Student activists speak out for the women of Congo

Robert Gilmont  Guest Writer

Months of work came to fruition this weekend as “On the Edge of the Knife: Rape as a Tac-tic of War in the DRC” sold out both days it ran, Friday and Sun-day. The organizers and actors had to plan an additional show on Sunday in order to meet the demand for tickets.

“To be able to tell hundreds of people is a gift and a blessing bey-ond what I can put into words,” said Anna Pizzimenti (‘10), a writer and director of the play.

With three packed perfor-mances, the writers, directors and performers accomplished more than raising money for distressed women in the Demo-cratic Republic of Congo. They raised awareness towards the atrocities currently taking place in the DRC.

“These stories are based off of real people living real lives,” said Rachel Syens (‘11), an actress in the performance. “We are trying to make others aware of the situa-tion in the Congo.”

moved by the proceedings in New Orleans last year at the V- Day conference that focused on women in conflict zones, Hope students Pizzimenti, Timothy Brandt (‘10), Rachel Anderson (‘11), Cecilia Jaime (‘11) and Kristen Mahan (‘11) decided to use what resources they had to raise awareness for the women of the DRC.

The writers began working on the play this summer with the help of Amnesty International and Dr. Denis Mukwege, a man they met at the V-Day confer-ence that actually practices medi-cine in one of the worst conflict zones in the DRC. Modeling the play in the style of the “Vagina Monologues,” and with the help they received, the writers were able to accurately portray the experiences, thoughts and emo-tions of the rape victims.

The conflict in the DRC has caused more deaths than any war since World War II. The war, instigated by rebels fleeing the genocide in Rwanda, is “the worst human rights crisis in the world and the widest interstate war in modern African history,” according to DVICE.

War continues because the many factions, local armies, foreign armies and private forces fight for their own interests and goals.

The Homecoming festivities began on Friday, Oct. 3 with a hoedown at Teusink’s Farm. Students learned line-dances, consumed cider and fall treats, and petted farm animals from 8 p.m. until midnight.

The next morning, alumni gathered for a reunion brunch. Approximately 300 students, alumni, and Holland residents took part in the race this year.

“I really don’t run that much anymore,” said 64-year-old Hope alum Merle Vander Sluis, “but I do (the Run-Walk) every year.”

Later in the day, Hope hosted its fifth annual Homecoming parade, “On the Edge of the Knife.”

Student athletes sport pink gear in support of breast cancer awareness.
Hope celebrates homecoming

• HOMECOMING, from page 1
tailgate picnic. Friends, family, and fans alike gathered at the Smaleburg Park, adjacent to the Holland Municipal Stadium, to enjoy barbecue and live music. A band comprised of Hope alumni from the 1960s, a group called Gaasmen, provided the music.

The picnic attendees were able to catch the tail end of the Homecoming parade as it wound its way through campus toward them. Hope's Greek and other student organizations designed the colorful floats that drove through campus.

Those wishing to watch the parade lined up along 13th Street, College Avenue, 18th Street, and Columbia to see the floats and catch candy thrown out into the crowd. Tom Bylsma served as grand marshal for the parade.

The parade's final destination was the Holland Municipal Stadium where the Dutch Football team hosted Trine University (formerly Tri-State University).

The Dutch fought a long, hard game against the Trine University Thunder. Trine University scored with just over a minute left on the clock and the Dutch retaliated with their final touchdown with only 35 seconds left in the game, narrowing the margin between Hope and Trine to a single point. The Flying Dutchmen, however, lost 30-31.

During the half-time show, the Homecoming King and Queen were announced as Graham Carlson ('09) and Tonisha Queen were announced as Homecoming King and Queen, who posed for pictures wearing wooden shoes. This year's ball featured a disc jockey playing popular music. The Swing Band, which traditionally plays a few songs throughout the night, was noticeably missing.

Rachel Doherty ('10), a member of the Social Activities Committee, commented on the swing band's absence this year. "I think students wouldn't mind (the swing band) if it was shorter but most people just want to dance. They seemed to have fun with the DJ," Doherty said.

Some students were disappointed with the swing band's absence.

Sarah Koon ('09) said, "In past years, I've really enjoyed having a mix of style in music and dancing. Having live musicians was really fun. It made homecoming feel different than a high school dance."

Another notable event of homecoming weekend was the raising of 12 new flags at the Martha Miller Center to celebrate the diversity of Hope's student body.

The flags represent Armenia, Brazil, Canada, China, India, Kenya, Mexico, Palestine, Singapore, South Korea, Sweden and the United States and will rotate throughout the academic year.

