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Students ready to immerse in Christ, culture

Madalyn Muncy
CamPUs neWS Co-editor

Spring break is almost upon us and Hope students are looking forward to time off from classes. Many are headed to warmer climates for vacation, and others are headed home for time with family and friends. However, approximately 200 Hope students will be going around the United States and abroad to participate in 15 spring break immersion trips where they will spread the love of Christ through service to others.

In prior years, these Hope-sponsored spring break excursions were called mission trips. This year, Hope has renamed them “immersion trips,” feeling that immersion better fits the atmosphere of these trips.

“This isn’t as much because these trips are not about missions, but more to help us remember that we are going more as learners than as doers,” explained Kate Kooyman, director of outreach and social justice at campus ministries.

“Instead of focusing first on a project, or diving in to ‘help’ right away, these trips will encourage students to learn how they might be part of the system of injustice before trying to ‘fix’ it,” said Kooyman.

Trips as close as Holland and Detroit and as far as Nicaragua and Honduras have been planned. Each trip has two student leaders who have been on mission trips before. Student leadership is an important aspect of the program.

“Leadership is an important aspect of immersion trips, providing a sense of community and spiritual guidance among participants,” Sarah Wentz (‘11) who is leading a trip to World Impact in Newark, N.J. discussed her motivation for participating in the program.

“I am leading a mission trip because through my past experiences of mission trips...”

Dancing ‘all for the kids’

2011 Dance Marathon raises $40,000 more than expected

Aleesa Ribbons
CamPUs neWS Co-editor

Oliver Emerson finds great joy in getting to spend quality time with his family. He likes playing with his toy trucks and constructing buildings out of his Legos. Oliver also loves Dance Marathon.

The 4-year-old son of Derek Emerson, director of events and conferences, quickly worked his way into the hearts of Hope College’s community after he was diagnosed with stage four neuroblastoma cancer this past summer.

Oliver, who is currently undergoing treatment at the Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital, became one of 22 Miracle Children for this year’s marathon.

Dance Marathon 2011: Clowning Around for the Kids, marked the 12th consecutive year of Hope’s partnership with the Children’s Miracle Network to raise money for the Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital, located in Grand Rapids. The proceeds aid in the development of the hospital which in turn, helps enable children, like Oliver, to be treated in a state-of-the-art institution.

A large number of different students and organizations joined together and raised a total of $90,390.69 “for the kids.”

The 24-hour dance-a-thon kicked off at 5 p.m. in The Dow Friday night. Close to 600 students gathered in the gym for 24 hours of food, games and of course, dancing. Over 250 dancers were there to keep the 200 dancers on their feet the entire time.

Four-time dancer Katie Sawyer (‘11) said that staying on her feet for 24 hours straight was challenging.

“My friends definitely got me through. While changing socks and shoes, brushing your teeth and changing your clothes can help, there is nothing compared to seeing a friend walk into the Dow and give you a huge hug and tell you that you are doing great and making a difference for someone,” said Sawyer.

For first time dancer Danielle Portfleet (’13), the various events on put on by the Dream Team were a large part of what got her through the night. “There were times where, if I wasn’t...”

Hope explores e-book options

Chris Russ
CamPUs neWS Co-editor

The internet and digital technologies have changed the way education works. It’s hard to imagine college without the instant communication of email or without the fact-checking power of the Internet. One area of education that has proven slower to change, is the digitization of the library catalog.

A number of Hope College faculty and staff members met on March 8 to discuss e-books and how they related to education at the college. The advantages and disadvantages of digital texts were discussed, and the extent to which Hope has begun to incorporate e-books was examined. In addition, the future of e-books at Hope was considered. Hope currently boasts a total count of 32,000 e-books in the library catalog. These books fall into two basic categories. First are texts that are simply digital replacements of the print books on the stands. Secondly, there are a large number of reference books that have been similarly replaced with digital collections. The digital collection of reference books include the Oxford English Dictionary, Encyclopedia Britannica, and hundreds of other scholarly reference books.

The library is going to continue looking in to purchasing e-books, so far we’ve only purchased very small collections, figuring out if students are going to use them or not. We’re moving ahead but we’re moving cautiously. Most of the reference books we will be buying will be electronic,” said Director of Libraries Kelly Jacobson.

She said that while some schools have advanced more rapidly in the field of digital text, Hope is taking it slowly due to two reasons. First, the user interface for many e-books has not advanced far enough for the technology to be convenient. Secondly, she feels that the pricing rates of many e-books are

THE BIG REVEAL— Members of the Dance Marathon Dream team unveil the total amount of money raised by Hope students this year. The total was $40,000 more than last year’s total. It isn’t the record though: Hope raised $120,878.62 in 2008.

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Students ready to immerse in Christ, culture

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Clowning around: Dancers, moralsers enjoy lip-sync, ‘Circle of Hope’

continuously participating in different things, I would get tired. It was important to constantly be moving.”
Throughout the night and into the morning, different events were put on to keep the dancers on their feet and energized. Students had the opportunity to meet new people, grab a quick bite to eat, learn a line dance put on by Life Support and rock out to local bands. Many of the Miracle Families were on hand to share their testimonies as well.

