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Dance Marathon raised record amount

Hope's annual 24-hour Dance Marathon benefit took place this weekend, and participants raised a total of $103,012, a $14,727 increase from last year's total. This exceeded the team's goal of $100,000. More than 400 students and 20 student organizations contributed to the event's success. Families who have benefited from the fundraising efforts in the past attended the event to thank student participants.

Student Congress sets up Meijer shuttle runs

Many students, even those without cars, have noticed there seems to be a shortage of parking spots on campus. Student Congress has decided to use their vacations to do something a bit more meaningful—go out and serve others.

For typical college students, spring break is a great idea for underclassmen to work by doing service projects and evangelism. Students will travel to four countries, 12 states, and the District of Columbia. Another group plans to stay closer to home, volunteering within the Holland community.

Returning from their missions, the travelers will likely report how much fun they had, how wonderful the experience was, and the close friendships they made within their group. More important, though, will be the countless lives they have touched in one short week—the residents at the deaf village in Jamaica; the substance abuse victims in Loeysville, Pa.; the homeowners in inner-city Memphis, Tenn., or the orphans of Reynosa, Mexico, to name a few.

Among what students enjoy most are the personal connections established with all those they meet, many with backgrounds very different from their own. In addition to time spent on the job, many of the best hours on a mission trip are spent just listening.

"We have lots of time to spend with people there, what our leader calls 'iced-tea, porch-sitting' time with the locals," said Kimberly Mosley (’06), leader of a work trip to Hazel Green, Ky., and Puerto Escondido, Mexico. The houses they build will help provide suitable shelter for low-income families.

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Campus Briefs

Iron Jawed Angels come to DePree

At 8 tonight, the IVE Radio station will bring "Iron Jawed Angels" to DePree Auditorium. The story is that of several young suffrage activists and their struggle to win the right to vote for American women. The club will provide free pizza and pop to all who attend.
Gandhi: Attacking terrorists will fuel world anger


to the boy to travel to India to spend some time with his grandfather.
Arun Gandhi spent 18 months in India with his grandfather, where he watched the Indian struggle for freedom from British rule. During his stay, Arun talked about his grandfather's philosophy of nonviolence and found his anger transformed.

Arun Gandhi believed in nonviolence—"It is useful if used correctly, but dangerous if not. We need to use energy constructively instead of destructively," he said.

Arun shared several stories of how his grandfather taught him lessons as a child. The young Gandhi was required to keep an "anger journal" in which he wrote down every little thing that made him upset.

You can think about anger and let it build up inside of you, but to make a difference, you must find the cause of that anger and find a solution to making it better," he said.

On a larger scale, Arun Gandhi said when the planes hit the World Trade Centers in New York City, the United States should have been asking itself, "What is it that made people hate us so much that they would do this?"

"Terrorism is not a war we can win," he said.

Since the US does not know where or even who the terrorists are, it is not feasible for us to wipe them out through war, he explained. The only solution to dealing with terrorism is to forgive and to improve relationships with those people, he said.

"Nonviolence is the way of the future," he said. "Only by nonviolence can we save humanity from destroying itself."

He illustrated this point using a story about his father. When Arun was a teen, he went to town with his father, where they put up their hands and agreed to meet again late that afternoon. Arun became side-tracked and was a half hour late to meet his father. When his worried father asked him where he had been, Arun lied. His father, however, knew the truth and said to his son, "I have failed as a parent because you see, my son feels that he must lie to me."

Gandhi's father walked the 18 miles home so that he could think about how he had failed his son.

"Watching my father walk home taught me my lesson more than any punishment could have," Through this example, Arun Gandhi expressed his belief that only by being forgiven will people see their problems clearly. Punishing will not cause others to see their mistakes, it will only make them angry.

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Renowned guest lecturers on evil under God's watch

While good can come about from evil, these are indeed horrible things, and when they happen, we must weep.

