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Christmas Vespers a success

Andrea Vandenburgh
Senior Staff Reporter

In the past month, there has been some confusion and debate surrounding the recent chalkings regarding homosexuality. Many questions were left unanswered and many feelings were hurt. Some may think that there are no steps being taken to help, but this is probably because not many students have heard of the Programming Committee on Issues of Sexuality. The committee is made up of administrators, faculty members, and students. Four years ago, a task force was appointed by President John's nights, a benefit bridal show fundraiser since the beginning of December 2004, has raised almost $267,000 for this event. Preparations are well underway for this year, has raised almost $267,000 for DeVos Children's Hospital of Grand Rapids. Participants and the Dance Marathon committee have been actively fundraising since the beginning of the semester, with projects including the Dance Marathon, Tuesday Pips, John's nights, a benefit bridal show and fasting in the dining halls "for the kids."

Dec. 14-17, students on a meal plan can give up a meal and give the money to Dance Marathon. In addition, Christmas cards illustrated by the children of DeVos are on sale for $8 per set of eight. East Saturday, Dance Marathon gave students an opportunity to meet with some of the families being sponsored. The families, dancers and other participants were invited to come together for an evening of crafts, pizza and cookies, followed by a showing of the classic Christmas film “White Christmas.” In addition, Dance Marathon is starting serious recruitment of their best fundraisers—student dancers and monitors. “We have more dancers and more members than ever before at this time of the year,” said event adviser Diana Bredow, Assistant Dean of Students. “We haven’t reached our goal yet for this year, but we hope to get there next semester.” Bredow said. This year’s committee has set more DANCE on 2

Discourse virtues make reappearance

Andrea Vandenburgh
Senior Staff Reporter

Santa made an appearance at the party. Photo by Andrea Vandenburgh

Humility — recognizes the limitations on any one person’s knowledge, and thus makes it possible to learn from the insights of others. Humility says "no" to the pride that prevents open communication, thus encouraging a willingness to consider carefully others’ opinions and perspectives. Humility does not mean, however, endorsement of others’ beliefs, or morality might seem different, confusing, or disrupting. Even more, it is the virtue of receiving others into our presence and offering a safe place for people to express ideas unlike our own. "Patience — willingness and fortitude to stay engaged, calmly persevering, with the knowledge that waiting is not only doing nothing, but is a persistent determination which reveals and stretches our ability to understand. "Courage — the boldness to accept risks associated with honest advocacy of one’s position. Courage requires the strength to freely speak more DISCOURSE on 2

A broad spectrum of talented Hope College musicians gathered on Saturday and Sunday for the annual sold out concert. Two choirs, individual organists, the Hope Symphonette, Brass Ensemble, and flute choir all performed seasonal pieces at this celebration, ringing in the Christmas spirit.

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Campus Briefs

Dec. 31 student checks require attention

Students working campus jobs will be receiving a pay-roll check on December 31. If an employee wishes to have the check mailed home, please drop off a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Human Resources. If there is no envelope provided, checks will be available at Human Resources after break. Humanities Resources is located at 100 East 8th Street. Suite 210. Be sure to also have W-4 tax forms filled out to receive a campus check. If they are not filled out, forms can be picked up in Human Resources. Two forms of identification are required.

Film students to present works in Knickerbocker

Tomorrow in the Knickerbocker Theatre, the documentary class of David Schrock, professor of communications, will show free screenings of five of their documentary works. The showings will be followed by a question and answer session and will include free popcorn. The documentaries will include several local subjects. The films average about 20 minutes in length. One film will feature Holland resident Robert Koop, a top-secret personer during World War II, and another will focus on the underground railroad.