Much to the crowd’s delight, the ever-popular lip sync competition was back and saw action from a mix of Greek Life, sports teams and student formed groups. In a performance most likely to never be forgotten, Daniel Branch ’11, Ronald Radcliffe ’11, Bryant Russ ’11, Randall Snow and Andrew Young ’11 received honorable mention for their heartwarming interpretation “My Heart Will Go On” by Celine Dion.

The men’s and women’s tennis teams got the audiences’ hearts jumping after their third place interpretation Britney Spears 1999 hit “Crazy.”
Lady GaGa was in the house – or more accurately, Hope’s service fraternity Alpha Phi Omega, who claimed second place with their interpretation of “Telephone.”
The best was saved for last when Benjamin Thomas ’11 and Kyle McKee ’11 proved that fairytales really do come true by clinching the lip sync title for their interpretation of “Love Story” by Taylor Swift.
By the time the end of the marathon was in sight and the total had been announced, many students came to the realization that the marathon wasnt for the money, it was for the kids.
The most meaningful part of Dance Marathon came at the end when the participants and community members circled around the gym for “The Circle of Hope.” During this time, the family members took time to personally thank each person who was involved with the fundraiser. Each student received a mixture of hugs and high fives from the children and “thank you’s” from the children’s parents.
“The Circle of Hope at the end was really moving because you realized what you had just participated in Dance Marathon,” Sawyer said.

Kevin Watson ’12 said, “This is the reason we do Dance Marathon, to support these families by giving a portion of our time, a lot of our energy, our resources and to humble ourselves, all to let these families know that Hope stands beside them in this on-going battle.”

Dream Team member Alli Springett ’13 added, “It really puts things in focus for students to see outside their world and to see what is affecting their families... This is something we’re passionate about and it both unites us and it fosters community. At the end of the day, it truly is ‘for the kids.’”

E-books may lower textbook costs, provide greater access

not ideal at this point.

One of the successes in the library’s early exploration of e-books is the collection of Spring- er e-books. This collection has been successful largely due to its format. It breaks up each chapter of texts into individual down-loadable files. However other digital texts have not gotten as warm of a response.

“I can’t say I’ve had overwhelming response from students that they want to use e-books. But if you can get your hands on the books that you need, 24 hours a day, does that outweigh it not being on paper? It may come down to that eventually,” Jacobsma said.

One major advantage of e-books over regular texts is a concept known as patron-initi- ated purchasing.

“You would load you know, 50,000 titles into the catalog, but you wouldn’t pay for a book until a student had used it say, three times. We order books all the time that may or may not get used, so this way, you’re making sure that you’re only paying for things that students want to use,” Jacobsma said.

Dr. Barry Bandstra, professor of religion at Hope and director of academic computing, also spoke on the potential advan- tages of e-books.

“They may impact students at Hope College by lowering somewhat the current outra- geous cost of textbooks. Us- ing e-books on a single reading device or accessible from one, will lessen the sheer weight of material students will have to lug around campus and to their classes. Electronic texts, as op- posed to printed texts, can easily be linked to oral readers so that students with disabilities can hear their texts read to them,” said Bandstra.

“Also, having texts in elec- tronic form opens up possibili- ties for integrating them more closely with other course mate- rials, such as within, e-books, by their digital nature, allow for enhancement with other media, such as music, podcasts, movie clips, etc. compared to print textbooks,” Bandstra added.

However, Bandstra also listed a number of disadvantages to e- texts. He said they are a different and unfamiliar way to read; the digital texts are more difficult to navigate through or annotate, also they can’t be sold once a student is done with them and they can not as easily be shared with fellow classmates. However Bandstra believes that many of these disadvantages will be- come irrelevant as technology improves.

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MARCH 16, 2011

CAMPUS

**• MARATHON, from page 1**
Japan devastated by quake, tsunami
Aftan Snyder
Co-National Editor

Rescue efforts, serious aftershocks and concerns over nuclear meltdowns all continue this week in Japan as the country reels from the effects of an 8.9-magnitude earthquake.

The earthquake struck Thursday 05:46 GMT off the north-east coast of Japan, about 250 km east of Tokyo and at a depth of about 24 km. The tremor created a tsunami that ripped through Japan, creating an unstoppable flow that destroyed homes, roads, rice paddies, cars and anything else in its path. The wall of water reached at least 10 meters high in the city of Sendai.

The tsunami traveled across the Pacific at a rate of about 500 mph. Hawaii and the West Coast took safety precautions, and officials have reported no major damage. The highest waves reportedly reached about six or seven feet high, according to the Miyagi Tsunami Warning Centre. Other countries in the Pacific have since had their tsunami warnings lifted.

According to Japanese officials over 3,300 were confirmed dead through Tuesday afternoon, with estimates as high as 10,000 across one of the devastated regions of the country. In the state of Miyagi, police spokesman Go Sugawara said, "Learning that we're not alone in the universe could spark street protests. In order to relieve high pressure within the reactor.

Explosions, engineers have had to vent radioactive vapor in order to relieve high pressure within the reactor. Officials are also monitoring a separate nuclear complex about seven miles south of Fukushima, which according to the International Atomic Energy Agency does not have the electricity necessary for cooling. Authorities in the area plan to distribute iodine to residents, which will counter the effects of radiation. Testing facilities have already measured radiation exposure in at least 1,500 citizens, although according to NPR's Doualy Xaykaothao, "it's not clear who's been exposed, and how dangerous the level.

