Students raise funds for Haiti

Charlotte Park

The catastrophic earthquake that rocked Haiti on Jan. 12 left over 170,000 people dead in a desperate search for hope.

In response to this tragedy, various organizations on Hope College’s campus are making efforts to raise money and join together in prayer for the grieving people of Haiti.

Aimed at attracting students for cross-cultural ministry, the organization Hope for the Nations has been the main source of fundraising efforts on campus.

On Jan. 26 at the Jubilee Midtown Ministries Center, the group hosted “A Day for Haiti,” an event stemming from the idea of a local pastor.

The idea of the event was for everyone to donate one day’s wages to Haiti relief. Hope students and Holland residents gathered together to pray as well as donate money and hygiene items. The event was split up into three stations: item collection, prayer cards and bracelet making.

“We is great to see the community come together and pray for such a meaningful cause,” said Hope for the Nations leader Ann Baenziger (12).

Various organizations such as the American Red Cross and Living Water International were also at the event handing out stickers, flyers and information to people about their sponsorship in Haiti.

“It was really cool to talk to people who had direct connections to Haiti and could tell me where their team was at and what they were doing,” said Baenziger. “I even discussed sponsoring a child with Compassion, an international company with a base in Haiti.”

In addition to “A Day for Haiti,” Hope for the Nations members are putting change collection beginning Thursday, Feb. 4.

“We are hoping to get the whole campus involved and spread awareness,” said Hope for the Nations leader Brenda Cuellar (13).

Hope for the Nations isn’t the only organization on campus taking action. On Friday, Jan. 29, the International Relations Club raised donations for Haiti relief by giving away hot chocolate in front of Graves Hall.

International Relations Club President Ayanfe Olonade (11) said all proceeds will be sent to the American Red Cross. Campus ministries also collected donations from Jan.17-24.

Still brainstorming ideas, Student Congress has set up a committee to organize an event for Haiti relief. Kollen Hall rep Alicia Wojcik (13) said. Some ideas mentioned were a snow sculpture contest in the Pine Grove in which students would pay to join teams, and using Kletz Grove in which students would take actions.

As the days and weeks continue to fly by, Hope for the Nations stresses the importance of helping those in Haiti. Students and faculty are encouraged to take advantage of the fundraising efforts on campus and spread hope to a country in such desperate need of it.

Charlotte Park

Guest Writer

“Screening of ‘Seven Passages’ encourages discussion

Arryn Uhlenbrauck

“Spera In Deo”

“The final testimonial of the film stressed speaking with gay Christians that viewers knew and asking them to ‘tell their story’” Sandberg communicated that the people she interviewed told her “I’m really glad I told you my story.”

Hope edges first-place Calvin

Got a story idea? Let us know at anchor@hope.edu, or call us at 395-7877.

HOOT AND HOLLER— The Dew Crew gets rowdy at “the rivalry” game against Calvin in DeVos Fieldhouse on Saturday. Hope defeated first-place Calvin 67-64 in front of a record crowd of 3,665.

See full story on page 12.
Green student housing project planned

Hope College is considering building new housing for juniors and seniors that would have more environmentally friendly elements to it. The project is only in the fundraising phase of production and $2 to $3 million are needed to complete this project. Hope is striving for a LEED Silver Certification.

The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) is a green rating system devised for buildings. They promote building through specific criteria targeted to increase energy savings, water efficiency, and reduce carbon dioxide emissions in housing.

While the LEED certification will add additional costs to the project the environmentally saving profits will outreach any additional cost. Plans call for a 19-unit, 82-bed, apartment-style complex that will be L-shaped and have three floors. It will be located on the corner of Lincoln and 11th Street, south of the DeVos fieldhouse. The units will be four- and six-person apartments.

Most Hope College students pack up their bathing suits, sandals, sunglasses and towels and then head south for spring break. Instead of using the week of spring break to relax though, about 225 students will participate in the Activate ’10 spring break mission trips.

This year, Rosendahl will be leading a trip to the Caribbean Christian Center for the Deaf in Montego Bay, Jamaica. Under the direction of a ministry Hope has been working with since 1997. “It’s my first time outside of the country, so I’m excited,” said Rosendahl.

Students have a variety of reasons for going on spring break mission trips. “I’m really looking forward to meeting people and having fellowship with other Christians,” said Tiffany Lumley (12).

Lumley remembers the people she met at Voice of Calvary Ministries in Jackson, Miss., especially Voice of Calvary’s youth group. “I remember saying goodbye,” said Lumley, “We all got in a circle and started playing a game. We just didn’t want to leave, so we acted like time wasn’t passing, we were just stuck in this moment with these people.”

Rosendahl specifically recalls hearing the testimonies of her work team each night after dinner. “They were all different,” said Rosendahl, “but you could take them place three times, the attendance of Midnight Pancakes has more than tripled in its short existence, and now has a tendency to evolve into a living room dance party by the end.

