Hope celebrates earth week

Annelise Belmonte
Guest Writer

During the week of April 13-18, Hope College participated in Earth Week, a nationwide eco emphasis in preparation for Earth Day on April 22. At Hope, it wasn’t hard to get students outside to enjoy the earth as relatively nice weather had some students soaking up the sun and sprawling on blankets while others ran around playing Frisbee. The sun seemed to appear for the sake of promoting student participation in Earth Week.

Corry Lakatos (‘11) said, “I appreciate the Earth by laying on it. I also appreciate the fact that it orbits the sun.”

In addition to relaxing in the Pine Grove listening to the various poetry and music of Earth Jam on Saturday, April 18, Earth Week consisted of various panels, activities and workshops.

The events began Monday, April 13 with the showing of "King Corn," a movie about two young men who get their hair tested and find a high amount of corn concentrated in it because of what they eat. What the two young men discover is that corn is almost everything we eat.

Throughout the week, students went on a bike ride to the beach, which encouraged students outside to enjoy the sun and blankets while others ran around playing Frisbee. The sun seemed to appear for the sake of promoting student participation in Earth Week.

The Gay-Straight forum was encouraged the campus community to talk about the issue of homosexuality. In a room full of friends, Sweet announced that she was planning to make a documentary and asked for support.

Claire Roembach-Clark (‘12) offered to go in the process, and soon the two were working on their film, “Ending the Silence.”

With the support of the women’s studies department, they were able to make the project into an independent study.

“Seeing the need for this inspiration,” Sweet said. “Right now, some students are second-class and they are feeling that every day.”

The ‘Gay-Straight’ forum sponsored a “Day of Dialogue,” April 14 which included the debut of “Ending Silence” and a panel of professors, Clark and Sweet. The film featured Hope students and faculty, and high-lighted the history of homosexuality at Hope.

Professor Donald Luidens of the sociology department appears in the film. “I think this is an extremely important issue, as it has been in the Hope community for many years,” Luidens said. Professor Jane Dickie of the psychology department, who advised the independent project and who appears in the documentary, said, “I got involved because since the early ’70s, I have known gay and lesbian Hope College students. They included me in their lives and I have been witness to the amazing contributions they make to the campus, to the world and to me personally.”

Clark said, “It was important to start advertising for it, I became afraid of what my friends would say if they found out that I was making a movie about the LGBT community. I knew some of them wouldn’t be very supportive.”

Dickie said she tried to focus on love instead of the possible consequences. “Anything we do has consequences. Being involved in people’s lives has consequences. Standing solidarity and speaking out for justice has consequences,” Dickie said.

“I was concerned that students involved may run into challenges, but I am heartened by the courage all of them have shown,” Luidens said.

Despite obstacles such as learning how to operate technical equipment and interviews falling through, the project generated excitement. “I grew and grew as we kept going, and eventually it became this huge, amazing thing that people were excited about!” Sweet said.

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Clark said, “Once it got to the point in time when Lindsay and I needed to start advertising for it, I became afraid of what my friends would say if they found out that I was making a movie about the LGBT community. I knew some of them wouldn’t be very supportive.”

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Despite obstacles such as learning how to operate technical equipment and interviews falling through, the project generated excitement. “I grew and grew as we kept going, and eventually it became this huge, amazing thing that people were excited about!” Sweet said.

Our intention was not to get people angry or start a controversy, but to speak out and let the campus know that this is something worth time, effort and words.

- LINDSAY SWEET (’11)
**Sexual assault awareness raised**

**Jessica Kregger**

April 8, President Barack Obama deemed the month of April as “Sexual Assault Awareness Month.” For many, the occasion has gone unnoticed, but this issue pertains to everyone, including college-aged students.

Sexual assault is defined as, “forced or pressured sexual contact that occurs without the victim’s consent.” According to Michigan law, unwanted touching is considered sexual assault.

Many people believe that they will not become victims of sexual assault, but incidents of sexual assault occur within many cultures, age groups, and religious sects, and are especially a huge issue on college campuses around the nation.

Hope College is one of many college campuses where sexual assault is a recurring and somewhat underreported issue. According to Hope’s department of Campus Safety, seven instances of sexual assault occurred in the 2006-2007 academic year. This number was released after the academic year, so many students may not have been aware of these instances.

Professor Julie Kipp stated that she has had two students in this last week report of being sexually assaulted, and that these instances have not been the only reports that she has received this year.

Sexual assault remains an issue on college campuses across the country as well. According to The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, “27 percent of college women reported a sexual experience since the age of 14 that met the legal definition of rape or attempted rape.”

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, early college-aged students are the least likely to report being raped and are most likely to be out between the hours of 10 p.m. and 2 a.m., when most instances of sexual assault occur.

