MARATHON SETS RECORD

Shannon Craig

As 2006-07 school year approaches its end, academic depart- ments are preparing for next year. The 2007-2008 academic year will see two new minors as well as changes to both the political science and management majors.

The CrossRoads Project recently announced the creation of a new studies in ministry minor. The minor is intended for students who seek to enter Christian ministry. Required course work will consist of already existing curriculum as well as new ministry courses.

“The idea behind this minor has been circulating within the Hope community for quite a few years,” said Kristen Johnson, associate director of the CrossRoads Project. “The original idea was for a certificate of ministry program that would supplement the current religion major. The CrossRoads Project has been working with an advisory committee since March 2005 to bring the idea to life.”

“The process of planning the certificate,” she continued, “became clear that an interdisciplinary minor was a more appropriate option for our students,” Johnson said. “This studies in ministry minor is a pilot minor – it will be piloted for three years and then we will evaluate the minor to see whether it ought to continue.”

A new leadership minor is also being introduced in fall 2007. This new minor comes from the Center for Faithful Leadership, which began in 2005 under the directorship of Douglas Koopman (’79), former Hope professor of political science.

“The purpose of the minor and the leadership program is to help students discover and nurture their leadership gifts,” said Steve VanderVeen, interim director of the center “exists to nurture, enable and promote campus-wide efforts to develop leadership gifts in Hope students.”

The leadership minor will require 20 credits, including four core courses and a four-credit internship. Students will also be required to engage in two leader- ship-oriented service activities, cohort group activities and four credits of a leadership-focused independent study in their major or minor.

“It’s not a negative stigma of seeking help is starting to disappear,” Gray said.

When students visit the counseling center, they have a number of options and services.

“With six people on staff, we feel like we have someone to connect with everyone,” Gray said.

The counseling center includes psychologists, social workers, a substance abuse specialist and a nutritionist on staff. Evening hours are offered on Tuesday through Thursday for busy stu- dents. Other services include alcohol education classes and relaxation exercises every day at 8 p.m. open to anyone.

During Michigan winters, Seasonal Affective Disorder can be a problem. Winter-time does cause the blues, it is possible to sit under the sun lamp at any time.

“All are welcome to visit or call the center at 616-395-7945 any time.”

“We like to say our motto is no problem is too big or too small for you to come to us,” Gray said.
2008 REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTIAL HOPEFULS

Brian McLellan
Staff Writer

Through a good deal of attention has been given to Democratic presidential hopefuls, Republicans are also gearing up for next year’s presidential election. According to Jack Holmes, Hope College professor of political science, the three primary contenders for the Republican nomination are Mitt Romney, Rudy Giuliani and John McCain.

Mitt Romney is the former governor of Massachusetts, whose term expired this past January. He did not seek re-election.

In February, Romney announced his candidacy for the Republican presidential nomination. Hope professor of political science Jeff Polet weighed in on some of Romney’s strengths.

“(Romney) could have broad appeal in the general election based upon his successes as a Republican in a Democratic state,” Polet said. “He seems to work well with the opposite party. He has staked out a rather conservative position on issues important to evangelical voters. He has a broad and solid organization in place.”

However, Romney also has his weaknesses.

“He is vulnerable to charges that he has flip-flopped on issues to appease conservative constituencies. He’s a Mormon, and (I am) not sure how that will play with voters. It won’t help,” Polet said.

Rudy Giuliani was the mayor of New York City in 2001, when the Sept. 11 attacks occurred. According to both Holmes and Polet, the fact that he has run a large city is one of Giuliani’s key advantages.

“(Giuliani) is highly regarded as a result of his tenure in New York, particularly post-9/11,” Polet said.

However, Giuliani is “not particularly Republican,” Polet said. “His (liberal) stance on social issues will render him irrelevant.”

John McCain, the senior senator from Arizona, is the third main contender for the Republican nomination. Like the others, McCain has both strengths and weaknesses.

“McCain’s strength is that he thinks for himself to a greater extent than most of these peers. The weakness is that this can alienate blocks of voters,” Holmes said.

“He’s been a loyal (Republican),” said Holmes. “He has high name recognition, and has a reputation for straight-shooting and integrity,” Polet said.

“&quot;A decorated war hero, (McCain is) someone who comes off as fairly moderate.”

