Tragedy struck the Holland community late Monday night when freshman Joshua Boerigter was fatally hit by a train. The accident occurred Oct. 24 at approximately 8:48 p.m. on the tracks near East 12th Street and Lincoln Avenue.

After an investigation, police found that the incident did not appear to be the result of a mechanical error or any oversight on the part of the engineer. Boerigter reportedly paused briefly on the tracks, and the train's emergency braking system did not have enough time to stop the car.

Known to his friends as JP, 18-year-old Boerigter was a 2011 graduate of Portage Northern High School. There, he was on the swim team for all four years and was voted captain his senior year. He was a third-generation Hope student.

Hope College students were notified of a death on Monday night, but the name was not released by police until the morning following.

Following the release, a prayer service was led in Dimnent Memorial Chapel by Trygve Johnson. Hundreds of students and faculty crowded into the building, where it was standing-room only. The audience gathered to pray and mourn together and also to support Boerigter's parents who were in attendance.

Since the accident occurred, Campus Ministries, Student Development, and the Counseling and Psychological Services staff have been available to serve students.

The residents and residence assistants of Boerigter’s hall, Wyckoff, have also set aside special time to pray together and support each other.

Two Facebook pages were created Tuesday to pay tribute to Boerigter. One of his former teachers, Jeanne Burnham writes, “I had J.P. in 6th grade and I enjoyed our time together. He was quiet, but witty and so smart...What a terrible tragedy! You have to ask, 'why'? I don't understand.”

“The death of JP is a significant and terrible loss. It rips through us all,” said Trygve Johnson, of Campus Ministries. “When someone dies so young, and so unexpectedly, we want to have answers. We just don't have those answers to give."

Johnson added, “In the days ahead we will continue to pray for JP's family, and continue to comfort each other by standing firmly on the promises of (God's) Word.”

“We grieve together and especially with his family,” agreed President James Bultman. “I was very pleased with the way our campus community surrounded each other during this time.”

Visitation with the Boerigter family took place at the Kalamazoo Country Club on Thursday, Oct. 27. The funeral was Saturday, Oct. 29, at the Kalamazoo Second Reformed Church.

In lieu of flowers, the Boerigter family collected contributions for the J.P. Boerigter Scholarship Fund.

**Campus climate survey intended to create cultural diversity change**

Carolyn Wermuth

The study found that diversity is valued at Hope, and respondents said everyone at Hope is responsible for creating a welcoming environment. Respondents said racial and ethnic diversity is easier to discuss than sexual and religious identity and is being best addressed by Hope’s programs and messages about diversity.

A majority said that while Hope should continue its mission to be ecumenical in character it should also visibly embrace a wider definition of cultural diversity.

Alfredo Gonzales, dean of International and Multicultural Education, directed the survey. Gonzales said the inspiration for the survey came from “a number of conversations from students, faculty and staff that often point to an incident or a particular situation” where they felt diversity was not represented or even felt threatened at times.

“Tend was not enough data that with some degree of confidence someone could say (incidents) were taking place. I thought it would be important to take a survey to have an accurate record of issues that affect the campus climate,” Gonzales said.

The committee enlisted the help of the Frost Research Center to conduct the survey; committee members then interpreted the results. Respondents had a wide range of impressions of how culturally diverse Hope’s campus is, as well as definitions of cultural diversity itself.

Gonzales wonders, “How might those differences (in opinion) play out in the academic and residential life of the college?”

Although few students have actually reported harassment based on diversity issues (such as race, religion, gender, and sexual orientation), Gonzales said that even if a small number of people have felt intimidated, it should be of concern to the college. The ultimate goal of the survey is for the campus to become a more welcoming and open community, as well as see what areas the administration can improve upon.

This fall, Hope goes green with cottage energy competition

Claire Call

In an effort to reduce Hope College’s environmental footprint, the Campus Sustainability Advisory Committee has organized a Cottage Energy Competition for the 2011-2012 academic year.

“From Oct. until Thanksgiving break, cottages will work to reduce their use of electricity,” said Isabelle Anderson, chair of the department of communication and member of the Campus Sustainability Advisory Committee.

Seven cottages have volunteered to enter the competition which includes a kick-off event to explain the project and provide tips on energy reduction as well as a celebration dinner to thank all students involved, not only about how to limit their energy use, but also why it is a good idea; in order to care in the long run, there has to be a base knowledge of the benefits of energy conservation,” said Madson. This competition is only one sustainability project of many in the last four years since the Campus Sustainability Advisory Committee.

To make the competition fair, the cottages are competing against each other's previous use of electricity.

“Efforts will be compared to each cottage’s previous three year record of electricity usage (averaged over the three years),” Anderson said. This way, a cottage with 14 residents can compete against a cottage with only four residents.

“The aim of the Cottage Energy Competition is to motivate students to be more conscious of their day to day energy use and its ultimate effects on the environment,” said Lauren Madson ('14), a Sustainability Outreach intern. “This consciousness will hopefully last even after the competition is over.”

“We hope to educate the students involved, not only about how to limit their energy use, but also why it is a good idea; in order to care in the l long run, there has to be a base knowledge of the benefits of energy conservation,” said Madson. This competition is only one sustainability project of many in the last four years since the Campus Sustainability Advisory Committee.
Hope studies concerns behind grade inflation

Does Hope make the grade?

Katherine Maguire

Guest Writer

is an A really outstanding if most students are getting the same grade? The concerns behind grade inflation are numerous, and Hope is studying the issue closely.