It is also reported that the fact that the assailant will be someone the victim does not know is a misconception.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention says, “About half of all rapes and sexual assaults against women are committed by friends and acquaintances, and 26 percent by intimate partners.”

Another reported common misconception is that only women are victims of rape. Usually, men get raped by other men, and in 98 percent of the cases the rapists are heterosexual.

Rochel Grossman from Surviving Sexual Assault says that both homosexual and heterosexual males are sexually assaulted, and the assaults do not only occur in prisons. Men are the least likely to report being raped. Victims of sexual assault are members of all cultures, sexes, age groups and religious groups.

It may seem as though it is impossible to avoid sexual assault, but the California Department of Justice says there are many ways to prevent it.

The first step is to learn the facts about rape. Doing research will help people be a less likely to fall victim. Another suggestion is to practice home safety such as locking doors and not leaving strangers entering into a relationship.

Other guidelines include traveling in groups during the night and not walking alone in remote areas. Getting to know others and the surroundings are just a few of the many ways to prevent sexual assault.

Educating yourself and your friends about rape and sexual assault will help you to find a solution to the problem.

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**Earth Day encourages going green**

Students participating in the 2009 Baccalaureate and Commencement.

Baccalaureate will be held in the Dimnent Memorial Chapel Sunday, May 3 at 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Dr. William C. Brownson, president emeritus of Words of Hope will deliver the sermon.

Commencement will be held at Holland Municipal Stadium at 3 p.m. later in the afternoon. Ellen Tanis Award, director of student life and associate director of the Center for Faithful Leadership at Hope, will be speaking.

Commencement will be held at the DeVos Fieldhouse if it rains. If moved indoors, the service will be for ticket-holders only.

Baccalaureate admission requires a ticket regardless.

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**Earth Day encourages going green**

**TRASH PICK-UP— Laura Jackson (’09) helps clean-up the Pine Grove.**

**TO THE 80’s**

**SPRING FLING GOES BACK TO THE FUTURE— Friday April 24 in the Pine Grove**

**Featuring:**

- **3:30 p.m. The Push**
- **3:30 - 11:30 p.m. Big Smile Caricature Artist**
- **4:00 p.m. 80’s Costume Contest with prizes!**
- **4:00 - 7:00 p.m. Oregon Daze Child 80’s cover band**
- **Inflatables**
- **Flashback photos**
- **Laser tag**
- **Airbrush tattoos**
- **Taking Education Abroad**
- **bake sale fundraiser**
- **Alpha Phi Omega “Faculty Pie in the Face” fundraiser**
- **Free “Back to the Future” themed t-shirts for the first 500 students**
- **Dinner provided to students with a meal plan. $5 for those without**

**ALMOST SUMMER— Mikella Bryant (‘12) and Lora Nelson (‘12), left, and the Galdys (‘12), above, take advantage of the nice weather in the pine grove.**

**Guest Writer**

According to Walmart.com, organic cleaning products and eco-friendly appliances are given away by Meijer and Home Depot. Also, Walmart is giving away alternative shower heads. Companies such as Home Depot and Walmart are marketing these products as affordable and easy transitions for the home. Home Depot even offers to install various windows, doors and insulation to cut heating costs. Also, many grocery stores such as Meijer are encouraging the use of reusable shopping bags to save on disposable waste.

Even though Earth Week is only for one week, students at Hope are encouraged to implement various eco-friendly behaviors in their lives every day. Suggestions include taking a cloth to the bathroom instead of using the paper towels, turning off the water when it is not directly being used, using a refillable water container and turning lights off when not in use.
Tumult in Somalia leads to escalation in piracy

Cory Lakatos

The celebrated rescue of U.S. Capt. Richard Phillips by Navy SEALs on April 12 has once again brought the Somali pirates into the international spotlight, but less well known is the Somali turmoil behind the plundering.

The 19 crew members of Phillips’ merchant ship, the Maersk Alabama, were overpowerd by brigands, leading to a prolonged hostage crisis. Authorized to use force by the U.S. government, the SEALs shot and killed three pirates in their successful rescue mission. The French dealt with a similar situation recently, resulting in two pirate deaths.

U.S. President Barack Obama promised to “halt the rise of piracy,” but his statement was short on specifics. Even so, the five deaths coupled with Obama’s stance have left the Somali pirates nothing short of irate. The following week saw four retaliatory blackjacks with a total of 60 hostages taken.

Abdullahi Ahmed, a crewman with a pirate group based in Harardhere, Somalia, had harsh words for his opponents. “We have decided to kill U.S. and French sailors if they happen to be among our future hostages,” Ahmed said.

According to Admiral Rick Gurnon of the Massachusetts Maritime Academy, Phillips’ alma mater, more than 200 marines from various nations are currently being held for ransom.

The reaction throughout the polo community worldwide is one of disbelief. Disbelief and frustration come, and there is no clear solution to this problem.

