**Racist flier ‘deported’**

Aleessa Ribbens  
Guest Writer

Jan. 26 started out as a typical Wednesday morning for sophomore Nick Rodriguez (’13), an RA in Kollen Hall. After waking up early to attend a lifting class required for the football team at 7 a.m., he walked through his dorm around 6:45 to make it to class on time.

On his way out he noticed a new flier posted among the Greek Life fliers advertising the spring semester rush events. After stopping to read it, Rodriguez ripped it down, along with the others that he saw on his way out the door.

The fliers were advertising the Kappa Kappa Kappa fraternity; according to Rodriguez it was bizarre because there is no Kappa Kappa on Hope’s campus. Both the fake fraternity’s acronym and the fictitious rush events referenced the Klu Klux Klan — an organization infamously known for its acts of discrimination and racist behavior.

Upon returning to Kollen after the conclusion of his class, Rodriguez noted that the fliers were hanging all over the dorm.

“I took about 15 minutes to go through every floor, basement and study room… I tried to take them all down before the residents could see them,” Rodriguez estimated that he removed between 75 and 100 fliers.

After removing as many fliers as he could find, Rodriguez sent out an email to the rest of the RAs in Kollen, notifying them of the events of his morning. From there, sophomore Fe-Fe Marshall (’13) took action and ensured that Hope’s administration was aware of the incident.

The flier reached the hands of President James Bultman around 3 p.m. that day. “My initial reaction when I first looked at it was, this is racist, this is intentional and this is deplorable,” Bultman said.

According to Bultman, the offices of Public Relations, the Provost, the Dean of the Chapel, The Dean for International and Multicultural Affairs and the Dean of Students all worked together to combat this issue.

Most importantly, Bultman said, they wanted to “emphasize that now is the time to stand up against racial discrimination and to say that this is not acceptable and we’re not going to stand for it.”

This desire led to the Students STAND UP: Students across campus have vowed to stand up to discrimination of all kinds as over 800 “Stand Up” shirts have been passed out over the past week.

‘What I did was asinine and stupid’

Editor’s Note:  
On Saturday, Jan. 29, I sat down with the student responsible for the posters that were displayed last week in Kollen. We spoke for nearly 90 minutes; the following is a partial transcription of our conversation. Due to space restrictions, portions have been removed. It is my firm belief that nothing removed alters the student’s intent to convey his feelings. For the safety of the individual and respect for the Hope College judicial process, the pseudonym ‘Student’ is used. It is my hope that you read with an open mind.

Karen Patterson (’11)  
Co-Editor in Chief

Student: Well, when I got the email it was 20 minutes before work—

Karen Patterson: The email from (President James) Bultman?

Student: Yes, about the dorm meetings and such. I know that people would say that it was negligent of me not to confess right then and there and to go to work instead. As soon as I got that email, my initial reaction was, “Why don’t they understand that this wasn’t my intent?” and thirty seconds later, Christ was like “Those are my sons and daughters, and I know you didn’t mean to hurt them, but you hurt them.” Bad. And it was the most humiliating thing. I’m not trying to hide it. The administration has told me they don’t want [me to put out an apology] because they’re afraid I’ll get hurt. I did give an apology to the vice-president of the Black Student Union. If it did come off as presumptive, that’s not what I meant for it to do. I hope that he sends me a message back because he knows my heart.

KP: So, take me through the timeline. When did you post the poster?

Student: It was like 3 o’clock in the morning. It was the product of me not wanting to study. It was tired of having to read about rush events. I was putting down the flier that I saw, at the time I was putting down the stuff I thought was deplorable, “Bultman said.”

KP: Do you have anything to add? I did.

KP: Do you have anything against Greek Life?

Student: It’s a love that conspires the best in the other to do them no harm,” Bultman said. “We are called to love one another—our neighbors and our friends. It’s a love that conspires the best in the other to do them no harm.”

Boersma challenged students in chapel Friday to have an “active posture” in supporting our neighbors and in showing student solidarity in standing up against ignorance, hate speech, and acts of discrimination.

“Stand Up” posters, which include “Those are my sons and daughters,” and “We are called to love one another” are hanging throughout campus.

“With all our actions, we show thoughts and feelings that we are called to love one another,” Boersma said. “This is an important piece of our day.”

For sophomore Nick Rodriguez, this week’s events have been presented with the opportunity to join in the campus wide initiative “Stand Up.”

According to pamphlets circulating around campus, “The purpose of Stand Up is to visibly show student solidarity in supporting our neighbors and to not tolerate ignorant, racist, hateful and discriminatory actions and attitudes on our campus.”

