Words of care

DANA LAMERS
infocus editor

A prayer vigil for Matthew Shepard, a University of Wyoming student who was killed by his own classmate, was held in the Pine Grove during the few dry moments of a rainy last Thursday evening.

During an emotional moment of the vigil, a few raindrops fell on approximately 60 people encircled with candles.

"A friend commented to me that God started crying with me," said Amanda Schneider ('99), who helped to lead the vigil.

On Oct. 12, Matthew Shepard, a homosexual 21-year-old student, was reportedly pistol-whipped and left on a fence post in near-freezing temperature until he was found hours later. Shepard died five days later.

Participants of the vigil pray for various blessings such as courage and unity, as the crowd stood in still and quiet reflection for a few moments. Schneider said one of the reasons the vigil was arranged was to "give people the chance to pray for healing, for unity in such a violent society, in which there is so much fear about homosexuality and sexual orientation."

Changes in place

SARA E LAMERS
infocus editor

A new policy approved by the Campus Life Board should provide more stability in Greek Life. The policy comes as a result of a previous policy concerning New Member Education passed in September.

The new policy will guarantee that the earlier policy will remain in place for four years.

"It's not really a policy because in essence it's a promise," said Interfraternity President Adam Hudson ('99). "With this policy the administration won't make any major changes each year without really looking at the policy."

The proposal resulted from concern over frequent changes in New Member Education policy over the past years. Leaders of Greek Life were concerned that by changing the policy each year, instability of the program could result. They hope that by keeping the new policy in place, New Member Education will have the opportunity to be more stable.

"Change happens very rapidly and it's hard to keep up with us," said Amanda Schneider ('99), who helped to lead the vigil.

Engler looks to next century

SARA E LAMERS
infocus editor

"Make Michigan first in the 21st Century" was the battle-cry of candidates for the Republican ticket at a rally sponsored by the Hope Republicans on Friday, Oct. 30.

98 hours before the polls opened the following Tuesday.

Numerous hopeful candidates met an enthusiastic crowd of about 200 who cheered and waved signs of support as the Holland Christian High School pep band played.

"The foundation for Michigan's success is in place," said Governor John Engler. "Michigan is stronger now than it has ever been."

Along with Governor Engler, the rally featured lieutenant governor candidate Dick Posthumus, attorney general candidate John Smietanka, and Secretary of State Candice Miller.

"I am proud to be a part of the Engler team," said Posthumus. "Looking at the Republican ticket, there should be no doubt that Michigan will be first in the 21st Century."

Before they arrived, various members of the Hope Republicans endorsed the efforts of the candidates. Throughout the rally, candidates focused on the strides Engler has made in Welfare reform, citing statistics confirming an increase in new jobs.

Series to provide a mix of poetry and fiction

SARA E LAMERS
infocus editor

The second installment of the 1998-99 Writer's Series will showcase both well-established and up-and-coming poets. When poet Conrad Hilberry, a fiction writer, Alison McGhee take stage on Monday, November 9. The event will be held at the Kneckerbocker Theater, beginning at 7 p.m. Doors will open at 6:30.

Hilberry, professor of English at Kalamazoo College, will make his third Hope appearance.

"My poems have a pretty clear story," he said. "I'm not one to share any secrets in my writing and I'm not a confessional writer. A lot of my poems are about simple things, like friends and family."

Hilberry does like to add a certain element of surprise into his writings.

"I like it best when something a little strange comes up, when I'm not sure what to expect or where the poem is going," he said. "I hope that each poem will be a surprise."

Hilberry often finds his creative talents challenging,

"I take it as a sign of hope that a lot of people are interested in art and poetry."

While Hilberry's writing career has been long and extensive, McGhee only recently published her first novel; which was chosen as the Great Lakes Colleges Association fiction prize winner and was also a nominee for the 1995 Pushcart Prize.

"Writing fiction is my way of trying to understand life," she said. "As a fiction writer, I can transform a part of the world - an inner one, the landscape of human emotion. Writing fiction is a way to take intense emotions, that powerful happiness and those hard lumps of grief and transform them into
Technology shapes academic futures

CARRIE ARNOLD
staff reporter

More and more each day, computers are making their mark on Hope's campus. From e-mail in dorm rooms to terminals in the library, technology is permanently entering the lives of just about every student. Hoping to keep up with the advances in technology, Hope College is bringing computers into the classroom.

