Miracle on Eighth Street

A scriptwriter could not have outlined a better plot.

It was dubbed by sportswriters as "The Miracle on Eighth Street."

Journalists with a penchant toward analogy noted that the "Wonderful World of Disney is not in California, or Florida, but in Holland, Michigan."

What you had was a national championship won by the Hope College women's basketball team before a delirious home crowd in dramatic come-from-behind fashion on free throws by a player with a Hollywood name.

Hope's first-ever NCAA Division III national team championship capped a storybook season under a first-year coach whose squad had not even been picked to win their conference.

News from Hope College shares the excitement of these historic sports moments on pages 9-12.

They call him Coach

The Hope College Chapel Choir spring tour in March was the last for Director Roger Rietberg '47, who is retiring at the end of the academic year after 36 years with the college. See the story on pages six and seven.
A major donation by Gerrard W. and Edna Van Tatenhove '47 Haworth will create "The Gerrard W. and Eddie Haworth Endowed Scholarship Fund" at Hope College. Pictured from left to right are Dr. John H. Jacobson, president of Hope College, Gerrard W. Haworth and Edna Van Tatenhove '47 Haworth.

HAWORTH SCHOLARSHIP:
Gerrard W. and Edna Haworth have presented Hope College with a gift that will be used to create a major endowed scholarship.

"This Gerrard W. and Eddie (Edna) Haworth Endowed Scholarship Fund" will be available to students with a demonstrated financial need who show promise of making a positive difference in the world, and will provide three four-year scholarships each year. The first recipients will be awarded scholarships from the fund during the 1990-91 academic year.

"We're very grateful to Gerry and Eddie Haworth for remembering Hope College in this way," said Dr. John H. Jacobson, president of Hope College.

"This is a very significant gift, and we're very pleased that it will be possible to create an endowment to provide significant financial aid to deserving Hope College students."

G. W. Haworth is chairman of the board of Haworth Inc., the firm he formed in 1948 as Modern Products. He and his wife Edna (Eddie), a 1947 Hope graduate, live in Holland, Mich.

The Haworths' gift of $538,000 represents a long-standing interest in education. G.W. Haworth came to Holland in 1938 as an industrial arts teacher, a position he held for nearly 10 years. Eddie was an English teacher.

The Haworths' establishment of the scholarship fund is not ending with their financial contribution, however. They hope to have opportunities to interact with the scholarship recipients.

"It's both Eddie's and my desire to have active participation in the scholarships and to get to know the students who receive them," G.W. Haworth said. "It would be enriching to us to know their activities and their successes."

A major multinational company, the world's largest manufacturer of office furniture and seating, the company is known for its innovative, quality products and services. Haworth has a broad-based multi-product line, 1989 sales exceeding $500 million, more than 3,600 members worldwide, and more than 300 dealers in its worldwide dealership network.

NEW FOOD SERVICE: A joint venture has been formed by Hope College and Calvin College to offer a high-quality food service to their students and the communities where they are located.

Announcement of the joint venture, which will begin June 1, was announced by William J. Boer, vice-president for administration (see "CAMPUS" on page 3).

Quote, unquote is an eclectic sampling of things being said at and about Hope College.

The Reformation was not an end but rather a landmark in a continuing journey of religious experience that has not yet reached its conclusion, according to Dr. David A. Hubbard, president of Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, Calif.

Hubbard spoke on "A Fresh Look at the Reformation" in Dinnin Memorial Chapel on Thursday, Jan. 25 after receiving an honorary doctor of letters degree awarded by the Board of Trustees. Hubbard was recognized both for his career and his leadership of evangelical Christianity.

"More than anything else the Reformation is about the church," Hubbard said. "But it's more than a series of 16th century events."

"It's part of the whole process of renewal — of transformation — that God uses to take his church from that beginning picture in Acts to that end-time picture in the Revelation," Hubbard said.

Hubbard based much of his discussion on Revelation 21, which says: "Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And then he saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband..."

"The passage speaks of the city as being so strongly lighted by the glory of God that night would never come, and the unclean and false would be unable to enter."

"It's the vision of the future, the not the nostalgia of the past, that best captures the spirit of the Reformation and the biblical mood," Hubbard said. "That's why the holy city adorned like a bride is so vital. As daughters and sons of the Reformation, we joyfully acknowledge our part in that church which God is in the business of reforming and readying to be part of that brilliant, spotless bride."

Hubbard said that three steps must be made in taking a fresh look at the Reformation looking behind it, beyond it and before it.

"We move behind the Reformation because we see the Reformation as a landmark, not an iron curtain," Hubbard said. "We move behind it to the understanding of the early church fathers."

The second step, moving beyond the Reformation, involves being open to other denominations, such as the Roman Catholic Church, according to Hubbard. "We must not interpret the Reformation to mean that the Catholic Church is permanently apostate," Hubbard said. "There are many present signs of renewal."

"And finally we move beneath the Reformation," Hubbard said. "Beneath it to its formal principle: the inspiration, authority, sufficiency and power of Scripture — testing all things, including our own expressions of Reformed theology in the light of that authoritative Scripture."

"And we move beneath it to its material principle: faith alone, grace alone, Christ alone," Hubbard said. "They set us free to change and to grow."

Hubbard concluded by saying that he believed an intermediate step exists between that landmark of Reformation and the ultimate goal of transformation. "In between Reformation and transformation is what I would like to suggest could be called preformation." Hubbard said. "Where we open ourselves to the glory of the church, the power of the word, the significance of our history, and the presence of the body of Christ to begin to be formed into that likeness which we will assume and be part of — and there as members of the new Jerusalem we descend adorned as a bride for the bridegroom."

NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION: Hope College is committed to the concept of equal rights, equal opportunities and equal protection under the law. Hope College admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin, sex, creed or handicap to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at Hope College, including the administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs. With regard to employment, the College complies with all legal requirements prohibiting discrimination in employment.

On the Cover:
Seniors Dina Disney of Brandenburg, Ky. (left) and Holly VanderVen of Grand Rapids, Mich. (right) hold aloft the trophy awarded to the women's basketball team following its victory against St. John Fisher College of New York on Saturday, March 17.

The victory in the Holland Civic Center earned the team the NCAA Division III national championship — the first such championship won by any Hope College team.

A capacity crowd watched the game, which saw Hope rally from a 20-point deficit in the second half and win with two free throws made after time had run out. Details of the incredible contest can be found on pages nine through 12.
Poetry anthology features Hope alumni

Hope alumni are at the heart of A While Longer Before the Cold, the book produced by Jack Ridd, associate professor of English, during his sabbatical this fall.

The book, an anthology, is a collection of poetry written by Professor Ridd's former poetry students. Many have gone on to careers that involve writing. A few have even made poetry their profession.

Like many other poets, Ridd's work is sensitive, intelligently, bravely, he says, adding that the range is exciting, the manner can be a challenge to any ideologue, the chorus heartrending, provocative, transcendent, affirming.

The writers remain as distinct and different from one another as when they held their own in class, Professor Ridd observes. "They remain as intimate as the evident love at the heart of each piece."

Professor Ridd explained that one great challenge posed by the project was teaching his former students, each of whom was invited to contribute to the book. Ultimately, there were about 20 people he was unable to contact. Of those who were contacted, 24 chose to participate. Many contributed one or two works; some submitted as many as five.

Professor Ridd noted that he found the response heartening.

"Discovering that these voices have continued to sing was a great encouragement," he says in his editor's note. "It's been said over and over, but still rings true: One of the greatest accomplishments after one leaves school is to continue one's art."

"Just doing it all is a remarkable achievement," he says. "Composing a poem not in the relative leisure of an all-nighter because it's due the next day but rather under the fiercely ironic pressure of no assignment and in the midst of the bombardment of daily life, one often discovers a new and richer respect for anyone able to do such a thing."

Professor Ridd expects the book to be published this fall, and said it will be available through the Hope-Geneva bookstore. In addition to the poetry the anthology includes a "Contributors' Notes" section that briefly profiles each of the authors.

The book's title is a line from one of its poems—"Home Again," by Susan Marks '85 VanOmmeren. The title and the work from which it is taken are both appropriate given the nature of the book. With the authors returned, albeit symbolically, to Hope through the anthology, VanOmmeren's words have a haunting relevance: "We wanted incantation then lost with our diplomas and dreams. We wanted to gesture a while longer before the cold."

MINORITY AID: Hope College is one of 16 Michigan Colleges that will benefit from a $725,000 grant from the Chrysler Corporation Fund of the Michigan Colleges Foundation (MCF) to provide 64 scholarships to minority students pursuing careers in business or education.

The MCF institutions will each receive $10,000 to fund four Chrysler Minority Scholarships, valued at $2,500 each. The scholarships will be awarded for the academic year, which ranges from one semester to one full year, and will be paid to incoming freshmen, sophomore, junior, and senior—beginning August 1990.

A supplementary grant of $5,000 is awarded to each institution for minority-related programs such as the recruiting of minority students or bringing minority speakers to campus.

FACULTY KUDOS: Daniel Paul '50 and David Zwart '64 of the education department both led sessions during the Michigan Science Teachers Association Convention in Lansing, Mich., on Friday and Saturday, Feb. 16 and 17.

The convention included 240 sessions on a variety of topics. Approximately 1,500 teachers from throughout the state of Michigan attended, representing the kindergarten through college level.

The conference included 240 sessions on a variety of topics. Approximately 1,500 teachers from throughout the state of Michigan attended, representing the kindergarten through college level.

Dr. Paul led "Hands-On Experimenting for Elementary Teachers." Professor Zwart led "Energy Concepts and Activities for Elementary Students."

Dr. Paul, a professor of education, has been a member of the Hope faculty since 1966. Professor Zwart, director of the college's Kellogg Science Education Program and an associate professor of education, joined the Hope faculty in 1989.

James Piers '69, professor of sociology at Hope, was interviewed by seven different radio stations from around the nation on eight different occasions as an expert on mate selection theory. The February programs all took place before or on Valentine's Day.

He was featured on WQEX of Menominee, Wis.; WGR of Buffalo, N.Y.; KORG of Anchorage, Calif.; WJR of Detroit, Mich.; KING of Seattle, Wash.; the American Radio Network; and WINK of Fort Myers, Fla.

Professor Piers has been a member of the Hope faculty since 1975. He earned his master's of social work from the University of Michigan.

