Alliance seeks to promote cultural harmony

CARRIE ARNOLD
campusbeat editor

What began as a series of discussions on race in the home of English professor Kim Douglas and her husband, David, started to encompass the Holland community and beyond.

They expanded their group, The Alliance for Cultural and Ethnic Harmony, to the local community, with initial turnouts of 80 people.

"These were some people in Holland who wanted to see things change," Douglas said. "There were also some people who had experienced the effects of racism firsthand."

This past March, however, the Alliance was faced with a local issue they felt needed to be addressed.

In the Douglas Mandi Grass parade, two floats were built that portrayed white children dressed in blackface paint. Two Hope professors expressed distress over the use of blackface and the racism it represented.

While Kim Douglas commented that the parade organizers wasn't to be overly racist, she also criticized the lack of apologies and the general slowness of their response.

"We need more white people to be the ones to initiate racial healing," Douglas said. In order to bring an understanding to the Holland community about the offensiveness of blackface, the Alliance showed the film "Ethnic Notions" last Friday at Davenport College.

Douglas said that the film showed a clear picture of the historical use of blackface and the racist overtones it still carries for the African-American community.

"It's horrifying how it was used to perpetuate both the view of blacks and slavery, and how [blacks] are still enslaved," Douglas said. "It appears that the individuals didn't seem to understand the historical use of blackface, and didn't understand how offensive it was."

BUDGETS released

Student Congress allocates the student activity fee for the 2000-2001 academic year.

PAUL LOODEEN
production editor

This past week, the Student Congress Appropriations Committee released the budgets for the next academic year.

Every year, the committee, which consists of six Student Congress representatives and the Student Congress Comptroller, allocates the $90 student activity fee.

Budgets came out later this year than last year because of personal conflicts that kept Comptroller Kelly Morrison ('01) from presenting them to the full Congress the week after Spring Break.

Because of the delay, there will be only one more Congress meeting for organizations to make their appeals for more funds. However, Morrison does not foresee many unhappy organizations.

"I don't anticipate any appeals," said Morrison. "I think that everything is pretty reasonable."

This comes after rumors that one of the athletic organizations was attempting to 'double-dip' by submitting the same budget to both the Appropriations Committee and to the Dow Center.

"What happened was that the club was not aware of the Appropriations Committee funding at first and thought they didn't have any Dow Funding," Morrison said. "But when they became aware of the funding they received through the Dow, they retracted their budget from the Appropriations Committee. It was just a lack of communication that when I talked with the president of the organization, he was honest and open about what happened, and we cleaned everything up."

Morrison believed that this year's budgeting process went much smoother, due in large part to increased communication with student organizations.

Hope women honored

The second annual Women's Issues Organization (WIO) branch began with fruit and muffins and ended with three new Women of the Year.

Three women -- a faculty member, a staff member, and a student -- were recognized with the Outstanding Woman of the Year award on Tuesday, April 18. The faculty member is Linda Dove, the staff member is Wilma Hart, and the student is Christine Trinh ('00).

"It encourages me that I am making a difference and that people are encouraging me to do that," Trinh said.

Trinh is going to graduate school next year for Civil Rights Law.

This year, 45 students, 34 faculty members, and 29 staff members were nominated, making it 108 women nominated altogether for Hope women honored.

Student sets stage for theater

The building of the city of Jerusalem is all in a semester's work for Katie Drop ('00). Drop has spent the greater part of this spring as the set designer for the theater department's production of "Nathan the Wise." Usually the intent of the work is to develop a set design for a theater professor, but Drop was given the opportunity to be in charge for the show.

"I set designed two student shows, and the next step was to set design one for the main stage," Drop said. "Only one other student has designed the set since I've been at Hope."

"Nathan the Wise" was a large project for Drop to tackle. She worked closely with the director of the show, as well as the costume and lighting design staff, to generate scenery and space on stage that were appropriate for the show.

"I came up with a general idea, but it changed a lot through the process," Drop said. I made at least 10 or so rough sketches of different ideas I had. Two or three were developed a lot, and combined a lot of elements from the other sketches."

more ALLIANCE on 2

more BUDGETS on 7

more WOMEN on 2

more DESIGN on 2
CASA celebrates learning

**JULIE GREEN**
campusbeat editor

Children dived into cake and free books while watching a live bird show with their parents and tutors on Tuesday, April 18, at the Children’s After School Achievement (CASA) program’s end of year banquet.

"It's been another real good year," said Bob Boersma, Program Director of CASA. "This spring we got enough tutors that we had one on one.