December 2004
Mood of the Day

Hope College Holland, Michigan A student-run nonprofit publication Serving the Hope College Community for 118 years
ones convictions even when one's opinions may be considered dangerous or unpopular. Courage also involves the ability to listen openly to others' opinions, not just about issues of homosexuality, but in other situations as well. "I affirm these virtues because they are essential to nurturing a strong, healthy community, and they are biblical. As a Christian community, we need to not only agree on these, but to live them out practically," said Paul Boersma, Chaplain. "This can be evident in the way we treat one another, even when we have varying opinions or beliefs. As a diverse community, we need to be open to a variety of views and respectfully interact with each other," Boersma said.

Boersma said, "As of right now, the committee does not have an official position on the recent chalkings. The chalkings are an issue of free speech, even though feelings were hurt by the things said. This is the reason the committee created the virtues to make opportuni- ties for things to be talked about openly without feelings being hurt.

There is also a debate about where exactly Hope stands on the issue of homosexuality today. "Hope's official position on homo- sexuality parallels that of the Reformed Church of America, distinguishing between homosexual orientation and practice andidentifying the latter as contrary to biblical teaching while showing care, concern, and compassion towards all. Hope affirms that each student is to be treated with dignity and respect," Boersma said. For more information on the virtues of public discourse, visit www.hope.edu/admin/provost/virt-

Honesty — a determined commitment to discovering and speaking the truth by members of the community. Fidelity to what is the case, and an unwillingness to mislead, are hallmarks of honesty. Honesty fosters an open environment that encourages growth and leads to real progress.

"Honesty is one of the representatives for Dykstra Hall, so I'm trying to get more people from Dykstra to become dancers and mortals," said dancer, Mallory Golas (08). "I've met the family (that we're fundraising for) and they are just so cute. I'm really excited that we get to fundraise with them and support them," Golas said.

Many dancers are preparing letters to send to people outside of the Hope community asking for their support. "I sent out 50 letters to all of my family and friends," said Stephanie Pasek (08). "If each of them sends back just $5, that's $250. The more people I send to, the more money we get, and it's for a great cause. It's for the kids!"

The Dance Marathon committee, or "Dream Team," has even more events scheduled for next semester. "We have lots more fundraisers planned—everything from an art auction to 'While You Were Out,' where we redecorate someone's room. We also will have many trips to the hospital, with van rides so you can go see the kids and meet them," Breclaw said. "We are keeping the theme a secret for now," she said, "but it should be bigger and better than ever before."

Students interested in getting involved should email dancemarathon@hope.edu or visit the Dance Marathon website at www.hope.edu/dancemarathon.

I'm really excited that we get to fundraise with (the kids) and support them. —Mallory Golas (08)
Vespers brings the joy of the season to campus

Hope students and faculty bring the songs of the season to life during Vespers

Nick Engel
Senior Staff Reporter

With snow falling and students feeling the pressure of exams, there can be little doubt that winter has overtaken Hope College. However, hope is not all lost. Last weekend Holland was regaled with Christmas Vespers 2004: a vivid, contemplative, and uplifting service conducted by the Music Department.

The 64-year Hope tradition incorporates richly inspired choral music, classically written, and various readings into a captivating one-and-a-half hour event. Four performances, all of which were sold out, were given on December 7, 2004, only hours after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. That first service drew about 500 people, but in recent years Vespers has drawn as many as four thousand to listen and reflect on the spirit of the season.

Vespers is also recorded and broadcast on radio and television stations in the Grand Rapids area throughout the weeks preceding Christmas. Students who participated found the performances stressful.

“It was nerve-wracking, being the first person in the procession,” said Maya Holtrop (’08), an acolyte during the opening Vespers procession.

“I had practiced being the second person (in the procession), so it was especially nerve-wracking,” Holtry said.

Christmas Vespers will be featured on many radio stations across Michigan. For stations and times please refer to the list located on the press release on Knowhope.

Madrigal Feast returns with singing, dancing, festivities

Experience a Romantic era winter festival complete with Wassail and song

Amanda Zoratti
Senior Staff Reporter

After two years of unknown whereabouts, the Hope College Madrigal Feast has returned. This Christmas-season dinner, hosted by the music department, will take place December 10 and 11 at 7 p.m. in Maas Castle.

