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Student Congress rescinds invitation to speaker Mel White.

Mike Zuieden
editor-in-chief

Concern over representation forced Student Congress to rescind its invitation to Rev. Mel White at last Thursday's meeting.

Some members of Congress felt that bringing White to campus would not come across as a neutral organization to the Hope community.

"Some members felt that it wasn't Congress's place to step in the religious aspect of Hope College," said Dana Marlo, congress president. "Others were worried that bringing in White, while still offering support to the chapel, didn't come across as neutral."

White will still visit the campus, as other campus organizations have picked up sponsorship.

White's visit was originally approved by a 12-11 margin at the Feb. 25 meeting. At the March 4 meeting, a move was made to rescind that motion.

To rescind a motion, an individual who initially voted for the proposal must make the motion to rescind. After lengthy discussion, Congress voted 16-12 to rescind their invitation to White, a homosexual minister.

"It's more than just rescinding support. We're transferring support to a forum and I think that's a good compromise," said Matt Scott ('02), who voted in favor of rescinding the motion. "Instead, by supporting a forum, we thus truly support dialogue, and this truly support the student body on both sides."

Congress is planning a panel discussion sometime after White and Mario Bergner speak on campus. Bergner is part of the Chaplain's sponsored "Setting Love in Order Series."

Congress had originally voted to support both White and Bergner. Ryan Bass ('01) added that he didn't want Congress members to be forced more RESCIND on 4

Chapel series separates campus in debate

Paul Loodeen
sports editor

The Chaplain's discussion of sexuality, that has been taking place in Chapel and Gathering services, enters its second week.

In Dimont Chapel, Monday, members of the Hope community packed to hear what Chaplain Ben Patterson had to say. After the music died and the lights were turned back to full power, Patterson started his talk on sexual sins and related topics.

A brochure from the Chaplain's office states, "The (series) grows out of a desire to honor God and to care faithfully and intelligently for the students of Hope College." The brochure also states that the Chaplain's office has handled several themes involving human sexuality in the past five years from students.

The series has become delicate at Hope, and has people talking about the approach that the Chaplain's staff is taking in addressing the issues.

"It takes strength and guts to approach this issue on campus," Jennifer Polsgrove ('01) said.

However, some feel that the approach chosen by the chaplains is not the most effective way to address such a sensitive issue.

"I think that it is an important issue," said Lynn Japinga, professor of Religion. "I have a feeling that this could be done differently, and in a less controversial way."

Some think that the issue has unnecessarily singled out a group who comprise a section of the campus population.

"This is a human rights issue," Clinton Randall ('00) said. "The Chapel staff has singled out one specific group on campus."

It is an issue that has sparked a large amount of debate among students.

"My floor is really divided," said Adrienne Cameron ('01), Kollen Hall Residents Assistant. "Conservatives on my floor think it's great, and the liberals think that Patterson is wrong and disagree. I think that it's really good and I'm trying to be unbiased about it."

Some students are trying to take it upon themselves to hear all sides of the issue. Currently a student petition is circulating through campus to show support for Mel White. White was invited by student organizations to provide an alternative to the chapel-sponsored speaker, Mario Bergner.

A signature on the petition signifies that the person wants, "The opportunity to hear (Mel White) speak and formulate (his/her) own opinion."

Some students are questioning the learning experience at Hope by challenging the Chapel staff and the entirety of coverage on the issue. Several students want to hear both sides and not just one view.

Individuals that have been struggling with this issue and need assistance can reach the Counseling Center after the Gathering service Sunday, March 14. The center will be opened as long as needed to help students. Public Safety can also reach a counselor on call through the switch board.

"This is an emotionally-charged issue," said Kristen Gray, Assistant Dean of Health and Counseling. "We try to deal with emotionally-charged topics as a staff to help the students."

The Chapel series will continue Friday March 12, when Mario Bergner speaks in the normal, 10:30 a.m. Chapel service. The next speaker on this issue, Tracy Ore ('84), will speak on "A Lesbian Experience at Hope." She will speak on Thursday, March 11 in the Maas Center at 11 a.m.

