What’s Inside

Presidential Address Stirs Local Protest

Nicholas Engel
Co-Anchor News Editor

About 75 people gathered at the intersection of River Avenue and Ninth Street in opposition to the president’s State of the Union Address Tuesday. Waving signs saying “impeach Bush,” “one nation under surveillance” and “W stands for warmonger,” the protesters assembled from 8 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., missing the beginning of the president’s speech. People from Holland, Grand Rapids and Fennville gathered after receiving a circulated email that suggested various places at which to assemble in Holland area. Many trailed off as the evening progressed, but 15 to 20 people remained until the end of the scheduled event. Arlin Tenkley, former Hope student, started protesting at 8 p.m. “I’m protesting Bush taking over our government and giving it to corporations,” said Tenkley.

Susan Park, a resident of Fennville, held a sign that read, “I am already against the war.”

SEE RALLY, PAGE 6

Student Initiates Alcoholics Anonymous Chapter

Courtney Roberts
Senior Staff Writer

Jonathan Zita (’08) recently started the first Alcoholics Anonymous group on Hope’s campus. The group, led by Zita, provides support for Hope students who experience difficulty with alcohol and drug abuse.

“The AA classes don’t deal so much with alcoholism because it’s mostly college students being college students,” said Zita, who is in probation. “It’s more so just helping them to make good decisions. Hope chooses what to do if you get in trouble for alcohol, but with the Holland Police, you have to come to AA,” Zita said.

“Although Student Development has encouraged certain students to join AA, according to Zita, the meetings are “primarily filled” with voluntary attendees. Approximately five to six students attend the meetings regularly. Zita said, “the numbers are growing.”

The group meets Tuesday at 7 p.m. and Thursday at 11 a.m. in the Dewitt Counseling Center. Zita picks a topic to address for each half hour meeting. Yesterday the attendees covered AA’s “12 step program” and also discussed “triggers and consequences” of drinking. They’ve also talked about the disadvantages of alcoholism and making good decisions.

Hope has been very supportive of the new chapter. Zita said he received encouragement from Hope counselor Zyah Dock as well as from John Jobson, director of residential life. This semester Dock started leading an alcohol support group among students through the counseling center. But she quickly made the distinction that, “this (AA) is a student group.”

“Other schools [that start an AA chapter] take a while to get started but this one has been active from the beginning.” She attributes such positive turn out to the fact that the support group is not run by a faculty or staff member; rather, it is limited solely to Hope students, which helps students feel more comfortable participating.

Dock said that the counseling office was looking for a student to “step up to the plate” in talking about this issue.

“As Hope College students we’re all here to help each other,” Zita said.

Alcohol Use Investigated on Campus

Megan Purtee
Guest Writer

Imagine that you are a student in your freshman year of college. Away from home, you suddenly experience unprecedented amounts of freedom. One night you decide to head out to a party, planning on only consuming amounts of freedom. One night you decide to head out to a party, planning on only consuming amounts of freedom. One night you decide to head out to a party, planning on only consuming amounts of freedom. One night you decide to head out to a party, planning on only consuming amounts of freedom. One night you decide to head out to a party, planning on only consuming amounts of freedom.

It’s your RA, and you’ve just walked into your room only to find your mate’s trashcan. Suddenly, someone knocks on your door. It’s your RA, and you’ve just been caught.

“We’re not out to get people,” said Shane Ostermeier, Assistant Director of Residential Life and Housing, referring to the combined efforts of Residential Life and Campus Safety to combat the increasingly severe incidences of underage alcohol use involving Hope Students.

During the 2004-2005 school year, three students were transported to the hospital in order to treat alcohol poisoning. By November of this year, five Hope students were hospitalized due to alcohol poisoning. These students were all freshmen, according to Ostermeier.

According to the Office of Post-Secondary Education website, in 2004, 87 students went through Hope’s judicial system on alcohol violation charges that occurred on-campus. This number does not include those who were referred to the Holland Police.

In that same year, the Holland Police made 47 arrests on public property for liquor law violations. They made 17 arrests on-campus.

“We’ve definitely had some serious stuff,” Ostermeier said.

This is Ostermeier’s third year in his position at Hope College. Prior to that, he was in a similar position at a college much like Hope. Ostermeier vividly recalls an incident he dealt with there. He encountered an individual who consumed nine shots of liquor in less than 30 minutes.

