DUTCH WIN CHAMPIONSHIP

Coach Brian Morehouse congratulates his players after their 71-65 victory over rival Calvin Saturday to take the MIAA title. See full story on page 8.

DANCING FOR DOLLARS

Paige Calamari
Executive Director

“it’s for the kids!” A familiar phrase is spreading throughout the campus at Hope College as students prepare for the final days leading up to the 2007 Dance Marathon on March 9 and 10. From buying delicious bake sale treats to comfortable Dance Marathon scrubs pants and hooded sweatshirts, a variety of student-run organizations are helping raise funds and awareness for the annual event’s eighth year.

Each year, the awareness and support of Dance Marathon increases. In 2006, $112,670.89 was raised during Dance Marathon for the Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital in Grand Rapids more than in 2005. Much of the money raised is due to the various fundraisers held both on and off campus each year.

The annual event begins on March 5 with “A Discussion on Women’s Issues in Asia” presented by Dr. Annie Dandavati at 4 p.m. in the Maas Conference Room. Discussions are held throughout March 10 and include topics such as, Women and HIV/AIDS, American Media, and Women’s Issues and the Christian Perspective.

Graves Hall to be restored

The Graves Hall of ‘Yester-Year’ — Students hit the books in the Graves library where Winants Auditorium is now located.

To guarantee the completion of the Graves Hall Adaptive Restoration Project was part of a 2004 bond issue. In order for the bond funds to be used, renovations must begin by July of this year.

ART CONTEST: ‘Shadow Casting’ to grace MMC

Paige Calamari
Staff Writer

On Feb. 17, four jurors met to decide which art competition entry will hang in the art alcove of the Martha Miller Center. Out of 26 entries, the judges came to the unanimous decision of John Saurer’s “Shadow Casting.”

Saurer graduated from Hope College in 1989 with a degree in art that concentrated on sculpture and drawing. He earned his Masters of Fine Arts and specialized in sculpture at Colorado State University. Saurer is currently an assistant professor of art at St. Olaf College in Minnesota.

Jurors included Joseph Becherer, curator of sculpture and director of exhibitions at Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park in Grand Rapids; Henry Matthews, the director of galleries and collections at Grand Valley State University; Judy Hillman, Hope College art department faculty member; and Daltibert Michel, professor emeritus of Art at Hope College.

Describing Saurer’s entry, Becherer said, “John Saurer’s ‘Shadow Casting’ — a relief sculpture in bronze and wood — was the unanimous decision for the jurors. Mr. Saurer’s work is composed of a multitude of small, finely crafted abstract objects intended to cast shadows as part of the composition.”

All entries were to represent the themes of communications and globalization.

CAPITALISM DISCUSSION

On March 6, Paul Solman, the business and economic correspondent for “The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer” on PBS, will present “The Two Faces of Capitalism: Why We Love and Hate the So-Called Free Market.”

Solman’s presentation will be held at 7 p.m. in the Maas Center Auditorium. Admission is free.

AMNESTY WEEK TO FOCUS ON WOMEN’S ISSUES

During the 2007 focus week, Amnesty International will be holding a variety of discussions regarding both global and national women’s issues.

The annual event begins on March 5 with “A Discussion on Women’s Issues in Asia” presented by Dr. Annie Dandavati at 4 p.m. in the Maas Conference Room. Discussions are held throughout March 10 and include topics such as, Women and HIV/AIDS, American Media, and Women’s Issues and the Christian Perspective.

VP Assassination Attempt?

Taliban suicide bomber at base where Cheney stayed

The news of an assassination attempt in February 2007 involving the U.S. Vice President, Dick Cheney, created a stir throughout the world. However, the story behind the controversy was the subject of a recent discussion at Hope College.

A student reflects on his time with “A Discussion on Women’s Issues in Asia” presented by Dr. Annie Dandavati at 4 p.m. in the Maas Conference Room. Discussions are held throughout March 10 and include topics such as, Women and HIV/AIDS, American Media, and Women’s Issues and the Christian Perspective.

ASSOCIATION OFFICE

“The Vagina Monolgues”

Behind the Moves

Go West, Young Man

A student reflects on his time with “A Discussion on Women’s Issues in Asia” presented by Dr. Annie Dandavati at 4 p.m. in the Maas Conference Room. Discussions are held throughout March 10 and include topics such as, Women and HIV/AIDS, American Media, and Women’s Issues and the Christian Perspective.

The story behind the contro- versial play

Tournament Bound

Solman’s presentation will be held at 7 p.m. in the Maas Center Auditorium. Admission is free.