Student organizations pick up where Student Congress leaves off

Meredith Care & Kate Folkert
staff reporter &
intermission editor

In response to the recent Student Congress decision, various student groups have pulled together to ensure that Mel White's message will still be heard at Hope College.

Reactions from groups like Refuge, In Spiritual Expression (RISE), Women's Issues Organization (WIO), and Gay, Lesbian, or Bisexual Equality (GLOBE), to the vote were initially disappointing.

"It's personally disappointing to Student Congress' decision," said Amanda Schneider ('99), co-president of RISE. "Their job is to represent the students, and their vote ignores the voice of students who said 'We want dialogue.'"

Eric Goodman ('00), the other co-president of RISE agrees. Goodman, a member of Student Congress, is now working on this issue solely with RISE.

"It's a sad day for Hope College when Student Congress fails to support the ideals of a liberal arts education," he said.

The disappointment has led to action.

In response to Congress's action, RISE, WIO, and GLOBE have joined together with other students, faculty, and staff to ensure that White's message will be heard at Hope College.

"It's incredibly important that we facilitate dialogue on the issue. It's important to present both sides," Schneider said.

Goodman explained that RISE aims to present all sides of the issue.

"Because there are numerous perspectives both academically and spiritually, RISE would like to see different perspectives presented so that the students can make informed decisions on the issue," he said. "We want to further meaningful dialogue on the issue of homosexuality and the religious convictions associated with that."

WIO has also become actively involved in the efforts.

"It is an emotionally-charged issue, and we are committed to fighting for minority rights, for all rights," said Jill Pierson ('00), president of WIO.

GLOBE is also playing an important role in White's visit.

"It's an issue that directly affects the lives of our members," said Anne Roulston ('99), president of GLOBE.

Without recognition as an official student organization at Hope College, GLOBE does not have a budget to support sources groups like RISE and WIO have. Their contributions have been mainly behind the scenes.

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Congress president explains her view of resield vote

To the Editor:

As Student Congress President, I completely stand behind all decisions made by Congress in the past two weeks. All meetings were held in accordance with our constitution and Robert's Rules of Order, our procedural manual. We do not discuss our future meetings in public, and so I am not able to print all submitted resolutions. The Anchor will run these in March.

If I may I'd like to make two points on the current turmoil on campus.

First, I'd like to thank all of those who have been concerned about the events that occurred last Thursday. We, as a campus, are a community that cares for one another, and I feel that the administration and the Student Congress share that concern. The dialogue that occurred within Congress in the past two weeks was constructed so students could voice their opinions and concerns about the college. Two weeks ago, that process began. We recognize that all opinions are not comfortable with this viewpoint.

In short, it does not matter what I think, it does not matter what you believe. There is nothing wrong with disagreeing, but we should be kind to one another. The administration, however, is pulling against this trend.

I offer you this. Keep fighting for what you believe. Never go through it may remain secret. It is our duty to keep up that fight, that is why we are here. As Sliden Congress President, I try to ignore the stress, anger and screaming that tie-breaking vote in favor of the students. Two weeks ago, that process began. We recognize that all opinions are not comfortable with this viewpoint. The motion passed and we were scared, others with personal reasons, the motion passed and we must move on.

This whole "brouhaha" as some are calling it, has been extremely difficult to handle for all, not only for me, but for the many others who have offered their time and talents. I want to take this opportunity to express my greatest appreciation to those members of the Hope College community who have offered their support and kind words, without which I might decide that this was the right decision. Congress members went ahead with this action fully aware that we could lose that tie-breaking vote in favor of this cause and will continue to believe that this was the right decision. Congress members went ahead with this action fully aware that we could lose that tie-breaking vote in favor of this cause and will continue to believe that this was the right decision. Congress members went ahead with this action fully aware that we could lose that tie-breaking vote in favor of this cause and will continue to believe that this was the right decision. Congress members went ahead with this action fully aware that we could lose that tie-breaking vote in favor of this cause and will continue to believe that this was the right decision. Congress members went ahead with this action fully aware that we could lose that tie-breaking vote in favor of this cause and will continue to believe that this was the right decision.

