MIPs on campus

Looking at the ‘minor in possession’

Erika Ter Louw
Guest Writer

Most college students are familiar with the feared term MIP, or Minor in Possession. However, most are not informed of Hope’s and the city of Holland’s policy regarding this subject.

The state of Michigan now has one of the strictest laws in the country regarding Minors in Possession. In 2004, Gov. Jennifer Granholm signed law Public Act No. 63 which made several changes to the state’s policy. The following are five substantial changes that were made according to the Michigan.gov website:

1. The definition of being “in possession of alcohol” now explicitly includes blood alcohol content.
2. The new law gives judges discretion to use jail time when a youth has a prior MIP conviction and fails to pay any fine.
3. The new law permits 19 and 20 year olds who consumed alcohol the option to use this as an affirmative defense.
4. The new law sets up a system with the secretary of state for tracking first time offenders of the Michigan MIP law and comparable local ordinances.
5. The new law permits 19 and 20 year olds who consumed alcohol the option to use this as an affirmative defense.

Taking this into consideration, Hope’s department of campus safety must work under this law with regard to alcohol violations on campus. Therefore, it is always a possibility that the local police will get involved.

However, according to campus safety Patrol Sergeant Chad Wolters, “That does not mean that every violation on campus will involve getting an MIP. If people are cooperative, there is a better chance the violation will be handled by the college.”

From January to December in 2008, five MIPs were issued to students on campus. 2007 included 21 violations, 2006 seven and in 2005 there were 13 liquor law violations on campus.

Wolters states that “most violations occur at off campus locations. The college obtains that information from the Holland Police Department, and that information is forwarded to students.”

Likewise, the Holland City Police Department issues liquor violations. In 2007, 304 violations were documented; in 2008, 296 violations were issued. These statistics would include violations received by Hope students.

Knowing these statistics, the question now is what can be done to lower them. According to the Dean of Students Richard Frost, there are three main things that Hope targets.

First, Hope focuses on the development of students by asking questions such as Who are you as an individual? What do your responsibilities include? and how will this impact you when you become a student?

Secondly, the college focuses on what the Hope norm is. Surveys show that the average Hope student does not drink; therefore, the administration makes it a priority to inform students of this social norm.

Lastly, Hope does have a strict set of rules and policies. As a result, there are specific consequences to students’ actions, and it is not a right but a privilege to be involved in activities on campus. Taking all of this into consideration, Fraz Snyder says that the main priority is to help students figure out “who [they] are with regard to values and who [they] are in the outside world.”

If a student is charged with an MIP, he or she is guilty of an infringement of Hope’s policy regardless of whether the violation occurs on or off campus. In the student handbook, MIPs fall under violation 18.1 which states the following: “Violations of local, state and/or federal laws and statutes by any student will be considered violations of all campus policies, whether the incident occurs on or off campus.”

After an incident report has been filled or the college has received a call from the police department, Hope pursues it as an

New international students embrace Hope

Elena Rivera
Guest Writer

The Phelps Scholars program, whose students are housed in Scott Hall, is in its largest year with over 80 participants from countries ranging from Cameroon to China. Although most college students feel anxiety about moving to a different state or living in a dorm with other people, the fear is magnified when a person is migrating between continents and cultures.

Melodie Jackson (’13), who has lived in Kenya since her parents moved there when she was three months old, is still worried about meeting people.

“To me, Hope College is a big school. People don’t know each other,” said Jackson. “At my high school, at least I knew everyone’s faces.”

Jackson brought a book she wrote about Kenya and her friends. She also has jars of smell of Kenya and her family’s African red dirt and Mombasa sand, which remind her of the smell of Kenya and her family’s home.

“I taught my friends words I like to use (from back home),” said Wittig. “For example, ‘asha’ means sympathizing or apologizing, and I taught my roommate that word.”

Stewart said, “I bought a bunch of tourist T-shirts to wear, as well as a lot of Egyptian jewelry.”

Jackson bought a book she wrote, “End of Times,” which contains prose she wrote about Kenya and her friends. She also has jars of African red dirt and Mombasa sand, which remind her of the smell of Kenya and her family’s home.

I’m not used to the way girls dress, like laying out in swim suits... girls would never do that in Egypt.

— Melissa Jackson (’13)
Hope examines interfaith dialogue

Dean of Duke University Divinity Chapel, speaks at on Friday night on the importance of interfaith dialogue.

Gretchen Wilson Guest Writer

Hope College is home to all kinds of traditions. The Pull has been on campus since 1898, Nykerk since 1936, Vespers since 1941 and the Critical Issues Symposium since 1980. Although the declaration of a "tradition" typically waits until the event has been going on for a long time, the World Christian Lecture series looks like it may merit early titling.

Only a part of Hope since 2008, the World Christian Lecture Series is organized by a committee that selects and brings in a prominent Christian figure—an artist, minister, scholar, politician or other leader. It is funded by an anonymous donor in the interest of expanding the cultural, moral and spiritual life of the college.