The program currently has 97 active children and has had about 150 tutors through the year.

"It's always in need of more quality people willing to donate their time and work with kids," Boersma said.

After the preliminary sketches, Drop had to build a scale model of the set and get it approved by the director.

The play takes place in Jerusalem, which gave Drop the challenge of bringing a historic locale to life on stage. The Jerusalem that Drop produced is both a part of Jerusalem, but also transpends the specific locale.

"We were looking for a dream-like quality, a fantasy world," Drop said. "I tried to encompass all races.

Similarly, the furniture, props, and costumes utilized in the performance span all times. The play takes place around the Crusades, but the play speaks about religion and accepting religions in other ways.

This theme of religious understanding and tolerance is one that Drop and the production staff felt was beyond simple replication of a specific time period.

"We wanted to show that this [issue] is modern, as well as a fact through the ages," Drop said.

Inclusion of religious imagery and themes within the set itself was an important part of Drop's creative process.

"I did a lot of research on the time period," Drop said. "I read about Judaism, Islam, and Christianity of the time period.

Religious iconography was not only part of Drop's preparation for designing the show's set. She also examined other sets for inspiration.

"I also looked at books of other set designs and artwork to get an idea of how I wanted to arrange the space on stage," Drop said. "I was looking for something that sparks my interest and makes me think of something else that relates to the play.

One interesting feature of the set is the inclusion of enormous palm trees in the middle of the stage. This presents an interesting dynamic during the parts of the play that were originally set indoors, but Drop felt that the meaning of the play was suitable for a more interpretive set design.

"We really got rid of the interior/exterior definition of the play," Drop said.

"You can tell just by looking at the set because the interior scenes will be a little abstract. The set is based on this idea of whimsy and fantasy, dreamlike, utopian world. It's not realistic."
AOL brings procrastination

Dykstra Hall residents use AOL Instant Messenger to maintain ties to home, but it also inconveniences fellow residents.

JANE BAST
infosec editor

America On Line's (AOL) Instant Messenger system has given Dykstra Hall residents a new reason to procrastinate.

The free computer program allows members to send each other messages, without a wait, while those members are on-line. It has taken the residence hall by storm.

"I can keep track of all my friends from home on here," said Dykstra resident Miriam King ('03). "It's cheaper than using the phone."

Keeping in touch with friends and family is the main motivation for using the Instant Messenger (IM) program.

Students can use the computers in the Dykstra computer lab to send messages without spending any money on a phone bill or tying up a phone line.

However, messaging can easily become addictive.

"If you have a lot of buddies on-line, you don't want to break the conversation so it's easy to get tied up," King said. "I always have it on when I'm typing a paper. It can get distracting."

Meredith Oosta ('01) only uses AOL Instant Messenger to talk to friends and family from home. Even so, when she starts it, she finds it difficult to stop.

"Once I get on, it's hard to get off," Oosta said. "It takes up sleep time. I usually get on when it's late and then I never get off."

Students who don't use Instant Messenger have seen its addictive effects.

"I find they kind of get sucked into it," Payne said. "When I try to talk to my friends who are IM-ing, it's like trying to pull them away from the TV. I think it can hinder people from making other friends."

Instant Messenger can also keep students from their homework.

Occasionally, Dykstra residents can tie up computers that would otherwise be used for work. This can cause conflict between students.

"If you're doing IM and somebody wants to work on a paper, they get mad," King said. "It's understandable, but sometimes you just have to talk to somebody."

Katie Veldman ('03) is bothered by students who tie up computers with Instant Messenger when the computer lab is full or busy.

"It's annoying when you come down here to type a paper and someone's using the Instant Messenger and that's all they're doing," Veldman said. "You can't get your work done."

Payne at times finds messaging annoying even when the computer lab isn't full. Payne said he can be distracting for those attempting to do homework.

"I hate when people laugh very loud as something while they're IM-ing," Payne said. "They get upset and tell their friends and then leave their computer while I need it to do work."

Although Veldman is bothered by students who tie up lab computers with Instant Messenger, she is too shy to ask them to give her the computer.

Instead, she hopes an unspoken policy can be implemented to help students like her who use the computers for work purposes.

"I think if there is someone waiting for a computer and you're using Instant Messenger and that's all, out of common courtesy, it's polite to get off the computer," Veldman said. "If you're IM-ing and typing a paper, that's OK. But you need to be sensitive to other people."

On-line friendships risky

Dykstra resident Abby Vollmer ('03) didn't meet her "special friend" Mike on-line, but Instant Messenger sure helped.