Donald Williams, professor of chemistry, participated in the Fifth Annual Technological Literacy Conference (TLC) in Washington, D.C., from Feb. 1-4.

Dr. Williams chaired one session on nuclear power issues and participated in another panel on nuclear waste problems. The TLCs are produced by the National Association for Science, Technology, and Society, and was attended by professionals from several industries and academic disciplines.

An article Dr. Williams wrote on the nuclear waste disposal issue appeared in the March 26 edition of The Christian Science Monitor.

Dr. Williams has been a member of the Hope College faculty since 1969.
The Hope College Chapel Choir will perform in concert on Sunday, April 22 at 8 p.m. in Dimnent Memorial Chapel. The public is invited, and admission is free. For the story of Director Roger Riehberg’s retirement, see pages six and seven.

**ACADEMIC CALENDAR**

**Spring Semester (1990)**
- May 4, Friday — Residence halls close for those not participating in Commencement, 5 p.m.
- May 5, Saturday — Alumni Day.
- May 6, Sunday — Baccalaureate and Commencement.
- May 6, Sunday — Residence halls close for graduating seniors, 7 p.m.

**May Term (1990)**
- May 7, Monday — Registration and payment of fees from 8:30-11 a.m. in Maas Auditorium.
- May 7, Monday — Classes begin at 1 p.m.
- May 25, Friday — May Term ends.

**June Term (1990)**
- May 29, Tuesday — Registration and payment of fees, 8:30-10 a.m. in Maas Auditorium.
- May 29, Tuesday — Classes begin at 1 p.m.
- June 15, Friday — June Term ends.

**Summer Session (1990)**
- June 14, Monday — Registration and payment of fees, 8:30-10 a.m. in Maas Auditorium.
- June 14, Monday — Classes begin (abbreviated schedule).
- July 4, Wednesday — Classes not in session.
- July 27, Friday — Summer Session ends.

**Fall Semester (1990)**
- Aug. 24, Friday — Residence Halls open for New Students, noon.
- Aug. 27, Monday — Residence Halls open for returning students.
- Aug. 28, Tuesday — First day of classes.

**SUMMER REPERTORY THEATRE**
Season opens Friday, June 22: Curtain time 8 p.m.
- Monday through Saturday: DeWitt Center Main Theatre.
- The Music Man by Meredith Willson.
- Merchant of Venice by William Shakespeare.
- Light Up the Sky by Moss Hart.
- I Do! I Do! by Tony Jones.

Information concerning tickets, season dates and additional summer plays may be obtained by calling (616) 394-7600.

**INSTANT INFORMATION**
Hope Sports Hotline — (616) 394-7888
Activities Hotline — (616) 394-7863

**THE ARTS**

**Hope College Wind Ensemble Concert** — Tuesday, April 17: Dimnent Memorial Chapel, 7 p.m.
- **Senior Recital** — Thursday, April 19: Verna Bond-Broederick, violinist; Wichers Auditorium, 8 p.m.

**Regional Events**
- Cedar Grove, Wis. — Tuesday, April 24.
- Dallas, Texas — Saturday, May 19.
- Boston, Mass. — Sunday, June 3.
- Elderhostel — June 10-16.

Sessions include:
- *“Birds and Bird Watching” with Dr. Eldon D. Greig.
- Edward A. and Elizabeth Hofma Adjunct Professor of Biology and editor of Birder's World magazine.

**Anchor Rededication** — Saturday, April 21.
A celebration of the 25th anniversary of the college's symbolic anchor, by Alphin Pol Omega. The event will be held on the lawn of Hope College Golf Outing — Wednesday, July 18.

**Hope College Golf Outing** — Wednesday, July 18.

**VILLAGE SQUARE**
Weekend activities:
- May 4 — Alumni Weekend.
- May 5 — Alumni Day.
- Schedule available at Hope College Golf Outing.

**SUMMER SPORTS CAMPS**
- Boys Basketball School — July 9-20.
- Girls Basketball Camps:
  - Sixth-Eighth grades — June 13-16.
  - Ninth-12th grades — June 18-22.
- Team Camp — June 18-22.
- Football Camp — July 29-Aug. 1.
- June 25-July 7.
- J.V. Basketball Team Camp — July 9-12.

For more information, please call (616) 394-7690.

**ALUMNI WEEKEND**
Friday, May 4
Saturday, May 5
9 a.m. — noon Reunion registration — Van Zanten Enterway.

**ALUMNI AND FRIENDS**
Regional Events:

**KNICKERBOCKER THEATRE**
Voices of Saratoga — April 7-12
Monty Python and the Holy Grail — April 13-19
Local Hero — April 20-26
Turtle Diary — April 20-26

**ADMISSIONS**

**Junior Day — April 20**
A day designed specifically for high school juniors and their parents to help them begin the college search.

**Pre-Medicine and Pre-Engineering Day — May 11**
Activities for high school juniors interested in entering medical doctors or engineers.

**Orientation 90 — July 15-21**
A "mini-college" experience for students who will be juniors and seniors in high school in the fall of 90.

**DE FREE GALLERY**
Senior Art Show — April 13-May 6
The work of graduating seniors.

**GALLERY HOURS**
Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Sunday, 1 to 9 p.m.

**INSTANT INFORMATION**
Hope Sports Hotline — (616) 394-7888
Activities Hotline — (616) 394-7863

**NEWS FROM HOPE COLLEGE, APRIL 1990**

For more information, please call (616) 394-7860. Ask for Joyce McPherson.
The "Pledge of Allegiance" recited by generations of U.S. elementary school students claims that America is a nation with justice for all.

But that hardly seems true.

Homeless persons live in cardboard boxes, un- or under-employed. People of color and women of all races still find themselves fighting stereotypes that relegate them to second-class status. Women are abused by their husbands; children are abused by their parents.

Injustice, however, is not a uniquely American problem. In South Africa, the black majority suffers under the restrictive laws of the white minority, and there are other nations that limit freedom and justice to an elite few. Wars claim the lives of both combatants and non-combatants. In many nations, children go hungry, or without adequate clothing, or without proper medical care.

For Christians, however, the pervasiveness of injustice does not render the pursuit of justice unnecessary, an exercise in futility. Instead, it makes the pursuit of justice all the more essential.

Jesus called justice one of the "weightier matters -- good news, along with mercy and faith" when he criticized the Pharisees for having the wrong priorities (Mt 23:23). And justness at the very least seems a requirement for Christians; a key for attaining eternal salvation. "But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed because they cannot repay you. You will be repaid at the resurrection of the just." (Lk 14:13-14)

This year's Critical Issues Symposium at Hope College, titled "The Quest for Justice: Christian Voices," examined how different Christian traditions address the question of justice. Specific issues included apartheid in South Africa, hunger, economic justice, justice in personal relationships and violence.

Attendance at this year's symposium, which took place on Wednesday, Feb. 28 and Thursday, March 1, set new records for the 11-year-old event. Focus sessions were filled to overflowing, and even a keynote address at 9 a.m. - early for pseudo-nocturnal college students - was well attended.

For all the relevance of the other sessions, however, an evening keynote address on Feb. 28 by the Rev. Allan Boesak drew the greatest attention.

Boesak is founder of South Africa's largest anti-apartheid coalition, the United Democratic Front. He is also president of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches, and national president of the Association of Christian Students of Southern Africa.

His visit to the Hope campus, during which he also received an honorary doctorate of divinity degree from the college, marked his first trip to the United States since South African leader Nelson Mandela was freed in early February.

The power of both Boesak's personality and message (titled "South Africa Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow: Facing the Challenges of Our Times") captivated his audience. The chapel was filled to its 1,200-person capacity, and more people settled into nearby Winants Auditorium, which was equipped for a live broadcast of the event.

I am absolutely convinced that the new day is coming," Boesak said. "There is no way in which Mr. de Klerk (president of South Africa), even if he wanted to, can turn back now."

"And we wish to encourage him in all manner of ways that he should not even think of turning back now," Boesak said. "There is no substitute for the truth in South Africa. There is no substitute for democracy. There is no substitute for humanity."

Boesak cited several situations as examples of the cruelty of apartheid - such as the government's shooting of a four-year-old girl in Soweto, explained away by the statement that she had been mistaken for a dog, and the fact that only six percent of South Africa's population had been allowed to vote in the country's presidential elections in September.

Persistence on the part of those interested in racial equality, according to Boesak, has helped the government realize the failure of the system. "We have claimed the moral high ground and exposed the illegitimacy of a government which now realizes that it must, in order for South Africa to become what it must become, move away from apartheid, toward a democracy in which every single adult will have the right to vote," Boesak said.

"We have made clear that apartheid is politically untenable; it is economically unprofitable; it is morally indefensible; it is theologically heretical," Boesak said. "And therefore the people must move away from such a system."

Boesak said that reforms in South Africa, to be just, would also need to take into account the rights of whites, and not create an "inverse repetition" of the discrimination against blacks. "It would be a tragedy beyond words if the new South Africa would be born in blood that leads to death rather than blood that brings life," Boesak said.

Although it was perhaps heard by the greatest number of people, Boesak's was not the only voice presented during the symposium.

Dr. Nicholas Wolterstorff, professor of philosophical theology with the Divinity School at Yale University, provided biblical perspectives on justice. Wolterstorff said that the popular, contemporary notion of justice as the freedom to do what one wants misses the biblical cues, which emphasize the disenfranchised, such as widows and orphans.

And from that you can easily discern the biblical contours of justice -- of a just society," Wolterstorff said. "The biblical notion, I take it, is this: that a society has become just when all the little people are brought back into community; when all those on the margins are brought back to the center, and given voice, and standing, and a share in the goods of the community."

During her keynote address "The Abuse of Love: Justice in Personal Relations," Dr. Rita Nakashima Brock said that traditional Christian theology has actually undermined justice for victims of abuse, such as children and spouses. Nakashima Brock, assistant professor of religion at Pacific Lutheran University, took issue with interpretations of selfish love that moved clergy to direct their parishioners to forgo their abusers and return home.

"One student I had was molested by her own devout, Baptist minister father. She prayed every Sunday in church to God, that God would make the abuse and pain go away, and every Monday it returned. She asked her father to stop," Nakashima Brock said. "The pain finally did when at 16 she ran away from home."


