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Michigan legislators fail to keep Promise

Erika Ter Louw
Staff Writer

In light of Michigan's approximate $1.7 billion deficit, scholarships are one of many programs to feel the budget crunch. On Oct. 30, Michigan's legislators approved the 2010 budget which omitted the Michigan Promise Scholarship.

The scholarship was first introduced by Governor Jennifer Granholm in December of 2006. The aim of the Michigan Promise Scholarship was to increase the number of college graduates in Michigan. In a survey done by the U.S. Census Bureau in 2007, only 57 percent of the state's college graduates with a bachelor's degree were born in Michigan. In a two-fold effort to increase the number of well-educated persons in the workforce as well as in the long-term help decrease the deficit, Michigan's economy long-term. However, without scholarships, and willing students, the numbers of graduates could decrease.

In order to qualify for the scholarship, students had to receive a particular score on a merit examination in high school. If scores were high enough, students would receive anywhere between $500 and $4,000 in aid for up to four years of post-secondary education.

The impact of the new budget will be felt immediately. All funding for the Michigan Promise Scholarship will be re-voked, including the fiscal year 2009-2010. Starting with the class of 2007, all payments will be suspended for both installments and final payments. Additionally, high school students will no longer be given the opportunity to apply for the Michigan Promise Scholarship.

Hope's office of Financial Aid said they will be in contact with all students and families whom this could affect. As of now, they are waiting to see if the legislators will reinstate the scholarship.
College students apathetic to political happenings

Robert Gulmond
Census Co-Editor

“Everyone has a vested interest in this issue. Get involved, get informed, and make your voice heard,” health care reform expert and Hope alumnus Tom Boyer said to a group of 60 people in the Maa Conference Room last Nov. 4.

At the Hope-sponsored event, Boyer spoke and answered questions about health care and health insurance reform. Less than 30 students attended — 30 percent of theHope Republicans, prior to Boyer’s health care talk.

Does the event’s lack of attendance suggest student apathy towards the current health care debate occurring in Congress?

“The Michigan Promise Scholarship was not included in Michigan’s 2010 budget set on Oct. 30. This means that current freshmen and sophomores who qualified for the aid will be losing up to $2,000, and juniors, who qualified for the aid will be losing up to $2,000,”

While these figures may seem small when compared to the yearly tuition at Hope, but it is still a substantial amount of money. There was no organized student movements on Hope’s campus in reaction to the eliminated Promise like there were on other college campuses across Michigan. None of my classes spoke about the issue.

Does the lack of attention towards the scholarship’s removal really mean changes that will ultimately affect people our age more than it will affect people their age?

“My biggest fear is that we’ll look back on this time and say, ‘We had the opportunity to change things, but we didn’t take advantage of it.’”

“I know it is not a time for politics. But it is not a time for apathy.”
Hope alum leads discussion on health care debate

Emma Bligthon, National Co-Editor

Some of the questions surrounding the fate of President Obama’s health care reform legislation were answered last Saturday night at 11:15 p.m. when the House voted to pass the legislation.

In an e-mail to his supporters on Saturday, Obama said: “This is a night to celebrate — but not to rest. Those who voted for reform deserve our thanks, and the next phase of this fight has already begun.”

The next phase for Obama’s healthcare legislation is to receive the Senate’s approval. The final Senate bill has not yet been released. The Senate debate will take place in the coming days.

Health care reform is a central feature of Obama’s domestic agenda. His bill aims to extend health coverage to 36 million more Americans by providing an option for all citizens to receive coverage provided by the government.

In an effort to understand the proposed health care bill and the questions surrounding it, Hope College’s Political Science Honors Society, Pi Sigma Alpha, held a discussion with Hope College alumni and health care policy professional, Tom Boyer.

On Nov. 4, Boyer gave a lecture to Hope students and faculty, as well as local community members under the title of Health Insurance Reform vs. Healthcare Reform: A Brief Overview of How Political Leadership Shapes the American Health System for the Next Several Decades.

Boyer, a ’91 Hope grad, was a political science major and participant in the Washington D.C. honors seminar. Currently, Boyer is a director of government affairs of Novo Nordisk, lobbying for health care reform, and specifically working to improve legislation regarding diabetes.

At the beginning of the event, Boyer made his position on the topic of health care reform clear to the audience. “The current system is not sustainable,” said Boyer. According to Boyer, an inability to afford health care has become the leading cause of bankruptcy in the United States. With that in mind, he said, “If you get sick and you don’t have health insurance, good luck getting it.” The average health care yearly premium for a family of four is $14,000, and Boyer expects it to increase by 1 to 2 percent per year, making it the largest sector of the United States economy without government oversight and he agrees with Obama’s position that it needs to be reformed.

The two debates currently taking place are over health insurance reform and health care reform. The latter, explained Boyer, is much more comprehensive. Boyer specializes in diabetes health care reform. In an effort to illustrate the change that needs to occur in regard to health coverage, he provided a comparative analysis of three different diseases in the U.S.

About 1.1 million Americans are infected with HIV/AIDS and the government spends about $750 million a year on the prevention and detection of the disease. Less than 200,000 people have breast cancer or cervical cancer in the U.S. and the government spends more than $300 million a year on the prevention and detection of the disease. And 24 million people have diabetes in the U.S. and the federal government spends $26 million annually on the prevention and detection of the disease.