The Greenhouse has also hosted President and Mrs. Bultman for dinner, an experience that still, three months later, has them excited. Other community initiatives include cooking meals for friends and buying local, especially with the Holland Farmers Market in season.

With an open door policy called “Fierce”, and a penchant for slowly but surely changing the state of the environment, the Greenhouse formerly known as Smith Cottage is an addition to the Hope community that promises to be around far beyond the ’09-’10 school year.
President focuses on economy in State of the Union

Amy Alvine  Staff Writer

“I have never been more hopeful about America’s future than I am tonight,” said President Barack Obama in his State of the Union address to both houses of Congress and the American people Jan. 27.

In his address to the nation, President Obama covered three main issue areas: the economy, the health insurance reform and government spending.

In regard to the economy, Obama emphasized that the bank bailout unified the country, because we all hated it. “It was as about popular as a root canal,” said Obama, managing to get a laugh out of the crowd.

The president expressed that, in order for the United States to remain the leader of the global economy, there needs to be more production, more efficiency and more incentives. Thus, Obama’s goal is to double exports over the next five years which would support two million jobs in America. The president also encouraged American innovation—such as a planned high-speed rail system—as well as financial reform.

The State of the Union address also provided an opportunity to address the problem of the current recession. Obama highlighted this issue and said that, “In the United States of America, no one should go broke, because they chose to go to college.”

Obama’s response to rising college tuition costs is for government to increase the amount of aid from Pell Grant as well as to give families a $10,000 tax credit for four years of college. In addition, if Obama’s plans are implemented, college graduates will pay 10 percent of their income toward student loans and, after 20 years, all remaining student-loan debt will be forgiven.

Regarding the health insurance reform, Obama said that the new health care plan would protect every American from the worst practices of insurance companies as well as work to reduce the cost and premiums. The reform would also let the uninsured choose an affordable health care plan in a competitive market, and, over the next two decades, would bring down the national deficit by $1 trillion.

Although Congress is reluctant to pass this reform bill, Obama implored Congress not to walk away from reform. “Not now. Not when we are so close. Let us find a way to come together and finish the job for the American people,” he said.

With this, President Obama received a standing ovation from both the Democrats and the Republicans. It is no secret that the United States is trillions of dollars in debt. In order to pay for the $1 trillion required for recent spending projects and the stimulus package, Obama proposed a freeze on government spending (except for national security, Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security) in 2011. Obama said that he would make this freeze even if it meant using his veto power.

Three-year spending freeze proposed to rein in national deficit

Proposal exempts Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security and defense spending

Kelsey Colburn  Staff Writer

Early this week, President Obama announced a new initiative to slow down spending within the national government, a plan that is to be put into effect next year.

The proposed three-year spending freeze is an attempt to trim the growing national deficit, which has reached $1.4 trillion.

Obama has stated that this proposal will affect many domestic programs which the government funds each year such as education, nutrition and agriculture. However, many of the programs that make up a large part of the budget would be excused such as Medicare, Social Security and foreign aid as well as security budgets for the Pentagon and the Department of Homeland Security.

Net savings as a result of this plan are estimated at $250 billion.

The proposal is receiving both positive and negative response from all sides of the political spectrum. The speaker of the house, Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., has affirmed that she will support the freeze but only as long as it applies to the Pentagon’s defense and weapons-related programs as well, an opinion shared by others on Capitol Hill. Some Democrats also say that the freeze will be detrimental to the economy, impeding the government’s ability to create jobs and boost the country out of the current recession.

Many Republicans have been quick to condemn, remarking on what they believe to be the small amount of budget that will actually be affected.

A spokesperson for House Minority leader John Boehner compared the freeze to a “light diet after winning a pie eating contest.” However, many fiscally conservative Democrats have come out in support of the plan, believing that such spending decisions over the national budget are necessary due to the large increase in government debt, which some economists believe could undermine the country’s long-term prosperity.

Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., has also come out in support of the freeze, stating that he supports any attempt to cut optional domestic spending.

The freeze would have to be supported by Congress, and many are unsure of the response. The Senate recently rejected legislation similar to Obama’s a slightly modified plan that would have given domestic agencies an increase of about 1 percent.

However, some believe that through compromise, Congress will agree on a version of the plan that will decrease the deficit while at the same time creating jobs.

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Ace That Test
President, GOP engage in lively discussion
Obama and Republicans debate divisive issues at annual GOP retreat

Eric Anderson
Co-Editor-in-Chief, News Editor

In a manner of discourse usually reserved for presidential debates, Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke denied Senator Barack Obama and House Speaker John Boehner of the idea of a second term.

The discussion at the annual Republican retreat in Baltimore was unexpectedly cut short as the crowd maintained its rigorous and confrontational atmosphere.

The debate centered on the issues where the president and Republican lawmakers most fervently disagree.

Specifically, they touched on the health-care bill, the stimulus package currently on display in our nation's capital.

