4-18-2007

The Anchor, Volume 120.21: April 18, 2007

Hope College

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HOPE RESPONDS TO TRAGEDY

Members of the Hope community gather to honor Virginia Tech shooting victims

Matt Oosterhouse
Corr. Editor

On Monday morning, April 16, tragedy struck the small town of Blacksburg, Va. and the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. A lone gunman wrecked havoc in an academic building, Norris Hall, on the university’s campus, and killed 33 people. The gunman, who took his own life, also shot and injured at least 15 others.

In an alleged related event, two other victims died of gunshot wounds in a dormitory building. The situation is under investigation and has been linked to the Norris Hall events.

While the full list of deceased victims was not released by press time, it has been confirmed that four professors were among those killed. The gunman, 23-year-old Cho Seung-Hui, a resident alien from South Korea who was studying English at Virginia Tech, took his own life as well. In all, the death toll reached 33 people.

The tragic events at Virginia Tech caused parallel reactions among the Hope College community. Faculty, staff and students alike have voiced a sense of shock, horror and sadness.

Laura Malpass (‘09) was especially affected by events. Her hometown, Roanoke, Va., is approximately 30 miles east of Blacksburg.

“I initially was shocked. I couldn’t believe it. Any school shooting is a tragedy, but it has never hit this close to home, been this real,” before,” Malpass said.

Yes, and still am, concerned for my friends who go to Virginia Tech. One of my best friends from high school is a student.

PRAISING FOR HEALING AND PEACE — Students, faculty and staff, including Erika Howel (‘08) (left), gathered in the Pine Grove on Tuesday to mourn the victims of the shooting that occurred Monday at Virginia Tech.

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKERS

Approximately 718 seniors will graduate on May 6. Adjunct associate English professor, Diane Portfleet, will speak at this year’s commencement. General Secretary of the World Council of Churches, the Rev. Dr. Samuel Kobia of Geneva, Switzerland will deliver the baccalaureate sermon at Dimnent Memorial Chapel.

FACULTY AND STAFF SURVEYED

On April 3, the Professional Interest Committee of Hope College met to discuss the recent results of the faculty survey. The survey, which was administered by PIC last fall, consists of a series of questions regarding the work atmosphere of Hope faculty members. According to PIC chair and professor of theater, Michelle Bombe, “The purpose of the survey is to find out the pulse of the faculty. The survey gives the faculty a voice.”

Faculty from the arts, humanities, natural sciences and social sciences participated in the survey to give their opinions on overall job satisfaction and areas that may need improvement.

ALUMNA TURNS 105

Alice Mae Brower Hoffs celebrated her 105th birthday on Feb. 25. Brower currently resides at Friendship Village in Kalamazoo. A charter member of the Sibleyline Society, Brower graduated from Hope College in 1923.

HOPE-CREATED PLAY OPENS

“Rose and the Rime” is the final Hope College student theatre production of the year. Opening weekend for the show is April 20 and the show will continue through April 25-28.

Without giving too much of the show’s premises away, cast member Danie Clark (‘08) said, “Rose and the Rime” is about a girl who battles an ice witch to retrieve a magic coin that will save her town.”

This production is particularly special because of its connection to visiting artist Nathan Allen. Allen is from Chicago, where he founded The House Theatre Company. He has written and helped produce several shows at The House, most recently, the show he wrote, “The Sparrow,” has received praise from critics and theatre-goers across Chicago.

Two months ago, Allen announced his cast and crew for Hope’s production. The cast began to meet, collaborate with one another and create a script for the production. Cast members were able to create their own characters for the show. Now, the cast is two days away from opening night of “Rose and the Rime” and the energy is building.

When students enter DeWitt Theatre, they should be prepared to enter winter weather once again. The stage has been transformed — it has been painted completely white and resembles a stage as seen on the MTV music awards. A central walkway juts from the main stage, creating two pits for members of the audience who wish to stand.

HOPE-CREATED PLAY OPENS

Larissa Mariano
Stark Writer

“We are silent from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Monday, April 19, which will feature a variety of events to give voice to the concerns of the LGBT community at Hope. The Triangle Foundation is presenting on ‘The Politics of Homosexuality’ at 11 a.m. in Cook Auditorium, and Hope students will share their stories about the impact of sexuality in their lives at 4 p.m. in the Fried-Hemway Auditorium. At 7:30 p.m. a ‘Rent’ sing-along will be held at the Knickerbocker Theatre; guests are invited to come dressed as their favorite ‘Rent’ characters.

The events are sponsored by the Sexuality Roundtable: A Forum for Gay and Straight Students.
A survey released last month by the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse showed that college binge drinking and drug use is on the rise nationally. Currently, nearly half of America’s college students use drugs or engage in binge drinking at least once a month. Binge drinking is defined as having five drinks for males or four drinks for females during one “drinking occasion.”

In 2005, 22.8 percent of students surveyed reported binge drinking three or more times during the previous two weeks compared to 19.7 percent in 1993. However, the number of students who occasionally drink has stayed steady at 70 percent in 1993 and 68 percent in 2005. Nationally, other drug use is up as well. Marijuana use is up from 27.9 percent in 1993 to 33.3 percent in 2005 while illicit drug use rose from 30.6 percent in 1993 to 36.6 percent in 2005. Increased stress and work loads may have led to the increased drug and alcohol use. Nearly half of the students surveyed said they drank or used drugs in order to relax, reduce stress or forget about problems.

