EVEN YEAR WINS NYKERK

The class of 2008 won the 71st annual Nykerk Cup Competition held on Nov. 5. This is the second consecutive year that 2008 won the traditional oration, song and drama competition for Hope women.

2008 song was “Over the Rainbow.” Anna West (‘08) was the 2008 orator. The title of her speech was called “Welcome to Our Global Neighborhood.” “Phantom of the Nykerk,” 2008’s play, was written by Rachel Achtemeier (‘06) and Jennica Avery (‘06).

2009 song was “Build Me Up Buttercup.” Barbara Rubio (‘09) was the 2009 orator. The title of her speech was “The Voice of Liberation.” 2009 play was called “Do You Yabba Dabba Do?” written by Lauren Grumm (‘07) and Jennifer Stults (‘07). More than 300 women participated in the event.

COMPLETE COVERAGE OF NYKERK, PAGE 4 AND 5

INTERNATIONAL WEEK CELEBRATES DIVERSITY

Caroline Nichols
Guest Writer

A beautiful tapestry combines different colors and designs to form a breathtaking masterpiece. This tapestry is made up of students representing 30 different nations of the world. The scholarship and application process American high-schoolers see as treacherous would be a welcome road for the international students who fought to study on our campus.

For international students, there are bank statements, passport problems, travel, money and life-threatening situations,” Habeeb Awad, international student advisor said.

Awad, a former international student from Palestine, says each student has a unique and difficult situation to overcome in order to get here. As a result, international students do not take education for granted.

“When they come to Hope, it is like grace to them. They are compelled and emotionally driven to finish their education,” Awad said. “They are here to get an education that will lead to a better life and a future for them and their families when they return home.”

Even the most serious student, however, is not numb to the drastic changes in the way of life. Many students come to the United States and are shocked by the culture, people and traditions.

“My first question when I came to the states was: Where are all the people? Why don’t they walk on streets and socialize with their neighbors?” Dorie Peku (‘07), a student from Albania said.

Peku currently serves as president of the International Relations Club. Her transition to living in the States began two years before she came to Hope. She lived with a family in Grand Rapids where she attended high school. She embraced the friendships and culture at Hope with humor.

“Most of my friends are aware that I will not understand every single joke, expression, or even events that sometimes don’t make any sense to me. However, they are willing to explain to me why the White Sox had to let the best pitcher of the other team take the first base, or what ‘pull your leg’ means,” Peku said.

As international students live as part of the Hope community and culture, students and faculty at Hope have a chance to learn and grow in their global understanding as well. Since 2000, an annual International Education Week has encouraged “campuses, embassies, and communities to hold activities celebrating diversity and cultures from around the world,” Peku said.

The theme for I EW this year is “WANTED: Global Citizens,” which will begin with the eleventh annual Images presentation on Saturday, Nov. 12. Students, faculty, staff, and community members are encouraged to attend this event, which will feature international students displaying traditions of their culture.

“The show consists of songs, dances, skits and a fashion show. It’s a great event that celebrates the diversity of traditions,” Peku said.

The entire week following the Images presentation, Nov. 14-18 will be full of events to celebrate our diverse international community.

“I think we can really grow and learn from the people we live in community with, especially those coming so far to get here,” Katy Maxwell (‘07) said.

Awad encourages students to teach others about their cultures. In their own friendship circles, they can start to make students more globally aware by simply describing their journey from home to Hope.

“Always be aware that everyone is different in some way and the way to love is to embrace those differences, understand them, ask questions, and most importantly listen,” Dorie Peku (’07)
U.S. DEATH TOLL RISES

Kathleen Burkhardt  
WORLD NEWS EDITOR

Last month, the U.S. military passed a deadly milestone as the American soldier death toll in Iraq reached 2,000. Since then 55 more deaths have been added to the count, and the count shows no sign of slowing down.

