I sat staring at my inbox recently, trying to wrap my mind around the article that you are reading now. I had gotten an email from our campus news editors, and they asked for my help in writing an article that would help us on Hope’s campus, what the recent LGBT+ feature in Calvin’s Chimes did for their campus: Tell what it’s like to be on Hope’s campus as an LGBT+ student. The idea was simple; write a 700-word article that helped illustrate what life is like on Hope’s campus for minority students. Recently the spotlight here returned once again to the issue of gay rights and the LGBT+ students on our campus. We often miss the benefit of telling stories entirely—to share experiences that help grow understanding about what it’s like to be someone of a minority. Atticus said it best in the popular novel To Kill a Mocking Bird: “You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view.” If nothing else, hearing what life is like for someone else helps us to grow our understanding of each other.

As I sat in a circle of 15 or so LGBT+ students, I posed a simple question to them: “What’s it like to live on Hope’s campus as a gay student?” The room got deathly quiet, and everyone looked at me wanting to say something but not sure exactly what they needed to say. One girl piped up first, “It’s like everyone is called to love one another but we are held to a higher standard than others. We are supposed to love our heterosexual peers even though they condemn us, but they aren’t called to do the same with us. We are the ones that are forced to love.”

The conversation quickly grew from there, with each person adding in stories of discrimination in the classroom or workplace, lost friends and family because of their sexuality, and fear; but one thing dominated all the comments that were shared: loneliness.

we are the ones that are forced to love. —Anonymous Hope College Student

The gay community here lives a life that is frequently lonely: either they lose their friends because of their sexuality, they the same sex or what it’s like to live in constant knowledge that you can be harassed and discriminated against (even fired or evicted) all because of an assumed association with gay people—you don’t even have to be gay. But all of this seemed to be less important than the constant loneliness the LGBT+ community at Hope feels. The gay community here lives a life that is frequently lonely: either they lose their friends because of their sexuality, they
Approaching the final measure

Hope reflects on its humble leader, musician, servant and friend as he moves on

Claire Johnson
Campus News Co-Editor
Jake Bulkena
Campus News Co-Editor

There’s been a shake-up in Campus Ministry staff this year. New positions have been created and filled to accommodate to the growing need for leadership in a continually expanding Hope College community. We’ve said “Hello” to new faces like Dan and Grace Claus, as well as Interm Chaplain Nancy Smith. With everyone new and the chilly, quickened walks to Dintim Chapel, it is time to wish farewell to Hope’s beloved Pastor, Minister of Arts and Music.

Since Banner’s arrival at Hope in 2006, he has helped to lead thousands of pew-reaching students to meaningful, voice-boasting worship through the gift of music. He and the various student chapel bands he has led have taken the stage for seven years now, consistently blowing away students (both figuratively and literally, depending on how close one stands to the speakers up front) with the depth and breadth of worship songs exhibited in each chapel and Gathering.

Yet the beauty of Banner’s service goes beyond what is seen on stage. It is the late-night coffee chats, the office heart-to-hearts and the constant submission to God’s will that makes Banner such a special piece of Hope.

Throughout his entire time at Hope, his refrain has been constant: that we do not clap for the abilities of himself or the band, but for the blessings that the Lord has poured out on us.

The humility of a leader is something quickly lost on the platform of a stage. It is this trait above all others that has made him a cherished member of the Hope community.

The Anchor took time to ask Banner a couple of reflective questions about his time at Hope before he moves on to whatever the Lord has in store for him and his family.

The Anchor (TA): What is one of your favorite memories of your time at Hope?

JB: It’s pretty hard to narrow it to one memory. I love the final Gatherings each year. The joy and energy in the room is so tangible and real. We felt that goodness this past Sunday at our last Gathering for the semester.

TA: What was the first chapel service you led like?

JB: I don’t remember! Unfortunately they all seem to blend together in my memory. I mostly remember students and songs over the years.

TA: Where did you come to Hope from?

JB: Oklahoma City, but I’m originally from central Illinois.

TA: What is something you find special and unique about Hope?

JB: Hope is a place where students can work out their hard questions in a relatively safe place. Nobody is looking over your shoulder making sure you go to chapel, pray and think in a specific way. Students get to work out these things on their own, but they can still find a vibrant faith community here when they need help and fellowship.

