

## PROF SACKED

Britain's David Nutt was fired for his controversial opinions on drug use.

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## COMEDY PLEASE

The first production of the year from CTC is set to bring some laughs.

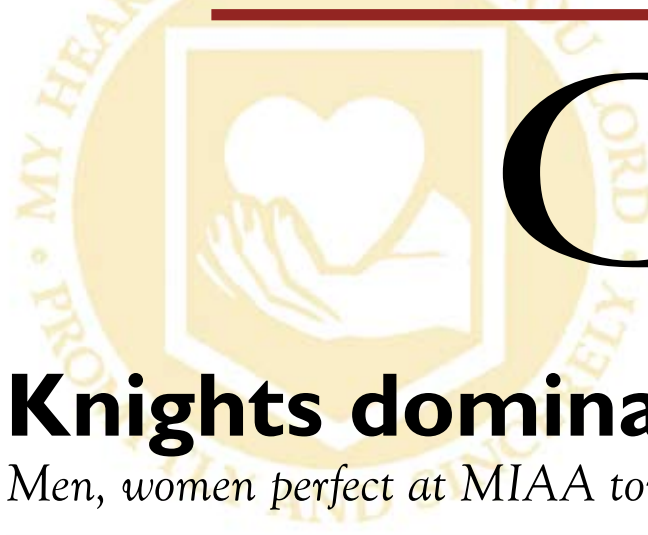
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## CANCER-FREE RAT

The genome of the naked mole rat makes it incapable of contracting cancer.

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# CALVIN COLLEGE CHIMES

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## Knights dominate

Men, women perfect at MIAA tourney



PHOTO COURTESY OF CALVIN.EDU

The women's cross-country team, ranked No. 1 in D-III, finished with the best possible score — as did the men.

BY LUKE FENNEMA  
Staff Writer

Fans of Calvin cross-country are accustomed to success, especially success in the MIAA. They have witnessed the men's and women's teams string together victories year after year in the conference. Yet this year's cross-country teams managed Saturday to outdo their predecessors.

Running in the MIAA Championships at Adrian, both teams steamrolled the swampy terrain and overcame fierce winds to take conference titles in unprecedented fashion. The men and women each raced to perfect team scores of 15 points, a feat unmatched in MIAA history at the conference meet.

The top-ranked women's team entered as the heavy favorite, having already obtained a perfect score at the MIAA Jamboree in September.

At the gun, the Knights rushed into the lead, with seniors Jesi Hale and Lizz Smit leading the charge for Calvin. Senior Jess Koster, whose status coming into the meet was uncertain because of a hip injury, ran a more conservative first mile but by halfway had made her way to the leaders.

She and Hale ran together for much of the second half of the race and ultimately pulled away to clinch the individual victory,

covering the muddy 6k course in a time of 22:56. Hale finished only two seconds behind in second place, and she was followed by a stream of gold.

Senior Sarah Dugan ran a strong race to finish third in a time of 23:14, and close behind her was senior Lauren Bergstrom in fourth with a time of 23:17. Lizz Smit and junior Gretchen Braymer were next for the Knights in fifth (23:26) and sixth (23:29) places respectively. Jodi Hoekstra rounded out the scorers for Calvin in ninth place in a time of 23:38.

Although the mud and wind made for a challenge on the course, the Knights were determined to use such factors to their advantage.

"Our team goals focused on making sure to get out hard and to use all the turns and muddy areas to get away from our competitors," explained Koster, who was named MIAA Most Valuable Runner for her accomplishments at the meet. "It was a tough and muddy course on a windy day, but we made sure to not let that get to us, and we still raced with passion and determination."

Koster was very team-focused when talking about her

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## GR Mayor speaks with students

BY JASMINE WILSON  
Staff Writer

All of the van Reken floors have student-inspired questions that are shaping the programming done on the floors this semester. The Creation Care floor on 1st van Reken, has this question: "What initiatives need to be taken to be truly sustainable, and who can inspire us to take them?"

The answer to the second half of that question could very well be Grand Rapids' mayor, George Heartwell. Heartwell visited the floor on Tuesday night, meeting a group of just over 20 students who were drawn to hear him speak about how he, as a political figure, makes sustainability a priority for the city, and what specific initiatives have been taken to make Grand Rapids more sustainable.

The first thing the mayor discussed was the three different approaches to sustainability: economic, environmental and social equity. For him, the social equity reasons were the ones driving him the most. He had been a Christian minister for 16 years before he became mayor six years ago. He also had a love of nature, appreciating things like backpacking and fly fishing. After becoming mayor, he got an environmental council together.

"I realized that because I'm the mayor, I can tap the smartest, brightest minds in the city," said Heartwell.

This is exactly what he did. That council of 32 total people turned his love of nature into a passion for nature, Heartwell

said.