On Sunday morning, Dean of the Chapel Trygve Johnson, Hope organist How Lewis and the Alumni Choir led a worship service in Dimnent Chapel, concluding the Homecoming festivities.

Other events during the Homecoming weekend included performances of the play "Second Class" by the Theater Department and concerts by Hope College's Orchestra and Symphony.

The Hope volleyball team defeated Olivet 25-15, 25-14, and 25-17, the women's soccer team defeated St. Mary's 2-1. The men's soccer team defeated Adrian 8-0.

This year's Homecoming events drew hundreds of alumni and gave the current Hope Col-

Student play promotes universal human rights

• ACTIVISM, from page 1 enterprises, gain wealth exploiting the countries’ rich natural resources including cobalt, petroleum and diamonds. This wealth then fuels the war.

"Stop Raping Our Greatest Resource" pleads the title of UNICEF's global campaign. One of the war tactics used in the DRC is the sexual exploitation of local women.

"On the Edge of the Knife" looks to raise awareness in this matter. The victims of these attacks are embarrassed and often ostracized by the village.

In many cases, raped women contract sexual transmitted diseases or become pregnant. Perpetrators may even go as far as to intentionally wound a woman's genitals with a knife or other foreign object.

Embrodorment, pregnancy, sickness and death hinder the primary care-givers' ability to perform their role in society. This injures the families and villages of the DRC as well as the victims.

The directors, writers and actors of the play encourage their audiences to donate money, write letters and join clubs to speak out against these atrocities.

"There is no excuse for someone who has a skill and a drive to use it to do nothing," Brandt said. After setting an example for what students can achieve through inspiration and hard work, they now hope to inspire others to take action.

The Hope College political science department is joiningEta Kappa to host a program called "Bound in a Common Life," designed to educate Hope students and the community on the importance of faith and its role in making decisions regarding matters of national policy.

Selected faculty and staff will gather on stage with three moderators, answering questions. They will present an informed perspective on matters of national policy.

On Sunday morning, President James Bultman and his wife Martie wave from their float in the Homecoming parade on Saturday.

President Bultman and his wife wave from their float in the Homecoming parade on Saturday. Photo by Jenna Hunger
The religion of John McCain: Country first

Samuel Ogle National News Editor

Sen. John McCain has fought a long and hard battle for the Republican nomination and will not conclude his most difficult campaign until the 2008 elections. McCain has served in the U.S. Senate for 22 years and many, certainly his supporters, would call him a great leader. He is an ex-naval pilot, a man of principle, and an idealist. But more surprising is that John McCain is driven by what Hope political science professor Dr. Jeffrey Polet calls “a conversion experience.”

The young John McCain was, according to Time interviewers, “a constant breaker of rules, a brawler and a slob, an undersize punk with an oversized chip on his shoulder.” He attended the naval academy somewhat reluctantly only to graduate 89th out of 899 in his class. But the “punk” McCain was about to have a life-altering experience. On Oct. 26, 1967, McCain set out for his 23rd mission over North Vietnam. McCain’s aircraft was shot out of the sky. He landed in water with, according to McCain, “two broken arms, a broken leg, and an angry crowd waiting to greet me.” This part of the story is now legendary but we will narrate it slightly differently.

He was taken prisoner and beaten. He was starved and bayoneted. When the North Vietnamese became aware that he was the son of an admiral, he was offered an early release, raise ahead of those who had been in the prison longer – a violation of the military code of conduct that was refused. And when the North Vietnamese could no longer use his early release as propaganda, his torture increased. Eventually they broke him, and after uttering a false confession, McCain was returned to his cell. And then... When it happened.

Theramin is the cell next to McCain’s cell. He told him that no one would stand alone. He told him to fight for his country, to fight for those with whom he served. John McCain felt his eyes open for the first time. One is tempted to think of any number of stories, not least of which is that of the prodigal son. We hear from John McCain himself. “I liked to bend a few rules and pick a few fights for the fun of it. But I did it for the country when I was a prisoner in some unspecified situation. Not taken into account are those placed under guardianship for extreme cases of depression, bipolar disorder and mild cases of schizophrenia. There are also mild forms of autism and Asperger’s Syndrome, disabili-

McCain has honor. For McCain, honor is an expression of the love of one’s country, of victory and defeat, of honor and dishonor. It is a guide to any number of judgments and divisions that are not placed any other restrictions on the right to vote…Our right to vote is basic to our system of democracy, and depends on all people having full and equal access to the ballot.”

McCain has stated, “You cannot challenge the legitimacy of an election based on your perception of mental and emotional limitations.”