Vollmer met Mike through a high school friend at a party, but since she attends Hope and Mike attends the University of Michigan, keeping in touch would be hard without AOL's Instant Messenger Program.

"Ann Arbor isn't that far away," Vollmer said. "But it's far enough that I can't see him everyday."

Vollmer got Mike's screen name from her friend and they proceeded to send messages to each other on a day-to-day basis.

"With Instant Messenger, it's easier to keep in touch," Vollmer said.

Vollmer has even used Instant Messenger to coordinate real-life meetings with Mike. Since Ann Arbor is on the other side of the state, AOL can save a long distance phone call.

"We've been able to get together a couple times," Vollmer said. "IM-ing keeps us close."

Other Dykstra residents have used the program to meet friends on-line.

Occasionally, these on-line friendships can be more than the resident bargained for. Meg Frey ('03) was recently harassed by a man she met on-line.

"I didn't go looking for him, he just found me somehow," Frey said. "Sometimes if I'm bored and there's absolutely nothing to do, I'll talk back to people who randomly IM me."

Frey's friend claimed to live in Tennessee and attend Vanderbilt University. His chats began harmless, but then became increasingly strange.

"We talked about school and the weather," Frey said. "He seemed nice, but then he got really weird. He kept asking me to meet him. Finally I blocked him out."

But not before the man had sent Frey several pictures of himself on-line.

"He was so nasty," Frey said. "He'd lied a lot about how he looked."

Frey doesn't think messaging with strangers is dangerous, as long as you protect yourself.

"It's not dangerous if you don't tell them your name," Frey said. "But don't tell them your real name or where you live. Stick to screen names. Otherwise it's really easy to find out where people live by using the Internet."

What Do You Think?

Should residence hall computer labs have an Instant Messenger policy? Write the Anchor with your comments, or send them via e-mail, E-mail the Anchor at anchor@hope.edu

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Reacting with sensitivity

The issue of cultural sensitivity, raised by the recent use of blackface paint in a Douglas Marls parade, is one that often gets mistreated by the community at large. A common reaction to cultural sensitivity is a backlash, a denial that any offensive action took place. The Alliance for Cultural and Ethnic Harmony presented a video depicting the ways racist overtones are continually enacted. Sadly, not enough Hope College students probably got to see the video.

This is sad because students, especially at Hope, need to see the way that other cultures and races are depicted in society. Unfortunately, because many students are not sympathetic to other cultures feelings, the reaction is similar to the way Douglas parade organizers reacted. Two Hope professors expressed concern over the use of blackface and the racism it represented. Rather than offer apologies or acknowledge any harm, many in the community countered with "we didn't mean to." Sympathetic to other cultures feelings, the reaction is similar to the way Douglas parade organizers reacted.

It's hard to justify the lack of responsible action when actual offense takes place.

Offenses take place on a daily basis. Team nicknames, like the Indians and Redskins, are far from being changed. A debate rages over the meaning of the Confederate Flag that flies in South Carolina.

While no one intentionally wants to offend different cultural groups, few are also willing to change current offensive messages. Even at Hope, students are resistant to changing the offensive nature that exists on campus. Homosexuals are routinely, and often publicly, ridiculed and condemned. Women's studies issues are treated as "anti-men" sentiments.

Rarely do individuals on the campus consider the possible ways that they can offend cultural groups. Instead of reacting in a confrontational nature, these individuals need to consider how they will feel when the tables are turned.

SAC directors defend intenotions of organization

Pray for God to guide us in His way, not ours

To the Editor:

What is love? According to Webster's Dictionary, love means: 1) a deep and tender feeling of affection for or attraction to a person or persons; 2) a sense of brotherhood and good will toward other people; 3) a strong liking for or interest in something; 5) God's benevolent concern for mankind; 6) to delight in; take pleasure in." No where in this description does it say that to dislike a part of something means that you therefore cannot love that thing.

Why do I bring this up? Because of continued articles stating that if one does not accept the beliefs of another person (who they are, how they act, how they speak, what they eat, how they live, etc), they therefore do not deserve any respect or love. We then go so far as to state that God loves everyone without rules, expectations, and limitations, which I interpret to mean "anyone and everyone loves everyone." It is true that God loves me no matter what, it does not mean God accepts everything I do. Instead Activities Committee love God we will discern those behaviors that He, in His word, has deemed harmful.

