It’s that time of year again: snowflakes are falling, Eighth Street is glowing with Christmas lights and exams and papers are taking over. College students are busiest during this time of year, but taking some time out from our GFI stress is something that can be a great stress reliever.

Despite its seemingly commercial quality, the Christmas season remains the season of giving. Hope students are attempting to live out that quality by helping those in need through donations and prayer.

Many Hope students participated in a service effort called Operation Christmas Child. Beginning as early as October, the Campus Ministry team distributed shoeboxes at various campus locations. Participants then had until Nov. 22 to fill the boxes with small toys, toiletries, school supplies and personal notes. The boxes were shipped out by Samaritan's Purse, the sponsoring organization, to needy children around the world so they could experience the Christmas spirit and gift giving we all know so well.

The Alpha Epsilon Delta Pre-Health Professionals Society held a Beanie Baby collection for the children in Haiti last week. Collection bins were placed in Phelps Dining Hall, the Science Center Atrium and DeWitt Lobby. Donations will be given to Dr. Bill Tenhaaf, the head surgeon of Centre de Sante Lumiere, a hospital in Les Cayes, Haiti last week.

Library is collecting books for the Boys and Girls Club of Holland until Dec. 15. Please visit the Circulation Desk for more information.

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AssistAnt Campus Editor

Madalyn Muncy

MISSION

Spreading goodwill: Hope’s Christmas service projects

BOOKS, BOOKS, BOOKS— Van Wylen Library is collecting books for the Boys and Girls Club of Holland until Dec. 15. Please bring in donations to the red bookshelf on the second floor of the library.

SISTERHOOD—The members of Theta Gamma Pi at Hope are hosting a number of events this month. For more information, contact a member of Theta Gamma Pi.

Sorority promotes diversity

Monica Hanna

Guest Writer

First established in the 1940s, Theta Gamma Pi was a sorority founded on multicultural principles. The Theta Gamma Pi sorority, informally known as the “Thetas,” had 29 active members last year. In hopes of bringing females with great ideas and cultural wisdom together, the Thetas currently have 17 active members that have jump-started this sorority.

As a multicultural sorority, we hope to promote diversity on campus. We hope to include women with all sorts of differing backgrounds—race, gender, socio-economic status, nationality, ethnic group, abilities and disabilities, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, age, etc.—to fulfill the needs for those students who come from colorful backgrounds, establishing the sorority to focus on multiculturalism and diversity, in contrast to the national Latina sorority of the past.

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Nursing Department SimMan
3G Open House
3 p.m. - 5 p.m., Science Center 113
Dance Marathon Buffalo Wild Wings Fundraiser
From 5 p.m. - 9 p.m. a shuttle will run from the DeVitt flagpole. Don’t forget your coupon. Coupons will be accepted all day at the restaurant.

Thursday  Dec.  9
Resident Assistant Information Session
9:30 p.m., Voohees Hall.
A Just Green Christmas
6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m., Martha Miller Center 1st Floor Rotunda. Shop for sustainable gifts. Sponsored by Hope United for Justice.
Dew Crew Rally
9:30 p.m., DeVos Fieldhouse.

Friday  Dec.  10
Last Day of Classes
3 p.m., Science Center 1019. “What Are You Eating?” Update and Structural Recognition of Dietary Lipids by Cell” presented by Dr. Virginia McDonough.

Sunday  Dec.  12
The Gathering
8 p.m., Dimnent Chapel.

Monday  Dec.  13
Study Break Breakfast
9 p.m., Phelps Dining Hall.

The Christmas spirit provokes attitude of service on campus

• SERVICE, from page 1

Thetas look to educate and promote diversity on campus

• THETAS, from page 1
Jobless benefits expire

Aftan Snyder

As the holiday season approaches, Congress will be considering legislation that would provide benefits to those who have been unemployed for up to 99 weeks. The benefits expired in 2009, and 2010 has seen a slight expansion of these benefits expired, and Republicans and Democrats fail to agree on how best to extend these benefits.

Jobless benefits usually expire after a period of six months, but in recent years Congress has extended unemployment insurance until the end of the year. As December trickles away, Republicans and Democrats struggle to find a compromise.