This is not all that different from incidents he has encountered on Hope’s campus, Ostermeier says.

One week in October, the lowest Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) seen by the safety/residential life combined force was .15. The legal limit is .08.

According to Dr. Richard Frost, Vice President and Dean of Students, the staff is “alarmed at the number of dangerous incidents that occurred so early in the school year.”

One of the myths of college, Frost says, is that “everybody’s drinking large amounts.”

Photo by Jared Wilkening

THE OPPOSITION — Dennis Wicks wields a sign expressing his political views on the intersection of River Avenue and Ninth Street along with 75 other people.

No. 13

Vol. 119

February 1, 2006 • since 1887

Spera in Deo

Hope College • Holland, Michigan
Students, faculty gather to discuss Michigan proposal

Kurt Pyle

Staff Writer

As state races for governor and Senate heat up ahead of November’s general elections, a little-known ballot initiative may prove just as influential as the candidates themselves.

The ballot initiative would “prohibit the University of Michigan and other state universities, the state, and all other state entities from discriminating or granting preferential treatment based on race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin,” a move opponents charge would amount to an end to affirmative action in admissions and government hiring decisions.

The proposal has provoked strong opposition across the state; a December meeting of the Board of Regents was told to approve the final language of the amendment proposal devolved into a boisterous near riot by opponents of the proposition.

Opponents of the initiative claimed that the Michigan Civil Rights Initiative, the group spearheading the amendment, misled voters into believing they were signing petitions in support of affirmative action. The amendment does not specifically mention affirmative action. The Michigan Appeals Court ordered in December that the proposal be placed on the ballot, having met all the legal requirements for inclusion.

The ballot election was held on Jan. 20.

The meaning of the phrase “preferential treatment” will undoubtedly be at the center of the campaign over the proposal. Opposition groups claim that affirmative action programs are designed to give equal opportunities, not preferential treatment, to women and minorities.

The proposal has also sparked interest on Hope’s campus as well. A workshop held last Wednesday sponsored by Hope Asian Perspectives Association, La Raza Unida, Black Student Union and the Office of Multicultural Life, looked at current attitudes towards affirmative action and November’s proposal.

About 30 student and faculty members shared their own personal definitions of affirmative action and discussed recent examples of discrimination in the state today.

“People define affirmative action as having a lot to do with their opinions on the issue,” Stephanie Chang, member of One United Mission, said.

Participants discussed how popular perceptions generally view affirmative action as a “black-white issue, although it encompasses gender, religion, ethnicity and disabilities. Organizers believed the panel was an important first step.

“Even though this bill will not be voted on until November, I feel that it is important to start talking about it now, so that we all have the chance to understand and be aware of the implications this will bring to our campus and the state of Michigan in the future,” said Nathalie Grand, who organized the workshop.

The proposition may play an important role on Election Day, when Republican challengers look to unset Michigan incumbents in the Senate and the Governor’s office. Some conservatives fear that the proposition may spur heightened turnout among Democrats, particularly minorities.

Affirmative action has been a hot topic in the state in recent years, highlighted by a 2003 Supreme Court ruling which overturned the University of Michigan’s points-based affirmative action undergraduate admissions.

Debate continues—A campus advertisement for the Michigan Civil Rights Initiative Workshop, held on Jan. 25.

South American countries vote for political equality

Kathleen Burkhardt

Staff Writer

In recent South American elections, the results have been anything but typical.

The Bolivian elections held in December and the Chilean elections held in January both produced historic firsts for the countries, showing a progressiveness farther along than even the United States.

Bolivia’s president, Evo Morales, has been turning heads internationally as a true man of the people and an ideological equal with Venezuela’s president Hugo Chavez. Morales, elected Dec. 18, is Bolivia’s first indigenous president, a feat he claims confirms that “the 500 years of Indian resistance have not been in vain. From 500 years of resistance we pass to another 500 years in power.”

Morales takes to the office of presidency after five years as a congressman where he earned his reputation as a blunt, outspoken politician. Echoing Chavez’s principles, Morales speaks out against U.S. interference with the coca farmer trend of refining the leaves into cocaine.