Although Hope College is a dry campus, some students choose to drink alcohol and use drugs. Predictably, though, Hope students do not abuse drugs and alcohol to the same extent as the national average. Part of this reason may be that religiously involved individuals are consistently less likely to use alcohol and other drugs.

A comparison study conducted in 2001 found that 36.3 percent of Hope students drank beer in the previous year compared to 49.6 percent of students in a comparison group. The same study showed that 45.7 percent of Hope students drank wine or liquor in the previous year compared with 55.8 percent of the comparison group.

The comparison group consisted of colleges like Hope which were highly selective, non-sectarian colleges not owned or supported by the same religious organization.
Senior artists create ‘ARTSEE’

The Senior Art Show exhibition titled “ARTSEE” remains open until Sunday, May 6.

The work represented in the Senior Art Show exhibition is completed several pieces.

The piece “Fire Ants” created by Cullen Kronemeyer (’07), consists of a similar image displayed in both a steel model and charcoal on paper. He also completed a large scale pencil piece titled “Liverpool.”

One of Jessica Gipson’s (’07) pieces, “Ultitled,” consists of fabric built dresses on painted canvas. Three different three-dimensional dresses line the wall.

CLASS OF 2007 — Range of artistic talent expressed through varying mediums in Depree Art Gallery.

Combined choirs tour New York City

Chapel choir will perform for the last time this year with College Chorus in the Combined Choirs Concert. “Chapel Choir concerts are usually acapella and small and intimate. The Combined Choruses concert will be big and festive,” Scheuerman said.

Chris Dekker (’08), a member of College Chorus, said, “We work the semester on the music for the combined concert. When the choirs are together, the sound is really confident.”

Hope College students will be able to enjoy next Tuesday’s concert in Dimnent Chapel. Admission is free to the public.

‘STORIES FROM THE COLLEGE RULED MARGINS’

Prof. Beth Trembly’s English 358 Intermediate Creative Writing: Memoirs class will see their works come to life in a collaborative effort between creative writing and theatre students.

Fifteen five-minute excerpts from the student’s work will be read by members of the theater department.

The subject matter ranges from faith and sexual orientation to love, self-image and death.

The performance will begin at 8 p.m. in the DeWitt Theatre on April 24. Admission is free.

JAPANESE DRUMMING GROUP TO PERFORM

Icko Daiko will perform in the Knickerbocker Theatre Saturday, April 21. The group is sponsored by the Cleveland chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League.

It was named after the gingko trees that line Oberlin’s Main Street. The group builds its own drums. Its mission is to strengthen Asian-American communities by instilling pride and cultural awareness and to build bridges between Asian-Americans and other groups through the dynamic expression of taiko.

ARTS

This Week in Art

Wednesday April 18

Film: “Luis Puenza’s La Historia” 8 p.m. Winslow Auditorium

Jazz Ensemble Concert 7:30 p.m. Dimnent Chapel

Comedian: Steven Horenzi 9-10 p.m. Kletz. Sponsored by SAC

Thursday April 19

Film: “Last King of Scotland” 7 p.m. Science Center 1000

Friday April 20

Film: “Catch And Release” April 20 & 21, 7:930 p.m; midnight.

Wind Symphony Concert 7:30 p.m. Dimnent Chapel

Saturday April 21

Concert: Meg Allison 8:30 p.m. Kletz. Admission Free,
Dance students present original choreography in annual Spring Concert

The Hope College 2007 spring Student Dance Concert was performed Monday and Tuesday evening at the Knickerbocker Theatre.

The concert was coordinated by dance professor Steven Iannacone, along with visiting professor Matthew Thornton. A small cast of Hope students consisting of dance majors, minors and non-dance majors alike, conducted and performed the impressive choreography.

This is one of my favorite Student Dance Concerts I’ve been in and seen. There are a lot of very strong and entertaining pieces,” said Jeanine Schulze (’07), one of the concert’s performers.

“It’s nice to see and learn from other students’ style. It’s also a great opportunity to choreograph your own dances,” Schulze said.

One of the main goals of the Student Dance Concert is to help students develop strong choreography skills and receive feedback in a safe environment. In addition to the opportunity to present their work, student choreographers receive notes from outside adjudicators, or judges, in order that they might learn from the experience and improve upon it in the future. This semester’s adjudicators are Katherine Sullivan, local artist, and Cindy Alberg, Hope dance alumna.

The concert consisted of a variety of dance styles ranging from tap, modern jazz, hip-hop, silent interpretive, ballet and lyrical pieces.

“I love how diverse the pieces were! What can be better than one minute, watching students dance in Meijer plastic bags and the next, pink ballet slippers and tu-tu’s? The entire concert was extremely creative and enjoyable to watch,” an audience member said.