President Bush declared an end to major fighting on May 1, 2003, but guerrilla warfare in Iraq has continued, claiming 1,968 lives. In a speech to military spouses at Bolling Air Force base, Bush assured “each loss of life is heartbreaking and the best way to honor the sacrifice of our fallen troops is to complete the mission and lay the foundation of peace by spreading freedom.”

Even as the Iraqi constitution is met with approval and a new parliament is expected to be elected in December, Bush continues to prepare Americans for more casualties.

“The defense of freedom is worth our sacrifice,” Bush said.

Military personnel responded negatively to the media’s focus on the 2,000 figure. Lt. Col. Steven Boylan, chief spokesperson for the U.S. military in Iraq said “the true milestones of this war are rarely covered or discussed.”

In Washington, the Senate had a moment of silence to honor the fallen troops in Iraq and praise their sacrifice. More Democrats than Republicans spoke to honor the killed soldiers and their praises were laced with calls for America’s leaders to increase their efforts to end the war.

“We owe our fallen soldiers and their families answers; we owe them accountability.” Sen. Dick Durbin, the Democratic Whip from Illinois said. “We can’t allow our nation to drift into a war without end in Iraq.”

The current American death toll is higher than the Gulf War’s 1,832, but remains lower than the 58,168 lost in Vietnam.

Perhaps one of the largest implications of this 2,000 mark is it comes when Bush’s disapproval rating is at 55 percent.

DIFFERENT VIEW OF WAR

Kurt Pyle  
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Two thousand. A new threshold reached in the United States, but one long since passed in the Arab world. According to a recent survey by the Pentagon, nearly 26,000 Iraqis were killed or wounded by insurgent attacks in the last 21 months.

British-based iraqbodycount.net puts the civilian death toll since the beginning of combat operations at between 26,000 and 30,000. That’s a death toll at least 100 times higher than that experienced by the United States on Sept. 11.

It’s the story seen every day on Al-Jazeera, Al-Arabiya or any of the rapidly growing number of Arab satellite outlets. Abu Musab al-Zarqawi captured raw emotion in a video release featuring people facing life after the sudden death of a family member.

It’s a technique that has drawn criticism from American officials, but it’s a view that’s changing. Arab reporters have even become target of the insurgents themselves. Al-Arabiya sharply curtailed its operations in Iraq after its headquarters were bombed in October 2004.

“We can no longer get close to people’s suffering, people’s hopes, people’s dreams,” said Nabil Khatib, Al-Arabiya’s chief spokesperson for the Arab satellite outlets.

Al-Jazeera has shifted its descriptions of militants from the “resistance” to calling them gunmen and suicide bombers. Condemnations of attackers as terrorists are now shown, backed by statements of Iraqi officials and religious figures. Al-Arabiya has generally taken a harder line towards the bombers.

Despite this shift, the headline on Al-Jazeera’s Iraq page says it all: “Iraq Under Occupation.” Between links such as “WMDs: Circle of Lies” and “Iraq Oil: Target for Years,” the page’s summary captures the feelings of many in the Arab world.

“U.S. and British occupation of Iraq is regarded as the reemergence of the old colonialist practices of the western empires in some quarters. The real ambitions underlying the brutal onslaught are still highly questionable – and then there are the blatant lies over weapons of mass destruction,” the description reads.

Muslims have begun considering whether Islam is inherently linked to terrorism, but prevailing tendencies are slow to change. One is still as likely to hear the Crusades of the 11th and 12th centuries discussed as the “resistance” to calling them gunmen and suicide bombers. Condemnations of attackers as terrorists are now shown, backed by statements of Iraqi officials and religious figures. Al-Arabiya has generally taken a harder line towards the bombers.

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MediaNote: Ongoing coverage of this war is rarely seen in the United States, and the media is forced to cobble together reports from video feeds and second-hand information.