Diabetes is the fifth leading cause of death by disease in the U.S. and the number of people with the disease has increased by about 13 percent in the past two years. By comparison, the incidence of HIV/AIDS and breast and cervical cancer are on the decline. Once diagnosed, for those with HIV/AIDS and breast and cervical cancer, the federal government or health insurance companies cover all expenses, but for diabetes patients who are not sensitive diabetics, Boyer says, for the most part, “You’re on your own.”

Boyer underscored the disparity in coverage among patients to illustrate the larger disparity within the current health care system. In order for people to be covered by their health insurance company in the U.S., they must meet particular requirements. As the Senate debate the current bill, Boyer urges Americans to learn about health care policy because the debate “is not going away any time soon.”

The bill was passed by the House of Representatives and moves to the Senate on their own bill.

A new debate has arisen on the viability of the government-run insurance option, better known as the public option. National Public Radio said: “For all the controversy over a government-run insurance option, the program outlined in health overhaul legislation likely would play a minuscule role in efforts to expand health care coverage, according to many health care experts and lawmakers.” According to the Congressional Budget Office analysis of the House bill, of the 30 million Americans likely to purchase insurance through exchanges created by the legislation, only 6 million — or one quarter of the change in the public insurance plan.

If the bill is passed by the Senate, the bill and the House of Representatives will have to work together to settle on one bill before the program can be sent to President Obama’s desk to be signed into law.

Army major kills 13 and injures 30 in shooting

Eric Anderson, National Co-Editor

On Nov. 5, shots were fired against American troops stationed at Fort Hood military base just outside of Killeen, Texas, killing 13 soldiers and wounding 30 others.

The gunman was later identified as an American soldier, Army Major Nidal Malik Hasan, Army psychiatry.

Hasan was originally reported to have been fatally shot during the ensuing shoot-out, but police later determined he had been shot, apprehended and in custody, hospitalized while in stable condition as reported by the Associated Press.

There is not yet a definitive conclusion to Hasan’s motivation.

An investigation into the incident has produced a number of possible theories as to Hasan’s motive.

One area of speculation is Hasan’s religious and ideological background. Hasan is of Palestinian descent and Islamic faith. While he was born and raised in the U.S. and around Arlington, Va., there were occasions where he displayed a stronger allegiance to his Muslim identity than to his identity as an American according to the Los Angeles Times.

Further investigation seems to point to Hasan’s responsibilities as an Army psychiatrist as a likely catalyst.

Hasan regularly dealt with instances of psychiatric trauma in soldiers returning from combat. Hasan was facing deployment, and any of Hasan’s pre-existing fears or emotional stresses may have been intensified by his counseling interactions with returning veterans. The New York Times reports that sources believed that this stress became too much to handle for Hasan.

Currently, Hasan is being held under guard in Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio as further inquiry is conducted regarding Hasan’s mental state.

An inquiry is also being conducted to check whether Hasan displayed any warning signs that should have been noticed by his peers.

Health care measure passed in the House, moves to the Senate

Sierra Hansen, Guest Writer

Health care is considered by many, regardless of political affiliation, to be the central national debate as President Obama’s administration attempts to reform the U.S. health care system.

House Democratic leaders are offering a $1.2 trillion, 10-year health overhaul bill called the Affordable Health Care for America Act. They say it will provide health insurance to 36 million Americans, eventually guaranteeing coverage to 96 percent of legal residents under the age of 65. The net cost is predicted to be $894 billion over 10 years, factoring in penalties on individuals and employers alike who don’t comply with new requirements.

If enacted, the new health care plan would prevent insurers from denying coverage based on pre-existing factors and limit higher premiums based on age. It would also include a 5.4 percent surtax on individuals earning more than $50,000 and on couples earning more than $1 million, which an aide said would bring in over $460 billion over 10 years to help pay for covering the uninsured.

According to CNN, one out of three Americans under 65 were without health insurance at some point during 2007 and 2008.

Republicans have shown themselves to be nervous, primarily concerning the consumer-directiveness of the Democrat-led AHCAA. They question whether the entire health care system will become a federally run institution, or even that the bill will cause more job loss that will push the country further into debt.

Rep. Dave Camp (R. Mich.) said, “The bill Speaker (Nancy) Pelosi has brought to the floor would essentially force every American to buy health insurance.”

The bill was debated on the floor of the House of Representatives and moves to the Senate on their own bill.
In races for governor, GOP gets big wins

Republicans gained momentum in elections that may reflect the changing direction of the nation.

**Samuel Touz**

Off-year elections, held on Nov. 3, ended with the victory of two Republican candidates in the states of Virginia and New Jersey.


Christie will be the first Republican governor of New Jersey since Christine Todd Whitman in 1997. According to Politico, unlike previous New Jersey gubernatorial elections, Christie won by a large margin — over 100,000 votes.

News sources across America speculated that this shift had much to do with the economy. The Associated Press reported on Nov. 7 that Christie will enter office inheriting an $8 billion deficit that ballooned under Corzine. The AP also reported that Christie would begin certain economic reforms, such as lowering taxes, as well as working from the city level to help mayors jumpstart their economies.

The same is true in Virginia. The Washington Post reported Nov. 14 that McDonnell plans to create jobs in the state’s sluggish economy as well as fix the state’s jammed roadways without raising any taxes.

