Speakers debate homosexuality

Rev. Dr. Mel White shares personal experiences as a homosexual and Christian

Hope College is on a frontier, according to Rev. Mel White. It is the first Christian college that he has ever been invited to speak at. He has spoken at over 150 colleges in the last six years, but none were Christian.

"A college can't be afraid of any issue. It is where we go to open our minds and hearts," White said. White presented his side of Christianity and homosexuality on Tuesday, March 16.

As a homosexual, living with long-term mate Gary Nixon, White gave his personal story of being a homosexual and a Christian. Before he gave his speech, though, White gave a warning to the crowd to be respectful and to show that we can live with our differences. He pointed to Bible passages which address homosexuality and also explored psychological studies conducted on homosexuals.

Reactions among students and faculty varied. Many expected him to focus more directly on homosexuality on Sunday night. "Sunday night wasn't what I expected," said Abert Bell of the History Department. "I expected him to address homosexuality more directly, but within the context of the series I could see what he was doing and I could see a lot of the techniques that he was using to get people to react." Berger is the Director of Religious Life Ministries in Wheaton, Ill., a group that ministers to the homosexual community as well as others that are "sexually broken." He was a practicing homosexual for five years and then experienced God's healing when stricken with AIDS-like symptoms. Over the next few years, he came out of his homosexuality. He shared his own personal testimony and encouraged dialogue and discussion.

White commended Hope for attempting to present both sides of the issue. White has been the victim of criticism for his stance, but he views the situation as nothing compared to his time in jail. He had been arrested for trespassing.

"I've never been out of the hornet's nest," White said at a Monday press conference. "This is nothing." White attempted to show that nonviolence is the approach that should be taken. He stressed love and understanding by all individuals. White also stressed continued communication in the on-going discussion of homosexuality.

"Right now we have to lower the volume of our argument. We have to quit yelling across an ever-widening chasm," White said. "We are not competing for air time, chapel attendance, for sound bites. We need to solve this." White's reception was taken well by more WHITE on 7

Religious Life Committee revises wording

Panel to foster discussion on homosexuality

These differences were at the heart of a debate that went on in the Religious Life Committee. It was an issue that was left over from last year's committee.

"It was discussed in the previous committee and it has been a hold over from previous years," RLC Chair Geoffrey Reynolds said. The question is what kind of students should be included in the membership of the RLC. If Hope is a Christian college it might be argued that it should only include Christian students affiliated with Christian organizations. If it is a liberal arts college taught in the Christian context, perhaps it should be more encompassing.

"Religion is an all encompassing word," Reynolds said. Since some of the student religious groups on campus, like the Ministry of Christ People, who no longer exist, and had representation on the RLC the committee decided to change its membership.

The dispute began over what students should be allowed to participate on the RLC. It stands currently that...
Ore calls for acceptance with personal testimony

ERIN HUBBARD
staff reporter

As the tension on campus concerning homosexuality continued to rise, Tracey Ore (‘84) spoke on her personal experience as a lesbian on Thursday, March 11 in the Mas Auditorium.

“I’m not trying to convince you of anything, my goal is that everyone get a better understanding of homosexuality,” she said in her talk. “I’m hoping I can learn something and hopefully you will too.”

The talk of Ore’s personal experience lasted for 20 minutes and then the floor opened up for questions. Ore was eager to engage the audience and heard the numerous viewpoints.

Katie Paarlberg (‘02) had a chance to speak with Ore afterwards.

“I think that she was an excellent speaker,” Paarlberg said. “She was very articulate and got right to the point, presenting her beliefs but she was not accusatory. Afterwards she came and hung out with us. She made herself available for discussion.”

Ore feels that, although she is the key to talking about homosexuality,

Ore discovered her sexual orientation after just three months at Hope College. She was a freshman when she fell in love with another woman.

“I spent the next four years trying to make that not be the case,” she said.

In an effort to come to terms with her sexual orientation, Ore wrote a paper for her senior seminar. In it she discussed what it means to be a Christian and gay. She received criticism from her fellow students. That was just the beginning of Ore’s negative experience.

When one of her partners attempted suicide, Ore went to the Counseling Center for support, not for herself but for her friend. The counselors dismissed the suicide and Ore’s partner. They told Ore that she was “sick” and that she was the one who needed help.

Despite all of this, Ore reflects positively on Hope.

“What I learned at Hope College was that the student really matters, and that learning really matters,” she said.

Ore did have some positive experiences and some of these were with the chaplain staff.

“Once when the student in making up the class absence, or to discuss the negative impact of such absences with the student, so that the student may make the wisest choice.”

The new policy explains that the instructor is asked to cooperate with the student in making up the class absence, or to discuss the negative impact of such absences with the student, so that the student may make the wisest choice.

The policy also states that if the student is not able to come to class, the teacher is “encouraged to make an effort to accommodate the student.”