German professor Dr. Lee Forrester has been developing the idea of multimedia software to integrate the audial, visual, and written methods of learning a foreign language.

Entitled "German: Live!", Forrester's project recently received a $50,000 grant from the Foundation for Independent Higher Education's 1998 "American Distance Education Public Interest and Research" program. This money will enable Dr. Forrester to take a sabbatical this spring to work on the software design for German.

"Language is not mainly writing and reading, it's experiencing," Forrester said. "Hope that they'll bru- telly learn in two semesters as much German and twenty times as much culture."

The software will be used in the fall, having just begun German language classes.

For the first time ever, Hope College will also be offering a course that is partially taught online this Saturday, Nov. 7, at 8 p.m. at the Hope College Recreation Center. This course, titled "Living German," will run in all of the residences.

Not only have students used the discussion boards as a part of a class, the majority of Hope students have used the World Wide Web as a resource for research papers and other assignments.

"[With] the way students do their discussions on the discussion boards, and the new ways in which teaching and learning can be done," Heideman said. "Personal communication is augmented by online chat rooms and email. Computer game play is occurring in all of the residences."

This semester a record number of Ethernet cards sold. CIT estimates the number sold to be just under 600, with an additional 400-500 hooked up by modern.

With computers, the whole world is just a mouse click away.

"I don't want Hope to contribute to that kind of society," she said. "And by being silent we would be. Sil- ence in quality concerning what is happening."

Individuals went to the vigil for different reasons.

"I went for two reasons," said A.J. Cameron ('01), "to express my great disapproval in the hatred that killed him and to come together with other people for prayer and for other victims of hate crimes.

NME from 1

MENTAL HEALTH

"I was sick and tired of the way mi-
etimes and gay students are treated on this campus. I'm fed up, not tak-
ing it anymore," Sanicki said.

The vigil focused on a Christian perspective of love.

"It was a way of Hope as a com-
nunity signaling the fact that such things should not happen," said Carol Simon Philosophy professor and department chair. "Our culture is one that fosters violence and that perspective of love.

Some left with increased aware-
ness of the reality of hate crimes.

"I came away thinking it couldn't happen in any small town, even a campus like Hope," said Jen Blackwell (01). "I hope that soci-
ety takes this as a case to realize that gay people are people too, and should be treated with the same re-
spect and kindness as everyone else."

The publicite of Shepard's death was coverd by media from coast-to-coast, extremist groups justifying and even encouraging the crime also drew attention.

"There's nothing Biblical about the extremist Christian groups that protest vig-
ils, the funeral, and said he de-
served to die," said Megan Hicks ('99). "He was being who he thought he was supposed to be."

Psychology professor Jane Dickie read a reflection written by a chaplain at Trinity College in Hartford, Conn. to describe as one "not unlike Hope.

"There's nothing Biblical about the extremist Christian groups that protest vig-
ils, the funeral, and said he de-
served to die," said Megan Hicks ('99). "He was being who he thought he was supposed to be."

She substituted each reference to the extremist Christian groups that protest vig-
ils, the funeral, and said he de-
served to die, with "Hope," making it even more applicable to the stu-
dents, administrators, faculty, and even community members who lis-
tened.

"I was too struck by the similar-
ity of the cross and the death place for Matthew," Dickie said. "I too see Christ killed again and again on the cross of hate, fear, ignorance, and homophobia."

"Silence killed Matthew Shepard," the passage read. "Crimes of hate may live in shouts of rage, but they are born in silence.

These silent acts of our own fear of homosexuality are acted out on this campus every day just as they are acted out every day in Wyoming. Through silence, we give ourselves permission to practice what we pretend to abhor."
Hope, along with the rest of the world, prepares for the year 2000.

Hope solves and spends on computer “bug”

CHRIS WINKLER  staff reporter

There is a phrase known around the world that strikes fear into the hearts of computer programmers and company executives alike. The phrase? The Year 2000. That problem was first recognized on the Hope campus in the early 90’s. This was when the Admissions Office began dealing with members of the Class of 2000. That problem was fixed, and it opened the eyes of the college to begin working to correct the bug. “About a year and a half ago we took a thorough inventory of our systems,” Heideman said. Many had problems, but some were okay. Early this summer, a major half-billion dollar project began to overhaul Hope’s computer system. Part of that includes efforts to head off the Y2K problem before difficulties arise.

