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Pullers battle at the Black River: Even year victorious

Erika Ter Louw
Guest Writer

“Extremity,” “family,” “unity,” and “dedication” are all words that can be used to describe the Hope tradition, The Pull.

In the fall of 1898, Hope students banded together to create the first Pull, which makes this the “longest standing tradition at a college campus in the United States,” said even year representative Robin Baker (’10).

Outcomes of the first several years are unknown; however, the first recorded win went to the freshman class of ‘13 in the year 1909. Since its beginnings, many legacies and memories have been made at the notorious Black River.

The Pull is a competition between the freshman and sophomore classes and involves 18 pullers and 18 moralers. Moralers act as guides and, more importantly, as encouragers for those devoting hours of physical exhaustion in the event. Each team is coached by upperclassmen; freshmen are coached by juniors, and sophomores by seniors.

An intense competition between even and odd year classes emerges. Since that fateful day in 1909, 30 freshman classes have claimed victory, while 63 sophomore classes have taken the bragging rights.

Pull season begins with a rally for each side which is designed to inform and encourage students to participate and get involved. Once practices begin, they run Monday through Saturday three weeks prior to Pull Day.

Prior to the event, two judges measure the rope, and the battle begins. The longest Pull in the history of the event was 3 hours and 51 minutes, whereas the shortest Pull was 2 minutes and 40 seconds.

Critical Issues Symposium focuses on water conservation

Caitlan Klask
Guest Writer

Hope College’s annual Critical Issues Symposium returned to Hope this week. Classes were cancelled Wednesday to allow student attendance. The main topic was water shortage in several different environments and situations.

The CIS website stated: "For those who live in a place like Holland, Michigan, it is hard to imagine water scarcity. Neither do we pay attention to the pollutants which daily poison our water sources, nor do we consider the interest that other states have in taking water from the Great Lakes region to meet their thirsty, growing populations.”

Speakers ranged from professors of various universities to members of Native American tribes to presidents of several companies. One of the speakers was Peter H. Gleick, the president at the Pacific Institute for Studies in Development, Environment and Security. Gleick stressed the importance of acting quickly on our water issues with technology, economics and ecosystem restoration.

The Native American Perspective was given by Leland Little Dog and Lynn LaPointe of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe of South Dakota. Graham Peaslee of Hope College and Mary Fales of the Macatawa Watershed Project teamed together to discuss their project promoting higher local water quality and its relevance to the Holland community. Also discussing the quality of the local water was Dr. Robert McDonald, president of the AquaClara Foundation.

Hope College Seniors Ashley Austin and Tessa Talsma spoke about plastic water bottles and their effect on the environment, and Assistant Professor of Communications Teresa Heinz Housel spoke about the media’s targeting women in cleaning product campaigns as well as the lack of clarification on “natural” cleaning products due to the FDA’s indifference.

The two keynote speakers of the symposium were Gleick and Joan Rose, both experts on the topic. Rose commenced the speeches on Wednesday at 9 a.m., pointing out the importance of safe drinking water. Gleick spoke Tuesday evening at 7 p.m.

More information on the event can be found on the CIS website.
Even year wins
• PULL, from page 1

Facts aside, The Pull is much more than a competition. For all involved, they agree it is an extreme bonding experience with family and unity at its core.

According to Baker, “Pull has been one of the most meaningful experiences of my life. Being on the team helped me to discover my own strength and perseverance and allowed me to develop meaningful friendships.”

Odd year representative Jeff DeLong (11) echoed with similar sentiments. “Watching the team grow as individuals, watching them grow as a team and helping them was the best experience because I love Pull so much and want to share that with them.”

In the eyes of a sophomore puller, Ryan Ver Meer, “It’s been an awesome time to build new relationships with everybody, get in really good shape and say you were a part of this crazy tradition that you will never forget.”

In light of the wonderful experience, members admit there are some downsides. Practices become very grueling and tiring. Although practice is only three weeks, students are often fatigued and exhausted even before Pull Day.

In addition to the physical exhaustion, members realize that their reputation can sometimes receive a negative attitude from non-participants.

“What could drive a bunch of people to lie on a rope and yell in the mud? We know how we look,” said Baker. However, even in spite of this there are so many benefits to it, she said, “I think the greatest downfall is that more people are not able to participate.”

Odd year puller John Firek (15) knew what he was getting himself into because his brother was a part of the ’02 Pull team. But regardless, it was still intense for him. “I already had the mind set that I had to do it freshmen year,” Firek said. “I loved the experience, loved my coaches, and it could have turned out better, but that just is going to drive us more for next year.”