The approach paid off.

The Post stated in the same report that Republicans swept all three posts that were up for election, as they also won the seats of attorney general as well as lieutenant governor.

However, many politicians spoke out last week believing that the victory of two governors had more to it than just the states’ economies.

Mississippi Republican Gov. Haley Barbour told United Press International news Saturday that the elections reflect the dissatisfaction Americans have with the federal government under the Obama administration.

The results made clear the American people don’t like where the Democrats are trying to take our country,” Barbour said in a UPI report.

What surprised many political analysts was the fact that Republicans won largely thanks to support from independent voters, much like President Barack Obama’s victory over Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) in the presidential election of 2008.

“What happened in other parts of the country does not, I think, reflect my district,” first-term Democratic senator from Pennsylvania Kathy Dahlkemper said. “Honestly, I bet if I went out and stopped 10 people on the street and asked them who won in New Jersey and Virginia, they wouldn’t be able to tell me.”

Even so, Republicans said that these elections reflect the public opinion shifting away from Obama and the Democrat agenda.

“Americans think economic growth and job creation are priorities one, two, three, and four,” Barbour told UPI. “Despite all the trillions of dollars in spending by this administration and Congress, voters see little progress on jobs.”

Congress takes steps to combat rising unemployment

Unemployment benefits are extended with unanimous support by the Senate

Amy Alvine

**Guest Writer**

With the United States economy attempting to rise again, thousands of unemployed citizens in the country have had to apply for unemployment benefits offered by the government.

On Nov. 4, the Senate approved a bill that extends several measures designed to spur the economy and help people who have lost their jobs.

The bill passed through Congress by a 98-0 vote and was sent to Obama. On Nov. 6, President Obama signed into law legislation that includes a provision that will extend unemployment benefits, provide tax cuts for businesses and present help to low-income homeowners.

Every day, 7,000 people lose their jobless benefits. These laid-off workers, in nearly half the states can Collect benefits for up to 79 weeks — the longest period since the unemployment insurance program created in the 1930s, due to the current emergency extensions already enacted by Congress.

The unemployment benefits proposed by the new legislation will be extended for up to 20 additional weeks, with the longest extension being directed towards the states with the highest unemployment rates.

According to the bill, by reducing taxes for struggling businesses, smaller businesses will receive even larger cuts which will, in turn, expand opportunities for business owners so that they may obtain the funds that are needed to avoid layoffs or to avoid closing their business.

One of the key aspects that have improved the growth of the economy is the housing market.

The rebound in the housing market, as seen in the third quarter, has brought many people into the market.

When asked about what legislation will do for the housing market, Obama said that the main goal of it is “to give even more families the chance to own their own home.”

Through April 30, 2010, this legislation will extend an $8,000 credit to home owners and create a new $6,500 credit for home buyers who have been in their current residence for the last five years or more.

With the unemployment rate recently hitting 10.2 percent (the highest rate since 1983), unemployment is fast becoming a critical issue in the eyes of United States citizens.

Michael McAuliffe (‘10) said: “Though this legislation to extend unemployment aid is sure to help many unemployed Americans, it concerns me that we continue to spend money when our national debt is so large.”

To enact this new legislation, it will cost $24 billion.

In Michigan, this new act of legislation increases the once 79-week unemployment aid program to 99 weeks worth of unemployment aid.

At Hope College, students have seen unemployment take a toll on the Holland area by creating difficulties in finding local jobs. The state’s new rate of unemployment will be announced Nov. 18.
Pulitzer finalist Susan Choi comes to Visiting Writers Series

Ann Malone

Staff Writer

Susan Choi, whose novel “American Woman” was a Pulitzer Prize finalist, will be the next speaker in Hope College’s Visiting Writers Series. Choi, a recipient of fellowships from The National Endowment for the Arts and The Guggenheim Foundation, clearly knows her way around a typewriter. Her novels incorporate both fiction and real life events; “American Woman” is a fictionalized account of the Patty Hearst kidnapping, and her latest book, “A Person of Interest” is about the Unabomber case and the investigation of nuclear scientist Wen Ho Lee. Choi’s books have gained considerable acclaim. Ron Charles of The Washington Post calls “A Person of Interest” one of the most remarkable novels to have emerged from our age of terror. According to the New York Times, it “transcends the limitations of our own lives, to find out what it’s like to be someone else, to recognize immutable aspects of ourselves staring back at us from the portrait of a stranger.” Choi, born in South Bend, Ind., moved to Houston at age 8. She attended Yale University, earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in literature, continuing on to earn a Master of Fine Arts from Cornell University. She currently resides in Brooklyn, N.Y., with her husband, who edits the dining section of The New York Times, and their two children. She began her career working as a fact-checker for The New Yorker, and has since written three books: “American Woman,” “A Person of Interest” and “The Foreign Student.”

Along with David Remnick, who edited a short fiction anthology titled, “Wonderful Town: New York Stories from The New Yorker.” Her nonfiction has appeared in numerous publications including Vogue, Tin House, Allure, O and The New York Times, as well as in anthologies including “Money Changes Everything” and “Brooklyn Was Mine.” All Visiting Writers Series events are held at the Knickerbocker Theatre in downtown Holland. Choi will be reading on Thursday, Nov. 12, at 7 p.m.; Hope College Jazz Ensemble will play at 6:30 p.m. Meet and greet, as well as book signing, will follow the event. Admission is free. Choi will also be featured during a question-and-answer session at 3 p.m. on Nov. 12 in the DeWitt Center Herrick Room.