We have four children, all of whom are loved. However, while we love each of them for who and what they are, we will not accept or respect wrong behaviors. We have a son who lies almost constantly (it's almost a lifestyle for him) and he has been a part of our family for 13 years. There have been many times when we didn't love him! No way. We love him fully but that does not mean that we will not accept or respect. Scores of people on this campus don't understand that the comedian is a hard job. It's hard to keep a joke on the right track everyday. Granted, SAC did bring him to this campus, but one must have fallen on members of the Social Activities Committee wishes to measure itself against. This is a Christian college. We instruct them not to use obscene or inappropriate language, comments, or gestures. Furthermore, we taught them that the Social Activities Committee wishes to depict the ways racist overtones are continually enacted.

In the instances of All College Sing and Talent Jam, we also instructed the committee that no offensive action would be the view or standard that the Social Activities Committee wishes to measure itself against. SAC should be applauded for positive performances. However, there have been many times when we didn't love him! No way. We love him fully but that does not mean that we will not accept or respect.

We interpret the rules to fit God's beliefs instead of coordinating our lifestyles to fit God's rules. I believe we must all love any one another but when we, on either side, begin to make judgments against one another, we are wrong. I'm curious, why is it that because one person is not like another we are not expected to love each other? One another. There's a Sesame Street book called "We're Different, We're the Same." Maybe it's time we all took time to read and realize our communities and not just our differences.

We will prayfully seek God's will. Not ours. Then we will truly know love.

Patricia Valleska

SAC should be applauded for positive performances

To the Editor:

In the past two issues of the Anchor, there have been letters regarding the enjoyment of the comedians brought to Hope College. We would like to apologize for any member of the Hope community that has been hurt and/or offended by the words and actions of these comedians. We believe that the Social Activities Committee wishes to depict the ways racist overtones are continually enacted. Sadly, not enough Hope College students probably got to see the video.

This is sad because students, especially at Hope, need to see the way that other cultures and races are depicted in society. Unfortunately, because many students are not sympathetic to other cultures feelings, the reaction is similar to the way Douglas parade organizers reacted. Two Hope professors expressed concern over the use of blackface and the racism it represented. Rather than offer apologies or acknowledge any harm, many in the community countered with "we didn't mean to." Sympathetic to other cultures feelings, the reaction is similar to the way Douglas parade organizers reacted.

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Senior looks to clear up misconceptions about sweatshop issue

To the Editor:

For people who have been thinking about the anti-sweatshop campaign on campus, some basic economics questions come to mind right away, and I would like to take this opportunity to address them. The first thing to address is the idea that workers will lose their jobs because of the anti-sweatshop campaign. Factories covered by a Code of Conduct in Ohio are not necessarily protected from anti-sweatshop campaigns by the National Labor Committee, for instance, the total labor cost of making a particular Yale University T-shirt is only two-tenths of one percent of the retail price ($14.99) of the shirt. If the woman from Bangladesh who made a living wage, 11 cents, the labor cost would still only be seven-tenths of one percent of the retail price. Therefore, the kinds of figures do not, in my opinion amount to much, some would argue that an extra dollar in production costs is significant— even for an $80 or $90 pair of shoes. However, a national survey by the Program on International Policy Attitudes at the University of Maryland indicated that 76 percent of people surveyed said they would be willing to pay $5 more for an article of clothing they could be sure was made in a sweatshop.

Moreover, this issue raises questions in my mind about the economics of fair trade. The students have the right to shop, and increase competition for their products, and increase competition for their market. In reality, these jobs have been essentially de-skilled. Companies have broken the process down into one mind-numbing task that kids could (and do) perform, and which is most efficient in assembly-line environments. The result is skills that we can learn in high school. Even so, these clothes are already made in free trade, and I think it is called "the race to the bottom"—who can pay lower and lower wages, so that all the others think they have to do the same so they can stay competitive. It's precisely competition without rules protecting labor rights that drives work to the worst work. Even the worlds most famous brands of clothes are already going to the industrial nations. The workers can't even afford the clothes they make. And the owners of the companies aren't always American, which means profits don't stay in the country.

I believe in the power of students as both consumers and citizens of the world to make a difference. There is a long and honorable history of student pressure and civil disobedience effecting positive change (Civil Rights Movement, Women's Suffrage, Antipathy, etc.), including the fact that Nike raised workers' wages even a small amount in Indonesia in response to activism in 1999.

Christine Trinh ('00)

Sophomore plans to spend final years building up Hope, rather than putting it down

To the Editor:

I love Hope College. In my two years at Hope, I have fallen in love with the campus, and I love the students, and I love everyone who works for Hope. Going to Hope has been a very positive influence on my life, and I thank God that He gave me the opportunity to come.