Denying the mentally disabled the right to vote is “a part of the little ninjas.” The European Union imposed sanctions on Austria in 2000 due to a coalition between the far-right FPO and the People’s Party. The European Union had previously declared that no extreme right positions are acceptable in member nations. Many leaders in the EU have refused to shake hands with Haider. A major concern for the EU is Austria’s involvement with Iran. In 2007, an Austrian oil company agreed on a $30 billion deal for access to Iranian oil fields. This action violated EU sanctions on Iran. Terrorist experts say that the Nordic states may exclude persons suffering from mental and physical disabilities from the voting process, despite human rights of a voter being codified in the United States Constitution.

Up until 2007 New Jersey’s constitution contained a provision that denied the mentally ill the right to vote. This provision was struck down by the New Jersey Supreme Court. However, as the Department of State has noted, “Other than city or township residency and age requirements, state and federal laws do not place any other restrictions on the right to vote…”

Interestingly, the label “psychological guardianship” serves as an umbrella term and does not leave room for individual situations. Not taken into account are those placed under guardianship for extreme cases of depression, bipolar disorder and mild cases of schizophrenia. There are also mild forms of autism and Asperger’s Syndrome, disabili-

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Leader highlight: Ahmadinejad

Amanda Gernentz  
ASSISTANT NATIONAL NEWS EDITOR

Ahmadinejad

The Anchor

Iran has been in a state of turmoil for several decades. The turmoil heightened, at least with the rest of the world, when the current president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, was elected by popular vote in 2005. There have been several problems between the United States and Iran since this time, most recently at the United Nations General Assembly at the end of September.

At the U.N. General Assembly, Ahmadinejad is quoted by CNN to have said that the “American empire in the world is reaching the end of its road.” Though a notetaker was the only representative of the U.S. present when he made his speech, he continued to attack the United States, saying that they have been oppressing Iraqis with occupation for the past six years, according to CNN. No one was present to defend the U.S.

Ahmadinejad was born in Garmsar, which is near the capital city, Tehran, in 1956. He graduated from the University of Science and Technology, in Tehran, with a Ph.D. in traffic and transportation. He was also a lecturer at the university.

One controversial event in Ahmadinejad’s past is his role in the 1979 Islamic Revolution. Several of the American hostages that were held at the embassy in Tehran have insisted that he was one of their captors, but he denies that he was there. Many of the known captors also deny his presence and are now political opponents.

Ahmadinejad has issued controversial statements in the past. He is noted to have claimed that the Holocaust never existed, and insists that it should be continually studied and hopefully denied as real. This has led to accusations of anti-Semitism, which he has also denied. He has also been a part of the “International Conference to Review the Global Vision of the Holocaust,” which was described in the west as a Holocaust denial conference. He has also stated that he “wanted Israel politi- cally wiped off the map,” adding to the anti-Semitism accusations.

More recently, he has refused to stop nuclear activities taking place in Iran, insisting that all of Iran’s nuclear activities are peaceful according to CNN. He has also accused the United States of being hypocritical in this area, saying that they are “building or maintaining nuclear stockpiles themselves, unchecked by anyone,” while asking Iran to stop all progress. Despite all of this, he claims that his intentions with the U.S. and other countries are peaceful as an example of this, he was the first Iranian president to visit Iraq in several decades. He also traveled to New York for the U.N. General Assembly, as an attempt to maintain peace on foreign soil. He has also had several reforms that have pleased more moderate Iranians. He refused to support a campaign to insist that women stick to Iran’s strict Islamic dress codes, and he allowed women to attend major sporting events for the first time since 1979.

Currently, all U.S. relations with Iran are handled by the Swiss. President Bush had been hoping to change that, but all plans were shelved until a new U.S. president takes office.

Voting rights contested for mentally challenged

Amanda’s book smart and street smart. Between her jobs and taking college classes, she’s always on the run. To get where she needs to go, Amanda takes the bus.

By riding MAX, Amanda’s saving money and doing her part to help preserve the environment. Student semester passes are just $50, giving you unlimited rides on the fixed routes all semester long. You can even purchase bus passes online at www.catc.hamax.org, or stop by the Padnos Transportation Center at 8th & Lincoln.

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Macatawa Area Express
Sullivan’s interest lies in the formal content and contradictions in space in painting. Her subject matter is more abstract yet related to the figure she is painting. “I’ve been delighted with the show and with the chance to meet the University of Indianapolis art faculty and students, they have an excellent department,” Sullivan said.

Sullivan is set to lecture on her series in New York.