The dinner is set to take place in the Maas Center Auditorium, but once the guests are inside, the auditorium will cease to exist. The Maas Castle is the setting for the evening, elaborately decorated and ornamented to reflect the change.

“This is my fifth feast,” said Professor Brad Richmond of the Music Department. “It’s a lot to put them together, but it is something I enjoy, and the students have a great time. It’s just one of those things that require a real collaborative effort to create the right end result.”

The evening will consist of singing, dancing, and, of course, feasting, all set in the time of Shakespeare. The luxurious meal will include a flamed figgy pudding, a boat of bread procession, a roast chicken, pine nuts, almandine, roasted red and gold potatoes, a variety of vegetables, and the traditional fruit cake. The auditorium will be turned into a castle’s grand hall. To complete the picture, the auditorium will be filled with tapestries and armor and the meal will be eaten by candlelight.

The wait staff will also be dressed accordingly, and costumes are encouraged though not required.

“I’d like to say my favorite part of the event is the dinner, but the participants don’t get to eat,” Richmond said. “I think the choral set, this great collection of pieces that we’ve worked so hard to refine, is my favorite part of the evening.”

The wassail is set to begin at 6:30 p.m. and the banquet begins at 7 p.m. The Hope College Collegium Musicum will provide vocal entertainment and the Renaissance Dancers will add to the scene. The performance will include short skits and numerous songs, including P.D.Q. Bach’s “O Little Town of Hanover,” and some straight choral arrangements such as “There is a Rose.”

Faculty members Linda Dykstra and her husband John are the King and Queen of the feast.

“They were king and queen the last time we held this event,” said Richmond. “They were great. They’re basically in charge. If at any point they would like a table of guests to perform for them, then they can order it, and if they refuse, we have a set of stocks to throw the guests into.”

Tickets are now on sale at Nykerk Hall of Music for $16 for adults, $13 for children, or $5 for Hope College students.

Juried Show Features Student Art Through January

The annual juried student art show at Hope College opened on Monday, Dec. 6, and continues through Friday, Jan. 7, in the gallery of the De Pree Art Center.

The exhibition opened with a reception on Monday, Dec. 6, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. The public is invited to attend the exhibition and admission is free.

This competitive exhibition, open to all students at Hope, is an annual fixture in the De Pree gallery. This year’s show includes works by more than 50 Hope students in a wide variety of media, including painting, sculpture, drawing, printmaking and ceramics.

According to John Hanson, who is director of the gallery and an assistant professor of art history, an important part of any art student’s formation is to have critical feedback from outside the college. Each year, the department of art and art history invites a recognized artist or curator to judge the student work.

This year’s curator is Prof. Joseph Becherer, who is a professor of art history at Aquinas College and curator of sculpture at Frederick Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park.

The gallery’s hours will vary during the closing days of the college’s fall semester and during the subsequent Christmas break. The gallery will be open on Tuesday and Wednesday, Dec. 7, 8, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; on Thursday, Dec. 9, from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; on Friday and Saturday, Dec. 10-11, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and on Sunday, Dec. 12, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.; beginning Monday, Dec. 13, the gallery will be open only on weekdays, from 10 a.m. to noon and from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.; although the gallery will be open until 9 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 16.

In addition, the gallery will be closed on Friday, Dec. 24; during the week of Monday-Friday, Dec. 27-31; and on Monday, Jan. 3.

The De Pree Art Center is located on Columbus Avenue at 12th Street. Handicapped access is available.
Another theory of attention is the Attention Hypothesis of Automatization, which states that attention is needed during the practice stage and determines what gets learned during practice and also what will be remembered from the practice. Logan and Etherton (1994) provided support for this in a series of experiments with college students. The students were shown a series of two-word displays and were then asked to detect particular target words, words that named vegetables, for example, as fast as possible. For some participants in the study, the word pairs remained constant over the trials. For example, the word broccoli was always paired with the word poster. For other participants the word pairs varied from trial to trial. So, one time the word broccoli was paired with the word poster and in another trial it was paired with the word plane. The researchers found that students in the experiment had better performance when the word pairs were constant over the trials. The repeated presence of the second word, even though the word was unrelated to the first, helped participants recognize the words they were looking for more easily.

