Bush’s budget
Proposals requests $2.8 trillion
Moving In
Dance department finds new home
Student Congress Series
Speaker talks on environmental racism
Resurfacing
Documentary explores Janet Chandler’s death

NEWS SNIPPETS

HOPE MURDER SUSPECT AWAITS HEARING
Robert Michael Lynch of Three Oaks, former security guard and murder suspect of 1979 Hope senior Janet Chandler, remains jailed without bond awaiting a preliminary hearing in Holland District Court on Wednesday, Feb. 22. At that hearing, the court will decide whether enough evidence exists to warrant a trial. Lynch was arraigned Wednesday, Feb. 8, on three counts of murder. If Lynch stands trial, a jury could find him guilty of any of the three counts. If convicted, each count carries a mandatory life sentence.

BILL SUGGESTS THAT ENGLISH BE THE OFFICIAL STATE LANGUAGE
A bill has currently been introduced by Representative Jack Hoogendyk of Kalamazoo in a committee of the state house that would make English the official language of the State of Michigan. According to Hoogendyk, immigrants who enter this country need to learn English. He argues that catering to other languages is simply too expensive, costing the state millions of dollars.

SURVEY REPORTS FEMALE GRADS’ SALARIES
A 2003 graduate survey revealed that month that female Hope grads receive significantly less salary than male counterparts within the same discipline. The survey also discovered that of respondents who said they were dissatisfied with their employment, 50 percent had salaries under $22,000 per year.

The survey initially started in the early 1980’s. It is a one page survey containing 12 questions that assess recent graduates’ careers and factors that impact their jobs.

Van strikes student
A van collided with a student crossing 10th Street, near Lubbers, at 9:25 a.m. Monday, Feb. 20.

Shannon Craig
Base White
Hope students who use Amtrak might need to start looking for some transportation alternatives. The Michigan Legislature voted on a budget that decreased Amtrak funding by approximately $1 million in September 2005. This budget change causes services on the Pere Marquette and Blue Water lines to end in August 2006 for the current fiscal year, which ends Sept. 30, 2006. This would mean about a month lapse in train service, which would be reinstated in the following fiscal year.

The Pere Marquette, which runs from Grand Rapids to Chicago, and the Blue Water, which runs from Port Huron to Chicago, are the two trains that the state of Michigan helps support. The Pere Marquette connects Grand Rapids and Chicago with stops in Holland, Bangor, St. Joseph-Benton Harbor, and New Buffalo. The ending of both the Pere Marquette service route during September 2006 will leave many Hope students looking for alter- native methods to and from the city.

“It is my only way home. I would have to thoroughly exercise all my resources in hopes that I can make it home,” R.J. Casey (’09) said. No visible consideration was given to the fact that the Pere Marquette services Hope College students, and also students at other schools such as Aquinas College, Calvin College, Central Michigan University, and Michigan State University.

According to Mike Whims, the executive committee chair of Michigan Association of Railway Passenger, both the Pere Marquette lines are always considered together in legislation because they are seen as a combined service under the current Amtrak contract.

“It’s not a funding cut. It’s a transfer of funding allocation,” said an Amtrak media relations representative. “There is a movement in the State Legislature to move the money so that the trains can run through the rest of the year.”

FAITH MEETS WORLD

Students, faculty share in Calvin’s “International Development” conference

Carolyn Nichols
Guest Writer

More than 300 students list- en to a message on their role in social justice at the “Faith and In-
ternational Development” confer-
ence, held from Feb. 9 to Feb. 11. The Gezon Auditorium at Calvin College was filled to capacity.

Thirty-three Hope students and faculty forfeited part of their win-
er break to go to the conference. “This conference really demon-
strated that it is not merely doctors and pastors who can min-
ister to the world. Rather, po-

tical science, business people, engineers and others all have a place in working towards inter-
national development,” David Ntiryay (’07) said.