“Dedication, time management, strength, and confidence are just a few of the positive outcomes from The Pull that outweigh its negative reputation.”

When asked why it is important for incoming students to know about this tradition all involved agreed that the experience is one you will never forget.

Ver Meer said, “It’s a ridiculous tradition, but whether you are in it or just watching on Pull day, it’s an amazing experience to be a part of.”

In the end, Hope’s campus Homecoming luncheon will begin on Saturday, Oct. 10, at 11 a.m. at the DeVos Fieldhouse. A reunion of alumni who played football will commemorate the 100 years that football has been an intercollegiate sport at the college.

There will be a tailgate picnic for alumni and their families on Saturday, Oct. 10, from noon to 2 p.m. at Snellenberg Park. In place of a Homecoming parade this year, student organizations are arranging displays and will make presentations at the park in conjunction with the picnic.

The Flying Dutchmen will host Albion in football. The pre-game show, which begins at 1:30 p.m., will feature the Schoolcraft High School Halftime band. Halftime will feature the band, the presentation of the 14th annual “Faculty Appreciation Award,” as chosen by the student body, the introduction of the Homecoming Court, and the crowning of the Homecoming King and Queen.

In addition, the college’s chapter of Mortar Board will be holding a children’s book drive at the stadium beginning at 2 p.m. on Saturday.

A Homecoming worship service will be held on Sunday, Oct. 11, at 10 a.m. in Dimnent Memorial Chapel. The service will feature the college’s Chapel Choir and Alumni Chapel Choir under the direction of Dr. Brad Richmond of the Hope faculty.

The weekend will also feature the 175th anniversary celebration of the college’s Fraternal Society fraternity.

HOPE PR – A variety of activities have been scheduled for the annual Homecoming Weekend at Hope College, running Friday-Sunday, Oct. 9-11.

HOPE will hold a rededication ceremony for Graves Hall on Friday, Oct. 9 at noon. During the 30-minute rededication ceremony, the college’s Alumni Association will present a Meritorious Service Award to Dr. Elton Bruins, a 1950 Hope graduate who is former director of the college’s A.C. Van Raalte Institute and the Evert J. and Hattie E. Blekkink Professor Emeritus of Religion at Hope.

On Friday, Oct. 9, at 3:30 p.m., Dr. A. Paul Schaap, a 1967 Hope graduate who is a member of the college’s Board of Trustees, will present “Chemiluminescence and 1,2-Dioxetanes: From Fireflies to the Detection of DNA” in the DeVitt Center main theatre. Admission is free.

The Alumni H-Club’s annual Homecoming luncheon will begin on Saturday, Oct. 10, at 11 a.m. at the DeVos Fieldhouse. A reunion of alumni who played football will commemorate the 100 years that football has been an intercollegiate sport at the college.

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Variety of activities planned for Homecoming
GM decides to discontinue Saturn brand
Samuel Tzou
Gannett News

General Motors officials announced Sept. 30 that it will stop manufacturing its Saturn brand car and close down the brand. And while the Saturn’s marketing campaign centers on being “optimistic about the future” and asks customers to “take a closer look,” GM’s intentions showed otherwise.

GM’s decision to discontinue the brand came after Penske Automotive Group Inc. announced it was no longer interested in buying the brand from GM because it could not find a company to manufacture the brand in a new chapter. “Without that agreement, the company has determined that the risks and uncertainties related to the availability of future products prohibit the company from moving forward with this transaction,” Penske Automotive Inc. told the New York Times Sept. 30.

While GM offered to Penske that it could only manufacture its product until 2011, the company needed something more profitable. With no third party willing to manufacture the brand line, Penske had to cancel its pledge.

“Today’s disappearing news comes at a time when we’d hoped for a successful launch of the Saturn brand into a new chapter,” GM’s chief executive, Fritz Hensdorfer, said in a statement in the same New York Times report.

“We will be working closely with our dealers to ensure Saturn customers are cared for as we transition them to other GM dealerships in the months ahead.”

GM announced that the 385 remaining Saturn dealerships will all be closed by October of 2010. This number has dropped drastically from the 425 that were in the company’s dealer network when Saturn was introduced. GM also announced that it will be distributing quickly many of its remaining inventory, saying that the second was a “tragic coincidence.”

At least 1,000 people have died, over 2,000 people are injured and 3,000 are still missing after the earthquake struck off the coast of the American Samoa, which triggered a tsunami that left almost 200 dead and caused devastation throughout the island.

