Student Congress: who they are, what they do

Planning activities, allocating funds among many important jobs representatives handle

Hannah Gingrich
Guest Writer

A common misconception about "student governments" in general is that they are either power hungry or ineffective. Student Congress at Hope College strives to be neither.

When asked what plans were in the works for Student Congress this year, Vice President Elyse Thompson ('14) said they aim to plan more Student Congress activities.

Thompson wishes Student Congress could have more visibility, as well as more involvement from the student population.

"I want people to know that they can approach us with ideas or email us with concerns or questions. We're supposed to be the link between the students and the running of the school," said Thompson.

Student Congress features a sustainability task force responsible for the stickers bearing the phrase "Consider Using Less," which appeared on paper towel dispensers throughout campus last year.

They also influenced the decision to switch to single-stream recycling in the hopes that recycling will become more widespread at Hope. This year there could be sustainability initiatives such as a recycling competition between living units or a repeat of last year's successful energy competition between cottages.

This year they are considering including a redistribution of residence districts due to the significant change in living situations in the past couple years as the number of freshmen has soared. They hope to make representation fairer.

"We're thinking that maybe apartment or cottage districts are being underrepresented," Thompson said.

Another item on their to-do list is reconstructing the Student Congress constitution, a task that surfaces every five years.

Every member of Student Congress is voted into office, except for the secretary, webmaster and parliamentarian, who apply. Some members campaign to be elected, and others do not, but it is still possible to be written in. Residence representatives are voted for during the fall semester. Voting for class representatives is in the spring.

Student Congress consists of 40 people. The executive board includes President Ashley Fraley, Vice-President Thompson, and controller Nick Roen.

The controller, similar to a treasurer, leads a sub-committee of Student Congress called Appropriations, which allocates half a million dollars to student organizations.

In addition to the executive board, there are two representatives from each class, one male and one female. The freshman representatives are chosen later in the year to allow for them to develop relationships with their peers.

There are also representatives from residence halls, cottages and other living units. The size of the dorm determines representation. For example, it is a little more serious [than high school]," said Thompson.

"We wear business casual to our meetings and we do have a very structured meeting format."

For more information, visit http://www.hope.edu/student/life/congress/.

EXECUTIVE BOARD—Student Congress: Controller, Nick Roen ('15), Vice-President Elyse Thompson ('14), and President Ashley Fraley ('14).

Lichty and Van Vleck share a representative, while Dykstra could potentially have three.

Student Congress also has a secretary, a webmaster and a parliamentarian, who help with the formal procedure of the meeting. "I think the tone of

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A look at some of the most notable exhibits in Grand Rapids.

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Pictures from a record-setting Pull, resulting in Odd Year's third victory in a row.

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Get a story idea? Let us know at anchor@hope.edu or call us at 385-7877
Pillar Church reconciles denominations

Annalise Klein  Guest Writer

To many, Pillar Church may seem like just another building—just another church of seemingly hundreds lining Holland’s streets. Standing at the corner of Ninth Street and College Avenue, the sight of its white columns is certainly a staple to Hope College students as they go back and forth from campus to class. Yet this community is immersed in rich history and is beginning to sing a new song by showing the Holland community that it is taking its Christian ministry seriously: the ministry of reconciliation.

In 1882 Pillar Church was at the center of a great divide between what is now the Reformed Church of America (RCA) and the Christian Reformed Church (CRC). The split was official when members actually wedged the church’s front doors shut with thick metal chains and axe handles, making the church Holland’s first CRC congregation, while their RCA brothers became the first Reformed Church of Holland. Over the decades, and the neighborhood makeup surrounding Pillar Church shifted, as college and Latino populations began to integrate into Dutch family neighborhoods. Those in leadership positions at Pillar, including Pastor Chris DeVos, began looking at ways the church could grow to better fit the culture around it.

A vision was born for reconciliation between the two reformed denominations, and the church began to look for a RCA pastor who would share in the ministry of Pillar Church as a unified reformed congregation. Pastor Jon Brown, who was raised in Holland and a student at Hope and Western Theological Seminary, answered that need. As his wife, Kristyn, put it, Brown was “uniquely fitted” to be one of the pastors in Pillar’s reconciliation endeavor back in his hometown. Although he has been a pastor in the Pacific Northwest for the past nine years, he and his family moved back to Michigan this summer.

Both DeVos and Brown have taken careful effort to define this “reconciliation” movement both in light of their immediate church and on a larger Christian scale. Brown notes that reconciliation is not “a social program, initiative, or strategy to get what you want.” Instead, he points to 2 Corinthians 5, explaining that Christians

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MORNING MEDITATION— A panel of reconciliation experts shared personal callings to reconciliation (top). Tuesday keynote speaker Miroslav Volf reflected on reconciliation and faith (middle). A jazz vocalist coos songwriter Gillian Grannum’s music before the Tuesday keynote (bottom).
Romney makes latest tax returns public

By Tim Cook

Mitt Romney, the Republican presidential candidate, released his 2011 tax returns showing he and his wife paid $1.14 million in federal taxes.

