The band Irving performs at Earth Jam 2000. Earth Jam 2003 is coming to the Pine Grove on Saturday. The event will increase environmental awareness and focus student’s attention on how they can improve the environment.

Katie Taylor
Snr. Sta. Rep. Courier

The school year is winding down, and while many students have their eyes focused on exams or maybe just the summer ahead, there are still some campus activities planned. Those who never made it to a Dialogue on Race, for example, have the opportunity to attend the final session tonight.

The Dialogue on Race is an ongoing series of talks regarding issues of race sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Life. Lastly, the topic of diversity has been a heated one at Hope. The purpose of the dialogues is to help students, faculty and community members learn about the issues and struggles faced by minorities and to celebrate differences.

So far this year, there have been six dialogues before tonight’s session wraps up the season. They were held in October, November, January, February, March and April. Some of the topics included "My American Girls: A Dominican Story," "Civil Rights Martyrs," "The Real Eve," and "When Cultures Collide."

Typically, the facilitator of the dialogue will show a film relating to the topic and following that, lead a discussion of the ideas presented in it.

Glinda Rawls, Director of Multicultural Life, is enthusiastic about the accomplishments of this year’s series.

"The turn out has been great. The largest session had 80 participants, but the average attendance is 30 people," Rawls reported. "Many have been students who either want to learn more about diversity or need to complete an assignment for class. There are also some community members who attend."

Tonight’s dialogue is titled "HAPA," which is the name of the film being presented at the discussion. HAPA means "half," which is appropriate because the topics of dialogue will be biracial identity. The speaker of the evening will be Residence Life Coordinator for Cook Hall, Lisa Ortiz Rebel.

"The topic of discussion is biracial identity, which is very relevant to Lisa to be the facilitator for this session; she is of mixed racial heritage," explained Rawls.

This session will help examine some of the issues that children of mixed race unions experience," said Rawls.

"People should come to this dialogue because more and more people in the U.S. come from mixed heritage.

For summaries of the previous dialogues or more information on the Office of Multicultural Life, visit www.hope.edu/multicultural.
HAPA presents Asian Awareness Week

A keynote lecture, food fair, and dramatic presentation will be featured from April 14-16 to enlighten students about Asian culture.

Kurt Koehler
CAMPUS BEAT EDITOR

Next week diversity will once again take center stage. This time, however, the focus will shift from black, Hispanic, and disabled students to the nation's fastest growing minority ethnic group: Asian Americans. Asian Awareness Week will feature an Asian Food Fair, a keynote speech, and a performance by the Great Leap drama group.

"The whole point of the week and of our organization is to show people a little of Asian flavor and culture," said Jean Wu ('05), president of the Hope Asian Perspectives Association.

The Asian Food Fair will be held in the Phelps Hall dining hall on Monday from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Various different dishes will be prepared and served. Admission for those not on the college's meal plan will be $5 per person.

The keynote address will feature Annie Choy, a professor of history at DePauw University. Choy will deliver the address entitled, "La Choy, Chinese Food Swings American: Korean Immigrant Entrepreneurship in the 1920s" on Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the Maas Center.

"Choi is a postdoctoral fellow and visiting assistant professor at DePauw University, and in the fall will begin a postdoctoral fellowship at Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania," according to a Public Relations press release.

"She completed doctoral studies at the University of Southern California in American history, focusing on the experiences of Korean immigrants to the U.S. before 1945. A native of the Midwest, she completed her undergraduate degree at Indiana University, where she majored in history and East Asian studies. She holds an M.A. in history from the University of Massachusetts.

On Wednesday at 7 p.m. in the Knickerbocker Theatre, the Los Angeles-based performance group Great Leap will present the dramatic presentation "A Slice of Rice, Frijoles and Greens." Great Leap is a community-based, nonprofit performing arts group seeking to use the arts to cross cultural borders to bring about positive social change. Since its 1978 founding by director Nobuko Miyamoto, Great Leap has sought to create, present and produce works that express the multicultural experience through performances and workshops.

"A Slice of Rice, Frijoles and Greens" is a compilation of contemporary stories that express the experiences of Asian, Latino, African and Deaf Americans. "It's going to be a very powerful performance. I think the campus should come out and support it," said Maxine Gray ('94), president of the Black Student Union.

Great Leap's visit is being co-sponsored by the Black Student Union, Hispanic Student Organization and Hope's Asian Perspective Association student groups, by the office of multicultural life, and Sigma Lambda Gamma.