Student Congress President Katie Sawyer started Stand Up in October of 2010. According to Sawyer, “The flier hasn’t been the first incident of some type of discrimination on campus, whether racial or for faith or for sexual orientation.”

She created Stand Up as a response from both students and the administration to say that discrimination of any kind is not acceptable and will not stand.

While the flier incident and the launch of Stand Up had no intended correlation, now is a time when it can be said that...
**Stand Up, from page 1**

Stand Up is needed the most. On Monday and Tuesday, student volunteers distributed posters, window clings and buttons around campus prompting the Stand Up. Today students, staff and faculty can be seen all over campus wearing Stand Up T-shirts promoting the initiative.

Throughout the afternoon, there will be conversations held in Cook Hall (11:30-12:30), the Multicultural Lounge located in Phelps Hall (11:30-12:30) and in the Cup and Chaucer (4-5).

**Racism, from page 1**

distribution of a campus-wide email, notifying the student body of what happened and asking them to join together to stand up against racism.

While the student who posted the fliers said he intended them as a parody of Greek Life rush posters, not as a racist attack, Bultman says it was taken too far. "Whenever you do satire you run the risk of whether people catch the satire or not. If it was intended that way... it was far too risky to think that people wouldn't be hurt by it."

Not only did it hurt and offend people of color, according to Dean of Students Richard Frost, it hurt the students who participate in Greek Life. "The Greek system is very upset and very determined not to let this define who we are," Frost said in an interview Friday.

Due to student rights and protection, Frost could not discuss who created and distributed the email.

However, in a follow-up campus-wide email sent last Thursday morning, Trumpf sent a message to the student body that "steps have been taken to resolve this situation."

He wrote that, "the one shining moment through all of this is the manner in which the community have stood up, allowing us to make significant progress relative to this incident."

As the Greek community moves forward there is an amount of healing that will be necessary to make progress.

While the person to couple of students don't necessarily represent the student body as a whole, Bultman said, "We're a community, we're in this together, what happens in one place reflects on all of us... we can't think it's okay to think how we treat each other with dignity and respect, to think that people do feel have feelings, that they do have hurt feelings, that it's something that was intended in jest."

As a Greek community college let us join together to move forward and support one another by standing up against racism and by standing up for what is right.

**Greek councils:**

"Student body should stand up"  

Caitlin Klasik  

February 2, 2011

When tragedy or confusion hits a campus, students look to their leaders for direction and encouragement. Last Wednesday when a racist flier was posted, some students looked specifically towards the presidents and representatives of Greek Life's Panhellenic Council and Interfraternity Council.

Both presidents, Panh's Anne “H” and the IFC's Devon Berghorst, had similar initial reactions to the now notorious flier.

"More than anything I was ashamed that a student chose this outlet for their frustration or anger," Malone said. "There are multiple ways the student can have harshly criticized Greek Life without affecting another demographic on campus."

Berghorst said he feared that "Greek Life was going to be attacked and hurt. We were upset that someone would be that overtly racist, and the fact that they used Greek Life as a means to deliver an ugly message was even worse."

"People mock Greek Life all the time," he said, "but to create a poster like that and to put that negative image on Greek Life is very upsetting to me."

So when the school was parading an advertisement for a Greek Life Rush event, students questioned the taste of past rush posters. Were other organizations gone significantly out of line?

Both presidents put things in a different perspective. "If your organization does a very good job of making sure that the posters are done tastefully and in a way to portray Greek Life and each individual organization in a good light," Berghorst said.

Malone added, "I think there are some themes that are sometimes chosen in poor taste, but I haven't seen any sorority posters that have crossed a line into inappropriate."

In this context, the line was drawn between satire and poor taste. Appalled students looked to the administration for support, or at least a response. President James Bultman's campus-wide email was received with a range of emotions. "I would've liked to see the administration take a more proactive stance," one student said. "This is a serious issue that is not acceptable on any campus, but alone one that claims to be Christian, and I wish [Bultman's] email would have explained to the student body what steps were being taken."

Berghorst was consistent with Bultman's course of action. "I think the administration is doing some things that are some things that are coming from student leadership," he said. He stressed the importance of the students of Hope uniting and responding on their own.

"I would not recommend involvement in Stand Up. "Greek Life is strongly in support of Stand Up, and we want the student body to know that this sort of behavior is not tolerated here at Hope, or the History of the Hope community," said Malone.

"We need to let it be known that we support our supportive with our intolerance or racism on our campus, and that we will fight to make our campus a safe environment for anyone who is here," said Berghorst. "We need to make this a lasting battle against intolerance and racism until they are stamped out."