Thus far Japan has been rocked by at least 150 aftershocks.

CITIES IN RUINS—People walk a road in between the rubble of destroyed buildings in Miyagi Prefecture in northern Japan on March 14, just three days after a powerful earthquake triggered a massive tsunami hit the country’s coastline.

Some officials estimate that the magnitude of these could go as high as 7.5-magnitude. Meanwhile at least 1.4 million home are without water and 1.9 million homes without electricity.

The international community has stepped in to assist. Two U.S. carrier groups rest off Japan's coast and are delivering food and water in Miyagi, as well as helping with rescue efforts.

Japanese Prime Minister Naoto Kan said that Japan's future would be decided by the response to the disaster.

"This is Japan's most severe crisis since [World War II] ended 65 years ago," Kan told CNN reporters. "I strongly believe that we can get over this great earthquake and tsunami by joining together."

Nothing in Christian doctrine overtly argues against the existence of aliens, said Jennifer Wiseman of the AAAS Science and Policy Programs office in Washington, D.C. However, Wiseman stated, finding them would raise tough questions for Christians.

When Nicholas Copernicus concluded in the 16th century that Earth went around the Sun, the concept challenged the idea of the Earth as the center of the universe. The theory was so radical that Copernicus kept his notebook locked in his study. He continued to work on the book until his death in 1543, but it wasn't published until 1619. The Copernican revolution paved the way for Galileo Galilei to develop a lens, and then go on and invent the telescope. It also led to the discovery of the first artificial satellite of the Earth, which was made by the Soviet Union in 1957. The Earth is round, and not flat, and the Sun is the center of the solar system, not the Earth.

Rep. Gabrielle Giffords’ seat remains empty as she recovers from her gunshot wound but three of her friends are making sure her voice is still heard in Congress.

During every hearing of the House Armed Services Committee, the committee’s top Democrat, Rep. Adam Smith of Washington state, takes time out of his already time-limited turn questioning military officials to ask a question on Giffords’ behalf.

“Shes a critical member of the community and has been for the four years that she’s been here,” Smith said in a recent interview with MSNBC, just days after visiting Giffords at a Houston hospital. He confers with the Arizona Democrat’s staff on questions that Giffords might ask about energy or the two major military installations in her district, the Army’s Fort Huachuca and Davis-Monthan Air Force Base.

“I want to make sure her initiatives get in there,” Smith said.

On Tuesday night Smith, along with the help of Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz, D-Fla., and Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y., hosted a fundraiser for Giffords’ 2012 campaign at the International Brotherhood of Teamsters building just a few blocks from the Capitol. Members of the Democratic leadership also contributed.

“I’ve been protecting her flanks politically,” Wasserman Schultz told MSNBC. She is also intent on making sure Giffords has a hefty account for her next election.

Giffords will remain absent from Congress for some time as she will undergo months of rehabilitation. She is recovering from a brain injury. Meanwhile her three friends are filling in the gaps of Giffords’ daily political work and ensuring that the three-term congresswoman remains politically productive during her absence.
Controversial statements spur controversies

Matt Lee
Co- National Editor

P.J. Crowley unexpectedly resigned as State Department spokesman Sunday as a result of controversial statements he recently made about the Bradley Manning case. Sources close to the matter told CNN that the resignation was a direct result of pressure from the White House after Crowley publicly challenged the Obama administration of mistreating Manning by the Army private who is being held in solitary confinement in Quantico, Virginia, under suspicion that he leaked classified State Department information to the website WikiLeaks.

CNN reports that while speaking to a small group at MIT last week, Crowley was asked about allegations that Manning is being tortured and kicked up a firestorm by answering that what is being done to Manning by Defense Department officials “is ridiculous and counterproductive and stupid.”

BBC reporter, Philippa Thomas, who attended Crowley’s talk, said that after his comments Crowley also added, “nonetheless, Bradley Manning is in the right place.”

“The unauthorized disclosure of classified information is a serious crime under U.S. law,” Crowley said in a statement Sunday. “My recent comments regarding the conditions of the pre-trial detention of Private First Class Bradley Manning were intended to highlight the broader, even strategic impact of discrete actions undertaken by national security agencies every day and their impact on our global standing and leadership. The exercise of power in today’s challenging times and relentless media environment must be prudent and consistent with our laws and values,” Crowley said. “Given the impact of my remarks, for which I take full responsibility, I have submitted my resignation.”

CNN reports that Crowley has told friends that he is deeply concerned about the treatment of Manning and fears that the alleged mistreatment could undermine the prosecution of the young private. Crowley has also voiced concerns over the possibility such mistreatment damaging the Obama administration and their efforts to end the perception that the U.S. tortures prisoners.

President Barack Obama revealed in a White House news conference on Friday that he spoke with Pentagon officials and asked, “whether or not the procedures that have been taken in [Manning’s] confinement are appropriate and are meeting our basic standards.”

Obama added that Pentagon officials “assured me that they are. I can’t go into details about some of their [Manning’s] concerns, but some of this has to do with Private Manning’s safety as well.”

