Sculpture stolen from Nykerk Hall

Chris Russ
Staff Writer

On April 9, Hope College campus safety sent out an e-mail alerting the campus to a theft that had taken place on Hope’s campus.

According to Chad Wolters, Hope’s director of campus safety, late on Wednesday night, April 7, a piece of artwork was stolen from the lobby of the Nykerk Hall, the college’s music building.

“It was discovered missing early Wednesday morning,” Wolters said. “The custodian reported it.”

Wolters suspects the thief entered the building through a bathroom window. Two windows were found damaged when the building was inspected as part of an investigation. It appeared that one of the windows was not sufficiently damaged to yield entry, while the other window was.

While there is not a positive link between the broken windows incident and the missing artwork, Wolters said that he is fairly sure that the thief broke in through a window to avoid having to scan a student ID card, which would have placed them on record as being there.

The missing piece, titled “Donut,” was completed by the sculptor Fritz Olsen, a Swedish artist, sometime in the “latter 20th century” according to an information plaque where the piece of art was previously displayed. The sculpture is white mottled plaster and is about 23 inches high and 14 inches wide. As the name suggests, it is roughly donut-shaped. The appraised value of the piece was withheld by the Hope department of art and art history.

The sculpture was donated in 2007 by Vernon G. Poest (’39) and Roberta Poest.

According to the information displayed with the art, the Poests were “avid fine and native art collectors.” Moreover, according to the plaque, “Many of their pieces were acquired by them through international travel on behalf of Herman Miller, Inc.”

The Nykerk lobby houses another work of art donated in 2007 by the Poest’s that was sculpted by Fritz Olsen. “Ribbons,” an alabaster marble sculpture crafted in 1993, sits at the other end of the lobby. The sculpture was donated in 2007 by Vernon G. Poest (’39) and Roberta Poest. Wolters said, “We contacted the students that were in Nykerk late that night to ask if they had seen anything.”

He mentioned that the college knew which students to contact based on their records of access card use. At the time of publication, the college had no other leads or information related to the case. Campus safety is working with the Holland Police Department which has been helping with the investigation.

Asked for his opinion, Scott DeClaire (’12) said, “I just wondered why someone would even want to steal it.” Asked if the theft should result in a change in the security policy at Hope, DeClaire said, “With places like DeVree (the art building), where there are important things, I think that it would be OK for them to use security cameras.”

Anyone with information about this incident is encouraged to contact campus safety at 395-7770.

Campus comes alive

SOAKIN’ UP THE SUN— The Pine Grove comes alive with students enjoying the warmer weather.

Hope seeks to raise student writing scores

Arryn Uhlenbrauck
Staff Writer

Over the past five years, Hope College has taken part in three surveys comparing Hope’s writing scores to those of similar colleges. Though Hope has comparable scores in other areas, Hope’s writing scores are lower than those of other liberal arts colleges.

The National Survey of Student Engagement taken from 2003-2008 shows that an average of 25 percent of Hope students write two or more drafts before submitting a paper. Hope students also reported to having 55 short papers (fewer than five pages) in a year — much higher than the peer average of 40-and only 20 papers over five pages compared to the peer average of 25.

English professor and chair of the department David Klooster said, “In lots of ways shorter papers are valuable. Weekly writing assignments aid writing fluency but are only effective if paired with longer papers that teach students how to sustain an argument.”

Hope College also took part in a Teagle research project along with five other liberal arts colleges. The project looked at student papers from the senior year of high school and the freshman year of college and senior capstone papers.

Though the results varied, the scores suggested that students at schools other than Hope improved their writing. Hope’s scores reflected that there was no significant change in writing ability from the senior year of high school to the senior year of college.

“We have a big study there are expectations,” Klooster said. “There are students who need to write.”

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Hope students help out— Students help lower Latino dropout rate

Baseballs hits stride— Hope’s team current second in MIAA.

What’s Inside

National 3 Voices 8
Arts 5 Sports 11

Page 67

Get a story idea? Let us know at anchor@hope.edu or call us at 395-7777.

Page 11
Chantal Pope

Senior Woman

College is said to be the time in our lives to "find ourselves." We are on our own, usually for the first time, with the world at our fingertips. We have the opportunity to explore our interests and passions; to create a life we've always dreamt of.

Some students find their calling in the classroom and some on the field. Others may find their strengths lie in the realm of performance or creative arts.

Then there are a few that dedicate their time and energy to help others, to speak and act in support of those who are marginalized or silenced.

They use their talents to bring about change and encouragement to those fighting for their rights. One of these students was nominated by her peers and Hope faculty as a Wonder Woman of Hope, a recognition conferred by the women's studies department. That scholar is Emily West.

West came to Hope to find what many of us hope for — a calling. A native of Wyoming, Mich., West debated between attending the University of Michigan or Hope College. She eventually decided to give Hope a try.