The arguments and defenses made by each side were unsurprising. Republicans chastised Obama for not including their ideas and suggestions during the formation of the health-care bill and stimulus package. Obama countered that he included the feasible suggestions, leaving out proposals that were simply unrealistic. Obama went on to argue that many of the lawmakers in the room who had voted against the stimulus package were also eager to attend the ribbon cuttings of the economic stimulus.

While no consensus was reached, each side took time to criticize how they have been portrayed.

Obama denounced the Republicans as a radic-and the seemingly unanimous hostility towards

points, arguing that they were not the Party of the Center.

“I can look you in the eye and tell you we have not been obstructionists,” said Rep. Joe Walsh, D-Ill.

To amplify this point, Rep. John Boehner, R-Ohio, of the House majority leader, gave Obama a book entitled “Better Solutions,” which details Republican proposals and solutions that Boehner claimed were ignored over the previous year. Obama responded by expressing his appreciation for such a devoted opponent.

“I’m a big believer in a robust, not in the value of a loyal opposition,” said Obama, “but in its necessity.”

The overall tone of the candid question-and-answer session seemed to be conciliatory.

While the initial tone tended to be argumentative, by the end, both sides agreed to all the common ground.

An issue like sending more troops to Afghanistan was identified as a topic where the White House and the GOP can agree.

Obama and members of the GOP even went so far as to admit they found the retreat’s discourse enjoyable.

The two sides also agreed that constituents were more interested in job creation, or as Obama put it, “I don’t believe the American people want us to focus on our job security. They want us to focus on their job security.”

General Reserve chairman confirmed for second term

Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke received Senate confirmation for a second term in office on Jan. 28.

While the Senate-vote count was 70-30, The News Tribune reported that it was the closest a vote has ever been in the history of reconfirming a Federal Reserve chairman.

Formerly appointed in 2006 during President George W. Bush’s term, Bernanke’s four-year term has been difficult.

One of the main ways that Bernanke and the Federal Reserve impact the U.S. economy is by setting specific interest rates for banks. The current Federal Reserve’s interest rate is 0.25 according to Bankrates.com. Lower interest rates allow banks to loan more money as well as allow businesses and lenders to make increased amounts of investments.

The interest rate in the rate at which banks and institutions lend money to each other. Banks must keep a percentage of the money they lend on reserve so that the bank cannot earn interest on. Banks try to keep their limit close enough to this interest value without going under.

An increase in the rate makes it very expensive to borrow and increases short term interest rates. Lowering the rates causes interest rates short term to decrease but has the negative effects of inflation.

While certain politicians believe part of Bernanke’s disapproval has been due to recent Republican elections, Diane Swonk, the chief economist at Mesirow Financial, told the Wall Street Journal Jan. 28, before the actual Senate vote, that the main issue surrounding Bernanke’s reappointment was whether he would be able to improve the economy.

"The more critical issue for the future of monetary policy," Swonk said, "is that the Fed maintains its independence, which is being challenged on all sides.

Opposition to Bernanke went across both party lines as 11 Democrats, 18 Republicans and one independent voted against Bernanek’s reconfirmation. The Wall Street Journal reported on Friday that a majority of his agenda, we have the same concerns."

One of the main reasons that Bernanke has been so popular is that the economy has been stronger than expected.

Bernanke has drawn severe criticism from certain politicians who blame his policies for causing massive amounts of inflation. With such a low interest rate, many politicians believe that the rate creates a very large, unnecessary money supply. Inflation and large rates hurt investor confidence.

Bernanke has said that he believes the current economic conditions will be around for a few years. The stock market has lost a huge amount of money, and the housing market has also taken a huge hit.

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Bernanke has said that he believes the current economic conditions will be around for a few years. The stock market has lost a huge amount of money, and the housing market has also taken a huge hit.

This is by far the biggest study ever carried out and shows fairly conclusively that the idea of a G-spot is subjective.

- Tim Spector, of King’s College, London, after a study in the Journal of Sexual Medicine found that the internal female erogenous zone may be a myth.

“Dolphins are ‘nonhuman persons’ who qualify for moral standing as individuals.”

-  Comedian Ricky Gervais on Twitter.

“Letting fatties roam the halls is a direct threat to our business model!”

-  Jimmy Kimmel on President Obama’s State of the Union Address.

“Your kids are sante.”

- Michelle Obama, U.S. first lady, on the achievement she is most proud of in her first year at White House.

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Eight promising albums to look forward to in 2010

Chris Russ

Two notable, music-related stories of 2009, the death of Michael Jackson and the latest Kanye West outburst, had very little to do with any actual music being made. Perhaps 2010 will be a year notable for good music rather than controversy and tragedy. The following are eight albums to look forward to in the coming year.

"Break Belts," an album combining the talents of Shins frontman James Mercer and producer and multi-instrumentalist Brian Burton, more commonly known as Danger Mouse, is scheduled to be released on March 9. Burton’s past projects include work with Gorillaz, The Black Keys and Beck, and most notably as a member of Gracje Barkley. The first promising single off of the album was available for free on the band’s website.