Both Samoa and Indonesia are on the Ring of Fire, the fault lines along the Pacific coast of America and Asia where 80 percent of the world’s earthquakes occur.

Scientists deny that the earthquake in Indonesia was a repercussion of the one that hit Samoa, saying the second was a “tragic coincidence.”

At least 1,000 people have died, over 2,000 people are injured and 3,000 are still missing after the earthquake shook the island of Sumatra in Indonesia on Sept. 30. The quake was also felt throughout the islands of Java, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand. The epicenter of the earthquake was only 35 miles from the city of Padang in Sumatra.

According to the U.S. Geological Survey, this southern Sumatra earthquake resulted from movement of the Australian and Sunda plates. Most earthquakes of this kind generally occur at depths less than 50 kilometers. The depth of the recent earthquake was measured at 81 kilometers, or 50.3 miles.

USGS reported, “The subduction zone surrounding the immediate region of this event has not witnessed a megathrust earthquake in the recent past, rupturing last in an earthquake of M 8.5 or larger in 1979.”

Rescue workers and agencies from such countries as Australia, Great Britain, Japan and South Korea arrived in Indonesia bringing aid for the injured and equipment to save the missing.

Most rescue missions have been concentrated in the worst hit city of Padang, where rescue workers have been working hard to save whoever they can, but they have found it increasingly more difficult to save those trapped beneath the rubble. Many believe it is too late to save the missing.

BBC shared the reality of such difficulties in a recent article: “In Padang, witnesses report that the stench of decomposing bodies now hangs over collapsed buildings as rescuers battle to reach survivors.”

Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono called for $10 million of government aid to be distributed quickly. Many countries have also pledged aid to the country.

Kara Shelter, a Junior this year at Hope, just returned to the United States after spending 11 months on the island of Java in Indonesia as part of a one-year cultural service and exchange program. While in the country, Shelter experienced severe and damaging flooding and described natural disasters as a common occurrence in Indonesia.

Shelter said, “It is really hard for us here to imagine the uncertainty they live with regard to their homes are built and the ocean that, at least for Java, is never very far away.”

Geologists warn that Padang may one day be completely destroyed by an earthquake because of its location.

Professor John McGlackey, a geophysicist at the University of Ulster, warned, “The real danger in the coming days is that a second larger quake with a magnitude of around 8.5 could just off the coast of Padang.”

Chicago, Illinois, U.S.A.

Chicago’s 2016 Olympics bid falls flat

Rio de Janeiro selected to host the Olympics as the Windy City is the first location eliminated

Eric Anderson
Co-National, News Editor

On Oct. 2, the International Olympic Committee stunned a crowd of faithful Windy City residents with the announcement that Chicago had been eliminated from consideration for the host of the 2016 Olympic Games.

This proclamation came as a shock to many, especially since Chicago was the first of the five finalist cities to be moved. Adding to the disappointment was the effort put forth by many to lobby for the city of Chicago. President and First Lady Obama, Oprah Winfrey, Mayor of Chicago Richard Daley and a number of former American Olympic athletes traveled to Copenhagen to present Chicago’s bid. Nevertheless, Chicago did not even make it past the first round of voting.

Chicago was eliminated in the preliminary round of voting along with Tokyo, leaving the IOC to make a final decision between Madrid and Rio de Janeiro. Rio de Janeiro won out in the end, adding the 2016 Olympic Games to Brazil’s slate of major events that already includes the 2014 World Cup. Brazil will be the first South American country to host the Olympic Games.

There have been many ratios- nales offered for why Chicago did not receive the Olympic bid. Some felt that the presence of such high profile personali- ties may have caused early vot- ers to look to other countries. Others contend that Chicago was snubbed because of conflict between the IOC and the United States’ Olympic Commi- ittee which has recently un- dergone a tumultuous change of leadership. Suggestions were made that the interests of the bid presented by Chicago were not united with the interests of the USOC. Regardless, the dis- appointment was evident with President Obama and the city of Chicago.

On his flight back, Presi- dent Obama reiterated that he felt that Chicago’s Olympic bid was the strongest of all the fi- nalists and said, “I am proud that I was able to come in and help make that case in person.”

Mayor Richard Daley also had lobbied intently for the city. The city of Chicago took nearly two and a half years preparing their bid and spent nearly $50 million. Support- ers of Chicago’s bid argue that the city’s pre-existing sporting culture, allowing for existing stadiums such as Soldier Field, Wrigley Field, US Cellular Field and a number of others play key roles in hosting Olympic events. A temporary stadium would also have been built in Washington Park, designed to house the opening ceremonies.