Now a graduating senior, West looks back on her four years and various arts and involvement, and is still somehow surprised by her nomination as a Wonderful Woman of Hope.

"It's weird," West said, but went on to explain that she understands why she might be considered a stand-out woman on our campus for two reasons. The first reason being that she is a woman and self-described herself as "loud." Secondly, she said open about her homosexuality in a conservative community.

"I stand out because of the areas in which people know of me. I'm a minority of sorts, and the realm is controversial."

An active member of various organizations on and off campus, West devotes most of her time to three basic areas of life — schoolwork, The Anchor and the student-led organization Hope is Ready, an activist group that works to educate and encourage meaningful conversation on the topic of homosexuality, particularly on Hope's campus.

Although much of her time and efforts are devoted to the group, West admits that it doesn't seem like work to her. She claims that those efforts are the most emotional and probably the most rewarding.

"It's tough sometimes, but I stay encouraged when we begin to sway new people to see and understand our efforts."

Though controversial in nature, West's efforts have proven to be appreciated by many students and faculty here at Hope.

One of West's peers stated: "Emily is a voice to be reckoned with.

Another noted, "I'm really inspired by her passion and dedication for change.""

Not only does West use her many gifts and talents on campus, but in community efforts as well. West is involved in the Sanctuary Collective, a GLBT effort in Christian communities, as well as Upward Bound, a summer program for youth in the Holland area.

With graduation coming up, West also has her future plans fresh on her mind. An English and women's studies double major, West is looking forward to what life will bring her next.

"I'd love to get involved in activist work or NGOs. I'm applying to Americorps, but it is really competitive, so we'll see."

As we wrapped up our interview, I wondered what she is going to face in the coming year. One of West's peers stated: "I'm really awesome."

"I've had so many people approached me, too many to name!" She noted that most of her mentors are women from various areas of her life, particularly from the women's studies department, as well as supporters from Grace Episcopal Church and even some spouses of Hope faculty.

"I've already growing and gaining recognition, and everything has happened from the power and efforts of women!"

"There have been some male supporters, absolutely, but the majority of the work is done by women, on their own time, using their talents, their resources, West said.

"Many people have their stereotypes of women at Hope College and not all of them are real. I think that the women here deserve more credit than what they are given. They are encouraging and supportive. It's really awesome."

West's efforts and contributions to so many organizations and efforts in the Holland community leave her deserving the title of a Wonderful Woman of Hope.

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IN BRIEF

**CASA OPEN HOUSE SET FOR THURSDAY**

The Children's After School Achievement program at Hope College is holding an open house on Thursday, April 22, to celebrate both the recent restoration of Graves Hall and the children and tutors who are part of CASA. The event will be held from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. throughout Graves Hall.

The elementary school children who participate in CASA and their Hope student tutors will be on-site from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. to help guide visitors through the building and answer questions about CASA. Brief overviews of the building's history and restoration will be presented by Dr. Elois Bruins at 4:30 p.m. and 5:15 p.m.

**HABITAT FOR HUMANITY HOLDS SLEEPSOUP**

Hope College Habitat for Humanity will hold its annual sleepout in the Pine Grove on Thursday, April 22, to raise awareness for homelessness and money for Habitat. The sleepout will begin 10 p.m. and finish at 7 a.m. on Friday. Habitat for Humanity will provide cardboard boxes for all participants to sleep in, but participants may also use tents. Over the past two years, over $3,000 has been donated to Lakeshore Habitat for Humanity through this event.

**STUDENT DOCUMENTARY THURSDAY**

The Hope College Department of Communication will feature a student documentary short film, "Treading Softly," by communication student David Clark Moore on Thursday, April 22, at 8:30 p.m. in the Fried-Hemenway Auditorium at the Martha Miller Center. Moore's film details the effect of the Trans-African highway on Busia, a border town on Uganda and Kenyan border. Also, the film honors the memory of David Otai, who spent many hours assisting the editing of the film. The public is invited. Admission is free.
Leaders convene to discuss limiting nuclear stocks

Meghan McNamee  
Staff Writer

President Barack Obama led the 2010 nuclear summit that ended April 13. Leaders from 47 nations attended to raise global awareness of nuclear terrorism, to better secure nuclear arsenal abroad, and to discuss Iran’s boast about manufacturing centrifuges to speed up uranium processing.

The summit came a week after Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and her Russian counterpart agreed to dispose of 34 metric tons of highly enriched material, enough to make 17,000 weapons, according to CNN.com. Russian President Dmitry Medvedev confirmed the news and also stated that he was closing a reactor in Siberia.

The two countries also signed an update to the 2000 agreement to end weapons grade plutonium in military programs.