The Anchor

U.S. Open polo match turns into disaster when horses collapse at game

April 22, 2009

WELLINGTON, Fla. (AP) — Ladies in their spring dresses and men in casual linen suits sipped champagne and nibbled hors d’oeuvres as they waited for the U.S. Open polo match. What they ended up with was a field of death.

Magnificent polo ponies, each valued at up to $200,000, stumbled from their trailers and crumpled one by one onto the green grass. Vets ran out and poured water over the feverish, splayed-out animals. But it was no use. One dead horse. Then another. Then more. And within a day, 21 horses were dead.

Some veterinarians were still performing necropsies but suspect the horses died from heart failure brought on by some sort of toxic reaction in their bodies. Possibly tainted feed, vitamins or supplements. Maybe a combination of the three.

The polo club officials and several independent veterinarians insist the deaths appeared to be accidental, it remained a mystery that puzzled and saddened those close to a sport that has long been a passion of Palm Beach County’s ultra-rich.

“The players, the owners of the horses were in tears. Bystanders and volunteers were in tears. This was a very tragic thing,” said Tony Coppola, 62, an announcer for the International Polo Club Palm Beach in this palm tree-lined town some 15 miles west of the millionaire enclave of Palm Beach.

Spectators at the Sunday match had difficulty making out what was happening when the frenzy of workers and trucks hovered around the horse trailers. Soon blue tarps were hung and trailers were shuffled into place to obscure their view.

The match was canceled, replaced by an exhibition game, to keep the crowd busy. Rumors swirled about a death toll climbed.

Some horses died on scene. Others were rushed to clinics for treatment, but there was nothing that could be done. Their fate was sealed.

All the dead horses were from the Venezuelan-owned team Lechuza Carlos, a favorite to win the title at what’s described as the World Series of this sport. The team included about 40 thoroughbreds in all, maybe more. The team has not made any public comments since the deaths.

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— Tony Coppola

Announcer

International Polo Club Palm Beach

“This was devastat- ing. It was heart- breaking to see that many horses to get sick all at once.”

— John Wash

Polo Club President

“Pirates often see themselves as coastguards, as is demonstrated by the attitude of Omar Dahir Idle, a pirate captain.

“Our latest hijackings are meant to show that no one can deter us from protecting our waters from the enemy because we believe in dying for our land,” Idle said.

Because of the complex causes and consequences of Somali piracy, it is likely that the international community will have to deal with it for years to come, and there is no clear solution to this problem.

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Polo club manager Jimmy Newman said it was like losing half the New York Yankees. “They lost some great horses,” he said.

Dr. Scott Swerdlin, a veterinarian at Palm Beach Equine Clinic near the polo grounds, treated one of the sick horses. He said it appeared the animals died of heart failure caused by some kind of toxin that could have been tainted food, vitamins or supplements.

“A combination of something with an error in something that was given to these horses caused this toxic reaction,” Swerdlin said Monday. “It may take days or weeks to get the results of toxicology tests, he said.

John Wash, the polo club’s president of club operations, said doctors had ruled out any sort of airborne infection. “This was an isolated incident involving that one team,” Wash said.

“This was devastating,” he added. “It was heartbreaking to see that many horses to get sick all at once.”

He said games would resume on Wednesday, with the finals taking place Sunday. The Lechuza team has withdrawn, the club said.

The team is owned by affluent Venezuelan businessman Victor Vargas, who also plays, but most of the horses and players are Argentine. The team travels most of the year.

“This is a town of horse clubs, training facilities, stables, polo grounds and wide open fenced fields where the animals roam and graze along straight-line, neatly groomed streets. The club has hosted the U.S. Open for seven years.

“It’s just incredible. So unbelievable.”

The reaction throughout the polo community worldwide is one of disbelief. Disbelief and grief,” said Coppola, the club announcer.

Although the value of the horses lost was great, this isn’t a game people play for the money. The owners are already multi-millionaires.

“You’ve got to have the money to part with it,” Newman said.

Purses rarely top a few thousand dollars, if any at all. They do it for the pride, for the glory, for the love of the game.

“If you win this tournament, you get your name on a trophy,” Newman said. And the respect of your peers. That’s pretty much it. “It’s a lifestyle.”
Communities print own currency

Groups take steps to boost economy in face of hardship, economic crisis

“People who live in low-income communities cannot be termed as a criminal just by implicating him in false cases.”
— Mayawati, the chief minister of Uttar Pradesh and one of India’s best known politicians who spoke on behalf of Mukhtar Ansari trying to convince the crowd not to see him as a criminal.

“That’s where I think I started getting in trouble with the church. I was becoming somewhat toxic with my visibility and extrovertedness.”
— Don Marshausen, the pastor who performed the funeral of Dylan Klebold, one of the Columbine shooters, ended up losing his job because of his continued relationship with Klebold’s family.

