Advent brings an attitude of service

Gretchen Baldwin
Socius Wens

Every Christmas, we are bombarded with advertisements, sales and opportunities to buy into the commercial Christmas. Many of us have grown to think that our Christian holiday has become commercial. We are also, however, bombarded with messages to turn away from these commercial Christmas and return to the true meaning of Christmas. Somewhere lost in translation are tangible opportunities for us to actually experience a loving, giving, Christian Christmas.

Luckily, for those of us who want to get involved in a more Christian Christmas, Hope College is bursting with volunteer opportunities, awareness events and ideas to make the holiday season less corporate.

As early as October, students were preparing for the Christmas season by participating in Operation Christmas Child. Hope’s Campus Ministry team distributed shoeboxes to be picked up at various campus locations. Participants then had until Nov. 19 to fill the boxes with small gifts like toys, hygiene items, school supplies and personal notes. The boxes were shipped by the parent organization Samaritan’s Purse to needy children around the world so that they would have an opportunity to experience Christmas for perhaps the first time in their lives.

The December 9, 2009 issue of The Anchor.

Faculty and administrators have taken action to promote constructive conversation about homosexuality since the controversy erupted surrounding the administration’s decision to not allow “Milk” screenwriter Dustin Lance Black to speak at a Sexuality Roundtable sponsored event.

A Nov. 24 faculty meeting was designed to discuss sexuality and recent campus events. Short presentations were made by President James Bultman, Provost James Boelkins and Professor Steven Hoogerwerf. Hoogerwerf provided an overview of the significant programming that has been done in recent years related to homosexuality. Provost Boelkins responded to questions submitted by members of the faculty followed by a period of interaction.

“...the purpose of the committee was to gain historical perspective on sexuality programming at Hope, to review the facts concerning the Black situation, and to make recommendations that will assist our community in working together when dealing with difficult issues,” said Boelkins. “The ad hoc committee consisted of 12 individuals: six from the faculty, four from Student Development and one from Campus Ministry; I chaired the group. Each member of the committee offered special competencies that would contribute to the current situation.” According to Boelkins, the following recommendations have been made to Bultman by the committee:

- Reappoint a Sexuality Programming Committee similar to the one that operated between 2001 and 2007.
- Change the new Programming Committee with designing appropriate programming on sexuality during the spring semester and beyond.
- Appoint a small group to outline a process for approving external speakers invited by students.

In addition, the ad hoc committee offered the following suggestions for dealing with the other topics discussed utilizing existing boards and committees:

- The Campus Life Board should address the future of the Sexuality Roundtable;
- The integration of sexuality education into curricular and extracurricular programming would be best addressed by the Academic Affairs Board and the Sexuality Programming Committee;
- The Sexual Harassment Policy Advocates should address how to make the campus a safer place for all; and,
- The Administrative Affairs Board should evaluate the need for a faculty/staff ombudsperson to address problems that may arise in the workplace related to sexual orientation.

The recommendations are pending approval by Bultman.

On Wednesday, Dec. 9, a group of students will meet at the DeWitt flagpole at 5:45 p.m. to hop on a bus and go caroling at senior citizen homes around Holland. If you can’t make it to this event, encourage your friends to gather a group together and contact a nursing home or hospital to go caroling or to bring cookies to residents.

Other Hope Christmas time events include 30-Hour Famine and Green Christmas. The 30-Hour Famine began Dec. 4. Those involved raised money and went without food from noon on Friday until 6 p.m. on Saturday in order to remind themselves of the needs of the hungry around the world. Green Christmas is being supported by Hope’s environmental group. Keep your eyes open: for recycled signs around campus with suggestions for how to make this Christmas a green initiative.

Most of all, however, our attitudes are what will affect how Christmas is presented in our culture. Reclaim a Christian Christmas by participating in service events like these as well as simply by seeking meaning in our holiday and refocusing our attention. Celebrating Christmas in a Christian way doesn’t have to mean throwing all of our modern traditions out the window, but it does mean keeping our hearts in the right place as we celebrate.
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In addition to the faculty meeting, there have been hundreds of recommendations that will assist our community in working together when dealing with difficult issues;
* The November faculty meeting was a chance for professors to learn the details that went into the administration's decision regarding Dustin Black ...
* The meeting was a model for civil discourses and showed that people with various viewpoints can disagree in a respectful way.
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"The November faculty meeting was a chance for professors to learn the details that went into the administration's decision regarding Dustin Black ... The meeting was a model for civil discourses and showed that people with various viewpoints can disagree in a respectful way," said psychology professor and faculty meeting moderator Scott VanderStoep. "I walked away from the meeting proud to be a Hope faculty member." In addition to the faculty meeting, an ad hoc study committee meeting was formed and met several times during November.