In a recent article CNN reports that Manning is confined to solitary confinement for 23 hours a day and stripped down to boxers at night and not given a pillow or blanket. Manning’s lawyer told CNN that recently he had forced a man to sleep nude because defense officials thought there was a suicide threat so they took away his boxers. Crowley has had a very respectful career at the State Department. He first served under the Clinton administration. He was the State Department’s spokesman. He has also been the Obama administration’s spokesman for many international stories as the daily brief at the State Department for Secretary Hilary Clinton.

A senior White House official told CNN that Crowley’s departure had been coming for months and that the MIT incident only “hardened that departure.”

Everybody likes P.J. This was more a situation where it wasn’t the right fit,” the official told CNN, noting there were times when Crowley wasn’t on the same page as Clinton, let alone the White House.

Crowley will be replaced by White House aide Mike Hammer who was sent to the State Department to serve as Crowley’s deputy a couple months ago. Clinton told CNN she accepted the resignation “with regret.”

P.J. has served our nation with distinction for more than three decades, in uniform and as a civilian,” she said. “His service to country is motivated by a deep devotion to public policy and public diplomacy, and I wish him the very best.”

Crowley feels very strongly about the mistreatment of prisoners because his father was a prisoner of war.

In his statement, Crowley said he leaves with “great admiration and affection” for his colleagues and “deep respect for the journalists who report on foreign policy and global developments around the world” and that he hopes to “never encounter the conditions and subject to serious threats. Their help will help a lot for the governments more responsible, accountable and transparent.”

Scientists discuss faith implications of life in other worlds

“Any Chinese person with dreams hopes that China will become prosperous, rich, and powerful, that the people will not have to worry about food and clothing, that the government is upright and honest, and that the judiciary is impartial and just.”

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Ben Percy brings storytelling to the Knick for VWS

AUTHOR AND OUTDOORSMAN—Creative fiction and nonfiction writer Ben Percy is the next VWS installment.

“Party Down” stars a gang of old actors brought together by working at a catering company. The catering team experiences failures, out-of-the-way they expect? Rob Thomas suggested that these people all worked for a catering company called Party Down, and the show was born. After many years, conflicting schedules, and networks agreeing and then dropping the pilot, the show was finally picked up by Starz, a company looking for original programming in their lineup. “Party Down” is a show about transitions. Each episode focuses around a party the crew is catering, allowing for cycling guest stars to interact with the cast. The catering team is led by the dim-witted, sometimes racist Ron (Ken Marino), and Ken Marino showed up to the red carpet event as Sue Sylvester on “Glee.” Adam Scott became regular on “Parcs and Recreation,” Ryan Hansen was cast in 2011 pilot called “Friends With Benefits,” and Ken Marino showed up on “Children’s Hospital!” Party Down is equal parts charming, hilarious and heart-breaking. It’s a TV death that will be mourned for years to come.

In Remembrance: ‘Party Down’

Critics rallied to save the program, but “Party Down” was cancelled at the end of its second season. The actors in the show went on to star in prime time programs, some that gained big followings. Jane Lynch was cast as Sue Sylvester on “Glee”; Adam Scott became regular on “Parcs and Recreation”; Ryan Hansen was cast in a 2011 pilot called “Friends With Benefits”; and Ken Marino showed up on “Children’s Hospital!” Party Down was equal parts charming, hilarious and heart-breaking. It’s a TV death that will be mourned for years to come.

Benotic Kiskl Arts Co-Editor

With his heart and his mind back in his home state Oregon, creative writer Ben Percy takes storytelling well. The Knickerbocker Theatre on March 28-29, it’ll have a chance to prove himself to the Holland community.

As the next presenter for the Visiting Writers Series, Percy will discuss his fiction and nonfiction works on stage at 7 p.m., following a jazz performance at 6:30 p.m.

The Visiting Writers Series was created by Jack Ridl, Hope English professor, in 1982 in order to “provide our campus and West Michigan with a literary experience that will enliven, enthuse, and excite,” according to its website. Visitors range from prestigious award winners to new and refreshing voices, all equipped with stimulating material. Audience listens to and offers opinions on the topics presented. VWS is recognized as a prominent literary organization.

The public is welcome, and admission is free.

Master of fiction and nonfiction creative writing, Percy has roots in nature and rural society. His rugged style reflects his childhood in Oregon; a roaring bear greets visitors to his personal website (www.benjaminpercy.com), as does an outdoor photo of Percy sitting in the woods. His novel “The Wilding” centers on a camping trip with a strange family dynamic; and his short fiction collection “Refers, Refresh” has been showered with praise and awards, including mentions of the best book of the decade.

New York Times best-selling author Peter Straub calls Percy “one of our most accomplished younger writers. Benjamin Percy moves instinctively toward the modern center of contemporary writing, the place where genre fiction – in this case, horror – overflows its boundaries and comes something dark and grand and perceptible.”

The bulk of Percy’s plotlines follow a certain formula: male leads, nature and horror. But even with a set formula, his ideas are anything but orthodox.

“My characters are often male and often in pain,” Percy said in a 2010 interview with New West Writers. “They don’t know how to talk...So they often engage in non-verbal communication, sometimes by getting a deer vio-
tently, sometimes by shattering glass in their hand. The manifes-
tation of blood, whether by fist or knife or bullet, is often thera-
petic or metaphoric.”