According to CNN, Obama said in one of his remarks at the summit, “We’ve made real progress in building a safer world.”

Canada announced that it would help Mexico convert its nuclear research reactor to produce lower grade uranium.

Canada will also send its own uranium to the U.S. for safekeeping. Ukraine also adds itself to the list by declaring it will dispose of its uranium within two years.

The summit was not without its difficulties. North Korea announced that it was backing away from agreements made with former President George W. Bush in relation to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Iran also took the stage before the opening of the summit by announcing it was in the process of producing uranium quicker.

The U.S. has asked the United Nations Security Council to issue sanctions against Iran. However, it has been hard to convince China, who has veto power, to condone sanctions against a nation that provides most of the world’s oil.

The Washington Post reported that the Russian UN Ambasador Vitaly Churkin said, “I don’t think any of us wants to impose sanctions; what we want is to have a diplomatic solution. If Iran wants to negotiate, it should start negotiating.”

Lt. General Ronald L. Burgess Jr., director of Defense Intelligence Agency, told reporters including The New York Times, “The general consensus — not knowing again the exact number of centrifuges that we actually have visibility into — is we’re talking one year before Iran has nuclear capabilities and two to five years to manufacture a workable atomic bomb.

The summit seemed to promise success, especially if countries “lock down all nuclear weapons and bomb-usable material as securely as gold in Fort Knox,” Graham Allison, a Harvard expert on nuclear terrorism told the New York Times.

There’s still much to work on in light of Iran’s announce ment.

Sen. Jon Kyl, R-Ariz., sees agreement, according to CNN.com. “The summit’s purported accomplishment is a non-binding communiqué that largely restates current policy and makes no meaningful progress in dealing with nuclear terrorism threats on the domestic clock represented by Iran’s nuclear weapons program.”

It’s two steps forward and three steps back, as the summit with Iran. Obama urged Pakistan and Israel to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, though they refused to sign it, along with India.

Next month will bring the review of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty in New York and Iran will participate.

Russia, as cooperative as it has been the past two months, actually make it clear that although it supported the United States and its goals, it would drop out of the new arms reduction accord if the United States missile defense technology improved. They claim that cutting the program still leave Moscow vulnerable to U.S. nuclear attacks.

Obama is not deterred. In his opening remarks, he told the world, “We have the opportunity as partners to help our progress is not a fleeting moment but part of a serious and sustained effort. I believe strongly that the problems of the 21st century cannot be solved by any one nation acting in isolation. They must be solved as coming together.”

WORLD LEADERS ATTEND NUCLEAR SUMMIT— President Barack Obama speaks at the recent Nuclear Security Summit. Leaders from 47 nations met to discuss a lockdown on all vulnerable nuclear materials worldwide within four years.

Government files fraud charges against Goldman Sachs

NEW YORK (AP) — Goldman Sachs & Co. reminded investors that the stock market can still go down.

The government charged the bank with civil fraud Friday and the Dow Jones industrial average fell 126 points, its biggest slide in more than a day and a half months. The Goldman Sachs news gave a dose of reality to investors who were using to seeing the market climb almost relentlessly on signs of a recovering economy.

But there are signs investors are already shaking off the Securities and Exchange Commission’s charges that Goldman Sachs & Co. misled clients about conflicts of interest in mortgage investments it sold. Stocks ended off their lows Friday. That’s a sign that investors are still making predictions that stocks will bounce higher.

“The road has been conditioned to buy the dips and they’ve been rewarded. It’s like a Pavlovian thing,” said Alec Young, equity strategist at U.S. Trust - Standard & Poor’s.

“The road is littered with the bodies of people that have predicted a pullback in the last couple of months.”

It’s easy to see from recent news why stocks are trekking steadily higher. Big companies like chipmaker Intel Corp. and financial firm JP Morgan Chase & Co. last week posted huge profit gains for the first three months of the year. The government reported that employers added jobs in March at the fastest rate in three years. Sales at chain retailers posted the biggest gain last month in more than 10 years.

The problem is that stocks haven’t had a break, and that makes the market more vulnerable to a big drop. The Standard & Poor’s 500 index has risen 76 percent since it hit a 12-year low in March last year.

There have been five periods since then when it lost 5 percent to 8 percent. But those drops still don’t count as a full correction, which most analysts say is 10 percent.

Standard & Poor’s Equity Research predicts that the S&P 500 index will reach 1,270 in the next 12 months but that a drop of 5 percent to 15 percent along the way is possible. The S&P 500 topped 1,280 last week for the first time since before the worst days of the financial crisis in late 2008. To get to 1,270, the index would need to go up 6.5 percent.

By one measure of the market, stocks are overheated. Yale professor Robert Shiller compares share prices of S&P 500 companies to their average earnings over 10 years. Based on data going back more than 100 years, stock prices are about 51 percent overvalued, he said. He cautioned that doesn’t mean a crash is due but that stocks are above their norms.

