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 ΣΣ 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 Soroos (ΣΣ), Delta Phi (ΔΦ), Dorian (ΚΦΦ), Sibylline (ΣΙΒ), Alpha Gamma Phi (ΑΓΦ), Sorosis (ΣΣ), Delta Phi (ΔΦ), Dorian (ΚΒΦ), with their own distinct personality. Hope men who choose to rush have the options of Fraternal (ΟΚΕ), Knickerbocker (ΚΗΝ), Centurian (ΑθΧ), Emersonian (ΦΚΑ), and Theorist (ΘΘ).

Hope men who choose to rush have the options of Fraternal (ΟΚΕ), Cosmopolitan (ΦΚΑ), Centurian (ΑθΧ), Emersonian (ΦΚΑ), Arcadian (ΧΦΩ), Phi Sigma Kappa (ΔΦΠ), and the newest addition, Thesaurasion (ΘΤ). Hope men who choose to rush have the options of Fraternal (ΟΚΕ), Cosmopolitan (ΦΚΑ), Centurian (ΑθΧ), Emersonian (ΦΚΑ), Arcadian (ΧΦΩ), Phi Sigma Kappa (ΔΦΠ), and the newest addition, Thesaurasion (ΘΤ).

Although most of these Greek organizations are local, the Delta Sigma Thetas and the Phi Sigma Kappas are nationally recognized organizations.

Making the decision of whether or not to rush and then to pledge can be difficult because of the abundance of varying opinions on the topic. While some think that it is a great way to meet new people and make lasting connections, others disagree. “Even before joining a Greek organization, rushing is an effective way to interest other students. There are over 180 girls rushing this semester, and I didn’t know most of them. Now I’m meeting freshmen and upperclassmen, chemistry majors and French minors, basically a ton of people I never would have met without Greek Life,” said Caitlin Klas (’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.

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Writing Center lends a helping hand

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 classes, 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 5000 College students have visited the Center for Writing and Research during the fall 2011 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 students, 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 Sundays, or appointment visits made for Fridays and 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.

In Van Wylen Library for step-by-step help all week long.

Valentine history and check out these activities.

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Robert Glasper and company performed last Saturday to a very pleased audience.

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New intergroup dialogue course teaches students to change culture

Claire Call
CAMPUS CO-EDITOR

“Intergroup dialogue is a process of exploring social group identity, social justice, communication and differences, conflict and community,” says the brochure for Deirdre Johnston’s Communication 390 class.

The intergroup dialogue course offering is now at Hope, the first section of it having been taught the fall semester. The idea to establish this course for Hope students arose after the posting of a racist flyer advertising a fake rush event last spring.

I was sitting around Spring Break stewing about the racial flyer situation, as well as the campus climate survey and the outcomes of intergroup dialogue that had been sitting on my desk waiting to be read for some time. I read it from cover to cover and was overwhelmed by the research, the assessment, and the outcomes of intergroup dialogue.”

I think there is tremendous potential for intergroup dialogue to heal wounds that have divided our campus.

—PROFESSOR DEIRDE JOHNSTON

An introduction to an an introduction, 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, nationality, class, 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 culture 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 courses.

The course has already impacted students and on Hope campus.

“I have seen students transformed by this process; and I too was transformed by this course. 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 ‘Other,’ ‘Friends’ and each other,” 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 Hope’s hope that the new course will be a means to spread this theology throughout Hope.

Greek life: In or out?

• Rush, from page 1

“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. It’s a very interesting experience when I consider myself a reserved, individual person,” Klask said.

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; as a senior, 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,” Catherine Hubanks (’15) said.

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,” Klask said. “At the same time, people 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.

“I didn’t want to join a sorority because I’ve been content in my own friends 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,” Whitney Doubleday (’14) said.

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.
Zuckerberg to take Facebook public

Christopher Russ

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. While these numbers hold true, it will be one of the largest debuts in U.S. stock-market history.