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This year's speaker, Rev. Dr. Samuel Wells, continued the general theme of Christianity's interaction with things unfamiliar. Wells came to Hope from Duke University where he is the dean of chapel and research professor of Christian ethics in addition to being an Anglican priest, author, husband and father of two. Wells has also done a good deal of urban regeneration work and has set up a non-profit organization with the mission of providing opportunities for creative play to disadvantaged children.

Rev. Trygve Johnson and professor Dr. Mark Husbands introduced the 2009 Lecture Series on Sept. 25. Johnson spoke of the lecture series as a means for "engagement in hard questions" while Husbands stated earlier, "The need for Christians to understand but also affirm instances of genuine good in the religious commitments and faith of others is crucial." Wells did not disappoint when presenting "Not Even in Israel Have I Found Such Faith: A Christian Vision of Faith Among Other Faiths." Wells' formal talk focused largely on the three aspects of a Christian notion of faith: the historical tradition, the confidence in a harmonious new future and faith's existence as a mode of living in the present.

He expanded on these ideas regarding how they relate to interfaith dialogue, especially when the Christian notion of faith in the future tense tends to become vague when brought up around those of other faiths.

In the tradition of Mouw set before him, Wells spoke both in a more formal evening setting on Sept. 25 and a second time at Sept. 27's Gathering. Both talks were open to both the student body and Holland community, but, as can be expected, more students were present for his message on Sunday night than Friday.

Much can be learned from his perspective and from the content of lectures in the series to come, both in the Christian hearts on campus and the hearts of so many other beliefs represented.
Iran's nuclear facility subject to investigation: Will Iran give its consent?

Eric Anderson  
NATIONAL CO-EDITOR

The ongoing threat of Iran's nuclear capabilities came to a head at a recent meeting of the United Nations. The UN Security Council approved a measure put forth by President Barack Obama that, if fully effective, would put an end to all the unanswered questions that have plagued the diplomatic relationships with Iran. President Obama's resolution did not single out Iran; rather it called for steps to greatly reduce a global nuclear presence. However, Iran was singled out during council meetings. Nicolas Sarkozy, president of France, even went as far as to say, "Iran is violating the Security Council's resolutions right before our eyes."

Even Russia, an ally of Iran, joined in the host of countries offering formal rebukes against Iran. December has been set as the deadline for Iran to adhere to the stipulations of the investigation. The criticism directed at Iran was amplified days after the resolution with the discovery of what is believed to be a secret nuclear enrichment facility near the city of Qom. While Iran has maintained that their nuclear program was established with the express purpose of generating electricity, the newly revealed facility seems to be located within a heavily guarded military base.

The investigation will touch on many different aspects of Iran's seemingly shrouded nuclear program. The chief demand will be that whatever Iran has established be open to a complete investigation by the International Atomic Energy Agency. This would allow the search for violations to encompass any suspicious areas in the entire country.

Individual specialists will also be questioned in an attempt to gain an unprecedented amount of insight. The Obama administration is not completely confident that Iran will meet all of the demands set forth in the past few days. They are confident, however, that the investigation will be successful in getting answers to key questions that Iran has evaded for sometime.

China has come out against the sanctions put forth by the United States and the G-8, arguing that instituting such a short-term deadline would not be an effective way to address Iran's nuclear capabilities. However, the Italian Foreign Minister and current chair of the G-8 Franco Frattini supports the December deadline.

Unfortunately, Iran has responded to these demands with little enthusiasm. Instead, the country's president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has made such offers as an invitation to the United States to sell uranium from Iran for medical purposes. The dismissive nature of the dialogue has proved to only slow the process of getting Iran to take the demands seriously. Nevertheless, the resolution for a nuclear free world passed and Iran has until December to adhere to the investigation. Results may soon be seen to the true potential and ambitions of Iran's nuclear program, bringing to conclusion a dangerous game of hide and seek.

The Growth of a Global Nuclear Presence

- The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NNPT) aims to limit the spread of nuclear weapons globally.
- 189 countries have signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.
- Of the 189 NNPT countries, only the United States, Russia, the United Kingdom, France and China have admitted to possessing nuclear weapons.
- India, Pakistan and North Korea are the only three sovereign nations to admit to possessing nuclear weapons but do not sign the treaty.
- The United States was the first country to develop and test nuclear weapons.
- Myanmar, Syria and Israel have also been accused of possessing nuclear weapons, although these claims have yet to be confirmed.
- Currently, Russia possesses the most active warheads with the United States in second.

http://www.fas.org/nuke/guide/israel/nuke/farr.htm
Palin attempts to bypass the mainstream media

September 30, 2009

PERSPECTIVES

A Spotlight on Africa: Zimbabwe and Somalia

Samuel Tzou
Guest Writer

A Western scholar once stated that the "darkest thing about Africa has been our ignorance of it." This statement has the same application to people all across America; it does not include Hope College. To better inform students about Africa, The Anchor is exploring different issues that are currently trying the continent. These are events that bar any number of the admires of the New York Times or the links of Google News, but they are equally important. As the United States becomes more involved in African countries, knowledge of these events is becoming increasingly relevant.