With Chicago losing out on the 2016 Olympics, some said that this is a reflection on Presi- dent Barack Obama, represent- ing a failure of his administra- tion. However, after the initial shock of the decision wore off, it seemed the ongoing differences between the IOC and USOC, as well as the IOC’s desire to aid the country of Brazil were the major deciding factors. It is not uncommon for the IOC to take steps to help countries develop faster, and by choosing Rio de Janeiro, the IOC could have been trying to get more coun- tries in line with the Olympic movement. Regardless, the disappoint- ment was evident on the mass of people that congregated in Chi- cago to hear the final verdict. Some felt that a bid for the 2020 Olympics should still be made. However, Daley was hesitant to make the commitment, so time will tell if Chicago ever reaches a level of international athletic recognition.

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Madrid, Spain

Tokyo, Japan

Finalist Cities

Substance Abuse Awareness Group
Support group for Hope College students only
Starting Monday, September 21
Location
Hope College
Dewitt Counseling Center

M O N D A Y 11:00 am
For more information: contact EXT 7945

WEDNESDAY 7:00 pm
ArtPrize attracts international artists to Grand Rapids

Ann Malone
Guest Writer

ArtPrize, a unique art competition that anyone can enter and that the viewers judge, has attracted over 1,200 artists from around the world to Grand Rapids. The pieces are spread throughout downtown with pieces in The B.O.B. on the Blue Bridge and in back alleys. A unique aspect is that artists get to request spaces within the ArtPrize venue boundaries, but each venue has the right to choose which pieces they want to display. There are pieces inside, outside and on buildings all over downtown Grand Rapids.

On the Blue Bridge is a beautiful piece of art by Sarah Grant called “The Furniture City Sets the Table for the World of Art.” The piece, which sits atop the center trestles of the bridge, is approximately 20 feet tall. It is a stunning work, dwarfing all the other works around it, and at first glance simply seems to be part of the bridge. The artistic pieces on the entire surface of the artwork depict the bountiful cultural offerings of Grand Rapids.

Just off to the side is “Nessie Project,“ a multimedia piece depicting the Loch Ness monster. Placed in the Grand River just off the Blue Bridge, it is a stunning piece created by Airline Aluminum Group, based out of Grand Rapids.

The “Grand Rapids Family Tree” by Matt Kelsey is a beautiful piece that allows visitor participation. “Contributors: Coming Soon” says the artist bio; visitors to the piece, shown at 45 Ottawa Ave., are asked to write their name on a ribbon and tie it to the frame or tie other ribbons on the tree.

While ArtPrize features many local artists, international artists are featured as well. From Sibbhult, Sweden, Jonathan Haner gives us “La Grande Bebe,” the form of a “giant, fat, faceless baby” made of white material and filled with plastic bags. Viewed from across the street, the piece looks odd; up close, the piece, which is attached to the side of The B.O.B., as though it is leaning on the building, simply becomes stunning. The size is overpowering, and the white is bright and crisp.

Kadima, Israel, boasts ArtPrize Ana Lazovsky, whose beautiful bronze sculptures can be found at the B.O.B. Ensenada, Baja California, Mexico, is represented through Alfonso Arambula’s “Mi Casa es Tu Casa,” an ecological statement about how the world is a home (casa) for all.

The event runs through Oct. 10, with outdoor pieces available for viewing all hours and indoor pieces available for viewing Monday through Thursday from 5 p.m.-8 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 12 p.m.-10 p.m., and Sunday from 12 p.m.-6 p.m. For more information, visit www.artprize.org.
Struck by the extraordinary in the ordinary and the splendid in the simple, poet Aracelis Girmay writes passionately about everyday life. With her first book of poetry completed, Girmay has received rave reviews for her young talent. Her unique background, a mix of Puerto Rican, African American and Eritrean adds a rich flavor to her writing. According to Matthew Rothschild, editor of Progressive Magazine, the poetry of her book, “Teeth,” has an “astonishing mix of love and the political.” Her poetry celebrates her heritage as well as delves into hot political topics. Her poetry is filled with an array of emotions. In an interview with Rothschild, she spoke of writing “as a way of stilling time and speaking.” Through her writings she conveys her feelings on topics that vary from death and poverty to her home kitchen. Suzanne Ondrus, professor at Bowling Green University, stated that Girmay’s poetry “explore[s] deep issues on a personal level.”

