Greek life: What a rush

More than 180 women rush Hope’s eight sororities

Claire Call

Campus Co-Editor

It is that time of year again, when the sight of a sea of red Sigma hoodies or the sound of a Centurian chant within earshot is not surprising in the least to a Hope College student. Rush has begun; in fact, most bids have been delivered by now which means pledge will be soon to follow.

“Rush serves the purpose of giving time to interested men and women to learn about Greek organizations on campus. From an active’s point of view, it gives active time to meet with potential new members that will carry on their organization,” said Anna Leach (’12), Panhellenic Council president.

At Hope there are seven fraternities and eight sororities for the choosing, each with their own distinct personality. Hope women who are rushing have the choice of Sorosis (ΣΩ), Delta Phi (ΔΦ), Dorian (ΚΦΘ), Sibylline (ΣΙΒ), Alpha Gamma Phi (ΑΓΦ), Emersonian (θΓΠ), Centurian (ΑθΧ), and development as both an individual and relationships have encouraged my growth in Greek Life,” said Caitlin Klask (‘12), member of the Alpha Gamma Phi sorority.

“I know for many people within Greek Life, our ‘sisters’ and ‘brothers’ have become our family at Hope College. I’m incredibly grateful for the relationships that I have formed through Greek Life as these relationships have encouraged my growth and development as both an individual and a leader,” Leach said.

This is not an uncommon sentiment among members of Greek Life. The emphasis on family is present in all of the Greek institutions on campus.

Eva Sagastume

Guest Writer

As the academic year goes on, the workload of many Hope College students begins to accumulate and overwhelm. Balancing assignments for all of your courses, however many they may be, does not have to be a burden you endure alone.

The Center for Writing and Research has provided students with step-by-step assistance that helps them become better writers. A semester report by Center Director David S. Cunningham showed that over 500 College students have visited the Center for Writing and Research during the fall 2010 semester, yet there had been over 1,000 visits. Out of the total number of visits, 224 of these students have clearly seen results in the quality of their research or writing and they become frequent visitors.

Prior to these results the Center for Writing and Research had witnessed a doubling in student attendance and re-visiting through the results of the fall 2009 and fall 2010 reports. However, this academic year the Center for Writing and Research has improved its service methods by doubling staff, adding professor-nominated student tutors in a variety of majors, doubling hours of availability, adding a website for the center (through which appointments can be made), and adding an opt-out system for faculty reports.

Cunningham reported that the previous opt-in policy made students feel unsure about receiving help, though a session report to faculty is beneficial to both sides. Students receive the help they need, and professors are informed of their effort to improve their writing.

Cunningham also mentioned other difficulties visitors have in common. They struggle with organization, page length, finding the right sources and even having so many resources they do not know where to begin. The problem the Center for Writing and Research has with helping out these students is that there are many writing styles. Also, many students come in at the last minute for help. However, often all they really want is some reassurance, so student writing assistants are able to simply proofread their papers.

Fortunately for students who feel stressed out, the Center for Writing and Research is located on the first floor of Van Wylen Library directly across from the Cup and Chaucer. It is available to every student in need of assistance, at no cost to them.

It is open to walk-ins or appointments between the times of 10 a.m. and 10 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 1 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Fridays, or appointment visits made for Saturdays. So you can spend three hours stressing over a paper due the next day, constantly opening and closing that Facebook tab, or you can walk in any time during the Center for Writing and Research’s open hours for 30 minutes or less, spare the stress lines and make more efficient use of your time.
New intergroup dialogue course teaches students to change culture

Johnston registered for the University of Michigan summer Institute on Intergroup Dialogue and began writing a proposal for a pilot course to begin teaching the process this past fall.

The course Johnston created involves three parts: first is an introduction to dialogue, second is facilitation training (both of which occur during the fall semester), and third is an intergroup dialogue practicum during the spring semester.

The overall goal of the course is “increased mutual understanding; the outcomes are increased empathy, knowledge, and motivations to work for social justice,” Johnston said.

The means to this goal “involves learning a process of group communication that focuses on understanding identity differences and the lived experience of people who have different identities than your own,” Johnston said.

“It is a process that can be used to explore race/ethnicity, religiosity, class, denomination, religion, sexuality, gender and sexual orientation. It is not about persuasion, discussion or debate. It is about learning communication processes to go deep into the issues and misconceptions about dominant and non-dominant cultural identities,” Johnston said.

The first students to take this course last fall are currently acting as peer facilitators during a six-week intergroup dialogue discussion in two encounter with cultures classes.

The course has already impacted students and I have concerns about the process this past fall. We all learned a great deal about identities, oppression and social justice. In addition, we learned communication skills that have changed the way we interact with friends and family,” Johnston said.

“I think there is tremendous potential for intergroup dialogue to heal wounds that have divided our campus and provide us with a means for communicating about difficult issues that may well prevent potential divisiveness in the future,” Johnston said.

Reconciliation theology calls us as followers of Christ to heal our divisiveness with others through truth telling and reparation and to restore justice for all,” Johnston said.

It is Johnston’s hope that the new course will be a means to spread this theology throughout Hope.

Greek life: In or out?