Already an international star with a string of hit singles, Drake plans to release his debut album sometime in March. With a pair of top-10 singles in 2009, Drake made the transition from an actor (on the teen drama "Degrassi: The Next Generation") to rap stardom look easy. The album will be titled “Thank Me Later” and is already set to feature guest appearances by Jay-Z and The-Dream.

The genre-blending British group Gorillaz have announced the release of their third album, "Plastic Beach," the group’s first album since 2005. Rappers Snoop Dogg and Mos Def, as well as Lou Reed of the Velvet Underground, are set to collaborate on the record. This album is also scheduled to be released this March.

Moving forward two months, indie rock group Arcade Fire have their latest album slated for a May release. The still untitled album will be the third for the unusually large (seven-member) band, whose past accomplishments include performing at the Lollapalooza music festival and receiving three Grammy nominations.

Weird and unsettling music is not only accepted, it is often in the norm for the modern pop music fan. This may be why the Fleet Foxes’ 2008 self-titled debut felt so refreshing. Their music brings Americana up to date with classic sounding songs. The group plans on releasing a new, full-length album in the second half of 2010.

"Romance Is Boring" — Chris Russ

Maria Krebs and Aaron Martin. —

The Anchor

February 3, 2010

In Brief

Year of the tiger focuses on art

The Holland Area Arts Council along with the Cambodian, Laotian and Vietnamese communities of Holland are hosting an exhibit that is now open until April 26. On display will be artwork, costumes, music and dances. The goal of the exhibition is to encourage the community to expand its artistic knowledge of diverse cultures.

The first Friday of each month will continue with discounted admission to the Holland Area Arts Council’s Downtown Artwalk, or "Dance Walk," from 7 to 10 p.m. Featuring different communities of Holland are hosting an exhibit that is now open until April 26. On display will be artwork, costumes, music and dances. The goal of the exhibition is to encourage the community to expand its artistic knowledge of diverse cultures.

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The Winter Blues
What Causes Them & How to Fight Back

It’s February in Holland. Everyone knows that with this cold, dark month comes snow, wind and sometimes even the “winter blues.” Depression is a common word that floats around Michigan during the winter months. Yet, is it something more than just a feeling?

According to an article on emedicine-health.com, the “winter blues” is associated with a type of disorder known as Seasonal Affective Disorder. SAD can also be characterized as depression.

Symptoms of depression include a decrease in energy, nutritional problems, feelings of worthlessness, persistent sad feelings or even suicidal thoughts. When any of these symptoms continue for an extended period of time, action needs to be taken in order to stop the pessimistic feelings and to look on the bright side waiting up ahead.

Seasonal Affective Disorder is usually present in individuals during the fall and winter months. Although it is known to be common in the lives of women, it may affect men as well.

SAD is thought to be caused by chemical changes in the brain due to a lack of sunshine, which provides Vitamin D, a crucial preventative factor in human health. Living in Michigan, SAD is more prominent because of the cloudy, winter weather that lasts for several months.

Not only can SAD be caused by chemical changes in the brain, but it can also be caused by patterns in family backgrounds. SAD can happen to anyone, but everyone has the power to fight against it.
If experiencing any form of depression, there are a number of treatments that can be followed to decrease the feeling.

~ Seek out the help of friends and spend quality time with them. Don’t hole up in your dorm room - socialize, laugh, and SMILE. Smiling alone can make you feel better.

~ Exercise. Doing this will help your body feel more energized and healthy. Too cold for you to walk to the Dow? YouTube some exercise videos and start a work-out party in the lobby of your dorm.

~ Eat healthy and be sure to get some sunshine. Cloudy day? Check out sunlight therapy lamps. You can buy one for your desk from eBay for only $30.

~ Taking time to relax. School is crazy; we know. But don’t allow the stress of it to get your muscles too tense and your head in a jumble. Take some time to veg out with reading a book (for pleasure!) or watching a movie.

At Hope College, the counseling center is always available to help any student get through difficult emotional periods. In addition, students can schedule a meeting with any of the chaplains at campus ministries and chat over a cup of tea or coffee!

In the midst of all these dark February days, there is still a glimmer of hope for a sunny tomorrow. Don’t get SAD - remember that Spring is just around the corner!
That elusive virtue

I have discovered something in my two and a half years here at Hope College: each year of college can be summed up and characterized by a handful of virtues. This may sound silly, but I invite everybody who has gone through at least one semester of college to take a second glance.

Sophomore year comes with its own set of challenges: now that you’ve done the “freshman thing” and are supposedly wiser, more is expected. Responsibility (since classes are more difficult), friendliness (since you’re most likely in a new dorm) and ambition (because this is your first year away from home, even if it’s only 10 minutes, takes courage, faith and even a little perseverance).