The conference consisted of six plenary sessions over the three days, smaller breakout sessions and free time to talk to speakers and students. Each plenary and session breakout focused on a different aspect of international development.

“When you work with people in poverty, there’s something about their faith and hope that strengthens you,” said Andy Rysk representing Christian Reformed World Relief Committee.

Each presenter encouraged the college students to not lose sight of the passion they have for social justice and the “least of these” (Mt 25). They commended the students who birthed the idea for the conference and those who saw it to completion.

Hope students also applauded their efforts. “I think that perhaps the most amazing thing about the confer-
ence was the fact that it was orga-
nized by students. Within a peri-

don of one year, this small group of Calvin students was able to organ-
ize six plenary sessions and 24 different breakout or small group sessions,” Hope student Kathleen Ludewig (’06) said.

The speakers shared an over-
whelming message of encourage-
ment. Each organization remarked on the promise of the impact poss-
eliminated youth could make.

“I don’t give up; we need you out there,” said Myles Fisch, President of International Aid.

The passion for social justice is spreading across Christian cam-
puses. Representatives from Tay-
lor University, Messiah College, and Calvin, among many others gathered in special meetings dur-
ing the conference to figure out ways to come continuing education.

The conference gave new in-
sight to students seeking a way to share their gifts.

“There is so much work being see CALVIN, PAGE 4

PHOTO EDITOR JAMES MCGOVERN

CAR CATCHES FIRE ON 14TH STREET

Erlin L’Hotta
Editor-in-Chief

On Feb. 20 a female student’s vehicle caught on fire while driving near the intersection of 14th Street and College Avenue. Holland Fire Department arrived immediately on the scene to put out the fire. College Avenue flooded and filled with heavy smoke from the accident.

The Holland Police Department assisted in the accident by blocking College Avenue between 14th and 15th Street.

Nicholas Engel
Campus News Editor

Co-lead service fraternity Alpha Phi Ome-

gamma is sponsoring an “ugly” contest starting Tuesday, Feb. 21 and ending the evening of Friday, Mar. 3, in order to raise funds for Dance Marathon.

For two weeks, six faculty members will compete against each other for the privilege of laying claim to the prestigious title “ugli-
est faculty on Hope’s campus,” as well as an undisclosed prize.

Professors Jill VanderStoep, Charles Be-
hesky and SonjaTrent-Brown of the psychol-
gy department, and professors Jack Radl, Ste-
phen Hememway and William Pannapacker of the English department have already entered into the contest.

Alpha Phi Omega took pictures of the par-

cipating professors, who dressed and posed in a uniquely creative and ugly way. They then attached those pictures to a series of jars.

The two sets of the jars were located at the Student Union Desk. Alpha Phi Omega will use another set for door-to-door sessions in residence halls, as well as for collecting donations at a table outside Phelps Hall on Wednesday, Feb. 22.

A third jar was given to each of the teachers to help them elicite money from their students in class.

The fraternity advises the professors to dress up for class, but it is not required. Alpha Phi Omega is still accepting partici-

ants from any department. Interested faculty must contact Alpha Phi Omega by the end of the week.

WHO’S UGLIEST?
-

Professor Pan-

napacker is one of six faculty competitors in the “ugly” con-

test. At the end of two weeks, only one pro-

fessor will lay claim to the ti-

tle “ugliest fac-

ulty on Hope’s campus.”

ALPHA PHI OMEGA “UGLY” CONTEST SUPPORTS DANCE MARATHON

"Spera in Deo"
The headlines seemed almost too surreal to be true: Dick Cheney, the vice president of the United States of America, had shot a man in the face.

The Feb. 11 incident, noted as the first instance of a sitting vice president shooting another man, took place after a hunting trip in southern Texas. The Bush administration released its $2.77 trillion budget proposal for the 2007 fiscal year Feb. 6, halving the austere plan as a way to rein in a spiraling deficit and remain on track to halve the deficit by 2009.