“I’m getting close with the rest of my sorority and the girls rushing, and I’m starting to value being a part of a group,” said a student.

Another prominent aspect of Greek life is service to the surrounding community. “Greek Life benefits Hope’s campus and student life by providing an avenue for students to get more involved on campus,” Leach said. “Greeks are involved with service projects such as Dance Marathon, Relay for Life, CASA and many other community organizations.”

“Greek Life enriches the campus by providing a platform for many students to enter a community where they can achieve their full potential, an act that gives back to the whole campus community,” Leach said.

With this sort of close-knit community, it seems unlikely that anyone would choose the alternative and not go Greek. Why, then, are there many students who do just that?

“I decided not to rush because it was my freshman year and I wanted to first establish my group of friends before I became associated with a sorority. Also, it seemed like a lot of commitment during my first year when I am just trying to survive. I was afraid that the time commitment would take away from my studies; I am thinking of rushing next year, however,” said a student.

Besides the commitment involved with Greek Life, there can be a lot of negative sentiments associated with fraternities and sororities.

“Rush can also be like a competition for active sorority members trying to find what’s best for our organizations, though, so sometimes we confront a lot of negativity,” said a student. “At the same time, people on the outside looking in are giving Greek Life the same sort of negativity. It would be nice if Greek Life could get the same respect as other student organizations, but I know it’s going to take a lot of work to get there.”

“Some negativity is aimed at the process of pledging. Some students who choose not to go Greek do so because they don’t think pledging is worth it,” said a student.

“I didn’t want to join a sorority because I’ve been content in my own friend group and I’ve heard horror stories about pledging. It seems not worth going through, especially when it is so easy to make friends at Hope anyway,” said a student.

In the end, the varying opinions even out and each student must to decide on his or her own whether or not to go Greek. It may be right for some, but might not be such a good fit for everyone. To each his (or her) own.
Christopher Russ
Copy Editor

On Feb. 1, Facebook Inc. filed for an initial public offering. This offering will result in the company being valued at between $75 and $100 billion, with recent estimates narrowing the field to around $90 billion. If these numbers hold true, it will be one of the largest debuts in U.S. stock-market history. The high valuation is based largely off the company's ability to sell advertising space, and its earnings. Sanctions thereof, brings up questions on the world's future response to the Arab Spring and the international community's role going forward.

"I think in general it will be interesting to see if there is a backlash. Facebook can become all-encompassing in people's lives, and there is the real question of whether people look for alternative routes that are less invasive in their lives... I wonder what it might take before people start opting out of the public social visibility that Facebook has wrenched upon the face of its being," Peter Boumgarden Ph. D., a Hope economics professor, said.

For years Facebook stayed away from going public, focusing on its product rather than its financial status. However, due to the increasing size of the organization, the company would legally be forced to reveal its finances publicly whether or not they made an IPO. This regulation led to the decision to go public, Boumgarden said that even if it makes sense for the company to go public now, its valuation may still be overly high.

"In general, it seems smart for Facebook to go public at this time. At $90 billion, it's fairly exceptional and perhaps a bit higher than its true value," Boumgarden said. "Companies' value is derived through the work of its employees and how they engage a public that is willing to pay (with time, or money) for their services.

"That being said, the $90 billion price is clearly higher relative to their employees, and still high relative to the amount of value they have been able to extract from those customers," Boumgarden said it is important to remember just how many people visit the site, an attractive quality for potential advertisers.

Despite Facebook's membership growth (the company may reach 1 billion total users by the time its shares go on sale), there are some doubts about the company's profitability. "Certainly there is always a risk. By some estimates, Facebook is seeking a valuation of 27 times revenues and 100 times earnings. Whether this is historically out of line with comparable companies, such as Apple, Microsoft, or Google, is debatable," Porter said.

Overall, the financial world will be watching closely for the letters FB on their tickers as they try to assess the future of the social media company. "I think in general it will be interesting to see if there is a backlash. Facebook can become all-encompassing in people's lives, and there South of Portugal, when the fleet it was a part of was attacked by the British navy. The Mercedes hit and sunk in the ensuing Battle of Cape St. Mary. Spanish officials now expect the salvaged coins to arrive on their shores soon, or, in other words, approximately 208 years late.

"With the ruling by the appeals court, the process begins to recover all of the coins taken illegally," from the Mercedes, said Spain's Culture Ministry in a recent statement. Odyssey appears to be licking its wounds and preparing to go into the next stage of the battle; the company still has the opportunity to appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court for a more favorable ruling. In a statement, the company said that "Currently, no final order has been issued in the case and it would be premature to comment at this time."

With $500 million on the line, this will probably be the last word on the matter. However, the Supreme Court is very selective in the cases it hears each year, and there is no guarantee Odyssey will even get a hearing. If that's what happens, the Spanish will be assured victory and will move on to their next battle.

According to Jose Ignacio Wert, the Spanish Cultural Minister, Spain isn't in it for the money.

The violence has spread outside the capital. According to the New York Times, houses near the Lebanese border were burning due to government tank shelling. "They will pay a high price for this," said the rebel commander, Abu Khaled. Thus far, the government has not paid a price but instead exacted a higher price from its civilians as violence intensifies. President Bashar al-Assad of Syria has ruthlessly attempted to quell protests. Protests began on Jan. 26, 2011, and almost a year later; the deaths of children and innocents continue. At the brink of war, the international community has not taken any action.