Construction projects continue on campus, nearing completion

Carpenters wrapping up loose ends, college prepares two new sites

Anjey Dykhuis
CAMPUS BEAT EDITOR

As the weather begins to change, students will notice some other changes on campus as well. The construction of the new Site of the Place of the Bible in the Life of Hope College, and a February dialogue on sexual orientation between Dean of Students Thomas Jong and Professor David Myers. Both events were coordinated by the Programming Committee, and generated responses from the students and faculty that were "strongly positive," Herrick said. Also in February of this year, members of the Programming Committee worked with the Theatre Department in order to provide discussions following the performance of "The Laramie Project." "The Laramie Project itself was an excellent and thought-provoking series of performances, which the panels enhanced," said James Bultman.

Success between the Committee and the Sexuality Roundtable has been achieved. An event this past week entitled "American Friends Service Committee," was coordinated by the Sexuality Roundtable, and endorsed by the Programming Committee. The conference included workshops on role-playing and principles of responding to opinions non-violent and non-confrontationally.

The Roundtable cooperated with the Programming Committee to coordinate a recent event. Students from Hope and Calvin attended, and VanHouwelingen claims that the conference was a success, and was usefully enthusiastic about the Roundtable's relationship with the Programming Committee. Increased participation in the Roundtable forum has shown its effectiveness.

Herrick also comments on the Program's current and future projects. He provides that the Committee is currently working on developing a Resource Guide on issues of sexuality, and if the Committee were to be continued next year, has recommended several new programs including a discussion board and perhaps a body image event.

During a March 26 meeting and review of the Programming Committee, Herrick claims that President Bultman "seemed generally pleased with our work." Herrick also sees a strong improvement in dealing with sexuality, and is pleased with the trust that the Committee has been established. "The Committee provided, I believe, an important venue for discussion of concerns and proposals," Herrick says.

EARTH JAM from 1

Couch said,"Earth Jam has been a student organization for 14 years and has put on Earth Jam annually every year. The environmental issues organization was founded in 1987 and continues its advocacy to this day."

The L.A. based performance group Great Leap will be performing on Tuesday in a drama called "La Choy, Chinese Food Swings American: Korean Immigrant Entrepreneurship in the 1920s" at 7 p.m. in Maas Auditorium.
Distinguished composer’s visit ends with two concerts

Maureen Yonovitz
April 9, 2003

In most cases, well-known composers can only be accessed through old books that can only be opened part way for fear of breaking the binding. But this week, a renowned contemporary American composer, John Downey, is visiting Hope’s campus. The events during his weeklong visit, culminating in two concerts to be presented this weekend, are part of what is being called the Downey Festival.

Downey’s musical style is far from old fashioned. One of the main aspects of his music is its progressiveness through time. Over the years as new technology has emerged, he has used a variety of electronic musical techniques, such as electronic tape and field recording, computer-controlled synthesis, and computer-generated sounds.

“I wrote three or four works in that medium,” Downey said. “These were written in the 60s and 70s when synthesizers came out and people could use electronic sound.” Downey said, “It’s a certain kind of music that’s all sort of evolving into a new style. One keeps writing and experimenting. There’s always new sounds that a composer will bring to a piece.”

Another thing that Downey is well known for is his use of many different media. This can range from works for something as small as a chamber orchestra to that of a full symphony.

“It’s a question of style,” Downey said. “In a university, you are going to be more experimental, take more chances. If you have just chamber music, it can be very expressive, but in a full orchestra it’s a different sound. A wind ensemble has different demands than a symphony orchestra. A youth orchestra has different capabilities. That’s an interesting challenge to me.”

Besides his use of these different media is that of many other different means, such as improvisation, that contribute to the non-conventional quality of his work.

“In improvisatory rhythms, the newness is a bit unpredictable and gives a certain approximation to this organization of sound,” Downey said. “I’ve used this improvisation in most of my pieces.” Sometimes he will even use silence as a part of his music. “Silence becomes a major factor also,” Downey said. “This is interesting because music is sound but music as silence is another dimension.”

A concert featuring the Wind Symphony, Orchestra, and Symphonne playing some of Downey’s works, including “Chant to Michelangelo” and one of his most frequently performed pieces, “Declarations,” will take place at 8 p.m. on Saturday in Dinkel Chapel.

“It’s nice when performances by young groups,” Downey said. “They are usually open to new sounds that the composer can bring to a composition.”

At 3 p.m. on Sunday in Wichers Auditorium, Hope music faculty members will give their own interpretations of some of Downey’s work. Among these performances will be the Shakespeare poem, “Come Away Death” from the play “Twelfth Night,” along with poems by Downey’s wife, Irusha, all of which Downey has set to music.

“Music tries to reflect the aspect of the words in the poem,” Downey said. In addition to the concerts, Downey will also be presenting a lecture at 11 a.m. on Thursday in Wichers Auditorium. The lecture will focus on Downey’s various musical styles.

“Some works are quite early and others are quite recent,” Downey said. “Hopefully (the lecture) will clarify certain aspects of the festival.”

