

UP TO PAR

Hekman Library put its game face on last week for the third annual Frisbee golf tournament.

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TABOO

The 'Vagina Monologues' challenge the way we talk about those sensitive regions of the body.

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HALF HOUR NEWS

Who could insult the intelligence of conservatives better than liberals? Conservatives.

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CHIMES

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Wind project draws Granholm

BY LERAE KROON
News Co-Editor

When Michigan governor Jennifer Granholm arrived at Calvin Tuesday to discuss alternative energy, she was driving, appropriately enough, a car wrapped in a corn-on-the-cob advertisement for ethanol fuel.

Granholm came to hear a presentation on wind turbine energy at Calvin in the Bunker Interpretive Center by the group of engineering students that have labored on the project for the past few years.

Six engineering students each described a different aspect of the project to place a turbine on Calvin's campus, which is expected to generate two kilowatts of energy for the main electrical grid. (Calvin's total energy consumption averages about 2,000 to 3,000 kilowatts.) Using a grant received from the state of Michigan, they hope to complete the project this spring.

Senior Jordan Beekhuis described the history of Calvin's Wind Energy Interest Group, a group of students who volunteer their time for the project and, along with professor Matt Heun's Engineering 333 class, are responsible for its implementation. He said the project is a way of using sustainable technologies in the face of the global challenge to be responsible with energy resources.



PHOTO BY EMMA SLAGER

Governor Granholm came to campus Tuesday to support a wind energy project designed by engineering students.

"As Christians mandated to care for our creation, we find it our responsibility not only to acknowledge [the problem], but to serve as leaders in finding solutions," said Beekhuis.

Other students described the project's history and challenges it has faced, from neighborhood concerns about avian fatalities to budget woes, to which Granholm responded, "I know the feeling."

Granholm, who announced in her State of the State address earlier this month an alterna-

tive energy plan that includes a minimum of 10 percent of energy coming from renewable sources by 2015, said the project fit well with Michigan's goals to establish new technologies.

"We absolutely as a state

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For full coverage on Calvin's Wind Energy project, see page 7

Computers and youth

Inner-city program teaches environmental business

BY KATHY HOOGEBOOM
Sci-Tech Editor

Where can you find a computer that is environmentally friendly, socially responsible — and less expensive than on eBay?

A warehouse which used to house an auto parts manufacturing business on Ionia Ave. in southwest Grand Rapids is now the home of Comprenew, a non-profit computer recycling business with a mission to change the lives of Grand Rapids' inner city high school students.

This building has become a classroom, a home and a workplace for students, offering them insight into an ecologically concerned business world while providing a safe place off the streets.

The Comprenew Academy began in Rockford, but its vision to work with inner city youth necessitated a move into downtown Grand Rapids. There it began a program in cooperation with Grand Rapids Public Schools for students to learn technical and professional skills while working in the business of environmentally sound computer recycling and disposal.

"We make the kids an integral part of the business," said George Bell, a leader in the after-school program for disadvantaged teens.

While program participants learn the technical aspects of dismantling recycled computers, testing parts and assembling computers for re-use and resale, they also receive education regarding the business world and an environmental mindset.

Classes focus on a variety of topics like professionalism, interview skills, conflict resolution and an environmental perspective on the world.

"Business and environmentalism should go hand in hand," said Lynell Shooks, director of Business Development. This is an idea foreign to many of the students, not to mention many citizens of the business world.

The students learn the "value of hard work and reward" as they earn 20 percent of the worth of the computers they work on as points. These points can then be spent on rebuilt computers, computer equipment

and other merchandise. Last summer when the program enrolled about 100 students, over 70 of them earned a laptop.

"Most of them would never see a laptop if not for Comprenew," said Bell. It is often a first household computer for their families and opens up technology to their homes. It allows them to work on high school projects without needing to find an open computer in the city library. And it can aid college preparation for those who want to pursue higher education.

The Academy education also involves trips to local businesses, talking with CEOs and re-



COMPREENEW
ENVIRONMENTAL

GRAPHIC COURTESY OF LYNELL SHOOKS

creational field trips. All of it aims to give inner city kids experiences that they won't get in an average classroom, that they would not otherwise

have access to. The recreational activities include experiential learning in Michigan's natural environment. For some students these trips mark a first sight of Lake Michigan or a first hike in the woods.

"What fun is protecting the environment if you've never had a chance to enjoy it?" asks Gypsy Meadows, vice president and Academy director.

But for these students, the Comprenew warehouse, with its industrial high ceilings, skids full of computer monitors and tables surrounded by boxes of hard drives, is not just a place to learn business and technical skills. It becomes a home.

"They come here even when they don't have to be here," said Shooks.

"It becomes a family," said Nasi Milupi, the program coordinator.

Part of "working the tables" (disassembling the computers) with the students involves earning their trust. And it has to be done with love.

"To look at 'em, it seems like everything's okay," said Bell, "but then you start talking with 'em, and it's not."

A number of the Academy's students come from single-parent homes or foster homes. Some of their stories are very sad, said Bell. But he makes sure that the Comprenew warehouse always has a comfortable atmosphere and a table ready with plenty of food for everyone.

"We get along good back there," Bell said. "It's not gonna be no rose garden, but be

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PHOTO BY SARAH STATES

Calvin's international students prepare for their big show this weekend. Packed-out audiences Friday and Saturday will enjoy all the color and rhythm they've come to expect from this annual variety show.