Junior year is characterized by patience. Those who have spoken to me for more than five minutes know that I am not a particularly patient person. I enjoy knowing what things are going to happen, when they will occur, etc., etc. I don’t even particularly like laundry being washed. But I am not trying to sound preachy, but I can honestly say that continuously reminding myself that God has a plan, as well as praying about it when I start to stress, helps.

However, this does not mean that I have sat on my butt and done nothing all year. I have a little quote calendar on my computer, and yesterday’s quote was, “Patience is waiting. Not passively waiting — that is laziness. But to keep going when the going is hard and slow, that is patience.” I’m going to take a stab in the dark and say that the going is hard and slow for many of us right now.

For some, we’ve settled into a routine, and maybe we’re stuck in the rut of that routine. For others, it may be that the passing of David and Emma still consumes our thoughts, making focused on classes and other responsibilities difficult. It might even just be that feeling of loneliness that can sometimes accompany the gray days of winter, no matter how busy one’s social and academic calendar is.

Whatever the case, I encourage each of you to push through with patience and hard work. Trusting God to move is all well and good, but we have to do our part as well. Don’t send off sloppy applications to summer jobs and internships and be surprised when you’re rejected. Instead take the time to make them the best they can be. Likewise, your homework isn’t going to do itself, and those As won’t show up on KnowHopePlus in May without a little effort.

I’m not guaranteeing that a combination of prayer, patience and hard work will make your life perfect, but at the very least, you’ll be able to say that you have patience and have conquered the long periods of waiting. That, in and of itself, may be reward enough.

Karen is still waiting (somewhat impatiently) to hear back about the ASME summer internship. It’s been over two months — what’s a few more days at this point?

Karen Patterson
Co-Editor-in-Chief

The wound

Recently I did something that I’ve been a little uneasy about for a long time. I discovered several questions that had been hiding under the floorboards and decided to bring them to God.

I know that God is all-powerful and all-loving, but what about those who are oppressed in sex trafficking? What about those who are hungry? What about those who are wrongfully imprisoned in countries that lack justice? What about when friends commit suicide? What about those who are born with physical disabilities? What about those who have lost a parent, a spouse or a child? What about earthquakes? What about all the hurt? What about friends who die in a plane crash?

Sometimes I can’t tell if there are a thousand little questions living in my heart or just one big one — one intense overarching question that acts more like a wound than an unanswered problem.

What are we supposed to do when we find this wound that can’t be taken care of with a nice Bible verse Band-Aid? And even worse, what do we do when we find that we are the ones who are wounded?

Should we simply hold on and pray that the end — the grand finale of Christ’s return — provides an answer that is bigger than our grand question, a touch of an actual being. Our hope is in a God who became a man to inherit the wound and set the date of its destruction. We aren’t waiting for all the answers; we’re waiting for the answer giver, the one who is called wonderful counselor, mighty God, everlasting father, prince of peace.

Revelation 21:3-4 says, “Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

Though the wound is very real, we have a living, breathing Hope. We have a healer who is alive.

Bryant loves jammin’ to Lecrae when he drives to Holland Christian in the mornings.

Bryant Russ
Columnist

Do we just move on with floating questions marks flying around our hearts, or do we smile and pretend God has answered all our questions?

Honestly, I have no idea. Besides indulging in a good cry, I don’t have much of a plan. All I know is this: our king is a healer, and we have hope.

Our comfort is not in the ideas of a philosophy, or even the doctrines of a religion. Rather, it is in the healing touch of an actual being. Our hope is in a God who became a man to inherit the wound and set the date of its destruction. We aren’t waiting for all the answers; we’re waiting for the answer giver, the one who is called wonderful counselor, mighty God, everlasting father, prince of peace.

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The Anchor is looking for an Assistant Business Manager

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The wound

Recently I did something that I’ve been a little uneasy about for a long time. I discovered several questions that had been hiding under the floorboards and decided to bring them to God.

I know that God is all-powerful and all-loving, but what about those who are oppressed in sex trafficking? What about those who are hungry? What about those who are wrongfully imprisoned in countries that lack justice? What about when friends commit suicide? What about those who are born with physical disabilities? What about those who have lost a parent, a spouse or a child? What about earthquakes? What about all the hurt? What about friends who die in a plane crash?

Sometimes I can’t tell if there are a thousand little questions living in my heart or just one big one — one intense overarching question that acts more like a wound than an unanswered problem.

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Should we simply hold on and pray that the end — the grand finale of Christ’s return — provides an answer that is bigger than our grand question, a beautiful restoration that turns our difficulties into peace?

Should we explain away and justify and undermine all the damage that’s been done, calling it part of God’s plan?

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Bryant Russ
Columnist
Grace & Peace
Grace Olson
Columnist

A piano for Emma and David

I've been writing about the piano a lot lately. I'm writing a collection of stories about a piano teacher for my fiction class, so I've been thinking about music theory and composers. I try to wriggle my writing self into the body of my pianist self so that I can write how it feels to play the piano. I imagine myself as a middle schooler, unwilling to practice and rolling my eyes at my ancient piano teacher. I re-envision my years in the practice room at Hope, cracking the window so I don't overheat and running the same stretch of measures over and over for an hour.