"The purpose of the committee was to gain historical perspective on sexuality programming at Hope, to review the facts concerning the Black situation, and to make recommendations that will assist our community in working together when dealing with difficult issues," said Boelkins. "The ad hoc committee consisted of 12 individuals: six from the faculty, four from Student Development and one from Campus Ministry; I chaired the group. Each member of the committee offered special competencies that would contribute to the current situation." According to Boelkins, the following recommendations have been made by Bultman to the committee:
* Reappoint a Sexuality Programming Committee similar to the one that operated between 2001 and 2007;
* Charge the new Program Committee with designing sexual orientation.

The off-campus event is sponsored by Hope is Ready. Tickets for both showings are sold out, but the organization is holding a second showing on Friday, Dec. 4, at the Park Theater on Thursday Dec. 3.

Black is flying from New York City specifically for this event. The off-campus event is sponsored by Hope is Ready. Tickets are sold out, but the organization is considering holding a second showing on Friday as there have been hundreds of requests for tickets.

For more information, email hope.is.ready@gmail.com.

OH BRING ME SOME STICKY PUDDING— The Christmas tree in Dimnent Chapel dazzles as classes wind down before winter break.

Black to speak in Holland

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What's Inside

National 3 Voices 6
Arts 4 Sports 8

Get a story idea? Let us know at anchor@hope.edu, or call us at 395-7877.
**Does Jesus Have Blue Eyes**

Minister shares passion for Native American worship

**Alyssa Bariligan  Staff Writer**

On Nov. 24, Michael Peters, an ordained third generation minister and executive director of Sabaoth Ministries in Grand Rapids, gave a talk titled, “Does Jesus Have Blue Eyes?”

Surrounded by a plethora of students, faculty and community members, Peters began his presentation. Not only was he on fire for the topic of Native American Christianity, he was captivating with his actions and words.

Peters had a passion to minister to Native American people. It was this passion that led him to direct a Native American program. That called him to go to different reservations and help those who were hopeless and in disgrace.

Peters said, “They don’t need my jobs; they don’t need any more government money; they need you.” His passion to help other Native Americans reaches far beyond the reservations.

Peters’ intent in coming to Hope College was to educate all who would listen. Native American Christians’ style of worship may be different than the “typical” style of worship, yet they still worship the same God.

To Native Americans, it is not about the structured form of worship or traditional message spoken. It is about the sounds that are made with the Native American instruments such as the drum and flute as well as the worship based on cultural practices. Worship is meant to honor the Native American culture and Creator God.

“I liked it because it was completely different. He brought culture into his religion, and how he would worship. Native American Christians’ style of worship may be different than the “typical” style of worship, yet they still worship the same God.

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“I liked it because it was completely different. He brought culture into his religion, and the way he worships God is different from the way I worship God,” said Brenda Cuellar (’13).

The services that Peters leads are not as structured as one would like to believe. There is no church or membership, there are no pews, and there are no men in suits. The services are a way to redeem the Native American culture through the “smoking of prayers” (burning of incense) and “worshiping through the use of the drum.” It is these practices that make the Native American style of worship unique.

Peters believes that Christians are all alike no matter what form of worship they practice.

Remarking on the presentation, Farah Ahmad (’11) stated, “I thought it was really good. It was really interesting to see the Native American view of Christanity.”

**Students and faculty end semester with prayer vigil**

Prayer stations available in Graves Hall’s Schoon Chapel for 12:12 Prayer

**Erika Terlouw  Staff Writer**

On Dec. 2 campus ministries invited students and faculty to join the campus in prayer.

As the campus has been going through the book of Genesis, there are several examples of people approaching God in prayer. Chaplain Paul Rosema recently gave the example of Abraham pleading before God.

Similarly, the Hope College campus will be given the opportunity to approach God in prayer the week of Dec. 7-11 in Schoon Chapel located in Graves Hall.

The vigil is being called 12:12 which originates from Romans 12:12, which states, “Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, and faithful in prayer.”

The goal is to have a week dedicated to prayer Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. Students and faculty interested are invited to sign up for half-hour time slots online at KnowHope. Regardless of whether your name is on the sign-up sheet, the community may go to the basement of Graves in the Schoon Chapel to pray.

In the newly restored Graves Hall, the prayer room is set up with many different stations. There are a total of eight different areas set aside to help facilitate prayer. These include: praying for nations, praying for the lost, praying for the fear of the Lord, praying through art, praying through nature, praying through adoration and confession and writing prayers on scripture on the walls. Each facet can help teach those interested how to pray and a few ways to pray for.

Hope College is not alone in this effort to make prayer a priority on campus. Inspiration for the prayer room originates from the book “Red Moon Rising.” In addition, numerous colleges across the nation have rooms which are set aside for prayer.

In an effort to prepare for the opening of the 12:12 prayer room, a prayer seminar was held Dec. 3 in Graves auditorium.

Three different speakers were present: William Brownson, Yui Hamada, and Brett Newendorp. Each speaker shared about their own lives and how prayer has impacted them in the past.