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Al Jazeera was barred from operating in the country by Iraqi officials two months earlier. Now the network is forced to cobble together reports from video feeds and second-hand information. “Covering Iraq for us is a matter of great difficulty,” said the Al Jazeera spokesman Jihad Balout. “The aftermath of the London subway is regarded as the reemergence of the old colonialist practices of the western empires in some quarters. The real ambitions underlying the brutal onslaught are still highly questionable – and then there are the blatant lies over weapons of mass destruction,” the description reads.

CIVILIAN VICTIMS — Crosses pave the street honoring Iraqi civilians victim to the Iraqi war. Iraqi deaths have been estimated as high as 26,000.
IMC brings Saxton Shore to Holland

Courtney Roberts
Nov. 9
Entertainment @ the Kietz
9:30 p.m. La Guirca
7:30 p.m. Karaoke
8 p.m. Back Stage

Saxton Shore consists of four members from different parts of the country who compose their music through e-mail. The result is music that is “as gender-free as possible,” as Matt Doty, band leader, told the Holland Sentinel. The independent music scene is one where artists express themselves un inhibited by the entertain ment industry. The result is a variety of talents, ideas and interesting sounds. IMC was started a few years ago by a group of Hope students interested in bringing this scene to campus.

Erin Wickens (’06), current president of the IMC, reminisced on her experiences as a part of the club. “We used to have concerts in Voorhees basement, which was really sweet. Most of us lived in Voorhees at the time and (we) were friends with the RA’s and RD’s. We used to set up in the classroom in the basement, (where) bands from Ann Arbor, Flint, Grand Rapids, and Hope would come out to perform, usually free to Hope students.”

“They were a lot of fun,” Wickens said. “And it was perfect if the bands were kind of unknown because 20 people felt like a crowd down there. It was great.”

In the effort to bring sounds to Hope that students might not ordinarily hear, the IMC has sponsored bands with an intense hardcore rock feel as well as more mellow acts. The difficulty comes in finding bands that are new and different but will attract students’ interests. For example, according to Wickens, hardcore rock does not have a wide audience among Hope students, which narrows the selection of bands.

“The kids in the community seem to like it, but I want to keep Hope’s attention too. We aren’t limited,” Wickens said. “I would love to get other groups, they are just harder to find sometimes.”

Future events include, another show in December featuring the bands Breathe Owl Breathe and Bunkbed Nights. An appearance by Ben and Bruno and Corcavado is also possible for next semester. Both bands are from Grand Rapids and are described by Wickens.

Marilyn Robinson shares novel excerpts from “Gilead”

Evelyn Daniel
Nov. 10
WSU’s Regional Acting Center

Palitzer Prize-winner Marilyn Robinson read selections of her latest novel, “Gilead,” to a full Dimnent Chapel on Monday evening.

In beautiful, witty and rhythmic prose, Robinson brings voice to 76-year-old Congregationalist preacher John Ames. Set in 1956, “Gilead” is a letter offering stories and words of wisdom from the dying Ames to his 7-year-old son, knowing that he will not see live to see his son come of age.

“I don’t want to be old,” wrote the fictional Ames, “I only don’t want to be dead. I don’t want to be the tremulous coot you barely remember.”

Through thoughtful language and careful description, Robinson is able to give her characters lives of their own, free of the page. Robinson explores themes of heaven, sin, forgiveness and salvation as her character comes to terms with the impropriety of his namesake, John Ames Bough ton, the adult son of Ames’ best friend. Ames painfully retells how Bough ton, as a college student, impregnated a young girl and then abandoned their child to a life of neglect and premature death. Pondering the doctrine of predestination, while struggling not to judge, he observes that dishonorable people “never really repent, never really reform.”

Robinson is internationally known as the author of two novels and two non-fiction works. Published in 1981, her novel “Housekeeping” received the PEN/Hemingway Foundation award for best first novel and has become an American classic. Her 1998 collection, “The Death of Adam: Essays in Modern Thought,” was featured in a May 2001 Senior Seminar workshop during her last visit to Hope College. Robinson’s book “Mother Country: Britain, the Welfare State and Nuclear Pollution” was both highly praised and subject to sharp criticism by environmental groups and the British government for the positions she took on a government cover-up of plutonium dumping. When she refused to retract passages critical of Greenpeace for the organization’s failure to act, the book was banned in Britain.

