Students devote spring break to service trips

Christine Hostetler
Senior Staff Writer

Many students are heading home for Spring Break 2009. Some lucky ones are off to warmer, sunnier places or to ski in the cold mountains. 

There are also Hope College students who are determining this spring break to use their gifts to serve God and others during their time off by participating in a service trip.

More than 270 students will travel to 10 states and six countries on Activate, Hope’s Spring Break Service Trip program.

Barb Osburn, director of Activate, said, “My favorite thing about [Activate] is it’s an opportunity for God to do some amazing things in people’s lives. Good stuff happens that students could never have imagined happening to them!”

Osburn added, “Hope College has had a very, very, very rich tradition in cross-cultural ministries since back in the 1800’s. I believe Hope is meant to be here for the world. Students participating in these service trips are a part of this tradition.”

This year, 33 student leaders are heading 17 teams. The leaders have been preparing their teams since November for the journeys they are about to embark on.

Sara Webster (’09), one of the leaders of the trip to San Cristobal, Guatemala said, “Our group has been praying God will show us what it means to be servants, and that he will give us the hearts of those who serve Christ.”

Andrew Mead (’09) is leading a trip to Jackson, Miss., where the team will work with Voice of Calvary Ministries.

“We have been meeting weekly as a large group and in smaller groups throughout the week to get to know one another. We looked at some passages from Scripture which shape VOCM’s vision as well as read an article on issues of race,” Mead said.

Mead added, “VOCM was born out of the struggle for justice during the Civil Rights movement. It’s a Christian Community Development organization which works to create new models for housing, healthcare and education, particularly within the black community. It has long been a voice for the poor and for racial reconciliation. The roots of poverty and racial segregation and injustice run deep in Jackson (Miss).”

The Activate teams are joining with a wide range of organizations. Some have hosted Hope students for years, while others are meeting Hope students for the first time.

Osburn explained that Campus Ministry tries to be consistent in

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Hope College students and their parents were made aware of next year’s tuition increase last month. According to the Winter 2009 Presidential Update, tuition increased by 2.9 percent. The cost of tuition, room, board and the standard activity fee will be $33,530. Hope President James Bultman said, “The colleges have four revenue streams to fund its operations...all have been negatively affected by the current economic downturn.”

He said, “Our biggest challenge is always to keep the Hope College education affordable for interested and deserving students.”

Other colleges have felt the economic strain. Both Dartmouth University and Aquinas College increased their tuition cost by 5.3 percent and Calvin in Grand Rapids, 5.2 percent according to a Grand Rapids Press article. Economic times have not decreased the amount of applicants. In his update, Bultman announced that there are 86 more applications currently than there were a year ago at this time.

The update also said, “The economic downturn has since only deteriorated and will likely continue to be a factor for the foreseeable future. It has affected most everything that we are doing and are thinking of doing.”

In an effort to keep the cost down, the wages of Hope’s 700 faculty and staff have been frozen. Bultman said, “With a spirit of cooperation, our faculty and staff will not receive wage increases this year to help our cost structure and to enable the college to prepare for what we expect to be increased demand for need-based financial aid.”

Administrators told the Grand Rapids Press that this is the first time in 40 years the college has chosen to freeze salaries. Wages and benefits account for about $50 million of the college’s $87 million budget.

Bultman attempted to reassure students and parents of the college’s efforts to lower costs. He said, “We are also committed to doing everything possible to maintain the affordability of the college for our students and their parents,” he said.

Phyllis Hooyman, director of financial aid said, “Despite the current economic challenges, Hope is not reducing its level of commitment to Hope-funded institutional grant and scholarship aid.”

Bultman was optimistic as well. He said, “The college has been in a ‘steadfast’ mode (someplace between ‘business as usual’ and implementation of our contingency plan) for the last several years in anticipation of this downturn. More than $1 million has been saved in ongoing annual operations beyond our stewardship of our expenses.”

Students prepare for spring mission trips

Robin Baker (’10), one of the leaders of the trip to Miguel Aleman, Mexico, said, “I am excited to learn, grow, and experience God in new ways.”

Watters said, “As social workers, we are excited to surround ourselves in another culture that is so vastly different from ours, but that is in such need of services and help. We are all very excited to create ways of social change in a new country.”