TA: Do you think your kids may someday attend Hope?

JB: I want to give my boys freedom to choose for themselves, so I don’t know. Hope College will definitely be high on my list of recommendations.

TA: What are you going to miss most about your time at Hope?

JB: I strongly believe that ministry flows out of relationships, so our worship ministry must grow out of our love for each other and God. If we spend time growing in love off the stage, then we are full of love when we get in front of everyone in chapel. Hopefully then, the music can be inviting to everyone else and not just a show. I did the math recently and I have the honor and joy of leading worship with 60 students on the worship team since I began in ’06. It’s going to be very hard to not have these amazing college students in my life. I love them dearly.

Preview

Looking Ahead—That smug, clean-shaven Joshua Banner we all love.

How’s LGBT+ students tell of loneliness

• LGBT+, from page 1

can’t build deep relationships because they are hiding one of the biggest parts of who they are or they are surrounded by people who accept them but don’t share their sexuality and the struggles that go with it.

One found her voice in the conversation when we discussed roommates. She reminded the group of what happens when you come out to a roommate and how hard it is when the “friend touches” disappear. When the LGBT+ community comes out, one thing they all wrestle with is the lack of willingness for the non-gay community to continue treating gay people as they did before. The friendly cuddling, shoulder taps, hugs and high fives all quickly disappear. The rest of the room quickly agreed, and they started discussing what it’s like to live in a world where people assume you’re straight.

“Even on the housing cards there should be an option for people to answer whether or not they are okay living with a gay student,” one student said.

We are alone with housing, no one is there to help - we have to come out to them ourselves, we have to call housing to explain why our roommates don’t want to live with us, and we have to constantly change roommates until we find one that accepts us.

We so often find ourselves in the constant political discussions surrounding LGBT+ people. We forget to take a step back and remember that we are talking about real people and real stories. Regardless of political opinions, understanding each other and our campus community only strengthens a quickly dividing college. Gay rights is a constant struggle with people on both sides of the issue doing anything to get their thoughts in. I hope this article helps us all to take a step back and remember that we all share a common goal of loving and praying for those who have a different story than we do.
Nuclear negotiations with Iran

Shubham Sapkota

It had been a while since the international community had heard anything positive regarding the nuclear program negotiations with Iran. Finally last week, the world leaders came to an agreement with Iran which definitely shows promise for diplomacy in the Middle East.

The part of the deal that has been disclosed so far demonstrates that all the world leaders, along with Iran, want action to make sure that differences between them are cast aside. The negotiation emphasizes that Iran will stop enriching uranium beyond 5 percent and neutralize any more uranium that is enriched beyond the set margin. Along with this, Iran has agreed to give more access to nuclear inspectors at Natanz and Fordo, two of Iran’s key nuclear sites. Moreover, the world leaders have come into consensus that no new nuclear-related sanctions will be placed on Iran for the coming six months, which has been set as the time period for elaborating and elongating the deal.

This deal has suddenly brought new developments to regional relations in the Middle East. While the U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry has stated that with this deal “Israel will be safer, the region will be safer.” Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has deemed this to be a “historic mistake.” Iran’s foreign minister said, “The agreement must lead to one result: the dismantling of Iran’s nuclear capability. I remind you that only last week, during the talks, the leaders of Iran repeated their commitment to destroy the State of Israel, and I reiterate here today my commitment as Prime Minister of Israel, to prevent them from achieving the ability to do so.”

The deal was devised by Iran with 53 countries plus one which included the United States, Britain, China, Russia, France and Germany. Even though the deal is only for a six-month period right now, it is hoped that it will end up being the foundation for a long-term deal that will eventually make the Middle East a safer region.

Reid votes to change filibuster

Andrew Gomez-Seoane

In an unprecedented move last Thursday, Nov. 21, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid pressed for a vote to change the Senate rules on filibustering presidential nominations to executive and judicial positions. With a vote of 52-48 and three Republicans joining with the Democrats, the “nuclear option” was adopted through the effort of Senate Democrats. Now a simple majority of 51 would be needed to approve nominations made by the president and with a majority in the Senate, Democrats would thus need no Republican support in the matter.

