Hope explores possibility of camera surveillance

Chris Russ
Guest Writer

The administration of Hope College is currently working with campus safety to explore the effectiveness of video surveillance on Hope’s campus. During the week of the Jan. 18, five cameras were installed. Three of them are currently located on the first floor of the Martha Miller Center and one has been placed on the second floor of that building. There is also a camera positioned to monitor the parking lot on the south side of Kollen Hall.

According to Director of Campus Safety Chad Wolters of campus safety, “The administration wanted us to explore this type of security system.” He also added that there are “three or four different types of security cameras” and that the college is currently “evaluating the capabilities of these cameras.”

An e-mail sent by Hope’s Director of Operations Greg Maybury to the faculty and staff of the Martha Miller Center explained that the cameras would not be used to constantly monitor the campus but would instead be used as an investigative tool. The e-mail stated, “The cameras and associated software have the ability to record up to 48 hours of activity (motion activated) and will ultimately be used to review events in the case of assault, theft or vandalism.”

As to why the Martha Miller Center was chosen as the primary location to test this surveillance system, Dr. Deirdre Johnston, chair of the communication department, said that the building had experienced some vandalism and that the college wanted to protect the production equipment that is located in the building. She also added that the other faculty in the communication department are “generally supportive” of the new security, and she feels that the cameras are a “very pragmatic solution.”

In the same e-mail message as mentioned above, Maybury stated, “The college will evaluate the results of this test (30-90-day trial period) to see if this is a technology we want to deploy on campus over the next several years.” According to campus safety, the college is still evaluating this system, and what is in place now is nothing more than a demo.

Although select members of the administration and college staff were informed of the plan to install these cameras, there was no announcement informing the student body of this action. When asked about this, Johnston explained why she thought there was no message sent to the student body: “I imagine it was because they’re just testing the cameras,” but she added that “it makes perfect sense to me, to tell the students.”

Campus safety stated that if the installation of cameras progressed any further that there would be some kind of announcement made.

Although not many students know about these cameras, there has been some reaction from the student body.

Mike Debowinski ’12 said about the lack of information given to the student body: “The goal of cameras should be to prevent stuff from happening, not to secretly catch students or something. Also, this makes me wonder what else they’re doing that we don’t know about.”

At this point, the college has no definite plans regarding the future of this video surveillance system, and there are without question a variety of opinions regarding what should or should not be done.

Wolters remarked that regarding these security cameras, “most other schools have had positive experiences.”

On the other side of the debate, Debowinski said the addition of these cameras might not be a positive move. He said “this just seems like a shift towards a direction of distrust between the administration and the student body.”

Hope PR

The college’s hometown has placed second in the nation for overall well-being in a report released recently by Gallup and Healthways.

The 2009 “Gallup-Healthways Well Being Index” (WBI) ranks Holland-Grand Haven behind only Boulder, Colo., out of some 185 cities nationwide.

The index, released on Feb. 15, is an average of six categories: life evaluation, emotional health, physical health, healthy behavior, work environment and basic access to necessities.

The 42 core questions that make up the WBI survey were designed to measure how respondents are faring in all aspects of their lives: physically, emotionally, socially and professionally, and also to take a daily pulse of how Americans rate the overall quality of their current life and outlook for the future. The results are based on more than 353,000 surveys completed from Jan. 2 through Dec. 30.

The Holland-Grand Haven community’s rankings among the 185 communities on the six sub-indices were as follows: life evaluation, second; emotional health, third; physical health, first; healthy behavior, 63rd; work environment, 39th; and basic access to necessities, first.

hopepr@hope.edu 395-7877
Wednesday
Feb. 24
Arts & Humanities Colloquium
Graves Hall, 3:30-5:30 p.m.
Admission is free.

Thursday
Feb. 25
Collegiate Day of Prayer
Community prayer sessions, Schoon Chapel, 11:45 a.m. and 10-11 p.m.

Friday
Feb. 26
SAC & BSU presents Comedy
Lecturer Preacher Moss
Maas Auditorium, 8:30 p.m.

IN BRIEF

CAMPUS

FORMULA SAE CAR TAKES SHAPE—The Hope Formula SAE team’s goal is to have the race car finished by spring break, and has completed the frame and engine.

Always OK to ask ‘Can I Kiss You?’

Cassandra Warner
Staff Writer

In today’s dating culture, these words are scarce. Most people try to bypass an opportunity for rejection or awkwardness and just go for it.

Dating and sexual assault awareness speaker Mike Domitrz seeks to change that. Dimnent Chapel was packed on Feb. 10 as Domitrz spoke in a fun, comedic and interactive way to Hope students about how dating should correctly and morally take place, as well as about how to prevent sexual assault.

Domitrz argues that although many would call asking lame and say that it ruins the moment, it is important to do so and give the other person a choice before initiating physical contact in a romantic relationship. If the contact is unwanted, it could become a horrible moment or even be considered sexual assault.