On April 23 at 8 p.m., there will be a smaller Studio Concert featuring dance “pieces-in-progress” in the Dow room 207. There will also be a Senior Dance Concert on April 27 at 8 p.m. at the Knickerbocker.
These boots are made for springtime hiking

Outdoor enthusiasts recommend best trails in Holland

Lindsey Manthel
Features Editor
As Hope College students begin digging their way out of a long winter’s hibernation, a certain group of boot-wearing, Gore-tex-sporting, shaggy-looking outdoors enthusiasts shared some of their favorite hiking destinations. Get outside and enjoy the beautiful spring days!

Saugatuck Dunes State Park is about a 20-minute drive from Hope’s campus. With 1,000 acres of land and 2.5 miles of Lake Michigan Shoreline, this park offers 13 miles of trails for day hiking (camping is not permitted) and secluded beaches for picnics or swimming. The trails are sandy and wind through hardwood forests and parabolic dunes, through wetlands and along a stream.

Fifteen miles north of Holland, Pigeon Creek County Park encompasses almost 300 acres, with 150 acres of adjacent county open space land. The park, which has 10 miles of trails for hiking and biking along the Pigeon River is open 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. Camping is also available at this park.

The Outdoor Discovery Center is a 120-acre preserve with about four miles of hiking trails. The trails lead hikers through wetlands, forests, remnant dunes and ponds. Home to an abundance of wildlife, the Outdoor Discovery Center offers opportunities for hikers as well as photographers.

Within bike-able distance of Hope’s campus, DeGraff Nature Center provides boardwalks and trails through marshes and woods on an 18-acre preserve. DeGraff often offers classes and nature programs such as “Wading in a Frog Pond” on April 27 and “Wildflowers of Sanctuary Woods” on April 27. Call 355-1057 for more information.

A local favorite close to campus, Van Raalte Farms is a 155-acre park with hiking trails through forests, wetlands and fields. A wide array of trails through hills, extensive boardwalk system through marshlands. The back trails of Van Raalte Farms are the favorite of many locals. And, if it happens to snow again this spring, Van Raalte features lit sledding hills.

Within walking distance from Van Raalte Farm are the trails of Ridgepoint Community Church. Used as a cross country running course, the trails cross through fields, a small wooded area and a large hill. The trail system is currently undergoing a wetland restoration project and adding and renovating trails.

Lindsey Manthel
Features Editor
Treasure hunting used to mean finding an enchanted map, spending months at sea with smelly pirates and searching for an “X” on a deserted island. Today, with the rise of highly accurate GPS technology, finding a treasure is as easy as visiting a website, punching a few coordinates into a GPS unit, and following it to the “X.” “It’s deceptively easy,” Hope chemistry professor Michael Seymour said. “The rapidly growing treasure-hunting hobby, called geocaching, is gaining popularity across the globe. The point of the game is to follow GPS coordinates to a cache hidden by other geocaching enthusiasts who post the coordinates online.

“For me, geocaching is just another reason to get outside,” Seymour said. “I’ve discovered parks I would have never known were there if I hadn’t started geocaching.”

Hope student Emily Scatterday (’09) also enjoys geocaching in her spare time. “I became interested in geocaching after my parents got me a personal GPS for Christmas,” Scatterday said. “It gets people out in nature exploring. Sometimes it’s pretty good exercise because you have to hike to the cache.”

Geocaching officially began in 2000 when highly accurate satellite GPS technology became widely available to the general population. Originally used for navigational purposes, GPS technology started gaining popularity with recreational users shortly after the technology was released. In 2000, a GPS user excited about the new technology decided to test just how accurate the new system was. He hid a target in the woods near his home and posted the location online. He hid a target in the woods near his home and posted the location online. The back trails of Van Raalte Farms are the favorite of many locals. And, if it happens to snow again this spring, Van Raalte features lit sledding hills. Within walking distance from Van Raalte Farm are the trails of Ridgepoint Community Church. Used as a cross country running course, the trails cross through fields, a small wooded area and a large hill. The trail system is currently undergoing a wetland restoration project and adding and renovating trails.

In the dozen or so caches Seymour has found, many have contained trinkets, pencils, buttons, coins or simply a log book. Seymour said he often leaves a credit card-sized periodic table with a Hope logo in caches he finds.

“A person I know once found 50 bucks in a cache,” Scatterday said. Scatterday has found山上 wildly ranging from trinkets, pencils, buttons, coins or simply a log book. Seymour said he often leaves a credit card-sized periodic table with a Hope logo in caches he finds.

“A person I know once found 50 bucks in a cache,” Scatterday said. “A few months ago, a Hope student found a box containing a log book, a pair of binoculars, and a compass.”

There are only a few rules for geocaching. First, if you take something from the cache, leave something in the cache. Caches are never buried, and are always on public property. Items found and left can be children’s toys, DVDs, notes, magnets, pictures, jewelry, tools—basically anything.

Since GPS coordinates are accurate within 30 feet or so of where an object is actually hidden, finding geocaches can often be difficult. Seymour said it took him a few outings to develop a sense of where a typical hiding place might be—in the hole of a tree, in a stump, inside a hollowed out fence post or venerated beneath the underside of a walkway.