“Grade inflation is the steady increase in the mean GPA of students over time,” Provost Richard Ray said.

According to KnowHope, Hope’s mean GPA has risen from a 2.96 in 1980 to a 3.32 in 2010. However, grade inflation has hit other American colleges and universities as well. GradeInflation.com, a website designed by Stuart Rojstaczer, a former professor at Duke University, measures the national prevalence of grade inflation. According to the website, the average GPA of American colleges and universities has risen from a 2.93 in 1991 to a 3.11 in 2006. Specifically, private schools have jumped from a 3.09 in 1991 to a 3.30 in 2006.

So what is the big deal about grade inflation?

Some argue “grade inflation robs students in a certain way of honest feedback on what they have learned,” Ray said.

If students are getting A’s for substandard work, then grade inflation has a negative impact on their learning. High performing students are not truly recognized for superior performance, and students overall are not challenged in their academic work.

The Academic Affairs Board has discussed the issue regularly for years since the 1950s and has continued to revisit the issue in each subsequent decade.

The discussion has grown more intense recently resulting in extensive data analysis and lengthy dialogue. The board hosted two faculty forums on the topic in September and is continuing to search for ways to counteract the negative impact of grade inflation on student learning.

“Grade inflation is an issue that is so complex it cannot be solved in simple ways,” Ray said. The process will take a long time.

One challenge to finding a solution is that there is no clear cause of grade inflation.

“Generally people assume that grade inflation is bad just like inflation in the economy.” David Cunningham, professor of religion and administrator of the Crossroads Project and The Writing Center, said. However, there might be positive and negative reasons for grade inflation at Hope.

Positive reasons could include that students are more dedicated to their studies and that faculty are providing more varied assignments and specific grading guidelines. A rise of competency-based disciplines and increased student-faculty interaction about assignments and grades may have also contributed.

Negative reasons could include professors wanting to decrease their own and their students’ workloads, easier courses, a consumer culture among students and the role of student evaluations in tenure and promotion decisions.

“We know there are a lot of causes but we don’t know which ones are making the biggest difference right now,” Cunningham said.

Hope, along with other colleges and universities, is determined to find a solution to managing grade inflation.

The Academic Affairs Board is looking into trying to develop ways to address the impact that grade inflation has on student learning. Some proposed solutions are to include information on grade distributions and percentiles for students in their courses.

These percentile averages would show up on students’ grade reports, but not official transcripts. Some board members are concerned this could turn Hope’s collaborative environment into a competitive one.

Another concern is the hefty estimated price tag of $250,000 to implement the changes.

“We have an idea of what faculty think,” Brent Krueger, chair of the Academic Affairs Board and professor of chemistry said. “We would like to get an idea of what students think.”

The Academic Affairs Board hopes to solicit student concerns about grade inflation and its solutions at some point this year.

“It is not a solution to just say to everybody, ‘don’t give so many A’s,’” Cunningham said.

Students do not need to be concerned their A’s will suddenly disappear or become obsolete.

“Reducing everybody’s grades will have a negative impact,” Krueger said. “This is not something we want to do.”

Thursday

Nov. 3

Pine Ridge Informational Meeting
6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Lubbers 113

Friday

Nov. 4

Family Weekend ends Sunday Nov. 6
Family Weekend Concert
7:30 p.m. at Dimnent Chapel

Saturday

Nov. 5

Nykerk Competition
7:00 p.m. at Holland Civic Center

Sunday

Nov. 6

Family Weekend Chapel
10 - 11 a.m.
Dimnent Memorial Chapel

In Brief

VAN WYLEN RECEIVES CITATION OF EXCELLENCE

The Library of Michigan Foundation awarded the 2011 Citation of Excellence to the Van Wylen Library. This award was presented at the Michigan Library Association’s State Librarian Luncheon. The citation is awarded to libraries with excellent customer service.

JAIMY GORDON FEATURED IN VISITING WRITERS SERIES

On Thursday, November 4, National Book Award winner Jaimy Gordon will be featured in the Jack Rall Visiting Writers’ Series. The event will take place at 7 p.m. in the Knickerbocker Theatre. A question and answer session will preceed at 3:30 p.m. in the Herrick Room of the DeWitt Center. Gordon graduated from Antioch College and then attended Brown University where she received her Doctor of Arts. She was a Writer-in-Residence with the Rhode Island Council on the Arts and has taught at Brown University, Roger Williams College, and Eastern Washington State College.

HOPE COLLEGE A ‘BEST VALUE’

Hope was one of three private colleges in Michigan to be listed as a best value by Kiplinger’s Personal Finance this year. Hope was ranked 68th in the country, nine places higher than last year’s ranking of 77th. Hope was chosen because of high four-year graduation rates, low student debt, a good faculty to student ratio and abundance of off-campus resources available to students.

"Perhaps the most important lesson for me is that if there is any time of hurt in our community where someone or a group of people feel that they were marginalized in some way or another, it is our responsibility to make sure that they are a part of the fabric of Hope, and we should do whatever is within our responsibilities to make Hope a much more welcoming institution," Gonzales said.

Asked what Hope students can do to make the campus a more welcoming place, Gonzales said simply avoiding behavior that might be construed as offensive or insensitive toward a certain group and that faculty are the most tried-and-true rules for living: treat others the way you would like to be treated.