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ATTACK ON BASE MISSES CHENEY

CERVICAL CANCER VACCINE MAY BECOME MANDATORY IN TEXAS

CoNgress Squares Off over Surge

The anchor

2 THE ANCHOR
February 28, 2007

ATTACK ON BASE MISSES CHENEY

Gordie Fall
Short Writs

Vice President Dick Cheney was not harmed after a suicide bomber attacked Bagram Air Base, a main U.S. military base in Afghanistan.

According to the Associated Press, Afghan officials announced 23 people died in the attack; however, U.S. officials expect an updated figure to be released.

The Taliban has claimed responsibility for the attack. Cheney, however, was not near the blast site.

Although the Taliban claims the target of the attack was Cheney, U.S. officials are skeptical as Cheney's presence at the base was due to a last-minute schedule change because of weather.

According to the Associated Press, Cheney was in the region to meet with Afghan President Hamid Karzai. The two leaders reportedly discussed problems with Pakistan.

Prior to his stop in Afghanistan, Cheney visited Pakistan.

CERVICAL CANCER VACCINE MAY BECOME MANDATORY IN TEXAS

Brian McLellan
Short Writs

In an executive order, Texas Gov. Rick Perry stated that starting in September 2008, all girls entering the sixth grade will be required by law to be inoculated against the human papilloma virus, or HPV.

This virus is sexually transmitted and can lead to cervical cancer in infected girls and women.

The vaccine that would be used is Merck & Co.'s Gardasil, a medication approved by the FDA in June 2006.

There is some controversy over Perry's order as he completely bypassed the Texas Legislature to enact this order.

According to some, Perry's avoidance of the legislature was because of the opposition he would have found there.

In any case, the legislature is considering an override of Perry's executive order. It is not known whether they would find the votes to carry through that override or if the governor would merely veto it.

Other groups besides the Legislature are in opposition to this order. Some, such as conservative parents' rights groups, fear that making such a vaccine mandatory would be seen as the government condoning premarital sex, which is something these groups oppose.

As one of their primary reasons for opposition they cite Texas' abstinence-only sex education policy, a measure they say that this mandatory vaccination violates.

They also fear that such a move would force men and women to change the way they raise their children and interfere in the process of parents making medical decisions for their children.

Perry has stated that he is not rigtly set on the order as it currently stands.

"If the Legislature has some restrictions that they want to put on this, I'm highly respectful of this process," Perry said.

Moral issues aside, if the vaccine were to eventually become mandatory nationwide for all young women, it would be a major money maker for Merck & Co.

The three-shot set costs $360. Due to the lucrative nature of this inoculation, Merck & Co. has been bankrolling efforts nationwide to make Gardasil a mandatory vaccine.

Also, it has doubled its lobbying efforts in Texas in addition to contributing approximately $6,000 to Perry's campaign via its political action committee.

According to some, Perry's decision to bypass the Texas Legislature to enact this order is meant to be a symbol to the president that he has the votes to carry through that legislation than the Senate, in which both the Democrats and Republicans hold 49 seats (the remaining two being independents who caucus with the Democrats).

This was evident in the votes from mid-February; with 17 Republicans voting against the troops surge, the House was able to swiftly pass its non-binding resolution. The Senate, however, was only able to secure 56 votes to consider voting on the resolution, which fell short of the 60 needed to pass.

This vote has been one of the most partisan issues since the first 100 hours of the new Democratic-led Congress and, due to its controversial nature, is likely to demonstrate the trend that other partisan issues will follow when faced by Congress in the future.

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Graduate School Panel Discussion

Thursday, March 1

11:00 - 11:50 a.m.

Herrick Room, DeVitt

* How to pick graduate programs
* How to finance graduate school
* The application process

Panelists:

Tod Weibe (Van Wylen Library)
Maria Villarruel (Social Work)
Melissa Mulder (Spanish)

Sign-up on www.hope.edu/dancemarathon

Congress Squares Off Over Surge

Danielle Revers
Short Writs

On Friday, Feb. 16, the House of Representatives passed a non-binding resolution that prohibiting President Bush's Iraq troop increase with a vote of 246-182. On Saturday Feb. 17, the Senate voted against a proposal to consider the same resolution passed by the House the day before.

The non-binding resolution has no legal function, but rather is meant to be a symbol to the president that he has the votes to send 21,500 additional troops to Iraq is unsupported by the House.

The resolution, however, expresses support for the troops already in Iraq, while coming to the conclusion that sending more troops to join them is a poor choice.

While the verdict is still out as to exactly what effect the House's non-binding resolution will have on the Bush administration and its Iraq policy, it is pertinent to examine these two votes as indicative of what may be expected from Congress in the upcoming two years.