Bultman said, “The best part of the trip is that you bond with people from campus. You go somewhere and meet amazing Christians and do something to impact the world—it enriches Hope’s campus.”

Sign-up for the service trips started in October, but Osburn said, “We won’t turn anyone away as long as there is space for them to go.”
Dr. Laura Stritzke  

Beverly Warren

Drug-related violence in Mexico has risen dramatically in the past year with over 6,000 related deaths and over 1,000 people killed in the month of January alone. The crisis is also spilling over into the United States and alarming U.S. officials. The Mexican drug cartels have been on the rise this year...I mean squad-sized units of police officers and soldiers attacked, tortured to death, decapitated. So the violence is not simply shocking and we've got to help.

The CIA and Pentagon report published last week added the Mexican drug wars to the list of crises to watch over the next year alongside problems such as al-Qaida.

Retired Army Gen. Barry McCaffrey served as the “drug czar” under President Clinton. Following McCaffrey’s recent visit to Mexico, he noted on NPR, “Thousands have been murdered, families that served their country...and we've got to help.”

The CIA-Pentagon report fears a worse case scenario in which Mexico would become a failed state. The American military is already stepping in by providing more training to Mexico’s police and military forces, who are fighting well-armed narco-traffickers.

Analyst Peter DeShazo, a former State Department official, said, “It’s a matter of the Mexican government strengthening its capabilities to effectively enforce the law against a very well-armed and very well-financed criminal organization.”

The officials who wrote the report are hoping that by increasing aid to the Mexican police and military they can prevent a full-scale crisis from erupting in Mexico. Felipe Calderon, the president of Mexico, took offense at the report’s findings and said that his country was very much in control of the situation.

Press Secretary Robert Gibbs praised Calderon on last Sunday’s edition of NBC’s “Meet the Press” and said, “What I think people need to point out is the courage that Calderon has shown in taking this on, because one of the reasons it’s gotten as bad as it has is because his predecessors basically refused to do that.”

One of three decapitated bodies found on March 7 in Tijuana, Mexico belonged to Jorge Na-tividad Norman Harrison, a U.S. citizen. Harrison’s home and business were searched and over 100 Valium pills were found, indicating the death was possibly related to drug trafficking.

A source told CNN that President Obama held a meet- ing with the Joint Chiefs of Staff chairman Admiral Michael Mullen within hours of his re-turn from Mexico to discuss the situation in light of the dramatic rise in casualties. Obama’s main priority during the meeting was understanding how the United States could strengthen Mexi-co’s capability to deal with the violence and improve the overall situation.

Canadian officials have also noted an increase in drug-re-lated violence in places like Vancouver because of a cut in drug supplies. Fewer drugs are now reaching the U.S. as a result of the drug cartel in-fighting in Mexico, and therefore the fighting over shipments of incoming drugs in the United States and Canada has increased as well.

It’s difficult to fully perceive the local implications of the violence in Mexico, but local churches and organizations are reconsidering upcoming mission trips to the country. Darryl Pierce, Pastor of Real Life Fellowship, is considering can-celing a summer youth mission trip to Mexico, saying that his primary concern is for the safety of the youth.

Hope also issued a warning to students urging anyone trav-eling to Mexico for spring break to “be extremely careful” in light of the violence. The March 9 email referred students to the State Department alert at www.state.gov.

However, before this increase in drug-related violence, churches and organizations of- ten considered Mexico as a good mission trip location because of its proximity to the U.S.

Conservative population struggling; Republican conference boosts morale

Benjamin O’Dell  

Gsox Wens

Since Barack Obama won the presi-dentional election last fall, the conservative population of our country, particularly the Republican Party, has started to look at 2012 elections.

Perhaps the biggest struggle is the fact that the Democrats were able to find a revolutionary politician to unite under, meanwhile the Republicans are almost having to redefine what they stand for. This comes espe-cially after the Republi-cans failed to win the last elec-tion with a more moderate and bi-partisan candidate Sen. John Mc-Cain.

Because of the current confu-sion of exactly where the Republican Party is to go from here, the Conserva-tive Political Action Conference was held on Feb. 28 in Washington. Since the last election, there has been a power struggle due to the loss of power in the Republican par-ty. The goal is to gain some power back in the White House.