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I believe that Congress was attempting to fix this problem by bringing in a speaker to complement the Chaplain's series. Their efforts were started by concerned students, but after Congress rescinded their invitation to Rev. Mel White, these efforts were started by concerned students, but after Congress rescinded their invitation to Rev. Mel White, these efforts were started by concerned students, but after Congress rescinded their invitation to Rev. Mel White, these efforts were started by concerned students, but after Congress rescinded their invitation to Rev. Mel White, these efforts were started by concerned students, but after Congress rescinded their invitation to Rev. Mel White, these efforts were started by concerned students, but after Congress rescinded their invitation to Rev. Mel White, these efforts were started by concerned students, but after Congress rescinded their invitation to Rev. 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Student voices concern over current atmosphere regarding homosexuality

To the Editor:

I have become very concerned with the atmosphere in which the topics of homosexuality and religion have been brought up. After reading the past two issues of the Anchor, I have come to realize that quickly people are polarizing on one side or the other. By this I mean that people who tend to believe homosexuality is a sin continue to believe so (sometimes even more fervently) while those who feel that it is a sin do the same. Homosexuality is a very delicate subject, which Christians feel very strongly about, and are split on both sides of.

—Cory Curtis ('99)

After reading the past are polarizing on one side or the other. Homosexuality is a sin from my learning. Thus, I have become very concerned over the past seven months is the one Mario Bergner will be presenting.

—Court Bechamam ('00)

In attempting to neutralize the overwhelming sentiment at Hope that homosexuality is a sin, congress attempted to support a proposal with the President's hostile stance. The act is, however, we are doing just the opposite. The public forum will allow both sides of the issue to be presented at the same time, and will permit us to remain neutral. This proposal is an excellent compromise. Both White and Mario Bergner are still coming to campus, but congress is not allowing support into only one side. It is not the congress' responsibility to counter every message that groups present on campus. Regardless of what other organizations on campus, we need to consistently represent all students, not just those who are opposed to the Chaplain's speech. The reality is, however, we feel that the administration is not properly understanding what others have to say. It is certainly a challenge for people on both sides, even though this may not create an atmosphere

Student Congress member expresses personal views on visiting speakers

To the Editor:

As a member of Student Congress, I have been in the midst of a crisis for the last two weeks. As a Christian, I had decided before arriving at Hope to separate my religious faith from my learning. Thus, when Dana Marolt ('99), congress president, reached the conclusion that he would bring an open homosexual symposium this fall, and in January, the Religion Department invited Rev. Edward Lee Jr. to invite White, another homosexual Episcopal Bishop is hardly diverse and is hardly supporting the "alternative viewpoint." I'm sorry those who support White's coming did not enter a chance to hear Heyward or Lee, but that does not financially or otherwise. We felt that as a representative organization of the entire student body, congress could not in good faith endorse only one side of this touchy issue. Instead, this forum would allow us to promote dialogue on campus by having a panel discussion with people arguing different views on homosexuality. After last Thursday's decision, many have accused congress of being close-minded, and not promoting dialogue. The reality is, however, we are doing just the opposite. The public forum will allow both sides of the issue to be presented at the same time, and will permit us to remain neutral. This proposal is an excellent compromise. Both White and Mario Bergner are still coming to campus, but congress is not allowing support into only one side. It is not the congress' responsibility to counter every message that groups present on campus. Regardless of what other organizations on campus, we need to consistently represent all students, not just those who are opposed to the Chaplain's speech.

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Student Congress members add further explanation behind student vote of no confidence in congress

To the Editor:

Last week we presented a proposal which called for Student Congress to remove support of Mel White's speaking engagement and instead support a forum. The proposal didn't state that White would not be coming to campus, just that Congress would not support him financially or otherwise. We felt that as a representative organization of the entire student body, Congress could not in good faith endorse only one side of this touchy issue. Instead, this forum would allow us to promote dialogue on campus by having a panel discussion with people arguing different views on homosexuality.

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—David Theune ('99)
Stage set for speakers to discuss homosexuality

Julie Green

The Rev. Dr. Mel White is proud of his spiritual journey. I am here simply to share some of my experiences and views on the topic of homosexuality.

The stage is set for speakers to discuss homosexuality, which has been a contentious issue in the church for many years. The Rev. Dr. Mel White, a member of the ex-gay movement, is one of the speakers who will be discussing his personal view on the issue.