“This is a matter of importance not just to New York and Brooklyn, but for all who care about our national treasures.”
— Richard Moe, head of The National Trust for Historic Preservation, on the public response to the proposition of a 18-story building that would ultimately ruin the view of the Brooklyn Bridge.

“The majority of immigrants in this country have made a calculation and come here because of the economic opportunities they see for their families.” So we’ve got a group that is resourceful, that will try to stay employed no matter what.
— Audrey Singer, immigration and demographics expert at the Brookings Institution, about how the economic downturn could impact immigrant communities.

“There are so many kinds of local money out there, the music we’ve all done, and so few degrees of separation.”
— Taylor Hanson, lead singer of the new band Twisted Fountains which is comprised of former members of the Smashing Pumpkins, Fountains of Wayne and Cheap Trick.

“We’re just trying new things to get people in here.”
— Raymond Toler, owner of Raymond’s Auction House in Archdale, N.C., who has started holding auctions at grocery stores.

“Nobody wants cemeteries or columbaria near their homes, but everybody needs them.”
— South Leung, who runs a funeral-planning company in Hong Kong, on the issue of space for the best of the families.

“We were getting nowhere with the negotiations.”
— Daryl Vaz, Jamaican information minister, after police stopped a Canadian aircraft following an eight hour standoff with an armed man who was holding its crew hostage.

“During the economic boom a few years ago, mega retail stores like Wal-Mart moved into small communities and placed a huge burden on local shops to stay in business. However, with the current economy, opposite trend is starting to emerge: various communities across the country have developed their own monetary systems in order to keep the cash flowing for local businesses and prevent the bottom from dropping out.”
— Benjamin O’Dell, financial writer.

“I am, of course, a very warm almost every where that it has been tried, which shows that people of
age local citizens to jump on the bandwagon, as many shoppers are fond of helping local stores, especially during times of economic hardship.”
— Ray Toler, owner of Raymond’s Auction House in Archdale, N.C., about his new money.

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“BEFORE THE 22 PERCENT.

A U.N. CONFERENCE— The building is the Palais des Nations, in which the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG) is housed.

Iran president’s comments prompt walk-out at U.N. Conference

By no means is this trend limited around $2.3 million BerkShares.
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Shara Worden to perform

HOPE PR - My Brightest Diamond's Shara Worden will be performing a solo concert with special guests Ordinary Neighbors in the DeWitt Center studio theatre at Hope College on Friday, April 24, at 8 p.m.

After earning an opera degree from The University of North Texas, Worden moved to New York City to pursue her songwriting ambitions. After releasing two albums with her band Awry, Shara met Sufjan Stevens—who is a 1998 Hope graduate—and took a hiatus from her own music in order to tour with him as one of the Illinoisemakers.

Worden released her first album as My Brightest Diamond, “Bring Me The Workhorse,” in August of 2006 on Aesthetic Kitty Records and her second, “A Thousand Shark’s Teeth,” this year, both to critical acclaim.

She shows unusual versatility, string arrangements, and punk rock drumming. In performance she shows unusual versatility, channeling the vocal theatrics of Jeff Buckley, the soulful seductiveness of Nina Simone and the gothic pop of Portishead.

Ordinary Neighbors consists of husband-and-wife songwriters Josh Banner and Susanna Childress.

Tickets for the concert are available now at the Hope College Ticket Office in the main lobby of the DeVos Fieldhouse. Free for the Hope community and $10 for members of the general public.
Anchor
Senior Men work as hard on The Anchor has they do on looking good.

MATT OOSTERHOUSE
Matt is the helpful Copy Editor at The Anchor and has been on staff for four years. He loves his guitar and taking Mission Trips to Stinking Creek, Ky. and Pompano Beach, Fla. It is speculated that he enjoys a nice cotton shirt.

JAMES RALSTON
James has been part of the Anchor since his freshman year and has run the sports section the past three years. He hopes to someday find a job in Denver where he can participate in rugged, manly things such as hiking, kayaking and growing a beard.

SAM OGLES
Sam is the Managing Editor at The Anchor, after having previously run the National News section for a year. His hobbies include tennis, reading, and criticizing reality television. He hopes to one day figure out what to do with his life.

ALEX QUICK
Alex is the ads manager at The Anchor. Fond of Canada, smoking his pipe, and reading, he plans to pursue a career as an Anglican priest.

AP Style:
Just as classes require certain styles like MLA or Chicago for papers, The Anchor also follows a particular style. AP style is the typical style for journalistic works and is outlined in the AP Stylebook.

CANDY BOWL:
One of the perks of working at The Anchor is the load of candy provided for us staffers on a weekly basis by Kathy (see below). The most popular candies, such as Reeses and Twix, go fast.