In a budget that seeks to balance conflicting priorities such as national defense, tax cuts, and the national debt, the administration structured a balance that will leave few smiles in upcoming election years.

While increasing spending for the Department of Defense by almost 7 percent, the plan cuts spending programs such as education, transportation and agriculture, in addition to cutting the cost of entitlement programs such as Medicare.

“Working was going to be an issue,” Bush said in his budget introduction, “we have given our men and women on the front lines in the war on terror the funding they need to defeat the enemy and detect, disrupt, and dismantle terrorist plots and operations.”

“Among the most controversial proposals in the plan are the administration’s tax cuts. Democrats claim these reductions would negate any benefits gained from cuts in other programs that typically target lower-income Americans.”

A budget of $2.77 trillion, said John M. Spratt, Jr. (D-SC), “and this budget makes the wrong choices.”

“The budget deficit for the 2006 fiscal year was projected to be $376 billion, a record of nearly $100 billion in spending in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. The 2007 budget proposal predicts a deficit of $354 billion, or 3.2 percent of the nation’s gross domestic product.”
Excitement grows in dance department over new Dow space

Since the completion of DeVos Fieldhouse much of the kinesiology department has relocated from the Dow Center, leaving empty office as well as classroom space and creating a bit of a buzz throughout the dance department, which is comprised of 95 majors and 30 minors. What will happen to the extra space? Will some of the classrooms be converted to new studios? These are a couple of the questions floating through the minds of the many dance students, who are frequently frustrated at the lack of rehearsal space available in the Dow at any given time during the week. In the spring semester especially, studio space becomes precious as dance students and professors compete for studio time under the pressures of the approaching faculty choreographed concert Dance 32 and the Artist Awards for his study of jazz piano. He is also pursuing a music minor to complement his goal of an economics major.

“I’ve moved a lot...it’s a leap of faith that I’m even here,” he said.

Since his New Jersey jazz awakening, Kingma has moved back to Michigan, but has stuck with the jazz undertones. With the fundamentals of chords and theory backing him, he has branched out into a unique style by writing his own music, using chord progressions and patterns.

“For me, music always comes before lyrics. There’s always a better way to say something.”

Twenty plus songs later, he’s looking for a record label. His demo CD is already popular among Hope students.

“I’m addicted to it,” Leah Wyatt ’09 said.

Kingma acknowledges the great task that lies before him in the music world and is anxious to see where the next few months will bring him.

“It’s where the Lord leads me,” he said. “My favorite (Bible) verse right now is Hebrews 11:1, ‘Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.’ It’s very much how I’m feeling for the future.”

The students also agree that the extra space is helpful.

“As a student, it’s nice to have a space to identify with, to be able to say, ‘That’s our department,’” Sharon Havens ’07 said.

The department also gained a secretary devoted solely to dance, Stephanie Brummeles.

“I just can’t say enough about Stephanie,” Graham said. “She’s excellent.”

Next year, the dance department will be going through the National Association of Schools of Dance reaccreditation process, which means the curriculum, faculty, staff, facility, administrative and fiscal support will be documented by the department and then evaluated by outside adjudicators to determine its educational effectiveness.

Future plans for the department include a new faculty member specializing in the field of dance education, as well as the continuation of a new position for guest artists to visit in the fall semester.

Musical showcase set for GR DeVos Hall

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A wide range of musical styles and instruments will bring DeVos Hall alive when Hope College presents its 18th annual Musical Showcase concert on Monday, Feb. 27, at 8 p.m. in Grand Rapids.

Hope College students take the stage for this fast-paced, musical spectacular, during which audience members hear everything from opera to jazz.

The hardest part for those seeing the show is containing their applause until intermission and the end of the performance. The concert unvels the gifts of all Hope College’s major musical groups, along with soloists, chamber groups and small ensembles.

