year’s Summit, and worked to plan specific strategies to be enacted in the coming year.

One action committee, the media committee, addressed ways to prevent racial stereotyping in local media. Some media committee participants talked about media awareness and stressed the importance of critical thinking skills for “media consumers.”

Others stressed the racist nature of the power structure behind local media — the “Dutch mafia” that wields influence in shaping media coverage. The committee also critiqued specific instances of racial stereotyping in the media — like the promotion of racist sports logos and mascots that exploit Native American cultures. In the end, the committee proposed the creation of an accountability group of representatives from local minorities that would meet regularly with representatives from all venues of local media — print, television, radio — informing them of minority perspectives and “keeping them honest.” The group would join already existing media watchdogs, such as the Grand Rapids Institute for Information Democracy (GRIID).

Johnetta Dysart, of Wyoming, Mich., who participated in the Media Committee, said, “There’s a lot of bias in the media. Hopefully there are some things that this committee can do to change some of that: basically, making [the media] aware that they are very biased, and to hold them accountable.”

Jeff Smith, of Grand Rapids, who represents GRIID, said, “I think if the media believes in serving the public’s best interests, and if they also think this is what the public wants, which is usually what they tell us, that they’re just giving us what we want ... I think that at some level they’ll have to respond, particularly if more and more people are scrutinizing their work.”

After lunch, Faye Richardson, of the Summit Planning Committee, presented synopses of the notes from the action committee sessions. The committee notes ranged from the media committee’s proposal to form an accountability group to the education committee’s proposal to promote storytelling by community members as a means of teaching multicultural perspectives to the government committee’s proposal to promote the participation of elected officials in Institutes for the Healing of Racism and Summit on Racism 2001.

After the notes from the committee, Michael Travis, Calvin’s director of Multicultural Student Affairs, performed a dramatic reading of the poem “Lions and Lambs” by Rev. David May, chair of the Summit Planning Commit-

tee. The poem conjured an emotional / psychological panorama of black American experience, asserting, “Look at me/ We are inextricably tied together, howbeit bifurcated/ Yet I rise from the rubble of an egregious past/ More noble than you, more noble because I seek our reconciliation/ And you fear it.” Afterwards, Travis said, “I think it was monumental that Calvin came forth and said that the Summit could be held here this year. It shows that Calvin is in support on some level [of efforts] to combat the disease and sin of racism. It let the community see that Calvin is trying to be involved with fighting racism.”

The Summit’s final session featured an in-depth lecture presentation by Joy Angela Degruy-Leary, MSW. Degruy-Leary, a faculty member at Portland State University, presented an anatomy of racism, examining its parts and their historical interconnections. Weaving personal anecdotes throughout her talk, Degruy-Leary traced the historical development of racist thinking through early anthropological systems of classification (e.g., Linnaeus’ “four families of man”) to recent tragedies such as the murder of James Byrd Jr. in Jasper, Tex.

Degruy-Leary stressed the biological sameness of so-called “races.” She said, “No one has ever distinguished a reliable way of telling one race from another: we are one race, 98.99 percent the same — but that one to two percent is critical. It’s like ignoring a malignant brain tumor.”

Degruy-Leary provided a coda to her presentation by describing “Post-Traumatic Slave Syndrom,” a condition

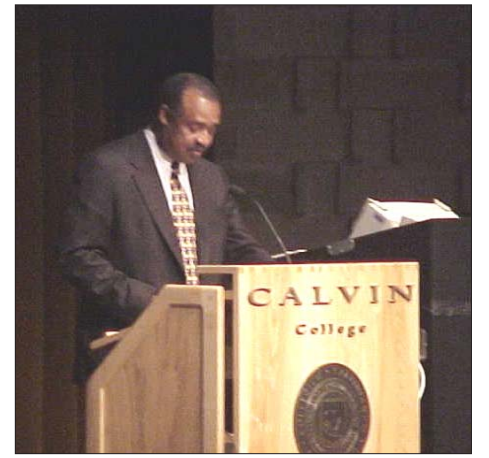


photo by Thompson

Ben Johnson, White House staff member, praised “the most diverse White House in history.”

analogous to Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. She surveyed the historical suffering of African Americans from slavery to present and asked, “Have the traumas stopped?” to which many audience members resounded, “No!”

Rev. David May closed the day’s events with prayer, followed by the singing of the national anthem.

President Byker, commenting on Calvin’s contribution to the Summit, said, “It is really such a part of our mission to do these kinds of convenings of groups to discuss and grapple with and plan for resolution of key problems in society, like racism. That we are a Christian liberal arts college that supports this kind of effort — that makes this a particularly appropriate place.”

Addressing the Summit’s relevance to certain “in-house” issues — such the faculty membership requirements — Byker added, “We are working very hard to be a more diverse institution while maintaining the things that define the community as a Reformed confessional community. We struggle with the tension that grows out of that, and I think this is a good dialogue.

“I don’t think it’s going to automatically produce a resolution of those issues, but I think it does point out that there are ways to deal with racism here besides just the faculty membership requirements,” he said.

McWhertor, addressing the faculty requirements issue, said, “It’s an in-house issue on one hand, but on the other hand, some people [who were at the Summit], had they known of that issue, would have found it particularly offensive.”

McWhertor added, “I know there’s a tension there. It’s a question of how do we embrace that tension instead of just cutting the cord and abandoning one thing or another.”

Jayne Oliver-White, Department Assistant to Student Employment at Calvin (and Summit attendee) said, addressing the Summit generally, “Calvin is working towards becoming an anti-racist campus. I think that hosting the Summit here definitely speaks volumes about what it is that Calvin is trying to do to address the disease of racism.”

Laura Patten, first-year student who was among the few Calvin student attendees, commented, “In college, you’re supposed to be getting out and doing stuff in the world, and I think this is a great opportunity to actually do that. ... This [Summit is] geared toward doing and not just learning about.”

Engineering candidates seminars: out of this world

BY NATHAN VANDERKLIPPE
News Editor

The departure of engineering Professor Brian Post and a 20 percent increase over three years in engineering students is bringing some highly-talented Calvin grads back to campus as they vie for two tenure-track positions.

In order to be hired at Calvin, prospective professors spend a day at Calvin being interviewed by departmental faculty and Academic Dean Mike Stob.

But where it gets interesting for students and others who are interested is when each candidate delivers a one-hour seminar showcasing some of the projects in which he or she has participated. The six candidates being interviewed this year have worked on projects as diverse as Mars "aerobots" to terrain mapping on F/A-18 Hornet fighter jets to working with nuclear power on submarines.

Among the six people contending for the two openings are Calvin grads Matthew Kuperus Heun and David Dorner. Dorner delivered his seminar this Wednesday and Heun is outlining some of his work at a seminar today.

Heun is vice president of East Coast Operations at Global Aerospace Corporation (GAC), an Altadena, Calif. company with 10 employees founded in 1997. Before working at GAC, he worked at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in Pasadena, Calif. A 1989 Calvin graduate in mechanical engineering, Heun spent his time at JPL working on "aerobots" - exploration vehicles capable of carrying out scientific planetary study that has never been possible.

The concept behind the aerobot, said Heun, is a gondola anchored below a balloon or blimp filled with a gas - a refrigerant, for example - which is capable of changing between liquid and gas. This ability allows the aerobot to float kilometers up into the atmosphere of a planet to do higher-altitude observations, which were typically the domain of satellites. But what makes the aerobot so useful is that the same device can be made to descend to the ground level of a planet like Mars or Venus to do rock and soil analyses, an area which has always been the sole domain of planetary rovers.

"You can do a lot more detailed investigations and you have a whole lot more mobility than with a rover," said Heun. "It combines the advantages of satellites and rovers."

Heun said this type of technology - which is still in the research and development stage - could be particularly useful in exploring Venus, where surface temperatures can reach 460 degrees Celsius (860 degrees Fahrenheit) and previous attempts at data collection have had minutes-long lifespans. But "with the proper aerobot you can dip down to the surface and take that sample and back up to reasonable altitudes where the temperatures are more like room temperatures. There you could analyse the sample and relay that back to earth," said Heun.

Dorner is involved in slightly more earth-bound projects. Currently employed as a software and digital design engineer at British-based Smiths Industries' Grand Rapids location, Dorner spends much of his time designing navi-

gational systems for both military and commercial airplanes.

One of the projects Dorner has worked on is with the F/A-18 Hornet. In the past, pilots flying this all-weather fighter at night depended on a radar-generated terrain image that would allow them to see things ahead. But with Tactical Aircraft Moving Map Capability (TAMMC), a system Dorner worked on, an onboard computer matches data from the radar and other sensors and overlays the radar image with a computer-generated digital picture of the terrain ahead created from images previously taken by satellite and airplanes. With this, "you can actually see what it is - a bridge or tower or mountain," said Dorner.

Another project he has worked on is labeled Self-Contained Navigation System (SCNS, pronounced "skins"). This system has been placed on board 600 C-130 aircraft to date and provides worldwide navigational aid to pilots. The C-130, commonly known as the Hercules, is a four-engine propeller aircraft that is used in many capacities. The SCNS is designed to help in many of these capacities. For instance, when the C-130 is used as a search and rescue plane, SCNS can direct the pilots in either a spiral-out search pattern or in a zig-zag. Similarly, it can provide necessary information and calculations when the C-130 is used for cargo drops - like dropping food or medical supplies into war zones.

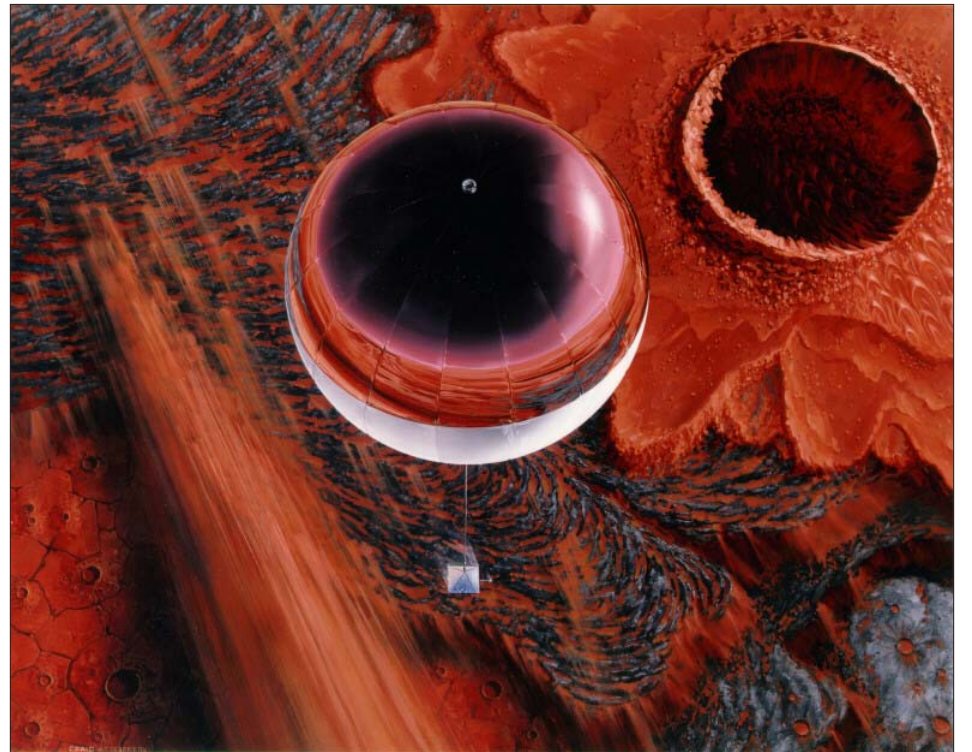
Dorner and Smiths Industries have also worked on similar flight management systems for Boeing 737 aircraft and are currently working on installing their system on Air Force One and Two.

Both Heun and Dorner think their experience in the real world can help them if they are appointed at Calvin.

"I had the idea that some day I would like to return to do some teaching at Calvin," said Heun. "The plan was always to get some experience in industry before that. The professors that influenced me the most were ones that had some experience in industry. That impressed me to the point that I think, 'If I'm ever going to get back to Calvin I'm going to get some experience first.'" Heun also said he would like to explore some of the philosophical implications of engineering.

Dorner wants to "help give back to students that were in a position like we were and hopefully allow them to graduate from Calvin with the tools and with the idea of going into the world to transform the world and redeem it. ... Our goal is to help train students to be an engineer who is a responsible engineer that can go into the world and set an example and think both logically and spiritually about the things that they need to do."