According to Polet, McCain’s greatest weakness is his support of the war in Iraq, which “could really cost him in the general election.”

The question remains which Republican candidate would be most likely to win the general election if he receives the Republican presidential nomination.

Holmes did not name the candidate he thought had the best chances at being elected, though he did say that “governors and mayors (like Romney and Giuliani) have a better chance to get elected than do senators (like McCain and Democratic competitors Clinton, Obama, and Edwards).”

Polet also shared his opinion on the matter.

“Probably McCain. He’ll have to tack to the right to win the nomination, and back to the left to win the election. He’s shown that he is comfortable tacking, in part because he doesn’t have a well-defined set of core principles. He is the least flawed of the (Republican) candidates in the field,” Polet said.

POLITICAL COMMENTATOR DRAWS NO LINE

Ann Coulter refers to Edwards with derogatory remark, no apology given yet.

Gordie Fall
Staff Writer

In the last decade, political commentators have become increasingly controversial and outrageous. Ann Coulter, a conservative pundit, has a track record for pushing the limits of what Americans can proverbially digest.

Recently, she may have pushed the limits of decency a bit too far with one comment at a major conservative convention.

Coulter indirectly referred to Democratic presidential candidate John Edwards as a “faggot,” when concluding her speech.

The offensive remark has created a huge uproar in both liberal and conservative circles, with such varied names as Howard Dean, Sen. Edward Kennedy, Sen. John McCain, and Rudy Giuliani condemning Coulter’s words.

Edwards called the comment “un-American and indefensible” and has tried to raise $100,000 in so-called “Coulter Cash” as protest.

Coulter, however, has not only refused to apologize, but has merely made more offensive comments in response.

“I’m so ashamed, I can’t stop laughing!” Coulter said on her website.

This led to further protests, as companies such as Verizon pulled advertising from her website and newspapers, such as The Oakland Press of Michigan, dropped her syndicated column.

Verizon, in its announcement, stated that “per our policy, the networked website ad purchases are supposed to be stripped of certain kinds of websites. This one could be considered an extreme political website, should be off the list, and now it is off the list.”

Coulter has had a track record of possible insensitivity and bigotry over the years. Comments on issues related to Sept. 11 widows, the Middle East, Democratic voters and others have led to repeated protests and demonstrations. However, all of these insensitive remarks have also led to publicity for her speaker, granting credibility to the adage “there’s no such thing as bad press.”

While some feel that Coulter’s career will survive this controversy, others feel that America and its citizens will begin to reject the type of extremist rhetoric that Coulter and others on both sides of the political spectrum have peddled over the years.

However, only time can tell if this type of speech will be discredited by fellow Americans.

After this recent controversy, there will be one key barometer of Ann Coulter’s staying power: the sales numbers of her next book.

REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES - Presidential candidates (left to right) Rudy Giuliani, Mitt Romney and John McCain.

News Brief
MODEL U.N. MEETS ON CAMPUS

On March 8 and 9, Hope College sponsored the 35th annual Model United Nations conference. More than 800 students and faculty from approximately 35 high schools participated. The high schoolers were housed on campus in the dorm rooms of student volunteers.

Students acted as delegates of the 191 nations of the United Nations and discussed incarcerated children, global warming, child marriage, global poverty and other current issues.

Simulating international organizations began even before the birth of the United Nations, when students held a series of Model League of Nations in the 1920s.

Photos courtesy White House/Giulani

35 high schools participated. The 35th annual Model United Nations conference.

March 29, 2007

PHM 350 is a 3-credit undergraduate course for students who have a biology and chemistry background and who want to learn more about the interaction of drugs on living organisms.

This course is particularly helpful to students who will be pursuing medical, dental, or veterinary degrees, or students interested in biomedical or pharmaceutical research and development.

For more information, email us at msuphmol@msu.edu or call Dr. Peter Cobbett 517/353.7145.
**Upcoming Events in Art**

**Wednesday March 14 & 28**

Coffeehouse Entertainment 9-11 p.m. Klotz. Sponsored by SAC.

**Sunday March 25**

Spring Break Praise Service 9:30 a.m. Dimnent Chapel.

**Monday March 26**

Chapel Choir Home Concert 8:30 p.m. St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church. Admission free.

**Thursday March 29**

Departmental Student Recital Noon. Wichers Auditorium.