The fight against drug trafficking can not be an excuse for the US government to dominate our nations. We want true dialogue without conditions or oppressions or bribes, said Morales.

Furthering his stance on this claim and indigenous rights, Morales recently appointed Felipe Caceres, former coca farmer, as deputy minister for social defense where his main duty will be fighting drug trafficking. Morales, once a coca farmer himself, advocates the growth of the crop citing it as an integral part of the indigenous culture and the sole means of survival for many people. Caceres has announced plans to actually increase coca production for its uses in medicines, toothpaste and soft drinks.

Meanwhile, Michelle Bachelet, Chile’s first female president, is busy making waves of her own as she plans to take office this March. Although specific details of her plans have yet to be announced, Bachelet has revealed that her main focus would be solving the growing gap between rich and poor, rising crime and unemployment rates and reforming the health and pension systems.

University of Michigan in the future,” said Stephanie Chang, member of One United Mission, a group spearheading the amendment proposal, that the proposal be placed on the ballot, having met all the legal requirements for inclusion.

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U.S. Navy captures suspected pirates off Somali coast

Chris Lewis

Staff Writer

On Jan. 21 the United States Navy captured a crew of suspected pirates off the coast of Somalia after firing some warning shots at their pirate ship.

When the crew of the suspected pirate ship surrendered, sailors from the Navy boarded the ship and found many small arms, according to officials.

This recent pirate capture is certainly no surprise to the U.S. Navy. The number of pirate raids off the coast of Somalia has increased significantly over the last two years. Somalia has not seen an effective government since 1990 and the Navy believes that this is the main reason behind the pirate raids, according to The Guardian, a UK based newspaper.

The recent series of pirate raids has forced all relief agencies to ship their food aid by plane, raising the costs of shipment and perhaps threatening the survival of over half a million Somalis who are in the drought-stricken Horn of Africa and depend on the food aid.

Ship owners who deal with pirates have even changed their trade routes due to the threat of the pirates. Ship owners have been pleading with navies from Europe and the United States to try to stop the heavily armed pirate gangs.

The United States has responded. The U.S.S. Winston S. Churchill, an American “aggressive maneuvering” to stop the pirate ship, according to a statement from the U.S. Navy.

When the ship continued on its course, the “Churchill fired warning shots. The vessel cut speed and went dead in the water,” a U.S. Navy spokesman said.

The ship began to sink about 50 miles off the coast of Somalia. The crew surrendered only after the Navy fired several more warning shots. The crew of the suspected pirate ship then came over to the U.S.S. Winston S. Churchill in a small boat.

Sixteen Indians and 10 Somalis were being questioned on the Churchill that night. These pirate attacks have occurred so often that many shipping companies have been paying ransoms to the pirate ships in order to save their own lives. The Senlora, a ship that was carrying rice for emergency food aid, was held by pirates from June to October last year and was not released until a ransom was paid.

In November, two pirate ships fired rocket-propelled grenades and assault rifles at a luxury cruise liner called the Seabourn. Crew members of the Seabourn were able to end the assault by using ear-splitting acoustic devices.

Though one band of pirates has been captured, many more continue to terrorize the waters off Somalia. As of last week, another band of pirates was holding a cargo ship and four tree-owners hostage.
**Dorm2Dorm: The Band Next Door**

Erika English

Senior Staff Writer

It may be the workplace for hundreds of students every week, but at 9 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 4, it will be something else entirely. To the dozens of Hope College students relaxing on beanbags and enjoying the music, the room will become a stage hosting the four man guitar band Dorm2Dorm.

Bob Flavin (’09), Michael Golden (’09), Jeff Martin (’09), and Ben VanArendonk (’09) make up the lively group. With experience ranging from six years to six months, the four met at Hope and bonded over guitars and music.

“We met for the first time in the Grove,” percussionist Flavin said. “Mike wanted to learn Dueling Banjos and then we went to serenade some girls, basically just strumming and singing.”

During the second week of school, the band had its first jam session playing for an audience of 15 in the Phelps stairwell. It was then they got the brilliant idea to visit both Gilmore and Dykstra Hall, and thus adopted the name Dorm2Dorm.

“We know five songs: ‘Crash,’ ‘Collelee,’ ‘Slide,’ ‘Breakfast at Tiffany’s,’ and ‘Oye Como Va’—it was our traveling song,” Flavin said. When they got to Dykstra Hall, the response was immediate.