**‘Blue Like Jazz’ author campaigns for Obama**

Brittany Adams

Features Editor

Features Editor Brittany Adams interviewed author Donald Miller. "Following are her findings..."

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ARTS
October 8, 2008

Hope artists on display in Grand Rapids

• ACTIVESITE, page 5
pasta to old desk chairs to canvases and clay. I enjoyed watching as everyone experimented, struggled, and revised their ideas, playing with the materials,” Karie Luidens said. (99)

This year ACTIVESITE drew a larger crowd than years before it. Included in the crowd were critiques from around the world visiting Grand Rapids for the International Sculpture Conference.

Art Professor William Mayer was responsible for getting Hope students involved in the project and estimated more than 1,000 attendees.

“The students and faculty worked hard to get there. They deserved the chance, and they took it, and the result was a great exhibition of their creative talents,” Mayer said.

Theatre to present ‘Second Class’
Monologues about challenges of high school life to play at DeVitt Center

According to a Hope College Public Relations press release Hope College Theatre will present "Second Class" by Brad Slaight in the DeVitt Center main theatre beginning Friday, Oct. 3.

Performances are scheduled for Friday and Saturday, Oct. 3 and 4; and Wednesday through Saturday, Oct. 8-11, all with an 8 p.m. curtain.

"Second Class" is a continuation of Brad Slaight's previous play, "Class Action"; both plays pertain to the trials, tribulations, and joys of high school life. Through a series of scenes, vignettes, and monologues, "Second Class" aims to demonstrate that although teenagers have their tough days, there are plenty of good times and a lot of laughter, too.

"I wanted to examine the clichés of high school. I'm of a mind that when I just think back on my own high school experiences — some of those friends are my friends for life," said "Second Class" director Jean Reed Bahlé. "I learned a lot of important stuff. Things beyond English and biology, but life experience, how to be with other people."

Bahlé has been involved with the arts in West Michigan for more than 30 years as an administrator, publicist, reviewer, and free-lance talent in radio, television and industrial films; and involved in area theatre as a playwright and director. As an actress, she has appeared in more than 50 productions, working with Boarshead in Lansing, Hope Summer Repertory Theatre in Holland, Grand Rapids Civic and Circle Theatre, and most prominently with Actors' Theatre.

For the past 20 years, Bahlé has taught acting and writing workshops in area schools, at Actors’ and Civic, and has served as adjunct faculty in the theatre department at GRCC. Since 1994 she has served as visiting assistant professor in the theatre department at Hope College.

"It's a true ensemble piece," Bahlé said. "Everybody gets their glory moment; they each play five or six different characters. It's a nice stretch piece for actors."

Bahlé wrote to playwright Brad Slaight to discuss the script. She was interested in adding stylized movement in between scenes, and, with Slaight's go-ahead, Bahlé and the cast have been experimenting with a guest artist from the department of dance, Sharon Wong. In addition to incorporating movement into "Second Class," the cast wrote its own epilogue. For Bahlé, this is what playmaking is all about: honoring the playwright but finding the portion that one can bring to it. As Bahlé summarized, "(it's) going back and looking at experiences that you may tend to dismiss. High school is very different now than when I went to high school, and yet some things never change."

Tickets for "Second Class" are $7 for regular admission, $5 for Hope faculty and staff, and $4 for students and senior citizens, and are available at the Hope College ticket office in DeVoss Fieldhouse, open weekdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Theatre lobby ticket office in the DeVitt Center will be open on performance nights at 8 p.m. The ticket office may be contacted at (616) 395-7890.

Have you Heard? Bria Berger reviews Girl Talk's 'Feed the Animals'

Writing a music review about Girl Talk in 250 words is like trying to describe the Sistine Chapel ceiling in a greeting card. Girl Talk’s music is the mashup of mash-ups; the remix of remixes; the breath of life that has revolutionized the 21st century independent music scene.

Greg Gillis is a self-confessed pop music enthusiast, former biomedical engineer and the brainchild behind Girl Talk’s unique genre of sample-heavy music. He refuses to call himself a DJ and refuses to call himself a mixer. He refuses to call himself a producer. He refuses to call himself a composer.

On “Night Ripper” in 2006, his third release on Illegal Art but first breakout hit, Gillis deftly tows the line between the question of where clips of random songs end and where musical ingenuity begins.

But the music industry knows the test of time is more important than the initial explosion. On his latest album, “Feed the Animals,” Gillis continues his tradition of mixing ballads (like Sinead O’Connor’s “Nothing Compares 2 U”) with distinctively different artists like Three Six Mafia and Fleetwood Mac. “Feed the Animals” starts off timidly but confidently progresses into a more innovative, mature response to Night Ripper.