Romney, on the other hand, enjoyed only a slight post-convention rise in poll numbers that have subsequently been sagging. For Romney, it is possible that releasing the tax returns was a necessary gamble to give voters more confidence in his plan. Romney, from multiple sources, often inaccurate accusations concerning his tax records and foreign business investments. As the actual documentation shows, the reality is somewhat different. Romney paid a tax rate of around 14 percent on his 2011 records, and from 2010 to 2011, his tax rates never dropped below 13 percent. In 2011, the Romney campaign paid the government $1.9 million in income taxes.

These numbers might sound large, but when they are taken as a whole, they represent a very small portion of the country's income in taxes. Since Romney's income well exceeds $200,000, he appears to be paying less than he should.

In reality, the U.S. tax code was designed for wide range of deductions for various reasons, depending on how a given income is spent. A seasoned businessman like Romney, who gets returns from a plethora of investments and assets, is well positioned to take advantage of these deductions. This is not to say that Romney played the system to pay as little money as he should. Romney and his wife actually denied certain tax deductions on $1.75 million in charitable donations.

It is possible that foregoing some of these deductions was Romney's way of making sure that his tax rate never dropped below 13 percent, thus allowing the statements he made before the tax returns were released to be technically true. Even if releasing these documents helped validate his previous statements, he cannot help but contradict another statement he made about his taxes. Romney had earlier stated in ABC, "If I paid more than I was legally due, I don't think I'd be qualified to be president." It remains to be seen how Romney's move will affect the polls in the coming weeks as the election draws closer.

Bridge to Canada?

By Megan Stevens

In an effort to bolster the state's economic woes, Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder continued to work with the Canadian government to build a $2 billion bridge across the Detroit River, linking Detroit with Windsor, Ontario.

In the coming election, Michigan voters will be asked to decide whether or not the bridge, which many hope will bring more to the state, should be built.

The proposal, the creation of which was first made in 2006 in the Detroit Free Press to the Detroit International Bridge Co., is backed by a committee called "The Bridge to Canada". This group claims that the bridge will create 12,000 jobs during the four-year construction phase, and between $6,000 and $8,000 permanent jobs. It will also, CAR sustainability director Kim Hill says, "Michigan eligible to receive Federal matching funds that can be used on other highway infrastructure projects throughout the state, helping to improve Michigan's highway system."

The People Should Decide committee, formed this year advocating the proposal against the bridge. One of them has an interview with former Michigan police officer Dan Schewe. "I believe that the money could be spent elsewhere," Schewe says, "to enhance public safety in the state of Michigan. How can they tell us there's no money for police officers or fire fighters and they're claiming they're saving money for a bridge?"

A representative of the governor's office said in a press release, "One special interest group, has a near-monopoly on truck traffic between Detroit and Windsor. They don't want to see the project completed, so they're spending a tremendous amount of money on TV ads on the issue."

Snyder, in one of many responses to the six ballot proposals, says, "Canada has been a great partner in doing this, because they'll pay for our portion of this project. We have a legal agreement, we have public statements to say they'll be repaid out of public Canadian funding.

Although Snyder will remain in office for two more years, this issue could weigh heavily in his upcoming campaign.

California to decide on GMO

By Alex Beilicke

To label, or not to label: that is the question facing California voters this November as they decide on the controversial ballot initiative Proposition 37. The proposal would require most products that contain genetically engineered ingredients to contain a warning label about their content.

Genetically engineered or modified crops are commonly referred to as (GMOs) are plants that contain DNA spliced from another species or otherwise modified to give them a specific trait. For instance, BT Corn has a gene added that produces a protein that is toxic to certain insects. Monsanto Corporation's Roundup-Ready crops contain genes making them resistant to common herbicides.

First approved for widespread use in 1996, GMO seeds have been widely adopted for certain crops due largely to their potential to increase yields. The USDA reports that 88 percent of corn and 93 percent of soybean crops currently grown in the U.S. are genetically modified. Since the introduction of genetically engineered crops, certain critics and health advocates have called their safety into question. In Europe, many GMO crops have been banned due to fear of public and uncertain. Some scientists claim that GMOs are likely to cause cancer and exacerbate food allergies. Genetically engineered plants have increased the use of herbicides such as Roundup, which has in turn caused some weeds to adapt and become resistant to the herbicides. Despite these concerns, there seems to be consensus in the scientific community that GMOs are safe. The Food and Drug Administration, World Health Organization, and the American Medical Association all support their use. In a 2012 report presented by Dr. Morty, the American Medical Association concludes, "Bioengineered foods have been consumed for close to 20 years, and during that time, no overt consequences on human health have been reported and/or substantiated in the scientific literature."

Advocates of Prop. 37 argue that even though scientific opinion currently favors the use of GMOs, consumers have the right to make their own choices. "Fifty countries around the world already require GMO labeling. The people of California deserve to have the same rights to know what's in our food and to choose for ourselves what we eat and feed our families."