“We were mobbed!” Martin said.

**Quick-witted comedy troupe hits stage**

Matt Oosterhouse

Arts Editor

Vanderpoe, Hope College’s improvisational comedy group, is set to perform on Thursday, Feb. 2. The show will feature live and unscripted comedy in a similar manner to that of the popular television show “Whose Line Is It Anyway?”

Vanderprov cast member Jenni DeRuiter (’08) notes that there are two images people have of Vanderprov and “Whose Line.”

The main difference…is that the Vanderprov improv show is now a competition in which two teams compete,” DeRuiter said.

Rodríguez-Núñez himself considered the event a success.

“Una luz que se apaga / tan próxima que nadie puede verla encenderse / tan remota que está dentro de ti,” author Victor Rodríguez-Núñez read from the first part of his book, entitled “Midnight Minutes.”

“Some of the poems in the book,” said Rodríguez-Núñez, “were ‘pretty closely translated,’ although some of that meaning was lost in translation.”

Rodríguez-Núñez read his poems in their original Spanish. Olson then read English translations of the poems.

According to Olson, the poems were “pretty closely translated,” and the meanings were “very accurate.” However, she and Rodríguez-Núñez both noted that some of that meaning was lost in translation.

“Rodríguez-Núñez considered the event a success,” said Liang. “Lots of hard work went into making this show. Professor Heather Sellers does a great job. It involves students in good training and experience,” he said.

**STUDENT’S paintings to be featured at Bultz’s**

Several paintings by Hope College junior Nathan Klay of Holland will be exhibited at Bultz’s Dry Dock beginning with a reception on Saturday, Feb. 4, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

“The exhibition, “Memor of a Prodigal,” features 10 recent paintings by Klay, and will continue through the end of February.

**IRC to show “The Killing Fields”**

On Thursday Feb. 2, the International Relations Club is holding a viewing of the critically acclaimed movie “The Killing Fields” at 7 p.m. in Graves Hall.

The movie won 3 Oscars in 1988 for Best Supporting Actor, Best Cinematography, and Best Editing.

**Dorm2Dorm**

**VWS goes bilingual**

Brian McClellan

Staff Writer

Matt Oosterhouse

Arts Editor

“One luz que se apaga / tan próxima que nadie puede verla encenderse / tan remota que está dentro de ti,” author Victor Rodríguez-Núñez read from the first part of his book, entitled “Midnight Minutes.”

Or, as visiting Writers Series intern Kristin Olson (’07) read in English, “A light that is extinguished / so close that no one can see it / so remote that it is within you.”

This is only a small segment from the Cuban-born author’s work. In fact, it is only a fraction of what was read, in both English and Spanish, during the visiting Writers Series reading on Wednesday, January 25. The reading was the first ever bilingual VWS event.

“One of our main goals is in reference to the television improvisational show’s comedic, yet false, use of points, she added, “Since it’s a competition for us, the points DO matter.”

The competition of each performance is divided into two teams, the Orange team and the Blue team. Cast members typically know a week before the performance who their team members will be. That is the only part about the performance of which they have knowledge; the rest is unscripted.

Andrew Liang (’08), also a Vanderprov cast member, admits that the unknown can pose problems. “A challenge that I have faced in Vanderprov is what I can or can not say on stage,” Liang said. “Comedy can have many levels of vulgarity. Humor doesn’t have to be vulgar, but vulgarity can be funny.”

Liang stressed that the audience is taken into perspective when dealing with the content of the performance. “Being successful in improv requires the ability to work well on stage with others and being able to ‘read’ your audience” Liang said. “They are there to laugh!”

For both DeRuiter and Liang, the joy that they receive from making people laugh is reward enough. “I absolutely love being able to help make people laugh and to be a part of a group that has the sole purpose of that endeavor,” Delruiter said.

The performance is in Wichers Auditorium in Nykerk Hall at 9 p.m. on Feb. 2. Admission is free.
“I don’t condone underage drinking, but I realize it happens. I just wish people would be safe about it,” Reverts said.

“Maybe [there is] not an increase of people drinking, but an increase of people getting caught,” Emily Cornell said.

