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Dew Crew White-Out

Hundreds turned out for Dew Crew events Feb. 9 in various locations across campus.

Our lives are shaped by the people that surround us. Whether good or bad, similar or different, consciously or unconsciously, every interaction we have in a day affects us. Some actions have little repercussions, we have in a day affects us. Some actions have little repercussions, while the formation of a bond between two individuals who decide to work side by side together through life as equal partners.

True friendships are about give and take. They are the foundation of a bond between two individuals who decide to work side by side together through life.

I found him to be refreshing and insightful, exactly what a professor at Hope should be. I met Andrew Le a few years ago and is currently providing me with a fresh perspective on the subject of race.

Le said when he first heard of the events, “I’m really surprised and shocked something like this would happen on this campus, on all campuses. I’ve always cherished the student body here as being the most open-minded, most accepting and loving group of students I have ever worked with in my life. I really take pride in that [fact]. I tell people that wherever I go.” This issue stirred up a lot of personal and deep-rooted feelings for Le.

One of the first things Le brought up was his first-hand knowledge of the subject of race. He said, “[The incident in Kollen] particularly struck a nerve with me because my job before [Hope] was at a very small college in the Deep South. I was the only Asian person there for a good hundred square miles...and people didn’t hesitate to let me know that. I was stared at wherever I went, no matter if it was on campus or off campus. You just know when you get a look that says clearly: ‘I’m afraid of you because you’re different.’ I would get heckled at the gas station; my car would get egged when I was driving down the street; some kids once threw beer cans at my head, yelling racial slurs at me. I dealt with this for a year.”

Le also talked about his first experience with racism, when he was about 7 years old. As a kid he loved to swim, and his friend the boy he could come over to swim in his pool. One day before school, Le asked the boy if he could come over to swim in his pool. The boy told him he would ask his parents. The next day the boy recounted to Le that his parents didn’t want anyone who was not white swimming in their pool.

Andrew Le reflects on race relations on Hope's campus

Alessia Ribbens

True friendships are about give and take. They are the foundation of a bond between two individuals who decide to work side by side together through life as equal partners.

A unique aspect of Hope College’s campus is that it houses Ready for Life, a program that aims to give cognitively impaired students a college experience that encompasses them in an inclusive setting.

According to Emily Pertson, the sole teacher for Ready for Life, many students with cognitive impairments are in inclusive settings throughout their lives until they graduate from high school. This program was designed for the students to continue being in an inclusive setting with their peers after graduation.

Ready for Life began four years ago and is currently providing six students with a mix of both Ready for Life classes and Hope College classes over the course of a four- to six-year education. The Ready for Life classes focus on helping the students learn skills to both live as adults and engage in society, while the Hope College classes give the students an academically based education.

Health dynamics, encounter with cultures, dance, art and communications classes are popular with Ready for Life students.

While the students may not be receiving college credit, they are able to experience both the social and learning aspects of college. Pertson explained that it works to adapt the curriculums of the classes to attract so they are able to get the most out of what they are doing.

“They still do the same things as the rest of the students, just in a different manner,” Pertson said.

Along with taking classes, Ready for Life students will have job placements within the Holland community when they get further into the program. Pertson, looks at her students’ interests and tries to tap into places that have the potential to turn into a job after a student is finished with Ready for Life.

Students are currently working at Freedom Village, thrift stores and helping with maintenance work at a local church.

The program works to empower students in their everyday lives, they are responsible for navigating campus and attending classes on their own, and they have a hand in both choosing and getting into the classes that they want.

See Ready, page 2

Andrew Le reflects on race relations on Hope’s campus

Elena Rivera

Our lives are shaped by the people that surround us. Whether good or bad, similar or different, consciously or unconsciously, every interaction we have in a day affects us. Some actions have little repercussions, like arriving five minutes late to class and missing a part of lecture, and other actions have large repercussions, exemplified by the flyer posted in Kollen a couple weeks ago.

This singular action has sparked a campus-wide discussion of discrimination and the role it plays in our everyday lives.

Recently I had the privilege of talking to music faculty member Andrew Le. We candidly discussed the issues on campus, the unique perspective he brings to the incident and the importance of remembering God’s love and forgiveness for all. It is a rare and wonderful opportunity to speak to a faculty member as an equal.

In his office, we were not expected to come to the topic of racism, when he was started at wherever I went, no matter if it was on campus or off campus. You just know when you get a look that says clearly: ‘I’m afraid of you because you’re different’. I would get heckled at the gas station; my car would get egged when I was driving down the street; some kids once threw beer cans at my head, yelling racial slurs at me. I dealt with this for a year.”

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Elena Rivera
Campus

Ready for Life program seeks student mentors

• Ready, from page 1

Perton said gaining independence is the biggest development she has seen in her students, which she believes is attributed to the inclusion part of the program. "It’s because they watch their friends [at Hope] do it here and rise to the same level. It gives them pride and the sense of accomplishment to be doing the same things [as their friends]," Perton said.

Overall, the Ready for Life program has received a positive response from the Hope College community. It is beneficial to have on Hope's campus because, as Perton said, "it teaches us that it’s OK to have interactions with people who are different than us and helps us learn to really include them in everyday life. By having them in the classroom and having them on campus and in chapel we start to break down walls and build true friendships."

Students who are interested in getting involved with the Ready for Life program are encouraged to become a mentor for the students. "We need mentors," stressed Perton, "because there are six [students] and only one of me and I cannot be everywhere. I [would like] this program to grow and am always looking for Hope College students to come passionately about finding the answer to dealing with these problems in the Bible."

He said, "One of the main tenants of Christianity is not only that we are all created equally in God's image, but that we are all sinners saved by grace. That simply means that I am no more or no less a sinner than you are. The moment we forget that, the moment we forget to see that is the moment that we start to look down on people of other races and cultures."