Opponents of Prop. 37 argue that the law unnecessarily expends and processes to lawsuits if a product become cross-contaminated or is incorrectly labeled. Walter Olson of the Cato Institute, a Washington DC based think-tank, points to Prop. 65 passed in 1986 that required labeling of products that contain ingredients that may cause cancer. "Twenty-six years later the law has benefited almost no one but litigators. Even as cancer remains just as much of a problem in California as elsewhere... Most of the money in the resulting settlements goes to the lawyers, defendants often describe Prop. 65 litigation as "litigation run amok.""

See GMO, page 10
ARTS

Taking on the fairest of them all

Daina Robins, the director of "Helen" shares her thoughts about the theatre department's first production.

Maribeth Van Hecke Guest Writer

The Anchor had the opportunity to sit down and talk to Daina Robins, the director of "Helen," the theatre department's fall play, which opens Friday at the DeVitt Theater. This five-character production written by Ellen McLaughlin takes a spin on the play by Euripides, challenging society and fame. Robins lets us see behind the curtain and into the story of "Helen."

The Anchor: What makes a good show?

Daina Robins: In big terms, I can say artistry, creativity, insight, relevance, beauty. Which I love, because something grotesque can be beautiful, something horrible can be beautiful, depending on your perspective.

TA: What is "Helen" about?

DR: "Helen" is about a version of the myth of Helen of Troy in which she did not go to Troy with Paris, but rather a [Goddess-made idol or "image"] of her went and spent her time in Egypt, waiting for Menelaus to come get her. This modern, you could say ironic, retelling of Helen circumstances. The play (speaks) to today in a funny and witty way. It addresses issues of celebrity [and] image versus reality. It questions both the privilege of and the curse of [beauty].

TA: How did the theater department pick "Helen"?

DR: We have a [four]-year plan where we've identified kinds, genres, time periods of plays, trying to think over the course of a theatre student's [and audience member's] four years at Hope. What should that person be exposed to, experience, have a chance to see or work on.

We do four faculty-directed productions a year and usually the year is grounded either on a Shakespeare production or a big musical. We had decided to do "Sweeney Todd," which is a very demanding piece, and the production that was going to occur before had to be something double in a short amount of time.

So, [we needed] to find a play that could fit those practical considerations: [it always has] to have some kind of thematic interest, it has to raise questions that are important. I have to enjoy how the play has been written, I have to enjoy the actors, the material, the [author's] intentions. I would want something challenging, something beautiful.

One of these lucky entries is "Song of Lift" by Martin Van Wagendonk. His entry is "Spiritual Lake," which he wrote years ago. While the pair has planned this exhibit for quite some time, they decided to make the exhibition dates coincide with ArtPrize for added publicity and exposure. Originally designed to be a large group show with at least a half dozen different mediums displayed, Bullard and Cox instead chose to focus on creating something more focused and concise—a project just between the two of them.

Bullard describes "Spiritual Lake" as "...an exploration of the tangible and intangible, sensual experience, human emotion, memory and connotation." The exhibit features two of Bullard's poems "Body" and "Spiritual Lake," which he wrote years ago. These pieces provided the conceptual framework for Cox's series of photo portraits, an integral part of the exhibit. Many of the photos were taken during a five-day trip the two took along the coast of West Michigan. That five day trip was only part of the two-month photo shooting process.

Beauty and art in the heart of Grand Rapids

Leigh Cloose and Irma Cruz Arts Co-Editors

For its fourth year, ArtPrize has come back bigger and better than ever. Taking place in Grand Rapids, it is the world's largest art competition, with 1,517 entries and 161 venues that cover three square miles. The contest distinguishes itself from other art competitions in that it allows anyone over 18 years of age to enter the competition, and it allows any space in the ArtPrize district to be a venue. It rewards a whopping total of $560,000 to select participants: $360,000 derive from public vote and the additional $200,000 comes from a group of art experts.

There have been many unexpected events this year concerning the popular vote and the juror's selection. Out of all the possible venues, four account for 17 out of the 25 leading entries. Several entries have especially appealed to both the public and the art critics.

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The artists also produced a three-song soundtrack that accompanies the exhibition as well as a publication that includes additional photographs and writings.

For Bullard and Cox, one of the most challenging aspects of putting together the exhibit was getting past their own creative expectations. Bullard explained, "...to create this project, we have combined..."...colorful landscapes and I have mostly been known for writing pretty songs. So, to put out an exhibition completely of portraits, and then pair them with poems that are getting at some strange, abstract ideas, was a risk. However, it has been very encouraging and exciting to see friends and family explore and support the project with us." Concerning the pair's reaction to their project's opening, Cox said, "We feel really great. At a time where everything is becoming increasingly experienced on a digital platform, we believe in printed image and artwork as physical object and are happy to share this tangible experience with people."