“There’s just no current plan or schedule for extending these benefits, and I think this is just wrong,” said Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid. “We need to provide benefits to those who have been unemployed, and we need to extend the benefits.”

According to Reid, Democrats don’t have enough votes to bring it up for discussion. “It’s been a long time coming,” he said. “We need to attract Republican votes, and we found the last time around, I think, we had two Republican votes — that wouldn’t be enough.”

The recent expiration of jobless benefits will affect nearly 2 million Americans. About 15 million people are currently unemployed, and nearly half of those have been out of work for more than six months. This is the highest level of long-term unemployment since the government began keeping track in 1940. The current unemployment level hovers around 9.6 percent.

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Tensions continue in the Koreas

Lacie Rawlings

North Korea has once again provoked South Korea with recent bombings on Yeonpyeong Island, 50 miles northwest of the South Korean mainland in the Yellow Sea. Hills and houses blazed after an estimated 50-200 shells were dropped on the unsuspecting citizens of the island.

South Korea, which had been participating in a series of military exercises, was accused of North Korea firing toward the North Korean border, thus prompting the attack of South Korea’s Yeonpyeong Island. Houses and hills blazed after an estimated 50-200 shells were dropped on the unsuspecting citizens of the island.

Meanwhile, the often-controversial Supreme Leader of North Korea, Kim Jong-il, has felt no remorse for the shelling and says that North Korea will participate in “merciless military attacks with no hesitation if the South Korean military dares to invade our sea territory by 0.001 mm.”

North Korea maintains that the military exercises were an aggression that diminishes any hope of stability in the region. Yeonpyeong Island and the disputed maritime border have been host to years of military conflict, including incidents in 1999, 2002, and last November.

Meanwhile, officials from Seoul, Washington and Tokyo are reluctant to participate in such talks as they feel such negotiations would promote a sense of legitimacy to North Korea, a country inconstant to the international community that diminishes any hope of stability in the region. Yeonpyeong Island and the disputed maritime border have been host to years of military conflict, including incidents in 1999, 2002, and last November.

Despite warnings from North Korea, the United States and South Korea plan to participate in a new round of military exercises starting as soon as this month. The U.S. is also encouraging China to increase pressure on North Korea in order to stop North Korean aggression.

China is one of North Korea’s main suppliers of fuel, food and other essential goods. China insists that six-party talks, which include North Korea, South Korea, China, the United States, Russia and Japan are more likely to have an effect. However, officials from Seoul, Washington and Tokyo are reluctant to participate in such talks as they feel such negotiations would promote a sense of legitimacy to North Korea, a country inconstant to the international community that diminishes any hope of stability in the region. Yeonpyeong Island and the disputed maritime border have been host to years of military conflict, including incidents in 1999, 2002, and last November.

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The Anchor
Potter’s ‘Deathly Hallows’ teaches everlasting truths

Elena Rivera

It’s impossible to be objective about Harry Potter. With something so embedded in popular culture, so much so that the World Quidditch Finals just took place in New York City a couple of weeks ago, there is no room for middle ground. You either know what a patronus is, or you’re a sad muggle.

Herein lies the issue with making movies out of, arguably, the most popular series of books since “Lord of the Rings.” With a phenomenon so large that every child of the 90’s (and their parents) has read of the boy wizard’s exploits, how can a movie ever compare to J.K. Rowling’s soaring prose? Quite well, actually.

‘Deathly Hallows’ is part one of a two-part Harry Potter finale. The second half, coming out in the summer, will mark the end of Harry Potter’s immediate relevance in society.

The series has an amazing staying power (did you know that “Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone” came out in 1997?), and there is no doubt that Harry Potter and the wonderful wizarding world will charm children and adults for many years to come...but “Deathly Hallows” marks the beginning of the end.

The film has a lot to tackle. Rowling’s last novel, considered by many her finest, dealt with a lot of heavy issues the series had built up toward: complex male/female dynamics, a place ruled by the terrifying Lord Voldemort, a world withoutguiding adults.

In a lot of ways, "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows" was when Harry, Hermione and Ron finally got away, abandoning Hogwarts to go on a quest to destroy Lord Voldemort once and for all.