The high valuation is based largely on the company’s ability to sell advertising space, even though it has generated less than 1% of its $1 billion profits last year coming from on-site ad revenue. When Google Inc. made its offering in 2004, the company raised $1.9 billion at a valuation of $23 billion. In comparison, Facebook hopes to raise up to $10 billion. The only U.S. companies that have reached that number were Visa Inc., General Motors Co., and AT&T Wireless, all of which reached $10 billion.

As everyone stands by. Just watching. As the situation in Syria escalates to violence and civil strife, the world is now watching hopelessly as Libyan rebels attempt to overthrow the beleaguered government. The world watched angrily as Hosni Mubarak in Egypt in February was 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 increasingly bloody Syria? As stated in the Economist, “Left alone, the rebel camps will fuel a worsening conflict that could destabilize the entire region.”

Cory Lakatos

Here’s an interesting conundrum: Are finders really keepers and losers really winners? 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 consisting of 818 gold coins that were concealed in a sunken ship off the coast of Spain. The ship went down more than 200 years ago with nearly 600,000 gold and silver coins, including “pieces of eight” minted in Lima, Peru in 1803.

Today, the haul is worth $500 million. Having stumbled across this jackpot, Odyssey proceeded to lay claim to the coins, salvage them, fly them across the Atlantic Ocean in crates, and stash them in a “discretely well-guarded location in the United States,” to use CNN’s words.

There is some odd reason, the Spanish government was not OK with this. In an attempt to bring the treasure to Spain, a lawsuit was filed in federal court in Tampa, Florida in 2009. The court ruled against Odyssey, which appealed, resulting in the most recent ruling. Odyssey has identified the sunken craft as 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 south of Portugal, when the fleet it was a part of was attacked by the British navy. The Mercedes was 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 later. “We will not appeal 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 lacking 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 takes, and each year, there is no guarantee that Odyssey will even get a hearing. If that’s what happens, the Spanish will be assured victory and will minimize the company’s losses.
Iraq upset over U.S. drone presence
Drones perceived as insult to sovereignty

Shubham Sapkota
World Desk

It has been almost a month since American troops left Iraq, but unmonitored drones flying behind the State Department to help protect the U.S. embassy. Disregarding any threats the country's civil aviation authorities have voiced against such operations, Iraqis have expressed that the presence of aircraft in their skies is 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, the latest examples of the State Department's effort to take control of the functions that the military used to perform in Iraq.

Even though the United States has insisted that their embassy personnel may need 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 be operating 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, Fahih al-Fayadh, Iraq's national security adviser; and Adnan al-Asadi, the acting interior minister, have said that the Americans have not made any contact regarding approval. “Our sky is our sky, not the United States of America’s sky,” said Mr. Asadi when he opposed the drones flying over Iraq 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 kill suspected militants. President Barack Obama has emphasized that these strikes were targetted 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.

Human rights groups such as Amnesty International have supported Pakistan and Iraq on this issue and have questioned the legality of drone raids in both the countries. 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 has earned the respect of all cultures.

Afghan-Canadian family convicted of honor killing

Megan Stevens
Staff Writer

Early last week, CNN reported that an Afghan-Canadian family from Montreal, the Shafias, had been convicted of “honor” murders of four female family members. Hamed Shafia, his wife Tooba Mohammed Yahya, and his 21-year-old son Hamed. They were all sentenced to 25 years in prison with no chance of parole. According to the Montreal Gazette, the three had been in police custody since 2009.

The so-called “honor killings” occurred on July 30, 2009, when the Shafia family’s Nissan was discovered submerged in seven feet of water in the Rideau Canal in Kingston, Ontario. Shafia’s daughters, Zainab, Sahar, and Greeti, all between the ages of 13 and 19, were found dead inside, along with their “aunt,” Rona Amir Mohammed.

Shafia and his wife suggested that the car was pushed into the canal while their oldest daughter, Zainab, had been driving. Zainab had no driver’s license, and the three sisters were riding in the Nissan while Shafia, Yahya, and Sahar had followed behind in a Lexus. When police became suspicious that the four dead women might have been killed before they hit the water – the car was resting in only seven feet when they were found, and the seat belts of all four women were unbuckled – they convinced Shafia to let them examine his Lexus. They found headlight damage on the car matching bumper damage on the Nissan, suggesting that the car was pushed into the canal. Shafia, Yahya, and Hamed denied any responsibility for the deaths, claiming that honor killings are in no way condoned by the Quran. Shafia and Yahya did admit that they felt the family honor had been impinged upon by the sisters’ behavior. “My children did a lot of cruelty toward me,” Shafia said in court. “And we believed they had betrayed them.”