“It’s kind of pricey now,” Shiller said.

Analysts see other signs that stocks need to stop climbing for awhile.

In the past two months, the Dow has gone up three out of every four days. Last week, it closed above 11,000, a level it hasn’t seen since September 2008. Little more than a year ago, it was near 6,500.

— Ninety percent of the companies in the S&P 500 index are trading above their average price of the prior 50 days. That hasn’t happened since 1994 and it’s an indication that prices are elevated.

— The Chicago Board Options Exchange’s Volatility Index, which is known as the market’s fear gauge, last week closed at its lowest level since July 2007. That meant fewer investors are predicting big drops in the market. The VIX did spike 15 percent Friday after the Goldman news.

— Last Tuesday, a quiet day for investors, the trading of five stocks accounted for one-fifth of the market’s volume. Four of the stocks were under $5. That points to traders making a quick buck by swapping cheap stocks, according to Joe Saluzzi, co-head of equity trading at Themis Trading LLC. “It’s one baseball card being traded back and forth a thousand times,” he said. “It’s an illusion.” Investors often look to higher trading volume as a sign of broad confidence in the market’s direction.

Analysts say a drop will occur when something comes along to shake it, which is how about or had managed to forget about. Friday’s Goldman Sachs news was one of those surprises. News was that, investors know unemployment remains high at 9.7 percent and that the housing market is weak. They also know that the Federal Reserve is starting to turn off the spigot of cheap cash that has propped up banks and flooded in the stock market.

While no one can say when the market will fall, many analysts predict that it’s likely to occur sooner or later. The question is when the Fed starts to boost interest rates to avert inflation.

“There is a lot of parting going on because the Fed has been fueling the fire with extraordinarily cheap money,” said Haggag Elbanna, senior investment officer at Salient Partners in Houston, referring to low interest rates. “I do think that’s the big question, which is how the market will respond to that.”
**Polish leader buried in ceremony of patriotism**

West Virginia devastated by coal mine collapse

April 21, 2010

**NATIONAL**

Polish leader buried in ceremony of patriotism

We didn’t receive the miracle we were praying for. This journey has ended and now the healing will start.

— W'ojtysz Czajkowsky, chief of the Upper Big Branch Mine, Massey Energy.

Rululf, legislative associate for the American Enterprise Institute think tank, said, “A single act of coal mining in the US does not change the fact that coal provides half of U.S. energy needs and will remain a key source of energy for the foreseeable future.”

The basic economics of coal won’t change until there is a cheaper, non-carbon alternative.

“Some teachers were hitting the doors as the period finished. It is really confusing.” — Jutta擀öhl, a 3,127-year-old Tea Party member, who was pushed for leaving school by left-wing Tea Party supporters who want to continue Social Security and Medicare.

“Maybe I don’t want smaller government, I guess I want smaller govern- ment and my Social Security.”

“Every day the White, a 61-year-old Tea Party member, despite a push for limited government, her team and the Tea Party supporters want to continue Social Security and Medicare.

“We make our food very similar to cocaine now.”

“We’re studying very similar things to cocaine.”

**CHEMICALS**

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**CHEMICALS**
Creative dance company [undefined] movers, debuts

Karen Patterson

There’s a new kid on the block in the Hope College dance department, and after a compelling debut at the Holland City Arts Council on April 16, the Hope community has one more thing to get excited for.

The group [undefined] movers, began as the creative vision of Janae Stewart (’11), Chelsea Harkelroad (’11), Kristen Benner (’11), Jess Kohnen (’11), Sarah Stern (’11) and Zachary Porter (’11).

The group’s premiere was a beautiful expression of movement and left the audience wanting more. The concert began with a playful and light-spirited trio of Harkelroad, Benner and Porter. Large movements and great energy captured the audience’s attention immediately, and colorful costumes that swished and swayed with Benner and Harkelroad’s every movement helped transition the piece.

The piece was a reflection of one of [undefined]movers’ mottos: expressing a creative dream that could no longer be held inside. Often dance pieces seem to take themselves too seriously. Rather than forcing the joy, the trio used constant movement and expressive faces to show how much they were enjoying themselves.

“After Hours,” a sultry jazz number, incorporated a similar tone. Stewart, Benner, Stern and Harkelroad sahzayed across the floor confidently and with two different choreographed segments. However, the highlight of the piece was each dancer having her own star moment in “a look what I can do” motif. Using improvisation rather than structured choreography, the dancers were to connect with the audience in her own way, and the audience expressed their approval with a large round of applause following each solo.

“Amidst,” a solo choreographed by Benner and brought to life by Stern, allowed Porter and Kohnen’s movements to punctuate piquant moments in the piece. Porter and Kohnen’s movements brought to life by Stern, allowed its own word to describe it: playfulness.