**Friday March 30**

Film: “Dreamgirls”
March 30 & 31: 7:30 p.m., midnight; April 3 & 5:30 p.m. Wichers Auditorium, $2. Sponsored by SAC.

Tutti String Quartet 7 p.m. Dimnent Chapel.

Contemporary Motions 9 p.m. Rehearsal Studio.

**Saturday March 31**

Senior Recital: Eric Bourassa, guitar 2 p.m. Wichers Auditorium.

Moving Arts Dance Company 9 p.m. Seiberth Auditorium, $17 general admission; students/seniors $5.

**Visiting Pianist Teaches Master Class**

If music is the food of love, then Hope College students were well fed. March 8, when a piano master class was held in Wichers Auditorium.

Led by Portuguese pianist Alexandra Mascolo-David, the students who played were able to improve their technique.

The master class was a follow up to her performance on Wednesday evening in Dimnent Chapel. Mascolo-David currently teaches piano at Central Michigan University in Mount Pleasant.

Prior to this, she taught master classes and performed throughout Europe, Asia and North and South America.

**Moby Dick Read-a-Thon**

The American Literature I class taught by Professor David Kloster is organizing a read-a-thon of the American classic Moby Dick. The read-a-thon will take place March 30-31.

**Spring Break Music Tours**

Hope College Chapel Choir will be heading to the East Coast for its annual spring break tour with performances in New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania between March 16 and March 22. The choir will visit six cities before presenting its post-tour home concert at St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church on March 26.

The Symphonette will tour Europe in May with performances in Munich, Salzburg and Prague in addition to other cities. Linda Dykstra, soprano and associate professor of music, will accompany the group as a soloist.

**Tara Kuhnlein**

**Sister Wyszynski**

Anele Rubin is the recent winner of the 2004 Tom Wick Poetry Prize as well as the 2006 Great Lakes Colleges Associations New Writers Award for her new book of poems, “Trying to Speak.”

Along with fellow poet Mary-Ann Starnin, Rubin gave a reading Tuesday, March 13 as a part of the Jack Ridl Visiting Writers Series at the Knickerbocker Theatre.

“I was delightfully shocked!” Rubin exclaimed with a big smile, in response to receiving her highly respected awards. She is inspired by countless authors including William Blake, Ralph Waldo Emerson, and W. H. Auden.

Rubin has received two degrees in writing, one from Louisiana State University and one from New York University.

When asked about how she writes, Rubin explained, “I am always trying. There is a desire to put into words what I want to say. I have to use concrete words to describe spiritual and transcendent thoughts to bring my writing to a higher level.”

Rubin enjoys writing early in the morning when she awakes and always writes outdoors.

“When I’m in New York, I like to write in the botanical garden or in the Brooklyn Promenade; however, the Mid-West has always been good to me. I have always enjoyed writing by the water. I sometimes feel trapped when I’m in the city,” Rubin said.

Her writing is very personal. “It comes from my own thinking and my own being. I don’t start writing from any sort of theory,” Rubin said.

She also added that her writing takes on earthy detail that crosses over and brings readers to a higher, more spiritual and transcendent place. Rubin offers advice for aspiring writers.

“You can’t write everything at once. Take each moment at a time. Think of yourself as a visual artist,” Rubin said. “Your thoughts and feelings will be reflected in your writing.”

**Nathan Allen**

**Anele Rubin Reads for VWS**

About a girl who returns to her rural hometown in Illinois as she recovers from a great tragedy. A train hit a school bus and killed the entire senior class of the town school. The townspeople soon discover that she has magical powers and questions if she was involved in the accident. The show delves into many more subcategories such as self-identity, social normalcy and acceptance.

Allen also has a show that is playing at Northlight Theatre in Skokie, IL, called “The Great and Terrible Wizard of Oz.” Allen recently cast “The Rose and the Rime,” a collaborative creation with the cast members. It opens April 20 in the DeVitt Theatre. Allen’s residency begins on March 28 and he will stay through the opening night of the show.

Last Friday afternoon, I met Nathan Allen in the Kletz for an interview. He is a very warm and intelligent man, and when I left, my day was significantly better.

**Anchor:** What kind of things do you do at The House that you are hoping to incorporate with your project here at Hope?