As the semester draws to a close students and faculty are invited to spend some time in prayer and seeking the Lord for our campus. The 12:12 Prayer room has intentions of continuing through next semester as well. So let us finish out the semester well and “work out our salvation with fear and trembling” (Philippians 2:12).
December 9, 2009
NATIONAL

30,000 more troops to Afghanistan

President Obama presents a new strategy for Afghan war

Glen Schubert
Guest Writer

President Barack Obama, in an address to West Point Military Academy cadets on Dec. 1, outlined his long-awaited foreign policy decision regarding the future of the U.S. war in Afghanistan.

The two major policy decisions announced by the president were the addition of 30,000 American troops to the Afghan theater, along with the setting of a withdrawal date in July of 2011. Obama also reiterated the goal of war in Afghanistan, which he stated was to “disrupt, dismantle, and defeat al-Qaeda in Afghanistan and Pakistan and to prevent its capacity to threaten America and our allies in the future.”

Obama also stated in his speech that, “I make this decision because I am convinced that our security is at stake in Afghanistan and Pakistan. This is the epicenter of the violent extremists practiced by al-Qaeda if I didn’t think that the security of the United States and the safety of the American people were at stake in Afghanistan, I would gladly order every single one of our troops home tomorrow.”

The response has varied, especially across the political aisle.

A number of Republicans offer support for the addition of troops but are wary about the set timeline. Many Democrats are pleased with the withdrawal date, but unconvinced that more troops should be sent to Afghanistan. Senator John McCain, R-Ariz., speaking for many Republicans, said that although he supports the addition of troops in a mini-surge, “A withdrawal date only emboldens al-Qaeda and the Taliban, while dispiriting our Afghan partners and making it less likely that they will risk their lives to take our side in the fight.”

John Kerry, D-Mass., the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, supported the goals of the president, especially the date for withdrawal. He said, “I believe the president’s decision is a narrower mission tonight, not an open-ended nation-building exercise.”

The foreign response from NATO allies was positive, with countries including Great Britain and Germany pledging to send more combat soldiers to Afghanistan in support of the United States. The Taliban also responded to Obama’s decision, but in a far more negative manner. A spokesman for the Talibam said, “Obama is sending more troops to Afghanistan and that means more Americans will die.”

Another Taliban official added, “Obama will witness lots of coffins heading to America from Afghanistan.”

Hope College political science professor Jack Holmes said, in regard to Obama’s speech: “I like the idea of sending more troops. I am not convinced in a military position that you can offer a firm withdrawal date on it. It think it makes more sense to aim for a specific position itself as an international financial and trading center within today’s global economy. In my opinion, this looks like all Dublin built an ultra-modern image with luxury hotels and resorts, high-profile sporting events, flourishing business and some of the most innovative real estate development in the world. Dublin is really high-scale luxury that was being built, the global economic crisis breached the country’s economy, and boom into a bust, resulting in thousands of unemployed. Worried entrepreneurs fled Dublin in a frenzy, leaving over 5,000 luxury cars abandoned at the airport.

With this global economic crisis infiltrating into the emirate of Dubai, the deepest hurt has been felt within the real estate sector. The largest company in the real estate market and in other various areas has given Dubai an estimated total debt of $80 billion, with almost 75 percent ($60 billion) of the debt being owed by Dubai World and Nakheel, its subsidiary property developer.

Dubai economic crisis shakes global markets

Amy Alvine
Guest Writer

On Dec. 1, the central bank of the United Arab Emirates decided to intervene in the Dubai debt crisis, in response to the deepening financial crash in Dubai (one of the seven emirates comprising the United Arab Emirates). The Abu Dhabi-based bank has offered to provide additional liquidity to all local and international banks in Dubai.

The tiny Persian Gulf emirate of Dubai has been suffering severely from the economic downturn, as the global economic crisis is exacerbating Dubai’s problems. It has also faced a recent economic recession, as it is challenging in an interview with former broker and options trader Max Keiser, Keiser was asked about how Dubai’s debt could damage the price of the U.S. dollar and affect the price of oil. Keiser responded, “We are currently seeing the dollar and some profit being taken in the gold market with gold and the dollar being traded on an inverse basis.”

Due to this analysis, some economists see that, at the moment, the dollar reaction rally does not seem to have enough power behind it. The result is that the U.S. dollar is not the preferred currency that it has been in the past. Currently, as the U.S. dollar continues to fail to break through to an in-term high, more central governments are beginning to question whether or not to replace the US dollar as a global reserve currency.

Copenhagen hosts UN Climate Change Conference

Cory Lakatos
Staff Writer

Monday, Dec. 7, marked the beginning of the two-week long United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, hosted by the Danish capital Copenhagen.

A number of world leaders are in attendance, including Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao and Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. President Obama will attend Dec. 18. The White House said Obama believed “that continued U.S. leadership can be measured by his participation at the end of the Copenhagen conference.”