Domitrz also asked students to really be friends and always make sure at parties, cafes, restaurants or wherever they are that the people around them are safe and not being taken advantage of. He urged them not to go thinking that it is none of their business if they see someone who might be in trouble. Rather, they should take action to stop any wrongdoing from happening.

In addition, Domitrz gave students tips on how to respond if someone they know is sexually assaulted. The brother of a rape victim himself, he reminded students of the strength of those who continue to live their lives after being raped and urged students not to pity them but to be there for them.

He asked them rather to thank the victim for telling the story and, instead of apologizing and making the relationship awkward, to compliment the victim’s strength and courage and ask for a way to help.

Many students responded to the presentation by making commitments to put in practice the policies Domitrz advocated. They made promises to ask first, to be a friend or to tell their story. Collectively, the students created a slogan that would remind them to follow these ideals. It says, “Hope believes respect is powerful.”

Many were inspired by what they heard and felt that it was refreshing for these issues to be discussed.

After the program, Hope student Jaime Van Heest ’10 said, “I liked the fact that he was able to get us talking about and being honest about issues that we wouldn’t be comfortable with normally.”

It was not the first time Domitrz had spoken at Hope. When asked about his favorite part of speaking at Hope again, he said “The best part about see KISB, page 10

In Brief

The Hope College Trustees approved the administrative recommendation that tuition, room and board for next school year will be increased by 3.25 percent to total a cost of $34,620. The Trustees also approved a faculty salary increase by 2 percent. Administration reports that typically, tuition increases exceed salary increases by 2 percent, but budgeting allowed for a lower tuition increase.

AWARD HONORS SERVICE

This year, the Center for Faithful Leadership at Hope College will present the new Student Servant Leadership Award to three students who have demonstrated the values and practices of servant leadership. Candidates are scored “internally motivated,” “others oriented,” “purpose-centered,” “focused” and “open-minded.”

Leadership at Hope College will present the new Student Servant Leadership Award to three students who have demonstrated the values and practices of servant leadership. (SAE was formerly known as the Society of Automotive Engineers.)

The Hope organization began three years ago when Matt Labaza ’10 met with the engineering advisor Dr. John Krupczak. What started as a look into internships turned into a Hope organization, an engineering “extra-curricular” that was lacking previously.

Labaza and fellow members Cameron Recknagel ’11 and Ben Barkel ’10 explained that they are building a car to enter the Formula SAE competition in Michigan because it is the “largest and longest (running)” of the SAE competitions that take place worldwide. The 2009 competition in Michigan involved 120 college and university teams from 31 states and seven foreign countries in Asia, Europe and the Americas.

The competition consists of two parts. The first is the judging of the engineering and design, which must follow the SAE regulation.

“The designs are our own; we don’t get plans and put it together,” said Barkel. “It’s ours from scratch.”

Dynamics are the second part.

This includes a test of the car’s 0-60 time and a braking test, as well as two timed races: autocross and a test of endurance, during which a car must maintain a given speed for 13 miles.

Though it has taken two years for the Hope Formula SAE members to build their first car, they plan to follow their first car with a second entry next year. Of the current leaders, Recknagel will be present to continue Hope’s entries in the next Formula SAE competition.

According to Recknagel, schools that are larger or have been enter the competition consistently enter a new car every year.

The Hope Formula SAE team’s car is not yet finished, but the design was finalized last year and the building has begun. The team’s goal is to have the final product finished by spring break. Currently, the team has the frame formed and the engine built and is also far along with the mounting and suspension.

The project has not been without its challenges, however. The team ran into several problems including forming the club, funding the project and finding locations to build the car. Barkel conveniently summarized as “a lot of difficulties.”

Cassaundra Warner
Staff Writer

Can I kiss you?

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Citing problems in popular models, Toyota issues recall

Amy Alvine

On Friday, Feb. 19, the President of Toyota Motor Co., Akio Toyoda, despite originally refusing, agreed to testify before Congress about his company’s recalls. Toyoda indicated that Yoshimi Inaba, Toyota’s North American chief, will appear on Wednesday, Feb. 24, before the United States House Oversight and Government Reform Committee. He will also appear on Thursday, Feb. 25, in hearings before the House Energy and Commerce Committee.

With 80 percent of all Toyota vehicles sold in the United States over the past 20 years still on the road today, Toyota Motor Co. has always tried to maintain its principle of building the highest quality, safest and most reliable automobiles in the world.

“The past few weeks, however, have made clear that Toyota has not lived up to the high standards we set for ourselves,” said Toyota in an article he wrote for the Washington Post about a plan to repair Toyota’s public image. “More important, we have not lived up to the high standards you have come to expect from us. I am deeply disappointed by that and apologize. As the president of Toyota, I take personal responsibility. That is why I am personally leading our effort to restore trust in our word and in our products.”

