Students Weigh in on Proposed budget cuts to Planned Parenthood

Ally Karsyn
Staff Writer

While students at other colleges across the country railed in protest against the House of Representatives’ vote to defund Planned Parenthood last month, the Dordt campus remained quiet.

On February 18, the Republican-led House voted to block all federal funding to Planned Parenthood under H.R. 1, also known as the Pence Amendment. The Senate rejected the bill on March 9, which brought it back to the House for further debate.

Even though no one is holding any bright pink signs reading, “I stand with Planned Parenthood,” and no one is walking the sidewalk promoting pro-life support, Dordt students still have an opinion on what’s happening in Congress.

Derrick Angier, a senior history and psychology major, said, “Planned Parenthood is inefficient and is far too much about providing abortion and condoms rather than dealing with the real problems like extramarital sex and bad living situations.”

Some students share Angier’s view while others focus on what the vote means for women’s rights and health.

“Since the Republicans are concerned with decreasing the federal deficit, this is one way to achieve that goal,” said Ward Matthias, a sophomore philosophy and political studies major. “But they seem to show little support for women’s rights or women’s health because the desire is to cut, cut, cut.”

Matthias predicted the vote would have an overall negative impact on the rights and health of women. According to numerous news reports, the Pence Amendment would remove about $330 million through the end of September for preventative-health services at Planned Parenthood clinics. This includes federal funding for contraception and breast and cervical cancer screenings.

If the bill to defund Planned Parenthood passes through Congress, over 800 locations across the country would be affected. This includes two area locations—one in Sioux Falls and the other in Sioux City. As the discussion in the House continued on the Affordable Care Act at the beginning of March, Iowa Republican Rep. Steve King said, “The stance needs to be that we will not vote to fund Obamacare.”

He then added, “Neither shall we vote to fund Planned Parenthood, and I shall be looking for ways to unfund every other entity like them that promotes abortion or provides assistance as a part of practice within their facility. Planned Parenthood is invested in promiscuity.”

Cecile Richards, president of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America, spoke out against the GOP’s efforts in the House during an interview on Democracy Now! saying they’ve declared a “war on women.”

Sharp dividing lines have emerged between those who stand with Planned Parenthood and those standing in opposition.

Stefan Knibbe, a senior philosophy and political studies major, said he was glad to see the House of Representatives had the courage to be progressive.

“Women’s rights are not compromised in the slightest by cutting funding for abortion,” Knibbe said. “Thanks to birth control medication, no woman should ever have an unplanned pregnancy unless she is being extremely irresponsible.”

Under federal law, Planned Parenthood is prohibited from using any federal money for abortion. No organization in the United States receives federal aid for abortion.

But Kailee Adams, a sophomore political studies major, said that taxpayer dollars are still funding abortion in a roundabout way.

“Planned Parenthood may not use our tax money to abort babies, but our taxes buy and maintain the office, hire the personnel, and pay for the counseling that leads to the abortion,” Adams said.

Abortion is one of many services offered by Planned Parenthood. Other services include: STD testing and treatment, breast exams, cervical cancer screenings, contraception, and women’s health services, and general health care.

More than half of the 92 staff members at Westmont College, a private Christian college with Dordt-sized enrollment, recently signed a letter of sympathy to homosexual students and alumni. They wished to apologize for past actions that may have caused fear and pain in the lives of homosexual students.

Most Christian colleges still ban homosexual practice on campus; the current discussions are attempts to protect homosexual students from harassment and remove taboo on the conversation.

The idea of such a discussion group at Dordt College has received mixed opinions. While the Dordt student handbook prohibits “engaging in, promoting, or advocating homosexual relations,” director of resident life Robert Taylor says that Dordt still is “a very safe place” for students “wrestling with homosexuality while striving after purity.”

“If someone is working through this issue, we want to work with them,” Taylor said. “There’s no double standard. We’re not going to condone such behavior, but the rules about sexual purity are the same for heterosexual students as well.”

Many Dordt students expressed similar views on the need to discuss this issue. “Christians always talk about love and all, so this would be a great chance to show that you love your neighbor—by allowing them to get together freely and not feel condemned,” said senior Alexes Bosnjak.