Sirico explained that traditional liberation theology, which he said tends to denounce free market systems as the generators of economic injustice, makes a mistake by seeking redistribution of wealth. Sirico argued that freedom from governmental control and interference helps eliminate bureaucratic inefficiency in services and allows businesses to create competition -- generating wealth that ultimately benefits all of a society's people.

Control, Sirico said, "is immoral precisely because it curtails the activity necessary to the alleviation of misery and the elimination of poverty."

Wolterstorff provided a wrap-up analysis that examined how the different voices of Christianity could find harmony in their quest for justice. "We've got to be willing to listen to how people in other traditions and denominations read their Bibles," Wolterstorff said, noting that there is value in views from around the globe, from the excluded and from the past.

Wolterstorff added that pursuing justice also means being committed to that commitment that can be achieved by modeling just behavior and empathizing with those who suffer injustice.

Roger Rietberg '47 admits that even he doesn't know exactly why the members of the Hope College Chapel Choir call him "Coach."

Earlier choirs had called his predecessor, Robert Cavanaugh, "Prof.," and perhaps "Coach" emerged as a way to endow Rietberg, professor of music and director of the Hope College Chapel Choir, with a similar yet distinctive nickname.

An off-hand interpretation of the term might center around the fact that Rietberg coaches the members' voices, guiding each individual toward tonal perfection. Such an interpretation, however, does little justice to the regard in which Rietberg, who is retiring this year, is held by the members of the choir.

A more insightful explanation was offered by senior Kari Schaafsma of Caledonia, Mich. Schaafsma noted that Rietberg is a coach in a broader sense — a coach of the sort that builds teams, and in the building creates a whole far greater than the sum of its individual components.

"Something that's really significant about Coach is the unity that he builds by being the Coach," Schaafsma said. "The unity that we feel and the closeness that builds the choir just like a team."

Rietberg built the team in a variety of ways. He jokes with the choir members as they practice. When they sing well during rehearsals, he tells them so. In Baltimore, Md., while the choir circled the church to practice "A Gaelic Blessing" during this spring's East Coast tour, he called for a backrub break.

He also allows the choir to participate in decision making. The choir's student vice president is responsible for organizing the choir as it sets up for concerts, and members with suggestions speak freely.

And the choir members become close — a closeness Rietberg encourages. During a past spring tour that included Northfield, Minn., Rietberg gathered the choir together for singing and talking.

"People were down because it was Easter, so Coach offered to have a little service," said Melissa Ten Have, a senior from Grand Rapids, Mich. "And to sing on Good Friday, in a church service and not as a concert, was touching."

"People were sharing parts of their lives that they would only share with someone they're comfortable with," said Laura Magan, a senior from Phoenix, Md.

"It's the bonding between the members of the group that makes us sing as a group," said Christine Wolke, a senior from Benton Harbor, Mich.

Most importantly, however, Rietberg cares — not only for the choir's performance but the members themselves. And the members know it.

"You know that he cares for the choir — not just as a team but each individual person, too," said Tiffany Smith, a junior from Midland, Mich. "He wants to get to know everyone in the choir well."

"We were all commenting that he just has a personality that keeps the choir together — and that's what we're all going to miss," Smith said.

"I think Coach is a great director because he considers each member as an individual as well as contributing to the whole," said Nick Leighton, a junior from Grand Haven, Mich. "He always seemed like a person that I could go to if I had a problem."

Rietberg relates well with the students. While relaxing at a rest area on the way to this spring's first tour performance in Dublin, Ohio, he played frisbee. Following a lunch break, he jogged some of the group for a round of miniature golf. During the long bus rides between performances, he talked with several of the members — on topics ranging from personal interests, to stories of past choir, to religion, to politics.

His openness with the students has not limited his ability to work with them, however. During rehearsals, the choir is silent and attentive while he speaks, hanging on his soft-spoken direction and quick to react accordingly.

"He has everyone's respect, which I think is really impressive for a group of 70," Magan said.

"I've had other directors that demanded your respect," said Kirk Vander Molen, a junior from Kentwood, Mich. "But from his reputation before I got in there and the things I've observed through his instruction, he's not demanded my respect but earned it."

"I think he had a way of laying before the students a high expectation, and the higher he raises his expectation the more he knew they would perform," said Scott Van Arendonk '84, formerly a member of the choir and currently assistant chaplain at Hope College.

Rietberg has had a good relationship with the choir, which he has been directing for 15 years, since the beginning.

The Rev. Steve Norden '74 of Dublin, Ohio, pastor of a church at which the choir performed, was in the Chapel Choir when Rietberg first led the group on tour. Although Rietberg had previously worked with the Men's Choir, as far as the Chapel Choir as a whole was concerned he was something of an unknown.

"For them the jury was out as to whether Roger could handle it," Norden said. "And he had to prove himself to them."

The proof didn't take long. "I think by the middle of the tour he had the whole choir in the palm of his hand," Norden said.

Since joining the Hope faculty in 1954, Rietberg has taught introduction to music, music theory, organ and other courses. He also previously directed the Chancel Choir (now College Chorus) and conducted the Men's Choir. From 1964-68, he even served, the college as director of admissions.

Since 1950, he has also served as director of music at Third Reformed Church in Holland.

"There are going to be a lot of things I'm going to wish I could have fit in... When you think you'd like to do this work, or you'd like to have the choir sing here or there, you think 'Well, if I don't do it this year, we'll do that next year.'... Now it's a case of 'This is the last time you get to do these things.' "

— Roger Rietberg '47
“You know that he cares for the choir — not just as a team but each individual person, too.”
— Tiffany Smith, junior

Holland,

In addition to his degree from Hope, he earned a master of sacred music degree from Union Theological Seminary in New York in 1949, and pursued further study at Juilliard School of Music and at Syracuse University.

Robert Ritsema ’57, now professor of music and chairperson of the department, was a member of the Chancel Choir when Rietberg was its conductor. As a member of the Hope faculty since 1967, Ritsema has had more than two decades to see Rietberg work.

“He is just a very, very warm, caring person,” Ritsema said. “I’m always amazed that wherever I go, I swear, he calls every student on campus by name, and he has a real interest in the students.”

“Even above all the great things he’s done musically, I think that speaks so highly of him,” Ritsema said.

Ritsema also believes that Rietberg’s connection to the Reformed Church has been an asset to the college. “Here is a man who is totally committed to the mission of Hope College, and totally committed to his work in the church,” Ritsema said. “He’s always tied in that important area, which at a school like this I think is so necessary.”

Rietberg’s time with the college has, in a way, brought him full circle. He now teaches the children of former students. The fact does not amuse him.

“One of the students said to me one day, ‘My mother says she had you,’ ” Rietberg said. “And I said, ‘Well, that easily be,’ and ‘If you’re trying to make me feel old, you can’t, because you people come through here, you’re all between 18 and 22-33.’ ”

“And I said, ‘Consequently, students never get older, and consequently I don’t think I’m aging either,’ ” Rietberg said.

The Chapel Choir is comprised of students concentrating in all academic disciplines at the college. Music majors are in the minority.

“I guess it’s that mix that I enjoy,” Rietberg said. “We’re a liberal arts college, which says that music is for everyone.

And it doesn’t exclude those who participate in sports — there’s an opportunity to do both,” Rietberg said. “And the person who is going into medicine and spends long hours in the laboratory can also come over here an hour out of the day and sing.

And I think that enriches their lives — not only now, but they’re able to appreciate this in the years long after they’ve graduated from Hope College,” Rietberg said.

Rietberg has his own share of memories to appreciate after he “graduates” from Hope College. “Tours under his direction have included trips to Europe (in 1979 and 1987), a tour of the West Coast in 1985 that featured a performance in the Crystal Cathedral in Garden Grove, Calif., and a spectacular tour in the Soviet Union during May of 1989.

“That was just monumental when I think about it,” Rietberg said of the trip to the Soviet Union. “As I think about all the events that have happened since we were there, I think it was just a propitious time for us to have been there, before a lot of these things happened.”

And now what has happened is so much more meaningful, I think, too, to the choir members — and to me, I know,” he said.

The choir’s most recent spring tour was Rietberg’s last, but for him it offered two firsts. While in Washington, D.C., he saw his granddaughter Sarah for the first time (her parents, Robert Rietberg ’53 Hart and Bob Hart ’54, met in Chapel Choir). This was also the first choir tour for his daughter Amy, a sophomore.

“I had heard him talk at the dinner table when I was in school about all the relationship things that were built up within the choir — and the things he had learned from the students, too: different perspectives of life,” Amy said. “He was always eager to get to know the students, and to invite them home, especially if they were living far away.”

And I think the one thing that I was worried about was maybe not making Chapel Choir in time because he had talked about retiring for a couple years. I never knew when it was going to be,” she said.

“I was so anxious to get into the choir,” she said. “I knew this last year just means the world to him.

Amy said that one question she is commonly asked is whether it is difficult to sing in the choir directed by her father. “It’s never been hard because I’ve been used to that and I’ve always respected it,” she said.

Rietberg noted that his final year with the choir is passing quickly, and that he will finish his time at Hope with some goals unreached.

“There are going to be a lot of things I’m going to wish I could have fit in,” Rietberg said. “When you think you’d like to do this piece, or you’d like to do this work, or you’d like to have the choir sing here or there, you think ‘Well, if I don’t do it this year, we’ll do that next year.’ ”

“Now it’s a case of ‘This is the last time you get to do these things,’ and so there isn’t going to be a next year to do the piece that’s been in that stack you’d like to do,” Rietberg said. “But somebody else will do it and have the great satisfaction of hearing it.”

Who his replacement will be has yet to be determined. The music department has been busy interviewing candidates to fill the void Rietberg’s absence will create.

In the meantime, however, the choir has more performances — including a home concert on Sunday, April 22, and the Baccalaureate service on Sunday, May 6. And upon seeing the choir and its beloved director working together to fill the audience with music, one cannot help but think that Roger Rietberg will be a difficult act to follow.

news from Hope College associate editor Greg Oligers ’57 accompanied the Chapel Choir during part of their recent Eastern Spring concert tour.
Outstanding teams keep All-Sports race tight

Hope College teams continued to excel as they contended for Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association (MIAA) championships right up until the final week of the winter sports season.

The outstanding team performances leave Hope right in the thick of the MIAA All-Sports race heading into spring competition. Hope is seeking to wrestle back from Calvin College the All-Sports award, which up until last year had gone to the Flying Dutchmen and Flying Dutch nine consecutive years. Through the end of the winter sports season, Calvin holds a slim four point edge over Hope in the All-Sports standings.