On Friday, Feb. 5, Toyota announced two safety recalls that covered some of its vehicle models. Both recall campaigns addresse d conditions that were related to the accelerator pedal. The first recall campaign was for floor mat entrapment in which unsecured or incompatible floor mats could cause an interference with the accelerator pedal. The second recall campaign was for the accelerator pedal itself. Some mechanicals that control the pedal might mechanically stick in a pressed position or might return b o n t o a n a l y position.

Issues with the accelerator were seen starting in November of 2009 and have resulted in a total of five deaths. With Toyota’s resolution to this issue being to shorten the pedal by three-fourths inches, a massive recall is being made. This recall is being made in 4 million Toyota and Lexus vehicles, particularly in 2007-2010 Camry, 96,000 of which sold in 2008.

However, the 2010 Prius Hybrid model was not included as well. Toyota is calling for a total worldwide recall of the 8 million 2010 Prius Hybrids that were sold. In the Toyota Corolla, with Toyota selling 1.3 million worldwide last year, problems have been seen in the power steering.


For Toyota Motor Co., the total price tag of the recalls will cost the company $16 million.

With an extensive mechanical changes being made, according to Akio Toyoda, all future Toyota vehicles will include a brake override system. This system will allow the engine to shut down when both the accelerator and the brake pedals are pressed simultaneously.

Despite difficulties, military takes steps to avoid civilian casualties

New strategy includes decreased utilization of air offenses and long-range artillery attacks

Glen Shubert

President Obama’s decision to send more troops into Afghanistan signaled the commitment of the United States to the success of the Afghan War. The face of this war has changed through two administrations and eight years of fighting, the most recent development being an order by Gen. Stanley McChrystal, the commander of NATO forces in Afghanistan, to push toward better avoiding civilian casualties.

McChrystal was quoted saying that air offensives and long-range artillery fire were to be used only under “very limited and precise conditions.” The stated goal of this policy is to better win the trust of the Afghan people, so that they do not side with Taliban and Qaeda insurgents.

The difficulty of this effort was heightened Sunday, when a NATO airstrike mistakenly struck a convoy of Afghan civilians, reportedly killing as many as 27.

Marine Capt. Ryan Sparks, summarized the policy, stating “The key to this whole thing is to get people on our side. To make them understand it’s a safe place. If we make them understand it’s a safe place. If we secure the people, the Taliban become irrelevant. It is frustrating but it’s the right way to do it because it protects the people.”

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Marine Capt. Ryan Sparks

...
February 24, 2010

NATIONAL

After one year, effects of stimulus bill still unclear

Troubling developments arise in Iran’s nuclear program

Get Your Best Scores

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"This is a world of hypocrisies and false values, a world that does not love but does not know how to find it. The people who use the word love are all phonies, starting with that jerk, Bono." – Words allegedly written by late J.D. Salinger in correspondence with "Spectator" columnist, Taki

Troubling developments arise in Iran’s nuclear program

"It was positive that I won... but I saw that Evan needs a medal more than I do. Maybe because I already have one." – Yurygeni Plushenko of Russia, after he took the silver medal in men’s figure skating, losing the Olympic gold to American Evan Lysacek.

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"He really screwed up my life up is how I look at it." – Samuel Wurzelbacher, a.k.a. Joe the Plumber, on Sen. John McCain.

Troubling developments arise in Iran’s nuclear program

"Given the true outcomes... Iran is not..." – Ayatollah Ali Khamenei reacted to the report by stating that nuclear weapons would violate the tenets of Islam. "Iran will not get emotional in its response to these nonsensical statements, because we have often said that our religious tenets and beliefs consider these kinds of weapons of mass destruction to be symbols of genocide and..." – Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. The program, however, has been wrapped up in the country’s troubled history since the 1960s, when the program first began under the government of Mohammad Reza Shah. After achieving little, the program was dropped following the revolution of 1979 that deposed the Shah and brought a conservative Islamic government to power. The program resumed during the 1980s and has been viewed with suspicion by the U.S. government ever since. In 2003, the moderate government of Mohammad Khatami, under international pressure, suspended uranium enrichment and permitted IAEA inspections. However, the 2005 election of conservative President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad ended the conciliatory approach. The program has been under suspicion ever since.

Troubling developments arise in Iran’s nuclear program

"Tripping to 140 countries..." – Eric Anderson, Co-Editor, National News Editor

Troubling developments arise in Iran’s nuclear program

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A closer look: Yemeni photography on display at Lemonjello’s

Annelise Belmonte  Arts Editor

Sitting in the local coffee shop Lemonjello’s, students may have noticed a new photo display on the walls. The 10 mounted photographs of Yemeni people and topography were taken by Hope College student David Moore (‘10). Moore went to Yemen to visit a friend doing sociological research there and took a chance to get to know the Yemeni people.

Some parts of the culture were to be expected, but others were not. For instance, Yemeni wedding customs are much different from what people might expect from an American wedding. People wore robes or whatnot, but over those they would wear western suit jackets.

