Huitsing’s hockey career comes to a close

Sam Ekstrom - Staff Writer

Imagine growing up playing pond hockey in your backyard, passing the puck around with your older brother and pretending you were playing on the same team. Then imagine getting to live that out for real at the college level.

Eric Huitsing came to Dordt from Edmonton, Alberta. Not only did he get to team up with his brother, Gary, he got to compete for his father’s alma mater.

“I remember hearing stories from back when he was on the team,” said Huitsing, now a senior. “That was kind of the reason I wanted to play here.”

All sentimentality aside, however, Huitsing came to Dordt and made an immediate impact for the Dordt Blades. He scored 24 goals through his first two seasons, including a team-leading 17 goals his sophomore year.

Then-coach Bill Elgersma was not surprised. He understood that the avid hockey culture in Canada often breeds talented athletes.

“When he came in, I wasn’t that surprised that he was the drive and tenacity that Eric brings to the team, and that is what he demands of the players around him.”

Huitsing has a blue-collar attitude when it comes to hockey, especially goal-scoring. His no-nonsense approach comes from something his father taught him.

“Don’t fool around, just put it in,” Huitsing recalls his dad telling him.

That strategy worked brilliantly in one of Huitsing’s finest moments.

It was the home finale of Huitsing’s junior season, and the Blades were tied at two with South Dakota State University in the final period.

“I remember coming off the boards, and I didn’t even look; I just whipped it at the net. I didn’t see it go in,” said Huitsing, “I don’t think I’ve ever been that excited about a goal.”

That strategy worked brilliantly in one of Huitsing’s finest moments.

The Blades wound up winning the game by a 5-4 score.

“I’ll remember that one for a long time,” Huitsing said.

Throughout his career, Huitsing was a leader on and off the ice. Elgersma felt like this raised the bar for the entire team.

“Eric is the kind of athlete that any Dordt coach wants: a balance of academic and athletic prowess,” said Elgersma. “Eric proves hockey players can do both well… That means no one gets a break on the team.”

Huitsing’s leadership was perhaps never more valuable than in his senior campaign. The Blades underwent a coaching change and entered just their second year in a conference, the MACHA.

“The senior was instrumental in keeping our team focused,” Huitsing said.

The men’s volleyball club has already played two tournaments. Photo by Megan Kaiser

Men’s volleyball begins

Lauren Bird - Staff Writer

This school year, a new club was established at Dordt College. The men’s volleyball club received approval from Student Symposium to get started just before Thanksgiving break.

Between Thanksgiving break and Christmas break, three open gyms were held to decide who would be in the club and to see what the competition would look like. The group has also participated in two tournaments: one on Jan. 25th in Lincoln, Neb., and one on Feb. 8th in Duluth, Minn.

The club consists of 14 members and is led by Eric Geels, Austin Lindemulder and Marcus DeWeerd. They practice three times per week and are sometimes joined by Tom Vanden Bosch, former Dordt volleyball coach, who gives them pointers.

“It’s great to have his experience,” said Lindemulder. “We try to take this pretty seriously with no messing around, but we still have fun. It’s a higher level of competition than intramurals.”

Many of the men involved in this club played volleyball before coming to Dordt.
Film challenge complete

Eric Rowe - Staff Writer

The 2014 Prairie Grass Film Challenge, in which contestants write a script, film, produce and edit an original short movie in only 48 hours, will culminate in the awards gala at the B.J. Haan auditorium at 8 p.m. on Feb. 21.

To begin the event, free screenings of the films start at 5:30 p.m. in various locations in the campus center and classroom building. The awards ceremony will follow.

"We're hoping for a good community turnout," Digital Media professor and film challenge organizer Mark Volkers said.

The organizers of the Prairie Grass Film Challenge have enjoyed preparing the awards gala in the past, but this year they brought in technical theatre major Jessica McCarty as the show producer.