It is expected that after the Thanksgiving recess, the president will fill the remaining vacancies on the United States District Court for the District of Columbia and other agency positions.

Frustration had been growing over the past weeks with the blocking of judicial appointments by Senate Republicans. With a year left until the midterm elections, Senate Democrats were looking for an avenue to speed the process with an up or down vote. This move was seen as a build-up over the last few decades with each side claiming that the minority party was circumventing the majority will to pass legislation.

Both parties had used the filibuster successfully to block candidates that did not agree upon from being confirmed by the administration in power. Now it seems that the balance of power in the Senate has been broken, and even though this change affects nominations by the executive branch, any prospect on items ranging from a fiscal deal to tax reform is that much fainter.

In the long run, analysts on both sides see this move by Reid as making it vastly more complicated for anything to get done between now and 2014. Others warn that this could come back to bite the Democrats if the Republicans regain the Senate and use this new rule change to push through their nominations in the future without any Democratic support.

However, Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell has stated that when the Republicans regain the Senate and use this new rule change to push through their nominations in the future without any Democratic support, they will change the rules back to allow them from achieving the minority a voice in the Senate.

With the new powers to change the Senate rules, it could open the door for changing the rules to allow a simple-majority vote for both Supreme Court nominees and even important pieces of legislation.

“They will one day regret this,” McConnell warned in an USA Today op-ed.

It is clear, according to GOP strategist John Ublryot, that no matter what happens, the Senate is heading to simple-majority rule.

What unravels in the coming months will have to be watched closely as the war for control of the U.S. Senate wages and both parties begin to hunker down. We can only hope that enough members with common sense will reach across the aisle to preserve this crucial element that has kept the balance in the U.S. Senate for over 200 years.
‘Subtle Ties’: a new novel by Hope alumnus

Timothy Cook
Guest Writer

‘Subtle Ties’: a new novel by Hope alumnus

The Anchor

November 27, 2013

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It’s a well-known fact that many students have never paid to see a play at Hope College. Thanks to Hope’s Student Congress, free tickets to see J.M. Synge’s “Playboy of the Western World” were available for class representatives.

It’s a simple fact of being in college, where “take what’s free” is a mantra and a dwindling wallet-full of wrinkled bills serves as a constant reminder that much of what we want in college relies on mastery of a constant game of give-and-take.

Indeed this theme conveyed in the lyrical argot of rural Ireland is present in “Playboy” where we see that fame, freedom and even love come with a morbid price that cannot be paid lightly.

The play is set in Ireland in the early 20th century, in a small village on “the wild coast of Mayo,” a highly rural county in the west. In a unique new twist, the play begins with an ethereal performance of the song “Shule Aeson.”

Indeed each act includes a violin and the singing of an Irish folk song. The rising action of the play builds slowly. The audience is first introduced to Margaret “Pegeen Mike” Flaherty (Ellie Campbell ’16) and Sean Keogh (Seán Zorn ’17). Through the flowery dialect and the roundabout Irish way of getting to the point of something, we learn that Keogh wants to marry Pegeen with the approval of the (Jesuit) church to which they both belong.

The action of the play really ignites. Rather than provoking his arrest, Christy’s tale of murdering his father is romantically cited by the townsfolk, opening a world of opportunity for Christy to start a new life starkly different from his dark past.

Through the course of the play, the cult of Christy becomes at once dark and ridiculous. The girls of the town are enamored; so is Widow Quin (Lauren Ezzo ’14) who leaves Christy in a position that both flatters and confounds him. Eventually, the revelation that Christy’s father (Jake Mate ’17) is alive throws a wrench into Christy’s self-agrandizing. Christy’s attempts to actually murder his father with a shovel come to nothing and he eventually chooses to leave the town and become his own man, no longer adhering to the claims society makes on him.

The language of the play is both rich and mind-bending. The audience listened to the play almost as if it were a Shakespeare production to effectively glean meaning from the words and phrases. In order to effectively command use of the language, all of the actors were required to flesh out at least a paltry accent of the likes that would be plausible in County Mayo. While there were noticeable accent slippages in some parts of the play, this should be expected in even the best faked accents.

“Playboy of the Western World” was a strong performance sometimes marred but also sometimes embellished by the arcane nature of the play’s dialogue. While the play has a lethargic exposition, it eventual- ly builds to aousing climax that leaves the audience satisfied.

