Groups ask for policy change on homosexuality

Amy Soukup
Catskills News-Democrat

Before students left for spring break, two groups submitted petitions to the Hope College Board of Trustees asking for the reversal of the “Hope College Institutional Statement on Homosexuality,” which was created in 1995 and ratified by Hope’s Board of Trustees Executive Committee in 2001 (see box on page 2).

One group consists of various alumni including Dr. Donald Lubbers (’53), former president of Grand Valley State University; Bill DePree, a two-time United States ambassador, and Bruce van Voorst (’54) a former foreign affairs correspondent at Newsweek and Time magazines and a Pulitzer prize nominee.

The second petition was submitted by members of “Hope is Ready,” a group dedicated to an open dialogue on sexuality on Hope’s campus. The group plans to continue to collect signatures until April 29.

Karis Granberg-Michaelson (’99) of Hope is Ready said the RCA’s 2009 General Synod Counsel helped contribute to the group’s decision to petition for the reversal of the policy. The 2009 General Synod said there is “no consensus in the church regarding the antecedents of sexual orientation among humans, no consensus about whether same-sex unions can be faithful expressions of covenantal commitment, and no consensus about what ecclesiastical roles are appropriate for those who engage in homosexual practices.”

In the grounds that there is a clear lack of consensus on this issue in the RCA, we [Hope is Ready] firmly oppose that Hope College imposes a single position onto the entire community through institutional policy,” said Granberg-Michaelson. “We believe in the capacity of the Hope community to engage this issue in a sincere and searching way. Hope is Ready believes the Institutional Statement on Homosexuality is damaging to student life and harmful to many members of the Hope community.”

Stephanie Dykema (’10), another member of Hope is Ready, said, “If the executive committee feels the need to replace this policy with something, I would encourage them to replace it with a statement that, in the least, ensures protection against discrimination and violence for LGBTQ students… It is time that students support fellow students and friends to truly create the community that Hope is said to have. I believe in Hope’s potential for that community, and removing this policy would be a great next step to get there.”

Along with removal of the Institutional Statement on Homosexuality, the initial group of alumni also petitioned for the creation of an advisory board at Hope similar to that which another RCA affiliated college, Central College in Pella, Iowa, created. The alumni’s petition states that Central College “has designed a model of shared review and accountability for decision making in such controversial and complex situations.”

The petitioning alumni suggest that an advisory board at Hope include representatives of the administration, Board of Trustees, faculty and students and that the board should advise the President in specific cases regarding issues of academic freedom.

The alumni’s petition states, “While the president always retains authority for the ultimate decisions, we believe there would be obvious advantages for the President and the spirit of academic freedom at Hope College.”

According to Hope President James Bultman, both petitions have been received and will be reviewed at the next meeting of the Board of Trustees the first week of May. Bultman will withhold comments until after the May meeting of the Board of Trustees, but he refers those with questions to a letter written by Joel Bouwens, chairperson of the Board of Trustees, which can be found on this page.

Another group called “Holland is Ready” has written its own petition and is currently accepting signatures in hope of submitting the petition to Hope’s Board of Trustees as well.

Part of the petition reads, “For some members of Holland is Ready, GLBT inclusion is an issue of civil rights. For others it is a position grounded in life-long Christian faith and biblical study. For others still, support of this petition comes from an understanding of modern psychology, the personal experience of being gay, or the experience of loving a GLBT family member or friend. For all of us, however, this petition comes from a desire to help make Holland a safer, more welcoming community for all people regardless of their sexual orientation.”

The group plans to collect signatures until April 22.

Even with differing opinions regarding homosexuality, members of Hope’s community said the issue is important to address and have a shared desire to ensure the welcoming community for all people regardless of their sexual orientation.

See PETITION, Page 2

Hope honors Disability Awareness Week

April 5, 2010
Dear Hope Community:

You should know that Hope has received the widely reported petition regarding its position on homosexuality, although significantly later than its contents were revealed to the press. The petition was authored by a small group of dissenting alumni and addressed to the Board of Trustees. The petition asked that copies of the petition be furnished to all members of the Board of Trustees and the matter of revoking Hope’s position be placed on the agenda for the next meeting. We have also received a petition from several students in support of the position taken by the dissenting alumni group.

Although I find this attempt to promote ambush journalism to be offensive, Hope’s Board of Trustees is not shy about addressing issues which relate to its core values of providing excellent academic programs in the liberal arts and nurturing a vibrant Christian faith. As a result, all Trustees will be provided with a copy of the petition and it will be on the agenda at the next Board of Trustees meeting.

Because the Trustees have no authority to act except in a duly called meeting, and I respect the deliberative process they undertake, it would be inappropriate for me to speculate about any decision they may make. You can be confident that the Board will consider this matter in its usual manner: carefully, thoughtfully, thoroughly and prayerfully and in the best interests of Hope College. If you have questions concerning the Board’s handling of this matter they may be addressed to me, care of the President’s Office of Hope College.