 Albums you should know...

Benjamin Gibbard & Jay Farrar - “One Fast Move Or I’m Gone”
Rating: 3/5 stars
Music inspired by Jack Kerouac’s Big Sur done by the guy from Death Cab and another guy, resulting in an occasionally interesting album of wordy folk.

Devendra Banhart - “What Will We Be”
Rating: 3/5 stars
Watered-down compared to his previous albums - the best tracks are the ones where he still sounds like himself, but it’s still a good listen.

Reliant K - “Forget and Not Slow Down”
Rating: 4/5 stars
Reliant K has continued to grow and produce good music since 2001. Solid album.

Woods - “Songs of Shame”
Rating: 4/5 stars
Lo-fi Rock. The album has some instrumental tracks and an awesome cover, and it all comes together to make a really good record.

These reviews are courtesy of WTHS music directors Paul Rice, Maria Krebs and Aaron Martin.

SLEEPING AT LAST PERFORMS NOV. 13
Sleeping at Last will be headlining at the Knickerbocker Theatre on Friday, Nov. 13 at 8 p.m. Their song “Quicksand” was featured on “Grey’s Anatomy.” They will be playing songs from their albums “Ghosts” and “Keep No Score.” Also performing will be Denison Witmer, who is musically affiliated with Rosie Thom- as and Sufjan Stevens. Tickets will cost $10 at the door and $5 with a Hope College I.D. Tickets can be picked up at the ticket office in the main lobby of DeVos Fieldhouse. Doors will open at 7:30 p.m. the night of the concert.

HOPE FACULTY FEATURED IN SYMPHONY CONCERT
The Hope College Symphony Orchestra, performing on Friday, Nov. 13 at 7:30 p.m. in Dimnent Memorial Chapel, will feature faculty member Adam Clark in a rendition of “Piano Concerto in A minor, Op. 54.” Clark joined Hope faculty in 2008 as an assistant professor of music. He is currently teaching courses in applied piano, keyboard skills and piano pedagogy. Closing the concert will be Robert Schumann’s “Carnival, Op. 97” (“Friesenbund”). The public is invited and admission is free.

IN BRIEF
TRANSLATION OF JAPANESE EPIC SET NOV. 18
Dr. Michael Watson, the Meji Cakun exchange professor, will present, “‘Uécho des vsicitudes humaines’: The Tale of the Heike through its Translation History” on Nov. 18 at 4 p.m. in the Fried-Hemmesway Auditorium. There have been three English translations of the work in the past, and another is in the works. Watson will discuss the work’s importance in Japanese history and focus on its famous opening. “‘Uécho” is a romanticized account of Japan’s first great civil war in the 1180s. Watson will discuss how translators of different languages have tried to convey its special rhythm, style and content.

DR. RHODA JANZEN PUBLISHES MEMOIR
Dr. Rhoda Janzen of the Hope College English department has published her memoir. The memoir, titled, “Mennonite in a Little Black Dress,” was inspired by a series of mid-life crises including finding out her husband was leaving her for a man and getting into a car accident. She went home for a scheduled bariatric leave and reconnected with her childhood religion, Mennonism. As she was sending e-mails to her friends and colleagues, they told her to save her stories, because it was the beginning of a memoir. “Mennonite in a Little Black Dress” is available for $22 and is on sale at the Hope-Geneva Bookstore, located on the ground floor of the DeWitt Center.
75th ANNUAL Nykerk Cup
‘My roommate was wearing my underwear.’
-Senior

We all have experienced awkward moments at some point in our life, such as sleeping in class with your teacher waking you up or waving and shouting to someone who you thought you knew, but it turned out you didn’t. Whatever the case may be, these moments were awkward. Have you ever had an awkward roommate encounter? These Hope students have – like the senior quoted above – and they wanted to share with us...

“My roommate was wearing my underwear.”
-Senior

“Before I met my roommate, I looked her up on Facebook and she was karate-kicking a glass door. Later on, I was looking through her pictures again and saw one with her holding up an axe and two guns! I almost called Hope to switch my roommate.”
-Sophomore

“I was sleeping and my roommate was doing her homework. I bolted out of bed (startling my roommate) and shouted, ‘Pudding! Where’s the pudding?!’ and then proceeded to dramatically collapse back down onto my pillow as my roommate stared at me in awe.”
-Junior

“One night, I woke up from my sleep and one of my roommates was just staring at me. I asked, ‘What are you doing?’ and he responded, ‘I can’t sleep.’”
-Sophomore

“I was taking a nap and my roommate came charging into the room, flicked on the lights and started singing really loudly, adding her own dance moves. I didn’t know what to do, so I just calmly said my roommate’s name and she spun around and screamed bloody murder.”
-Sophomore

“My roommate thought I was gone one day and climbed up my ladder and into my bed. She then realized that I was in the bed and looked at me, confused. Within five seconds, she got out of my bed and quickly left the room. Later on, she pretended like nothing ever happened. To this day, I still don’t know why she got in my bed.”
-Junior

Although things can get awkward between roommates at times, there is still hope for a good friendship. Here is some advice for getting past those embarrassing moments with your roommate:

- Do fun things together! You two will become more comfortable around each other, and it will be less awkward at times.
- Laugh when it does become awkward. It may not even be funny, but laugh anyway!
- Ask each other fun questions! You never know what you can learn about each other.
- If all else fails, Hope’s Counseling Center is open for business (but hopefully it won’t become that difficult!).