According to the two parents, Zainab had eloped with a Pakistani man against their wishes, Sahar had worn inappropriate clothing and was involved with a man named Garett. Garett 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, the couple came under suspicion and the Shafia family’s phone lines. Hours of their taped conversations were played during court proceedings. According to CNN, Shafia, in the Dari language, said of the girls, “May the devil defecate in their faces.”

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 with a polite note of apology attached. Back several hundred years later, 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 exhibits.

Even better, why don’t they split it three ways, throwing Peru into the mix as well? Though the Peruvian government has made 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 Peruvian colony of Spain was no picnic. 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, Wertz has stated that the Spanish government is “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, ranging from the alabaster, the bone glass in Paris, Berlin, or Madrid. When I was in London back in 2010, it became obvious that wealthy 19th century Englishmen were fascinated with marching into other nations and saying things like, “Oh, that statue is lovely, let’s sneak it out of the country by night. We can dash into these countries like Indonesia, Paki-

shipwreck, from page 3

“The U.S. will not 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 doesn’t own the treasure itself, 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 has earned the respect of all cultures.

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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 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 quartet opened the concert. The group featured Nate Roberts who graduated from Hope in 2011. The performance was highlighted by his concluding number which featured Larry Figueroa (’12) on piano.

Following a solid performance from American Hybrid was 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 trumpet while 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 belittling, embarrassing, disloyal 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 and a band 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.

Calitlin 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 crush would be broken up in a somewhat belittling, embarrassing, disloyal and provoking way.

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.

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A two-person outfit of indietronica 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:

“...numbers of famous musicians. 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 quartet opened the concert. The group featured Nate Roberts who graduated from Hope in 2011. The performance was highlighted by his concluding number which featured Larry Figueroa (’12) on piano. Following a solid performance from American Hybrid was 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.

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It wasn’t any of those bands. It was The Books.

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.

The Anchor
Five things to accomplish this Valentine’s Day

1. Name a star after your significant other.
3. Make pictures in the park with your significant other and your friends.
4. Send your sweetie a “I-appreciate-you” Valentine, but try breaking free from the societal norm of valentines, sincere and personal. Society tells us to stare your loved one with eyes that say “I love you.”
5. Go out on your style for expressing affection. There’s a standard checklist (flowers, chocolates, Hallmark card, and fancy-dinner dinner), and if you fail to complete it you get an F on your V-Day report card. Thus, this holiday becomes more of a stress-inducing chore than a celebration. What if those flowers will she see them? Does this card have too much glitter? HO NO, I FORGOT TO MAKE OUR RESERVATION!

HOPELESS ROMANTICS—Valentine’s Day is an ancient tradition rooted in the stories of Saint Valentine.

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. Legend has it that St. Valentine would conduct secret marriage ceremonies to combat the law. Allegedly, when he was put 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 traditions grew throughout history. In 1531, Geoffrey Chaucer wrote (using modern spelling) the “Touche on Saint Valentine’s Day, when every bird cometh there to choose his mate.” Shakespeare wrote in “Hamlet” in 1600–1601 that, “To-morrow is Saint Valentine’s day, all in the morning betimes.” And a note at your window: “To be your Valentine.” In 1798, English nursery rhymes were published that introduced the holiday. And in 1797, “The Young Man’s Valentine Writer” was published in England to give young men ideas for composing their own messages. So in many ways, Valentine’s Day is simply an invention of our corporate America that just wants to sell more chocolate, flowers, cards, and diamonds. It turns out that truthfully, neither of those perceptions is entirely true.

St. Valentine is the name of more than a dozen men who were martyred saints in ancient Rome, and of those martyrs, the one commemorated on Feb. 14 is probably either Valentine of Rome or Valentine of Terni. While these two individuals are the namesakes of the modern holiday, neither of them had any involvement in any particularlyamous traditions during their lifetimes and in fact, the first time that romance was tied to this St. Valentine was in the 4th century (over 1,000 years later). By that time, the legends of the two saints had been merged into one.