“Feed the Animals” is the musical pairings of the opinions of the individual writers and not necessarily of The Anchor staff as a whole.
TAKING CARE OF YOU...

The options in the current American healthcare system: private, governmental, and a look at alternative healthcare

BY BRITTANY ADAMS

THE ANCHOR OCTOBER 8, 2008

FEATURES

Features Editor

With the two presidential candidates offering drastically different plans concerning healthcare, it was important to answer the question of what healthcare is and what it means to the American people, including you and me.

To begin with, there are two major types of insurance plans: those funded by the government, and those not. Obama is offering a universal healthcare plan, meaning that the government would provide citizens with healthcare in order to fight costs for the people, while McCain favors keeping the current system of privatized healthcare and intends to use competition to curb costs.

In 2005, the U.S. Census Bureau released a report stating that as of the year before, 15.9% of Americans were without health insurance.

Many Americans receive health insurance explained through their employment. However, it’s possible to obtain health insurance independently.

Four main types of plans exist: the Health Maintenance Organization, the Preferred Patient Organization, the indemnity, and the Point of Service.

The HMO provides coverage for its subscribers to have a primary-care physician with other specialists as necessary. The main thing about an HMO is that is only pays for care received from physicians in their network, a group of doctors that pay them to belong. Outside of the network, subscribers pay on their own. This offers them less choice. However, the good news with HMOs is that visits to their doctors cost less with a determined co-pay, and premiums, the amount paid every month to belong, are reasonable.

The PPO offers more flexibility in choosing physicians. Subscribers are not required to use their network, but it’s cheaper if they do. PPOs bill their clients deductibles and then co-insurance payments, which requires the client to pay for a percentage of the cost, or co-payments. The PPO does not require its clients to get a referral if he or she needs to see a specialist.

An indemnity plan differs from an HMO or a PPO in that an indemnity plan’s coverage list includes procedures rather than physicians. The limitation of indemnity plans thus lay in their services; they may only cover care for emergencies and sicknesses. Indemnity plans still consist of co-payments and deductibles, just like the other plans, although the co-payments can be a little more expensive.

Lastly, the POS offers more choices in physicians, as it helps pay for care received outside of its network through co-payments and or deductibles. The POS also offers clients maximum amount that they will have to pay, similar to the PPO and indemnity plans.

To explore my options as an individual, I decided to look at the health insurance company Aetna to get a quote for a 30-year-old female from Illinois (many insurance companies offer plans according to one’s place of residence).

I decided to look into two plans, one with a high deductible and other with no deductible. The first plan, the High Deductible 3000, would require that I pay $3,000 deductible when receiving care from inside the network, and $6,000 if I would choose to go outside. After that, healthcare would typically cost nothing inside of the network, or 50 percent of the bill outside (although preventative healthcare would only be covered up to $200).

Another benefit of this plan is its compatibility with a Health Savings Account. An HSA allows people to put aside money for healthcare and not get taxed for it, therefore making healthcare a little more affordable. The out-of-pocket maximum for this plan is $3,000, and its monthly premium is $92, not including dental insurance.

The other plan I looked into, the First Dollar PPO 40, would have no deductible if I stayed inside the network (it would be $700 if I decided to go outside). However, it would require me to pay more each time I received care. For example, a visit to a non-specialist or a specialist inside the network demands a $40 or $60 co-payment, respectively. Outside of the network, we would have to pay half of the medical bill (or all of it, if the deductible has not been met).

This plan, whose premium is $140 a month, would make me pay for 40 percent of any outpatient surgery and 40 percent of any emergency room procedure within the network; those numbers jump to 50 percent if outside the network. The preventative healthcare policy is the same as with the High Deductible 3000 (except that I would have to pay 50 percent outside of the network), although the out-of-pocket maximum would be $12,500.

As it turns out, through their various plans, Aetna has a profit margin of 6.26 percent meaning that, while the economy is currently in the toilet, a major insurance company was still able to make $1.86 billion in income.

WHAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL DO FOR YOU

Magdalene Reishus

ASSOCIATE FEATURES EDITOR

Medicare is a federal healthcare plan for individuals age 65 or older, under 65 with certain disabilities, or with end-stage renal disease (permanent kidney failure that requires dialysis or a transplant).

Medicaid is a jointly funded, federal-state health insurance program for lower-income and needy people, that covers children, the aged, blind, and/or disabled and other eligibilities.

The United States Department of Veterans Affairs is a government-run military veteran organization responsible for administering healthcare programs of benefits for veterans, their families and survivors.

