Engineers Without Borders
Club improves global health

Emily West
Campus News Editor

In two weeks, the Critical Issues Symposium at Hope College will focus on the issue of global health. With this topic at the forefront on campus, the student organization, Engineers Without Borders—Hope, is hitting the ground running as it prepares for phase four of its quality of life project in Nkuv, Cameroon.

The Engineers Without Borders interdisciplinary club at Hope is part of a nationwide organization that works to improve the quality of life for people living in disadvantaged communities through various self-sustaining, economical engineering projects.

Currently, the group is working with the 500 residents of Nkuv that have been plagued by malaria, filaria, dysentery, dermatitis, meningitis and multiple other waterborne diseases as a result of the previously available water sources, according to EWB.

In the United States, water suppliers expect the average American citizen to use 100 gallons of drinkable water a day, according to Professor Jeff Brown, EWB/Hope's advisor. "Water is one of the things we completely take for granted," he said. "On the people of Nkuv, Cameroon are much less fortunate.

According to Laura Petrasky (11), fundraising chairperson for EWB, the three rivers available to the community of Nkuv contain approximately 450 fecal colonies per 100 milliliters. When a lake was tested in Holland Michigan, approximately 30 fecal colonies per 100 milliliters were found.

Quality and quantity: these are the issues that need to be addressed in Nkuv according to Petrasky. She said, "The overall goal is to improve health." The first three phases of the project have been successfully completed in the five trips that Hope students have taken to Nkuv, according to Brown. Bio-filters have been built, installed and used, and local people have been trained to sustain them.

Empowering the community is one of the main goals of EWB. Active member Emily Baus (11) said, "We’re teaching them how to do it; we’re not doing it for them." Petrasky agreed, and said, "You can’t just go there and say, we’re going to do this for you. That just doesn’t work."

So, EWB has brought a variety of students with various majors together to teach the leaders within the community about healthy habits and awareness of community health issues. They have also taught local people to build, maintain and teach about the bio-filters engineered by EWB. Baus said, "They’ve even started showing surrounding

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Indie Musician in Concert—Denison Witmer comes to Hope
NCAA Division III Sports Issues—Testing for performance-enhancing substances

SHUTTLE BUS DISCUSSED—David Paul (10), president of Student Congress, speaks as Bill Marcus, transportation supervisor; Greg Maybury, director of operations, and Dean of Students Richard Frost listen at a Sept. 10 town-hall style meeting.

Students voice shuttle bus concerns

Kevin Soubly
Sophomore Writer

Hope College students voiced their opinions last Wednesday evening over the new shuttle bus system at a town-hall-style meeting in the Phelps cafeteria. Student Congress organized the event, and David Paul (10), Student Congress president, officiated.

The meeting began with the administrative panel, consisting of Dean of Students Richard Frost, Bill Marcus transportation supervisor, and Greg Maybury, director of operations, hearing comments and opinions from the student crowd.

Numbering over 50 and split evenly between women and men, the comments quickly grew emotional and heated. Students voiced anger over the shuttle system change having been made over the summer and without student input, others expressed fear for their safety, seeing the new system as less efficient, less safe and an attempt for the administration to save money at the expense of student safety.

The major concerns were over the bus stops themselves, being in unlit areas and too far a walk from student destinations. Also under scrutiny was the wait time for the bus itself which sometimes borders on 20 minutes of standing outside. The previous system of multiple GMC vans running a taxi-like service around campus had been in place since 1989, but, as mentioned by Maybury, the costs of operating such a system had been large and were rising in recent years. As well as the cost of paying dozens of student-drivers, Maybury added that the shuttle van system carried thousands of on-demand students each month, adding significant mileage to the vans and requiring significant maintenance, purchasing new vans each year was costly.

"There is a reality of where we are as an institution," commented Dean Frost. "Your tuition costs are going up, and we cannot see TOWN-HALL, PAGE 2

Congress representatives give student body a voice

Amy Soukup
Campus News Editor

On Friday, Sept. 12, each dorm and residence area of campus had the chance to vote for their Student Congress representative.

These representatives from the dorms, apartments and cottages complete a Congress of 32 student representatives. Along with these newly elected representatives are two representatives from the sophomore, junior and senior classes. Student Congress also has an executive board, including the President (David Paul 10), Vice President Priscilla Oddo (10), and Controller Emily Mennickenbach (19).