With applied effort and understanding, Hope’s students, faculty and staff can make the campus an even more welcoming place for people of all cultural ideals.
Ohio preserve owner releases 56 exotic animals

On Oct. 18, authorities were called to a home in Zanesville, Ohio, sometime in the evening. The owner of the home, Terry Thompson, had released the exotic animals on his preserve and then committed suicide by shooting himself.

According to CNN, although the state troopers did not have authority to track exotic and dangerous animals that are not native to Ohio, officials nonetheless pursued the 56 exotic animals that Thompson had released to protect public safety.

The Associated Press reports that at the time of the release, Thompson had two wolves, six black bears, three grizzly bears, nine male lions, eight lionesses, one baboon, three mountain lions, three monkeys, three leopards, and 18 Bengal tigers.

Officials did not have immediate access to tranquilizers and feared that the animals would escape before the drugs could take effect, then awake later. General response to this incident has been positive regarding the use of lethal force on dangerous exotic animals, even rare ones.

CNN reports that the Humane Society “does not fault authorities for using deadly force in such a situation.” The citizens of Ohio were in danger and no one is questioning the decision to use lethal force when lions and tigers were prowling neighborhoods.

The Humane Society did, however, criticize Ohio’s lax laws regarding exotic pets, which are among the nation’s weakest. They especially criticized the governor’s response to this incident.

On Oct. 21, Gov. John Kasich signed an order concerning the ownership of dangerous wild animals which is meant to put some backbone into already existing laws. He also promised to push for “tighter regulations.”

President Wayne Pacelle of the Humane Society declared that, “the legislation should enact a statute that addresses the problem, but in the interim, we need an executive order that bans the sale and acquisition of dangerous wild animals as pets or roadside attractions.”

He said the governor’s step is “inadequate and sidesteps the central problems created by the exotic animal trade in Ohio.”

Previously, Ohio had banned the buying and selling of exotic animals, but Kasich, who recently came into office, let those laws expire earlier in the year. His reasoning for this was that the laws were not enforceable.

He has since enacted temporary measures to “crack down” on private ownership. Permanent legislation on the issue will not be determined until Nov. 30.

Not all of the animals were killed. One grizzly bear, two monkeys and three leopards were taken into custody and cared for by Columbus Zoo and Aquarium. One of the monkeys was unaccounted for but there is speculation that it was eaten by one of the big cats.

According to the Associated Press, Thompson’s wife wants to return the six remaining animals to her late husband’s preserve. The zoo acknowledges that it has no legal rights to the animals but authorities are trying to prevent Marian Thompson from taking possession of them.

Rob Nichols, a spokesman for Kasich, said that a private veterinarian from the Agriculture Department examined the animals and declared that they should be quarantined.

Thompson has the right to a hearing before the end of the day if she so wishes. Her attorneys were not available for comment.

Animals had to be killed before they harmed residents

TRAGEDY IN OHIO— Shortly before committing suicide, an Ohio native released almost five dozen exotic animals from his wildlife preserve in Zanesville. Due to the threat that many of the dangerous animals posed to the surrounding community, many of them had to be killed before night fell. One grizzly bear, two monkeys and three leopards avoided this harsh fate and are currently being held in the Columbus Zoo. Laws regarding exotic animal purchase had recently become more lax in the state.
Korean nuclear negociations resume

Megan Stevens
Guest Writer

Diplomats from six key countries met from Oct. 24-25 in Switzerland to discuss North Korea’s nuclear problems. This is the first time the diplomats, who hail from China, Japan, Russia, the United States, and both North and South Korea, have met since 2009. Following a delay of several hours, the talks centered on a 2005 agreement which required North Korea to abandon its nuclear programs in exchange for economic incentives from the other countries. Although no formal agreement to resume talks was made, American diplomat Stephen Bosworth was optimistic when he addressed the press outside the U.S. mission to the United Nations, “I am confident that with a continued effort on both sides, we can reach a reason- able basis of departure for the six-party process,” he said. If this agreement is reached, however, Bosworth will not be present. If and when future negotiating takes place, the American representatives will be led by his soon-to-be successor, Glyn Davies of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Bosworth’s optimism appears to be shared by North Korea’s first vice minister, Kim Kye Gwan, who led his nation’s delegation. He told the press that he wished to continue the talks before the end of the year, thanks to the “confidence building measures” that comprised the majority of actions taken at this meeting.

However, distrust still runs high on both sides. North Korea has a history of dragging its feet in negotiations. In another meeting in October 2006, their delegation walked out of talks during a deadlock and did not return. The U.N. issued sanctions freezing the equivalent of $25 million of North Korean money in a Muncian bank, but North Korea refused to return until after the sanction was removed.

Prospects began to improve in 2007 when the nation began to show foreign representa- tives its nuclear facilities and began to dismantle the Pyramid site. The cooling tower was actually blown up, but the improvements did not last. Talks again deadlocked over the issue of actually proving that this dismantling was taking place. In 2009, North Korea pulled out of talks once again. This lat- cally accused any one nation; a multi-national investigation concluded that the ship had been sunk by a torpedo fired by a North Korean submarine. Many have questioned why North Korea chooses to ad-

TENSIONS OVER NUCLEAR CAPABILITIES— Students in South Korea observe replicas of North and South Korean missiles at the Korea War Memorial in Seoul, South Korea.

Shubham Sapkota
Staff Writer

The months-long revolt started in Benghazi has now ended. Libya has declared national liberation after sev- eral months of revolution against the Gadhafi regime. Libya was finally able to de- clare liberation after the de- thrown dictator Moammar Gadhafi was killed brutally during the fight for Sirte, the leader’s own hometown, Oct. 21. The bloodiest battles of the uprising took place in Sirte and it is thought to be where the revolution officially ended.