Students expressed a variety of viewpoints concerning the policy.

“If you have to choose between two classes, I think the teacher should be more lenient, because it is still involving school when you miss class for another class,” said Nicole Wild (‘02).

Some students felt it important that the administration allow for absences.

“I think that this policy is a good one,” said Student Congress member Matt Scogin (‘02). “It shows that the administration here recognizes the educational importance of activities such as sporting events, field trips, or performances. Often students learn as much, if not more, through these activities than in a single class. These activities are a valuable part of the college experience, and it is commendable that our administration realizes that.”

Also included in the new policy is that the faculty should provide alternatives for activities scheduled outside of class, which were not posted in the class syllabus. In addition, faculty should provide alternatives for exams scheduled outside of class meeting times.

“This is something that could work, but there are a lot of technological difficulties with it,” said Comptroller Scott Hes (‘00). “It is something which the faculty will have to be very involved with.”

SILENT NIGHT: Amanda Schneider (‘99) spoke as students gathered for a vigil in the Pine Grove to show support of gays. The event corresponded with the testimony of Tracey Ore.

There is a definite fear of homosexuality. Twenty-one murders were committed last year due to sexual orientation.

Ore expressed her disagreement with many of the ideas presented by

more ORE on 3

Academic Affairs approves new policy

Tiffany Ripper
staff reporter

The Administrative Affairs Board passed a new attendance policy on Tuesday, March 9, which will be implemented into the 1999-2000 student handbook.

“A number of professors have their own attendance policy and this is important,” said Mauria Reynolds, Director of Advising. “Attendance is important and students need to make wise decisions in choosing whether or not to attend classes.”

Although the new policy does not differ dramatically from the old one, it does expand on a few issues.

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1997-98 Milestones will be available at the Student Union Desk on Wednesday, March 31

UNITED: Students linked arms in a human clothesline in the Pine Grove on Saturday, March 13 wearing t-shirts which encouraged others to support homosexuals and dialogue.

Human clothesline supports gays

Sara E Lamers
staff reporter

With rainbow ribbons and brightly colored t-shirts boasting messages such as “Open your mind, open your heart,” “Straight but not narrow,” and “I will not be silent,” a group of students gathered in the Pine Grove before Mario Bergner’s speech on Saturday, March 13.

Their purpose was to express their support of the homosexual community.

The “Human Clothesline” was responded to a refusal by the administration to allow select members of Women’s Issues Organizations to hang a banner in the Pine Grove.

“This was done in response to our feelings that we didn’t have a voice and wanted to show support for the gay community,” said Christine Trinh (’00). “Anyone who wanted to get involved was invited to join and the event was not sponsored by a specific student organization.”

The students stressed the fact that this was an individual effort.

The group formed a line in the Pine Grove and joined hands before entering the chapel to hear Bergner. As they entered, they were approached by Provost Jacob Nyenhuis and Duane Terpstra, Director of Public Safety, who suggested they remove the shirts.

“We were asked to take off our shirts by the Provost and Terpstra, but many of us kept them on,” said Patricia Prater (‘01). “They refused because we didn’t feel they were offensive and we were not out to hurt anyone.”

Terpstra stressed that his involvement with the speech was to ensure and maintain an orderly environment. He expressed his appreciation of the respect the students gave to Bergner.

“I am very impressed with the way they have conducted themselves,” he said. “They did what they felt was necessary and didn’t cause a disturbance and I was grateful for that.”

Amanda Schneider (‘99) understood Nyenhuis’ concerns and reason for requesting they remove the shirts.

“The Provost has been very helpful and I understood why he asked us to take off the shirts,” she said. “He did not want a hostile environment.”

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The award came as a total surprise. "They called my husband to make sure I was at the banquet," said Maxine DeBruyn, professor of dance and chair of the national and Midwest District investment committees. She is also past president of the Midwest District. In addition, she has led numerous workshops at the state, district, and national level.

"It's a wonderful award," DeBruyn said. "It's nice to be recognized for accomplishments over the years." A member of the Hope faculty since 1965, there was only one dance major offered when DeBruyn began. Since then, the dance department has grown to a full major with national certification.

"It's been a wonderful opportunity to have a vision and follow through on it," DeBruyn said. "I'm quick to point out, however, that it takes more than one person. "In a venture like this one has to have a good team. You have to be flexible and allow your vision to be incorporated into your own."

The past 25 years of the dance department were commemorated at the annual spring dance concert, Dance 25, this past weekend. There were numerous events for alumni, including a chance for many to perform at the Saturday show. With limited rehearsal time, 36 former students took the stage. This is the most people to ever perform a dance piece on the main stage of the DeViti Theatre.

"It went extremely well. We took a chance on a structured improv piece to end the Saturday program," DeBruyn said. "We had all levels. All years except Dance 5 were represented in the improv. It was a wonderful way to bring alumni back. We could reminisce beyond words through dance."