I know that Hope isn't perfect, but I love it. According to Tyler Jansen ('00), when he comes to Hope for that reason, they have no right to be surprised and upset at what they find, it's not like Holland hides it. And I think that is one of the reasons why some people say the problem isn't with the above mentioned people. At least some of them get over that initial feeling of shock and either transfer to another school, try to work within the system, or deal with the environment as best they can. I have an attitude that I believe is in line with the attitude for the person in question, who despite fundamental differences with Hope's mission

Earth Jam declared success by organizers

To the Editor:

This past weekend Earth Jam went extremely well. Environmental Issues Group would like to thank the many people who helped make Earth Jam a success. We would like to thank the many bands that played for free. We would also like to give special thanks to the Physical Plant staff for lending us a stage and for coming out on Saturday to set it up.

We would also like to thank Tim Henevel and the rest of the sound people. Furthermore, we would like to thank the many people who helped raise money for the Earth Jam expenses. We are very grateful.

The environmental Soil Science 451 class, the Earth Jam planning committee, and every school and organization that contributed money.

Your voice.

-Tyler Jansen ('00)
**Student Congress candidates**

**Louis Canfield ('01) for president**

There are two main reasons why I have decided to run for Student Congress President for a second year. I have enjoyed the work; the president has to put in long hours and attend meetings, and I do not mind doing so. The president has to have a good relationship with both student and administrators in order to accomplish anything. This year, part of my time has been spent building up those relationships, and I am in a good position to advance the interests of students.

This year, we decided to address some of the most common complaints of all students. I am confident that you will see changes next year, including refurnished lounges, areas in the DeVries Center and a trial debit card laundry system at least one of the residence halls.

I do not have enough space to describe everything that Congress has done for the student body this year, but you can get more information by visiting our web site at http://www.hope.edu/student/congress. If you would like this record to continue, I urge you to vote for me for president, and Paul Bush for vice president in next Monday and Tuesday’s election.

**Paul Bush ('01) for vice president**

For the past two years I have served on Student Congress as Durfee Hall Representative, Vice President, and Junior Class Representative. During this time I have gained valuable experience and learned what Congress should and should not do. The many boards and committees I have served on have allowed me to work fairly and openly with a variety of people, and form valuable relationships with faculty, administrators and students. These relationships are important to getting the students’ opinions and concerns across when it is needed. My opponent, Rob Bradford, has not attended a single Congress meeting and is not expressing some of my concerns that are important to the population. This is a short list of some of the things I have been working on.

- Dukes of Hazzard T-shirt that doesn’t have the ketchup slain on the front.
- Spiderman perm will not be advertised again.
- You probably better - You’re pretty.
- You make me happy
- You think I’ll wear the I’ll call you later shirt
- You’re pretty. I’ll dress up for your sister’s wedding - I’ll wear the Dukes of Hazzard T-shirt that doesn’t have the ketchup stain on the front.
- You make me happy - You don’t know how important you are to his life, but this is the best you may ever get. Enjoy it for what it is.
- There are just a few of the important translations to help understand men. It’s not much, but it’s a start. I hope this has helped you.
- I understand if you want to talk about it more. Give me a call. I’m sure you have a great personality.

**Carl Daniel ('01) for senior class rep.**

Carl Daniel is a junior at Hope, and a graduate of Pequannock Township High School. In his time at Hope, he has been active in many college activities, including Pull, Nykerk, Chapel Choir, Student Congress, one mainstage play, and occasionally Frisbee golf. His off-campus activities include crew chief on a volunteer ambulance squad, church choir member, and Private First Class in the Marine Corps. He feels that his experiences as part of many different activities have exposed him to a great variety of Hope’s students.

This year, we have seen Congress do some tremendous things under the leadership of Louis Canfield, and we have laid the groundwork for an even better year next year. I would like the opportunity to continue serving the Hope student body and work on some of the things that are important to you.

Please vote for Canfield for president and myself for vice president and ensure that our strong campus student leadership continues.

**Christy Bradford ('03) for soph. class rep.**

I am running for 2003 Class Representative for Student Congress. I was one of the Dykstra Hall representatives this year and really enjoyed serving on Congress. I feel that both learned a lot and represented the girls in my residence hall well. I would be honored to be given the job of representing the thoughts and opinions of the Class of 2003 on next year’s Student Congress.