—Richard Swinburne, Oxford University

Swinburne's visit to campus was "a big deal," according to English Professor Curtis Gruncler. While Hope hosts guest lecturers on a regular basis, few are as accomplished as Swinburne, who has published more than 15 books and numerous articles. He is a leading authority in the world of philosophy and his recent works include "The Existence of God," "The Resurrection of God Incarnate," and "Epistemic Justification."

Swinburne explained some of his views concerning how God and suffering are interconnected.

"God has the right to allow us to suffer in order to achieve a greater good. Sometimes humans are only able to find the greater good through suffering," he said.

Turnout for the lecture in Maas Auditorium was surprisingly high so students and faculty entering just before the lecture were forced to un-stack and place their own chairs because planners had not expected such a high attendance.

In his lecture, Swinburne outlined four point his belief that God has the right to allow evil to occur due to his role as the ultimate benefactor of the human race. Though making sure to express his sympathy for the Jews, Swinburne said that, through the Holocaust, humans were able to see the worst of their race and correct it for the future.

Lastly, Swinburne presented the idea that the negative value of the evil God allows to happen must not exceed the good that could be achieved by that evil occurring.

Even though the lecture was on a serious topic, Swinburne's occasional remarks of dry humor and obvious expertise concerning the topic made for an interesting and informative lecture. Many audience members contributed questions after the lecture, and Swinburne thoughtfully answered them, while being sure to make clear that what he was presenting was his own theory and not necessarily the definitive view on the subject.

"While good can come about from evil, these are indeed horrible things, and when they happen, we must weep."

Swinburne's偶尔的发言些俏皮话和显而易见的技巧让讲话内容显得有趣且具有教育意义。许多听众在讲座结束后提问，斯温伯恩礼貌地回答了问题，同时确保不会偏离自己的理论，而不会奠定论点。

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"虽然好可以来自于恶，但这种好不能超过它以及它可能带来的恶。"
Movie Review: Hotel Rwanda

Holly Beckerman

The scene is set in a tropical paradise, or so what seems to be just that. The director of the film, Hotel Rwanda, staged this scenario effectively, portraying the helplessness of the Rwandan people and the vital security the West could provide, but instead pulled out in four. The film captures the truth of the Rwandan genocide through a captivating plot and detailed historical notes both spoken and viewed.

Hotel Rwanda was filmed in Africa and the plot is based on a true story about Paul Rusesabagina, manager of a Belgian-owned five-star hotel in Kigali, the capital of Rwanda. At the height of the genocide, when the hotel is under siege by its Belgian owners, Rusesabagina, a Hutu, is left to securely house his wife who is a Tutsi and children along with other Tutsi refugees and safely transport them to secure land. While the film is 110 minutes long, it is intense and fast-paced as Rusesabagina forced to make quick vital decisions to keep his family and the rest of the refugees alive one hour to the next.

The Rwandan genocide took place beginning in April 1994. Over a span of 100 days, 800,000 Rwandans were murdered; 90 percent were of Tutsi descent. The majority Hutu ethnic group murdered the minority Tutsi ethnic group with the goal being to eliminate Tutsi ethnicity completely.

Anyone who is interested in a compelling film that questions international policy and in dealing the Africa crisis today should see this film. While there are bloody and violent scenes, they are minimal and only capture the historical essence of the film. The producer did a great job of focusing only on love as a family affair, not as a sensual appeal.

The film is comparative to Schindler's List. It is a powerful story of survival. A story, like Schindler's List, that should not be forgotten. The Holocaust is unimaginable for one to comprehend. Students are taught early in their education about the Holocaust as part of world history, but little, if anything, is taught regarding the post-Holocaust genocides. Genocide should not occur and the world should intervene if there is potential. Isn't this why the Holocaust is taught in public education and why some schools choose to show Schindler's List to its students?

Yet, Hotel Rwanda shows that genocide can still occur and the rest that would still not intervene to stop this horrific injustice. The film comes out on DVD on April 12.

