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Popular author shares her perspective with students

**Shauna Niequist**, a West Michigan lover, revisited her “home” on Nov. 2 as she spoke to Hope College students about her book “Bittersweet.”

Niequist was brought to Hope College by the SIB sorority to speak as an author, Christian and mother. Niequist has written two books and is now working on her third.

The evening began with her introducing herself. She truthfully stated that she had wanted to stay at home that night with her husband and child but realized she, “forgot how meaningful it is for me to speak at these kind of events.”

Her introduction was brief; she spoke mostly of her upbringing. She lived in Grand Rapids for six years and now lives in Chicago where she is a mother to her 4-year-old son, Henry.

Niequist went on to explain the conclusion of their performance of “Scooby Doo and the Haunted Orientation.” Full of Hope College references, hilarious one liners and even an appearance by President Bultman, the play was well received by the audience. Cast members included Allie Hoyt (Scooby Doo), Brittany Berry (Shaggy), Madeleine Cantor (Velma), Kate Pitchford (Daphne), Erin Drews (Fred), Jenna Banas (OA Tracy), Ann Marie Paparelli (OA Mark), Ericka Shima (OD Lawrence), Amy Banas (OD Annie), Laura Van Camp (Henry Porter), Allyson Womack (Professor Nape) and Zada Harris (Librarian).
Nykerk 2010: Even and odd years please packed Civic Center

References, Scooby and the gang, along with new roommate Henry Porter, solved the hilarious case of the haunted orientation with a few interruptions for musical numbers. A 15-minute intermission was quickly forgotten when the 2013 song, a choral revue of songs from "The Wizard of Oz," blew the roof off the Civic Center. Colored gloves, paper hearts, helium balloons and yellow-brick roads wooed the crowd from beginning to end.

I have absolutely no clue where most of the props came from," Rebhan said. "Part of the entertainment is trying to figure out how they hide something like a helium balloon." Jordan Ippolito, the even-year orator, kept spirits alive with her speech "Roots Go Deep," a heart-warming tale of friendships and their similarities to the majestic trees found around campus.

"I was thoroughly impressed with her confidence and what she had to say," Converse said. "She definitely did a great job representing even year." Closing the competition was the 2013 play, "Don't Let the Bed Bugs Bite." An original creation centered on the ever-drowsy bed bug, Mary Canter's (11) and Kara Weaver's (11) show combined huge performances with humor.

After some deliberation and a video chronicling the journey up to that point, the time came for the judges to announce their decision. The shuffle of thousands of people to the front of their seat was the only thing audible in the packed gymnasium.

"I had no idea who was going to win," Converse said. "I thought odd year did a great job on all three events and I thought even year did just as well. I would have been content with either team winning. It was a strong competition; both sides presented as much as they could.

With the announcement of their victory, the freshmen side of the building erupted in cheer. Hugs were being passed out like candy at Halloween.

Camera intrusion

Cameras will be installed to help track down the offender. If you or anyone you know has seen this statue please report it immediately to the Holland Police Department at (616) 355-1100, or Silent Observer at (877) 88-Silent, or Campus Safety at 395-7779.

A stark contrast was visible on the sophomore side. Although hugs were provided, they were of consolation rather than joy. Tears filled the eyes of coaches, moralers and girls alike as they came to the realization that, for most of them, their Nykerk career was over.

Nykerk is a commitment unlike anything else. For those involved, Nykerk is more than just practicing for four weeks; it is eating, sleeping, breathing and living Nykerk for four weeks.

"Nykerk literally made me who I am today," Rebhan said. "It's changed every aspect of who I am. Nykerk is the thing that tied me to Hope. I absolutely love every single part of Nykerk."
**PERSPECTIVES**

**Ego factor: Can Obama change after suffering ‘shellacking’?**

**Matthew Lee**

My name is Matthew Lee. Nearly halfway through his term, President Barack Obama admitted on Sunday that he must make a “midcourse change” in order to win over a frustrated electorate and work with recently empowered Republicans.

While on an economic tour of Asian nations, Obama told college students in India that the midterm election back home reflected the “right, obligation and duty” of people to express their unhappiness by voting out the incumbents.