CS2:
The shortened name for Adobe Creative Suite 2, the program used for layout at The Anchor on production night. All section editors must be proficient.

KATHY:
Kathy Nathan, part-time Communication lecturer, is The Anchor’s advisor.

ROHCNAR:
The bizarre plant, named after The Rancher (spelled backwards), that looms in the window sill at The Anchor.

ANCHOR FUN FACT:
The Anchor began in 1887, and was first issued weekly in 1914. Covering national and campus news alike, Hope College’s student-run newspaper has grown over the years to encompass over two-dozen editors, reporters, and staff.

The Anchor in a week

MONDAY
Production Night: Staff works in the Anchor office to lay out, edit and make changes to pages.

TUESDAY
Final Changes: Throughout the day, staff members come into the office to put the finishing touches on their page. Send to Print: In the afternoon, a Co-Editor-in-Chief comes in to finalize the pages and send them to the printer.

WEDNESDAY
The Day The Anchor Hits Stands: Early in the morning, the printer drops the new issues off at campus. The distribution manager picks them up and drops them off at the various Anchor stands around campus.

THURSDAY-SATURDAY
Break Days: Editors relax while writers research and write their stories for the following week.

SUNDAY
Deadline: Stories are due to the Anchor’s inbox by 12:00 P.M. Feedback Meeting: The staff meets to go over the previous week’s issue and how they can improve the next week’s. Brainstorming Meeting: All writers, photographers and prospectives are invited to help plan the next issue.
Being the change

When we started this column in August, we recounted some of the changes the Anchor has reported in the last 100 years. We anticipated a year of change for a lot of reasons: because we are seniors ending our college experience, because 2008 promised an exciting election, and because our staff was working to make the Anchor a catalyst for change on campus. In many ways, our expectations for change were met this year, and we thoroughly enjoyed our staff and our experience as editors here at the Anchor.

With our last column, we look ahead to an exciting future, both for the class of 2009 as we graduate, and for the Hope community at large. For the graduates, this spring brings on a big and daunting transition. For the past 16 years or so, our job in society has been to be students. Now, we look to take on new jobs. For many of us, the search has been challenging, especially in the current economy.

We might not land our dream career immediately after May 3, but perhaps a new position will come. For many of us, the time here and excited about the changes that will be a part of year next year and in the years to follow. Whether you are reading this as a Hope student, parent, alumni, or faculty member, be a part of the changes that surround us. We encourage graduates to keep in touch with each other and to maintain our meaningful friendships as working and studying adults.

We leave the Anchor grateful for our time here and excited about the changes that are still to come. We are excited about the changes that the Anchor will be a part of next year and in the years to follow. Whatever you are reading this as a student, parent, alumni, or faculty member, be a part of the changes that surround you everyday.

Ashley will spend this summer modeling in Chicago while she looks for a “grown up job” in magazine journalism. Katie will spend this summer probably playing wedding gigs before she starts law school in the fall. ...a job is more than where we go to work on weekdays...
Gotta stay positive

Erika English
Columnist

Highly qualified to pay rent? We have spent so much money by the time we graduate that I feel like we are being taxed for our passion.

Many thanks are due to people who have pushed me in multiple challenging directions and have always put up with my generally ridiculous personality (I am well aware that I’m not the easiest student to have in class.). I have come to understand that professors don’t get all the credit they deserve, and if you give good effort in the classroom, it is not uncommon to receive a passing fling—it was love.

*The maturity of pride*

Sam Ogles
Managing Editor

Earlier this week I found myself engaged in a discussion with a couple of friends who claimed to be moral relativists believing that the truth of moral judgments is relative to an individual. As a traditional Christian I was astounded at what I was hearing. “Don’t you see the absurdity of it? Don’t you see that your view is indefensible? Do you really believe universal right or wrong, morality and the lie have no objectively bad quality to them? You’re wrong!”

Although I attempted to argue coherently, I failed to prove anything. In my mind I was cool, calm, logical and truthful while my friends were merely avoiding any assertions because they were so confused, and ignorant compared to my superior knowledge. It was Socrates educating Euthyphro.

Bloom n’ grow

What happens when you say goodbye? For most of the population, there is a twinge, somewhere between the heart and the stomach that ache for whatever is left behind. But for some, when you tell someone something, it tells you that you are leaving something. It tells you that it was more than a passing fling—it was love.

When you tell someone you won’t have a person, place, or thing, the best goodbyes are ones that leave you with that feeling. Spring is all about the twinge. What was plowed in fall to take root deep underground. Over winter it developed into something secure and in spring rises up. That push into spring forces things that can be so difficult in college, it challenges you academically, emotionally, physically, and spiritually. It is the pushing away of something new, something real and obvious.

