

A Fallen Feather

Dave Campbell '09

Peter loved his hats.

During my junior year, when we were helping Pete move out of his home in Middlebury, I was absolutely astonished by the sheer number of hats that he had collected. Dozens and dozens of hats. Boxes full! They spanned all styles, sports, fabrics, and eras. Some were probably placed on a shelf and never worn for twenty years. His favorites bore the marks of countless ball hunts, road trips, Vail tournaments, and inclement weather. A select few were decorated with a feather.

As Keepers, we would go pick him up for practices and games. He would get up from whatever sport he was watching on TV, grab his tote and fill it with a few essentials: crumpled cash, a couple packs of gum, disposable cameras, a few lacrosse balls, and a newspaper. He'd tuck in his shirt, stomp on his loafers, put on his jacket, and as we prepared to move out, he'd grab a hat. Only then was he ready.

Each trip to the field, store, or bank provided a chance to better understand Pete's uniqueness and individuality. Some may think that being a Keeper was a duty or a job, yet I learned to embrace it as an honor. It was an opportunity to learn many memorable lessons from Peter. While either explicit or implied, here is a selection of what I learned:

- Once a keeper, you're always a keeper
- If you're not giving it your all, you're not giving enough
- A smile and a nod can say more than words
- To give is to receive
- You're never too old, too veteran, or too good for a ball hunt
- When necessary, slow down
- Hershey bars melt in your mouth and in your pants
- Put others first.
- You can't have too many friends...or napkins
- Storm Davis pitched for the Orioles in Game 4 of the 1983 World Series
- Wallets are overrated
- The 70s and 80s had, by far, the greatest fashion trends
- Avoid picking sides, unless that side is Middlebury
- With plates of food a close second, people make the greatest subjects of a photograph
- Money is only evil if you make it that way.
- Sing
- It's never a bad day for French onion soup and a cup of hot tea
- Jockstraps are a perfectly acceptable form of underwear
- American trains have a fascinating, well-documented history and are an under-appreciated form of transportation
- Always eat dessert
- Humility is the greatest sign of confidence
- Every now and then, treat your friends to dinner
- Middlebury is family.

With his character, quirks, generosity, and gratefulness, Peter taught all of us priceless lessons, he inspired success, and made us better people. As we move forward, Pete's favorite hat reminds me of one more lesson: a fallen feather was once flying.

Let us continue to remember Pete, share his stories, his lessons, and give thanks for the special opportunity to be a part of his life.