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Library to open hour earlier on Sundays

Jeneille Ranville
Guest Writer

Student Congress has been busy working toward bettering Hope's campus this semester by introducing initiatives that directly impact students' accessibility to the library, as well as the campus's ability to become more sustainable.

This semester, Congress has been working toward changing Van Wylen Library's Sunday hours. The previous opening time on Sundays was at 1 p.m., but has been moved to 12 p.m. to give students another important hour of studying time.

Christina Aardema ('13), a member of the Hope Library Committee, was the first to bring up the concern. The committee attempted to find the most beneficial times for the library to be open. Aardema brought up changing weekday closings to 2 a.m., and Sunday openings to 11 a.m. However, opening the library an hour earlier on Sundays was the best extension that could be made.

"This is mainly because of costs and trying to find people to work during late hours," Aardema said of the reasons for only the Sunday change of hours.

Not only is this good news for students but also for employees.

"I am excited to be able to head straight to the library after lunch instead of wasting an hour. Graves and other academic buildings are closed on Sundays, so I always head to the library to get studying and homework finished," said Anne Harrison ('13), who works at the main floor checkout.

Harrison also said that the same people who usually work at 1 p.m. will be opening at 12 p.m., and they also seem to be happy about the hour increase.

In addition to new library hours, Student Congress' Sustainability Committee is selling water bottles to benefit Dance Marathon, as well as to help Hope students make more sustainable choices.

Dance 37

DANCE 37—Hope's annual major dance concert Dance 37 opened Friday and continues at 8 p.m. March 10-12 at the Knickerbocker.

Faculty forum addresses discrimination issues

Chris Russ
Campus News Co-Editor

On Feb. 24, for two hours between 5 and 7 p.m. in the Maas Conference Room, a group of Hope College faculty members met to discuss issues of discrimination on Hope's campus.

"Sometimes I think we feel we are more divergent in our opinions on some of these issues than we really are. And once we put ourselves together in a room you begin to see the common ground, the common passion, the common commitment to our students, to the institution, that we all care about this place and we all care about students," said Dr. Deirdre Johnston of the communications department.

The event was an open forum and was organized by the Professional Interest Committee which represents teachers at the college. There was no agenda at the meeting; the only rule was that there would be a two-minute time limit each time a speaker was given the floor.

For two hours professors passed a microphone around a room of their peers and exchanged their ideas on the subject matter. Johnston estimated that around 110 members of the faculty were present. Representatives of the administration were also in attendance.

"The meeting began with a discussion of the educational environment at Hope and whether or not this environment contributes to discrimination.

"After the special faculty meeting called about the KKK flyer incident, it was clear the faculty had much more to talk about relating to discrimination and the campus climate at Hope," Dr. David Klooster of the English Department said.

"At that meeting, there had been only a few minutes available for faculty conversation, so the idea of a longer faculty forum was appealing to me and to many colleagues as a chance to understand and process our situation at the college and the responsibilities we have as faculty members. After the results of the Campus Climate survey were released, it was even more urgent for the faculty to discuss its responsibilities," Klooster said.

In that recently compiled Campus Climate survey, Johnston said that faculty reported a higher level of comfort discussing their opinions regarding race and ethnicity as opposed to their views regarding sexuality. Faculty members were also found to be more comfortable reporting an incident of sexual discrimination than reporting an incident of racial discrimination.

"The data was collected last spring, through the summer and during this past fall," Johnston pointed out that while most of the time at the forum was spent examining issues of sexual orientation, issues of discrimination were also brought up.

Model UN encourages political discussion

Madalyn Muncy
Campus News Co-Editor

The United Nations is an important aspect of international relationships, becoming increasingly significant in light of the growing global economy and community. Teaching about the UN through simulation exercises, Hope College Model United Nations provides high school students with the opportunity to try solving world problems right here on Hope's campus.

Hope College will host close to 700 high school students from 27 different high schools across Michigan for Model UN Thursday and Friday.

Model UN is based on the structure of the United Nations based in New York City. It is run by Hope College students for high school students, who practice being UN delegates in simulated proceedings. Hope's version is the largest conference of its kind in Michigan, offering several forms of UN simulation including General Assembly, Security Council, Economic Social Council and International Court of Justice.

Though complex, the event is a great learning experience for everyone involved, including Hope students who help organize and monitor meetings.

