Holland competes to bring Google speed

Emily West  
Co-Editor in Chief

On Feb. 25, the Holland Board of Public Works announced that it will be competing in Google’s “Fiber for Communities” initiative.

Google plans to test ultra-high speed broadband networks in a small number of trial locations in the United States and has issued a call for cities to show their support. Holland officials are optimistic too.

Paxton Wiers has been working with Boisea Communications Management, a communications support to the HPBW initiative.

It’s hard to sum up how fiber connections could improve Hope College, as they could provide improvements in almost every way, said Wiers. “They’d make Hope much more attractive to those studying the sciences as well as improving productivity for every single student on campus.”

The benefits for Hope are numerous, Wiers said, “Collaboration could be much easier, even allowing video conferencing with students at other schools. Students who are unable to attend class due to illness could stream realtime, HD video of the class in progress. VWS writers’ readings could be streamed over the network, as could concerts or CIS events.”

Holland officials are optimistic about Holland’s chances, making reference to Holland’s recent Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index second-place national ranking.

Wiers is optimistic too. “Honestly, I can’t think of anybody who would say, ‘You know what? I don’t think I want Internet that’s a lot faster than what I’ve got.’ The biggest problem, I think, is that people just don’t know about it.”

So, to spread the word, the Holland-Google FiberTown Initiative is offering a ‘Food For Thought’ contest. The person who makes and submits the best video promotion will win a $150 gift certificate to a Holland-area restaurant. Video makers can upload their FiberTown video entries to YouTube, copying their URL addresses, their names and their email addresses to fibertown@hollandbpw.com. Those without access to YouTube may email their entries to YouTube, copying their URL addresses, their names and their email addresses to fibertown@hollandbpw.com. Nominations will be collected from now until March 26.

PLAY THAT FUNKY MUSIC— Student musicians The Stationary Travelers and Michael Lesouisky played in a battle of the bands to benefit Haiti relief.

Amy Soukup  
Campus Co-editor

Nearly two months after the earthquake devastation in Haiti, Hope College students continue to work together to respond to the tragedy.

Hope’s latest Haiti benefit, a Battle of the Bands competition, occurred Friday, March 5, and was put together by Student Congress to raise money for the Haiti Foundation Against Poverty.

Four artists and bands participated including Justin Makowski, Stationary Travelers, Fallout Shelter and Michael Lesouisky. Stationary Travelers won the competition and were given the prize of a $50 gift certificate to the RIT Guitar Shop downtown and some free recording studio time with Josh Banner.

Meghan Lechner ’13, one of the organizers of the event, said, “Student Congress really enjoyed putting together such a unique fundraising activity and loved seeing all of the students come out and support this awesome cause. As a freshman, I am constantly discovering all of the things that make Hope College so amazing. And this event totally showed just how generous and creative our student body is.”

Overall, Lechner was happy with the event’s turnout and said Student Congress hopes to make Battle of the Bands an annual event at Hope.
Class writes novels in one month

Lindsey Bandy
Campus Co-Editor

Many people have "bucket-lists," a list of things they want to accomplish before they "kick the bucket." For professor Elizabeth Trembley's creative writing class, students have accomplished one of the things on their list — writing a novel.

The 15 students in the class recently became novelists in the one month period they had to write an original novel.

The assignment was to write a novel with the required word count of 50,000 by the month of February, and if they did not finish the novel on time, by March 1, they failed the class.

When asked how she became interested in the class, Lyndi Weener ('11) said, "When I originally saw the class list for the spring semester, I had no intention of taking the novel-writing class, but somehow I ended up in e-mail correspondence with Dr. Trembley, and she mentioned that the class was really fun, and I thought maybe this is something I could do. I felt this sense that maybe I had a story in me that needed to be born, so I thought I should take the risk and find out." She also said, "I don't know where my characters came from, but I know now, looking back on my novel, that all of the central themes were themes that are very present at my life at the time."

Weener continued to say that the thought of completed novel ended up being highly influenced by the fall semester she spent at the Oregon Extension program.

She said, "I guess that makes sense — for the themes of what you create to be in line with the themes you are experiencing in life at the moment. I was very much intimidated at the thought of writing a novel. I was so scared. I'd never even taken a fiction class before, so I wasn't sure if I was even capable of writing a short story. But I'm so glad I took the risk and found out."

— Lyndi Weener ('11)

"I felt this sense that maybe I had a story in me that needed to be born, so I thought I should take the risk and find out."

Hope considers new building projects

Hope College's campus is constantly changing. Several campus projects are currently being considered including outdoor tennis courts and a new art gallery and museum.

These campus projects could bring additional buildings and opportunities to Hope. According to Director of Operations Greg Maybury, the projects would get their funding from friends of the college and alumni.

"The pride of Hope is that no student tuition has to be used for new building projects," Maybury said.

However, the buildings that are built do add additional costs for maintaining and operating the facility. These costs can offset tuition, so any campus project still has to have 100 percent of its building costs as well as an additional 25 percent in funding for the operating costs.

"We have to have 125 percent of the funding committed before we can put a single spade in the ground," Maybury said.