**Nathan Allen:** We’re young, we are young people and a young company. We are figuring out how to be an ensemble and how to honestly work as a group and not as a corporate structure. We find that by working together the ideas get cross-pollinated, and we find that we get chocolate in each other’s peanut butter. I hope what I can bring here is that students can really learn how to work together. It should be passionate, difficult and emotional.

**Anchor:** One major concern of students in the theatre department is that their audiences are always the same. How are you and your cast going to change that?

**Nathan Allen:** More than I expect to do a House show here, my intent is to help this group find ways to talk not as a corporate structure. We find that by working together the ideas get cross-pollinated, and we find that we get chocolate in each other’s peanut butter. I hope what I can bring here is that students can really learn how to work together. It should be passionate, difficult and emotional.

**NA:** More than I expect to do a House show here, my intent is to help this group find ways to talk

**Simon Shaheen Stuns**

**Courtenay Roberts**

**Arts Editor**

On March 9 the much-lauded Simon Shaheen Ensemble performed at Dimnent Chapel, as part of the last part of the 2006–2007 Great Performance Series. A Palestinian composer, Shaheen has been described as one of the most significant Arab musicians, performers and composers of his generation. His ensemble aims at unbridled fusion of Arab, jazz, Western classical and Latin American music. Shannon Torres (’10) was impressed with the versatility of the musicians.

“The band members played more than one instrument and would switch without missing a beat. It takes talent,” Torres said.

Others were equally impressed with Shaheen himself and the rapid fluidity of his fingers as they traversed the instruments, specifically the oud, an eastern stringed instrument of which Shaheen is a master.
Beyond the Bubble: Spring Break Missions

Alison Mills
Gow Farms

When the phrase “spring break” rolls off the tip of someone’s tongue, most people conjure up images of beaches, bars and bikinis. For around 200 Hope College students, that same simple phrase brings to mind a break from class to serve society in one of the many service trips available through the college.

According to the Campus Ministries website, “More than 20 teams will travel to urban and rural settings in national and international locations to expand their worldview and share the compassion of Jesus Christ.”

From serving in Illinois to lending a helping hand in Nicaragua, there are opportunities available for any preference.

Students headed to Gulfport, Miss., will have the chance to help rebuild homes destroyed by Hurricane Katrina. Juniors and seniors with a pre-health profession major can gain on-site experience working beside doctors, nurses and physical therapists in local family practices, adult day care and rehab centers in Amnville, Ky.

The Caribbean Christian Center for the Deaf in Montego Bay, Jamaica, will be the destination for a group of 18 students who will be working with deaf children.

“I wanted to try something I wouldn’t be able to do normally, and part of college is to go out and try new things” said Evan Dekker (’10), a student headed to Jamaica. “And...I have kind of a weakness for children.”

Other opportunities for service within the U.S. include tutoring children and working with the ministry team of Bayshore Christian Ministry in East Palo Alto, Calif.; “beach evangelism” in Pompano Beach, Fla.; providing holistic help to the Austin community on the west side of Chicago through Circle Cities; and fixing up homes and building relationships with the community of Hazel Green, Ky. Others will be working with Voice of Calvary Ministries in Jackson, Miss., on building and reconciliation projects dealing with poverty and racism; helping with Bible clubs, tutoring children, renovation projects and retail training for the Newark, N.J., area; getting involved with healthcare on an Native American reservation in Dulce, N.M.; working with inhabitants of inner-city Memphis, Tenn.; and can Republic where Young Life student leaders will help with work projects and lead activities with young adults; The Amando, a Los Ninos girl’s orphanage in Guatemala; Blue Fields City in Nicaragua to help aid the ill of the area; and Tijuana, Mexico, where students will be serving the poor and disadvantaged living there.

For more information regarding the break missions, visit the Campus Ministries website at http://grow.hope.edu.

Upcoming Elections

Elections for Student Congress cabinet positions will be taking place April 10 and 11 online. Petitions are available at the Student Congress office right off the DeWitt Student Center Lobby. Candidates for Sophomore (’10), Junior (’09) or Senior (’08) representatives will need to collect 25 signatures from their class and turn in the petitions by Thursday after spring break. Candidates for president or vice president positions will need to collect 100 signatures. Completed petitions should be returned to the Student Congress office. Applications for comptroller are also available and are due by Friday.