The House of Representatives, with a Democratic majority of 233-202, will have a much easier time passing Democratic-led legislation than the Senate, in which both the Democrats and Republicans hold 49 seats (the remaining two being independents who caucus with the Democrats).

This was evident in the votes from mid-February; with 17 Republicans voting against the troops surge, the House was able to swiftly pass its non-binding resolution. The Senate, however, was only able to secure 56 votes to consider voting on the resolution, which fell short of the 60 needed to pass.

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INFINITY ON HIGH

Natalie Grand
Guest Writer

Fall Out Boy’s latest CD “Infinity on High” is a mix of their classic style combined with some new flare. The sound of this album is similar to their first album “Take This to Your Grave” and has less of a pop sound than their second album “From Under the Cork Tree.”

Fall Out Boy’s intelligent but often strange sense of humor is still apparent, and their unique lyrics combine with a different sound for each song to make this CD a great one to listen to all the way through.

The album is great, but it takes some getting used to if you have been a long-time Fall Out Boy fan. It sounds more produced and brings Fall Out Boy closer to the “sell-out” band category.

The result is a wide appeal to those who are not yet into rock, but not so much for fans who like to rock hard and not like a pop princess.


The opinions expressed do not reflect the views of The Anchor.

A CHOREOGRAPHER’S LIFE

Courtney Roberts
Arts Editor

Dance is often called the most ephemeral of the fine arts, meaning it lasts only for a short time. However, in that short time, any number of experiences and emotions can be evoked in the viewer.

A twist of the foot can say an infinite number of things, and it is the choreographer’s job to be sure that twist is just right in order to communicate the intended message.

How does one accomplish such a feat (no pun intended)?

The Anchor contacted Laurie Parker (“07), a dance major who is currently working on a piece for the Spring Student Dance Concert.

ANCHOR: Can you describe your choreographic process?

Laurie Parker: My process includes first brainstorming for ideas. Then I begin to move. Unlike many choreographers, I rarely choreograph to music.

However, experiencing music in my body is something that is very important to me, and I love to stimulate movement and melody by turning on music. For me the details of quality and changes in specific parts of the piece are essential.

What that you do is as important as how you do it. The steps are just a frame for expression. I find it helpful to have a storyline and (I) have not yet done enough choreography to be very successful without using a story as an outline for my work.

Professor Marius Dominicka, who once told us that in order to be a good writer, you must be a good reader. I find this to be true and the process of writing and creating a dance are much the same.

Since words in dance are created through movement, the first step to choreographing is creating the “world” to speak through the development of movements and the final qualities.

ANCHOR: What is your process to create the music for the dance?

Laurie Parker: Every process is different and the specific part of the piece.

ANCHOR: What do you mean by brainstorming for ideas? Can you give an example?

Laurie Parker: Themes: the idea of community is what I’m working on currently. Last year it was growing and exploring your environment.

ANCHOR: What thrills you about working with dancers?

Laurie Parker: I love working with dancers and seeing them put my ideas on their bodies. Often dancers cannot immediately do what I ask of them, but it is thrilling to finally see them get the exact qualities that I am looking for.

ANCHOR: What techniques do you use to communicate your ideas to your dancers?

Laurie Parker: Lots of imagery. I try to relate the ideas in my movement to things in life that they’ve experienced. We talk through each specific part of the piece.

ANCHOR: What are the challenges of this process?

Laurie Parker: It is extremely difficult for me to first decide on an idea and then to find the music to fit it. I also long to do a piece with movement that is so physically demanding that most people cannot perform it. Even when I have less physically challenging movement, it is hard to foresee who will be best for various roles. Getting dancers who can commit is also a challenge, especially when working with busy college students.

ANCHOR: You mentioned finding music. How do you go about that process?

Laurie Parker: I list music for hours, going to the library and listening to anything and everything.

ANCHOR: Don’t you have an idea of what you want?

Laurie Parker: No. I often want to compose my own music because I can hear it in my head, but I’m not a great musician. And a lot of the things that I hear aren’t out there.

ANCHOR: What is rewarding for you as a choreographer?

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The opinions expressed do not reflect the views of The Anchor.

ARTS
Editor's Note: In this week's “Beyond the Bubble,” a student shares his thoughts on his experience as a part-time participant in the Oregon Extension.

Rob Kenagy
Guest Writer

I'm not sure I'm the best person to write a reflection on the Oregon Extension. The other students at Hope who have attended are more than qualified to write a deeply poetic, moving piece on what it was like to study on a mountain. They would be completely accurate—it was incredible. I'm just not sure I'm capable of writing anything that could do justice to my Fall 2006 semester. However, because it was such a deeply rewarding experience, I hope the following will give others a glimpse of the possibilities at the Oregon Extension.

