Chapel Choir and College Chorus.

This weekend, get ready to ring in the Christmas season with the Hope College Christmas Vespers celebration. More than 4,000 Hope alumni, students, faculty, and friends will come together to enjoy the sold-out 64-year-old tradition at 4:30 and 8 p.m. on Saturday and at 2 and 4:30 p.m. on Sunday.

"This time of year is always crazy," said Brad Richmond, professor of music. "Vespers always follows that, so the professor of music. "Vespers always follows that, so the professor of music. "Vespers always follows that, so the professor of music. "Vespers always follows that, so the professor of music. "Vespers always follows that, so the professor of music. "Vespers always follows that, so the professor of music. "Vespers always follows that, so the professor of music. "Vespers always follows that, so the professor of music. "Vespers always follows that, so the professor of music. "Vespers always follows that, so the professor of music. "Vespers always follows that, so the professor of music. "Vespers always follows that, so the professor of music. "Vespers always follows that, so the professor of music. "Vespers always follows that, so the professor of music. "Vespers always follows that, so the professor of music. "Vespers always follows that, so the professor of music. 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Catholics on campus feel misunderstood

What is it like to be a non-Protestant at Hope?

This scenario is a real life situation, involving a real life response towards Catholicism from a Protestant student. This is Hope. Things like this don’t happen here, right? Wrong. The fact is, comments like these are a normal occurrence at Hope, leaving Catholics on campus describing themselves as feeling judged, discriminated against and misunderstood by the majority of the Hope community.

Sarah McDonald ’06 is one Hope student who said that it is hard to live out her Catholic faith on campus.

“My sophomore year I felt really confused about my identity as a Catholic at Hope. I had repeated intentions with people that made me question why I was even here. I feel like people assumed and didn’t know what to say when they saw me. I’m Catholic,” said McDonald. McDonald explained that the people around her were afraid of Catholicism because they are unsure of what it truly professes. This uncertainty, she explained, causes Protestants on campus to clump up instead of ask questions.

“I just want to tell people that the universal thing between Protestants and Catholics is Jesus and prayer. There are differences between the two faiths, but what’s important is to embrace those differences. I really don’t think that those differences are embraced here. I’ve had to make a conscious effort to retain my identity as a Catholic on campus. But through my struggles in being at Hope, I realized that my reason for being here is to correct people about their misconception of Catholics, while I learn more about the Protestant faith.”

Daniel Vasko ’07 agreed that it is a struggle being a Catholic on a predominantly Protestant campus. “I went to a Protestant high school and I had no trouble fitting in and in no problem that they presented a different faith than me. My freshman year at Hope, I found it difficult to not have a Catholic atmosphere. I started to grow in my faith as a Catholic,” said Vasko. As college students, we’re surrounded by new ideas and it seemed that many of these new ideas at Hope revolved around a Protestant religious view. This made me look deep inside and struggle with my identity as a Catholic.

Through his experience at Hope, Vasko said he felt misunderstood, judged and alone because of his beliefs. Through his time here, he said that he has encountered several instances in which the Hope community has made negative comments about his faith. He said that a lot of people give scared looks when he says he’s Catholic. He said people have tried to “convert” him and that Catholicism has been misrepresented in the classroom, while his teacher said that Purgatory was a state made up by the author Dante.

Jennifer Swanson ’07 is a Catholic student who stated that she hasn’t encountered any negative experiences on campus because of her Catholic faith. She said that most people are pretty receptive to her being Catholic. Contrary to Vasko’s experience, Swanson described one of her professors as teaching her class on Catholicism in a respectful and knowledgeable way. She said that her classmates were respectful, although they seemed to have misconceptions of what Catholicism truly is in response to Protestantism.

Johnson McDonald, Vasko and Swanson all agreed that they wish that the campus was more educated on the similarities and differences between Catholicism and Protestantism.

The Unification Catholic Students is a campus organization that talks about these differences. Will Ponkowski ’07, the president of UCS, said that it is an organization whose mission is to educate members as Catholic Christians. Currently, UCS has a total of 50 members who meet and discuss how it feels to be a Catholic at Hope. UCS encourages non Catholics to join the conversation, come, sit down and talk about the roots of Protestantism and Catholicism. One of their main goals is to educate this predominantly Protestant campus on Catholicism in hope that the community will better understand the differences and similarities between the two. This is an issue at Hope that the UCS believes needs to be addressed, an issue that deserves conversation in our community.

The next time someone mentions Catholicism, how is the Hope community going to respond? Shrug it off? Dart the issue? Or, maybe, just maybe, step into discomfort?
Giving thanks doesn't end with Thanksgiving

When I went home last week on break, heavy snow made it take twice as long as usual to get home. I grew tired and impatient and wanted badly to get out of the car. I didn't even think about being grateful I wasn't in a ditch like many of the other cars I saw from on the highway.

During break, I became focused on things I needed or wanted to do. In the busy-ness of the holiday and spending time with family, I completely forgot what this holiday was all about: giving thanks.

And now, as we are getting back into the swing of things for the final few weeks of the semester, life, if it isn't already, is going to get really busy. It's probably going to be even harder to remember to be thankful. Even though Thanksgiving is over, there are still a lot of things to be thankful for. Following are a couple of mine:

- Family: good friends, pizza delivery, dogs, guinea pigs, mountains, rain, clouds that look like animals, zoos, merry-go-rounds, my (working) eyes, ears, arms and legs, nose and mouth, hot showers, beliefs that flash, gray sweatpants, hair scrunchies.
- Lake Michigan, rocks, dirt, fuzzy socks, petrographic microscopes, the opportunity for an education, being at a school where the professors actually care if you do well, summer days, sledding, snowballs, fall colors, spring flowers, janitors, garbage collectors, birthdays, holidays, always having enough food, always having enough money, band-aids, piano lessons, all music, beautiful works of art, the smell of good food cooking, hugs, lightning bugs, smoothies, warm blankets, bunny ears, talents, movies, games, contact lenses, the way the grass smells after you mow it, puns, snowflakes, the internet, Expected Events, second chances, and, of course, The Anchor staff.