“We’re working on the most critical areas first,” said CIT project coordinator Kris Winkowski. “And the project is coming along fine.” Heideman said that CIT has been replacing some systems with update models. Others have undergone repairs and ways around Y2K. CIT will also be converting all data to a new system that is Y2K compliant.

“Eventually,” Heideman said, “all solutions will be permanent.” While many large companies are hiring special teams and forming Y2K specific budgets to combat the bug, Hope’s small size allows the school to work internally. The project is being headed by Heideman and Winkowski, and the entire CIT staff is working on it. “We’re taking some risks with this, but we feel comfortable with that. We are realistic, and are hoping that our mistakes will be minimal,” Heideman said.

The final portion of the project will be the alumni system, which is the last office that will be working with the Class of 2000.

What the Year 2000 crisis could mean to you

CHRIS WINKLER  staff reporter

A student slowly clicks his left mouse button, setting the clock on the computer screen to near midnight, Dec. 31, 1999, and then waits. As the date changes on the monitor, a smile crosses the hearts of computer programmers around the world that strikes fear into the student groans, sighs, then waits. The monitor goes blank just as the clock hits Jan. 1, 2000, and the student groans, sighs, then panics that the clock, already running behind time, is now gone. Not the least bit thankful for what is called the Year 2000 problem.

This glitch, given the abbreviation Y2K, affects some computers when the system clock turns over to the year 2000. But for those who know the basics of the problem, scenario one is more likely to occur for personal computer owners, including students.

Unlike major corporations and other organizations, including Hope College, the majority of students have an advantage over the Y2K bug. Because most student-owned computers do not rely heavily on dates, the amount of damage Y2K can do is limited.

“Those won’t affect end users nearly as much as it will banks, airports, and internet service providers,” said Joseph Dykstra (’02), Dykstra, who plans to major in computer science, has worked for Gateway the past two summers. This past year, he was an engineer working on Gateway’s mobile systems.

“The only way this will affect us as students is with programs like Excel spreadsheets and others that are very dependent on numbers,” Dykstra said.

Although the outlook for smaller systems is optimistic, the worldwide effect is yet to be known, and there are differing views on the issue. “I’ve spent more and more time looking at and reading about Y2K,” said Carl Heideman, director of CIT. “And I’ve found there is little concrete info. There is a lot of opinion that money invested is now gone. Not the least bit thankful for what is called the Year 2000 problem.

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Heideman is optimistic, but still sees where problems could occur. For instance, if there is a threat that banks will crash, then people will panic and draw their money out of banks, and a financial crisis could ensue.

For students with hardware and software that may not be Y2K compliant, there are ways to find out what could happen Jan. 1, 2000. Many websites, including those of computer companies, offer descriptions of Y2K problems with different programs. Others contain links to download and enact on personal computers to see what they will do with Y2K.

One of them, the Microsoft Corporation, is located at www.microsoft.com/. Other information about Y2K is located through the Popular Science website at www.popsci.com/
An issue of human interest

About 60 people attended last Thursday's prayer vigil for Matthew Shepard in the Pine Grove. Out of well over 3000 members of the Hope community, only 60 could find time in their busy schedules to attend the vigil for a homosexual man, brutally murdered by narrowly-minded individuals.

The same sort of apathy could be seen at the Take Back the March rally, held earlier this year.

The apathy that exists on this campus may be no different than that existing anywhere else in the world. Violence against women and homosexuals are often seen as low on the totem pole of life priorities, and that definitely rings true on the Hope campus.

The religious implications that are involved with homosexuality are still discussed, and may never fully be resolved. But the amount of hostility and negative images that are associated with homosexuals in this area is unacceptable.

Individuals at Hope are outraged. The vigil itself may not have drawn a large proportion, but it provides a large proportion showed just where the rally, a large proportion showed just where homosexuals stand. By not attending, these people support the harsh treatment that those like Matt Shepard receive.

While schedules may be crammed, there is no excuse for 2900 people not attending the vigil. Homosexuality has become one of those topics people support when asked, yet take no action when those backs are turned.