This action, or lack thereof, brings up questions. Why was there intervention in Libya? Why is there no intervention in an increasingly bloody Syria? As stated in The Economist, "Left alone, the rival camps will fuel a worsening conflict that could destabilize the entire region."

"We are now in a time of conflict between two forces working to break apart the Syrian government," Boumgarden said.

The world is watching anxiously as Libyan rebels attempt to overthrow the regime of Moammar Gaddafi. That being said, the $90 billion price is clearly higher relative to their employees, and still high relative to the amount of value they have been able to extract from those customers," Boumgarden said it is important to remember just how many people visit the site, an attractive quality for potential advertisers.

The world's future response to the Arab Spring and the international community's role going forward.

200-year-old shipwreck’s treasure makes waves in Florida court

Cory Lakatos
Winston Co-Editor

Here’s an interesting conundrum: Are finders really keepers and losers really wealthy predators? The U.S. Supreme Court could be faced with that question (or something like it) not so long from now. CNN reports that last Tuesday, the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, based in Atlanta, rejected a motion made by Odyssey Marine Exploration, a Florida-based company in the business of deep sea salvage. The issue? In 2007 the company discovered a treasure in the ensuing Battle of Cape St. Mary.

The ship went down more than 200 years ago with nearly 600,000 gold and silver coins, including “pieces of eight” from the 34-gun navy warship Nuestra Senora de las Mercedes. The ship left Peru in 1804 and was only a day away from its destination, Spanish soil just
Iraq upset over U.S. drone presence

**Shubham Sapkota**

February 8, 2012

Drones perceived as insult to sovereignty

It has been almost a month since American troops left Iraq, but unmanned drones flying behind the State Department to help protect the U.S. embassy, Disregarding any threats the control of only four consulates in Iraq, Iraqi officials have expressed that the presence of aircraft in their skies are an offense to Iraqi sovereignty. American officials have said that these types of unmanned drones are being considered for surveillance in high-threat countries like Indonesia, Pakistan and Afghanistan.

These considerations are, however, being made only after the American troops leave in the next two years. Drones are the latest examples of the American invasion of the control of functions that the military used to perform in Iraq.

Even though the United States has insisted that their embassy personnel may need to use drones to ensure their security in case of an attack, Iraqi officials have stated that the U.S. has to obtain official approvals from the Iraqi government if they are to utilize them in their skies. The war may be over, but there are still tensions between the two countries.

After Iraq expressed its disapproval of U.S. drones in its skies, American officials stated that negotiations were under way to authorize the drones. However, Ali al-Mosawi, a top adviser to Prime Minister Nuri Kamal al-Maliki, said he was opposed to the drones flying over Iraqi skies. This is not the first time the United States’ drone operation has been criticized. They have repeatedly been objected to by Pakistan for almost launching covert war in Pakistani tribal areas to target and kill suspected militants. The U.S. has emphasized that these strikes were targeted at people who are on a list of active terrorists. Regardless of what American officials have said, Pakistani authorities have stated that drone raids violate their sovereignty. This tension began between Pakistan and the United States after the U.S. went on the mission to kill Osama Bin Laden on Pakistani soil without asking for permission from the Pakistani government or human rights groups such as Amnesty International have supported Pakistan and the United States on this issue and have questioned the legality of drone raids in the sovereignty of the two states.

**Spain, U.S. company claim treasure**

“‘We’re not going to use this money for purposes other than artistic exhibition, but this is something that enriches our material, artistic capital and it has to be appreciated as such,” he said in an interview. If claimed by the Spanish government, the treasure of the Mercedes will most likely find its way into Spanish museums. So, does it belong in a museum, as Indiana Jones famously proclaimed? Or should Odyssey Marine Exploration be allowed to keep the treasure it dredged up from the bottom of the ocean? It’s a tricky little puzzle. Odyssey did not claim the country’s treasure, but they did put in the money and work needed to remove the treasure from the wreck, which is no mean feat. The Spanish government didn’t find or salvage the treasure, but it was on its way to Spain when it was sunk in 1804, which gives them a pretty good argument. Then again, the current Spanish government is far removed from the Spanish government of 1804. I have a question: Why can’t Odyssey and Spain act like big boys and share the spoils? Perhaps it would have been best if the Spanish had found and salvaged the treasure themselves, but that didn’t happen and there’s no use wishing it had. They could even reimburse Odyssey for half of what the project cost them. It’s not as if Odyssey is made up of a bunch of mercenaries who will melt down the artifacts at their first opportunity. They’re a respectable company that hires competent archaeologists and displays their finds in travelling exhibitions. Even better, why don’t they split it three ways, throwing Peru into the mix as well? Though the Peruvian government has made no formal claims to the treasure, it has been following the legal case with interest. The coins were minted with gold and silver from Peru while it was still a colony of Spain. The least they could do is send a third of the loot back several hundred years later, perhaps with a polite note of apology attached.

