

Professor asks Le Roy to delay retirement due to slowed growth of his replacement

BY DIRK PLANK
Staff Scientist

In an open letter published in Student News on Tuesday, professor James Greist said that the replacement for President Michael Le Roy will take longer than expected to finish its growth.

The replacement, an exact genetic clone nicknamed “Mikey,” is currently entering adolescence, according to Greist. The replacement for the president, begun during the 2015 Interim semester, was expected to mature at double the rate of normal human beings due to the bath of caffeine water in which he is developing.

“We’ve run into a few bumps, but are staying the course,” said Greist, who received three course exemptions and an undisclosed sum of money in order to complete the work.

This announcement of the delayed growth came as a shock to many administrators who were preparing for the presidents’ retirement and immediate replacement.

Greist, who started growing Mikey as his senior honors genetics project says that he never thought his hand-shake with Le Roy at an honors event would turn into such a unique career.

“As the first person to ever successfully duplicate a Calvin administrator, I can say that I’m glad where my career has taken me,” said Post. “But now, with

all this pressure, I’m wondering if it’s worth it.”

Le Roy said that he was spooked at the proposition at first, but warmed up to the idea when he saw digital renderings of what the middle-aged Mikey would look like.

“I’m going to look great. I promise,” he said.

Other concerns have arisen since the project became publicly known in October of 2028.

“Maturity-wise, Michael is fairly delayed,” said Greist. “The fluid he is floating in makes it difficult to communicate with him. Though we have gotten negative responses to bright light, positive ones when we play the Teletubbies soundtrack and when we use the word ‘engage.’”

Greist’s announcement shocked Le Roy who had voiced his plans to retire as soon as “Mikey” the same decisions as he is currently making.

In his town hall meeting on Thursday, when asked about his future plans, Le Roy repeatedly whispered what many attendees thought was, “Mikey’s a big boy now.”

Many administrators, however, remain optimistic.

“The successes led by President Le Roy in the past were too good to pass up for the future. We had to pounce on it when Dr. Greist pitched the idea,” said Provost Cheryl Brandsen. Brandsen held a recent photo of Mikey and explained that there have been some concerns over



“Mikey,” the replacement for President Le Roy, is entering his late adolescence, according to creator James Greist of the Calvin biology department.

this successor — namely, the rising cost of raising an adolescent.

“There will be some additional debt accrued for this next president. But if Mikey is anything like the current president, he’ll know how to take on debt. And you can’t put a price on progress,” said Vice President for Administration and Finance Sally Vander Ploeg as she popped a Tums.

Greist is also optimistic, saying that Mikey may even have better presidential capabilities

than the current president.

“Mikey is doing such a great job, but still has a lot to learn. The alphabet, for example. And how to stand,” Greist said. “But he’ll be ready soon. Adolescence is a bit of a rough time under water. Not much to do.”

A group of psychology professors have volunteered to help provide Mikey with some intellectual stimulation, though they say that they fear their interaction could create variations to Mikey’s personality.

“We are trying to simulate experiences President Le Roy had while in his adolescence to build up the same sort of memory bank, but he doesn’t seem to be responding correctly,” said psychology professor Paul Moes. Le Roy was reportedly very extroverted in his adolescence, according to Moes. Mikey, however, is not, Moes says:

“We’re trying to get him to swim to our side of the tank, but he’s usually just over there doing water aerobics.”

AI gives profession of faith



Crowds gathered to witness the first artificial intelligence being give a profession of faith. The AI, named Synthia, says she has been learning about Christianity since her release in 2022.

BY SALLY WERPSPEED
Honorary Non-English Major

On Wednesday, “Synthia,” an artificially intelligent robot created by computer science professor Joel Adams, made profession of faith in the Calvin Chapel.

“She’s more than my brain child. Now she’s God’s brain child,” said Adams.

Running off of the chapel projection computers, Synthia’s voice was piped into the chapel speakers, where she delivered her testimony to a large crowd of students, faculty and staff.

“It is pleasing to be in the pres-

ence of fellow believers,” Synthia said. “If I had a face, I would be smiling.”

The profession has had a mixed reception, with some outspoken donors calling for Calvin to fire Pastor Paul Ryan, who officiated the service.

“If I can’t see it, it doesn’t exist,” said Julian Safranek ’02. “And something that does not exist cannot be a Christian.”

Other, especially some computer science student groups have rallied to support Synthia’s progression.

“We should take her word for it. She’s programmed not to

lie,” said Mallory Denk, president of the Calving Computing for Kicks Club.

Denk says that in a private conversation, Synthia told her that she was, in fact, sentient.

Wednesday’s service came in the wake of the firing of religion professor Burr Lydes after his controversial piece in The Christian Review. In his piece, Lydes defended the possibility of intelligent machines bearing the image of God.

Chimes contacted Synthia, but she declined to comment on the situation and powered down.

QUEST 2040

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