All are welcome to attend any or all of this week’s events. Admission is free.

Hope presents ‘The Birds’

Theater department puts on ancient Greek play by Aristophanes

Nick Denis
April 9, 2003

Later this month, a new play is going to be flying into the DeWitt Main Theatre.
The next presentation of the Hope College Theatre Department will be a production of “The Birds,” by Aristophanes. The comedy follows two Athenians, Pittheus and Euclides, who decide to get away from the pests such as poets, prophets and priests to find a better place to live. Along their journey, they climb the mountains in search of Eupos, the king of the birds, who the Athenians must know of an ideal place. Once they are among the birds, they decide to create Cloud-Cuckooland in order to overthrow the gods.
The subject matter of the play has much to do with current world events.
“An Aristophanes wrote the play in direct response to what was going on in Athens at the time,” said John Tammi, professor of theater and director of the play. “...the Peloponnesian War had taken a turn for the Athenians and the future did not look very bright. They were trying to bring the same kind of topical reference and humor to our production.”

The student cast members and Tammi have been collaborating on the presentation of this work since February. “The entire company of the production (actors, designers and other members of the team) have brought their imaginations and creativity to the project. It’s a real group effort. This collaboration is what I’ve enjoyed the most,” Tammi said.

The production will also feature a set designed by John Anderson (’03), and original music by Andrew Meyers (’00). “The Birds” will be in the DeWitt Main Theatre on April 23, 25, and 26 at 8 p.m., and April 24 at 2 p.m. For tickets and information, call the DeWitt Theatre Ticket Office at 395-7890.

Spring student dance concerts wrap up term

Maureen Yonovitz
April 9, 2003

Those who missed the fall student dance concert or those who want and see more of their peers’ dancing and choreography talents at work will get their chance at 8 p.m. next Monday and Tuesday when a whole new round of student-choreographed dances are presented in the spring student dance concert.

“The show is similar to the fall concert in the fact that is a student-choreographed show but it is different because it is a new show, with new artists,” said Erin Rupert (’04), a dancer and co-choreographer in the concert.

Like in last semester’s concert, there will be two separate shows. One will be in the Kranckerbocker Theatre and the other will be in the Dow.

One of the other (of the shows) isn’t better than the other; those pieces just happen to look better and work better with the intimate space in the Dow or the dark stage, and separate stage in the Knick,” Rupert said.

In order to decide which dances would go in either show, the dance students had a final showing and placement in which they presented their pieces to two faculty members. They talk to you about your progress, what you could do to improve your piece and also explain where your piece would work the best,” Rupert said.

For all of the concerts, admission is free and all are welcome to attend.
Student soldier writes back

To many students at Hope, the support for our troops serving our nation hits close to home. There are brothers, sisters, parents, and friends that have been deployed at various times over the enduring conflict that has plagued our country. The delayers do not leave their friends and family to pursue a common goal, and in fact, some of them come right from the Hope College family. Among them are three U.S. Marines, Timothy Grover (’02) and Carl Daniel (’03), stationed in Africa, and Gabriel Wise (’06) deployed to Kuwait and now believed to be in Iraq, according to friends. Lance Corporal Timothy Grover graduated from Hope in December 2002. After four and a half years he received his ACS certified BS in Chemistry. Right now, he is serving with United States Marine Corps in Djibouti, Africa in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. He wrote to us to share his experience: to be an American, to face this challenge, his passion and his drive. In order to keep the community aware of one of its alumni, here is his letter:

"Being here right now, I feel very warm. The temperature is above 100 degrees Fahrenheit daily, the humidity is above 50 percent and rising. I am out here to do a service for my country. My company and its attachments are here in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, which is the war on terrorism. We function as the security force for the base, standing guard at the front gate and along the walls 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. We also have a reserve force in case a crisis or attack occurs, so that they can quickly react to the situation and support the sentries that are at the position in due proximity.

One challenge that I face as a sentry is putting the night shift guard duty. Imagine sitting in a tower 40 feet off of the ground, alone in the dark, with nothing but radio communications checks every hour to keep you company. The task to which you are assigned is to observe and monitor everything that takes place in front of that tower on the other side of the wall. If you fail to do this, or you fall asleep, it could mean the lives of everyone on the base. (By the time you are on duty, you have already been awake for most of the day, taking care of such essentials as meals, exercise, personal hygiene, weapons maintenance, and laundry if needed. Now you must stay awake all night long and be observant or not only you, but everyone inside the base, could be killed.)