The project nearest to having its complete 125 percent funding is the outdoor tennis courts, which will cost $1.5 million to build. Hope currently uses the outdoor tennis courts on Columbia Avenue across from Kollen Hall that belong to the city of Holland. The 12 outdoor courts would be located just past the Holland Municipal Stadium. The design of the courts is being reviewed, and the college is working on a land swap with the city.

There are other campus projects gathering funding as well. The final design and funding for a new art gallery and museum project to cost $3.4 million are still being worked on.

Also in the preliminary planning stage is a concert hall and music department facility to replace Nykerk. This project has the highest construction estimate at $18 million. Also being reviewed are plans for a new student center.

In 1980 the Van Raalte building that housed many of the administrative offices burned down. The offices were moved to the DeWitt Center, where the student center was located. The offices are still located in DeWitt and have " usurped some of the student space," according to Maybury.

The student center, which Maybury said " has been considered for a while," and which has a construction cost of $12.14 million, would be built on the site currently held by Nykerk.

Additionally, plans are underway to expand the Knickerbocker Theatre to include two dressing rooms and a warm-up studio at the back of the theatre, and the expansion is expected to cost between $550,000 and $750,000.
Iraqis brave insurgent intimidation, cast votes in historic election

Despite early acts of violence, high turnout from women; final results expected in coming months

Glen Shubert

On Sunday, the Republic of Iraq held elections to determine the composition of its legislative branch or parliament. This landmark in Iraqi history featured high levels of turnout, especially from female voters.

Extra security measures were taken, including a ban on using vehicles during election hours to prevent the possibility of car bombs. However, attacks killed at least 38 people in Baghdad. The most significant was rocket fire that collapsed an apartment building killing 25 people in northeastern Baghdad.

But these efforts at intimidation hardened the resolve of Iraqis determined to cast their vote. This turnout could indicate that the influence of insurgency groups is waning. Many Iraqis viewed the attacks as desperate and cowardly, even as they cast their votes within earshot of explosions.

"We have experienced three wars before," said Ahmed Ali, a first time voter, in an interview with The New York Times, "so it was just the play of children that we heard." The large crowds had plenty of candidates to choose from for the 322 possible seats in the Iraqi legislative branch. More than 6,100 politicians were in contention, a sign that Iraqis are eager to grow and participate in a democracy. However, the high turnout and large field of candidates means the results will take months to make out. Of those running for control of the government, there are six main party alliances.

The first of these alliances is that of Prime Minister Nouri Kamal Maliki who, according to Marina Ottaway of RealClearWorld.com, is attempting to "recast himself as a secular and nationalist leader." In times of worry about continuing ethnic conflict between Sunnis, Shites, Kurds and many other groups, Maliki's image is that of moving past these ethnic struggles. Another alliance is the Iraqi National Alliance, which has dominated the government since the last elections in December of 2005. This group of parties is a coalition of most of the Shiite parties in Iraq.

The third major coalition is the Iraqi National Movement. This multi-party group includes former Prime Minister Iyad al-Allawi and other parties whose beliefs follow the line of Sunni thinking and who stand for Sunni Muslims in Iraq. The many other parties represent other ethnic and minority groups in Iraq, including the Kurdish people. These parties underscore the division of these different ethnic groups. It has been predicted that most Iraqi voters will vote along ethnic and religious divisions. To many, this is a problem as it threatens to lessen co-operation that will be necessary in the successful formation and stability of an Iraqi democracy.

Some say this Iraqi democracy cannot be successful due to international pressures from nations like the United States and Iran, the fractionalization of ethnic groups within Iraq, regional conflict and religious tensions. Others, such as Tunku Varadarajan, a writer for The Daily Beast and a former assistant managing editor of The Wall Street Journal, say that success is possible, though perhaps on a large timescale. According to Tunku on thedailybeast.com: "It took the U.S. until 1787 to adopt the Constitution, until 1870 to enfranchise black adult males, until 1920 to enfranchise adult females, and until 1964 to guarantee voting rights to black citizens. Democracies go through a very long process of consolidation."

Eric Anderson

Released on March 5, the Department of Labor’s monthly review of the job market showed signs that the economy may be on the road to recovery. The economy lost fewer jobs than expected, and the unemployment rate has seemingly hit a plateau at 9.7 percent.

While these numbers are promising, they are not definite indicators of an economic turnaround. The economy still shed 36,000 jobs, and the number of Americans who have been unemployed for more than 15 weeks is at an all-time high. However, when compared with the 650,000 jobs lost at this time a year ago, the numbers indicate that the worst of the recession is over.

The improvement in the Labor Department’s report comes amid unhelpful circumstances. If not for the recent snowstorm to strike the East Coast, these numbers could have looked even better. In addition, the report showed improvement despite the economic woes of Greece and Europe as a whole.

This better-than-expected report has instigated debate among expert economists over whether this improvement will lead to long-term economic recovery. Some argue that this progress will have a ripple effect throughout the country, spurring consumer confidence and creating jobs.

Others contend that the recovery will be drawn out due to the changing face of the job world. The economy is shifting away from manufacturing and manual labor jobs. Employment opportunities in health care and education now represent areas of growth, whereas an area such as construction lost 64,000 jobs in February.