Zimbabwe

In February, Zimbabwe leader Robert Mugabe agreed to a power-sharing government system with his opposition party leader Morgan Tsvangirai. Mugabe retained his position as president by leaving the agreement, and Tsvangirai received the position of prime minister. Mugabe became prime minister of the newly formed Zimbabwean government, which was elected president in 1987 after a constitution mandated by himself. The agreement, however, has not been effective so far.

"This has been a forced marriage of two people that were never meant to meet," Zimbabwe's new finance minister said in a September 2008 Newsweek report. "There is suspicion, disrespect and derision." Most of this unrest was studied by Australian political analyst Claire Moore who declared in 2007 that the Gross Domestic Product of Zimbabwe now decreased nearly 30 percent starting in 2002.

"Mugabe said this wasn’t the only problem. “A bottle of milk to feed your family can cost 10,000 Zimbabwean dollars and that is 17,000 US dollars in the next day,” said Moore. “Many people in Zimbabwe are starving at the moment; they cannot afford to eat. The unemployment rate is so high that people have stopped collecting the figures.”

Mugabe has been accused of multiple incidents of corruption internationally. Aside from stirring up wars in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Mugabe has used military intimidation tactics as well as election rigging to keep the Movement for Democratic Change’s Tsvangirai from taking power. While certain economic progress has been made, reports of Mugabe’s corruption continue to spread and it is said that the Mugabe government will not seem to care on security or development issues.

"Everyone across the political divide wants to see this government succeed," Tsvangirai said in the Newsweek report. "No one benefits from this government sliding backwards to where it was before.”

Even so, analysts believe much more work has to be done in the country and nationally.

"[Zimbabwe] is a country that was once known as one of the most rich and successful countries in the region and where there was great hope," Moore said. "That hope has been dashed and what has occurred in Zimbabwe over the last 10 years is a shame. As an international community we can do things to make the African public and to show our support for the people in Zimbabwe;”

Somalia

In the fall of 2008, CATO Institute political analyst Simon Tisdall declared Somalia a state of "anarchy." "Somalia arguably constitutes the world’s biggest single humanitarian disaster; and that’s including Sudan, Zimbabwe and Congo," Tisdall said of the transitional government. “Ten thousand people have been killed in Somalia since 2007, more than one million are internally displaced. Thousands more have fled at risk to their lives across the Gulf of Aden to Yemen. Many did not make it.”

Over a year later, analysts are saying that Somalia is in a worse state than before. News sources around the world reported on the piracy occurring off the coast of Somalia on merchandise ships.

News networks stated that the piracy has to do with the inability of the country to control much of its coasts and cities.

Idiotic groups are launching attacks throughout the country. The most prominent group, Al-Shabaab, is a nation of camel-riding, anti-government radicals in the south and central parts of the country. The sole parliament and the government stronghold is the formerly developed city Mogadishu. The government has declared the nation in an official state of emergency and is appealing to foreign countries for military aid.

An African Union force from Burundi and Uganda has entered the country to support the Transitional Federal Government.

"The bloodshed is getting worse in Somalia as it borders the world’s most productive countries, including the United States and the United Kingdom, where oil and and gas are abundant," Tisdall said.

"[Somalia] is a country that was once known as one of the most rich and successful countries in the region and where there was great hope," Moore said. "That hope has been dashed and what has occurred in Somalia over the last 10 years is a shame. As an international community we can do things to make the African public and to show our support for the people in Somalia;”
Former Hope Professor Jack Ridl publishes new poetry book

Annelise Belmonte  Arts Editor

Former Hope College professor and nationally acclaimed author Jack Ridl has published a new anthology of poems entitled “Losing Season” after the miserable season endured by a fictional high school basketball team. From custodian to benchwarmer to former cheerleader, the book goes through the players involved in the season without compromising entirely character studies.

The main character of the poems is the history teacher and coach of the team, who begins to be known solely as “Coach.” “Coach’s Wife,” “Coach’s Daughter” and his reputation are not a result of the outcome of the game.

Hope’s own Derek Emerson, director of Events and Conferences, reviews that, “Sports fans will recognize themselves and others and will be able to interact with the poems. The non-sports people will also find plenty of characters to grab onto and a storyline to follow, because in the end this is not a book about basketball but about people.”

One of the people that may have influenced the book is Ridl’s father, former University of Pittsburgh and Westminster College coach, C.G. “Buzz” Ridl. Jack Ridl insists that his experiences with his father are not the basis of the book. “I grew up in a small town. Also, my father was a remarkably successful and acclaimed coach, one who developed several of the strategies that most teams use today. However, the impact of losing a game affected me very much. It’s astonishing the things that happen and are said after merely losing a game. It was extremely hard on my sister and me to listen to and see the mean-spirited stuff after a loss. After all, these people were taking it out and ripping on our daddy.”