He gave many examples of Jesus' love and Jesus' call to love all people. Although he is saddened by the incident, he has hope for the future. "I hope that the student body and the faculty can come together and find a peaceful way to rectify this situation," Lee said. "I don't want this sort of incident to foster anymore [ill will] in the community. I just hope we can find a way to learn from this. Ultimately I just hope that the people responsible for that action come to realize that they need a paradigm shift in their thinking. Even if people thought it was going to be funny, [they need to realize] there's no time or place for that kind of behavior, especially here at Hope."

He spoke highly of Hope's students and faculty, saying again that he was proud to be a professor at the college and proud of his students. Although this incident took place, he is confident that the college and the students will work tirelessly to prevent such things from occurring again.

Le is one example of the emotional resonance acts of discrimination and racism have on a person. "These seemingly humorous and inconsequential actions can change the course of a person’s life, and it is important to understand the gravity and seriousness of the situation. It is also key to remember that a Christian's highest and most difficult calling is to love and forgive those who wrong them. Embracing these challenging principles, the students and faculty of Hope continue on towards the future with optimism and strength."

Stand Up events held around campus

• Stand Up, from page 1

experience and restructured the day to fit around people who needed an outlet. The Stand Up conversations were led by students with a variety of different backgrounds. Questions were asked such as: "What do we do to Stand Up everyday? Why do you think the posters came as a shock? How do we open people's minds? How do we move forward from this point?"

"We all have to be held accountable and incorporate Standing Up into our daily lives. It must start on a personal level before it can be spread to help others to grow," Meagan Johnson ('12) said.

Other ways to Stand Up on a daily basis might be to refuse to laugh at a friend's racist joke and inform them it is not funny. As a campus we should step outside our comfort zones and be aware of the different dynamics that occur everywhere we go.

So how should the student body move forward? Diversity is the future and we have to overcome these issues and become more of a global village; it is not an option.

We should not only talk with a person who has the same viewpoints as ourselves but talk to somebody who has a different opinion than you.

"Bullying, jokes, and [comments on] sexual orientation happen to all people, it is not just a racial thing, and it is not just on Hope's campus. People are harassed in their ‘gay’ lives and on other campuses. Changes need to be made and people need to be willing to make those changes," Sawyer said.

We all need to ask ourselves everyday, "What do I need to do to Stand Up?"

Le shares stories from his childhood

• Andrew Le, from page 1

Confused, Le went to his parents and asked them what the boy had meant. This was Le's first experience with the concept of racism, and he said it opened his eyes to the evil of Jesus' love and Jesus' call to forgiveness, he spoke.

"I realized the implications of the concept of racism, and he said it opened his eyes to the evil of discrimination and racism have on a person. "These seemingly humorous and inconsequential actions can change the course of a person’s life, and it is important to understand the gravity and seriousness of the situation. It is also key to remember that a Christian’s highest and most difficult calling is to love and forgive those who wrong them. Embracing these challenging principles, the students and faculty of Hope continue on towards the future with optimism and strength."

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Matthew Lee Co-National Editor

Early Saturday the U.S. House of Representatives passed a giant government-wide spending bill. The bill reportedly combines $60 billion in Republican spending cuts with additional legislative riders to hamper President Barack Obama in carrying out his budget cuts.

Politico reports that the final vote count was 235-189, and it came to an end early Saturday, ending the all-night session and capping a marathon week of legislation in which literally hundreds of amendments were debated.

The bill’s passage could be a costly move for the Republican party. In order to conclude his freshmen legislators, Politico reports that House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, had to move so far right be picked up zero Democratic votes and risked losing what many saw as an opportunity to get a quick win in the Senate at the expense of Obama.

Instead, now Senate Democrats and majority leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) will be more united and stronger after Saturday’s margins. Now, as Politico reports, the real questions become: can Reid, Boehner, and Obama pick their way through the coming weeks without falling into a government shutdown?

With speculation of a shutdown, and Saturday’s circumstances are more dangerous than the crisis of any shutdown, even as the political distance between Obama and the new Republican

PERSPECTIVES

Matthew Lee Co-National Editor

It’s interesting how Democrats are acting now that the roles are reversed. Almost a year ago, Congressional Democrats, with the help of President Barack Obama, fast-tracked a controversial health care bill through Capitol Hill before most legislatures even had time to read the over 2,000-page bill. Now, Republicans in Wisconsin want to fast-track a bill through their state legislature that will supposedly “burden” public union workers so much that teachers have called in sick and caused districts to close school for days, while Democratic legislators have fled the state. Now, that’s not very democratic, is it?

Almost a year ago, Republicans tried everything in their power to stop the health care legislation from reaching Congress, but guess what: they still went to work and not once was anyone required to make a statement. It’s interesting how the party that relentlessly painted the Republican Party as the “party of no” a year ago now turns and runs for the hills.

Let’s take a look at the facts, because surely such an outrage must be caused by the most horrific legislation to ever go through Wisconsin’s state legislature, right? This piece of legislation is supposedly such an outcry that it has caused protestors to wave signs comparing Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker to Adolf Hitler.

Patrick McIlheran, a columnist featured on realclearpolitics.com reports that Walker’s proposed legislation would require state employees to pay 5.8 percent of their salaries toward their pension – which, by the way, they pay almost nothing toward now. Walker also wants their health care premiums to go up 12.6 percent, which would cause their share to go from $79 to $200. Just to give you a comparison, the average private sector employee pays $330 in health care premiums.

Is this really too much to ask of government employees? As McIlheran points out in his somewhat lapstick editorial, Franklin Delano Roosevelt must be smiling down on Wisconsin state legislators right now. As McIlheran explains, Roosevelt can be seen as the father of modern unionism, as he laid the groundwork for the legal and administrative paths that led to the unionization of 35 percent of the nation’s workforce in the 1950s. But Roosevelt was only in support of unionizing the private sector. He openly opposed taxes and benefits for government employees.

“The process of collective bargaining, as it usually occurs, can not be transferred into the public service,” Roosevelt wrote in 1937 to the National Federation of Federal Employees. Yes, public workers may

PROTESTORS GATHER— Protests gather outside Wisconsin’s state Capitol in Madison. Protestors from both sides peacefully gathered to make their voice heard on Feb. 19. Chants of “Pass the bill! Pass the bill!” were accompanied by their counterpart’s chant of “Kill the bill! Kill the bill!”