The idea of having a producer is to relieve the pressure and let the organizing committee focus on the awards and big picture of the competition, rather than the details of organizing a stage production. McCarty is in control of the look of the stage as well as coordinating the technical equipment needed. The awards gala will integrate multiple screens and video clips.

"Even I am not sure how it's supposed to look yet," Volkers said.

McCarty is preparing the script and the video interludes.

"Megan Kaiser is helping with a lot of the film editing and clip montages," McCarty said. "We've got some surprises."

As in the past, Professor Volkers will be the emcee for the evening.

"Since he's been here since the inception of Prairie Grass," McCarty said, "we thought that he should continue doing it."

"I love Prairie Grass," said freshman Kyle Fossie. "You can quote me on that!"

Huitsing will miss team

Huitsing concluded his hockey career with 42 goals and 28 assists. Though his time with the Blades is over, Huitsing says that his time with the Blades is over, Huitsing says that he should continue doing it."

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As in the past, The Prairie Grass Film Challenge will give awards for the best film in each age category: high school, college, and post-college. This year, there is also an overall best of show award: the "Dordt Award."

The people’s choice winner will be determined after a 10-day voting period following the awards ceremony.

Senior Mark Dadsman has been involved with a film challenge team for the last four years. Dadsman started with a cameo his freshman year. After his scene, he hung around and helped out with production. This year is the first time he is a part of the production team.

"I am looking forward to watching ours along with everyone else’s," Dadsman said of the films.

Prairie Grass Film Productions is Dordt College’s production company. Its purpose is to provide the opportunity for students to work for real clients and to be able to put a real production company on their résumés.

“We operate it under the roof of Dordt College,” Volkers said, “but it’s one foot in, one foot out.”

Along with the film challenge, Prairie Grass Productions has attempted to host a snow derby with a snow sculpture competition, but they have never had the volume of snow required.

“If we suddenly started getting snow, we’d love to resurrect it,” Volkers said. “We’d love to have an event for every weekend in February!"

This desire to inspire students during one of the coldest and bleakest months of the year has been the driving force for the now traditional film challenge: The Prairie Grass Film Challenge has become something to look forward to every year.

“I love Prairie Grass,” said freshman Kyle Fossie. “You can quote me on that!”

It’s not too late to plan for Spring Break

Lauren Kleyer - Staff Writer

It’s that time of year when students are looking forward to the spring break plans that they have made, or quickly throwing together last-minute plans that they can still accomplish. If you’re one of those last minute people, don’t worry! We can help.

When asked what her plans were, assistant professor of Psychology, Lauryn Helming said, "According to the Zircon, I will be in NYC advancing my modeling career."

While that may not be on the top of your list of things to do, there are plenty of options to keep you busy during spring break. It is more than likely that most of you would love to go to Florida or Panama City for spring break, but like most college students, you’re probably on a budget.

A good option is to find a friend or roommate who is going home for spring break, and ask if you can tag along. There are quite a few students who have had a wonderful time getting to know the family of a close friend, especially if your own home and family are not close enough to go to (plus it’s awesome if your friend lives somewhere cool, like Chicago).

Another option would be PLIA. If you’re not already signed up for this year’s trip, make sure you put it on your calendar for next year!

"Every year I dread spring break," said Chris Bylsma, a senior Agriculture: Model of America. It is only about a four-hour drive one way, it’s fairly easy to get up early and road trip it with some friends or family members. The mall has countless stores to meander through, plus an amusement park in the center. Pretty cool, right?

If you’re easy to please, staying home and relaxing might be a good option for you. "Sleeping in, reading fun books, [and] hanging out with friends and family," is Dr. Helming’s idea of a dream vacation. Plus, your mom would probably love to help you get caught up on your laundry. If you need further advice on spring break planning, Brett Rozenboom, junior Accounting major, says, “Whatever you’re doing, don’t get caught! So as you plan for the break, or look forward to already-made plans, remember to stay safe and have fun."
Cultural fair provides opportunity to share culture

Narayan Núñez Blondin - Staff Writer

The cultural engagement club, Students Without Borders (SWB), is preparing for their annual cultural fair and fashion show. A large number of international students, as well as national students, have started planning the event that will take place on the evening of Feb. 22 in the Campus Center. They are already putting up posters on campus and are in the process of deciding what foods to prepare and what demonstrations to hold.