With such a premise, one might wonder why Ridl would focus on the devastation caused by the loss of the game. “Why losing?” Emerson asks “Because in the end we have another depressing self-examination of a poet who finds writing cheaper than therapy? No. Ridl takes us through a loss because such a season is what makes people pause and reflect on their roles in the game and in life.”

“Losing Season” took Ridl over 20 years to write, and he claims there was likely another half a book of poems that didn’t make it to the final manuscript. But after retiring in 2006 after 35 years of teaching, everything finally came into place.

What got me writing it was that I realized that I had finally become my own person and poet. Most of my life I was known as ‘the coach’s son.’”

What got me writing it was that I realized that I had finally become my own person and poet. Most of my life I was known as ‘the coach’s son.’

“Losing Season” is available for $16 and is available at the Hope-Geneva Bookstore as well as bookstores, Amazon and Amazon. For more information, visit www.jackridl.com.

In Brief

MARGARET COGSWELL: RIVER FUGUES

The next exhibit featured at the DePree Art Gallery is River Fugues by Margaret Cogswell. Cogswell’s exhibit will open Tuesday, Oct. 6 and will run until Saturday, Nov. 7. It is a new genre. The importance of industrialization versus the environment is highlighted in Cogswell’s River Fugues. Dreams of prosperity mix with disillusionment as both river waters and climate are connected.
ARTS

September 30, 2009

Hope College Concert Series features We Know Jackson, Bella Ruse, Philip & Trixie on Oct. 3

The Italian opera “Tosca” combines “Puccini’s glorious musical inspiration with the melodramatic vitality of one of the great Hitchcock films,” says James Levine, the conductor of The Metropolitan Opera’s performance of “Tosca,” which is one in the lineup of “The Metropolitan Opera Series Live in HD 2009-2010.”

Shown at the Holland 7 Movie Theater on September 30, the show lineup includes “Hamlet,” “Les Contes d’Hoffmann” and “Carmen” to name a few. Playing at over 15 theaters in the Michigan area, it can easily be argued that these viewings are making the fine arts more accessible. But can a live recording really be as moving and emotional an experience as seeing a truly live performance? At opera dress rehearsals before an audience has paid for a ticket, the atmosphere of beauty and elegance permeates through the theater. The audience members dress as though they are attending opening night (the company wants the feel of an actual performance), the theater is beautiful and opulent and the set is cunningly detailed. The costumes are magnificent, rich works of art in themselves.

A live orchestra is incredibly powerful, yet subtle, allowing the singers to take the stage. One can’t fully understand that power of the music until one is sitting in front of a performance, witnessing fully the emotion of the lyrics. Love, anger, scorn and happiness are much more transmutable when the singer is right in front of a viewer. Live opera envelopes viewers in its world.

But on a big screen without the atmosphere of a theater, one has to wonder how the story translates. At the movies, there is usually a sense of disconnect. For an audience, most movies have no lasting impact. Opera, on the other hand, is supposed to have an impact; it’s supposed to entertain, but like a great concert, it’s supposed to inspire and move its audience.

Another flaw is the lack of the feeling of a live orchestra—the vibrations and overtones of those perfect notes working together in harmony with a singer. You simply can’t capture the excitement of the opera in a movie theater.

This isn’t to say there aren’t advantages. For a parent, a senior citizen or a student, it is much easier to hop in the car to the movies to see “Tosca” then it is to charter a flight to New York City. It’s also easier than planning an entire trip into Chicago, Grand Rapids or Detroit just to watch one show. Tickets for a good seat to see “Tosca” as a part of the Detroit Opera House’s 2009 season can cost anywhere from $21 to $363. To see “Tosca” as a part of The Metropolitan Opera Series Live in HD, it costs $10 as a student and $20 for general admission.

So despite it being a less engaging experience, it is definitely safe to say that for Hope College students, it is much easier to drive to the Holland 7 then to the Detroit Opera House. Puccini’s “Tosca” will be playing at the Holland 7 on Saturday, Oct. 1 at 1 p.m. and Wednesday, Oct. 28 at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are available at the theater ticket window. To see the rest of the 2009 season lineup, visit http://www.gpi.com/met.aspx.

Sufjan Stevens, Bob Dylan and Ryan Adams are a few of the band’s influences. Like We Know Jackson and Bella Ruse, Philip & Trixie’s sound cannot be categorized under just one genre. Yetteck said, “I like to leave [the genre] up to the listener. If I say that we play jazz, I turn certain people off. If I say we play folk/rock, I turn people off. I find that a lot of Hope Students don’t come out to explore new music. I hope that their changing as new classes come.”

The folk sounds of Philip & Trixie appeal to a wide variety of listeners. Philip & Trixie fans can follow the band on their MySpace page for show updates. The band is currently working on recording their first album, and hopefully sometime soon they will release a CD.

The band will perform Saturday at 8 p.m. at the Park Theatre. Tickets are $5 for the public and free for Hope students.

The Metropolitan Opera comes to Holland movie theaters
Features

Where’d all the water go?