In addition to writing and presenting, Percy teaches at Iowa State University. In the past, he taught at University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and Marquette University, and with the rest of his time, he teaches with the Low-Res program fac-
culty at Pacific University. Included in his assorted im-
pressives awards are the Whit-

ing Award, the Distinguished Stories of 2008 award, the John Gardner Fellowship in Fiction and dozens more.

Catch Percy on the Monday and Thursday after spring break at the Knickerbocker to witness his short-story-telling ability.

In Sync Dance Theatre
Knickerbocker, 8 p.m.
$10 general, $7 seniors, $5 students

LUMBERJACKS OR INDIE ARTISTS?—Daniel (left) and the Lion (right) played Lemonsjello’s last Wednesday.

Elena Rivera
Art Editor

Lemonjello’s welcomes Daniel and the Lion

What makes a good television show? Is it the accolades, the Emmys and Golden Globes it acquires over its many seasons? Is it the number of fans, the loyal viewers that tune in each week to cry or laugh at the misadven-
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In Remembrance: ‘Party Down’

Critics rallied to save the program, but “Party Down” was cancelled at the end of its second season. The actors in the show went on to star in prime time programs, some that gained big followings. Jane Lynch was cast as Sue Sylvester on “Glee”; Adam Scott became regular on “Parcs and Recreation”; Ryan Hansen was cast in a 2011 pilot called “Friends With Benefits,” and Ken Marino showed up on “Children’s Hospital!” Party Down was equal parts charming, hilarious and heart-breaking. It’s a TV death that will be mourned for years to come.

In Sync Dance Theatre
Knickerbocker, 8 p.m.
$10 general, $7 seniors, $5 students

LUMBERJACKS OR INDIE ARTISTS?—Daniel (left) and the Lion (right) played Lemonjello’s last Wednesday.

Elena Rivera
Art Editor

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Thinking of going home for spring break? Well, don’t finalize those plans just yet. Try something new, something exciting. Try something that doesn’t include staying at home with the parents. And you know all those destinations that every college student goes to? Avoid those too; Tourist traps, every single one of them. Here are some places you can go without breaking the bank:

Stay in Holland. Wouldn’t that be lovely? For some people, a quiet campus is all they need to get rejuvenated for the last weeks of the semester. Just think, you can enjoy the warm-ish weather, dance around in the Pine Grove without anyone else seeing you, get ALL of your homework done, and be one of the few students in JP’s or LJ’s. You can even imagine it is Tulip Time. Sounds wonderful, doesn’t it?

Get a map of Michigan. Close your eyes. Put your finger down anywhere on the map. Now pack your bags and go. It’s spontaneous and exciting! Who said you always have to plan where you’re going? Now’s the time to get away, to have some fun. The best part is that you won’t have to worry about how much time you’re going to spend there. I would suggest that you don’t plan anything for the trip (including, but not limited to: where you’re going to sleep, meals, excursions on the trip, etc.) Now grab that map and have some fun!

Camp in the Arctic tundra. The North Pole! Who wouldn’t want to endure temperatures colder than we’ve even dreamed of here in Holland? Food is scarce and people scarcer, so it’s a great place to sit and read a good book. Plus, since the 12 months of darkness is over, it will be bright and sunny all week (literally)! It is a perfect place to relax in the sun. Just be sure not to get frostbitten in the process. Polar bears love it! Why wouldn’t you?

Go to Ohio. There is so much to do in Ohio! Like… that one place with the giant field! And that once city down south is pretty exciting…on second thought, don’t go to Ohio.

Death Valley. Can’t stand the cold? Try one of the lowest, driest, places in the United States. Vast landscapes of barren earth surround visitors, exposing beautiful color palettes of the desert. Did you know the National Park Service is actually trying to get people to visit? It’s a tough sell, even for someone like Don Draper.

If picking a place in Michigan doesn’t sound that fun, try picking randomly from the entire US map at the last minute. You know how it is; while you may have a real minor, everyone knows it’s really procrastination and indecision. Wait until Friday morning, gather your friends and start driving out of state. You may only make it as far as Mishawaka before you realize you really needed to plan this better, but at least you’ve made it out of the state!

By John Rebhan and Alyssa Barigian
Paradoxical perspectives

While we are dreaming

James Nichols
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Water: the key to life. Without it, we wouldn't exist. Without it, no life on Earth would exist. Without it, the world as we know it wouldn't exist. Without it, thousands of people would still be alive in Japan. As I sit in my living room, watching footage from the recent earthquake and subsequent tsunami in Japan, all I can think of is how fortunate I am. It's not just me either. Most of us are fortunate.

When is the last time we have had to worry about a natural disaster in West Michigan? When is the last time a wall of water, crawling across the Earth like a dune, brown fog consuming everything in its path has been a concern of ours? When is the last time our world was literally shaken to its core? And not just once, or two, or three or even four; multiple after-shocks, with magnitudes of six plus, have hit Japan since the initial 9.0 magnitude quake devastated the country.

We may not be able to empathize with the suffering Japanese but we can surely reflect on how much we have to be thankful for. If we get in a train headed for say Chicago, we don't have to worry about that train dis-appearing under a tsunami. The fact that we have enough money and time to even go to Chicago is something to be thankful for.