"This is my third year working with Model UN. I enjoy hearing high school students talk and argue about political issues, and the conference itself is always fun," said James Colten ('11), who is the student high school coordinator for the event.

Preparation for the event begins in the fall, with participants researching general topics both before and after country assignments are distributed. Each delegate must be knowledgeable about their country's foreign policy, as well as other countries that they will be interacting with.

Hope student leaders choose certain issues for consideration prior to the event. For example, this year, the
Professors plan next step after productive Faculty Forum

• FORUM, from page 1

racial equality are still a primary focus to the members of Hope's community. She emphasized that there needs to be a discussion of racial and ethnic discrimination on campus as well.

The reaction from faculty members who attended the event was generally a positive one. 

I attended the forum because I wanted to hear my colleagues speak on the issue and to have the opportunity to explore ways of improving the climate at Hope," Hope Director of Theatre Michelle Bombe said. "It was really encouraging to see the faculty discuss these difficult issues with civility, humility and grace. People talked, people listened.

I was most impressed with the commitment of the faculty to the students and the effort to create the best possible environment for our students," Bombe said. "Just as we teach in our classes, the first step toward solving any issue is education, and I think the forum was a great first step in helping to educate about how discrimination is manifested on our campus.

A similar positive review of the forum was expressed by Klooster.

"To me it felt like the faculty was engaged in honest, respectful conversation for the first time in a long time. Our monthly faculty meetings are relatively brief, and they usually have a carefully planned agenda of presentations and reports. We rarely have time to talk with one another without a set agenda. This meeting felt healthy, productive and necessary.

"Many people at the forum expressed a desire to continue the conversation, and I agree that we need more chances like this to understand one another and to work together to address the issues of the campus climate at Hope," Klooster said.

In considering what the next step is following this meeting, Johnston said that she saw two major and feasible goals for the college to work toward.

First, is an Inclusive Non-Discrimination Policy that would ensure equality for students in the classroom, in admissions and in athletics, regardless of sexual orientation.

Second, she said the college should make an effort, on Hope's website and in admissions materials, to explain what the college expects of its students and to state that everyone is treated with respect and dignity.

The best aspect of these water bobbles is that they filter the water when you drink so that the water tastes water bottle fresh. The sustainability committee noticed that many students buy disposable water bottles, and their goal is to decrease the amount of wasted plastic; to save both money and the planet can be saved.

"I believe it is important to start making choices toward sustainable life choices now. This way you and I are more likely to live a more sustainable life later. These little steps make a huge difference later," said Ashley Freley ('14), a member of the Sustainability committee that organized the fundraiser.

Water bobbles are available at the student congress office, and students can stop by at any time to pick one up; they are also being sold during the afternoon this week in DeWitt.

Not only is the sustainability committee working towards fewer plastic water bottles on campus, the team is also trying to introduce a better plan for recycling at Hope.

"The committee is working on evaluating the residential recycling program and suggesting changes for the next academic year. We are also trying to start a composting program in the cottages for next year. We’re getting started on the planning for Earth Jam with other student groups," said Marc Tori ('12).

Lastly, as part of efforts to continue to connect with the student body, Student Congress is sponsoring another “What Do You Want Wednesday” across campus. Stop by tables in DeWitt and Phelps to make your voice heard.

“This upcoming survey will focus on community and trying to gauge how students view the Hope Community. A number of our student congress reps have had some questions/ideas concerning the community, and we wanted to see how best to focus our efforts and what areas are a priority,” said Michael Parrish ('11).

Student Congress is always looking for ideas and opinions of the students they represent. If you have a concern, please email congress@hope.edu.

High school students debate world problems at Hope’s Model UN

• CONFERENCE, from page 1

General Assembly is looking at endangered species and the loss of biodiversity, as well as the international drug trade. Delegates will research these issues and then create a resolution to submit to the General Council.

Other issues that Model UN participants will confront include the Internet and human rights, global currency, human rights of migrants, global vaccination and security in the Mexican drug war, Kashmir and the Gaza Strip, as well as spills.

Delegates who demonstrate excellence will be awarded. The top three delegations will be recognized based on representation of their respective countries and the quality of their participation.

Students organizing Model UN are looking forward to the debates and solutions that delegates pose at the conference.
In China: Could jasmine go jade?