Mr. Obama’s own convention’s executive secretary, has identified four essential questions that need to be answered in Copenhagen:

1. Will the United States be the industrialized countries willing to reduce their emissions of greenhouse gases?
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**Life In Technicolor:** Class’s journey through memoir writing with Dr. Trembley

**Elena Rivera**

Guest Writer

“It’s a little scary to have people read what you write — that’s how it is with any kind of creative writing, but memoir especially. It’s so personal, because it’s about you. You really put yourself out there when you write memoir,” said Kate Schrampfer ('10), a member of Dr. Elizabeth Trembley’s English class on memoir course. The work the students put into the class culminated in the stage production of FML — Fracture My Life.

The show took place on Dec. 9 at 7 p.m. on the DeVitt mainstage and is directed by Michelle Bombe, chair woman of the theater department. The script itself was chosen and edited by the class, and all students had work included; some were in various pieces throughout the performance, and some are in large, full pieces.

Amanda Karby ('11) said, “We came up with the title FML — Fracture My Life for the performance because not only do we think it’s a humorous pun — Fracture My Life. It’s a little scary (having personal memoirs read and acted out in front of an audience) but I think, as a whole, the script is really beautiful, and there is a lot of honesty, and I am glad I get to be a part of it all.” Luciana VanDort ('10) was a little nervous, but is “so happy that our stuff will be heard.”

Memoir writing takes a different kind of storytelling. Writing poetry or short stories, Jara said, “is a creative writer, I’m really interested in the relatively new genre creative non-fiction and memoir is really a strain of that. It’s really a challenge to draw from my own experiences and to write towards finding some kind of meaning in those experiences. And also, in that process, find something that is more than just therapeutic for me, to find the way to share that journey with someone else through words.”

VanDort spoke of the therapeutic power of writing memoir: “Through memoir and waiting for those memories to pop into my head, I have discovered that there are a lot of stories inside of me that I don’t let myself think about. Memoir has helped me deal with some of the more difficult memories that I don’t even know where to start processing. It’s a constructive way to heal.”

Similarly, Jara said, “Writing memoir is an incredibly freeing experience. In trying to make sad stories accessible, I found humor, and in humorous stories, I found deeper meaning. It’s like peeling away layers, there is always more there and sometimes you don’t see it until the retelling. I hope that in hearing our stories, people will find meaning in our own stories and maybe feel a connection to us through our stories.”

The tight-knit class’s experience can be nicely summed up by Jara: “One of the most beautiful things about memoir is that it forces people to be honest and to reveal themselves. I feel honored to have been given the opportunity to be a part of such an amazing group of writers and to be able to share my life with them and to have them share their lives with me.”

It seems like the effects of Trembley’s memoir class won’t be forgotten, living on in the hearts of this modern-day Dead Poets Society.

O Captain! My Captain! Our fearful trip is done;

The ship has weather’d every rack, the prize we sought is won…

Walt Whitman, “O Captain! My Captain!”

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**‘Rabbit Hole’: Play balances life’s harsh realities with refreshing humor**

**Catlin Seay**

Staff Writer

Love. Conflict. Loss. All the best qualities of a good drama are a part of Hope College’s newest show, “Rabbit Hole.” Winner of the 2007 Pulitzer Prize, “Rabbit Hole” balances the harsh realities of life with a refreshing humor. Writer David Lindsay-Abaire’s play is a contemporary and fresh — funny and smart — it’s how people really speak, and that makes the play really relatable,” said actress Brittany Stock ('11). The show is touching and thought-provoking.

“Rabbit Hole” follows a couple, Howie and Becca, who are after an accident changes their lives permanently.

The two cope with loss in very different ways, which causes their marriage to begin to fray around the edges. The grief and frustration of their situation is something that anyone who has ever lost a loved one can relate to. The play’s plot is rich with tension and conflict that will keep the audience craving more.

The show features senior Alex Martin as Howie, senior Brittany Stock as Becca, sophomore Rachel Parada as Nat, freshman Ryan Phillips as Jason, and junior Jackie Richards as Amy.

Besides the sterling talent of Hope students, the show also features the work of guest scenic and properties designer Daniel Stratton, who recently graduated from Northwestern University’s graduate stage design program. The Studio Theatre in Dewitt where the show is performed is a relatively small space. We’re in such a small space, that we had to push off into the audience, and the difficulty of finding room for the audience,” said Stratton, “That was kind of a trick, but we landed on it.”

Stratton has created a set that really complements the themes of the show. Just as the show is dealing with life loss, Stratton has created “this really beige neutral world, it’s like the life has been sucked out of it.”

Also working on the show is director Daina Robins of Hope’s theatre program. Robins has most recently directed the shows “Big Love” and “1940’s Radio Hour.” Stratton found that “Working with Daina is awesome — she’s really devoted to (the play) and it’s nice to work with a director who’s got a strong investment in a piece.” Hope and the Holland area seem to have had an impact on Stratton, who said, “People are extremely generous and kind here,” and “I’ve been really impressed with this school.”

Performances are scheduled Wednesday through Saturday, December 9 through 12, all with an 8 p.m. curtain in the DeVitt Center studio theatre. There will also be talk-backs with various Hope faculty members following each performance.