Fridays are workdays at Lincoln. The students divide into different groups—some chop wood, some prune trees, some clean the buildings, etc. For reasons I cannot fathom, thought I had a lot to offer to the chain-saw crew, a group dedicated to extreme physical labor in thinning areas of pine trees to produce firewood.

One particular Friday, Doug, one of the OEs fine faculty members, passed on chainsaws. Most likely distracted by the scenery, I found myself last in line and was given the heaviest, largest chainsaw. After it proved exceedingly difficult to even pick up, Doug called the guy with the smallest chainsaw to switch with me.

Doug then pointed me to my pile of wood—a mammoth stack of fallen logs, resting halfway up a steep hill. To make matters worse, it was raining. My saw, of course, was malfunctioning. The safety device that keeps its users from maiming themselves was simply not working. Amidst the pouring rain, mud, the stench of gasoline and an intimidating pile of wood, I made peace with my limbs and began to cut. Incredibly, I did not lose any limbs. In fact, save for a headache, I felt truly empowered. The whole thing was spiritual. The saw glided through the wet pine with a soft ease. I was covered in mud, soaking wet, and I'm sure my technique was heavily embarrassing to lumberjacks across the globe, but I couldn't stop laughing. The more I cut, the more I laughed.

Last year, my friend Gabby asked me what a spiritual experience was, and I'm sure I gave her some smug, pompous answer. But in that moment on the side of a muddy hill in the Cascade Mountains, a wicked chain-saw jamed into my hands, I knew exactly what a spiritual experience was. It was like a soulful experience out of an Annie Dillard book. It was the kind of intense in-the-moment experience that makes the Oregon Extension such a unique place.

The Oregon Extension is a throw-back in time where people slow down—no television, no cell phones, no frenetic rushing from one class to another—and focus on one another, a place where literature is examined, ideas are shared among students who are in close contact with very caring and careful professors. I can say that pre-hysterical, chainsaw-wielding Rob Kenagy is different from post-hysterical, chainsaw-wielding Rob Kenagy.

This, as bizarre as it was, was not the definitive moment of my time out West. In truth, the whole semester was a series of defining moments. Built around reflective conversations, inspiring academic work and the wilderness of Oregon, The Oregon Extension is a place to gather yourself up. A place to look—really look—into your soul and lose yourself in a life-changing experience with awe-inspiring people in an awe-inspiring place.

**BEYOND THE SEGREGATED PLATE**

Jenny Cencer
Editor-in-Chief

The bleachers hushed as the pitcher for the Homestead Grays strode to the mound. Whipping back, he hurled a slider at the Hilldale Daisies' designated hitter, who was dug in at the plate. Did he strike him out to win the series? The outcome of that game is remembered by few and usually only by those of one race.

The clubhouses and staff of the Negro Leagues (1920-1948) witnessed the injustices of segregation in America until Branch Rickey signed Jackie Robinson with the Brooklyn Dodgers. For 28 years, legends such as Satchel Paige, Hank Aaron, Ernie Banks and Willie Mays ruled ballparks across the country. Their contributions and the stories of the Negro Leagues have been honored this summer at the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, N.Y.

The league's lasting contributions and impact on the Civil Rights Movement is now voiced by those who remember the stories and wish to recognize the teams whose persistence and love of the game preserved the spirit of the Major Leagues. The legacy of the Negro Leagues will be presented to the Hope College community on Thursday at 7 p.m. in DeWitt Chapel by author Byron Motley. Motley co-wrote a memoir with his father Bob Motley entitled “Ruling Over Monsters, Giants & Stars: Umpiring in the Negro Leagues & Beyond.” He is also producing a documentary.

The memoir tells his father's story from growing up in segregation, to serving in World War II as one of the first African-American Marines, to his experiences as one of the first African-Americans in the Negro Leagues. The presentation is coordinated by the Hope College Black Student Union group with additional sponsorship by several other campus departments and programs.

Motley holds a master's degree in music from the University of Southern California. He is also a singer who has performed on Broadway.

**Congressional Corner**

Academic Affairs Discussion

Student Congress hosted the Academic Affairs Board regarding academic rigor at Hope College. The conversation centered on how academic standards could be raised. They reviewed the number of hours students spend studying and preparing for class as well as the amount of work professors require of their students.

Questions came up about the impact of the extensive and varied extracurricular options at Hope College. Representatives from many student organizations were present to share their viewpoints with congress and with the Academic Affairs Board.

No final decisions have been reached and conversations will be continuing over the coming months as the administration attempts to tackle these questions.

**Closed Financial Meeting**

Student Congress also held a closed financial meeting. Only elected members of congress were permitted to attend closed sessions. All financial decisions are made in closed sessions.