“Personally I’d be for it, given the focus of the group,” said senior Kenny Gradert. “There’s nothing wrong with discussion.”

Many students feel that any on-campus groups for homosexual students should be a place of accountability.

“We as Christians recognize the practice of homosexual acts to be a direct sin against God and his law,” said junior Hank Houtman. However, Houtman, along with other students, believes that “If it was an accountability group of Christians, struggling with the temptation of homosexual thoughts and desires [and] wishing to organize in order to combat sin, then I feel, as Christians, we are obligated to allow such groups.”

Students struggling with purity in these areas are encouraged to join one of the many Biblical accountability groups on campus, said Robert Taylor. Dordt has also hosted speakers such as author Mike Haley and the organization Soulforce to explore different viewpoints on this issue.

“We don’t shy away from different points of view. We want to work through dissonance,” Taylor said.
North, South, East and Matthew West

“Matthew west did a really good job entertaining and integrating a good story with his songs. Josh Wilson was really good on the guitar, too. I did get to meet Matthew West. He signed my CD,” said sophomore Mark Opp.

“I thought it was cool because Matthew West was right at the front talking to people who wanted to come up. It was cool they weren’t too big for their fans,” said Venhuizen.

Former Dordt student in the midst of M 9.0 earthquake

Hiro Yamada, a 2010 Dordt graduate, returned to his home in Kitaam, Japan, back in December after being in America for roughly seven years.

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Although Japan has earthquakes all the time, Yamada never expected a quake to cause a devastating tsunami to wipe out much of Northern Japan on Friday, March 11, 2011.

“I was standing in front of the TV and watched the tsunami flood the North,” said Yamada. “All I could say was ‘Oh bleep’ (I'm not trying to be funny, I know it sounds funny but for real).”

Though the news has reported mostly on the tsunami’s devastating effects, Yamada said that the quake itself also caused a lot of damage.

“Everything [in the North] is a bit behind places like Tokyo and Osaka (another big city in Tokyo),” said Yamada.

The buildings were apparently too fragile and not strong enough to resist the earthquakes. Houses collapsed, roads became blocked, and cars were flipped.

As the death toll rises to almost 11,000 with over 17,000 still missing, Japan is staying hopeful. Their pride and determination as a country is keeping them strong. TV and watched the tsunami flood the North, ”said Yamada. “All I could say was ‘Oh bleep’ (I’m not trying to be funny, I know it sounds funny but for real).”

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Ex-Muslim political leader speaks about conversion

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“It was really encouraging to hear his personal testimony and incredible life transformation by the power of Christ,” Berkompas said.

Bryan Visser
Staff Writer

Dordt students and faculty had a unique opportunity to hear Dr. Daniel Shayesteh’s story of how he and his family came to accept Christ.

By Shayesteh’s account, he had been a Muslim who trained others to kill and martyr themselves before he converted to Christianity.

“One day I was preparing younger boys and girls to destroy the church; now they care for me,” Shayesteh said.

Dordt senior Abby Berkompas went to the lecture concerned she wouldn’t be able to understand the topic but found that to be untrue.

“He traded a life of hatred for a life of love, and that’s something only Christ can work in one’s life. It’s amazing to see how God’s sovereign and gracious hand was at work in his life: in his escaping from prison and being forced to flee to Turkey,” Berkompas said.

His first time going to a church had been for little reason other than trying to get back some of the money a businessman had allegedly cheated him out of.

“It was scary because a Muslim doesn’t go to a church; [doing] that could be an excuse for the government in Iran to give hardship to my family,” Shayesteh said.

Near the end of his lecture Shayesteh showed a photo of his family with smiles on their who have since accepted Jesus.

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Dordt students “put love into action” across the nation…and Canada

Kristin Janssen
Staff Writer

About 140 Dordt students spent their Spring Break in service by traveling with one of 15 different teams to cross-cultural communities in the United States and Canada.

The trips were organized through Dordt’s student-led P.L.I.A. (Putting Love Into Action) program. Service locations ranged from as far away as Las Vegas, Nevada, to the short, 10-hour drive to Denver, Colorado.