There are a few things that serve to motivate and refresh you easily. First, I have a mug of coffee and a sister at home who has both friends from my hometown and from Hope College. My job is to support the anti-terrorist operations that get carried out in Africa, and the way I do it is by standing guard. If I fail in my job, (it) could mean that the anti-terrorist operations could be compromised. Whatever the case may be for my family and friends back home is the possibility of another terrorist attempt in the American soil. I may not even open fire on any aggressors or "enemies" while I am here, but I know that what I and Lance Corporal Daniel (’03) do is essential to making progress toward a safe United States. I am also driven by the pride associated with being a United States Marine, which drives me to do my job to the best of my ability. The last thing that drives me is that I will eventually come back home.

Chad Sampson

Supporting troops, not war

I was sitting with a group of war protesters outside representative Hoekstra’s office the day after the 40th anniversary of the Vietnam War. A car pulled by a middle aged male yelled out the window, “I support your troops you [expletive deleted].”

There is a way of thinking that exists in our country right now that says anti-war equals anti-American or anti-war equals anti-troops. The logic behind this reaction is that in order to support our troops we need to support the war or that in order to be an American you must support the war America is involved in. This logic, however, is fallacy.

America is supposed to a democracy. We elect leaders and vote on matters in our government in an attempt to represent public voice in the government. There is a certain amount of responsibility that is to be taken by all citizens of voting age for the actions of our government.

Democracy, when it is acting in its ideal fashion, is about the expression, discussion and compromise in issues of policy, laws and regulations. If this is an appropriate description of Democracy, then dissent is a perfectly legitimate reaction to government action. To take this idea further, public expression of dissent is a fundamental principle, which without democracy could lead to dictatorship. The conclusion that must be reached is that a protests is fulfilling his or her patriotic duty. If we assume the issue of whether or not anti-war is equal to anti-troop, it needs to be examined what it means to support our troops. The word support is a loaded term in this instance that needs to be defined. If supporting troops is equal to supporting war, then it might be correct to say that anti-war is anti-troops. This mode of thought, however, would assume that a) the war describes part of a troops fundamental essence and/or b) the troops risking their lives requires supporting a cause whether the war is just or not.

The latter argument can be easily dismissed because under this premise a 9/11 high-jacking must be supported by all Muslims whether they were moral or not, simply because he gave his life. Most Muslims however, do not support the high-jack but because they think the attack was unjust. To address the former argument, we can look at the word support and the dictionary which would state that the word does not describe the troops fundamental essence. A supporter of this cause could say I don’t support what our troops are fighting for, but I support their safety and their right to live. There is no contradiction in the antithesis, the original statement is then false.

We all know as far as the peace movement is concerned, the rights of peaceful assembly, freedom of speech and petitioning the government are protected by the United States Constitution. Peace protesters are exercising these rights to try to raise awareness, or possibly change public opinion, but also to show that America does not have solidarity in its current policy.

The goals of the peace movement usually come from a respect for all human life and a wish to pursue peaceful ends to conflict. But these are things that all people should hope for. Most of the conflict on the Iraq issue arises between groups who disagree over whether peaceful conflict resolution would have failed or not. So the next time you see a protester don’t give them the finger. The protesters want our troops home safe from harm. They are not against their country because disagreeing with the president is not unpatriotic, it is a right and duty in a functioning democracy.

Guest writer

Affirmative action

Hundreds of concerned students and citizens from far and near rallied in front of the highest court of the land, well before opening arguments got underway. The two United States Supreme court cases which have power to turn back the hands of time are: Barbara Grutter v. Lee Bollinger et al., and Gratz v. Bollinger. Both cases are regarding the admissions process at the University of Michigan, Grutter v. Bollinger is pertaining to the law school, and Gratz v. Bollinger addresses the undergraduate process. These landmark cases have stirred up controversy and various feelings within our nation as our own president has voiced his opposition to affirmative action, and based on those cases the court is immediately reevaluating oral arguments to the public, a very uncommon practice.

Affirmative action remains a controversial issue, but let’s picture colleges and universities without a policy that requires them to not discriminate against a student based on race. Yes, I am against discrimination of any kind, but affirmative action policies are not discriminating against anyone in my opinion. It is simply ensuring that history does not repeat itself, and the ugly head of racism does not control our country as it once did.

The overall minority percentage point, which includes internationals, at Hope College makes up less than 10 percent of the student body, although Hope is a private college and can abide by its own rules and regulations in terms of admissions policies, the college can always be seen at public and private institutions of higher learning across the board. Aside from historically Black colleges and universities, you will not see a campus of minority students who are the majority. That alone speaks volumes.

Imagine with me for a moment, that we never had a Constitution or Bill of Rights, which could be enforced throughout the land. Imagine that the 13th and 14th amendment were nonexistent and people made their own rules as they went along. President Abraham Lincoln was proven to have done everything above and beyond, so how can we really believe for a moment that people would have allowed some Slaves to work a race count as a whole person instead of three fifths? Read your bill or rights, and think about the reasons generations of power before us decided to make and amend enforceable laws, and where we would be without them.