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**From the Editors**

Due to the immense amount of responses we have received regarding this issue we have no choice but to announce that to submit your response. If your response is not included in this issue you can expect to see it in the following issue. We appreciate your patience and understanding.
Letters to the Editors

‘We therefore commit ourselves’

Thank you for providing the Hope College community with a special issue discussing discrimination on campus. We also applaud Student Congress for the Stand Up shirts which make no exclusions in calling for an end to discrimination, ignoring, hatred, prejudice and harassment against all our neighbors. As long as you don’t speak up about it

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Julie Kipp
Lynn Japinga
Kathleen Verduin
Robert Hodson
Stuart Sharp
Murray Patik
Peter Schakel
Kathy Winnett-Kelly
Kim Douglas
Janet Pinkham
Kathy Winnett
R. Greg Murray
Sullivan
Julian Fox
David James
Stuart Sharp
Roger Nemeth
Lorna Jarvis
Kim Douglas
K. Greg Murray
Janet Pinkham
Kathy Winnett
Murray Patik
Peter Schakel
Multicultural Education

The Anchor strives to communicate campus events throughout the Hope College Board of Trustees, at its May 6-7, 2010 meeting. The Board of Trustees, at its May 6-7, 2010 meeting, adopted a Statement on Human Sexuality. This position statement replaces the 1995 Institutional Statement on Homosexuality. The 1995 Institutional Statement on Homosexuality was a product of student effort and is funded through the Hope College Student Activities Fund. The opinions expressed on the Anchor’s page are solely those of the author and do not represent the views of the Anchor. One-year subscriptions to The Anchor are available for $44. The Anchor reserves the right to accept or reject any advertising.

The Anchor

Joelle Mende
Diedre Johnstone
Evan McLaughlin
Morgan Peterson
Kara Palmer
Julia Randal
Tamara Fox
Brian Coyle
Julie Schor
Kara Palmer

As long as you don’t speak up about it

You may argue that the Bible states it should only be a man and a woman in a relationship, that it also says you shouldn’t wear tattoos, work on the Sabbath day, have a haircut that is round, play with pigkijn (football), use birth control, wear polyester or any other blended fabrics, get divorced, or wear gold items. So I’m very confused as to why it’s OK to discriminate against the gay community, but discrimination against race is completely unacceptable. I believe that this is hypocritical and should be brought to people’s attention. This is a college before it is a church. Yes, the community of this school is very religiously oriented, but it is a center for educational pursuits that we want as long as you don’t speak up about it on campus.

The new policy basically states that you can believe whatever you want about people of different races, but discrimination also involves how anyone feels that they are in a privileged position as the only people of their sexual orientation. This position statement replaces the 1995 Institutional Statement on Homosexuality. The 1995 Institutional Statement on Homosexuality was a product of student effort and is funded through the Hope College Student Activities Fund. The opinions expressed on the Anchor’s page are solely those of the author and do not represent the views of the Anchor. One-year subscriptions to The Anchor are available for $44. The Anchor reserves the right to accept or reject any advertising.

The Anchor

Joelle Mende
Diedre Johnstone
Evan McLaughlin
Kara Palmer

Sick and tired of being sick and tired

Racism has plagued this country since its inception and continues to be one of the greatest problems in our society today. While many people are up in arms about the recent racist flier that was posted in Kollen Hall last week, it is important to emphasize that this is not an isolated incident. Not is it a unique issue for the Hope College. So why is this incident such a big deal?

A quote from Fannie Lou Hamer, civil rights activist, summarizes it: “Sometimes we get sick and tired of being sick and tired.” As evidenced by the attention this incident has garnered, students, faculty and staff are expressing their personal, emotional and psychological toll of dealing with various forms of bigotry on a consistent basis. When such issues are addressed at an institutional level, due to the magnitude of the strong messages posed in the flier, individuals and groups are taking their own stand to voice the truth. This is not a popular position and there are still those who don’t understand why this is such a big deal. After all, “it’s just a matter of ignorance; it was just a joke and students didn’t mean it to be offensive.”

In my role as Director of Multicultural Education over the past seven years, I have supported the concerns and voices of the students and faculty who have experienced racist, sexist and religious discrimination. The psychological impact is damaging at multiple levels and impacts the sense of identity, purpose, and safety. People of color are constantly wrestling with these issues, often internalizing them with feelings like fear, helplessness and anger. “I go back home and get angry. If I remain silent; or if I conform” these incidents would not occur.

Yet they continue to occur, and people of color are often left confused and clueless as to what the Hope College community accepts, respected and valued.