Meetings

Student Congress meets Tuesdays at 9 p.m. in the second floor of the DeVine Student Center. You can also contact Student Congress at congress@hope.edu.
The Vagina Monologues' shares women's struggles

Lindsey Manthei

Several Hope students decided to organize a V-Day event as part of an activist project in a women's studies class.

“This is such an important event for Hope College because we need to be exposed to issues that face real women outside of the Hope bubble,” official organizer Jenny Blair (’08) said.

The production at the Park Theatre will benefit the Center for Women in Transition, a legal advocacy organization dedicated to helping women deal with significant life changes. Programs include a domestic violence shelter, legal advocacy education and prevention.

The “V” in V-Day stands for victory, Valentine’s Day and vagina. V-Day events raise funds and awareness for women’s organizations across the globe. Since its inception in 1998, V-Day has raised more than $35 million to end violence toward women.

Each year, the V-Day movement focuses on a particular group of women, with a new monologue introduced to share the struggles that these women face. This year, V-Day is focusing on women in conflict zones—women in the midst of war and in the aftermath of it, with an emphasis on reclaiming peace.

“We stand with our sisters from Beirut to Baghdad, Kandahar to Darfur. We know their suffering is our suffering,” Ensler wrote on the V-Day website.

“The Vagina Monologues” has been sponsored by and performed on campus at several Christian colleges in Michigan, including Alma College, Olivet College and Albion College. Many Christians criticize the monologues for portraying lesbian sexual interactions in a positive light and for being too graphic in nature.

Production of “The Vagina Monologues” was recently halted at 16 Catholic universities, and St. Louis University refused to endorse the 2007 production of the monologues, forcing the production to move off campus.

Hope also refused to endorse the production of “The Vagina Monologues” on campus. Instead, the production will take place at the Park Theatre at 248 River Ave. in Holland on March 1, 2, and 10 at 8 p.m.

Tickets are $5 in advance and $8 at the door. To order tickets in advance, contact Jenny Blair at 224-715-3051 or Melissa Murray at 616-395-4832. Credit cards are accepted.

For more information, visit www.vday.org

NEW VACCINE HELPS PREVENT CERVICAL CANCER

Lindsey Manthei

Attesting to all women: in June 2006, a vaccine was approved that could prevent cervical cancer.

Cervical cancer is the second most common cancer in women, killing 233,000 women each year worldwide. Cervical cancer can be caused by the human papillomavirus (HPV), a virus which is passed through genital contact.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, at least 50 percent of sexually active men and women will contract HPV at some point in their lives. HPV is the most common sexually transmitted infection in the United States.

Most types of HPV cause no symptoms and clear up on their own. However, several high-risk types of HPV can lead to cervical cancer.

HPV can affect both women and men, though HPV is not known to cause cancer in men. HPV can be contracted through oral, vaginal and anal sex.

“The very best way to prevent HPV is abstinence for both men and women. But, if a student is going to be sexually active, this vaccine is important,” Dalman said.

Yearly gynecological exams are recommended for women who are over the age of 18 or sexually active. Annual Pap tests detect abnormal cells that have been caused by HPV before they turn into cancer.

Most women who are diagnosed with cervical cancer have never had a Pap test or have not had one in the last five years.

The Hope Health Clinic provides Pap tests and yearly gynecological exams.

“It’s really important that students ask us about the vaccine,” Dalman said. “This is such a valuable vaccine and we need to get the information out.”

Human papillomavirus
- Human papillomavirus is passed through genital contact.
- At least 50 percent of sexually active people in the U.S. get HPV at some point in their lives.
- Condoms may not protect against HPV.
- Most types of HPV have no symptoms.
- HPV can lead to cervical cancer.
- Cervical cancer is the second most common cancer in women.
- 233,000 women die from cervical cancer each year.
- The HPV vaccine is almost 100 percent effective in preventing the cancer causing strains of HPV.
- The Hope Health Clinic offers the HPV vaccine.

Info. from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
http://www.cdc.gov/std/hpv/default.htm
One Community
A Hope for Change

Matthew Lane Oosterhouse

Picture this: In the near future, 20 or 30 years from now, we will have cars that run on cold fusion and that drive themselves, cell phones that can be surgically implanted beneath a person’s skin and dormitories that have a self-cleaning function. In that same time span, the local holograms hang-out at the Lincoln skate park (across the street from Dykstra Hall) will be replaced by a high tech and world class performing arts hall, Hope will have gender equal mas-cots — “Dutch” and “Dutchess” — and the speed of Hope’s Internet on Sunday nights will no longer be slower than a sloth on barbiturates. This is my vision of the fu-ture.