“I just wish people would be safe about it,” Reverts said. "Don’t do it… be responsible no matter what age you are,” Jeff Layman ('07) said. "On the flip-side, however, is that both can cause something positive ever comes from it. People will get hurt, at least in the long term.”

When asked about their opinions on the matter, students face difficulties in learning the Chinese language. The remaining class time will be spent on the Chinese culture, by "[placing] the language in the context of the culture," Yan said. Some of the potential cultural topics include philosophy, religion, and economy.

Yan also plans to add cooking and martial arts to the course. Yan, who previously taught Chinese at Brown University, anticipates students facing difficulties in learning the Chinese language. “I also taught English in China; I have been able to combine both learning aspects so the students can learn better.”

Yan currently teaches two “Intro to World Religions” courses. He also teaches two sections of “Christianity and Chinese Religion,” a new course since Yan came to Hope.

ALCOHOL FROM PAGE 1

Matt Oosterhouse
Arts Editor

With more than 1 billion speakers in the world, Mandarin Chinese is the most widely spoken language in the world. Beginning in May, Hope College will be offering a conversational Chinese language course.

Andrew Yan, professor of Religion and a native of China, is pioneering the first ever Chinese language course at Hope College. The course is entitled “Chinese Language and Culture: A Basic Introduction.”

Two-thirds of each 3-hour class will be devoted to the language. The primary focus will be on the oral part of Chinese, while an emphasis will also be placed on Chinese characters and grammar.

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“Breaking the law may not be responsible, but the act of drinking itself can have serious consequences.”

As is often the case with debates at Hope, faith is cited as a crucial factor. “People should turn to Jesus instead of alcohol,” Buck said.

“Maybe [there is] not an increase of people drinking, but an increase of people getting caught,” Emily Cornell said.

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Find out why Smiths is a great place to land an engineering career.

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BEAT THE WINTER BLUES: STAY ACTIVE IN COLD WEATHER

Lindsey Manthei
Great Lakes Echo

As the temperatures continue to hover just above freezing, many college students are increasingly tempted to just throw on an extra sweatshirt to cover up the growing bulge of their tummies instead of heading outside to exercise. While braving the wind and rain to run around Window on the Waterfront may seem unpleasant, staying active is important to college students’ physical and mental health.

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, college students should try to work at least 60 minutes of physical activity into their schedules most days of the week. Luckily, physical activity does not necessarily mean working out in the traditional sense of the term. Physical activity includes walking to class, climbing stairs and chasing squirrels around the Pine Grove.

Many students claim that cold weather makes it impossible for them to pursue their preferred forms of exercise, such as running, biking or hiking. There are, however, plenty of alternatives.

Hope College’s Dow Center offers elliptical machines, which offer a low-impact alternative to running on pavement. The Dow’s numerous machines for weight training help summer athletes to cross train and stay strong during the winter. The newly opened DeVos Fieldhouse weight room also open to students from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on weekdays and during the weekend if an athletic event is taking place. DeVos features more weightlifting machines than free weights and has two elliptical machines, two stair steppers, and two stationery bikes. The Dow also features a running track.

“The track hurts. It gives you shin splints and running in circles is really boring. I can’t wait til the snow melts and I can run outside. It’s prettier and I love finding new places,” Maddie Garcia (’09), member of the softball team, said.

The Holland area also offers a plethora of outdoor winter activities. Students who enjoy hiking should consider snowshoeing as an alternative. A short drive away, Holland, Saugatuck Dunes State Park offers more than 90 miles of trails through rolling sand dunes and beautiful forests. Many area residents also enjoy cross country skiing, which offers benefits such as running, skiing, or kayaking for athletes or kayaking for the immune system.

EBV is in the herpesvirus family, which includes chicken pox, cold sores and genital herpes. Viruses in the herpesvirus family characteristically stay dormant in the body for the rest of the infected person’s life. As a result, EBV can occasionally reactivate and become contagious years later without the host ever realizing it.

Mono is one of the most common illnesses among college students this season, said Cindy Sabo, RN-C, of the Health Clinic, owing in part to their lifestyle. Because mono is contagious one to two months before symptoms begin to appear, students often have no idea why they got the disease—or who they’ve given it to.

People should consider snowshoeing as an alternative to running on pavement.