A graduate of Brown University, Robinson currently teaches at the University of Iowa Writers’ Workshop.

Karaoke with Chris!
Thursday, Nov. 10
8:00 pm

Get entered to win an iPod just by singing!!
FREE GENERAL MILLS SNACKS for all those who go on stage!

Don’t miss out on the fun!
Bill Meengs

intact for at least this year, though they have put it under meeting and voted eight to one to leave the Nykerk tradition the obstacle Westra has not overcome.

so he went on with the tradition.

year, Westra responded that it was his first year on campus,
says, “I found it unappealing.”

Westra said he liked the competitive aspect of Nykerk,

Editor’s Note:

Nykerk 1990: A Song Boy with a dream . . .

Becky Van Hekken (’91), chair of the Nykerk committee,
When asked about why he didn’t go out for song last
Westra was a Morale Guy in last year’s competition, but
Westra said he tried out for the competition because he
Westra responded that this song was written in four parts,
Westra said he knew that there would be opposition, but
Westra said that the board “spent 15 minutes discussing

Worries: More turmoil

The following article appeared in the October 24, 1990

In the Holland Sentinel, Van Hekken said, “I think it’s

Van Hekken continued, “If we allow the show to be-

Voice of Liberation

— Sandra Rabin (’91)

Westra is concerned about the traditions the Pull

Even Year repeats Nykerk victory

For weeks, the freshmen and sophomore girls, along with their

The competition opened with the ’88 Song Girls performing “Over the Rainbow” directed by Sunny Lockwood (’90) with motions directed by Rachel Vandegijse (’88). The ’88 Song Girls were accompanied by Maureen Kovacs (’88) on piano.

After the ’88 Song Girls performed, the Orator for the class of 2009, Barbara Hubbs, performed her oration titled “The Voice of Liberation,” in which she spoke about stereotypes facing different groups today, and what we can do to stop these stereotypes.

Nykerk 1990: A Song Boy with a dream . . .

Nykerk ‘90 became the center of another integration push as Eric Westra (’93) attempted to participate in the traditionally all-female Nykerk competition. He was denied participation by the Campus Life board after hearing representatives of both sides.

Westra said he tried out for the competition because he

“Just thought it would be fun to sing in Nykerk,” Westra said.

Westra said he liked the competitive aspect of Nykerk, which is why he said he went out for song instead of being a Morale Guy.

Westra was a Morale Guy in last year’s competition, but

Westra said he tried to make waves, or to take a stand

As there is with men wanting to be involved with Nykerk.

was replaced by Juliet, played by Stacy Thomas (’08).

of being sabotaged by the phantom of the Nykerk, played by Calista Peterson (‘08), unless Britney Spears, played by Tiffany Hayes (’08), was replaced by Juliet, played by Stacy Thomas (’08).

After introducing the committee and playing a video summarizing the participants’ hard work and dedication over the few weeks, it was time to present the Nykerk cup to the winner—the class of 2008.

The class of 2008 erupted into shouts of joy that echoed throughout the Civic Center.

Congratulations ’08 girls!
Low diversity to blame for racism on campus

To the Editor:

The human mind tends to form ideas based on what the individual sees, hears or is in contact with. With low diversity in a given place, most people will seek an understanding of the few “different” people by relating them to what other people or the media says. The inevitable result of this is stereotyping and in greater extremes, conscious or unconscious racism.

I have been appalled on several occasions when people adjust their regular speech to a heavy slang, thinking that’s the way to best interact with me. I, however, cannot blame them because as an international student, I also had many assumptions about Americans that I have since dismissed because I have had a chance to interact with and understand Americans.

