

FEATURES

Hope College: Why so serious?

Squirrels

Specifically, I'm talking about black squirrels. You get used to it after a while, but it takes a good semester or two. However, the joke always persists about the black squirrels roaming around. The best part is when parents come to drop you off or when a visit day is occurring. You can count on seeing at least one or two parents on your walk to class inching closer to the squirrel with their camera out.



Coffee dates

Haven't seen your friend in a while and you run across them in the Pine Grove? "Hey! We should catch up over coffee!" Want to get to know someone new? "Hey, how about coffee?" If you see a guy and a girl out to coffee, people immediately assume that it is a date, and they blow it out of proportion. Let's let coffee just be coffee, shall we?



Frolfing

Before coming to Hope, I knew what frisbee golf was. However, Hope students treat it with a lot more reverence than the average person. There's an entire website (<http://www.hope.edu/offices/student-development/policies-resources/frisbee-golf.html>) dedicated to the rules, the course and the hours of the sport. When it is nice outside, you have the added element of watching for flying frisbees. Not only that, but you also have the added expectation of going on a date (probably coffee) if a stray frisbee hits you.

Durfee dinners

Honestly, an entire article could be written on Durfee culture; it's a strange one. This staple adds to Hope. People willingly go to dinner dressed in boxers and suit tops; need I say more?

Long black winter jackets

Specifically, North Face jackets are key here. Wander around campus in the winter and you'll be met with a lot of waddling girls trying to navigate the snow with their jackets. Up until last month, I didn't understand the appeal. However, after trying my friend's, I understand why those jackets are taken so seriously; they really keep you warm.



Flannels with vests

Flannels are always popular at Hope. However, in the last two years or so, the vest combination has really taken off. What is it about the vest that adds appeal? Our bookstore even had a display dedicated entirely to them.



Footwear

If there is one thing that Hope could probably calm down with, it's the shoes: Sperrys, Sorrels, Chacos, Chacos with socks, Hunters and Birkenstocks. Start paying attention to people's feet more, and you'll notice these brands are in the majority.

'H' cookies

Alright, I admit that I went three years and almost an entire semester without ever trying an "H" cookie. I never understood the hype; they just looked like the really gross store-bought sugar cookies. However, I was horribly wrong. I tried one during finals week last semester and not only has my life been changed, but I've been missing out on three years worth of those cookies.

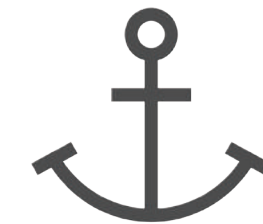
Coffee

Speaking of coffee, Hope students feel very strongly about it. I've noticed that people treat their coffee shops like "Twilight:" Team Jacob or Team Edward... you are either Team Lemonjellos or Team JP's; there isn't much in between.



Vera Bradley wallets

Dual functioning: it holds your ID and also saves your seat at Phelps! However, you'd be lying to yourself if you didn't clip on a lanyard and wear it around your neck for the first week until you realized only freshman do that.



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Ever felt like stepping onto Hope's campus is like immersing yourself into another culture? Well, after almost four years at Hope, I have compiled my observations and come up with an extensive list of things that Hope students take much too seriously.

Anchors & orange/blue combinations

Yes, yes...we go to a school that values anchors and happens to have that color scheme. However, this doesn't mean you have to flaunt them (and together, no less!) every chance you get.

Buff headbands
I had to ask around for the name of this one. Even if you don't recognize the name, you know what these are. They are the patterned, stretchy headbands that almost every girl at Hope wears at one point or another. Google them: I'm sure you'll go "ohhhhh!"

Hammocking

While admittedly very cool, Hope students take hammocks to another level-literally! Stacking them three or four high? Counting at least 20 as soon as the sun comes out in the spring? If the forecast is calling for 50 degrees and sunshine, you have to get out to the Pine Grove extra early to stake claim over the good trees.



Longboards

Similar to hammocks, these things come out as soon as the weather changes. Also similar to frisbees, you really have to look out for them. The problem is, getting run over by them doesn't ensure a date.



Beach sunsets

Are you really a Hope student unless you've Instagrammed that beach?



#blessed

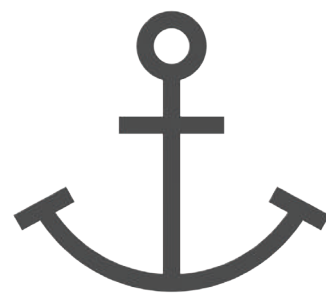
If this isn't paired with that sunset picture, did you really do it right?

Spikeball

What started out as the "mini trampoline" game a couple of years ago in the Pine Grove has multiplied. Now you can spot several circles of worn out grass well into the fall and spring from people playing Spikeball.

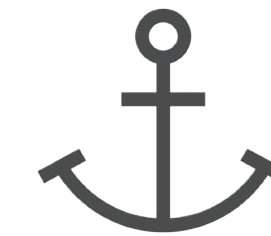
Dutch everything

We live in a town named Holland, so the presence of this one in our culture is a little inevitable. Still, sometimes Hope goes a little crazy capitalizing on all things Dutch.



Donut runs

This is a staple of Hope. Just try and explain what it is to someone who has never been: you don't actually run, but you go to this little donut shop, preferably at around 1 a.m., are served by a man in boxers and eat donuts in the dark. What?

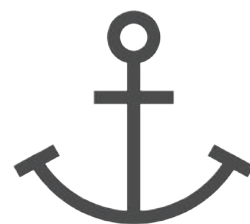


Summer camp T-shirts

I'm specifically talking about Camp Geneva and Spring Hill. In general, Hope students spend a lot of summers at camp. However, these two appear to be the most popular, and honestly they might as well make a May term of it. With the amount of camp T-shirts, you would think working at camp was a prerequisite for graduation or something.

Ring by Spring

"Everyone you know will be engaged by senior year," they said. "You'll be getting wedding invites up the wazoo," they warned. Well, the mysterious "they" were right, because spring is approaching and those rings just keep coming...



The Pull/Nykerk

We are a proud school, and we like our traditions. Therefore, it makes sense that we take these two a little too seriously. If not, a giant game of tug-of-war wouldn't have lasted 119 years, and parents would have stopped coming to those three hour long performances each year.



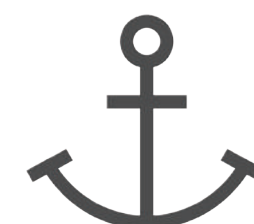
Sling bags

These are virtually our generation's fanny pack. While convenient for taking things around campus without resorting to a purse, are you really going to wear that to your office in Chicago one day?



Hope hello

One does not simply say hi and keep walking. Instead, one must ask "Hi, how are you?" to which the next person goes "good, you?" and if you are lucky, you'll have just enough time for that return "good" before rushing off to your class. Say anything other than "good," and you completely throw the person off. However, seeing as there isn't enough time to stop and explain yourself, you leave the person wondering how on earth your life could be anything but "good" until your next meeting. This part seems unnecessary, but the tradition continues.



Patagonia

Patagonia apparel continues to dot Hope's campus with those distinctive, zany patterns.