LATE NIGHT— Members walk down the steps of the House of Representatives as they work throughout the night on a spending bill, on Capitol Hill in Washington, Feb. 18.
Protests continue to roll throughout Middle East

Amy Alvine

On Feb. 11 President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt stepped down from his position as a result of massive protests across the country. But Egypt was not the only place where demonstrations have taken place. Along with Tunisia, political unrest has recently arose in Libya, Yemen, Jordan, Bahrain, and Iran; the protests in these countries are a domino effect of political reform that spread across the Arab world.

On Feb. 20 the death toll in Libya rose to 209 when 25 more people were killed as protesters used an explosives laden car and a tank to attack a military camp in Benghazi. This attack came after a clash between marchers of a funeral procession and Libyan troops. Thousands of mourners had gathered in the streets of Benghazi on Friday in a funeral procession honoring those killed in protests on Saturday. As the procession passed by the affiliated Abu Omar Military Camp, uniformed troops opened fire on the mourners.

In an attempt to break into the camp, protesters drove a tank from a nearby army base and obtained weapons. Despite the violent efforts of security forces to curb the demonstrations, protesters told CNN that these attempts have just left them even more energized. “There are a lot of people getting killed for their freedom,” said one protester to a CNN news team. “Our goal is simple: we want Gadhafi [the president of Libya] to leave. We want freedom—we want democracy.”

In Yemen, for the 10th consecutive day, hundreds of protesters gathered together in the capital of Sana. Some of them cheered “First Mubarak, Yemen is free!”—they want Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh to step down. Online activist A’iz Awzai said to CNN of this protest that “it’s amazing. It’s a very peaceful atmosphere.”

Despite this more peaceful protest, at least six people were wounded Saturday. In response to the unrest, the Yemini-run Staba news agency said that Saleh blamed the unrest on foreign agendas and a plot against Yemen’s stability. Staba also stated that Saleh wanted to see non-violent change for discussion about reform. Despite the fact that these protests are peaceful, the leader of a man killed in the demonstration.

With political unrest throughout the Arab world, political leaders in Yemen, Jordan and Algeria have introduced new policies to encourage political and economic change. Despite these efforts, many protesters across the region still deem these efforts inadequate and continue to call for complete governmental reforms.

Collective bargaining has no place in government

• Perspectives, from page 3

“Demand fair treatment, wrote Roosevelt. But, he wrote, “I want to emphasize my conviction that militant tactics have no place in the public sector. ‘A strike of public employees manifests nothing less than an intention on their part to prevent or obstruct the operations of Government.’ It gets worse, though. Since this strike has gained national attention President Obama has issued statements encouraging the public union workers to continue their fight against what he has called an “assault.” Not to stop on any taxes or anything, but first of all, this is a state issue which renders Obama’s input unnecessary, and second, is the federal budget in well enough shape that the state legislature should care about the advice from Obama? The answer is no. Sorry, but the notion in Wisconsin is up to the legislators in Wisconsin. Obama has no business interjecting his opinion when the federal budget continues to be in shambles.

The fact is, as Fox News reports, Obama is just attempting to rebuild tarnished relations with the unions after some union leaders are upset over his recent proposals to business. Fox News also reports that Obama’s recent statements put him at risk of being classified as a partisan after he has been such a strong advocate for setting a new tone in Washington.

As Fox News reports, Congressional Republicans feel that Obama is attempting to “mediate” governors who are making efforts to somewhat restrain government.

Hope Independents attend national conference in New York

The Hope College Independents, a group founded last year by Sydney Schmitz (11), traveled to New York, on Feb. 12 to represent Hope College at the National Conference of Independents.

The conference was held to discuss strategies and means of furthering the cause of the political power of independent voters and was sponsored by IndependentVoting.org, the national Independent organization.

Attending were hundreds of leaders in the independent voting movement from around the country. International visitors seeking more information on politics in America also participated, such as Lenora Fulani, the first legitimate female and African American candidate for Vice President (she ran in 1988). The Hope Independents were one of two youth-led organizations in the country represented.

GOP spending bill moves through House

• Spending, from page 3

but the next few days could prove vital in shaping public opinion in relation to the expansive House bill.

Politico reports, “What began as a straightforward effort to cap Medicaid costs is now a ledger bulging with provisions that touch on everything from Western lands management to Florida water quality rules, Western lands management, Internet regulations, a new consumer product safety data bank and employment standards for the cement industry.”

When the House reconvenes on Feb. 28, Boehner and the Republican majority must be vigilant as they push through a short-term extension of current spending to avoid a shutdown March 4.
GPS event Circo Aereo comes to Dewitt Theater

Katie Schewe

Circo Aereo is a contemporary circus group from Finland. Their shows are exciting and surprising as they combine all forms of artful performance. They will be performing in the DeVos theater Friday Feb. 25, at 7:30 pm, and Saturday Feb. 26, at 1 p.m. Tickets are on sale at the DeVos Fieldhouse ticket office.

Circo Aereo uniquely combines circus performance, music, dance and theater. They bring together all of these elements to create a circus experience like no other.

They have performed in approximately 30 different countries around the world. Because of the versatility of their performances, they have been asked to perform at several different circus, music, dance and theater festivals.

While at Hope, Circo Aereo will be performing the Finnish-French co-production “Espresso”.

The performance takes us through the history of the circus. It combines traditional circus art with sidewalk performance and contemporary circus, all based on movement.

The piece has four different artists who create a movement of stories both in the air, and on the ground. They use the arts of juggling, dance, and aerial performance to bring these stories to life.

Circo Aereo are known for artistic exploration in their pieces as well as for a collective input from the entire group which is put into each piece.

Circo Aereo transforms and changes music, props and costumes to fit the fantasy of their Artistic Director Maksim Komaros.

Circo Aereo combines all forms of the performing arts to create a truly unique experience for all of its viewers.