But on days like three Sundays ago, when I check my e-mail, suddenly, pianos do not mean lessons. I am not thinking about scales and arpeggios. I can't remember the "Moonlight Sonata." I don't recall Mozart's birthday. I don't think of the day my piano teacher didn't wake up, the day after she went polka dancing, the day my neighbor called us because the teacher's door was locked and she didn't answer her doorbell.

On days like three Sundays ago, I go to the evening hymn-singing at my church and sit between my friends, who have now each lost a friend, and I think that nothing in the world can console us. Except then the man who has been playing the piano turns on an old recording of Psalm 23 and says it's from his wife's funeral 10 years ago. And at that moment, nothing can console us but the piano and the choir and the words of the psalmist, which we believe are the Word of the Lord.

At that gathering that night, I am grateful that they've wheeled the beautiful black grand onto the stage. Its timbre is warmer, its presence is fuller, more majestic. It is a sort of comfort to me, and I think that it holds the community together better than the leggy keyboard of most Sunday nights. The grand piano is more solemn, I think, more reverent. Occasions like these deserve a grand piano. David and Emma deserve grand pianos.

Grace has been listening to Vivaldi's Summer all week. Maybe she'll write her next story about the violin.

From the inside out
Annelise Belmonte
Arts Editor

Hope diamond

I'm not sure if you are familiar with the movie "Steel Magnolias," but there's a scene where one of the characters dies. Once I accidentally flipped the movie on television and the death scene was on. I spontaneously bursted into tears. But I had to watch until the end, because there was a happy ending. While everyone would still mourn the death and celebrate the life of the character, life went on. Someone had to. The character's son was having fun at an Easter celebration.

All with this of taking place on Easter, it was perfect for me because that's the day Jesus rose again, right? Even though that character wouldn't rise again, her friends would. So would her family. And of course nothing would ever be the same, because nothing ever is after a life-changing event.

I also thank Biagioni family for letting me and my family share our lives with them all. I am grateful that they've wheeled the beautiful black grand onto the stage. Its timbre is warmer, its presence is fuller, more majestic. It is a sort of comfort to me, and I think that it holds the community together better than the leggy keyboard of most Sunday nights. The grand piano is more solemn, I think, more reverent.

Maybe you'll write her next story about the violin.

In Loving Memory...
Emma Biagioni

I just want to say thank you to God for creating such a beautiful soul, the true angel like Emma.

I also thank Biagioni family for letting me and my family share our lives with them all.

My heart aches and sings with Biagioni family, her Japanese host family (Tiamano family), my closest friends (who's a nurse. She's seen a lot of death, and she kept reassuring me that every death, like every birth, is different. And when the soul left the body, you could tell. They didn't look scared. They looked peaceful. That's how she would tell that what mattered most was what was on the other side.

And even with these words of wisdom, I couldn't help but cry. When my editor tossed me last week's issue with Emma and David's picture on the front, I gasped. It had physically felt like someone had taken my inside and squeezed them really hard. I quickly apologized to my math professor, who gave me a concerned look as I slid it under my math texts. But I just had to watch until the end, because there was a happy ending. While everyone would still mourn the death and celebrate the life of the character, life went on. Someone had to. The character's son was having fun at an Easter celebration.

A birthday card from Emma to Meghan Fore. Feb 25, 2009

To my Megs –

Happy birthday to you today, love! How sad that neither of us were able to be around for each other's birthdays this past year. We'll have to make up for it next year!

Will Meg, you are like another sister to me, hawk, what am I saying, through Christ you are my sister! Amen! My heart will mean too much to me. Our friendship has proved to be so strong. Living in different countries did not hurt us, it actually brought us closer. I think I will forever remember that moment when I ran into my room and got to give you a hug. It was a hug after months of being apart. What a beautiful and joyful moment.

I love you Mags. I look forward to experiencing life with you in the years to come. Wherever God takes us in our lives, you will always be a part of my life as a friend, but firstly as my sister: Keep loving and serving God. You are beautiful, humble and intelligent. I'm blessed because you are in my life.

Enjoy your special day, love.

See you in a few weeks!

<3 Emma B.
Knickerbocker features spring film series

Hope College PR - The Hope College Knickerbocker Theatre continues its tradition of showing the best in independent and foreign films with its spring film series. The series runs through Saturday, April 17, featuring “Coco Before Chanel,” “Amreeka” and “An Education.”