"So many people were talking about how much of a force Max and Hope College have been in their lives," Filipi said.
Student hopes speakers will preserve diversity

To the Editor:

Only a few short months ago, I listened, as a result of an invitation by our Greek Organizations, to a series of discussions regarding diversity and pluralism at Hope. From the viewpoints and opinions expressed at this event and at what I feel was the very nature of the event, I was under the impression that Hope recognized the importance of diversity and pluralism in the college experience. But it seems to me that Hope must acknowledge the existent of diversity and pluralism that is occurring within our college and its institution, and as a result, make Hope a conducive setting for the expression of such themes.

While I believe that Hope has in the past done an adequate, if not excellent, job of fostering diversity and pluralism, the recent actions of students in voting to rescind the invitation to Dr. Mel White, which was open to all, does not conform to the kind of viewpoint that is expressed in the theme of diversity and pluralism which Hope College has decided to give to the campus this weekend.

Fear of homosexuals clear at Hope, student says

As I pinned on my rainbow ribbon this weekend, it occurred to me that wearing it was a bit redundant. I tell the world that the wearer believes that all people, I was a little stunned to learn that some people gay and others say they are created equal. In still other words, the wearer believes that all people, including myself, are created equal. In still other words, the wearer believes that all people, including myself, are created equal. In still other words, the wearer believes that all people, including myself, are created equal.

I am immediately saddened when I see the tears of all those who are expressing their own fear about human sexuality. Did God ever tell us what was right or wrong in terms of sexuality? If there is a wrong, why did He create some people gay and others straight? If there is biological, as natural as skin color, intelligence and heterosexuality.

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Student's father urges faculty to present all sides of an issue

To the Editor:

I am concerned about the lack of effort on the part of most of the faculty at this institution to look at all sides of an issue in the classroom. Everyone on campus seems so concerned about how the Chaplain's Department presents the orthodox Christian perspective on issues such as religious diversity or homosexuality that I think one point many on support for Ben Patterson and his position is to share my concern. I am a Christian student at Hope College, which I believe to be a conservative Christian institution in the context of the Christian faith. The college is also affiliated with the Reformed Church in America.

Outside perspective reasons for other viewpoints needed on campus

To the Editor:

I just finished reading the March 10, 1999 issue of the Anchor. I would like to present an outside perspective on a few of the current campus events that were discussed in this issue.

Hope is a private, liberal arts college, which offers an undergraduate education in the context of the Christian faith. The college is also affiliated with the Reformed Church in America. I would not agree with including a new line for religious beliefs on the application for admission, should Hope be expected to do this? Is it not clear to the applicant that Christian beliefs predominate the student population at Hope? I believe it is critical thinking in the context of the Christian faith.

When I was a student at Hope, I found more of the traditional attitudes back in place near Patterson not his staff have every discussed homosexuals as a group which they're alleged tainting homosexual people. To the best of my understanding they merely make a stance on the student, faculty and staff. I think they're making a stance on drunkenness, obesity, drugs, stealing, etc.

Outside perspective questions reasons for other viewpoints needed on campus

To the Editor:

I am sure many people on campus have some opinions to express about the Chaplain's Office series entitled "Setting Love in Order" and the issues surrounding it. In writing this letter I hope to eliminate the spirit hostility that usually accompanies these letters, as hostility only worsens the situation. I was present at the gathering when the topics of both homosexuality and broken issues were discussed, as well as the "tongue" sessions during community hour on Tuesday. I admire the Chaplain's staff for the latter event, as it demonstrated a step towards reconciliation on their part. However, I was slightly disturbed by the gathering and would like to comment on this issue.

First, I would like to recognize the noticeable effect on the part of the Chaplain's staff in maintaining a non-confrontational atmosphere. I have noticed that their attitude was very different than to what I am normally accustomed in Chapel. However, I found more of the traditional attitudes back in place near the end of the message. I believe that we need to look at this issue in a different light, in order to get there, we must discuss other issues first.

The first and most critical question we need to ask ourselves is that of the purpose of the series. Hope serve with regard to the church, doctrine and faith? We have spoken with many people on this topic, and for the most part, many different answers as there are people ranging from a place for discourse in church doctrine to a place where the church adheres to its views. The fact that many opinions of our purpose circulate on campus can be both beneficial and detrimental to us as a community. Different opinions and ideas can lead to growth in many ways, but when given the same weight and given positions with a sense of exclusivity, conflict and hostility are the two most common results. I think we need to re-examine and re-evaluate our positions on this issue. As it currently stands, Hope, the Reformed Church in America and the two other RCA colleges have a covenant relationship. In this "Covenanter" view of homosexuality I would then share my Biblical understanding of the situation. I will not judge them as I hope they will never judge me.

Outside perspective questions reasons for other viewpoints needed on campus

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What makes Hope distinctive and special is its unabashed Christian stance. Without it, how is Hope remarkably different than any public university?