The ensemble members, said Stern, brought the piece to life by Stern, allowed each dancer was free to connect and grapple with the idea of breaking free and expressing oneself.

While [undefined]movers, is just starting its life as a dance organization, a strong first performance showed the 100 or so guests in attendance that something special is going on behind the scenes at Hope. The company’s debut showed that the dancers are living up to their mission statement of “enriching the community and developing mature and innovative minds.”

Ensemble comes together for ‘Pinter Project’ collection of short plays

Annelise Belmonte

This week will see the opening performance of short scenes from the famous award-winning playwright Harold Pinter. Titled “The Pinter Project,” the performance will consist of short scenes as well as the one-acts “A Kind of Alaska” and “The Dumb Waiter” with two short intermissions in between.

The final one-act of the project, “The Dumb Waiter,” actually holds a special place in the heart of director John Tammi. It was one of the first shows he ever directed.

“I was not only returning to that playwright, but to that period of life where I had started,” Tammi said.

“The Dumb Waiter” is about two hitmen waiting in a dingy basement for their next assignment.

“Pinter’s work has inspired its own word to describe it: Pinteresque. Tammi describes it as ‘humor and also an underlying sense of danger. Nobody really knows what’s going to happen, even the characters themselves...the plays are ambiguous and (Pinter) was somewhat ambiguous about the period of life where I had started,” Tammi said.

“Amidst,” a solo choreographed by Benner and brought to life by Stern, allowed Stern’s fluid gracefulness that kept the choreography was effective, and Porter’s and Kohnen’s movements that punctuated piquant moments in the piece. Porter and Kohnen’s movements brought to life by Stern, allowed its own word to describe it: playfulness.

The final piece of the evening was each dancer together as a tribute to those the Hope community has loved and lost, as well as those who feel they are unable to break free and express themselves.

The focus of the dancers and the constantly shifting movement gave the piece a feeling of intentional restlessness. Rather than ending the concert on a down note, however, it prompted the audience to really sink and grapple with the idea of breaking free and expressing oneself.

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Bonnie ‘Prince’ Billy & the Cairo Gang — “The Wonder Show of the World”

After 16 albums, one might wonder if Will Oldham is running out of ideas. This album proves that he isn’t. Giving it a couple of listens, Bonnie ‘Prince’ Billy’s newest album rises to my top five albums of the year list, with its characteristically similar style to his older material that will keep the listener on the edge.

The album is nothing new. They don’t turn many heads with invention, but they consistently make it happen stubborn good quality. And such time’s the charm, right? This most recent offering by the Phily band is their best yet, just in time for summer. This album is solidly packed with head-bobbing tunes that beg for the top windows to be rolled down. An upbeat pace pervades a very polished sound that is at the same time accessible and complex. One of my favorites of the year. -AM

The Apples in Stereo — “Travellers in Space and Time”

The Apples in Stereo, who have been recording music since 1991, are almost out of original members in their heavily rotating lineup, but it’s always been singer/guitarist/producer Robert Schneider’s project anyway. The band has been found to answer the question of what the Beatles might have sounded like in the musical and technical landscape of the ’90s, mixing attractive raw psychedelia with bouncy pop melodies and harmonies that begged to become summer anthems. Now the Apples are in a stage of using that consistency to hyperbologize about the future. Robot voices and tongue-in-cheek, keyboard-driven dancefloor jams adorn this album, and although they sound fresh and for a moment it sounds like the Apples have completely reinvented themselves, until the welcome crunchy guitars and harmonized choruses come in and balance the equation. The result is an immensely likeable pop record that sounds like nothing else out there, save the Apples’ previous work... and the future? -PR

She & Him — “Volume Two”

If it was in the shoes of Death Cab For Cutie’s Ben Gibbard, this album would mess up my emotions pretty seriously. She & Him consists of actress Zooey Deschanel (Ben’s wife) and enigmatic folk singer/songwriter M. Ward, singing sunny 1950’s-influenced pop tunes about young love and summer days. The duo sound perfect together. Deschanel’s sunny, sultry vocals innocently hum and sail through casually serious. She & Him consists of actress Zooey Deschanel (Ben’s wife) and enigmatic folk singer/songwriter M. Ward, singing sunny 1950’s-influenced pop tunes about young love and summer days. The duo sound perfect together. Deschanel’s sunny, sultry vocals innocently hum and sail through casually serious.

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At the beginning of the spring semester, the Leadership 391 class was presented with a significant, local, yet invisible crisis: the Latino dropout rate. In previous semesters, Leadership 391 students worked to define the underlying problem, and now it is time for us to take action.