Women wearing hijabs would also be carrying Coach leather purses. Street vendors would be selling strapless dresses that the women would never wear in public, but around the house.

In one of Moore’s photos, there are about 15 men of various ages piled into the back of a truck. “I just tried to capture as much of these things as I could through the camera lens. It was a lot more difficult than I thought it would be. Seeing a truck full of people like that is pretty common, but you see all ages. Very much a sense of piety and a sense of hierarchy like older brother teaches younger brother.”

A big part of the reason Moore brought the photos back was to humanize Yemeni people. “They’re Muslims, but they’re not all extremists. It’s, like, okay let’s broaden our understanding... We think we have answers or solutions to how they need to solve their problems. Go there, learn the story, and tell it, rather than letting the lens tell the story.”

One aspect of Yemeni life that struck Moore was the amount of faith displayed in everyday life. There’s a call to prayer, which occurs five times a day, but there’s also a sort of pre-pre call to prayer, which occurs around 3:30 a.m.

“Things are screaming over the PA system so it’s hard to get sleep... but there’s definitely something to be noted in their devotion,” Moore says. “One may or may not agree with their beliefs,” he continues. “I think they suffer just as we suffer and I think it’s important to love people... that’s the first step to loving them, is dignity and respect.”

Hopefully this exhibit will inspire people to learn more about Yemeni people and customs. “In a country that pretty much is three different colors, beige, white, or gray, there was this beautiful reef underwater that had all these colors. There were just so many things that could surprise you.” For more information, visit lemonjellos.com/art or davidclarkmoore.com/yemen2009.

Arts and humanities class creates Sierra Leone project with Hope professors

Annelise Belmonte  Arts Editor

With tragedies occurring all around the world, questions arise about how things can get so bad. A recently developed course at Hope College called “Lit 2.0: Digital Humanities” is allowing students to explore and address the tragedy of the civil war in Sierra Leone.

English professor Ernest Cole was a refugee in Sierra Leone for seven years, and when he went back into the amputee camps, he recorded footage that eventually was taken and used by students in that course. A trailer for the project can be found on Hope College’s YouTube channel. To get a sense of how the nation is recovering from civil war, interviewees include members of different levels of society, from government officials to missionaries.

“The trailer was the tip of the iceberg that the New Media Studio has been working on, but there’s a lot more to it. It’s a whole portfolio and that’s the face of it right now,” said Professor William Pannapacker, who teaches the course.

And the trailer isn’t where it stops just for that story either. “There is a 30-minute, 50-minute and 90-minute version of the Sierra Leone project, all with different focuses for different levels of interest,” Pannapacker explained, “It’s a humanitarian intervention as well as a scholarly model. It involves new media, students, faculty and the use of the internet to disseminate information widely with a global context in mind.”

“One of the things I’m always trying to understand,” Cole said, “is the extent of the destruction and the effect on the individual... It’s a question of the pain, the suffering that they endure, the physical challenges. But at the same time, we need to move beyond the sense of helplessness, the sense of being victims... I want them to transcend the see “SIERRA LEONE”, PAGE 10

In Brief

DANCE 36 TICKETS NOW ON SALE

HOPE PR— Hope College’s annual faculty choreographed dance concert, Dance 36, will run Friday and Saturday, March 5 and 6, and Thursday through Saturday, March 11-13 at 8 p.m. in the Knickerbocker Theatre. Along with the work of Hope’s dance faculty, the program will include pieces by guest choreographers Tracy Ray Kofford, who is a member of Inbal Pikelner Muller/The Works Dance Company, and Dorrell Martin, who is a founder of DeVorel Martin Dance Fusion and the former artistic director of Houston Metropolitan Dance Company. Tickets for Dance 36 are available at the ticket office in the front lobby of the DeVos Fieldhouse and cost $7 for regular admission and $3 for senior citizens, students and members of the Hope College faculty and staff. Tickets will also be available on performance nights at the Knickerbocker Theatre shortly before the curtain rises.
Valentine’s Day – it’s not only about the chocolate and candy hearts. Well … maybe it is, but for most people, it’s much more than that. It’s about expressing your feelings for another person and showing him or her how much you care. For others, though, Valentine’s Day brings back bad memories like break-ups or re-gifted presents. Which is it for you? For these people, Valentine’s Day is filled with the good, and the bad …

The Good…

“He was born on Valentine’s Day, 1964. She was born exactly one month later, March 14. She was the first girl he ever fought for – in the second grade, when a fourth grader pinched her. They were heartbroken when his parents moved him away, and they lost touch. He managed to call once, when he was 17, but missed her.

“Then fate stepped in. During graduation night, 1982, they were less than 10 feet apart but never knew it. Later, he was the security supervisor at the Madera Speedway, the only guard wearing matched .45s. She walked by, thinking, ‘Could it be?’ but did not have the courage to ask, while he thought, ‘What a cute little kid,’ as she pushed her daughter by in a stroller. Time went by, he went into the Army; she moved to Castro Valley, California.