To go along with these grand advancements, there are other parts to my vision. I dream of a world where hate is hated by all people, voices are voiced without ridicule or derision, people live their daily lives in harmony and melody with each other, and Hope students quit ranting about their cold macaroni and egg stew at Phelps Dining Hall. Needless to say, I realize that these concepts verge on creating a sort of utopia, a perfect society, even though — as our lib-eral arts education hopefully has taught us — utopias are doomed to failure.

However, this should not prevent us from striving to make these things com-possible in our present society. What would the world look like if hatred was as much of a social outcast as Michael Jack-son, after he dangled his infant son over the balcony? How awesome would our soci-ety be if everyone’s voice was as accepted as Oprah Winfrey’s philanthropic endeavor-ers? Or best yet, how cool would Hope be if students walked out of Phelps Dining Hall praising their last meal because, in fact, they are fortunate enough to even have a hot meal to eat and Dining Services tries its very best (and succeeds) in provid-ing us with good, quality food.

I like to think of the Hope community as the train, Casey Jr., in the Disney mov-ie, Dumbo. This train, even though it is laden down with circus animals, success-fully climbs a steep hill, albeit after much struggle. The train’s success is due in part to its positive thinking: “I think I can, I think I can, I think I can.” We, the Hope community, can learn from this little train. With a lot of effort and positive thinking, Hope can become a leader in revolutionary thinking and become a force of change in this utopian-aspiring world. Hope, I know you can, I know you can.

As an R.A. and aspiring pastor, Matt should be granted an automatic minor in psychother-apy. His dear is open if you need a shoulder to cry on or a blinder to celebrate with.

Saddam Hussein's ‘accomplishments’

To the Editor:

Who was Saddam Hussein and what has he done to be considered a "terrorist"? Ask these questions nowadays to virtually any American, and she/he will not be able to tell you more than he killed Kurds and was a tyrant. I am not writing this letter to go into the details of the current war, nor to talk about previous wars and foreign constructions in both the Iraqi civilian and military sectors. I am writing this letter to enlighten you on some of the achievements of the former president of Iraq, which have made Iraq a stable country among the best in the Middle East and possibly the world.

First and foremost, Saddam Hussein nationalized the oil revenues of his country and by doing so, he returned to the Iraqi people their oil fortunes that were under the control of foreign oil companies. He then followed this with another act to rebuild his country. Instead of stealing the money, he used it to build economic infrastructures that were the cornerstone of a vibrant Iraqi economy in which they exported more products than they imported products. The billions the Iraqis earned from the oil business were used to build and modernize Iraq from a desert to a modern technological country.

Second, Hussein conducted a ruthless campaign against illiteracy in his country, from the youngest toddler to the oldest man. In the end, he reduced it from 80 percent of the population to 9 percent of the population by issuing laws of compulsory education and providing free educational institutes from grade schools to universities. All Iraqi universities in his era were supported by the government and used to provide a free education to virtually anyone. Many Arabs who were denied the right to travel to Iraq to study and obtain a degree that was considered among the best in the Middle East and possibly the world.

Third, he reformed the health code of his country, forbade unhealthy practices (religious or not), opened free clinics, free hospitals and free medical schools that ravelled the best in the Middle East. He created a nationwide health care system that provided free medications and enabled Iraqis to be cured and become healthy.

Fourth, he redistributed fertile lands to the peasant class and provided agricultural equipment and aid for harvests. Hussein created local organizations to buy and sell these products nationwide, to guarantee a fair exchange of products and to raise the income of all classes.

Fifth, he was the first Arab president that issued laws for the equality of women and men, and created an organization in the Arabic world that pioneered to protect women from sexual injustices.

These five points are worth mentioning in this word-constrained letter. It is a good thing he is dead and does not have to see all his work go down the drain and witness the destruction of Iraq.

- George Philip Khoury (’09)
Musings of a wandering environmentalist

Visible encounters with the ancient

Stephen Cupery

On a recent winter’s day I met a fellow along the roadside. It is no doubt he was curious of this luggage-burdened stranger randomly standing at a small-town intersection. His thumb pointed outward. He kindly offered me a ride to my intended northern destination and I gladly accepted.

So while we exchanged formalities and debated on our unfolding adventures, I was pleasantly surprised to discover my new-found friend was a Native American. After nearly an hour of fulfilling conversation on topics mostly concerned with natural history, native lifestyle and the earth’s condition, our paths diverged toward each other’s respective travels.