Logan and Etherton put it this way, “Learning is a side effect of attending. People will learn about things they attend to and they will not learn much about the things they do not attend to.” This may seem obvious, but how many times have you sat through an entire class and not heard a single thing your professor said because your mind was miles away. You did not hear your professor because you did not attend to him or her. Even though you wrote down all the notes, if you were not paying attention, you did not learn a thing. The advice here is clear: Pay attention in class. You just might learn more than you think.

The most important part of learning is remembering what you learned so that you can use the information later in your life. The constant struggle of college students is finding the best way to study what we learn so that we can remember it later, usually for an exam.

Cognitive psychologists have discovered three different parts of our memory: sensory memory, short-term memory, and long-term memory. The part that we as students are most concerned with is long-term memory because there is where the answers for the exam questions will most likely come from. Godden and Baddeley (1975) did a very interesting study to prove this theory. They presented a list of words to scuba divers either while they were in the water or while they were on the shore. Later, they were asked to recall the words either in the same environment where they learned them or in a different environment. The results showed that the ones who recalled the words in the same environment where they learned them had better performance. Lists learned underwater were best recalled underwater, and lists learned on the shore were recalled best on the shore. This finding, that recall is best when performed in the original environment, is called a context effect.

The application of this effect for students has to do with our favorite study spots. It might not be the best idea to study for that exam in your PJ’s with a cup of hot cocoa while wrapped up in a blanket and sitting all cozy on your bed. While this does sound very appealing, that environment is completely different from your classroom, with hard tables, rigid chairs, florescent lighting, and a generally cold and uninsiting atmosphere. So, if you want to give yourself that added boost when you are studying, try studying in the classroom that you will be taking the exam in. If you cannot get into the classroom, try studying at the library. Students complain that the library can be cold and sterile, but it is that very aspect of the environment that will help you study better.

The next study tip is one that I am sure you have heard from your teachers over and over again. The phenomenon is known as spacing effects. Simply put, you are much better off with a number of short study sessions spaced some time apart than you are with one long session. In other words, don’t cram!

Rather than saturating yourself in caffeine and cramming throughout the night, spacing allows the context of the learning to change, so a wider variety of hooks can be attached to the material. The greater number of hooks, the greater the chances of getting hold of one or more of them at the time of retrieval, i.e. the exam. Students hear this advice over and over, but most still hold off studying until the night before. Hopefully hearing the empirical support behind the advice will help jump-start you to action.

There is so much to learn and remember, however, hopefully these tips will help you to do just that. Happy studying!

Up All Night?
December 13th
Free coffee 7-8am
Free Phelps breakfast 9-11pm
thanks to student development
Staying single, loving life: A possibility?

Editors Note: The following article reflects the opinion of the writer and does not necessarily reflect the views of The Anchor as a whole.

Martha Hunyadi
Guest Writer

Being single is not always easy, especially during the holiday season. But singleness is not a bad thing. It is an opportunity to discover what one is to become. It is something people have to get through before they really start living. This is not, however, necessarily true at all. Believe it or not, being single can actually be a gift. Yeah, that's right! A gift!

There are a lot of things wrong with today's perception of dating. Just because someone does not date does not mean there is something wrong with them. Some people direct their focus onto other parts of life.

Take for example Becca Marcus ('05). Becca has been single through college and yet she still made it to the homecoming court. She chose to direct her attention to Nykerk, Dance Marathon, classes, and many other things. Instead of using her extra time on relationships that had no future, she got involved in activities that allowed her to get to know lots of different people on campus.