“Then, as she was beginning her divorce, she happened to look up his name on classmates.com. There were 19 names matching his, but she tried. She found that, just as she was in the process of divorce, he was correcting his own mistake that caused him years of misery. It was the most exciting time in their lives since they had separated, and as they spoke they discovered that fate, though fickle, had been trying for years to get them back together. Today they have a beautiful baby girl.”

“The best Valentine’s present I ever gave: My now-husband and I had only been dating a short time, and I was short on cash, so I thought of a romantic idea for Valentine’s. I snuck into his place and lined Hershey’s Kisses from the door to the bathtub and put flowers in the tub. Just above the shower handle was a note that said, ‘Now that I have kissed the ground you walk on & showers you with flowers, will you be my Valentine?’ He loved it!”

“On my second Valentine’s Day with my boyfriend, he woke me up in the morning with breakfast in bed. This was a big deal to him since he was not what you would call a morning person or a good cook at that.

“After the breakfast in bed, he told me he would clean up, and that I could come downstairs when I was ready. After I showered and put on my makeup, I decided to go downstairs. I thought breakfast in bed was great and wasn’t expecting anything else, but when I was about to walk down the stairs, I saw it each step on the way down had a rose and a little note attached to it. The notes were each a line to a poem he wrote for me, and as I walked down the stairs, I read each line.

“By the time I got to the bottom I realized I would have to put my makeup on all over again, but I didn’t care, because it was the sweetest thing I’d ever seen!”
...and the Bad.

“In junior high, I bought a box of chocolates to give to a boy I had a crush on but had never approached. I gave him the candy, and he laughed in my face and still took it!”

“My boyfriend wanted to cook me a romantic dinner, so he went to the trouble of finding a recipe, shopping and cooking for me at his apartment. He chose to cook chicken and stuff it with loads of vegetables and cheese. Well, apparently he doesn’t know about salmonella.”

“My worst Valentine’s Day ever was two years ago. I was dating a guy that I’d been off and on with for three years. I bought him an expensive pool stick, a bag to go with it, ordered him a dozen roses and paid to have a poem written for him. I had planned the whole evening out already. He called me that morning and told me that he had too much going on in his life and didn’t have time for a girlfriend, especially a serious one. So I decided that I would go out with a friend to try not to think about it. That night I saw him out with another woman.”

“Today, I got a reply to my Valentine’s Day card that I sent to my girlfriend. I’ll get the address right next time because her neighbor is really creeping me out now.”

These Valentine’s Day stories are filled with numerous memories. While these memories are both good and bad, they will always be remembered.

*All stories are by anonymous authors and located on websites such as theromantic.com, womenshealthmag.com, emitations.com, msnbc.msn.com and fmylife.com.

Graphics by Emily Dammer
Go world

I don’t think that it will come as a big surprise or be overly loved by some of the Olympics my Mecca. As I remember getting a little misty-eyed as an emotional teen while watching those heart-warming segments about the athlete who came from nowhere and overcame potential career-ending injuries, parents who died or a sibling with cancer. I’ll admit. I still watch some of them, but for the Vancouver Games, it has seemed like almost half the airtime has been dedicated to such segments, and they’ve lost their impact.

Nonetheless, the Olympics are great if only because they bring out the patriotic side in all of us. I still remember getting chills while watching the 1980 gold medal hockey team light the Olympic torch at the Salt Lake City Games in 2002. Perhaps I’m a tad ridiculous, but I can’t help but smile when I watch a medal ceremony and hear “The Star Spangled Banner” play as a proud athlete holds back the tears.

It is good to be an American during the Olympic Games. Even as I write this, the U.S. leads the Vancouver medal count at 24. Germany is a far behind second at 18, and Norway rounds out the top three with 12.

But this success has led to a rather extreme case of ethnocentrism. While watching the men’s figure skating finals last week, one of my friends commented that the gold medal would probably go to the “stupid Russian (Evgeni Plushenko) because the U.S. never would probably go to the “stupid Russian (Evgeni Plushenko) because the U.S. never would probably go to the “stupid Russian (Evgeni Plushenko) because the U.S. never would probably go to the “stupid Russian (Evgeni Plushenko) because the U.S. never would probably go to the “stupid Russian (Evgeni Plushenko) because the U.S. never would probably go to the “stupid Russian (Evgeni Plushenko) because the U.S. never would probably go to the “stupid Russian (Evgeni Plushenko) because the U.S. never would probably go to the “stupid Russian (Evgeni Plushenko) because the U.S. never would probably go to the “stupid Russian (Evgeni Plushenko) because the U.S. never would probably go to the “stupid Russian (Evgeni Plushenko) because the U.S. never would probably go to the “stupid Russian (Evgeni Plushenko) because the U.S. never would probably go to the “stupid Russian (Evgeni Plushenko) because the U.S. never would probably go to the “stupid Russian (Evgeni Plushenko) because the U.S. never would probably go to the “stupid Russian (Evgeni Plushenko) because the U.S. never would probably go to the “stupid Russian (Evgeni Plushenko) because the U.S. never would probably go to the “stupid Russian (Evgeni Plushenko) because the U.S. never would probably go to the “stupid Russian (Evgeni Plushenko) because the U.S. never would probably go to the “stupid Russian (Evgeni Plushenko) because the U.S. never would probably go to the “stupid Russian (Evgeni Plushenko) because the U.S. never would probably go to the “stupid Russian (Evgeni Plushenko).”