Basketball captured the enthusiasm of the campus and community as the men's and women's teams combined to post an incredible cumulative 46-6 record. The Flying Dutch (24-2 overall) captured the college's first-ever MIAA women's basketball title and then went on to win Hope's first national team championship. (See pages nine to 12 for accounts of this accomplishment.)

The Flying Dutchmen, meanwhile, gained their milestone 1,000th alltime victory enroute to posting an outstanding 22-4 record with a starting lineup that included three sophomores, a junior and senior. Ranked 13th in the nation, the Flying Dutchmen earned their eighth trip in nine years to the NCAA Division III playoffs.

Hope's swimming teams each finished second in the MIAA. Both teams went undefeated in league dual meet season and finished second to Kalamazoo College at the championship meet.

**Junior Eric Elliott Earns All-American Honors As Dutchmen Contend To The End**

Winning seasons have become commonplace for Hope College men's basketball, but probably no campaign will be remembered more for its excitement than 1989-90.

As might be expected, the Hope-Calvin games were again "classics." Three of Hope's four losses were to rival Calvin and two of them came on the last play of the game. In the first game at the Holland Civic Center, the Flying Dutchmen rallied from a six-point deficit and almost caught the favored Knights when guard Justin George scored on a layup as time ran out. However, officials ruled that time had run out before George released the ball and Calvin was a 77-76 winner.

Both teams went unbeaten until they met again four weeks later in Grand Rapids. Again the Dutchmen needed to come from behind and with the score tied at 79-79, all the game was headed into overtime. Heartbreak city once again. This time a Calvin player switched an NBA-distance three point basket as the buzzer sounded for an 82-79 triumph.

Western Michigan was buzzing all of the next week as Hope and Calvin were paired to meet in the NCAA playoffs in Grand Rapids. Before a capacity crowd and regional television audience, the Flying Dutch defeated the favored Knights, ranked second in the nation, flexed their muscles and emerged with a 95-68 triumph. Calvin went on to advance to the Final Four.

**Eric Elliott (left), a junior from Hudsonville, Mich., received Division III All-America recognition. Senior Holly Vandenberg of Grand Rapids, Mich., received All-MIAA recognition—an honor she has earned in three sports.**

Hope's thrilling 98-85 victory over Albion College at the Civic Center was the college's milestone 1,000th. Since basketball was introduced in 1901, Hope teams have compiled a 1,004-562 record.

Junior guard Eric Elliott of Hudsonville, Mich., led the MIAA in scoring, averaging 21 points a game. He was voted the co-most valuable player in the MIAA and received Division III All-America recognition from the College Basketball Coaches Association and the publication Basketball Times.

Elliott, who was voted a third team All-American, is only the fourth Hope men's basketball player to achieve that distinction. The others were Paul Barnes (1958), Chip Henry (1984) and Dan Gustad (1985).

He was joined on the All-MIAA honor squad by sophomore teammate Wade Gugino of Midland, Mich. The youngest of three brothers to play basketball under coach Van Wieren, Gugino emerged as an outstanding Division III center as he averaged 16.5 points per game while shooting 60 percent from the field.

**National Championship Just One Chapter In Storybook Season For Flying Dutch**

It is a giant understatement to say that 1989-90 was the most successful season in the history of Hope College women's basketball.

The team's claim to their first-ever MIAA championship came during the final regular season game, an exciting 50-43 home floor victory over rival Calvin. It marked the third time that Hope had defeated Calvin during the season.

The Flying Dutch, under first-year coach Sue Wise, were the top-ranked team in the Great Lakes region the entire season and entered the NCAA playoffs ranked fourth in the nation.

Senior Diana Disney of Brandenburg, Ky., became the first Hope female basketball player to be voted the most valuable player in the MIAA. Her game-winning free throws in the national championship game came as no surprise. You couldn't have asked for a better player to be placed in that situation. She didn't miss a free throw in her last 17 games, making 37-in-a-row enroute to a 91 percent season average.

Disney was joined on the All-MIAA first team by teammate Holly Vanderberg of Grand Rapids, Mich. who set a new standard of athletic excellence herself. She has now been All-MIAA seven times during her career — four times in volleyball, twice in basketball and once in softball. No female athlete in the history of the MIAA has been honored more often.

The key to the success of the Flying Dutch rested with more than a couple of players. Vanderberg along with senior teammates Heidi Carigen of Zeeland, Mich., and Anna Marie Postmus of Grand Rapids, Mich., each lettered four straight years. Junior Lissa Nienhuis of Holland, Mich., led the nation most of the year in free throw shooting, making nearly 90 percent of her attempts.

Hope College women's basketball during 1989-90 captured the imagination of many people. A new tradition of athletic excellence has begun.

**Swimmers Earn Honors In League And At Nationals**

Upset dual meet victories by both Hope College swimming teams over pre-season favorite Kalamazoo College set the stage for an exciting MIAA championship meet.

In the end, Kalamazoo was the league champion in both the men's and women's competition, but not before the Flying Dutchmen and Flying Dutch had left their mark on another outstanding season.

Ten Hope athletes earned All-MIAA swimming/diving honors in a season marked by six school records. Hope led the MIAA in qualifiers for the NCAA Division III national championships.

Junior Lori Gano of Albion, Mich., was named the MIAA's most valuable swimmer. She won the league championship for the third year in-a-row in the 100-yard and 200-yard backstroke events. At nationals she earned honorable mention All-America honors by finishing 12th in the 100-yard backstroke.

Senior teammate Kirsten Van Overen of Kentwood, Mich., was voted All-MIAA honors for a third time. An older brother Kirt '88 was also an All-MIAA swimmer at Hope three times.


Mitchell achieved honorable mention NCAA Division III status in diving by finishing 15th at nationals on the one-meter board.

Sokot and Van Ins were voted the co-most valuable members on the men's team while Bannink and Gano shared the honor on the women's team.

**Junior Lori Gano of Albion, Mich., was named the MIAA's most valuable swimmer.
Flying Dutch Win NCAA Title

NATIONAL CHAMPIONS!

The first national team athletic championship in Hope College history was achieved without traveling more than a mile from campus. One-by-one, teams from Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Kentucky, and finally New York. ventured to the land of the Dutch where they succumbed to a spirited Hope women's basketball team.

After winning the school's first-ever MIAA conference championship, the Flying Dutch were invited to host the four-team NCAA Division III Great Lakes regional tournament. This represented a major challenge because the Dow Center on the Hope campus is not equipped as a spectator facility. "Imaginative" seating arrangements, including chairs on the upper-level running track, provided more than 800 fans an opportunity to watch the Flying Dutch defeat St. Benedict, Minn., 73-60, and the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, 68-67.

It was back to the Dow Center a week later for quarterfinal action against Buena Vista, Iowa. Seating was increased in order to serve the more than 1,100 fans who witnessed Hope's come-from-behind 85-79 overtime victory.

And then came the Final Four tournament. "We'd like Hope College to serve as host," advised the NCAA.

With only a week for planning, but with plenty of support from the community, the Division III championship tournament was held at the Holland Civic Center. Even though Hope students were on spring break, the legendary basketball palace was packed with fans. And coach Sue Wise's Flying Dutch did not disappoint anyone.

The stage was set for the national championship game with a semi-final victory over Centre, Ky., 75-62. Top-ranked St. John Fisher, N.Y. provided the opposition. Could this team of Flying Dutch miracle workers meet the challenge once again?

The teams were tied 32-32 early in the second half when the roof appeared to cave-in on the Flying Dutch. The New Yorkers scored 20 unanswered points over a seven minute period and were on their way to national glory.

But someone forgot to tell coach Sue Wise and her Flying Dutch that you don't rally from huge deficits in a national championship game. Point-by-point, Hope whittled away at the lead until Dina Disney's three-point basket tied the score with only 13 seconds remaining to play.

St. John Fisher worked the clock for a final shot, but the Lady Cardinals were called for an offensive foul. It was Hope's ball with five seconds left.

That's when the miracle-of-miracles occurred. Hope's inbound pass was intercepted by a St. John Fisher player, but just as quickly it was flicked loose by Hope junior Lissa Niemlus. In the mad scramble for the ball Disney was fouled, but there was no time left on the clock. After several arduous minutes, the referees ruled that Disney had been fouled before the buzzer sounded.

The senior guard with the Hollywood name, tears flowing from her eyes, sank both free throws and Hope had its first national team championship. 65-63.

Not bad for a quintet which never left that dear old town of Holland, Michigan.
Disney helps Hope realize dream season

by David Mayo

Dina Disney stood at the free throw line, tears welling in her eyes. Her tears were inevitable in the dramatic arena of a national championship game. Only minutes before, however, they appeared certain to manifest themselves in sorrow.

But after an athletic miracle that can only be properly appreciated in the highest levels of competition, and in the most trying times athletes face, the emotional source was transformed. A national championship belonged to the Hope College women's basketball team, a championship that only minutes earlier seemed certain to go to St. John Fisher College.

So Dina Disney wept tears of joy. Winners don't let dreams die. Hope College refused to relinquish its dream until each of its extremities had been severed and every drop of blood had drained from its national championship run.

For their efforts, their dream received a pulse.

History only remembers champions. This year, in NCAA Division III women's basketball, the champion was Hope College.

But sentimentalists, those wonderful people who understand that winning has nothing to do with final scores and scoring averages and NCAA records, will always remember how a championship was won.

Hope College's dream reached critical condition long before Saturday night. Its 65-63 victory had been clinched. They once allowed 20 straight points without scoring. With barely more than 11 minutes remaining, they trailed 52-32.

But the sentimentalists, the ones who love the Villanovas, Buster Douglas and '69 Meis of the world, added another darling to their list Saturday night.

They will remember that Hope won. But they also will remember the stunning comeback. They will remember Michele Sterk grabbing loose balls with the voracity of a starving woman fighting for crumbs to feed her family. They will remember Holly VandenBerg hitting virtually every key shot she attempted. They will remember the pressure defense that stifled St. John Fisher in the end. They will remember Robin Schout coming off the bench to seize a series of crucial rebounds.

Most of all, they will remember Disney, a 5-7 senior, a pony-tailed blonde artist in sneakers. They will remember her for being ready, willing and able to shoot 3-pointers until her arm muscles ached. They will remember her seemingly diving for every ball that rolled along the floor without commitment to either team. They will remember her guts, her self-confidence and her confidence in her teammates.