What happens in spring is different from the previous stages of the year because all happens above ground. The friendships that were forming over time and may have only been little connections here and there, become relationships that are visible to the public. The friends you made together and mix in the fresh outdoors. The leaves unfold and new things begin; from flowers to fruit blossoms the world seems to take bloom.

Every year, however, we forget that spring brings pain with the obvious beauty. The green world doesn’t become green without, the dirt falling away and without the effort it takes to unfold the leaves that have been forming for months. It takes a lot of work to blossom, something that flowers can be so difficult in college, it challenges you academically, emotionally, physically, and spiritually. It is the pushing away of something new, something real and obvious.

Metaphors, tricks and trainwrecks

Erika English
Columnist

As a student and a person who has passed many high school and college classes, I have come to understand that the truth of moral judgments is relative to an individual. As a traditional Christian I was astounded at what I was hearing. “Don’t you see the absurdity of it? Don’t you see that your view is indefensible? Do you really believe universal right or wrong, morality and the lie have no objectively bad quality to them? You’re wrong!”

Although I attempted to argue coherently, I failed to prove anything. In my mind I was cool, calm, logical and truthful while my friends were merely avoiding any assertions because they were so confused, and ignorant compared to my superior knowledge. It was Socrates educating Euthyphro.

Looking back, it is strange to think that this seed, the seed of education, was planted in fall place, or thing, the best goodbyes are ones that leave you with that feeling. Spring is all about the twinge. What was plowed in fall to take root deep underground. Over winter it developed into something secure and in spring rises up. That push into spring forces things that can be so difficult in college, it challenges you academically, emotionally, physically, and spiritually. It is the pushing away of something new, something real and obvious.

What happens in spring is different from the previous stages of the year because all happens above ground. The friendships that were forming over time and may have only been little connections here and there, become relationships that are visible to the public. The friends you made together and mix in the fresh outdoors. The leaves unfold and new things begin; from flowers to fruit blossoms the world seems to take bloom.

Every year, however, we forget that spring brings pain with the obvious beauty. The green world doesn’t become green without, the dirt falling away and without the effort it takes to unfold the leaves that have been forming for months. It takes a lot of work to blossom, something that flowers can be so difficult in college, it challenges you academically, emotionally, physically, and spiritually. It is the pushing away of something new, something real and obvious.

Metaphors, tricks and trainwrecks

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Letters to the Editor

Macroeconomic Christianity: Our moral opportunity costs

To the Editors:

While in macroeconomics this semester, a particular term caught my attention. On page 3 of “Barro's Economics,” it states, “When a good is scarce, choosing to use the good in one way means giving up some other use. The value of the use people give up is the opportunity cost of this choice.” In other words, there is a loss of potential gain from the alternative(s) not chosen. The demand for scarce (i.e. rare and desirable) resources, results in people having to determine a value scale for all available options.

For instance, if a person decides to place the majority of their earnings into a savings account, then they have deemed saving their money a priority over spending it. Using the money for entertainment could provide better support and resources for community settings, as that was the forgone alternative. This same principle may also be applied to moral choices.

Every day, we make decisions from a position of freedom, which always results in tradeoffs and certain losses. Choosing to go to dinner and a movie on a Wednesday night may exclude going to a Bible study, since one cannot be in two places at the same time. The Bible study would be the opportunity cost for Wednesday night. When examining the Christian faith, macroeconomic concepts may be applied to help us better understand our current situation.

In order to suit the secular culture, it seems Christians are frequently and subtly pressured to compromise various values and judgments. Making ethical decisions, whether good or bad, will automatically preclude other options. This realization has caused me to wonder what kind of moral choices we, as the upcoming generation, are making. What are our opportunity costs costing us?

As a historically Christian society, we are often faced with deciding between the tenets of our culture or political system and our church’s teachings, as these can be mutually exclusive. How do we untangle our faith from pop culture? In “The Joy of Living,” page 185, Mother Teresa gives us some insight when she says, “If we actually believe in freedom of expression, then he has the right to say what he wants to say, Ambassador Zarmi Akram told The Associated Press. “There were things in there that a lot of people in the Muslim world would be in agreement with, for example the situation in Palestine, in Iraq and in Afghanistan, even if they don’t agree with the way he said it.”

To the Editors:

As a graduating senior coming upon the closing of my experience at Hope, I feel I cannot leave this community without expressing a deep concern that has been continually growing over the last four years. I feel that a significant group of minority students has been overlooked and ignored. At school that prides itself on valuing diversity, I know I am not the first to say this is not okay.

Hope College can no longer afford to ignore the homosexual student minority. Not only is homosexuality not covered under the Discrimination and Grievance Policy, but student groups such as Gay Straight Forum and GLOBE, which could provide better support and resources for these students, are not officially recognized by the administration.