Kidding about homosexuals can be heard daily with the "usual" woman, race, and blonde jokes. Many don't see this as wrong, and many see this joking as light compared to what they would like to do to them. Homophobia is alive and well in the area, and the vigil attendance is proof of this.

The terms "fag," "flamer," and "queer" may forever hold a negative connotation. Yet these terms can be heard daily from those uneducated, narrow-minded individuals.

Violence against any human is an issue that should never be tolerated, no matter the individual.

Student comments on treatment of homosexuals

To the Editor:

If ever there was a time to speak out against the violence and hate that divides our society, it is now. I see in my mind every time the word "fag" is uttered, our country is moving one step closer to unchallenged hatred. We've watched in silence as our next door neighbors received hate mail and were screaming, "Go home or die Fag." Even following the fall of 1997 when one of our own openly gay students received numerous death threats and was beaten, silence shrouded the Hope College campus.

We are the problem, Hope College. We are silent. Hate crimes aren't simply a problem "out there," nor a problem that we have no control over. We can stop this negative treatment from growing and these horrible acts of violence from taking place if we speak out against them. The more we do create a united community, created out of respect for one another's difference, the closer we will come to preventing the recurrence of these hate crimes.

There are far too many beautiful, gifted and unique individuals in our lives who have been made to feel small and insignificant by those who refuse to accept them for who they are to be invited to participate. They are to be invited to participate. The more we do create a united community, created out of respect for one another's difference, the closer we will come to preventing the recurrence of these hate crimes.

We must make changes. We must take action. We must do something to stop the acceptance of hate crimes.

Rebecca de Velder ('99)

Senior shares concerns over Chaplain study

To the Editor:

I am writing to share with you and the campus community some reflections I have had after reading the chapel review last week. I feel that it is important for everyone to go and examine it for themselves and would like to emphasize that this is my opinion and my opinion alone.

I found several things concerning about the review that I do like to share with the community in hopes that others will examine it not in hopes of causing damage to any part of the college community. My aim is not to cause anyone pain about the matter and apologize profusely in advance if my writing this letter hurts someone somewhere on this campus. In the chapel self study there are several quotes disturbing me and I will list them and why I am disturbed below.

1. "Were students who wanted something else willing to come to us with a proposal to add this or that to the current programming..." I find this disturbing because I believe it is the responsibility of a pastor to find a middle of the road style that makes all people feel welcome and comfortable not the responsibility of a student to go and say "please add A, B, and C to the programming."

2. "We do not encourage or condone the sometimes overzealous proselytizing of non Christians. We believe that divisions in our community are as much a matter of personal choices as the result of our programming."

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Annie Schneider '99
Theatre forum thrives on student participation

W. HADANEK
staff reporter

Through determination and hard work, the Hope Theatre Forum has garnered life to plays, musicals, and improvisational groups while at the same time providing many students with a unique opportunity to get involved in the world of theatre.

"Our main focus is to promote student productions. As long as someone has a deep dedication for theatre, we make sure that we see about getting it going," said co-president Dave Fleming ('00). "Theatre forum helps people make their dreams a reality. Things go from just an idea in someone's head to a complete production."

The group consists of about 20 students and meets in De Witt's Studio Theatre on Tuesdays at 11 a.m. "Sometimes we read through some of the plays or talk about upcoming events at the meetings," said Nate Hart ('01). "Occasionally someone presents an idea for a production to the group and we work on getting things organized."

One of the unique aspects about the group is the fact that there is not a faculty advisor. Kathy Bark ('00) said that is why she thinks the group is successful.

"The group really promotes student leadership. If you want to direct a production, just come to a meeting and throw your ideas out. Anyone can be involved," Fleming said.

Fleming said the faculty has been very supportive of all of the Forum's activities.

"The group really got rolling about two years ago," Fleming said. "It was kind of flat for awhile with more emphasis on the main stage production at Hope. I wanted it to be something that students could get involved in other than the major stage productions." Members of the forum stress that the group is not just for theatre members.

"I hope that we will continue to do in the future," Fleming said. "I would want students to know that this is an opportunity for them. It doesn't involve as much stress as main stage productions."

Hart, who has been in some of the Theatre's productions, said, "There are auditions for the shows that we do, but they are more laid back than the main stage productions. It's about developing our skills and learning new things. It gives us a chance to explore the realm of theatre."