So, "Spiritual Lake," along with other ArtPrize entries, are on view until this Sunday. Award winners will be announced on Friday. So, if you have the chance to go to Grand Rapids before ArtPrize ends later in the week, take it.
Are you stressed? We’ll help you carry on

The leaves have changed, the wind has cooled, and the semester is in full swing. Tests, projects, activities, and deadlines crowd the week, pushing back bedtimes farther and farther. So many late nights, early mornings, and packed days erode our energy.

So here’s the million-dollar question: is it possible to diminish stress while leading a full, successful life? Two representatives from Hope’s Counseling & Psychological Services, Director Kristin Gray andClinical Coordinator William Russner, offer their wisdom on stress-related issues that students battle with daily. Hear what the experts have to say!

How can I help a friend who is overwhelmed with school and work?

First try to get a sense on how overwhelmed your friend is — is it normal pre-exam stress, or is your friend really struggling — are they showing significant changes in behavior such as excessive sleeping, skipping and/or tanking in their classes, or other signs suggesting possible depression? If so, gently talk with your friend about your concerns and discuss reaching out to get some help.

What are a few tips for maintaining a balance between school, work, and a social life at Hope?

Good organization and use of time is essential in finding balance. That may sound very boring, but taking care of studying in the middle of the day so that you are not “suspended” and social in the evening is a good plan.

It can also be helpful to plan several short study breaks rather than taking a huge break early in the day or evening and then needing to study into the wee hours of the morning. Also, remember that balance can also be helped by planning ahead — knowing what is coming in the next few weeks and doing prep work ahead of time can be a real boost during those weeks that are super busy.

What are some common habits that may contribute to stress?

Procrastination, lack of sleep, failure to exercise, poor diet, and the dreaded “fear of missing out” can seriously contribute to stress. It’s important to admit that you have a body and your body needs sleep and food and exercise to be healthy and function well.

And, even though this is college, you are not going to be able to do everything. You can actually go to bed, or go do homework when others are having fun. It’s not a great thing, it takes loads of courage, but it can be done!

How can I maintain a positive outlook when I have really tough, draining days to get through?

Give yourself permission to not always “be happy.” College life can be hard and stressful, and you are allowed to have some down days. That being said, it is important to, as much as you are able, build some positive activities into your schedule to give yourself something to look forward to. It can be helpful to focus on long-term goals and expected outcomes, rather than always feeling lost in the minutiae of classwork.

I don’t have time to exercise during the week. Is there anything I can do throughout a busy day that will help me relieve stress?

Try to make time each day to briefly review the various stresses you are experiencing. Identify what and when you can do things to work on those stressors, and then do those when you are able. When those worries pop into your head again during the day, remind yourself that you’ve already made a plan for dealing with that issue, and further worrying will just waste your time. Take a few deep breaths, focus on the tasks at hand, and do the best you can.

What are some techniques that can clear a cluttered mind?

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That’s the way it is
Justin Bieber and jazz
I was lucky enough to attend Gillian Grant’s special session entitled “Resolution and Reunion: Jazz, Faith and Reconciliation” last week, where the celebrated author and musician talked about relationships through the beautiful complexities of jazz music. I’ve never been to a symposium where music was the tool of instruction, and I was captivated. Granam described people as “third dimension” in a dissonant note on the piano, and had songs to illustrate each step of reconciliation, from the apology to the joy of letting go. As a music lover, it was such a pleasure to have music and learning mixed together in a way that can also be an integral part of our healing, our happiness, our triumphs. There’s music I put on when I’m angry (Eminem) or when I’m sad (Miranda Lambert...country music is the music of pain), but I love the music I listen to when I’m happy the most: the bubbly pop or the hard rock that seems to encapsulate all my feelings into notes and verses. I love that music is wide enough to hold the saddest songs and the happiest ones, big enough as an art form to contain yellow German techno and orchestral heavy metal and U.S. pop sensations. Music is inclusive welcoming to the weird and the mainstream alike: there’s something for everyone if you’re willing to look for it.

I dislike when people become obsessed with labeling things, whether that’s the indie crowd or the Katy Perry enthusiasm for all music: I think we can all agree on some basic definitions, but it comes down to a matter of personal choice more than a general group consensus. For example, I like Justin Bieber. I like his throwback Justin style, his emulation of Michael Jackson, his wide fanbase of teen girls (and their moms). I like how catchy his songs are, and I think he’s a talented singer. The problem with liking Justin Bieber is that people who don’t like the labeling things are quick to judge me based on that one music choice.

Just like enjoying the music of Radiohead doesn’t automatically make someone a music snob, liking Justin Bieber doesn’t automatically mean that someone is fawning over pop in music. I like Justin Bieber because he knows how to craft a great pop song, and I enjoy him for what he is instead of wishing he could somehow morph into a Bob Dylan-esque voice of our generation. Sometimes all I need from music is knowing someone else is feeling the pain of missing their “baby,” and sometimes what I need from music is the deep introspection that comes from years and years of heartache and pain. That’s the beauty of music; it’s wide enough to include Justin Bieber and Bjork and My Brightest Diamond and Rihanna, and everyone is welcome to like to them all.