Student Symposium’s officer of the press, Reuben Van Gaalen, says that he is excited for the cultural fair and the fashion show.

“The event is always a big, exciting day,” said Van Gaalen. “It’s a chance to learn about your friends and about where they come from. You really see their excitement about sharing their home.”

Van Gaalen’s favorite event was the chopstick challenge, in which visitors to the fair had to pick up M&Ms from one bowl and place them in another using only chopsticks. At the cultural fair, students and visitors are welcome to stop by the different country stations. Each country station will have a poster, a student who is either native to or has lived in that country for a long time, and a small sample of traditional food. This year more than 20 countries will be represented through posters, performances or cuisine samples. Among the different foods, there will be a variety of dishes from Latin America, Africa and Asia. The students in charge of the foods are excited about sharing the different tastes and spices of their traditional foods.

Winnie Obiero, a sophomore from Kenya, believes that the Cultural Fair is a significant event at Dordt College.

“The cultural fair is important because it provides an opportunity for the international students to showcase a part of their culture and talents,” Obiero said. “(This event) is also informative because (anyone) will be able to learn something new about another country and not forgetting the opportunity to enjoy international cuisines.”

Coordinator of international students Linda Schroedermeier says she likes the cultural fair and the fashion show because the students demonstrate a little about themselves to others.

“I get excited to see people in their element, in their clothes, sharing color and (sharing food),” said Schroedermeier.

Students Without Borders is a cultural engagement club open for any student to join. It currently seeks to provide every Dordt College student with global cultural engagement opportunities through different activities, including international fashion shows, cultural fairs, movies and dialogue.

Men’s volleyball club

Continued from page 1

Geels, an RA at Dordt, realized the potential a volleyball club might have.

“I grew up around volleyball but I’ve never really gotten to play,” said Geels. “Marcus DeWeerd was the one who really pushed for a club to get started. I’ve gotten to know a lot of guys by being an RA and I knew we would have enough guys to have a club.”

While Geels says it’s too late for others to join at this point in the season, he says that tryouts may take place in the fall.

“We also hope to host a tournament here in March,” said Geels. “Hopefully we can play another school, like Morningstar.”

Dordt students had the opportunity to support the team by going to a tip night held at Pizza Ranch on Feb. 10th. The club received 10% of the commission made from sales, plus any tips.

“The money made will help fund our tournaments and traveling costs,” said Lindemulder.

Further support of the team is encouraged and appreciated.

Students find true love

Haley Mulder - Staff Writer

The day is approaching. The day where you let that special someone know just how much you love them.

Or the day when you lock yourself in your dorm, watch Netflix, and drown yourself in food.

Valentine’s Day. But single folk do not fear, Dordt’s psyche club may have a solution: the Matchmaking Test.

How clean is your bedroom? Cleaner than an operating room? Or does it take about ten minutes to find your bed?

Which way do you prefer your marshmallows? Golden brown or fresh out of the bag?

Are there just some of the important life questions found in the Dordt psyche club’s matchmaking test. On Feb. 4, psyche club members set up a table in the Grille at 8 p.m. and 55th at 10 p.m. for their latest ingenious idea.

“The idea for the Match-Maker event started when we were looking into fund-raising opportunities,” psyche club president Kristen Raygor said. “We wanted to raise money for our other events such as outings and potlucks. We thought Dordt students would get a kick out of it!”

Students of any year could stop by and pick up a test for free. They filled out their answers on the pink and purple sheets filled with promise, and were told to come back Feb. 13 to receive their results for just two dollars.