In last week’s midterm election Obama took a beating even though he was not on the ballot. Republicans won a majority of the House of Representatives and slightly diminished the Democratic majority in the Senate. Republicans also made huge gains in state legislatures.

Obama said he will not change his determination to invest money in education, infrastructure and clean energy at a time when the pressures in Washington are to slash spending. But he said the election “reinforces me to make some midcourse corrections and adjustments.”

Obama added that his “midcourse change” will depend heavily on talks with Republican leaders in the next couple of months. This is something that I think every president needs to go through because sometimes we lose track of the ways that we connected with folks that got us here in the first place,” Obama said toward the end of his post-election news conference, after reporters pressed him to go beyond his clinical descriptions of the disastrous election results and explain whether he felt responsibility or guilt.

Now, I’m not recommending for every future president that they take a shellacking, like I did last night. I’m sure there are easier ways to learn these lessons. But I do think this is a growth process and an evolution.”

In a recent article, Politico asks an important question: Can Barack Obama change? Analysts consider this question as a central one for Obama’s presidency. Some analysts have said this election is a punishment for Obama presidency. Reagan hardly suffered a “shellacking” like that Tuesday. Toby Harnden of the Telegraph explains that the 1982 Republican defeat was hardly a set back, the Senate remained unchanged and an economic recovery effort began immediately. Unemployment dropped by almost four percent over the next two years, while growth soared towards seven percent. No economist is forecasting anything like that by 2012. Obama has also begun studying Clinton’s presidency in an attempt to regain support. Clinton is an excellent example of what a president should do after a mid-term defeat.

In his book “The Clinton Tapes” Tyler Bruech explains that Clinton admitted that he had pushed to change quickly, resulting in a mid-term “shellacking” like Obama’s. Clinton’s response was a “counterpunch from the center.” Successful bi-partisanship was Clinton’s biggest accomplishment during his term.

**RICK SNYDER HIRED— Michigan Gov.-elect Rick Snyder and Supreme Court Justice GOP supporters at a victory party Tuesday Nov. 2.**

Michigan Gov.-elect Rick Snyder and Supreme Court Justice Mary Beth Kelly wave to GOP supporters at a victory party Tuesday Nov. 2.

**Perspectives, Page 4**

**It's Our**

**110th Birthday!**

But You get the Presents!

Come celebrate 110 years of Pizza Hut!** in the Holland area! OK, our first store opened in 1958 on Columbia Blvd, if you total all four of our stores, you get a bigger number! And this is such a BIG DEAL, we wanted a Bigger Number! The Big Deal is the Small Price on our already great value LUNCH BUFFET! Just $3.99! Plus, it’s not for just a day or a week, but the Entire Month of NOVEMBER in 2010! Our famous Lunch Buffet includes all you can eat pizza, pasta, breadsticks, our scrumptious Salad Bar, even dessert for just $3.99 during NOVEMBER, 2010. Thirsty? Add a Drink for just 75¢ cent. Does not apply. Throughout November and Only at: Your Home Town Pizza Hut® restaurants! 110th BIRTHDAY SPECIAL! All You Can Eat LUNCH BUFFET! Kids 10 & Under $3.99 Kids 3 & Under 99¢

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Aftan Snyder
Co-National Editor

Historically long-time enemies—think Agincourt, Waterloo, or Trafalgar—Britain and France signed an unprecedented defense pact this week designed to increase military cooperation between the two nations while also minimizing cost. This treaty binds the armed forces of both nations together for a period of 50 years.

French President Nicolas Sarkozy and British Prime Minister David Cameron signed the treaty Nov. 2 at Lancaster House in London. “Together we will be stronger,” Sarkozy told Guardian reporters. “Together we will do better. Together we will better protect our values. We cannot solve problems of the 21st century with the ideas of the 20th century.”

Cameron weighed in as well: “The two largest defense budgets in Europe are recognizing that if we come together and work together we can increase not just our joint capacity, but crucially we increase our own individual sovereign capacity so that we can do more things alone as well as together.”

The pact stipulates that Britain and France will share aircraft carriers from 2030, making sure at least one is at sea all times, and also creates a more intelligence, air-to-air refueling and cyber-warfare capabilities.