CD Review: Norah Jones' Feels Like Home

Julie Lancaster

When you pick up Norah's most recent album you hold in your hand an accurate visual representation of the music it contains. The cover insert's brown coloring is simple and down-to-earth, and Norah is shown in casual clothes, from the side, looking downward.

Take the CD out, stick it in your stereo system and you will hear music that is neither melancholy nor vivaciously happy. The music will not make you cry, and it will not fall asleep due to boredom. Instead the melody is relaxed and perfect for the listener who is simply sitting on the couch relaxing. So just like the simple coloring and photograph that graces the cover, this music is appropriate for a college student's everyday life.

"Feels Like Home" Cover Art

for a college student's everyday life. In "Feels Like Home" Norah's voice is soothing, and most Hope College students could use some stress-relief. She sings in mid-range - not high and not really low - so the lyrics will sound like a positive and upbeat friend speaking to you with rhyme and reason.

When listening to her music you may feel as if she is singing you a lullaby but she will only come close to singing you to sleep, since her poetics and soulful vocalizations will intrigue your mind. You definitely will not fall asleep due to boredom since, like the talented musician she is, her songs vary in instrumentation, topic, and mood. Most of the songs have a low tempo but there is a couple on the CD that are slightly faster. Even when the harmony (in the background) seems to be moving slowly, her voice stiltions still carry the melody moderately quickly, which maintains an upbeat tune.

If you like jazz and country music, you may find this album to be a happy medium between the two. Pianos, bass guitars, acoustic guitars, harmonica, sit drums, cellos, violins, resonator guitars, and three kinds of organs serve to create the soothing sounds in Feels Like Home.

At one point Dolly Parton makes an appearance in the album. Dolly and Norah sing a duet in "Creepin' In." But don't let this country star's inclusion deceive you, this album is not particularly country.

Some day, maybe when you are not feeling energetic and yet still deeply melancholy, pick up this CD and listen to it. You may be surprised how it may be the perfect end to your long day.

CD Review: Norah Jones’ Feels Like Home

There are a number of interested parties in establishing a permanent concert series on this campus. We have attempted to include each of those in designing a leadership committee, which would select acts and events and be the executive core that will organize this series.

As part of this leadership committee to coordinate other student bodies to aid in the execution of this series. Since the purpose of this concert series is to bring events and acts that are appealing to the student body, we have designed this committee to be student led. The committee consists of the following members:

1. Committee Chair
2. Members appointed by SAC, unless the chair is a SAC member, in which case this is reduced to 1 member
3. Member appointed from Student Congress
4. Member appointed by WTHS
5. Any other members of the student body that the chair deems necessary, but not to exceed two people

Advisor, selection to be determined.

Visions:

The committee will attempt to bring one large musical act to the DeVos Fieldhouse every semester, starting in the spring of 2006. This act would serve as the cornerstone of a larger concert series that other campus groups would help contribute to.

This committee should strive to work with other organizations in bringing and coordinating these other acts. Further, we would anticipate that local bands would serve as opening acts for the larger groups, in order to further develop the interest level in local bands. These local bands could then be used later in the semester to provide smaller concerts on campus that would be available at a lower cost.

The start of such a concert series would be well coordinated with the opening of the new DeVos Fieldhouse. A large concert would be seen as a community event to celebrate the life and growth of the college.

This would further promote Hope College in the Holland community and beyond. In the years to come, such a concert series can only strengthen ties with the community and be a positive recruitment tool for the college. We would be wise to establish this ongoing campus activity at a fairly minimal cost.
The “reply all” button on the campus webmail was removed this morning without notice in response to complaints that have ensued following the re-imagining of the spam-message communications. Did administration act wisely or unjustly? The campus-wide dialogue overflowed mailbox and perturbed some, but also provided an outlet for the repressed and frustrated on campus. While students expressed sentiments at first could be interpreted as unacceptable and disturbing, these feelings are valid others to entertain yourself would really appreciate it if you of names to Dean Frost and CIT. 1

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- Richard Frost, Vice President and Dean of Students

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"What ya doin' for spring break?"
Some go to Florida to get tan while others will do missions work

Erin L'Hotta
INFOCUS EDITOR

“What are you doing for spring break?” is written in bold letters across the wall of Cook Hall second floor. An array of responses to this question plaster the wall in colored marker. “I’m getting tan,” one student wrote. Another wrote, “getting away from here.” Another mentioned doing hurricane relief work in Florida and another is spending their week on a missions trip to Tennessee.