But Dorner and Heun are only two of the candidates coming on campus to give students a glimpse at some of the possibilities in engineering. Next Wednesday, Dr. Wayne Gifford of Dieflow in Chippewa Falls, Wis. will present some of his work with die-casting and three-dimensional computational fluid dynamics. Next Friday, Dr. Paulo Ribiero of BWX Technologies will deliver a seminar on the work he has done with naval nuclear power systems. Both seminars will be held in the Science



courtesy JPL

An artist's conception of an aerobot on Mars shows the capabilities of this type of exploration device. The aerobot could explore a volcanic crater (right) and just as easily explore the traditional Martian terrain (left). The aerobot is a concept presented by one of the six candidates being interviewed for two openings in the engineering department.

Building, room 139 at 3:30 p.m.

"It's very exciting and fun to talk with these people, some of whom are Calvin grads and some of whom come from a very different background and are intrigued by what Calvin is," said engineering Chair Richard DeJong.

DeJong said he is looking to hire candidates who "are good communicators, have solid professional activity, are interested in mentoring and advising students in all areas of life and who can provide some expertise or some type of service to the community as a whole."

Festival, continued from page 1

"Different authors picture themselves as celebrities, some more than others," said Brown. Knol was quick to point out, however, that many times the agents make more demands than the authors themselves. One author, for example, will be staying at the Amway Grand Hotel, while the other writers are staying at more modest accommodations. One notable exception is Chaim Potok, who is staying at DeWitt Manor with President Gaylen Byker and his family.

With many of the authors and registrants from out of town staying at local hotels, transportation also becomes an issue. Each author scheduled for the 2000 festival has a student host (one of the students on Brown's committee) who picks them up from the airport, takes them to their hotel, and is in charge of taking them wherever they have to go. This, along with getting into the event for free, is a large benefit of working on the festival, according to junior Karen Maylone.

Maylone, the student in charge of transportation for the festival, oversees four 15-passenger vans, one minivan and one car, which, starting at 7:30 a.m., travel around Grand Rapids, picking up authors, publishers and registrants from local hotels. While these hotels have informed Calvin of the number of festival guests that they have registered, "we mostly just have to guess" when it

comes to the number of people that will actually need service, Maylone said.

Calvin will also be running a parking lot shuttle services from the lot across the Beltline, as well as from the parking lots of Church of the Servant and First Evangelical Free Church.

"We're going to try to do everything we can to accommodate people," said Maylone.

Since such an event places a bit of a strain on Calvin's campus, Brown said that more than once people have suggested he hold this event during spring break when students aren't around. But that, he said, is just the problem.

"This festival is about Calvin students," he said. "They run it, they participate in it. That is a remarkable opportunity, and the students deserve to be a part of it."

Tickets are still available for students and the general public for the remaining events being held in the Fieldhouse. The conference events, however, remain limited to festival ticket holders. Tonight's featured speaker is Anne Lamott, with her lecture entitled, "Traveling Mercies: An Evening With Anne Lamott." Saturday evening, guests will be treated to "An Evening with Maya Angelou." Both events start at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$8 for students and \$15 for the general public. In addition, these events will be broadcast over CVN.

ONLINE Chimes

Just think ... your arms won't even get tired holding the newspaper.

<http://www.calvin.edu/chimes>

Pump prices won't drop much, even with OPEC increases

By MELISSA SLAGER
Managing Editor

Calvin College goes through about 800 gallons of gas each week, said Butch Snyder of the Physical Plant (Transportation and Vehicle Maintenance).

"We gotta have our fuel," he said.

Like the rest of the nation and world, the price for Calvin's gallons of gasoline has increased over the past year, making for some minor budget changes. "We budget for a certain amount, so when fuel goes up the budget has to change," Snyder said, noting that the change is only "minor." "It hasn't hurt us all that much."

Average pump prices for all grades of gasoline in the Midwest have only risen from \$1.366 per gallon on Feb. 7 to \$1.477 last Monday, with a peak at \$1.555 on March 6 (see chart). Still, it makes many students — especially commuters — long for the prices of last year.

"It is annoying that I am paying so much money for [gas]," said senior Julie Armstrong. "Not just because I commute to Calvin, but because I drive downtown for work, too."

An increase in oil production by 1.7 million barrels per day aims to ease the surge in gas prices. The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries' (OPEC) decision came on Tuesday, although not without considerable complaint by Iran, the cartel's second-largest producer.

According to a press release from nine of OPEC's 11 member countries, the nine countries (Algeria, Indonesia, Kuwait, Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Nigeria, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Venezuela) decided to "restore their pro-



photo by Dykhouse

PUMPED UP PRICES

Gasoline pumps around the nation are experiencing the effect of last year's OPEC decision to cut back on production. In the United States, prices are highest on the West Coast, where CNN cited \$1.90 per gallon prices in San Francisco on March 19. The Midwest has the lowest prices at \$1.477 per gallon (based on an average of all grades, see chart below).

LEFT: A Calvin student fills his vehicle at a Shell station on the East Beltline.

	2/7	2/14	2/21	2/28	3/6	3/13	3/20	3/27
U.S.	1.364	1.394	1.443	1.458	1.539	1.566	1.569	1.549
Midwest	1.366	1.412	1.487	1.482	1.555	1.544	1.517	1.477

source: Energy Information Administration

duction to their pre-March 1999 levels." Iran dissented (Iraq was not a party in the 1999 agreement to make reductions); however, after the decision, Iran decided to up its production as well.

"We don't want to send a signal that we are out for ruining the cohesion of the organization," said Iran's OPEC governor Hossein Kazempour Ardebili, "but we expressed concern about a huge increase in one step" (New York Times, March 29).

American pressure for OPEC to act on the increasing prices played a large part in Iran's reaction to the decision.

"U.S. officials simply respond to the mood and desires of the people in the country," said economics and business Professor Roland Hoksbergen. "The United States has long had a love affair with the car, and with big gas hogs at that. We like to travel in small groups, for long distances, in gas guzzling cars. That's why we have relatively low gas taxes here compared to, say, Europe, where gas costs from \$4 to \$5 a gallon."

The United States, which has the

lowest gas prices compared to other countries, was pushing for a 2.5 million barrel increase per day. Although that goal was not met, Energy Secretary Bill Richardson was happy with the OPEC decision.

"I think our quiet diplomacy worked," said Richardson on Tuesday (New York Times, March 29).

Iran would have seemed to disagree with Richardson's term "quiet diplomacy," however.

"This is not a question in a debate about production," said Ardebili. "This is a question of influence. ... [OPEC] should not have been put in the position of being pushed to do it."

Prices for gasoline started to rise after OPEC countries decided to cut back production in March 1999 in response to the market situation then. The

OPEC Conference on Tuesday resulted in a return to increased production.

"OPEC was kind of spooked when the price of crude oil went up to \$34 per barrel last month," said economics Professor John Tiemstra, noting that the organization realized such a price hike would "do damage" to consuming countries' economies.

OPEC tries to keep the price to \$25 per barrel, said Tiemstra, but the "size of the increase [to 1.7 million more barrels per day] is not going to be enough to get it down to that mark. It will probably hang around or a little below \$30 a barrel until the fall."

"We had two similar big price increases in the 1970s and after each one we had a big recession," said Tiemstra. One of these increases came in 1973 off of the Yom Kippur War and one came in 1979 during the conflict between Iran and Iraq. The latter conflict hiked prices from \$11 to \$30 per barrel and was followed by "the worst recession the United States had felt since the 1930s," said Tiemstra.

Now, in the past 14 months when prices have gone from \$12 to as high as \$34 a barrel, said Tiemstra, "People are asking, 'Is this going to be a replay of those recessions?'"

"It doesn't look like it," he said, "but that's all we can say so far." A better overall economy and less troubled times than the 1970s may mean the escape of another recession. "Things aren't as bad as then," said Tiemstra.

NATIONAL NOTES

Michigan House approves campus riot bill

According to a press release issued by Michigan Senator Ken Sikkema on March 17, "Senate-sponsored legislation that would increase penalties for campus rioters has been approved by the state House of Representatives."

The bill was introduced last fall after Michigan State University riots "caused extensive property damage in the East Lansing community and tarnished the school's reputation," the release said.

Senate Bill 525 would allow courts to "prohibit those convicted of crimes related to a riot occurring within 2,500 feet of public colleges and uni-

versities from entering the campuses of all state public colleges and universities for one year if convicted of a misdemeanor, or two years if convicted of a felony," the release said.

Court rules on searches based on anonymous tips

As reported by the Washington Post on Tuesday, a Supreme Court unanimous ruling will mean "police cannot stop and frisk someone based merely on an anonymous tip describing the person's clothing and claiming that he is carrying a gun." The case came when Miami police found a gun on a person who was identified by his clothing on an anonymous tip.

ROLE MODELS: We are looking for part time/flexible individuals 18 or older to role model for children, adolescents or adults with behavioral challenges and developmental disabilities. Job responsibilities include: aiding the individual in various recreational and domestic activities, community integration, and behavior modification. Afternoon, evening and weekend hours. Pay rate: \$8.20/8.85 per hour. Contact Claudia Southern for more information at 774-0853. EOE/AA Employer

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Putin wins Russia's second democratic election

By PERRY TROLARD
Staff Writer

The acting president of Russia, Vladimir Putin, was officially elected President Monday.

At his inauguration in May, Putin will be the second democratically elected president of Russia since the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991.

Putin won the election handily, receiving the support of nearly 53 percent of the voting electorate (with 94 percent of the vote counted). His only formidable challenger was

Gennady Zyuganov of the Communist Party, who received nearly 30 percent of the vote.

When Boris Yeltsin resigned almost three months ago, he appointed Putin to succeed him as president. At the time, Putin was prime minister.

As prime minister, Putin developed a tough, stern image, mainly because of his strong handling of the rebels in Chechnya. In his presidential campaign, he promised to repair the economy and rebuild the military, although specific plans for how to do this were absent. Many Russians see in him the power to bring order

and stability to the troubled nation.

On Monday, President Clinton offered his congratulations to Putin, but not without some qualifying words. Clinton mentioned Putin's "electoral mandate ... to advance economic reform, to strengthen the rule of law, to intensify the fight against crime and corruption, and

to join with us on a broad common agenda of international security" (AP, March 27).

U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright also expressed a sort of reserved praise for the election, the beginning of a democratic process and Putin himself.

She said, "It's historic that the Russians are having such an election, that there is a transfer of power in a democratic, constitutional way. But I don't think we should prejudge [Putin]. ... I think we've just got to see what his actions are" (AP, March 27).

English Professor Ed Ericson also spoke of the present with praise and of the future with caution. He said that the mere existence of the democratic elections is significant and good. Of Putin's ability to fulfill his promises, however, Ericson was unsure.

"It's historic that the Russians are having such an election, that there is a transfer of power in a democratic, constitutional way," said Albright.

"Putin is making promises to renew the economy, to strengthen the military, and to stabilize the government, but is very short on proposals of programs," said Ericson. "He seems to me a kind of blank sheet on which various people with conflicting hopes and aspirations all write what they wish to see happen."

One reason the voters would support this stern, promise-wielding candidate is because they think he will restore some strength to the former super power, said Ericson.

He explained that humiliation is a major motivation for Russian voters. Fifteen years ago, the Soviet army would have quieted the rebels in Chechnya, but now it is a close, slowly progressing battle. Another example of humiliation is the financial state of the government (not wholly unrelated to the military problems). Teachers, for instance, went months without pay from the government under Yeltsin.

Given the shambles that Russia is now in, Putin, with his seemingly strong-handed governing style, may be just what the voters ordered.

However, Ericson, putting into words



file photo

English Professor Ed Ericson called Putin a 'blank sheet on which various people with conflicting hopes and aspirations all write what they wish to see happen.'

what many have implied, including President Clinton and Secretary of State Albright, said, "We have no reason to think that he has sufficient command to fulfill very many of [his promises to the people]."

Hundreds killed in apparent mass murder in Uganda

■ *The victims were members of a cult that predicted the Apocolypse on December 31, 1999*

When more than 300 bodies of people who had burned to death in a church were discovered in the village of Kanunga, Uganda, on March 17, the authorities suspected mass suicide. However, now that three more sites have been discovered and the death toll has risen to 591, the police suspect that the people were murdered.

On Monday, 74 bodies were found in the home of Dominic Kataribabo, defrocked Roman Catholic priest and one of the leaders of the Christian doomsday sect known as the

Movement for the Restoration of the Ten Commandments of God. Many of the victims showed signs of strangulation or other kinds of homicide. One woman was found in the backyard with a banana leaf around her neck and another victim's skull had been crushed.

Another site was discovered last Friday when police found 153 bodies under a building used by the cult in the southwest Ugandan city of Buhunga. At this site, many of the victims were apparently clubbed, stangled or hacked to death (Globe and Mail, March 27).