Most controversially, the pact also says that British and French nuclear weapons scientists will work together at new research centers to test as well as monitor nuclear arsenals. Despite this new cooperation, both nations’ leaders were quick to clarify that this defense pact in no way limits each nation’s individual sovereignty.

While some met the treaty with enthusiasm, both nations’ leaders were quick to clarify that this defense pact in no way limits each nation’s individual sovereignty.

Major question: Can Obama change?

• Perspectives, from page 3

President. Many question whether Obama is capable of such bipartisanship. Clinton was originally a centrist who wandered too far left and was brought back to the center after a mid-term Republican victory. Hamden from the Telegraph said, “Obama is a standard issue liberal. Nothing in his career indicates he is ready to cut deals with political opponents. He is sure what he believes is right; if you don’t agree with him, he pities you for being so slow to understand.”

Will Obama swallow his pride and come to the center to work with Republicans or will he continue to push a far-left agenda?

As Politico explains, “Humility is a great quality, and it’s one that people will respect. Ronald Reagan could be seen as a polarizing presence, but he also knew how to play humble when it was necessary. Where is President Obama’s self-deprecating humor? Kennedy and Reagan could both be very self-deprecating. People liked that.”

Last Tuesday a majority of voters voted against the Obama agenda and Republicans want to continue this success into the elections two years from now. It is much too soon to predict anything about Obama’s chances of re-election but his bipartisanship has, thus far, been proven to be nonexistent, and as a result he has left Democrats and himself exposed and vulnerable for the next two years.
**Critic’s Corner**

*No Age: Everything In Between*

*Stu Wurts*

Los Angeles ambient punk duo No Age broke out of the gates and into indie prominence in 2008 with their second full-length album “Nouns.”

On their most recent release “Everything In Between,” singer/drummer Dean Spunt and guitarist Randy Randall use the same wall of noise formula prominent on “Nouns” turning the vocals exponentially higher. The emergence of the vocals showcases Spunt’s simplistic, raw songwriting and (almost) poppy melodies tucked within all of Randall’s layers of noise.

Impressively, No Age is just two people making such a tremendous amount of noise. Upon first listen, the noise can make No Age far from accessible, yet the heavy racket within each track can ultimately be more expressive than the lyrics themselves. No Age’s focus seems to be that of the lead single “Glider.”

The drums maintain a drive throughout the song while Randall adds a guitar, like nails on a chalkboard, to complement the layers of distorted chords. Their affecting guitars and chorus create a beautiful mess while Spunt desperately sings, “I want you to understand my skin.”

*The Avett Brothers: Live, Volume 3*

*Joel Homan*

The Avett Brothers are an interesting band known for their blend of American folk, rock, and bluegrass. Their latest album, “Live, Volume 3,” is a collection of live recordings that offer a raw and intimate glimpse into their musical journey.

The album begins with an acoustic rendition of “Girlfriends In This Town,” showcasing the band’s harmonies and emotional depth. The Avett Brothers seamlessly transition from genre to genre, displaying their versatility and musical range.

The standout track is “New Coat,” featuring the dynamic vocals of Seth Avett and intricate guitar work by Matt Johnson. The song’s lyrical content explores themes of transformation and the passage of time, resonating with listeners who have experienced their own life transitions.

As a testament to the Avett Brothers’ dedication to their craft, “Live, Volume 3” captures the raw energy of their live performances, allowing fans to feel as though they are part of the audience, sharing in the joy and intensity of the live music experience.

*The Extra Lens: Undercard*

David Shields

David Shields visits reaches the boundaries between fiction and non-fiction. Many book may be easily categorized in sections of a library or bookstore, but in Shields’ latest, “Reality Hunger: A Manifesto,” he pieces together quotes from a seemingly unending variety of sources, creating a whole new genre.

On Thursday, the Jack Ridl Visiting Writers Series welcomes Shields to Hope College. Author Chuck Klosterman tweeted: “[Shields’ new book] might be the most intense, thought-accelerating book of the last 10 years.” In a review of “Reality Hunger,” Author Sarah Manguso said, “it provides an exorcism for the exhaustion of our culture, and obsessed by real experience, hardly any, are taking larger and larger pieces of the real world and using them in their work.”