Spring break is “the holiday” for college students. It is nationally known as a time when college students “let loose,” go to Florida and go “wild.” According to MTV.com, Daytona Beach, Florida is the number one spring break spot this year, with an estimated 100,000 college students flooding the city from now until April 2. Students can choose from bars upon bars, clubs upon clubs and beaches upon beaches. According to Hotels.com, the top spring break locations this year are:

Cancun, Mexico. Clearwater, Daytona Beach and Ft. Lauderdale, Florida and Panama City.

The question is, are Hope students following this flood of 100,000 eighteen to twenty-two year-olds partying in Florida? Numerous Hope students were interviewed, asking them this very question. What do Hope students do over spring break? Seven students’ spring break plans were highlighted.

Yameka Ota

“I’m excited to go to Fla. with the softball team. We’ll finally play some games outside in nice, sunny weather.”

"I'm going to Ft. Meyers, Fla. with a group of 12 people from Hope. We’re driving and staying with a group of friends in a condo.”

Seth Timmers

“I’m going to Ft. Meyers, Fla. with a group of 12 people from Hope. We’re driving and staying with a group of friends in a condo.”

"Over spring break, My mother is coming from Japan, then we’re going to San Francisco.”

Aleen Conley

“Over spring break, I’m visiting my brother in Charleston, SC. I’ll go to the St. Patrick’s parade and go running on the beach.”

Katie Ousterhout

“I’ll be going to Bunnell, Fla. with Habitat for Humanity. We will be staying in a church and building houses with kids from across the country.”

Mike Nelson

“I’m going to Philadelphia to visit my girlfriend.”

Daniel Vasko

“I’m gonna stay on campus as long as I possibly can in an attempt to stay away from home as long as possible, and catch up on sleep.”

According to MTV.com:

Daytona Beach, Fla. is the most popular spring break destination for college students

Laura Teague

"I'm going to Ft. Meyers, Fla., with the softball team. We'll finally play some games outside in nice, sunny weather."
Your voice

SAC member clarifies group's use of student activity fee

To the Editor:

In the thick of the midterms and budget season I feel that many points about the uses of the student activities fee has been grossly misrepresented in recent issues of The Anchor. Two weeks ago, the Appropriations committee asked everyone to create a budget proposal. As a student organization that carries nearly a third of the student activities fee, SAC receives a huge amount of funding pressures each year from both students and administration to minimize our budget while providing more activities. This may sound not terribly difficult with $100,000 in the budget, but with 243 events already a year (our t-shirts don't help!) SAC is already down to $500 per event. To put this in perspective, a typical comedic costs us a minimum of $1,500, discounts included.

With this in mind, I was unhappy to see that in the March 2, Anchor, the care and manner in which SAC's budget was managed were being questioned. SAC is a unique organization in that the money always goes to benefit the student body rather than the committee itself. By no means are we the only student organization whose entire budget goes to the given season when good, nor do we provide constant entertainment, yet we continuously strive to cater to the campus as a whole. That having been said, I would like to address the concerns with SAC's money management, which in my opinion is extremely important during this time when the Appropriations Committee is determining the fate of our budget.

To be honest, the Amway has given Hope a cost-saving deal when it comes to Fantasy: we pay only for the cost of the food, and in turn the Amway does not charge us for the cost of renting the ballroom for 800+ people and other additional expenses. So when we say the strawberry costs $30, frankly it does. The Amway is an expensive 5-star hotel, but realize by paying for these strawberries, we are also paying for the venue and staffing. Taking this into account, the price of a strawberry is not much higher than those at Meijer. In order for SAC to receive funding for large events such as Fantasia Vegas Night and the weekly movies, we are required to make a profit on such events, thus the need for a $12 ticket to the winter formal.