If we leave the house to go grocery shopping, we don't have to worry about coming home to a horror scene; all of our belongings strewn through the house, objects broken and, possibly, a house knocked off its founda-tion.

If we go to work in the morning, we don't have to worry about nuclear reactors explod-ing or fires breaking out. Instead, we worry about much less important things.

I can think of is how fortunate I am. It's not just me either. Most of us are fortunate.

While we are trying to make it through these last few days before spring break, millions of people across the globe are trying to make it through the next few hours.

While soon enough, I will be in the classes I so eagerly scheduled when the fall 2011 class schedule is currently available to agonize over, grapple with, and plan accordingly. I don't say this as a public service an-nouncement, but rather as a caution to those similar to myself.

I opened up KnowHopePlus, casually glanced at the class schedule, and...considered the way to waste my entire day and blog my mind! I morphed, becoming that whirling, flustered monster of planning and scheduling that envelops my being every once in a blue moon. I cannot cover up my anxious, nerdy, four-year-plan-loving self. That's right, I have a color-coded, footnoted, tyled four-year plan — I’m one of those people. And for people like me, the most exciting news of the week will be the posted Fall 2011 schedule. How many credits can I fit into one semester? What time can I wake up next year? Can I avoid Friday classes?

Allow me to defend my geekdom. It's about the mystery. I have my past may only be my future with the lights on, but the future is just so much more appealing. I plan my classes for the fall, just as I reach midterms. I wonder about settling down in Colorado and California be-f ore I graduate. My next year's housing figured out. I pick out my wedding ring without having the faintest clue who will slip it on my finger. Isn't the future just more exciting?

But soon enough, I will be in the classes I so eagerly scheduled when I was bored and tired and looking toward the future. Those classes will become the past with the lights on, and ironically, will lose their flame. Everything is more appealing when there's a hint of mystery involved, when the lights are dimmed, but after the plans are made and the fate is revealed, where is the delight?

I should it hope it is in the now—the dull-lighted, yet ever-present today. It may not be mysterious, but it’s as real as it gets. We so easily fall when the lights are dimmed, but after the plans are made and the fate is revealed, where is the delight?

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Probably because I don’t mind change (in fact, I embrace it), I became aggravated by the springtime theme of “God is good, all the time.” I don’t buy into it, and I need to get my life figured out.

Time has not flown, and you’ve been paying $35,000 a year to have your life figured out for you.

I’m extremely proud, therefore, of the developments I’ve seen—achievements toward the final goal of getting my life’s train on the future track. Last semester, I got A’s on my cultural heritage take home final exam essay. One reason I was marked down was my “journalistic” style, my professor wrote. I broke my sections down with headings, and the paragraphs were too choppy. I never told this professor I wanted to be a journalist—but I guess my writing spoke for me.

Another Anchor staff member once recounted a time where her professor marked plenty of grammar mistakes due to the use of AP style rather than the assigned method. If the professor hadn’t known that the staff member was using AP style due to her experience as a journalist, she said she would have lost serious points off of the essay. A graduating English major last week discussed his plan to work at McDonald’s. He has no car, he says, and he’ll walk or bike to his work. It’s honest; it like it.

My sister just took an internship with Amnesty International last summer and is just being worked on the Messenger, “uncovering the secrets of Mercury.” I remember going home for Thanksgiving break my freshman year and rapidly recounting half a semester’s worth of Introduction to Mass Media—just blabbering to any family member with ears. “The printing press totally changed the world.” “Do you even CARE how serious today’s media trends are?” I was overexposed to a future I didn’t want to see, but too young to do anything about it.

We have effectively left that phase somewhere between the Sophomore years and cultivated adults out of those children. At the awkward ages of 19-22, I feel like we’re coming into our own, morphing the realms of adult and basically creating that futuristic identity we dreamed about in elementary school.

So the future scientists are doing research with professors, the future dancers have joined their respective student companies, the future engineers are making robots, and it seems like everybody is telling everybody else about their great new internships. More ready than ever before to move from “student” to “full-time employee,” I leave the shock of growing up behind me and just do what you want to do.

Stop talking about being too young, too ill-prepared, too anxious. “And the puzzle will last until somebody says, ‘There is a lot to be done; your head is still young.’ If you put down your pen, leave your worries behind, then the moment will come and the memory will shine.” (Belle & Sebastian, “Sleep the Clock Around”)

I remember my freshman year music professor sitting down at the piano and playing a terrible chord. “This is an example of dissonance,” he said. “Then you play a perfect chord, a chord that sweeps in to make sense of things, because songs just can’t end in dissonance.”

I do end in dissonance: I’ve been hanging on to this promise for three years. See, one thing that happens in college is your eyes are enlarged to the state of the world. In class you learn about diseases and civil wars, you learn about broken histories and have opportunities to see for yourself that clean and instant drinking water is not the norm for most people on the planet. But more than the learning that happens in the classroom is the learning that goes on with friends as you share so much time together. I daresay it is impossible to go four years—even four months—in college without tragedy rearing its ugly head: the death of a family member, cancer, suicide, sorrowful drug use, accidents that截断 deeply, broken hearts, hurt feelings, disappointments, friends whose lives are ended prematurely: when what was meant for the sky comes crashing to the ground.