“We do not calculate the results ourselves, but we send them back to the company and they calculate them,” Raygor said.

Dordt’s psyche club is a group of psychology majors and minors that hosts events throughout the year. Some events are educational, and some are just for fun.

“The whole idea of dating at Dordt is kind of the elephant in the room,” Raygor said. “Our intention was to play that up and just have fun with it.”

Included in the matchmaking results are your top ten matches and your bottom ten matches Overall, 270 students filled out the test.

“While it is kind of a cutey, cheesy event, some students have viewed it as adding on to the relational pressure that Dordt students face, but it’s not meant to come across that way,” Raygor said.

“I took this thing to find my true love,” sophomore Anya Kalsbeek said. “I hope that my matches are all a good fit for me and that I can find my prince!”

So if you are celebrating single’s awareness day this year, rest assured knowing that the psyche club has a little something up their sleeve just for you.

“I hope students are able to embrace the spirit of Valentine’s Day whether celebrating it with their friends, family or significant other!” Raygor said.
Talent Extravaganza: Quality entertainment

Jeremy Vrekeken - Staff Writer

On Feb. 6 after a night of auditions and deliberation, one of the final pieces in the puzzle that is TX was put into place: the list of performing acts and competitors.

TX, or Talent Extravaganza, is an annual talent show and contest on Dordt’s campus. It showcases special student talents and abilities, including singing, dancing, various instrumental performances and a wide variety of other non-musical talents. The show will take place in the Haan Auditorium on Saturday, Feb. 15 and will be hosted by senior Jory Kok and junior Jake Byma.

This year, there are 19 different acts auditioned for a spot in the talent show and the chance to compete for cash prizes. Awards include $500 for first place, $300 for second and $100 for third. According to Jory Kok, the competition during auditions was fierce.

“In my opinion, this being my third year hosting, these are the best talents I’ve seen so far,” said Kok. “It was incredibly hard to choose which ones get in and which ones don’t.”

Byma and Kok were very happy with all of the auditions and offered an apology to all the acts that had to be cut from the show.

“There were so many that were cut that just deserved to be in the show,” said Kok. “If it was up to me, we would have 16 acts in the show; they were that hard to cut.”

Byma and Kok have also been preparing their own special addition to the show. Without uncovering too much of their plan, Byma promised great comedy and unpredictability.

“Expect the unexpected,” said Byma. “Because if you were expecting what we were going to do, it wouldn’t be funny.”

The hosts having been perfecting their segments for quite some time, and promised quality entertainment for those who come out to attend TX. Kok mentioned that though he has hosted before, he is still excited and striving for excellence.

“Being a three-time host, you get a lot of people saying, ‘Oh we’re sick of you, get off the stage, boo!’” said Kok. “But I mean, I don’t care, I’m doing it for the people.”

On top of all of the great acts, Byma promised a little something special for those who choose TX over other Saturday night activities.

“Umm, we’re probably going to have the sexiest hosts we’ve ever had,” said Byma.

Both Byma and Kok agreed that this is an event that is not to be missed by a member of the student body. While acknowledging the quality of other campus events, the hosts were confident that theirs can hold its own.

“I think it’s going to be the best campus event that’s ever happened,” said Kok.

Byma and Kok also strongly urged the entire Dordt student body to come out and support their friends and enjoy the night.

“Get your adult diapers ready Dordt College, you’re going to crap your pants,” said Byma.

Seniors struggle to maintain focus

Rachel Mulder - Staff Writer

Senioritis isn’t just for high school seniors; many Dordt seniors find themselves becoming infected with the plague this point in their college career.

“Senioritis has infected me like mold on an old piece of cheese,” said senior Agricultural Missions major Chris Bylsma. “It’s so hard to think about school when there are much bigger and better things to do after graduation.”

With graduation just three months away, seniors are having a hard time focusing on homework and instead, spend time searching for jobs and dreaming about the future.

Environmental science major Leah Werkhoven agreed with Bylsma that focus is hard to come by.