The answer is simple. While some of us can continue to debate on filibusters, fiscal discipline and Jacob Zuma’s rise to power in South Africa, the purpose of news and op-ed columnists is the analysis of the changing world.

Take the past four years for an example. When the class of 2010 entered Hope College four years ago, George W. Bush was getting his foot planted into his second term. Names like Obama and Palin were unknown, certain health officials were still panicking about the Avian Bird Flu, Saddam Hussein was to be executed in a month, Pope John Paul II had just passed away and there was no talk whatsoever about any sort of world economic collapse.
Pen pals

I got a letter from my friend Sharon last week. I knew it was hers without even looking at the return address. Her handwriting was small and deliberate but not precise. She had struck a metallic flower sticker next to my name. I turned the envelope over. On the top flap she had stamped her lion seal. When I tore my finger through the top edge and pulled out the card, I knew how it would begin: “Grace— Hello! How are you?” and end, “Love—Sharon.”

I’ve met a few times, but most of our friendship has developed on paper, with periods of group questions and responses and weeks in between. We first met at church during a high school youth group function, when we were invited to fill out cards with our address and other information, so that the church could send us mailings. Neither of us was particularly interested in receiving mailings, so we exchanged cards instead. I admitted to her that I loved filling out surveys. The next week, I received a three-page word-processed questionnaire in the mail. The envelope had two flower stickers on it and a lion stamp over the back flap.

Since then, we’ve exchanged messages and cards with poems and recommendations for fabulous novels. We’ve watched and cheerled as we each decided to become English majors. She has told me about the refugee children she tutors and about growing up as the daughter of missionaries in Venezuela. I’ve confided in her about my writing, confessed that I wasn’t sure how to comprehend a mission trip to New Orleans and filled her in on every up and down of my prayer life. I don’t remember much of the more mundane topic except what I can deduce from her letters, which I’ve kept. Apparently, I’ve also told her what distracts me, whether I do my own laundry and where I went to camp.

We were dedicated pen pals into our sophomore year of college, and then American correspondences thinned. We might have exchanged one letter in the last year. But, as pen pals know, fewer letters don’t mean waning friendship. In one of her early letters to me, Sharon wrote: “Don’t worry about writing back on ‘time’—part of the fun of letters is that it is over time and not rushed!”

Well, Sharon, I’m not rushing to write back. I know the pace of letters. I don’t mind that this correspondence is unhurried, even when it means I must be patient. Another friend has told me that she doesn’t believe in journaling, but she thinks of letters as her journal. A very slow journal, less volatile than a diary and always with wisdom at the other end.

So we keep writing. We lick the stamp and send it out and check the mail every day, just in case.

Despite her gratitude for slow correspondence, Grace wishes she had caught up on a few more letters over winter break. She apologizes to those whose mailboxes are still bare.

• Word on the street, from page 8

The duty of any news section of a college newspaper is to keep public about current situation and how everyone is reacting. Whether we scoff at it or not, it’s something we must be patient. Without the foreign correspondent and without the war in Iraq will be the war in Iraq. Without Samuel Adams’ writing after the Boston Massacre, the Revolutionary War might have never happened. Without the American correspondent thinned. We might have exchanged one letter in the last year. But, as pen pals know, fewer letters don’t mean waning friendship. In one of her early letters to me, Sharon wrote: “Don’t worry about writing back on ‘time’—part of the fun of letters is that it is over time and not rushed!”

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Dear Janet,

Am I out of my mind?

One of the many reasons that writers really do compose. Whether it’s the Washington Post senior staff writer, the Daily Northwestern op-ed editor or the guest writer on Anchor, nearly everybody has the same driving force.

Molly O’Neill and Bernster, the Watertag scandal probably would never have been exposed. Without the foreign correspondent still to be named in Rwanda, no one would have the compassion towards Africa as all the different charity organizations do. Without Samuel Adams’ writing after the Boston Massacre, the Revolutionary War might have never happened. Without news journalists, well, you get the picture.

And while Hope may not have a journalism major, the views have the same mindset as those of the greatest writers and newspapers such as Frank Rich of the New York Times or Jason Fry of the Washington Post because sometimes the beauty of news writing is that all we can do is find facts now and speculate with the readers. No matter what Holland, the U.S. or the world is like in 2014, we’re going to need op-ed writing and news journalism to carry us there.