Rush Limbaugh, conservative radio talk show host, was the conference’s keynote speaker. Even though Lim-baugh is not well liked by Democrats, as 63 percent view him unfavorably, he is obviously more respected by most Republi-cans, as 60 percent of Republicans have a positive view of him (Gallup, e o m). The main reason he was the featured speaker at the convention is because he represents the still- loved image of President Ronald Reagan’s con-servatism, and he is not only well known due to his nationally syndicated ra-dio show, but he has the charis-ma to unite most conservatives to-gether.

Because of Limbaugh’s neg-a-tive image in the world of liberalism, the Democrats im-mEDIATELY responded to the speech, with the Democratic Senatorial Com-mittee saying, “Rush Limbaugh is the leading voice of the Republican Party” (CNNPolitics.com). Democrats have also blamed the Republicans for reject-ing Obama’s efforts towards bipartisanship and instead turning to right-wing radicals such as Limbaugh and others.

At the convention, the best advice Limbaugh was able to provide with like-minded individuals is that all conservatives need to do in order to achieve suc-cess in 2012 is to nomi-nate the right candidate. With the current state of the Republican Party, most people are probably asking whether we have any clue who that candidate could be. Although it is preliminary, the best chances point to former governor of Massachusetts, Mitt Romney, who was at one point a favored candidate for the Republican Party for the 2008 election.

Romney is gaining a more favorable image within the world of conservatives.

— Benjamin O’Dell (12)
**This Week In Art**

**Wednesday**     March 11
Visiting Writers Series
7 p.m. Francine Prose, Knickerbocker

**Thursday**      March 12
Teaching Hope Movie: ROOTS
7:30 p.m., Fried-Hemenway Aud.

**Tuesday**       March 24
Guest Pianist, Spencer Meyer
7:30 p.m., Dimnent Chapel
Yoga Club
7:30 p.m., Phelps Otte Room

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**IN BRIEF**

**SYMPHONETTE AND CHAPEL CHOIR ON TOUR**

The Hope College Symphonette will be touring the Midwest during its annual spring break tour with performances in Illinois and Wisconsin March 12 through March 16.

The college’s Chapel Choir will be traveling abroad two months later for its tour, visiting South Africa in May.

The Symphonette will perform in Wheaton, Ill., on Thursday, March 12; in Park Ridge, Ill., on Friday, March 13; in Hingham, Wis., on Sunday, March 15; and in South Holland, Ill., on Monday, March 16. Linda Dykstra, soprano and associate professor of music, will accompany the group on the tour as soloist.

A few weeks after its return, the Symphonette will close its 2008-09 season with a concert in Holland, performing with the college’s Orchestra on Wednesday, April 15, at 7:30 p.m. in Dimnent Memorial Chapel. Admission to the concert will be free.

For the Chapel Choir, the tour in South Africa in May has been scheduled in lieu of a March tour within the United States.

The Chapel Choir was organized in 1929 and began touring annually in 1953. In addition to touring extensively in the United States and Canada, the choir has made a European tour seven times, most recently in May 2005.

The members are selected by audition. The choir is directed by Brad Richmond, who is a professor of music and director of choral activities at Hope.

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**Students shine at Musical Showcase**

On the evening of March 9, DeVos Hall of downtown Grand Rapids was filled with the sound and spirit of Hope College students’ music during the 21st Annual Musical Showcase. Performers were greeted with the faces of supportive family, faculty and fellow community as they presented their talent.

The fast-paced concert featured various styles and genres, including opera and piano. Amongst the performances were the Chapel Choir, College Chorus, Jazz Ensemble, Orchestra, Symphonette, and Wind Symphony, as well as soloists and chamber ensembles.

“It’s exciting to perform and hear a variety of Hope’s finest musicians,” said Alex Ketchum (‘10), Trombonist.

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**GPS brings uncommon talent**

**Quartet San Francisco set to delight audiences with unique crossover styles**

HOPE PR - Quartet San Francisco, a group quickly earning praise for their non-traditional delivery of chamber music, will perform at Hope College through the Great Performance Series on Tuesday, March 31, at 7:30 p.m. in Dimnent Memorial Chapel.