They have astonished and mesmerized audiences all over the world, and it is Hope’s turn to experience their remarkable art of performance. “Espresso” is the group’s newest piece, which they have performed in places such as Paris, Switzerland and Syria. Helsinkiin Sanomat of Finland said, “Espresso is like a treasure chest full of the things of which circus is made, filled with beautiful sights, meticulous join efforts, and inventive surprises.”

With the help of fellow Americans Gillian Welch and Peter Buck (of R.E.M.), they’ve made an album that’s both pastoral and defiant, sounding distinctly American for the first time.

Decemberists fans probably won’t hail this as their best work yet, but will be pleased to see them being themselves again.

THE DECEMBERISTS

The King Is Dead

Sometimes when a band gets too comfortable at replicating its own sound from album to album, the fans start to hope for some sort of dramatic shift in style and approach. From Bob Dylan to Radiohead to Sufjan Stevens, artists always seem to get a lot of respect for big reinventions of themselves, even if they have to lose some fans. Maybe the Decemberists’ last album, “The Hazards of Love” was one of those successful reinventions, but we at WTHS were unanimously disappointed by their shift towards the lofty, conceptual rock epic. Thankfully, their new album is both a return to form and a reinvention. “The King Is Dead” is certainly the indie-folk Decemberists of old, filled with acoustic guitar and big proper nouns, yet it isn’t a retread.

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THE RADIO DEPT

Passive Aggressive - The Singles: 2002-2010

Since you probably haven’t heard of The Radio Dept., you’ll probably be surprised to find out that this band you haven’t heard of is already successful enough to be putting out a compilation of singles (and a bonus disc of worthwhile B-sides). Turns out, they’ve been around since 1995 and are great, but they don’t have a lot of stateside exposure, probably because they are Swedish. Their sound harkens back to early post-punk bands like New Order who mixed keyboards and drum machines with gloomy lyrics and catchy pop hooks. Fans of M83 will enjoy their warm, dreamy sound, and fans of Peter Bjorn and John something similarly enjoyable and European. But The Radio Dept. deserve to be listened to on their own terms, if you’re interested in them, this is a great album to start with.

Reviews courtesy of WTHS music directors, Paul Rice, Laura Hol- derop and Aaron Martin.

THE WEEK IN ART

Wednesday Feb. 23
Wind Ensemble Concert
Dimnent Chapel. 7:30 p.m.

Thursday Feb. 24
Arts & Humanities Colloquium
Martha Miller. 3 p.m.

Friday-Saturday Feb. 25-26
SAC Weekend Movie: “Harry Potter and the Deathly Hol- lows (part one)”
VanderKort 102, 8 and 10:30 p.m.

IN BRIEF

“UNDER MILK WOOD” COMING FEB. 18

Hope College Theatre will be performing “Under Milk Wood” by Dylan Thomas on Friday and Saturday, Feb. 18 and 19, and Wednesday-Saturday, March 2-5 at 7 p.m. in the DeVos Center studio theatre.

The cast of “Under Milk Wood” includes sophomore Skyler Adams of Holland; junior Noah Busman of Scotia, N.Y.; sophomore Kelsey Colburn of Holland; sophomore Sophia Daly of Plymouth; freshman Alexa Duimstra of Appleton, Wis.; freshman Aaron Haerker of Winchester, Va.; senior Benjamin Hertel of Fennville; sophomore Haley Hodges of Hart; David James of the Hope English faculty; senior Cassie Nie- spodziwianski of Oak Brook, Ill.; junior Amberlyn Scherr- inga of Schererville, Ind.; junior John Telfer of Western Springs, Ill.; junior Madison Tustin of Plainwell; junior Kara Williams of Saline, and freshman Allyson Womack of Libertyville, Ill.

Tickets for “Under Milk Wood” are $10 for regular admission, $7 for senior citizens and Hope faculty and staff, and $5 for students, and are available at the ticket office in the main lobby of the DeVos Fieldhouse. The office is open Mon.-Fri. 8 a.m.-5 p.m., phone number is (616) 395-7890.

Hope College musicians will perform throughout the monthly “Brown Bag Concert” series at the Holland Area Arts Council on Friday, March 4, at noon. The public is invited, admission is free.

Founded and directed by Dr. Andrew L. Le of the Hope mu- sic faculty, the concert series takes place on the first Friday of each month. Each hour-long program consists of a vari- ety of musical offerings from Hope students and teachers.

The Holland Area Arts Coun- cil is located west of Colum- bia Avenue at 150 E. Eighth St.
Kleiman’s Pool Party clobbers rival dangeRuss

Kleiman’s Pool Party goalie, Jonathan Wielenga, after being down 2–1 at the half, Kleiman’s Pool Party attackman, Radcliffe, scored his first hat trick to end the game with a 2–1 score. “It was awesome,” recalled Regan. “I wasn’t even there, but they were some of the best ESPN highlights I’ve ever seen in my life.”

In a post game interview Russ proclaimed that “It feels great to be a winner.”

Upon entering the locker room with his head held high, Young stated that he was humbled to lose to a team of seasoned veterans.

Moving forward, it is obvious these battles will need time to heal, but Young is hopeful that life will return to normal once the playoffs are over. Plan to work alongside Young to implement a no water polo zone in VanZyl. “We won’t talk about it and if we have to meet with our respective teams, we’ll most certainly.”

“Deep down we love our guys and they love us. We need to learn to make sure that our brotherhood comes first before the competition.”

Andrew Young: For the past three years, inner tube water polo had never really been on my radar. I looked more on sports such as softball. I recently discovered inner tube water polo and said, “Hey this looks like something that I can enjoy.” And so I decided to form a team.

Why didn’t you join Bryant Russ team?

AY: I didn’t want to be on the water polo team.

AY: I didn’t want to be in a team where Bryant would get mad at me for being tardy.

AY: I didn’t want to stop playing on our team. I decided that I would avoid them at all costs. After all, they are my dear housemates in Christ, and I don’t want to disappoint them.

What prompted you to start a water polo team?

AY: I did it because I didn’t think they would approve, and I really didn’t want to step on their toes. I decided that I would avoid them at all costs. After all, they are my dear housemates in Christ, and I don’t want to disappoint them.