White is a prominent figure in the ex-gay movement, and his story of his personal spiritual journey is one that many are curious to hear. He is a homosexual. He is a servant of God. He is a Christian. He is a man of God who has dedicated his life to spreading the message of love and acceptance.

White will speak at Hope College on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, March 12, 13, and 14. The event will be open to the public and will feature other speakers who will also discuss the issue of homosexuality.

The event will take place in various locations around Hope College, including the Kletz Center, the Haworth Center, and the Calvin Chapel. The schedule for the event is as follows:

Thursday, March 12:
- 11 a.m.: Tracy Ore • "Redeeming Sexuality: A Christian Lesbian Experience at Hope College" • Mass Center
- 7 p.m.: Prayer vigil for community • Pine Grove

Friday, March 13:
- 10:30 a.m.: Mario Bergner • personal testimony • Dimnent Chapel
- 2-4 p.m.: Dialogue between Mario Bergner and local pastors and community members • Haworth Center

Saturday, March 14:
- 10:15 a.m.: Mario Bergner • "A Christian Response to Homosexuality: An Apologia to Show Christians Can Treat This Subject with Sensitivity, Love, and Kindness" • Dimnent Chapel
- 8 a.m.: Rev. Dr. Mel White • personal testimony • Dimnent Chapel

The event is sponsored by the Hope College Student Congress and the Pine Grove Chapel. It is open to the public and is free of charge.

Mario Bergner will offer testimony on hope and healing.

Carré Arnold

As the controversy over homosexuality boils up on Hope’s campus, many find themselves curious to hear the words of speaker Mario Bergner. The director of Redeemed Life Ministries in Wheaton, Ill., Bergner is an active member of the ex-gay movement. His organization, Redeemed Life, ministers to the homosexual community and other people who are "sexually broken." This movement stresses that homosexuality is a sin and that homosexuals need to be redeemed. That is, gay members of society need to be converted to heterosexuality through Christ and the church.

Bergner himself was a practicing homosexual for five years. "A large part of me liked being gay. I enjoyed the fellowship in the gay lifestyle," Bergner said in his sermon "Great is Repentance.

"But if [God] wanted me to change my homosexuality, I was willing to let him," said Bergner. "The change in Bergner's life occurred when he came down with all of the major symptoms of AIDS, such as opportunistic diseases and rashes. Pneumocystis carinii pneumonia was hospital-ized, Bergner prayed for physical healing. "I don't know if I had AIDS or not, but that's not the point of the story," Bergner said in his sermon. "The point is that Jesus appeared to me."

Over the next several years, Bergner said that he "came out of" being gay due to the ministries of his sister, his church, and Leanne Payne, author of "The Broken Image."

"The Lord did heal my homosexuality," Bergner said in his sermon. "It was a long battle, but it was either that or dying, physically and spiritually. I knew now that my homosexuality was nothing more than my sinful reaction to the curse that came against me."

In the 10 years since Bergner joined the ex-gay movement, it has picked up speed among Christian communities in the U.S. Recently, an ex-gay organization even placed a full-page ad in the New York Times. There have also been numerous television ads encouraging people to bring their homosexual friends to Christ. Bergner is at the forefront of this movement.

In 1994, Bergner received his Master of Divinity from Trinity and is the author of the book "Selling Love in Order: Hope and Healing for the Homosexual." He has spoken around the world in the hopes of healing other homosexuals like himself with groups such as Exodus International and the International Catholic Program for Evangelism. He is scheduled to speak at Hope on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, March 12, 13, and 14.

Schools deal with issues of homosexuality on campus

Andrew Kleczek

Last week, three homosexual students came out at a Bible study at Calvin College. Earlier this year, Aquinas College and Goshen College in Goshen, Indiana, had to deal with antihomosexual graffiti.

According to some Calvin students, it's not only Calvin that has been vocal about homosexuality. The debate over homosexuality has not been exclusive to Hope College.

"After the initial shock there hasn't been much," said student congress member Matt Bramble ('01). "Bergner is giving his personal view. White can do that too," said Matt. "Bergner is giving his personal view. White can do that too," said Matt. "Bergner is giving his personal view. White can do that too," said Matt.

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