GPS units range anywhere from $100 for a basic model to $1,000 for a more advanced variety. www.geocaching.com
Going to the chapel

Meghan Follen Staff Writer

An interview with Mr. and Mrs. Steven ('07) and Joanna ('07) (Leigeb) Rodriguez (above left.)

When did you get married?  
August 5, 2006, right before our senior year.

When and how did you first meet?  
It was an indirect result of Hope’s best dating service: Nykerk.

How did you decide to get married while still in college?  
A lot of people said that we were crazy for getting married without having jobs. Our philosophy was that by getting married before senior year, we’d have a year to enjoy living together and work out some of the difficulties before we had bills to pay, and jobs and apartments to find.

How did your parents and friends respond when you told them?  
Both of our sets of parents got married young (19-21), so they couldn’t really tell us that it wouldn’t work. Our friends just screamed. Well, mostly the girls.

What is being married similar or different to what you thought it would be?  
We didn’t think about more often and less often than we were expecting. Take from that what you will.

What is the best part of being married?  
A marriage is the smallest unit of Christian community. There is nothing in the world like teaming up with someone for a life of Christian service together. In our case, we get to make art together—playing inside of natural revelation has never been this much fun.

The most challenging part?  
Well, since we’re in college and pretty passionate about our majors, there are some days that we don’t see each other from 8 to 10 p.m.

However, getting engaged at 17 of last summer. (Just in time to clear the FAFSA deadline.)

When and how did you first get married?  
K: Health Dy, the first couple of days of our freshman year. We didn’t date or anything until halfway through our sophomore year, though.

N: I found her hanging upside down over a burning tar pit in Botswana.

How did you decide to get married while still in college?  
We were pretty convicted that we were going to get married shortly after we began dating. Then, it was just a question of when. After a lot of conversations, though, number crunching and prayer, we felt that last summer was the best time. We had to consider whether we would be better together than apart for this senior year.

Engaging your parents and friends respond when you told them?  
We really couldn’t have felt more supported in doing this. We involved our parents early on, because we wanted to have six of us going in the same direction from the start. So, when we finally told them that we had decided on the summer before our senior year, they were totally with us. As far as friends, it went really smoothly because people knew asking us was stupid.

It's both, like most things in life. It has carried all the benefits and challenges that we anticipated, as well as quite a few that we didn’t. One thing that has surprised us is how we've felt even more connected to our friends now than ever before. We've had to make a lot of sacrifices together, but it's helped us to grow up together.

The future?  
To keep dating in a Christian light and resist the seductive temptations of society. It's essential to seek God’s kingdom together. It's good to have fun and enjoy God together,
A cook by trade, Dominguez adapted to the catering team. "But I do like the work here." Dominguez added, "It really wasn’t as bad as I thought it would be," Henry said, looking back upon her job search and interview process. "It’s definitely nerve-racking," Sara Henry (’07) said. "It’s always hard to know what to expect from the job search and interview process." Henry said that she started her job search last fall. After conducting both phone and in-person interviews, Henry received a job offer in the computer-technology field. However, she is currently planning on attending graduate school at the University of Michigan in the fall. "It really wasn’t as bad as I thought it would be," Henry said, looking back upon her job search and interview process. According to the National Association of Colleges and Employers’ “Job Outlook 2007,” many college graduates will face a promising job market this spring. Employers intend to hire 17.4 percent more graduates from the class of 2007 than they did from the class of 2006. Students with degrees in business, engineering and technology are expected to be in especially high demand. The report also stated that the growing demand for new college graduates is a reflection of expanded corporations and retiring baby boomers. While recent college graduates often lack experience and skill, many employers appreciate their motivation, enthusiasm and innovative ideas. "It really wasn’t as bad as I thought it would be." — Sara Henry (’07)

"Even though employers can easily cite the shortcomings of new college graduates, they’re looking for people they can mold into future leaders within their organizations," the report said. Many employers have shown interest in Hope’s class of 2007. According to Director of Career Services Dale Austin, many Hope students have been successful in their job searches this spring. Graduating students have received jobs within the accounting, law, educational and financial fields. Austin also said that the national job market is continuing to improve for recent college graduates. Students do need to have initiative in order to be successful in the local job search process. "Michigan’s economy is not that healthy," Austin said. "Only Mississippi has a higher unemployment rate.

Fortunately, Austin has advice to help students successfully receive a job. Graduating students need to have a career focus, or an idea of the type of work that they would like pursue. Next, students need to develop a resume and job search plan. Lastly, students need to prepare for the interview process. Career Services offers assistance with all of these steps. "We see a lot of students for a variety of issues," Austin said. "We can help with graduate school preparation, resume preparation, alumni networking and mock interviews."

Austin strongly recommends that graduating students utilize Career Services and job fairs frequently held in the area. Austin also said that graduating students currently without career plans should not despair because many students are in the same position. These students should make an appointment with Career Services to develop a plan. "Take advantage of these opportunities," Austin said. "Initiative is the key word."

"I had to think about my family," Dominguez said. "For working here I get benefits that allow me to pay my family’s medical insurance. My former workplace didn’t offer me this.