So why is this incident such a big deal? This flier had a strong reference to the Klan (KKK), which represents hate, fear and intimidation. This is far greater than ignorance. It threatens the very mission of Hope College and deprives students, faculty and staff of the opportunity to live and work in an environment that honors God and Christian principles. Because of this, we should all speak Up and Stand Up for all of our brothers and sisters and continue to work together to make Hope College a welcoming and inclusive community for all.

Vanessa Greene, head of the Department of Religious Studies

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Vanessa Greene, head of the Department of Religious Studies
Letters to the Editors

To the Hope Community:

When I first found out about the poster, it was 7:30 that Wednesday night. I was at work, and two hours later I found myself on the most fearful walk home of my life. I did not know what to do or what to expect. I could only believe the emails that were being sent saying that something was going to be done.

An hour later, I saw the poster at my residential mandatory meeting, and that’s when I became furious. I found myself becoming even more upset when I heard students saying, “This is such a waste of time. I could be doing my homework.” And laughing at different comments my Resident Director stated.

I felt the adrenaline rush through my body to the max. I knew I couldn’t get angry because that’s the last stereotype I wanted to prove to anyone, and I knew another option that was out of the question was leaving. I knew that I couldn’t call home because all they would say was how it’s my fault that I decided to come to a school like this.

I also knew that many of my friends and other students felt the same exact way or worse and that I wasn’t exaggerating. I was blessed to come here with one of the greatest friends in the world, who is also my roommate. I knew that we had each other. As for my other friends, I just wanted to do all that I could.

I really feel like this is a big wake up call for Hope College to realize that life has many flaws and obstacles, and that it’s nowhere near perfect. As college students, this is part of our learning process. If we are shielded from that, and not told exactly what is going on, then how are we able to grow in not only our education, but our daily experiences as a means to polarize; we don’t wish to be separated.

Sincerely,
Michael Parmelee ('12)

To the Hope Community:

Hope United for Justice, like many students and student groups, is saddened and frustrated by last week’s event. Our organization’s purpose is to unite students together to engage with social justice issues on Hope’s campus, in the community of Holland and in the global community. Our passion is to address issues of injustice wherever they arise and in whatever form. The offensive and discriminatory acts of last week took a particularly scathing form as it involved those folks in the电阻 community. We believe that while this event is shocking and abhorrent, similar events occur daily: instances of both active and passive discrimination that often go unnoticed by the broader campus community and administration. These acts are motivated by various prejudices and victimizers—racial, cultural, sexual, political, religious, and economic—often obscured by the surface image of respectability. We believe that it is our responsibility, not only as students, but also as members of the Hope community, to address these injustices.

These issues of injustice cannot be adequately addressed in a day-long Stand Up campaign; it will take a serious commitment from everyone to counteract the implicit prejudiced attitudes that have characterized our community for too long. Please stand up not only today, but every day. Our community needs you.

Sincerely,
Hope United for Justice

President Bultman:

First, I would like to thank you for your time and consideration. It is deeply appreciated and it is great to have a president who is so concerned with and willing to listen to at least one of his students.

Certainly you are not unaware of the various student organizations that have arisen from your disapproving statements on KnowHope. Perhaps, however, you are unaware as to why some students feel altogether offended by them. Ignorance isn’t a matter of choice, but rather a matter that lacks proper enlightenment. This is my attempt to explain to you why what you said showed a complete lack of understanding and sensitivity and also showed ignorance that must be abated. For if you, one of the most prominent representatives of Hope College, lack awareness and possess naïveté, how can Hope students ever be expected to exhibit competency and knowledge?

No student comes to Hope College to enrich someone else’s life. Yes, this may be a by-product of one’s occupancy here but certainly not the sole purpose of it. It isn’t right to cherish black students simply because they might possess some culture and experience that white students don’t. We must instead value them as bona fide members of the Hope community, equal to and just as important as any white student here. We all come here to pay for and receive an education in an appropriately fostering community and do not wish to be diminished and tokenized.

Black students do not grace our campus with their presence any more than the rest of you. You, as a member of the Hope community and your place here is not just “they” and “us.” President Bultman, we all have a color. There isn’t just black and white; there is also pale, golden, olive, black, really brown, tan, not-so-sane, super black, sun-kissed, and the occasional green. What is your color? It doesn’t matter because we are all brothers and sisters.

I understand that being politically correct and using the correct language and terminology can be incredibly difficult, but it is necessary to at least attempt to do so. The students here make up one student body with many different voices and experiences. Please do not use our differences as a means to polarize; we don’t wish to be separated.

Sincerely,
Michael Parmelee ('12)