In an admirable gesture, Wert has stated that the Spanish government of 1804 should consider the possibility of distributing some part of the treasure also among the Latin American museums.”

This whole debacle raises the issue of what to do about the various artifacts that Europeans stole from subject peoples and now want to hide behind glass in Paris, Berlin, or Madrid. When I was in London back in 2010, it became obvious that valuable 19th century Spanish artifacts were beginning to make their way into other nations and saying things like, “Oh, that statue is lovely, let’s sneak it out of the country by night and put it in our own museums!” I don’t intend to argue that all artifacts be returned to their countries of origin. The question is simply more complicated than that. However, it’s something to keep in mind the next time you visit a museum.

**Afghan-Canadian family convicted of honor killing**

Megan Stevens

Shari Weiman

First-degree murder—Mohammad Shafia, his wife Tooba Mohammad Yahya, and his son Hamed Mohammad Shafia are escorted to the courthouse by police on the first day of their trial.

The anchor had driven with her four female family members. Hammed Shafia, his wife Tooba Mohammad Yahya, and his son Hamed Mohammad Shafia are escorted to the courthouse by police on the first day of their trial. They said in court, adding that he believed they had betrayed him.

According to the two parents, Zainab, who was involved in a relationship with a Pakistani man against their wishes, Sahar had worn inappropriate clothing and was involved with marijuana users, and Geeti was failing her classes and had brought their family to the attention of social workers.

Rona Mohammed was revealed to be Shafia’s first wife, and still married to him. They were married in Afghanistan, where polygamy is legal. Apparently, Shafia and his second wife, Yahya, had tried and failed to convince Rona to return to Afghanistan. After the deaths came under suspicion, police tapped the Shafia family’s telephone lines. Hours of taped conversations were played during court proceedings. According to CNN, Shafia, in the Dari language, said of the girls, “May the devil debase him for killing his daughter! What a daughter should he be? Would a daughter be such a whore?”

The defense argued that Dari, the national language of Afghanistan, should not be taken at literal translation. The jury deliberated for two days on the Shafia case. Some family members in the court room answered the verdict by yelling that it was “lies,” while others cheered that justice had been served.
Robert Glasper experiments with the Knick

**Chris Russ**

Co-Editor in Chief

By the time they left the stage after their show Saturday night in the Knickerbocker Theatre, it was clear that The Robert Glasper Experiment had just put on easily the best musical performance that I’ve witnessed as a student at Hope College.

At 7 p.m., Glasper sat down for a question-and-answer session during which he discussed his thoughts on the modern state of music and also his work with a number of famous musicians.

His upcoming record with The Robert Glasper Experiment will be their first full-length as a group. It will be Glasper’s fourth record overall. The record, entitled “Black Radio,” is set to be released on Feb. 28 and features contributions from Erykah Badu, Bilal, Lupe Fiasco, Musiq Soulchild, and Yasiin Bey (who was formerly known as Mos Def) among others.

American Hybrid, a jazz trio, opened the concert. The group featured Nate Roberts, who graduated from Hope in 2011. The performance was highlighted by its concluding number, “Easier.” It was a drum solo.

Following a solid performance from American Hybrid, a somewhat lengthy wait for the headlining act, when the four members of the Experiment took the stage, Glasper jokingly claimed that it wasn’t their fault that the concert was delayed. Instead he suggested that it was our fault for putting a bar across the street from the theater.

The performance continued to be delayed as Glasper’s monitor failed to work initially. As repairs were made, Glasper entertained the crowd by rambling humorously about the group’s upcoming record. As soon as the technical delays were resolved the four members of the band immediately dissolved any agitation that remained after the wait with their opening song.

Glasper sat between a piano and a Fender Rhodes keyboard for most of the performance, at least when he wasn’t standing elsewhere on stage admiring the considerable musicianship of his compatriots, or at one point, sitting with the crowd observing a drum solo.

Despite any delays to the start of the show or eccentric behavior on the part of Glasper, this was one of the most professional and technically sound performances I’ve ever seen. Glasper’s mastery of his craft was beautifully clear, as was the virtuosity of his bandmates.

Casey Benjamin moved the crowd with his performance on the baritone saxophone, and Derrick Hodge drove every song forward with some of the smoothest bass lines I’ve heard.

Despite all of this competing talent, I spend most of the night transfixed by Chris Dave’s drumming process. Dave blessed the audience with two solos over the course of the evening. Both were remarkably musical and instead of simply showing off empty talent, Dave created music based on complex rhythmic themes.

While the performance was undoubtedly jazz based, the crowd seemed to be most drawn in when elements of hip-hop appeared. One of the highlights of the concert was a reinterpretation of a piece by legendary hip-hop producer J Dilla. In an interview, Glasper once said that he hoped to make jazz cool again, and on Saturday night, he succeeded.

**Books don’t stay together for the kids**

**Caitlin Klask**

Co-Editor in Chief

Something unpleasant happened last week. I shouldn’t call it tragic, but it really felt that way.

My favorite band (although it’s safe to say I have more than one favorite band) broke up. I would have thought my first really overwhelming break-up–experience— with a boy or with a band, it’s all the same to me—would have been different.