Shields’ 600 plus samples appeared in NaNoWriMo, and it’s finding itself to be very challenging with 50,000 words by Nov. 30, you might land you that date.

*The Secret Sisters: The Secret Sisters*

The Secret Sisters are sisters Karen and Tennessee Reign dressed in harmony. They’re not indie folk nor alt-country, but they’re close. Their debut album is a collection of covers of old American folk and country songs from a time before country was a radio format or folk was political commentary. Produced by legendary T Bone Burnett, the sisters sound like they could have come out of the 60s, but they sing the standards with a humble pep that feels modern. If indie country is a genre, The Secret Sisters define it, and it probably sounds exactly how you’d expect. Hint: There are slide guitars.

Thanks to WTHS music directors Paul Rice, Laura Helderop and Aaron Martin of these awesome album reviews. 

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**Novelist David Shields visits Hope Thursday**

*Julie Oosterink*

**Guest Writer**

David Shields

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76th Annual Nykerk Cup
The Anchor

You've got questions? We've got answers.

Meet Tony. Tony is a sophomore at Hope College. Tony lives in Wyckoff. Tony calls Hope College his home. Tony doesn't like to sleep with the dorm windows open. Sometimes Tony wears two different colored socks, but Tony doesn't care. What Tony does care about is his future. You see, Tony has already declared his major and knows what he wants to do in his life. Tony has one problem though: he doesn't know the next step he should take toward achieving his future career goals. We have one thing to help Tony, and that's Career Services.

Career Services helps students take the first or next step on their journey toward achieving their future goals. One specific part of Career Services is that it can help students find internships that relate to what they would like to do in their future. There are a few things students need to understand before they run into Career Services and ask for help:

1. Finding an internship is the student's responsibility.
2. The internship search is a process that takes time.
3. Career Services is here to help every step of the way in that process.

Take it from Hope College students who had the opportunity to get internships through Career Services:

“My internship was at the Naval Criminal Investigative Service in the Navy Yard in Washington, D.C., and I was an intern in the Biometrics and Forensics Department. My specific internship was exciting because I got to live in a huge city, which I had never done before, and I got to experience what it would be like to work at a full-time job. It was also very exciting to interact with the military, and see how the justice system worked for them, which I had never done before.” – Amanda Gernentz ('11)

“For me, it's hard to pick just one thing that was exciting about my internship. I guess it would have been the opportunity of meeting so many different talented musicians on a daily basis as they came into the recording studio. I left the internship with a better understanding of how a studio runs as well as gaining more knowledge on how to use Pro Tools and recording equipment in a professional studio located in a large city.” – Justin Ferens ('11) who was an intern at Cupit Music in Nashville.

“I went into the Home Depots and simply built camaraderie with employees. I got to know people and understand the way in which they go about their business. As long as you like what you are doing, any business... Just tell yourself this new experience is welcome. This is a stepping stone. This is a foot in the door. This is an opportunity. That's all it takes.” – Christopher Jackson ('11) was an intern with Universal Forest Products and traveled to different Home Depots from Ludington to Benton Harbor.

Shane Kwapis ('11) is an engineering major and chemistry minor. Kwapis interned at Optera as a screen durability tester and humidity and temperature experimenter. Kwapis also worked at Breitburn Co., as an engineering intern where he mostly worked independently. Some advice from Kwapis: “It’s never too early to look for to begin looking. Be willing to put yourself out there sooner rather than later.”

As a communication major and French minor, Lauren Bell ('11) had the opportunity to intern at Herman Miller last summer. Bell's participation on the Miller education team at Herman Miller allowed her to bring her college insight into specific projects. Bell's advice for students who are considering an internship: “Be sure you can commit the necessary time to the internship.” Bell added, “Don’t think you’ll succeed right away. Success takes time.”

Rebecca Currey ('11) had the privilege of working at Haworth Inc. as an architects and design marketing intern. Currey was a mediator between two venues: Haworth and the end-user of Haworth products. The work Currey did at her internship involved visualizing ways to present products for potential buyers. One of Currey's favorite parts of being an intern at Haworth Inc. was to see the full manufacturing process. Currey's words of advice for students are: “There are two ways to go about an Internship: complacency, where you do what they hand you, and being proactive, where you seek out projects and challenges. Don’t be afraid to ask for more and seek out opportunities. Be proactive.”

