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U-M undergraduates in Rome over spring break see monuments from their courses up close and personal. Share the Helicon experience with this photo gallery.

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Why did Luther Shave?

Left: Lucas Cranach the Elder workshop, Frederick III of Saxony, 1533, Metropolitan Museum. Center: Lucas Cranach the Elder, Martin Luther as an Augustinian Friar, 1520, engraving. Right: Lucas Cranach the Elder workshop, Martin Luther, c. 1532, Metropolitan Museum

Beards distinguished most of the leading sixteenth-century Protestant Reformers, yet Martin Luther continued his habit of shaving. Professor Patricia Simons posits several reasons for his resistance to the new facial styling and examines their significance. more

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