“I constantly daydream in class about the future and job applications I must complete,” she said. “Writing a paper for class just seems far less important than figuring out what to do with the stupid paper we will be getting in May. Time is flying by way too fast.”

Bylsma daydreams about other aspects of his future as well.

“I would rather fantasize about my future wife than look at depreciation values in farm management and accounting,” he said. “I mean, would you rather daydream about your dream lady cooking cheese potatoes for you in jeans and a flannel shirt? Or would you rather look at how an old pickup truck ages? Yup, that is what I thought.”

Many other seniors seem to agree with Bylsma’s perspective and have already gotten married or have plans to be married this upcoming summer.

“I am definitely more relaxed about my school work this year than I was the past three years. I got married over break and my priority now is to spend time with my husband in the evening so I only do homework in the afternoons,” said Amy Lourens, senior Business Administration major.

In an online U.S. News and World Report article entitled “5 Tips to Battle College Senioritis” Laura McMullen suggests five ways college seniors can potentially avoid senioritis.

Her tips include taking care of yourself, staying organized, getting motivated, being realistic about grades and jobs, and last, visit the career center.

Beekeeping course now being offered!

A beekeeping course for beginners will be offered starting Thursday, February 20, at the Dordt College Agriculture Stewardship Center. The course, taught by Dordt College Professor of Agriculture Dr. Duane Bajema, will cover the basics of beekeeping by providing comprehensive information and hands-on experience to help students start, maintain, and care for a honey bee colony.

Whether those interested have no experience or a few years as an apiculturist (beekeeper) under their belts, they will gain valuable insights from the course. Topics will include bee biology, basic beekeeping equipment, hives, beginning beekeeping, management, honey and beeswax, and more.

Additional information will be provided at the first meeting. Registration is required by February 17, by calling Dr. Bajema at (712) 641-0784. Feel free to call with any questions.
Today's column features the most powerful person in the world. And despite a recent movement towards the idea of putting as much power as possible in the hands of one person, the most powerful person in the world is not Oprah. The most powerful person is Barack Obama.

I have been a part of this campus community for 2.5 years now, and especially among the student body Barack Obama seems to be the most popular villain. The question this article will focus on is: is this belief warranted? Is Barack Obama really a crazy, bloodthirsty villain?

Barack Hussein Obama was born in Honolulu, Hawaii, in 1961 to a white mother and a black father. He was born into a poor, biracial family. His parents then divorced a few years later, leaving Barack in the care of his young mother. Then to mix things up, Barack's mother married an Indonesian man who was studying geography in Honolulu. Eventually this man, Barack's stepfather, moved back to his native Indonesia. So to try and keep the family together, Barack and his mother moved to Indonesia, living first in a poor sub-district of (a large town in) Indonesia, and then moving to a more affluent district. Finally, Barack was fed up with this, and he moved back to Hawaii to live with his grandparents. He stayed in Hawaii until after high school, then attended Occidental Col- lege, a small, private liberal arts college much like Dordt.

At age 21, Barack's biological father died in a car crash. At age 33, his mother died from cancer. The first time Barack ran for state senate, he was beat by a margin of 2 to 1, enough to make most men quit.

So how are we supposed to interpret all that? Is it not the typical upbringing of Ameri- can presidents. He wasn't given a rich, preppy education to prepare him for greatness or to mold him into a future politician. He wasn't provided with the best, private school education to prepare him for greatness. He wasn't given a rich, preppy education to prepare him for greatness. He wasn't given a rich, preppy education to prepare him for greatness. He wasn't given a rich, preppy education to prepare him for greatness.

In his early years, he had much better access to joints and cocaine (which he utilized) than he did to church picnics or family dinners. In the pop- ular words of that Drake song, Obama truly "started from the bottom" and reached higher than anything with his upbringing is supposed to reach.