Hope’s Student Congress plays an important role on campus. "Student Congress represents the students. We’re here to bring the students’ concerns to administration, as well as to come up with a solution that works both for the students well as well as administration," said Oddo.

The 08-09 Student Congress program chair says, “This year’s congress aims to be the vanguard of student-driven leadership on campus by trailblazing new ways that amplify the student perspective.”

Student Congress represents the student perspective in a number of ways. Full congress meets every Tuesday at 9 p.m. All students and faculty are invited to attend and voice their opinions.

When a student writes a proposal and brings it to a Student Congress meeting, it is discussed and voted on. If the vote passes, Congress takes the proposal to Dean of Students Richard Frost or submits it to one of the boards that governs Hope’s campus. Congress also has representatives on each of Hope’s boards.

One of the current issues that Student Congress is working on is making improvements on the new shuttle bus system.

Oddo said, “I am leading a task force that will explore the many possibilities that can keep the student body safe and happy, as well as pleasing the administration.”

Along with hearing students’ opinions and making improvements on campus, Student Congress organizes events for Hope’s students. The next big event they are planning for is Rock the Vote, an effort to encourage students to vote in the upcoming presidential election. Student Congress is collaborating with Hope Republicans and Democrats, Student Activities Committee and Greek Life in order to put on a Rock the Vote event. The event will feature bands such as Dear Future and Travis Kinnga. Food and facts will be provided as well as a couple of surprises.

All Hope students are welcome to get involved with the shuttle bus task force, the Rock the Vote event or other Student Congress activities and should contact Student Congress at studentcongress@hope.edu if interested.
2011 vs. 2012: Who will win?

Global health addressed

- WATER, from page 1
  communities how to make them.

Up next is the installation of a water system that will drastically shorten the distance people must walk to find a water source, said Brown. He added that this is the most costly phase of the project.

At the end of the CIS on Wednesday, Oct. 1, Braddigan will hold a concert at the Knickerbocker Theatre and will donate half of the proceeds to EWB. Petrasky strongly encourages students to “check it out.” Tickets are available at the DeVos Ticket Office; faculty, staff and student tickets are $4 and community tickets are $7.

“You cannot put a price on our safety,” added Priscilla Oddo (’10), Student Congress Vice-President.

An ovation from the student attendees followed her comment.

Though the meeting continued for an hour, the opinions of the students did not vary far. Aside from complaints, however, some offered suggestions to improve the new system.

Changes now being considered by the administration include adding or changing existing bus stops to improve efficiency and usability, adding a second bus to lessen wait times, moving bus stops to lighted areas, installing bus-stop shelters, and installing new Blue Phone emergency poles.

“I don’t feel comfortable in the current situation, and that’s not why I’m paying tuition to go here,” commented one concerned student.

“If (the shuttle system) is not made to where the students feel safe, then they’re simply not going to use it,” said another.
Man flees Chinese army’s takeover of Tibet, served Dalai Lama

Student traveling northern India learns from Tibetan refugee

Karlie Ludens
PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

“They believe there are other ways to achieve our shared objective of supporting and enhancing the business opportunities for every tour player.”

Chris Lewis
STAFF WRITER

Back in August, Golfweek Magazine reported that the Ladies Professional Golf Association would require its international member golfers to learn and speak English during the 2009 season. If players failed to comply with the new rule, they would face suspension from the LPGA. Commissioner Carolyn Bivens told all LPGA members that by the end of the 2009 season, players across the world held LPGA membership for two years must pass an oral examination of their English skills or have their membership suspended.

However, due to continued criticism and pressures from the media, Bivens and the LPGA decided to not introduce its new regulation that would compel LPGA tour members to speak English. LPGA tour commissioner Bivens decided to format the English requirement.

“The LPGA will announce a revised approach, absent playing penalties, by the end of 2008,” Bivens said. “We believe there are other ways to achieve our shared objective of supporting and enhancing the business opportunities for every tour player.”

Colleen Wright
GUEST WRITER

Home mortgaging giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac finally broke down this week prompting government officials to temporarily step in and manage the struggling corporations. As the largest purchasers and insurers of bank loans to homeowners, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac own, over $5 trillion in home mortgage debt. Over the past few years, defaults on mortgages by homeowners pummeled the mortgage industry with billions of dollars in losses resulting in the breakdown of the two largest mortgage corporations in the United States. Their failure pro-voked Congress to intervene and contemplate plans to restructure the ailing giants.