Pencil Sharpener Proposal

Representative David Paul (’10) from Scott Hall submitted a proposal to install a pencil sharpener in each dormitory computer lab, the “snack lounge” in the Science Center, and the first and second floor Rotundas in the Martha Miller Center. The proposal passed unanimously.

Congressional Corner

Commuter Proposal

Student Congress unanimously passed the commuter proposal last night. The proposal recommends that the software that limits the kiosk computer located in the DeWitt Student Center Lobby to Hope websites be removed. It further recommends that an additional computer and laser printer be installed in the meeting area outside of the Student Group office on the first floor of DeWitt. The computer and printer would be for general student use, but specifically for student group use.

Meeting Canceled

There will be no Student Congress meeting next week due to spring break.

1:1 (IF AT ALL) STUDENTS RESPOND TO CAMPAIGN

“I was confused at first. It’s a good idea, but I feel like most people have made up their minds. It might change half a dozen or so.” Laura Peterson (’07)

“I was heartened by the fact they’re doing it and hopefully it will change someone’s perspective.” Nicole Brace (’07)

“It think it’s a waste of paper. Students see these signs and don’t know what they mean. T-shirts and pins are cool because you can ask the people who are wearing them, but the signs aren’t effective.” Ian Lanthrop (’08)

“It’s too cryptic. It’s also unfair and selective that these signs are up, but poetry blazes are taken down by 8 a.m.” Megan Purtee (’07)

“Faculty, staff and resident life get e-mails about it, but students, especially those who live off campus, have no idea what’s going on. There are other times of year the message might be more pertinent.” Joann Colner (’08)

“I thought the images were especially striking because they’re so abstract and get you wondering. It’s not as shocking as the previous campaign, but it is a really lasting influence on Hope students as they go into spring break.” Kristen Livingston (’07)

For more information on the details of the changes in either of the majors, visit the respective department websites on KnowHope.

Majors

CFL and professor of management.

Starting next year both the political science and management majors will look a bit different. The political science major will require 36 credits rather than the current 28 credits. Of those 36 credits, 32 must be classroom hours, with the remaining four come from an internship experience. The management major and minor went through a restructur- ing of core course requirements.
Finishing strong:
Seventh annual Dance Marathon raises $116,073.98 for Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital

Photos by Photo Editor David Moore, Walker VanWagoner and Kalli Walker

Features
March 14, 2007

March 14, 2007

Up, up and away
CIT employee spends weekends racing hot air balloons

Sam Baker
Staff Writer

For most people, the word “competition” brings mental images of things such as sports and hot dog eating contests or intense card games like poker. For CIT employee Jeff Pestun (’96), the first thing that comes to mind is hot air balloons. On weekends, Pestun can be found at hot air balloon races across the Midwest. Most races occur between May and September.

Pestun began working with and flying in hot air balloons at the age of 8. With 25 years of experience, he has obtained his pilot’s license and has entered a number of competitive balloon races. However, a hot air balloon race is not a typical race format.

“Race is a little bit of a misnomer,” Pestun said. “They’re more like accuracy competitions.”

The races are usually set up to last one to four hours, and the goal is to throw a marker as close to a target as possible. Although balloon racing does not require the same degree of physical skill that is necessary for sports such as basketball, it does require its own special range of skills. The pilot must be proficient in using GPS and also have good knowledge of weather, specifically micrometeorology. Micrometeorology deals with the weather conditions of a specific area that is much smaller than those shown even on local weather reports.

“As you’re flying to that exact point, you really just care about the weather within 500, or even 100 feet of that point. The difference between 1 foot away and 100 feet away is the difference between success and failure,” Pestun said.

Pestun also enjoys the competitive aspect, as balloon racing is a small sport affording opportunities to meet and compete against the best balloon racers in the world.

For people who are interested in ballooning, Pestun suggests they contact a local company that offers balloon rides and offer to help with setup to decide whether or not ballooning is something they would enjoy.

As far as the cost of ballooning goes, Pestun said, “(the cost) is quite similar to owning a boat. The biggest difference between (ballooning) and boating is that the FAA regulates everything in ballooning.”

A license is needed to pilot most balloons and can be obtained in a variety of places by completing courses of many different lengths. Pestun suggests taking longer, more in-depth training to be fully prepared to fly a balloon.