What prompted you to start a water polo team?

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Why did you decide to form a team in secret rather than bring up the issue with the house?

AY: I knew it was going to be a tough battle because I have so much respect for these guys. They have been the champions for the past two years, and we newcomers into the league. I felt like we have a lot of talent on our team and a lot of potential. Playing the games together was like a game between the Yankees and the Tampa Bay Devil Rays, unfortunately we didn’t come out on top. But we know what it was a really great battle and I’m proud of our team and how we played.

What does the friendship between you and your housemates look like now that the game is over?

AY: I’d say that it has blossomed. Before, it was a blossoming friendship that was small. Now that we’ve entered the winter, we’ve had a lot of talent on our team and a lot of potential. Playing the games together was like a game between the Yankees and the Tampa Bay Devil Rays, unfortunately we didn’t come out on top. But we know what it was a really great battle and I’m proud of our team and how we played.

What’s your side of the story?

AY: It’s coming full circle; it’s the first time in the most speculated game of the season.
Paradoxical perspectives

Just dance

Karen Patterson
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Two weeks from this Friday, a little thing called Dance Marathon will take over Hope’s campus. I am so excited—Dance Marathon is amazing, fantastic, crazy, long, tiring, exciting and rewarding.

For those of you who have been living un-der a rock during your Hope College experi-ence, Dance Marathon is the 24-hour fund-raiser that Hope College puts on the Friday and Saturday before Spring Break each year. All funds raised go directly to the Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital in Grand Rapids. And it’s seriously the greatest thing ever.

Everybody knows that Dance Marathon means standing on your feet for 24 hours. You wear a white T-shirt while “moralers” get yellow shirts (and can leave after eight hours). Some families come and share stories, and at the end everybody stands in a circle and cries. (Yeah, if somebody had tried selling it to me that way, I probably wouldn’t have done it either). To truly understand and appreciate Dance Marathon, you have to look a little bit below the surface.

First of all it’s important to consider why we do this. We do it because in the history there are families that are poor. Many of us have never had a ma-jor health scare—we’re a blessed campus as a whole—but there are so many children who fight each day just to make it to their next birthday. Places like Helen DeVos help these miracle families has far surpassed any money I can ever raise. How often do we inten-tionally make ourselves uncomfortable or go out of our way to let someone else know that we care for an hour, much less 24 consecu-tive hours? Dance Marathon is a chance to hit the pause button on our lives and show an incredible group of people that theirstrug-gles matter to us.

In my opinion, if you’re good at something, you should be in so much talk about campus solidarity, and there’s noth-ing…will probably be my last column, I might get a little sen-sitive…This February heat wave.

Outside looking out

Jubilation parade

Rob Guimond
Guest Columnist

Twisted fate has ruined us with this February heat wave. So, now, I’ll have to write the tired column of my predecessors,ors in the same way that they wrote it. And, since this will probably be my last column, I might get a little sentimental.

I want to have a parade. Listen: it’s a natural pro-cession from “Singin’ in the Rain” in Never Never Land right be-cause we play in the Kraken-sized puddles and yelling “Follow us! We’re going to play in the rain!”

By nine o’clock, people were running down the halls of Kollen to go outside to play in the Kraken-sized puddles and yelling “Follow us! We’re going to play in the rain!”

On the third invite, I accepted. It was magical outside. It seemed like the whole campus was out there—sliding in the mud, pushing waterlogged cars out of small lakes. It was a beautiful community. I felt like a child Gene Kelly from “Singin’ in the Rain” in Never Never Land right be-fore the big Christian flood. Pause, reader, and consider that last sentence.

Talking back on the big rain, Stand Up, and the Hope-lessness of my time attempting to contact people through the Anchor, I feel like I should have done more and tested in the rain. I should have gotten more funny with the people around me, acted more like a member of a com-munity. I realize that I might not be surrounded by as many like-minded, strong-minded, educated people as I am in the Anchor.

This is the force behind the ring-by-spring concept. People realize that there are people who care. You slip on your headphones, move into a world outside of your own. You turn on Pan-dora, hopefully to a “quick mix” of five favorite bands. You beg for new jams to dance to, feel to, sing to, clean to—whatever it may be. Then you hit the next button. And, again, you hit the next button. At some point, an advertisement comes on and you wonder when you will ever find your new soul song.

Then, you hear a song you know. That guitar starts strumming, and the singer starts belting; you are sure this song was made for you. The lyrics speak your sto-ry, and the hairs on your arms start to dance, signaling that you’ve found it: your soul song.

I don’t know if I coined the phrase, or if it’s been passed around for decades, and I just haven’t been in on that particular game of telephone, but there’s no better way to describe that song your soul song. Of course, soul songs come in waves. I’ve had a cornucopia of them, ranging from Underoath, to Tracy Chapman, to Mumford & Sons. But one of them has been timeless for me: “I’m Ready” by Jack’s Mannequin.

He sings, “I’m ready, I’m ready, I’m ready like it’s going out of style, and my heart thuds with him, I’m ready, I’m ready, I’m ready! I feel alive and real and on edge in the best of ways.

But then, the punch: “...all at once I realize/ my life has become a boring pop song and everyone’s singing along.” My life is a boring pop song. Can you picture it? Replace them with your closest friends and complete strangers tune into my life on the radio.

“Oh, I’ve heard this one before,” says one.

“Same ol’, same ol’,” says another.

It’s not even the glorified song and dance found in countless suburban parades, or even the hit wonders that we listen to a decade later and know every word. No, the boring pop song life is not glamorous or sugarcotted. It’s humbling.

The common thread that weaves itself through my years of soul songs is a common thread in my life: plain Jane, clear as day, human truth. The last thing I want for myself is an unoriginal life. In fact, most aspects of my life center on originality and the want to be fresh and avant-garde. But don’t we all have those days, the boring pop song days? We sleep too late to take a shower; we wear a sweatshirt and jeans; we spot our crush and we nap; we nap; we watch the world end.