Very truly yours,

Joel G. Bouwens
Chairperson
Hope College Board of Trustees
Hope’s new Quidditch club soars

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<th>This Week at Hope</th>
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<td><strong>Wednesday</strong></td>
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<td>Men’s Lacrosse</td>
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**Thursday** April 8
“Behind the Uniform: A Student Project”
Two short plays by Steve Gilroy and Simon Stephens, DeVitt Main Theatre, 8 p.m. Admission $2

Friday April 9
“Mr. Attraction” Dating Coach Ryan Clauson
8:30 p.m. Nitz

**In Brief**

**IDT Dance to Perform**

IDT is scheduled to present its annual concert at Hope College on Friday and Saturday, April 9 and 10, at 8 p.m. at the Knickerbocker.

IDT, formerly InSync Dance Theatre, is an affiliate of the department of dance. The company is led by artistic directors Rosanne Marie Mork (Barton-DeVries) and Amanda Smith-Heynen of the Hope dance faculty.

Tickets for the performances are $7 for regular admission, $5 for students and senior citizens, and free for children age 13 and under, and are on sale at the ticket office in the main lobby of the DeVos Fieldhouse.

**Chris Russ Your Woman**

A fictional sport has come to life on both a global scale and on Hope College’s campus. Quidditch, a game taken directly from the pages of J.K. Rowling’s Harry Potter novels, is now being played at over 200 colleges and universities worldwide.

Four Hope students, Cory Lakatos (’12), Emily Fleming (’12), Caitlin Roth (’12) and Anne Jamieson (’12) formed the Hope College Quidditch League this year, and the organization has been made an official Hope club.

The game is depicted in the Harry Potter books and films as consisting of participants who ride through the air on broomsticks attempting to score points by throwing the main ball or “quaffle” through the goal hoops.

Another key aspect of the game involves the capture of the “snitch,” a small object that roams the playing field. The capture of the snitch both ends the game and scores the team that captured the object a large amount of points.

When asked to describe how the sport is adapted for play at Hope, Jamieson described it as, “the muggle version of the magic sport.”

Muggle is a term coined in the world of the books, this is your club. If you’re not really into it, but you’re one of the people who have a homosexual orientation. The witness of Scripture is firm on the issue: homosexual practice and not all people who engage in homosexual practices have a homosexual orientation. The College does not condone the commission of homosexual acts.

**Groups seek change**

**Petition, from page 1**

nature of the communities of Hope and Holland.

Jordan Walters (’12) said, “The exploration of this issue has the potential to … but my hope is that every person on this campus is genuinely loved, cared for, and respected, and all the while willing to investigate their hearts.”

Don Van Houven, one of the signers of the alumni petition, also said, “This is not about the meaning of certain scriptural texts. It is about the meaning of how we regard and care for people. It is the meaning of compassion.”

**Hope College Institutional Statement on Homosexuality**

Hope College, like its founding denomination, the Reformed Church in America, distinguishes between homosexual orientation and homosexual behavior or practice. Not all people who have a homosexual orientation engage in homosexual behavior or practice and not all those who engage in homosexual practices have a homosexual orientation. The witness of Scripture is firm in rejecting the moral acceptability of homosexual behavior while affirming the responsibility of Christians to be fair and accepting of persons with a homosexual orientation.

The College does not condone the commission of homosexual acts. Neither does it condone organizations or activities that aim to vitiate the moral acceptability of homosexual acts, or that suggest by their manner of presenting themselves that they have that aim in view. Specifically, the College will not provide recognition or financial or logistical support for organizations or groups whose purposes include the advocacy or moral legitimization of homosexual behavior.

The College does support fair and kind treatment for people with a homosexual orientation. It likewise supports the scholarly examination and discussion of all the issues surrounding the phenomenon of homosexuality. The College affirms the right of students and faculty to propound and defend ideas that may be at variance with the institutional position of the College. Persons expressing such views are expected to take care not to attribute those views to the College either by direct statement or by implication.

John Jacobson, President
August 16, 1995
President signs historic health care bill into law

Amy Alvine
Senior Staff Writer

President Barack Obama signed the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act into law on March 23.

Before President Obama signed the health care bill into law, he said, “It is fitting that Congress passed this historic legislation this week. For too long, we marked the turning of spring, we also mark a new season in America. In a few moments, when I sign this bill, all of the over-heated rhetoric over reform will finally confront the reality of reform.”

Although the health care bill was signed into law, the bill is still facing some challenges.

On March 21, the Senate version of the health care legislation passed the House of Representatives by a slim vote of 219-212. This happened after Rep. Bart Stupak, D-Mich., agreed to drop his objection to tax payer funding for abortion in the bill as long as Obama would sign an executive order to restrict such funding. This would basically be an executive order to confirm that federal funding would not be used for abortion purposes.