Videos of that day show Gad- hafi asking for mercy while he was dragged through the streets of Surt. The brutal content of the video shows absolutely no mercy for Gadhafi. Even though he was put in an ambulance after a bru- tal beating, he did not live long.

The exact cause of his death is still a matter of controversy. While there are people who have argued that there should have been a fair trial even for the cruellest of dicta- tors, prime minister of the im- perm government, Mahmoud Jibril, declared that the death of Gadhafi had been eagerly an- ticipated by everyone in Libya.

While Libyans and mem- bers of the international com- munity celebrated the demise of Gadhafi, questions have come up about who was actu- ally responsible for his death. NATO claimed that it was certainly not the airstrikes that killed Gadhafi. The Trans- sional National Council has stated that he was killed at the hand of the rebels. Images and videos posted all over the Internet show anti- Gadhafi troops surrounding the body and celebrating with the corpse amidst; Gadhafi’s body appeared to be cleaned, with a vivid bullet in his forehead. Only several weeks ago, Gadhafi had threatened the in- ternational community with an elongated war. However, he is now buried along with his son in unmarked graves some- where in the deserts of Libya.

President Barack Obama, whose country’s military as- sisted the anti-Gadhafi fighters along with other Western na- tions, said, “the dark shadow of tyranny has been lifted, and with this enormous promise the Libyan people now have a great responsibility to build an inclus- ive and tolerant and democratic Libya that stands as the ultimate rebuke to Gadafi’s dictatorship.”

The interim government will face an immense challenge in establishing a government after four decades of dictator- ship, but starting during the peak of victory could be what it takes to promise the citizens of Libya a prosperous future.

Gadhafi dead; Libya declares liberation

Photo courtesy of the Associated Press

VIOLENT END—Moammar Gadhafi was killed by Libyan rebels on Oct. 21, following a violent rebellion.

Supporting the prime min- ister, Libya’s chief spokesman, Mahmoud Shammam, called the day of Gadhafi’s death “the day of real liberation. We were serious about giving him a fair trial. It seems God has some other wish.” While Libyans and mem-
Art gives us a way to express ourselves. Art influences, inspires and stimulates our emotions. Art comes in various modes of expression. This year’s DANCEpROjECt combined a variety of methods: music, literature, sculpture and paintings.

Directed by dance professor Steven Iannaccone, DANCEpROjECt ran for four nights last week in the Knickerbocker Theatre. The goal was “to entertain, educate and challenge audiences of all ages with a diverse contemporary movement experience.”

Broken into three acts, DANCEpROjECt consisted of six pieces with a total of 19 dancers.

The night opened with “Helix” featuring six dancers inside white cocoons of stretch fabric. During rehearsals, the dancers learned to adapt to moving inside the pillow-like fabric.

“The music is not countable, but there are cues that we as a cast have learned over time to know when to change to a different move. The piece relies heavily on using our other senses to feel one another and stay in sync, dancer Jennifer Muisenga (’12) said. “Helix Night Life” inspired by the work of Swiss painter Ferdinand Hodler, was the night’s second piece. The cast of three dancers wore flesh-colored costumes and posed as if they were sculptures come to life.

“Garden,” a three-part piece with a cast of 10, blended nature and under a table in the middle of the stage. Dressed in simple life of Hope College and Holland Founder’s Festival celebrating the 500th anniversary of the Rotterdam’s arrival in America with his family and 53 others. Headed for Wisconsin, they got as far as Detroit before having to wait out bad weather. Van Raalte was one of the key players in deciding to stay in West Michigan. The land’s beauty, which Holland residents enjoy today, is probably what drew the settlers to the area.

Within three years, Holland’s population had grown to 5,000. Within three years, Holland’s population had grown to 5,000. Van Raalte led a full life, paving the way for others to do so as well. Van Raalte was a minister in the Dutch Reformed Church in the Netherlands. The government’s attempt to reconcile the new Separatist church and the original one led to leaders like Van Raalte being imprisoned. Seeking a better economy as well as religious freedom, many emigrated.

In 1846 Van Raalte set off for the West. A few years later, he returned to the U.S. and settled in Illinois. But Van Raalte was not content with merely living off the land. He wanted to provide a better life for his family and others. Van Raalte also contributed to Dutch/English newspapers and wrote multiple novels pertaining to the Dutch language. In 1876 he passed on, but his legacy remains.
The doorway to the Fried International Center on the first floor of the Martha Miller Center is not just a threshold to a room full of cubicles; it is the grand entrance to the world. Going through that doorway is the first step into a room overflowing with endless opportunities and life-changing experiences. Hope College is proud of its study abroad program. More than 200 programs in 60-plus countries are available to those who wish to extend their education beyond the dimensions of campus. Approximately one-third of students in a typical Hope College graduating class have studied abroad, either through semester or yearlong programs. Fifty percent of students have studied abroad if the popular May and June terms are included. Sarah Klooster ’12, a communications and art history double major, spent last fall in Florence, Italy. “Studying abroad in Florence was one of the most profound experiences of my life,” Klooster said. “As cliché as it sounds, it taught me so much about who I am and what I want to be. The Italians taught me how to appreciate and live into the beauty in life. It was truly an incredible opportunity and I encourage anyone who is given that opportunity to act on it,” Klooster said. “Your life will make a dramatic change for the better as you live in another culture and see the world through the eyes of another human being in a totally different part of this big world.” Crystal Hooper ’13, a Spanish and management double major, studied in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. Some of her favorite experiences abroad (which she called “earning college credit simply by taking an extended vacation”) included evenings “on the malecón (walkway along the Caribbean Sea) at night to dance and meet new people, and staying there until sunrise.” Hooper said of her semester abroad, “Me encanta el calor, sabor, y color del Caribe!”