And then, when we least expect it from ourselves, we’ll stand out. We’ll search Pandora like it’s literally Pandora’s box until we find a new anthem, a new soul song. The hairs on your arms will dance along with you as you live an exciting rock song life. And when this happens, I hope everyone’s singing along.

Lyricality

Soul song

Becca Hawkins
Columnist

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My most memorable experience at Hope was the big rain two years ago. It rained all day, and it continued into the night. The streets were partially flooded by dusk. The streets were partially flooded by dusk.

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This is the force behind the ring-by-spring concept. People realize that the number of potential, adequate suitors plummet after graduation. I feel similarly, only with learning. I don’t want to get with the ladies in my last three months; I want to get with all the knowledge that Hope has to offer. That knowledge is in the com-munity. We’re all real smart.

The problem is that people don’t move away much from their cliques. For instance, the 12 people that read this column will say, “Word, I agree.” But they already agreed. Nothing has changed. Those 12 people should grab 12 more people, and those 12, 12, more, and so on, and so on, until the whole campus is involved. And, then, we should have parade, so we can see how brill-hant at doing stuff everyone is. But that may take public speaking, instead of just short of pleasure in the Pine Grove: realizing the power of our education.

Now, as I’ve had confusing messages in the past, I will make the messages of this column very clear by offset-ting them with a colon: Get together. Do stuff. Let’s have a parade.

Rob’s serious about the parade. Contact him, if you’re interested. Also, he’s thrown out his anti-self-referenti-ality by making up words and advertising his new blog: http://awalkinthelupedsidewasacrag.blogspot.com/
Explicitly prevented

Hope has had the correct response to this act of racism. And likewise, the student body has appropriately acted. Neither does [Hope College] condone discrimination, whether based on sexual orientation or financial or logistical support for organizations or groups whose purposes include the advocacy or moral legitimation of homosexual behavior.

I see no reason why recent acts of racism should result in the exclusion of homosexuals on campus. However, the latter gets only a fraction of the attention it deserves. Please consider continuing our efforts for equality between all walks of life at Hope College. Respectfully, Dean Hazel ('12)

‘Why can’t we all be the people God called us to be?’

My heart felt. I didn’t know how to explain my feelings to others. I was angry. I was sad. I was ashamed. Why was I ashamed, though? I felt like I didn’t do anything to help the situation. I could have done something.

This past year has caused a whirlwind of emotions inside my heart. My best friend was affected by the situation. Seeing him struggle is something that was not what God intended for this world. We are all meant to be equal in equal opportunities in all that we do.

Why can’t we all be the people God called us to be? A people who strive with on campus, though minor and insignificant. But the personal attacks I’ve dealt with on campus, though minor and insignificant. Because I hadn’t been affected so much deeper, agitating the framework of who we are and who we have become. Y our see, in a world that is striving to achieve equality for his people, the № world that is striving to achieve equality among his people where there is not one man above another, everyone’s story is the same. We are all made in Christ’s image. It’s time to take responsibility for this atrocity in the shoes of the one who was offended on an individual level. Instead, I faced, the dignity they maintained, and the dogged loyalty to a country that bla-tantly regarded them as inferior deserves the utmost respect and honor.

In Galatians 3:28, it says, “There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for all are one in Christ Jesus.”

Learn about your other brothers and sisters in Christ. Be a true friend—one that takes the time to listen, that is there to help when someone is struggling, and one that learns how to give of their time selflessly. Understand that not everyone’s story is the same. We are all made in Christ’s image. It’s time to take a stand. Be the person that God created you to be. Together, we are one.

Alyssa Barigian ('12)

‘A different angle’

Growing up, I never faced any preju-dice for my ethnicity. But in my first semester at Hope, I had several encounters with people who ignorantly said things that cut me to the core. Before coming to Hope, I had never given racism much thought—because it wasn’t something I was ever exposed to. But the personal attacks I’ve dealt with on campus, though minor and insignificant. Because I hadn’t been affected so much deeper, agitating the framework of who we are and who we have become. It cuts into the heart of our heritage.

When someone thoughtlessly degraded the people I relate to by blood, I wasn’t offended on an individual level. Instead, I was left stinging and frustrated by the dis-regard, and ignorance he demonstrated towards the ones who shaped me into who I am today: namely my grandparents and my great-grandparents. You see, in a world that is striving to achieve equality and respect for all people, I have it so easy. But my predecessors did not. The sacri-fices they made, the embarrassments they faced, the dignity they maintained, and the dogged loyalty to a country that bla-tantly regarded them as inferior deserves the utmost respect and honor.

So in that light, maybe we need to ap-proach solving this problem at Hope from a different angle. One that is there to help when someone is struggling, and one that learns how to give of their time selflessly. Understand that not everyone’s story is the same. We are all made in Christ’s image. It’s time to take responsibility for this atrocity in the shoes of the one who was offended on an individual level. Instead, I faced, the dignity they maintained, and the dogged loyalty to a country that bla-tantly regarded them as inferior deserves the utmost respect and honor.

What if we told our stories? Of the grandparents thrown in concentration camps. The money stolen. The jeers and Language. One who learns how to give of their time selflessly. Understand that not everyone’s story is the same. We are all made in Christ’s image. It’s time to take responsibility for this atrocity in the shoes of the one who was offended on an individual level. Instead, I faced, the dignity they maintained, and the dogged loyalty to a country that bla-tantly regarded them as inferior deserves the utmost respect and honor.

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Alyssa Barigian ('12)

What I thought was the past is now the present

Coming from an area growing up, I was always the majority or so I thought. People of my race always surrounded me and I would often hear the history class was just that, a story about (HIS) past. Stories of discrimination, inequality, and hatred towards African Americans. Don’t get me wrong those stories where profound but I never thought they were needed in today’s NOW.

So I took on an adventure and left all what I knew. On a plane, I flew to Michigan not knowing who I would go through. No one knows the silent tears I cry while being here. How I feel left out and how I don’t belong. I remember a saying that goes like this “This is a white man’s world” and for a second that’s what I began to believe. Not that I know racism still exists and not only that but is in the midst of where I currently dwell, I feel there is nothing I could do but be a voice for my people and love as Christ tells me.