The goal and the overall result of affirmative action policies relating to institutes of higher education are a positive one. Minorities can now apply to these schools, be considered and accepted into higher education programs, where we were once not allowed to. Hey, I didn’t write history, but now we all have to reap the consequences of many immoral, racist decisions generations before us have made. Let’s remember why affirmative action was instituted and not take that away. Remember that history can only repeat itself if we allow it to.
Sterotypes revealed at Hope College

Carly Jugenitz  

Located on the west coast of Michigan, Hope is known by many as a certain type of institution. Hope is a small school that provides a liberal-arts education and is affiliated with the Christian Reformed faith. These three qualities alone yield numerous stereotypes about what the education is like, what types of students will attend, and how strict the administration will be. But even more intriguing are the stereotypes that have been formed within the intimate college community.

Most students who attend Hope can recall a time in their lives when people have prejudged them based on the fact that they attend Hope College. Todd Edema ('02) even experienced this phenomenon when he studied off-campus in Philadelphia. "I entered with the Philadelphia Eagles, and because they had a prior experience with another Hope student, they assumed I was extremely religious because of the sole fact that I attended Hope. They often referred to me and Rand Arwady ('03) as the Christian brothers from Hope College."

What is even more fascinating is that, although many students have experienced stereotyping of some sort, they still contribute to the stereotyping that occurs within the Hope community.

While these preconceived beliefs are not always truthful, they do hold a lot of power on-campus. For example, if a student is to wear a sweatshirt with Greek letters, they are automatically labeled as Greek and seen by non-Greeks as the typical "Greek" student who participates in the typical "Greek" activities and associates with the typical "Greek" friends. However, it does not stop there. If those same students are wearing a Greek sweatshirt with Sigma Sigma or Omicron Kappa Epillon on it, they are prejudged even more as a Sigma or a Frater. And by no fault of their own, when they interact with people who do not know them as an individual, they have to live with the preconceived beliefs and carry the stereotypical baggage that comes with being in that organization.

There are many other stereotypes present at Hope that people believe in. Several students expressed these as the most popular stereotypes within Hope's community. Students at Hope are avid Christians, females attending Hope are in search of their "MRS. Degree," Hope students are from affluent backgrounds, activities are glorified by the school, and members of the Dew Crew are a little too passionate about Hope basketball.

So if these stereotypes are not truthful and they do not correctly portray the student population, then why do they exist? It seems when students are confronted about the stereotypes they have adopted into their belief system that they do not know when or why this occurred. Most often students have not had personal experience with people they pre-judge; they simply attach stereotypes because of rumors they have heard.

The power of language that allows rumors to spread like wildfire often acts as the backbone for many stereotypes. One thing is inevitable; people like to talk about other people. People seem to like it even more when rumors involve "juicy" information that is almost, but not quite unbelievable. With Hope being such an intimate college community, people tend to talk more because they are more familiar with other organizations, or people who are stereotyped.

Most of the time rumors have little or no validity. Rumors feed off previous situations, events of the past, and historical traditions. The bottom line is this: rumors magnify and exaggerate the truth. And because people enjoy hearing and spreading rumors, stereotypes are formed and people are placed in stereotypical boxes about who they are and what they are like according to rumors.

It seems that people readily acknowledge this fact, however, stereotypes still exist, and rumors continue to spread faster than the speed of light. So is there any way that stereotypes will ever cease to exist, or is it just an inevitable fact that people need to learn to live with?

It would be an overly idealistic statement to say that stereotypes can be eliminated. In fact, as long as people talk with one another, rumors will always be present and certain stereotypes will be supported. However, stereotypical views can be minimized. The key to this is awareness. If people allow themselves to be educated about other organizations, activities or points of views, they will be able to better understand people who are different from them without profiling them into a stereotypical category.

Communication professor Deirdre Johnston explains how education can help to decrease stereotyping. "Education should ideally decrease people's stereotypic views that are both erroneous and harmful to others." According to Johnston, there is a positive correlation between education and abandonment of stereotypes. "It is important to realize that under every stereotype, there is an individual and that individual is much more complex and intriguing than the stereotype that they have had attached to them because of what they are involved with. At Hope we are surrounded by people who are different from ourselves in many ways. Instead of classifying these people with differences into stereotypical boxes, we should embrace the differences and increase our awareness of all the unique people who make up humankind. We are all fortunate to be surrounded by diversity in the Hope community, and we need to take advantage of our situation. By increasing interaction with our peers and by raising our awareness instead of stereotyping and profiling we enable ourselves to make the most out of our college experience.
Turn off that TV for freedom

To go along with my column from last week, I would like to pont out forward an idea for a way to meaningfully protest the war in Iraq without carrying around slogans and it may help out your grades at the same time.