To learn more about the study abroad program, visit the international education office including director Amy Otis-Degrau and special programs coordinator Kendra Williams or email studyabroad@hope.edu. Hope’s international education website provides links to all of the programs offered and other helpful information.

The possibilities are endless and there is no better time than now. So why wait?
When the Internet tries to connect people, whether it’s through social networking or through dating sites, it tries to do it by assessing similarities. If two people have similar tastes in music or movies, or if cross-referencing your lists of friends results in mutual acquaintances, the software will decide that you are compatible and that you should be friends.

I disagree, the software. I don’t think that forming a good friendship is about enjoying the same sitcoms. I think that the main ingredient in a great relationship, is the shared belief that one will not only be in relationship but in abnormality in the world.

I started thinking about this idea when I saw an interview with the Cool Kids online (I guess the Internet isn’t all bad). The Cool Kids are a hip-hop duos that consists of buddies Milesky Rocks and Chuck Inglash. In that interview, English starts talking about their taste in hip-hop music and concludes that, “Everyone has their own opinion on what’s good, but if you agree on what sucks, then you can’t suck together.”

It’s a beautiful way to put it, but it’s entirely true. Shared recognition of what is bad displays a deeper understanding of the world than shared recognition of what is good. In fact, common interests can actually help cover-up terrible relationships.

The clearest example of this that I can think of is an interaction I had with a co-worker at one of my summer jobs. Like a lot of summer jobs, this particular one required you to be in very close contact with other people for long and drawn-out periods of time. Fairly regularly, I would find myself paired with one particular co-worker who somehow was unable to make any kind of human connection. We had different philosophies on life, we had different sets of beliefs and values. I liked washing my hair, he took out the trash and before I started making food for the customers. He didn’t think that was terribly important. But after working a few shifts together, we discovered that we both enjoyed doing action movies, superhero movies with cheesy soundtracks, action movies with almost no plot and even less dialogue. While we were talking about this stuff, we got along great and our shifts went by a lot faster, but a shared love for dumb movies does not change the fact that we were totally different people.

This is not such a big deal when it comes to making pleasant conversation with a co-worker. This surface level kind of friendship is probably a good thing in this situation, but when it comes to dating or long-term friendships, common interests can temporarily hide awful relationships.

In “(500) Days of Summer,” there is a scene where the main character is trying to talk some sense into him about his crazy girlfriend, and tells him that, “Just because she likes the same band as you, you can’t just ignore that she likes it as well.” He goes on to explain that he ignores the advice, but ultimately, his sister is right. Liking the same writers and the same bands doesn’t mean that you’re ready for marriage.

When I have felt alone in my life, it’s when I don’t like or understand something that’s going on around me, and everyone else seems to be really into it. But as soon as one other person shares with me that they also don’t understand or enjoy what’s going on, I feel a lot more at ease.

This is not to say that having common interests is a bad thing. I love talking about music and television and movies with my friends. It’s just not the only thing that’s important. It’s also important to not let the process of sharing opinions become a negative thing. It’s just as bad to bend over shallow complaining (“man I hate this job”) as it is to ignore flawed relationships because you both like Gilmore Girls.

Chris is also a DJ on WTHS listens in on Tuesday’s 6-10 Midnight to “Get to the Chopper!”

Letter to the Editor:

Dear Editor:

I have read your below-the-fold cover story about Hope demographics (Oct. 5). Has anyone ever commented to you from the faculty comment on why the average GPA at Hope is 3.32, and over half the student body is on the Dean’s List? An average GPA of 3.32 means one in the administration or from the faculty commented on why the average GPA at Hope is so high. It may be that I have a warped idea of what constitutes a good student, but a 3.0 is viewed as a minimum or average standard of education at Hope College (avg. GPA = 2.90) shouldn’t the standard of education at Hope readjust to become positive student SALT reviews?)? Even if the average student at Hope College is smarter than 1979 (avg. GPA = 2.90) shouldn’t the standard of education at Hope College readjust to become positive student SALT reviews?)? Even if the average student at Hope College is smarter than 1979 (avg. GPA = 2.90) shouldn’t the standard of education at Hope College readjust to become positive student SALT reviews?)?

I have read your below-the-fold cover story about Hope demographics (Oct. 5). Has anyone ever commented to you from the faculty comment on why the average GPA at Hope is so high. It may be that I have a warped idea of what constitutes a good student, but a 3.0 is viewed as a minimum or average standard of education at Hope College (avg. GPA = 2.90). I believe in the plan of God.

Fourth, consider the compelling facts of the case. If the Jews stole the body, why didn’t they simply display it publicly and put an end to the rumors? If the disciples stole the body, why would they go on to martyr themselves for a lie? If the women went to the wrong tomb, why didn’t Joseph of Arimathea correct their error by pointing out the right location? I believe in the resurrection because it is the best explanation of the facts.

I disagree with theAnchor’s Co Editor-in-Chief, Dr. Kim Hawtre.