Claire Call
Deputy Editor

‘Subtle Ties’: a new novel by Hope alumnus

Barth Bultman (’09), recently published his third novel, “Subtle Ties.” The novel was self-published by Bultman, the result of working with Hope English professor Stephen Hemmway as a copy editor.

The novel, although fiction, contains many familiarities to the average Hope student as the setting on the story is Warwick College, a tiny, small-town school. From large urns filled with tulips in the middle of the sidewalk to a basement eatery and hangout frequented by students (which sounds suspiciously similar to The Kletz), Bultman’s novel is obviously inspired by Hope. The editor of The Paper plays a large role in the story as well.

Lenny Fisher, the protagonist, is a fifth-year senior at Warwick. The novel takes place during the last few weeks before graduation, when Fisher is intent on studying for his finals but faces a mountain of distractions.

The biggest distraction? Drinking who gets Bellatrix, the beer pong table he is, perhaps, unhealthily attached to. Passed down to him by older students, Fisher must now choose between two underclassmen to pass the table down to.

While always off to go study, it seems Fisher can never actually get where he’s going; throughout the novel Fisher never successfully studies, yet he graduates from Warwick in the end. Bultman’s strength throughout the novel is manifested in Fisher’s voice. Fisher, who speaks in short phrases but thinks in long, philosophical monologues, brings out a uniqueness in Bultman’s writing.

Since Fisher’s mind is the only one explored, the reader gets a skewed sense of Warwick College. The reader is left to determine whether or not Fisher is a reliable narrator, or even an likable character at all. Fisher’s biggest goal (besides graduating) is to get an article into The Paper with a title he can use as revenge on a professor who gave him a bad grade. The professor, in an ironic twist, has a heart attack before The Paper is published, and the editor of The Paper changes Fisher’s headline.

While Bultman’s plot twists might keep the reader wondering what will happen next, there are times when the writing is confusing. Bultman’s writing style, while inarguably creative, is sometimes sloppy. The reader must interpret dialogue and figure out which character Fisher is actually talking to on their own.

If you are willing to forgive some writing blunders, however, “Subtle Ties” is an interesting read, especially for Hope students. Flipping through the pages, one will find countless references to familiar places for anyone who has attended Hope.

Such familiarity renders the disclaimer “this book is a work of pure fiction” just a bit funny, but makes “Subtle Ties” that much more unique a novel for Hope students and alumni.
Want to Make the Most of This Winter Wonderland?

Dear Reader,

I don’t know about you, but every year when the holidays hit I start feeling a little like Jack Frost is holding me hostage inside my own home. If you’d like to join me in breaking free from his icy grip, check out the activities listed below. It’s time for us to get out and enjoy the snow globe that is West Michigan.

May your days be merry and bright,

Lindsay Timmerman, Features Editor

Lace up your skates and trace some figure eights at Rosa Parks Circle.
Located on the corner of Monroe Avenue and Pearl Street in Downtown Grand Rapids, the rink charges only $2 for admission and is therefore the perfect daytrip for your average “broke college student.” Skate rental is free (just be sure to bring an ID you are willing to leave at the counter while you’re out on the ice).

Become an avid hockey fan.
Both the Grand Rapids Griffins and Hope’s own club hockey team have wild fanbases, and all that cheering and jeering is bound to warm you up. To find their respective schedules, visit www.griffinshockey.com and athletics.hope.edu.

Plan a ski trip. If you’re into downhill skiing or you want to snowboard, go dodge the mogels at Bittersweet in Allegan, a ski resort located a little under an hour away from Hope’s campus (visit www.skibittersweet.com for rental information and resort hours). If cross country is more your thing, rent some skis from Landsharks in Saugatuck and go coast around the state park (more information, go to shoptheshark.com/cross-country-ski-rentals).

Get on board with the Dew Crew.
Did you know Hope has led all NCAA Division III men’s basketball programs in home attendance for seven years straight? Go to athletics.hope.edu and get the men’s and women’s home games in your schedule to help the Dew Crew keep up the trend.