The Sept. 7 bailout, called a conservatorship, investors would be assured of repayment, which, in theory, would lower interest rates on home mortgages and decrease the likelihood of defaults.

“There is a cost to the tax payers,” Hawtrey said, “but we must keep them steady. Houses are worth less than the amount of money borrowed to buy them.”

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North Korea stops nuclear disarmament citing U.S. offense

Rob Guimond
Guest Writer

On Thursday, Sept. 11, a U.S. envoy left for China on Thursday to ascertain the situation that North Korea had halted disassembling their nuclear program. The U.S met with North Korea, South Korea, Russia, Japan and China in a six-party talk about the nuclear issue. North Korea announced in late August that it had stopped work because the White House has not taken them off of the United States State Sponsors of Terrorism list. They also threatened to re-build their nuclear complex in Yongbyon.

“To my knowledge, based on what we know from the reports on the ground, you don’t have an effort to reconstruct, re-integrate this equipment back into the Yongbyon facility,” State Department spokesman Sean McCormack said at a Sept. 3 Washington briefing.

The process of disassembling was started in June with the shutting down and neutralizing of North Korea’s five nuclear facilities and the demolishing of Yongbyon’s cooling tower. These actions were part of a deal made with the U.S. In return, North Korea would be taken off the terrorist list and have all sanctions lifted.

North Korea submitted a detailed report of their nuclear activities following the terms of the agreement. But the U.S. is still waiting for them to agree to inspections.

“North Korea knows what it needs to do,” McCormack said. “Part of what they need to do is to complete work on the verification regime. This isn’t asking anything beyond what is the internationally recognized standards for a verification regime.” But North Korea’s nuclear programs are not beyond revival. Washington experts estimated that it would take at least a year for North Korea to get their facilities back to the level they were in 2006 when they successfully tested a nuclear bomb. Furthermore, a larger and more capable long-range missile base was made known in early September according to the Associated Press.

Despite this, McCormack doubts that North Korea’s full intentions are to restore their nuclear facilities. Instead, they are using these tactics to pressure the nations of the six-party talk to give more concessions beyond removal of trade sanctions.

This crisis takes place during a time of turmoil for North Korea’s Kim Jong Il regime. South Korea reported that Kim Jong Il suffered a stroke in late August and underwent brain surgery. North Korea confirmed these reports but Kim Yong Nam, North Korea’s second in command, told Japan’s Kyodo News agency that “there are no problems.” Another senior North Korean official dismissed talk of Kim’s illness as a “conspiracy plot” by Western media.

News of political unrest is alarming as North Korea continues to cause global unrest as a nuclear power. “The North has often taken hard-line measures when it was in a difficult situation,” said Kim Yeon-su, a North Korea expert at Korea National Defense University.

The U.S. and South Korea have not yet observed any signs of leadership change or any increased military activity.

Substance Abuse Awareness Group

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“English Only” move retracted by LPGA tour officials

to research to see whether or not the LPGA policy was legally discriminatory.

“It’s a no-brainer for those of us who have been the recipient of these kinds of discriminatory acts,” Lee said.

At the same time, one of the LPGA tour’s main sponsors, State Farm Insurance, was very upset by the LPGA tour’s possible suspension of foreign-born players.

“We don’t understand this and we don’t know why they’ve done it,” Kip Diggs, a State Farm spokesman, told Advertising Age, which quoted him on its web site.

“And we have strongly encouraged them to take another look at this.”

Despite the criticism, the LPGA viewed the policy simply as a means to show players how serious the tour is about its expectations of knowing the English language.

“This should be a priority in their professional development just the way working on their short game is a priority;” Gallloway said, according to Golfweek. “We just wanted to be clear about our expectations.”

The Tour will announce a new policy that will no longer include suspensions by the end of the year.
Famed writer to speak

Cیرically acclaimed author and columnist visits Hope for the Jack Ridl Visiting Writer's Series to read and discuss his works

Taylor Hughes

**Art Editor**

The Jack Ridl Visiting Writers Series of Hope College opens another season of talented authors and remarkable stories on Thursday, Sept. 25.