Speaking about his former work as a chef, the 42-year-old became a little nostalgic. "We had this screen where you could order food in advance. It was empty in the morning, then it was full by noon. Today Felipe is looking forward to the evening. "I’m a vegetarian and here I can always ask to get the ingredients that I like in my burger. And I prefer a croissant for the sandwich, because I’m from France," Erraud said.

This is much to the joy of Dominguez, who likes taking those special orders, as it gives his work a little more variety and reminds him of his time as a chef. Despite his job at Phelps where he works until 7 p.m., he is trying to find time for his family. His two daughters, Litzy, 6, and Vanessa, 10, are currently looking forward to Sundays. "On Sundays I don’t work. Me and my wife, we spend time with the kids and go for a walk in the park. During the week it’s a lot more difficult to find that time," Dominguez said.

Besides his work at Phelps, every Tuesday Dominguez goes to class at Thompson M-Tec, the Grand Rapids Community College. He is studying to become a mechanic. As Dominguez wipes swiftly over the counter, he confides that if his future plans work out he will try to open his own business, a repair shop.

The dining hall is almost empty now. Today Felipe is looking forward to the evening. "The last meal of my shift tomorrow. She is turning 38," he adds. Some staff workers clean up the tables, while the last students are leaving and Felipe closes the bistro.

For you at Phelps Dining Hall, you’ll certainly know him. You may never have spoken with him, but he’s one of those people you see every day, without consciously noticing him. While he hands you a dish, you might exchange a polite smile. The next minute you’re sitting with your friends, chatting about life and enjoying your meal. Felipe Dominguez is used to that phenomenon.

"People sometimes don’t really see you," he acknowledged, "but I do like the work here.

After starting work at Phelps in February, Dominguez quickly adapted to the catering team. A cook by trade, Dominguez worked at a Holland restaurant for some years, then a friend recommended he apply at Phelps.

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Musings of a wandering environmentalist
To: A lackluster audience in the Pine Grove's vacant auditorium

Stephen Cupery

What is this life if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare.

—Jon Kay ('08)

Mission, whether expressed through film or paint, is to at least allow people the chance to feel alive. But could it be that our culture’s taken what is once art and so obsessively indulged its confines that increasingly we have forgotten what exuberant vitality may be experienced outside the realm of hand/ear/mouth-phones?

I ask even further that if we can’t take the time in our lives to merely stay put a moment or two or even longer and actually listen, will we grow wholly desensitized to the transcendent influence of simple splendor? Rare or common enough? It may be what have, and are we missing by such inerrant dismissal if in the surge of life’s momentum we are overpowered by task-accomplishments and schedule priorities? I encourage you to not inflict further voluntary negligence upon yourselves as our society’s soul is becoming strangled in the business of personal involvement. Ignorant indifference or avoidance is not a cure for this dilemma, but by investing purposed interest in boundless delights of earth’s outdoor show we can encounter the extraordinary our lives are even if by attempting to perceive the imaginable sound a snowflake makes upon landing. Our senses have a natural resilience, but we must condition them to recognize more than just a popular tune. When was the last time you heard the wood thrush’s ethereal call or felt the pulse of silence for its own sake? Beauty is self-giving but it requires an observer, a participant, an awareness. Only then can I guarantee you will be nourished.

A friend once reminded me to really find belonging in one’s place, for our attitude may very well determine whether or not we will be able or even want to encounter its contextual meaning. So let us consider the exquisite pleasures in our very midst — those that require conscious cultivation and those existing within our persons. Take the time to listen and talk about the voices of streams and rivers, the gentle breezes whisking through pine needles or tumorous winds that sweep across the sur. Who knows, you may just find an open concert seat among nature’s perpetual symphony.

In addition to having the uncanny abil- ity to quote W.H. Davies at will, Stephen is well-versed in a plethora of literature, thanks to his employment at the Van Wieren Library’s “Cup and Chaucer” shop. Stop by for coffee and conversation.

Continued from page 3

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE SENIOR ScRAMBLE?

“I think it’s ridiculous. People don’t need that unnecessary pressure just because it’s near the end of their time at Hope.”

—Jon Kay ('08)

“I never thought I’d be a part of it, but it turns out that I am getting married right out of college. If people find the right person, it shouldn’t matter if it’s at the very end of college. It doesn’t matter what people think.” —Jennifer Blair ('07)

Jenny Cannon, Emily Papple
Shannon Craig, Nick Hinkle
Chris Lewis, Laura Hauch
Lindsey Manthei, Alison Mills
Courtenay Roberts, Amanda Jacobs
James Ralston, David Moore
Dyanla Pinter, Lydia Hussey
Megan Pitzer
Scott Woroniec, David Moore
Lisa Harkes, Adam Wynn, Walker Van Wagner

Seniors

Continued from page 6

Rogers

Continued from page 6

Inspired by local furniture companies such as Herman Miller and Steelcase in his table displays and wall pieces.

“I try to keep things simple and function- al. It’s important to do things you like to do, but keep in mind that it must be appealing to others as well. Also, having some business sense is important. If you don’t know how to sell your artwork and yourself, then you will go nowhere fast,” Schuler said.

Some students plan to be art teachers, others intend to go graduate school or pursue a career in advertising, each career incorpo- rating artistic values learned at Hope.