Take notes on the stories above and try to avoid these situations as much as possible. Although the awkwardness can remain even after using this advice, just remember - you can always choose a new roommate next year!
Phelps Dining Hall is on an ego trip

Let me explain.

Phelps switched to the entirely trayless approach this year to try to gain back some environmental street-credit, an area in which it had fallen short in recent years. The problem is, I can no longer get my two glasses of milk, one glass of water and one glass of Gatorade, I have to narrow it down to just one cup (and mixing the four together is not a viable option).

Also, if you endure through the occasional, “Hey Chris!” returning the wave only to watch my plateful of noodles hit the floor. When I had the extra space on the tray, I could throw on a bunch of extra crap with no fear of it spilling at the worst possible times. But no, in the name of environmental awareness, I can no longer grab way more food than I am going to eat.

I went online Saturday afternoon to see if I had missed the time Phelps Dining Hall was open. I was shocked to find out Phelps didn’t even serve lunch at 3 p.m. But more importantly, when I was on the site, I found something completely outrageous. Apparently, you can follow Phelps Dining Hall on Twitter. I couldn’t believe it. I had to do a double-take and click refresh a couple times, until I realized it was true. Here’s the deal: I don’t think there will ever be a point in my life when I will say, “Hey, I think I’m going to a) get a Twitter account and b) follow Phelps Dining Hall’s tweets.”

I just don’t understand the rationale behind Twitter. It is essentially just the Facebook status line. That’s the entire site. When Facebook came out after Myspace, the upgrade made sense; Facebook was a legitimately better site. But going from Facebook to Twitter is like going from Toaster Strudels back down to Pop-Tarts; from an iPod Touch back down to a Sony Walkman; from your mom’s cooking all the way down to Phelps food. In other words, it’s not an upgrade at all.

And the push to make Twitter cool is ridiculous. Almost every SportsCenter I watch, I can always count on some type of reference being made to Twitter. It’s always, “Here’s Shaq’s recent tweet and Dwight Howard’s tweet response to Shaq’s tweet, and Shaq’s tweet response to Dwight’s tweet about Shaq’s tweet. And here’s Ocho-Cinco’s tweet. Tweet, tweet, tweet, twitter, twitter, twitter!” I simply refuse to buy into it.

Does Shaq follow Phelps on Twitter?

The biggest question of all is how many people try to subscribe to Michael Phelps’ Twitter page and end up receiving “Breakfast for Dinner” updates?

My name is Chris O’Brien and, no, you cannot follow me on Twitter. P.S. Watch Miles Cyrus’ Twitter rap on Youtube; it will make you question the future of the world.
I hope you dance

Everyday we move in a variety of ways. For many of us, our daily movements consist of simply walking to class and perhaps engaging in some form of physical fitness at the Dow. Some people are constantly moving: tapping a pen against the desk in class, bouncing a leg to help focus on the lecture or bobbing one’s head to a rhythm in a catchy song.

On occasion, though, we are able to partake in a form of movement that is much more involved than anything we do on a daily basis: dancing. And for the first two years at Hope, I was able to take classes to continue my dance education. By no stretch of imagination, I was completely over the top and silly, he managed to rock it.

While many readers will never even know what a fouette is, much less master 32 of them (that’s for all you Swan Lake experts), dancing is something that is for everyone.

Karen would love a starring role in the Joffrey Ballet’s “Nutcracker” but is willing to settle for a chance to do nothing but to dance for the rest of her life — preferably with a tall, strong, handsome partner who will make her look dainty and graceful.

Karen Patterson
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Grace & peace

Grace Olson Columnist

Make good neighbors

Two weeks ago, on October’s only dry day, I watched as the oaks in front of Pillar Church offered their brilliant, dry leaves to the wind: autumn’s twist on the snow globe. And of course I had to take advantage of the weather, so when I came home after class, I threw on a pair of worn-out jeans, grabbed the rake from the garage and started to clear the yard. I hardly touched the garden since autumn set in, so I pulled up the basil, cilantro and tomato plants, rescuing the green ones to ripen on the windowsill, and left the marigolds and the nasturtiums to boast their fiery glory for another few weeks.

The neighbor kids came over to help rake and to ask if they could pick the leftover potatoes, and for the first time in years when I was young and vigorous, I was out with friends, and one friend commented that he isn’t a very good dancer. The natural reaction to that statement was something to the effect of “I doubt that’s true.”

However, he was insistent and we dropped the subject. His comments got me thinking, though. What is about dancing that has some people convinced that they are proteges and others positive that they shouldn’t come within 100 yards of a dance floor?

In high school, and even here at Hope, it seems that a circle always forms, and the best dancers are shoved into the middle to show off their skills, while the rest of us are left to stand in observation wishing that we could move in a similar fashion.

I studied classical ballet for just over six years when I was young and vigorous, and for the first two years at Hope, I was able to take classes to continue my dance education. By no stretch of imagination, I was completely over the top and silly, he managed to rock it.