Members of the Movement for the Restoration of the Ten Commandments

of God professed the belief that the world would end on Dec. 31, 1999.

Some authorities believe that when the movement's prediction did not come true, members demanded the return of the possessions that they had turned over to join the cult, and this led to the killings. On Tuesday, authorities indicated that they

are planning to issue an international arrest warrant for the leaders of the sect.

Meanwhile, authorities are investigating the possibility that the two main leaders of the movement -

Cledonia Mwerinde and Joseph Kibwetere -

survived the March 17 blaze. They are afraid that they have escaped across Uganda's border to Congo.

The police are also investigating the possibility that many victims were poisoned, since many of the victims show no sign of violence.

"You can't kill all these human beings alone," said Godfrey Bangirana, an assistant police commissioner. "This was an organized crime. And an organized crime cannot be committed by one person. It must be a group" (New York Times, March 29).

Compiled by Natasja VanderBerg, Editor in chief

Some authorities believe that when the movement's prediction did not come true, members demanded the return of the possessions that they had turned over to join the cult, and this led to the killings.

Canadian News



Bernardo appeal of murder conviction rejected by Ontario court

Paul Bernardo's appeal of his 1995 conviction for the first-degree murder of teenagers Kristen French and Leslie Mahaffy was abruptly rejected by the Ontario Court of Appeals on Monday, March 27. After a day of bombarding Bernardo's attorneys with questions, the three-judge panel rejected the appeal without hearing from the crown. According to Timothy Danson, the lawyer for the parents of the victims, they had been terrified that the trial may have gone the other way.

"It is a tremendous, tremendous relief for them. They have been under unbelievable pressure and fear that this could have gone the other way," said Danson (Globe and Mail, March 29). According to Danson, this is the "last word" on the topic.

Meanwhile, Ken Murray, who initially represented Bernardo, is on trial of obstruction of justice. Murray is being charged with failing to reveal videotapes of Bernardo and Karla Homolka torturing the victims as evidence.

Day announces bid for new Canadian Reform Conservative Alliance party leadership

Stockwell Day announced on Tuesday that he will be seeking the leadership of Canada's newest party, the Canadian Reform Conservative Alliance. With a pledge not to bow to political correctness, while pushing for safer streets, substantial tax reductions and restrictions on appeals for sex killers such as Paul Bernardo, he becomes Preston Manning's, leader of the defunct Reformed Party, main rival for the leadership position.

Day, from Red Deer, Alberta, has been criticized for his conservative views on homosexuality and abortion. However, in a speech on Tuesday in his hometown, he focused on less hot-button issues, namely crime and tax cuts.

Chrétien attacks 'partisan and misleading' ads by Ontario premier Mike Harris

The health care fight heated up a few days before the federal and provincial health care ministers' two-day meeting that takes place this weekend. Prime Minister Jean Chrétien blasted Ontario Premier Mike Harris for a "partisan and misleading" advertising campaign that criticizes Ottawa for cutting health care funds.

In a harsh letter, Chrétien refuted the facts contained in the campaign - including the fact that Ottawa only supplies 11 cents of every dollar spent on health care in the province. The letter accuses Harris of "willfully neglecting" facts.

Call to Justice

This week, Bill Van Lopik, faculty advisor for Calvin's Social Justice Committee (SJC), is addressing some issues in Columbia. This weekly column, written by SJC members, is devoted to increasing awareness and action in the Calvin community about issues of social justice.



"But let him who boasts boast about this: that he understands and knows me, that I am the Lord, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight" declares the Lord," (Jeremiah 9:24).

Colombia needs a fix

- *Monetary aid to Columbia will primarily benefit military*

BY PROFESSOR BILL VAN LOPIK
Faculty Advisor to the Social Justice Committee

When you ask most people what they know about the country of Colombia, they will either mention Juan Valdez and rich Colombian coffee or they will mention cocaine and the Medellin drug cartels.

However, I believe it is safe to say that our general knowledge about this South American country will change dramatically in the next couple of years.

I say this because of something that took place in the U.S. Congress on March 10. On this date, the House Appropriations Committee approved an emergency aid bill that will give Colombia \$1.7 billion over the course of the next two years.

The intent of the aid is to "shore up Colombia's tottering democracy and enable its military to step up its war against narcotics traffickers" (Boston Globe).

Although I am completely in favor of drying up the drug market in our country, I believe this proposal is a flawed way to go about doing it. I say this for four reasons.

First, cocaine production in Colombia has been steadily increasing over the past five years and now supplies 85 percent of all cocaine entering the United States. The increase has coincided directly with increased military aid to Colombia over the same time period. In other words, increased military aid has so far not been a deterrent to the burgeoning drug trade. So why do we think that more money yet will be the answer?

Second, of the \$1.7 billion earmarked for Colombia, 80 percent is designated for the Colombian military. The purpose of the aid is for training, attack helicopters, and other military support equipment.

This is for a military that is notorious for its human rights abuses and is consistently cited as being tied in with the paramilitary death squads that operate openly in the country.

U.S. policymakers should know

full well by now that strengthening corrupt military powers in Latin America that see their own people as the enemy is not an effective way of creating a democratic society.

Third, besides the drug production problem in Colombia, the country is preoccupied with its long-standing civil war that continues to rage in the south and east quadrants of Colombia.

The FARC and ELN guerrilla groups are large and well-armed popular armies.

They control large amounts of the countryside and also have a strong presence near the Venezuela border.

Incidentally, this area is also where U.S.-based Occidental Petroleum has found large oil reserves and wants desperately to collaborate with the Colombian government to drill for the oil.

I think the question must be posed whether this aid will be used in coca leaf alleviation or in the alleviation of Colombian insurgents who operate in the region where the oil reserves are located.

Outside investors obviously do not like to sink money into areas that are politically unstable.

We should recognize here the fundamental difference between eradicating coca crops in Colombia and intervening in an internal civil war about which we have no understanding.

Fourth, elementary economics teaches us that if there is a demand for a product, someone will come up with the supply for meeting that demand.

It is clear that as long as there are people in North America who are willing to spend big bucks for their cocaine addictions, there will always be someone looking to cash in on the market. Coca leaves are easy to grow and it will be geographically impossible to eradicate all of the isolated coca fields spread across the rugged and impenetrable Andes Mountains of Colombia.

Additionally, the country has Atlantic and Pacific coastlines which allow for easy access to U.S. markets on both coasts. Eradication will be impossible as long as there is a demand.

A study by the Rand Corporation in 1994 found that money spent on drug treatment was 23 times more cost-effective than eradication of crops and 11 times more effective than interdiction. This basically shows that if we cut off demand, then supply will dry up.

If you are concerned about United States intervention in internal affairs of Latin America, the alleviation of drugs in our country and how your tax dollars are spent, I would encourage you to write or call your Congressperson.

Ask them to not support any money going to the Colombian military and to instead support local drug prevention programs to stop this problem.

U.S. policymakers should know full well by now that strengthening corrupt military powers in Latin America -- that see their own people as the enemy -- is not an effective way of creating a democratic society.

Paul Schrader returns to Calvin for Festival of Faith and Writing

BY EVAN KOONS
Guest Writer

Paul Schrader wasn't just a Calvin student, he was a ringmaster, and the institution was his three-ring circus. With a dorm room desk and Vietnam draft card as his torch, Schrader ignited the religious and social hoops of Calvin College.

As the founder of the Film Arts Committee, he showed things Calvin didn't want to see; as the assistant editor of Chimes, he said things Calvin didn't want to hear.

But the controversy didn't stop at the corner of Burton and East Beltline. Schrader took his show on the road — namely, to the screen.

There he composed some of the most controversial reels ever flipped through the projector light. So much so that one of his films, "The Last Temptation of Christ" — which portrays Christ's struggle of being both completely God and completely human, battling the urge to step off the cross and lead a normal human life — was, strangely enough, a film that the Film Arts Committee was discouraged to show when it first came out.

Now, a little over 30 years after his graduation, the "Greatest Show on Earth" returns to Calvin as a participant in the Festival of Faith and Writing.

Not too long ago, I got the chance to talk to Schrader about his writing, his return to Calvin for the Festival and what we can expect.

Schrader is coming back, simply put, because Calvin invited him. "I don't have any big statement to make about Calvin and I assume Calvin doesn't have a big statement about me," he said through a chuckle.

Schrader only had positive things to say about Calvin.

In past interviews about the Calvin, Schrader spoke highly of the education he received. This isn't just another seminar for Schrader. He considers this a "prestigious invitation in connection with Gary Willis and the other writers."

On Friday, March 31, Gary Willis will interview Schrader at 3:00 p.m. in the Gezon Auditorium.

But, it's more than just the names of Anne Lamott, Chaim Potok and Maya Angelou that brings him back: "I don't think I would have gone if it were not Calvin," he said. Truly, he is honored and excited to come back.

When Schrader was a student, times were very controversial. There was a civil war raging in the Far East and a civil rights war on the home-front — controversy was everywhere.

"It was a controversial moment in history and we all played out roles," Schrader said. Schrader wasn't lashing out against Calvin, he was lashing out



courtesy www.indiewire.com

Schrader, a former Calvin student and assistant editor of Chimes, returns to Calvin to speak at the Festival of Faith and Writing, which will include a week-long showing of his films.

at the norms of society and welcoming the so-called "forbidden" with open arms.

"Many of the things I've done over the years have been controversial for the same reason the things I did at Calvin were controversial. There's a part of me that loves ... to run something against the grain and see what happens," said Schrader. "The moment somebody says to me, 'You can't do that,' you automatically think, 'Well, why not?' and 'What happens if I do? Will it be interesting if I do?'"

It was partially this philosophy that brought "The Last Temptation of Christ" to the screen.

Of course, controversy followed. But was it justified?

Schrader thinks not: "The controversy was a political-financial scam worked up by the ultra-right wing to bolster its support and raise money. When you really

want to get right-wing Christianity activated, you threaten their money," he said.

"A scandal such as 'Last Temptation' was a perfect example to say, 'Hollywood is defaming our Lord; we are defending our Lord; please give us money in this struggle.'"

Schrader believes that "it is a deeply spiritual book" and "a deeply spiritual film." Several of Schrader's movies will be shown throughout the week.

Schrader is pretty much playing the Festival by ear. "I've made a fair number of appearances, so I sort of know the drill," he said.

There is, however, something that has him a bit unsettled as he prepares to come back. The words sighed from his lips as though he felt uneasy about it already, "Switching planes."

"Many of the things I've done over the years have been controversial for the same reason the things I did at Calvin were controversial ... There's a part of me that loves to run something against the grain and see what happens," said Schrader.

Students reach out to city of Detroit

BY NATHAN VANDERKLIPPE
News Editor

Detroit is a mere 160 miles away as the 15-passenger van drives, but the contrast between this eastern-Michigan city and Grand Rapids is startling.

Metropolitan Detroit accommodates 11 million inhabitants, 75 percent of them African American; three out of four African American homes are single-parent homes. It has the poorest zip code in the state of Michigan. It is at once home to the Big Three motor companies and the musical pacesetter Motown Records; slumlords and drug traffickers.

In short, Detroit was the perfect landing point for a group of insulated Calvin students ready to hazard the great beyond of an urban setting. Ten students participated in the Service-Learning Center-sponsored spring break trip to Detroit; 42 students in all took to the freeways in SLC trips to locations as far away as Mississippi, Missouri and Tennessee.

Squeezing into Calvin Van 1 with nine other exuberant Calvin students I wondered what the week ahead might have in store.

Accommodations at the rectory of St. Martha's Episcopal Church in downtown Detroit were spartan but comfortable. The walls and floors were bare, but the thick downstairs carpet

provided ample cushioning for both wrestling college students and weary heads. St. Martha's is a white church in a black neighborhood with a dwindling population. Built by Henry Ford's wife in 1952 in memory of her late husband, the church property was a tidy spot surrounded by iron-wrought fence in an otherwise fairly unkempt area.

Driving through Detroit was reminiscent of driving through parts of East Grand Rapids. One avenue might be a historic district with 5,000-square-foot stylish old houses lining spotless roads. The next street over might be littered with fast food wrappers and broken glass in front of decrepit and burnt-out houses and open lots standing as bleak souvenirs of poverty and torn-down houses. One more street, and 25 identical Habitat for Humanity houses might stare back at you.

Into this environment we pulled up in our blue van. Strapping on tennis shoes, ratty jeans and torn T-shirts, we arrived at a house on Minnock Street after picking up some supplies from a nearby Catholic church rectory decked out in St. Patrick's Day ornaments. The house we were working at included carpet that reeked of urine, basement walls with cracks extending from top to bottom and the drywall was dingy and in need of paint.