Somebody like Radiohead could have broken up; they’re getting mighty old and their last album was not their most impressive. Maybe a band like Brand New could have broken up since they’ve been under the radar and seemingly depressed since their last release in 2009. It could have even been a band like Sonic Youth; two of the founding members, albeit old and angry, were just divorced after 28 years of marriage. It wasn’t any of those bands. It was The Books.

**THE BOOKS—** The New York City folktronica duo split after 12 years together.

A two-person outfit of indieelectronica origins known for their ingenious sampling techniques, The Books got started in 2000 when both members lived in the same New York City apartment. Paul De Long plays the cello and Nick Zammuto sings and plays guitar.

Zammuto – songwriter, producer and leading contributor to the band – said, “It still feels strange to me that an odd little project moved forward like it did” in an interview with Pitchfork.

But to a thousand other fans and me, it was more than just an odd project; it was this whole avant-garde ambient pop experience. It was like a quirky Boards of Canada or an eccentric Aphex Twin.

I listen to a lot of old music, strange music, pointless music and unpopular music, and even with my widened scope, I knew that The Books were no big thing. But they were so much more than a small project to me, and hearing the brainchild and founder of the band degrade it to a sliver of his concerns was bufettting, embarrassing, disdoyal and provoking.

Zammuto said The Books’ fourth and final album, “The Way Out” (which was their first and only album released on Temporary Residence Ltd), was aptly titled even during its production three years ago. It felt to me like the band had at that point mastered an aesthetic nobody had ever considered before, like they were just getting started.

I won’t pretend to think I know why the band broke up. I can’t say Zammuto was selfish or anything, they’d dawdle and probably dishhearten their fans with some lackluster efforts before fighting – and probably breaking up in the long run anyway. Does anybody know what My Bloody Valentine is up to? Case in point.

And even though I’m mad, even though I’ll never see The Books live or find anything other than the usual four albums of theirs in my collection, I’m happy for them.
FebrurAry 8, 2012

Valentine’s Day; neither
Hallmark nor holy

In some traditions, a St. Valentine was put in jail because he defied a law that tried to prevent young men from getting married. The law supposedly was in place so that men would join the army instead. It allegedly has it that St. Valentine would conduct secret marriage ceremonies to combat the law. Also, when he was in jail before he was executed, he supposedly performed a miracle by healing the blind daughter of his jailer.

However obscure the origins of the holiday, its tradition grew throughout history. In 1531, Geoffrey Chaucer wrote (using modern spelling) “for this was Saint Valentine’s Day, when every bird cometh thereto to choose his mate.” Shakespeare wrote in Hamlet in 1603-1604 that, “To-morrow is Saint Valentine’s Day.” In the nursery rhymes and love songs of antiquity, St. Valentine is the name of the modern holiday.

While these two individuals are the namesakes of the modern holiday, neither of them had any involvement in any particularly amorous traditions during their lifetimes and in fact, the first time that romance was tied to a St. Valentine was in the 14th century (over 1,000 years later). By that time, the legends of the two saints had been merged into one.

Five things to accomplish this Valentine’s Day

1. Name a star after your significant other.
3. Take pictures in the park with your significant other or your friends.
4. Find as many copies of The Anchor as possible. Hallmark, or pass it out to everyone you know.
5. Men: Write a song and serenade a woman.

Mending paper hearts:

Melody Hughes

Who killed Valentine’s Day?

Reclaiming Feb. 14

Hallmark or holy

2012

February 8, 2012

Valentine’s Day or spend all kinds of money to impress someone else. Society demands that you romanticize transform into a full-fledged romance for a day, but that may not be personal. Society tells us to stare up at the star without looking for any meaning, just enjoy the moment.

Five things to accomplish this Valentine’s Day

Valentine’s Day is the day is simply an invention of corporate America that has its own messages. It turns out that truthfully, however obscure the origins of the holiday, its tradition grew throughout history. In 1531, Geoffrey Chaucer wrote (using modern spelling) “for this was Saint Valentine’s Day, when every bird cometh thereto to choose his mate.” Shakespeare wrote in Hamlet in 1603-1604 that, “To-morrow is Saint Valentine’s Day.” In the nursery rhymes and love songs of antiquity, St. Valentine is the name of the modern holiday.

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4. Find as many copies of The Anchor as possible. Hallmark, or pass it out to everyone you know.
5. Men: Write a song and serenade a woman.

Mending paper hearts:

Melody Hughes

Who killed Valentine’s Day?

Reclaiming Feb. 14

Hallmark or holy

2012

February 8, 2012

Valentine’s Day or spend all kinds of money to impress someone else. Society demands that you romanticize transform into a full-fledged romance for a day, but that may not be personal. Society tells us to stare up at the star without looking for any meaning, just enjoy the moment.
I have checked the 10-day forecast on every weather site I can find. I can't say I'm disappointed.

I don’t care what the groundhog saw because the Internet is telling me that Holland is going to be sunny and almost warm for the next week. If this turns out to be a fluke, every single snowflake that falls today is going to stab an icy little hole in my heart.

But if not, here’s some radical springtime fun for “winter” break and the days to follow!