We decided that our first step is to raise awareness of the issue at Hope College, so that we as members of the college community can be truly effective members of the city many of us call home. As we raise awareness of this issue, it is important to point out that although the information presented in this article is valid, it does not apply to all students in these situations.

Background:
In the 1940s, Latino families were recruited and began migrating to the Holland area to work in the fields. Many of these families returned year after year. Some stayed in Holland permanently and new migrant workers continued to come. Today more than 22 percent of Holland’s population is Latino. Many of these families are living in poverty. Poverty is highly correlated with low abilities in linguistics, math and literacy. The lack of English language skills increases the impact of poverty. Living in a home where English is not the first language is a great disadvantage for children who are in a school system where they are taught in English. Even if they do master the language themselves, they are unable to receive any assistance on their schoolwork at home, due to their parents’ lack of understanding. Compounding the impact is the lack of self-esteem students have when they don’t perform well academically and when expectations for them are low.

Statistics:
All these factors impact students’ levels of literacy. By the time students reach the fourth grade, if they are not at the right reading level, they are almost sure to struggle in high school. According to the U.S. Department of Education, only 14 percent of Latino fourth graders can read at or above the basic reading skill level. This greatly decreases their chances of successfully finishing high school. Latino parents also have a difficult time understanding the school system, due to cultural differences in the way school is run in America; they are less likely to be involved in their children’s academic success as a result. In some cases the parent cannot be involved in a child’s academic achievement due to the work hours they must put in to support their family, and this is true for students as well.

All the preceding obstacles are responsible for the high Latino dropout rate in Holland. In 2007 at Holland High School, 44 percent of Latino males and 30% of Latino females who entered the ninth grade did not finish high school in four years, and that is not counting those who didn’t enter the ninth grade. For this reason, it is important for us to continue to assist the “stopgap” efforts that are currently taking place, initiate our own and seek greater collaboration among the organizations involved.
How to help:
Adequate role models in schools are lacking in the lives of these teens. Most of their parents did not graduate from high school, and there are low percentages of Latino teachers in the schools. In addition, many face discrimination, purposeful or not, from both their classmates and teachers. Although these actions can be subtle they can cause a decrease in the self-esteem of these students. We must be mindful of these effects as a community and counteract this attitude by creating programs that will support these students in their academic and life goals.

As members of the Holland community, we should be concerned about our neighbors. If that weren’t enough motivation, we need to think about how the high dropout rate affects all of us. These students make up a large portion of our community. If they do not receive the education they need to succeed the future of the Holland community is at risk. On a national level each student that drops out costs the nation $260,000 in lost economic activity; additionally, 78 percent of juvenile crime is committed by high school dropouts. As stated by the Americas Promise Alliance, “Young people who drop out are twice as likely as likely as graduates to be unemployed; three times as likely to live in poverty; eight times more likely to wind up in prison; and twice as likely to become the parent of a child who drops out.”

Ways to get involved:
Some of the organizations that are addressing this issue include LAUP (Latin Americans United for Progress), Ready for School, CASA, Upward Bound, Urban Youth Ministries and Young Life, just to name a few. These organizations cover a wide range of ages and serve children in a variety of ways, so there are many possibilities for Hope College students to get involved. These organizations provide a support system, good learning tools and, most importantly, role models for students to succeed in all areas of their lives.

When talking to these organizations, we discovered that the biggest problem they face is a lack of resources. This can include lack of money or people to be successful in their endeavors. As students at Hope College, we have the resources to contribute to these organizations with our time and talents. We can serve as role models to the Holland community, making them aware of the issue and showing them that something positive can be done in response. If you are interested in volunteering with any of these organizations please see their contact information below and get involved!

Contact:
LAUP http://www.laup.org/
Ready for School http://www.readyforschool.org/
CASA http://www.hope.edu/admin/casa/index.html
Upward Bound http://www.hope.edu/admin/upbound/index.htm
Urban Youth Ministries http://www.urbanyouthministries.net/
Young Life http://www.younglife.org/
I desire for everyone to be free — not just to live lives and to act spontaneously. Unfortunately, there are many things that get in the way of our freedom. So, I write this column to promote some healthy, free existence and maybe even some healing.

I have been outspoken about my faith and my ideas about justice. More specifically, I have been argumentative and judgmental about the understanding of sexuality within the context of the Christian faith. I have shared my dream for all people, of all sexual persuasions, to be fully included and accepted into the body of Christ.

My perspective is somewhat unique because when you and I are talking about “the issue,” we are not talking about a theological issue like the trinity or predestination; we are talking about me, my life, my love, my desires, my hopes and dreams. I hear time and again, “I love you, Emily, but I do not agree with or cannot accept (insert word) that makes a reference to the fact that my sexual desires are incorrect, invalid and not to be acted upon.” I understand that you want to love me. Your faith tradition has taught you well. But this kind of love statement has a built-in condition, “I love you, but...” that implies a limitation. If you love someone in spite of something, your love for them is less, meaning it could be more.