Go for a hike up Van Raalte Hill. The Van Raalte Farm sledding hill is on 24th Street between Waverly and Country Club roads, just a handful of miles from Hope’s campus. You are invited to tote your sled over and get your fill of the downhill thrill from dawn to 10 p.m. on weekdays and to 11 p.m. on weekends.
Musings of the Michigan woods
The scrounging pine squirrel

Austin Homkes
Columnist

Michigan is located in just the right location in the vast North American continent to see a wide variety of seasons, each with its own unique characteristics. The uniqueness of the seasons extends to the plants and animals that live in our forests, meadows, marshes and backyards.

Time spend in the outdoor world and before long you may notice these changes for yourself. Autumn is such an intoxicating time for me. The summer forest draws me in, and once I am in I am never let down. I am always amazed at the internal changes that take place in the intimate places of the woods. Consider for a moment the pine squirrel. Smaller than its cousins, the eastern gray squirrel of the Pine Grove or the even larger eastern fox squirrel, the pine squirrel can be observed on any summer day sitting on the limb of a cedar or pine rubbing on a unipierced pine cone or perhaps a berry plucked from a hawthorn bush or wild blueberry shrub.

However, when the slightest hint of autumn winds breathes into his tufted ears, the pine squirrel explodes into action. Like a farmer who has just woken in December to find his fields not yet harvested, this little ball of energy hardly ceases moving from late September until the first snowfall.

The pine squirrel’s Bible, if squirrels had Bibles, would certainly be missing the pages that read, “do not store up for yourself treasures on earth…” for he piles up countless pine cones around the entrances of his winter burrow or at the base of the pine in which he has found a hole suitable for keeping out the winter’s cold. He neatly stacks cone on cone until the dominating feature in his realm is his notebale wealth of winter food.

The only pause in this blur of movement is either to take a quick snack of pine or cedar cones or perhaps a berry plucked from the bountiful pile of cones.

I've been getting angry lately, I feel I have to bring up instead. The holidays, there is something about the holidays, Christmas, and while I am in the holiday spirit, there is something that I can’t quite put my finger on. I think that’s total bullshit. It is so beyond my matter most. Although it’s important to study for every test, spend the most time focusing on the classes you need to get the best grades in.

Ask and you May be advised
The final countdown

Lauren May
Columnist

As the semester wraps up and we leave for Thanksgiving break, final exam week gets closer and closer. For some, the thought of having to take finals is already lingering in the back of their minds and causing unnecessary stress. To help make exam week a little less worrisome, I've come up with a couple pieces of advice that I think might help.

1. Try studying with friends. Getting together with friends who have the same classes as you is a good way to make studying less dull and a little more bearable.
2. Prioritize the tests that matter most. Although it’s important to study for every test, spend the most time focusing on the classes you need to get the best grades in.
3. Take study breaks. If you don’t allow yourself some time to relax, you will burn out quickly. Allowing your mind to rest actually allows you to remember information better.
4. Don’t stress: The less stressed you are, the easier it is to learn and comprehend things. When you are stressed, your mind shuts down. Just relax and work hard.
5. Don’t wait until the last minute. Probably the most obvious advice, the sooner you can start reviewing the less you will have to cram in the night before.

While pretty common, hopefully this advice will be a “good reminder to you and will help make preparing for finals a little less stressful. It’s the “final” countdown. Stay calm, stay focused and in no time it will be Christmas!
Some takeaways from the 2013 election

Desert Storm

Virginia governor race between

Virginia governor race between Terry McAuliffe and state attorney general Ken Cuccinelli. There was also the much-anticipated mayoral race in New York between the two polar opposites Joe Lhota and Bill de Blasio. With the races at a close and the dust between the candidates settling, we can begin to grasp the situation of the victors and losers in these hotly contested races.

With Christie's campaign for a second term as New Jersey governor, there was little doubt in anyone's mind that the popular governor would not seek to run again.

In a lopsided race with support from both Democrats and Republicans in the garden state, the governor faced little opposition against Barbara Buono, an unknown state senator. The outcome of this race was not surprising given the fact that the national party essentially abandoned Buono with no attack ads against Christie playing in the last few weeks. The most interesting aspect of this race is that it elevates the governor as a potential presidential candidate in the 2016 elections.

The problem with this assumption is that what may work in New Jersey politics is less likely to translate into success at the national level.