Letter prompts Chinese officials to pre-emptively crack down on potential revolution

Aftan Snyder
Co-National Editor

March 9, 2011

Recent protest movements across the Arab region, increasingly referred to as the Jasmine Revolution, may have sparked revolution in China. However, the Chinese government initiated a severe and preemptive crackdown meant to prevent any such movement. The crackdown came barely a week after a letter was translated to English by Human Rights In China, but we are resolute in asking the government and the officials to accept the supervision of ordinary Chinese people, and we must have an independent judiciary. This is our fundamental demand.

The letter went on to list rallying points around China, asking citizens to “stroll, watch, or even just pretend to pass by. As long as you are present, the authoritarian government will be shaken with fear.” The letter also firmly stated the authors’ commitment to “non-violent non-cooperation.”

The letter quickly spread across Twitter, prompting the Chinese government to ban the search word “jasmine” - a word that symbolizes Middle Eastern uprisings – from all search engines and microblogging services. The government also initiated arrests of anyone who re-posted the letter.

Despite a lack of demonstrators and protest signs, on the first Sunday of protest the government flooded the meeting point in Wangfujing with plainclothes police officers and security teams, interrogating some and checking the ID badges of others. Three people were detained at the Shanghai meeting point.

As the second Sunday approached, Chinese officials announced multiple lawyers, journalists, and other activists, including BBC reporter Damian Grammaticas.

“His hair was grabbed… they tried to pick me up and throw me bodily into [a] van,” Grammaticas recounted to PBS. “I found myself lying on the floor as they repeatedly slammed the door on my leg.”

Despite the swift and ferocity of the government crackdown, visible protest in China has yet to materialize. It appears that the following statement made in the protest literature failed to reach an unfulfilled truth.

“China belongs to every Chinese person, not to any political party. China’s future will be decided by every person.”

A full version of the letter can be found at www.hrichina.org/public/content/press/revision_id=192612&item_id=192610

Prevention – Chinese police swarm a street in front of a McDonald’s in Beijing on Feb. 20. The area was a planned protest site for a Chinese version of the “Jasmine Revolution.”

Oil prices respond to public fears

Aftan Snyder
Co-National Editor

Despite the fact that Libya holds only 2 percent of the world’s oil supply, gas prices continue to climb. According to Time magazine, the current price of oil – $116 dollars per barrel – is about $20 higher than the price during the 2008 oil crisis.

The largest reason, writes Time magazine contributor Rana Foroohar, is fear. “(Oil) is not something to mess with; the world is in a state of shock. We are in a war. We are in a world of uncertainty. We are in a world of politics and oil-bearing countries. This makes the oil business uncertain.

Unfortunately, an uncertain oil business causes fear, and fear about oil means we pay more at the pump.

Collective bargaining does not belong in government

Matt Lee
Co-National Editor

Editor’s note: This perspectives column is a response to a letter on page 7 entitled “Collective bargaining is democracy.”

How is fleeing the state and leaving your job you were elected to office must agree on tax and spending decisions with union representatives. How is that democratic? My voice is not being represented there. Unions were first established to ensure quality working conditions and high pay is already significantly lower, but no soldiers have gone on strike because they realize what the state of warfare is for. Collective bargaining strikes do not affect the private sector because there are plenty of other goods and services to choose from. A strike by United Auto Workers against Ford means consumers will turn to Japanese or European automakers.

Budget cuts are just a part of being a public employee. It is part of the risk of working for the government. Military personnel have recently had their pay cut for three years and their pay is already significantly lower, but no soldiers have gone on strike because they realize what the state of warfare is for.

I also fail to see how you do not find the statement of FDR relevant. FDR is the father of modern unionism; unions exist today because of his policies. Therefore if unions are still relevant today what FDR had to say on the matter is as well. If 66 years after his presidency things fail to be relevant in today’s politics then forget reforming Social Security and welfare (both of which were also created under FDR’s New Deal) lets just rid of them because apparently they are no longer relevant.

Collective bargaining has no place in government because there is no competition. It works great in the private sector because private-sector unions have competitors and bargain over profits they help create. The government relies solely on taxes. They have no profit. There are also no competitors in government unions so they have a monopoly. This means that the representatives we send to office must agree on tax and spending decisions with union representatives. How is that democratic? My voice is not being represented there. Unions were first established to ensure quality working conditions and high people are using the great revolution in Egypt to inspire protests over spending cuts. Nothing that these public sector employees are being subjected to are near the kind of oppression the people of Egypt experienced.