"The Forum's upcoming events include a Christmas production for Sibling's Weekend entitled, "Reall Rosey", and "Meridol" in the spring. The group is also working with SAC and is planning on getting involved in the annual Casino Night. An improvisational comedy group is also being organized on campus. All of the Theatre Forum's meeting minutes are posted on a bulletin board by the ticket office and everyone is welcome to attend their meetings."

Kathy Cleveland ('02) is just starting to get involved with the group. "It's been a great experience," she said. "The fact that it is open to anyone really appealed to me. Even though I'm just a freshman and haven't really established a reputation in the department, the Theatre Forum is willing to let me jump right in and get involved."

ENGLER from I

"I was happy with the turn-out," said Dr. Jack Holmes, Hope Republican Advisor and Chair of the Otterbein Republican Party. "I think theatre reform is an important issue and I'm really proud of what Engler has been able to do."

VWS from I

words that in some small way can place pattern to the chaos of the world."

McGhee combined her interest and knowledge of the eastern world with experiences of her birthplace, the foothills of the Adirondack Mountains, to write Rainlight, which centers on the loss of a family member and how the surviving member cope with the loss.

"Since I was a child, I've been drawn to China," she said. "The cadence of the language, the physical movements of Chinese people, all feel familiar to me. In Rainlight I transferred my love of the country and my own longing for it to the characters."

However, some opinions on the nature of the rally varied.

"I thought the rally was interesting," said Adriane Cameron ('01). "Engler didn't tackle a lot of the issues, but I guess that shouldn't be expected from a rally."

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HOPES SET HIGH: Patricia Rhiew ('00), Maria Cipolone ('01) and Sarah Anders ('00) portray Tevye's eldest daughters in the Theater Department's production of "Fiddler on the Roof."

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1 - 5:30 p.m. or 6 - 10:30 p.m.
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**Influenza**
- High fever
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- Mild or no cough
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**Don’t risk your health or your classes. If you have asthma, diabetes, or any chronic illness, a flu shot is a must.**

**Flu shots available for $7 at the Health Clinic. Call x7585 for an appointment.**

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**Sociopathic Leanings**

Andrew Lortz

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**Officer corps at Hope College**

MIKE HANLEY

Staff reporter

If you see someone walking across campus dressed in a camo outfit, don’t be alarmed. You’re probably looking at Jeremy Latchaw (’99) in his Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) outfit. Latchaw, who is currently a staff sergeant, finds that ROTC offers him a chance to experience college and military life simultaneously. His strong patriotic beliefs are another reason for his involvement in ROTC. “I don’t understand why people don’t want to be in the military,” Latchaw said.

Because Hope College does not have a specific ROTC program, Latchaw makes a 60-mile round-trip commute to Grand Rapids once a week to take classes through Western Michigan University’s ROTC program.

ROTC provides college students with the opportunity to engage in military training and classes alongside their regular college curriculum. Latchaw’s classes are worth three credit hours and are transferable to Hope College.

The classes deal mainly with the development of leadership skills. The ROTC classes, along with a full course load at Hope, make for a demanding schedule.

“The Registrar is good about class scheduling,” Latchaw said. “Latchaw is the only Hope College student currently involved in the ROTC program.”

“When walking across the campus in uniform I get a lot of weird looks,” Latchaw said.

Richard Frost, the Hope College Dean of Students, has not been approached with the idea of starting a ROTC program on Hope’s campus. “One factor that may hinder the development on one [an ROTC program] would be the expense involved in creating a program for what is currently a limited number of interested people,” Frost said.

Once a semester, Latchaw joins Western’s ROTC battalion and participates in weekend combat training at Fort Custer in Battle Creek, Michigan. The training exercises are conducted in full combat attire and camouflage.

Next summer, Latchaw is attending a five-week “advanced camp,” the ROTC equivalent of boot camp, where he will be given further tactical training.

“Latchaw has performed his duty well,” said Lieutenant Colonel Robert J. Beecher, the officer in charge of Western’s ROTC program. “Even though he had to travel extra miles to fulfill his requirements.”

Latchaw may be switched to the ROTC program in Kalamazoo next semester to place him in classes with a larger group of cadets, allowing him to gain more from leadership training by interacting with greater numbers of people.