Each team worked alongside a different organization or church at their service location. Most teams were also hosted by Christian Reformed churches in the area.

Hannah Clark, one of three student chair leaders of P.L.I.A., did not participate in P.L.I.A. this year, but did much of the behind-the-scenes work and has gone on P.L.I.A. twice before. She shared that P.L.I.A. impacted her in a big way by opening her eyes to seeing the need for the Gospel within our own country.

“P.L.I.A. teaches students that you don’t need to go to a third world country in order to share Christ’s love with others,” said Clark.

She also remarked that spending Spring Break in service has the ability to affirm or not affirm the gifts and talents students are feeling called to use for furthering God’s kingdom.

“I led a team to Mendonhall last year and reaffirmed by passion and love for learning about and being involved with agriculture,” said Clark.

David Puruolte, a sophomore ministry major, shared of his service as a leader for the Bozeman, Montana, team. “There’s no best part,” he said regarding the entire trip.

Puruolte especially enjoyed spending time in Montana because the mountainous landscape reminded him of home. Home for Puruolte is at the bottom of the Himalayan Region in India, but he has lived in the United States for the past four years.

Another international student, Wendy Gomez, is a junior elementary education major from Managua, Nicaragua, and led a team to New Orleans this year. She also felt a connection to home.

“There was [recently] a big hurricane in Nicaragua, so going to New Orleans and seeing that people have gone through that and that there are ministries reaching out was super encouraging to see,” said Gomez.

The New Orleans team did some construction work, shingling a roof and putting drywall up, but they also did lots of prayer walks. During these walks, the team members would spend time talking to people and hearing their stories.

“We ‘put love into action’ by simply loving people, “said Gomez. “It was more than just going and building a house. It was about loving the people that God created in His image. It was just listening and loving them with Christ’s love.”

Sending a team to Las Vegas, Nevada, was new for P.L.I.A. Steve Olson, a member of the Vegas team, chose to go on P.L.I.A. because he has enjoyed prior service trips.

In Las Vegas, his team worked with battered women and children, a homeless shelter rescue mission, an after-school program, Three Square Food Bank, and Catholic Charities—a warehouse thrift store.

Regarding the entire trip, he said, “it was interesting to realize that those that were broken were actually the most joyful.”

This joy-filled theme resonated through the stories and experiences of many other P.L.I.A. participants.

Annie Choi is another international student and P.L.I.A. participant. Her story is different, however. She is an English education exchange student from Korea, so Annie chose to go on P.L.I.A. because she wanted her “first and last American Spring Break to matter.”

Annie understands the meaning of having a servant’s heart. On her team’s service trip to Grand Junction, Colorado, the group spent almost all of their time with the large homeless population in the area.

They served at a soup kitchen, homeless shelter, and dragged three tons of trash out of homeless camps along a river. Love was “put into action” by building relationships with both the volunteers and homeless residents of Grand Junction.

In summary, Annie reflected back on the entire service trip: “I learned how to be thankful for what I have. I am blessed to have a home and a loving family. However, I also learned about true gratitude and real love in action.”

Students experiencing P.L.I.A. at other locations around the United States and Canada echo similar lessons learned. The teams were able to build relationships and connections with the people they served and other Dordt students. Every team was also exposed to the real needs of poverty within our own country.

As a result of P.L.I.A. service trips, students now better understand patience, teamwork, and most importantly, how to put Christ’s selfless love into action.
Dordt student forced to flee Egypt while on Middle East Studies Program

The students were allowed to leave the station and return to Aqouza the next morning. They loaded into taxis three at a time and rode through the abandoned streets of Cairo. “The taxi ride was surreal, the usually crowded Cairo streets were incredibly quiet (it was still curfew at the time),” Hielema said. “There were tanks in intersections and Egyptian soldiers on the streets.”

Once the students returned to Aqouza, they were told to pack their things as they would be leaving Cairo to go on a month-long trip that was supposed to be planned for the April 14 weekend. “I was kind of like to do a sort of a before/after thing, just get closure – we left rather unexpectedly,” Hielema said.

The protests in Egypt have been talked about all across the world and have even set off rebellion in other countries. Hielema and his fellow MESP students just happened to be in the midst of it all. Though he would love to have stayed longer in Egypt, where all the action was, he is glad he was able to see and experience what he did.