In the backyard, a large shed, held together by an interior cable bracing two

opposing walls, stood with cracked and blistered white paint.

Working with West Detroit Inter-Faith Community Outreach (WDIFCO) and some other volunteers, we pulled up the carpet, smeared the walls and basement with bright white and stripped and re-painted the outside garage. The white paint flecks that bonded to our clothing and footwear after completing the job could not quite outshine the smiling sense of satisfaction derived from knowing that our efforts would help someone take pride in his or her new house.

One evening, four students and our mentor, Mathematics Professor Dorette Pronk, traveled to CITY Mission, a tutoring center established by a Detroit native who grew up in the ghetto but was broke out of his situation when a tutor's interest in him gave him a new perspective on life.

Students and tutors come to CITY twice a week. Each tutoring session is replete with homework help, "Hooked on Phonics" games, computer lessons and a Bible lesson. What some of the Calvin students found surprising was the level of excitement for learning displayed by the participating students. Where stereotypes might hold that urban Detroit youth would not demonstrate enthusiasm for school, these students easily corrected those misconceptions.

Our last day of work in Detroit gave us another opportunity to interact with schoolchildren. At the Westside Christian Academy (WCA), a 6-year-old school administrated by the father of our student group leader. With a starting enrollment of 70 K-12 students, the school has grown to 150 students. Most of us spent the day in classrooms, helping kids out with schoolwork and pro-



photo by VanderKlippe

Roslynn Azzam cleans up WCA with Gabrielle, kindergartener.

viding whatever assistance the teacher needed.

Since WCA is a small private school, money is a large issue and many of the teachers are not fully qualified. Even so, some of us who helped with lower grade levels came back surprised at the amount of knowledge already acquired by the WCA students.

As some students lent their assistance in the classroom, others helped out with cleaning and mopping the already remarkably clean school. At the end of the day, we put our energies together to rake the yard clean of autumn leaves.

Nightly devotions provided a chance for our team to mull over issues of poverty, race and compassion in the light of the Bible and various case studies. The devotions also gave us a chance to get to know other members on the team better by sharing testimonies and asking questions.

None of us got sunburns. We did not even get tan lines. But what we did gain was a new appreciation for inner-city life and the rays of hope that can still penetrate through the slumlords and the drug traffickers.

Mississippi receives help via Calvin

BY PETER LAGRAND
Hmmmologist

On the side of Highway 61, entering the city of Port Gibson, Miss., there a sign commemorating General Grant's declaration that the city was "too beautiful to burn." While this may have once been true, it no longer holds meaning. In fact, Port Gibson is located in one of the poorest countries of the poorest states in America.

While most students were using their spring breaks to relax, socialize, or cure homesickness, 13 members of the Calvin community went to Port Gibson. Not only was I one of those students, I was the student leader.

Some of you avid readers of this publication may wonder why I led what is commonly called a "mission trip" when I have written articles criticizing their very existence. The answer is two-fold. First, I figured that I had better attempt to transform what I thought needed reforming. Second, I was interested in a chance to serve, so I signed up for the job.

The Port Gibson trip is one of several that the Service Learning Center sponsored this year. The trips are student led, student funded trips that seek to show to those in need that as Christ followers, we seek to serve. Now, these are noble things to say, but how do you enact these things? The answer to this is not simple, but I can say that what we did was the best attempt that we could muster.

What we did was go in with the mindset that of helping a community that was in need with our muscles and

our love. We went into the Port Gibson community not to fix what we thought should be fixed, but rather to help out what was already working for good in the community.

In our case this was an organization called the Christian Volunteer Service (CVS). This organization is run locally by a retired couple, and Janette Mahoney. With their help, we were able to be sure that the help that we were doing was for those in real need and for those who were attempting to change their lives.

Because of the Mahoney's screening and their knowledge of the area and the people, we were able to work in the community without condescension and without disturbing the service systems already in place.

The reality of the trip was the slow Southern reality. From patching roofs to building steps and floors, we worked on houses that barely stood for people who could offer only home-cooked Southern hospitality and smiles.

In the words of freshman Noah Borgondy, the trip "gave me a different perspective on life, and showed me a section of God's creation." He added, with a smile, "I was able to look past the poverty and enjoy with them their slow-paced life."

From taking part in a three hour Pentecostal church service to meeting local resident who insisted on putting their teeth in before having their pictures taken, the trip was a glimpse at a different world. More than that, it was a chance to fellowship with other members of God's creation on their turf, on their rules, and at their own pace.

In the World Songwriters of substance make their v

■ *Buddy and Julie Miller make songwriting into an intra-marital affair*

As our final look at Festival of Faith and Writing artists, this week's *In the World* proffers a panorama of musical contributors to the Festival. Julie and Buddy Miller will join in "An Evening of Couples" Friday night, and Jan Krist, Mike Knott and Pedro the Lion will join Robert Deeble in Thursday's "Night of Music in Four Sets."

BY MARK DEROO
A&E Asst. Editor

Unlike Sonny and Cher, Buddy and Julie Miller can attest that couples in the music business can work with an "I got you babe" attitude and still be successful.

Calvin College welcomes the country music duo to the FAC tonight, for a night that is appropriately entitled an "Evening of Couples."

Buddy and Julie Miller though a duo, also are known for their solo work and moreover for their involvement with artists, such as Emmylou Harris, Steve Earle, Patty Griffin, Shawn Colvin and Lucinda Williams.

Buddy Miller has been in the music business for three decades and has dabbled in a broad range of music, everything from psychedelic-folk-rock to bluegrass. Miller started playing in New York, and traveled to San Francisco, Los Angeles and Austin (where he met Julie in 1976).

On returning to New York, Miller started the country Buddy Miller Band that included singer/songwriter Shawn



www.nashville.com

Buddy and Julie Miller turn the Sonny and Cher formula into something wonderful.

Colvin. To further his fame, he appeared on albums by Victoria Williams, Jim Lauderdale and Heather Myles. The Dixie Chicks, Brooks and Dunn, Lee Ann Womack and Hank Williams III have also covered Miller's songs.

Despite all of Miller's involvement with other bands, he produced and recorded his first album with Julie Miller in 1995 entitled, "Your Love and Other Lies" (High Tone Records).

His debut album consisted of thought-provoking country with songs like, "I Don't Mean Maybe" and "You Wrecked Up My Heart." It was praised by country music heavyweight Steve Earle as "the country record of the decade." He then managed to record his second release, "Poison Love" (1997) featuring Harris and Julie

Miller among others.

Despite the time Miller spent producing his wife's albums, he found the energy to record his third album "Cruel Moon" gaining him the prestigious Guitarist of the Year award at the 1999 Nashville Music Awards.

Miller has shown on the road and in his albums incredible musicianship on guitars, banjo and bass, surpassing his mundane country lyrics.

His songs contain the staple country themes like losing love as heard in songs, "Does My Ring Burn Your Finger" and "In Memory Of My Heart." Even though Miller's songs may not contain life-changing insight his musicianship is strong.

Julie, whose fame rode on Buddy's coat tails, can attest to the influence of his music. Julie Miller's early days of music began in the small town of Waxahachie, Texas. At 16, Julie began to sing semi-professionally in Austin where she met Buddy in the band Partners in Crime.

She went on to be signed by Myrrh Records (a small Christian recording company), where she produced three albums: "Meet Julie Miller" (1990), "Orphans and Angels" (1990), and "He Walks Through Walls" (1991).

Miller was then signed by Street Level

Records to produce the "Invisible Girl" (1994) whose success the title alludes to.

Julie Miller's real success came with her 1997 release "Blue Pony" (High Tone). Attention was given to "Blue Pony" primarily because it was co-written by Buddy, Emmylou Harris, Steve Earle and Karen Peris.

"Blue Pony" received critical acclaim in the country music community, with Entertainment Weekly giving it an "A" and calling it "one of the year's most haunting surprises."

Julie's newest album "Broken Things" (High Tone) received more praise from critics. Her sentimental vocals on the title track "Broken Things" bleat, "You can have my heart if you don't mind broken things."

Like Buddy's, Julie's lyrics rally around love and lost-love in songs like, "I Need You" and "I Still Cry." She upholds the country tradition with lyrics like, "I need something like morphine, only better/ I need something like a kiss, that lasts forever."

Despite Buddy and Julie Miller's rehashed country themes (except for the song Julie wrote, "100 Million Little Bombs," about land mines randomly exploding around the world), Buddy and Julie Miller make solid country music together.

Their sentimental country may be a bit shallow, but their musicianship runs deep. "An Evening Of Couples" should be a folk-country time of marital bliss.

■ *Pedro the Lion evades the pitfalls of minimalism with emotional honesty*

BY PHIL CHRISTMAN
A&E Co-Editor

Five years and four recordings have built Pedro the Lion into Christian alt-rock stars.

With lyrics of a disarmingly shy, often vein-opening confessionism and skillful use of lo-fi atmospherics, David Bazan is eliciting the kind of gut admiration seen with Bill Maloney or Over the Rhine - Christian artists whose honesty and concern for craft have made them folk heroes to pissed-off fringe evangelicals.

One can see why. Pedro uses the conventions of several genres, all of them - emo, folk, punk, lo-fi - intimate in nature, be it by the intimacy of confrontation

(punk) or the intimacy of shared story (folk). Thus, Bazan quavering and choking, in straightforward prose that verges on the naive, narrates his stories with the disarming straightness of an anguished public speaker staring at the index cards in his sweaty hands.

The lack of fuzz and machismo in the instrumentation - even when they rock out, it's with a clank instead of a rumble - and nimble, skittish melodies match Bazan's intonation. Plainly, Pedro the Lion aims to connect with listeners, to share struggles, pain, commitment.

When their style works, it can be like listening to an open sore: the listener is astounded, dazed, purged, as on "Almost

There": Bazan sings across one dragging, clinging chord to some lost, receding vision of wholeness as the chord gongs louder and louder; then, screaming, gasping, two vocals of the same chorus are laid across each other, pushing toward some kind of catharsis that, like Bazan's beatific vision, "never goes away ... and it never comes to stay."

That's what Pedro can do when they're good. Unfortunately, they can be *not* so good, as on the 1998 EP "The Only Reason I Feel Secure ..." Here Bazan takes two great ideas - "I Am Always the One Who Calls" to an insensitive girlfriend, and "Letter From a Concerned Follower" to God - and messes them up.

On "The One Who Calls" the minimalism inherent in all lo-fi music - its tendency to use a few chords, achieving dramatic tension via interesting combinations - gives way to boredom. The song just isn't varied enough to achieve any drama, and Bazan's prosaic, David Byrnian narrative style robs his believable observations of any poignancy.

"Letter From a Concerned Follower," meanwhile, is sung in such a dry style that one can't tell when Bazan is sarcastic. And the cover of "Be Thou My Vision," intended as a moment of transcendent devotion on an album full of questions and doubts, sounds like what it is - a rhetorical gesture rather than a full-fledged reinterpretation - and thus falls flat. As with any artist, Pedro the Lion's strengths be-



www.seattlesquare.com

David Bazon of Pedro the Lion proves that 'Slow and Steady Wins the Race' with his emotive lo-fi. Bazon's latest, 'Winners Never Quit,' was released last week.

come weaknesses when mishandled.

"Winners Never Quit," released last week, sees Pedro using a broader range of tempos and sounds to good effect. The disc shifts mood and feel for a more complete listening experience, from the strange opener "Slow and Steady Wins the Race" to the powerful "To Protect the Family Name" - an example of what Bazan's dry unpoetry can do.

Perhaps Pedro the Lion is overcoming the tendency of musical/narrative minimalists to be boring, just as they've already overcome the propensity of heart-on-sleeve songwriters for dishonest sentimentalism (which they avoid with Bazan's lyrical matter-of-factness and refusal of cheap, obvious hooks). They have already exploited the possibilities of both types to yield powerfully honest pop music, in moments if not in whole albums.

And the world can always use more of that.

Voices heard at Festival of Faith and Writing 2000

■ *Krist and Knott eke out a niche for musical exploration in CCM contexts*

BY TIM THOMPSON
A&E Co-Editor

The recent boom in "alternative" Contemporary Christian Music (CCM) that's enabled bands like Jars of Clay and Sixpence None the Richer to achieve mainstream notoriety is inconceivable apart from the pioneering work of artists like Jan Krist and Mike Knott.

As part of a loose coterie of musicians in CCM-related contexts who have valued art over image (specifically the bland, youth group approved image demanded by CCM), Krist and Knott have helped create a market base within CCM for artists unafraid to explore, well, "real life." They have helped eke out a niche — however small — within CCM where musical exploration has somewhat of a voice.