It doesn’t matter which one you get or how you look at it. I don’t think anyone wants a disease of the heart. And much of the time it’s preventable.

But what about factors other than obesity that have been promised to kill me? We’re all going to die from cancer or radiation anyway, so we might as well look good and get tan, right? I should have fun and go crazy while I’m young, because I won’t be able to do that when I’m older. Well wouldn’t you rather live a healthy life to 90 than die early from obesity causes?

The seniors might hear me on this one, but I’ve been thinking a lot about what I want my life to look like in the future. Do I want kids some day? Do I want to travel? Do I want to work? Do I want to run more marathons? Do I want to perfect Rachel Willis’ bread recipe? Well YES. Yes I do.

I don’t want to sacrifice years of my life just to “live it up” now by eating heaps of food and lying around on my comfy, snakeskin couch. Why were we to do that, research says that by the time I’m 50, obese, popping blood pressure pills, stabbing myself with insulin and unable to keep up with the 20-year-olds on the sidewalk, I’ll be too late. It’s not that a 50-year-old is unable to lose weight; it’s quite the opposite, in fact. You can always improve your health late into your 80s. Muscles can become stronger, and flexibility can increase, but by the time you’re 50, the damage has been done. You can reverse the past, and I want Hope to realize that now.

This is my last column as an Anchorette, and it has given me a chance to preach my case for health and wellness. I’m challenging you to start living a well-balanced life. Take advice from Mr. Green; he’s a smart guy. He tells me “Everything in moderation.”

Thanks for taking the time to read the Voices section despite the scary amount of words on these pages. A lot of work goes into this paper every week, and I have great respect for this staff and our advisor. Thanks for your support, Hope.

Ann would like to thank Shaun White for being a great role model and helping cover him so well. If it weren’t for NBC, she’d be all over him. Must be the red hair.

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Our Mission: The Anchor strives to communicate campus events throughout Hope College and the Holland community. We hope to amplify awareness and promote dialogue through fact, objective journalism and a vibrant vision section.

Disclaimer: The Anchor is a product of student effort and is funded by the Hope College Student Activities Fund. The opinions expressed on the Opinion page are solely those of the author and do not represent the views of The Anchor. Yearbook subscriptions to The Anchor are available for $40. The Anchor reserves the right to accept or reject any advertising.

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**Space Still Available!!!!**

*The Very Last, Best May Term in Ireland*

“Irish Culture and Celtic Wisdom”

(IDS 498: Senior Seminar)

Contact: Prof. John Tammis

[Email](mailto:tammis@hope.edu)

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**Can I Kiss You?**

- **KISS**, from page 2

being back at Hope is seeing the students make a commitment to creating positive change with asking first, being a friend and opening a door."

Through his program, Domitrz has created change across the country and around the world. He seeks to create more change by alerting people to these issues and causing them to implement these ideals in their own lives so that one day people will not have to deal with the pain of sexual assault.

"I thank God for Hope College," Cole said. "I thank God for the support I'm having. We are one, and we are all connected on the basis of our humanity. How can we influence the salvations of others? Regardless of talent, we must use our resources for the improvement of our kind. I am pleased. I am thankful. I will never rest. I will do whatever it takes."

The class is offered in the second half of the semester. Those interested in the Sierra Leone project are encouraged to contact Cole.

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**Luminescence valentines**

LOVELY LADIES OF LUMINESCENCE— On Feb. 11, Luminescence serenaded fellow Hope students around campus in honor of Valentine’s Day.

Photo by Katy Carlson

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Hope College is grateful to the 200+ Hope seniors who are participating in the Wabash National Study of the Liberal Arts in March.

Thank you for helping us improve college education here and elsewhere!

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**THEANCHOR**

February 24, 2010

**ARTS AND HUMANITIES**

**PROJECT BROADCASTS TO COMMUNITY ON GLOBAL EDUCATION**

- **SIERRA LEONE**, from page 5

limitations of the body, of pain, of memory, of trauma. It’s a question of learning to be “normal” or functional. And people have hope for the future."

Originally, as the documentary shows, Norwegians built the amputee camps exclusively for the victims, but since those victims have lost limbs, most of them need their families to take care of and help them. The biggest problem is that now the amputees and their families are stuck there. The houses that they lived in before were destroyed, and there’s nowhere to go. There aren’t any schools, and teenage pregnancy is surging inside of the camps."

“…I want to pay school fees for every teenager for at least one year,” Cole said. “And one uniform. It seems that they should have an education.”

In the future, he plans to do an “adoptive” service of sorts where he will go back to Sierra Leone, take pictures of the teenagers and children there, and ask people to pledge $8 a year so that a child can go to school. “At the end of the year when people are leaving, if they want to leave something,” Cole said, “I don’t even care if they’re clean, I would take them to the laundry and pay for it myself.”