Camerra Lighthourn ('14)

Indefensible

Chris Russ

Campus Editor

On Jan. 28, the Board of Trustees voted to replace the college’s long-standing Institutional Statement on Homosexuality with a new “Position Statement on Homosexuality.”

I see no reason why recent acts of racism should result in the exclusion of homosexuals on campus. However, the latter gets only a fraction of the attention it deserves. Please consider continuing our efforts for equality between all walks of life at Hope College. Respectfully, Dean Hazel ('12)

On Nov. 9 last semester, there was an incident of vandalism that included the word “gay” being spray painted across a sidewalk. Shortly after hearing this story, I asked President James Bultman about the incident. President Bultman stated that if she did not stop participating in the academic scholarships would be revoked.

This claim has been repeated in class-room discussions and is even backed by some Hope faculty. However, no evidence was ever uncovered or pro-vided to suggest that this type of threat was issued.

I thought I might have stumbled on something controversial and ex-citing with these two stories. Instead, I am left at this point with just a few non- provable accusations. However, I did come away with one clear theme, which was the absolute lack of civility and cooperation in the discussion of this subject amongst opposing parties. Whatever the truth is regarding these stories, and regardless of how one stands on LGBT rights, the repeated personal insults I heard, many of which were directed towards Presi-dent Bultman and the Hope Administra-tion, are indefensible. They result in the formation of hostile environment that inherently lacks the potential for healthy and productive debate, with-out which nothing can be changed.
Letters to the Editors

‘Enough is enough’

We are coming together, for in the throes of this social tempest our voices are as loud and as numerous as water droplets in the sea. Hands dark brown to hands light white, we will embrace one another and march together and protest ANY and EVERY instance of racism that happens on this campus.

Enough is enough.

The time to end racism on this campus and community is now. We are all here to learn, to grow in our wisdom and acceptance of others, not to indulge in shameful and revolting acts of ignorance and disgracefulness. Personally, to all the absolutely beautiful, gorgeous, talented, intelligent, glorious people of color who go to this school, sincerely, from the bottom of my heart, I AM SO SORRY. I feel guilty, enraged, ashamed, horrified, and so confused about what has happened. All I can say is that I am proud and so, SO privileged to know all of you that look different from me and speak different tongues and come from different countries and backgrounds.

Like a great serpent reaching a new stage in its life we must shed the retting, decaying straight jacket of racism and intolerance, of inaction and indifference, that has cloaked this institution for too long, and emerge unharmed, vibrant and actively seeking out a prosperous and peaceful new future in which ignorance is restrained and activism is ignited in the depth of every soul. Change and a sense of community is infecting this campus; it spreads in the touch of a hand, in the words of one friend to another, in the growth of acceptance and the questioning of beliefs we once held to be certain and concrete. No time is better to shed our old flesh that is remnant of a distant past, and take our places as pioneers of justice and acceptance in the community we must all call our home. Accomplish this, and all the scars and blights of racism and ignorance will fade, becoming mere whisps and small shadows of what Hope once was, and what it is no more.

Emily Dittmar

‘We’ and ‘you’

To whom it may concern,

After witnessing the racial discrimination incident that occurred Jan. 26, engaging in conversations with students who were affected by the discrimination, and attending meetings regarding the topic, I feel compelled to respond to President Bultman’s statement to the campus. I hope this statement will be a positive contribution to this ongoing conversation and to Hope’s mission to prepare its students “...for lives of leadership and service in a global society."

“This is the time for all of us to SUPPORT our brothers and sisters of color who grace our campus and daily enrich our lives. We love you, care about you, and share your hurt.”

President Bultman

Does this use of the words “we” and “you” imply that we are a white community who welcomes people “of color” so that they can “grace” us with their presence and serve to enrich our lives? Why does Hope College strive for cultural diversity? Does it make for a better liberal arts education for its white students?

Realizing the absurdity of these questions, one must realize that this type of language reveals an innate unconscious segregation. Those who insist that we should not criticize our administration for doing its best in dealing with this situation fail to realize that it is this mindset that dictates how we respond to these situations, and why Hope College fails to understand true diversity and multiculturalism.

It understands that everyone is equal in the eyes of God, and that it is beneficial and necessary to live among people who come from different backgrounds with different beliefs. The problem lies in how this challenge is approached: when we see color and say “diversity”. We fail to consider other types of diversity such as religious, nationality, or geographic origin. Even worse, every “brother or sister of color” is seen as a sufficient representation of the entire minority. Hope will never be able to achieve true unity if it continues to segregate all non-white students into a minority with such language.

I must add that this type of unintentional discrimination goes both ways. As a white member of the Hope community I have been told that I (“you guys”) will never understand. On what basis was this person assuming that I wouldn't understand? Surely it wasn’t the color of my skin…or was it? I am not a minority based on the color of my skin; however I’ve had experiences that have shaped my beliefs, problem solving skills, tolerance, as well as other aspects that do not relate to skin color.

This also suggests that I have the mindset of all other white members of Hope’s campus, or worse, that all white members of Hope’s Campus share the belief that the poster in question is not offensive but instead “tasteful” (one student’s response to the poster).

While racial discrimination is a critical issue that Hope College should be combating, the solution needs to come from the root of the problem.

Instead of highlighting superficial differences our language should be inclusive. If anything good has come out of this incident, it is contained in the revelation of Hope’s misunderstandings about diversity and the pressing need to resolve this problem.

Instead implying that the white majority should console and defend the minority, we should realize that discriminatory acts have the potential to hurt anyone.

Thus we should come together as a community to help and teach each other regardless of the color of our skin.

Joe Habbouche

‘Whatever happened to...’

We are here to get an education, to work towards making a sound foundation. So why must we have to add unnecessary issues to our lives like our skin color, why can’t we be treated like any other?

We can’t ignore these issues and keep letting them manifest, we have to speak out and stand up which is best. We have to let people know that their so called humor is like a tumor, affecting the minds, body, and souls of so many here on campus. Like the song where is the love says, Whatever happened to the values of humanity? Whatever happened to the fairness and equality? Instead of spreading love we’re spreading animosity, lack of understanding is leading us away from unity. And these lyrics are so true.