For me, dance is an opportunity for me to express something that I love, that I can’t always convey with words. I’m the person that bears certain songs and wants nothing more than to get up and start moving because something about the rhythm combined with the instruments and melody begs me to react. Still, many people have never taken a dance class in their life. Some enjoy it but don’t think they have talent. Others don’t even like to dance. To all those people, I say dance anyways. If dancing makes you happy, it shouldn’t matter if you are a little off the beat or can’t seem to get your arms to move in conjunction with your legs.

Make up new moves if that’s what your heart desires. One of my friends has something that he likes to call “the Microcave,” and while it’s completely over the top and silly, he manages to rock it.

Karen love would a starring role in the Joffrey Ballet’s “Nutcracker” but is willing to settle for a chance to do nothing but to dance for the rest of her life — preferably with a tall, strong, handsome partner who will make her look dainty and graceful.

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Karen Patterson
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Letter to the Editors

To the Editors:

First, a story: something that happened years ago now, which I will always remember. One of my students came reluctantly to my office. He had not been doing well: missing assignments, not coming much to class, withdrawn and silent when he did show up. For a while, he just looked at the floor, not saying anything. “I guess I’m just depresed,” he finally muttered. It was one of those moments when you know something important is up here, when you wish somebody would tell you what to say next. “Is it just a general feeling of depression,” I ventured, “or do you think you know the reason for it?” “I don’t know the reason,” he answered. “I’m gay.”

My heart went out to this young man, but I was more distressed as he told me how he had been trying to explore this self-discovery: sneaking to Grand Rapids, visiting gay bars, letting himself get picked up by strangers, experiencing confusion and self-doubt as it became clear that few of them had any desire to see him again. I wanted to tell him that it didn’t have to be that way; that gay people too could form sustained and loving relationships that would permit them to live their lives with dignity. But there were really no models I could point to, nobody local at least, that would give him the kind of positive example we all need as we struggle to shape how we are and who we want to be. Like some of my colleagues, I am concerned about the lifestyle that Lance Black seems to exemplify, and I can well understand why some might find him repugnant. But what I hope for my gay students—indeed, for all my students—is that healthier and happier expressions of homosexuality may be brought forward and affirmed, and that can only happen on any kind of scale when gay people feel free to come out of hiding and join the rest of us in trying to make this a better world. Questions of sexuality are difficult because they go to the core of our identities, but in these times especially they must not be repressed.

Sincerely,
Kathleen Verduin
Professor of English
Men’s soccer season comes to a close

James Nichols
Webmaster

It all came down to one game.
Hope vs. Calvin: The Rivalry.
If Calvin wins they earn the MIAA title outright. If Hope wins or settles for a tie, they win the title. In the end, Saturday afternoon’s game ended with a lot of happy Calvin College fans.

With a 1-0 victory, Calvin was crowned MIAA champs with a division record of 10-3-1. Hope, on the other hand, finished the regular season with a 9-2-3 record in the MIAA and 13-4-3 overall record. The Flying Dutchmen fell short of Calvin, who finished with 31 points in the MIAA this season, by compiling 28 division points this season (three points are awarded for a win and each team gets one point for a tie).

“We had a very successful year,” said Coach Steve Smith. Smith attributes the team’s success to good camaraderie and solid performances.
Hope outperformed almost every one of its opponents this season. The Flying Dutchmen averaged 1.60 goals per game while their opponents averaged only 0.60 goals per game. They had six more shots per game on average than their opponents.

One reason for these remarkable numbers: the senior class.

“The senior class deserves the recognition this year,” said Smith. “They bring good leadership and everyday solid, consistent performance.”

This year’s senior class accounted for 17 of the team’s 32 goals. Forty-two of the team’s 88 points also came from seniors (two points are awarded for a goal and one point for an assist). Jeffrey Ekdom (13) finished second on the team in goals (5) and points (11) along with David Whitaker (12), who equaled Ekdom’s point total but finished fourth on the team in goals (4). Logan Neil (12) was the main man in net this season for the Flying Dutchmen. By averaging a minuscule .944 goals against per game, Neil was a force to be reckoned with. Ten shutouts helped to explain the incredible .889 save percentage Neil racked up this season.

A MIAA championship this season would have marked the ninth under Smith. The eight titles Smith already has is a Hope College coaching record. Other records held by Smith: win percentage (overall 0.767 and MIAA 0.790), seasons coached (19), most wins (265) and consequently, most losses (87).

“When asked what the secret is to his success, Smith praised the Holland community.
“Hope is a great community,” said Smith. “We gather good people around us here.” He offered thanks to the admissions office, administration and alumni that help with recruiting. Smith also said he couldn’t be as successful as he has been without assistant coach Lee Schopp.
Winning the MIAA means the Calvin College Knights are automatically qualified for the NCAA Championship. Over the past 19 seasons, Hope has a 5-8 record all time at NCAA Championship tournaments and will have to wait until next season to get another shot.

Smith didn’t seem to be too worried about not making it to the NCAA Championship though.
“We will talk about next season next year,” said Smith. He wants to focus on this season’s accomplishments and wait a bit to even think about the possibilities for next season.
Smith’s team has finished second in the MIAA every season for the last four seasons and Smith considers that something to be thankful for.
“God has blessed us,” said Smith.