"The best part about being single is that I feel like I can go anywhere and not have to take another person into consideration," Marcus said. "Especially being a senior. Dating can be fun too. No one will deny that, but it is not always fun and games. Relationships take a lot of time and effort. These relationships can be more harmful than they are worth in the long run. The time spent on a pointless relationship could be spent in a much better way. The hours spent calling a significant other could be used to join a club or sport. The nights spent on dates trying to impress the man or woman of the moment could be devoted to schoolwork or to friends.

College, for most, is the only time a student will ever be able to live with large groups of peers. The time spent hanging out with the people in the dorm is priceless. It would be a waste to spend this time on a worthless relationship that will leave one or both partners hurt in the end. College is an important time of preparation for the future. Any time devoted to self-improvement is well worth it. Instead of casually dating, work on a resume to submit for a dream job, or write essays for a graduate school application. Join an IM team or take an extra fun class like fencing or Dance for Sport. Do something that is going to make you a better person.

Getting involved in extracurricular activities not only helps with resumes and grad school applications, it also helps to create a more rounded personality and develop depth of character.

Staying in a relationship is going to become an issue, in fact, someone keeps saying that it takes up the time of a significant other who could be spending his or her time on other things.

College is a time to grow, find an identity and plan for the future. Future will affect a boyfriend or girlfriend. The time he or she spends on dates off on the phone is time they could spend doing something to develop their character. If a person makes this choice and decides to date only when it is appropriate, how does one know if he or she is ready? Obviously, there is no set age that is perfect for everyone. Different people are ready to date at different times. The most important thing is to find an individual identity first. The biggest mistake is thinking that a boyfriend or girlfriend will solve all the world's problems.

A quotation from the movie "Cool Runnings" said it best. The bobsled coach talked to the captain about winning a gold medal and his advice was, "If you're not good enough without it, you'll never be good enough with it."

The same is true for starting a relationship. If a person feels he or she is not good enough without a relationship, then having one won't fix anything. Again, it goes back to the time and effort a relationship takes. If a person wants to make himself or herself better then he has to rely on himself to do it. Depending on another to make one happy not only puts a lot of pressure on the other but it also puts people in the position of being disappointed.

Another problem with starting relationships is looking too hard. Many from all over the world have been saying for years, "You'll find love when you stop looking for it." But what does that mean? How can it be possible to find something if it is not being searched for?

It means that too much worry can lead to settling or resignation... The best thing about this is that one does not even have to do anything to attract him or her. Acting as an individual is a sure fire way to start a quality relationship.

Pressure is another factor that forces people into relationships they do not want to be in. It is not the peer pressure that is the worst, however. Any single college student treats the belief in a special person to whom they are attached, which inevitably leads to the question, "have you met anyone yet?"

Having to explain to grandparents who have asked "when are you going to get married?" or married cousins that met during orientation at Hope College is never easy.

"Professor Dave Kloster, professor of French, suggested a reply to take the pressure off. "Just tell them you're starting to learn what makes you happy." He added for all parts of a relationship. "Don't fall into the temptation that says relationships are fun and easy or that people need relationships to be whole. Remember that being single in college can be a great way to get to know one's self and others better.

Relationships can come and go, but a person has to live with themselves for the rest of their life. Make the most of it.
Catholic student seeks to clear up misunderstanding

To the Editor:

The issue of religion on campus is not one that receives much attention, and certainly is not a topic that is talked about a bit too much. The campus, as I see it, often divides itself by Christian and non-Christian. But very few people consciously realize the split that occurs within that Christian sector, mainly between the Catholic and the Protestant students. As a Catholic student at Hope, I feel that the article “hit the nail on the head.” Many times during my freshman and sophomore years, when I would profess my Catholicism, the responses I received were awkward looks, silence, and often the comment of “Oh, sorry man.” Comments like that left me feeling defensive and wondering what to be sorry about. Should I be sorry that I am not Baptist or Reform? Am I supposed to be sorry that I have a different faith than most of campus and am strongly rooted in it? Like Ms. McDonald and Mr. Vaske, for much of my freshman and sophomore years on campus I felt misunderstood and judged to be different. And yes, the negative comments did come—from jokes about homosexual priests, to statements of disbelief for the idea of transubstantiation. I have even had to endure feeble attempts to “bring me to a true Christian faith,” which in my eyes is ridiculous because to me and many others on campus, Catholicism is the true Christian faith.