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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 stay 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!), Chapterhouse’s “Whirlpool” and Swervedriver’s “Mescal 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 rewarding. And if it isn’t raining, ride bikes 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 chocolatedecoveredkatie.com). Also, Nature’s Market on Washington Avenue has a huge selection of really high quality vegan and gluten-free ingredients for your eager eats plus, if you show your Hope I.D., 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 before 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 all of 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 I am swaying slowly, my body leaning into the music as my lips let a song slip through them. It is a song of praise, a song for my Lord.

And I am running, listening for each foot beat and the melody of my arms as they conduct the music of the sky blueblues that’s in my eyes looking up; my breath comes out in perfect pitch, and in again with the trill of my heart whispering 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 Dnimmt Chapel.

Commenting on the uniqueness of every person, C.S. Lewis says, “Why else were individuals created, but that God, loving all infinitely, should love each differently.”

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 rule 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 many things, Personalized, individual, communal. A choice to be dazed. Our blessing not to settle for apathy. Psalm 105 says to sing our praise, but our voice isn’t the only song we have. 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 rousing choruses of “Happy Birthday” will have been sung to me a countless number of times. That’s right, today, Feb. 8, I turn 19. As we grow 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 shop, and my friends and I painted as much as our young age. We went to the local pottery painting shop, and my friends and I painted as much as our young age. We went to the local pottery painting shop, and my friends and I painted as much as our young age.

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A tale of two cities: stay tuned

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. Just like Dorothy in *The Wizard of Oz*, 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. Subways make for incredible people watching. Although I love listening to music, I actually prefer to commute without doing so. Wearing headphones isolates me from others and I'd rather connect to the scene. I use the same station at the same time Monday-Friday, and have never run into the same person twice. Sometimes, musicians (accordion players, guitarists, a cappella groups, etc.) trail through the trains, performing and passing around a hat. 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 meantime, here's a chart of observational comparisons between two cities that I have called home:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Most Notable Intra-Community Rivalry</th>
<th>Most Celebrated Symbol</th>
<th>Most Notable Intra-Community Rivalry</th>
<th>Most Rambunctious Wildlife Species</th>
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<tr>
<td>Pullman, USA vs. Williamsburg, NY</td>
<td>Statue of Liberty</td>
<td>The Sharks vs. The Jets</td>
<td>Pigeons: extremely fat and innumerable</td>
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<tr>
<td>Orange &amp; Blue: Need I say more?</td>
<td></td>
<td>The Pull</td>
<td>Squirrels: extremely fat and innumerable</td>
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<tr>
<td>Van Wylen during finals week: Want a table?</td>
<td>Anchor: Wouldn't make a bad tattoo now but I think about it.</td>
<td>Tulip Time: Get your wooden shoes and join the parade!</td>
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Our Mission: The Anchor strives to communicate campus events throughout Hope College and the Holland community. We hope to amplify awareness and promote dialogue through fact, objective journalism and a vibrant Voice section.

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Letter Guidelines: The Anchor welcomes all letters. The staff reserves the right to edit due to space constraints, personal allusions or other editorial considerations. A representative sample will be taken. No anonymous letters will be printed unless discussed with Editor-in-Chief. Please limit letters to 500 words.

Mail letters to The Anchor c/o Hope College, drop them off at the Anchor office (located in the Martha Miller Center 151) or e-mail us at anchor@hope.edu by Monday at 5 p.m. to appear in Wednesday's issue.

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Contact Information: To submit an ad or a classified, or to receive a brochure or other information, contact our Ads Representative at anchormarketing@hope.edu. To contact our office, call our office at (616) 395-7877.
Dutchmen vs. Knights: Rivalry redux!