Sophomore challenges campus community rethink position of homosexuality and sexuality

To the Editor:

I challenge you to take up this path. I challenge you to re-read old familiar texts with new eyes, to take the higher road of thinking and communion with God. I challenge you to leave the comfort of the well-worn old doctrine and re-evaluate it according to both our individual and communal walk with God, that we might live more in the light. I challenge you to remember that it is our brands as clubs to those who disagree.

Andrew Nardone (’91)
Opinion

Union of Catholic Students offers perspective on homosexuality issue

To the Editor:

The Union of Catholic Students (UCS) would like to express its support of the discussion continuing on this campus by explaining the current viewpoint of homosexuals.

In accordance with the mission of UCS meets Thursdays from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. in Graves President's Room. Feel free to e-mail us at ucschope@hotmail.com with any questions or comments.

Senior calls arguments against the Chaplains staff "opinion-based and not Biblical fact"

Vicoria Sprague ('99) 
Reina Vendramini ('99)

To the Editor:

Arguments against the Chaplain's stance on homosexuality are based on opinion and not Biblical fact. They fail to recognize that the message of Scripture is clear: "Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion." (Rom. 1:26-27). This is not something new or unusual. Even the very discussion of homosexuality is quite complex. It is imperative that we take a step back from our own emotions and discern ourselves from our condition to better understand how the issue of homosexuality might be approached.

As representatives of the Union of Catholic Students, we would like to express our support of the discussion continuing on this campus by explaining the current viewpoint of homosexuals.

Christ wouldn't have been complete without conviction. Not judgment, not slander, not even a dirty look - just a simply stated word of conviction, spoken in Christian love. Not judgment, but to declare; not to alienate, but to love; not to condemn, but to correct. I hope that anyone who reads these messages with an open mind will realize these subtle differences.

There isn't anyone who sits in Christ's place. Jesus said, "Go now and leave your life of sin." (Rom. 3:23). This much of the counter argument is true. But the subtlety lies in the action. The chaplains aren't throwing stones. On the contrary the staff has carefully stated the truth of scripture in Christian love, actually warning against judging homosexuals any more harshly than we judge our own - they are all equal barriers to true communion with God. But even as Christ spoke conviction without thereof, a homosexual orientation should be approached with God's will. We believe that sexual relations are reserved for same-sex relationships between a man and a woman as an expression of the love that these two share and for the purpose of procreation.

With the mission statement of UCS we seek to foster the spiritual, emotional, social and intellectual growth of our members. We also encourage members to connect with one another, the Church and most importantly Jesus Christ.

Victoria Sprague ('99) 
Reina Vendramini ('99)

March 17, 1999

Alcohol Issues Matter to student body to end aggressions

To the Editor:

I am writing this in an attempt to clear up a disproportionately common misconception among students regarding the group A.M.I. (Alcohol Issues Matter). We seem to be branded with this title of "Friday night losers." You know the words - we've all heard them: "goodby-goodies," "Grandmas little helpers," "Fun-nazis." People seem to hate us because we are the people who are preaching the evils of alcohol, and some even believe that we both the Greek system. This is ridiculous. A.M.I exists solely because we know that drinking is a common activity for students. It is our job to help try to stop the negative effects that alcohol has, and not create a little uptown campus. We certainly aren't neo-prohibitionists; we are in no way opposed to alcohol, but we don't approve of it. On the few occasions we have been present.

I think it's vital that students understand that we are not "anti-alcohol," but rather, pro-awareness and awareness. This means understanding that there do exist harmfull effects when alcohol is abused, and watching for those signs in yourself or friends. For example, in our education programs, one topic we talked about was the five stages of drunkenness, and how to handle a person in each stage. For example, we teach how to take care of a person who is passed out (stage 5) so that they won't choke on their vomit. Almost all of us have had exposure to drunk people. This information is something I wish every student had.

The main reason we do this is because we care about people the love of our students.

So please, I beg you to put an end to the assumptions about A.M.I.

Jason Ziomer ('00)

Social Coordinator, A.M.I.
Letter to the Editor

The Anchor will not be back again until April 7.

Have a great spring break, whether you dream about vacations at the or in the

- Paul Bush (91)
- Louis Canfield (91)
- Jack Holmes
- Sally Smith
- Joel Toppen
- Dave Vanauptal (91)
- Model U.N. Staff

The hundreds of students who hosted students on Thursday were most helpful as was the staff of the College.

This program is a team effort, and we appreciate the help of each and every person involved. Thank you.

Courts Buchanan ('00)

Opinion

March 17, 1999

your voice.

The Anchor

The 1999 Hope College Model United Nations worked exceptionally well. We know that this would not have been the case without the excellent support and cooperation of hundreds of persons in our community. Given the size of the program, it is not possible for each of us to know all that was done.