With so many adult themes, the young protagonists of the Harry Potter films had a lot riding on their shoulders. And not surprisingly, they delivered a wonderful thing about how J.K. Rowling and the filmmak- ers created “Deathly Hallows” is that the characters we’ve grown up with are suddenly thrust out into the real world.

Away from the comforting halls of their hallowed Hogwarts, the world that Harry, Hermione and Ron attempt to navigate is a cruel and unfamiliar place. They, as well as we as the audience, are for the first time uncertain of where they’re going and what exactly they are supposed to do.

This uncertainty leads to some of the most dynamic emotional scenes to emerge from the Harry Potter universe. The pressure of being the world’s last hope for deliverance causes the tight-knit trio to begin to drift apart. One particularly powerful scene, Ron decides to leave Harry and Hermione, the jealousy he feels towards Harry bubbling angrily to the surface. Ron is front and center in “Deathly Hallows,” being at all once a person worth rooting for and a person worth hating with popcorn.

The narrative is pretty com- plex: there are the aforemen- tioned Horcruxes, as well as a split with another group of powerful magical artifacts called the deathly hallows, not to men- tion the introduction of some of the most dynamic emotional moments to date. Harry, Hermione and Ron with their search for the weapons they can use to destroy Lord Voldemort.

Although the narrative may be complex, the three actors pull it off with such ease it would seem they really did use words like “cave inimicum” in their real lives.

Rupert Grint, as Ron, is note- worthy not only because he has been a comedic asset in the Harry Potter movies for so long it was a startling revelation that he could do well in dramatic scenes. He was riveting: there was not one false note in his perfor- mance, and he seemed to elevate the other actors’ performance as well.

The only real criticism that can be given to "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows, Part One" is that it left a lot of loose ends to be tied up in part two. It lacked action...but the action that part one lacked can be found in part two where Harry finally faces up to Lord Voldemort, and the final battle between them begins.

Other than this small detail, "Deathly Hallows, Part One" is a movie that at once challenges the au- dience and rewarded them for being such faithful viewers. As Harry, Hermione and Ron learn how to navigate the adult world, the audience learns through their trials and tribulations the char- acters the everlasting truths of friendship, family and love.

'Caitlin Kiskin

Co-Arts Editor

When was the last time you heard something perfect? P’Nutshell—one of the nation’s leading music reviewers—gave Kanye West’s new album, “My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy,” the full 10 stars. I searched around their website for other albums that have gotten all 10 stars. Of course I checked the leading music reviewers—gave Kanye West’s album the full 10 stars. I searched

Also this article could write music for fans across every spectrum.

“We need to recognize that West deserved those 10 stars before he ever released his newest album.

Even so, from the symphony of instruments and effects to the gloomy interweaving melodies, West mastered the album. Every twist and turn of “MBDTF” is perfect. The samples are nothing short of genius. The piano taken from Aphex Twin’s “Avril 14” brilliantly complements John Legend’s croons on “Blame Game.”

Gil Scott-Heron's spoken words, “Who will survive in America? Who will survive in America?”

As with most finales, the body and the heart of “Deathly Hallows” is best viewed with friends and a couple of hankies. In 30 minutes, is best viewed with

A battle between them begins.

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Compassion International donors bring hope for children

Two men, one organization, one goal: To help those who can’t help themselves. There are organizations dedicated to conserving works of art and there are organizations geared toward improving the government, but Compassion International is different.

Compassion International is one of many organizations involved in helping children who live with little food, water and hope. Compassion has a unique presence on Hope College’s campus. Although it may not be evident at Hope College at first glance, many students are involved with this organization. Two seniors at Hope, Jon Wielenga and Bryant Russ, shared their stories and what Compassion means to them.

Since 1952, Compassion has helped children in need of assistance. The organization was founded by Rev. Everett Swanson. When Swanson returned to the United States after traveling as a preacher through South Korea, his heart felt moved to begin the Compassion organization. According to Compassion’s official website, compassion.com, “Compassion International exists as a Christian child advocacy ministry that releases children from spiritual, economic, social and physical poverty and enables them to become responsible, fulfilled Christian adults.”