The number of temporary workers also rose in February. While these opportunities can only contribute to short-term improvements in the job market, the addition of 48,000 temporary positions bodes well for consumer confidence.

Despite the uncertainty, Wall Street responded well to the optimistic job report. The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose more than 122 points. Many other stocks grew 1 to 2 percent as well.

President Obama championed the numbers as signs of the success of newly implemented green jobs. While visiting a company in Virginia that designs software to decrease energy use, Obama said, “The country that leads in clean energy and energy efficiency today, I’m absolutely convinced, is going to lead the global economy tomorrow. I want that country to be the United States of America.”
NATIONAL
MARCH 10, 2010

This Week In Quotes

Meghan McNamara
Guest Writer

“He’s like a 5-foot-man in 6 feet of water.”

“They are not prioritizing education. That should be at the top of the list — on their list of everything.”
— Yezenia Castellanos, a PhD student at the University of California, Berkeley, following a recent antigovernment protest against steep tuition hikes at UC schools; more than 100 demonstrations were planned Friday as part of a “Day of Action” to support public education.

“We are the Brussels sprouts of media.”
— Mark Pocan, the director of "The Cove," on how documentarians are treated.

“They will probably be noticeable to people for months and could go on possibly for years.”
— John Bellini, geophysicist at the U.S. Geological Survey in Colorado, predicting Chile could experience aftershocks from its 8.8-magnitude earthquake for years to come.

“Here’s a big story out of Washington. The Senate voted against a plan to send a $250 check to 57 million elderly people. In the end, senators decided not give the elderly money, because you know, they’re just going to spend it on drugs.”
— Jimmy Fallon on “Late Night with Jimmy Fallon.”

“I’m just not going to say anything anytime soon, just going to kind of sit back, relax, enjoy the offseason.”
— Brett Favre, Minnesota Vikings quarterback, appearing on “The Tonight Show with Jay Leno” and maintaining the suspense for fans waiting to hear if the NFL veteran will return next year.

“At this time, it appears to be a single individual that had issues.”
— Richard Kevoll, Pentagon police chief, after a man fired on two police officers at an entrance to the Defense Department’s headquarters.

“We expect the U.S. administration to, as of now, display more effective efforts. Otherwise, the picture ahead will not be positive either.”
— Ahmet Davutoglu, Foreign Minister of Turkey, after a U.S. congressional committee approved a resolution labeling Turkey’s killing of Armenians during World War I genocide. The House is set to join its ambassador to the U.S. in

Senator singlehandedly blocks unemployment benefits before relenting

On Feb. 25, Sen. Jim Bunning, R-Ky., began his one-man campaign against the extension of unemployment insurance at this time.

"It is really hard to understand why one senator in the United States Senate is holding up the extension of unemployment insurance at this time."

"If we can’t find $10 million somewhere for a bill that everybody in this body supports, we will never pay for anything."

Because of the cost cutting being made, protests occurred against the wage freeze and tax increases that the government is putting in place to try to pull the country out of economic crisis.

"The financial troubles that are currently facing Greece are not caused by the government. They are caused because the government is not able to pay its debts."
— George Papandreou, Greek Prime Minister

Greeks take to the streets—Thousands of Greek citizens participated in a protest organized by Greek Finance Minister George Papandreou. Tax increases were made to combat Greece’s high level of debt.

"If we don’t make the right decisions now, we will be at the top of the list for the unemployed. Quoted by The New York Times, House Majority Leader Rep. Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., said Friday, "It is really hard to understand why one senator in the United States Senate is holding up the extension of unemployment insurance at this time."

"We expect the U.S. administration to, as of now, display more effective efforts. Otherwise, the picture ahead will not be positive either."
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"This will be a positive one."
— Turkey’s ambassador to the U.S.

"Turkey has withdrawn its ambassador to the United States on Saturday after a U.S. official made comments that are perceived as an insult to our country."
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There is something to say about ‘Much Ado About Nothing’

Annelise Belmonte
Arts Editor

Upon the beginning of the play, die-hard Shakespeare fans will notice that there have been significant changes to the comedy, ‘Much Ado About Nothing.’ The part of Leonato, Hero’s father, has been adjusted to Leonato’s true love. Antonio is now Antonio. Conrad is replaced by Constance. And Don John has become Dona Johanna.

So when Hero, playing men’s roles, dressing up like men and puffing up their chests. Director Daina Robins and costume designer Michelle Bombe and director Robins found through many designs that after or during wars women tended to dress in more masculine attire. Power suits would be worn as well as women wearing tennis shoes in New York, only to put their heels on once they got to the office. It’s very much a battle of the masculine and feminine, especially since in ‘Much Ado’ the war has just ended.

But the playfulness of the battle of the sexes is explored in other ways as well. In one way, sports are used as a way to show the competition between Beatrice and Benedick for who can be the wittiest, the smarter. In the first scene, Beatrice and Benedick practices his golf swing as they debate their feelings for each other. Later, in the masquerade dance, there is a tango, which was choreographed by Radhajiyo Deitenbeck (’12). The tango tugged the sexual tension and desire for domination.