There is a wide-range of ways to think and talk about sexuality issues. And coming from such unique perspectives, we have not been wholly gracious and loving to each other in thought, action or word. Several times over the course of this past semester, I have been confronted with how the conservative Christian voice is silenced or oppressed. This implies, as has been confirmed, that some students, faculty, staff and administrators who hold what we have come to identify as “the conservative” position in this issue feel oppressed by the energy and passion of those who hold what I suppose we call “the liberal” position. (Most of us recognize the failures of this type of dichotomizing: “he is liberal,” “she’s conservative.” But, for lack of a better way to explain this situation, I will use these words. Try to use your imagination to see the reality, a more expansive version.)

Some of the concerns I have heard center around the following: conservatives are the reality, a more expansive version.) To explain this situation, I will use these type of dichotomizing: “he is liberal,” “she’s liberal.” (Most of us recognize the failures of this stance well, use the generous resources on order to save the sexual deviants.

The struggle is really about how we love people. One question to consider is how can we love LGBT persons after believing and voicing an opinion that rebukes, and as a by-product, shames them? In this question, I see the cognitive dissonance of tough love. Corporal punishment provokes a similar problem. Does a guardian’s love for a child require that the guardian cause physical or emotional pain to correct the child and steer him or her along the right path? If the conservatives see non-heterosexuality as sinful, and perhaps a roadblock before salvation, their care and concern for the homosexual’s soul will most likely spur them to action. This is what leads Christians to all types of evangelistic work — to save the souls of the lost. Therefore, the conservative position holders must decide if they are willing to speak words of correction or condemnation which will undoubtedly cause tremendous pain, in order to save the sexual deviants.

I want to challenge all position holders be bold. Speak what you believe. If it is the truth, there is nothing to fear. If you feel timid to share because you will inflict pain, examine this sensation. The contemplative process will most likely lead you to re-frames or, certainly, over breaks, and thus find it only reasonable to bring our laundry along so as to get it done for free.

Frugality, of course: that’s what it is. Somehow, in many cases, parents of the incompetent launderers seem quite pleased to have something to keep them busy when their kid returns home. Lovely!

There are two types of laundry in this world:

A common problem with getting laundry done at home, however, is the fact that it must be folded and put away upon returning to school. Or does it? It’s completely possible to live out of a hamper, even if things get a little wrinkly. Wrinkles are in, right? How cruel of me to be proposing so many questions. Of course wrinkles are in!

To those who actually do their laundry on a regular basis, don’t mean to drive you insane. Contrary to belief, we are clean, responsible people just too busy with other things to pay attention to the care of cloth, body-protecting items. If you are an incompetent launderer, take pride in your work — or lack thereof. It’s OK to keep your clothes in piles that spill out of your closet! It’s great to have 50 unoccupied hangers floating around your room! IIs are, perhaps, some of the most creative and resourceful people on earth — always on the lookout for new, inventive ways to cover your body when you don’t actually have any clean clothes to wear. Be who you were meant to be, and enjoy those rare moments when peace is restored to your wardrobe.

Emily would like to extend a thousand words to her and to all people, of all sexual persuasions, to be fully included and accepted into the body of Christ.

There has to be something more going on here.

I have been outspoken about my faith and my ideas about justice. More specifically, I have been argumentative and judgmental about the understanding of sexuality within the context of the Christian faith. I have shared my dream for all people, of all sexual persuasions, to be fully included and accepted into the body of Christ.
I know a lot of smart, organized people who write down all their deadlines, commitments and meetings in nice, neat little planners — pretty patterned ones, stern little black ones, blue and orange Hope ones. But I’m not one of those people. Instead of a planner, I have this absolutely huge calendar in my room, and each month has a different color border, and there are all kinds of random holidays written at the bottom of the big, lovely, empty white squares. It’s quirky, like me ... and I love my calendar. But there is one problem with it, and that is the same problem that I guess the planner-people have. Those empty squares on my calendar and the empty lines in their planners? They never stay empty for long, which means that my days never stay relaxing and lazy, either.

I’m not really complaining. I like having lots to do, and I’d rather be busy than bored. Even though my days are full, bursting with appointments, homework and everything in between, they are good days. Day after day like that, soon they all-start to run together in a smooth, comfortable blur. There are a few bad days (and even some tragedies) thrown into the smear, but for the most part, yesterday, then last week, then last month all smudge together into a haze.

And this is exactly the problem. These good days, there’s nothing to them. We wake up, go through our routines, take what comes our way passively. We appreciate them, sure, but we don’t get into them. We ought to dig in our heels, pull back and live, really live into each day. People who do this, “at the best, know in the end the triumph of high achievement and who at the worst, if they fail, at least fail while daring greatly” (Theodore Roosevelt). Take the risk of living, and get the reward of a good life.