If you need help getting started, are unsure of what to do next, need help finding an internship or would like extra assistance deciding your career path, contact the Office of Career Services at careers@hope.edu, visit their website at hope.edu/student/career, or call 616.395.7950.

Alyssa Barigian
Features Co-Editor
Paradoxical perspectives

Karen Patterson
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Correlation does not equal causation

Fact: during the summer months, the number of people who eat ice cream increases. There is also an increase in the number of deaths that occur by drowning. But if you told the average person that eating ice cream will cause them to drown, they’d probably think you’re crazy. Similarly, it’s just as absurd to say that the annual result of one Hope College tradition is based on the outcome of another.

Let me say this loud and clear: The results of Nykerk are not dependent on the results of Pull. This has never been true, it was not true this year, and it will never be true. Why, you ask? Because the events are completely and entirely independent of one another.

I’m sure there are quite a few people rolling their eyes, but hear me out. Since the 1936 Pull (the year that Nykerk was started), the sophomores have won 52 times, the freshmen 19 times, there have been three cancellations and two draws. Nykerk did not start tracking the winner until recent years since the more competitive nature is a relatively recent phenomenon.

Nonetheless, I do not believe that the judges are consciously or sub-consciously aware of the results of Pull when judging Nykerk. I personally have not seen the judging sheets, but I am aware that a set point system exists for each event; also, each coach receives a copy of the Nykerk constitution, which outlines the criterion used to judge each event.

I also firmly believe there are two specific reasons that the results of Pull and Nykerk are so readily compared. First, both events involve even vs. odd; each group is comprised of under-classmen coached by upper-classmen. Second, the two events take place within four weeks of each other. If either competition took place during second semester or if Nykerk occurred before Pull, I’m willing to bet fewer comparisons would occur.

Claiming that even year won this year’s Nykerk because they lost Pull is as ridiculous as saying that odd year won Pull because Dance Marathon raised more money than Relay for Life. Pull and Nykerk are apples and bananas: related by nature, but sources of different types of sustenance.

I want to strongly encourage the student body to view each and every activity at this college as independent. I started hearing the, “Oh, they only won because they lost Pull,” line my sophomore year when the class of 2012 won Nykerk. Based on the last four years, it’s certainly easy to make a case for this, but I find it very hard to believe that there is a massive conspiracy theory going on.

And quite honestly it comes down to this: If each song girl, play girl and orator puts forth her absolute best effort on Nykerk night, why do we let ourselves be defined by which class wins? Why do we assume that the results are “rigged” to make one class feel good for losing an entirely separate event? I’ve always heard that Nykerk is about reaching beyond the constraints of even vs. odd.

As a campus, let’s rise above the urge to automatically associate the two events as one. Be proud of all the participants, the 300-some students involved in Nykerk gave one heck of a show on Saturday—hands down the best competition since my freshmen year. And next year when the class of 2015 arrives, let’s make sure they know that Pull and Nykerk are about so much more than winning or losing.

Karen would like to thank my friends on executive board for putting up with my constant questions about all things Nykerk throughout the last two years. Your patience is amazing.
I don’t like animals

I spent most of high school working in a pet store supply shop. When someone close to me would ask me if I worked at Pet Supplies Plus, they would usually scoff and say, “But you hate animals!” to which I would answer, “I don’t really understand why people would spend so much money on dog food or toys when humans were starving just around the block. Or why people would continue to feed their 16 barn cats while they were on food stamps. Customer after customer would ask me about my own pets, most of the people that worked in the store had their own personal ones. I would reply that my parents wouldn’t allow them. It didn’t bother me that I had to grin and bear it at the crazy, stinky cat people. I had to stifle a giggle when a woman asked if I’d like to see a picture of her son and pulled out a wallet-sized photo of her black lab. Why were animals so wonderful? Why were customers complaining about their dogs eating better than they do? Why did people think I was a vet? I tried and tried, but alas, I never understood. Until Ralphie.