Music should unite us, not divide us. That doesn’t mean you have to swap in almonds or pecans for a cup of Bieber fever, but that does mean that you have to give other people the room to express themselves through their music preferences, even if you don’t agree with them. Music tells our stories, and whether we’re hot on banjos or heavy bass grooves or a Canadian pop star singing about a phone call, all of those stories are worth listening to, and worth celebrating.

Are we an item? Girl, quit playing. "We’re just friends," what are you saying? Said "there’s another," and looked right in my eyes. My first love broke my heart for the first time. And I was like...

As if you’re approaching, I can’t tell... I can’t tell...

In my heart, I love you...

Music should unite us, not divide us.

Cooking on the run
Baked oatmeal offers a hot meal
As fall approaches, you may find yourself turning to what is commonly known as comfort food. Hot oatmeal, hot meatloaf, and creamy mashed potatoes all have a way of cheering you up when rain is pelting against your window. And then there is baked oatmeal. This fortifying dish falls into a category completely its own. Nutty, slightly sweet, and lighter than normal oatmeal, it is a warm break from the cereal rut. It is not fancy by any means, but it will be there when you need it. It is a friend ready to give you a warm hug on a chilly morning, which is just what you want at 8:27 am, when even a bowl of cereal would take too much time and effort on your way to class. Packed with fiber, protein, whole grains, and fruit, this dish of this grain bar you eat with a spoon, but better. Just pop it in the microwave for a minute to warm it up, or eat with milk (frankly, I sometimes enjoy it more this way). Topped off with a little milk, you have a delicious, nutritious breakfast waiting for you.

The trick to all this is planning ahead. Because no matter how fast it might be there is no way she is going to wake you up an hour earlier just for breakfast. Baked oatmeal keeps wonderfully in the fridge, so I suggest you make a big batch on the weekend to have around for the next several days. I can personally vouch for baked oatmeal’s longevity after eating it for 2 weeks straight this summer following a macaroon recipe using enough leftovers to feed an army.

This recipe comes from a good friend of mine. I also feel like she is my biggest fan, so believe me when I say it’s fantastic. Just like regular oatmeal, there is a lot of room for creativity. Divide apples, apricots, cranberries, cherries would all be good in place of the raisins. I expect you to swap in almonds or pecans for the walnuts. For a breakfast with real fall flavors, invite canned pumpkin and nutmeg to the party instead of the apple sauce. My point is, don’t feel like you can’t make this recipe just because you don’t have what is specified. Baked oatmeal is satisfying without any embellishment at all. So mix up a batch whenever you feel a little cloudy today. I promise it won’t let you down.

2012 FALL SEMESTER STAFF

Baked Oatmeal
3 cups rolled oats
¾ c. brown sugar
¾ tsp. baking powder
2 tsp. cinnamon
½ c. raisins or other dried fruit
½ c. Tbsp. walnuts, chopped
1 tsp. cinnamon
¼ c. apple sauce
¼ c. plain or vanilla yogurt
2 eggs, beaten
Milk, for serving (optional)

Preheat oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit. Combine oats, sugar, baking powder and cinnamon in a large bowl. In a separate bowl, combine remaining ingredients. Add the milk mixture to the oats and stir to combine. Pour into a greased 8x8 inch baking dish and bake for 20-25 minutes, or until top is golden brown and liquid has been absorbed. Serve warm, with milk, if desired.
The great perhaps

Alex Brennan
Voice Editor

It’s [not] too late to apologize

Who doesn’t believe in sorry?

I learned to apologize from a very young age. When I would talk back to my mother, mouth off, because I assumed the right to do so. As a child, I can’t believe you’re letting him go, you are so blind—this is so stupid.”

I was never called being blind, or associated with stupid.” Mom wasn’t a happy camper, and when Mom isn’t a happy camper, no one’s a happy camper.

“Cara, I think this calls for an apology? Mom would desperately suggest.

My apology became a natural consequence—the immediate response when you say or do something rude, or thoughtless, or inappropriate—so whether I truly intended my action or not, it was the automatic, of owning up, of making the first step to mend differences, was never trivialized, but also never questioned. Of course I would say sorry to help make the other person feel a little better—that was, and is, the basic theory. It is easier, I believe, my confusion concerning this year’s CIS.

Who is going to argue with basic morality?

To borrow from my dear friend, the Doctor: we are all stories in the end. Each with a beginning and middle and, like it, or not, an ending.

Alex suffers from chronic feelings. He is afraid of the burnt-out, to tears roundly. So he is probably just overwhelmed by柑.

acquainted with most of the friends they have made outside the dorm. To make matters worse, we’ve fallen into routines that are practically overlapping. When I’m free, they usually tend to be busy, and vice versa.