“I mean we all knew even then that what we were watching would end up in history books on the Middle East for decades to come, and me being a history major, that was a pretty sweet feeling,” Hielema said.

After the initial protests began, the group spent the next several days in Luxor, as previously planned. Though they were away from the center of the riots in Cairo, the protests seemed to follow as a thousand people came and gathered along the main road in Luxor on Friday, January 28.

“The police launched tear gas over the Nile and into the crowds, but they continued undeterred,” said Hielema. “A wall of riot police formed, several protesters started throwing rocks, but the majority of the protesters simply walked around the line and the police didn’t follow them.”

When the MESP students made their way back to Cairo on Saturday, they were told later in the semester. Since then, they stayed in Istanbul for a week, were flown to Tel Aviv, and stayed at the Tantur Ecumenical Institute, which lies between Jerusalem and Bethlehem.

Despite the fact that there might be more excitement taking place in Egypt, the students get to see and experience much of the Middle East. They have been to the Hagia Sophia, the Blue Mosque, Petra, Jordan, Old Bethlehem and Jerusalem, and the Dead Sea.

They recognize that the decision of the MESP leaders to leave early was wise. “The situation is still too unstable and they don’t want to take any unnecessary risks,” Hielema said.

Linda Van Wyk, Director of Study-abroad programs at Dordt, is pleased with the decision for the MESP to not return. “Though Adrian’s group may be disappointed at their abrupt departure from Cairo and the fact that MESP will not be returning from Egypt, the safety of the student is always the priority in off-campus study,” Van Wyk said.
Beyond a social life, campus residents are constantly privy to classes, professors, student activities, and a host of other opportunities. Despite the obvious benefits of campus life, one major disadvantage arises: to live on a college campus is to live in a secluded world. We’re swamped with papers, tests, sports, meetings, and social lives that our biggest worry at the end of the day is how to manage the next day.

As easy as it is to be blinded by all of the things going on in our own little Dordt community, sometimes I think that we forget that we are part of a much bigger world.

Being part of a college community comes with its own set of responsibilities, but being part of a Christian college community ups the ante tremendously. Christians are part of a community that spans the universe—a community that shouldn’t be ignored.

In the past few weeks alone, hundreds of people have lost their lives in Libya and tens of thousands have fallen victim to natural disaster in Japan. But what does all of this mean for those of us that live in the protected community of Dordt College?

We’re broke, we’re busy, and we’re arguably un-aware, but all of that doesn’t give us an out to forget our brothers and sisters around the world. We’re so blessed to live in a safe community; don’t forget what’s outside of it.

Living within a college community has its fair share of advantages and disadvantages. On the plus side, college students always have people to talk to and always things to do.

The Church of the Nativity, the site where, allegedly, Jesus was born. There’s a sign on the door. ‘Church of the Nativity. Enter as a tourist, exit as a pilgrim. Enter as a pilgrim, exit as a seeker.’

By the end of the night, we want partners, not pimps. We’re not looking for sex, we’re looking for love.

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Defender softball hits off the season in Kansas

Powerful dedication fuels the energy of this year’s softball team as the players return from Kansas and revamp for the rest of the season facing the GPAC.

Coach Zomer and the girls show confidence as the majority of the players are returning from last year, including their two returning senior pitchers: Amanda Nikkel and Amber Soosdema.

"Out of all the pitchers I’ve faced, GPAC or otherwise, I would honestly rather hit off anybody but Amanda and Amber," senior Sarah Seymour said. "They are extremely talented and carry our defense well." Seymour and Kassandra Heynen are the other two returning seniors for this season. The Defenders are picked seventh in the polling this year.

Because of last year’s returning players and the fresh new talent, the team should have no problem building on their strengths and targeting their weaknesses. One of their greatest strengths is in the batting box.

“Our lineup has no weak link,” says Sarah. “Whether it be batter #1 or #9, it does not matter. Everyone is capable of getting on base.”

The team is pleased with their four wins in Kansas and enthused to get outside to practice on their defense.