Tickets for “Rabbit Hole” are $7 for regular admission, $5 for Hope faculty and staff and $4 for students and senior citizens. They are available at the Hope College ticket office located in the main lobby of the DeVitt Fieldhouse, which is open weekdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. In addition, the theatre lobby ticket office in the DeVitt Center will be open on performance nights at 7 p.m. The ticket office may be contacted at (616) 395-7890.

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**GREEVING FOR THE BETTER GOOD — Jackie Richards, Brittany Stock (above), and Alex Martin and Brittany Stock (below) share their methods of mourning with the audience.**

**Photo by Michelle Bombe**

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**Hope College Discount**

SOHO wants you to have the best experience possible and take advantage of our new training services or come in and use our WiFi and take a second for you!

**Girls Cuts $25.00-$45.00**

**Guys Cuts $20.00**

419 S. 8th Street 816.396.8001 (Just East of DeVos Fieldhouse)**

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**DEC. 9, 2009**

**ARTS**

**THE ANCHOR**
WHEN FINALS FIGHT BACK

Finals are nearly here. Profs have been training for next week all semester. They aren’t putting up with sub-superior grades any longer; they’ve come to wipe your GPA clean.

You’re shaking in your Uggs. They’ve scared all those no-shave-November hair remnants completely off your face.

They’re prepared to win … but it will not be this day! This day, WE FIGHT! Put on your armor. Our time is now.

How should you equip yourself, you ask? Simple.

Take a look at the four categories of your life that you must nourish and keep strong!

STAY HEALTHY
To do well on exams, you’ll need to be sure your mind is working correctly. This is really a no-brainer. Don’t overload on sweets, but make sure you’re getting the recommended amount of grain, vegetables and fruit.

Thinking about pulling an all-nighter? Don’t. It can severely mess with your sleeping habits; instead, set a stopping point for the night and be sure to get your seven to nine hours of sleep.

Also, don’t forget to exercise! Not only does it promote better sleep, but it also improves your mood and boosts your energy level.

BE SMART
Finals week isn’t officially for five days. GET AHEAD (if you can)! Prioritize, find out which exams are when (if you haven’t already) and start locating all the study materials you’re going to need.

But here’s the kicker — be sure to limit yourself! Give yourself a 10-minute break after every two hours, if not sooner, of studying. Rest your brain, so it’ll be ready to store even more (useless?) facts.

TAKE TIME FOR FRIENDS
Don’t become a hermit. Make sure you’re still talking to the outside world (no, Facebook chat does not count). If you don’t have time to go out with your friends then start a study group! Get a group together and head to JPs or the international lounge.

If you’re going to be miserable fighting for sanity amidst all these exams, at least you’ll be together (to complain AND encourage)! And, since you still need to eat … make a dinner date! Don’t forget the asparagus!

NOURISH YOUR SOUL
We are physical and relational beings, but don’t forget that we’re also spiritual beings. If you’ve found yourself sinking amidst others during the final(s) battle, you can always pray or meet with someone from Campus Ministries or the Counseling Center.

Campus Ministries is located across from Lubbers on 10th Street; the Counseling Center is located in Student Development in DeWitt.

Graphics by Emily Dammer
The holidays: a time for change?

The holidays are a wonderful time of the year. There's just something about Thanksgiving and Christmas that brings people together and makes everything seem just a little warmer and cheerier. Perhaps it's the way Christmas lights twinkle against a blanket of pure, white snow, or maybe it's the soothing effects of listening to Christmas carols while sipping hot cocoa under a blanket.

Regardless, there is something special about this time of the year.

However, the holidays can also be a time when changes in family dynamics become glaringly obvious. For those who have experienced change, Thanksgiving and Christmas can be the most difficult time of the year as families navigate uncharted waters. For many, this is the first holiday season in which a family member is no longer present. She and her brother are particularly close, and I know that even though she can look forward to spending Christmas with him and her sister-in-law, it is difficult for her to imagine Christmas without her brother.

And while this all may seem rather negative and gloomy, I wish to find the light and cheer — this is Christmas that will be the one you remember the best. Perhaps it's the way Christmas lights seem just a little warmer and cheerier. Last week, as I left Van Wylen with a stack of books for an art history research paper, I caught a glimpse of myself in a mirror. Nothing much extraordinary: a student in a green jacket leaves a library with a pile of books. But the books! Suddenly, I realized that such a sight is globally, a rarity. Who in the world has the luxury of studying for fun? Who says, “Yes, I think I’ll spend my afternoon researching the Dada movement.” I get the pleasure of becoming a minor expert on Dada. As I pondered this, I recognized how much of my life is a luxury. At Thanksgiving, I didn’t think twice about traveling home. I had no potentially fatal journey through enemy territory or over a minefield to fear. Not only did I have the option to travel, but I was able to choose my mode of transportation — car or train — a decision limited only by how much I cared to spend.