The State Children’s Health Insurance Program is a United States federal government program that gives funds to states in order to provide health insurance to families with children who are not eligible for Medicaid.

EVERY WAY...

Magdalene Reishus

ASSOCIATE FEATURES EDITOR

Unlike the majority of the American population who spend over 10 percent of their income on healthcare, my family spends less than 3 percent on average. However, the bulk of our income is spent on food.

My parents operate a small organic farm in North-Central Indiana. Health is maintained in our household not through pills and prescriptions but organic meat, dairy and produce. Instead of the biannual family practitioner visit, I swing by the chiropractor’s office monthly.

Health insurance was not in the picture for lack of income but it wasn’t needed because, well, we didn’t get sick. If we did on rare occasions, sugar was cut from the diet completely and coconut oil became the staple ingredient in every meal. Two daily tablespoons of cod liver oil was my parents’ idea of daily vitamins and raw milk was the super food answer to every physical complaint.

When accidents rolled around as do when living on a farm, such as Mom’s nearly amputated finger, the smallest form of health insurance with the highest deductible became a necessity. Yet still, the first answer from the mouth of my parents to any physical ailment is “Go get some milk!”

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Bridging the great divide

Every Spring Break campus ministries sends hundreds of Hope College students to communities across creation and around the world to serve on missions trips. Students fly to New Mexico to serve the health care needs of Native Americans, others drive to New Jersey to tutor children and help with renovation projects. But these types of needs exist in our own back yard. Less than three blocks south of campus there are families who have the same struggles as the people of Newark, N.J. and Bakersfield, N.M. — poor healthcare, children who could use help with school, and run-down homes and church buildings in need of a little TLC.

Part of Hope college's mission, according to their promotional video, is to equip students with the tools they need in order to make a difference in the world — but what about making a difference in our own backyard? As a Christian college, Hope should have a huge effect on the outside community. As we grow and learn, academically and spiritually, you would think we would be equipped to bring help to the communities and church that surround us.

But I am not convinced that it is actually happening.

Yesterday I was driving home from dinner with friends near VanRaalte and 16th Street. I realized I had never seen this part of town before, and I had lived only a few blocks away for three years. I saw trash and broken windows, men who I thought could be gang members. But I also saw children playing and people sitting out on their porches, an old man walking home from the store, his arms hardly managing grocery bags.

The neighborhood students visiting Hope are dangerous. We've all heard about the break-ins, the gangs, the sexual predators. We've all been warned of what goes on beyond 16th Street. But what is Hope and more importantly its students — doing about it? Holland can put more cops on duty, and the administration can warn us to be careful about walking alone at night, but that will only band-aid the issue.

What can Hope do to reach out to the community? What needs do they have that we might be able to fulfill?

While I'll admit I've never spoken to someone from the area (clearly I'm a part of the problem too), here's what I would guess: babysitters are needed, rides to work or to the doctor are needed. I bet there are simple things that would improve their standard of living — an old cell phone they can reuse, a meal they don't have to cook, an extra hand on the way home from the grocery store.

What would it look like if students began adopting families from the outside? What if a group of students actively attempted to serve their neighbors? How would it change the community? I imagine students would learn new things about poverty and would gain wisdom from the people who have lived much harder lives. I imagine our eyes would be opened to the way God has lavishly blessed us with food, family and education. I imagine a true community would form.

Here's a practical application: Campus Ministries has a website devoted to four local ministries that reach out to families in need. Check it out at http://grow.hope.edu/outreach/local_service.html.

I don't have all the answers, but I'd love to hear your ideas. Send your thoughts to anchor@hope.edu. Maybe together we can make the Holland community a better place.

As a student and Christian, I believe it's important for us to be proactive in reaching out to these communities. Being aware of these issues can turn us from a passive college student into an active agent of change.

Ashley DeVecht
Co-Editor-in-Chief
Letters to the Editor

By bike or by bus?

To the Editors:

You’re in the library and you glance up at the clock and think to yourself: “Oh shocks! It’s 7:58 – the Gathering is in two minutes! How am I ever going to make it on time?!” Well, run on outside to the bike rack, unlock your bike, ride it across the street, lock it up outside the doors, and rush up the stairs to your favorite balcony pew just in time to catch the opening verses of “Prepare the Way!”

You, like countless others at Hope, have discovered the joys of unnecessarily riding your bicycle around our tiny campus. It’s a great way to feel like you’re losing weight and saving the environment from your harmful emissions. But what caused this sudden rise in biking activity? Presumably the new Shuttle Bus. The bicycle, despite lacking the charms and conveniences of the Shuttle Bus, is a fun and efficient way to get across the block we call our campus in record time.