Of course, this is still a Shakespeare play, so there is a moral to be had. ‘Much Ado’ at heart is about the meeting of the mind and the soul, the heart and the brain. Benedick, played by John Teller (’12) and Beatrice, as played by Jackie Richards (’11), start off being all mind and no heart, and come together for a balanced union.

In comparison, Claudio, played by Noah Busman (’12) is far too emotional with Hero, played by Jenny Tremblay (’11). All in all, it’s an enjoyable, thought-provoking play, said Frederickson said, “Shakespeare’s plays remind the audience that language is fun and has power.” Much Ado will continue playing at the DeWitt main theatre March 10, 12, 13 at 8 p.m.

Karen Patterson
Co-Editor-in-Chief

A true artist expresses his or her art form in a manner that is accessible. Those viewing as audience members and revelers ought to sit back in awe at how effortlessly the work appears. The dancers and choreographers of Dance 36, the Hope College dance department annual showcase, are a visual delight, allowing the audience to appreciate each dancer’s talent.

The opening piece “Maybe This” was choreographed by Guest Artist Tracy Kofford, allows the audience to peek in on the state of relationships. “I wanted to focus on the deterioration and rebuilding,” Kofford said. “There is old love and new love. The partnering goes back and forth between the lovers.”

In the second act of the piece, Kate Telfer (’10) and Alissa Gigler (’10) beautifully portrayed the woman in a relationship and “the other woman.” The difference between the two is obvious, both in dress and movement. However, as the act continues, the movements become unified, signaling the often blurred lines in relationships. The lines become further blurred in the third act as the relationships portray the ultimate cad, romancing four various women at once. The playful nature of the piece contrasts with the more mature tone of the first two acts and still pays homage to the overall mood.

Choreographers Angie Yetzke and Rosanne Mork each approach their respective pieces with a focus on more than just physical movement. In “A Naming,” dancers use sign language to spell out their own names as well as labels that are assigned. Uniformity brings the piece together, but as the music progresses, dancers began to break out of their shells. A hanging swing adds extra opportunity to allow each dancer to show her individual journey and display the freedom gained after breaking out of the labeled shell.

“Much Ado” the war has just ended. As Frederickson said, “Shakespeare’s plays remind the audience that language is fun and has power.” Much Ado will continue playing at the DeWitt main theatre March 10, 12, 13 at 8 p.m.

The Anchor

Hope students and guest artists dance their hearts out at the Knick

Karen Patterson
Co-Editor-in-Chief

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Rather than using sign language, the dancers in ‘Dirt Dahl’ express themselves through a lively and energetic tap number. Soloist Kristin Restch’s ‘Dirt Dahl’ captured the audience in the March 5 and 6 performances, as she tapped out words such as “Hope” and “Believe” using Morse code. The piece came together over the course of three months, and the hard work came to a head the night before. Sitting around a small computer screen the night before opening night, the seven dancers had one last opportunity for corrections and last minute notes from their choreographer. The next night it was apparent they’d been able to incorporate the advice from Mork: the performance flowed smoothly. While it would have been easy to have focused on the faces, the flying feet moving in unison were what gained the audience’s approval.

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The final two pieces of the evening “Dark White,” choreographed by Steven Lannacomo, and “Facades,” brought to life by Guest Artist Dorrell Mar tin, left the audience with two very different impressions. The sharp, distinct movements of Lannacomo’s were accentuated by the dry ice at the beginning of the piece and the various groupings and the movement about the stage.

In “Facades,” fast, energetic movement accentuated by flowing skirts that spun out with the simplest movement gave the performance a strong conclusion. The atypical pairing of Nick Mucklekey (’13) and Zach Porter in the second act was a beautiful contrast: Porter’s lithe form and Mucklekey’s more muscular body moved both in unison and in opposition to each other, allowing each dancer to incorporate his own style.

As a whole, Dance 36 was an incredible showcase of what the Hope College dance department has to offer. Dancers were lively, energy was high, and steps that take hours to perfect appeared effortless as the dancers invited the audience to listen to the stories they had to share. The show will run for three more performances from Thursday, March 11, to Saturday, March 13, at 8 p.m. at the Knickerbocker Theatre. Tickets are $5 for students and senior citizens and $7 for regular admission and can be purchased in advance at the DeVos Fieldhouse ticket office or at the door.
Students and faculty react to powerful images in ‘The American Dream’ gallery

Chris Russ
Staff Writer

Photographs are an unavoidable and essential part of modern life in America. They are present on billboards on the side of the road or treasured as family heirlooms. They help visualize the information presented in textbooks or they can be found in extensive galleries on the internet.

However, some photographers seek to tell a story and convey a message with their art. One such artist is Mark Paris. He is the photographer behind “The American Dream” exhibition in the gallery of the DePree Art Center. The exhibit will be on display until March 26.

In this gallery, Paris captures images of immigrant workers in Long Island and South Haven, of N.Y. as well as images of local citizens protesting their presence. Paris has said, “There are always two sides to a story and in my photography I try to be fair to both.”