Grammy nominees for their last two releases (2006 and 2007) and International Tango competition winners (New York, 2004), Quartet San Francisco expresses itself in its agility and standout virtuosic playing.

Quartet San Francisco is Jeremy Cohen and Kayo Miki, violinists, Keith Lawrence, violinist, and Joel Cohen, cellist. As crossover specialists they excel in multiple styles — from jazz to tango, pop to funk, blues to bluegrass, gypsy swing to big band and beyond. In their music, they live by the motto, “When the music says swing, we swing. When the music says groove, we groove.”

Since its concert debut in 2001, Quartet San Francisco has offered its exclusive and ground-breaking literature to local, national and international audiences in a variety of venues that include tango and concert halls, jazz festivals, museums, and classrooms. In 2002 the quartet began its on-stage collaborations with tango dancers. In the 2004-06 academic years the quartet was in residence at Mills College.

Their Latin and tango CD, “Látigo” (2006), was honored with Grammy nominations for Best Classical Crossover and Best Engineered, Classical. The quartet members are current Classical Crossover Grammy nominees for “Whirled Chamber Music” (2007).
New swimsuit technology spurs controversy

Karen Patterson
Co-Sports Editor

In recent years, technology has become less of a novelty and more a way of life. Just about everybody over the age of 13 has a cell phone of some kind, and college students can hardly imagine life without their laptops and ipods.

Even our parents’ generation has jumped on the bandwagon by joining Facebook and other online networking sites.

However, technology is not just limited to the Internet and other related gadgets; it has crossed over into the world of sports and now affects the way that athletes eat, train and the equipment that they use.

Everything from golf clubs to football pads has been “revolutionized” in the last few years. The latest equipment to come under scrutiny and cause controversy is swimsuits used by athletes from the collegiate level and up.

The latest equipment to come under scrutiny and cause controversy is swimsuits used by athletes from the collegiate level and up.

A brief history lesson

A little over a year ago Speedo debuted their newest form of technology, the LZR. Working with NASA (yes, that NASA), Speedo was able to develop a suit that would help to reduce drag by as much as 24% compared to their other suits.

Essentially, they were able to create the perfect suit that would minimize drag (resistance from the water that slows swimmers) while creating buoyancy, allowing them to move even more quickly through the water.

While the LZR has been a hit with swimmers, there are still those who believe that as time goes on, there will be a limit of technology with this new technology. “I would have a difficult time asking for an increase in budget for the new suits,” head coach John Patnos said.

However, the school’s administration would increase the swim team budget by $15,000 ($250 x 60 swimmers) to pay for suits that are only wearable for 10 to 12 races.”

The first, and perhaps most obvious, is the cost. TYR’s Tracer runs at about $220 a suit, the Blue Seventy is roughly $320, and the LZR is up to $500. “The suit feels great in the water, but the worst part is the price,” Ansilio said.

A second drawback is the longevity (or lack thereof) of the suits. As alluded to before, each LZR and Tracer lasts for 10-12 races before they become stretched out and the fabric becomes worn. The Blue Seventy lasts longer (approximately 25 races), but is also more likely to tear.

Coupled with the cost, it becomes an issue of how much the suits really do for the swimmers wearing them.

What the future holds

For the Hope swimming program, the technology is great, but not feasible on a large scale. “I would have a difficult time asking for an increase in budget for the new suits,” head coach John Patnos said. “It’s more of a question of ‘If this, then what comes next?’”

Ansilio had similar thoughts, “Since they’ve already been allowed for a season, I don’t think they should be banned, but they should set regulations for the amount of buoyancy and compression allowed. There has to be a limit of technology with these suits.”

Despite the controversy that has been going on for a year now, the technology is out there and is here to stay. As the sport of swimming moves forward, it will be interesting to see how the technology progresses with it.

“These suits are just like any other advancement in the sport of swimming,” Nelis said. “Goggles made a huge jump for those swimmers that first started using them. I think that as time goes on, there will always be advances in the way that swimmers eat, train, even in the techniques they use.”

TECHNOLOGY ON DISPLAY— On the left, Laura Ansilio (’09) left and Rachel Bakken (’09), right, wear the Speedo LZR, while Meghan deWees (’09), center, wears the TYR Tracer. The above box on the right shows the national qualifiers.