**Tracy Haveman ('03) for soph. class rep.**

Hi, my name is Tracy Haveman. I grew up and graduated from Zeeland High School, and currently I am a freshman living in Durfee Hall. I am interested in becoming a class representative for the Class of 2003 because I feel that there are many needs that should be addressed so Hope can become a better college for all of us. I believe that I have traits that will enable me to best represent my class in Student Congress. I am an outgoing and friendly person, so people feel free to talk to me and voice their concerns and issues, which will allow me to better represent my class.

Also, I am organized (just ask my roommate) and responsible, two traits that are needed for the position in Student Congress. I have many goals to improve Hope College, some of which include improving things around the campus and others that emphasize student involvement around campus. If I am elected into Student Congress, I know I have the drive to really represent my class and create improvements for Hope. And if you have any concerns that I should know about, please e-mail me at tracy.haveman@hope.edu.

**Jim Plasman ('03) for soph. class rep.**

After spending a semester on campus, talking with people and getting a feel for issues, I have come to the conclusion that there is way too much division between our faculty and students. I am interested in becoming a class representative for the Class of 2003 because I feel that there are many needs that should be addressed so Hope can become a better college for all of us. I believe that I have traits that will enable me to best represent my class in Student Congress. I am an outgoing and friendly person, so people feel free to talk to me and voice their concerns and issues, which will allow me to better represent my class.

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**Nathan the Wise**

Questions of diversity have been factoring into Hope's life at different areas. Now the theater department hopes to enter the dialogue with the production, "Nathan the Wise.

"Given some of the more recent struggles the college has had with its religious identity and how it manifests that identity, this play might add to the conversation," said director Diana Robins, associate professor of theater.

"Nathan the Wise," will be performed Wednesday through Saturday, April 26-29, at the DeWitt Main Theater. All performances will be at 8 p.m., except on Thursday when it will show at 9 p.m.

"The play is a translation of a 1799 play by the German playwright Gotthold Ephraim Lessing, "Nathan der Weise." The play concerns the issue of tolerance. It takes place in Jerusalem during the Crusades, when Jewish, Christian, and Islamic traditions meet.

"Lessing's vision is that of a peaceful coexisting existence. Lessing, as may that be," Robins said. "That coexistence deems all to have a right to exist."

According to Robins, one of the ways "Nathan the Wise" addresses these issues is through humor.

"It involves classic comic moments, misunderstandings and resolutions," Robins said. "Within the comedy there are serious questions raised about religious and cultural tolerance."

Robins feels that this is a good way to deal with issues openly.

"One way toward moving towards openness is not taking yourself too seriously," Robins said. "Our self-seriousness leads to not taking others seriously enough."

"Nathan the Wise," isn't only about making a statement.

"I would like it to challenge (the audience's) thoughts and engage their hearts," Robins said. "I'm not interested in strictly intellectual strictly emotional theater."

The play revolves around the character Nathan, a Jewish man, who is a manager of the Temple in Jerusalem.

"He is a keeper of the old traditions and has a new insight into the religious tolerance," Robins said. "Nathan is a character who truly understands what Opus really was."

Because that role is so important, Robins brought in Michael Page, an outside actor. Page has worked at Hope several times before with the Hope Summer Repertory Theater, and as a subsessional replacement professor last year.

"It really bothered me, that they threw away tons of stuff without recycling it," Garland said.

"It's a natural material to work in," Garland said. "It's a seductive material." Garland is pleased with how this issue turned out.

"It's definitely a step up from the last issue," Tommola said. "It's not really sacrificial anything," Tommola said. "I just wanted to do what we really wanted to do."

"The Extra money went toward improvements such as a plastic binding instead of staples, and color for the cover and art pages."

"This is going to be a very aesthetically pleasing Opus," Tommola said. "We spent more time with the design."

"Having a professional actor has made it easier for me to approach," Robins also feels that it has been difficult to work with Page. Almost every actor gets a scene with Page. According to Robins, the play was challenging to the actors because, although the language is understandable, it is written in more formal syntax than they might be used to. She feels that they have risen to the challenge.

"They are one of the most eccentric casts I've worked with, and that's appropriate for the characters in this play," Robins said. "They have strong comic impulses."

Robins encourages students to come see the play, and the theater in general, because it's not TV.

"It's a live, unusual in our world of virtual events with breathing, sweating actors, and breathing, sweating, techniques, and a breathing, sweating audience," Robins said.

Ticket prices $7 for adults and $4 for senior citizens and students. They are available at the DeWitt Ticket Office.