“Your environment where you’re in constant contact with people,” Sabo said. “You’re going to parties where you’ll drink out of someone else’s cup, you’re not always eating right, not getting enough exercise and you’re not consistently getting enough sleep.”

While mono can only be transmitted by direct contact with an infected person’s saliva, such as by kissing or sharing dishes, college students often make choices that weaken their immune systems, reducing their bodies’ ability to fight diseases.

A failure to get enough sleep is often the most common risk factor among college-age adults.

Students will come in saying they’ve gone to sleep at 11 p.m. one night and 3 a.m. or 4 a.m. the next night,” Sabo said. “Especially when they’re doing this day after day, week after week, month after month, it really hurts the immune system.”

A weakened immune system makes the difference between the people who fail to even realize they have contracted a virus and the people who are stuck in bed with mono for weeks.

Sabo recommends nine hours of sleep as optimum for health. Consistently going to bed at the same time every night and waking up at the same time every morning is also important. Because mono is caused by a virus, antibiotics are useless in fighting the illness. The best way to ensure a quick recovery, Sabo said, is simply to get enough rest.

In preventing mono, no vaccine is available.

Students who are worried about getting sick should keep regular sleep habits, good hygiene, and if they live in an apartment or cottage, make sure dishes are clean,” Sabo said.

A laboratory test, available through the Health Clinic, is necessary to confirm if symptoms are indeed the result of mono. Healthy choices can often prevent many common seasonal infections, from becoming a major interruption in everyday life.

“We live in a germ-filled world,” Sabo said. “You can’t be afraid of every germ that you might come across.”

Click on the image below for more information on the Lakeshore Sound Project.

Tired? Sore throat? Fever? Don’t succumb to mono this season

EBV in the herpesvirus family, which includes chicken pox, cold sores and genital herpes.

The outside layer should be a water-resistant shell to keep the athlete dry and warm. Another benefit of wearing layers is being able to take them off as body temperature increases.

Experts warn that many athletes neglect stretching before and after working out. Stretching is even more important in cold weather.

“In the cold, muscles tend to freeze up if you don’t stretch. It’s imperative to have a warm up and stretch really well after you work out and also after so you don’t tighten up,” Ali Young (’08), athletic training major, said.

An important factor that winter athletes often forget is staying hydrated. Even though it is cold outside, people do sweat in cold temperatures and need to replace that water. Adults should be drinking at least two liters of water a day, according to the Mayo Clinic. For most college students, that means two Nalgene full of water, or 64 ounces.

Although finding fun ways to stay active in the winter can be difficult, students only need to be creative to find fun, effective alternatives to summer pastimes.

Burn calories, rain, snow or shine

Running (9 min/mile): 387

Stairstepper: 310

Cross country skiing: 271

Basketball: 271

Stationary bike: 232

Calories burned per half hour. Source: USDA Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion
THE THOUGHTS THAT LIE UNDER HOPE

After I wrote this editorial I cried

Women should not be leaders in the church. Say “amen” after every prayer. Spend “quiet time” each day with God. Be baptized as an adult. And pray and pray and pray without ceasing.

I stared blankly at these statements in front of me. There were 70 of them in total. I was told to reflect on each sentence. Mark each one as “essential” or “negotiable” in the Christian faith. In a room of 50 Bible-believing Christians, I was asked to raise my hand for each statement I believed “negotiable.” My heart started beating, fast.

Up until this point in my life I managed to keep my secret. But I spilled the beans this weekend. At InterVarsity Christian Fellowship’s winter conference, I raised my hand, publicly announced among 60 Christians, that I, Erin L’Hotta, find Biblical truth “negotiable.”

After I announced this, I knew I was out of the club. You know which club I mean. The Jesus club. The club of Christians who have it all together. The ones who know absolute truth. Never question God’s love, healing power of redemption.

I wish I could be in that club. I really do. But knowledge is a burden. And this burden has taken a toll.

It all started when I learned about injustice. Poverty. Racism. Sexual assault. Genocide. The list goes on. So do my questions. If God is so powerful then why is there evil in the world? We say God has the power to heal. If so, why do babies cry wondering where their next meal will come? Why are innocent lives slaughtered each day because of their skin color? Why are women raped each minute? Can God heal them? I don’t know.