Of course, both Krist and Knott have suffered ongoing frustration with CCM and have continued to seek other venues for their art.

Even so, both Krist and Knott have managed to create significant bodies of work. Their songs appeal to a narrow yet loyal group of listeners who, though they often find themselves solidly within the church, crave music that transcends the church proper.

The real importance of the works of Krist and Knott lies not in their musical innovation, not even in their raw musical talent, though they're serious musicians. The importance of their work lies, rather, in their liminality, their ability to move between the "sacred" and "secular" without a rigid sense of dichotomy. In a Christian subculture that tends toward artistic stasis, musicians like Krist and Knott are the resistance.

On Krist

Jan Krist's latest release, titled "Love Big, Us Small" (on Silent Planet Records, a small label that rescued Krist's oeuvre

from a nasty contract debacle with her old CCM label), provides a panorama of her musical development while glimpsing her current direction via four new tracks.

"Tarzan Tells All," one of the new tracks scattered throughout the album, is characteristic of Krist's best work. It excels in subtle touches: shimmering feedback in the opening measures whistles in the background as tempo gradually quickens to the chorus. Krist's voice remains expertly modulated throughout.

The song, which refutes black-and-white, reductionist ways of thinking, sings in a passionate (yet measured) voice; its stylistic simplicity foils the ignorance that expresses itself in oversimplified "Tarzan Talk" — "Me right, you wrong" (or to quote DeGarmo & Key, "God good, Devil bad").

In fact, none of the tracks of "Love Big, Us Small" are unlikable — and perhaps therein lies a primary weakness. Krist's work displays a remarkable homogeneity. Even though "Love Big, Us Small" spans an eight-year career (1992's "Decapitated Society," 1993's "Wing and a Prayer" and 1996's "Curious," plus the four new tracks), it's hard to tell an "early" song from a "late" song.

Perhaps that speaks for the strength of Krist's songwriting; perhaps it points to a certain measure of genre conformity (Krist stands squarely in the neo-folk, singer/songwriter niche). But even the best qualities of "Tarzan Tells All" become less interesting when repeated song after song.

Still, the merit of Krist's craft shouldn't be downplayed. That it's good enough to elicit the production efforts of the likes of Armand John Petri (Goo Goo Dolls, Sixpence None the Richer) speaks something — and not that Krist runs a big production budget, either.

On Knott

It's hard to characterize an artist of

Mike Knott's prolificacy and longevity. Since 1981, when his band Lifesavers (later Lifesavers Underground or LSU) released "Us Kids," Knott has been involved in about 27 albums, including four solo projects.

Knott's work conjures, at various spots in its stylistic progression, such influences as the Beatles, Joy Division and the Ramones.

Late '80s albums like "Shaded Pain" (Lifesavers Underground) are goth-tinged, Knott's vocals consciously affected and "dark." Early '90s albums (like 1994's solo "Rocket and a Bomb") evince a dramatic shift to a looser, more ironic approach, Knott's vocals noticeably stripped, unvarnished.

His recent work, like the "Aunt Bettys" album (released on mainstream label Elektra records) and "Strip Cycle" ('95) could be called "acoustic punk." "Dogfish Jones" ('98), complete with Hammond organ stylings by the late (great) Gene Eugene, sounds something like a tripped-out remix of all Knott's previous output.

As it shifted stylistically from goth-tinged and sober to ironic, half-sober, Knott's work also relocated itself thematically. "Shaded Pain"'s imagistic lyrics (as in "Jordan River": "The Jordan River is chilly and cold/ I'll meet you, brother, on the other side") gave way to gritty, street-level narratives (as in "Rocket and a Bomb": "All I ever wanted was a good job/ Some bus fare, a rocket and a bomb").

There's much about Knott's "mature" work that's distinctive — trademark, even. His throaty, slightly schloshed whine (which possesses surprising powers of articulation); his seedy stories — "Aunt



www.michaelknott.com

www.jankrist.com

Mike Knott and Jan Krist encourage artistic intergrity in CCM (or at least try).

Bettys" is full of them, like "Suicide Sex Doll" and "Lush" (the names say it all); his refusal to deny his frail humanness (he's the only CCM-related artist I've heard who sings about hangovers — cf. "Double" from "Rocket and a Bomb") — all these make Knott one of the most compelling, creative voices ever to sojourn through CCM.

At the same time, though, there's a substantial (though not equal) portion of monochromatic, unthinking "rock 'n roll" claptrap permeating much of Knott's recent work (especially "Aunt Bettys"). What he gained in moving toward stylistic maturity — quirky storytelling, an ironic slant on being down 'n out — he seems to have lost in careful songcraft.

Knott's output has always been prolific, but it seems his most recent works have been churned out with a near apathetic nonchalance. In songs like "Rock Stars on H" (from "Strip Cycle" and "Ford Supersonic," an album of "Aunt Bettys" left-overs), banged-out guitar riffs, wheezing vocals and monotonous drumming make for less-eventful listening. Granted, "Rock Stars on H" is a parody of strung-out rockers — but I have to wonder to what extent Knott is parodying, well, his own music.

BFA: continued from page 1

engaging, but I kept wondering: "Is it an opening statement or an autonomous piece?"

Moore had other fascinating installation pieces as well, but I was excited to find that his work broke in a new direction from what BFA shows have seen in recent years. Moore is involved with some community-based artwork, integrating his artistic skills with the needs of the local community. This is exciting since all too often art can be seen as an elitist activity reserved for studios and galleries. Moore helped a local organization called Urban Produce to design and build a gate and fence structure for their garden.

It would be difficult to go from this point to an analysis of the exhibit based on some spacial organizational methods present in the gallery, since there is neither a controlled traffic pattern nor strict intentional order for how the show is to be experienced. The works of the three artists flow in and out of each other, breaking down the sense of three individual shows and encouraging the group spirit of the exhibition.

Jessica Getchell's numerous acrylic planes and membranes are as exciting as they are mysterious. Her pieces have a

luminosity intensified by the external lights shining through them, giving their rigid forms a supple life.

In pieces like "Love Stasis" Getchell combines acrylic with other materials. The use of these other materials (screen/wire) inside the layers of acrylic create other architectural systems within the layers. The use of red wire especially hints at the biological since its visual quality is that of veins weaving in and out of the "organism." A few of her pieces, however, depart from the acrylic/wire aesthetic altogether. The steel form of "Present: Crux of Resurrection" is bold and exciting. The flat metal pieces give a sense of splitting at the force and motion of the heavy steel bar. This is one of the most interesting resuscitations of cross imagery I have seen in a long time.

Bonner's naturalistic figurative works are well rendered and exciting in their elusiveness. The figures in her "Priest" series are captured with furious and bold brushstrokes emoting a power and strength. This boldness carries over into her bust entitled "David." The piece resembles Bernini's David in the nature of the working of hair and the strength of the face. This connection is a credit to

Bonner — Bernini crafted the single finest statue of David ever. The fantastical forms of "Scapegoat," a series of ceramic goat forms, were also technically and visually interesting. I was, in general, more fascinated by Bonner's prowess with three dimensional work and wished to see even more than was on display.

This show is worthy as a finale for these three students and wonderfully captures the diversity of a dynamic art department. And as if it were some kind of special offer, the show is only up for a limited time (about a week to be exact). After that, Brian DeYong and Stafford Trapp have their finale, a pinnacle of four years of thinking and making, with Beth Barber and Mark Douma finishing it off.

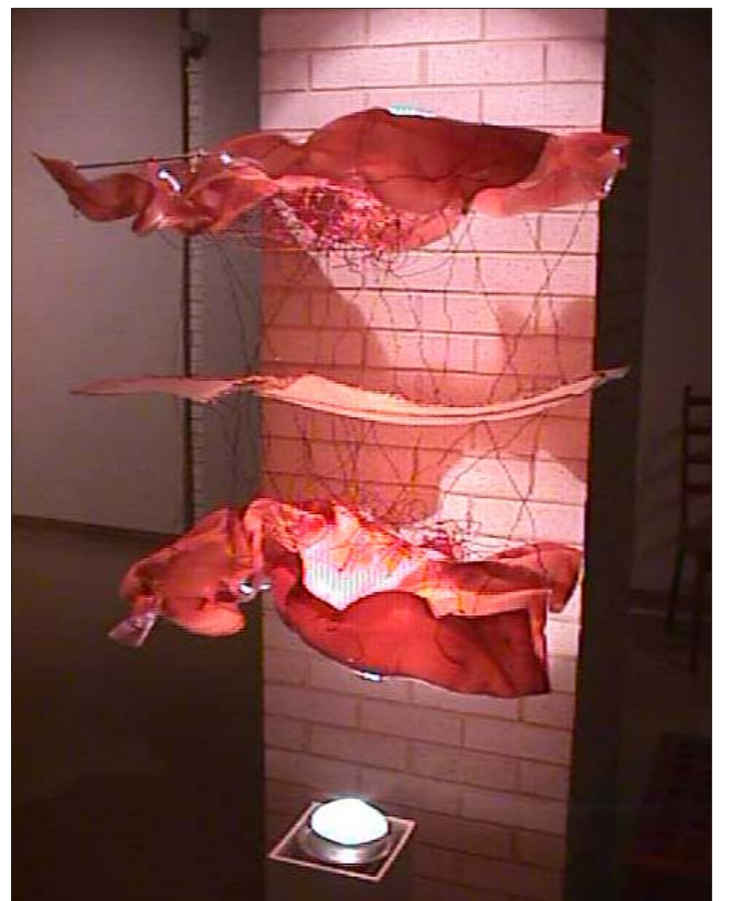


photo by Poole

Getchell's 'Past: Sin, Organized.' BFA Exhibition I continues through April 5, with Exhibition II running April 6-15 and III from April 19-26.

WOMEN'S LACROSSE PLAYS TO A DRAW



photo by Mellema

After arriving 45 minutes late, visiting Albion played the women's lacrosse team to a 11-11 tie in front of a plethora of Calvin fans. Leading the Knights were Sarah Bode, Stephanie Roach and Angie Braden. 'It is still early in the season, so we are working out some of the kinks,' said senior tri-captain Jessemynn Craver. 'The fan support was great. We are working hard together, but this game made us realize we still have room for improvement.' The women's team will be on the road this weekend, but will play at home again this coming Wednesday at 5 p.m. at the soccer field.

Calvin Intramurals offer recreational opportunities

Not good enough to play on the varsity team but hate sitting on your bottom during the nice spring days? How about a little intramurals? Most of the year's events have long passed, but there are a few opportunities to pick to a one-of-a-kind "Intramural Champion" T-shirt. Don't miss out!!

"I had such a great time when I played intramural volleyball earlier this year," said freshman Carolyn Davids. "I got the exercise I felt I needed while still having a blast with my friends and only putting in a few hours per week."

Sport	Sign up date
Tennis (men, women and coed)	April 7
Sand V-Ball (2-on-2, men, women and coed)	April 7 Playing April 13, 18, 20, 25, 27
Frisbee Golf (men and women)	April 7 Play on April 15
Golf Scramble (four-person teams)	April 14 Play on April 29

Calvin Web team covers big game

By MELISSA KRUSE
Features Editor

On March 18, the mens' basketball team defeated University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire in Salem, Va., 76-74 - and most of the Calvin community both past and present was watching. Thanks to some Calvin students and staff that were working on the web site and various other media, up to the second coverage was provided via TV, radio and the Internet for Calvin students, alumni, faculty and staff to experience the victory.

The championship game was broadcast on FOX Sports South, a regional network throughout the Southeast. The NCAA hired Fox Sports South to broadcast the championship game regardless of who was in it. The game was seen on WXMI-TV17 in West Michigan and Fox Sports South on digital dish TV or select cable systems in the South. It is now available in the "America's Top 100 CD" or the "Multi Sport packages." Also, the local TV stations and newspapers in Salem and Roanoke featured highlights and stories, and a report appeared on the official NCAA Championship site, FinalFour.net. A feed from Fox Sports South was picked up to local FOX affiliate WOOD TV 8. The sports director of WOOD TV, Jack Doles, traveled down to Virginia to do live reports.

Other local media such as The Grand Rapids Press and the Holland Sentinel sent reporters down to cover the big game. The non-area media unfamiliar with the team focused primarily on the story of Aaron Winkle completing his career and Coach Kevin Vande Streek completing his rebuilding of the team.

The game coverage over the Internet included live audio from WFUR, live scoreboard, photos and play-by-play text. Calvin sent a Web team to the scene to take instant photos and to write a running commentary. They used four dial-in modem lines, which was much different from what they were used to using for the Hope-Calvin game, where coverage was sent faster with ethernet (about 20 times faster than using a modem).