This course concluded two very important days: Day of Dialogue and Day of Silence. As part of Day of Dialogue, two students made a documentary called “Ending the Silence” about the necessity for change on campus. Forcing students to be silent is harming the community as a whole. This film gives a voice to Hope students who refuse to be silent any longer.

The Hope College community has nothing to lose by opening its arms to a minority that has been silenced for so long. By officially recognizing these student groups we are opening the door to discussion. Not talking is harming all students: those who are gay who feel they do not have place, as well as straight students who have differing perspectives. Without conversation, they cannot come to their own opinions or share how they feel with the community. We do not always have to agree, but who are we to judge others based on race, religious background, culture, gender, or sexuality?

I am among the guilty majority for not speaking up before now on behalf of these students. Silent support no longer enough for ignored students

Sincerely,
Erin Fortner ('09)

‘Silent support’ is no longer enough for ignored students

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Anna Pilkot ('09)

U.N. conference controversial

• CONFERENCE, from page 4

When the speech was interrupted several times by cheers from the large Iranian delega- tion, it may not be well-received among many others in Iran, which is suffering from high inflation and unemployment partly as a result of its global isolation. Many have criticized Ahmadinejad, who is up for re- election in June, for spending too much time on anti-Israel and anti-Western rhetoric and not enough on the country’s economy.

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Club team impresses with victories

Lindsey Wolf
Guest Writer

Ultimate Frisbee, now officially called ultimate, is a fast-paced sport that combines the athletic abilities of soccer, basketball and football.

Two teams of seven compete on a field similar to a football field and the first team to reach a set number of points is victorious. Ultimate is one of the fastest growing sports in the world. It also is currently very popular on college campuses across the U.S. There are over 600 college teams and most DI schools have them. Hope is one of the smallest schools with an ultimate team, said co-captain Jon Wilson (’09).

The men’s club team at Hope consists of 15 players. While the majority of the team consists of seniors, the guys are good friends both on and off the field. “The guys on our team are all a lot of fun, and really make the sport more enjoyable,” Helderop said.

Both Helderop and Wilson play ultimate for the love of the sport more enjoyable, “Helderop said. Calvin College, which traditionally has a strong ultimate program, is one of Hope’s biggest rivals, as is Grand Valley State University. Helderop plays Grand Valley several times each year and that rivalry is personal for Helderop.

“Most of our games are in tournament format but we also have scrimmages. We have recently scrimmaged Calvin and we won,” Wilson said with a grin.

In tournament play, Hope competes against DIIL and DI schools from several states in the Midwest, including Michigan, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois. Wilson said, “We have a lot of games against DI schools, and we beat a lot of them.”

This year Hope has defeated several schools from Illinois, as well as Eastern and Central Michigan Universities.

Hope’s losses have come from Michigan State, Western Ontario and Northern Illinois University. Overall, Hope has had a solid season this spring, posting a record of 9-4.

“This has been a particularly successful year, as we were ranked third in the state,” Helderop said.

Hope was seeded behind number one Michigan and number two Michigan State. This weekend marks the beginning of playoffs for Hope, which has the fifth seed in the Kalamazoo sectional. Hope’s sectional consists of all teams from Michigan and two teams from Ontario. “We’re hoping for the top three to advance to regionals,” Wilson said.

Whether it is competitive or just for fun, ultimate is a great sport that revolves around sportsmanship.

Students looking for something to do are encouraged to grab a disc and head outside to play ultimate.

ATHLETE PROFILE

Senior makes mark on team, leads national ranking

Chris O’Brien

Track Captain Nora Kuiper (’09) has been running on some sort of team since she was in the fifth grade. This year, she has the fastest Division III 100-meter time accomplishing an 11.90 at Northwood University over the weekend.

In her junior track season, she took fifth place in the 100-meter dash at the national tournament and has already qualified to return this year. The major success she has reached this year can be directly connected to her work ethic in and out of season. “I have focused on our weight training program to become stronger,” Kuiper said. “I’ve also made sure to do every single checkout that I can.”

Putting in time in the weight room only looks easy. “The biggest hurdle for her was to believe that she could run faster times. “A mental barrier I had [that] prevented me from running really fast was the fact that I didn’t think I could do it,” Kuiper said.

“Once I got over that, my times dropped drastically.”

Fellow sprinter Haleigh Gokey (’10) who ran against Nora in high school and has been running with her for the last three years at Hope said Kuiper brings a passion and inspiration to practice that is truly amazing.

“She’s really great at cheering on not just the sprinters but the field events too,” Gokey said.

“She encourages everyone to hit their times, and makes sure we all only take the allotted breaks.”

The intense training Kuiper has been through has been hard on her body, but she has never suffered from an injury that kept her sidelined from competition. “Work on wood nothing has happened yet this year,” Kuiper said. “I have chronic hamstring and back problems, but I treat it, it gets better and I move on.”