• Go record store shopping! The Full Circle is a good start, but think of the possibilities. Vertigo in Grand Rapids is a wonderland of retail. Stock up before summer and buy things that your lame-o friends won’t be getting until Record Store Day (which is April 21 this year). Chapterhead’s “Whirlpool” and Swerdriver’s “Megal Head” are both dreamy springtime albums from the ’90s that you should probably hear as soon as possible. Kate Bush just released a new album, and The Cure recently made an impressively fresh live album for a band over 30 years old.

• Take a walk in the rain, but try not to get sick. Sometimes springtime looks dreary, but taking it slowly and noticing the nice parts is gratifying. And if it isn’t raining, bike rides and rollerblade outings in the sun can be the perfect way to wind down after class.

• Visit an art exhibit or museum. Something about the rebirth of spring after winter makes art very satisfying. It doesn’t matter if you don’t totally understand what you’re seeing; I couldn’t tell you the first thing about art. But I feel like I could paint all night after I see art in the spring!

• This one’s obvious: go to the movies. There’s nothing like the sound of raindrops on a big roof in a theater while you’re eating your weight in candy. Most theaters keep the Oscar nominees around for a while so that movie buffs can get their fill until March. The Knickerbocker is showing, as always, a couple of classy independent films through the end of February. And if you happen to find a theater that’s showing “Pina,” Wim Wenders’ documentary about a legendary dancer/choreographer named Pina Bausch, you’d better watch it.

• Cook—or even better, bake! Some cookies taste better in the spring. There are recipe websites that can get you your money’s worth (like budgetbytes.blogspot.com), and there are recipe websites for people (like me) who are vegetarian or vegan (like chocolatecoveredkatie.com). Also, Nature’s Market on Washington Avenue has a huge selection of really high quality vegan and gluten-free ingredients for selective eaters, plus if you show your Hope ID, you get a 10 percent discount!

Spring might be the most overlooked of all seasons. I’ll admit it isn’t my favorite. But there’s plenty to do around Holland besides the tulips start blooming and the tourists start pouring in, so make the most out of your spring!

This is how I praise

Sharon Hecker
Columnist

Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell of all his wonderful acts. Glory in his name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice. Psalm 105:2-3

I stand with the backs of my knees knocking against a pew, tilting my chin up to the suspended screen—even though my eyes are closed. Beautiful infinite God… And even though my eyes are closed, my breath as my lips let a song slip through them. It is a song of beauty infinite God… And pew, tilting my chin up to the suspended screen— even though my eyes are closed. Beautiful infinite God… And even though my eyes are closed.

I am swaying slowly, my body leaning into the music though my eyes are closed. Beautiful infinite God… And even though my eyes are closed. Beautiful infinite God… And even though my eyes are closed.

In today’s world, childhood parties have drastically changed. Although we all had a bowling alley most memorable parties, in my young life, was at a school, I went to two sleepover birthdays in a row in middle school, I was overjoyed to spend my day with a few friends at American Girl Place; but the Chicken Pox adventures and stuffing my face with cake will be a fluke, every single snowflake that falls today is going to stab an icy little hole in my heart.

Some of the birthday parties I remember most come out in perfect pitch, and in again with the trill of my breath whistling out behind me.

I am a runner, and this is my love song. This is the way I sing praise to my Lord.

In a book of devotions, Chris Tiegren says, “We may each worship God for eternity in a way in which no other one of His children can worship Him.” Hence, it follows that not all of us can sing the beautiful, terrifying high notes in Dimnent Chapel.

When we think of our lives—the years we have spent learning, making mistakes, growing, opening to new ideas and perhaps rejecting those inconsistent with the beliefs we have developed—we must consider the time it has taken us to get where we are standing now. Each of us has our own journey, each of us unique. And God is big enough to love every one of us, personally, individually. That’s the wonder of what Lewis says. That’s the reality of our God.

There is no book about how we worship, just that we must. Just that we do so with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength (Deuteronomy 6:5, Luke 10:27).

We learn that worship is something, personalized, individual, communal. A choice to be dazzled. Our blessing not to settle for apathy. Psalm 105 says to sing our praise, but our voice is not the only song we have emanating from within us. Glory to his name, and let our hearts rejoice. For it is our joy to discover our song. It is our gift to give praise and belt it out.

The birthday hall of fame: extravagant celebrations

Rachel Lundstrom
Columnist

I’m sure that by the time you pick up this newspaper, the roaring choruses of “Happy Birthday” will have sung to me a countless number of times. That’s right, today, Feb. 8, I turn 19. As we gang up, our birthday celebrations change. Today is sure to be a busy day, with classes, homework and activities. We will have to wait and see where celebrating fits in!

One of my most memorable birthdays was at a young age. We went to the local pottery painting studio on a big roof in a theater while you’re eating your weight in candy. Most theaters keep the Oscar nominees around for a while so that movie buffs can get their fill until March. The Knickerbocker is showing, as always, a couple of classy independent films through the end of February. And if you happen to find a theater that’s showing “Pina,” Wim Wenders’ documentary about a legendary dancer/choreographer named Pina Bausch, you'd better watch it.