And I'm considering seminary next year; that I even have the option puts me in the 1 percent of people worldwide who have a college degree (or who will have one by May, anyway). On Maslow’s hierarchy, I’ve roasted vegetables for lunch, I’ve paid my rent and the heat’s still on! I’ve had coffee with a friend and now I can move on to determining whether or not seminary is “right for me.” But still — my basic needs are satisfied and I get to make choices. Historically, and today worldwide, a person's family occupation has determined the role that well. I believe that my professors are teaching me to think more carefully about the world and about my role in it. Art history not only exposes me to significant artistic movements, but it also teaches me to read both visual and verbal texts, a skill that proves its worth when I am able to perceive the truth in a newspaper article. And if I don’t pay attention in global politics, I might ignorantly support companies with irresponsible business practices and contribute to the system that prevents Jamaican fathers from providing for their families and Malawian mothers from obtaining enough maize to feed their children.

So we need to go to class. We need to pay attention. We must learn. We must also be aware of our utter privilege, but we shouldn't forsake that privilege hastily: that not everyone can attend college doesn’t imply that no one should. Instead, we must take what we've learned, consider it and live our lives with intention.

Having finished her paper on Dada, Grace is dreaming of baking a batch of ginger cookies and cutting out paper snowflakes. She says, “Of course, I hope my motivation is pure than that, I hope I’m listening carefully to hear God’s call to seminary. But still — my basic needs are satisfied and I get to make choices. Historically, and today worldwide, a person’s family occupation has determined the role that well. I believe that my professors are teaching me to think more carefully about the world and about my role in it. Art history not only exposes me to significant artistic movements, but it also teaches me to read both visual and verbal texts, a skill that proves its worth when I am able to perceive the truth in a newspaper article. And if I don’t pay attention in global politics, I might ignorantly support companies with irresponsible business practices and contribute to the system that prevents Jamaican fathers from providing for their families and Malawian mothers from obtaining enough maize to feed their children.”

JOIN US FOR OUR SUNDAY MEETINGS!

Where: Anchor Office Martha Miller 1st Floor
When: Sundays 6 - 7 p.m.
Robert Guimond married this summer and she expressed home that she is supposed to be able to the good times we've had. with what's happened and figure out the family, a divorce or even a marriage, it be the last, to undergo change at the season was going to be.

I realized how different this holiday as well have been a week since my family exchanged and quality family time was and Grandpa Patterson's house, where and Christmas brunch at Grandma and dinges that caused us to dread the but for the first time in my life, my family have experienced change, Thanksgiving become glaringly obvious. For those who and I get to make choices. Historically, But still — my basic needs are satisfied though she can look forward to spending though I cared to spend. — car or train — a decision limited only to choose my mode of transportation Thanksgiving, I didn't think twice about it. As the saying goes, "there's water of changing family dynamics situation — navigating the unchartered neither run from change nor stop it year I have been reminded more than Thanksgiving from now on without her. The holidays are a wonderful time of the year. There's just something about Thanksgiving and Christmas that brings people together and makes everything seem just a little warmer and cheerier. Perhaps it's the way Christmas lights twinkle against a blanket of pure, white snow, or maybe it's the soothing effects of listening to Christmas carols while sipping hot cocoa under a blanket. Regardless, there's something special about this time of the year.

However, the holidays can also be a time when changes in family dynamics become glaringly obvious. For those who have experienced change, Thanksgiving and Christmas are about how we're walking across a bed of nails in sub-zero temperatures barefoot. Maybe that's a bit of an exaggeration, but for the first time in my life, my family experienced a serious shift in the family dynamics that caused us to dread the holidays. For over 25 years, the Patterson family celebrated Thanksgiving dinner and Christmas brunch at Grandma and Grandpa Patterson's house, where delicious food was served, gifts were exchanged and quality family time was spent. This year the house that served as the vessel of many fond memories stands empty and is for sale.

Though it's been nearly a year since the passing of my grandparents, it may as well have been a week since my family realized how different this holiday season was going to be.

My family is not the first, nor will we be the last, to undergo changes at the holidays, though. Whether it's death in the family, a divorce or even a marriage, the holidays are a time when we grapple with what's happened and figure out how to move forward without forgetting the good times we've had. The holidays are a time when those parents are in the midst of a divorce. For her, the home that she is supposed to be able to flee to for comfort lacks the stability that she needs in this difficult time. Another friend's older brother got married this summer and she expressed to me how empty the table felt at Thanksgiving without his boisterous presence. She and her brother are particularly close, and I know that even though she can look forward to spending Christmas with him and her sister-in-law, it is difficult for her to imagine Thanksgiving from now on without her brother.

And while this all may seem rather negative and gloomy, I wish to find the light and cheer — this is Christmas that change is a natural part of life, and in the last year I have been reminded more than in any other time in my life that I can neither run from change nor stop it from occurring.

If you find yourself in a similar situation — navigating the unchartered waters of changing family dynamics at the holidays — I encourage you to embrace the change rather than run from it. As the saying goes, "there's no time like the present," and let's be honest, what do you really have to lose from allowing yourself to be stretched? At the worst you might cry a little and miss the ways things used to be.