On Thursday, Sept. 25, the young and acclaimed Anthony Doerr will be the first to delight readers, writers and the Holland Community with excerpts from his critically commended works. He is also part of VWS to celebrate the life of departed Hope College alumnus and poet, Tom Andrews, by reading selections from and speaking on some of Andrews' pieces.

Doerr's ties to Andrews and Hope College go back to the time he spent in Rome after receiving the prestigious Rome Prize for his writing in 2004 from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. Doerr worked in a studio named after Andrews for his works there at the Academy. Andrews died in 2001 at 30 after contracting a rare blood disease while traveling throughout Greece.

Doerr integrated Andrews into his recent memoir, "Four Seasons in Rome: On Twins, Insomnia, and the Biggest Funeral in the History of the World" as he works daily in the Tom Andrews Studio. The book reflects the year he spent in Rome with his wife, Shauna, and 6-month-old twin boys living in the city and writing. The memoir develops from his old book idea, a novel about France during WWII.

His book, like a long trip through a warm Italian night, is richly rewarding and well worth the effort. **The Seattle Times**

Doerr's works include not only his memoir and fiction, but also contribution he has made to the Boston Globe in the form of a bimonthly review of science-related books. Doerr is the author of three books: "The Shell Collector," "About Grace," and "Four Seasons in Rome." Doerr's short fiction has won three O. Henry Prizes and has been anthologized in "The Best American Short Stories, The Anchor Book of New American Short Stories, and The Scribbler Anthology.

His book was published in 2006, Ballet Club has since been growing exponentially. "Our first (performance) piece had two people in it, followed by seven, then eighteen, then over twenty. Finally, this year, we have over thirty people performing in our piece for the Student Dance Concert," said Sarah Williams ('09), co-founder of Ballet Club.

The hope of the Ballet Club is to bring awareness to ballet, an art form that has existed for centuries. Anyone and everyone can participate.

The club meets on Monday nights from 8:10 p.m. in Dow 208, and will perform the holiday classic: "The Nutcracker on Dec. 6 in the Knickerbocker Theatre.

Hip Hop Club is a great form of exercise and is often a fun alternative to hitting the gym. The club meets every Tuesday from 9-10 p.m. in Dow 210 and is open to anyone who wants to bust a move, or learn some new ones.

Last but not least, the Swing Club has been in existence for six years. The club provides a beginning swing dance lesson at every event before allowing the attendees to cut loose on the dance floor. All are welcome at these free events.

"You don't even need a partner," said club president Megan Pitzer ('09).

Take a break from studying and add dance into your student experience. You might discover a hidden talent, a new passion, or meet new people.

Contact centraldance@hope.edu, swingclub@hope.edu, or stop by nights from 8-10 p.m.

Recognized musician to perform Sept. 20

Rachel Syens

Senior Writer

He has been described as "the musical equivalent of the box office doctor" by Maverick (UK), and according to The Sun, a UK daily newspaper, he "explores big issues, plays great guitar and sings delightfully." Oh, he hangs out with Susan Stevens. Who is he? His name is Denison Witmer.

Witmer lives in Philadelphia, Penn. and has been on the campus for six years. The club provides a beginning swing dance lesson at every event before allowing the attendees to cut loose on the dance floor. All are welcome at these free events.

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Holland munches with Mozart

Katie Bennett
Co-Editor-in-Chief

The world of classical music tends to involve tuxedos, elevated stages, and stern-faced ushers passing out cough drops. Dr. Andrew Le, piano professor at Hope, hopes to change that with a concert series called “Brown Bag Series at the Arts Council.” The concerts will take place on the first Friday of every month at noon, starting Oct. 3.

The series, which is really a string of what Le calls “concert talks and performances” aims at “stripping all of the pretense, whether real or perceived, from classical music.” Audience members will come as they are, performers will wear their jeans and talk about the pieces they are playing, and most importantly, people will eat.

“The eating part is what actually allowed this idea to blossom,” said Le. “People can eat their lunch while they listen.”

The food will be provided by a downtown Holland establishment. Although the vendor hasn’t been decided yet, Le insists, “It will be cheap. That’s the whole point.” Audience members can bring their own bagged lunches as well, and of course the concerts themselves will be free.