Students and faculty who worked on the program did excellent work. The approximately 1000 persons who attended the conference had good learning experiences and were favorably impressed with the hospitality of the Hope Community.

Letter reprinted

Editor's Note: This letter ran in the March 10 issue of the Anchor, but due to editorial error the complete letter did not run. Here is the complete letter:

To the Editor:

I have become very concerned with the atmosphere in which the topic of homosexuality has 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 believe that homosexuality is not a sin continue to believe so (sometimes even more fervently) while those who feel it is a sin do the same. Homosexuality is a very delicate subject, which Christians feel very strongly about, and is split on both sides of.

What I encourage everyone on this campus to do regardless of what your personal feelings on the issue are, is to sit back and listen to what the "other" has to say. It is easy to assume things about the other side. However, this is a time when more questions need to be asked, and fewer answers need to be sought. As Christians, I think we need to seek the "us" instead of the "them." Christ calls us to remember that we are all Christians regardless of where we stand on this issue.

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The 1999 Hope College Model United Nations worked exceptionally well. We know that this would not have been the case without the excellent support and cooperation of hundreds of persons in our community. Given the size of the program, it is not possible for each of us to know all that was done.

Students and faculty who worked on the program did excellent work. The approximately 1000 persons who attended the conference had good learning experiences and were favorably impressed with the hospitality of the Hope Community.

Letter reprinted

Editor's Note: This letter ran in the March 10 issue of the Anchor, but due to editorial error the complete letter did not run. Here is the complete letter:

To the Editor:

I have become very concerned with the atmosphere in which the topic of homosexuality has 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 believe that homosexuality is not a sin continue to believe so (sometimes even more fervently) while those who feel it is a sin do the same. Homosexuality is a very delicate subject, which Christians feel very strongly about, and is split on both sides of.

What I encourage everyone on this campus to do regardless of what your personal feelings on the issue are, is to sit back and listen to what the "other" has to say. It is easy to assume things about the other side. However, this is a time when more questions need to be asked, and fewer answers need to be sought. As Christians, I think we need to seek the "us" instead of the "them." Christ calls us to remember that we are all Christians regardless of where we stand on this issue.

Jack Holmes

The 1999 Hope College Model United Nations program was a team effort, and we appreciate the help of each and every person involved. Thank you.

The Anchor will not be back again until April 7.

Have a great spring break, whether you dream about vacations at the or in the

- Paul Bush (91)
- Louis Canfield (91)
- Jack Holmes
- Sally Smith
- Joel Toppen
- Dave Vanauptal (91)
- Model U.N. Staff

The hundreds of students who hosted students on Thursday were most helpful as was the staff of the College.

This program is a team effort, and we appreciate the help of each and every person involved. Thank you.

Courts Buchanan ('00)

Opinion

March 17, 1999

your voice.

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Growing Older, Not Growing Up

Members of Hope College become kids again as they rediscover the world of toys

CARRIE ARNOLD
JULIE GREEN
spotlight editors

Spotlight

March 17, 1999

Toys: they’re for everyone, not just children, but the very thought of taking a person back to childhood.

 Anyone can find amusement in the Sandcastle Toy Store in downtown Holland, from adults to babies, including Hope College students. Even store manager Meg Johnston (‘96) McGill enjoys the toys. "We play, too. When it’s quiet," McGill said.

 McGill began working for the Sandcastle when it opened in 1993, when she was freshman at Hope. It was so much fun for her that she found she had to come back after she got married. Her younger sister, Martha Johnston, shared the family trait for fun and toys and began working there a year ago.

 A career involving toys isn’t that hard to find if one is willing to look. Wendy Sturrus, Lichley Hall Resident Director, doubles as a preschool teacher at Zion Lutheran.

 "I love playing with the toys and I love playing with the kids," Sturrus said. "The funny thing with toys is that I’ll buy something and I’ll think they’ll love it and then they won’t.

 While Sturrus recognizes how much fun toys can be, she also recognizes their potential educational value.

 "Kids can’t really tell the difference, but you can make most any toy educational!," Sturrus said. "That’s the beauty of toys- kids don’t know they’re learning."

 One doesn’t need a job with toys to be an expert in the subject, as Doreen Baltz, Gilmore Hall Resident Director, found out. The mother of a daughter, Caleb, 1, she knows all about kids and toys, too.

 "If we get two pieces from the McDonald’s set, [Emma] wants the whole collection," Baltz said. "We’re very careful about what we get into?"

 The most popular toy at the preschool, according to Baltz, are Legos. But there are a lot of close runners-ups.

 "We have a sand table-they love to play that, dress-up clothes and puzzles, are probably their favorite," she said.

 These three and four-year-olds aren’t picky for name-brand toys, yes.

 "We have a lot of toys that are games that I make up," Sturrus said. One inventive example is using shaving cream on a table top and RLC from 1

 there are three Student Congress members and one from each of the Fellowship of Christian students and Union of Catholic Students.