What other benefits come from riding around on our narrow sidewalks you may ask? And the person has to answer. If a person is under the influence of alcohol, he says “no,” even once, or does not say anything then one does not have the right to be aware of some resources. Hope College has a Sexual Assault and Harassment Policy that Ashely made it explicitly clear that sexual assault and/or harassment should not be a part of the college student experience, or expectation, and I wholeheartedly agree. Women on our campus as well as their male counterparts should be able to walk down the sidewalks, immersing themselves in the night’s sights sounds and smells, but those sights and sounds should include the hoot of an owl or a clear view of the Little Dipper not a hyper-alert state of fear, listening for the approach of a stranger. It is also important in a college community that women and men should be able to interact without fear of sexual assault by someone they know and trust.

I appreciate the acknowledgement of the counseling center as a resource for students who have been violated in such ways. Another such resource is the Center for Women in Transition. I would like all students on this campus to know that Hope, as a community, is working to prevent sexual assault and harassment.

Gray Emerson ’09
Andreas VanDenend ’10

Response to rape threat

To the Editors:

After reading the gripping (and saddening) column written by Ashley De-Vecht in a recent Anchor (Sept. 17), I felt compelled to add to the discussion. Ashley made it explicitly clear that sexual assault and/or harassment should not be a part of the college student experience, or expectation, and I wholeheartedly agree. Women on our campus as well as their male counterparts should be able to walk down the sidewalks, immersing themselves in the night’s sights sounds and smells, but those sights and sounds should include the hoot of an owl or a clear view of the Little Dipper not a hyper-alert state of fear, listening for the approach of a stranger. It is also important in a college community that women and men should be able to interact without fear of sexual assault by someone they know and trust.

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“One of the reasons it resonates with me and Barack Obama is because he speaks about it from a position of success. He speaks about it from a position of strength. We need mentors in our lives who have guided us. So the mentoring thing we have in common. (Obama) talks about the importance of mentoring, talks about the importance of responsible fathers. And 85 percent of men in prison grew up without a dad, and if you grew up without a dad you are 70 percent more likely to commit suicide. There is a correlation between the quality of your childhood and whether you go to prison. And yet, we haven’t had a candidate until now who’s actually talking about that issue. Mentoring is a solution to many of America’s problems, or at least an improvement to many of America’s problems.”

A group of pastors recently openly endorsed a presidential candidate, which caused problems with the IRS because of churches’ apolitical and tax exempt statuses.

Ogles asked if, as a religious figure, Miller felt these pastors were right or wrong to endorse a candidate, and how, if at all, he was different from them.

“I’m a writer, not a pastor, so I’m not legally handcuffed in any way. My feeling about that is it’s a good law. My real issue is with what they’re saying. One of them, the guy from Minnesota, actually said, ‘You can’t be a Christian and vote for Barack Obama.’ I find that to be absolutely absurd. I think the most important thing is we need to vote for people who are going to help our country grow and, if we vote for the wrong person, they’re going to have to grow with them. I don’t support that methodology of educating people. Teach people to think, don’t tell them what to do.”

At this point, Miller had to get going to catch a flight. Just like the thousands of others who have read his books, his words gave me a lot to think over.

Out of curiosity, I asked him if he’d met the senator.

“No, I haven’t met him. I’ve exchanged e-mails with him. No, I haven’t, I’m just kidding. But I have this thing on my website that’s sort of a funny skit about exchanging e-mails.”

Author Donald Miller speaks on faith and politics, campaigns for Obama

The statistics are staggering. And yet, we haven’t had a candidate until now who’s actually talking about that issue. Mentoring is a solution to many of America’s problems, or at least an improvement to many of America’s problems.”

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“This group of pastors wants to get up and control their congregation and tell them who to vote for rather than teach them how to think. I don’t support that methodology of educating people. Teach people to think, don’t tell them what to do.”

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Golf teams eye MIAA championships

Jon Kinsey
Photo by Ann Green

As the end of the season draws near, both the Hope men’s and women’s golf squads look to finish off successful seasons. The men’s team sits in second place, 27 strokes behind MIAA leader Olivet.

“It’s going to take a lot to get us ahead of Olivet to win the conference,” Steven Strock (’10) said. “That has been a great addition for us, and the rest of the freshmen are waiting in the wings in case the team needs someone to step in.”

Hope’s women’s team also moved into second place last match at Kalamazoo on Oct. 9. Led by Strock, this season’s top individual scorer the Dutchmen are primed and ready to capture the MIAA crown.