The evening will open with the “Hoe-Down” from Aaron Copland’s “Rodeo,” performed by the Knickerbocker Theatre’s new Wind Symphony. Next, organist Sean Alexandru Hamzea ’09 will perform George Gershwin’s “Etude, No. 7. Fascinatin’ Rhythm.”

The Percussion Ensemble will perform a piece titled “Aquarius” from Karlheinz Stockhausen’s “Tierkreis,” followed by pianist Samuel Adams ’08 performing George Gershwin’s “Etude, No. 7, Fascinatin’ Rhythm.”

The Women’s Chamber Choir will sing “Two Romani Folk Songs.”

The University Wind Ensemble will perform “Papagena/Papageno Duet” from Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart’s 250th birthday will be recognized when soprano Kelly Sina ’08 and baritone Dane Clark ’08 (with pianist accompanist Erika Byker ’06) perform the “Pagpapag-Papageno Duet” from “The Magic Flute.”

Violinist Alexandra Hamzea ’09 will perform Joseph Turbessi ’06’s “The Magic Flute.”

The evening will conclude with a performance of the 18th annual Musical Showcase set for GR DeVos Hall.
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE — Dr. Robert Bullard will speak on racism.

The annual Student Congress Speaker Series will feature Dr. Robert Bullard addressing environmental justice and environmental racism on Wednesday, March 1 at 7:30 p.m. in Dimnent Chapel in his presentation entitled “Environmental Justice For All.”

Dr. Bullard coined the terms environmental justice and environmental racism. He is renowned for his studies on how pollution, environmental degradation and systematic exposure to waste sites overwhelmingly affect the poor and disproportionately affect people of color.

As the leading scholar and activist in the environmental justice movement, Dr. Bullard’s data on the systematic siting of environmental hazards in minority communities has alarmed people across the country.

His initial research began in 1978 in Houston. There he found that all five landfill facilities and six out of eight incinerators constructed since 1920 had been placed in black neighborhoods. Since then similar data has been collected across the county in rural and urban areas.

“It is irrefutable that all communities are not created equal.” — Dr. Robert Bullard

“It’s irrefutable that all communities are not created equal!”

The annual Student Congress Speaker Series is supported through other Hope student organizations and departments. In the past, the series has featured Maya Angelou, Ben Stein, and most recently Aran Gandhi, the grandson of Mohandas Gandhi.

This year, in addition to Robert Bullard, Mr. Cleve Jones, the founder of the AIDS Memorial Quilt, will also take part in the series on Thursday, March 30, 2006 at the Knechtkeker Theatre. These events are open to the public and admission is free.

ADDRESS BEGINS TRAFFICKING AWARENESS WEEK

Amnesty International’s Focus Week tackles problems, solutions

Nicholas Engel
Assistant News Editor

Professor Eliot Dickinson gave a broad presentation on human trafficking to an audience of about thirty people Monday, Feb. 6, for Amnesty International’s opening Focus Week event.

The Feb. 6 event was the first of a 4-part series sponsored by Amnesty and dedicated to discussing the causes, effects and possible solutions to the problem. Other presentations took place from Monday, Feb. 6 to Thursday, Feb. 9 and covered particular issues within the problem of human trafficking, such as forced prostitution and regional issues.

According to the US State Department, about 50,000 persons are trafficked into the United States a year. The number of trafficked persons in the world falls between 600,000 and 800,000. This includes human smuggling, a form of trafficking which falls between 600,000 and 800,000. This includes human smuggling, a form of trafficking which falls between 600,000 and 800,000. This includes human smuggling, a form of trafficking which falls between 600,000 and 800,000.

According to the US State Department, about 50,000 persons are trafficked into the United States a year. The number of trafficked persons in the world falls between 600,000 and 800,000. This includes human smuggling, a form of trafficking which moves victims across national borders, as well as trafficking within a particular country. Some independent agencies estimate the number of migrants at one million a year worldwide.

“The conditions that people are trafficked in, as you can imagine, horrific,” Dickinson said.