I now firmly believe that we are all really one people, we all share that one heartbeat of humanity and the differences that we see are only brought about by our different backgrounds. I believe that it would work the same positive way for anyone who is placed in a similar situation.

For many, this situation will occur in Hope College only when the diversity issue is seriously addressed but until then, I have these three requests for every individual: Embracing diversity, try to understand your neighbor, and just be yourself.

Beula Pandian (’08)

Challenges of being an international student

An old Sunday school song came to my mind the other day. “Jesus loves the little children, all the little children of the world … yellow, black and white, they are precious in His sight…”

I remember when everyone sang it without looking around to see who looked different. We were just thrilled to know that Jesus loved us. Now 15 plus years later, I was walking through a college campus in a country that was not my own, and I wondered if I could sing that again with the same feeling. I could not answer that question. I stopped and thought, “What difference have I made as an international student?”

While the international community is not very large, there still exists an invisible divide between them and the whole campus. Here is some information to help you understand more about the international community.

Time: A common joke that flies around the international office is time. Some of us do not show up on time. It does not mean that we are unimportant; it simply shows how time is viewed in different countries.

Holidays: Holidays are the worst times for us. It is heartbreaking for us to see our roommates pack and go home. So, a word of advice to all those who are international roommates: Talk to them about their holiday plans, and if you would like to take them home with you, ask them. You might be surprised that they say yes.

Study Time: I often hear my friends talking about their international roommates’ study hours. They either would always be studying, or they would never study. Schooling outside the U.S is very different and it takes a while for international students to get into the flow of things here. Writing papers might take five minutes for one student, while it may take a long time for another. The next time an international student approaches you for help with a class, talk to them more instead of replies with a yes or a no.

Class Atmosphere: I grew up going to school that had more than 40 students. The teacher lectured or gave notes for 45 minutes and we were done. We had little or no time to interact with each other. Some of my greetings do not get a response, and my smiles are responded with a blank face. It would be nice to receive a warm and welcoming greeting from my fellow students.

Let us all learn to be sensitive to one another’s feelings. The next time you see an international student on campus, smile and ask how they are. Join clubs like International Relations Club, HAPA, and Japon Club to learn more. Help us make our experience at Hope something we will not forget.

Nixon Omollo (’06)
To the Editor:

Dear students, is integrity important to you? I hope so because it is a characteristic that is vital to your future success no matter what vocation you select. Sadly, we see daily the lack of integrity at all levels of our culture. Although sometimes there is little accountability, there are times when the consequences are career-ending. Integrity is vital to the academic community; however, national statistics demonstrate that cheating in a variety of forms is far too common on college campuses. Unfortunately, we see this often within the Hope community. This is not something we condone at Hope College.

Over a year ago I requested that the Anchor publish a letter from me to the campus community concerning the issue of academic integrity. Given the number of cases that continue to come across my desk due to violations of the Hope College Code for Academic Integrity (see p. 86-88 of the 2005-06 Hope Catalog), I thought it would be beneficial to send a reminder to students concerning the importance of demonstrating integrity in the completion of their coursework.

The most common violation of the Code for Academic Integrity is plagiarism. I am well aware that all students are introduced to the nature of plagiarism in English 113 as well as many other courses. Many faculty include information on plagiarism in their syllabi and describe the consequences as well. The policy is also described in great detail on both the English Department and Library websites (http://www.hope.edu/lib/plagiarism/index.html). I encourage you to review it carefully. Other violations include but are not limited to: cheating on exams, collaborating on assignments without permission and falsifying reports.

In the 2004-2005 academic year there were 58 total cases reported to the Provost’s Office; up from 42 in 2003-2004. One of the cases was a third violation and two were second violations. Sanctions for these violations ranged from a lowered grade on the assignment to a failing grade on the assignment to a failing grade in the course. In the event of multiple violations, dismissal from a program and/or the college is a potential result and has occurred.