In Sierra Leone, rebels are given $50 for every gun they turn in. “They are being compensated for the crimes they committed while their victims are in anguish in amputee camps,” Cole said.

A goal of the digital humanities class is to create content that can be used outside of the classroom, so the student projects that include Cole’s Sierra Leone footage may become resources available to a broader community.

“In most classes,” Pannapacker explains, “you work on something for a while, and then it’s over. It gets filed away, and only the student really benefits from it. But now we have a new way for the work we’ve done to benefit the college as a whole to work with students in other courses and even faculty.”

Students can either choose their own project or have one recommended to them. In the case of the Sierra Leone project, the student-faculty collaboration seems to be beneficial to those involved.

“I thank God for Hope College,” Cole said. “I thank God for the support I’m having. We are one, and we are all connected on the basis of our humanity. How can we influence the salvations of others? Regardless of talent, we must use our resources for the improvement of our kind. I am pleased. I am thankful. I will never rest. I will do whatever it takes.”

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Pom pom team gives dancers opportunity to perform
Bethany Strip
Senior Editor

The Hope College Pom Pom team is one of the staples of halftime at Hope football and basketball games. The team, comprised of 12 Hope women, performs at all home football games, and all and several basketball games during the winter.

The team has two seasons which means that two different dance styles are used. In the fall, the pom team performs following traditional pom-style, which includes kick lines and splits.

During basketball season, however, the team uses the Universal Dance Association style. The UDA style is based on jazz and hip-hop dance and incorporates leaps and turns rather than kick lines and splits.

The pom team began in 2002 with students Heather Qualman (’04) and Liz Tyndell (’04). Qualman and Tyndell had been members of pom teams in high school, and they were excited to continue the sport at Hope, wanted to continue participating in the sport in college. Captain Kaylynn Keedy (’11) and Liz Ellis (’13) both made important free throws in the next 21 seconds to give the Dutch the win, 58-56. MIAA Tournament play began yesterday against Alma.

MEN’S BASKETBALL
SPLITS WEEK

The men’s basketball team finished its regular season last week. On Wednesday, the team traveled to Adrian, and fell to the Bulldogs, 68-73. With the loss the Flying Dutchmen moved to second place in the MIAA, giving Calvin sole possession of the conference. On Saturday, the team concluded its regular season against Trine. The Thunder pulled within three with 41 seconds left in the game, but two clutch free throws by Logan Neil (12) with five seconds remaining sealed the win for the Dutchmen. Trine and Hope will meet again tonight in the first game of the MIAA Tournament.
Men's swim team claims third straight MIAA title

For the Dutch to have a successful meet, captain Claire Piester ('10) explained that a lot of young swimmers needed to step up. “It is always interesting to see what the freshmen can do for the team, and they really stepped up,” Piester said.

Libby Westrate ('13) did her part in contributing to the team’s success at the conference championships. Westrate took home the gold in the 100-yard and 200-yard freestyle events, each of them fast enough for NCAA championship consideration. She was also part of the winning team in the 800-yard freestyle relay.

Winning the relay was one of Westrate’s favorite moments of the meet. “After being second to Calvin in the previous relays, it was nice to see our hard work pay off,” Westrate said.

Sarah Sohn ('12) added that this was a very exciting win for the team. “It was a great feeling to win after losing to Calvin in that relay last year,” Sohn said. The 7:47.40 time that Westrate, Piester, Vogelzang and Sohn posted was good enough for NCAA championship consideration. They will have to wait to see if they will get to compete at nationals.

Sohn also posted her season-best time in the 500- yard freestyle event. With a time of 5:07.20, she is also up for national consideration.

Even with these gold medal victories, it wasn’t enough to knock off the Knights of Calvin. Calvin finished with 939 points, and Hope finished in second with 715.

The season is over for the Lady Dutch team. It is now up to the individuals to compete at nationals. If they can shed some seconds off their previous times, they may have the opportunity to continue competing this year. Westrate is excited about the possibility of competing at the NCAA championships.

“If I do happen to make nationals, it would feel really good to represent Hope College at the national level,” she said.

Jake Bajema
Sports Writer

When the women’s swim team competed at the MIAA championships two weekends ago, the Lady Dutch swimmers knew it would be difficult to knock off Calvin, who was the heavy favorite.

“We really wanted to beat Calvin, but our focus was on doing our best,” captain Christina Vogelzang ('10) said. “Our focus is always on how well we can do, not always just winning.”

Vogelzang received All-MIAA conference honors for the second time in her career last week.

Not only did the team have a strong showing at the conference championships, but the Lady Dutch also had great success at the NCAA championships. Calvin finished with 939 points, and Hope finished in second with 715.

The Lady Dutch team is now up to the individuals to compete at nationals. If they can shed some seconds off their previous times, they may have the opportunity to continue competing this year. Westrate is excited about the possibility of competing at the NCAA championships.

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