 In the debate it was discussed that only students from Christian organizations would be allowed participation with the Student Congress members. This was rejected when the group unanimously decided membership changes that would be proposed to the Administrative Affairs board would be more encompassing.

 This proposal gives representation to each of the religious organizations on campus.

 One member will be from FCS and UCS, excluding Refuge in Spiritual Expression, three members to Student Congress, one to be appointed by the Chaplin’s office and one to be decided by the Religion department.

 But they’re the same. They always will be.

 --Meg Johnston (‘96) McGill

 "The good toys are still the same-the classics. They won’t ever change. They’re the same. They always will be."

 They’re hugely impacted by commercials on TV. They watch more than I did," she said.

 In order to counter this growing trend, Baltz has devised some solutions.

 "At Christmas, we open one present a day for a week," Baltz said. "This helps them enjoy what they have more."

 "Sometimes, after they get a lot of new stuff, I’ll put a box of their old toys away in the closet for six months, and then let them rediscover it," Baltz said. "A lot of times, they use the toys for a completely different purpose than they used to.

 Even though Belz is concerned about materialism, she is still optimistic about children’s usage of toys.

 "I’ll hear [Emma] use some of the same phrases, the way she manipulates things," Baltz said. "They still haven’t lost their sense of creativity."

 "I don’t think toys are of the same quality. Ones used to last through 6 kids. Now some of the plastic stuff doesn’t last a week," Baltz said. "But you can still find the good stuff."

 McGill agrees. "The good toys are still the same-classics. They won’t ever change. They’re the same. They always will be."
Sufjan Stevens releases solo album

BEN DOWNIE
staff reporter

Sufjan Stevens ('98), has just released his first solo album, called "A Sun Came." The album consists of 18 songs, ranging from acoustic ballads and spoken pieces to heavier pop rock. Instrumentally the album is laden with drums, bass, piano, and a variety of recorders, all of which Stevens plays.

"I started playing the recorder in middle school. I learned it from my mum tricked me into thinking it was just like a trombone," Stevens said. "Then I learned the piano from ear by listening to my sister's boy band Californication."

And the list goes on. "In middle school I learned the voice when my mum tricked me into thinking it was just like a trombone," Stevens said. "Then I ended up playing the oboe, the Interlochen and really learning how to do it well.""It wasn't until college that Sufjan first picked up the guitar. And with the guitar came the bass, and finally..." Stevens played all of these instruments on the album. However, the large variation of instrumentation isn't what gave him problems once recording began. "I spent more time doing the vocals than all of the music put together," Stevens said.

The majority of songs on the album have their origin on Stevens's acoustic guitar last summer. After first writing the music, he then wrestled with lyrics. "Some mornings is the hardest for me to do, and it's the least important," he said. "Sometimes I find it very difficult to place a concept or a political view, or a religious message, over something so aesthetic like a piece of music."

Stevens's favorite songs on the album are "Deorritos," and "The oracle said wander," which are two heavier cuts of the bunch. "I like those because they're more pop rockish, and because they were totally improvisational," he said.

Formerly of the band Marziko, he was doing a lot of my songs. But by the end, everyone was contributing, and I think the songs reflect that." Stevens said.

"They were great musicians and great friends. I haven't recognized them," Stevens said. "Though 'A Sun Came' is on the Arstastic Kitty Records label, Stevens has no immediate plans for promotion or touring. 'I might play some small clubs around here, but nothing big," he said."I'm making this album, my main motivation was not to take it seriously. At this point, writing songs is just more of a hobby."

Stevens's prime focus right now is on his graduate work in the New School University, where he's working on a book. "It's a collection of short stories, and though I'm only about a quarter of the way through it, it'll hopefully be finished in about two years," he said.

Along with working a job at Penguin books, Sufjan is keeping an eye on campus, "I've learned a lot from the other things we are discussing right now, and I think this is no ordinary exhibit. For art professor Delbert Michel, "It's a little like sending my kids off for a long vacation," said Michel. "I don't know when I'll get to see my paintings back - probably not for another two years."

"It's a collection of short stories, and though I'm only about a quarter of the way through it, it'll hopefully be finished in about two years," he said. With a lot more to write, "I've learned a lot from the other things we are discussing right now, and I think this is no ordinary exhibit."

S. STEVENS

"A Sun Came"

VWS resumes after break

Two women writers will read their works as part of the Visiting Writers Series on Monday, March 22. The reading will begin at 7 p.m. It will be preceded by a performance by the Hope College Jazz Ensemble, which will begin at 6:30 p.m. The event will be held at the Knickerbocker Theatre. Admission is free.

Two prestigious awards have recently been awarded to Mary Jo Bang for her debut book of poems, "Apology for Wain." Her poetry has also been published in The New Yorker and The Atlantic Monthly.