We need to take this time to come together and really evaluate the things we say and do. Until we learn how to respect and accept one another, we will never be Hope's college students but Hope’s “sisters and brothers of color.”

Joel Habbouche

‘Become.

JOIN US FOR
A Night at Western: An Evening of Discernment
Thursday, February 24, 2011

5:15 Registration
5:30 Welcome/Devotions
Dr. Leanne VanDyk, Academic Dean
5:40 Dinner begins
5:45 Student life & formation
Dr. Matt Flodin, Director-Formation for Ministry and Dean of Students
6:00 Why is seminary important?
Dr. Trudy Johanson, WTS Alumni and Dean of Chapel at Hope College
6:15 What is seminary like… really?
Current WTS Students
6:50 Go to class
Hebrew or Ministry in the Urban Context
7:30 Campus Tour/Final Questions
Dr. Mark Poppert, Director of Admissions

Feb. 24, 2011, 5-7 p.m.
Martha Miller Center
Refreshments in the rotunda

The Colloquium is a semi-formal occasion resembling a professional academic conference. It offers students in Arts and Humanities courses an opportunity to present their work to an audience of faculty and peers.

Interested in working for the Anchor next year?
Available positions coming soon.

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Department of Art and Humanities
Western Theological Seminary
Hope student is ESPN's 'Campus Connect'

Jolene Jeske
Sports Editor

She has often been seen reporting on the sidelines of both men and women's basketball games aspires to be a sports broadcaster for ESPN and now she's taking large strides to achieve her dream. Who is she?

Junior Kaci Kust is a Hope College student who has recently been gaining slow recognition on campus for her reporting skills. Kust has recently been featured on ESPN's website as Hope College's very own "Campus Connect."

Kust found this opportunity when a friend in the program from an out-of-state college told her about it. After contacting the producer, Kust was create a story compelling and inspiring enough to become a "Campus Connect." She knew he would truly appreciate her work. Plus, he's a huge sports fan.

Ryan Atkins, a senior from the University of Cincinnati, was a normal student. He went to class, socialized with friends, and was a member of Greek life on campus. Everything in Atkins' life was set until a car crash impacted his life and the lives of others.

Last fall, Atkins and four other fraternity brothers were driving to Gatlburg, Tenn., for a Greek retreat. It was a dark November night on the way to Gatlinburg, and Atkins was attempting to make a lane switch when he failed to notice a car in his blind spot.

The SUV Atkins was driving flipped, tossing one of the men in that back seat 70 feet through the front windshield. All three of the men sitting in the back seat were without their seatbelts, but only one of the three was injured.

Both Atkins and his fraternity brother in the passenger's seat were wearing their seatbelts but didn't survive the crash; they were both paralyzed from the chest down. Atkins was hospitalized for nearly four months and kept alive with a respirator. He was paralyzed from the chest down.

Undergoing rehab for three hours daily at SCI Step, a physical therapy institution, Atkins worked to rebuild muscular tissue in hopes of walking once more. During their rehabilitation, Atkins worked on campus for her reporting position, working on the sidelines of both basketball and football games. He has made significant strides to achieve her dream. Who is she?

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Kust, Kust and Atkins went to high school together and have remained friends throughout their college years. When Kust was asked to film a featured story, she knew exactly whom she would do it on; Ryan Atkins. "I was told to write an inspirational story, and I knew no one would appreciate more than Ryan, he's a huge sports fan and loves ESPN," Kust said.

Kust worked on the story for months, receiving videos taken from Atkins' family back home. The videos contained footage of him from his college years. When Kust was asked to film a featured story, she knew exactly whom she would do it on; Ryan Atkins. "I was told to write an inspirational story, and I knew no one would appreciate more than Ryan, he's a huge sports fan and loves ESPN," Kust said.

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Swim teams place second at MIAA Championships

Charlotte Park
Asst. Sports Editor

Both Hope swim teams finished second at the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association championships, which concluded on Saturday night.

The men finished with 775 points, falling short of Kalamazoo (815), while the women ended with 679 points, bowing to Calvin (850). "I could not have asked more from them," said Coach John Patnott.

Both teams kicked off the championships on Thursday with season best performances in all 12 events.

Defending champion Josh Grabijas ('13) dominated the men's 500-yard freestyle with a season-best and conditional national qualifying performance (4:07.42). Claiming the gold medal in the 400 IM crown for the fifth consecutive year (4:05.19).

Sohn ('12) finished with a season-best, conditional national qualifying time of (5:05.19). On Friday, Hope captured the gold medal in both the men's and women's 400-yard individual medley.

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Grabijas defended his championship in the 65-lap race with a school-record time (50:10) along with Weststrate adding the 200-yard freestyle title (1:54.41) to her 50-yard free win earlier.

The NCAA National Championships are scheduled for March 23-26 in Knoxville, Tenn.

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Atkins' progress as well as visits from the UC basketball team. Kust submitted the video to ESPN before Atkins lifted his right leg, for the miraculous event had not happened yet.

A week later Kust received the news from his family that he indeed lifted his leg, in hopes of making her story more compelling, she sent the video to the producer in hopes of adding it in at the last minute. Kust was just in time; the new film was added, and the project was finished.

The story of Atkins overcoming a tragic accident and becoming paralyzed was Kust's first "Campus Connection" for ESPN, however this experience has pushed her to do more.

"I want to do something with Hope. Being a smaller college, it's harder to get on ESPN, but I think if it had something to do with the Hope vs. Calvin rivalry it may spark an interest," said Kust.

Although Kust's aspirations of becoming an ESPN reporter are just at the beginning, don't be surprised when you see her on the big screen a few years from now, interviewing coaches and professional players from the sidelines. Kust's coverage of Atkins' compelling story can be seen on ESPN.com under NCAA BB. To get to the link click Teams, then Big East, follow by Cincinnati, then video playlist and finally Campus Connection Cincy Hoops. To view the progress of Atkins, visit youtube.com/atkinsry.