With such comments and attitudes towards Catholics being present on campus I would like to clarify a few things so that my Protestant brothers and sisters do not have to feel awkward around Catholics and so that they don’t make us feel the same as a result of their words. First, The Virgin Mary is not a deity. She is regarded as a very holy person since she did give birth to the Lord. Second, we do not worship saints. Saints are prayed to in order for them to pray for us. Third, we take the Bible as seriously as any Protestant, and in some cases more so. Fourth, we do believe that at communion we are eating and drinking the flesh and blood of Jesus, and so if it is not because we are cannibals, crazy, etc. It is because Jesus said “this is my body which will be given for you…” This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood (Luke 22:19-20).” We believe this Jesus (who is God) told us it is His blood and body, not a symbol for it.

Lastly, we do not need to be evangelized, converted, or saved by converting away from our faith. There are many other things that I would like to explain, but, for the sake of brevity, won’t.

My advice to the campus is this, learn and don’t judge. Rather than put yourself and your fellow Catholic classmates in awkward situations by viewing them as different, put them down, etc., learn about their faith, and open your mind to the views of others. And if you can’t be yourself to read a Catholic or Catholic theology text, ask one of us to answer your question. And when you come across a Catholic on campus remember, we aren’t “sorry” for you in regards to your religion.

Peter Wright (’06)

Distressed driver voices campus parking concerns

To the Editor:

I am a sophomore at Hope College, and I love my school. I am also not a confrontational person, but I feel as though I must voice my opinion and take a stand against the injustice that is happening on campus in regards to our school’s parking situation. It’s currently a problem, and the morning right now, and I am sitting in my room without a parking spot because Public Safety refused to find me a spot that wouldn’t cost me at least a $20 ticket. Since I have already paid $200 for my parking pass, I think forcing me into a situation where I can’t help but be charged more money is absolutely ludicrous. There are so many solutions for this ridiculous situation, and I just feel that we need to step up and make something happen. For instance, maybe they could write down the information of each person who could not find a parking spot and inform the Public Safety officers of the situation so they might ticket that particular car. Especially now, with it being snow outside, to ticket me because I am parking in a “snow” spot is just cold (pardon the pun). There are also numerous visitor spots and lots such as the one behind Gilmore and Dykstra where there are some spots wide open. Why should we have to go elsewhere to save ourselves? I am parking in a “snow” spot because I have been told it isn’t safe, which it is. The parking that is available is blocked by snow and ice, and I don’t see the point of charging $200 just to have another ticket on top of it.

Your faithful editor

Write to us next semester with your letters to the editor

anchor@hope.edu

Letters to the Editor Guidelines

Open to anyone within the college and related communities

The Anchor reserves the right to edit due to space constraints

No personal attacks, poor taste or anything potentially libelous

Letters chosen on a first come first serve basis, or a representative sample is taken

No anonymous letters, unless discussed with Editor-in-Chief

Editor-in-Chief may verify identity of writer

The Anchor reserves the right to refuse publication of any letter submitted

Letters over 500 words in length will not be considered for publication

Mail letters to the Anchor c/o Hope College, drop them off at the Anchor office (located in the center of Dewitt, behind WTHS), or e-mail Anchor@hope.edu

Don't give up—you never know what effect you will have

So it’s the last week of classes for the semester and many of us either have or haven’t done all that we said we were going to do at the beginning of the semester. Whether these things are to get a good grade in chemistry or join a new activity or keep your room clean, whatever.

I definitely fall within the latter of the two groups. There are many things with not only my personal and academic life, but other things that I would have liked to accomplish and have not. Throughout the semester, however, my staff and I have done everything to the best of our abilities to make this paper what it could and should be. I admit things haven’t been perfect and that didn’t go the way we hoped, but to all those who have stuck with us this long, I can’t tell you how much I appreciate it.