Compassion began by providing basic needs and Christian training to Korean War orphans. Now, Compassion helps over 1 million children around the world.

Jon Wielenga: ‘God placed it in my heart to do this’

Jon Wielenga said he feels God’s call to help children in need. Through Compassion, Wielenga sponsors a child named Gisagara Willy Constantin. Wielenga said Compassion “is an organization that takes underprivileged children especially in parts of Africa and the continent of Asia and brings kids that come from extremely underprivileged situations.”

“It works to help them grow holistically with education, spiritual parts of their lives, physical aspects of their lives and provides them with basic needs to survive while growing their mind and their spirit,” Wielenga said.

Wielenga first became involved with Compassion this August when one of his housemates suggested the idea to him. Wielenga said God placed it on his heart to sponsor a child through Compassion, along with donating money to another similar organization, Gospel for Asia.

Despite the struggle of today’s economy that affects many students, Wielenga decided that God would have to take full control of the sponsoring situations. Wielenga said, “I’m not exactly sure where all of the funds are going to come from. God placed it on my heart to do this, so I was like, I’m going to do it.”

Sponsoring a child from Compassion has affected Wielenga’s life by causing a greater awareness of struggles around him. “With Compassion, getting a letter in the mail describing what a day was like for a student that he maybe had to walk for two hours just to get a bucket of water. Things like that make you think. All I have to do is walk to the bathroom, turn the faucet on, and I get as much water as I want.”

Wielenga said that sponsoring a child and becoming more conscious of the issues are a personal discipline. “As much as organizations try really hard to remind you of how much you have been blessed with, I think it is personal discipline that can be resulted from just practicing basic disciplines of fasting,” Wielenga said.

He added, “That’s one of the nice things about fasting. It makes you realize you don’t necessarily need what you are fasting from whether it’s Facebook for college students or even food for a day.”

Bryant Russ: ‘Made my eyes bigger to the reality of the world’

Bryant Russ, a senior at Hope from Lansing, Mich., felt the call to sponsor a child through Compassion as well. Russ sponsors a child named Edwers Sebastian. To Russ, Compassion is “a medium by which I can be useful with my money.” Russ said, “There are ways to spend money. I’m a firm believer that we are called to use not just 10 percent of our money, but all of our money, everything we have to be used by God. We are his stewards of it. Compassion is a cool way to use that money for a good cause.”

Reflecting on the five years in which he has sponsored Edwers, Russ believes that Compassion encourages him to continue sponsoring using one specific tactic. “One big thing that they do is they have you pen pal with the kid you sponsor and they send you a picture of the kid. It’s personal and it’s easier to continue a relationship,” Russ said.

While the years have passed since Russ first began to sponsor Edwers, he said he does not believe that sponsoring a child greatly affects him.

Russ said, “I wish I could say that it does more. I don’t know if it affects me a whole lot. I have extra money and I would like to use it well. Hopefully it will affect the kid… I write to him once a month and I think about him for a little bit, but it doesn’t affect me that much.”

“What’s cool about Compassion is that it takes a whole group of people, a whole body, who are called to live the same vision for others. Seeing all of those faces of people has made my eyes a little bigger to the reality of the world,” Russ added.

Sponsoring a child through Compassion

There are many children around the world who need your help. Compassion strives to be a hope for the children who cannot help themselves. Without Compassion, many children would not have the necessary resources to survive.

If you would like more information on Compassion or on sponsoring a child, please visit compassion.com and click on the “Sponsor a Child” tab. For only $38 a month, you can become a hero to a child in need.
Paradoxical perspectives

The ultimate job
Karen Patterson
Co-Editor-in-Chief

As children we were often asked what we wanted to be when we grew up. Many common answers were firefighters, astronauts, professional athletes of some kind, or ballerinas. Few of us will actually go on to fulfill these youthful career aspirations. Even now, many of us are trying to figure out what we want to do with the rest of our lives—gosh, that just sounds intimidating! As a senior I have come to dread the impossible-to-ignore question, “What’s next?” I don’t know.

However, I do know that I found my passion, that thing that makes me happy for no reason other than the fact that I get to do this for the rest of my life: sports journalism.