And if they remember nothing else, they will remember her heroes as time ticked away. Her 3-pointer with 15 seconds left that forged a 63-63 tie. The charging foul she drew with .05 glowing from the scoreboard clock. The inbound pass that rolled along the floor at midcourt, first through the hands of teammate Lissa Nienhuis, and eventually into Disney's control. They will remember the exposed ball, too tempting for St. John Fisher's Julie Cole to pass up. They will remember Cole's dive, the contact, the clock reading zero, the discussion at the scorer's table concerning when the foul occurred, and the referee turning away from the table, arms extended.

One-and-one.

Most of all, they will remember that first free throw dropping cleanly through, Disney's 36th consecutive made free throw over a 16-game span.

They will remember extending their hearts to a team unwilling to quit. They will remember the unique good feeling that only happens when one man unashamedly displays complete happiness for another.

They will remember the miracle and how a young lady from Brandenburg, Ky. — one of only two non-Michiganders on the team — willed it to happen at the end, then cried from a heart so big it must barely have room to fit in her body.

Only one person can know how it felt at that moment to step to the free throw line, one woman, one basketball, one hoop, and one championship to be won.

But everyone at Holland Civic Center last night knows what it was like to live through Hope's incredible rally.

Athletics can be grossly unfair. Hope was minutes away from becoming a forgotten runner-up in a national tournament. St. John Fisher the same amount of time from becoming a team for small-college history books. But when the winner was reversed, so too were their roles.

It is not equitable. But in a world where winners and losers are usually measured solely in point totals, only the quality of the tears and the reason they flow become pertinent.

And at the end of a championship season in this Wonderful World of Disney, smiles and tears coincided for all the right reasons.

Reprinted with the permission of The Grand Rapids Press, which published this story on Sunday, March 18.
Hometown crowd cheers Hope women to last-second victory

by Darin Estep

She wore an usher's badge and she dutifully checked tickets at her post on the balcony, but Liz Hain couldn't restrain herself from clapping with the crowd now and then.

A member of Hope's junior-varsity women's basketball team, the Hope College freshman knew all the Hope players on the floor. And this game was for the NCAA championship.

Of course, the rest of the crowd knew that, too.

From the moment the teams were introduced, the fans were in the game, and they were in to stay. A young man in the student section kept waving a large blue flag with a big orange "H" in the middle.

Little boys sat in the balcony with "Hope" painted on their faces. Gray-haired couples rose from their seats and threw their hands in the air as "the wave" made its way around the rectangular Holland Civic Center.

Two members of Hope's women soccer team led the cheers, wearing orange and blue tie-died T-shirts. Members of the Zeeland High School band contributed the music.

And the crowd screamed. They screamed even when things started to look very, very grim — almost impossible — for Hope in the second half. When the smaller group of St. John Fisher College fans started getting confidence, the Hope fans dwarfed their cheers by roaring: "LET'S GO HOPE! LET'S GO HOPE!"

One young man who made his way into the balcony on crutches commented that the scene reminded him of "Hoosiers," the movie about a Cinderella-type high school basketball team from a small Indiana town.

This was definitely a hometown crowd, with lots of handshakes and neighborly chatter in the hallways during halftime.

Sitting up in the rafters, Zeeland residents Paul and Joyce Jacobusse remembered watching some of the Hope women play back when their daughter played basketball for Zeeland High School four years ago.

Joyce Jacobusse used to work with sophomore center Melinda Maurits and still talks to her now and then.

Many of the young girls who sat in the stage area at one end of the court had practiced basketball with the Hope women all season as part of the "Little Dutch Clubs." And even with most Hope students away on spring break, the students made their presence known loud and clear.

Just like the team they cheered, the fans never gave up. They remained standing and cheering long after guard Dina Disney sealed Hope's victory with two free throws.

At that point, Hain was long gone from her post in the balcony. She was down on the floor doing her job, trying to keep jubilant fans from rushing onto the court.

But even as she herded them away from the floor, she wore a wide smile. And every now and then she would look around like she couldn't believe it happened.

Wise named Division III coach of the year

This was indeed a year of firsts for first-year women's basketball coach Sue Wise.

She guided the Flying Dutch to the college's first Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association (MIAA) women's basketball championship.

For the first time, Hope received an invitation to compete in the women's NCAA Division III basketball playoffs.

And the rest is history. Her never-say-quit Flying Dutch won the college's first-ever national team championship with an unforgettable final second victory over the nation's top-ranked team.

Quite appropriately, Wise was recognized by her peers as the Converse Division III National Coach of the Year.

"God has been good to me and our team," said Wise. "This has been a year of challenge for us, I have Him to thank for these accomplishments."

The college's student newspaper, the Anchor, praised Wise in an editorial: "The role model for (Hope's) winning attitude is coach Sue Wise, who throughout her first year of coaching has shown a positive attitude. Many coaches yell at the officials and team members and the fans think that they would never want to play for a coach like that, but coach Wise is always talking to her team to praise them and not cut them down."

Wise joined the Hope faculty at the beginning of the 1988-89 school year. She filled one of the vacancies created by the retirements of long-time physical educators Gordon Brewer '48 and Russell DeVette '47. Her addition was part of a plan to provide Hope student-athletes with head coaches that are fulltime members of the faculty. She served as assistant women's basketball coach during the '88-89 season and assumed the position as head coach this year.

Hope's personable coach carries her own string of impressive athletic credentials. She was the first female in Ohio high school athletics to have her basketball jersey retired. She was captain of her team at the College of William and Mary, where as a senior she received an award for devotion and service to others.

While in college she played on an Athletes in Action basketball team that was undefeated during a tour of China, Japan and Hong Kong.

As a graduate student at Purdue University, she had a major coaching responsibility with the Boilermakers' nationally ranked women's basketball team.

"The role of teacher-coach is personified in coach Wise," said President John H. Jacobson. "We are grateful for her service to our college and her team."
Confessions from a realistic, hopeful fan

by Eva Dean '83 Folkert

The man sitting next to me was surely anticipating a phenomenal moment. He turned to me with a sincere, have-hope smile and yelled above the fever-pitched din, "Do you believe in miracles?" For a minute there, I thought he looked a little like Al Michaels. I wanted to believe but a twinge of realism kept pulling me back. Seventeen ticks left on the clock. Hope's Flying Dutch still down by three, and St. John Fisher was relentlessly pressuring the ball on defense in this NCAA Division III women's basketball national championship game. Come on, any basketball realist would have concurred that Hope's chances of hoisting the golden trophy didn't look good. It wasn't impossible, but it wasn't probable either. My head agreed — brains are supposed to be rational; my heart didn't — hearts are supposed to hope.

Now I'm no pessimist, mind you. I was still screaming "come on!" and "let's go!" with the other 2,282 people in the Holland Civic Center. But you know how we fans can be. I'm sure you do it yourself.

When our team is fast-breaking circles around the opponent, we clap and high-five the guy next to us until our palms are red.

But when the proverbial ball goes tough and then tougher, we begin to secretly hope, fulfill, complain, and eventually blame it on the refs. We're fickle, let's face it. But fans never forgive. I truly wasn't giving up. I was just being realistic. "Okay," my hopeful heart said to my realistic head, "consider this. Not less than nine minutes ago, Hope was down by 20 points. Now they're outs behind by three. What you have just witnessed is only one angel wing six of a true miracle. Just four points, some more pressure defense, and 16 seconds, and this miracle is gonna fly."

"Be real," my head retorted. "Do you really think St. John Fisher is going to miss again? They're cold, right? End of story.

The law of averages says it's gonna fail."

"But Fisher has the last shot," head replied.

"I know," I thought. "It's not over yet."

11...10...9...8...7...6...5...Oh my. Dina Disney just caused an offensive charging foul. Hope's got the ball back. We're gonna win," heart rejoiced. "It's not over yet," head proclaimed.

4...3...2...1...1/2...Unbelievable. Dina Disney was fouled. She's going to the free throw line to shoot one and one.

"She has missed from the line in 16 games. She gonna make it," heart cheered.

"No, don't miss now," head pleaded.

Well, of course, you all know about the storybook happy ending by now. As Dina Disney walked away from the line after making her game-winning free throw, tears flooded her eyes with joy, teammates squeezing her with the same joy. I felt a lump in my throat. At that moment I knew I'd never see another game like that again in my lifetime.

So, do I believe in miracles? My heart answers an unequivocal yes.

My head is still having a hard time believing it. 

The game proved an emotional rollercoaster for a supportive audience.
The day the building died remains remembered

"I think we're much more conscious . . . of how devastating such a catastrophe can be."
— Jon Huisken

by Greg Olgers ’87

The glow from the blaze had been visible 12 miles away.
In the early morning hours of Monday, April 28, 1980, 78-year-old A.C. Van Raalte Memorial Hall was consumed in a rush of flame that left the five-story building a hollow shell. Hours later, even the shell had been knocked down.
Displaced by the fire were all of the college’s administrative offices except the Admissions Office. Many irreplaceable college records were lost.
The physical scars have disappeared in the 10 years since. Where Van Raalte once stood there is a carpet of grass, popular with students playing frisbee, or catch, or studying while enjoying warm fall and spring days.
The different offices have all found new — and improved — homes in DeWitt Center. Many records were recovered from the ruins, and others — such as the registrar’s student files — had been microfilmed before the fire, and were duplicated.
And while it might be overstating the case to say that there are unhealed emotional scars, the staff members who remember the disaster do have a great appreciation for the destructive power of fire. Of the 61 employees housed in the building, 23 remain at the college.
"I think we’re much more conscious of what catastrophe means and how devastating such a catastrophe can be," said Jon Huisken, dean for academic services and registrar. "We often don’t think in terms of losing practically everything in your office — which is what we did."
As a result of that understanding, precautions are now taken to minimize the impact of future disasters. "It certainly had an effect on our record-keeping," said Barry Werkman ’64, business manager and controller at Hope.
"Ten years ago we used to keep everything in paper form, and just out on shelves or in storage cabinets," Werkman said. "Today everything is on microfiche, safely locked away in fireproof vaults, cabinets and safes, with the duplicates at an off-site location." Werkman served as "cleanup coordinator" after the fire, sitting through the rubble in search of salvageable files and equipment.
The precautions extend beyond institutional policy as well. Phyllis Kleeer ’73 Hooymann, director of financial aid at Hope, has been known to carry her "office manual" out of DeWitt Center during fire alarms — just in case.
Miraculously, the manual, years in the making, was not destroyed in the 1980 fire — even though it had been lying out in the open, on a wooden shelf, in the hottest part of the conflagration. During the cleanup, with the entire area destroyed, the manual was found in the rubble, only slightly charred and completely readable.
Similar stories abound, and have become campus folklore. Werkman had taken the 1980-81 budget home the Friday before the fire; the college’s main ledger survived in asaile; the Nykerk Cup — normally stored in Van Raalte — had been in winning class chairperson Sally Berger ’80 Resch’s apartment.
Other anecdotes are almost eerie. A poster proclaiming ‘Some Things Ought to Stay the Same’ adorned the office of Dave Vanderwel ’67, dean of students. The wall and poster — were untouched by the fire.
Darr Topp, then director of placement, who lived a few blocks south of campus, found on her front lawn a signed and torn remnant of the fire: a page from a hymnal on which was readable the title and first line of ‘O Worship the King.’
Traumatic as it was, the fire did have positive effects, such as the spirit of cooperation that followed.