I found him by chance on a local rescue’s website. My mom, sister and I rushed to the website. My mom, sister and I rushed to the website. My mom, sister and I rushed to the website. My mom, sister and I rushed to the website. Upon first meeting him, we instantly knew that we couldn’t leave him. He was sitting in his crate, thin as can be, with a sad little face that just ached for us. We held him and walked him and played with him, then took him home. We were now a family of five. My family hadn’t had a dog for a long time. The last dog we had died when we were in third grade. My dad wouldn’t let us have any more pets until my younger sister Candace got a fish a few years ago.

We rescued Ralphie in May. He was a 6-pound, 1-year-old miniature daschund that needed a lot of love. And he got it. Having four people dote on him day after day, Ralphie became a happy little dog, always giving kisses and wanting to play tug-of-war. After spending the summer training and playing with him, most of my interests were turned towards the owners cleared up. I now understood that a little breathing, furry four-legged creature could bring a personal joy that I’d never known even. Even though my friends started calling me a "crazy dog owner", I played mother to Ralphie not only because someone had literally thrown him away, but also because it made me happy.

When I came home in September after being at school for at least a month, Ralphie was the first to greet me, jumping up and down, licking my face and peeing a little in excitement. I cradled him like a baby and let him go to town. I missed it.

Mandela Mauny says that mom's stuffing at Thanksgiving dinner rocks her face off. She's also looking forward to the snow.

I've got grass stains on my jeans. There they are: muddy streams smeared across my knees. I know people don’t always notice them, and sometimes I even forget about them, but they are there. Those grass stains are a reminder of how difficult life can be, and of lying not in never falling, but in rising every time you fall. Those green stains on my jeans, rather than being an embarrassment, are a little inside joke that I'd never shared, failed, and once again, I'm failing. Many times I've failed, could indeed be a testament to the courage it takes to get back up and try again. My courage. Your courage. What is it in your life right now that you want more than ever? Jump out of your comfort zone to go for it, even if it means you’ll fail. When life trips us, we’ll still smart at all the too-familiar sting of falling. It’ll hurt, our pride will take a hit; but when we stand up again, it’s OK to be proud of those green stains that can’t be brushed off. It’s the reminder of what we’ve learned. When you step out and start walking again, walk proudly, and keep following your goals. Yes, you’ve fallen… but that was then. You won’t trip there again. And now the goal is closer than ever.

I'd like to point out that next month is Christmas. In light of that, she wants to be the first to wish you a “Merry Christmas!”

Quote for thought

Mandela says:

I've got grass stains on my jeans. There they are: muddy streams smeared across my knees. I know people don’t always notice them, and sometimes I even forget about them, but they are there. Those grass stains are a reminder of how difficult life can be, and of rising every time we fall. And now the goal is closer than ever. When you step out and start walking again, walk proudly, and keep following your goal. Yes, you've fallen… but that was then. You won't trip there again. And now the goal is closer than ever.

Joggin’ the globe

The abroad column

Katie Home is currently studying at the University of Auckland and going on lots of adventures, the most recent of which involved camping with sea lions and seeing penguins in the wild.

The “Lord of the Rings” movies are right: New Zealand is an amazingly beautiful country. There are spectacular mountain ranges, rolling green pastures and incredible coastline. People from all over the world travel here to experience these sights, and one of the coolest things about living and traveling in New Zealand is that I get to meet so many interesting and unique people and hear their stories.

Dutch people: A lot of people from the Netherlands travel here and at first I thought that being Dutch was something that I had in common with them, but turns out that’s not really how they see it. The first Dutch guy I met I excitedly told that I was from Holland, Michigan, in the USA. He looked at me like I was a weirdo. If I tell people where I am Dutch, they respond, “Umm no, what are you talking about? You’re American.”

Sandra and Ken: Halfway through the semester, the university has a two-week break. For part of this time I worked for room and board on a farm run by Sandra and Ken through an organization called wwoof (you should check it out). They live so far away from everything else that I had to get a ride with the mailman to get there, because he’s the only person with a reason to drive the distance. They mainly farm sheep, but also have cattle, chickens, geese, turkeys and a huge organic garden. From their house, there is an incredible view of the Tasman Sea crashing against the rugged coast. Sandra and Ken are so exceptional to me because they are so content with their simple life. While I was there, they spent every day working extremely hard; they had the most incredible relationship with the land that they lived on and farmed. They were also wonderful hosts, and when I was not needing avocados trees or shoeing manure, I was exploring nearby beaches or cooking a meal from fresh ingredients straight from the garden, or just chatting with them about life.