When I read your contribution in the below-the-fold cover story about Hope demographics, I was interested in the views of the faculty about this idea when I saw an interview with the Cool Kids online (I guess the Internet isn’t all bad). The Cool Kids are a hip-hop duo that consists of buddies Milesky Rocks and Chuck Inglash. In that interview, English starts talking about their taste in hip-hop music and concludes that, “Everyone has their own opinion on what’s good, but if you agree on what sucks, then you can’t suck together.”

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What a novel idea

Alex Brennan

Have you ever gotten the itch? You know the one, the itch that compels you to spill your thoughts onto a page; the itch that scratches at your skull dying to escape; the itch that plays with your memory, creating fact out of fiction. No fear! There is a cure to the illusive itch! It’s called NaNoWriMo.

National Novel Writing Month is a dedication to all those who wish they could be writers but fear they will never be good enough. It is, in my opinion, one of the greatest inventions in today’s society for the crazed writer. Anyone who has ever wanted to write a novel now is your chance.

This November get ready to drop everything and write 50,000 words! NaNoWriMo is a time where thou-shall-submit your work or watch as your dreams fly away. For those that are successful become novelists and second-wind excitement take the leap into novel-dom. Those that are successful become novelists and earn the great title of NaNoWriMo Winner!

I have heard about this for a couple years and this year I have decided to jump into the fray. This year yours truly is going to write 50,000 in four short weeks and I am going to finish (I hope).

Don’t think you can handle this on your own? No worries, I’ve put together a list of tips that might help any aspiring NaNo-nov-elists.

1) Preplan-nig is key! Think of a plot line and characters before the beginning of November. Just something simple you can work off, it doesn’t have to be fancy. You technically don’t have to do this, but I find it easier than winging it.

2) Set up a support group. Whether they are people from campus or from the friendly NaNoWriMo web-site, find people that are going through the same agony you are about to start. Most likely other participants want the same companionship as you. They can be your cheerleaders or your competitors, either way they will help you get through this month.

3) Write. You just got to jump headfirst and start writing. Write and write every day. This count boils down to 1,667 words a day. This may mean you have to give up some other wonderful time wasters in your life (cough StumbleUpon or Tumble cough), but it will be worth it in the end. Think of it this way, you are fasting from a distraction for a month in order to create some-thing that is completely your own.

4) Don’t think of this as an opportunity to write something of great quality, because you’ll be disappointed. NaNoWriMo is all about quantity. You are not creating something that will immediately be turned over to a publishing house. What you are creating is the opportunity to brag about your accomplishment; an opportunity to bask in the glory of noveldom with other writers.

So, who’s with me? Ready or not I’m going to jump in and experience the thrill, the anxiety, the commit-ment of NaNoWriMo. I’m going to tackle it head on and come November 30, I will be victorious.

Alex is currently banging her head against the nearest surface, trying with all her might to come up with a decent plot.

You may never actually get our hands on. For others, these dreams may never be reality, how can one not take comfort in knowing that simple fact?

Do you ever have a dream that is so vivid, you wake up the next morning and you think it is reality?

These dreams where for a good five minutes after you wipe away the goobers from your eyes, you believe are real. Those dreams where you get back with an ex-girlfriend or boyfriend, those dreams where you are living out your ideal career, and even those dreams where you somehow managed to pull off all A’s on your finals.

We all have them. I often have at least one of those every week. It is one of the most bittersweet feelings a person can experience in their lifetime.

It’s one of those rare things that bring you from an all time high where a smile engulfs your face and contentment fills your heart to an all time low where sorrow, fear and anxiety possess your whole body – all within a matter of five minutes.

For some of us, these dreams represent ideas and objects we may never actually get our hands on. For others, these dreams represent a prophecies in their future. And for the remain-der, these dreams are just dreams – and that’s it. For me, these dreams represent a new sense of hope and confidence.

These dreams make me question everything. They force me to reprioritize my goals in life, and they push me to strive for the absolute best scenario possible.

For example, I often have a dream where my ex-girlfriend and I are really good friends. This is incredibly satisfying for me because my ex and I ended on very poor terms and haven’t spoken to each other in three years. So, for me this dream allows me to fill that void in my life that has been missing for a few years. It allows me to keep my head high and to find the silver lining in what used to be a horrendous mess.

I like to look at these dreams as blessings from God. He is showing me that He knows His plan for me and that even in our darkest hour, there is a light at the end of the tunnel. And although these dreams may never be reality, how can one not take comfort in knowing that simple fact?

So, close your eyes, drift off to sleep and begin to have sweet dreams.

Erik loves Winnie the Pooh and isn’t afraid to admit it.

Sweet Dreams

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Erik Durham

Columnist

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Columnist
Six social justice groups combine
Hope United for Justice takes action on campus

Ann Marie Paparelli
Photo Editor

Looking to change the world and make a difference on the social justice platform? At Hope, there’s a group ready to take action in a rapidly changing world.

Hope United for Justice formed last year by combining six different social justice organizations: Acting on AIDS, Amnesty International, Environmental Issues Group, Justice League, Taking Education Beyond frontiers and others, advocacy and action. Their mission statement stresses that action can occur “on Hope’s campus, in the community of Holland and in the global community.” It also includes the idea of understanding “the interconnectedness of faith and justice.”

“Whether it’s coming to our weekly meetings, spreading the word, or coming to our events, we want everyone to know they’re welcome,” club Secretary Rachel Mazzaro (‘14) said.

To encourage more campus involvement, the group plans on raising awareness of consumer consciousness by hosting its second annual Just Green Christmas on Dec. 7. The event involves local eco-friendly or fair trade businesses selling their products on campus. “We encourage people to buy Christmas presents for (family and friends) at this event,” president Blair Riddle (‘12) said.