I hope that by shedding some light on a small portion of our budget, fact has been removed from fiction. If further concerns exist, I encourage students to peruse the budget book to understand exactly where their activities fee is going. I also call students to approach the source when questions arise. Leaders of student organizations are always willing to answer questions and receive feedback. SAC's mission is to cater to the student body, and we cannot do that unless the students talk directly to us!

Sara Burns '05

Editor's note: Most students have spent the past couple days reading and/or deleting e-mail messages from overflowing inboxes. While I am in no way condemning the use of mass e-mail to communicate with the entire campus on a regular basis, this simple mailing list mistake revealed all the students that the Hope College have to say. They may not be exactly what some would call the modern day student; but some of them are still pretty funny. Following are a couple of my favorites. Life is too short not to laugh once in a while. Have a good spring break everyone. We'll see you in two weeks with a remembrance of The Rancher. (Printed with permission. Names have been removed to protect the innocent.)

Everyone who cannot grasp this concept, the only way you will stop getting these e-mails is if you drop out of school so please do...I have taken the liberty to put your e-mail address on every single mass mailing I could find and I have been looking for the past half an hour. I hope you enjoy deleting the extra hundreds of e-mails you will receive to me at Hope since...well...the facebook (add me as your friend too). With regards to the rest of you. Do you think Dean Frost would want any of this on conscience. I feel like he would...maybe we could add the coolest thing that has happened to the list you off your list and stop telling me that i'm not gonna receive anymore e-mails cause this really isn't even that big a deal. I can't believe the one person who bought the Amway has that...good to know.

Dear Mailer-Daemon:

Would you take me off your list and stop tellin me that i'm not gonna receive anymore e-mails...cause this really isn't even that big a deal. I can't believe the one person who bought the Amway has that...good to know.

Tom and Pat too. And to all of those who wished to be off this list, sorry, I had to delete your emails so I could get more of these and I never got your names. So I couldn't take you off. I hope you understand.

Letters to the Editor Guidelines

Open to anyone within the college and related communities The Anchor reserves the right to continue to space constraints No personal attacks, poor taste or anything potentially libelous Letters should be on a first come first serve basis, or a representative sample is taken No anonymous letters, unless discussed with Editor-in-Chief Editor-in-Chief may verify identity of writer The Anchor reserves the right to refuse publication of any letter submitted Letters over 500 words in length will not be considered for publication Mail letters to the Anchor c/o Hope College, drop them off at the Anchor office (located in the center of Dewitt, behind WTHS), or e-mail Anchor@hope.edu

March 16, 2005

SAC member clarifies group's use of student activity fee

To the Editor:

In the thick of the midterms and budget season I feel that many points about the uses of the student activities fee has been grossly misrepresented in recent issues of The Anchor. Two weeks ago, the Appropriations committee asked everyone to create a budget proposal. As a student organization that carries nearly a third of the student activities fee, SAC receives a huge amount of funding pressures each year from both students and administration to minimize our budget while providing more activities. This may sound not terribly difficult with $100,000 in the budget, but with 243 events already a year (our t-shirts don't help!) SAC is already down to $500 per event. To put this in perspective, a typical comedic costs us a minimum of $1,500, discounts included.

With this in mind, I was unhappy to see that in the March 2, Anchor, the care and manner in which SAC's budget was managed were being questioned. SAC is a unique organization in that the money always goes to benefit the student body rather than the committee itself. By no means are we the only student organization whose entire budget goes to the given season when good, nor do we provide constant entertainment, yet we continuously strive to cater to the campus as a whole. That having been said, I would like to address the concerns with SAC's money management, which in my opinion is extremely important during this time when the Appropriations Committee is determining the fate of our budget.