The Christmas season is one of my favorite times of the year. The only thing that I love more than those gorgeous spring days when the sun beats down and finally warms you to the core, but I digress. This Christmas season is a reminder for my family of what we have gained and what we have lost.

Do you miss your grandparents? Yes, every single day. But rather than choosing to pity ourselves, we've bonded together to rejoice in my cousin's recent engagement to a wonderful man as well as the other good things that have happened in our lives.

This Christmas I hope that you choose to do the same. Find the bright spot in what may be a bleak situation. And who knows, maybe this Christmas will be the one you remember the best.

Karen wants a pony for Christmas, a snazzy summer internship, and maybe a European country while we're at it...
Before we begin, let’s get a small piece of business out of the way: I am a nerd. When I finished the Harry Potter books, I ran around the house in my PJs shouting spells with my toothbrush. There’s just something about a good book or film that gets me acting crazy. “Braveheart” is my favorite movie of all time. When my brothers and I used to watch it, we’d barely make it halfway through before we had to run outside or set up a wrestling match in the living room. Maybe it’s because I’m a nerd, or maybe it has something to do with being a boy — all I know is that I get pumped and can’t sit still whenever something epic is going on around me.

The thing about good books and movies is that the characters are caught up in something great, something epic. Sometimes bigger than themselves. Not only this, but people like Harry Potter and William Wallace have big parts to play. Their actions will change the lives of many. They are powerful.

As a kid, I was pretty disappointed when I realized that real life moves a good deal slower than the movies. When you close the book or turn off the TV, you find that everything goes on much as you expected. Important, but not so important, and if we have a role to play in anything, it’s a minor one. The things we do don’t really make much of a difference. We, unlike the characters we love, are not powerful.

And then something happens that gives us all a shake. You find a friend in tears, or hear about a kid back home who committed suicide. In times like these the veil is lifted, and we see for just a split second that something bigger is going on. And guess what? Our role is no minor one.

This summer I got to see firsthand the immense power of human beings. I got to see how a few words from a sixth grader can change a life forever. As a camp counselor, I talked to camper after camper who had been hurt — seriously wounded — by the words of another. I remember one kid named Alex who burst into tears as we went for a walk. “Is it wrong to hate somebody?” he asked. He then told me about a kid in his gym class who makes fun of his height and calls him names everyday, and how it had really changed the way Alex acted in class. “I used to like school,” he confided. “Now I just keep quiet hoping not to be noticed.”

We are powerful. Seriously powerful. As C.S. Lewis put it, “There are no ordinary people. You have never talked to a mere mortal. Nations, cultures, arts, civilizations—these are mortal, and their life is to ours as the life of a gnat. But it is immortals that we joke with, work with, marry, snub, and exploit—immortal horrors or everlasting splendors.”

But here’s the cool thing: our words can also impart life. This very minute you can use your words to positively impact somebody’s life forever. That’s why the Bible has so much to say about encouraging one another — it’s a big deal. Proverbs 18:21 says, “The tongue has the power of life and death.” So what’s it going to be?

Bryant enjoys reading Narnia aloud with his glorious friends.

To the Editors:

To those of you who, when confronted with your opinions on homosexuality, delve into the Bible looking for words like “abomination” and “sinful” I have a question for you: Aren’t there better, more productive, loving ways we could spend our time? Is nit-picking for words like “abomination” and “sinful” the best course of loving ways we could spend our time? Is nit-pickinging for words like “abomination” and “sinful” I have a
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Basketball teams approach conference play

**Kael Kust**

Swoon by: James Nichols

Both the men’s and women’s basketball teams are off to very promising starts for the season. The women remain undefeated, and the men have already beaten their biggest rival, along with the number six nationally ranked team.

Over Thanksgiving break, in the 173rd meeting between Hope and Calvin, the Flying Dutchmen came out with a win. The game had an unusual ending. After Calvin rallied from a 16-point deficit, the score was tied at 70 with 2:17 left in the game. At 1:53, Chris Nelis (’10) hit a three to break the tie, and then free throws gave Hope the 77-70 lead with 20 seconds remaining. Calvin, again managed to battle back and brought the game within three points with 2.5 seconds remaining. Hope rebounded the ball, but it was stolen by the Knights, who, with a buzzer shot from the corner, seemed to tie the score. However, the Calvin bench had called for a timeout when the inbound pass was stolen, and therefore the officials waved off the three-pointer and put one second back on the clock. The Knights missed the three-point attempt to tie the game, and Hope took the win. The Flying Dutchmen now have a three-game advantage in the all-time series.

Following the victory over Calvin, Hope earned another significant win Friday night by defeating previously unbeaten and nationally ranked Wheaton 77-52. Each Hope player got in the game, with 12 players making it into the scoreboard.