The semester, the year, is almost over. In just a few short weeks, we’re all going to be scattered across the country, even across the world — some for the summer, some for good. I really, really don’t like thinking about this. Somehow, half of my college career has slipped by already, but I want more than just these good days. I want a good life.

“There is no shortage of good days. It is good lives that are hard to come by” (Annie Dillard). The more I think about this, the more true it seems to me. I’m not a great scholar. I don’t know the magic word that will make your life a “good one”. But I would say to start by asking questions, by talking to other people, by wondering. By looking under the surface of your days, good and bad, and pushing aside your routine so that you can see the reality of life with all its brokenness and its beauty. If you find that real life, I think you’ve found a good life. So live it.

Kate wants to thank you for reading this. She hopes that these ideas stick with you, so that as people of Hope, we can lead good lives. (She will also miss ALL of you very much over the summer!)
At Western Michigan University’s Grand Rapids regional site, the Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree program teaches the business knowledge and professional skills required in today’s global environment and prepares individuals to function effectively in administrative and leadership positions.

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Baseball team currently in second place in MIAA

James Nichols  
Assstant Sports Editor

Hope's baseball team hasn’t lost a MIAA series this season. The Dutchmen are 20-8 on the season with a 12-4 MIAA conference record. Helping their stellar conference record has been the fact that they haven't dropped a series all season. “Our goal is to win three out of four games every week,” said coach Stu Fritz. “You are going to be league champions if you can do that. Obviously if you can win all four, that’s the ultimate goal, but it’s pretty tough to beat somebody four times.”

The Dutchmen began this season's MIAA play by sweeping Olivet in two doubleheaders, first on March 27 and again on March 29. Hope won all four games by a combined score of 46-22, including an impressive 20-0 win in the second half of the doubleheader on March 27.

They then went on to take three out of four against Calvin in doubleheaders on April 1 and April 5. The Flying Dutchmen edged out the Scots in a tight game of the doubleheader on April 1, collecting their fifth straight MIAA win to start the season. They then fell for the first time, 7-4 in the back half. The other two games of the series against Calvin resulted in Hope victories, 7-1 and 6-2.

Hope kept the momentum going against DePaul in a series on April 10, collecting a devastating 28-2 victory against the Scots in the first half of the doubleheader, then came back with a more mild 5-2 win. The Scots were able to avoid a Flying Dutchmen sweep by winning the final game of the series on April 12, winning 5-4 after a 3-2 Hope victory earlier in the day.

One key to the Flying Dutchmen's success thus far this season is pitching, Fritz said. With a strikeout-to-walks ratio of 3.1, the team has allowed 22 walks in 48 innings, the Flying Dutchmen's pitching staff is exceeding coach's expectations.

“Pitching has been very solid,” said Fritz. “A strikeout to walks ratio of 3.1 is the kind of numbers you want. We actually had a streak of 22 scoreless innings during our spring break this season.”

A brief break from MIAA play on April 13 left the Flying Dutchmen flying high after a split decision against Aquinas. MIAA play picked up again two days later as the Flying Dutchmen won both ends of a doubleheader against Trine, 7-4 and 5-4.

Even though baseball may still be a club status at many schools, that is not a reflection of its popularity. “(Baseball) is one of the fastest growing sports, and it is mainly because of friends spreading the word,” Fritz said.

The Flying Dutchmen will play their last home game of the spring 2010 season tonight. And, according to Fritz, “may not play many teams from our area.”

Women’s Basketball to be Recognized

To commemorate the 2009-10 season, the women’s basketball team will be honored at a public recognition. The Flying Dutch will be recognized this Thursday, April 22, at DeVos Fieldhouse.

In March, the Dutch competed at the national championship in Bloomington, Ind., advancing into the title game before losing to Washington University, Mo.

Some of the evening events are a showing of the documentary showcasing the season’s accomplishments and a distribution of a special commemorative poster.

There will be opportunities for autographs from the players and for pictures to be taken with Hope’s mascot, Dutch, and the NCAA trophy. The event will conclude with the raising of a banner commemorating the 2009-10 season.

The recognition will begin at 7 p.m. and is open and free to the public.
Men’s tennis splits week

Bethany Stripp
Sports Editor

It is no secret in sports that oftentimes the coach is just as important to the team as the players are. Last July, the women’s tennis team lost an integral member. Karen Page, who had been head coach of the team for 12 years, passed away after a long battle with cancer.

“Coach has definitely done a tremendous job,” said captain Beth Olson (’10). “Obviously it’s extremely hard not having Coach Page around. She is missed dearly, and I notice her absence every practice.”

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