There were so many times this semester I just wanted to give up, throw it all away. The other day, though, one of my classmates told me about a man she met at the retirement home on 8th Street. He was reading The Anchor, and she told him that she knew me, she said, “It was like I knew a celebrity.” Just knowing that something I did can have so much of an effect on even one person gives me a whole new reason for doing the things I do.

—Your faithful editor

Dear Campus:

The Anchor is a product of student effort and is funded through the students of Hope College. Funding comes through the Hope College Student Commissions Appropriations Committee. Please be advised that The Anchor is an outlet of the Public Relations Office. The above subscriptions to the editor are available for free. We reserve the right to alter this service or rates at any time.

The Anchor
2004 fall semester, issue #14 of 26
Homosexual issue must be addressed further

To the editor:

As I picked up the last issue of the Anchor and began to read the article entitled “Catholics on campus feel misunderstood,” I couldn’t help but think of the homosexual community on campus. They are overwhelmed by the struggle against a whole community that is seemingly anti-gay and shows no apparent willingness to change.

A group that is very misunderstood on campus is the homosexual Christians. These students are praying about their relationships constantly and are confused by the lack of acceptance from their brothers and sisters in Christ. Many of these students are driven out of the chapel program because of misinformed, ignorant individuals. Not to belittle the feelings of isolation a Catholic at Hope College feels every day—they must feel very out of the loop on campus, but they are accepted as a people of faith, with their own funded organization (UCS), and I have yet to hear about any hate crimes against Catholics on campus.

The Gay/Straight Forum is the closest thing to an organization the homosexuals have, yet it fails to be recognized as an official student organization. It is made up of both homosexuals and heterosexuals, but the desire to attend such a meeting on this campus is commonly mistaken as an indication of one’s sexual preference, not to mention an indication of one’s support for the homosexual community. Needless to say, the Gay/Straight Forum is accompanied by constant conflict and misunderstanding.

I realize the administration probably thinks the only thing they can do to change the hostile environment of campus is to encourage acceptance of all of God’s children and establish a committee to talk about the issues. That isn’t all they can do. The behavior of the student body is largely out of the administration’s hands. What they hold in their hands, however, is money, and specifically money to fund an organization that would provide some support for homosexual students. It isn’t a gay advocacy group, and I don’t think it is too much to ask for. A Gay/Straight Forum is open to any sexual orientation, and the only requirement is a willingness to listen.

It is this resistance to give any recognition to the homosexual community at Hope College that makes life on campus as an “out” homosexual very oppressive. What message is the Administration sending to other students by ignoring the rights of homosexuals? Talk about misunderstanding! Many people don’t even bother to ask questions. Instead they are perfectly satisfied with their assumptions, and when those assumptions are questioned they take the defensive and get hostile. A college campus should be a place where all kinds of students are highly esteemed and encouraged. Hope College’s campus is not. Something must be done to change this disparity.

Hilary Pitchlynn (’08)

Recycle The Anchor!

Donated clothes will be accepted through Friday December 10 at the bins located around campus. Come and buy clothes in DeWitt Lobby December 13-15.

CLASSIFIEDS & MORE

The Anchor

Lizzie Ann's Wool Co.
54 East 8th Street
Holland, Michigan 49423
616-392-2035
a yarn for all reasons

The VERITAS FORUM

Coming next semester...

Jan 13-15
Keynote speakers: Jim Wallis, Mary Poplin, Ben Patterson
Jan. 13 7-8:30 p.m.
Dimnent chapel
"Why the right gets it wrong and the left doesn't get it" Jim Wallis
Jan. 14 7-8:30 p.m.
Dimnent Chapel
"My future, the meaning of Life, and Jesus" Mary Poplin
Jan. 15 10-10:45 a.m. Maas Auditorium
"Does anybody really know what time it is?" Ben Patterson
Also on Jan. 15 presentations on the media from Christianity, Injustice in Africa, etc.