Along with her new book, Girmay has written for many journals and literary magazines and also has published a children’s book called “Changing, Changing: Story and Collages.” Many have already devoured her words, and soon Hope College will have the opportunity to experience her reading some of her own work. This will not be the first time Girmay has read for an audience. In her hometown of Santa Ana, CA, and in the Bronx, N.Y. she puts on writing workshops for kids in the area. Suzanne Ondrus, professor at Bowling Green University, stated that Girmay’s poetry “explores deep issues on a personal level.”

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The Anchor

The Pull

Layout, Graphics and Even Year Photos by Ann Green
Odd Year Photos by Holly Evenhouse
“What comes next?!”
...a small guide to what happens AFTER the cap and gown come off.

The due date was Sept. 30. When that day passed, I knew there was no turning back. I had done all I could do. With the click of a button, an era had ended.

I was going to graduate.

We seniors received that e-mail about two weeks ago. It was a reminder to fill out our application to graduate. We have to make sure we’ve taken enough classes, decide which ceremony to walk in (if we even want to walk at all!), and fill out our diploma details. And students will normally fit into two categories after reading that e-mail:

~ Elated: I have been waiting for this day for 17 years. Buying $200 books, spending nights studying (or partying) all night, dragging out five-page papers that should only be one-page…I’ve paid my dues. And let me tell you, a 9-5 job will do just fine now, thank you very much.

~ Petrified: I have been dreading this day for 17 years. I know how to be a student. I don’t know how to handle a steady income, bill after bill, and a REAL job. Pleaaasse, can’t I just push out that five-page paper now? I’ve become a pro!

Regardless of which category you fall into, the day is coming. You’re going to graduate. And you’re going to need to know your options NOW…before it’s too late. If there’s anything you’ve learned in the past four years, shouldn’t you have learned some preparatory skills?!
More school. Yeah, it’s true. If you’re scared to leave school, just go to another. Whether you have to go to school for your Ph.D, or you just would like your master’s in creative writing—as long as there’s money, you can keep going to school. The MCAT, LSAT, and GRE are offered multiple times during the year. Find a date that corresponds with your schedule—and don’t forget to study (most informational websites offer study tips and how-tos)!

Teach for America. Want to travel and teach? Join Teach for America; you’ll teach in rural and urban cities for two years. Worried about compensation? Employees are paid $27,000 to $47,500 depending on your placement region (and you’ll receive full health benefits!). The next deadline is Oct. 28. Check out their website (www.teachforamerica.org) for more information about the program and financial benefits.

Go Army! You can match your interest with just about any career in the Army. Want to write? Be an on-scene journalist. Love to take pictures? They need those too. You can serve your people and your country in multiple ways besides just combat. But hey, if you desire to do that, go ahead! You are not only compensated with money, but you can also choose other health benefits and even an education. Click on over to www.goarmy.com for some answers to your further questions.

Get a job. Yep. I said it. And you know what my first bit of advice is? MAKE AN APPOINTMENT AT CAREER SERVICES. You can schedule mock interviews, make a resume and just get general advice from the people skilled in finding you a job. Walk over to their office on Eighth Street or check them out at http://www.hope.edu/student/career/. Believe me, they’re gonna give you all the facts…hopefully, it won’t be more than you can handle.

OF COURSE, there are more options for you (some of which will be lined out for you with an appointment at Career Services). Type in your major on Google and see what you can do with it. I’m only trying to get you started here.

Graduation does not have to be scary. After all, isn’t it a celebration? Congratulations—you’ve worked hard the past 17 years of your life. Sure, it was the end of an era.

But, you know, it’s the start of a new one too.
Musings on mutual misunderstandings

Emily West
Co-Editor-in-Chief

You’ve never heard of...

There is a movement sweeping the nation and our campus is no exception. This belief system is baffling and difficult to categorize. Music-snobbery: the belief that that oneself is the originator of musical uniqueness, that oneself is responsible for discovering every truly talented musical group (not on the top forty and most likely labeled “indie”) and that oneself—having been entrusted with such a talent for discovery—is the sole protector of “indie”) and that oneself—having been entrusted with such a talent for discovery—is the sole protector of these obscure musical groups.