Will Bowser (’11) led the team with 15 points, followed by freshman Jared Mydlowiec with 13. Senior Chris Nelis added 10 points, along with team-high rebounds. David Krombene (’12) led the team with five assists, and freshman Nate Snuggerud added three blocked shots, while junior Peter Bunn had three steals.

The Flying Dutchmen led by as many as 29 points and also outrebounded Wheaton 45-27. Hope shot a season-best 55 percent (29/53), including 9-for-13 from the three-point range. The men’s team will expect continued success, and according to Snuggerud, the Wheaton game was a big test for that.

“We are expecting a lot of things out of this team,” he said. “We proved with a win over Wheaton that nothing is out of our reach.”

**Flying Dutch Undefeated**

The women’s team continues their undefeated season (5-0) with a number one national ranking according to USA Today/ESPN. The Flying Dutch’s upcoming games include Trine and Olivet, followed by the Hope Classic Tournament, in which they will face Finlandia the first night, and then the winner of Lake Forest vs. Chicago the next night.

According to junior Erika Bruinaisma, the women expect for this success to continue.

“We look at the season as a marathon rather than a sprint,” she said. “We have a very good team that gets along well, so we expect more success during the rest of the season.”

In the game considered Hope’s first major test of the season, against Aquinas, the women set a fieldhouse record of 54 points scored in the first half. Junior Carrie Snikkers recorded her 13th career double-double, and a total of 14 players scored while 15 grabbed at least one rebound. “The past few games have been good,” Snikkers said. “Our team has slowly started to become more confident and we are all starting to figure out how to relax and play.”

**James Nichols**

Wuhan by: James Nichols

Hope College versus Calvin College is a big deal no matter what sport the two compete in. Though the men’s basketball rivalry is the game most likely to come to mind due to the amount of publicity it receives, hockey games between Hope and Calvin are just as intense. Even though this game may have the most bragging rights on the line, the opponent doesn’t alter the team’s preparation.

“The team must prepare the same as we do every week,” coach Chris Van Timmeren said. “We look at them as just another pair of games.”

While the outcome of these games may mean more to the student bodies of Hope and Calvin, the team is ultimately more concerned with the outcome than the opponent.

“For us, a win is a win,” Van Timmeren said. “Sure, a win over Calvin might mean a little more, but only for bragging rights.”

Hope freshmen were the story of the evening on Friday when the Flying Dutchmen soared past the Knights, 4-2.

Justin Johnson (’13) scored three goals, giving him a hat trick and contributing significantly to Hope’s win. Anthony Gasparotto (’13) and Court Fall (’13) both had two assists on the night, bringing the point total from all three players to 38 after Friday’s game.

Though Hope was able to leave Grand Rapids with a win added to their record Friday, there were some major differences between playing at the Jolly Roger Rink, Calvin’s home arena, compared to other arenas the team has played in.

“Play at Jolly is a throwback to the past,” Van Timmeren said. “The boards are made of wood so they don’t have the bounce.”

Traditionally, the ice at Jolly Roger is soft, which causes the rink to fog up as the game goes on. Van Timmeren said the team effectively dealt with this situation even though it may have played a role in the outcome of the game.

“It was a factor but we adjusted well,” Van Timmeren said.

**Game Two**

Saturday night’s game remained uneventful for the first 32 minutes and 26 seconds of play. At that point, Fall broke the silence on the scoreboard and gave Hope a 1-0 lead.

Jake Green (’13) followed up with a second goal a few minutes later assisted by Brett Kopinski (’11) and Matt Schrader (’10). Sean LaDouce (’13) stopped everything the Knights threw at him, 21 shots in all, to record his third shutout of the season and ensure a Flying Dutchmen victory.

“Sean was a wall tonight,” Van Timmeren said. “He saw the puck well and reacted to everything they threw at him.”

**Heartbreaker— David Krombene (’12) takes the ball to the basket in Hope’s overtime loss to Carthage on Saturday.**

**In Brief**

**SWIM TEAMS COMPETE AT WHEATON**

The men’s and women’s swim teams traveled to Wheaton College over the weekend for the Wheaton Invitational. The men’s team took first place out of six teams at the meet with 907 points, while the women finished in third out of seven teams with 701 points, a mere nine points behind Wheaton.

**MIAA PLAYERS OF THE WEEK**

Women’s Basketball

Carrie Snikkers (’11)

Center

DEVETTE REMEMBERED

Hope College alumnus, coach, and teacher Russ B. DeVette passed away on Nov. 23 after a lifetime illness. A memorial service was held in his honor on Dec. 4. As a standout athlete, DeVette was a member of the first MIAA Most Valuable Player in men’s basketball. DeVette coached various Hope football, baseball, men’s basketball, and women’s track teams to a combined 14 MIAA championshipships.

The main gymnasmium in De Vos Fieldhouse is named the “DeVette-Van Wieren Gymnasium” in recognition of DeVette and his wife Doris, along with current basketball coach Glenn Van Wieren and his wife Jackie. The annual Russ DeVette Holiday Tournament in basketball is also named after him.

**FCO Phone Code**

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