“Coco Before Chanel,” starring Audrey Tautou in the title role, is a biographical account of Coco Chanel, who was born Gabrielle Chanel. After her mother’s death, her father deposits her and her sister, Adrienne, at an orphanage, where they learn to sew. They go on to become cabaret singers, but when Adrienne runs off with a wealthy suitor, Coco must go it alone until she meets gentlewoman farmer Étienne Balsan. She lives comfortably at his chateau, but he refuses to take her out in public, so she puts her skills as a seamstress to good use and designs outfits for his lady friends, like Emmanuelle Devos, an actress. From there begins the story of the legendary designer.

Rated PG-13, the film is in French with English subtitles and has a running time of 105 minutes.

“Amreeka,” which has won several international awards and was nominated for the Grand Jury Prize at the Sundance Film Festival, is about Muna, a single mother in Ramallah, who applies for a visa to the U.S. When it comes, her son Fadi, an excellent student, convinces her they should go. After an incident at customs begins their exile badly, they join Muna’s sister and family in Illinois. Muna needs a job. Although she has two degrees and 15 years’ experience in banking, she settles for work at White Castle, telling the family her job’s at a nearby bank. It’s spring, 2003, and the U.S. invades Iraq. While friends come from unlikely places, Fadi meets prejudice at school. How he’ll respond to it and to American youth culture and how Muna will sort things out with her family are the rest of the story.

The film is rated PG-13 and is in English and Arabic with English subtitles. It has a running time of 96 minutes.

“An Education,” showing Tuesday-Saturday, April 13-17. Winner of 11 international awards and nominated for another 38, this film has been captivating audiences. In the early 1960s, 16-year-old Jenny Mellor lives with her parents in the London suburb of Twickenham. Jenny’s life changes after she meets David Goldman, a man more than twice her age. David goes out of his way to show Jenny and her family that his interest in her is not improper and that he wants solely to expose her to cultural activities which she enjoys. As the relationship evolves, Jenny learns more about David, including how he makes his money. Jenny has to decide if what she learns about him and leading such a life is worth forgoing her plans of higher education at Oxford.

The film is rated PG-13 and is in English with a running time of 95 minutes.

Tickets are $6 for regular admission and $5 for students and senior citizens, and can be purchased at the door or in advance at the ticket office in the front lobby of the DeVos Fieldhouse. The ticket office is open weekdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and can be called at (616) 395-7890. The DeVos Fieldhouse is located at 222 Fairbanks Ave., between 9th and 11th streets. The Knickerbocker Theatre is located in downtown Holland at 86 E. Eighth St., between College and Columbia avenues.
James Nichols

Women's Swimming

The words Calvin and rival are synonymous at Hope College. It goes without saying that if a sports team from Hope is playing a sports team from Calvin College, then it is important. While Calvin’s men’s swimming and diving team has not traditionally been strong, the Flying Dutchmen did not take Saturday’s meet lightly.

“In the past, we have given up some points that we shouldn’t have,” said Captain Matt Ray ('10). “This will not happen this year. We don’t plan on taking it easy on them at all. After all, it is Calvin. We’re going to beat them, so we might as well win big.”

Ray, along with Tommey Knecht ('12), switched to diving earlier this season as part of a attempt to score as many points as possible, having Ray and Knecht dive opens up more roster spots and allows for a higher point total.

A diver only takes up one-third of a spot on a roster that is capped at 18. With little diving depth across the MIAA, a last second and to-last finish for Ray and Knecht would still result in points for the team.

“Tommmy and I need to know six divers in order to compete,” Ray said. “If we can simply complete all six, then we automatically score points.”

Ray Gaskell ('13), the one competitive diver on the team, forms the last third. This makes three divers for the price of one swimmer.

The MIAA league meet is going to be one of the closest championships in history, Ray said. “Therefore, we are finding every way to score a few more points.”

Before the MIAA league meet, the Flying Dutchmen had to deal with Calvin, which they easily disposed of 176-109 Saturday afternoon.

The men were very good today,” said Coach John Patnott, founder and coach of the men’s and women’s swimming and diving teams since 1978.

Considering the fact that Calvin was at a bad day may be an understatement. The Flying Dutchmen finished first in every single event. All 16 men’s events were won by a Hope swimmer or diver.

The first event of the afternoon, the 400-yard medley relay, not only had a Hope team in first, but also in second and third in alphabetical order. The A team won, B team finished second and C team third, 3.65 seconds ahead of Calvin’s A team.

Captain Phil Heyboer ('10) had the largest margin of victory in any event by winning the 200-yard breaststroke by 9.34 seconds with a time of 2 minutes 11.43 seconds.

Freshman Ray Gaskell dominated both the one meter and three meter diving events, winning by a combined score of 76.7.

The final event of the evening, the 400-yard freestyle relay, was won by the Hope College A team of Nicholas Stone ('10), Cody Ritter ('10), Ryan Nolte ('10) and Aaron Welsch ('10) with a time of 3 minutes 14.34 seconds, six seconds faster than that of the Calvin A team.

With the MIAA league meet a week and a half away, it would make sense for the Flying Dutchmen to bear down and practice hard, Patnott has other ideas.