After graduation Kuiper is planning on going to Mozambique, a place she visited a couple summers ago, to help with water supply and water education.

“After coming back from that experience, there was a desire in me to go back and use the problem solving and analytic skills that I’ve learned here,” Kuiper said.

She looks forward to Major term when she’ll be a full-time track athlete, but can not help but think about her college career coming to an end.

“I will really miss Hope and the friends that I’ve made and I will really miss track,” Kuiper said. “But I’m looking forward to what the future has in store.”

This Week in Sports

Wednesday
Women’s Tennis vs. Saint Mary’s at 4 p.m.

Saturday
Baseball vs. Trine at 1 p.m.

Thursday
April 30
Men’s Tennis MIAA Conference Tournament

Friday
May 1
Men’s Tennis MIAA Conference Tournament
Baseball vs. Kalamazoo at 4 p.m.

In Brief

Player of the Week

Kelli Duijmstra (’09) has been honored as the MIAA softball player of the week. In the team’s six games last week, Duijmstra had three home runs, 11 RBIs and a batting average of .476. In the doubleheader against Saint Mary’s on April 15, she belted a grand slam home run in the first game as well as an RBI double in the second. Duijmstra ranks second on Hope’s all-time list of homerun batters. This is her second time being honored this season.

Men’s Tennis

The Flying Dutchmen have continued their successful season topping rival Calvin over the weekend in a dual match. The team swept the doubles portion and went on to split with the Knights in the singles matches. Hope has improved to 3-1 in the MIAA with a 9-9 record overall. The team will next take on Albion, continuing to work towards topping Kalamazoo who leads the MIAA with a 3-0 record.

Men’s Basketball Recognized

The Flying Dutchmen have been honored by the NCAA blog “Double A Zone” for their community-service project. The blog highlights the team’s mission statement to serve as volunteers within the Holland community as well as their work with the Holland Public school system. Hope athletes worked with students at Holland Heights every week starting in December and ending at the beginning of April.
Tennis team aims for MIAA crown, national tourney

Bethany Stripp  

Sports Editor

Hope College’s women’s tennis team is nearing the end of one of their most successful seasons ever.

With just two matches left before the MIAA tournament, the team is currently 13-5 overall and 5-0 in the MIAA.

The season got off to a difficult start with the team falling to Wheaton College and Ferris State University during the indoor season before Spring Break.

They also fell to Grand Valley State University in their first match of the regular season. However, these matches have proved to be helpful for the team in the rest of their season.

“If you look at the schools we lost to, two of them were DII schools and the other one was Wheaton, which is just a really tough team,” Beth Olson ’10 said.

“I think those three tough matches helped us prepare for teams in our conference and helped us be successful against those teams.”

Over spring break, the Flying Dutch traveled to Hilton Head, S.C.

There, they were able to play teams from all over the country. This competition also helped the team to gain the strength they currently have.

“Spring Break is always a good trip for us because we play a wide variety of skill levels,” Danielle Welty ‘10 said. “It gave us a chance to bond and to grow close as a team.”

Since the loss to Grand Valley in their first match, the tennis team has not lost a match.

Most importantly, the team is undefeated in the MIAA and is currently in first place in the conference.

The team is using its perfect MIAA record as a way to keep working hard. With perfect record, however, comes extra attention from opponents.

“We don’t take being undefeated lightly,” Olson said.

“We know if anything that it means we need to work that much harder to stay there.”

“From here on out, we are going to take it one step, one match at a time,” Welty said.

“The conference tournament is going to be a challenge for us because everyone will be gunning for us because we are number one.”

In addition to the pressure of being number one, the Flying Dutch will also have to deal with playing tennis in a different environment.

All of the team’s home matches are played indoors, as are many of their away matches.

However, the conference tournament is played outdoors at Stowe Stadium at Kalamazoo College.

“Playing outdoors is definitely different from playing indoors because you have other factors to deal with,” Olson said. “We try to practice outdoors the week before conference so we can get used to playing outdoors. It shouldn’t affect us too much when the time comes.”

The MIAA tournament will take place from April 30 to May 1 in Kalamazoo.

“While the team is currently taking the season one match at a time, they are also thinking about the important conference tournament.”

The winner of the tournament will receive an automatic bid into the NCAA Division III national tournament, something that has happened to Hope’s women’s tennis team in eight years.

“We would like to win the conference tournament and qualify for nationals,” Welty said. “If we are going to make it there any year, this year.”

The team will have its last home match Wednesday, April 22, at DeVitt Tennis Center at 4 p.m. against St. Mary’s College.

On Saturday, they will finish the regular season with a match at Olivet College.

“Tennis is not an easy sport to play,” Olson said. “But if you have a strong will and a strong faith, it is definitely doable.”