I’ve discovered this horrible realization that freedom has a tremendous role in shaping society. Things that I used to directly correlate to God, I now see as the hand of human evil. Which begs the question, how do I make the distinction between God and man? What is man’s role in writing the Bible? Is it word-for-word truth. God breathed or written by ordinarily fallible humans?

It’s funny how the church doesn’t accept questions. Doubts. Fears. It seems to me that these concepts are the backbone of faith. How can one believe something as absolute truth without taking time to think about differing points of view? Can it be absolute if one never knows any other? Can one have a principle foundation of faith if he or she never takes the time to question the foundation they rest upon? How can faith be authentic if one never slows down to discern the distinction between God’s plan and their own? God’s voice and the voice of Biblical interpretation through our own worldview?

What about fear? God talks about fear. Yet this is continued for 51 minutes. He spoke on various social and political initiatives, such as the struggle for freedom in Iraq, energy independence and the amount of federal spending on Hurricane Katrina damage.

Besides performing covers, the band’s newest goal is to add a few of their own songs. Golden and VanArendonk have already written and rehearsed three of their own works but are hoping to do more.

“We’re just playing for fun, not because we’re good,” Golden said.

After I wrote this editorial I cried.
XL: SEAHAWKS v. STEELERS

Jenny Cencer
Sports Editor

Super Bowl XL arrives with a super-sized attitude to Detroit’s Ford Field on Sunday, Feb. 5 at 6:00 p.m. Super Sunday’s annual hype should meet all expectations as the Seattle Seahawks battle the Pittsburgh Steelers for the world championship title. The nation’s 40th championship match-up will be the first of its kind in Michigan since Super Bowl XVI, 1982, when it was played at the Pontiac Silverdome and the first cold weather site since Super Bowl XXVII, 1992, when it was played in Minneapolis.

The game will feature the league’s most dynamic quarterbacks, ten pro bowlers, the Super Bowl MVP, and is looking forward to a promising season.

“We have a lot of good returners, a few All-Americans, and a strong freshman class,” Coach said. “I was impressed at the turnout in numbers we’ve had so far.”

“We are training one to two times daily with outdoor running, resistance training, and flexibility exercises,” Distance Coach Mark Northuis said.

Winter conditioning begins in early January for many track participants and includes both indoor and outdoor training. For distance runners, the winter conditioning offers runners a transition from cross country to track.

“We spend eight to nine weeks of base miles conditioning and cross country, before we begin our specific event training. We are transitioning into that phase of training now,” Northuis said.

Next Saturday the team will have their first test against Carthage for an indoor competition and will find out if their preseaon conditioning is paid off.

After four meets, Hope will train at Orlando, Florida’s National Training Facility. There, the team will compete in two meets, one in Coastal Carolina, and the other at Emory University.

The first outdoor conference will be at Buys Fieldhouse against Albion and Tri-State on April 12 at 2 p.m.

A LEAGUE OF THEIR OWN:
PISTONS POISED FOR NBA TITLE
R.J. Thebo
Steve Young

After winning the NBA Championship in 2004 against the Lakers and finishing runner-up to the Spurs in 2005, the Pistons look poised to make another run at the title. For a fifth win, Bill Cowher is coaching his sixth seeded Steak in the NBA.

The Pistons have started the season strong, but will need to continue their momentum if they want to make another run at the title. The Pistons are currently sitting at 20-16, but will need to improve their defense if they want to make a deep run in the playoffs.

Rasheed, dominate the inside. Rasheed averages 15.1 points and 6.7 rebounds per game, while Ben averages 12.4 rebounds and 2.4 blocks per game, while Tayshaun Prince, a 2002 first round pick, is having a quietly impressive season.

The Pistons are looking to build on their success from last year and take another step towards the championship. With a strong defense and a solid offense, the Pistons are poised to make a deep run in the playoffs.

THE TERRIBLE TOWEL COMES TO DETROIT
Hines Ward and Ben Roethlisberger are the two youngest quarterbacks, to win Super Bowl rings, and are expected to deliver the 2006 championship game to the fans of the steelers.

A FC v. the Panthers.

Michigan, of which $111 million will go to Oakland County.

The game will be aired on ABC starting at 6:30. Aretha Franklin and Aaron Neville will perform the National Anthem and The Rolling Stones are slated to perform the halftime special.