After the fire of Monday, April 28, 1980, all that remained of the building was a shell.
Hope students earn off-campus awards and recognition

Spring is the season that students find out about independent awards, such as graduate fellowships and other academic honors.

Several Hope College students have already been recognized outside of Hope for outstanding achievements during the past year. A few of them, and their accomplishments, appear here:

AIR FORCE SCHOLARSHIPS:
Michael Cheek of Midland, Mich., Deborah Quint of Kentwood, Mich., and Brian Vroon of Kalamazoo, Mich., are among 260 highly competitive medical school scholarships. These scholarships are awarded to students who have achieved academic excellence, leadership skills, and service commitments. Awardees are selected by the Air Force Reserve and the Armed Forces Health Professions Scholarship Program (AFHPS). Students receive a full-tuition scholarship for their medical school education and a $10,000 per year stipend. In return, awardees serve as U.S. Air Force reserve officers for at least three years.

BIOLOGY MAJOR: Byorni Elliott, a sophomore and biology major from Traverse City, Mich., has received a similar grant in 1988. Byorni's project, \"The Importance of Minerals in the Diet of the Patient with a Malignant Disease,\" was presented at the 37th American Society of Clinical Nutrition meeting in Atlantic City, N.J. Byorni was also elected Outstanding Student in the College of Arts and Sciences.

YOUNGER SCHOLAR: Kenmore, a sophomore and classics major from South Bend, Ind., has received a prestigious Younger Scholar Award from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). Byorni will conduct research for nine weeks during the summer of 1990.

The award will provide $2,000 in support for Byorni to conduct research for nine weeks during the summer of 1990.

Byorni will study the Roman philosopher Seneca, who was a tutor of the emperor Nero and a contemporary of the apostle Paul. His research will focus on Seneca's Stoic doctrine as it is presented in his essays and in his tragedies.

Byorni's project, under the direction of Dr. Albert A. Bell Jr., associate professor of classics and history, will involve examination and comparison of passages from Seneca's works and readings in modern secondary literature about Seneca. She will produce an essay presenting the results of her study. Byorni is the second Hope classicist in three years to win an NEH Younger Scholar Award. Craig Stapert '89 of Grand Rapids, Mich., received a similar grant in 1988. Byorni plans to go on to graduate school and pursue a teaching career.

MARINE ARTICLES: Brian Andrew, a senior from Shavertown, Pa., earning a major in history and a minor in political science, has had two articles published in Marine Corps Quarterly, the official magazine of the U.S. Marine Corps. Andrew's first article, \"The First Mission of WWI,\" published in the April, 1989 edition, describes the first overseas action by American troops during World War I. The Marines' duty was to defend the island of Iceland.

The articles were written while Pechta was interning for Congressional Quarterly's deputy managing editor, Mark Wilken. Congressional Quarterly takes about five years to intern, Pechta thus, was given substantive assignments throughout her six-year internship.

ANCHOR HONORS: The anchor earned a first class rating with two marks of distinction from the Associated Collegiate Press (ACP) for the fall semester, 1989.

The anchor was selected by Jim Mehl, a junior from Solon, Ohio, and Beth Pechta, a junior from Hillsdale, Mich.

GRADUATION:
Approximately 520 graduating seniors will be receiving their degrees at the 125th Hope College Commencement Ceremony on Sunday, May 6, beginning at 11 a.m. in Dimnent Memorial Chapel.

This year's Commencement speaker will be Dr. Boyd Wilson, associate professor of biology. The Rev. Robert Bedingfield '56 will give the Baccalaureate sermon.

Dr. Wilson, who has been a member of the Hope faculty since 1962, was elected the Hope Outstanding Professor Educator (H.O.P.E.) by the graduating seniors in 1987. Rev. Bedingfield has been pastor of Central Reformed Church in Grand Rapids, Mich., since 1988 and has previously served as pastor of The Reformed Church of Bronxville, N.Y.
News from Hope

Alumni help prospective students learn about Hope

by Susie Kenner '90

Several years ago the Admissions Office at Hope College discovered an effective method of giving prospective students an honest, knowledgeable view of the college. The Admissions Office utilizes alumni by asking them to call prospective students who have recently been admitted to Hope. The purpose of the Alumni Calling Program is for alumni to call students who have just been accepted for admission and congratulate them on being accepted, in addition to answering questions they might have about Hope.

Prospective students genuinely appreciate the personal contacts made by alumni. They appreciate the warmth and caring from an interested alumnus, and find it helpful to get to know someone who can answer their questions on a less formal basis.

"When I got a call, the alumnus made it clear to me that he was calling to make his knowledge about Hope available to me," said Sonya DeMerchant, a freshman from Ann Arbor, Mich. "The alumnus called me was very willing to talk to me, and I was able to learn about Hope that I needed. I found it very helpful to talk with an alumnus."

"I was glad that an alumnus called me because I got another opinion from someone who had graduated from Hope," DeMerchant said. "I was also glad that the alumnus encouraged me to call back if I had any questions."

The Alumni Calling Program is currently in its seventh year. Alumni are asked to contact two to five students, depending on the area in which they live, and are sent a card with the accepted student's name and an interest of the student.

"I decided to help recruit prospective Hope students because I initially thought it was a neat idea," said Judy Steegsma '64 Christiansen of Midland, Mich. "I have continued to be a part of this program because I've enjoyed calling students from my area."

"I really believe in Hope College and had a wonderful experience here myself — as did my children," said Ruth Aurema '61 Hofmeyer of Holland, Mich. (daughter, Mary, graduated in 1983; son Mark in 1984). "And I would like to encourage as many to come as I can."

Alums spend about 10-15 minutes talking with a student about their own experiences at Hope.

"Sometimes a phone conversation only lasts five minutes," stated Christiansen. "Some students don't have specific questions about Hope but feel good that I took the time to congratulate them." Peggy Hallacy '86, an admissions counselor at Hope, coordinates the calling program. She noted that the alumni callers provide an important means of learning about and discussing the college.

The program also helps convey a sense of the college's character, according to Dr. James R. Bekkering '65, vice president for admissions and student life. "For us at Hope, given the nature of the institution, what we want from the contact that alumni have with prospective students is a sharing of the quality of life; the quality of academics; a sharing of the experience on the part of alumni with students," Dr. Bekkering said.

Dr. Bekkering noted that involving alumni in the admissions process is a fairly common practice for colleges and universities. Most, however, use alumni to interview and screen prospective students, setting the post-acceptance program at Hope apart.

DeMerchant, for one, found the interaction helpful. "I felt that the perspective from the alumnus wasn't biased," she said. "The Admissions Office was very helpful in giving me an overall view of Hope."

"The information I received from the alumnus was more specific, personal view of Hope. I asked about the social life and was happy with what I heard," DeMerchant said.

Hallacy remarked, "Alumni don't realize how important they are to Hope when it comes to recruiting. An alumnus has a fun and exciting view of their personal experience at Hope."

"Alumni are very influential to the student when he or she is trying to make his or her final decision," Hallacy said. "The call from someone who has been at Hope reinforces the student that the decision is the right one."

That was the case with Vicki Andrews, a freshman from Midland, Mich. "Calling a alumnus reinforced the decision that I had already made about coming to Hope and I felt good about that decision," Andrews said.

DeMerchant also enjoyed the conversation she had with an alumnus. "By telling me more about his own experiences at Hope, and reassuring me that I had made a good decision, I knew that I would be happy at Hope," DeMerchant said.

Christiansen noted that all of the students she calls respond in a positive way. Prospective students are grateful that an alumnus would take the time to call them and congratulate them personally.

"I think it helps the students make their decision if they've talked to someone who has gone to Hope," said Christiansen.

DeMerchant also made her mind up to come to Hope before she received a call. "I had already decided to go to Hope and that's why I really appreciated the phone call. I had questions after my decision was made and I was glad that an alumnus could answer those questions."

"Alumni of all ages can be helpful to the program, with different generations of graduates providing different perspectives on the Hope College experience. "An alumnus who graduated 20 years ago can offer a student an objective and personal outlook about Hope," said Hallacy.

Christiansen, who has been with the Alumni Calling Program since its beginning, thinks that alumni who have their own children at Hope can give still another perspective.

"I feel that I know what's happening on campus and that's because my daughter is currently a student at Hope," Christiansen said. "I have an advantage right now because of this and want to help encourage students to consider Hope."

Since recent graduates have a more current view of campus life, Christiansen also encourages them to volunteer. "The most recent grads haven't been away from the college scene as long," she said.

Hofmeyer feels that she can offer "a helpful perspective as a Holland resident whose children attended Hope. "A lot of Holland kids hesitate to come here because it's not far away from home and our kids felt like they were away from home," she said. "They were very independent."

For the past four years, the number of alumnus volunteers has been decreasing and the number of accepted students has been increasing. The Admissions Office hopes to recruit more volunteers so that each alumnus will be asked to make fewer calls.

The office also hopes to contact more students. Last year, there were 1,049 students accepted, 707 of whom were actually contacted by Hope alumni.