We are exposed to so much hurt, much dissonance, that it is overwhelm-
The Anchor
March 16, 2011

more from Dance Marathon

\[ Page 10 \]

**NEWS**

Introducing the GVSU Full-Time Integrated M.B.A. (FIMBA) Program.

Good things come to those who don’t wait. GVSU’s accelerated 14-month M.B.A. program is now available to recent business grads. Students receive a well-paid fellowship and opportunities to study in Washington, D.C., and abroad. Apply by April 15. Call 616.331.7400 or visit gvsu.edu/grad/fimba for more info.

**FEATURING**

- The Civil Wars
- Matisyahu
- My Brightest Diamond
- Jon Foreman
- Vienna Teng

**TRIPS, from page 1**

my eyes and heart have been opened to what is going on in the world and understanding God’s call on our lives to be a part of this, whether near or far. He works through His body which is us, and participating in one of these trips is a way we can respond to this,” Wenz said.

Those who have participated in Hope mission trips before know the value of the experience. Many students claim that it is life changing and spiritually uplifting, offering a new cultural experience in which they are challenged in their understanding of injustice and suffering.

"Hope students should consider going on a mission trip for many reasons. You get to meet new people, you get to go to a cool place, you get to learn about God and you don’t have to go home! All of these things, and more, are reasons why I have gone in the past,” said Michael Dirksen ’12, one of the leaders of the ReMember Immersion trip to Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota.

Perhaps what garners the most impact is seeing the gospel of Christ directly working in the world. Immersion trips allow students the ability to actually live out the teachings of Christ in the real world outside of the Hope community.

“You are allowed the opportunity to go into the world and be the hands and feet of Christ,” Wenz said.

“You are exposed to injustice and given the chance to learn about how you can make a difference fighting for these issues. You will without a doubt grow, both educationally and spiritually through the experience. It also gives you the chance to work with a team, as the body of Christ, and get to know a new group of Hope students.”

**DANCE THE NIGHT AWAY—** Marathon participants (top) show off the line dance at the end of the 24 hours. The Dream Team (center) also performed the line dance. Miracle Families (bottom) personally thank all the participants at the end of the marathon during the “Circle of Hope.”

**YOUR THREE LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION M.B.A.**

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**April 7-9, 2011 • Grand Rapids, Mi**

**Festival of Faith & Music**

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**Calvin College**

**Also •** Gregory Wolfe • Luke Powery • Tom Beaudoin • David Dark
- Ken Heffner • Agents of Future • Jessica Hopper • Just Pete • Sarah Masen • Brett McCracken • Jessica Misener
- John Van Sloten • Daniel White Hodge • ... and more!
Hockey finishes second in nation

Charlotte Park
Au: Seven Minutes

For the third time in nine years, the Flying Dutchmen concluded their season finishing second at the American Collegiate Hockey Association (ACHA) Division III national tournament held at The Edge Ice Arena in Holland last week. Hope bowed to the College just give up, but instead we dug deep and mounted an amazing comeback.”

Other goals for Hope on Friday were scored by Christian Leahy (’14), Jake Green (’13) and Kevin Deane (’14). Dave Nowicki (’12) did exceptionally well in net for the night, stopping 31 of 34 shots. Early Saturday, Hope posted a 4-2 semi-final win over the Uni-

good job of staying out of pen-

“[Nowicki] was stellar all year long and there is no doubt that he held us in every game,” said LaDouce. “Our defense was ex-

ceptional throughout the tour-

ney. Fall had 39 points in 27 games, with a season average of 80 percent win percentage on face-offs. These injuries took away 72 points from Hope’s offense for the national tournament. Despite not skating away with the Kevin Deane. “Points title this season, the Dutchmen have a lot to be proud of when looking back on their season.”

Kunnen (’12) had a sen-

sational year and was a driving force to Hope’s offense, scoring 36 points in 27 games, earning first team all-conference, first team all-national tournament, conference MVP, and possibly All-American honors.”

“His leadership mentality will definitely be the main thing we will feed off of in next year’s run for the national title,” LaDouce said.

The freshmen of the Flying Dutchmen were especially im-

pressive this season, with every member playing a significant role in the team’s success.

Riley Hoernschemeyer (’14) stepped up in a big way last week, scoring a total of four goals in the tournament. Kevin Deane (’14) led the team in goals with 26, and fin-

ished with 49 points on the year. Looking back on their sea-

son, the Dutchmen are grate-

ful for the leadership found in their four seniors. Captain Brett Kopinski, Will Guerin, Michael Bazydlo and Kyle Plachta left a large impact on Hope’s team throughout their careers.

The men of Hope’s team owe much of their success to Van-

Timmeren who has an overall record of 222-70-9.2. Not only does he know how to win, but he knows how to make each and every player believe in themselves, and be proud to wear Hope on their chest,” said LaDouce.

While VanTimmeren has claimed three runner up titles over the years, the class of 2013 has set a personal goal of being able to hand him a champi-

onship title before they graduate.