To be honest, the Amway has given Hope a cost-saving deal when it comes to Fantasy: we pay only for the cost of the food, and in turn the Amway does not charge us for the cost of renting the ballroom for 800+ people and other additional expenses. So when we say the strawberry costs $30, frankly it does. The Amway is an expensive 5-star hotel, but realize by paying for these strawberries, we are also paying for the venue and staffing. Taking this into account, the price of a strawberry is not much higher than those at Meijer. In order for SAC to receive funding for large events such as Fantasia Vegas Night and the weekly movies, we are required to make a profit on such events, thus the need for a $12 ticket to the winter formal.

I hope that by shedding some light on a small portion of our budget, fact has been removed from fiction. If further concerns exist, I encourage students to peruse the budget book to understand exactly where their activities fee is going. I also call students to approach the source when questions arise. Leaders of student organizations are always willing to answer questions and receive feedback. SAC's mission is to cater to the student body, and we cannot do that unless the students talk directly to us!

Sara Burns '05

Editor's note: Most students have spent the past couple days reading and/or deleting e-mail messages from overflowing inboxes. While I am in no way condemning the use of mass e-mail to communicate with the entire campus on a regular basis, this simple mailing list mistake revealed all the students that the Hope College have to say. They may not be exactly what some would call the modern day student; but some of them are still pretty funny. Following are a couple of my favorites. Life is too short not to laugh once in a while. Have a good spring break everyone. We'll see you in two weeks with a remembrance of The Rancher. (Printed with permission. Names have been removed to protect the innocent.)

Everyone who cannot grasp this concept, the only way you will stop getting these e-mails is if you drop out of school so please do...I have taken the liberty to put your e-mail address on every single mass mailing I could find and I have been looking for the past half an hour. I hope you enjoy deleting the extra hundreds of e-mails you will receive to me at Hope since...well...the facebook (add me as your friend too). With regards to the rest of you. Do you think Dean Frost would want any of this on conscience. I feel like he would...maybe we could add the coolest thing that has happened to the list you off your list and stop telling me that i'm not gonna receive anymore e-mails...cause this really isn't even that big a deal. I can't believe the one person who bought the Amway has that...good to know.

Dear Mailer-Daemon:

Would you take me off your list and stop tellin me that i'm not gonna receive anymore e-mails...cause this really isn't even that big a deal. I can't believe the one person who bought the Amway has that...good to know.

Tom and Pat too. And to all of those who wished to be off this list, sorry, I had to delete your emails so I could get more of these and I never got your names. So I couldn't take you off. I hope you understand.
Crash Presents...

What's God Got to do with it?

Come and discover some answers, ask some questions as we take a look at the chewed book of the Bible - The Song of Solomon.

When: Every Other Thursday Continuing March 17
Where: Cook Hall Lounge
Time: 7:30-9:00

Who: You

Crash is part of the ministry of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship

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Holland, Michigan 49423
616.392.2035

a yarn for all reasons

Bring in this ad for 10% off your next purchase

Mary Jane Fries
April 8 & 9, 7:30 PM

You are guaranteed a night full of laughs as Mary Jane, and her eight personalities, take the stage in "The Aurora Plushiers," a hilarious evening that will shock you, amuse you, and have you laughing uncontrollably. "The Aurora Plushiers" will give you a show that you won't soon forget.

Show Sponsors
Fifth Third Bank

Tickets for all live at The Park Theatre shows may be purchased at The Holland Convention and Visitors Bureau at 36 East 5th Street or in downtown Holland. Based on availability, tickets may also be purchased at the theatre one hour prior to each show.

April 29 & 30, 7:30 PM

Diana Snyder

Diana Snyder, the Toronto, with an unannounced surprise from The Aurora Plushiers, will give you a show that you won't soon forget. "The Aurora Plushiers" will give you a show that you won't soon forget.

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Tickets for all live at The Park Theatre shows may be purchased at The Holland Convention and Visitors Bureau at 36 East 5th Street or in downtown Holland. Based on availability, tickets may also be purchased at the theatre one hour prior to each show.