Currently a professor at Yale, Bang is also poetry co-editor of the Brown Review. She has degrees from Northwestern University, Westminster University (London), and Columbia University. Bang's poetry is described as dark, inventive, and unflinched. "Simple and originally great," has been used to describe Jessie Lee Kercheval's books. Bang will be joined by Kercheval at the reading.

Kercheval has written short stories, a novel, and her memoirs. Born in France and raised in Ohio, Kercheval now teaches writing at the University of Wisconsin-in Madison. She is director of the Writing Institute there. Kercheval's work has also been recognized and she has received a number of awards. Her work is published in magazines in the U.S., England, Japan, and Australia.

WVS resumes after break

MARCH 17, 1999

MEREDITH CARE
staff reporter

For art professor Delbert Michel, two years of planning and organizing will culminate in an art exhibit that begins May 2 and runs through October 3.

However, this is no ordinary exhibit. Michel's art will be on display in the Netherlands, at the Galerie and Skulpturenpark. This means that Michel's works may not return to the United States for quite a while.

"I didn't realize how much work would go into an exhibition like this," said Michel. "I've learned a lot."

One year ago, Michel visited the Galerie and Skulpturenpark and was offered the opportunity to display his paintings there. Some of Lintergen's sculptures will be displayed outdoors at the Galerie and Skulpturenpark at the same time as Michel's paintings, making the museum an exhibition to be seen from two angles. "It's a sort of project for the tour."

"I've enjoyed reaching out beyond my own world and being able to show my work to another culture," Michel said. "My work has a lot to do with travel and other cultures, anywhere."

"A Sun Came"

ACROSS THE WATERS: Art professor Delbert Michel has sent paintings to the Netherlands as part of the exhibit "The Two Hollands." The display runs Monday, March 22 through May 2.

The Galerie and Skulpturenpark was formerly a farm estate. Outdoor sculptures are displayed on the rolling hills and ponds, and houses and barns have been converted into galleries with large and open spaces. Thirty-eight of Michel's paintings will be on display in one of these barns at the gallery.

Following the exhibition at the Galerie and Skulpturenpark, "The Two Hollands" show could travel to other galleries in the Netherlands. This means that Michel's works may not return to the United States for quite a while.
BERGNER from 1 encouraged his audience to look to Jesus for the healing of their own sexuality.

Bergner’s visit has stirred some controversy among the community. “I’ve not been surprised that there has been a definite and angry reaction. I have been very pleased with the behavior of students. That has been very good. “I think he had some good points,” said Jennifer Polsgrove (’99). “I think he had some good points.”

Several students also felt his personal testimony to be inspirational. “As a Christian, and I realize that the term means many things, I thought the message that everyone can be healed was a powerful one and I am glad that I could hear it and that students could hear it as well,” said Marc Baer of the History Department.

At the end of his message he invited the audience to seek healing. “I was bothered by the way he suggested people leave at nine,” Bell said. “I was there to see what was presented and was not there in favor or opposition to him.”

Many agreed with Baer and felt the message was an important one. “I think he was graceful with his teaching as anyone I have heard on the subject,” said Emily Ralering (’99). “I trust that God has worked through his life and experiences to teach others. I agree with his positions.”

Others expressed their concern with the information and viewpoints he presented. “I think he had some good points,” said Jennifer Polsgrove (’99). “I think he had some good points.”

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Spring in Winter

It is the middle of March students are preparing for their trips south for Spring Break and spring sports teams have been practicing since the coldest month of the year.

In the coldest month of winter, when the ground is blanketed in snow, and drizzly rains from colds, our Hope athletes have been preparing for the last of the sports seasons, spring. There are no flowers, yet, there is sunshine and there is bitter cold air. Every time we step outside we are reminded that there is sunshine and seasons, spring. There are no more winter and spring teams are getting ready to do there best, no more winter and spring teams are getting ready to do their best.

Flying Dutch swimmers

ANDREW KLECEZK
staff reporter

The Hope College women's swim team traveled to Oxford, Ohio last week and returned with a five place finish in the National Championships. It was the fourth time in five years that Hope finished fifth. Hope has also finished in the top ten nine of the last ten years. "We weren't expecting to do as well as we did," VanAken said. "It was really exciting to come out fifth," said Erin VanAken ('00).

VanAken performed better than expected, finishing third in the 200 freestyle and breaking an 11 year old school record and the national record. VanAken finished with a time of 1:52.58, which was three seconds faster than her best time ever. She also had the second fastest relay split in the 400 Freestyle. VanAken finished as an All-American in seven events, three individually and four in relays. Another strong performer at Nationals was Betsy Vandenberg ('01).

Vandenberg broke the national record for the 200 breaststroke by a tenth of a second. Her record breaking performance earned her a silver medal. Vandenberg also won in the 200 medley, an event that she was seeded 27th in. That seventh place highlight her best ever performance in that event (2:09.54), three seconds faster than her previous high. Vandenberg finished in an All-American in two individual events, and an honorable mention in another. She was also part of three All American relay teams: the 400 Medley, 200 Freestyle, and the 200 Medley.