Through this whole ordeal, we have seen the day's events in Iraq broadcast like a football game, play by play, from embedded journalists on networks like CNN or FOX News. The only difference between the war coverage and a football game is that, in this case, the media are being censored. In the Gulf War of 1990, the military made sure that what came out in the newspapers and on television broadcasts was what they wanted the public to see. The government quickly hid the charred bodies and other terribl images of the war to pump up public approval 13 years ago, and they are assuredly doing it again.

I am thoroughly upset when I first myself sucked into a TV like a mindless zombie, while the rest of the world passes around me. Day after day in the Kletz, I see students and faculty alike stop their reading for class or their discussion with each other to watch the action on the TVs.

To avoid being sucked into this TV trap, I propose a simple solution: turn the set off. Go without the flashy images and reporters discussing the latest into Baghdad for as long as you can stand it. Be daring and take it a step further: Refuse to watch any television, not the news. Imagine the time that will be freed up to do other things that we are always lacking time for, like writing those papers, doing homework, or calling your mom.

If you take this course of action, it will of course mean that you will either become uninformed or you will have to find other sources of information. In this time, it may be difficult to find an unbiased news source that will have the most up to date information about civilian and military casualties, but they are out there. Two places you can start are Truthout (www.truthout.org), and the International Red Cross (www.icrc.org).

Men are not the oppressed minority in housing

To the Editor:

I'm not a person that normally complains a lot or gets easily feed up and upset by things, but the mendacious claims about the war for the upcoming full seminar definitely struck a nerve. Recently I filled out an application for an apartment, and a group of guys I know. Applications were turned in, and it turned out my group did not receive an apartment, but theirs did. Now, normally this would be no big deal, however my group had a total of 22 more credits than their group.

How does that work out? According to Hope College Housing, they received an apartment based on the guy to girl ratio at Hope. This semester, according to the enrollment data on the website of the Registrar's office, the guy to girl ratio is almost 1.5 girls for every guy. That's not very equal, but it's not exactly an over-whelming amount either. The enrollment data shows 62% of Hope's campus to be female this semester. It only seems fair then that, at the very least, 62% of the apartment space be bestowed upon the girls and the rest for males. Perhaps this is how the housing department does it, although based on what I've seen the past two weeks, I tend to doubt it. Would this proposed method be any fairer than simply putting everybody in one big group and assigning apartments entirely based on credit hours? Some would say yes because guys on this campus tend to have less credit hours. Well, the enrollment data shows them to being the same amount of credits at Hope as women. The difference must be found in AP credits. How is it any harder for a guy to get AP credits than a girl? That Y chromosome doesn't have the credits, that is their own fault. Everybody should be pitted against everybody else for an apartment, not guys versus guys and girls versus girls.

It's the only way Hope can do it and be completely fair. Yes, there probably will be more apartments with guys than with girls, but take a look around, there are more girls here! It's not opinion, it's a fact, far from it actually, but consider hous- ing options for guys versus girls. When guys come to Hope, they have the option of living in one of several dorms with quality rooms, Dufve and Phelps for example. When girls come to Hope, the only dorm they have is a dorm that is currently... dun dun dun... Dykstra. I spent my freshman year in Dykstra, and it was great in a cluster, but that's the only good thing about Dykstra. The rooms are on the small size with jail-cell windows, furni- ture from the 60's, makeshift cloths in a giant wood wall unit (that takes up more space than anything), and community bathrooms with showers built to accommodate a toddler. It's not exactly quality liv- ing, but you shouldn't expect that for your freshman year. However, some would say get it (guy) and some of us don't (girls). Is it so much to ask then we need equal opportuni- ties for apartments?

--Britany Gesper ('03)

Uncle Sam ignoring Iraqi civilian deaths

To the Editor:

When the military destroys enemy weapons packed to civilian and religious sites it occurs to me that Bush might not have the Iraqi peoples' interests at heart. I am not a fool, and I realize that civilian deaths are, regrettably, to be expected in these settings. But if these were American citizens (the Saddam parked tanks next to surely we wouldn't be bombimg Idaho weap- ons next to daycare centers. When criminals take hos- tages in the States we don't have our police forces lob- bing grenades in to the area. Why not respect the lives of the people we are trying to liberate just the same.

Iraq needs to be liberated, but the Bush administra- tion also needs to care about civilian casualties. The people of America are very concerned with the num- ber of troops that are wounded or die, but why don't we hear estimates on Iraqi Civilian lives? We're sup- posed to care right? We're trying to end this war, and after all. In thorough a long briefing of the CENTCOM April 2nd briefing (latest at time of writ- ing) I see no mention by General Brooks of Iraqi Casual- ties or Fatalities. Nor are there any reporters who asked.