This new law is considered to be the most expensive social legislation enacted in decades.

With this new law estimated to cost the country $1 trillion, the law mandates individuals to purchase health insurance by 2014, or employers to provide their employees with health insurance (or else be penalized) and for an exchange to be established to allow individuals to select from government-approved health insurance plans.

It also augments federal funding for Medicaid, fills in the cost gap for many prescription drug policy holders and gives uninsured Americans enhanced subsidies to pay for coverage.

The law will go into full effect in 2014. However, the president stressed that certain aspects of the law (i.e. tax credits, the requirement of insurance companies to sell policies to individuals with a pre-existing condition, and allowing adults to stay on their parents’ insurance until the age of 26) will take effect this year. Eventually, Obama and Democrats say, the new law will provide health care coverage for over 32 million uninsured Americans.

Republicans have not been thrilled about this new legislation. In regard to the new health care law, House of Representatives leader Rep. John Boehner, R-Ohio, said, “This is a somber day for American people. By signing this bill, President Obama is abandoning our founding principle that government governs best when it governs closest to the people.”

On March 23, Republicans renewed their vow to repeal the measure with the new slogan, “repeal and replace.” This opposition is reflected by more than a dozen state attorneys general, including Michigan Attorney General, Mike Cox, that have filed lawsuits saying that the new law is unconstitutional.

On March 31, Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm signed an executive order setting up a council to oversee the changes that will be brought by the new federal health care law. In Michigan this year insurance will be extended through Medicaid to 375,000 new Michigan residents. Granholm also said that the government would also pick up the entire cost for the new people enrolled until 2017 and would also pay for at least 90 percent of their cost after 2017.

Along with health care coverage, the new legislation also includes provisions that put the federal government back in charge of the student loan program.

“This reform of the federal student loan programs will save taxpayers $68 billion over the next decade. And with this legislation, we’re putting that money to use achieving a goal I set for America. By the end of this decade, we will once again have the highest proportion of college graduates in the world,” Obama said.

The new law would strip banks of their ability to issue federal student loans in favor of direct government lending and would no longer let private banks to get fees for acting as the “middleman” in federal student loans.

Also, the government would use the savings to boost Pell grants and to make it easier for some workers to repay their student loan. This would affect about half of undergraduates that receive federal student aid and about 8.5 million students who are going to school with help of Pell grants.

Health care reform spurs activism from both sides

As the health care reform bill moved its way through Congress and onto the president’s desk, activists from both sides of the debate came out to voice their opinions. (Above left) Supporters of reform protest decisions made by attorney generals of 13 states to challenge the legitimacy of health care reform on constitutional grounds. (Above right) An opponent of reform takes to the streets to characterize the health care bill as a socialist measure.

Administration looks to expand domestic offshore oil drilling

Eric Anderson
Co-National News Editor

President Obama announced March 31 that his administration plans on opening domestic coastlines for drilling. The plan will open areas in the Atlantic coastline, the Gulf of Mexico and the coast of Northern Alaska for oil exploration.

While this position may draw fire from the environmental base of Obama supporters, this plan is much more calculated than it initially appears. The Obama administration does support a significant increase in offshore drilling, while also including provisions that protect environmentally sensitive areas from oil exploration.

This plan would also help to decrease dependence on oil imports, although how much oil can be gained from these areas is yet to be determined.

Perhaps the biggest impact this announcement will have is on the future of a climate bill. Many representatives in the affected areas had been pushing Obama to draft a climate bill that focuses on domestic production of energy though oil drilling, natural gas and nuclear energy. Obama has expressed a broader range of energy options, specifically nuclear energy, since his campaign.

This move is also not an indication that Obama is abandoning exploration of alternative energy sources such as solar, wind or biofuels. During his offshore drilling announcement, Obama indicated that this was part of an overall plan to reduce dependence on oil imports. Specifically, Obama mentioned looking to fuel military vehicles with biofuels and replacing existing federal vehicles with hybrid models.

The plan has already drawn fire from many different angles. While some coastal representatives were supportive of the measure, others worried that the environmental risks posed by oil exploitation were unnecessary and too dangerous.

Republicans were quick to criticize the plan as not enough to lessen dependence on oil imports. This could be attributed to the protections put forward in the Obama administration’s plan: specifically, the banning of oil drilling in areas where former President George W. Bush lobbied for drilling. However, this proposition can hardly be viewed as partisan. Obama’s plan does incorporate a number of provisions for offshore drilling that the Bush administration was unsuccessful in implementing before the end of Bush’s second term. Sen. Mary Landrieu, D-La., commended this point when she said, “[Obama is] sending as clear a signal as possible that he is willing to compromise in a way that will bring forth a great energy and climate bill, and he wants Republicans to be a part of it.”