In conclusion, I don't care if you like Obama or not. But next time you see him on TV giving some political speech on his health care bill that doesn't work or his immigration policy that's underfunded, give him just 10 seconds of admiration (while quietly hum- ming that Drake song). And if that moment of peace and fixation does nothing for you, so be it.

So, my initial question asked if Barack Obama's current villain status on this campus is warranted. Through this article, I have dis- covered that the answer to that question is

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The original plan for this column was to present my ideas on how to improve work- study jobs. Some people obviously work hard to earn their $7.50, while others do very little and receive the same pay. I have heard rumors of someone being paid increased pay for their work, while those providing important services for Dordt receive far below market rates. These inconsistencies make me upset.

However, after learning more about on-campus employment, my stance has changed. Instead of complaining about prob- lems, I would like to explain how the system works.

On-campus employment is divided into two sections: workstudy and institutional work. Both types of work are connected with financial aid, but workstudy receives a portion of their funding from the government, while institutional jobs are funded entirely by Dordt. These institutional jobs are espe- cially important because they allow for all non-U.S. students to have an on-campus job.

Dordt has made a large commitment to on-campus employment. Student employ- ment coordinator Nancy Kinnga said stu- dent employment now uses "more Dordt than federal money". Dordt would probably love to give the same, but government money is quickly running out of the Dordt budget. As part of financial aid, the government provides some of the funds for workstudy. However, this is a lump fund, so the more students Dordt employs, the more money comes from Dordt's pocket.

To make matters more complicated, King- ma added, "The government money has not been increased for awhile." Despite this, Dordt employs about 750 students on-cam- pus.

Dordt students currently receive $7.50 per hour for their services, 25 cents above the minimum wage. This is easy to say, but the many of the jobs on campus deserve higher pay. However, when you realize that a raise would give them a college student a little bit above the minimum wage, you realize that it is unfair to give them this raise. They deserve a fair wage. The raise is not enough to make most men quit.

So how are we supposed to interpret all that? Is it not the typical upbringing of Ameri- can presidents. He wasn't given a rich, preppy education to prepare him for greatness or to mold him into a future politician. He wasn't provided with the best, private school education to prepare him for greatness. He wasn't given a rich, preppy education to prepare him for greatness. He wasn't given a rich, preppy education to prepare him for greatness.

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Bierma heading to nationals in 1,000 meter

Sam Ekstrom - Staff Writer

Tim Bierma set a goal after his freshman year of track: he was going to qualify for nationals during his college career.

On Jan. 24, that goal was attained in the 1,000 meter run at the Nebraska Wesleyan Invite.

“I was kind of in shock for a while,” said Bierma about his first-ever individual qualification.

The senior ran a 2 minute, 31.06 second race to win the event, less than three-tenths of a second within the requisite time of 2:31.35.

Bierma, a Sioux Center native, knew it was going to be close when he began his final 200-meter lap close to 2:01.

“At that point I was like, ‘I’ve got to go if I want to try and qualify,’ said Bierma. “People said I had a visible surge with 200 to go.”

With the clock ticking directly at the finish line, Bierma pushed through the pain for the final 50 meters to earn his spot at the finish line, Bierma said.

“Going into that home stretch, you get that burning feeling of going all out – you can’t go any faster – and I could see the clock that burning feeling of going all out – you just feel like you are in the best shape of his career.

“Each season kind of keeps on building on that, so this year was a chance to handle a lot higher intensity, higher volume training, and it is definitely paying dividends,” Bierma said.

Remarkably, Bierma followed up his 1,000-meter victory with another first-place finish at the Dennis Young Invite in Storm Lake, Iowa. Bierma won the 1,600-meter run in a time of 4:19.95, just two-tenths of a second shy of a school record.

While Bierma still hopes to help his squad qualify in the 4 x 800 relay, the 1,000 and 1,600-meter qualifications are the climax of an arduous – yet rewarding – four-year process.

“I’ve seen the value of persistence and the importance of putting in that offseason work,” Bierma said.