Byron Thompson, a CIT Network Operations intern, provided a live scoreboard for the webcast, and was

one of the Calvin students recruited to help out with the Calvin-Hope game back in February. Other Calvin students who worked on the live coverage were Jeff Greenfield, who took pictures and video, Nathan Bierma, who did picture editing and uploading, and Mike Van Denend did the commentary. These students were responsible for making the Real Audio run smooth. Gospel.com was used to handle the Real Audio load. There were thousands of hits to the Web site during the game and thousands more after the game.

"We had about 600 people listening to each game over the weekend," said Thompson. "Because we have so many alumni in so many places all over the world we wanted to make sure that anyone with access to the Internet could follow the games, too."

"The basketball webcast idea is something we've been doing for a few years, originally for the Hope-Calvin games," said Steve Koster, Calvin Media Producer. "The original point was to share this traditional event with alumni from both Hope and Calvin."

For the Hope-Calvin games, a satellite uplink of the television broadcast is usually arranged and then the alumni office sets up viewing sites for alumni all around the country. But for the tournaments, Fox Sports South was already on satellite. Even though Calvin didn't have time to set up viewing sites, several alumni groups spontaneously got together to watch the game.

"We've received considerable feedback from friends of the college who enjoyed our broadcasts," said Koster. "For many, it was the only way they could get any information on the game, much less listen to it live. Gospel Communications Network graciously allowed us to use their Internet radio system, and in the process we broke their records for numbers of listeners."

One of the hardest parts of providing enthusiastic Web coverage for the Web team was trying to keep from getting too involved in the games and to remember to continue to actually work to get that information up on the site.

"Calvin's team was fast and furious," said Greenfield, "and keeping the fans everywhere up-to-date as much as possible was a thrill that the entire Web team enjoyed."

"Calvin's team was fast and furious, and keeping the fans everywhere up-to-date as much as possible was a thrill that the entire Web team enjoyed," said Greenfield.

festival
of faith
&
writing

Tickets are still
available for
Maya Angelou
April 1, 7 p.m.

Student tickets \$8 each
The event will take place
in the Fieldhouse.

Champs, continued from page 1

Fieldhouse, as Calvin fans owned over half of the available tickets at the Salem Civic Center and formed a U around the Knights basket and bench. As soon as the Knights took the floor for warm-ups, the crowd shook the cavernous Civic Center with astounding volume. For the team, it had to feel a little bit like home.

Calvin opened against the Franklin & Marshall Diplomats from Pennsylvania with a sudden lay-up by Veenstra just four seconds into the game. The rest of the game would be considerably more competitive. The Knights turned the ball over three of their next five possessions and fell behind by four early on in the first half. They wriggled back to take the lead by five late in the half, only to allow a 6-0 F&M run to close the half and trail 37-36 at halftime. A disgusted Coach Kevin Vande Streek would storm off the court to the locker room even as the final seconds of the half were still ticking off.

Calvin re-claimed the lead out of the locker room. After a Winkle three-pointer seized the biggest lead the Knights would ever have at 58-50, they maintained a margin of five or six for the majority of the half. But F&M found its second wind on a four-point play late in the game – a three pointer and a foul – that made it 76-74 with two minutes left. The Diplomats tied the game at 77 with 6.4 seconds to go on a tip-in, and Calvin had the length of the floor to try to wrap the game up in regulation.

The plan was for freshman point guard Bryan Foltice to dribble the length of the floor and look for one of the two shooters on the wings. He barreled his way down and moved to the left, where Winkle, the expected shooter, was bottled up by two defenders.

To Foltice, though, that wasn't the issue. "Fortunately, I never looked at him," Foltice said afterwards with a grin. Instead, counting the last few seconds in his head, he called on one of his trademark shots, driving to the left elbow and floating a pull-up jumper toward the hoop. As the buzzer sounded the ball plunged through the net, and Calvin was on its way to the championship game.

Foltice's heroics surprised Diplomats Coach Glenn Robinson, who said afterwards he was hoping for an overtime, where he thought his team could have pulled it out. He was jolted even more to learn of Foltice's age.

"I've been told that was a freshman who took that shot," Robinson said, "and we want a freshman taking that shot in that situation."

Fellow freshman starter Veenstra had also displayed boldness, undaunted by the Final Four setting. He scored 15 points in the semifinal game, including a crucial three pointer that made it 67-61, despite playing less than half of the game thanks to foul trouble.

His fire for the game was evident af-

ter he fouled out with over four minutes left, following three of the tackiest calls he had seen all year. Sprawled on the floor after diving for a loose ball, he recoiled in incredulity and had to be restrained by a bear-hugging Winkle. "He got in my face and told me that we would be playing for something that really mattered tomorrow," Veenstra said.

Winkle would prove to be prophetic. Now the task would turn to coming off a grueling game and facing Wiscon-



courtesy Sports Information

The 'Fieldhouse Fanatics' turned out in force for the game.

sin-Eau-Claire, which had breezed through its semifinal game, blowing out Salem State of Massachusetts.

Eau Claire wasn't supposed to even be in the Final Four after they lost star center John Wallenfelsz to a torn ACL in the Sweet 16. They would surprise even themselves by worthily sharing the floor with the heavy favorite.

For once, Calvin enjoyed a cohesive start in the championship game, avoiding their chronic early deficits. They gradually gathered momentum throughout the half, punctuated by a vicious alley-oop slam by sophomore Josh Tubergen off an inbound pass. A Foltice three just before halftime gave Calvin a 48-32 lead, and the crowd sensed they were on the brink of a championship.

The fight, though, had hardly started. The second half would be the defining 20 minutes of Calvin's season, as Eau Claire would make its desperate thrust to take them to the final buzzer.

After Calvin extended its lead to 58-38 on free throws by Brian Krosschell, Eau Claire began its charge. The Blugolds were spurred by Final Four MVP Sherm Carstensen who would finish with 36 points. They also out-rebounded the Knights 21-8 in the second half, and would battle all the way back to 73-72 before Veenstra would hit yet another landmark jumper with two-and-half minutes left.

It was all free throws the rest of the way in a sloppy final stretch. After senior Nate Karsten hit a free throw Eau Claire came up empty, and as they chased down a loose ball off a miss, the buzzer sounded, and the Knights were champions.

The entire Calvin throng erupted; the student section was apoplectic. The bench stormed the floor at center court, near the collapsed Winkle. Showers of confetti and fireworks rigged into the overhead scoreboard punctuated what everyone was trying to force through their voice boxes.

After collecting themselves to congratulate the Blugolds and to huddle for prayer, the Knights tried to calm down for the trophy ceremony, in

which players from each team were called to center court to receive medals. Winkle led the team and emphatically hoisted the trophy aloft.

"It's a dream come true," Winkle said, smiling even more widely than usual. "I still have the piece of paper from when I came to Calvin four years ago where I wrote down my goals for my four years, and on that list was to win a national championship. And that was in all seriousness."

One of the calmer celebrators was Vande Streek, who stood back by the bench. To his chagrin his players would insist he ascend to make the final snips on the net. The glory of the moment stood in contrast to his arrival at Calvin four years ago, when he had the unenviable task of inheriting a team that had crumbled from its '92 championship form. It would get no easier with three disciplinary suspensions and two transfers in his tenure,

and the league tournament loss last year. Even this year, in the midst of nearly spotless success, some blamed him for his team's nagging naptimes at crucial stretches.

Vande Streek's satisfaction would be augmented by the Division III Coach of the Year award a week later. Still trying to soak in the championship after the game in a press conference, Vande Streek would insist that the greatest victory did not happen that afternoon.

"I certainly don't want to diminish being a national champion – I understand that may never come again," Vande Streek said. "But for me the culmination [of four years at Calvin] was having this group of guys. They are outstanding Christian young men, they have lived it on the floor and off it, and that to me is what a Christian institution basketball team is supposed to be all about."

After the requisite rituals of championship celebration – the trophy-hoisting, the net-cutting – the players knew there was someone they had to thank. It was no small task to assemble an army of the Fieldhouse Fanatics – a few hundred of the loudest, craziest fans in basketball – down in Salem, where the bright lighting glaring off their gold "Knight Club" T-shirts helped paint one of the most colorful basketball scenes in the country.

They altered their spring break itineraries and camped in the ticket line, living up to their national reputation they had earned throughout the tournament from opposing fans and coaches as Division III's answer to Duke's Cameron Crazies.

The players got in line, hoisting the trophy, and proceeded to run a gauntlet through the student section in Salem, absorbing head-pats, handshakes and hip checks from the swarming fans.

"It was kind of a shame they couldn't be out there with us, to partake of that," said senior Nate Karsten. "They supported us the whole year, and the attendance and the way they show their appreciation is just amazing. We thought they deserved some of it too."

Fastbreak DOWN

- Haven't had enough about the men's basketball team yet? Congratulations to Coach Kevin Vande Streek and senior Aaron Winkle who were named Div. III Coach of the Year and Player of the Year respectively by the National Association of Basketball Coaches.

- For their role in the drive to the National Championship, Winkle and freshman Jeremy Veenstra were named to the Final Four All-Tournament Team.

- Both Congressman Vern Ehlers and Senator Carl Levin honored the Knight's championship as per the Congressional Record. To read it visit <www.calvin.edu/thegame/2000/tourney/congress.htm>.

- After a successful week of training in Gulf Shores, Ala., both track teams headed to Atlanta, Ga., to compete in the Emory Spring Invitational. The women's 151 points were tops in the field of 21 and the men's 123 points were good enough for gold on their side as well. The squads are both back in action at noon tomorrow, participating in the Aquinas Invitational held just down the street.

- Who cares about preseason? The men's tennis team opened league play by drubbing Adrian 9-0 on the road. Now 4-6 overall, the men will host Grand Rapids Community College today at 2 p.m.

- Can they be stopped? Women's tennis extended its record to an impressive 7-0 with a 9-0 sweep of Kalamazoo. The win puts the Knights in first place in the MIAA. Look for the women to extend their streak to double digits versus Adrian tomorrow at 1:00.

- After a dismal 1-6 start, the softball team seems to be in full stride. Unbeaten in their final four non-conference games, the Knights extended their winning streak to six with a double header sweep of league foe Albion. Leading Calvin on the afternoon was freshman Erin Dyksterhouse, who collected three hits, drove in three runs and scored twice. The women return to the diamond Tuesday at 3:30 for a twinbill at Grand Valley.

- Heading back from Florida an even .500, the baseball team will have the second best record in the MIAA heading into league play. Calvin begins its quest for its first MIAA title in 16 years with a home game today versus Olivet at 4 p.m. They then head to Olivet for a double header on Saturday slated to begin at 1 p.m.

- Looking for something to do Tuesday and Thursday at 5:30 p.m.? The men's lacrosse team, which has only lost one game all season, hosts tough intrastate rivals M.S.U. and W.M.U. respectively. Due to forfeits by Alma and Ball State, this will be their first home game of the season.

- Putting the "student" in "student athlete" are senior Scott Westhouse, sophomore Joel Klooster, senior Sarah Gritters who were named GTE Academic All-District IV first team. They are now eligible for GTE Academic All-American consideration.

31 Friday

Festival of Faith and Writing - featuring Anne Lamott at 7:30 p.m.
10:00 a.m. **Chapel** - *Hymnsing* - led by Shultze-Eldersveld Praise Team
3:30 p.m. "Design of Aerobots for Planetary Exploration" by Matthew Kuperus Heun

01 Saturday

Festival of Faith and Writing - featuring Walter Wangerin Jr. at 10:45 a.m., Anne Lamott at 1:15 p.m. and Maya Angelou at 7:30 p.m.
12:00 p.m. **Men's and Women's Track Meet** - Aquinas Invitational at Houseman Field
9:30 p.m. **Jeremy Lloyd and Michael VanHouten** perform at Four Friends Coffeeshouse

02 Sunday

Churches offering transportation (see Chaplain Cooper's office for complete area church listings)

Ada CRC, arrives 9 a.m. at Knollcrest Dining Hall (KDH) (services at 9:30 a.m., 6 p.m.)

Boston Square CRC, arrives 9:30 a.m. KDH (10 a.m., 5:30 p.m.)

Calvary Baptist, arrives 9:30 a.m. KDH (9:45 a.m.)

Calvary Church, arrives 9:15 a.m. NVW (8:15, 9:30 and 11 a.m.)

Discovery Church, arrives 9:30 a.m. KDH (10 a.m.)

Eastern Avenue CRC, arrives 9:50 a.m. between NVW & RVD (10:15 a.m., 5 p.m.)

First Evangelical Free, arrives 10 a.m. NVW (10:30 a.m.)