It might be confusing to identify a music snob at first because many times he or she will play it safe if they expect you to be aware of these random musical groups. The conversation between a music snob (S) and an average music listener (L) usually looks something like this:

L: (Hears some bizarre sounds coming from S’s oversized headphones) “What are you listening to?”
S: (Pretends not to hear at first, bobbing and smiling) “I’m trying to listen to my headphones really well these days. What about you?”
L: (Feeling slightly offended by S’s disbelief of and disinterest in his own musical ignorance) “Oh, Ez. Um. Well, I think my brother listens to them, but I haven’t much of their stuff.”
S: “You are probably thinking of Heath, Leon and Time, a very different group, although they did do a cover that made it onto Now 89.”
L: (Trying to remember the last Now CD created) “Yeah, maybe.”
S: (Moves to put on his headphones again) “Where did you hear of those lion guys?”
L: (Trying to decide how much to allow S in on the musical chamber secrets) “I saw them a while back. Had some PBR with Jason, Zephyr and Sheila afterwards, and they gave me the first album they made together.” (Feeling as if it was a bit over-share, puts on headphones quickly)
L: (Confused about what just happened) “Oh.”

Of course, not every interaction will look like the one above. Sometimes the average listener is seduced into the lifestyle, playing Heartfield Lion Tamers for friends for not knowing about the group. Other times, the music-snob shares even less information while still managing to show how much he or she knows about the group. Nailing down the typical person involved in music-snobbery is difficult. Some point to indie kids, indie yuppies, emo-kids, scene kids and hipsters. But who is really to blame? Take a look at what experts at Urban Dictionary have to say about these groups:

Indie Kid: “Usually, if an indie kid asks you if you like a band, you will have not have heard of the band. Indie kids could usually name 500 bands you’ve never heard of without breaking a sweat.”
Indie Yuppie: “Indie yuppies are the Starbucks-drinking, Volvo-driving kids who thing that the music they hear on The O.C. is ‘indie.’ think that that Shins song is life-changing and only pretend to read James Joyce.”

Scene Kid: “Being scene ‘in the early days’ was all about plastering one’s myspace, Facebook, etc. with a long list of all the bands that they know and love but no one else has ever heard of. However, now, with posers diluting the scene, many scene kids will NOT list their favorite bands.”

Hipster: “Hipster listens to bands that you have never heard of. Has hairstyle that can only be described as ‘complicated.’ (Most likely achieved by a minimum of one week not washing it.) Probably tattooed. Maybe gay. Definitely cooler than you.”

We may never know where to place the blame. Emily hopes that you all take active measures to understand music-snobbery in order to prevent further musical hate crimes on this campus.

Write Letters to the Editors

If you are passionate about an issue, concerned about a problem, or excited to share an idea:

Email letters to anchor@hope.edu

Letter to the Editors

Student urges campus to put aside prejudice

To the Editors:

In response to last week’s published letter from the Sexuality Roundtable regarding the visitation of “Milk” screenwriter Dustin Lance Black, I would also like to say how disappointed I am in certain members of the Hope College administration for canceling this event. Not only does this kind of censorship contradict the school’s “Reason for Being,” but it encourages such blind opposition that can lead to fear and hatred. Only through open discussion can informed opinions be developed.

I would also like to acknowledge the Sexuality Roundtable for fighting so hard to be recognized on campus over the last few years. Although I myself am heterosexual, I have had a number of homosexual friends throughout high school and college who, on a daily basis, face great opposition in both recognition and acceptance. This type of courage deserves recognition in itself. It is important for everyone to love thy neighbor, whether you agree with their lifestyle or not. Put aside any prejudices and engage in conversation, ask questions, develop informed opinions and see for yourself what is out there and whom you can meet along the way.

So to the members of the Hope College administration who are responsible, please step out of the Dark Ages and open up our school to the possibility of learning about some revolutionary ideas so everyone can decide for themselves what they believe.

Sincerely,
Julie Kocsis (‘10)
The foreign journey

Rachel Syens
Columnist

My first memory of my dog, Sam, was from the age of 8. My parents and I had been searching for a dog, making countless visits to the humane society, yet still having trouble finding our perfect fit. One evening, upon arriving home, I opened the door and was greeted by something entirely unexpected: an extremely energetic and furry Soft-Coated Wheaten Terrier mix. My dad had brought him home as a surprise. From the moment that he nearly tackled me down in order to lick my face, I knew he was perfect for our family. So as you can imagine, it was extremely difficult to leave my parents and Sam as I packed up to spend three months in York, England. This good-bye was made even harder by Sam's declining health in his old age. However, I left with hope that I would see him again in December and set off for a new adventure.