This year’s Critical Issues Symposium focuses on the availability of fresh water in our world today

Ayanfe Olonade
Features Co-Editor

Last Christmas, I watched a documentary called “The Grand Canyon Adventure: River at Risk.” I was visiting some family down in Houston, and my uncle had heard about this must-see movie. The whole family got in the car, and while driving my uncle began to let us in on some facts about this movie. He told us that his friends had been talking about the movie all week at work. He said he knew two fathers and their daughters who took a rafting trip down the Colorado River. I really wanted to see “Seven Pounds,” starring Will Smith, but for some reason, my uncle really persisted that we watch this documentary. Well, it was the holidays and I was up for anything outdoors—even if it meant watching a documentary I really didn’t know much about.

That documentary got me thinking about one of life’s most important resources—water. Every single day, people all around the world use water—some in excess, while some barely have enough. But with every twist and turn, as I watched that documentary in IMAX, I realized how vital this resource is.

This year the Critical Issues Symposium is calling for us to engage in further thought and discussion about water. The theme for this year’s CIS is “At Water’s Edge: Complacency, Thirst and Action.”

“I cannot think of a more critical issue in the world than water,” said Alfredo Gonzales, associate provost and CIS Co-Chair.

Gonzales also said that sometimes we forget how important water is. If you don’t have water, you die. The UN estimates that 40 percent of the world could face life-threatening water shortages by the year 2050.

Gonzales said that in some developing countries, women spend five to six hours trying to get water from long distances. The younger generation has to help get water and this, in most cases, hinders their education. The result, Gonzales said, is an increasing rate of poverty in those regions.

But it is so easy to get caught up with what people experience outside the U.S. with water. The water crisis is actually closer to us in Holland, Michigan, than we think. Being surrounded by the largest water reservoir in the world, the Great Lakes, it seems water should be the least of our worries. But the reality is we are facing a serious problem of pollution and water conservation in the Great Lakes Region.

According to the World Health Organization, 884 million people lack access to clean water, and as a result, over 1.8 million children die from chronic diarrhea, a water-borne disease. WHO also estimates that 80 percent of all disease worldwide results from contaminated water, inadequate sanitation and poor hygiene. With the increasing problem of pollution of the water surrounding us, our health is at risk.

This year CIS keynote speakers are world class water experts Peter H. Gleik and Joan B Rose. They, along with other prominent speakers from outside and within the Hope community, will lead us in two days of engaging and challenging discussions on why and how water issues affect us as students, faculty, staff and fellow individuals.

Gonzales said he believes that for students, it is an academic responsibility and Christian responsibility to search for ways to solve the problems our world is facing with water. One of the visions Hope College has for its graduates is that they would be servants and leaders to a global society. That is why it is essential for students to grapple with global issues like water and how it is affecting our world.

Robert Glenon, a prominent author of many articles and books including the acclaimed book “Unquenchable,” challenges his readers to begin to treat water as a valuable and exhaustible public resource. The truth is that water is a basic commodity for which there is no substitute regardless of price, Glenon says.

It is important that we begin to think about ways we use water. It is easy not to think about the importance of taking definite conservative steps like having trayless dining or not having an extra long shower, but a few years from now, our habits on how we treat water will affect not only ourselves, but the people around us. On Oct. 6-7, get ready to participate in a thought-provoking CIS. It’s all about water and it’s about time we start caring.

“As individuals we do not live in an island,” Gonzales said. “What may not touch us now, will eventually reach out and touch us.”

College-savy ways to save water

– Be aware of any leaks or drips from faucets. Dripping nonstop all day, everyday can certainly add up. Make sure all faucets are completely turned off before you walk away.
– Take shorter showers. Be shower efficient. Turn off the water while you wash your hair to save up to 150 gallons a month.
– Stop leaving the water on while shaving, washing your face or brushing your teeth. There’s no need to have water running non stop when you’re not directly using the water.
– When washing dishes by hand, don’t let the water run while rinsing. Fill one sink with wash water and the other with rinse water.
– For cold drinks keep a pitcher of water in the refrigerator instead of running the tap. This way, every drop goes down you and not the drain.
– Washing dark clothes in cold water saves both on water and energy while it helps your clothes to keep their colors.
– Share water conservation tips with friends and neighbors.
A culture of waste

In recent years, the cool, hip thing has been to become “green” and to be environmentally friendly. However, what started as a fad has become a culture issue.

I’ll admit, I was skeptical when all of a sudden the world’s supply of celebrities started shouting, “Save the environment! Recycle! Conserve water!”

It seemed like this was just a phase people were going through, like super-blonde highlights or Leg boots. I think it was when Al Gore went and made a movie, though, that I really took notice. While I still haven’t seen the movie, it’s becoming nearly impossible to get away from the message.

I know that as college students, we are constantly being preached at. Our professors tell us to study harder, our advisors tell us to think about the future, and our parents tell us not to become total jerks. Our professors tell us to study harder, our advisors tell us to think about the future, and our parents tell us not to become total jerks.