On-campus Mass
5 p.m. Sunday in Maas Auditorium
Sponsored by the Union of Catholic Students
Men's Basketball falters at Wheaton tournament

The Dutchmen bowed out this weekend without a win or a point guard, losing Greg Immink for the season.

Nick Everse
Sports Reporter

The news couldn't have been any worse for the Hope men's basketball team. Just as the Dutchmen return 2 suspended starters, the heart and soul of the Dutchmen falls victim to another injury. This time it was Greg Immink, a senior point guard from Hudsonville, who was hit by the injury bug.

Immink hurt his right knee in practice last week, and a subsequent MRI revealed a torn anterior cruciate ligament. The injury will sideline Immink for the rest of the year, further depleting a starting lineup that has been decimated by injury and suspension.

Hope players know it will be hard to make up for Immink's presence on the court. His leadership from the point guard position has been an important element in Hope's success the past few years.

"Greg's injury hurts the team a lot," said Sophomore Stephen Cramer. "He is such a presence on the court and he knows how to control a game. Everyone else is going to have to step up their play even more with Greg out."

The Hope Basketball team is now out of the Wheaton Tournament with a loss of 74-71.

"Those losses this weekend were really tough, because we know as a team we didn't play as well as we could have," remarked Cramer. "The game tonight (Tuesday) means a lot. We need to get a win and start a winning streak as we head into league play. It's all about us having heart and going out and playing hard."

After facing Aquinas the Dutchmen will host their first home-game Saturday against Trinity Christian.

Hope Swimmers compete well

Both the men and women traveled to Wheaton, Illinois for the Wheaton Invitational.

Nick Everse
Sports Reporter

The Hope men's and women's swimming teams competed fiercely this weekend in their first Invitational on the young season. The men placed fifth overall with 496 points, but were encouraged by 17 season-best finishes. The women finished with 352 team points.

The women also fought hard, placing sixth overall in the nine team field, facing tough competition from schools like Grand Valley State and UW-Milwaukee. The women finished with 352 team points.

It was host Wheaton that owned the pool over the weekend though, placing first in both the men's and women's overall team results. The men's winning score was while the Wheaton women finished at 801.5. The Hope men were paced by Kurt Blohm of Wilmington Ohio. The junior placed first in the 200-yard backstroke with a time of (1:54.08.) and finishing with just 2 points on a pair of free throws. The normally reliable shooter, Blohm struggled from the floor in his first action, scoring in just 2 points on a pair of free throws.

Spaman provided an immediate spark, going 4-6 from the field and 8-9 from the foul line on his way to 16 points. Cramer matched Spaman with 16 points of his own, continuing his impressive start to the season. The loss came just 24 hours after another defeat, a 70-66 decision against the Carthage Redmen. Cold shooting plagued the Dutchmen in both games, as they failed to shoot above 40 percent from the field in either match up. Hope had trouble containing the perimeter, allowing 12 Carthage three pointers. Mark Morrison hit 4 of 5 three point attempts off the bench to lead the barrage for the Redmen. Hope was paced by Cramer's 19 points, but he knocked down just 6-17 field goal attempts. Cramer's 16 points the following day against Wheaton marked his fifth straight game as Hope's leading scorer.

The Dutchmen will look to get back to their winning ways this Tuesday against Aquinas; a team Hope recorded their only victory against Nov. 27 at VanAndel Arena.

Hope men and women fared well in the swimming tournament at Wheaton, placing fifth and sixth, respectively.

Dearborn native won the 100 butterfly and the 200 butterfly in times of (56.71) and (2.09.94) respectively. Team captain Erika Steele took first in the 50 freestyle in (24.21) and also grabbed a couple second place finishes in the 100 and 200 freestyle.

Sports Ahead

Men's Basketball
Dec. 11 Home vs. Trinity Christian, 3 p.m.
Dec. 17-18 Holland Sentinel Community Tournament

Women's Basketball
Tonight at Olivet, 7:30 p.m.

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