Latchaw describes the leadership skills gained through ROTC as one of the most beneficial aspects of his college experience. “Being an Resident Assistant in Scott Hall is a natural and easy experience for me, thanks largely to the leadership abilities I have acquired through ROTC,” Latchaw said.

Another beneficial factor of ROTC to Latchaw is the financial assistance he receives from the military to pay for his college education. Tuition scholarships and a textbook allowance will offset the price of attending Hope College.

But Latchaw also gives back to the Army ROTC after graduation. Latchaw has an eight-year military commitment, a term of service which can be spent doing active duty, National Guard, or Army Reserve.

Transferring to Western would make participating in ROTC much easier for Latchaw, but he doesn’t even consider that option.

“I love it at Hope College,” Latchaw said. “I wouldn’t want to be anywhere else.”
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Andersen Consulting presentation—Wednesday, November 4, 7:00 p.m. Maas Center, Maas Auditorium

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Football moves one step closer to MIAA title

MIKE ZUIDEMA
editor-in-chief

The showdown has been set for the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association title.

With Hope defeating Olivet 46-13, and Albion defeating Adrian 20-13, Saturday, each team will head into next Saturday's showdown in Albion undefeated.

The Flying Dutchmen stand 4-0 in the MIAA, while the Britons are 7-1.

"We're on the right swing leading up to us there. That's what we wanted to do and we're in there," head coach Dean Kreps said. "I don't think we'll have any problems with focus this week."

The Flying Dutchmen came out focused against Olivet, as they completely dominated any chance for a Comet victory.

Justin Wemmer's (99) set up two short Eric Nichols (00) touchdown runs with an 11-yard pass to Brian Adloff (01) and a 30-yard pass to Jim Stucki (99) deep in Olivet territory.

Wemmer's continued the onslaught by completing 18-24 passes for 225 yards, two touchdowns and an interception. In the past two weeks, the senior quarterback has passed for over 500 yards and six touchdowns.

Tim Alles (99) led all receivers with seven catches for 67 yards. Adloff came within two receptions a share of the MIAA title.

Northus thinks the men's team could finish in the top five at regionals, but he warns that the team will have to control their emotions if they are to perform well.

Dylan Wade (02) is a little more optimistic. "I think we have a really good chance of making nationals," he said.

Dylan and Joe Veldman (01) were named second team All-MIAA. Garrett Childs (00) and Paul Berke (01) were named second team All-MIAA.

"This team will be a team of the future," Northus said.

Last year's women's cross country team advanced to Boston for the Nationals.

This year the team hopes to find themselves in Carlsbad, California, site of this year's Division III Cross Country Nationals.

This year's team finished second in the MIAA, but had to overcome a lot of adversity. They lost two of their top seven runners this season.

First Jenny Ernst (99), suffered a knee injury that has kept her sidelined much of the season.

Despite all these problems the team has still been able to succeed. "We've really been pulling together at the end of the season, we've had Northus thinks the men's team could finish in the top five at regionals, but he warns that the team will have to control their emotions if they are to perform well.

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Despite all these problems the team has still been able to succeed. "We've really been pulling together at the end of the season, we've had some injuries, people are stepping up and working hard to keep the team strong," said Becky Timmer (99).

Three runners in particular have stepped up when needed, they are: Jannah Thompson (99), Carrie Langstraat (99), and Nicole Reynolds (01). This trio has shuffled in and out of the starting lineup as needed this season.

The team is currently ranked second in the region and 12th in the Nation. Northus thinks the team has a very good chance of qualifying for nationals. The team echoes his feelings.

Who's on First? Eric Nichols (99)

Eric Nichols (00) gets pumped back on an Olivet defender but the Comets could not hold the Dutch offense the whole game as the Dutchmen ran away with a 46-13 win. Hope next plays Albion, Saturday, in a showdown of league unbeaten.

If we run as well as we did at conference at regionals, we'll make it to nationals," said Ellen Schultz (99).

The team is hoping that Ernst can return for two weeks in help in regions. Past success would prove that the Flying Dutch have a shot.

Last year Schultz and Timmer were both All Americans. This year they have already been named first team All-MIAA. Andrea Egeler (01) and Cindy Baranak (99) have both been named second team All-MIAA.

The regional meet will be on Saturday, Nov. 14 at Albion.