While off to a new homestay start, I began settling into my new life in England, figuring out the university campus and learning how to navigate the narrow cobblestone streets of my historic city. I began meeting new people and exploring restaurants and shops and enjoying my time in the lovely area of North Yorkshire. I have been able to visit many places so far, including Clifford's Tower, a medieval fortress and Whitby, a city on the sea. However, my life here seemed to come to an abrupt halt with one phone call. Sam's health had severely worsened. My family and I had made one of the most difficult decisions of our lives.

When I heard the news, the only thing I wanted was to go home. I wanted to be with my family at home and with my dog. I phoned my family at Hope. I knew that they would be sad with me and carry me through this. I felt so alone and wondered why I ever wanted to study abroad. I couldn't wait to see the pain end. But I soon came to realize that I really wasn't alone.

While I was pinned from this loss, God blessed me with loving people in England to take care of me, including two wonderful girls from Hope who have truly served as a rock for me. We have also met a wonderful group of students on campus from my university's Christian Union. I've only known the students since my arrival in England two weeks ago, but they have taken me in, lending me support and help. I didn't expect to find this kind of loving Christian community on my study abroad, and it has truly been a blessing from above. I am honored to call these students my friends.

I didn't write this article to keep you from studying abroad or to make you afraid to go out into the world. Instead, with this insight into my life and experiences, I wanted to show you the truth in a fact that was recently told to me by a good friend: God will never give you anything you can't handle. I am thankful everyday for the support and prayers I have from friends around the world. Wherever you may be, God is with you, and you are never alone.

Rachel misses Sam already, but she doesn't miss American accents.

Long live the Brits!

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Grace & peace

Grace Olson
Columnist

Wick and wax

This week is cold and we haven’t turned on our heat. My roommates mention the thermostat and suggest space heaters, but being responsible for utilities, we instead pull out wool socks and blankets. I’m cross-legged in our living room, wearing two sweaters and cupping a candle in my hands. It feels warm and that burns down quickly, carving out a deep cave in the center before the wax around the edges has a chance to melt. White stalactites form over the hollow where wax and wax shimer outward and upward toward my face, which is grateful for the heat.

Today marks too many days past the autumn equinox for the earth to reconsider her cock-eyed orbit and send us back through months of waxing daylight.

No, it’s too late for that, which is why I candle this candle for its heat. Memorized, I tip the candle sideways and wait for the flame to lap the walls until they relent and dissolve into the gleaming pool in the center. I dip each fingertips in my hand to test for any white berries.

In middle school, our neighbor forbade anyone from playing in the candles on pain of grounding, because she wearied of finding her furniture marred with wax and candlewick—instead of scolding.

Why this fascination with the candle? Because beyond the irresistibility of warm, the light itself draws us. We light candles to celebrate birthdays, to unite in marriage, to dispel the darkness, to illuminate the crooked greens of jock-o-lanterns. We strike our matches and hold them against the wick long enough to step back and watch the bottle rocket shoot skysward, to set the table for dinner, to count the weeks of Advent in anticipation of the word becoming flesh. In the harbor, we ignite enormous candles as beacons for ships; we don’t want to be lost at sea. Out back, we kindle a space for s’mores and scary stories. In the night, we let the candle hold vigil for the sick and the beloved, the hungry and the widowed, knowing that we should not let them remain alone.

Grace would like to offer her services and typographical errors. However, if such mistakes occur, this newspaper reserves the right to accept or reject any advertising. The Anchor reserves the right to accept or reject any advertising. The Anchor reserves the right to accept or reject any advertising.

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Young women’s golf team keeps playing strong

In Brief
FOOTBALL SUFFERS FIRST MIAA LOSS

Hope’s football team opened their conference season Saturday with an away game at Trine. The Flying Dutchmen started the game strong, leading 14-0 after the first quarter. Trine cut Hope’s lead during the second quarter with two touchdowns and a field goal, but Hope still remained on top at halftime. After the break, Trine began to pull away, scoring two touchdowns in the third quarter. Hope fought back from a 10-point deficit going into the fourth quarter to bring the game within three points, but another touchdown by Trine sealed the Dutchmen’s fate and Hope fell, 35-38. Contra’s Trine sealed the Dutchmen’s fate and hope fell, 35-38. Contra’s Trine sealed the Dutchmen’s fate and Hope fell, 35-38. Contra’s Trine sealed the Dutchmen’s fate and hope fell, 35-38. Contra’s Trine sealed the Dutchmen’s fate and Hope fell, 35-38. Contra’s Trine sealed the Dutchmen’s fate and hope fell, 35-38. Contra’s Trine sealed the Dutchmen’s fate and Hope fell, 35-38. Contra’s Trine sealed the Dutchmen’s fate and hope fell, 35-38.