It remains to be seen whether this plan is a concerted effort toward domestic oil production or simply preparation for the upcoming climate bill debate.
The Anchor
This Week in QuoTes

The worst violence in almost six months rocked Moscow March 29 as two female suicide bombers attacked the Lubyanka and Park Kultury subway stations around 8 a.m. The Lubyanka station lies under the Federal Security Service (FSB), a KGB successor. It is suspected that Lubyanka was chosen as retaliation for the deaths of militant leaders by the FSB.

The attacks in death toll was 40 while over 70 were hospitalized. In a televised statement at Lubyanka station, Russian President Dmitry Medvedev said to the people, including the Washington Post, he called the bombings "a crime terrible in its consequences and disgusting in its manners." President Obama issued a statement condemning the bombings, telling "ABC News" that the "American people stand united with the people of Russia in opposition to violent extremism and heinous terrorist attacks that demonstrate such disregard for human life.

President and White House announced March 29 that he would be appointing 15 different government officials during the Easter recess. According to the Washington Post, these sorts of appointments do not require confirmation from Congress. The appointments immediately sparked debate and intense discussion from government officials as well as political analysts.

The Republican Party, in particular, was upset with the appointments, as Obama appointed four new officials to the Department of Labor. Republicans were particularly upset about the appointments of

Craig Becker, a former labor union, chair to the National Labor Relations Board, analysts and Republican senators viewed this appointment as a radical labor advocate. "Once again the administration showed that it has no respect for the honored constitutional roles and procedures of Congress," Sen. McCain, R-Ariz., told CNN. The day of the appointments, "This is clear payback by the administration to organize as quickly as possible.

Even so, the White House stood by its decision. Last week, Obama and White House officials have been co-opted to the Republican agenda for two of more Republican Scott Brown in November who are determined to come in and provide some checks and balances in Washington to stop the overheating of the government," Sen. Lamar Alexander, R-Tenn., said when describing the Republican who is being courted by Bill. Edward Kennedy's seat in Massachusetts and caused Democrats to lose the 36-vote filibuster-proof majority.

Other more moderate congressional representatives favored the new appointments and simply expressed differences with the bill, including Sen. Lindsey Graham, R.S.C., who co-sponsored five bills this past year with Democrats. The chair has worked with several Democratic senators to create an immigration reform bill that would be agreeable for both parties as well as the White House. Graham, however, was reported on March 28 saying that the new appointments and cooperation and passage will be even more difficult. Even so, White House officials remained hopeful. "Republicans took a position where they're going to try and slow and block progress on all fronts whether it's legislation or ap-pointments.

Fifteen appointments made during congressional recess

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Student production ‘Behind the Uniform’ opens April 8 in DeWitt Main Theatre

Annelise Belmonte
Arts Editor

Opening this week is a student-directed and performed show called “Behind the Uniform” about the lives of those in the Afghanistan and Iraq conflicts and the families and relations left behind.

The show actually consists of two short plays chosen by student directors Jeri Frederickson (‘10) and Sarah Gosses (‘10) to complement each other. The title of the two pieces of the performed side-by-side was brainstormed by the cast and voted on.

The first show, “Motherland,” by Steve Gilroy, is primarily a monologue-show, featuring various women’s stories and experiences with their loved ones who are in the Army. Some of the stories are tragic, others are humorous and a lot of them involve football.

A lot of the characters in the play are actually based on real-life testimonies and people. For example, Kaliee Fox (‘11) plays Elise, a mother whose daughter was lost in the conflict. “I found pictures of her online. And she was talking about the things she was talking about in the play,” Fox said. In one scene, her character receives her dead daughter’s belongings in a box and can’t even look at them.

Cast member Brittany Schultz explains, “Since it’s real, it gives you a sense of whom it affects. They really had children die and it’s just amazing.”

The politics of war aren’t the focus of “Behind the Uniform” as much as the women themselves and what they’ve actually gone through.

Gilroy, who was the original writer and director of “Motherland,” compiled almost 20 hours of interviews to create the show. He says of the interviewees in the original process of compiling a script, “The women have worked with us to let us into their homes and their lives and we’re incredibly grateful for their generosity and enthusiasm. We view these women as collaborators not subjects, and the text of the play is comprised entirely of words spoken by them.”

He continued in his director’s notes, “These stories are not just relevant to the women and communities but resonate far beyond.”

Obviously it’s not just an American issue,” Schultz adds. “So many people don’t realize that there are loads of British women over there...and it’s interesting to see what other countries think of this war.”

The show after intermission, “Canopy of Stars” by Simon Stephens, also centers around a British family.

The play follows a British soldier as he fights to justify his involvement in the war and sacrifices his personal relationships with his family. At first, we see him waiting in a bunker with another soldier and a French soldier as they wait for another battle. Next, we see a raid where a soldier is injured, and then there’s a startling juxtaposition to what his life is like at home.