Hunters: Spending a couple of days over mid-term break with a couple of friends. We saw maybe four other people in a day, and grew used to being alone. We were about to cross a swing bridge crossing over a steep valley [like the kind you might see in an action movie set in the rainforest] when all of a sudden a huge dark figure emerged from the thick foliage leading down to the valley. First I thought it was a bear, but then I remembered that those don’t exist in New Zealand. Turns out it was a man who had just killed a boar and was carrying it on his back with its feet tied together like a backpack. He had been hunched over walking up the steepest hill so the boar’s head was the first thing we saw. After the initial shock of being meters away from a gigantic boar, we realized that these people who were out hunting live in this remote area and actually survive on whatever they grow or farm on their property and whatever they kill hunting. Crazy! I’ve grown to know people from all over the States, Argentina, the UK, Greece, Iceland, Chile, Germany, Denmark, the Pacific Islands, Japan, China, Malaysia and even a guy who works in Antarctica. Each person has a different perspective, each person has a different story.
High expectations for Hope women

James Nichols
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Losing a championship game is one of the hardest things to get past in sports. If you are coach Brian Morehouse and the Hope College women’s basketball team, not so much.

After losing by six points to Washington University (Mo.) in the Division III national championship, the Flying Dutch are looking forward to another great season. Ranked second in the nation going into the season, expectations for the team are inevitably high.

“Expectations can’t get much higher than the national championship game,” Morehouse said. “When you talk about expectations, it’s managing those expectations. We have a high pre-season ranking but we need to understand the marathon type of season we have.”

This season, the Hope roster is chock-full of returning letterwinners. Twelve out of the 15 roster spots are occupied by returning letterwinners.

“Most important is building stronger relationships with all the girls on the team,” co-captain Carrie Snikkers (‘11) said. “I have so much fun every season with the girls; it makes practice go by so much quicker. We have so many talented girls on the team that it is fun to learn from each other and become a solid team on and off the court.”

Co-captain Allie Cerone (‘11) echoed Snikkers’ thoughts saying, “I am most excited about the chance to play basketball with a team I love. I am looking forward to competing with each other every day to get better.”

Morehouse is entering his 15th season as the Flying Dutch’s head coach. He has led the team to 20 wins or more in 12 straight years and over the past five years has a record of 147-10. Part of Morehouse’s success as a coach comes from his R3 philosophy: respect yourself, respect others and be responsible for your actions.

“Not particularly, what we’ve been doing here has been working. There are just some subtle changes. I’m a big believer in the motion offense and so we’re trying hard to learn that. But no, I think our philosophy is pretty much the same. We want to be tough defensively and we want to push the basketball.”

When explaining the team’s goals for the season, Neil emphasized two aspects of the game, defense and rebounding, that would be essential for the team to focus on. Hope’s potential for an exceptional season is underscored by its inclusion in two Division III pre-season polls in which they are ranked 14th and 17th.

“We’re humbled to be ranked that high, that’s for sure, and we have high expectations and I think they’ll meet those,” Neil said. The Hope men have a highly experienced team, with no freshmen on the varsity lineup and 11 returning letter-winners. This level of experience will be necessary to survive a tough early season stretch of games. Seven of the first 11 contests for the men’s team will be on the road against quality opponents. Neil outlined the mentality that his players will be working with as they press through these early games.

“Every time we play we should be better than we were the time before, and we’re going to treat every single game like it’s an NCAA tournament game. We’re humbled to be ranked that high, that’s for sure, and we have high expectations and I think they’ll meet those,” Neil said. The Hope men have a highly experienced team, with no freshmen on the varsity lineup and 11 returning letter-winners. This level of experience will be necessary to survive a tough early season stretch of games. Seven of the first 11 contests for the men’s team will be on the road against quality opponents. Neil outlined the mentality that his players will be working with as they press through these early games.

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