Mens and Women’s National Teams

Lady Dutch:
Sarah Sohn , Meghan DeWees, Brittanney Reest Delo, Laura Ansilio, and Christina Vogelzang

Flying Dutchmen:
Matthew Gregory, Phil Heyboer, Brandon King, Stephen Kurti, Matt Rose, Mitch Ruch, Ryan Vogelzang, and Aaron Welsch

For Nelis there was a “not real interference.” The main difference was in the push off the wall,” he said. “The dolphin kicks (in the 100-yard and 200-yard butterfly) felt much more relaxed and easier.”

All the swimmers agreed that there is less resistance and the suits feel great in the water. However, there are some drawbacks to the new technology. The first, and perhaps most obvious, is the cost. TYR’s Tracer runs at about $220 a suit, the Blue Seventy is roughly $320, and the LZR is up to $500. “The suit feels great in the water, but the worst part is the price,” Ansilio said.

Rose agreed that cost played a part in his decision to wear the Blue Seventy. “It seemed to be the most cost-effective option to me. It’s a decent amount cheaper than the LZR and is rated to last for about twice as many races as the LZR.”

A small school like Hope cannot reasonably afford to pour so much extra money into something that will only last for a season, some even smashed, the debate of how fair these suits are will continue.

Swimmers and coaches at all levels, though, dismiss the controversy as just uproot over new technology.

“You can compare the new suits to the fiberglass poles used for pole vaulting,” Coach Patnos said.

Nelis, Ansilio, and Reest Delo will all agree in agreement with their coach. “I don’t think the suits should be banned,” Reest Delo said. “It’s more a question of ‘If this, then what comes next?’”

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Change for tradition’s sake

The Anchor
March 11, 2009

6

The Point of playing

You know that feeling after finals, after that last term paper finally gets turned in, where life suddenly feels completely manageable? You look at the clock and the time means nothing. It’s the first time in months you’ve started watching TV again? You sleep? This is all completely appropriate behavior for a student who has just finished a semester. That’s why I am so utterly doomed.

This weekend I had my senior recital, which means, in the music major world, I’m done. But now that I’m not practicing (worrying, obsessing) for hours a day in preparation, I’m taking the opportunity to reflect on the experience.

We do these things, these recitals, twice and sometimes three times as performance majors. It usually takes about six months of preparation. We choose pieces that will go well together, that are from different time periods, that will take up about an hour of time. Then we practice. Then we invite our friends and family and do the thing on a Friday or Saturday afternoon or evening. It’s all very scary and cool – a rite of passage.

But the fact that recitals are so helpful, so extremely necessary, to our development as musicians leaves me with a burning question: Who exactly are we playing for?

Are we playing simply for ourselves? For our own benefit and enjoyment as players? Are we playing for the composers and song writers, dead or alive, to pay homage to their work? Are we playing for the audience members, for their enjoyment? For myself, why should I put on a public performance? If the audience is out of the equation, then recitals are just opportunities to play music. If I’m playing for the composers and song writers, or for the audience members, for their enjoyment, for myself, why should I put on a public performance? If the audience is out of the equation, then recitals are just opportunities to play music. If I’m playing for the composers and song writers, or for the audience members, for their enjoyment, for myself, why should I put on a public performance?

But then, if the performer wants to share it, it can become something else: love on the other side of the stage/radio. This doesn’t mean music is about the performer playing whatever she thinks the audience will like most – that’s business. It’s about sharing something really good because you just know everyone else will love it too. It’s about basking a health of brownies and passing them around to anyone who will take them. You believe in those brownies because you’ve tasted them and they’re fabulous. Even an alien from another planet would find an appreciation for those brownies. What if someone in your audience hates chocolate? They won’t hate this chocolate. This is the kind of chocolate everyone loves. That’s what music is about.

That’s what I think, anyway.

I challenge you to look for the performer on the other end of the music you hear, to see the love and excitement that got the song started and to try the brownie that someone is offering. It’s really hard to do. But it’s so much more fun that way.

Katie hopes her reflective and relaxed attitude does not make her redundant in her study habits. But if it does, c’est la vie. Carpe diem. you know.

Beautiful feet

Six reasons why kids are better than adults

Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it” (Luke 18:16-17).