Three-meter diving

Jenna Anderson ('02) and Liz VanVeldt ('02) each earned All-American status for their performances in the relay teams.

Relays

200 Freestyle 5th
Jenna Anderson ('02)
Liz VanVeldt ('02)
6th
Durant VanAken
6th
100 butterfly 10th
ErinnVanAken ('00)
6th
So freestyle 6th
100 butterfly 5th
200 freestyle 3rd
Betsy Vandenberg ('01)
200 freestyle medley 7th
100 breaststroke 10th
200 breaststroke 2nd

How they finished in Ohio

Kari Jackson ('99) in her first ever National appearance finished fifth on the one meter diving board. On the three meter board she only managed a 16 place. Head Coach John Patnott commented that her performance was, "very mature". Patnott attributed some of the team's success to mental readiness. "You have to go in there believing that you'll compete well," Patnott said.

In all Hope performed better than expected. All of the Hope swimmers exceeded their seeding, including the relays.

Relays are a key to scoring well at nationals, they are worth double the points of the individual events. Despite the fact all of the Hope relays exceeded their seeding, Patnott doesn't really see it as a surprise in other teams.

"Overall most teams expect to do well in the relays, it's just a history we've had," Patnott said. The team and Patnott are calling the meet a success. "I think there's a few individual goals that go unfulfilled, but as a team this is a higher place than I expected us to have," Patnott said. The Hope College women's swim team will only lose Jackson to graduation. No other seniors graduate.

Swimmers pack for Nationals

Men's swim team prepares for NCAA Division III Championships

ANDREW KLECEZK
staff reporter

Five members of the Hope College men's swim team will be competing this week in the National tournament in Minneapolis, Minn. Between March 18 to 20 Hope swimmers are Josh Boss ('02), one of the swimmers traveling to Nationals is seeded first in both the 100 and 200 Breaststroke.

Despite the fact Boss is favored to win both of these events Head Coach John Patnott still remains optimistic in his outlook. "First place seeding doesn't mean anything, you have to do it when you get there," Patnott said.

Boss is also down playing his first place seeding. "Just look at it as another race," said Boss. Also competing in individual events are Chris Dattells ('01), Jared Lippert ('00), and Joshua Ficke ('01). Tom Bouwens ('00) is also making the trip as a member of the relay teams.

Dattells will be competing in the 100 Breaststroke and 200 Breaststroke. He is seeded 13th and 24th respectively.

Team Co-Captain Jared Lippert will be competing in the 100 Butterfly, where he is seeded 50th. Patnott referred to the 100 Butterfly as, "one of the fastest events in the meet."

Ficke will be taking on the 50 Freestyle, a sprinting event, where he is seeded 16th.

Hope is also sending a relay team that is seeded third in the 400 Medley.

Patnott wants that the relay team will have to look out for Kenyon College, Wisconsin-Stevens's Point and Denison in that event. He also points out that the relays depend on each swimmer. Relays count for twice the points as individual events.

"All four people need to perform well," Patnott said. Coach Patnott sees some keys to the team placing well at the meet. "We'd love to place in the top 10 if all four relays place well we can," Patnott said. He also stresses the importance of getting off to a good start.

"If you can have good performances on the first day it keeps you rolling through the meet," Patnott said. The team hopes their hard work will pay off this week.

"We trained hard all season, and I think we're all prepared mentally and physically," Dattells said.

Sports

Making the trip to Minnesota

Josh Boss ('02)
100-Breaststroke
200-Breaststroke
Joshua Ficke ('01)
50-Freestyle
100-Freestyle
Chris Dattells ('01)
100-Backstroke
200-Backstroke
Jarod Lippert ('00)
100-Butterfly
Relay Competition
200-Freestyle
400-Freestyle
200-Medley
400-Medley

relay team members

Josh Boss, Tom Bouwens ('00), Chris Dattells, Joshua Ficke, Jarod Lippert

Ohio with fifth place finish

How they finished in Ohio

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Orientation assistant applications due April 1.

Return them to Student Development.

Join my team. Eat nuts.
Springsportsunderwayaswintercomes toend

Rewind to '98 season
• MIAA Champions
• Third Championship in Five years
• School Record 25 Victories
• NCAA Division III Tournament
• MIAA most valuable player Mike McKean ('98)
• Five Players Named to All-MIAA First Team
• Season on a high note

During their upcoming Spring Trip, March 19 through 25, Hope will play some of the same teams that played in the NCAA tournament last year.

'Fittingly,' said Steve Gorno, head coach of the tennis team.

The Flying Dutchmen have been looking for a large upset throughout the season.

'Far west zones' are going to be a tough match for us,' said Gorno. 'We have to work things out by the end of the season.'

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