Since most of the characters come from different locales in England, the cast worked with the directors to find examples online and listen to the specific traits of people who come from those regions.

The examples ranged from young to old to help differentiate between what speech patterns might be used for a more experienced or more ‘hip’ person. The cast weren’t supposed to completely mimic the dialect or even the real-life character, but get a flavor for it and make it their own.

“Behind the Uniform” will be playing in the DeWitt Main Theatre April 8-10 at 8 p.m. with a matinee at 2 p.m. on April 10. Tickets will be $2 at the door.
You’ve heard about the U.S. Census, and you might think it’s a lot of government mumbo jumbo. Why do they need to know if I stay here or I live somewhere else anyway? Well, the census that was mailed to residents has already been collected, but on April 7, Hope students who haven’t returned a form must attend a meeting to fill out the census form. And as with any act of your life, you should act definitively and with understanding. It’s not a bunch of mumbo jumbo. In fact, the questions you answer help determine where $400 billion of federal funding will go: hospitals, bridges, roads, schools, senior centers, emergency services and public works projects.

The information you give the government also helps determine how many seats in the House of Representatives your state will occupy. And many people will use the data from the form to rescue victims, support causes, determine different markets and place individuals in an accurate job pool.

What you put down on this form does matter to our nation, and it should matter to you too.

Census Chronology

1790
- The nation’s first census. 650 federal marshals go house-to-house unannounced, writing down the name of the head of the household and counting the other residents. The census costs $45,000, takes 18 months and counts 3.9 million people.

1810
- First inquiries on U.S. manufacturing capabilities are made. At the time, the need to export agricultural products and import manufactured goods had entangled the U.S. in some skirmishes of the Napoleonic Wars.

1840
- Congress requests new information on social matters such as “idiocy” and mental illness. Many questions on commerce and industry are added, lengthening the form to 80 questions.

1850
- Significant census reforms are made. Federal government utilizes scientific and financial resources to discuss what should be asked, how the information should be collected and how it should be reported. First time detailed information about all members of a household is collected.

1860
- Data from the 1860 census is used during the Civil War to measure relative military strength and manufacturing abilities of the Union and Confederacy.

1890
- Major innovations are made to the “science of statistics” as the Census Bureau introduces mechanical tabulators. Never again is the census hand tabulated.

1910
- Entry into World War I (1917) has agencies and policymakers turning to the Census Bureau for industrial statistics to plan the war effort.

1930
- Onset of the Great Depression prompts the Census Bureau to make inquiries about unemployment, migration and income.
Listen up, Hope College!

Fill out your census form so that YOU COUNT! As a college community, we will be taking part in the 2010 census. The residential directors and the resident assistants will be instrumental in making sure this process takes place on campus smoothly. Last week, Dr. John Jobson sent out information from student development regarding Hope students’ participation in the decennial census. In his letter to the campus, he mentions a few things that everyone should note about how the census will take place on campus:

- If you live in a Hope College-owned or controlled living unit, you must attend a meeting on Wednesday, April 7, to fill out the census form and return it to your RD/RA (your RD/RA will provide additional information regarding the exact time and location of your meeting).

- If you live off-campus, census materials should have already been delivered or will soon be delivered in the mail. Please fill out and return them as soon as possible (a postage-paid envelope is included with the census materials).

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, college students have always been hard to count. Historically, this tends to happen because people believe that college students are counted on their parents’ questionnaire. This is not true, because college students who live away from home will receive their own separate questionnaire, the Census Bureau says.

By participating in the census, you’re making a statement about what resources your community needs going forward. If you care about this community, participating in the census is a way to show that. According to the Census Bureau, “It is your community’s voice in the government.”

1940
• With the aid of modern sampling techniques, the Census Bureau creates the first “long form” that is sent to only a subset of the population.

1950
• First electronic digital computer tabulates figures 1,000 to 1 million times faster than previous equipment.

1970
• People of Hispanic or Spanish descent asked to identify themselves as such.

1980
• After the 1980 count, the Census Bureau faces 54 lawsuits, many by civil rights groups, charging it with improper and unconstitutional methods of counting.

2000
• First time professional advertising campaign ($167 million) is used to promote the count.

*Chronology from Washington Post
A sense of Hope

Over spring break, I had an opportunity to travel to Bloomington–Normal to watch the women’s basketball Final Four and national championship games. The Shirk Center, while certainly a nice facility, is no DeVos Fieldhouse. However, both Friday night and Saturday afternoon, it was difficult to determine the difference. The Shirk Center seats 2,900 and approximately three-quarters of those seats were filled with Hope fans for the championship game against Washington University on Saturday afternoon. Easily half of the facility was filled with fans wearing orange and blue for the Friday night game against Rochester as well. Friday night, one incredulous reporter asked coach Brian Morehouse if there was anybody left in Holland or if the entire town had accompanied the team to Illinois.