One that came up in conversation with Taylor Ann, the third floor RA, after talking a few days later (I live on the second floor, and my RA is awesome, but for whatever reason I find it harder to share my feelings with her upstairs counterpart). Walking back from Phelps, I was yammering on about how during middle school to develop a stage talent like singing or acting, how I wasn’t terrible at either of those things, but I was never good enough to make an honor choir or play anything more glamorous than a weed outfit. As we entered the dorm, and the steps of the final Harry Potter release of the final Harry Potter

The grand finale

OCTOBER 3, 2012

just weep for the characters that at the happy, the sad, the funny, the angry moments. There have been a crier. I cry

at the beginning of time, I, Alex Brennan, have been a crier. I cry

for the summer of 2010, AKA the Brennan, have been a crier. I cry

grandmother’s funeral too, kind of ending. There are some kind of ending. There are some

and sometimes the best thing

of my graduation from high school. Sure I was excited, but I was also more than a little scared of the future. I remember my grandmother’s funeral too, kind of ending. There are some endings that no one ever wants to have to deal with and in a sense they are running away from them. (graduating college and being thrown into the real world; for instance). Still, I don’t think it’s possible to actually run away from endings, and I’m not sure I would want to anyway.

However, I know many people that don’t feel the same way I do. I have a friend that likes to tear the last page of a book out so the story doesn’t have an ending. The idea of this is enchanting. Never having to experience an ending, could make you immortal in a sense. You would never have to wonder if someone died or if someone achieved their dream. You could live forever in a place that never concluded.

On Saturday, I along with millions of others around the world, witnessed one such ending. I witnessed the parting of old friends and the power of unparalleled love. That’s right, I’m talking about the Doctor Who finale. In this Made table-flipping conclusion, the Doctor must say goodbye to his current companions. This show specifically is known for awful emotion-filled goodbyes, so going in I knew I would cry. It didn’t matter how I stepped a way, or prepared myself for this coming ending, I was not ready. I would never be ready. It didn’t matter because their story on the screen would end with or without me.

I have no control over what my tears do or what happens. So for me I cry, but my tears are less for the actual events and more for me. It’s my way of digesting and coming to terms with the end of any situation, joyful or otherwise. It’s a way for me to say: we’ve had a good run and now we must go our separate ways. In a way endings aren’t really endings at all. There are just the beginnings of something new. Without endings, there would be no room for new beginnings.

To borrow from my dear friend, the Doctor: we are all stories in the end. Each with a beginning and middle and, like it, or not, an ending.

A couple of my little siblings have eyes that color—blueberry eyes.” It was probably an effort to get me to stop going on about my past (too many failures), but I went on anyway.

Do not be alarmed if she bursts into tears. You would never have the last page of a book out so the story doesn’t have an ending. The idea of this is enchanting. Never having to experience an ending, could make you immortal in a sense. You would never have to wonder if someone died or if someone achieved their dream. You could live forever in a place that never concluded.

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Letter to the editor: Response to the Front Porch Republic

"The freedom we celebrate is in many ways a sham..."

I would like to thank The Anchor and Alex Belica for their generous coverage of our Front Porch Republic conference, which we held on Hope's campus. A small group of scholars, we began our website in early 2008 in response to the financial crisis then besetting our nation. Convinced that "too big to fail" was simply too big, and concerned about the direction of our political and cultural crises then besetting our nation, we recruited an eclectic and non-partisan coterie of writers to examine the political, cultural, social, and economic challenges of the day and to articulate ways of life more conducive to human well-being.

Mr. Belica aptly captured the conference's tone of articulating a range of ideas that were likely to offend and/or intrigue nearly everyone. At a time when there is widespread cynicism about our political and economic systems, such non-ideological voices are sorely needed.

In his review of my talk Mr. Belica suggests that while I did a fine job of outlining my arguments, my speech was short on articulation of what these three principles are and why they are worthy of defense.

Given these emphases, it is unlikely any of us are going to apply for visas to North Korea any time soon. It is not our place, and even if we considered making it such (for part of being American is the making of new places) its hostility to human freedom would be sufficient disincentive. Modern totalitarian movements are notable precisely for their refusal to recognize limits.

Neither does the emphasis on agrarianism commit us to living in an exclusively agricultural society. Rather, given the need of all humans for food, a proper recognition of sustainable and well-ordered communities requires attention to matters such as food sources and environmental effects. Given current emphases on local sourcing of food supplies it would seem we are not alone in this.

Modern America is defined by the collapsing of multifarious and independent sources of authority in favor of autonomous individuals ruled by an increasingly intrusive bureaucratic state. The freedom we celebrate is in many ways a sham, for true freedom can only exist in complex associative life that satisfies the desire for community in concrete, immediate, and humane ways. The centralizing path (both political and economic) America has traveled has come to the cost of a vital and complex social sphere.