Large numbers of migrants are loaded onto vessels lacking sanitation facilities and equipped with insufficient food and water. Sick people are sometimes thrown aboard to free up space for the remaining migrants.

Dickenson noted the “East Sea,” a shipping vessel that crashed on the coast of southern France Feb. 2001. 894 people were found suffocated on board.

In addition to the facts, Dickinson shared some personal stories from his international experience, as well as recommendations for action.

“You get the best bang for your buck through education,” Dickinson said.

He recommended that the audience try to raise awareness and “change make sexual norms” in order to eliminate demand for victims. As for government suggestions, he advocated a stronger criminal justice system, support of and reintegration for victims, and a greater focus on global poverty.

“[Human trafficking] happens more than we think. Since it does happen more often than we think, we should all try to do something about it, which means writing our representatives,” he said.

Dickinson, Amnesty members, and people from the audience concluded the event by writing letters to Debbie Stabenow, senator of Michigan, encouraging her to support legislation opposing human trafficking.

Kathleen Ludewig (‘06) is president of the Hope chapter of Amnesty International.

“I thought [the turnout] was great, and I thought it was a great kickoff for the rest of the week,” Ludewig said.

AMTRAK, FROM PAGE 1

fiscal year

The fiscal year 2005-2006 transportation budget conference report states that the Amtrak subsidy was reduced from $7.1 million to $6.1 million.

Current Michigan legislation states that “no state subsidy shall be provided…if Amtrak service or any portion of service between Port Huron and Chicago or Grand Rapids and Chicago during the preceding fiscal year, unless the discontinuance of service was for track maintenance or was caused by acts of God…an additional $1 million shall be made available…if there is a signed contract to relocate Amtrak maintenance facilities to Michigan.”

It is unclear whether the lapse in train service this fiscal year will have an impact on future Amtrak subsidies.

Future Amtrak subsidies, according to current legislation, depend on Amtrak’s “ability to provide a plan and a contract for services that increase ridership and revenue, reduce operating costs, and improve on-time performance.”

“It’s impossible to make heads or tails of it because they’re trying to hide funds and sneak things in,” said Professor Eliot Dickinson of the political science department.

Governor Granholm’s proposed budget for the 2007 Fiscal Year would allocate $8.2 million for rail passenger services. However, current funding levels leave Amtrak without enough money to be able to run train lines for the entire fiscal year.

“The best anyone can do is write their local legislators asking them for a supplemental bill to restore funding,” MARP’s Whims said.

CALVIN, FROM PAGE 1

done and yet so much need! I was struck by the idea that as a nursing student, I can help transform communities through public health and education — empowering people to be able to care for each other using their own resources,” Alison Mejeur (’07), Hope College nursing student, said.

The conference showed just some of the many possible paths for international service.
Murder case, subject of Hope documentary, cracked 27 years later

Evelyn Daniel
Features Editor

"Sebben crudele, mi fat lan-
guir. Sempre fedele, sempre fedele ti voglio amar!"

Cruel one, you make me lan-
guish. Forever faithful, I want to love you.

Opening the documentary film "Who Killed Janet Chandler?" Chandler’s resonant voice haunts her listeners more than 25 years later.

Just after 2 a.m., Jan. 31, 1979, Janet Chandler was abducted from Holland’s Blue Mill Inn where she was working as a clerk. The following night, a snowplow driver found Chandler’s body, naked and apparently strangled, lying in the snow off of I-196. Chandler was a Hope student, a 23-year-old music major who had transferred from Muskegon Community College. She was known to be shy and interacted little with her classmates. Her abduction and murder, however, shook the Hope community to its core.

There were no eyewitnesses to the abduction. An "earwitness," a security guard with whom Chandler was speaking on the phone, called the police when he heard the sounds of a possible robbery on the other end of the line.

As a result, while leads were followed and potential suspects interrogated, no clear suspect to the abduction and murder, however, shook the Hope community to its core.