So in the least, it felt like a home game, as cheers of “Let’s go Hope!” and “Fire up, Dutch!” fired the crowd and players up. While the outcome of the game was not what Hope fans and players were hoping for, it was an unforgettable experience. As I was driving home after the final game with my dad, we discussed how unique it is that Holland and Hope have such a mutually beneficial relationship. My dad attended Illinois Wesleyan (the host school of the tournament) and shared that when he was a student, you knew that he and his family were considered community members at a Wesleyan sporting event. However, the support of the Holland community cannot be discounted. Hundreds of community members attend sporting events, theater and dance performances and even events like Vespers. Many may be alumni or have children who are alumni. Even so, they have no obligation to Hope College.

This sense of generosity is another part of what makes Hope feel like home. Those who know me know that I have no love for my hometown. When I try to explain it to people, I tell them it’s about the same size as Grand Rapids but has nothing going on. Perhaps, though, it’s not the lack of activities that is the problem. Maybe it’s the lack of community. Obviously, every city and town has its problems, and Holland and Grand Rapids are not excluded, but the support that I have seen amazes me.

Since so many students at Hope are from the area, they may not even be aware of the support if it’s something they’ve grown up with. However, for me it has been a unique part of my Hope experience that I could not have foreseen before freshman year. For some people, home will always be the house they grew up in or wherever their family is living. For others it will be where they move to after graduation and settle down. While these are both true for me, Hope will always hold a special place in my heart as a home I can come back to and support.

Karen is excited to be staying “home” in Holland for the summer. Warm weather, friends in the world; love you guys.

Karen Patterson
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Readers are encouraged to share their opinions with The Anchor. Write Letters to the Editors.

If you are passionate about an issue, concerned about a problem or excited to share an idea:

Email letters to anchor@hope.edu

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Christian mediocrity

As you are in danger of becoming just like everyone else, I know this because I am too. There is a gravitational pull towards the average life. Graduate college, get a job that pays well, meet your spouse and have a family; be happy.

At first glance there doesn’t seem to be anything wrong with this average life, but take a look at the fine print and notice that typical existence is characterized by an average commitment to Christ, average joy and average love. Yet following in the footsteps of Jesus is anything but an average journey.

I am not saying that there is anything wrong with getting a good job and having a family — I hope to have both someday. The problem comes when self-gratification comes before God-glorification.

Take Christmas cards for example. I have read hundreds of Christmas cards that describe the fun a family has had in the past year. While I totally agree that it is important to enjoy being a family, I wonder if we have missed some of what it means to be followers of Christ.

I don’t want my Christmas card to say that my family and I have simply enjoyed ourselves this year, but that we’ve charged ahead into darkness with just a shred of light and a whole lot of darkness. I mean, please. That’s not Jesus. It’s a holiday card. Yet following in the footsteps of Jesus is anything but average.

As Hope students, we are as vulnerable as anyone. It makes sense to want to be made into something more than ordinary. For others it will be where they move to after graduation and settle down. While these are both true for me, Hope will always hold a special place in my heart as a home I can come back to and support.

Christian mediocrity

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Grace Olson
Columnist

Confession: I am a food-blogging junkie. Some people swear off Facebook for Lent; I had to give up food blogs. I check a few of them daily, waiting for a new recipe, ingredients I haven’t tried, a photo that makes my mouth water and urge me into the kitchen. If there’s no new post, I’m not discouraged: heading to their archives, I search for ingredients I have in my refrigerator and pore over recipes I’ve already read a dozen times.

Now that Lent’s over and I can resurface my blog habit, I thought I’d celebrate by trying a column I’ve often dreamt of writing. I must preface this with a disclaimer: what follows in this column might be of little use to those of you on a meal plan. Forgive me. Or don’t, and instead clip the column and take it home with you over the summer. And now, for food column number one (and Only):

My post-May 9 plans are coming together: I’m staying in Holland this summer. My secret reason for wanting to be here, after the more practical reason that I’ll be here in the fall and yearlong leases are easier to secure, is that I love cookouts. Last summer, my friends and I gathered once a week to grill burgers, share side dishes and indulge in that quintessential summer dessert: pie. Because I love nothing more than strawberries and a good strawberry rhubarb pie, I’ll be living here.

Here’s a strawberry-rhubarb pie recipe that over the years my mom has developed and I’ve tweaked. For the juiciest, most flavorful pie, pick out the pinkest stalks of rhubarb and the rippest-but-not-yet-soft strawberries you can find. The farmers market is always reliable. I think the position makes a strong argument why removal of the policy is in Hope’s best interests. If Hope wants to retain the policy, I think it is incumbent on the college to make the case why it is better for Hope to retain the policy. Using the argument that the witness of scripture is firm and in dispute, I would submit that removal of the policy creates a climate that is more likely to foster tolerance.