Hope Reformed Church, arrives 9:10 a.m. NVW (9:30 a.m.)

Immanuel Reformed, arrives 9:10 a.m. NVW (10:30 a.m., 5:30 p.m.)

LaGrave Avenue CRC, arrives 9:30 a.m. NVW (10 a.m., 6 p.m.)

Madison Square, arrives 8:40 a.m. NVW

Our Savior Lutheran, arrives 10:50 a.m. NVW (8:15 and 11 a.m.)

Thornapple Evangelical Covenant, arrives 8:15 and 10:15 a.m. NVW & KE (8:30 and 10:45 a.m.)

3:00 p.m. **Grand Rapids Cantata Choir** performs "Fantastic Psalms" at Beckwith Hills CRC

7:30 p.m. **LOFT**, Chapel

03 Monday

10:00 a.m. **Chapel**

3:40 p.m. "What is Homology? The Life and Times of a Topological Invariant" - North Hall 276

04 Tuesday

10:00 a.m. **Chapel**

3:45 p.m. "Cosmological Parameters from Gravitational Lenses" - Professor Deborah Haarsma

4:00 p.m. **Informational Meeting for Interim 2001** - "Russia: Human Services in the Post-Soviet Era" - College Center Rm. 202

05 Wednesday

10:00 a.m. **Chapel**

10:00 a.m. **French Chapel** - led by Professor Vos-Camy in the meditation chapel

4:00 p.m. **Informational Meeting for Interim 2001** - "Russia: Human Services in the Post-Soviet Era" - College Center Rm. 202

6:00 p.m. **Guided Journal Writing Group** - Broene Center

06 Thursday

10:00 a.m. **Chapel**

3:30 p.m. **Organizational Meeting for Interim 2001** - "Discovering 19th Century England" - FAC 220

07 Friday

10:00 a.m. **Chapel** - *Hymnsing*

festival of faith & writing

THE EXTENDED CALENDAR

4/8 Men's Track and Field - Bulldog Invitational
4/8 Women's Track and Field - Bulldog Invitational
4/12 Men's Track and Field vs. Hope
4/12 Women's Track and Field vs. Hope
4/19 Men's Track and Field at Albion
4/19 Women's Track and Field at Albion

ANNOUNCEMENTS

\$5,000 scholarships

The Financial Aid Office is offering students the opportunity to apply for three \$5,000 scholarships for 2000-2001. To apply for one of these scholarships students must:

1. be a current full-time Calvin student,
2. be a junior or senior in academic year 2000-2001, and
3. have a cumulative GPA of 3.3 or higher.

Final selections will be determined by an essay written on some topic related to "Health Care Ethics." Applicants need not be pursuing a career in a medical related field. Any students who meet the other criteria are encouraged to submit an essay. This essay should be at least five pages typed, double-spaced, and should not exceed eight pages.

Deadline for submitting an essay is Friday, May 12.

Mosaic Applications

If you are going to be a sophomore next year and are wondering what your options are for housing on Campus, consider living on the Mosaic floor. The Mosaic Community is currently accepting applications for next year. This is a great opportunity to meet new people and learn a little more about ethnic and cultural diversity.

Mosaic was created to allow students a more intentional cultural experience. It places students among students from different cultures and backgrounds. It is open to anyone, so come and check it out!

For more information and for an application, go to: www.calvin.edu/admin/housing/mosaic.htm.

If you have further questions, please contact Mrs. Jennifer Brink at jbrink@calvin.edu or at extension 6613.

Oets Bouwsma award

A \$250 prize will be awarded to the Calvin student who submits the best paper in philosophy. This prize is offered in honor of Oets Bouwsma.

The submission deadline is April 24, 2000. Submit entries to the philosophy department secretary, Mrs. Donna Kruithof, 340 HH.

Submit paper for "blind review": use a detachable title page with the author's name on it, but do not mention the author's name in the essay.

Papers may be prior submissions for courses, reworkings of such papers, or specifically written for this competition. Brief papers are acceptable.

Dialogue's musical album

Attention all musicians! Dialogue is now accepting entries for its first ever musical album.

Entries must be original works, recorded on cassette, CD, minidisk or vinyl. If needed, inquire about the use of recording facilities. Spoken word is also accepted.

Entries are due April 1.

Oratorio spring concert

The Calvin College Oratorio Society will present a spring concert, "From Darkness to Light," on Saturday, April 22 at 8:00 p.m.

The concert will take you from the somberness of Good Friday to the glory of Easter. The performance includes excerpts from Bach's "St. Matthew Passion" and Mendelssohn's "O Sacred Head Now Wounded" and "Hymn of Praise."

Come and join them for the celebration of their 80th season. Tickets are currently available at the Calvin College Box Office (957-6282).

Get them while they are still available!

CROSSROADS CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

Reform aids political credibility

By PETER BRATT
Staff Writer

It has been said, "Money is not the only thing, it is everything." If you would go up to people on the street and ask them whether or not they think this statement is true, you might find some doubts expressed. However, if you ask politicians of this sorry age, they would heartily agree that money is "everything" and would promptly ask for a donation.

The addiction to the money cow that fuels the American political system needs to be halted. Limiting and reforming the way money pours in the government today will go a long way in helping politicians regain credibility among the voters.

The search for money influences the way business is done in all levels of government. It is estimated that the average member of Congress spends 32 percent of his or her day calling people for donations for campaigns (Washington Post, Dec. 11, 1999). This amount of time spent chasing the almighty dollar has increased drastically since Watergate, and both major parties are equally guilty.

With this need for money there is less time for the politicians to consider the issues that they are voting on, which is very worrisome. The major donors have a greater influence on the way their candidate votes and lobbyists are quick to let their wills be known.

Therefore, it is not odd that the public has a cynical view of politics today. Most people see politicians as selling their vote to the highest bidder and think that their own vote and opinion does not matter.

The rising amount of money flowing into the American government has been matched by a general decline in voter turnout, a rise in cynicism among

the voters and a growing distrust of what has become known as "politics as usual."

John McCain struck a chord with many Americans, if not the religious right and the Republican Party leaders, by calling for reform and ending the lobbyist-dominated government that has existed since Watergate. In his campaign, McCain drew great appeal from the voters who have traditionally avoided politics, showing that, campaign finance reform is a major issue.

The whine from various groups who claim that free speech will be restricted by campaign finance reform is used for

... the average American does not have a pot full of money lying around to make sure their voice is heard.

the wrong reasons. From the religious right to the ACLU, the real "worry" is the same. They fear that campaign finance reform will limit their power over the government. Opponents of campaign finance reform say that the person who will really be hurt is the average citizen.

Sadly, the lobbyists' argument forgets that the average American does not have a pot full of money lying around to make sure their voice is heard. We send politicians to Washington to represent all the people, not the few rich groups who have a truckload of money to spend.

Campaign finance reform will take away the microphones that the lobbyists and special interest groups have and allow politicians to listen to every voice, instead of having the people's pleas being drowned out by various special interest groups.

Campaign finance reform can only benefit our nation. With reform, we can change the way that our political system is driven. We can change the way that Washington works. We can restore the faith of Americans in their government, and we can make this truly a better nation.

Reformers have ulterior motives

By PETER GIESSEL
Staff Writer

Campaign finance reform is an effort to restructure the laws regarding the ways in which politicians raise money for their campaigns. The stated goal of those who push the reform is to "remove the special interests" from Washington.

The problem is that I am a special interest. For the most part, those who write in Chimes are special interests. If you are reading this column, chances are you are a special interest, too.

The problem with campaign finance reform is that every person who has beliefs and opinions has interests. Since no two people are the same, each person interests unique to him or her.

Since the impact of a single person is usually minimal, groups of people who share common ideas have banded together to form groups such as the National Right to Life, the Sierra Club, the National Rifle Association, National Organization of Women and many others on both sides of the aisle.

These organizations cannot directly contribute to political campaigns. However, just like any other individual or organization, they can buy advertisements.

Often, these groups will support a candidate on a certain issue, such as the NRA on gun control, and will run an "issues-oriented" advertisement saying why they support one candidate over another. This would not be possible unless Americans supported the agenda being put forth by the group, otherwise the group wouldn't have any money to run the ad.

Banning special interest groups from running issues-oriented advertisements will hurt the American people's freedom of speech.

Take a look at the motives of those pushing campaign finance reform. Vice Perpetrator Al Gore is pushing the issue to make people think that he is reforming his own shady past.

In the last election cycle, the Gore made campaign calls from his White House office, violating current law that prohibits using government resources for campaigning. He also did a big fundraising event at a Buddhist temple where several monks, who had made vows of poverty, made very large contributions to the Democratic National Committee.

It turns out that the Gore group reimbursed the monks with funds from Communist China. Contributions

from foreign nationals are forbidden by federal law.

On March 2, 2000, Maria Hsia, Gore's close friend and key fundraiser, was convicted of five felony counts in federal court for concealing the source of those funds. Gore let a woman take the fall for him on that one.

The point is, we don't need tougher laws – we need to enforce the laws on the books and stop letting sleazeball politicians like the Vice Perpetrator get away with breaking them.

On March 14 there was an article in the Washington Times that said,

... we don't need tougher laws. We need to enforce the laws on the books and stop letting ... politicians ... get away with breaking them.

"A top Justice Department official ordered federal prosecutors just before the 1996 presidential election to stop an investigation into suspected illegal fund raising by Vice President Al Gore at a California Buddhist temple."

It's not the laws, it's the sleaze we elect that is the problem. Shame on us. We knew Clinton lied under oath before the '96 election, but we elected him anyway.

If the American people want this activity to stop, they need to be more informed and careful about who they vote for to hold the highest office in the land.

The other major group that wants campaign finance reform is the liberal media. The liberal media would rather be the only source of what you hear about politics. The Gore fundraising scandal is a perfect example of how broadcast news groups put their own agenda before reporting the news. All three major broadcast news organizations (CBS, NBC, ABC) together spent less than 45 seconds on the conviction of Gore's ally.

These news organizations don't want to report negative news on Gore and it was up to the print media and the special interests to get the story out. If the news organizations get their way and get campaign finance reform passed, they get more powerful where the voice of concerned citizens would be muted.

If the American people want to break the power of the special interest groups and soft money, abolish the contribution limits.

Let there be freedom, not more laws, so that the American people who want to put their money where their mouth is and support their candidate not only with their vote, but also with their money can do so directly. Give the power back to the people, not the news organizations.

THE INTELLECTUAL EXPERT

The Festival of Faith and Writing is upon us again, and, although some may find it impious that I am using this modest space to talk about myself rather than, say, exhorting the young, I thought I would reveal to this community that I, too, was once a famous author that wrote often on religious topics.

Some of my work even recieved warm critical reception: "The greatest work of our generation," the National Financeir Times Post Republican said of my 1948 "Tales of Piety."

But my carefree days of writing optimistic, life-affirming tales of faith were numbered.

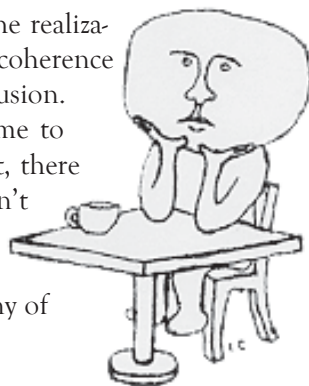
I slowly came to the conclusion that language can only talk about itself and nothing more. My writing would never be the same.

Here is a short sample from this period that comes from my epic "Human, to(o) all Human" story cycle:

The end spoke last. But as [pronoun] began to speak, all present realized what they had known all along: the end had spoken first and had been speaking all the while.

In following years, things worsened, because I came to the realization that coherence was an illusion.

So, come to think of it, there really wasn't any point in your reading any of this.



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Calvin students debate the benefits of Mosaic floor

■ *Students feel issues of diversity on campus are overlooked under current system*

I am a senior at Calvin College, and I am writing this letter as a concerned student. This is the fourth year I have lived on campus.

I appreciate the emphasis Calvin has put on multiculturalism and certainly agree that, since Calvin has a relatively homogenous population, encouraging multiculturalism and diversity is necessary.

However, I am concerned about the multicultural floor on second Kalsbeek-Huizenga. I fear that Calvin has used this floor as a quick fix to the problem, without having fully considered the possible ramifications. I also fear that Calvin has used this floor primarily to improve its image without genuine concern for the problem of diversity on campus.

Although I have never lived on this floor, I know several people who have and have talked to them at length. While I appreciate the intentions behind this multicultural floor, I believe it can easily be regarded as a kind of voluntary or

even an institutionally encouraged form of segregation.