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And I am running, listening for each foot beat and the melody of my arms as they conduct the music of the sky blueness that’s in my eyes looking up; my breath as my lips let a song slip through them. It is a song of beauty infinite God… And even though my eyes are closed. Beautiful infinite God… And even though my eyes are closed.

In today’s world, childhood parties have drastically changed. Although we all had a bowling alley most memorable parties, in my young life, was at a school, I went to two sleepover birthdays in a row in middle school, I was overjoyed to spend my day with a few friends at American Girl Place; but the Chicken Pox adventures and stuffing my face with cake will be a fluke, every single snowflake that falls after today is going to stab an icy little hole in my heart.

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One of my most memorable birthdays was at a young age. We went to the local pottery painting shop, and my friends and I painted as much as our heart’s desire. Other years, we spent the afternoon playing games in the basement. Back in the ’90s, we had a pitata on my screened-in porch (remember those?) since it was too cold outside. For my sweet 16, my friends and I played board games all night long.

In today’s world, childhood parties have drastically changed. Although we all had a bowling alley most memorable parties, in my young life, was at a school, I went to two sleepover birthdays in a row in middle school, I was overjoyed to spend my day with a few friends at American Girl Place; but the Chicken Pox adventures and stuffing my face with cake will be a fluke, every single snowflake that falls after today is going to stab an icy little hole in my heart.

Some of the birthday parties I remember most were not my own. We created a hometown carnival for my younger sister, making up events and playing simple and fun games in our basement. In middle school, I went to two sleepover birthdays in a row and almost pulled two all-nighters! But one of the most memorable parties, in my young life, was at a friend’s party where I gave all of the guests (and the birthday girl) my chicken pox.

This year’s celebration is a simple one. My family sent me Lou Malanati’s pizza, and I plan on remising with old and new friends throughout the day. Classes and homework will get done eventually, and I look forward to lots of smiles and fun for all (the birthday I was on crutches, however, was another story). I imagine most college birthdays this way: a simple and fun games in our basement. In middle school, I went to two sleepover birthdays in a row and almost pulled two all-nighters! But one of the most memorable parties, in my young life, was at a friend’s party where I gave all of the guests (and the birthday girl) my chicken pox.

This year’s celebration is a simple one. My family...
Happy Birthday, Mr. President

It's spring semester of my junior year: prime time to embark on a study abroad voyage! I'm living in New York City, interning with an independent book publishing firm and adventuring through this vibrant urban jungle. Naturally, I had a Dorothy Moment when stepping outside the airport: I was definitely not in Holland anymore.

One of the things I love most about switching up my geography is that I am hyper-aware of my surroundings. Every molecule of my atmosphere is important and new and noteworthy. NYC can be carelessly summarized as one blur of traffic, lights, and cigarette smoke, but I seek to discover the nuances within this kaleidoscopic cityscape.

**Advises me twice, point blank by a man in the crowd.**

I watch people flipping magazines, sipping coffee, examining maps, falling asleep, gossiping about co-workers, and the like. I've noticed a blind man using the subway by himself, given tourists directions, and chatted with real New Yorkers about the best places to go in the Bronx.

It's rewarding to actively tune in, and I hope to sustain this approach past my time here. The more I engage in life, the more satisfying and fulfilling it becomes.

I've got a lot more to explore here. In the mean time, here's a chart of observational comparisons between two cities that I have called home:

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**Melody Hughes**

(*3d*) studying in: New York City

It was my favorite president's birthday two Sundays ago. If you're checking your calendar, you're correct; Lincoln and Washington are both later this month. And no, FDR was born the day after this president.

Aside from having a birthday four days before mine, William McKinley has one of the most incredible stories, and yet few have heard it.

A strong Christian and vocal abolitionist, he fought in the Civil War and was regarded as a hero. McKinley was always viewed as a national hero, serving as a congressman for nearly four years, as well as governor of Ohio, before winning the presidential election in 1897.

Upon his inauguration he stated the famous words: "Give me now wisdom and knowledge, that I may go out and come in before this people that is so great. " What one blur of traffic, lights, and cigarette smoke, but I seek to discover the nuances within this kaleidoscopic cityscape.

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Dutchmen vs. Knights: Rivalry redux!

Rematch Feb. 11 in Van Noord Arena at Calvin College

The parties and nationally televised game happen on Feb. 11, but the Rivalry has already begun. The goal? To get more alums and students to participate in Hope’s Annual Fund than Calvin. Gifts of any size count. Are you in?

The ongoing rivalry between Hope and Calvin colleges has entered a new arena: alumni and student giving. The actual basketball rivalry game is scheduled for Feb. 11, 2012, but the annual funds have started early.

“Annual fund giving is critical to both colleges for immediate needs, like student financial aid,” says Hope Fund Director Abby Reeg. “The Rivalry Challenge is a friendly way to promote student and alumni giving. Increased giving can boost a college’s national ranking. It is a win-win for students and alumni alike.”

To track the winner of the Rivalry Challenge, Hope and Calvin are comparing the percentage of alumni and students who contribute to their annual funds until the end of February. The college with the highest percentage will earn bragging rights, but the real winners will be the institutions’ students. At Hope, revenue from the Hope Fund provides unrestricted operational support that benefits every student, including academic and co-curricular programs. To see who is winning, go to www.hopecalvin.com.