I believe the petition makes a strong argument why removal of the policy is in Hope’s best interests. If Hope wants to retain the policy, I think it is incumbent on the college to make the case why it is better for Hope to retain the policy. Using the argument that the witness of scripture is firm and in dispute, I would submit that removal of the policy creates a climate that is more likely to foster tolerance. I believe the petition makes a strong argument why removal of the policy is in Hope’s best interests. When beliefs are pitted against one another, and there is no definitive data to prove that one belief is correct (or more correct than another), it becomes incumbent on interested parties to put forth arguments why one’s belief should prevail over another’s belief.

I believe the petition makes a strong argument why removal of the policy is in Hope’s best interests. If Hope wants to retain the policy, I think it is incumbent on the college to make the case why it is better for Hope to retain the policy. In this column, I plan to present the argument to those of you on a meal plan. Forgive me. Or don’t, and instead clip the column and take it home with you over the summer. And now, for food column number one (and Only):
At Western Michigan University’s Grand Rapids regional site, the Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree program teaches the business knowledge and professional skills required in today’s global environment and prepares individuals to function effectively in administrative and leadership positions.

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Spring break trips get teams rolling

Six athletic teams spend spring break competing across the country

James Nichols
Assistant Sports Editor

Baseball

The Flying Dutchmen traveled to Winter Haven, Fla., to compete in 10 games over seven days during spring break.

Finishing the break with a 7-3 record, the baseball team started its season off strong.

Hope dropped its first two games on March 19 to UW-Whitewater, 5-3 and 9-7.

The Flying Dutchmen then came on strong, winning their next six games by a combined score of 47-20.

Hope shut out Denison (Ohio) 6-0 on March 20. March 22 saw a doubleheader between Hope and Western Connecticut, resulting in two wins by the Flying Dutchmen, a 7-2 victory and a 9-0 shutout thrown by Danny Konyn ('12).

The Flying Dutchmen swept another doubleheader the next day. This time they beat Lawver (Wis.), 13-6, to win game 1 and 9-7 in the second.

Hope’s third doubleheader in three days resulted in a split. The Flying Dutchmen won 5-1, then to Defiance (Iowa) in the first game 10-9 but were matched in the second game, losing 18-15 over Washington & Jefferson (Pa.).

The final game of the trip ended with a bang. Hope emerged in a game that saw 31 total runs, barely winning 16-15 over Elmhurst (Ill.) which was good enough for second place all went to Hope in the 2010 Emory University Invitational, March 25-27.

Unlike the men’s team, the women’s team traveled with the men’s team to Emory, Ga., to compete in the 2010 Emory University Invitational on March 19 and 20 and the Emory Track & Field Classic from March 25-27.

The Flying Dutchmen finished in second place with 134.5 points, 13.5 points behind host Emory.

Noteworthy events for the Flying Dutchmen included the 100-meter dash, discuss throw, 1500-meter run, 4x100-meter relay and 4x400-meter relay which resulted in second, first and second, first, and second place finishes respectively.

The Flying Dutchmen did even better at the Emory Track & Field Classic, finishing first with a score of 194, 38 points more than second place Emory.

Four events were won by the Flying Dutchmen at the meet.

John Donkerloot ('11) won the high jump, Nicholas Rinck ('10) won the long jump and Bryan Dekoekoek ('10) won the discus throw.

Second place finishes by Flying Dutchmen included the 4x100 and 4x400-meter relays. The 4x100-meter relay con­sists of Andrew Schofield ('11), Christian Everett ('13), Cameron 'Lampkin ('11) and Kyle VanderVeen ('12). The 4x400-meter relay includes students Frank Pervich ('10), Aaron Tribble ('10), Pat 9-20, Pierson ('10) and Nicholas Rinck.

Unlike the men's team, the women's tennis team started its season off strong.

The women's tennis team worked a perfect 3-0 at the GLCA tennis tournament in Orono, Ohio, this past weekend. Hope shut out Wooster 9-0 on Friday. Saturday, the Flying Dutch edged Kenyon 5-4. They finished up the tournament Sunday, rout­ing host Oberlin 8-1.

The Flying Dutchmen have won five of six games since spring break, taking their overall record to 12-4 this season.

The Flying Dutchmen soared past Olivet on March 27 with a combined score of 32-15 in the two games of a doubleheader. The Flying Dutchmen then won two more games 7-1 and 7-4 against the Comets on March 29.

Hope then split a doubleheader with Calvin on April 1, winning 10-9 in the first game and losing 7-4 in the second. The Flying Dutchmen's second doubleheader against Calvin on Monday ended with two home victories, 7-1 and 6-2.

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The softball team slumps after spring break

The softball team is 13-3 since returning from spring break.

The Flying Dutch, lost both games March 27, first by a score of 12-8 against Illinois College, then by a score of 3-2 against St. Norbert, Wis.