With the number of high school seniors declining nationwide, competition among colleges for new students is becoming more intense. The Alumni Calling Program is one way the Admissions Office at Hope tries to reach prospective freshmen as effectively as possible (the college has also developed a program called HART — for "Hope Alumni Recruitment Team" — that has alumni contact good prospects prior to application).

"This is one important link in the total chain," Bekkering said. "As the numbers of high school seniors decline, we can look at getting a larger share of a declining market and keep the number of applications the same."

"Another way of looking at it, and the two are not mutually exclusive, is really capitalizing as much as we can through a focus on the kids who have been accepted and to get as high a percentage as we can of those kids who have been accepted to enroll," Bekkering said.

And, if success with prospective students is a valid indicator, participation in the program is a way for Hope graduates to make a positive difference.

"I think that the alumni are helping Hope and this program should continue," DeMerchant said. "As an incoming freshman, I know I appreciated the personal contact and I think it's a good thing for alumni to call us."

Alumni callers help provide prospective students with personal insights into the Hope College experience. Pictured from left to right are Peggy Hallacy '86, admissions counselor; and alumnus volunteer Ruth Aurema '61 Hofmeyer.

Fifteen

News from Hope College, April 1990
Three to receive DAA

Three Distinguished Alumni Award presentations will be made during Alumni Day on Saturday, May 5. Being honored with the award this year are "Waddy" Spelstra ‘32 and Lloyd J. Lemmen ‘44 of Grand Rapids. holographic Spelstra and Daryl Siedentop ‘60 of Muskegon.

The annual Distinguished Alumni awards are made by the Alumni Board of Directors in recognition of the award's contributions to the alma mater. Nominations will be accepted by the Alumni Board from any member of the Alumni Association.

The annual Alumni Association newsletter will be published in the Alumni Board's newsletter. An annual campus evaluation committee now holds meetings. The names of candidates are selected in the alumni extension for the future consideration.

Watson Spelstra, Class of 1932, was honored in his college years. Watson attended Grand Rapids College and was a co-founder of the Holland Evening Sentinel, where he wrote columns for the Sentinel and worked for the Grand Rapids Press for the Associated Press and the Detroit News.

Lloyd J. Lemmen, Class of 1944, was recognized for his work in the military, education, and the arts. Lloyd attended Hope College in 1957 and was a member of the 1959 Olympic Committee.

Daryl Siedentop, Class of 1960, was honored for his work in medicine and education. Daryl attended Hope College in 1957 and was a member of the 1959 Olympic Committee.

Watson Spelstra, Class of 1932, was honored in his college years. Watson attended Grand Rapids College and was a co-founder of the Holland Evening Sentinel, where he wrote columns for the Sentinel and worked for the Grand Rapids Press for the Associated Press and the Detroit News.

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Daryl Siedentop, Class of 1960, was honored for his work in medicine and education. Daryl attended Hope College in 1957 and was a member of the 1959 Olympic Committee.
Pauline Loe '42 Schouten lives in Baraboo, Wisconsin, and is a radiology consultant. She has lived in Latin America for over 20 years.

Timothy Harrison '49 of Columbus, Pa., has been appointed visiting professor at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks.

Paul Lukens '49 was chosen Clerkship of the Year by the Christian College of Physical Therapy. The award was given during the College of Physical Therapy's annual meeting.

Jack Mecklenburg '50 recently retired after 20 years with General Electric, where he designed electronic equipment for the military and electronic warfare systems.

Jackson '53 was awarded the Alumni Achievement Award by the Alumni Association for his contributions to education and the University.

Katherine Reamer '57 Finch is currently teaching at the Wesleyan Theological School in New York City.

Mary '50 and David Showalter '51 of Elkhart, Ind., have moved to Washington, D.C., where they will be traveling through Europe for the spring and summer.

Kathryn Stambaugh '51 has joined the faculty at the University of Arizona.

Barbara Kinnick '55 of Overland Park, Kan., has been appointed a professor in the School of Engineering at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

John Kinnick '55 of Overland Park, Kan., is currently completing a master's degree in criminal justice at the University of Kansas.

Richard Kalczak '55 of Omaha, Neb., is currently completing a master's degree in environmental science at the University of Nebraska.

Edgar Klegon '55 of Dallas, Tex., is currently completing a master's degree in business administration at the University of Texas at Austin.

Kathleen Kalzak '55 of Dallas, Tex., is currently completing a master's degree in public administration at the University of Texas at Austin.

Kathleen Kalzak '55 of Dallas, Tex., is currently completing a master's degree in public administration at the University of Texas at Austin.
Eugene Barnes '49 of West Palm Beach, Fla., died on Wednesday, Jan. 3, 1990. He was 80.

He played varsity tennis at Hope and visited the college during Homecoming, Oct. 27, 1989. A native of Holland, Mich., he retired as an officer of the American Continental Insurance Co., in Kansas City, Mo., in 1986. He was preceded in death by his wife Mary Van Loo '49 Barnes in 1983, his father Jacob Barendse, his mother Margaretha Barendse and brother Jack Barendse. He is survived by three sons, Randolph M. Barnes of West Palm Beach, Eric Barnes of Norfolk, Va., and Christopher Barnes of Syracuse, N.Y.; two grandsons, and nieces and nephews.

Howard Becksford '40 of Latymer, Wis., died on Monday, Feb. 5, 1990 following a two-year illness. He was 71.

Born Sept. 25, 1898, in Holland, Mich., he was the son of Henry and Johanna Becksford. In addition to his degree in mathematics from Hope, he earned a master's degree from Tulane University and a doctorate in mathematics from the University of Syracuse.

He was a member of the 1940 Hope College basketball team, which won the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association Championship. He had earned letters in baseball, football, basketball, golf and tennis at Hope.

He was the retired dean of academic affairs at Mount St. Joseph College.

He was a member of the Community Church, Kewanee and the American Legion, and was past president of the Flume Valley Arts. He belonged to Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church.

He came to Latvia in 1937 from Portland College in Iowa, where he had been dean of faculty. Prior to that he had many years of experience as a professor of mathematics at Carroll College, Western Michigan University, Albion College, Ohio University and the University of Syracuse.

Surviving are his wife, Lois; a son, Brad Becksford, of Montana; two daughters, Jane Burnikel of Waite, Iowa and Paula Becksford of Racine, Wis.; five granddaughters; a brother, Robert Henry Becksford of Niles, Mich.; and a sister, Norma Lemm of Lansing, Mich.

He was preceded in death by a son, David.

Yvonne Cook '27 of Holland, Mich., died on Thursday, Jan. 18, 1990 at her home following a lengthy illness. She was 83.

Born in Holland to Herman and Nettie Cook, she had graduated from Holland High School. She was employed as a teacher in the Holland area for a number of years.

A member of Trinity Reformed Church since 1911, where she taught Sunday School, she was also a member of the Ottawa County Teachers' Association. Surviving are a sister, Donna Brink of Holland; two brothers, Vernon Cook of St. Petersburg, Fla.; and Earl Cook of East Ells, Fla.; a sister-in-law, Evelyn Cook of Holland; nieces, nephews and cousins.

She was preceded in death by her brother, Lester Cook, in 1984.

Gifts in memory of Roger F. Davis, professor of music, who died Jan. 25, 1990, may be sent to the Office for College Advancement, Hope College, Holland, Mich. 49423.

Richard A. Janama '61 of Grand Rapids, Mich., died on Dec. 11, 1989. He had taught at Central Michigan University and Michigan State University as a graduate student around 1970. He then began to suffer onslaughts of chronic disease - attacks that gradually worsened. He had been hospitalized for most of the four months prior to his death.

Vera Jane Kippel '21 Kennedy of River Forest, Ill., died on Thursday, Jan. 4, 1990, of heart failure. She was 86.

Born in Holland, Mich., on Feb. 13, 1903, she had earned a master's degree from Cornell University. She taught speech and drama at Pennsylvania State University and at Stephens College in Columbia, Mo. She is survived by one sister, Ruth Kippel of Holland, her husband, Thomas Lee Kennedy of River Forest; one daughter, Jane Johnson of Winnetka, Ill.; and two grandchildren.

John Robert Koch '66 of Vero Beach, Fla., died on Monday, Aug. 14, 1990. He was 44.

He had been fighting adrenal-cortical cancer for more than a one and one-half years, but his death was rather sudden. At the time of his death he was a member of the community church, Vero Beach, the ACUDA, the ACUDA and the Exchange Club. He had remained in active practice until his death.

At Hope, where he had been an economics major, he was business manager for the hockey team and involved in debate. Immediately after college, he was in the United States Air Force for four years, finally as a captain in 1972 to return to school, eventually earning a BBA from Florida Atlantic University and a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Michigan.

As a Hope student he had earned Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association records in the 100-yard Dash, the 220-yard Dash and the 120-yard High Hurdles.

He was then in the 200-meter relay running for the Olympic Track and Field Trials in the preliminary competition at Grand Rapids, Mich. The events were sanctioned by the American Olympic Committee to prepare a team to represent the United States at the games of the XI Olympic in Berlin, Germany, 1936.

He was a retired Navy commander, having served as a gunnery officer in World War II. In Tinley Park, he was a board member of the Tinley Park Library.

Survivors include his wife, Elita; a daughter, Barbara Russian, two brothers, J. Dean and Charles; a sister, Elizabeth Van Kaaale, and a grandson.
Catherine Nettinga '53 on Tuesday, Jan. 9, 1990 in Rock Rapids, Iowa. She was 88. She was the daughter of Kornelia Nettinga and Susan bynum Nettinga, and was raised in the Perkins-Hull, Iowa area.

She lived in various parts of the country until after World War II, when she settled in Dallas, Texas. In 1985, she returned to Hull, Iowa with her sister, Susan, and brother, Cathrinus.

She was a member of the American Reformed Church in Hull, Iowa.

Survivors include a brother and three sisters, Mrs. Peter (Agnes) De Groott, Gerrit and Susan, all of Hull; and Mrs. Edward (Alice) De Boer, of Orange City, Iowa; and nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by three sisters, Dona, Jennie Wamles and Julia Harmelink, and a brother, Cathrinus.

Lester Vander Werf '51 of Sheffield, Mass, died on Monday, Jan. 22, 1990. He was 79.

Born in Pella, Iowa on Feb. 1, 1910, he was the son of Seth and Jennie Moss Vander Werf.

He was a lifelong educator and had retired as dean of the Graduate School of Education, Long Island University in Brooklyn. Previously he was founding dean of the School of Education at Northeastern University in Boston, and was a member of the National Education Association.