“The senior art show is a chance for the seniors to show what they have learned throughout their lives about art, but also a way to express themselves and their per- sonal style in art,” Laura Kimnas ('07) said, “The art person makes displays a lot of the artist and their beliefs so in the end the senior show is kind of like a biography of each of the artists through their work.”

Livingston

What is the best part of being married?

“It’s an incredibly freeing thing. A lot of people talk about getting “tied down” by marriage, but I’ve found just the opposite. Sure, there are some chosen restrictions, but freedom abounds in chosen restrictions.

The most challenging part?

You can no longer hide the ugliest parts of your soul because now there is someone who knows your interior motives. This is difficult but it is also obvious to a redemp- tive quality that imbeds itself between the two of you.

How has your college life changed?

One of the most beautiful surprises this year has been how included and essential we have felt among our community here. We have been able to begin our marriage with the certainty that we exist for more than ourselves. We couldn’t have anticipated how key it would be to have to start our marriage surrounded by such an incredible group of friends.

How do you handle your finances?

We’ve become more diligent in bud- geting, but I wouldn’t call it a hard transi- tion. There were some surprise expenses that we did to prepare for it, too. We started buying food together by our junior year, for example, and so we had some practice in some of the practicals.

K: I think for us we have just spent up some of the post-graduation mentalities re- garding the future ramifications of our pres- ent spending decisions.

What are your plans for after college?

We are going to be living and working in Holland (specifically yet to be established on the job front). What advice would you give to the enga- ged couples at Hope about marriage?

K: When we were engaged, we seemed that much of the generic marriage advice I was given was that a) it was going to be hard and that b) we’d have to learn to com- municate really well. Instead I say listen to Calvin’s January Series talk on “Married Sex” by Lauren Winner.

N: Be certain that you like the other per- son enough that you want to become more like them. I guess this would ideally hap- pen prior to engagement, but it’s worth thinking about. Also, I really can’t imagine a marriage without having (or at least striving to have) Christ at the center.
Regarding the poetry blitz chapel incident

Jeremy Benson

It was me. I did it. I was the bandit who plastered the chapel with poetry on the night of April Fools. I climbed up to the stage and held a copy of Robert Bly’s “Two Ways to Write Poems” on a snare drum. I taped A. Van Jordan’s “inchoothe” on the outside of the organ. I did it. It was all me.

But please, beg you, before you condemn me, listen to my defense:

That night was the first time I stepped into the chapel since Jack Ridl’s poetry reading in September. In other words, I haven’t been to chapel or the Gathering in quite some time. I haven’t been to any church service in Holland since last October. When I’m at home I’ll go to be with my family, not to experience God. I haven’t experienced Him/Her during a service in years.

That’s not to say I’m in a spiritual crisis. Not at all. I feel closer to him than I ever did during my 20 years of churchiness. I know God on a deeper, more personal level, finding Him/Her in places other than an ultra-neo-goetic building:

- In tears, in breaks and breaks up, in cancer cells and funerals. Ironic, I know—I guess my way of coping with all the nasty crap that good people inevitably go through.
- In the obstetrics floor of the hospital, in the feet of children playing tag at CASA, in mud and twigs and mountains and poison ivy.
- In art. When I look at a Klimt or a Picasso or a Jimbo Johnson from the Kentucky woods, I feel close to Her. When I create a drawing or construct a platform for the next theater production, I feel close to Him.
- In poetry. For me, poetry is the manifestation of the acceptance of death and life as one in the same. But it’s also the trust in something more. When I write poetry, no matter the topic or structure or sound, I feel like I am worshiping God.

And I’m not the only one. Whoever wrote the Old Testament loved to break out into verse: Psalms is one giant book of poetry smack-dab in the middle of the Bible, and who knows what to do with Song of Solomon, it’s so full of poetic beauty.

If you’re angry about the poems in the chapel because I could’ve hurt the instruments, I’m sorry, and I’ll pay for any damage. If I prevented anyone from worshipping on that Monday morning, I am painfully sorry. But if you think poems in the chapel are disrespectful to God, I ask that you think about it from my point of view, and more importantly, from His/Her point of view.

Young said. “I appreciate Hope being a peaceful environment and having the counseling center where students can go to for support.”

Blessed are those who mourn for they will be comforted” — Matthew 5:4

added, “We need to feel the sorrow and hold our words to not judge them to quickly.”

Said Bultman expressed a deep sympathy for the Virginia Tech and Blacksburg community.

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Jeremy Benson, a junior, once worshipped God every Sunday with a rattling eggplant. Question/concerns about Jeremy’s spiritual health? Write to Anchor@hope.edu or Jeremy.benson@hope.edu.

There aren’t any words or explanations as to what happened,” Johnson said. “Today was not meant to give answers. Sometimes the best thing is to say nothing and just be grieving.”

In an irony of sorts, Hope students that RA’s, RD’s, and faculty are all excellent resources” Gray said.

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A senior reflects on Hope and religion

Joe Vasko

During my sophomore year at Hope College, as I sat in Cultural Heritage class on the second floor of the Anderson-Werkman Financial building gazing out the window, admiring the natural beauty of a tree (of all things), I became atheist.