Once Bierma runs his final collegiate race in May, one might expect him to take a hiatus from running. Maybe eat junk food for a while and take some time to be lazy.

“Hopefully, I’ll keep on running,” said Bierma. “I’d like to run a marathon next fall.”
Opera described as ‘a pure delight’

Hannah DeVries - Staff Writer

Just in time for Valentines, the Des Moines Metro Opera, located in Indianola, Iowa is presenting The Elixir of Love in the B.J. Haan Auditorium on Feb. 18.

The opera, Elixir of Love, is composed by Gaetano Donizetti, one of the most prolific opera composers, acclaimed for writing about 70 works within a span of 25 years. The story follows Nemorino, a peasant boy in love with Adina, a wealthy but capricious girl in the countryside with music described by the Des Moines Metro Opera as “a pure delight.” One piece, “Una furtiva lagrima” is called “the most famous moment in the opera and one of the best-loved of all operatic arias.”

Kornelis Baududa practices her conducting skills in lab choir. Photo by Audrey Pasker

The students in the Advanced Conducting class aren’t all music majors, which also makes for a diverse group of conductors. “It’s a little weird being directed by fellow students since they’re my peers,” said Pols. “but it’s really neat because they all have their own style of conducting and working through the music. They’re all pretty professional, as well.”

Even if the students aren’t planning to be a conductor outside of their time at Dordt, this experience can still be useful for them. “I see conducting as a definite possibility, but I think it will even help with musicality in general,” said Walter. “We will be placed in the director’s shoes and will be able to see from that point of view when we’re the musicians that have gone onstage before more than 700,000 people.”

“Don’t feel like because you missed the first practice, you can’t come,” said Walter. “Anyone can join!”

More singers in this choir means more opportunity for the students to learn, as well. “You might look at it as being more work added to your load, but it isn’t really. It’s a lot of fun,” said Pols. The conducting students are eager to gain a lot of experience and knowledge from this choir.

More information will be provided at a later date. Direct all questions to Jon De Groot.

OPERA Iowa has performed in nine different states throughout the Midwest. The group has traveled to Japan and China, and has gone onstage before more than 700,000 students and adults. OPERA Iowa is an Education Division program of Des Moines Metro Opera, located in Indianapolis, Iowa.

The Canon

The Canon is currently looking for poetry, short stories, creative nonfiction, photography, graphic design projects, journalistic features, short scripts or screenplays—anything creative and well-crafted. Limit submissions to 3,500 words.

Please direct questions and submissions to Anna Visser (nnvssr@dordt.edu) or Jeremy Vreeken (jrmvkrnk@dordt.edu). Submissions are due by March 7.

Songwriting Competition

A songwriting competition is coming up and will be at the end of April. More information will be provided at a later date. Direct all questions to Jon De Groot.
Movie review: Valentine's Day

Megan Kaiser - Staff Writer

Two Words: Valentine's Day

I don't want to cop out and write about Valentine's Day, but I'm going to cop out and rant about Valentine's Day. You think I'm about to go on some sort of spiel we've all heard a million times about the holiday, but I do movie reviews remember? So I am here to remind you of that awful movie that came out my sophomore year of high school that almost every Valentine's Day fanatic raved about for a solid two weeks before and after it was released. Yes, I could have driven five blocks and seen a movie in theatres, but that requires time and money, and this week I was out of both. Don't tell me how to live my life.

Let's start with the major flaw of this film. It's titled Valentine's Day. If you were to say "Let's go see Valentine's Day!" in 2010, a majority of human beings probably would have been slightly confused, especially if you weren't aware of the movie. Potential replies would have been as follows:

"How can I watch a holiday?"
"Valentine's Day is next week."
"How can I watch a holiday?"

In conclusion, take Valentine's Day with a grain of salt. Cherish all of those you love, even if they aren't your "Valentine." Remember that being single is better than being in a bad relationship. Everyone. EVERYONE. Don't be that kid that singles out others. Your crush? You gave candy and a card to everyone. EVERYONE. Don't be that kid that makes others feel bad about themselves. They don't stop there, but for your sake, I will.