Hope dropped the first game of its doubleheader against Car­thage 2-1 on March 30, but came back with a 15-11 victory in the second leg of the match-up.

In Brief

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BASEBALL TEAM 5-1 SINCE SPRING BREAK TRIP

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Women’s basketball finishes second in the nation

Carrie Snikkers named Division III player of the year

Bethany Stripp
Senior Editor

In Carrie Snikkers’ (’11) third years as a Hope College women’s basketball player, she has built up an impressive list of individual basketball honors: MIAA player of the week, MIAA most valuable player for 2008-2009 and two-time first-team All-American.

During Final Four weekend, Snikkers received yet another recognition NCAA Division III State Farm/WBCA player of the year.

The award, presented to one player in all three NCAA divisions, in addition to one NAIA, one junior college/community college and one high school player, is chosen by vote from players named to the eight All-Region teams. Snikkers is the first women’s basketball player from Hope to receive this honor.

Snikkers posted big numbers this season. She averaged 14.4 points per game and scored in the double digits 21 different times, including five games in which she scored 20 or more points.

She also made an impact on the glass, pulling down 10.3 rebounds per game. Eight different times throughout the season, three of which occurred during the NCAA tournament, Snikkers both scored and grabbed rebounds in the double digits.

She also led the team in blocked shots, denying her opponents’ different times to give her both the single season and career record, even though she still has another season left in her basketball career.

“She’s improved each year she’s been at Hope,” coach Brian Morehouse said.

These figures are remarkable in light of the fact that Snikkers has been at Hope, “coaches Brian Morehouse.

“We don’t necessarily get every student, but we have a loyal following.”

That loyal following was vocal in their support as the team finished one of the most successful seasons in the school’s history. Finishing the 2009-10 season with a 32-2 record, the team made its 12th appearance in the NCAA Division III tournament, with this year marking the fifth consecutive trip to the post season.

After a solid win over Rochester in the Final Four on March 19, the team looked to topple Washington University in St. Louis for a third national title. However, after 40 minutes of play, the Wash-U Bears came out on top with a final score of 65-59.

Both Friday’s Final Four and Saturday’s championships had hundreds of Hope fans in attendance, making the Shirk Center feel more like DeVos Fieldhouse.

“We’ve led the nation in attendance the last three years,” coach Brian Morehouse said after Friday’s semi-final victory.

“He’s been at Hope, “Snikkers said. “I just went out there and played tough, and when the post players went in, I trusted them to play tough and strong, and they did.”

Fellow starter Erika Bruinsma (’11) also found herself in foul trouble with two early on, but rather than letting it get to her, she used the situation to increase her level of play.

“You have to worry about fouls to a certain extent, but also just play the game,” she said. “I think sometimes…it gives you more of an incentive to play better defense and not let your player get the ball.”

That mindset of tough defense helped the Flying Dutch hold the Bears to only 24 points in the first half.

However, strong shooting in the paint and accurate free throw shots near the end of the game gave the Wash-U Bears an edge that the Flying Dutch couldn’t quite overcome.

“I am very proud of my team,” Morehouse said after the game.

“Losing in this game does not define your career or you as a person, and it does not define this team. We didn’t shoot the ball real well in the first half, but we came storming back in the second.

“They make big free throws going down the stretch, and I thought we were going to catch them at the buzzer, but they just played a little bit better than us today.”

For captains Philana Greene (’10) and Jenny Cowen (’10), the championship game marked the end of an illustrious collegiate career: three MIAA titles and conference tournament championships, three trips to the Elite Eight, a Final Four and championship game appearance and a four-year record of 114-9.

“If I’m a senior, that’s how I want to go out,” Morehouse said.

“I think they both played great and set the tone for Hope College. There were a lot of people following their lead, and you don’t want to go out with regrets.”

For both Cowen and Greene, the loss was bittersweet.

“If I think for both of us, we can live with not winning this one,” Cowen said after the championship game.

“The team we had, the people around us: it makes this feel like the season of our lives.”

For Greene, it was not just the experience of playing basketball, but the everyday things like practice that made playing for the Flying Dutch an unforgettable experience.

“This year we got through certain games not because of talent or how we played, but because we trusted each other and loved each other and kept that bond,” Greene said. “I am so proud of this team for playing until the buzzer sounded and not quitting, even when we knew it was out of reach.

“The title would have been great, but to go away with these 23 people surrounding me that I love so much means more than any trophy, ring or banner.”

Karen Patterson
Co-Editor in Chief

On March 20, in Bloomington-Normal, Ill., the Hope College women’s basketball team finished one of the most successful seasons in the school’s history. Finishing the 2009-10 season with a 32-2 record, the team made its 12th appearance in the NCAA Division III tournament, with this year marking the fifth consecutive trip to the post season.

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