Van Andel Stadium opens with win

For the 650 fans watching the inaugural soccer game at the new Van Andel Stadium on Sept. 29, the cold and rainy weather couldn’t dampen their spirits. The Albion Britons in town, the Flying Dutchmen soccer team was given a tough battle. After about 80 minutes of each team playing, a Dutchman, Jeff Stucki (’11) scored the lone goal of the game to give the Flying Dutchmen a 1-0 victory, the team’s first victory in Van Andel Stadium. Goalkeeper Logan Neil (’12) was credited with the team’s sixth shutout of the season. Now in sole possession of first place in the MIAA, the Dutchmen are looking to stay on the winning pace with the heart of their conference schedule coming up. Van Andel Stadium offering the team a field turf playing surface and a large fan section, the Flying Dutchmen might find that the new home field advantage will help in their quest for the MIAA championship.

Hope volleyball remains on top of conference

The men’s and women’s cross country teams participated in the Lansing Community College Invitational on Oct. 3. The women’s team won the 5K race, edging out host Lansing Community College by one point. Taylor Matarrella (’13), Sharon Hecker (’13), and Katie Martin (’13) were the first Flying Dutch to cross the finish line, coming in third, eighth, and ninth, respectively. The men’s team competed in an 8K race and came away with second place out of nine teams. The first three Hope finishers were Collin Kooy (’10) in ninth place, Brian Hernandez (’12) in 11th place, and Blake Rottschaffer (’13) in 12th place. On Saturday, both teams will travel to Indiana where they will compete in the Rose-Hulman Invitational.

SPORTS
Van Andel Stadium opens with win
Chris Ray
For the 650 fans watching the inaugural soccer game at the new Van Andel Stadium on Sept. 29, the cold and rainy weather couldn’t dampen their spirits. The Albion Britons in town, the Flying Dutchmen soccer team was given a tough battle. After about 80 minutes of each team playing, a Dutchman, Jeff Stucki (’11) scored the lone goal of the game to give the Flying Dutchmen a 1-0 victory, the team’s first victory in Van Andel Stadium. Goalkeeper Logan Neil (’12) was credited with the team’s sixth shutout of the season. Now in sole possession of first place in the MIAA, the Dutchmen are looking to stay on the winning pace with the heart of their conference schedule coming up. Van Andel Stadium offering the team a field turf playing surface and a large fan section, the Flying Dutchmen might find that the new home field advantage will help in their quest for the MIAA championship.

Hope volleyball remains on top of conference
Jake Bajema
Guest Writer
The three words commonly used with the game of volleyball are bump, set, and spike. The Hope College volleyball team has mastered those three components of the game, and it shows in their recent winning streak.

After a tough loss to Ohio Northern University, ranked fifth in the nation at the time, the team has come back strong. They have won nine of the last 10 games, bringing their record to 17-2.

Outside hitter Traci Baker (’11) said the team’s winning streak is due to a combination of things. “A lot of our recent success has been us staying focused on getting it done,” Baker said. “We have the mentality of every point counts; we don’t want to let the other team hang around. Our intensity level has been great lately.”

After the loss to Ohio Northern, the Flying Dutch returned to their winning ways, defeating Wittenberg in the final game of the Ohio-Michigan Border Battle. They then returned to conference play. The third and perhaps most exciting MIAA game was against 11th-ranked rival Calvin in front of the home crowd in DeVos Fieldhouse.

The Flying Dutch were looking to average last year’s disappointing home loss to the Knights. “(We) didn’t want them to come into our place and win again; we have worked hard to make sure that didn’t happen again,” said Sara DeWeerdt (’11), who had six kills and eight digs in the big win.

The Hope-Calvin rivalry in volleyball may not get the same national attention as the basketball game, but it is still one that Marshfield fans look forward to on their calendar every year.

“Everyone brings their best; each team wants it so bad, (and) a lot of times there is a conference championship and national tournament berth on the line,” DeWeerdt said.

Hope took on Calvin on the main court in DeVos, which allowed over 1,400 fans to watch the game. DeWeerdt said the energy from the fans has had a big impact on the team’s success. “The fans have been great this year,” DeWeerdt said. “They give us great energy to feed off of and are up on their feet cheering all the time.”

Over the weekend, the team competed in the Illinois Wesleyan Invitational. Navy, where they defeated three of their four opponents. The Flying Dutch will be on the road this week before taking on Olivet Oct. 14 in DeVos.

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