I honestly don’t know the answer to that. When I arrived at Hope about a month ago, I felt like I was standing on the very top of a mountain. I could see everything around me clearly. I knew what I wanted to do and I was going to do it, and it was going to be a piece of cake. I was excited, I was energized, and I couldn’t wait to begin.

I don’t feel like that so much anymore. I still love Hope, but I feel like I’m falling, sliding booshing down the mountain now. So much to do, so much to think about! I try to dig in my heels, to grab hold of something, anything, to slow me down, to break my fall, but I can’t. I can’t change the fact that I have a test in two days that I need to study for, but don’t know where I’ll find the time. I can’t change the fact that on Friday night there are four separate social engagements all going on at once, and I can’t go to all of them, so I’m going to have to pick one. I can’t change the fact that I only get five and a half hours of sleep last night, and probably won’t get much more tonight.

It’s overwhelming. I’m falling down this cliff and I can’t see what’s at the bottom. I don’t know what’s going to happen by next week, let alone by the end of the year. What am I supposed to do?

That’s where the quote for thought comes in: “You should never give up, even if you’re falling off a cliff. You never know what might happen on the way down.”

Yes, I’m insanely busy. You are too, I bet. But that’s part of college, right? It may feel like you just took a tumble off a cliff, but it’s such a rush! You are falling, but it’s a thrilling, exhilarating free-fall!

And the things that make life so crazy, the things that happen on the way down—really, they’re so much fun! They’re what college is all about!

So don’t give up when you feel swamped with all the stuff you need to do. Spread your arms wide and fall with style. Take in all you can, and enjoy the surprises the free-fall brings.

See you at the bottom!

Kate Schrampf Columnist

Quote for thought

“Your should never give up, even if you’re falling off a cliff. You never know what might happen on the way down.” –Nancy Farmer, author of “The Land of Silver Apples.”
Beautiful Feet
Bryant Russ
Columnist

Adam didn’t finish

The Genesis creation account tells of how God gave Adam the job of naming all the animals (Gen. 2:19&20). I imagine Adam laughing his head off when he saw some of the creatures God had invented. “What are you thinking, God? A 6 foot bird that can’t fly? Really?” I can also see Adam taking a knee at the sight of a beautiful peacock, or the formidable lion. Each new creature must have given him a new understanding and appreciation of God—a God who is as wild as a swan and as awesome as an elephant.

But here’s the cool part: Adam didn’t finish. Sure, we’ve got names for most of the animals, but what about about the ones God created? Today I was walking in the library and randomly picked up a titled, “Applications for the Study of Organic Reactions”, and thought, “What the heck?” I don’t even know what an organic reaction is, but I can picture God thinking, “Hmm, I’m going to make something crazy. I’ve got to make sure that humanity can’t do this thing I’m about to create.” Well, someone this thing God built into the world’s DNA and says, “I’ll call this phenomenon an organic reaction.”

Everyday something new is discovered that tells us more about the wonder of creation, and therefore the wonder of the creator. Our imaginative ideas about God get more complex, more organized, more awe-struck and wonder-filled as we learn and discover new things in the fields of biology, astronomy, cosmology, mathematics, zoology and geology, to name just a few.

Our eyes should be opened wide in curiosity and curiosity of this crazy skin in which we live. Explore. Learn. Few things. It just so happens that if you’re reading this article you’re probably a college student. Perfect. That’s pretty much our job. I know, I know, what I’m describing as fun and exciting isn’t exactly the same things as trying to punch out an eight-page paper at 2 a.m., but it can be incredibly helpful to see learning as discovery instead of the tedious path to a good job. So have a look around.

P.S. An organic reaction is a chemical reaction involving organic compounds. The oldest organic reactions involve the combustion of organic fuels with types of fat to make soap. (Thanks, Wikipedia.com.)

Bryant still isn’t really sure what an organic reaction is...

Letter to the Editors
Sexuality Roundtable sees contradiction in decision to not host speaker

Dear Editors:

Over the course of the past month, the Hope College Sexuality Roundtable (GSF) and the Gay and Straight Students (GSF) has worked to organize and facilitate an event featuring Dustin Lance Black, screenwriter of the award-winning film “Milk,” on Hope’s campus. Our intent was to facilitate an academic discussion of the social and political implications of the events surrounding the life and times of Harvey Milk; more specifically, the implications of these events for conversations surrounding issues of homoeroticism in communities such as Hope College and Holland. The event was to take place this semester and was supported by several academic departments. Last week, however, the dean of students informed GSF that the college board and president’s office would not allow the event to take place in March due to the fact that their position was non-negotiable.