Rematch Feb. 11 in Van Noord Arena at Calvin College

Hope-Calvin Rivalry Challenge

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.
Despite injury, Kussmaul stays strong in heart

Jillian Haverkate
Guest Writer

Meredith Kussmaul’s (’13) love for basketball began before she owned a hoop. “When I was little I would throw the ball against the roof of my garage and pretend it was a basketball hoop,” Kussmaul said. Kussmaul would have a basketball in hand whenever possible and started playing competitively in the third grade. She went on to earn first team all-county her junior and senior years at Hartland High School.

Kussmaul’s competitiveness and dedication make her a leader in everything she does. It is now her third basketball season with Hope College and Kussmaul’s teammates chose her to be a captain for the 2011-2012 season.

“Meredith is very smart, an incredibly hard worker and a great student,” Kussmaul’s head coach Matt Neil said. “He is back to his old self again. Those who know him best will have a really fun guy. “There is never a dull moment. He is never going to let someone just sit there is silence,” Hewitt said. “He will either throw someone the ball, start playing, or just start tackling you.”

While VanArendonk should be applauded for his impressive accomplishments as a star player this season, what makes him special is who he is as a person: musical, funny, fun-loving and caring.

“I hope that Nate VanArendonk is recognized on our campus not just as a guy who plays basketball but a guy who really cares about the Hope community,” Coach Neil said. “He is very every day and he is just a very good person to be around on a team and that’s what makes him such a special person.”

VanArendonk’s future plans include touring the country while playing basketball, attending grad schoo and owning his own engineering consulting business.

MEN’S LACROSSE FALLS TO CMU

The men’s lacrosse team played against the NCAA’s No. 14 ranked team Saturday afternoon in DeVries Fieldhouse.

The Dutchmen fell to the University of Chicago 10-8. The Chisagoes had the upper hand from the moment the whistle blew and were able to make more shots while causing more turnovers.

“His indoor preparation this week was key,” Head Coach Grant Neil said. “We have a really good floor general, Aron Sharpe, who runs the show and he has a great feel for the game. He is very every day and he is just a very good person to be around on a team and that’s what makes him such a special person.”

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By the numbers

13  24  5

Number of points scored by both Courtney Kurt (13) and Allie Cerone (12) in Saturday’s game. Kurt and Cerone tied for team-high honors while Calvin’s Verkaik took game-high honors with 15 points.

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.

“Hannah Doell came off the bench and made a difference for us today,” Coach Brian Morehouse said.

13  24  5

Number of times Rebekah Llorens (15) has recorded a double-double this season.

Llorens had 12 points and grabbed 10 rebounds against Calvin.

Hockey clinches conference title

James Rogers  Assistant Sports Editor

Hockey split its weekend series with Davenport University, being edged 2-1 on Friday and coming back strong with a 5-0 shutdown 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, cutting Davenport’s lead to 2-1. Chris Kunnen (‘12) and Justin Glick (‘14) were credited with assists.

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

“I just think 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 our respects, pivotal for us to root our roots of a full 60-minute effort and dictating the play of the game.”

Kunnen poured in Hope’s fifth and final goal on an advantageous 5-3 power play in the third, leading to a crucial 5-0 shutdown 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 Hoernschemeyer (‘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 take a 21-3-1 record into a Feb. 10 game at the Edge Ice Arena.

Hockey 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.”

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Hope College’s women’s basketball team defeated Calvin 59-55 on Feb. 4 at DeVos Fieldhouse, and in doing so, became the first team to defeat the Knights since the University of Chicago knocked Calvin out of the NCAA Tournament last spring.

Hope and Calvin both entered the game with national rankings, with Hope ranked 19th in the previous week’s D3hoops.com poll and Calvin at fourth, where they had been all season.

“Hopefully we can take that confidence and take it into the conference tournament,” Kunnen said.

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Dutch hand Calvin first loss

Bethany Stripp  Sports Editor

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“Our goal was to play fearlessly and drive from the floor in those situations and make those shots,” Morehouse said. “Sometimes even the greatest free-throw shooters in the world blink in that situation and they miss.”

Hope is now 18-3 on the season. Their 10-2 record in the MIAA has them solidly in second place behind Calvin, who now has one conference loss, and ahead of Albion, who is currently 8-4 in MIAA play.

The Flying Dutch will take on Olivet at 6 p.m. on Feb. 8 in their next home game.