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Budget cuts are just a part of being a public employee. It is part of the risk of working for the government. Military personnel have recently had their pay cut for three years and their pay is already significantly lower, but no soldiers have gone on strike because they realize what the state of warfare is for. Collective bargaining strikes do not affect the private sector because there are plenty of other goods and services to choose from. A strike by United Auto Workers against Ford means consumers will turn to Japanese or European automakers. But that luxury does not exist in government. We can’t buy another product to replace a public employee. The fact is the state of Wisconsin and most other states right now face huge budget cuts and budget cuts have to happen.
British dramedy ‘Another Year’ comes to Knick

Katie Schewe
Co-Arts Editor

The Knickerbocker Film Series is opening its next show, “Another Year”, on March 14. It runs until March 19 with shows at 7:30 p.m. each night. The synopsis of the Knick gives for the film is “A married couple who have managed to remain blissfully happy into their autumn years are surrounded over the course of the four seasons of one average year by friends, colleagues and family who all seem to suffer some degree of unhappiness.” “Another Year” is a British drama, written and directed by Mike Leigh. Leigh is a director of both films and theater. Leigh started off as a theater director and playwright in the mid ’60s. It was in the ’70s and ’80s that his work transferred from theater to film. Other films of Leigh’s include: “Life is Sweet” (1990), “Career Girls” (1997), Gilbert and Sullivan biopic “Topsy Turvy” (1999), and “All of Nothing” (2002). But his works that received the most praise included: “Naked” (1993), which won him the Best Director Award at the Cannes Film Festival, “Secrets and Lies” (1996) which was nominated for an Oscar, and lastly “Vera Drake” (2004), winner of the Golden Lion. “Another Year” includes actors such as Jim Broadbent, Ruth Sheen and Lesley Manville. Most of the actors in the film had worked with Leigh before. Much collaboration went into building the characters and world of the film. A great deal of improvisation occurs on the actors’ part, as part of the process of building the final script. “Another Year” is a mix of comedy and drama. “Another Year” was first released in France in May of 2010 at the Cannes Film Festival. Yet it did play at the 54th London Film Festival before its official release in France. It came to the U.S. in September at the Telluride Film Festival. The film was nominated this year for an Academy Award for best original screenplay.

Don’t miss your chance to see this Academy Award-nominated film March 14-19 at the Knick at 7:30 p.m.

WTHS: new and notable albums

Hear the reviewers’ radio show! Paul Rice: Mondays, 10 p.m.
Laura Helderop: Thursdays, 8 p.m.

ASOBI SEKU
“Flourescence”

In 2009, Asobi Seku put out “Rewold,” an album of acoustic takes of songs from their previous albums. It was weird. Dream pop is definitely Asobi Seku’s musical forte, and on this album they return to their strengths. The singer’s high-pitched voice, similar to that of Kazu Makino of Blonde Redhead, blends in perfectly with the waves of loud guitar in the background. The songs are all about texture more than hooks, created by the balance between her loud yet soft vocals and the guitar and keyboards.

Daniel Martin Moore
“In the Cool of the Day”

Daniel Martin Moore was just a regular old singer/songwriter with a guitar and a soft voice on his last album, “Stray Age.” For his new album, he threw out his old approach and recorded an assortment of old hymns and spirituals, mixing in some thematically consistent songs of his own. Turns out his covers have a lot more character than his originals. Recruiting a variety of musicians (including Jim James of My Morning Jacket) to vary his sound, he swings and romps through the fun hymns and gives startling depth to the solemn ones. Anyone looking for folksy hymns with artistic integrity: look no further!

Radiohead
“The King of Limbs”

Ever since Radiohead gained a reputation for completely reconstructing their style with albums like “OK Computer” and “Kid A”, they’ve been reinventing themselves less and less. 2007’s “In Rainbows” sounded like Radiohead relaxing, not taking themselves too seriously. But this abruptly released new “newspaper album” sounds nothing like “In Rainbows.” They sound even less like a normal rock band than usual as the opening songs skitter by, propelled by clashing rhythms and anxious, jerky melodies. Calm beauty unfolds as the opening songs skitter by, propelled by clashing rhythms and anxious, jerky melodies. Calm beauty unfolds as the sounds of the actors in the film. A great deal of improvisation occurs on the actors’ part, as part of the process of building the final script. "Another Year" is a mix of comedy and drama. “Another Year” was first released in France in May of 2010 at the Cannes Film Festival. Yet it did play at the 54th London Film Festival before its official release in France. It came to the U.S. in September at the Telluride Film Festival. The film was nominated this year for an Academy Award for best original screenplay.