For people with a fear of heights, Pestun said, “Flying a balloon is completely different than most height experiences. It’s not like being on a roof or in a rollercoaster. A lot of people who are normally afraid of heights have no problem in a balloon. It’s a much more stable experience.”
Down Deep
Empty moments

Jenny Cencer

Where will my byline be next year? Three more publications, three more chances to inspire, expose, exult and admire. Three more anchors to snarl through typos and pica problems with red pens like searching for salt among sand grains. It doesn’t interest me what planets are squaring your moon. I want to know if you have touched the center of your own sorrow, if you have been opened by life’s betrayals or have become shriveled and closed from fear of further pain. I want to know if you can sit with pain, mine or your own, without moving to hide it or fade it. We see nameless faces glide past the windows of our aquarium in Martha Miller everyday with the familiar worn tattered expression of “I have too much to do.” Half-finished lab reports tumble from backpacks, zippers spill scribbles from gen-ed’s long past as we strive to maintain the spring in our step until finals.

I want to know if you can live with failure, yours or mine, and still stand on the edge of the lake and shout to the silver of the full moon, “yes!”

Final. My final year and what is there to say. Regrets well up within, splintering with failures and “If I could only do that over.” Time and time again my eyes blur, fogging any sense of accomplishment or courage.

It doesn’t interest me what you or how you came to be here. I want to know if you will stand in the center of the fire with me and not shrink back. We are rarely satisfied with anything, least of all ourselves. Our comfort zones and spirit are wrenched by a world that is never safe or stable, but we haven’t gone under yet. I want to know what sustains you from the inside when all else falls away. We’ll just endure the grind and dream of kayaking to mystic realms where pressure and conformity dissipate with a sigh of relief. Grab a pack of daring comrades and rapel down ravines, into caves and the topiary wonders of the rooftop canopy. If you’re short on Lunabars then explore a new level of downtown or wander the halls of a department that you’ll never receive a grade from. Camp on the dunes. Yodel from a balcony and breathe in the sights of a bubbling town. Deadlines and fearebb away in a rivulet of promise and hope. Standing tremulously on the precipice of graduation the roar of the unknown reverberates as a twisting phantom of anticipation and marvel. How many moments are left?

I have to deny that this will last forever. There’s much more to come and endless terrain to cover.

I want to know if you can be alone with yourself and if you truly like the company of your own, without moving to hide it or fade it.

Saddam Hussein continued

To the Editor:
Two weeks have passed since The Anchor has published my previous letter, and now I am here to publish one more in regards to this case. Over the last two weeks, I have had several feedbacks; some were positive, others were negative, a sabotage attack against the copy I pasted on my dorm door and the concern about my safety from friends. Granted Saddam Hussein was not an angel, yet at the same time he was not the worst dictator in the world, unlike your ally in the Middle East, Turkey. He has killed Kurds, Shiites to control the country in steps very similar to other Arab states, most of which are your allies and friends, yet all was in the name of keeping order and unity, such that has been in effect for more than 1,400 years that provided peace. One that you have destroyed, one that is responsible for the death of 100,000 Iraqis’s and counting, where under the rule of Saddam Hussein the total death casualty was very much less than what your government with the new puppet government have achieved.

Granted that in order to maintain the unity and peace of his country, he had to use a harsh system, but name one world leader that would not have done so in their turn to maintain the peace and unity of their country. Your current president, being the general leader of your army, is responsible for the deaths of hundreds of world citizens to maintain “peace,” and during times of war, I wonder what your presidents have done to maintain peace and unity in your country, from the anti-dissenting rules to the concentration camp you set up for American Japanese.

The general idea I am trying to coin in this letter is that you are extremely mistaken about Saddam Hussein and his regime, you think he was bad when he was not as bad you think he was. You claim you had to take him down for the freedom of the Iraqi people, what about other nations oppressed by your allies? You think Saddam Hussein is just another corrupted leader that loved the ruling seat; well, I won’t deny the latter, but I will assure you he did more for Iraq than you ever did and will ever do, unless you get another Saddam Hussein to help you; study the history of Iraq and you will understand what I mean.

- George Philip Khoury (’09)
Moving Mountains

How do you measure four years in war?

Shannon Craig

Four years. That’s 208 weeks or 1,460 days or 35,440 hours or 2,102,400 minutes. A lot can happen in 2,102,400 minutes.