At a school like Hope where so many students dream of changing the world through ministry or medicine, it’s easy to feel shallow for wanting to spend the next 30 or 40 years getting paid to attend professional sporting events. But I’ve discovered that while it’s easy to admire those individuals and appreciate their passions (and occasionally relate to them), not all of us are meant for that path.

I have an incredible internship this year that has afforded me the opportunity to experience the world of professional sports: I have loved every minute. I’m pretty sure that all my friends are sick of hearing the stories, but I can’t stop talking and thinking about it because I am just so happy. In fact, I can’t imagine doing anything else.

All this said, I still have days when I feel like a bad person for not wanting to work in a ministry-related job. But we can’t all be pastors. We can’t all work at non-profits.

The world we live in is broken and needs people of strong faith to be in careers where they can influence those around them. The greed and me-first attitude reflected in our country has created a situation that appears hopeless. However, for those of us called to more “traditional” careers, we have an incredible opportunity to serve the Lord as well as society.

Working as an accountant or doctor or sports journalist doesn’t mean that we’re shallow and care only about ourselves. Each of us has equal chances to share Christ, whether it is through our actions or through the job title that accompanies our name.

Maybe this sounds like I’m trying to justify my career choices; but I can honestly say that I have absolutely no idea what else I could do other than journalism. I feel about writing a sports article the way my friend Meghan feels about going to her youth ministry internship: alive and like I’m using a God-given talent.

I truly believe that there are students at this school who are going to change the world in some way—Hope is a community of movers and shakers after all—but the vast majority of us are going to end up in every-day jobs where it will be our actions that let others see Christ. Let’s leave them a witness too strong to ever be ignored.

Karen hopes that everybody survives finals week with his or her sanity intact, and would like to wish the Hope community a very Merry Christmas! See you in 2011!
Running on empty
Holly Evenhouse
Photo Editor

Until this year, I’ve never felt the stress of exam week. Tests? No big deal. Papers? Get them done ahead of time. Group projects? Piece of cake. I’d blown off all of my academic years prior, I was that student whom everyone else hated: the one who works ahead. So when everyone else was pulling their hair out trying to get things done on time, I was busy baking cookies and making sure they were still alive. Whether that helped or made them mad because I had time to do that, no one has ever said.

Entering my senior year, however, something changed. The first day of classes this year, I asked my older sister (a Hope alumn) how she stayed motivated. Her one-year reply? “You don’t. I knew there had to be a better answer. While we’re very similar people (trust me, fam- ily and friends alike have been telling us this for years), I knew there had to be a better a way.

Thus, I dedicated my whole heart to the one thing I always come back to: running. Over the summer, I plan to rack up the miles, running 30 or 40 miles per week. Sure, it may seem ex- cessive, but it has become my outlet in so many ways. I confess, there are times and happy times in high school, but it’s taken me a long time to get back to this euphoric point. Running, for me, is a personal victory every time I hit the pavement, trail or track, and it gives me a goal to work toward. It distracts me from seemingly meaningless schoolwork (even though I tend to do the best pondering about what I’ve learned in class while I’m running to the State Park or to the lighthouse... or wherever). But most importantly, it keeps my emotions in check. I run out my emotions, and it serves as the balancing act in the good times and the bad. This past Halloween was the best day of my life. I ran my first half marathon, and I beat my goal by 11 minutes. I don’t think my parents have ever been so proud to have a happy child. Thank you for that. Though my family doesn’t understand why I will run 13.1 miles just for a medal and a free T-shirt, they appreciate my dedication. Just wait until I run the New York City Marathon this year! (hence the horrid punctuation).

So, then, especially when schoolwork seems too trivial or unimportant, two hours of grueling pain makes me remember that I really am for- tunate to have the opportunity I do, and even though senior year is kicking my butt and with- out a doubt the most difficult three months of my life thus far, things are going to be OK. So, while we enter this season of exams, and we’re all stressed beyond belief, remember to have our heads at another nutcase in,sports.