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“Congratulations! You’ve accomplished what 97 percent of people never do when they say they want to write a novel!”
Pretty stunning statistic! It is what Professor Elizabeth Trembley says to her students after 28 days of furious novel-writing. The truth is this: Writing a novel is incredibly difficult. The class’s goal is to write 50,000 words in one month. Most students faint at the thought of writing a 10 to 20-page research paper. Now multiply that by 100, and you’ve got the typical page count for a novel from this class! And since the novel writing usually takes place in February, the number of days decreases by two. Twenty-eight days is all they had, and they did it.

Everyone’s methods are different for tackling this monstrous task. For me, when I took the class one year ago, it was “simple.” The word count per day is around 1,700, so I took it a day at a time. I devoted a large section of the day for writing, typically in the morning after I woke up. The first few sentences were never coherent, but the idea of the class is not for the novel to make any sense. More on that later.

My classmates had different methods. One actually finished in only 10 days. Others took weekly word counts and, depending on their schedules, took huge chunks out on one day and only a page or two on others. David Caplan (‘11) had one of the more interesting (and hair-pulling) methods. He pushed everything to the last minute. I checked in with him when we had only three days left, and he had just over 20,000 words to go. The amazing thing is that he pulled it off! By midnight on our last day, he had turned it all in and finished, along with everyone else in the class.

So how does this whole class work? It starts in January. Right off the bat, students are told they will have no life at all outside of this novel writing process in February. They are given the basics in novel writing and story structure until Feb. 1. Then, it’s all up to them. The idea is not to have a coherent story line from beginning to end; rather, it is to finish the first draft of a story that you can then go back and revise. If you were writing and you wanted to change Fred’s name to George, you would mark down where you are making the change (page 100), go to a separate document, and make a note of what you have done. You would then go on with the rest of the story as if George was his name all along.

After the month of writing, the students gather their stories together and go through an entire workshop together. They prepare a pitch, a 10-second synopsis, and the first 20 pages of the story. Twenty might not seem like that much since you have a 50,000-word story, but it is what publishers typically want from potential authors.

So how did this year’s group of novelists feel about the whole writing process? Melody Hughes (‘11) recalls how different it was than writing a typical short story. “It was painful to write scenes ‘quick and dirty.’ The luxury of time did not exist in this process, so I couldn’t get fancy with words.”

Melody Hughes (‘11)
Three little words
Karen Patterson
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Ring by spring. There is something about those three words consecutively written together that causes a part of me to cringe. Yet, as a senior at Hope College it’s a phrase I’ve been unable to out-run the last two years. Regardless of our feelings on the topic, for better or worse (pun intended), Ring By Spring is a trend that influences this campus. Here’s what I want to know, though: What is it about graduating college that leads to people either getting engaged or worrying if they’re single?

Now, I’m not a scientist but I do know that correlation does not equal causation. That being said, I sense that students on this campus feel pressure to be in a relationship during college and if that relationship has been going strong for at least a year and a half at the end of junior year, to get engaged. Maybe I’m completely wrong, maybe I’m not.

As students at Hope, we are called to excel academically while living lives of faith and meaning. You can certainly achieve both of those things while dating someone, but the urge to be in a significant relationship doesn’t necessarily have to be a part of the equation. There is an absolutely fantastic YouTube video of a 5-year-old saying, “I don’t want to marry you before I have a job.” My housemates and I think it’s hilarious but we also agree that she’s on to something.

Did you know that in a 2007 census poll, researchers found that the average American man gets married at 27 years old and the average American woman marries at 25 years? I realize that the actual number of Hope students that get married within one year of graduation is far lower than the rumors would lead you to believe; it’s kind of like that rumor where all Pullmorals and pullers get married—trust me, that one’s completely false.

So then, if far fewer Hope students get married than we’re led to believe and statistically nobody is getting married for a while, why on earth do we feel this ridiculous pressure to give or receive a ring by spring? There are so many great things about being single. Yes, it’s nice to always have someone around, but there’s also an incredible opportunity for personal growth when you’re not emotionally committing a part of yourself to another person.