But what is it about a child that qualifies him/her for the kingdom of God? Let’s take a look. Here are six reasons why kids are better than adults:

1. God says, “Come, in my house there are many rooms.” An adult says, “Lovely place and all, but I really should be going. I’d hate to impose.”

2. A child plays and pretends while adults are so preoccupied with their own importance that they cling to what they think is the real world, as though it is really them that makes the difference.

3. Jesus says, “Eat of my body and drink of my blood!” An adult says, “No thank you, I’ll find my own food.”

4. A child’s reasoning: “If I’m 7 and you’re 7 then we’re friends, right?”

5. God says, “I have paid for you with the precious blood of my Son.” An adult says, “Let’s split the bill.”

6. A child drools when he sees the tasty bread for communion and wants to eat it all while an adult daintily pecks a crumb off the crust.

Okay, I’m obviously not talking about age here: I’m talking about the heart. It would be downright irresponsible to believe we are to act like children in every aspect of life. But we are called, and even commanded to have a childlike heart.

I hate to admit it, but at times it seems like my heart is growing up. As it wrinkles and prunes and hardens I can see all the glory of God fading away before my eyes in a cloud of adult stress. That not only no longer exists, oh no, vacuum of a heart or anything else for that matter could even nick a sliver from the most holy name of God. But as I grow up, my “mature” heart has less and less room for an unexplainable God who calls little children to his side.

I hear the “good news” of Christ and instead of getting excited or thankful or overjoyed, I run away. The difference between a grown up heart and that of a child is that an adult tries to earn God’s love by living in fear of God and never accepting his approval, while a child smiles wide, opens up his arms and screams, “Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!”

But, praise God, when I close my human eyes and let my childlike heart take over, the clouds part and I can see the unexpected glory of heaven before me. Low and behold it is a great mansion of a tree house! There are people swaying from tire swings a thousand feet in the air, insane laughter is coming from all parts of the fort, and at the base of the great tree is a sign that reads, “No grown-ups allowed!”

Bryant thanks you need to visit this website: www.faithofholland.com. It’s about his coucils who sailed around the world. So cool!
**Because I care**

Until it stops

Matt Oosterhouse
Columnist

It is a grim reality that our world is full of violence against women. There are cultures and societies that deem it acceptable (some, such as Islamic countries, deem it necessary) that men beat their wives into submission. In many African societies, a wrong word from a woman to a man causes her to be severely beaten. In Saudi Arabia, it is most often the victim of rape who gets flogged and scourged rather than the rapist. And in our own country, there are millions of women who have either been subjected to the horrendous act of rape or to physically or emotionally abusive relationships that mar their ability to lead a fearless life.

Last week, I was reminded of how much I, as a man, do not have to fear walking alone at night. Last Thursday, when the spring weather brought about temperatures in the 50s and 60s, I went for a jog around 9 p.m. I ran around Holland towards Window on the Waterfront where I was definitely running in the dark without any lights. There was not a worry in my mind that I would be jumped and raped. The only thing I was thinking about was getting killed by some madman; but I don’t fear death, and, thus, I was running in the dark without fear. I realize now that I don’t know what it is to be afraid—I don’t know what it is to be worried that someone’s going to rape me.

The reality is that we live in a world where violence against women is so hugely prevalent, and where music, movies and pornography have all been statistically linked to violent behavior among the male gender. Have you considered that most pornography features a man dominating a woman and treating her like an object, and that many states, in the name of respect, buy the argument that pornography is about consent? Especially when it only lacks the visual representation of pornography? I don’t know when violence against women will stop. I wish with all my heart that it would just disappear. But the reality is that women are running forward—from dropping it.

How can we turn back the flow of society that perpetuates taking advantage of women, and begin to stand up against rapes and sexual abuse? Here at Hope, where is “Greek Men Take A Stand?” The only time I’ve heard of it is once a year during Take Back The Night. Despite how good one might feel signing his name to take a stand against any cause, that commitment is meaningless without real action and authentic advocacy. Maybe we need a “Hope Men Take A Stand” group focused on regular education, action and advocacy.

But we can also start small. Men, we need to hold each other accountable in our humor, language and actions. We must not subject ourselves to such things as pornography, and we must guard what we listen to as well. We should make treating women with the respect, dignity and honor the normal, accepted thing in our world, and hope and pray that it catches on in the lives of others.