But let’s say we were to give Johnson a chance. A second look shows that Johnson didn’t just quit, he also thanks God. Taking Johnson’s mindset, we can see that his twitter state- ments obviously are not planned, (hence the horrid punctuation). He naturally started complaining to God, but what we also see is that he also “naturally” takes the blame. What I would like to suggest is that Johnson’s attitude strangely mirrors that of the Bible, specifi- cally Job and Joseph.

You can reread that sentence a couple times if you’d like before moving on to my explanation.

Steve Johnson is no Job and he’s definitely not a King David who both fell into deep dark times of turmoil. David nearly loses his kingdom to his rebel- lionous son while Job falls deathly sick and loses all of his posses- sions and his children. While they gripe and ask God why, both are unfaithful to God’s actions. In Psalm 71:20, King David makes this statement: “Though you have made me see troubles, many and bitter, you will restore my life again; from the depths of the earth you will bring me up again.” It’s this faith that Johnson ad- opted the following days when he typed this into his twitter.

I learned A lot Within 24hrs. Saw Both Sides. (UpSkDwns)
I AM HAPPY & THANKFUL, YESTERDAY w/ out Sunday (Wldnt have grown closer w/ The Lord).

If you ignore these even more grammatically hideous-looking sentences, what you see is that he is thankful for all things in- cluding those that are difficult.

I’m not a huge NFL fan, and I’m definitely not a huge Bills fan. In the day and age where I’m involved in the Bills’ best chance, as the Stee-


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The Anchor Foreign Language column is written by students who are currently studying abroads. The column is intended to give Hope students a chance to discuss their new experiences, the region where they are studying, the language they are studying, and anything in between. The Anchor reserves the right to accept or reject any advertising.

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Cassie Niesplootwanski, ‘11
writes from:
Buenos Aires, Argentina

Joggin’ the globe
the abroad column

Cassie, on a trip to the Andes Mountains, in the Province of Jujuy, northwestern Argentina.

Words, words, words... and when sometimes they fail us

Those who know nothing of foreign languages know nothing of their own” – Goethe

Summer roared into Buenos Aires, Argentina, a couple weeks ago, and its fiery rampage won’t be dying any time soon. I’m on the opposite side of the world, in an opposite season, from you all right now who are celebrating/beguirding the return of the snows. In addition to opposite seasons, here we speak Spanish, specifically, a dialect called “Rioplatense”, very different from the kind we’re taught in the States. It is so unique, with words so specific to the region, that for one of my classes I received a 150-page dictionary that translates Spanish... to Spanish! I could dive in and tell you all about the origins of this fascinating lexical set, but I’ll spare you the boredom and get to the point: my confusion.

My friend Nina here is a rower (one who rows boats) and is strong enough to crush me with her pinky. One day while I was at her host family apartment, her father Carlos needed some help lifting and moving the couch. Nina hopped up and grabbed the couch like it was an empty cardboard box, and sat back down to talk to me. Trying to be nice, I wanted to squeak out, “How handy to have a big strong rower around!” but what I said was, “How handy to have a big strong T-shirt around!” I didn’t even realize what I’d said until about halfway through the cloud of laughter surrounding me. The word for “T-shirt” here is “remora.” It sounds a lot like the word for “rower” “remadora.” They aren’t identical, but when you consider a whole new vocabulary set jumbled around in your brain, they sound alike just enough to embarrass yourself.

The above situation is a problem everyone who learns a foreign language faces. It is embarrassing, but it’s mostly a funny learning experience. There is another, unforeseen problem that arises from immersion in a foreign language...sooner or later, you can’t speak English anymore. Words in English vanishes and are replaced by the Spanish word. It’s a phenomenon I’ve dubbed “quasi-lingual” wherein you make such great progress learning a new language, that you lose some of your native tongue, and are left with zero complete languages. It’s nothing short of a disaster.

Last week I was talking to my Mom about my favorite street food here, choripán. She wanted to know what it is, so I explained, “It’s chorizo sausage, grilled, and put on some fresh pan.” She shot a puzzled look, “Oh what? Frustrated, I shouted, “SPAN, Mom! Fresh PAN!” She shot back, “Cassie! What is it?”?!? I defeated against my own language, I said, “Bread, Mom. Pan is bread. Sorry.