As we approach crunch time in the semester and you may be tempted to submit work that is not your own, be aware of the following:

1) It’s not hard for faculty to decipher professional writing from a student’s writing. It’s also reasonably easy for faculty to identify plagiarized material using the GOOGLE search engine.

2) College policy states that the student’s writing is the sole responsibility of the student. Faculty members do not plagiarize other people’s work.

3) Plagiarism records (as well as all other violations) are maintained by the Provost’s Office for a student’s full residence at the college and repeated violations could result in dismissal from the college.

4) Plagiarism has many victims beyond the person doing the plagiarism and include the following: the faculty person who has to spend extra hours tracking down the perpetrator and documenting the incident; possibly the family of the faculty member who is deprived of the time it takes to prosecute the incident and contend with the stress that it creates; the other students in the class who are following the expected rules; and the Provost who has to respond to each of the incidents and hear the appeals.

Therefore, I urge all students to demonstrate integrity in all of your work. Review guidelines for assignments and follow them carefully. Properly annotate and attribute all materials in your assignments. Think twice about lifting information off the Internet which itself may already be plagiarized material. When in doubt, ask your instructor about how to handle particular materials. You will be more successful if you demonstrate integrity and honesty in all of your work. I urge you to do so!

James N. Boelkins
Provost

INTERNATIONAL, FROM PAGE 1

those differences, understand them, ask questions, and more importantly listen,” Peku said.

Members of the Hope community – both international and American – can complement each other as a beautiful tapestry, displaying various cultures and traditions. IEW is just one way to be students to a part of that masterpiece.

Patty Larkin, Kaki King, Mimi Fox, and Murell Anderson are...

Friday Nov. 11
7:30 p.m.
Knickerbocker Theatre
(downtown Holland)

A ground-breaking performance of four women guitarists from four different genres sharing one stage.

“La Guitarra is a snapshot of an ever-changing landscape. These women are innovators and educators, alt types and concert hall performers, jazzes, blue players, composers and interpreters. La Guitarra explores the contribution of women to the evolution of guitar.” Patty Larkin

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Underwritten by the Hope College Patrons for the Arts

Happy Birthday to Emily Our amazing, beautiful, sweet, charm

Happy Birthday to Emily Our amazing, beautiful, sweet, charming cluster 1-3 girl! Hope you have a splendid day! God Bless You! Love Cluster 1-3

Tim Nelson, Matt Lapham and Brandon Smith: From all of us at Durfee Hall we just wanted to say Happy Birthday! God has blessed us with great friends like all of you, and for that we are thankful.

Your Brothers, Durfee Hall

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James N. Boelkins
Provost

INTERNATIONAL, FROM PAGE 1

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Patty Larkin, Kaki King, Mimi Fox, and Murell Anderson are...
Upcoming Home Game
Nov. 12 Hope Football v. Alma
1 p.m. at Holland Municipal Stadium, 12 Street and Fairbanks Ave.

Sports Blurb
Hope Represents at NCAA Tournaments
Clinching their third MIAA championship, the Flying Dutch (19-2) will compete in the NCAA Division III tournament for a third consecutive year. The first-round game is against D-Pauw, Ind. (11-6) at 5 p.m. on Friday.

The Flying Dutchmen (17-3) soccer team are champions of the MIAA and will be competing in the NCAA's for the eighth time in school history against Gustavus-Adolphus (12-2-3) at the University of Wisconsin on Friday at 1:30 p.m.

The second place MIAA men's (53) and women's (59) cross country teams will be running in the NCAA meet on Saturday in Cincinnati, Ohio at 11 a.m.

Devos Opener
Hope's Basketball Teams Prep for Sell-out Games
Greg Reznich
Staff Writer
November is upon us, the leaves cover the ground, cold rain will soon turn to snow, and fans will make the change from the cold bleachers of the football stadium to the warm, bright atmosphere of the hard court. Basketball season is just around the corner, and this year Hope fans have even more to look forward to with the opening of the $2 million DeVos Fieldhouse.