Grand Rapids is the first U.S. city to be chosen by the United Nations to be a regional center for sustainability and expertise, which is both an honor and a tough job. The United Nations has specific things that it wants a city with that title to do.

Heartwell then talked about specific strategic plans that he has been a part of creating for the city. In 2004, an initiative was passed that declared by 2008, 20

percent of the city's power would be renewable energy. This was accomplished. After that victory, Heartwell declared the next step: he said that there is no reason that by 2020 all of the energy used by the city could not be renewable, and that by 2020 all of the energy used by the city would be independent of fossil fuels.

Another project that the mayor

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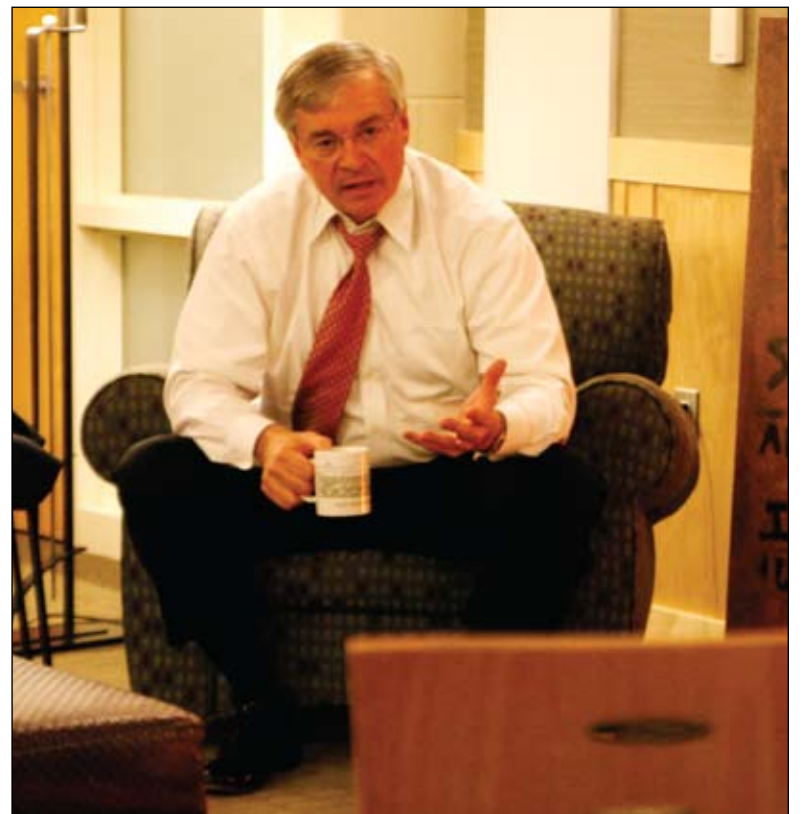


PHOTO BY KARL SPARRMAN

Mayor George Heartwell, who spoke to students Tuesday, wants Grand Rapids to use only renewable energy by 2020.

## Senate survey takes campus pulse

BY STEPHEN MULDER  
Editor in Chief

This week, Student Senate obtained the results of its 2009 student survey.

The survey, which was conducted from Oct. 18 to Oct. 20, polled Calvin students on a variety of topics relating to campus life. It is designed to help both Calvin College and Student Senate gauge campus opinion and decide which issues need immediate attention.

Many questions were geared toward determining if students were satisfied with the number and quality of Calvin-sponsored events. Generally speaking, students responded positively: just over half said that Calvin provided an appropriate number of weekend events, and over a third (36 percent) reported attending three or more Calvin-sponsored concerts per year. Fifty-six percent of students said that Calvin concerts represented their musical tastes well, compared to 44 percent who said they

did not.

Another series of questions were directed at student alcohol consumption. According to Ben Shoemaker, president of Student Senate, the questions about alcohol were designed to help the Student Development to answer the question, "Why do Calvin students drink?" Currently, Student Development is investigating whether more campus-sponsored



events will "create venues of entertainment other than drinking," according to Shoemaker.

While the results did show that many Calvin students do enjoy a drink or two on the weekends — at least 452 out of the approxi-

mately 1,700 respondents said they consumed alcohol regularly on Friday evenings, statistically the most popular time for students to drink — they also showed that many Calvin students drink very little, if at all. A shade over one third of students (33.35 percent) said they had not consumed any alcohol since enrolling at Calvin, and 64 percent said they do not regularly have two drinks or more in a single sitting.

Calvin students were split on at least one controversial issue. According to the results of the survey, almost 40 percent of students oppose the recent effort to ban smoking on campus, slightly more than the 37 percent of students who said they supported it. Twenty-three percent of students had no preference.

Around 1,700 students participated in the survey. Just over 61 percent of survey respondents were female (though they make up only 54 percent of Calvin students overall), and 62 percent lived on campus — either in the dorms (47 percent) or Knollcrest East (15 percent).