After a year’s investigation by the Holland Police Department, Robert M. Lynch arrested and arraigned for the murder of Janet Chandler. He was a member of a group of security guards staying at the Blue Mill Inn at the time of the murder, whom officers originally suspected. Lynch is a resident of Three Oaks, a village south of Holland near the Indiana border.

Those who worked on the documentary see this as an answer to their prayers.

“I’m thrilled that they’ve arrested someone, and I’m proud to say that I might have had a small part in accomplishing that,” Ross said. “The Chandler family might be able to heal a little more knowing that this person is finally getting what he deserves.”

For many, though, the hope of justice was present all along.

“If we didn’t believe that it could be solved, we would not have investigated the story,” Schock said.

Lynch is scheduled for a preliminary hearing on Wednesday, Feb. 22. Police are still gathering evidence that might lead to the arrest of additional suspects.

“I’m so thankful and grateful that justice will finally prevail,” Schock said. “And I believe it will prevail.”
THE THOUGHTS THAT LIE UNDER HOPE

Erin L'Hotta
Executive Editor

Anchor goes to Minneapolis

We were seven muckrakers who drove 10 hours to find frothtide, cheese curds and left wing liberal wackos attending the annual “Best of the Midwest Newspaper Conference” in Minneapolis (city of “The Onion” and theme park malls), Minnesota. It all started on I-94. Where the wind-chill registered at ~36 degrees, spare tires became far too comfortable as seats, normality was seeing semi trucks of beer turned over on median strips, and we were somewhere in there.

That’s when the frothtide really hit me. We passed the time chiseling ice sculptures among one inch of frost glazing the inside of van windows. It wasn’t until Jackson County, Wisconsin we finally bought an ice scraper for the inside of van windows. It was then that we, team Ank, experienced spiritual enlightenment in realization of the growth we’ve experienced within our activities. Our staff cried together. Then we celebrated.

SHOWCASE, FROM PAGE 3

will perform Johannes Brahms “Hungarian Dance No. 5,” and the Jazz Ensemble will perform “Michelangelo” from composer-in-residence Fred Sturm. Rachel Daley ’08 and pianist Lisa Walters ’06 will showcase Debussy’s “Grand Polonaise in D major.”

The evening will end with the Wind Symphony performing Modest Mussorgsky’s “The Great Gate of Kiev” from “Pictures at an Exhibition.” Tickets for Musical Showcase are $10 each, and may be ordered through the Office of Public Relations located on the second floor of DeWitt and may be contacted at (616) 395-7860.

Tickets may also be purchased over the counter at the Grand Center Ticket Office, which is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Scott Woroniecki
Bonnie Mooner
Dylana Pinter

The evening will end with the Wind Symphony performing Modest Mussorgsky’s “The Great Gate of Kiev” from “Pictures at an Exhibition.”

Erin L'Hotta
Editor-in-Chief

Anchors in Residence

Nicholas Engel
Caleb Newmire

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The evening will end with the Wind Symphony performing Modest Mussorgsky’s “The Great Gate of Kiev” from “Pictures at an Exhibition.”

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How long will the “Dutchmen” still fly?

To the Editor:

Hope College is in the process of looking for a new mascot. Some students agree it is about time the school has a mascot to go with the name the Flying Dutchmen. The name the Flying Dutchmen came from a sports reporter who wrote in the Anchor that Hope’s basketball players were flying across the court in one game. Put that together with Dutchman and you have the Flying Dutchman.

Since then, the Flying Dutchmen has been the official name of the school’s mascot. The question remains: is it really a mascot that we need, or is it a new name? After doing some research on the name the Flying Dutchmen, upon hearing various rumors surrounding it, I found out that some of these rumors are actually true. After searching various websites and on-line encyclopedias, I learned that all the websites say the same thing.