All trends have a beginning: both the civil and the women’s rights movements started with individuals advocating their causes and lifting up their voices. People of Hope, lift up your voice. Maybe one day, at least in our own country, we can have a world devoid of violence against women. Here’s my voice because I care—I just hope it’s something.

Matt thanks “Vagina Monologues” and “Big Love” for helping spur this article. This topic has always been a deep concern of his, but attending those events gave him fodder for his column.

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**From the inside out**

Do I care if I’m apathetic?

When given the task of writing the staff column, I struggled with what to write about. This sort of column usually falls into two categories: columns about things I’m passionate about or columns with advice for life. However, I am sure that most people don’t want to hear me drone about the success of the John Key government in New Zealand, and all my advice on life could be summed up by most punk or alternative rock songs in existence. I really don’t have all that much new to say.

And I think that is okay. We live in a society that expects us to have opinions, and expects us to share them. It does not take long to see this. If you want to know where a person stands on an issue, just look at the back of their car: if you look hard enough you’ll find someone is voting for, look at their lawn signs (or in their window signs if you’re on campus), Facebook profiles and pag es; Twitter, T-shirts, the list goes on and on. Our society is becoming increasingly polluted with these opinions that nobody even wanted to hear about.

Because people feel so passionate about things, I think that we are driven to form opinions, just to maintain a certain edge in the conversation, and to avoid being labeled “apathetic.” Again, societies aids us in this drive through the media and the countless “Rock the Vote” concerts and “be informed” initiat ives. Ideally, we, in our free time, will partake in this movement to become informed, form opinions, and go out and buy bumper stickers telling the world what we think, or at least tell an Anchor writer what we really think of the paper the next time it rubs us the wrong way.

Ladies and gentlemen, I have a confession. I am apathetic by these standards. And I am proud of it.

It’s not that I don’t have opinions, it’s not that I don’t care. Anyone who knows me well will know that I have very strong feelings about any number of issues. I just don’t care about them enough to sit around and sing them to a world that (a) is not listening, (b) does not care, or (c) never asked my opinion anyway, and if I don’t know anything about the issue, I will not try to pretend. A number of things happen when we form and carefully spout opinions. The first is that we dilute the issues to the point where we lose the deeper meaning. Political bumper stickers may sound witty, funny or convincing to a fault, but there is no way a bumper sticker can begin to address the mystery that is human nature, the responsibilities of freedom or liberty, or the ethical questions that occur when one is trying to defend 300 million lives. Making up opinions with little notice or reflection doesn’t contribute to these questions either.

The second consequence of careless opinions is that it hurts relationships. For example, I met a member of the community a couple of weeks ago who, upon hearing I was a student at Hope, proceeded to tell me what she thought of Hope in great length, ending with “I hope none of my children ever go there.” Needless to say, I have a hard time must ering up the strength to want to meet her again.

I believe in my heart of hearts, my own small but uninvited wisdom. Don’t be afraid to say I don’t know. Don’t be afraid to say I don’t care. Sure you may sound like a jerk or ignorant, but you may be doing society a favor.

Alex is enjoying life and encourages you to live like life is all you have. He also hopes the Obama administration will work with the Kay ministry in repairing and deepening American-New Zea land relations.

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**Letter to the Editor**

Student suggests greater musical variety for Chapel and Gathering services

To the Editors:

I am writing in reaction to Matt Oosterhouse’s letter in the Feb. 25 issue. Like Matt, I also appreciate the hard work that Josh Banner and the other musicians put in to make the music we hear in Chapel and at the Gathering sound great; their musicianship and professionalism are admirable.

The way the songs are presented succeeds at stirring up the emotions and good intentions of my heart. Especially at the Gathering, it is clear that the music is what draws students: after it’s over, I notice a questionous exodus of music lovers.

Indeed, the music is nice to listen to; the instrumentation and style make singing in Chapel a lot like singing along to college radio. And having a band on stage makes it a lot like a concert: we even partake in this movement to become informed, form opinions, and go out and buy bumper stickers telling the world what we think, or at least tell an Anchor writer what we really think of the paper the next time it rubs us the wrong way.