With six freshmen the Dutchmen are a relatively young team, but that doesn’t seem to have slowed them so far as they have finished as one of the top three teams in every match since August.

“We have Nick Campbell (’12) who is playing very well,” Strock said. “That has been a great addition for us, and the rest of the freshmen are waiting in the wings in case the team needs someone to step in.”

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Baseball and softball prepare for spring seasons

Karen Patterson
Assistant Sports Editor

Every fall Hope athletic teams such as football, volleyball and soccer participate in conference and NCAA play. What many may not know is that they are not the only Hope teams working hard toward a conference championship. Every fall for four weeks, Hope’s baseball and softball teams are given a unique opportunity to participate in something referred to as Fall Ball. Fall Ball is a specific time when the teams are able to go out and practice with the coaching staff. The NCAA has strict rules about out-of-season contact time between coaches and their players, and both the softball and baseball teams are careful to stay within the regulations.

“The NCAA grants us 16 days of contact, however, the MIAA limits us to nine dates in two hour increments,” head baseball Coach Stu Fritz said. The coaches then determine what days will work best for their players.

I set the dates based on when my players get their Hope physicals and class schedules,” head softball Coach Karla Wolters said.

During those nine practices the teams work hard to make use of the little time they are given. For the softball team this includes going over technique and giving the pitchers and batters a chance to work on their form. Wolters also has her players focus on their individual and team defense as well as base running.

For the teams, though, scrimmaging is key. “Our practices are a combination of drills and scrimmages, but really more scrimmaging than anything else,” Fritz said.

“I can’t say that we cannot play against other schools, scrimmaging is key,” Wolters said. “This year with our practices is just orange and blue scrimmaging.”

While the opportunity is there to consider themselves lucky enough to even be able to work with the coaches, players from each squad expressed a desire for more contact.

“We don’t get very many live repetitions, which are very beneficial. We do a lot on our own off the field, but in the going live,” Flying Dutchmen first baseman Matt VanderVelde (’09) said.

Softball first baseman Kelli Duimstra (’09) had similar thoughts. “I love playing softball so the more we can play the better. It would be great to have more than nine practices and to play other schools, but those are NCAA rules so there’s not much we can do,” Duimstra said.

A n o t h e r benefit to Fall Ball is the opportunity it gives the coaches and r e s u m e s i n g players a chance to meet the freshmen and see how they are going to fit into the program.

For returners, a chance to work with the new players before the official start to the season is invaluable.

“Fall Ball gives us a great chance to look at the new players coming into the program and keep our game sharp,” baseball second baseman and pitcher Robby Poll (’10) said.

“It’s such a great chance to get to know the new girls coming into the program,” Flying Dutch second baseman and pitcher Deirdra Enochs (’10) said. “It makes things much easier when it comes to spring and we’re already pretty good friends.”

Fall Ball is not something that many people know about but that is incredibly beneficial to the teams that take part in it. While the March and April seem so far off in the distance, the reality for the baseball and softball future team is that there are just a few short months before they begin their season. While the practice of those teams, the extra time together is valuable and used towards improving their chances of claiming a conference title.

Volleyball continues win streak

James Ralston
Sports Editor

SERVING UP HOPE— Sara DeWeert (’11) serves against Olivet. The team sold pink Dig for the Cure shirts and Hope Wins wrist bands to raise money for breast cancer research.

KICKIN’ FOR THE CAUSE— Lauren Miller (’11) flies by a St. Mary’s defender. Hope won 2-1 in double overtime. The team wore pink jerseys to help raise breast cancer awareness.

James Ralston
Sports Editor

MIAA honors three Hope athletes

MEN’S SOCCER

Nicco Lamb (’12) was named the co-offensive player of the week. Lamb scored a goal in each of the team’s victories over Trine and Adrian last week. Lamb ranks second in the MIAA for scoring in conference games and has helped the Flying Dutchmen score 13 goals in the first four MIAA games.

FOOTBALL

Jake Manning (’09) was named as the MIAA offensive player of the week, giving Hope an incredible performance in the Hope homecoming game. Manning completed 22 of 45 passes for a total of 497 yards with four touchdowns with two of the touchdowns coming in the final three minutes of the game.

Volleyball

Nora Slenk (’09) has been named as the MIAA player of the week for the second time in her career. In Hope’s three-game sweeps of Alma and Olivet, Slenk contributed 22 kills, 16 digs and had a hitting percentage of .541. The team moved into the national regional rankings for the first time in Hope’s history as the team leads into the MIAA tournament on Oct. 15-17. If the team wins the regional on Oct. 21-24, they will qualify for the NCAA tournament.