Trying to appeal to a more conservative base beyond the state level will be a great challenge for the governor, but expect the establishment leaders to push hard for a Christie nomination.

In the race for Virginia's governorship, it seemed that state attorney general Cuccinelli was a shoo-in. But it goes to show that in the world of politics things can change in an instant. Fallout over the scandals involving his boss (Governor McDonnell) took a heavy toll on his popularity and allowed former Clinton fundraiser McAuliffe to take a promising lead.

What astonished everyone is even though there was a third candidate running on the libertarian ticket, McAuliffe managed to win by less than two percentage points, meaning more people as a whole still voted against McAuliffe. In the end, the establishment chose not to support Cuccinelli due to his endorsement by the Tea Party in the state.

These types of division are sure to spell disaster in future races until matters are worked out between both sides of the conservative/ideological Democrat vs. establishment side. Democrats will continue to benefit from such fighting and will seek to take advantage in any way possible to regain their control of the U.S. Congress in the 2014 midterm elections. Finally, in the race for New York's mayor, things turned decidedly hard to the left as de Blasio's landslide win against challenger Lhota demonstrated a repudiation of the city's 20-year relationship with a Republican mayor.

Running on the most hard-left platform of all the candidates, many are worried that de Blasio's policies of redistribution will push the city to the crime-ridden days of the '70s and '80s. Only time will tell, but this election clearly demonstrates that during an off-year anything goes.

Can this be an indicator of the direction we are likely to see in the 2014 midterms or even the 2016 elections? It is still too early to tell and with more than a year left, the political winds could shift at any moment. What can be said is that the healthcare debate will continue to play a large role as we learn more about how it affects Americans and their coverage.
Volleyball falls in the quarterfinals
The Flying Dutch lose in three sets against Wisconsin-Stevens Point on Thursday night

“Something was lacking on our side of the net, on our side of the court,” Coach Becky Schmidt said. “We struggled in some areas that we normally don’t struggle in. It wasn’t a lack of drive, and I don’t even think we were looking past this game. It just came down to execution and they won that battle.”

For the Dutch, the season will not be defined as a failure. The second Dutch seniors, Earles and Lynch, and while we’re disappointed tonight, “Schmidt said. “I’m proud of what this team has accomplished all season long, and while we’re disappointed that we didn’t come out on top, that’s the way it goes.”

“I love these girls, and I couldn’t be prouder of the things that they have done this season.”

Our mindset going into the game was just like any other, we were ready to play hard... Stevens Point played nearly perfect. They got into a system and were just flowing.

— Mari Schoolmaster ('14) Middle Hitter

Coach Becky Schmidt turned to late in the match, looking for an answer off the bench. “Something was lacking on the court, and I felt like I needed to provide a spark,” Kessel said. “Coach gave me the opportunity and I needed to try to make a change. I did everything I could to keep the ball alive and felt like I left it all out on the court.”

On her first point upon entry, Kessel (defensive specialist) chased after a missile attack, keeping the ball alive as the Dutch couldn’t do anything. Looking past one reason to believe. Stevens Point, the NCAA with the Elite 89 award. She is Hope’s second recipient of this award, the first, the most valuable, girl’s basketball player of the year. Chelsea Wiese (12). She is Hope’s second recipient of this award, the first, the most valuable, girl’s basketball player of the year. Chelsea Wiese (12). She is Hope’s second recipient of this award, the first, the most valuable, girl’s basketball player of the year. Chelsea Wiese (12). She is Hope’s second recipient of this award, the first, the most valuable, girl’s basketball player of the year. Chelsea Wiese (12). She is Hope’s second recipient of this award, the first, the most valuable, girl’s basketball player of the year. Chelsea Wiese (12). She is Hope’s second recipient of this award, the first, the most valuable, girl’s basketball player of the year. Chelsea Wiese (12). She is Hope’s second recipient of this award, the first, the most valuable, girl’s basketball player of the year. Chelsea Wiese (12). She is Hope’s second recipient of this award, the first, the most valuable, girl’s basketball player of the year. Chelsea Wiese (12). She is Hope’s second recipient of this award, the first, the most valuable, girl’s basketball player of the year. Chelsea Wiese (12). She is Hope’s second recipient of this award, the first, the most valuable, girl’s basketball player of the year. Chelsea Wiese (12).