I have talked to one minority student who told me that the summer before entering Calvin she was sent several pieces of literature encouraging her to join the multicultural floor. She thought this literature strongly implied that, since she was in the minority, this floor was the place where she should live.

The fact that this floor is on the outskirts of campus residence further leads to the sense of segregation. I realize this is not intentional on Calvin's part, but the location is, nevertheless, not ideal.

I spent two years living in Boer-Bennink and noticed a tremendous lack of diversity in the student population. I believe a multicultural floor has the effect of making the rest of the campus less diverse.

I believe this is no slight issue. Most of the socializing of Calvin students revolves around their floor. Most of the friends a Calvin student has are made

on his or her floor. More often than not, after completing two years in the dorms, a Calvin student will live with people from his or her floor. The floor a student is put on determines the friends the student will have for the rest of his or her college career. Therefore, the problem of segregation is serious. In addition, I believe the situation has come to the point where many Calvin students, upon seeing a minority student on campus, will simply assume he or she lives or has lived on the multicultural floor.

Furthermore, I have talked to many others about this during my four years at Calvin and I believe the above opinions are widely shared among the student body.

Most students, like me, would rather see a multicultural campus than a multicultural floor. The following are several alternatives I have thought of to a multicultural floor. They are ranked in order of what I believe are most preferable to least preferable, but I believe

all are better than the current situation:

1. Calvin should teach a class dealt with the same issues dealt with on the multicultural floor. The same issues explored on the multicultural floor could be discussed here, but the advantage would be that the students enrolled in this class would return to different dorms. They could bring what they have learned with them to the floors they live on and spread the message.

2. Calvin could continue the multicultural floor, but blindly accept applicants for this floor without knowledge of the student's race or ethnic background. In the same way, all students would be encouraged to enroll on this floor equally, without minority students being made to feel this floor is the place they are expected to reside.

3. At the very least, Calvin should move this floor to a place that is more centrally located among the dorms and the campus in general, such as Rooks-VanDellen.

- Joel Swagman

Letter signed by 63 students

I fear that Calvin has used this floor primarily to improve its image without genuine concern for the problem of diversity on campus.

■ *Members of Mosaic student leadership defend function and purpose of community*

The Mosaic Community has been in existence for four years and has already made an impact on the Calvin community.

However, as Joel Swagman's letter indicates, there seems to be some confusion as to the function and purpose of this program.

We, the program assistants on the Mosaic floor (facilitators of floor events), feel that it is important that we address these concerns and help dispel the myths.

We believe the floor is one of the many ways in which Calvin is positively dealing with the issue of diversity on campus.

The Mosaic Community was formed to promote diversity at Calvin by creating an environment where people could come together and learn about each other. By experiencing what it is like to

live with others different from ourselves, "we learn and practice Christian understandings of human diversity, to be change agents both within Calvin and in broader society" (Mosaic Vision Statement).

A separate housing application is needed to apply for this floor and every incoming freshman is sent information about this community. The floor runs best with a mix of different people from different ethnic backgrounds and thus the application asks for one's cultural background.

Minority students, both American and international, as well as third culture Caucasian students, all provide different cultural perspectives from the tra-

ditional Calvin student.

This, combined with many of the traditional Dutch backgrounds, provides everyone with a wonderful opportunity to share experiences and learn about each other.

All applicants are given equal opportunity to become members of the floor, however there is limited number of spaces available and thus some students are not accepted.

Kalsbeek-Huizenga is structured differently from the other halls, which gives it certain advantages when trying to develop an intentional community. It contains two joining lobbies both on the second and third floor and the basement also connects.

This is the reason that this hall was chosen for the program. Unfortunately, some people have misunderstood this decision and perceived it as a form of segregation.

In reality, it is an architectural detail. The program could be moved to another building, but since Calvin is such a small campus it shouldn't matter which residence hall the program is located in.

Throughout Mosaic's four years, there has often been the concern that this program will draw AHANA (Asian, Hispanic, African and Native American) students away from other halls.

Perhaps looking at some current statistics will help us see this issue more clearly.

Presently, there are 178 AHANA students at Calvin, of which 114 live on campus. Of those 114, only 16 AHANA students live on the Mosaic floor. In

fact, 19 AHANA students live in NVW, which has no intentional program like Mosaic.

With these numbers, we can conclude that Mosaic is not a threat to the diversity on campus. Rather, it actually enhances diversity by offering another program and experience for those who are interested.

Likewise, all the dorms include many culturally-diverse students, Boer-Bennink not being an exception. If the Mosaic Community did not exist, it would mean that only one to two male or female minority students would be added to each hall.

Swagman states in his letter that people, when seeing a minority student, assume this person lives on the Mosaic floor. Obviously the facts reveal a different picture.

Clearly there is a lack of diversity on this campus and work needs to be done to address this issue. There are many ways we feel that Calvin has made an effort to develop a multicultural campus.

Presently Calvin's redevelopment of the core curriculum will include multicultural issues and cross-cultural engagement. Even so, there are many opportunities to take a class that deals with diversity or teaches about a different culture.

There is also a six-week program called Healing Racism that addresses issues of racism and helps to break down the dividing walls between different ethnicities.

In addition, there are many organizations on campus that try to promote

cultural events such as the Multicultural Student Activities Board (MSAB), Banderas, China Club, Korean Christian Fellowship, Gospel Choir, Multicultural Drama Group and the International Student Committee. Many Calvin departments also try to hold events that have multicultural themes.

Professor Randal Jelks, director of the Multicultural Academic Affairs Office, in conjunction with other departments, brings speakers to campus who deal with multicultural issues.

The Mosaic Community is not trying to promote segregation. To say that the floor produces a less diverse campus is unfounded.

Many of the events that we participate in are campus-wide events to which everyone is invited.

Statistics show that there are 114 AHANA students living on campus. This does not include the many international students who also live on campus.

In order to better promote diversity, each individual must take the initiative to get out of his or her comfort zone and interact with those who are different from him or herself.

In addition, at the institutional level, Calvin needs to continue to make every effort to provide opportunities for all students to experience increased diversity and learn more about multiculturalism.

- David Dykhouse, Eric Flores, Marla Love, and Sung-Ae Yang (Mosaic floor program assistants)

I believe that a multicultural floor has the effect of making the rest of the campus even less diverse.

Presently Calvin's redevelopment of the core curriculum will include multicultural issues and cross-cultural engagement.

Calvin Band tours Midwest with song and service

BY CHRISTIAN BELL
Staff Writer

Spring break took members of the Calvin Band on a whirlwind tour across the Midwest. The band traveled everywhere from Pella, Iowa, to Cary, Miss., for a week of concerts, service projects and memorable group experiences.

The tour started on Friday, March 17, at DeMotte Christian School in DeMotte, Ind. There the band members gave a series of music clinics to students in the band program.

"They did a great job with that," said Donna Oberle, the tour manager for the music department. "They divided the students by section and then our Calvin students led those sections. Most of the kids had never done anything like that before."

That evening, they performed a joint concert in the evening with the school's band. "It made my heart melt," said Oberle. "It was just amazing to watch." She said in the future that she would like to see more of the joint concerts being done by the band.

From DeMotte, the band traveled to Wellsberg, Iowa, a rural farming community, where the band members gave another evening concert. Despite their 7:00 p.m. Saturday night concert, Dr. Henry DeVries, who accompanied the band as a guest speaker, kept band members up-to-date on the Calvin championship game.

The next morning they got up early for a church performance and then ate lunch and got back on the bus destined for Pella, Iowa. In Pella, the band performed a Sunday night concert at Faith Christian Reformed Church and then went to stay with their host families.

On Monday, the band went to three different schools, playing in assemblies and giving more sectional clinics to the students at each school.

On Tuesday, after saying goodbye to their host families, it was an all-day trip down to St. Louis. In St. Louis, the band had a brief opportunity to work with stu-



file photo

Senior Nathan Polderman and the Calvin Band participate in a 25th anniversary performance for Mississippi Family Christian Services on Friday, March 24.

dents from Westminster Christian Academy. Westminster is just developing a school music program, and band members felt that the time they spent at Westminster was beneficial to the school.

"They really appreciated that because they hadn't really heard good band music yet; they were just starting out. The current director is trying to get them to think of music as a real subject," said Roels. "They were one of the most appreciative audiences that we played for."

After visiting Westminster, the group had a day to spend around the city visiting the Arch, the St. Louis Zoo, parks and a number of other attractions. It was a needed break after many long days of traveling and playing music. But by Wednesday night the band was back performing another concert at Central Presbyterian Church.

Thursday was another day of traveling for the group as they headed for Cary, Miss. In Cary, the group dedicated their Friday to helping out around the Cary Christian Center. Using 44 people in one short working day, they shingled a house, built two picnic tables, baled bundles of cardboard, painted two buildings, planted six flats of flowers and re-did a basketball court.

"They pulled together. It was unbelievable," said Oberle. "The teamwork and the Christian attitudes of the students was definitely a gift for me."

That evening, they went on to play a concert for a crowd of 320 paying attendees for a 25th anniversary celebration for Mississippi Family Christian Services. The evening included a speech by Dr. Don Bartlette, a Native American who was born with numerous disabilities but rose above his struggle, and a performance by gospel singer Thelma Buckner.

The band followed the two, with each member worried about how their music could compare to such a touching story and such a wonderful singer. "It turned out that it was received with more enthusiasm than anywhere else," said Dr. Derald De Young, the band director. "It was a highlight of the evening to that area of Mississippi. While our music was vastly different than what normally goes on there, it was appreciated very much. The crowd gave a standing ovation at the end."

On Saturday, the group played their final concert at Highland Presbyterian Church in Ridleland, Miss. Sunday and Monday were long days of traveling back to Grand Rapids.

Overall, it was a challenging experience but a good one.

"It was quite a trip," said De Young. "The fact that we did so many service projects was so unique about this trip. Our students enjoyed working with the kids as much as the kids enjoyed work-



file photo

During their day of service, band members shingled a house, built picnic tables, baled bundles of cardboard, planted flowers and re-did a basketball court for Cary Christian Center in Cary, Miss.

ing with the students. As far as the music goes, they played consistently well and I was very proud of them. They represented themselves and Calvin beautifully."

Roels summarized the week as "a bunch of people running around like chickens with their heads cut off, but

having a good time doing it."

"I had a great time," added band member Jennifer Ubels. "Now I know everybody in the band. Before this, you would go to band, sit down, hear everybody play and leave, but you didn't get to know everybody. I feel like it's a closer group now."

Student Senate struggles to find new executive team

BY NATASJA VANDERBERG
Editor in chief

Last year's Student Senate elections were exceptional and it seems as if this year's elections will not live up to them. Applications are due on Tuesday and, as of yet, nobody has picked up an application.

Last year was a record year with three teams running in the elections - each composed of a President, Vice President and Secretary - and 900-1,000 votes cast. Compared to previous years, this was close to a miracle. In the 1998-99 elections, only one team ran and a mere 40 votes were cast.

After last year's elections, Student Senate members were excited and hoped that the voter turnout indicated what would be a continued interest in the Senate.

"I really believed that this was an indication of the student body's increasing interest in Senate and I was encouraged that student interest would continue to grow," said Student Senate Secretary Kyle Sheehan.

Student Senate has done its share in making the elections known, using the Student News list serve and Chimes as avenues to get the word out. They also posted 70-80 signs around campus and asked Resident Directors and administrators to encourage students to run for office.

At one point in time, a team was planning on running, but their plans fell through, said Sheehan.

In order to run, a student needs to be enrolled full-time, meet the college requirements to participate in extra-curricular activities, and be nominated by a petition bearing the signatures of 25

students. The President and Vice President need to be at least of junior standing when they take office, and the Secretary must be at least a sophomore.

Assistant Dean of Student Development John Britton said, "I think it's not a unique challenge that we are beginning to face at Calvin College," speaking about the difficulties in maintaining a high level of student involvement. He said that there has been a nationwide decrease in involvement in student organizations.

Student Senate is not the only organization on campus that is facing a challenge; seven student organizations did not turn in charters for continuation into next year. Britton expressed a concern about whether organizations are nurturing the leadership skills within the organization.

"We are looking for organizations to self-perpetuate themselves," he said. But, he added, this gets more difficult when talking about elected positions, such as the Student Senate executive team.

Britton speculated that the lack of student response to Senate applications could be due to the fact that the average student is unsure of the role of Student Senate.

"Many students don't know the purpose of Senate. They don't have an understanding of what Student Senate actually does," said Britton.

Sheehan echoed Britton's concern. "I certainly hope that this trend in our organizations will not continue, but I feel that this is an area of concern for the college."

The elections will take place on April 12 and students will be able to vote in the Library Lobby and at dorm desks.



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