“The girls have worked so incredibly hard at getting their hitting to where it is right now. Our defense is only going to get better once we can get back outside and practice on our field," Nikkel said.

One of the highlights from the trip to Kansas was their second game facing Concordia; a strong competitive opponent just ahead of Dordt in the GPAC.

“We won 11-7 after losing the first game quite severely; we scored runs throughout the whole game, and we were really excited to get our first conference win,” Heynen said.

A completely different team came out the second time around; that victory allowed the girls to build confidence as a team.

“We all have the same goal of making it back to the conference tournament,” Nikkel said.

The team has been there the past two years, and this year they are determined to go as a higher seed.

The team has been there the past two years, and this year they are determined to go as a higher seed.

1. Tell me a little about yourself.
   - Name: Megan Huizenga
   - Hometown: Zeeland, MI
   - Sport: Softball

2. How long have you been playing softball?
   - I’ve been playing since I was four or five.

3. What Major League team do you cheer for?
   - Detroit Tigers. I’ve got to go with the team from my home state.

4. Why should Dordt students go out to watch more softball games?
   - This is Sioux Center — there isn’t much else to do.

7. How do you balance sports and school?
   - Well, depending on the week, I will either work ahead, or cram my studying in late at night after our games. Sadly, it is usually the second one.

8. What are your plans for after graduation?
   - After graduation I hope to go to Grad school to get my Doctorate of Physical Therapy. Where I am going to grad school is still up in the air...I’m taking suggestions.

9. Now the big one—how good are your chances of making it to the MLB?
   - As a bat girl? I’d say my chances are 1 in 10.

Ask an Athlete

Joe Vehuisen
Staff Writer

Top 10 Intramural Team Names

Alex Updike
Staff Writer

Are you kidding me!? There’s yet another intramural season, which means yet another batch of your guys’ (more than slightly) inappropriate names! So if you’ve ever wondered what exactly a sexual innuendo is, read on – you’ll soon find out!

10. The abusement park - Abuse is never funny . . . except in intramurals
9. The SITUAIONal hitters - If the combined IQ of this team is anywhere close to the people in the Jersey Shore house, we’re all in trouble.
8. Endangered feces - Give me a break, I’m a guy. I couldn’t resist a poop joke.
7. Superman dat throw - Is there a dance to this one too?
6. Scared hitless - I might have to bring two pairs of shorts when I play this team.
5. Pitches and bros - I think that . . . maybe . . . this name is a play on words - not really sure though.
4. Victorious secret - To answer your question, yes I do realize this is a repeat from last intramural season . . . no, I don’t care.
3. Dain bramaged - Does everybody get it? It’s like they have brain damage, so the letters got switched around . . . o never mind!
2. Hat trick swayzes - Roadhouse, Dirty Dancing, and Ghost - come on, the guys a legend!
1. We will destroy you and burn your village - It’s not necessarily that I think this is the best name, it’s more that I’m scared what will happen if I don’t think that.

Sports
Senior art show: The last hurrah!

Melghan Aardsma
Staff Writer

Up until April 1st, the Dordt Campus Center Art Gallery will be home to the senior art majors and their bodies of work.

Those participating in this show are Rachel De Jong, Andrew Horner, Andrea Kreykes, Addie Krosschell, Emily Walters, and Josh Wynia.

Together, they bring their best collection of work from their academic careers as students of Dordt College. Those participating in the Senior Show are encouraged not to reshuffle works that they previously presented in their year’s Junior Show.

“There is a maturity between the Junior and Senior shows,” said David Verduin, the organizer of the gallery shows, “The work show that. The Senior show seems to have a more conceptual quality and idea behind the work.”

This show presents a number of different art forms, including photography, graphic design portfolios, paintings, etchings, prints, pottery, graphite drawings, and something a bit different: a demo reel, created by Andrea Kreykes.

Kreykes doubles as a Digital Media Production Major, as well as Graphic Design, and created the reel for her Advanced Video Editing course.

“My reel which is playing in the show is all of my best video pieces set to music created by Talain Rayne,” said Kreykes.

“I consider Videography a heightened form of Photography because you not only reveal the singular picture but you can show the depth of its surroundings.”