People tell me its strange that I remember an exact moment when I came to a conclusion that there was no God; but its true that in a moment, I fell into the disbelief that I had ever conformed to the faith I was raised with. As I look back now, I can tell you with confidence that it had nothing to do with a lack of evidence for God, it was just apathy. I didn’t need a God. I had a life that was going pretty good, and I didn’t mind being distracted with worldly things. Whether we are happy in this life has absolutely no bearing on what is true or not. Ultimately the compatibility of faith and human reason is a lot of prayer is what led to my reversal. Reason was key. I fail to understand how reason, if it is not manipulated in some way, can contradict God which is the arbiter and creator of all existence. However, after reason, you still need faith, this is undeniable. I found there to be a lot of misconception about faith in God even at a Christian institution like Hope; people claim faith is irrational and superstitious which just isn’t true. That kind of thinking is blindless, a result of not seeking out answers but merely assuming that there are none.

Even at Hope the Christian message of salvation, the salvation of a human soul and of the love of God has been buried under piles of that contemporary vanity that the media produces. Fellow Hope Students: we live in a post-modernist society where rules are questioned—the search for Christ has suffered because of it, a symptom of human arrogance—do not be afraid to learn more and take more inspiration from the early martyrs who suffered cruel deaths for Christ. Were they delusional? No, they were inspired by God himself. Something the more recent generation has lost.

It’s two years later. I’m a much more spiritual person. Hope College has no doubt been a big part of that. I’m not a typical Hope student. Instead I’m a non-reformed Latin Rite Catholic, but through the campus organization called Union of Catholic Students, I was able to meet not just other Catholics but other Traditional Catholics with whom I developed very close friendships. I commend the College for its support of that organization, and I’d like to emphasize how much impact it has had on my life.

My time at Hope is nearly over. I’m joyful that I was blessed with a new and refreshed faith in the Messiah, Jesus Christ and given the grace of such a great opportunity for a higher level education. The journey is never easy. Truth must be pursued. Salvation worked out “in fear and trembling.” (Philippians 2:12) But those who seek find, the mourners are rewarded with rest. God Bless

Joe Vasko is setting aside an illustrious career in the NBA to pursue philosophical endeavors through the written word. He and his twin can say the rosary twice as many times at the average folk.

Women’s Reproductive Health Conference

Sponsored by the Women’s Studies Department

Wednesday, April 18, 4 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Maas Auditorium

Featuring artistic representations from Hope students, information on local organizations that provide reproductive health care, a keynote speaker from Planned Parenthood, a roundtable discussion including issues of sexuality, and personal testimonies.

Begin at 4 p.m.
Walk through until 4:15 p.m.
“Back Alley Detroit” documentary at 4:15 p.m.
Keynote Speaker at 5 p.m.
Walk through at 5:45 p.m.
Round table discussion at 6 p.m.

Sexual Assault Awareness Month

The thoughts and prayers of The Anchor Staff are with the Virginia Tech Community.
ATHLETE PROFILE: KYLIE BROUWER
Junior All-American plays softball for the love of the game

R.J. Thebo
SPORT WRITER

Many of us remember our first Little League games as a kid: hitting the ball and accidentally running to third, getting on the same team as all of our friends, picking our favorite numbers for our jerseys, and dancing circles in the last inning at the thought of ice cream after the game. Little League in Georgetown (Jenison area) was no different for Kylie Brouwer. With her black and red glove, Kylie took to the field, tripping over her shoelaces as she sprinted to the mound. She was dreaming of playing in the big leagues, just like every other Little Leaguer does.

“When I was 10, I knew I wanted to be a pitcher,” Brouwer (’08) said. “But after I broke my catcher’s nose and knocked my dad out during another episode, I just started to catch.”

That was not a bad idea as it turns out. After batting .448, earning All-MIAA and All-American honors, and placing fourth all-time at Hope College in batting average for a season as a sophomore, Brouwer and the team have high expectations for the season. As captains, Brouwer and Laura Tanouye (’09) lead the team, which has no seniors.

“She is interested in getting to know all the new freshmen, and she is always so positive and friendly to everyone,” second baseman Tara Hamming (’10) said.

Brouwer’s bat has proven to be a huge asset to the Dutch lineup, but her leadership has proven equally valuable.

“She’s also become more vocal as a leader. When I first met her, I (thought) she was kind of quiet, but now she’s very vocal both on and off the field,” first baseman Kelli Diamstra (’09) said.

Brouwer has proven to be a leader, through and through.

“Adverse from Brouwer’s big bat and big numbers, her leadership is reflected with her commitment to the team on and off the field. She is there for summer ball, fall ball and leading the conditioning before the season starts,” Hamming added.

“Both my brothers taught me to be over my head,” Brouwer said. However, working hard isn’t the only thing you’ll find Brouwer doing. Winter backpacking, collecting Coca-Cola memorabilia, enjoying God’s beauty outdoors and eating some occasional chocolate highlight some of Brouwer’s interests. It is clear, though, that softball is her love.

“I love softball. My grandpa is 75, and he still plays in a slow-pitch league,” Brouwer said.

With such a commitment to the sport, and her team, Kylie will, like her grandpa, surely be on the field for years to come, whether as an All-American or just a lover of the game.