The dean of students enumerated two reasons for this decision. First, “Dustin Lance Black’s advocacy would be too strong for campus.” Second, the event and Dustin Lance Black would “politize” the campus, prompting counter responses from other groups that would further impede the discussion of these emotionally charged topics. In addition, concerns were raised about donor support, which could place stress on the college’s finances. GSF’s leadership board is exceedingly disappointed that the college’s board and president have chosen to take this stance, especially considering the academic nature of this event, and notes the contradiction evidenced by the fact that another academic department—Arts, in fact—received the college’s permission to host Black for a similar event. Hope College declares in its “Reason for Being” that it is “a place of open inquiry, accep- tance of intellectual challenge, rigorous engagement with hard questions, and vigorous but civil discussion of different beliefs and understandings.” In addition, according to Hope’s “Virtues of Public Discourse,” Hope’s students “will have opportunities to practice [the virtues of humility, patience, hospitality, courage, and honesty] as they participate in campus discussions, whether in the classroom, in conversations, or during public events. These virtues are not intended to inhibit the free and energetic expression of views. Rather, they are offered as a set of commit- ments guiding public expression that should foster and energize an open and constructive dis- cussion of our varying perspec- tives.” GSF continues to strive to abide by these commitments, and if Hope’s “Reason for Being” is to be “a place of open inquiry,” its board, president and donors must support this vision, and we are dismayed by the con- tradiction evident in the College board and president’s decision, and believe it is a clear demon- stration of prejudice, discrimi- nation, and censorship, which is unacceptable. We apologize to our fellow Hope students for the board and president’s shameful handling of this situation. We hope that this embarrassment to Hope College’s academic and Christian reputation can be properly redressed by our community’s response, in the form of ongoing discussion.

Sincerely,

Battle over Black River: Hope anticipates 112th pull

Saturday, Oct. 3, at 3 p.m. on the banks of the Black River (near U.S. 31 and M-21). The public is invited. Admission is free.

The Pull, first held in 1898, is an annual fall highlight at Hope. In the competition, freshman and sophomore teams, entrenched in shallow pits on opposite sides of the river, attempt to gain the most rope through their strength and stamina.

Each team has 18 students on the rope as “pullers” and another 18 acting as guides and morale boosters, or “moralers.” The freshmen are coached by the junior class while the sophomores are instructed by the seniors.

The coaching arrangement also leads to a rivalry between the even-year and odd-year classes.

This year’s Pull will pit members of the Classes of 2012 (sophomores) and 2013 (freshmen) against one another. The sophomores will be on the north side of the river (nearest Lakewood Boulevard) and the freshmen will be on the south side of the river (nearest M-21/Chicago Drive).

The Class of ’11, which will be coaching the freshmen, won last year’s Pull. The class had also won as freshmen, the first class since the Class of 2000 to win both years.

In 1977, the Pull set a record period of 53 to 39.

There have been four draws and four cancellations since 1909.

New rules were implemented in 1978, following the 1977 marathon, limiting the event’s duration. The rules now allow the judges to determine the winning class by measuring the amount of rope pulled from the other team if one team has not claimed all of the rope within three hours.

Through the years, the sophomores and even-year classes have held the edge in the win-loss column. Since 1909, the sophomores have taken 62 contests to the freshmen class’s 30, the even-year/odd-year split for the same period is 53 to 39.

Hope students and MIPs

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allegation. Students are informed of the charge, may decide if they feel they are responsible or not, share their side of the story, and then Hope will make their decisions with this information and any evidence.

Once Hope has made their decision and a student is found to be in violation of the regulations, there are several avenues of action. Some of these include but are not limited to: a computer-based alcohol education program, community service, alcohol addiction sessions with the counseling services, recommendations by the courts, or random breathalyzer tests. Regardless of the consequences, student development is the office that works with these issues. Campus safety is involved with the aid and the safety of an intoxicated student as well as the disposal of material.

In the end, the office of student development recognizes that only a small percentage of the student body is affected by MIPs. In these cases they feel there are two responses: to acknowledge the violation and get mad, or to acknowledge and learn. Frost feels strongly that his role is to educate responsibility and to help students learn. Overall, he commends the student body and hopes students continue learning who they are with regards to their values and how it will impact their futures.

New students join Phelps Scholars

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memorable vacation to the seashore. “I heard from friends I need the memories of sun and warmth during the cold months, so I brought the sand,” said Jackson.

Finally, Stewart and Wittig commented on how their experience in living in different countries has given them a global perspective. “I’m not used to how rich America is. I get annoyed when all people talk about is music and movies,” said Stewart. “They don’t have any idea what it’s like for people in third world countries, for the farmers there.” Wittig said, “I wish I could bring my friends to Egypt to get a taste of the culture. I also want them to see a new point of view and get involved in helping other countries in need back home.”

This idea of one person affecting change in others is nothing new, but peers educating each other about the world around them will never lose its value.
Men’s cross country team has strong start to season

Jake Bajema
Guest Writer

In most sports, athletes dread the part of practice when coach says, “Everybody on the line.” For the Hope College men’s cross country team, their running is not a few sets of sprints.

Runner Nate Love (‘12) described what “on the line” means for the Hope cross country team. “We’re a two-mile warm-up, followed by two up 800 meters at a fast pace, then four 1200 meter runs fast paced,” Love (‘12) said.

The men’s cross country team runs about 10 miles in each practice. This may seem like an excruciating task, but the team is able to use this time to help build unity among the members.