The photographs on display are an example of the genre known as documentary photography. One of the most notable time periods in documentary photography occurred during the Great Depression. The famous and still emotionally provocative images captured during that time period show the suffering endured by those impacted by the economic crisis. But this type of photography is more than a depiction of events, it allows the viewer to connect to the humanity of those photographs.

He called the photography Professor Steve Nelson explained that with regards to viewing the photographs in person, “I can’t think of a comparison that would substitute for this experience.”

When asked about the significance of documentary photography, Mike Debowski (’12) said, “To me, it’s one of those things that can almost be substituted for personal experience. A lot of times we learn about stuff or hear about stuff...”

SEE DREAM ON, PAGE 10

‘Smooth Operator’ Rudy Currence inspires Hope students during concert in the Kletz

Lindsey Wolf
Asst. Arts Editor

“Anybody believe music is powerful?” Rudy Currence asked Hope students in the Kletz Friday night as he sat down at his keyboard on stage.

Dressed in dark overalls, a black T-shirt and a striped scarf, Currence entertained the crowd with his soulful music for over an hour. He demonstrated his vocal range with ascending and descending scales, using his piano to back up his powerful voice. Currence was relaxed on stage, with a smile, as he serenaded the audience.

Currence’s voice has been compared to greats like Donnie Hathaway and Stevie Wonder. His sound is a blend of R&B, gospel, hip hop, soul and pop. He recently signed with Ludacris’ record label “Disturbing Tha Peace.” This up-and-coming musician is an established songwriter, as well as vocalist. Currence has written songs for nationally known artists Mys and Ray J. He also had a song featured in the hit movie “The Bourne Identity.”

Originally from Rock Hills, S.C., the R&B artist currently resides in Charlotte, N.C. Currence’s music career started in church. He sang in a gospel choir before embarking on a solo career.

Currence’s Kletz performance included his own songs as well as remixes of popular songs. While Currence sang a variety of popular songs, he kept them original by putting his own spin on each one. Currence moved students to snap and clap in their seats. A few confident, smooth students danced during a soulful “Electric Slide.”

One of the first songs he performed was “Carolina In My Mind” by James Taylor, one of Currence’s major influences. Currence sang variations of Lauryn Hill’s “Killing Me Softly,” Bill Withers’ “Lean On Me,” The Jackson 5’s “I’ll Be There” and Ginuwine’s “Crazy.”

The R&B artist performed a handful of songs off his first album, “More Than You’ll Ever Know,” as well as his most recent album, “Here With You.” Each song had a powerful message that Currence explained to the audience before singing.

You might have heard his song “Have I Told You (That I Love You Lately)” in an Old Navy store or other major retailers across the country. The song’s message is linked to the Latin phrase “carpe diem” which means “seize the day.” Before singing the song, Currence encouraged Hope students to appreciate every day and to say “I love you” to people because tomorrow is not promised.

Currence performed “Songwriter” near the end of the night, a song he wants people to sing when he is gone. Currence explained, “We all want to make an impression. We all want to make a difference. How do you want to make your mark on the world? I want to leave my legacy through song.”

Currence’s next album, “Black Keys and Blue Skies” will be released this summer. Follow the artist on Twitter, Facebook and rudycurrenceonline.com. Listen to his music on iTunes and YouTube.

Ali Farzà Touré & Toumani Diabaté — ‘Ali and Toumani’

The kora is an African instrument made of 21 strings and a gourd hollowed out over the split gourd that is plucked and strummed like an acoustic guitar. Though Malian guitarist Ali Farzà Touré did not create blues music or affect it during its formative decades, his fusion of indigenous African music and American blues, which earned him a sort of a mysterious godfather of the blues reputation during his 66 years of life, is like a kora personified. His mostly instrumental second album with world-renowned kora player Toumani Diabaté was also the last recorded session before Ali’s death, and it depicts a dying man who, having said all that he has to say, let his breathtaking music speak for itself.

Sambassadeur — ‘European’

Sambassadeur is a Swedish indie pop band releasing its third album. The duo basically resembles a modern day ABBA, but we think even better. They are representing a strong and influential Swedish underground music scene by drawing soundscapes from many modern European bands and meshing them together on the accessible and unique results. It definitely sounds European, but think ABBA — fun and approachable, not pretentious or overly sophisticated. Gosh, they are so easy to compare to ABBA.

These album reviews are courtesy of WTHS music director Paul Rice, Aaron Martin and Laura Helperop.
For those who watched ABC News on Feb. 17, you’ve heard this before — Holland was ranked the No. 2 happiest city in the United States. While Holland is full of tulips in the spring and snow in the winter, the happy residents stay all year long.

The ranking, by the 2009 Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index surveyed 353,000 Americans in six categories: life evaluation, emotional health, physical wealth, health behavior, work environment and access to basic needs. On ABC News, Holland residents commented on the churches and the community. To those residents, religion in Holland makes them happiest. Due to the great amount of churches along with the caring church members, people feel welcomed no matter where they go in Holland.