In four years, a student can earn a high school diploma or a college degree. A president only has four years in which to succeed or fail. By the age of four, a child can speak in full sentences and begins to form attachments to people outside of the family. The population of the United States has increased by over 12 million people in four years.

March 19 marks the fourth anniversary of U.S. invasion of Iraq. Since then, 3,192 U.S. soldiers have been killed and 24,042 have been wounded in action. Countless—and uncounted—Iraqi civilians have been displaced, wounded or killed.

I write this column not to dispute whether we should have entered Iraq four years ago or to theorize about what we should do now. Rather, I write to remember, and I ask you to join with me in remembering not only the physical wounds received or the lives lost, but also the psychological afflictions and the lives displaced.

Playwright Eve Ensler once wrote, “When we think of war, we think of it as something that happens to men in fields and jungles. We think of the moment of violence—the blast, the explosion. But war is really a consequence, the effects of which are not known or felt for months, years, generations, and because consequences are not usually televised, the consequences remain invisible.”

In the news, we only see the destruction and the soldiers in the field. Rarely do we see the child who spends the first year of his or her life without a mother or a father. Nor do we see the wounded soldier upon her or his return to the U.S. We don’t hear about the soldier who can’t adjust to being home again. And what about the families who must try to go on with their lives without the sister, son, mother, brother, father or daughter they lost?

“After the bombing, after the sniper, that’s when the real war begins,” Ensler wrote. “It is found in the broken down fabric of community, in the death of trust, in the destruction of every day patterns of living, in trauma and depression, poverty and homelessness and starvation, in the marginalization and rage of the victim, in the new violence: the traumatized soldier beating his wife, the teenage boys already plotting revenge, the ongoing panic of the children.”

So on March 19, whether you think the soldiers should be home now or if you feel we still have a job to do, please join me in remembering and reflecting upon these past four years to honor not only the sacrifices made by our service women and men at war in Iraq, but also their friends and families here at home.

Shannon Craig, the niece of a Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Air Force, enjoys eating more than you would think her slight frame could possibly hold.
**SWIMMERS TENTH AT NATIONALS**

Gordie Fall  
*Sports Editor*

The Hope College women’s swim team has placed in the top 13 at the NCAA championships since 2004. The team added to their strong history last week at the NCAA Division III championships in Houston by finishing 10th.

Hope sent nine swimmers to the meet, which was held March 8-10. Lisa Smith (‘07) earned All-American honors, along with the 400-freestyle and 800-freestyle relays.

Smith finished sixth in the 100-yard butterfly with a time of 56.67 seconds and 11th in the 200-yard butterfly with a time of 2:06.61.

Hope’s 400-yard freestyle relay received All-American status by finishing sixth and setting a school record with a time of 3:30.41. The relay consisted of Laura Ansilio (‘09), Christina Vogelzang (‘10) Trisha Meier (‘08) and Smith.

The 800-yard freestyle relay, consisting of Smith, Vogelzang, Claire Pieter (‘10), and Ansilio, also received All-American honors with an eighth place finish and a school record time of 7:43.15.

Other notable individual performances included a 14th place finish by Britney Reest (‘09) in the 100-yard backstroke and 13th place finishes in the 100 and 200-yard freestyle by Ansilio.

Hope also scored and took honorable mention All-American status in the 200 and 400-yard medley relays and the 200-yard freestyle relay. The 200-yard medley relay (1:48.67) of Reest, Piester, Smith, and Jennifer Carr (‘07) placed ninth, while the 400-yard medley relay (3:57.04) of Reest, Piester, Smith and Vogelzang placed 10th. Finally, the 200-yard freestyle relay (1:37.24) of Ansilio, Smith, Rachel Bakken (‘09) and Carr finished 11th.

With the completion of the NCAA meet, Hope finished its season with a second place finish in the MIAA and numerous conference champions.

“We swim really well, and we were really excited to finish in the top 10 since there were 70 teams there,” Vogelzang said. Looking forward, she added, “we lose Lisa (Smith), Jennifer (Carr), and Sarah (Dziecky) (‘07), who all swam multiple events at nationals, but we have lots of good, young swimmers who will be even faster next year.”

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**MEN’S SWIMMING HEADING TO HOUSTON**

James Ralston  
*Sports Editor*

To see the strength of the Hope College men’s swim team, do not look any further than the relays. Hope qualified in all five relays for the NCAA Division III Men’s Swimming and Diving Championships in Houston.