In order to appreciate how American Generals and foreign reporters keep dodging and rephrasing the same question over and over you will have to read the CENTCOM briefings. In the April 1st briefing an uniden- tified foreign reporter asked "When you show us these impressive satellite footage and video clips, you probably want us to believe that, A, your bombs are acccurate; B, you do not target civilians. If that is really the case, I'm just wondering, how can you explain the death of between 500 to 700 Iraqi civilians and injur- ing many more thousands?"

General Brooks responded, "... Our approach has been to one that tries to minimize the impact on civilian populations and other structures that we don't intend to affect. We are very satisfied with the precision of the work that has been under- taken. The numbers that you've provided, I cannot account for. I don't know the source of those numbers and I don't know what the veracity of those numbers would be. There are clearly deaths that have occurred on the battlefield."

CENTCOM does have an estimate of Iraqi deaths. If British intelligence can provide its reporters with an estimate so can CENTCOM. The general elaborates further on his difficulties with this estimation of the same briefing. "I thing the number is some- thing we can't get our hands around, but it's a number that the Iraqi regime has a pretty good grip. They're contributing a tremendous portion of this number, whatever it happens to be."

Why are reporters at the BBC more informed about civilian deaths than a Marine Brigadier General as- signed to CENTCOM? Or is he in the loop, but has chosen to ignore and censor the facts because it looks better?

--Paul Hayes ('05)

Show support for your lacrosse team at tournament

To the Editor:

The men's lacrosse team is now halfway through its season, despite some setbacks caused by this crazy Michigan weather. Their record is currently 7-1. The team has a lot of young talent. It consists of a num- ber of players who have never played lacrosse before college, yet dedicated themselves to attending indoor practices from midnight un- til two in the morning for much of the season. This year's annual wooden shoe lacrosse tour- nament hosted by hope is the largest such tournament in the state, with ten teams and thirteen games over the course of two days. Hope plays against Kettering at 11 a.m., and against Ferris State University at 1 p.m. If they win those games, they will go on to play in the semi- finals at 4:30 p.m. and then the fi- nals at 5:30 p.m. Last year, we had so many fans come and support us at our tournament, and our team agrees that this huge support is what won us the tournament, as well as the team's hard work and determination for this one goal. The team would therefore like to invite the entire campus to come out to the guys athletic fields and support us. The weather is supposed to begin to get nicer and what better way to cele- brate than with a day of lacrosse. It is a pretty unique and fun expe- rience and the team loves the com- munity support.

The men's team also has one fi- nally games in the season against central Michigan and plays at Calvin on Thursday April 24 at 4:30. Come out and see what the fun of lacrosse is all about.

--Patrick Kearney ('03)
Unconditional support is not necessary

To the Editor:

I am told to "Support our Troops" now that war has begun. I say, it all depends on what you mean. I want our troops out of harm's way. I support them in their right to choose the military, their feeling that they are posing their hostile entering of a country without international support. I don't support them in their killing of Iraqis, both soldiers and innocent civilians. And I oppose them in their inevitable destroying of at least some infrastructure and resources that will lead to miseries in the future. Please don't look at me strangely if I can't unqualifiedly agree that "But, of course, all citizens can and should support our troops."

—Neil Wo 11 man, Professor of Psychology; Manchester College

Letters to the Editor Guidelines

Open to anyone within the college and related communities
The Anchor reserves the right to edit due to space constraints
No personal attacks, poor taste or anything potentially libelous
Letters chosen on a first come first serve basis, or a representative sample is taken
No anonymous letters, unless discussed with Editor-in-Chief
Editor-in-Chief may verify identity of writer
The Anchor reserves the right to refuse publication of any letter submitted
Letters over 500 words in length will not be considered for publication
Mail letters to the Anchor c/o Hope College, drop them off at the Anchor office (located in the center of DeWitt, behind WTHS), or e-mail Anchor@hope.edu

For Want of a Nail...

One person can affect many. Make a difference today. Join Circle K, the world's premier college/community service organization. First meeting: April 9th, in Maas Auditorium at 10 pm.

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Basketball players earn awards

Kerkstra, Overbeek named All-Americans

David Yetter
Sports Editor

Don Overbeek ('03), Amanda Kerkstra ('03), and Jeff Carlson ('06) all have received accolades for their play during the 2002-2003 basketball season. A man and a woman, Kerkstra has been named as a first-team All-American by the DIII News. Overbeek, who attended Holland High School, is one of the ten Division III players in the nation that were named to the team.

Carlson became a starter for the Flying Dutchmen in the team's third game. He quickly became a force on the team and never looked back. He ended up averaging 10.2 points per game, becoming Hope's second leading scorer of the team while averaging 24.2 minutes over the team's 28 games.

Carlson led the team in three-point and free throw shooting. He made a team-best 50 three-point field goals and shot 54% from behind the line. He also shot 97% from the free throw line, knocking down 3 of 31 shots from the charity stripe.