Le hopes to reach out to all audiences with the series.

“I did this in effect to make classical music, or art music, less scary for people,” Le said.

The concerts are open to everyone, from people who love and know classical music to people who never listen to it and everyone in between.

To help illuminate the behind-the-scenes aspects of music, Le will conduct a master class at the evening of the first bagged lunch concert from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

“I’ll choose a couple of students from my studio and give them a public lesson. I want to let people in the community experience the process of what we do,” Le said.

Le has worked closely on the project with Lorma Freestone, executive director of the Holland Area Arts Council, who hopes to get more Hope students through the door.

“Most students don’t even know the Art Council exists!” Le said. “It’s so close – Dykstra has a clear view of the building from its windows,” Le said. The Arts Council Building, which is located on 8th and Columbia, has proved the ideal place for the bagged lunch concerts.

“Nothing on campus worked,” Le said. “The Arts Council gallery is such a beautiful open space.”

The inaugural event’s program includes both classical and jazz works and a few collaborative pieces, all performed by Hope faculty members. But the series is not just for the professional performers. Le insists that the venue will be open “if a student has something ready, or wants another opportunity to play in their jeans and sandals.” Ultimately, Le sees the concerts as being even more inclusive.

“I look forward to including concerts more often than once a month and maybe dance, maybe visual art,” Le museed. But for now, classical and jazz music is stepping off the stage to have lunch with the audience, and everyone is invited.

I did this in effect to make classical music, or art music, less scary for people.

—Dr. Andrew Le

Art professor recognized

Hope Press Release – Bruce McCombs, professor of art at Hope College, has recently had his work featured in a variety of venues, including the governor’s residence, a national publication and multiple exhibitions.

He has had two pieces chosen for display in the Michigan governor’s residence from August of this year through July 2009 as part of the Governor’s Residence Artists Program. Conducted by the program in conjunction with the Alden B. Dow Museum of Science and Art, the Midland Center for the Arts.

Both works selected by the First Family feature classic automobiles. “Gulliver’s Lincoln,” a 22x28 black-and-white etching; and “Van Andel Museum,” a 22x30 watercolor. McCombs and his art were featured in a 12-page article published in the spring 2008 edition of “Watercolor” magazine, which notes that “Bruce McCombs uses bold drawing and heightened color to present a powerful and entertaining vision.”

McCombs has been a member of the Hope faculty since 1969.

Denison Witmer to play at Hope

Bruce McCombs

“Bruce McCombs

Denison Witmer to play at Hope

WITMER, from page 5

longer than those genres have been around.”

Kadzban said that in spite of his talent, Witmer is still only largely known within a smaller circle of faithful fans. However, Witmer has played several, well-received shows over the past few years. “Those shows were beautiful, intimate… I have also had a number of students talk to me about those shows and/or ask me to bring Denison to Hope,” Kadzban said.

Also playing the show is Ordinary Neighbors, featuring Josh Banner and his wife Susanna Childress. The DeVitt Studio Theatre was chosen for the concert because according to Kadzban, Witmer packed Lemonjello’s in the past and a larger venue was necessary.

“I think it will be a very intimate environment for a show with an artist who is best seen and heard with just his guitar and voice,” Kadzban said.

There are only 120 tickets available and Kadzban believes the show will sell out, so it is advised to get tickets early from the Hope College Ticket Office located in the DeVos Fieldhouse. Tickets are $5 for the Hope community and $10 for the general public. Doors will open at 7:30 p.m. and the concert starts at 8 p.m.

Kadzban also recommends listening to Paul and Andrew’s radio show on WTHS on Wednesday from 7-9 p.m. because they will be giving away tickets at some point during the show. For more information e-mail concerts@hope.edu.

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Area Express
Annie Mae and Freddie Mac made headlines last week when they were taken over by the federal government. While it is no surprise that the economy has seen better days, the takeover of two of the nation’s largest mortgage companies has shown a real low in the housing economy. But what do the words “housing crisis” mean, and how did we get to this point?

Dr. Robin Klay of Hope’s economics department explained that throughout the ‘90s, up until 2001, the economy was strong and housing prices were on the rise. Houses, which are typically a person’s biggest asset, were thus seen both as a place of residency as well as a source of income.