This will be the first time in 75 years that Hope basketball will be played on-campus, as the teams have played at the Holland Civic Center. The annual Meet-the-Dutch/Dutchmen preseason kick-off is Nov. 11. Fans can enter the east entrance for free at 5:30 p.m.

Both men's and women's basketball teams will play their first games on Nov. 19. The Flying Dutch will host Edgar Douglas, Wis. at 5:30 p.m. and the Flying Dutchmen will challenge Elmhurst, Ill. at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets for the event went on sale last Friday and are expected to sell out for the inaugural event. Tickets are free to Hope students and faculty.

Both teams enter the season as the favorites in the MIAA preseason Coach polls, the women receiving eight votes and the men receiving seven. Men's coach Glenn Van Wieren and women's coach Brian Morehouse will look to uphold the expectations placed on their teams.

The men's team of 14 returns eight letter winners, while the women's team of 16 returns 11 letter winners. Leading the Dutchmen are fifth year senior Greg Immink who was sidelined last year after an ACL injury, Andy Phillips ('06), and Jeff Carlson ('06). The Lady Dutch are led by returning letter winners Bria Ebels ('06), Linda Ebels ('06), Julie Henderson ('07) and Megan Noll ('06).

Van Wieren enters his 29th season as the coach with the most wins in MIAA basketball history with a record of 536-191 and 15 conference championships.

Defending Home — The teams will be present at the Meet the Dutch/Dutchmen annual kickoff this Friday, 5:30 p.m. Above: MIAA favorites, the Dutch perfect their passing during scrimmage practice. Below: J.V. teammates Ben VanArendonk ('09) takes it to the net v. Scott Glaser ('08).

Morehouse is on his way to making its third consecutive year as the women's head coach and has won 80 percent of his games with five MIAA championships.

A highlight of the season will occur on Jan. 14 when the Dutchmen host rival Calvin. Both teams will also host a number of tournaments.

Korfball: A New Olympic Sport?
Nick Hinkle
Senior Staff Writer

The traditional Dutch game called korfball made its way into the Dow Center Tuesday, Nov. 1. The exhibition match featured Hope College (Team U.S.A.) v. Team Europe. The U.S. team lost to the Europeans, 14-7.

Both teams consist of players with a wide range of experience and age. The U.S. team includes current Hope students and alumni, while the European team has players ranging from 19 to 50 years in age.

Unlike the American team, all of Europe's players have korfball experience from various club teams. Korfball, developed in the Netherlands to learn more about the rules of the game as it was officiated by a top level referee," Coach Karla Wolters said.

Wolters, Hope professor and softball coach, introduced korfball to West Michigan. She became interested in the game after watching a match in the early 1990s. Wolters, an International Korfball Federation member, teaches korfball classes in the Holland area and attended clinics last summer in the Netherlands to learn more about the sport.

Many U.S. players also enjoyed the competitive atmosphere brought to the match.

"It was a lot of fun and very intense," Alyssa Alsum ('07) said. "It was a great experience playing European players.

However, European all-star players thought the U.S. was a little too physical for a true korfball game. Tuesday's game included numerous fouls with players bumping, pushing, and falling. They (U.S.A. team) play basketball style," European team member, Dirk Sercu, said. "We're not used to it and we tried to adapt, but it was hard.

With korfball classes and the knowledge from Coach Wolters, Team U.S.A. will keep trying to improve on their skills and understanding of the rules.

"Key strategies on offense are to get free of your defender so that you can shoot and on defense to not let your person get free to get off a shot," Wolters said.

"To accomplish these goals you must stay in constant motion because you cannot double team an opponent or play zone defense." W i t h k o r f b a l l ' s w o r d about the sport, Berthold Komduur, IKF spokesman, wants to expand korfball's popularity by playing throughout the U.S.

"We want to try to get college-level teams started in (America) and hopefully get a good national team to compete in the world games," Berthold said.

Some hope that, with U.S. recognition korfball will be at Olympics.