Along with being named to the All-Freshman Team, Carlson was also voted to the MIAA all-conference second team.

"I think I did real well for my first year," Carlson said. "The guys instilled a lot of confidence in me and it was great getting to play on a team that won so many games."

Rain Out

A number of sports have had their games cancelled or rescheduled because of the cold and the snow that has blanketed the West Michigan area over the weekend. Below are the sports which have had games cancelled because of the weather or from scheduling conflicts.

Softball

Tuesday, April 8
Adrian at Hope postponed
Thursday, April 10
Hope at Aquinas cancelled
Friday, April 11
Hope at Olivet cancelled

Track

Wednesday, April 9
Home meet postponed

Baseball

Friday, April 4
Calvin at Hope postponed

Sports takes dedication and heart

I was glancing at Hope’s sports schedules last week when I came upon a schedule for the swimmers. I knew that the swimmers didn’t have the easiest schedule, but I wasn’t aware of the sacrifices that these athletes make. Swimmers are the athletes who have the hardest schedule and are some of the most dedicated athletes in school.

The season begins with practices at the start of October and nationally aren’t over till the end of March. The team practices early and often, swimming lap after lap, hoping to improve their times. There were even practices over Christmas break, and getting up early on break to go to any kind of practice is about as much fun as a bad case of the shingles. The dorms were not even open during some of the break and some students even had to stay at a hotel until the school was opened.

The swimmers are on the road a lot as well. Road trips took them to more than one different state over the year and some swimmers were in Georgia on their spring break competing in the National Championships.

The practice paid off, however, and both of Hope’s swim teams had successful seasons. The men finished second at the MIAA Championships for the eighth straight year, while the women won their tenth MIAA championship in the last 12 years and their 20th in school history. Also, nine swimmers competed at the NCAA Championships in Georgia. Brian Slagh ('03), David Omree ('06), Jeff Heydlauff ('05), Chris Hamstra ('04), and Travis Barkel ('06) all had All-America Performances for relays while Slagh also got a mention in the 200-yard free.

The year was successful for both teams and it seems that all their hard work paid off. Coach Patnott said that he enjoyed the season and is already looking ahead.

"I was happy with the attitude and the efforts that everybody put out and we’ll be ready to start again next October," he said.

Tennis has 5-2 weekend

Men, women improve MIAA records with road victories

David Yetter
Sports Editor

The Hope College men’s and women’s tennis teams played a number of games over the weekend.

The men won two games on Friday at the GLCA Tournament, beating Oberlin and Wooster, two teams from Ohio. But they fell to Kenyon on Saturday by a score of five games to three.

The men beat Aquinas yesterday by a score of 6-3 to improve their overall record to 12-2. Don Mann ('03) defeated Nate Price to improve his overall record to 12-2 and then teamed with Kevney Dugan ('04), to improve their doubles record to 12-1.

The men suffered their second loss of the season last Friday to Wheaton College. During their 5-2 loss, Dan Mann and Kenney Dugan were Hope’s only winners on the day.

They rebounded Saturday and gained a victory over Adrian in MIAA match play. They defeated the Bulldogs on Saturday by a score of 9-0. They improved their team record to 1-2 on the season and 3-0 in MIAA play.

Some winners for Hope in singles play were freshmen Bobby Dody and Andy Phillips. Freshmen Andy Ruememann and Nate Reed were among the winners in doubles play. The men play again this weekend in the Great Lakes Colleges Association (GLCA) Tournament.

The women won both of their meets on Friday. They beat Oberlin, Ohio in the early game by a score of 5-4. Winners for Hope included Stephanie Springer ('04) and Priya Malviya ('05). The women then defeated Wooster, Ohio later in the day by a score of 5-0.

Singel winners for Hope included Annicele Fox ('06) and Jennifer Coleman ('03). Doubles winners included Malviya and Fox, who won their match 8-1. Their momentum was halted on Saturday, however, as they lost to Kenyon. Play was forced indoors because of bad weather.

Despite the loss to Kenyon, Coach Karen Page was pleased with how the women played over the weekend. She is looking forward to the tournament this weekend and is expecting a lot from the women.

"We definitely stepped it up in this tournament," Page said. "Our momentum is back on track and we are the athletes who have the easiest schedule, but 1 wasn’t

For the men, Don Overbeek ('03), Amanda Kerkstra ('03), and Jeff Carlson ('06) all have received accolades for their play during the 2002-2003 basketball season. A man and a woman, Kerkstra has been named as a first-team All-American by the DIII News. Overbeek, who attended Holland High School, is one of the ten Division III players in the nation that were named to the team.

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"Never again will our season be replicated, no one will do what we have done, and that is part of the legacy that we leave behind when we graduate."

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