This year, HUJ is hoping to expand and include more businesses, as well as offering a newspaper gift-wrapping area, live music and snacks throughout the event. HUJ is also sponsoring an event in November to educate students on a lesser-known issue.

“In an effort to expose the campus to human trafficking in certain products we are showing the documentary ‘The Dark Side of Chocolate’ on Nov. 16 at 7 p.m. at Winants Auditorium,” Riddle said. “A discussion will follow about how we can make a change in our lives to positively impact those being trafficked in the chocolate business.”

For vice president Kelsey Herbert (‘14), HUJ is more than a club.

“HUJ is a great place to come if you have an idea, but are not sure how to pursue it,” Herbert said. “I want to help those who know they care about social justice, but do not have a specific focus, to become truly passionate. I would like to see all of Hope’s community become more aware of the social injustices and want to take action.

Students who have an idea for an event, or would like to learn more about social justice issues in general, are encouraged to attend HUJ meetings on Monday nights at 7 p.m. in Lubbers 122, or email unitedforjustice@hope.edu. Other campus organizations interested in collaborative projects are also invited.

Correction:
In the Oct. 19 edition of The Anchor the “Greater Hope” story on page ten incorrectly attributes the engineering addition gift to Paul & Carol Schaap. Haworth Inc were the actual donors.

Green initiative makes progress
• Green, from page 1

Advisory Committee has been established.

“Sustainability has come a long way in the past four years at Hope, but much still has to be done in terms of changing our campus’s culture and general attitude towards such environmental issues,” said Madison. Once the right attitude towards environmental change is established on campus, the actions taken to preserve the environment will be much easier to put into motion.

Students at Hope have a opportunity to act as leaders in environmental conservation. “As a Christian college, we have the power to affect such positive change [in the environment], and now we have a responsibility to act as leaders in the earthkeeping movement,” said Madison.

This competition is a step in the right direction, but committees can only go so far. It is up to the students to take the initiative and make some lifestyle changes that will benefit the earth. The ultimate goal of this competition is for the participants to ‘carry their new awareness forward and live accordingly,’” said Madison.
Chris Ray  Guest Writer

Head Coach Dean Kreps and other members of the football team in high spirits at the weekly Quarterback Club banquet on Monday, Oct. 24, as they discussed their important victory over the reigning MIAA champion Trine Thunder. Going into the game, Kreps knew the team was well-prepared and it showed on the field.

"Guys got off the bus ready to play, and we played about as well as we would play at times," Kreps said.

The Flying Dutchmen had a balanced offensive attack behind quarterback Michael Atwell ('14) and running backs Shawn Jackson ('14), Flurray Jackson ('15), and Reggie Duncan ('14). Atwell completed 12 of his 24 passes for 244 yards and two touchdowns. Meanwhile, Shawn Jackson, Flurray Jackson, and Duncan combined for 121 yards and two touchdowns. Kreps was impressed with the performance of his offense, especially his running backs.

"When all three of our running backs play, it seems like they are all good, but good in different ways," Kreps said.

Wide receiver Chris Schmelz ('12) accounted for 96 yards on four catches, including a 56-yard catch that set up a touchdown early in the fourth quarter. The ensuing one-yard touchdown by Flurray Jackson put the Flying Dutchmen up 21-17.

At that point, it was the defense's turn to step up. Behind a strong run-stopping effort from the defense, ends Jared Kimben ('12) and Mark Karam ('12), the defense was able to hold Trine to only 31 yards in the second half. With the total team effort, the Flying Dutchmen were able to escape with a 28-23 victory, one that was special for senior Kreps on the team.

"This game was a big deal for us," offensive lineman Josh Droppe ('12) said. "It definitely was an honor to go back to them on their home turf."

Coming off a devastating loss to the first place Albion Britons the week before, the seniors knew the importance of the game. Fullback Brian Lynn ('12) saw a focused mindset in practice that gave him optimism heading into the Trine game.

"We were backed into the corner after the Albion loss," Lynn said. "We knew we had to fight our way out. It was as much of a mental block as it was a physical block of practice that we were in."

All of this talk and optimism delighted the rest of the people in attendance at the Quarterback Club. While the Quarterback Club is not only a time when friends and family of the football team can come together, but also to talk about past and future games, it is also a weekly tradition that has been around for a long time. In fact, John Tyse, a long-time friend and family of the football Club is not only a time when people could practice as a team, but also a time when they could spend time with friends and family of the football team. It is a place where people can come together and talk about their experiences and expectations for the upcoming games.

"This race typically has a little more anticipation built around it," Kreps said. "It is because of that that we have some guys banged up this year."

The MIAA began awarding women's cross country championships in 1981. Since 1985, Hope and Calvin have been the only two teams to win the title. Despite this, Calvin has had the clear upper hand, claiming 22 titles outright to Hope's four.

"The men's team finished in second place in the conference meet, narrowly defeating Albion. The women's team finished fifth in the Simple 25th year in a row."

The results of the conference championship meet figure into two-thirds of a team's overall total in conference championship determination. This gives the race a different atmosphere than other races during the season.

"This race typically has a little more anticipation built around it," co-captain Nate Love ('12) said. "It is because of that that people get really excited about it in the week before the race. We see this more in this race than in any other race throughout the season - except for regionals and nationals. People were all over the course screaming and cheering, even more so than any other race that I've run."