Being in a relationship is awesome and wonderful. That single is awesome and wonderful. So students of Hope College, I encourage you to take a deep breath and ignore that pressure to be in a relationship before April of your graduation year. If you’re getting married in a few months, I sincerely offer my congratulations. I recognize that while I am not mature enough to make that sort of commitment, some people are. Wherever you are in life, enjoy it! Single, taken or somewhere in between—don’t stress it. We have too many things going for us to let ourselves be defined by our relationship status.

Karen thinks Facebook should get rid of the “Relationship Status” button. It causes unnecessary drama.

I look up. The women, her purse slung over her shoulder, enters a coffee shop down at the street corner. I was hoping she had disappeared. Too late, I could say.

Where’d she go? I could say. I don’t know. I don’t remember what she looks like. But I know where she is. I hang my head and jog. She is near and close and the money belongs to her, and I know where she is—

I enter the frosted door of the coffee shop. Café Konditorei. Alpen Rose. Four-dollar brownies and chocolate covered almonds. The woman is at the counter, pointing a finger at the glass case of pastries.

I tap her on the shoulder. I hold the two dollar bill out to her. “You dropped this; it’s yours.”

She stares at the bills, then up at me. She opens her hand. “Thank you,” she says.

“It’s no problem,” I say. I exit, listening for something from her, but she says nothing more.

I jog back across the street. I sit back down and dig for two quarters out of my pocket. For a refill. I pull out a dime and a quarter, 15 cents short. I search through my backpack, pulling out my blue cap and gown to look in the very bottom of the bag.

But the quarter and dime. It is all I have. I have no other change.

And I wonder if I’ve made the wrong choice.

Yet another Senior moment.

Senior moment
Free cash
Charlie Walter
Columnist

I am sitting in the window of Crane’s on Eighth Street. It’s sunny and the snow is sweating. An American flag waves outside, over the street. Across the street, I watch a woman who gets off the street-side ATM. She walks in front of the long stretch of windows of Teenmar’s, Teenmar’s, Teenmar’s, Mar-

nax. As she stuffs her things back into her purse, two pieces of paper drop to the sidewalk. She keeps walking.

I sit up straight, put my hand to the glass. I imagine she has dropped a bank card. Her bank statement. Her social security card.

This is serious. This could be the beginnings of identity theft. I do not know exactly what she has dropped, but I cannot bear that she has left something like that. I imagine her picture of her granddaughter or a letter to her son.

And she is still walking.

I slide out of my seat and walk out the door. I jog across the street, thinking that I am doing a very good thing for this woman. That I am a good man.

I bend over to pick up the left-behinds. It is two $1 bills. I hold the money. Feel the rub between my fingers, the weight of money that is so different from a receipt or notebook paper. Real money has weight. It’s thicker. Denser.

I think of a 47 cent refill with 3 cents of tax at Crane’s. Maybe a day-old muffin at 7/11. I could get them both and have money left over.

I wonder if I’ve made the wrong choice.
From the inside out
Business as usual

Madalyn Muncy
Co-News Editor

About a month ago, I unwillingly turned 20. Never had a birthday scared me so much. Twenty meant that I wasn’t a teenager anymore. Twenty meant that next year I could legally buy alcohol. Twenty meant that I was really ready and willing without parents to answer to and a younger sister bugging me all the time.

All of this growing up business that has been floating around my mind this past month was recently embodied in the strangest of forms. My roommate has been actively pursuing an internship, getting her resume ready, networking with potential employers and going to practice interviews. All of this was just talk to me, I never thought about what it all meant, other than something to do this summer.

Last week, however, she came in carrying a dark garment bag from Nordstrom Rack. Thinking that it was a new dress or just something she was bringing back from home, I didn’t think much of it. Until I came back from work the next day and a pressed black business suit was hanging in our closet doorway.

After asking what it was for, I found out that she had bought it in preparation for internship interviews. “They told me I need to look more professional,” she said.

Before I knew it, my group of friends had found a room in one room to watch a professional business fashion show, trying to decide what button-down was more appropriate — striped or solid? We laughed as our model posed, proud of her new look, fresh and ready to show those engineers what she was made of.

Letters to the Editors

Poster perpetrator owned up to mistakes

I was at the library the other night, and I found a copy of the Stand Up edition of The Anchor. The first thing that caught my eye was the interview with the perpetrator of the controversial poster, and as I read it, I couldn’t help but think that this was the most humble, sincere apology I have ever read. I hope that everyone on campus who was ready to lock this guy up and throw away the key gets the chance to read this, too, and gets the chance to realize that no matter how angry something like this makes us, and regardless of how stupid it was, we’re still dealing with a person here.