When Hope College students were asked why they believed Holland was ranked the second happiest city in the United States and if the ranking was due to the churches and community, they answered:

“Holland is like a family! Especially being a Hope student, I really feel the love of the community. Also, they have the beach, which is absolutely gorgeous and can make anyone happy. There is something in Holland for everyone! I definitely think churches have something to do with my happiness in Holland. I can imagine for someone else it may not, but for me a lot of my involvement is in churches or through churches. The people in the church communities in Holland are very welcoming and treat us Hope students extra special!” — Kimberly Slotman (’11)

“Holland, compared to other cities, is a pretty nice place to live in. What makes it a pretty nice place to live in is its friendly atmosphere. Generally speaking, Holland’s atmosphere is one where you feel secure and respected.” — Juan Lopez (’12)

“I think Holland is the second happiest place in the U.S. because of the emphasis they have on faith and community. The people here enjoy helping other people and show their love of Christ through loving others. I definitely would say churches have an impact on people’s moods here in Holland. The community as a whole values faith and the love of God. I think people are much more content when they know their purpose in life.” — Samantha Lorden (’13)

David G. Myers, a professor of psychology at Hope College and author of “The Pursuit of Happiness: Discovering the Pathway to Fulfillment, Well-Being and Personal Joy,” was suprised at Holland being ranked the second happiest city in the United States. Myers stated, “First, it oversimplifies a bit to say, ‘Holland is the second happiest city,’ because in the Gallup well-being survey, ‘Holland’ was really the West Michigan area up to Grand Haven, as I understand it, and also because only one of their dozen questions was directly about happiness. Their well-being index covers many topics, including work life, physical well-being, including smoking rates, and emotional well-being. Nevertheless, there are good reasons to expect that Holland, with its faith- and family-supportive culture would enjoy relatively high well-being, given that religious engagement and marriage are happiness predictors. And in the spirit of good fun, I’ve told an acquaintance in Boulder — the so-called happiest city — to watch out. ‘Don’t look back, because we’re gaining on you. Now if we could just get some jobs here in Michigan.’”
Musings on mutual misunderstandings

Karen Patterson  
Co-Editor-in-Chief

The Hope College experience

In her letter to the editor last week, Avril Wiers ('10) said that she longs for “an open-minded campus where I am willing to express myself fully, free to ask questions that may or may not have a school-sanctioned answer. I want to connect with my professors and my fellow students, approach things from all sides, appreciating both similarities and differences.”

To Wiers, and anyone else who may feel this way, I pose this question: what is keeping you from fully expressing yourself? Perhaps I am living a clichéd college experience, but I have found that when I put myself out there and open myself up to meeting new people who may or may not think like me, I am usually met with acceptance and thought-provoking conversations.

I have a friend here on campus who is gay and in the weeks that followed her coming out to me, my conversations with her were some the most profound and thought-provoking conversations. The weeks that followed her coming out to me, my acceptance and thought-provoking conversations.

I want to connect with my professors and my fellow students, approach things from all sides, appreciating both similarities and differences.

Karen Patterson would be happy to meet for coffee with anyone who likes a good rant about other places in the country, but she won’t do that at some point in our collegiate careers. But it’s an incredible waste of time.

I have to admit, there are times that I get very frustrated with the Hope College environment. I’m not blind or ignorant to think that everything is sunshine and bubbles. But I do not think that we are stuck in the Stone Age of education, either. Wiers stated, “Some students may enjoy playing the role of the sponge, absorbing all the material in an hour-long lecture, but other students prefer to complete laboratory or mind walk experiments.”

I’m so glad this was brought up, because we have some incredible opportunities as students. Our dance department is one of the top programs in the country for a school of our size. Hope College students have more undergraduate research opportunities than students at the University of Michigan, a top 10 public university, and the English department is bursting with progressive and innovative thinkers; those are just three examples.

It is often easy to play the comparison game and say, ‘well, the grass is definitely greener over at this school because they get to do this instead of that. I’m pretty sure that most of us buy into that at some point in our collegiate careers. But it’s an incredible waste of time.

Maybe we do live in a bubble and maybe we’re not as “open-minded” and “progressive” as other places in the country, but everybody matures and changes at a different pace. It’s ridiculous to expect every single student to be at the same place, and I truly believe that part of being open-minded is recognizing that we do think differently. Not thinking the same way as you would make me closed-minded, it simply means that I have a different opinion.

I personally do not believe that a “utopian education” is possible — we think too differently. However, there is nothing wrong with that. Every educational institution is going to have its fair share of negative to balance out the good. Since we have a limited amount of time before we’re kicked out into the real world, it’s important to take advantage of the good, instead of wallowing in the bad. You have four years to make the most of this experience called college. Wouldn’t it be better to put yourself out there to learn other people’s opinions instead of wishing everybody else would change to fit your own views? After all, college, just like life, is what you make of it.

Karen Patterson would be happy to meet for coffee with anyone who thinks she’s a raving eccentric. Or at least wants to shoot the breeze. Send her an e-mail — she’d love to chat!

Beautiful Feet

Bryant Russ  
Columnist

A bigger fire

The other night while I was walking home from the Dow after an intramural game, I spotted a man digging through the garbage. After a short conversation, the man told me he didn’t need food or shelter; rather, he was looking for pop cans to return in order to have extra money. After receiving medical care, he immediately crawled back to the dump to look for any used syringes with just a little bit of heroin left to use. Talk about addiction!