These are just a few things that I'm thankful for, and there's plenty more that came from. What are you thankful for?

Theatre students present final projects next week

Corrie Smith
GUEST WRITER

While most students will be spending some serious solitary study time as the term winds down, the members of one class are preparing for a different kind of final exam, one in which other students are allowed to watch them take it.

The class in question is Theatre 331, a stage-direction class taught by Diane Rohan, professor of theater. Class-related performances will take place from 3 to 6 p.m. on Dec. 7 and 9 in the DeWitt Center's downstairs Studio Theatre. Admission is free.

The performance will feature 17 student-led scenes, ranging from comedy to tragedy, each 10 to 15 minutes in length. Nine of the scenes will be shown on Tuesday and the remaining eight, Thursday. The scenes, which may be short plays or excerpts from full-length works, will each be directed by a student in the class. Theatre 331 students are required to cast their shows, hold rehearsals, find costumes and props, and be ready to perform as their final exam.

Some examples of the upcoming scenes include one about Norman, an American businessman, browsing through a bazaar overseas. Norman stops in Flora's shop to buy a souvenir, and his interpreter seems to do more than just interpret. In another scene, sisters deal with their mentally ill mother, and with issues of homosexuality, ex-boyfriends and more.

Sexuality issues committee responds to recent debate

To the editor:

We are disappointed that gay and lesbian students have been made to feel unwelcome at Hope—especially recently through chauvinistic and other incidents.

Given Hope's educational purposes and commitment to embody a spirit of Christian love, we are saddened that different understandings of sexuality have not been discussed respectfully and that some have resorted to name-calling and personal attack.

We write as members of the Programming Committee on Issues of Sexuality, a group of faculty, students, and staff charged by President Bultman to provide opportunities that address issues of sexual identity. As a group and as individuals, we are committed to the Virtues of Public Discourse: humility, hospitality, patience, courage, and honesty. As a group and as individuals, we are committed to make these virtues more than mere words on a page, but rather a reality on Hope's campus. Let's all recommit ourselves to these important virtues so that we have a campus community where all feel welcome.

As an educational community in which all are to be treated as God's beloved creations, we can do no less.

Paul Boeroma, Chaplain
Richard Faith, Dean of Students
Tim Fry ('05)
Krisen Gloy
James Herrick
Steven Hoogerwerf
Laura Mariano ('07)
Stephanie McCann ('05)
Nancy Miller
Maureen Reynolds, Registrar
Ken Yamura ('05)

Bush administration must pay attention to all moral issues

To the editor:

President Bush has won reelection. Exit polls said that the most important issue in deciding between the presidential candidates was their stance on moral issues. Indeed, this is the most important issue, but there are many moral issues in addition to gay marriage and abortion. We have a moral obligation to feed the hungry. We have a moral obligation to heal the sick. We have a moral obligation to provide for the poor. Let us not forget these moral issues.

And that is not all. When we have the blood of Iraqis on our hands, we have a moral obligation to humbly seek forgiveness from Iraq, the world, and God.

Let us now remember all of the moral issues that the entire nation must address and not just the moral issues individuals must decide on.

In his acceptance speech, President Bush said, "So today I want to speak to every person who voted for my opponent. To make this nation stronger and better, I will need your support and I will work to earn it. I will do all I can to deserve your trust."*

How can President Bush and his Republican Congress earn our support and our trust? They must take a long look at moral issues and begin to fulfill the nation's obligations.

Benjamin A. Cramer ('08)
Men's basketball scores first win of season

Imminck's leadership helps Hope to victory

This win was especially important, and hopefully it will get the ball rolling toward more victories.

—Greg Immink ('05)

In Hope basketball action (here against Cornerstone), the Dutchmen won the Hall of Fame Classic's consolation game, 67-52, against Aquinas. The team is 1-4 on the season.

**Sports Ahead**

**Men's Basketball**

Friday and Saturday, Wheaton Tournament

Dec. 7 at Aquinas, 7:30 p.m.

Dec. 11, Home vs. Trinity Christian, 7:30 p.m.

Dec. 17-18 Holland Sentinel Community Tournament

**Women's Basketball**

Tonight, Home vs. Calvin, 7:30 p.m.

Friday and Saturday, Carthage Tournament

Dec. 8 at Olivet, 7:30 p.m.

**Swimming**

Friday and Saturday, Wheaton Invitational

Dec. 10 at Grand Valley State, 5 p.m.

**Contact us at anchor@hope.edu or ext. 7877**

**Kletz December Events**

**Tuesday, December 07**

Santa visits the Kletz

From 6:00-8:00 p.m.

**Wednesday, December 08**

The Kletz Christmas Buffet

11:00-1:30 p.m.

$5.25 per plate

**Thursday, December 09**

Sing along with Big AL

9:00-11:30 p.m.

**Friday, December 10**

Hope College Orchestra Concert at Noon

**The Anchor**

**The Anchor wants YOU!**

**Interested in sports?**

Like to write?

Love taking pictures?

We are looking for SPORTS EDITORS and WRITERS!

(Bonus: Sports editor is a paid position!)

Contact us at anchor@hope.edu or ext. 7877