"We should be able to do some good things," Kreps said. "It's always better to perform well as a team than as an individual."


"For me personally the race was great," Rottschafer said. "I finally ran a personal best after two years of setting the first one. I had to slow down in the middle of the race to clear my throat as I have bronchitis, so if I could run that well with that, I think that we should be able to do some good things."
SPORTS

Calvin spikes Hope in volleyball showdown

James Rogers
Assistant Sports Editor

The women’s volleyball team edged Calvin in the first set of Friday night’s match, 25-22, but Calvin responded with three straight set wins to give the Knights the victory. An electrifying crowd of 2,163 packed DeVos to witness an expected MIAA rivalry battle.

Preparations were made and lessons were learned. Hope head coach Becky Schmidt said putting in a well-rounded effort no matter who is on the other side is the key to good play and accumulating victories.

“We spent some time on Thursday watching film of Calvin and preparing for some of their specific challenges,” Schmidt said, “but most of our time is spent trying to play our game to the best of our ability regardless of opponent.”

A sea of orange and blue flowed throughout the arena on Friday. Hope fans were on their feet after a brilliant 25-22 first set win for the Dutch.

“There is nothing like playing on our home court with such supportive fans,” middle hitter Marii Schoolmaster (’14) said. “The gym was such a great atmosphere. The first set was a great start to the evening.”

Indeed it was. Hope took the first four points of the evening and a 1-1 lead late in the first set. Calvin climbed deeper, trailing just 20-18, but Hope answered with three straight points that eventually led to a 25-22 win.

With a booming venue and an early lead, it seemed like it would be Hope’s night and their possibly Calvin’s first loss of the season. Both Schmidt and her players knew there was plenty of volleyball to be played.

“Calvin is a resilient and talented team,” Schmidt said. “They sorted out some of their passing issues, and we started over-thinking on offense, hitting more balls out than we should have.”

The second set boasted a much more attentive Calvin team with flashes of why they are the number one ranked team in the nation.

Schmidt said mishaps and a few instances of miscommunication plagued the Dutch. The Knights won the second set 25-16.

After a positive start and a difficult second set, Jenna Gras- meyer (’15) still sensed a positive atmosphere amongst her teammates.

“We all believed that we could take the match and win two more games, but we also knew that there was a lot of game left to play” Grasmeyer said. “We just needed to keep up our energy and stay mentally tough no matter what the situation was.”

A tight third set that once was knotted at 16 apiece was broken open with an 8-1 run by Calvin. The Knights held on for a 25-20 win and a commanding 2-1 set lead.

In the fourth set, the lead was never more than three for either team. Back and forth action made up the set and extensive rallies kept every spectator glued to the game. A kill by Grasmeyer tied the set at 24, but Calvin clowed its way out with a 26-24 win, claiming the victory.

Despite losing, a tightly contested match with the best team in the nation can certainly produce positive outlooks.

For Schmidt, the match showed the depth of her team, improvements in many areas, and more.

“We learned a lot from the match: that we have the ability to play at the highest level and that we have the fight and perseverance to remain confident in adversity.”

For Both Schoolmaster and Grasmeyer, Friday night showed that the Dutch can compete with anyone.

Calvin head coach Mark Recker explained their first half offensive surge.

“Our offense has been becoming more potent. Real offense is predicated on being able to build with a number of people and have off-the-ball movement, and I think by the end of this season we’ve been able to have more of that quality give-go, give-go.”

There were no goals scored in the final 55 minutes of play, despite a number of scoring opportunities, most of which involved Hopepressuring the Calvin defense. Calvin’s offense did not have too many opportunities after its early scoring burst.

“You hope to still be able to play the same style, but when you’re coming from behind on your home field, you start throwing more people forward, the pressure becomes more prominent that an opposing team can put on you as you’re defending,” Recker said. “So it wasn’t necessarily that we wanted to be just defensive, but Hope was really pushing to get the equalizer, and then we played to protect and counter.”

Hope played aggressively, but nothing fell into place for the Dutch.

“We just made a couple of mistakes, and I think when we played at Calvin and beat them, we capitalized on their mistakes, and it was kind of the reverse today. We didn’t do anything wrong; we stepped hard and missed the ball and they just finished,” Sears said.

“It’s frustrating but that’s how soccer is sometimes you know, you could get a million shots and one goes in or ten go in.”

Flying Dutch can’t overcome early deficit against rival Calvin

Chris Russ
Assistant Editor in Chief

The Flying Dutch women’s soccer team fell to 12-6 on the season and 10-5 in MIAA Conference play after a loss to Calvin.

Hope and Calvin are now tied in the fourth spot in the MIAA. The top four squads advance to the conference tournament.

With a win against Saint Mary’s in their final game so the season, The Dutch would clinch a spot in the tournament.

Coach Leigh Sears picked after the loss about their final game.

“We’re exactly where we wanted to be, and I don’t think it’s pressure, but if we win Tuesday, we’re in the tournament. All we have to do is win one game and we’re in.”

Hope scored first, with freshman Lindsey Bieri’s fourth goal of the season coming after less than seven minutes of play.

The lead didn’t last long, as Calvin scored in both the 10th and 11th minute, and then once more in the 30th minute of play.

The first Knight’s goal was scored by freshman forward Samantha Osterhavens, who was her 10th of the season.

Calvin’s roster is reliant on number of young players. Its 22-woman offense consists of 10 freshmen, nine sophomores, two juniors, and only one senior. Their starting goal, Megan Altieri is one of those 10 freshmen.

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