While I certainly think it’s very important that we at Hope grow in our racial awareness and sensitivity after this event, I think it’s even more important that we learn to take issues and events for what they are, and nothing more. Yes, it was an unacceptable, insensitive act, and it should be punished. But if you read the interview in the Anchor, you know that this student realizes this more than anyone.

If I could have one wish for Hope College, it would be for us to just take time to listen and figure out why people did what they did or said what they said before we act and speak rashly. While it was great to see positive student response and solidarity, I personally was disappointed in a number of students and faculty who I felt were using this incident negatively, as a kind of fuel for their fire, so that they could keep pointing their finger at the Hope College community to say something along the lines of, “See? Hope College is racist.”

I think, in reality, if you attend Hope College with an open heart instead of a political agenda, you will notice that there is a great deal of harmony between a lot of different kinds of people and different groups of people, and you’ll realize that the future is not quite so bleak as certain outspoken members of the community would have us believe.

I’m writing this letter because I think it needs to be said by someone. The student responsible for the poster that has caused such an uproar on campus responded in the best possible way he could have, and if nothing else, he has my respect for owning up to his mistakes and being completely ready and willing to accept the full force of his punishment. There are a lot of lessons I personally hope to learn from this situation, but that attitude is right up there for me as the most important lesson of all.

Mike Debowski (’12)
The Flying Dutch played their last game of the season at the DeVos Fieldhouse on Saturday night, bowing to last season's national champions Washington St-Louis 52-56. The loss broke a 77-game winning streak for the women, who finished their season with a 27-3 record.

The first half consisted of non-stop fights for possession, with Hope trailing just one point at the buzzer, 26-27. The Dutch scrambled late in the second half, soaring the Bears to a 9-point lead 55-46 with two minutes to spare. While All-American Carrie Snikkers managed to sneak a 3-pointer in with seven seconds left on the clock, it just wasn't enough for the Dutch.

Snikkers ended the game with double digits, 23 points and nine rebounds. The women claimed a 77-65 victory over DePauw (Ind.) Friday night in front of their orange and blue fans. “We were blessed to be able to play in front of the fans we have at Hope,” Morehouse said. “The students are fantastic and so were all the other fans who supported our team.”

Hope led by six points at halftime, 39-33. While DePauw did score the first two points of the second half, Hope came back, accumulating a 21-point lead, 58-37 a mere six minutes into the second half. The Flying Dutch shot 54 percent overall with their final 30 points coming solely from three point range. Snikkers once again led the Dutch with 21 points overall, while Liz Ellis (‘11) added 16, and Bruinsma 12.

While the Dutch unfortunately didn’t snatch the national title this season, three players have received all conference honors from the league’s coaches. Snikkers and Bruinsma are first team honorees in addition to being named the league’s defensive player of the year.

The unexpected happened with five seconds left in play; Vikings guard Bri-De-Simone hit a 3-pointer, tying the game 74-74, forcing the game into overtime.

The Dutchmen seemed to lose their fire in overtime, as the Vikings led for all five minutes. The baskets were not falling for the Dutch, resulting in a final loss of 88-80 to the Vikings.

“We missed some shots and we fouled them. They made their free throws when they had to and that created the gap in overtime,” coach Matt Neil said.

The road to victory might have been over for the NCAA tournament, but it’s not over for the men’s basketball program.

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The end of this season does not mark the end of success for Hope basketball, rather it defines the success of Hope basketball and the success of a first-time head coach.

“I am completely honored to be able to have these men call me ‘coach.’ We en- ded a lot of emotional ups and downs this season, and our men discovered that mental toughness is necessary to be successful, no matter the endeavor,” Neil said.

Neil also expressed his appreciation for the community and fans.

“Our basketball program would like to thank the entire Hope College com-munity for the support and encourage-ment during the season. We aim to serve our college in a way that represents the loyalty of our fans and wish to thank the Dew Crew for setting the tone,” Neil said.

As for the seniors, they had a great year. Special recognition goes to Will Bowser, Andy Venema, Ty Tanis and Adam Dickerson for their contributions to Hope men’s basketball.

Other recognitions include Bowser making MIAA first team honors, as well as teammate David Krombeen (‘12) making MIAA second team honors.