Band and Orchestra tour: last stop, Dordt

Tour group at Mechanics Hall in Worcester, MA after a performance. Photo by Mark Vogelzang

Rachel Mulder
Staff Writer

Eleven stops in 11 days for the 2011 Concert Band and Chamber Orchestra Spring Tour which traveled to seven states and one province.

The tour stopped in Iowa, Indiana, Ontario, New York, New Jersey, Michigan, and Illinois and had time to spend a day in Boston, Mass.

“I don’t think the music ensembles have had a free day in Boston before,” said Director Brad Miedema.

Many students enjoyed this day in Boston, including freshman Janna Mulder who had a great first experience on tour.

“I loved Boston; it was such a pretty city,” Mulder said.

The music ensembles go on tour every year, but they rotate which groups take long tours or short tours. The groups only visit the same geographical area once every three years.

“Though we don’t often visit the exact same schools or churches every time,” Miedema said.

The grand finale of the tour was held at Dordt College Friday, Mar. 25. The Concert Band performed a few pieces they performed on tour, followed by the Chamber Orchestra.

The concert was followed by a reception in the Campus Center where small groups of musicians were able to perform as well.

After performing in twelve different places and spending lots of time on a bus, the tour is now complete. The music never stops here at Dordt, but the tour must come to an end.

Dordt photo students take a bite out of the Big Apple

Alex Updike
Staff Writer

Over spring break, eight Dordt students were given the opportunity to travel to New York City for six days to do one thing: take pictures. And that is exactly what they did; from model shoots to street work, members of Dordt’s photography elite were given the opportunity to broaden their photographic horizons and expand on their picture taking skills.

The students experienced so many great opportunities that they had a difficult time narrowing the trip down to just one memorable moment. Jordan Edens, however, was kind enough to try.

Although she made it clear that there was a myriad of memorable moments, she stated that going across the Brooklyn Bridge to a park to view the skyline during one of their night shoots was a definite top memory.

“I’ve always liked skylines,” said Edens. She was thrilled to experience what she called a “legit” skyline.

Aanna Stadem, another Dordt photographer, could not narrow her trip down to one memorable moment, but gave what she considered her highlights.

She loved the fact that the group was able to experience many different parts of New York City, from Canal Street, to Little Russia, to China Town, and even Stanton Island.

She also thoroughly enjoyed how many different types of photography she was able to experience, including photo journalism, street work, and even an extensive model shoot.

However, the trip was not as simple as a group of college kids running amok through New York City with cameras for a week; the students actually did learn.

With so many people taking pictures of the same object, the students were forced to find new and different angles. The students were also critiqued on their shoots.

“We had a couple critiques with Renee Clement (a professional photographer) and Professor Burg and they told us different ways we can edit better” said Stadem.

Eight cameras, New York City, and a group of students with a passion to capture what most of us do not see - sounds like a great spring break to me.
The movie “The Adjustment Bureau” follows the story of a young, impulsive senator candidate, named David, who falls in love with a woman he was not supposed to meet. After learning that both of their destinies have been changed by this action, and that a secret group is working to revert this mistake, David resolves to stay with her, the whole time fighting for his free will.

For the most part, the movie was well made. The acting was believable, and the writing could be quite clever at times. As a rare example of an honest politician, the public likes David, even greeting him on the street. One interesting aspect is how some of the action scenes are designed; not focusing on over-the-top explosions, but rather on the subtlety of a phone call. The titular Bureau has some interest. Though having the appearance of government agents, they are called angels at one point, and their boss, the chairman, is heavily implied to be God. However, the agency acts closer to secret police than angels, and many aspects seem to be left quite vague. Overall, it was still a fun film to watch.

Out of Context

Quotes from professors taken out of context. Interpret them as you wish…

Compiled by Luke Schut

Bob DeSmith: It’s not horses; it’s church.

Jim Schaap:

-OMG, don’t be so male about this.

-Am I losing my voice? Maybe I’m going through adolescence…

-Is the Pope Catholic? Does a bear poop in the woods?!

-Well, we’ve got dead babies in the first one…

Howard Schaap: I felt like this was some sort of Last Supper gone wrong.

Howard Schaap: I am every woman