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**SPORTS**

**IN BRIEF**

**HOCKEY**

The hockey team ended its season with a 4-2 loss to Farmingdale in the Division III national tournament hosted in Rochester, N.Y. The game knocked them out of the tournament, ending in a ninth place national finish. Hope fired more shots on goal, but was unable to climb back from an early 2-0 deficit.

**MEN’S BASKETBALL**

The men’s basketball team concluded its season with a loss to the University of Wisconsin-Platteville on March 6 in the first round of the NCAA tournament. Leading the way for the Dutchmen were Jesse Reimink (’09) with 17 points and Peter Bunn (’11) with 12.

**SPRING BREAK TRIPS**

**BASEBALL**

The baseball team will be playing in the RussMatt Central Florida Invitational March 13-19 in Winter Haven, Fla. over spring break week.

**SOFTBALL**

The softball team will be traveling to Kissimmee, Fla. to compete in the Rebel Spring Games March 14-19.

**TRACK & FIELD**

The men’s and women’s track and field teams will be traveling to the Coastal Carolina Invitational on March 14 and compete at the Emory, GA Invitational on March 21.

**MEN’S TENNIS**

The men’s tennis team will be heading to Claremont, Calif. where they will compete in the Stag-Hen Invitational.

**WOMEN’S TENNIS**

The women’s tennis team will be in Hilton Head, S.C. where they will compete in five matches from March 16-19.

**WOMEN’S BASKETBALL**

**Post players key to continued dominance**

Bethany Stripp

GUEST WRITER

Hope’s women’s basketball team started off the NCAA Division III Tournament with a bang, defeating Washington & Jefferson College from Washington, Penn., 87-64 on Friday, March 6. Carrie Sniggers (‘11) led the team with 27 points, her second highest total for the season so far. She also pulled down 12 rebounds, another team high and her third highest of the season.

The Flying Dutch started the game strong with senior co-captain Kaitlyn Kopke scoring within the first minute of play. Fellow senior Courtney Knox and Sniggers built on Kopke’s basket to give Hope an 8-0 lead less than four minutes into the game.

Hope finished the first half with a 22-point lead, 52-30. The Presidents of Washington & Jefferson went on an 8-0 run in the second half to cut Hope’s lead to 11, but a basket by co-captain Phalanca Greene (‘10) with 8:39 left in the half started a three-minute 13-4 run that brought Hope’s lead back to 20. The Presidents scored five more points in the game, but it was not enough to overcome Hope’s commanding lead.

On Saturday, March 7, the Flying Dutch continued NCAA Tournament action when they took on the Yellow Jackets of Baldwin-Wallace College from Berea, Ohio, in a rematch from last year’s second round game.

Co-captain Jenny Cowen (’10) started the game off well with a 3-pointer 40 seconds into the game. The Flying Dutch continued to play strong, keeping the Yellow Jackets from scoring anything but one free throw for over six minutes. The Yellow Jackets rallied from a 13-point deficit to bring the game within one point, but Hope fought back and at halftime led Baldwin-Wallace, 35-28. A 12-0 run near the middle of the second half brought Hope’s lead back into double digits, and after that they never looked back. The Flying Dutch went on to defeat the Yellow Jackets, 69-53.

Sniggers and Greene had 15 points each while Knox grabbed 12 rebounds. Hope’s women will continue in NCAA Tournament play on Friday, March 13, where they will play Thomas More College from Kentucky.

**MEN’S BASKETBALL**

**Hope seniors look back at season, career**

Brandon Bosch

DAN COX

ZACH OSBURN

JESSE REIMINK

What was the highlight of your Hope basketball career?

Brandon Bosch: "I feel I have gained a lot of character-building traits that will help me be successful later on in life."

DAN COX: "I would say the highlight for our season was beating Calvin in the MIAA tournament championship and cutting down the nets at their place."

ZACH OSBURN: "Any thoughts about how the team looks for next year? "I hope that next year the team has a ton of success, and I know they will have the ability to do so through hard work."

JESSE REIMINK: "The main thing I have gained from my career at Hope is friends. I will be friends with many of the guys I played with for life."

Any thoughts about how the team looks for next year?

"It will be a very interesting year. They have tons of potential and it will just be interesting to see who steps up and plays."