The Flying Dutchman is not the great man that the school models itself after. So I am here to put an end to all of the gossip, and the wonder and give you, the readers, the real story of the Flying Dutchmen.

Seventeenth century Dutch captain Bernard Fokke, also called Vanderdecken (meaning on deck) was the commander of the ship the “Flying Dutchman” which was set to sail around the Cape of Good Hope. The captain vowed that he would make this voyage and nothing or no one could stop him, even God. After a massive storm befell the ship, horrible crimes had taken place on board, and the crew was infected with the plague and not allowed to sail into any port. Many of the crewmembers wanted to turn back but the captain refused. He was said to be drinking and playing cards with the devil at the very moment a shadowy figure appeared on board the ship. The figure told the captain that he was a stubborn man. The captain answered by saying he never asked for a peaceful passage and to clear off before he shot him. When the figure did not move, the captain drew his pistol and tried to fire but the gun exploded in his hand. The figure spoke again revealing himself as God. He told the captain that he was cursed to sail the Cape of Good Hope until judgment day with a crew of deadly men, bringing death to anyone who looked upon the ship.

There have been several plays and operas written about this story, and even a movie in 1951 where the ship is a yacht. In this story the only way the captain can break the curse if sailing for eternity is if he finds a woman that will truly love him. Whether you want to believe that the story is true, or that it is a myth or a legend, the story still remains the same. The Flying Dutchman is not the type of person that should represent our Christian school. When the time comes to turn in your vote for a new mascot, think of a new name as well.

Lyndsey Brewster (’08)

The Uncertainty of Tomorrow

Human beings are mortal creatures. Therefore periods of transitions in our lives are usually difficult times. The soon coming graduation is a time of excitement for all graduates. However, inside we have different concerns. Graduation is really a time of panic and worry for many because most people haven’t heard anything from the grad schools that they applied to. Others haven’t secured jobs that they hope to and others simply don’t have plans.

I was in the pool of panicked people relentlessly looking for employment until a friend of mine recently confided in me. In the process, she opened my eyes to the great future that lies ahead.

She had tears in her eyes, confused and disheartened. She complained that she did not know what to do because her after-graduation life was very uncertain. She asked me what my plans were and I told her what I’ve told many other people, “I’ll work for a while and go back to school.”

She said that I seemed very confident and comfortable. I took the compliment, but the truth was that I was just as worried but I was better at hiding my emotions.

Her interest in academics had faded away, she said, and over time and all she wanted to do was write music, which has always been her greatest passion. Her parents have been pressuring her to focus more on books and less on music. She often falls asleep when she tries to study but frequently stays up all night coming up with new lyrics and songs.

In the height of her emotions, she asked me to play a tune on the guitar because she had to let her pain out. She warmed up her voice as I tuned my guitar. She free-styled, expressing her innermost feeling of insecurity and frustration. She had the kind of voice that sent chills down my spine and a presence so magnetic that I unconsciously started singing along. The lyrics were so powerful that it was hard to believe that she had just made them up. Surely she has a calling as a musician.

In these few minutes, she had broken a barrier within me that takes most people years to break. Finally, I told her about my concerns too. I told her how most employers prefer not to hire international students because of the extra paperwork and legal issues they have to deal with. I told her that I have been actively searching and interviewing but nothing positive has come up. Furthermore, my brother, who has had me under his wings for a while, is moving out of town in the summer, so I have to be employed by the time he moves out.

My situation made her feel better about herself because at least she has her immediate family around. To encourage ourselves, we reflected on times in our lives when we felt hopeless but somehow things worked out.

We concluded that worrying does not solve anything. With time, everything will be all right. The key is pushing on and not giving up.