PHOTO COURTESY PR

Photo by Wilma Van Wagoner

STRIDING FORWARD — Meghan Fore (’10) runs along the streets of Holland in preparation for the Chicago Marathon which will be held on Oct. 7.

R.J. Thebo
SPORT WRITER

Students Run for Fitness, Fun, Relaxation

R.J. Thebo
SPORT WRITER

Although Fore continues to train for the marathon, she is still seeking a training partner.

“My goal for the marathon is just to finish,” Fore said. “I will need someone to train with during fall semester.”

While Fore continues to prepare for Chicago, Koopmans is training for the 25K River Bank Run in May.

Along with Fore and Koopmans, Freshour, whose favorite road race is the Bix 7 in Davenport, Iowa, is another student who enjoys running various road races. She became interested in road races during high school in order to accumulate points to make the varsity cross country team.

Although Freshour competes on Hope’s cross country and track teams, she notices the relaxed atmosphere at road races gives her an opportunity to make new friends.

“You get to meet a lot of different people because of the age range,” Freshour said. “Everyone is friendly to everyone else even if they do not know each other.”

In preparing for races, Freshour likes to cross train by swimming and biking. She also recommends checking the internet and downtown Holland for information about what races are coming up.

Both Fore and Freshour also enjoy running with family. Fore runs with her twin sister and father, while Freshour enjoys running with her brother.

Whether it is the Chicago Marathon, Drumstick Dash or the Bix 7, road races provide students a fun way to stay in shape.

“It is different than track season. The people who come are so dedicated. It is amazing just to watch,” Freshour said in describing the Bix 7 race atmosphere.
**The Week in Sports**

**In Coming —**

runners from home over the seven-inning game. The Dutchmen are ranked third in the MIAA.

Hope’s women’s team is also having a good year, with a 5-1 conference record and a 12-7 overall record. The team recently defeated Olivet College 5-4 to move up to second place overall in the conference.

One factor that some team members have attributed to their winning play is the annual trip to Hilton Head, S.C. taken each March. The trip helped to bring team members together while allowing them to play other teams that would not normally appear on the schedule.

“We have a very young team this year, with seven freshmen out of our ten members. This season, we began the season as mostly acquaintances, but over the course of the season, we have become a very close team,” Alison Roth ('10) said. “I have never been on a tennis team that has been built on such solid friendships.”

These two close teams will continue play until the end of the month, when conference tournaments will begin.

**Swinging for First in MIAA**

**Jenny Cencer**

The Hope College baseball team split an MIAA home doubleheader with Albion on Monday. Hope lost the opener 3-5, but led by captain Steve Malvitz ('08), the Dutchmen split the games 10-5, 3-5. The men’s team currently has a 3-1 record in the MIAA and are 8-9 overall. Led by captain Steve Malvitz ('08), the Dutchmen are ranked third in the MIAA.

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**Women’s Golf**

The women’s golf team had two tournaments either canceled or postponed due to weather. They will open the spring season with the Olivet Invitational on April 20-21. They will then compete in the Tri-State Tournament on April 24 which was rescheduled from the original April 12 date.

**Men’s Golf**

The men’s golf team placed third out of nine teams at the Bill Gettig Invitational hosted by Tri-State. The team was led by Don Kringer ('10) 76-73-179. They have two tournaments remaining to prepare for the NCAA championships, which they qualified for in the fall.

**Airborne** — Steve Malvitz ('08) tosses the ball up for a serve in their match against Aquinas March 29. The Dutchmen lost the match against Aquinas 8-3. The lone point came from John Schlottz ('09) who won three singles 6-4, 0-6, 11-9. The men’s tennis team is ranked third in the MIAA with a 3-0 record. They have two MIAA matches remaining, including a matchup against MIAA-leading Kalamaoo.

**Perfect League Start**

Softball opens season with 6-0 MIAA record

**Jenny Cencer**

On Tuesday, the Flying Dutch played a doubleheader against the University of Chicago. Losing by three runs in the first match-up, Hope came back to win the final game 3-2.

At the Illinois Wesleyan tournament last week, the team won four of five games. On Friday, the Dutch posted a dramatic 3-2 victory over the Wesleyan Titans. The nationally ranked host’s shutout bid ended when Maddie Garcia ('09) hit a leadoff homerun. The tying and winning runs came with two outs behind an RBI double by Jessica Regnerus ('08) and the game-winning RBI single by Tara Mogensen ('10) who remains undefeated (6-0) on the season.

On Saturday the team split its games, defeating Webster, Mo., 9-6 but losing to Washington, Mo. 5-0. Hope collected three homeruns against Webster. Kelli Dumas ('09) hit her fourth of the season while Angie Randall ('08) slugged her second of the weekend. Hammang became the eighth Hope player to hit a homerun this season with her first collegiate four-bagger. Coach Karla Wolters’ Dutch have a 18-7 season record.

**The Week in Sports**

The men’s and women’s track teams will have their first MIAA meet April 18. The MIAA season has been condensed into a two week span because of cancellations due to weather. The teams face Olivet and defending MIAA champions Calvin, who won the title for both men and women in 2006.

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