Tickets prices for each show are $10.00 General Seating or $25.00 Preferred Seating which includes light food and beverage.

Board of Directors: Nick Basin, Mary George, Mitch Hall, Jason Kuderna, Lynn Knoule, Carl Lovejoy, Jill Mathews, Jay Penar, Bob Stahle, John Tammi, General Manager: Brian Oyekwu

Safety Reports: Students' Right to Know—Real events happen to you, too.

Posted Wednesday, March 9

Alarm Activation - The fire alarm at Cook Hall was activated due to a student pulling a pull station thinking it was a door opener.

Property Damage Accident - A Hope College vehicle was damaged when a staff member backed into it with their personal vehicle.

General Assistance - A student cut their foot at the Dewitt Center and needed the bio-hazard kit picked up for proper disposal.

Larceny - The donated pop cans at the Science Center were stolen.

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Lady Dutch impress at swim nationals

Bruce Lund
Guest Writer

As the 2005 women’s swimming and diving season ended for most of the team on February 9, five members of the team continued to thrive. The Lady Dutch notched a surprising accomplishment for just the third place in the 200-yard freestyle and fifth in the 50 free. Senior Erika Steeles’ swim at Hope College was one of the fastest in the nation at the meet and put her in the record books. She joined teammate Lisa Smith as an All-American as she finished fourth in the 100 fly.

The Lady Dutch worked hard throughout the season to come together and put in their “time off” the week prior to the meet as their distance was cut in half. The coaches knew their swimmers would need time to recover because they would be very busy during the weekend, since Steele and Smith would be competing in individual events and team relays. The four Lady Dutch swimmers had great support from their fans and teammates since the tournament was held in their backyard pools.

Teammates were in charge of keeping times and encouraging their swimmers to compete like they have never before. “It was a huge advantage and not a distraction to have the tournament think it will just take me a little longer to realize how big the meet really is. When you leave and are taken to a new pool and an unfamiliar environment, it has a different atmosphere, which can hinder swimmers, but it helps me.”

The Dutchmen finished runner-up in the MIAA championships in the local pool a month ago, which can serve as an advantage. “There are huge benefits of having it here though, which I think outweigh the cons, Ekdorn said. “We know the pool a little better, since we swim there for our league meet a month ago. There will be many more fans there for us, which is a huge motivation.”

The fans were out in full force for all schools this past weekend, and the events showed how big swimming has become.

In addition to the performances by Smith and Steele, the Lady Dutch can claim two All-American relay honors and an honorable mention All-American. The women finished with a pair of top 10 finishes in the relay, bringing back 200 free relay and eighth in the 400 free relay. They also finished 13th in the 800 free relay and 14th in the 200-yard medley relay. Bringing in men’s swimming and diving championships will be held this weekend, also at the Holland Aquatic Center.

Dutch anticipate challenges in softball season

Bruce Lund
Guest Writer

The Hope College softball team is coming off a disappointing third place finish in the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association last season and hopes to embark on an improved season this spring.

The Lady Dutch are constantly battling with the Alma College Scots for rights to the MIAA crown. The Scots are a perennial contender in the conference and last season who finished an overall 23-17. Vlasak feels very comfortable with the team that she has going into the season. "One of the main focuses for the team this year will be getting to do some long toss and a chance to do some hitting. We have a lot of different combos we are going to try. The key is probably going to be timely hitting. If we can get the younger girls to step it up for us, we should have a chance to win the title of MIAA championship again."

The Lady Dutch will open the season Thursday as they go on the road to face Trinity International in Illinois. According to Adams, the best part about playing softball for Hope is, “The friends I have made and the bond you get to experience through being together so much on and off the field.”

Adams and her teammates get to do plenty of bonding as they begin their spring break trip to Florida on Sunday.

The softball team will need to play well early in the season as they open up not only conference play but conference play at Alma once they get back from their break.

The Lady Dutch need to win early on and build up their confidence as a road team since their first 12 games will be played away from Buys Athletic Field.