I had no idea I wasn’t saying an English word. The language took a stronger hold than I’d anticipated; I don’t know if it will let go eas- ily, or if I’ ll want it to. Language is a huge part of our identity. The Spanish language is fusing itself to mine now, so what do I do if it fades away?

And that’s precisely why it’s so important that Johnson’s attitude strangely mirrors that of the Bible, specifi- cally Job and Joseph. Johnson provides a nice remind- er, one of recognizing that the above is one in control, no mat- ter what happens. It’s not going to be easy to praise him for that text that

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**SPORTS**

**Men's basketball underway**

FIRE UP—The men's basketball team opens its home season with the Holland Sentinel Community Tournament on Dec. 20 and 21.

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**Swimming teams reach season midpoint**

Relay team made up of Sarah Sohn ('12), Ashley Jasperse ('11), Skylar Darish ('14) and Westrate.

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**SPORTS EDITOR**

BETHANY STRIPP

Though for some winter sports teams the season has just begun, the men’s and women's swimming and diving teams are doing well so far. The home meets on Dec. 3 and 4 at the Wheaton Invitational.

The men's team finished third out of five teams at the meet. Andrew Rose ('12), Nick Hazelkamp ('13), and Michael Huisingh ('12) captured first place in the 500-yard freestyle, the 200-yard breaststroke and the 200-yard breaststroke, respectively.

On the women's side, the Flying Dutch took fourth place out of six teams at the invitationals. Libby Westrate ('13) finished first in the 200-yard freestyle, as did the 800-yard freestyle relay team of Sarah Sohn ('12), Bethany Schmall ('14), Skylar Darish ('14) and Westrate.

The men's team, which has won the conference title for the past three years, remains undefeated in the conference and 3-1 overall. Though graduation removed some key members from last year's squad, the team has adjusted well, said co-captain Brian Yount ('12).

“Two positions are extremely talented last year, and to lose them has presented many new challenges to the team,” Yount said. “However, our team has responded well and has performed beyond expectations.”

Coach John Patnott named Rose as one particular swimmer who has stepped up this season. "Andrew Rose is swimming extremely well, well ahead of his efforts from last year," Patnott said.

Co-captain Patrick Frayer ('12) and Yount also said Jake Hunt ('14) and Josh Grabijas ('13) have also done very well this season. Sheldon ('13) and Libby Westrate ('13) have also done very well this season. They have found the full 40 minutes, we will need to channel our experience into our ability to improve with each game.

“Right now we are dealing with quite a few injuries and some extremely good competition our first six games,” Bowser said. “Our hope is to grow as much as possible through these first games, so that we are equipped with full strength in February and March.”

With long-term goals in winning the MIAA, taking first in the league tournament and making some serious noise in the national tournament, the team plans to take the season one game at a time and focus on its next opponent only.

“It’s hard to focus on big games without hoping hard at realizing the little ones first,” Krombeen said. “We need to win some of these tough non-conference games to start the season and we can move on from there.”

A continual focus of the Dutchmen has been to defend harder. Neil said working to understand and anticipate their opponent’s actions is key to sharpening the team's skills.

“If we play hard and smart for the full 40 minutes, we will be hard to beat,” Krombeen said. “We have shown the ability to score early in the season, but our defense needs to constantly keep improving.”

In addition to focusing on keeping its defense strong, coach Neil plans to instill a long lasting mental toughness in his players.

“While there are always people that want to see you fail, it is important to be mentally tough and not let obstacles get in the way of achieving your end results,” Neil said.

While every game is viewed as equally important, the Dutchmen always look forward to playing its rival Calvin.

“Nothing gets our team more fired up than playing Calvin,” center Adam Dickerson ('11) said. “It is an experience difficult to explain.”

Ranked fourth in ESPN’s greatest college rivalries, the first Hope-Calvin game is scheduled to take place at DeVos on Jan. 5.

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“Jake has emerged as the top butterflyer on the team and one of the best in the MIAA,” Frayer said.

“Josh Grabijas continues to build off his great freshman year,” Yount said. “He has put up some of the fastest distance times in the league so far and will only continue to get faster.”

The women currently hold the team's best time in the 200-yard freestyle and 500-yard freestyle.

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