He had earned a master's degree from Teachers College of Columbia University and a doctorate from Syracuse University.

Survivng are his wife, Mary Elizabeth Dodge; three daughters, Leslie Lee of West Palm Beach, Fla., Linda Baker of Newton, Mass. and Dixey Nunes of Sunrise, Fla.; a sister, Lucille Lemmen of Holland, Mich.; and five grandchildren.

Jennie Van Haren '35 died on Monday, Dec. 25, 1989 in Holland, Mich. She was 79.

She and her husband, John, served four RCA churches: Cooslin, Mich.; Hope, Grand Rapids, Mich.; Immanuel, Chicago, Ill.; and Bethel, Holland, Mich.

She is survived by her husband and four daughters — Janice Van Haren, Mary Nikesvoort, Lois Groten and Judy Robbins.

Harmon Vocksul '29 died on Thursday, Feb. 8, 1990, according to his niece.

Garret Willetink '52 of Holland, Mich. died on Monday, Feb. 12, 1990, at his home. He was 62.

Born in Holland in 1927 to William and Hennieta Willetink, he graduated from Wyoming Park High School, and served during and following World War II as a first lieutenant in the U.S. Army Air Force from 1944-49.

He graduated from Western Theological Seminary in 1955. Here he received his master's degree in 1965 from the University of Chicago Divinity School and later his Ph.D. He served the Ivanhoe Reformed Church in Riverdale from 1955-60, and from 1960-88 he served the Midland Reformed Church.

In 1953, he joined the faculty of Western Theological Seminary, where he served as director of field education, secretary of faculty and president of the particular synod of Michigan from 1970-71.

He was moderator of the Board of North American Missions, and moderator of the Theological Commission. Upon his retirement in 1986, he was Western Theological Seminary's professor of preaching. He was a member of Calvary Reformed Church and Adult Bible School.

Surviving are his wife, Florence; his children, Richard and Carol Dickey of Holland; Randall and Sylvia Willetink of Hamble, Mr., Kathy Sparks of Grand Rapids, Mich.; and E.Jean and Marc Roy of Beloit, Wis.; and E. Jane and Mark Mass of Holland; two sisters, Jean Volland of Grand Rapids and Doris Duke of Florida; two brothers, Robert Willetink of Grand Rapids and Mark Willetink of Grand Haven; a sister-in-law, Betsy Willetink of New Hammond; 11 grandchildren, nieces, nephews and cousins.

He was preceded in death by a brother, Bernard Willetink, in 1985.

sympathy to

The family and friends of Laura Wolters of Allegan, Mich., widow of the late Edward Wolters, professor of Latin and Chairman of Classical languages (at Hope from 1926-26). She died on Saturday, Dec. 23, 1989, at age 89.

She was a member of the Holland Christian College Faculty, Dames Maple Avenue Christian Reformed Church and the Ladies Aid, and was a former member of the Women's Literary Club. Her husband preceded her in death in 1960.

Surviving are her children, Dale and Mary Wolters of Grandville, Mich., the Rev. Lloyd and Catherine Wolters of Saginaw, Mich., and Philip and Phillips Frederick of Holland, June and Alain Van Hoef of Ridgington Beach, Fla., and Mary Wolters of Phoenix, Ariz.; 17 grandchildren; a number of great-grandchildren; two sisters, Mrs. Gury (Julia) Janes of Holland and Marie Lemmen of Carson City, Calif.; a brother, Henry Lemmen of Caledonia, Mich.; nieces and nephews.

RICH HERITAGE... BRIGHT FUTURE

Alumni Weekend '89.

REUNIONS ... Looking back and remembering as well as looking forward and sharing in the responsibility for the future of Hope College.

Reunion giving is a very important part of the Alumni Fund. One-third of the alumni goal will be given by the eight reunion classes. Please consider a special gift to celebrate your reunion.

Help celebrate the rich heritage and bright future of Hope. Mail your reunion gift today and make plans to attend your reunion celebration May 4-6.


Please mail your alumni fund gift today!
Is there life after Hope?
Reflections after graduation on the real world

by Mary Taylor '89

In that dear old town of Holland, Michigan
By the inland sea,
(boom, boom, boom)
Stands Hope College

O how I wish again
ever there to be.
Alma Mater loyal true
we will ever be to you;
When we're old our song
will still be
H-O-P-E.

Homecoming at Hope this past fall was an old experience.

Having been an alumna of that dear old college in Holland, Michigan for just five months at that time. I gained new meaning from the occasion. Since last May, I have been reminded several times in fleeting moments that a certain era of my life has passed - that college really is over.

But on Homecoming night, 800 miles away in Newark, Delaware, implications of what it all meant came to my mind like unwelcome guests, and this time those guests would not leave.

I knew all along that I would have a difficult time moving on. I loved Hope College dearly. My friends were undoubtedly the greatest people alive. I enjoyed classes almost as much as I liked those who taught them. Life was very, very good.

It's too bad we have to grow up.
Not that I would want to remain 22. Another year on campus would drive the nuts in certain respects. It's the growing up and moving out that is so difficult.

People have always said that Hope is not the real world, that somehow the area between Ninth and 13th Streets, Columbia and College Avenues, is an entity in itself, existing according to its own code of rules, a microcosmic fantasyland.

Things at Hope College, it has been said, are not like they are in the outside world. People at Hope College, many have claimed, lead innocent, secure lives, cloistered away and oblivious to the dangerous threats of the outside. This belief was ardently attacked by one columnist for the school paper, "Hope is the real world," he said.

I didn't believe him then either.
Hope certainly isn't like the University of Delaware. At Hope, Greeks are by far in the minority. Professors know a student's name by the second day of class -- and remember it for 10 years. Students choose to attend church on Sunday.

The field hockey team prays together after every practice and before each game.

A person can walk from one end of the campus to the other in 10 minutes and is greeted in passing.

Students house sit for professors on sabbatical and are frequently invited to faculty homes for dinner. The campus is dry, and male visiting hours are enforced.

And Holland isn't all like Newark. At Hope I lived in a college-owned house nicer than anything I'll ever be able to afford. The Grand Rapids-Holland area has a larger number of churches per capita than any other American metropolitan area.

Holland is the location of the Tulip Festival. Streets, buildings and parks are named DeVries, DeWitt, Maas, Van Raalte, Van Vleck, VanderWerf, Voorhies. Only five restaurants within city limits are allowed to hold liquor licenses, and everything downtown closes at five o'clock.

And the one Jew I met in the four years I lived there decided to convert to Christianity during his bar mitzvah.

Here in Newark (New Ark - Newark is in New Jersey) I live in an apartment building with three families of children who play kickball in the parking lot, four rugby players on the five- or six-year college plan, and two university sophomores who play their stereo at high decible levels at all hours of the day, all days of the week.

To some of these neighbors, Sunday is the day Dad does his two hours a week of visiting; to others, it's a day to recuperate from the drinking that has been going on all week.

On Main Street alone there are more than five establishments with liquor licenses. And I haven't seen a single tulp.

While teaching my freshman composition class I can't help but compare it with English 113, its Hope College equivalent, and again am struck by the differences. Of my 22 students here, four are black, one is Hispanic, three are Jewish, only two are blond, one guy was kicked out of school the first weekend for marijuana possession and the last person on the alphabetical roster is Lisa Ternov - not Van Ternov.

To move one step further, the Midwest and the East have their differences; too. Eastern U.S. tends to be congested; its residents are more short-tempered and lead fast-paced lives. The Midwest is spread out, people are more relaxed and noticeably friendly.

Out East a person orders stromboli and soda. In the Midwest she asks for pizza and pop.

Hope isn't like graduate school either. In college I had a social life. I spent time in the library, but that wasn't all I did. I told myself that some things are more important than classes.

Now I'm not so sure. Each issue arising in a graduate class has a crisis, theory or intellectual current behind it, and every third word in any conversation ends with "ism.

It could just be Newark or the East that makes Hope College seem like such an unreal haven. It could be because I'm in graduate school. Maybe it's being at a university. Maybe it's this university.

But since fellow Hope graduates working in cities and towns all over the country are making similar discoveries, and other friends doing graduate work at Midwestern schools are experiencing many of the same feelings, I have become convinced that it simply isn't Newark, the East, graduate school or a university setting that causes Hope College to appear to be an ideal never-never land.

Apparently, then, Hope College is not part of the real world. And for this reason, my beloved alma mater seems to a certain extent accountable for the present difficulty. I'm having getting on with life.

If much of what I am is a product of my environment, Hope seems particularly responsible for my comparatively naive outlook on life.

I am a trusting soul; I'm sure several times my freshman students have given me false excuses for missing class, but I've swallowed these alibis and probably will again. Believing that people would intentionally lie is hard for me, as is accepting the fact that some individuals don't care.

Perhaps Hope is also to blame for my present vulnerability. I am used to a small, friendly world and find myself rather uncomfortable in this university setting.

Nearly every time I say hello to a passing stranger, I am shocked and hurt at the reaction to my attempt to be the person I was in Holland. The person either assumes something is wrong with me and flashes a suspicious look, or he ignores me.

In other words, Hope College was too nice to me. It was and continues to be a retreat where people are too friendly and life is too easy and anything upsetting is too far away to worry about. It has made life after graduation very difficult.

Better to have chosen a different undergraduate school? Better to have gone to a large public university where I would immediately be educated in the ways of the world? Better to have never been naive or vulnerable?

I think not. Though it does make the present time a more difficult transition, I don't regret attending Hope.

In fact, through this whole experience of moving on I have become increasingly grateful to have had those years in the happy, little, hopeful Holland haven. I am thankful to have developed an outlook distinctive enough to form a contrast. And there are much worse characteristics than naive and vulnerability.

There is life after Hope. A life in the real world, differing greatly from that of the secure, non-threatening Holland campus.

Moving into this world is difficult because for four years prior to the transition, life was incredibly rosy. But better to have experienced the happy haven of Hope for a little while than to never have known it at all.

Editor's note: Mary Taylor '89 is originally from Grand Rapids, Mich. While a student at Hope she worked for the Office of Public Relations, writing several articles for news from Hope College and all of the stories that appeared in the Hope College section published in the Aug. 27, 1988 issue of the Holland Sentinel.

She notes that despite the differences she is enjoying her graduate program.