Nixon Omollo

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**HOLLAND BLASTS ONTO PRO LEAGUE**

The Blast will be representing West Michigan in their opening season along with the Grand Rapids Flight. The close proximity of the teams will introduce competition for young talent from the region, limiting recruits from colleges such as Hope, Calvin, Grand Valley, Aquinas, and Cornerstone. Owners of both the Flight and the Blast, Fred VanderPloeg and Tyler Whitcomb, believe that they can combine stock car marketing strategies to increase the advantages of operating teams so close in locality. The teams will be attracting the same fan base, but the owners are confident that by collaborating resources, their teams will increase in success.

“We have seen in NASCAR how a car owner can put everyone together and they share information and make it work. Imagine both teams getting together for a practice, and then afterwards, the coaches can sit down and break things down,” VanderPloeg said.

**PREGAME HONOR: POMS PERFORM FOR THE PISTONS**

The International Basketball League, during its 2005 inaugural season, embarked with 17 teams, with home courts ranging from Akron, Ohio to Vancouver, Washington. The IBL is expecting to expand that number to 24 teams for the 2006 season, with Holland becoming one of the new expansion teams.

The club will be called the Holland Blast, the team logo, name, and mascot was determined by fan response during a poll held earlier in the year. Suggestions such as “the Heinz Pickles,” “Holland Windmills,” or “Holland Klompers” were voted down to make way for the new IBL Holland Blast. Holland resident Tommy Wolfe received free season tickets for submitting the winning name.

“We kept coming back to the word blast; it’s an action oriented word, and the versatility of the word means we can do a lot with the name” said Tom Moore, general manager. The logo, of a rocket, was designed by Wes Woolsey of W-Squared Design.

The community will also be included in free agent try-out sessions for both athletes and dancers before the first game of the season. The current roster of the Holland Blast includes two Hope alumni, Chad Carlson ('03) and Duane Bosma ('96), as well as Anthony Parker, Dominick Melton, Corey Evps, Carlton Evps, Jonathan Stevens, and Kendrick Cornelius. The team will be initiated into the league on March 31 at 7:15 p.m during their first game against the Lansing Capsitals, on their home court at the Holland Civic Center.

The Blast’s head coach, former assistant of the Grand Rapids Flight, Mike Ahrens, claimed third place (14-16) in the Eastern Division by going 14-6 in the first season. “I am looking forward to building a solid foundation for the first year Holland team,” Head Coach Ahrens said.

“We’re very excited to bring Coach Ahrens on board as head coach,” Moore said, “I have worked with him in the past. He brings excellent coaching and basketball skills to the team as well as solid personal values.”

The franchise hired Terry Smith the former head coach at Grand Valley State University and Lake Superior State University as assistant coach. Smith has also coached at Hart High School and also assisted at Ferris State University.

“I’m just excited about the opportunity and the opportunity to help out Mike. I have been to a few [IBL] games, and I’ve had some former players who played in the league, and I went to some of their games. I’m excited about where the league is headed,” said Smith.

“Terry’s an excellent coach who has some great credentials,” said Moore. “It’s a great coaching staff. Without a doubt, Terry brings a depth of experience, at all levels.”

The Blast and Hope College will be hosting an open tryout for the Blast. Experienced dancers needed to perform at 11 a.m. at the DeWitt Tennis Center, 12th and Fairbanks. Participation at the tryout is on a first come, first served basis. Tryouts for the Blast will be from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Holland Civic Center.

For $75, prospective pro ballers will receive a t-shirt, an evaluation, and recruitment possibilities from the two West-Michigan teams. Four to eight players are guaranteed the chance to receive an invitation to a team’s pre-season camp and a chance to gain recognition from NBA scouts.

For upcoming try-outs, the selected athletes will join their new teammates to be introduced to the coaching staff. The current roster of the Holland Blast includes two Hope alumni, Chad Carlson ('03) and Duane Bosma ('96), as well as Anthony Parker, Dominick Melton, Carey Evps, Carlton Evps, Jonathan Stevens, and Kendrick Cornelius. The team will be initiated into the league on March 31 at 7:15 p.m during their first game against the Lansing Capsitals, on their home court at the Holland Civic Center.

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