But it’s not just nicotine and drugs; what about pornography? Did you know that every second 28,258 Internet users are viewing porn? According to one source, more than 70 percent of men from ages 18 to 34 visit a pornographic site in a month, while 50 percent of Christian men and 20 percent of Christian women admit to being addicted to pornography. This is a big deal.

If you’ve ever been addicted to anything, you know the reality of feeling like a crazed person dancing around the wild fire of the thing you’re addicted to — you feel consumed, out of control, caught in a tangled web that you are powerless to get out of. Support groups, personal strategies and self-help books try various ways to help you put the fire out, but to no avail. You’re stuck; the fire is too strong.

But maybe the solution isn’t simply putting the fire out. Maybe people need a fire to dance around, something that captures our attention and captivates our hearts. Maybe the only way to be free is to find a BIGGER fire.

In Deuteronomy 6, God commands his people to love him with all their heart, all their soul and all their strength, knowing that if our love affair with him becomes increasingly important and precious, there will eventually be no room for other gods.

Think of it this way: a husband doesn’t always want to have sex with his wife. He truly would rather spend the time with his children. As a result, his wife would say, “You don’t love me!”

The true war against addiction begins when we have something worthwhile to fight for — when we become like the man in Jesus’ parable who wanted the pearl so badly he sold everything he had to get it. Over time, the fire of addiction will become like barely glowing coals in comparison to the blazing bonfire of our obsession for Christ.

Bryant loves his inner-tube waterpolo team. Good work gang!

Write Letters to the Editors

If you are passionate about an issue, concerned about a problem or excited to share an idea:  
Email letters to anchor@hope.edu

2010 SPRING SEMESTER STAFF
An invitation  
Last September, I was registered for my senior seminar and was all set to “articulate my philosophy for living,” as the course catalog says. I even sat in on the first day. But as we went around the room and introduced ourselves, my breathing quickened. I realized that all the talk of reflection associated with a senior seminar was serious. I would be reflecting like mad for the next four months.

In general, I have no problem with reflection. I’m a natural reflector, always considering what I’ve done and what I think and trying to make sense of where I’m going in light of where I’ve been. I got nervous not because reflecting inherently made me uncomfortable, but rather because I had spent the past year doing just that: reflecting. The full of my junior year, I studied at the Oregon Extension and read my life through the lens of every book I opened and every trail I hiked, while simultaneously interpreting each of those books and trails through the lens of my life. When I returned to Hope, I used the next semester to re-contextualize my life, sorting through what it means to look at the world with nothing more informed than my own eyes. This past summer was a season of non-academic reflection: Who am I away from the classroom? What does everything I’ve come to understand mean when I live in a house with a porch and neighbors who are 3 years old and 63 years old? I was tired of looking inward. Maybe the real problem with my senior seminar was the timing; I was too confident that I’d exhausted my entire inner life. There was nothing left on which to reflect.

So I dropped the class.

I decided that instead of turning inward for the 13th month in a row, I wanted to look outward. I signed up for a history class in an attempt to expand the frontiers of my interior world. Maybe by spring there’d be something new to see in there.

But this solution wasn’t ultimately satisfying. Regardless of how much new territory my inner life might annex, I’d still be looking in. Or at best, I’d be expanding inward while looking outward. Even then, though, I’d be surveying the world through my particular windows, and those windows are smudged and small. In some sense, I felt that the whole concept of reflection was too anthropocentric; it hinged on me. It tried to illuminate reality rather than letting reality illuminate me.

Grace realizes that this might be another instance of the Olson Deflection. In that case, she apologizes but nevertheless leaves her question on the table.
DANCE MARATHON received the "Youth in Philanthropy Award" from the West Michigan Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals in the fall of 2009.

Helen DeVos Children's Hospital is West Michigan's largest children's hospital, serving children and families throughout a 35-county region. A teaching hospital, it includes more than 150 pediatric specialty physicians uniquely skilled in providing medical and surgical care to children in more than 40 pediatric specialties.

The Dow Center is located at 160 East Michigan Avenue, Grand Rapids, and is an international non-profit organization dedicated to helping children by raising funds and awareness for more than 170 children's hospitals throughout North America. Each year, these hospitals treat 17 million children with diseases, injuries and birth defects of every kind.

Additional information about Dance Marathon and the Helen DeVos Children's Hospital can be found on the Dance Marathon Web site, reachable through the college's Web site at: http://www.hope.edu/dancemarathon/.
Flying Dutchmen’s NCAA hopes eliminated

By the Numbers

3 Number of 3-point baskets by Chris Nelis (’10).

10 Number of offensive rebounds made by Hope.

5 Assists made by David Bolt (’10), bringing his season total to 110.

Hockey team headed to national tournament

James Nichols
Associated Sports Editor

Hope College may want to consider adding a 19th sport to its list of sponsored, intercollegiate varsity sports.

Founded in 1996 as a club sport, the men’s hockey team is headed to its ninth straight national tournament, this time as the top seed in the North Region.

“I am very happy to have the No. 1 seed,” Coach Chris Van Timmeren said.