There is perhaps no more pernicious idea than the one that history has a set trajectory that human beings are powerless to alter. Mr. Belica suggests that "we cannot turn back the clock on industrialization." We probably won't need to, as industrialization will likely destroy itself. But that's beside the point, in a sense, because the obvious rejoinder is that we can turn back the clock on these things. I am reminded of a passage in G.K. Chesterton's 'What's Wrong with the World': "...the only true free-thinker is he whose intellect is as much free from the future as from the past. He cares as little for what will be as for what has been, he cares only for what ought to be. And for my present purpose I specially insist on this abstract independence: if I am to discuss what is wrong, one of the first things that is wrong is this: the deep and silent modern assumption that past things have become impossible."

There is a predominant whiggish interpretation of America as open to never-ending progress and ever greater expansion. Both major parties in this country have swallowed this idea whole, and both have therefore set us on a ruinous path. There have always been voices, however, often silenced, which have counseled restraint, smallness, rootedness, and an affection for particular places and the "little platoons of democracy" that sustain a well-ordered freedom. Reclaiming and reinvigorating these platoons requires care and patience; but to recognize their authority is an important start.

Jeffrey Polet, Political Science Professor

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should GMOs be labeled?

• GMO, from page 3

Olson says if passed, Prop. 37 will also be used to go after small stores who have inadequate paperwork to prove their products are in fact GMO free and labeled correctly.

Steve Sexton, an agricultural economist at UC Berkeley says consumers could face higher food prices because of the increased cost to process GMO and traditional crops separately.

"Prop. 37 would require farmers to invest in separate planting, harvesting, storage, hauling, processing, and packaging equipment for GE production in order to avoid revenue loss due to inability to market from contaminating its non-GE operations or those of competitors."

Producers around the country are carefully watching Prop. 37 as it would likely set the national precedent for labeling. Companies are not likely to repackage their products for sale in a specific state, so if labeling comes to California it will likely come to the rest of US by default.

Welcome to HOPE!

On behalf of the Hope Fund, welcome back, Hope students! The Hope Fund is Hope College's annual fundraising campaign which raises unrestricted dollars that account for a portion of Hope's yearly operating budget. These gifts then go toward many student services that make Hope a great place to be. Financial aid, technology upgrades, Intramural sports, The Pull, Campus Ministries, and more all benefit from gifts to the Hope Fund. It's another great year to be at Hope!

The foundation for a Greater Hope

hope.edu/hopefund
How do Hope athletes prepare for competition?

Five Hope athletes across five different sports share what they do to get ready for opponents.

**Timothy Klaus**

Football

"Before matches our golf team always puts, chips, hits and prays with our coach. We all try our best to get in a confident and positive frame of mind before teeing off on the first hole. It's crazy how much of a mental game golf is. Having a right frame of mind is just as important if not more so than swing mechanics."

**Charlotte Park**

Women's Golf

"My pre-game routine consists of nervous excitement all day, hydration to the max, and lots of music. Since college it has involved dancing and screaming with my teammates/roommates before we leave for the field, and on the bus before we get off at my favorite pump up jams and picturing myself being successful on the field."

**Brandon Underwood**

Women's Soccer

"Each week as I prepare for the upcoming opponent the most important thing I do is watch film on the opposing team to learn their plays and find patterns in their offense to help me on the field. When game day finally arrives I always start to prep up for the game by listening to my favorite hard-rock/screamo bands. When I start getting dressed for the games I always put on my lucky Under Armour shirt that I've worn since high school and then finally right before game time I always take a five hour energy shot."

**Jessica Maier**

Volleyball

"I enjoy being by myself to focus and try to calm my anxiety before the race. Sometimes I'll take a walk, other times I'll listen to my iPod, but either way I focus on taking deep breaths and conserving energy until I toe the line. It's sort of like my calm before the storm. After I put on my mismatched green and orange socks and strategically place my rancing bib onto my jersey, I'm ready to do some strides with the team. The team huddle pumps everyone up, each person aware that every teammate is willing to give it their all and put it all on the line."

**Nora Kirk**

Women's Soccer

"Before matches our golf team always puts, chips, hits and prays with our coach. We all try our best to get in a confident and positive frame of mind before teeing off on the first hole. It's crazy how much of a mental game golf is. Having a right frame of mind is just as important if not more so than swing mechanics."

**Sam Pederson**

Men's Cross Country

"We usually arrive to the locker room about a half hour before we meet as a team. In this half hour we all hang out, talk about our days and braod each other's hair. An hour and a half before game time we meet as a team and do a "fire-up" or pregame pump up session/pog talk. After "fire-up" we go over our scouting report, pray, and head out into the gym to warm up."
Mitchell finding her niche

Freshman volleyball player is making an impact

Caitlin Rivera
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

This year Hope College’s volleyball team has been dominating both in the MIAA and out of conference. They are currently ranked number four in the country with a record of 14-2, including a 5-0 record at home in DeVos Fieldhouse.

Allie Mitchell (‘16) a new strong back row player, thinks Hope will be in the running for the national championship, which will be hosted by Hope.

Mitchell, learning to pursue a career in nursing, chose to come to Hope to play volleyball and also because she was attracted to Hope’s “small Christian feel.”

The Flying Dutch’ roster has six freshmen, and Mitchell tends to shine in the back row.