“In our workouts, we have guys on breaks encouraging each other as they run, as well as staying in packs at meets,” Love said.

The Flying Dutchmen have participated in three different meets so far this year. Their season began on Labor Day weekend as they hosted the Bill Vanderbilt Invitational at Ridge Point Church in Holland. Overall, the team finished in third place.

Love led the team with a 12th place finish, finishing the course in 26:37. Kevin Hagan (‘11), Jacob Batch (‘13), Lucas Wolthus (‘10) and co-captain Kent Reschke (‘10) claimed spots 15 through 18 for the team.

On Sept. 18, the team traveled to East Lansing to test themselves in the Spartan Invitational, hosted by Michigan State University. Over 4,500 runners participated in this massive 14-race event. The college races included teams from NCAA Division I, II and III schools.

Love once again finished first out of the Hope men, coming in 61st out of 218 participants. Co-captain Matt Wiersum (‘10), the only returning all-MIAA runner on the team, was the next Flying Dutchman to finish with a time of 27:09.

This past weekend, Hope hosted the MIAA jamboree. The results of the jamboree determine one-third of the seasonal champion, while the final meet in October determines the other two-thirds.

Hope’s men placed second behind Calvin with 77 points. Love led the men with a fifth place finish. Wiersum was the next Hope runner to cross the finish line, coming in 16th place overall.

The team will continue preparing for the MIAA championships next week as they travel to Lansing for the Lansing Community College Invitational. The team will then participate in three more nonconference meets that will help them prepare for the MIAA conference championship at the end of October.
Men's golf team remains in top spot in MIAA

The Flying Dutchmen managed to win the season's third jamboree and have now moved into first place in the MIAA this year. This puts them well on their way to their main goal according to senior captain Steven Strock.

"If we win the conference, we get an automatic bid to the National Championship in May, and it has been our goal since the beginning of the season to get that bid," Strock said.

Strock was the medalist in this most recent jamboree as he led Hope to surpass rival Calvin in order to win. His round of 71 included a 32 on the front nine and 39 on the back nine. Hope finished at 302 strokes with Calvin following close behind with 304.

The team feels like they are in a great position in the conference now that they are up five strokes, but that doesn't mean their hard work is done.

"In order to stay in first place, we need to keep working hard in practice and make sure we don't settle for anything less than first place in every tournament," Strock said.

The Flying Dutchmen's depth of talent is key to maintaining their MIAA position.

"We have a solid and deep team this year where a lot of guys can contribute and play well continually," Caleb Nykamp ('12) said. "We just have to stay focused throughout the end of the year."

"The team is young, their youth is not holding them back from success. The roster includes four freshmen and five sophomores, and many of them are contributing greatly to the team. The team's age doesn't worry Strock, who actually thinks they can use their young age to their advantage.

"With such a young team, I think we can get Hope College men's golf back to where it was a few years ago when we won the conference eight out of nine years," Strock said. "I know this team is capable of winning every MIAA tournament from here on out and that will be our goal."

— Steven Strock Captain

Off-season training pays off for cross country

They can feel their lungs burning, their legs growing tired and their heads perspiring. That's what the women's cross country deals with every race as they try not only to improve their individual times but also the overall team time. Already showing signs of promise in the season, the relatively young team is looking ahead to their conference meets.

In the two meets that the team has competed in thus far, the members seem happy with the results.

On Sept. 5, the team hosted the Vanderbiilt Invitational, a 5k meet in which they placed second behind Grand Valley State University, and Division II school. The team then traveled to Trine for the fifth MIAA jamboree of the season. Despite finishing in second place, the Flying Dutchmen doubled their lead in the conference.

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— Steven Strock Captain

Chris Ray Guest Writer

Despite finishing in second place, the 'unofficial' top Division III team in the meet, "This was a very large meet with 27 total athletes on the team, only three are seniors compared to 10 freshmen. The upperclassmen are helping the newcomers learn how to train and race in college," Northuis said. "The team chemistry is working very well."

The team is led by captains Joanne Gabl ('10), Jackie Beeler ('10) and Emily Fischer ('11), including supporting runners Karly Sikma ('12), Kate Nelson ('12) and Kelly Lufkin ('12). With a strong nucleus of upperclassmen runners leading the pack, the leadership has not been limited to practices. The veterans are also leading the squad during the meets, bringing out the best in the underclassmen.

"We have a strong nucleus of runners led by Fischer, Sikma, Nelson and Lufkin." Northuis said. "Four freshmen have also shown great promise this season. They are Sharon Hecker ('13), Katie Martin ('13), Taylor Mattarella ('13), and Morgan McCord ('13)."

The team's off-season hard work has led to the great work ethic seen during the season. With some women running 40 to 55 miles per week in the summer, the women came into the season conditioned and ready to practice. According to Northuis, the team runs on trails, in parks through cornfields or to the beaches of Lake Michigan in a typical practice. The runners don't seem to mind.

"I look forward to practice every day. It is so much fun," McCord said.