“Those expectations were simply excessive,” said Klay. Since homeowners were feeling richer, they began using new innovation in the industry to borrow money against their assets in order to spend more. At the time, banks were happy to do this, since it was assumed that prices would continue to rise in what is called a “housing bubble.” But all bubbles eventually pop.

Housing prices got higher and higher to the point that they surpassed houses’ actual worth, or, as Alan Greenspan famously said, to an “irrational exuberance.” People began to sell. However, so many houses on the market caused the prices to begin falling.

Klay said, “No economist was surprised this would happen.”

On the contrary, it was those who had thought they had gained wealth in the housing bubble that were surprised. Thanks to interest rates and falling house values, homeowners soon owed more than their houses were worth.

“It’s the flip side of the bubble,” said Klay.

Thus, in came what was called the “sub-prime housing market.” To boost loans, mortgages were offered at rates that made it affordable to buy a home for people who would not normally be able to. The interest prices were really low at first, and a large down-payment was unnecessary. However, as time went on and interest rates increased, people became unable to pay for their homes.

This problem was caused by the irresponsibility of both the bank and the borrowers, and it was made worse by the economic recession; incomes were falling, and assets were losing value.

Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac participated in the sub-prime housing market and went wrong by offering fixed mortgage rates for 30 years. According to Klay, no bank would do that, and some think that if Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac would, the government had no option but to rescue them. Others criticize this move with the philosophy that a failing business should suffer the consequences. However, if Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac had gone out of business, getting a loan would have become significantly more difficult.

The good news is that the housing economy is a cycle; Klay said that once the prices drop low enough, people will begin buying houses again and the market will pick up. She especially said that it will be beneficial for new homeowners who have no current house to sell and will be able to get a bargain. She said that it will also be beneficial for current college students, who will also be able to get a good price on a house by the time they are ready.

Klay said, “For your generation, it’s a good deal.”

Brittany Adams
Features Editor
Inexcusable insensitivities

One out of every six American women will be sexually assaulted in her lifetime. 38 percent of rapists are a friend or acquaintance. Four in 10 rapists take place in the victims’ home. Rape is defined as forced vaginal, oral, or anal penetration.

I’ll tell you something few people have the privilege of knowing (until now): my greatest fear isn’t of death or public speaking. My greatest fear is that of rape. Walking across campus at night, my heart races and suddenly my sight and hearing are attuned to the faintest footprint, or the slightest shift of a shadow.

Indifferent karma

The new cigarette

Eric Anderson

Our society is beginning to transition into a more environmentally friendly lifestyle. There are some individuals still holding on to their wallet-busters, all because they wish to remain cool: they are the hummer-drivers. Much like cigarette smokers, these people are becoming targets of social criticism and new taxes.

Hummer drivers are well aware of the pains they have to endure to keep up with this absurd vehicle. This behemoth costs an arm and a leg to fill, but the good news is you can feel safe knowing that unless you get into a head-on collision with an armored car, you’re going to be protected.

For those of us not possessed with this compulsive need for an unyielding automobile, we should move past the disbelief. Face it, there are people who think they need a car that takes up two lanes while driving to the grocery store. Instead, we should take advantage of this way of life that seems to worship excess, and put it to work for us.

There is no way that anyone outside of Shaquille O’Neal or Bear Grylls could rationalize the owning of a Hummer; and the funny thing is that even the people who make Hummers realize this. All Hummer commercials show the vehicle bounding over dunes in the Sahara or speeding across frozen tundra in the arctic.

The advertisers show these extreme situations and are somehow tricking the average Joe into thinking that he may need a vehicle with the owning of a Hummer; and the funny thing is that even the people who make Hummers realize this. All Hummer commercials show the vehicle bounding over dunes in the Sahara or speeding across frozen tundra in the arctic.

The advertisers show these extreme situations and are somehow tricking the average Joe into thinking that he may need a vehicle with the capability to seat 13 people while scaling the side of a mountain.

There is also no such thing as a fuel-efficient Hummer. The average Hummer gets 10 mpg in the city, which makes it equivalent to some riding lawn mowers. Driving a fuel-efficient Hummer is a bigger oxymoron than eating jumbo shrimp or listening to Ultimate Barry Manilow.

Even with all these obvious negatives to Hummers, there is an option for those of us who have seen the light of not owning such a wasteeful car. Taking a page from the smokers, if we want to deter people from buying this car, we simply need to put a tax on everything associated with Hummers.