“We’re pretty confident about our chances of scoring in relays,” captain Jake Holton (‘07) said. “We have a chance at making the finals in every relay.”

In relay events, the top 16 relay teams qualify in the nation for the meet, and the top eight make the finals.

In addition to the relays, Philip Heyboer (‘10), Ryan Nelles (‘10), Matt Rose (‘10) and Chase VanderBroek (‘08), qualified in individual events for the meet.

“The taper helps us feel energetic and powerful in the water. Everyone should be having their season best times at this meet.”

Heading into nationals, the taper does more than just help the team rest physically.

“The taper is also a vital mental factor,” Heyboer said. “You start feeling good in the water, and that fresh feeling helps you push through any pain and swim strong.”

BRINGING IT HOME — Lisa Smith (‘07) surfaces during a race earlier this year. Smith earned All-American status at the NCAA championships.

The young team will be traveling to Houston with Holton as the upperclassman and leadership representative. This will be Holton’s second trip to nationals; last year he was a part of the 200-yard freestyle relay that finished 12th at nationals.

“It’s good having a senior on the team at nationals,” Heyboer said. “He has been there before, so he can help calm our nerves and get us excited to swim well.”

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**DUTCHMEN CONCLUDE SUCCESSFUL SEASON**

Nick Hinkle  
*Copy Editor*

Although the season is over, with a MIAA championship and an Elite Eight appearance, it was hardly a disappointment.

The Hope College basketball team set out this season to win a league title and advance further into the NCAA tournament last year. Through preseason training and proper conditioning, the Dutchmen achieved both of those goals.

“A lot of people would have been skeptical of our goals,” coach Glenn Van Wieren said. “But we were not. This team had unfinished business.”

The Dutchmen’s chances for a national title ended on March 10 after its loss to Washington University of St. Louis 55-58. After being down 19-31 at halftime, Hope managed to turn it around in the second half and tie the game at 38-38.

“We battled, tied the game and had a chance to win,” Van Wieren said. “Give us another couple minutes and we might have won.”

Washington went on to win and outscored Hope by 14 points from the free-throw line. However, the Dutchmen shot 38 percent from the floor compared to Washington’s 31 percent.

“We had great looks and shots, but they just did not go in,” Van Wieren said. “In some ways you look at the stats and you say Hope won.”

Despite the loss, many of the Hope players gained valuable experience from their NCAA performance. With seven juniors on the team, the Dutchmen will bring back many players.

“The core of our team will have competed and have won a league title,” Van Wieren said. “We will have an experienced player at every position.”

After another winning season with an overall record of 26-5 and a conference record of 13-1, Hope accumulated its share of wins this season. However, not many people see the effort and hard work to achieve those wins.

“Not one player came to practice and did not work hard,” Van Wieren said. “They were all about business on the playing field.”

In commenting about what stuck out about this year’s team, Van Wieren said, “The number one thing is the camaraderie and great fun. On a scale from 1 to 10 this team was a 10 for chemistry.”

Looking back on this year, Van Wieren enjoyed many aspects of team and season, but will have some notable memories. This season Hope faced Calvin five times including once in the NCAA tournament. Van Wieren said that tournament win was a highlight of the season.

“That was a tremendous win and atmosphere for our guys,” Van Wieren said. “It is something I will really remember.”

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**SPORTS SPRING BREAK**

**TENNIS**

The men’s and women’s tennis teams will depart to Chicago on Friday, March 16 to catch their flight to Hilton Head, S.C. for a week of competition and practice over spring break. The men will have five matches and the women four.

**WOMEN’S TENNIS**

Wednesday  
March 14  
vs. Grand Rapids Community College  
4 p.m DeVlWT Tennis Center

**TRACK**

The track team will load Hope College busses Thursday, March 15 to travel to Orlando, Fla. for a week of training and competing. On the way down they will participate in the Shamrock Invitational at Coastal Carolina University. On the return trip they will compete in Atlanta at the Emory Invitational.

**BASEBALL**

The baseball team will compete in six games in the Port Charlotte, Fla. Invitational over spring break.

**SOFTBALL**

The softball team will participate in the Rebel Spring Games in Orlando, Fla. They will face eight opponents during the week.