Only then, during the farewells, did we actually introduce ourselves and swap addresses. Warren Petoskey, it turns out, is a Waganakising Odawa of the Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians. He provides restorative counseling for his tribe, is a published free-lance writer, Odawa historian, and considered a traditional in medicinal/healing practices. He is also the great-grandson of Ignatius Petoskey and a very distant relative of both Sitting Bull and Benjamin Franklin.

That night on the trails, I often halted my gliding skis amid the backcountry woods as my eyes drifted frequently to the expansive skies. In doing so I became quickly humbled by the ubiquity of light above and an inexcusable awareness of the heavens that both I and the rest of humanity are under.

Furthermore, it became understandable how Warren and his ancestors can inextricably integrate all natural scenery as culturally and spiritually meaningful, giving special due credit to the lofty unknown overhead because they live directly exposed and among its cornucopia.

Though, I also tragically realized how very few persons can behold the starry magic of untold galaxies, or even have the desire to, since the majority of civilians reside in artificial light-polluted cities. Unlike indigenous populations or original settlers, our modern-day night provides restorative counseling for his tribe, is a published free-lance writer, Odawa historian, and considered a traditional in medicinal/healing practices. He is also the great-grandson of Ignatius Petoskey and a very distant relative of both Sitting Bull and Benjamin Franklin.

That night on the trails, I often halted my gliding skis amid the backcountry woods as my eyes drifted frequently to the expansive skies. In doing so I became quickly humbled by the ubiquity of light above and an inexcusable awareness of the heavens that both I and the rest of humanity are under.

Furthermore, it became understandable how Warren and his ancestors can inextricably integrate all natural scenery as culturally and spiritually meaningful, giving special due credit to the lofty unknown overhead because they live directly exposed and among its cornucopia.

Though, I also tragically realized how very few persons can behold the starry magic of untold galaxies, or even have the desire to, since the majority of civilians reside in artificial light-polluted cities. Unlike indigenous populations or original settlers, our modern-day night has encountered obstacles of sight. I don’t have to imagine the cryptic skies here on campus because of having viewed such beauty elsewhere in western deserts or atop a mountain peak, but for those who lack access to wilderness stimulating features, will they lose the important ties to creation that help us understand the realities of natural principles through primary experience? Nature indeed presents the society and individual with something so much greater than they are; it offers an environment where we can easily contemplate infinitesimal magnitudes, proportional significance and ultimately, eternal purpose.

In his spare time, when Stephen is trekking across lakeshore dunes, he can be heard stealthily narrating Shakespearian soliloquies and attempting performances of French odes.

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Women defeat Calvin to take MIAA, earn chance to defend national title

James Ralston  
Sports Editor

At the beginning of the season, the Calvin College women's basketball team handed Hope College its first loss in 44 games and went on to claim the MIAA regular season crown. The Flying Dutch turned things around in the championship game of the MIAA tournament, beating Calvin 71-68.

"This game we did more of the little things," Phalana Greene ('10) said. "We played hard from the beginning to end, and we had a ton of emotion."

The Dutch led throughout the game and were able to hold off a late drive by Calvin. Coach Brian Morehouse attributes strong team play for the win.

"I thought our whole team stepped up," Morehouse said. "A lot of focus is often put on who scored, but I thought our team defense was the biggest thing that stepped up."

The win automatically qualified Hope for the NCAA tournament where they will face Denison University in the first round.

"They're a good team with an All-American nominee (Kristen Sheffield), we are going to work to shut her down," Lindsay Lange ('08) said. "Our goal is to go in and play strong defense and control the game so we can play our best game rather than adjusting to theirs."

Hope entered the tournament in 2006 as relative unknowns and came out champions. Due to their results in 2007, they are no longer unknown.

"Our result from last year will make it so other teams may come in more prepared to play us," Lange said. "The fact that we are more well known should not affect the outcome, if we play hard it shouldn't matter."

Heading into the NCAA tournament as defending champions makes for a different atmosphere for the Dutch.

"The opposition will definitely be jacked up to play us," Morehouse said. "My message to our team is just be yourself. Don't try to be last year's team."

Greene, the lone freshman starter on the team, recognizes the added pressure that being defending champions brings.

"I like the feeling of us having a bullseye on our back rather than being the underdog," Greene said. "This year, when we play teams, they will expect us to be good, so we have to bring our A game."

The first round of the NCAA tournament will be at DePauw University in Greencastle, Ind. Hope's first game will be against Denison University at 5 p.m. on March 2.

Men lose in MIAA championship game, get bid to NCAA tournament

Gordie Fall  
Sports Writer

After Hope College experienced a Saturday with two incredibly close games with different outcomes, both of Hope's teams got the call to the NCAA Tournament.

The Flying Dutchmen played Calvin College on Feb. 24 before a record crowd of 3,599 at DeVos Fieldhouse. Calvin took an early lead in the first half.