Do you want to trick out your H3 with custom spinning rims? We implement a rim tax.

Do you want your kids to watch DVDs while you’re driving? We implement the “Finding Nemo” tax.

By putting a tax on all these different aspects of owning a Hummer, we can start to deter people from buying these cars, while still making a profit from the holodroids. Everyone wins! Until then, those of us with common sense will have to make do with dirty looks as these brute automobiles lumber down the road. You can’t stand up to them, lest you become a mere speed bump on their path of environmental destruction.

Eric Anderson encourages you not to take anything too seriously, especially this column. E-Mail him at eric.anderson@hope.edu.
Their music was featured on NBC’s hit show “Scrubs”, and they have performed on stage with Gavin Degraw, Matt Wertz, and Josh Kelley. They sing in Spanish, French, and English, and one of the members, Eric, was on Survivor: China.

Come listen to their smooth, energetic music for FREE!!! Seats limited to the first 500 only!

Saturday, September 20 at 8:30 pm in the Knickerbocker Theater

The Mortgage Bankers Association reported that the first quarter delinquency rate on mortgages in 2008 rose to 6.35 percent from 5.82 percent last quarter. Mortgages are deemed delinquent when homeowners fall behind on monthly payments. This often leads to mortgage defaults.

Three possible government sponsored solutions have been laid out by experts to rebuild the mortgage industry. One possibility is the disenfranchising of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac into several entities. Recapitalizing the corporations while adding a few regulations is another possibility. Yet another possibility is to restructure them as regulated utilities with rates and profits set by the government.

Whatever the solution, economists assert that all is not lost. “It is a cycle in history that exposes some structural issues,” Hawtrey said. “It could take 1 to 2 years to fix the crisis in the financial sector.”

US takes over mortgage firms

TIBET, from page 3

curb a few paces from Dorche’s stall, and shoppers and shopkeepers milled around us throughout our conversation. As the topic turned to China, however, half a dozen Tibetan men began to gather around to listen to Tsring speak. Now they joined in, squatting and voicing their complaints.

“They Chinese government is mocking the world,” the men said. “They distract it with cheap merchandise, made by exploiting labor. Meanwhile they break promises left in right. China is laughing at us.”

By “us,” Kumar notes, they mean all of us sitting here: Tibetan, Indian, American.

Dorche tells us he’s happy living in India, that living here over so much time has made it his home.

All of the Tibetans I see, in my two-hour brush with this human history, seem to be content to be here. The Indian government takes excellent care of them, providing free schools and the freedom to move about the country and seek prosperity.

But they are legally, and in their self-image, refugees. Now, most of the Tibetans in India are third-generation refugees who are fully integrated.

But as Kumar translates, even they speak of returning “home,” to “their country,” once that land has found peace.
A look at performance-enhancing substances in Division III athletics

Karen Patterson
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

In recent years it seems that sports and performance enhancing drugs have become almost synonymous. With Major League Baseball taking much of the heat, all of a sudden athletes who have long been considered heroes and legends in their sports are now being questioned if their ability is natural or if they had a little help along the way.

Drug testing has become a prominent issue in the sports world, with athletes at all levels being put under tests to show that they are, in fact, really that talented. While things like steroids, anabolic agents, and stimulants can seem so far away, it affects everyone, right down to the student athletes here at Hope College.

As early as 1986 the National Collegiate Athletic Association has been drug-testing athletes at all levels. While they started out by just testing postseason qualifying teams, eventually the policy was expanded to include random year-round testing to ensure that athletes are staying clean both in and out of season.

So how exactly does this affect Hope College? For the most part, it doesn’t have a very large impact on Hope athletics; the school is not one of the schools that has been selected for year-round testing. However, when Hope athletic teams qualify for the NCAA tournament in their respective sport, there is always a chance that they may be tested prior to competition. Recent examples of this include the volleyball team in 2006 and the women’s basketball team in the ‘05-’06 season when they won the national championship.

Even though drug testing is not something that is done regularly at Hope, the coaching staff and athletic trainers, as well as the athletes themselves, have high expectations for their teams. While each coach has a different style in how they coach their teams, football coach Dean Kreps, track and field coach Kevin Cole, and women’s basketball coach Brian Morehouse all agreed that if they discovered one of their players was using performance enhancers, they would openly and honestly approach that athlete.