The Flying Dutchmen defeated

obleren 8-1 on Saturday, but bowed to Elmhurst, Ill. 6-3. Ver-

sus Oberlin, captain Jonathan Lautz (’11) at #2 singles defeated his opponent 6-4, 7-5 (13-11), while Kevin Hagan (’11) and Brad Boekhans (’11) at #3 and #4 singles also won their matches. The #1 doubles team of Gabe Casher ('13) and Anthony Gasparotto (’12) were especially victorious at 8-2, while the #2 doubles team of Lautz and Parker Bussies (’14) had some close competition at 9-8. Versus Elmhurst, Hughes took the win at #3 singles 6-0, 6-3 along with Bussies who played a three set match at #3 singles 6-7, 6-4, 6-3. Hughes and Casher defeated their opponents 8-4 at #1 doubles, while Lautz and Bussies added another 8-4 win at #2 doubles. The men’s next indoor match is home Thursday versus Grand Valley at 3pm at the De-

Witt Tennis Center.

TWO HOPE SWIMMERS QUALIFY FOR NATIONALS

Libby Westrate (’13) of Grandville and Josh Grabias (’13) of Howell will each com-

pete in three freestyle events at the NCAAs. Division III cham-

pionships to be held March 23-

26 at the Allan Jones Aquatic Center in Knoxville, Tenn. Wes-

trate enters the competition as the MIAA champion in the 50, 100, and 200-yard freestyle events, while Grabias enters as the MIAA champion in the 100-

yard and 1,650-yard freestyle.

MEN’S LACROSSE OPENS SEASON WITH VICTORY

The Flying Dutchmen kicked off their season this past Sat-

urday at Zeeland Stadium, de-

feating rival Calvin 20-1. Pieter Norden (’11) was unstoppable in net, allowing zero goals and con-

tributing five saves. Eric Weber (’11) led the team in points for the day with six goals, three as-

sts, and 11 ground balls. Allen Campbell (’11) also earned three goals and three assists for the Dutchmen, while Duncan Wier-

zego (’11) accounted for a goal, an assist, and six grounders. Josh Kamstra also showed a stellar performance with two goals and three assists. Scott Bahash (’13) along with Jowis VanBus-

man, Ryan Holmes and Keegan Aguilera anchored the defense for Hope.
Baseball roster 2011

Coach Stu Fritz is entering his 18th season this year with 358 victories and eight conference championships under his belt. With experience on his side, Fritz is looking forward to another winning season with an experienced team of five seniors and six juniors.

The strong leadership of the upperclassmen is something that Fritz is familiar with. "It's a typical roster, and a very good group of guys," Fritz said. "The leadership will primarily come from the seniors and captains, but everyone is held accountable for leading the team." With a strong and experienced team, bonding seems as if it's the last thing the Dutchmen need to work on.

Instead they're focusing on the strengths that will put them ahead of their competition.

"Our team has very strong hitters and pitchers," Colton Bode (11) said. "Our freshman class is strong and some new guys are going to be playing some important roles this year. More importantly our team is bonding and our team chemistry is strong. This will all help us succeed in this upcoming season."

Heading into the pre-season games over break, Fritz is focused on preparing the Dutchmen mentally for competition. "Failure is a big part of playing the game, and it's something we have to talk about when preparing to move forward," Fritz said. "We also have to look at the nine games over break as mentally preparing ourselves for a double header, where you have to be mentally and physically ready."

As the team mentally approaches pre-season as a regular season buffer, they also look to gain confidence over break. "I would say that we generally play better teams in Florida, so it's nice to come back from spring break with a good record because it's definitely a confidence booster," Derek Fairchild (11) said.

The spring break trip to Winter Haven, Fla., not only serves as an uplifting experience, if all goes according to plan, but it gives the Dutchmen a chance to improve their overall game and test areas that need to be strengthened. "Our inspiration for the year is all about being one body together. Each of us are part of the body because we bring different things to the table," Fritz said. "When we put our talents together and support each other, we are unstoppable," Nienhuis said.

Team chemistry this season looks like it won't be a problem for the Dutch, so this year's spring break trip around the States from Illinois to Pennsylvania should be engaging and pleasant for the women. Along with team chemistry the players look to prepare themselves both mentally and physically for the regular season. "I expect us to be a solid team this year," Susan Stevenson (11) said. "We're going to work on the little things this season, hitting according to the situation and having our outfield positions play stronger so there are no dips or double plays," Fritz said.

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Working on the little things seems like the ticket to an MIAA championship for the 18-season coach, but the beginning of the regular season will truly tell if all the hard work over break really paid off.

Softball roster 2011

The anchor looks to set the tone for the season this year with 358 victories and eight conference championships under his belt. With experience on his side, Fritz is focused on preparing the Dutchmen mentally for competition. "Failure is a big part of playing the game, and it's something we have to talk about when preparing to move forward," Fritz said. "We also have to look at the nine games over break as mentally preparing ourselves for a double header, where you have to be mentally and physically ready."

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Softball team focuses on bonding and building a foundation

Under the influence of new coach, Mary Vande Hoef, the Dutch are looking to burst into the regular season with good team chemistry and a winning record. Vande Hoef looks to set the tone for the season by changing some things and working on the little things this season, hitting according to the situation and having our outfield positions play stronger so there are no dips or double plays.

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