Hope coach Glen Van Wieren described their men's team as "too excited." However, Hope never let Calvin's lead get out of hand, and the first half ended with a 6-point Hope run to cut the Calvin lead to 6 points.

The second half started with both teams alternating baskets. A basket by Stephen Cramer ('09) cut Calvin's lead to one point with 7:58 left to play. Hope did not take the lead until a Jesse Reimink ('09) basket gave Hope a 74-73 lead with 1:48 on the clock.

The game came down to the last shot, as Calvin's Derek Griffin scored with 4 seconds left to give Calvin a 78-76 lead. A last second try by Marcus Vanderheide ('08) missed the hoop, clinching the Calvin victory and possibly the end of the Dutchmen's season.

"(I'm) really proud of our guys, they hung tough and didn't give up," Van Wieren said. "It was a battle down to the end and someone has to lose, unfortunately."

The loss came after two strong wins at DeVos to place Hope in the MIAA championship game. Hope began the tournament on Wednesday night, with an 89-49 win over Alma. Led by 12 points from Cramer and 11 points from Derek Van Solkema ('08), the Dutchmen were in control for the entire game.

Hope Coach James Bultman attended the game against Adrian.

"Adrian had a good strategy to slow the game down, but Hope had more depth and kept their poise despite all the fouls," Bultman said.

Despite the loss to Calvin, Hope made the NCAA Tournament as an at-large seed. The Flying Dutchmen will travel to Aurora, Ill., for potentially two games. Hope will play the University of Chicago on March 2 for their opening round game, and with a win, will play either host Aurora College or rival Calvin.

ONLINE OVERDOSE: STUDENTS AND POKER

R.J. Thebo  
Sports Writer

Sunglasses, tacky T-shirts and cigars often come to mind when thinking of poker players.

What comes to mind when thinking of someone who plays online poker? "I think of someone who is either learning how to play the actual game, or is a gambler who likes to play from the comfort of their own home," Sara Green ('10) said.

With the poker craze of the 21st century, many college students are finding relief in spending hours a night playing online poker. According to Online Poker Galaxy, it is estimated that 1 in 3 college students play online poker for money, and more than 50 percent of those players report at least one serious problem as a result of their playing. These problems include skipping class, slacking on their academic load, not getting enough sleep and being addicted to gambling.

With networks like ESPN and Fox Sports running hours of televised tournaments and cash play, many college students are finding it tempting to start playing for real money, chasing the fame, riches and publicity of big-time poker.

"Some people might get a feeling that they can do the same thing as the pros, so they gain hope for what they can do," Chris O' DEA ('09) said.

In the fall of 2006, Congress criminalized internet gambling by outlawing credit card payments to online gambling services in the U.S. Despite these new rules, some players are finding ways around the new law.

According to ABC News, in an interview with an online player from the University of Delaware, the results of online poker are rarely as good as TV portrays. The student in this case lost more than $25,000 in one night, and was eventually pulled out of the university after his parents found out.

Hope College's rules concerning gambling states that, "Hope College prohibits unlicensed gambling and other financial activities of an illegal nature."

The dangers associated with gambling, especially on the Internet, raise important questions, such as how students can make safe decisions and if Hope should step in to regulate online gambling.

"Gambling can be a recreational activity that is fun in moderation," Ben Strong ('09) said. "Like many things the choice to gamble or not is a personal decision that responsible adults should be able to make for themselves."

THE WEEK IN SPORTS

HOCKEY

MEN'S TENNIS

The men's hockey team will be in Fort Wayne, Ind. for the ACHA Division III National Championship tournament at McMillen Ice Arena... The first game is at 4:30 p.m. Feb. 28 versus Central Florida. The tournament consists of four games in four days. The championship game is March 3 at 7 p.m.

WOMEN'S TENNIS

The women's tennis team lost its first two matches of the year. They were defeated by Division II Grand Valley on Feb. 22 and Wheaton on Feb. 24. In both matches the Dutch were defeated 9-0. Strong performances were given by Ashley Leary ('07) who lost a tight match 6-3 and 7-6. The doubles team of Samantha Stille ('09) and Ashley Austin ('10) came close with a 9-8 loss.

The week in Sports

Women's tennis

The women's tennis team opened conference play with an upset. Over Tri-State 9-0 on Feb. 24. Strong performances included number six singles Cameron DeHaan ('09) who won 6-0, 6-0. The number three doubles team of John Gardner ('10) and Jeff Vredenburg ('10) won 8-0. The Dutchmen faced Grand Valley Feb. 27 and were defeated 1-8. The lone winner from Hope was John Schlott ('09).