“Practices are going to be a lot lighter,” Patnott said. “They have to recover and rest their fatigued muscles.”

After months of daily practices and meets almost every weekend since the end of October, the Flying Dutchmen are tired. What most people walk in a day, they swim.

Starting Feb. 11 and running until Feb. 13, this year’s MIAA league meet is at Calvin College. Patnott has high hopes for the men’s swimming and diving team, especially for the distance events (one mile), backstroke and butterfly.

“We should be able to win or at least place well in these events,” Patnott said.

He also expects the men’s and women’s swimming teams to put together at least five solid relay teams.

“They may not win, but they will certainly be in the hunt for,” Patnott said.

Chris O'Brien

Associate Sports Editor

While people were flooding into the DeVos Fieldhouse for the men’s basketball game against Calvin College, an equally important match was taking place in the Dow Center.

The Dutch swimming team, at 5-0 in conference and 5-1 overall, was challenging the Calvin team, which was also 5-0 in conference and 6-2 overall.

Though the MIAA champion is determined by the outcome of the MIAA Championships, which will take place on Feb 11-13 in Calvin’s pool, bragging rights were still on the line as these two teams took to the pool on Saturday. The meet, the final dual-meet of the season, would determine which team would head into the conference championship with a perfect MIAA record.

In the end, the Knights from Calvin defeated the Flying Dutch, 176-123.5. Despite the outcome, head coach John Patnott was impressed with the team’s effort.

“We swam really well on Saturday,” Patnott said. “The 100 breaststroke and backstroke were a little weaker than we were hoping, but if anything they are trained so that was a coaching error.”

Several Hope women had first place finishes in the meet against Calvin. Sarah Sohn ('12) won the 1,000-yard freestyle in 10:40.99 and the 500-yard freestyle in 2:13.41. The team's season performance is second and the 100-yard freestyle.

In addition, three more Hope women won one event each: Kate Schewe ('10) in the 200-yard breaststroke, Katie Williams ('10) in the 100-yard butterfly, and Ashley Jaspere ('11) in the 200-yard butterfly.

“The times were good—about where we’ve been—but this is a hard time of the year,” Patnott said. “We need to step up. 90s is not cut back way. No more 5:45 a.m. practices. Now we’re focusing on our races.”

Though the women’s swim team was not able to maintain its perfect conference record, Patnott is still happy with how the team is doing.

“I’m really pleased with how the season has gone,” Patnott said. “There are a couple of girls swimming really well. Sarah Sohn in the distance events and Libby Westrate has done very well as a freshman.”

In the history of MIAA women’s swimming, Hope has been by far the most dominant team. Since the sport’s inception in 1977, the Flying Dutch have won 19 of 30 titles. Calvin is second with seven. However, in the 2000s, Calvin has been the dominant team, winning six of nine. Calvin has won the previous five conference titles, with Hope’s last championship coming in 2004.

Hope looks to stop Calvin’s current dynasty in the Knights’ own pool, by ending their MIAA Conference title streak at five. The Flying Dutch will look to start out the new decade with a MIAA Conference title and hope to build a dominant decade such as the 1980s, when the Flying Dutch won all ten titles.
It was a big week for the Hope College women’s basketball team. The Flying Dutch became the sixth team in NCAA Division III history to win at least 60 games in a row at home. Their win on Jan. 21 over Adrian was recorded as their 60th consecutive home court win.

The team also defeated rival Calvin College in an impressive 73-58 win on Jan. 19, gaining sole possession of first place in the MIAA. The attendance at DeVos Fieldhouse was no different as the record crowd 3,177 fans, which broke a DeVos Fieldhouse record that game was 3,177 fans, which

The Flying Dutch had already built a 21-0 lead. Both Courtney Kust (’13) and Bruinisma shot 5-of-7 from the floor.

Kust led all scorers with 13, and Bruinisma added 11. Again, their defense was formidable, forcing Adrian to commit 27 turnovers.

The Dutch won these stunning victories without their All-American 6’7” center Carrie Snikkers (’11). Snikkers was sidelined with a foot injury and hadn’t played in a game since Dec. 19 until the home matchup against Trine last Wednesday.

According to Bruinisma, the team has improved by being forced to play without Snikkers. So they will be an even better team than before when they get her back.

“I think that some good things can come out of bad ones, and in this case, the team has stepped up big time,” Bruinisma said.

“We are all really excited for Carrie to come back, whenever that is, but playing without her has made a lot of people realize that we all have to take it upon ourselves to play as hard as we can every game.”

“A lot of times we would just assume that Carrie would get a rebound or make a basket, but without her, players have become better rebounders and developed a more well-rounded game altogether.”

Since Snikkers’ return, the Flying Dutch have continued to dominate. On Wednesday, the women defeated Trine, 56-30. They followed this win with another victory on Saturday, as they defeated Olivet 71-44.

The women will look to maintain their spotless conference record tonight as the travel to Calvin in a rematch against the Knights.