The team has two out of three first-place finishes, two fourth-place finishes and a second-place finish in the 2002-03 season.

“The No. 1 seed is a great accomplishment,” Captain Austin Sonneveldt (’10) said. “It is something to be proud of for our team. However, in terms of winning the national tournament, the seed means nothing.”

The Flying Dutchmen claimed the 2002 regional championship of the Michigan Collegiate Hockey Conference with a 12-3-0-1 conference record.

However, they failed to win the tournament championship when they lost 5-2 to Saginaw Valley State University in the championship game.

“We played pretty well in the tournament and lost by a few points in the end,” Van Timmeren said. “I believe we can fix those errors and build on that.”

Eleven days separate the MCHC championship game and the beginning of the American Collegiate Hockey Association national tournament. Practice and preparation have never been more important for the Flying Dutchmen.

“We will work on those mistakes in practice this week to prepare for the tournament,” Sonneveldt said. “Practices will be intense, upbeat and focused.”

Van Timmeren emphasized that hockey is a sport full of opportunities.

“This season has been tough in many ways,” Van Timmeren said. “We have the ability to jump up in the play and contribute to our scoring, while being extremely effective in our own zone. Schrader might be the best player in the region. He has size, strength and great stick handling, which are threats to any team we play.”

Sonneveldt added that No. 1 seed is a great accomplishment, and that they will stay the same.

Leading the practices and games for this season for the Flying Dutchmen have been three all conference players. Goalie Dave Nowicki (’10) was named first-team all-conference.

To the MVP Sportsplex in Grand Rapids on Saturday where they defeated both host Oberlin and Grove City College in the same day. Hope played Oberlin first and triumphed, 8-1. All of Hope’s winners in the match defeated their opponents in two sets or less. Later, the Flying Dutchmen went on to the Wolverines of Grove City and came out on top in that match as well, 7-2. The Dutchmen will take to the courts again on Friday when Grand Rapids Community College and Davenport come to the DeWitt Tennis Center.

MEN’S LACROSSE FALLS TWICE IN ONE WEEK

The men’s lacrosse team suffered two defeats last week, bowing first to No. 2 Davenport by a score of 22-11 on Thursday and Indiana University by a score of 16-7 on Saturday. The two losses put the Flying Dutchmen at 1-3 on the season. Hope will travel to the MVP Spotlight in Grand Rapids on March 10 to face rival Calvin College. The Flying Dutchmen defeated the Knights both times they met last season. The match will start at 4:30 p.m.

THIS WEEK IN SPORTS

Men’s Tennis

Friday March 12

Men’s Tennis vs. Davenport at 3 p.m.

Women’s Basketball

Friday March 13

Women’s Basketball vs. Marymount at 5 p.m.

IN BRIEF

MEN’S TENNIS VICTORIOUS IN OHIO

The men’s tennis team traveled to Oberlin College in Ohio on Saturday where they defeated both host Oberlin and Grove City College in the same day. Hope played Oberlin first and triumphed, 8-1. All of Hope’s winners in the match defeated their opponents in two sets or less. Later, the Flying Dutchmen went on to the Wolverines of Grove City and came out on top in that match as well, 7-2. The Dutchmen will take to the courts again on Friday when Grand Rapids Community College and Davenport come to the DeWitt Tennis Center. Matches begin at 3 p.m. and 6 p.m., respectively.
Women’s basketball advances to NCAA Sweet 16

James Nichols
Asst. Sports Editor

The seven swimmers that qualified from the men’s and women’s swim teams will head to the University of Minnesota on March 17 for the NCAA Division III swimming and diving national championships.

Four Flying Dutchmen (Ruch, King, Nelis and Welsch) will compete in the 200 and 400 medley relay as well as the 400 and 800 freestyle relay.

Two swimmers were able to qualify for nationals in their first year. The other five are seniors.

Competition begins at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, March 17, and concludes at 6 p.m. on March 20.

The anchor

Libby Westrate (‘13)

Westrate will compete in the 50,100 and 200 freestyle events. “It’s kind of weird being the only girl,” Westrate said. “I think I will do pretty well. I’ve been working hard.”

Welsch will compete in the 50 and 100 freestyle along with four relays as the anchor. “If he can swim as fast as last year, he will score,” coach John Patnott said.

Mitch Ruch (‘10)

Ruch will compete in the 100 and 200 backstroke as well as lead off the four relays. “If he can get last year’s form back,” Patnott said, “he should do well in the 200 backstroke.”

Ryan Nelis (‘10)

Nelis will compete in the 50 and 100 freestyle, 100 butterfly and four relays.

“If he does well in the relays before the 100 butterfly he will be fine,” Patnott said.

Brandon King (‘10)

King will swim the 100 breaststroke and four relays.

“You never know what’s going to happen at nationals,” King said.

Heyboer will swim the 200 and 400 individual medley and the 200 backstroke.

“As a senior it’s nice to go out with a bang,” Heyboer said.

Josh Grabijas (‘13)

Grabijas will compete in the 200, 500 and 1650 freestyle for the Flying Dutchmen. “I can’t get it out of my mind, I want to do well,” Grabijas said.