The second flaw is that the whole cast consists of every single famous actor that is worth more than everyone's tuition combined. Twenty big-name actors were shoved into this film. Good thing the film accumulated more than it's budget, otherwise Warner Brothers would have owed a lot of skrillaz to many angry actors.

The third flaw is that the plot revolves around all of these individuals struggling on Valentine's Day. We are aware of the struggle. We don't need a 124 minute movie to remind us of that.

The fourth flaw? Four words. Taylor Swift and Taylor Lautner. T-Swizzle was probably only in there because she threatened the casting directors with the statement, "If you don't put me in this movie, I will write a song about you." And Lautner was probably only in this film to get millions of teenage girls to ogle at his 56 pack. Physically impossible! If anyone could defy physical odds, it would be the member of a wolf pack.

"Valentine's Day" got more negative reviews than positive anyways. I simply hope that there was at least a small dose of genuine-feeling put into the making of this comedy rather than, "Let's get every famous actor so we can make big bucks." That's where my problem would start, but I don't work for Warner Studios and I don't know about Ashton Kutcher, so I don't want to jump to conclusions.

In conclusion, take Valentine's Day with a grain of salt. Cherish all of those you love, even if they aren't your "Valentine." Remember in grade school when it wasn't simply about your crush? You gave candy and a card to everyone. EVERYONE. Don't be that kid that made a.valentine for that other student in his class just because he smelled like week old burritos. Don't complain because you're single, and definitely don't complain because you're taken.

There are worse things in life.

The movie was released on Valentine's Day.

A brewing rivalry

Megan Kaiser - Staff Writer

Jolly Fish vs. Flappy Bird

A brewing rivalry

Aggression. Irritability. Inevitable swearing. This basically sums up the night of a Flappy Bird competitor.

It's been all the hype for the past two weeks. Twitter feeds and Facebook are currently filled with Flappy Bird. If you are unaware of who Flappy Bird is, he is the little yellow bird that consists of 27 pixels and, apparently, cannot think of anything better to do than dodge pipes in a Super Mario-esque world.

Developed by Hanoi, Flappy Bird was released to the public in May 2013. If you thought you were on top of things, you're almost a year behind.

"Flappy Bird is one of the most aggressive habit forming games of the 21st century. It literally drives you crazy," junior Renben Van Gaalen said.

As of last week, a Dordt student who would prefer to be known as "Drama Cop" reached a high score of 119. While that may all be extremely fascinating, what you may not be aware of is the game Jolly Fish. Simply stated, Jolly Fish is the equivalent of Flappy Bird for Windows phones. Wood on the street is that they are cousins. Jolly Fish became a thing of the App world on Feb. 2, 2014.

"Jolly Fish reveals the true character of your inner self that blossoms once your finger touches the screen. Deep down, everyone is aggressive," said Dylan Hoekstra, who can't get past five points on Jolly Fish.

Incredibly, this game is close to a year old, and it took less than a week to become all the hype. The big fear here is how deeply individuals immerse themselves into these games. Remember that your existence is appreciated, so don't spend all of your time in your room trying to get to 56 on Flappy Bird. We can't appreciate your existence if we never see you. One word. Prioritize.

Contrary to popular disbelief, Flappy Bird enjoys a Starbucks Frappuccino in his down time when he isn't busy suffering head traumas from green pipes.

Meme created by Megan Kaiser

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Lee's Advice

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Tasteless. In this country you can have whatever opinion you want, so let's not waste time arguing about something inconsequential. What you can't argue is that his rise to presidential (villain) status was only a step away from miraculous and should impress even the most unimpressed among us. So if you hate the man, and none of his policies or viewpoints do it for you, his humble rise to the American presidency, the most powerful position in the world, warrants some respect.