Volleyball qualifies for national tournament

Jake Bajema
Sports Writer

Hope College’s volleyball team has been nothing less than dominant as of late. The Flying Dutch were undefeated for a month-long period, stretching from the Illinois Wesleyan Barker Invitational in which they fell to UW-Platteville on Oct. 3 and this past Saturday after a loss to rival Calvin in the MIAA conference tournament championship game.

The only challenging game the Dutch ran into during this undefeated streak was the conference clincher at Calvin two weeks ago. The match was a five-set thriller in which the ladies won the first set 25-22 before dropping the next two 22-25 and 25-27. A record crowd of 2,775 was in attendance at Van Noord Arena on the campus of Calvin College to see the Flying Dutch come back and win the final two sets 25-12 and 15-6 to clinch the regular season conference title.

“The atmosphere was crazy,” said junior outside hitter Sara DeWeerd. “Beating Calvin at their place was one of the most memorable moments of the season thus far.”
The ladies were victorious against Calvin for the second time this year but faced Calvin for a third time in the conference tournament championship game in DeVos Fieldhouse on Saturday, Nov. 7. Calvin triumphed in the first set, 25-15, but Hope rallied to even the game out in the second set, 25-23. However, Calvin came back with a vengeance and won the next two sets, 25-23 and 25-15 to take the game, the conference tournament championship and the automatic NCAA tournament bid. Hope’s volleyball team, however, received the at-large bid on Monday and will also participate in the tournament, facing off against Lakeland College at 8 p.m. tomorrow.

Winning a conference championship was a goal for the team this year, but achieving that goal is one that the ladies got to celebrate about for just a bit.
“We enjoyed that moment after the game for about two minutes. After that gloating over our undefeated conference season, we didn’t feel that it was enough to just get a conference championship,” Cassidy Bulthuis (11) said. “We want more than that.”
The team will get a chance to get more with the NCAA tournament coming up, the first round of which will be held in DeVos Fieldhouse.
The team is excited at the chance to continue their season. Senior captain Teresa Borst says playing on the home court will be a big advantage for the ladies.

“We just had a break on the court and play our game. We go out there and have fun, and like coach always says, we just have to go out there and show the fans how much we love this game and how much we love each other.”
The team has become a close-knit group over these past few months and it has shown on the court with their stellar record and the chemistry both on and off the court.
“This is the closest and most fun group of girls that I’ve ever had the pleasure to play with,” Borst said. “To have gone 16-0 in the conference is an unbelievable feeling. It’s just a base-line though. We want to keep building on this success every single day. We can’t settle for just your conference title.”
The team is looking forward to these next few weeks as they bring home a National Championship title. Though the season may be wrapping up, they are hoping to create a few more fireworks before the season ends.

SAILING REGATTA—Hope College’s sailing team, including Megan Sweet (‘10) and Trevor Thompson (‘11) pictured above, hosted the Area East regatta on Macatawa Bay over the weekend. See brief on right.

Sailing under a bright sun, Hope College hosted the Area East regatta this past weekend. The Anchor's photo editor, Rachel Henschke, captured the event.

In Brief

FOOTBALL FALLS LATE
Hope College’s football team traveled to Alma on Saturday and had another heartbreaking loss. The Flying Dutchmen’s record is deceiving compared to how the team has performed on the field.

At 2-7 it is easy to look at the season from a distance and view it as a failure. However, when the actual games are analyzed one can see Hope has been within a touchdown in every game this season with the exception of a 12-point loss to Wheaton who is currently ranked 21 in the D3football.com poll.

With two 3-point losses, one 2-point loss, one 1-point loss, and a double overtime heart-breaker, it is by no means a stretch to say the Flying Dutchmen could be a legitimate 7-2 right now competing for a playoff.

The Flying Dutchmen look to make a statement this Saturday in their season finale against Kalamazoo, home at 1 p.m.

HOPE HOSTS REGATTA
Last Saturday the Hope Sailing team finished up its season by hosting the Area East Regatta at Macatawa Bay. Nine schools from around the Midwest attended the competition. Several volunteers from the yacht club contributed to the event and there was significant support from spectators, specifically the sailors’ families. The weather could not have been better: sunny and warm with steady winds.
The fall season typically runs from Sept. to the first week in Nov. The team has been meeting at the flagpole in front of Graves Hall every Wednesday days per week since September and has opened the club up to anyone who is interested in giving sailing a try.
Each week the team sails out from Macatawa Bay Yacht Club. This year, the team is a balanced mix of experienced and amateur sailors.
The team will come together again for the spring season.
Basketball season arrives at Hope College

Women hope to build on history of success this year

Chris Ray
Guest Writer

Winning never comes easy. It is rare enough to have one, two or three consecutive winning seasons, but for the women’s varsity basketball team, winning has become a tradition.

After winning 20 games in each of the past 11 seasons, as well as winning the National Division III Championship in 2006 and reaching the Elite Eight the past two seasons, the team is confident that their success will continue. The Flying Dutch enter this season ranked third in the nation, but head coach Brian Morehouse doesn’t think the high expectations will negatively affect the team.

“I suggested winning to the team and they agreed that would be a good way to deal with the high expectations, Morehouse said.

With the leadership of tri-captains Jenny Cowen (‘10), Phila Greene (‘10) and Carrie Snikkers (‘11), the team has highly valued experience. All three players have been awarded with first-team MIAA distinction in the past, and Snikkers was named a consensus Division III All-American last season. The captains carry a large burden for how the season goes.