Every gift will make a real difference not only to students but in the contest. During 2010-11, the Hope and Calvin alumni giving percentages were close at 23 percent and 20.7 percent respectively. Gifts made to the Hope Fund also impact the bottom line of the current A Greater Hope campaign.

You can make your gift online or by mailing your gift to Hope College, Advancement Services, 141 E 12th St., Holland, MI 49423. If mailing your gift, make sure it is postmarked no later than Feb. 29.
"I love Meredith’s competitive spirit because I know she will give everything for the win," said Allie Cerone (’12), Kussmaul’s teammate and co-captain.

Even though Kussmaul is injured, her determination and love for the game and her team will help her lead Hope’s team to its outstanding season as she achieves her goals off the court.

Kussmaul’s hard work and loving heart inspires the people around her. She has the drive it takes to lead the team to a winning season and impact the lives of others through her passion for basketball and helping others.

“I am looking forward to giving better every day and helping players to reach their potential in all facets of their lives,” Morehouse said.

Her competitive and determined spirit encourages Us to do their best.

Kussmaul fits this description perfectly and hangs out with good friends and surfing the Internet.

"I like to blow on her belly and she freaks out and starts running around the house really fast," VanArendonk said. "It’s pretty cute."

But VanArendonk’s close relationship with his dog is not the only bond he has.

"We have a really good relationship," VanArendonk said. "He is all the same inside jokes and hanging out together all the time."

VanArendonk has been a huge asset to the team this year both physically and mentally.

"He provides for us kind of a safety net so that our guys can get up and pressure the basketball," coach Neil said.

"He will do anything for you. He always knows how to make you feel better," VanArendonk said.
Hockey clinches conference title

James Rogers
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

Hope hockey split its weekend series with Davenport University, being edged 2-1 on Friday and coming back strong with a 5-0 shutout victory on Saturday.

After an entertaining two-game series with Saginaw Valley State University last weekend in which the Dutchmen also split, Hope geared up for another respectable opponent in Davenport University.

The Panthers hosted the Dutchmen at the Patterson Ice Center on Friday night. Both teams came out attacking, successfully slapping shots on goal but not ripping it past the goalies.

Taking full advantage of a power play late in the first period, Davenport scored to take a 1-0 lead into the second period. The Panthers added another goal early in the second period to take a 2-0 lead. Hope's Anthony Gasparotto ('13) managed to tack on a goal in the second period, cutting Davenport's lead to 2-1. Chris Kunnen ('12) and Justin Glick ('14) were credited with an assist.

In the third period the Panthers posted eight shots on goal to the Dutchmen's six. No pucks slipped past the goalies in the third, leading to a 2-1 Panther victory.

"I just thought we waited too long to control the play of that game," Kunnen said. "Basically, it was a game of mistakes and in the end, we made one more mistake than they did and didn't capitalize on our chances. It was a tough game but in some respects, pivotal for us to remember that we can't rely on skill alone."

Hope goalie Dave Nowicki ('12) denied 32 of 34 shots. The teams traveled back to Holland for Saturday night's contest at the Edge Ice Arena.

Hope came out strong in the second matchup, converting two goals in the first period, Andrew Haggerty ('12) and Glick netted goals one and two, respectively. The Dutchmen didn't back off in the second period with Glick and Haggerty each adding another score. Hope possessed a commanding 4-0 lead heading into the final period.

"We readjusted our approach to Saturday's game by deciding to play a 'grinding' style of physical play and a hard forecheck," Kunnen said. "We needed to get back to our roots of a full 60-minute effort and dictating the play of the game."

Kunnern poured in Hope's fifth and final goal on an advantageous 5-on-3 power play in the third, leading to a crucial 5-0 shutout that clinched the MCHC Blue division title for the Dutchmen.

Kunnen posted two assists in the triumph. Also awarded with assists were Jake Green ('13), Drew O'Brien ('14), Riley Hoornschmerney ('14) and Nick Cornicelli ('13).

Nowicki dominated the goal with his fifth shutout of the season, stopping all 31 shots that flew his way.

"We had a lot of injuries this past weekend so going forward, it's going to be crucial that we get strong play and drive from every single person," Kunnen said. "A lot of guys are going to have to fill big shoes going forward so we're going to need to have a collective effort in every single game. Going forward, the outcome of every game will be decided by our work ethic, period. We have no more games that are automatic wins."

Hope will ride a 21-3-0-1 record into a Feb. 10 game against Adrian Gold at the Edge Ice Arena in Holland.

By the numbers

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<td>Number of points scored by both Courtney Kust ('13) and Allie Cerone ('12) in Saturday's game. Kust and Cerone tied for team-high honors while Calvin's Verkaik took game-high honors with 15 points.</td>
<td>Jersey number of Hannah Doell ('15), who, after missing Hope and Calvin's first meeting in January, added five points and had two steals in 13 minutes of playing. &quot;Hannah Doell came off the bench and made a difference for us today,&quot; Coach Brian Morehouse said.</td>
<td>Number of times Rebekah Llorens ('15) has recorded a double-double this season. Llorens had 12 points and grabbed 10 rebounds against Calvin.</td>
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