On Sept. 8, Hope defeated Kalamazoo and Mitchell lead the team in aces and digs; holding her season records of four aces in a game, and 16 digs in a game.

Her season highlight was possibly in the Great Lakes Challenge tournament at Winnebago on Sept. 15.

Hope was playing Washington, who was ranked ninth nationally, and held that ranking. In the fifth set the score was tied 15-15.

Mitchell served two back-to-back aces to take the game for the Flying Dutch, leaving Washington with their only loss of the season.

After a month of season play, Mitchell is getting a feel for balancing volleyball with schoolwork.

“I’ve had a few late nights doing homework after games, but other than that, it’s been manageable.”

As a freshman, Mitchell has been slowly becoming acclimated with her coach, teammates and Hope.

Mitchell says she adores her teammates.

“When I’m super stressed about school, they keep me sane,” says Mitchell. “I love having that family to go to.”

Mitchell also speaks highly of her coaches, Becky Schmidt. She says she loves her energy and even claims that Schmidt, “has more energy than all of us girls combined.”

Mitchell has discovered that playing at Hope is much different than high school volleyball.

“It’s a much higher level, but that’s what makes it so fun,” said Mitchell. “Playing against the top ranked teams is in the country makes it so competitive and fun.”

Mitchell came out strong, against number two Calvin on Sept. 21 with nine digs and an ace, but the Flying Dutch didn’t have enough in them to defeat the Knights.

Mitchell and the rest of the Flying Dutch hope to be in the national championship game, which will take place in Hope’s own DeVos Fieldhouse in mid-November.

“We definitely have the potential to make it there,” Mitchell said. “Hopefully everything comes together at the right time and all of our hard work pays off to make that dream a reality.”

Mitchell hopes to continue her impact on the court. Through 16 games she has tallied 117 digs and has 22 service aces.

The Flying Dutch will continue their season with two conference games this weekend.

On Friday, Hope hosts Albion at 6:30 p.m. On Saturday, Hope will be away at Adrian at 1 p.m.

The Flying Dutch will be busy during Homecoming Weekend as they are scheduled to host the Midwest Invitational on Oct. 12 and Oct. 13.

Hope will start the tournament against Wisconsin Lutheran and UW-Whitewater on Oct. 12, and continue on Oct. 13 with games against Elmhurst and Dominican. The games will coincide with Homecoming.

Flying Dutch claim Rivalry Challenge

Kyle Bernacick
GUEST WRITER

On September 28 and 29, the women’s golf team compiled a sweep of rival Calvin College by winning the two-day Rivalry Challenge.

The Flying Dutch hosted the first half of the challenge at Thornapple Point Golf Club on Friday. Hope dominated the course easily, posting a series of low scores.

Brittany Haight (‘15) and Montana Leep (‘16) completed their round with a score of 83, propelling the Flying Dutch. Close behind was Charlotte Park (‘13) shooting an 84. Chelsea Root (‘16) and Andrea Powell (‘15) at 89.

The top score of the day was shot by Calvin’s Carina Canto, with an 80.

On Saturday, the round was hosted by Hope and played at the Macatawa Legends Golf Course. Three golfers shot in the 70s.

It was a day for the records, as the Flying Dutch cruised to victory, with a two-day total of 652 (compared to Calvin’s 688).

The Flying Dutch established a women’s collegiate course record with a four-player total of 317 strokes. The previous mark was held by Olivet (318) in an MIAA Jamboree that took place in 2009.

Despite the strong showing by the Flying Dutch, Canto was Saturday’s medalist, firing an 80-75—155. Leading Hope at a close second was Haight (‘15) at 83-77—160.

This two-day sweep came after a heartbreaking second place finish to Olivet at the MIAA Jamboree on Sept. 26. The event was hosted by Saint Mary’s and the Flying Dutch were only five strokes behind the Comets at the end of the day.

Hope is now midway through the MIAA season, posting a second place spot with 1,006 strokes behind Olivet with 973 strokes.

Three golfers are within the conference top ten. Haight is third overall with an average score of 81.3, Park 84.3, and Montgomery 85.0.

The Flying Dutch look to continue their victorious ways as the conference championship edges closer.

In order to take great strides, the women are seeking the consistent impressive play they are receiving from their underclassmen, while the veterans use their experience to the full advantage.

After meets versus Trine and Adrian this week, the Dutch look to finish their fall season strong. The MIAA Championships are set for Oct. 12 and 13 at the Bedford Valley Country Club.

History, Law School and the Practice of Law

Three Hope History alums will discuss how their major prepared them for law school and careers.

Moderator: Professor Janis Gibbs

- Tim Fry is in his final year at Northwestern Law School in Chicago, IL.
- Chris Caldwell practices at Varnum Law in Grand Rapids, MI.
- David Charnin is Managing Director, General Counsel and CEO of Strategic Value Partners, LLC in Greenwich, CT.

Friday, October 12
3:30 p.m., Lubbers Hall 121