“The captains’ duties are to lead by example and have fun,” Morehouse said. “Their discipline and enthusiasm will set the benchmarks for expectations.”

After finishing last season with a 28-2 record, an MIAA Championship and an Elite Eight berth, the Dutch are looking to keep their goals and expectations high.

Losing to the eventual national champions during the past two years in the NCAA tournament, is fresh in the team’s mind.

“Our goals are to improve each day, win the league, win the league tournament and go as far as the NCAA [tournament] as possible, ideally the Final Four,” Morehouse said.

Even though the team is the defending MIAA champ, Calvin, St. Mary’s and Albion pose a threat to knocking off the Flying Dutch from the winner’s circle. Although these three teams are all worthy

and tough opponents, Morehouse said another team poses the biggest threat to the success of the Flying Dutch.

“Ourselfs, We try to get ourselves ready to play every day by practicing at a high level. All I can ask our players to do is play to their ability. If they do that, I’m pleased,” Morehouse said.

With a 49-game winning streak at DeVos Fieldhouse, the team will be difficult to beat. If they play to their ability, the road to the Final Four and NCAA championship could run through Hope.

Class of 2013 prospects

The six freshman prospects include guard Olivia Allore of Muskegon (Muskegon Catholic Central HS); guard Liz Ellis of Grand Rapids (East Grand Rapids HS); forward Courtney Kust of Cincinnati, Ohio (Cincinnati Hills Christian Academy); center Ashley Bauman of Manitou (Manistee Catholic Central HS); forward Jillian Nichols of Brighton (Brighton HS); center Meredith Kussmaul of Hartland (Hartland HS). Coach Brian Morehouse believes these players can help the varsity team in many ways.

“They are all good players,” Morehouse said. “Their job is to get better every day, just like our veterans. The freshmen typically make large improvements during the season as they learn our system.”

Three freshmen prospects from the Class of 2013 will join the ranks of the varsity basketball team this season. Guard Jared Mylswiec of Wyoming (Tri-Unity Christian) forward Nate Snuggerd of Zeeland (Zeeland East) and center Josh Holwerda of Gallup, New Mexico (Rehoboth Christian) are expected to be impact players in the future for the Dutchmen. Holwerda, who is 6’7” and described by Coach Glen Van Wieren as a “lights out shooter” is thousands of miles away from his home in New Mexico.

“My dad played for Coach Van Wieren and there are no small, Christian colleges in New Mexico, so I decided to come to Hope. It has been really different than back home, but I love it,” Holwerda said.

Men look to pick up where they left off last season

Daniel Owens
Staff Writer

The last time the Hope College men’s basketball team hit the hardwood, they authored a dramatic run to the MIAA Tournament crown with a last-second victory over archival Calvin.

After falling in the first round of the NCAA Division III tournament and also the graduation of All-American Jesse Reimink (‘09), the Flying Dutchmen are eager to reinvent themselves in the 2009-10 season.

“The loss in the NCAA Tournament kindled our fire as a team, and the boys have been working hard since the day after the season ended last year,” Coach Glenn Van Wieren said.

“The past few seasons everyone looked to Jesse for guidance and with good reason. He was an All-American in every sense of the word, on and off the court.

“This year, everyone is being forced to look at themselves, and we think this will ultimately make us more balanced as a team.”

The team has high goals to help them become more balanced this season. “A goal for us will always be to have five players in double figures,” Van Wieren said.

With only two seniors on this year’s squad, Van Wieren will rely heavily on his young guards.

“We have a strong core of experienced players in forward Will Bowser (‘11) Peter Born (‘11) and David Knosheen (‘12). These guys worked well together last season and should be a force for us along with designated shooter Ty Tanis (‘11) and Scott Jungling (‘10),” Van Wieren said.

Inside, the Flying Dutchmen are talented but inexperienced.

“We are looking to Chris Nelis (‘10), Andy Venema (‘11) and Adam Dickerson (‘11) to provide us with a solid post presence,” Van Wieren said. “We have a talented group of freshmen and as the season progresses, I expect us to improve. We will be better in January than we were in December and should be at our best during the postseason.”

Under the leadership of tri-captains Bowser, Nelis and Bunn, the Dutchmen began preparing for the season in summer.

The core guys off of last year’s team all lived in Holland for the entire summer in the same house. Being in the same house helped us really played in the Dow with each other every single day,” Bowser said.

We were also involved in two different summer leagues, where we played other college teams in the area. The awesome atmosphere on this year’s team is a direct result of hanging out together all summer and doing what we all love to do: play basketball,” Bowser added.

The Dutchmen are ranked nationally in DIII preseason polls and are expected to compete for the MIAA title and a berth in the NCAA Tournament.

However, the team’s mission goes far beyond just winning basketball games.

“Success for us is not about championships; it’s about the journey. It’s about each player having the peace of mind when he walks off the court after every game and after every practice that he has given his best to be the best.

“If the players have fun, become friends instead of merely teammates, and give themselves completely to the team, the season will be a success,” Van Wieren said.

Van Wieren sees a bigger picture for his basketball team.

“The purpose of this team is to serve the community, and it is my hope that the lessons my players learn playing basketball will make them better leaders, fathers, and men later in life.”