“I would explain to them that it isn’t tolerated on our team... I think that they need help more than they need punishment,” Cole said. “I believe, though, that the type of well-rounded student athletes we attract are less likely to use performance-enhancing drugs than those that are only focused on athletic achievement and attaining a sports scholarship.”

While it may seem unfair, the fact that Hope cannot offer athletic scholarships because they are a Division III school may almost work in the school’s advantage. While the sports teams at Hope are notable and consistently perform at levels higher than the competition, many of the athletes are here to be more than just members of a sports team.

However, being more than just an athlete does not exempt players from responsibilities. Should anyone ever test positive for a banned substance, the player will automatically be ineligible to participate in regular-season or postseason competition for one full calendar year. The Hope Athletic Department ensures that all student athletes are aware of the policies and penalties by holding a meeting for all sports teams at the beginning of each year.

While drug testing is not necessarily something that people enjoy talking about and thinking about, the reality is that for the near future, it is here to stay. The NCAA discourages people from looking at this as a negative process, though.

According to Dan Dutcher, the NCAA vice-president for Division III, “The goal is to improve the health of student athletes and ensure fair competition amid concerns about the use of performance-enhancing drugs at all levels of sports.” Overall this seems to fall in line with the goals of Hope’s coaches and athletic trainers.

Whether you are an athlete who has been tested in the post-season at Hope, or an occasional fan, drug testing in sports at all levels is something that affects each of us. The next time you see Nora Slenk (’09) slam a ball between the opposite blocker’s arms, Jesse Remmink (’09) sink a three-pointer right at the buzzer, or one of the track relay teams win by a landslide, just remember the effort that goes into that performance, and more importantly, what doesn’t.

ergogenic drug use by NCAA Division III (2005)

- Ephedrine: 4.6%
- Anabolic Steroids: 1.0%
- Nutritional Supplements: 28.1%
- Amphetamines: 2.6%

Correction: Women’s soccer MIAA defensive player of the week was Courtney Cook (‘11) not Courtney Erin. The Anchor regrets this error.
Welcome to the Macatawa Bay Yacht Club, home to hundreds of Holland’s finest shipping vessels and, unbeknownst to most, the Hope College sailing team.

With seven sailboats and as many lifejackets as sailors, the sailing team disembarks for the picturesque Lake Macatawa – with its lush adult forests, lakeshore homes, and glowing view of “Big Red” – typically every weekday to enjoy the splendor of the open water.

Students of all backgrounds are encouraged to take to the waters no matter their level of experience. Alongside the seven highly trained and excelled skippers, anyone with a remote interest in sailing can get his or her feet wet.

Skipper Jessica Stanley (10) is a sailor since age 7, asks that those interested come out to watch and learn. “As a matter of fact, most of the 20 to 35 members of the sailing team have done just that. After climbing aboard one of the two-person sailboats, these new sailors jump right into the action with the help of their boat’s skipper. Within 30 seconds, sailors learn how to control their boat’s headsail or jib, and shortly thereafter, they embark on their first sailing race. Along all the way, the skippers eagerly coach their sailors.

“What we’re trying to do is to let you do what you want. If you’re a diehard racer then we can race competitively, but if you just want to come out, have fun, and relax then we’re up for that too,” said Commodore Colin Vis (10).

This openness truly exemplifies the ambiance of the sailing team. No matter if you are a veteran like skipper Laine Klopfenstein (12) or a novice like Rachael Wierenga (12), the sailing team invites you to join them on Lake Macatawa.

“I don’t like water but I went to practice and had fun. Now, I have about seven days worth of experience,” Wierenga said.

For those competitively inclined students, the sailing team presents a unique opportunity. Every weekend from late-August through mid-November, the team heads out to Indiana, Wisconsin, Lansing and numerous other locations for regattas where they sail against Division I varsity and club teams.

“We’re the only team sport to compete against Big Ten schools. And we do pretty well. This past weekend in Indiana we beat Michigan State,” Vis said.

The Hope College Sailing Team.

“Centur y Mark” – Coach Becky Schmidt poses with the women’s varsity volleyball team.

The team earned Schmidt her 100th win on Sept. 6.