The day Metallica came to church

Rachel Mulder
Staff Writer

Hard rock and heavy metal—two words that are hardly ever associated with Dordt chapel. They were, though, last Wednesday when Pastor John Van Sloten spoke about his thoughts on Metallica in church.

Van Sloten, author of The Day Metallica Came to Church: Searching for the Everywhere God in Everything says, “Heavy metal helps me know what God’s wrath feels like.”

Van Sloten attended a Metallica concert and enjoyed their “message of anger against the injustice of this culture we’re living in.” He read the lyrics to many Metallica songs after coming home and compared them to scripture.

According to Metallica.com, the band is “the 7th biggest selling act in American history,” even though when many think of this band they think darkness, depression, and anger; three themes many of their songs focus on.

Van Sloten quoted Jeremiah 20: 14-18 from The Message translation that says, “He should have killed me before I was born, with that womb as my tomb, my mother pregnant for the rest of her life with a baby dead in her womb. Why, oh why, did I ever leave that womb? Life’s been nothing but trouble and tears, and what’s coming is more of the same.”

The Bible is not a perfect book; prostitutes, drunks, losers, and people like the Prophet Jeremiah who could, Van Sloten said, be considered a “prophet head banger.”

“There is a place for everyone in Christ’s church—from heavy metal head bangers, to Bible teachers, to fishermen and tax collectors. I think [heavy metal] is kinda goofy because it’s so loud and you can’t understand some lyrics, but I won’t hate on anyone who likes it! I agree that we can find God anywhere. He created everything and can be seen through anything,” student Chris Bylsma said.
“Just Dance, it’s going to be okay”

Adam McDonald
Editor

Dordt hosted “Dea-ncing with the Stars” on Feb. 12 and the dancers were on fire as they one-by-one took the stage.

The winners of the contest were Pastor Verlyn Boone and Mel Knobloch. “Both are very active in their professions and in other community projects,” said Vern Eekhoff, the event’s coordinator. “They both love people and have a great hood mentality. They were popular people even before the dance.”

Knobloch will continue to dance but Pastor Verlyn says that he will stick with his day job for now.

To participate each of the six contestants were asked to have a goal of raising $1,000. Before the program even got started, $10,000 was raised. Over $6,000 was raised from ticket sales, DVDs of the event, and additional donations. Total, the event raised about $17,000.

“The crowd of 850 support was in a great mood and ready to have a fun time,” saidaramel. “The dancers would come back stage after their routine and say, ‘Wow, you can just feel the crowd’s energy’! The show of support was very helpful to Dea’s spirit too. He is on dialysis so the money is being put to good use.”

Runner up Jonny Grotenhuis said that he hopes this event will cause a “Dance Dance Revolution” on campus and get more students to fall in love with dancing.

“Dea-ncing with the Stars” was just a small piece of a big project.

“God’s Spirit was in every phase of the fund raiser,” said Eekhoff.

The Dancers, donors, camera crew, and judges all helped in raising awareness of Dea outside the Sioux Center community.

As an additional fundraiser, there will be a garage sale on Saturday, March 5 in the Grille area. Monetary proceeds and donations will benefit Dea and leftover material donations will go to “Justice for All”. Donations for the garage sale can be donated at the Southview Community Room (in the basement) from 8 p.m. - 10 p.m. Feb. 28-March 3. Bring baked goods the day of the sale by 9 a.m.

Dordt’s got Talent

TX leaves audience entertained, but wanting more variety

Bryan Visser
Staff Writer

Dordt’s annual TX show made for an evening of entertainment and laughs last Saturday night.

Student acts this year included a lot of singing, dancing, and instrumental performances.

One of the house favorites was Corey Muijenberg’s voice impressions act which earned him first-place. Whether it was Nicholas Cage and Elmo robbing a bank, Gallum ordering a pizza from Morgan Freeman, or the Joker explaining his scars, the audience roared in laughter.

The Brown Eyed Girls were a definite crowd pleaser with their way to second place with their fast-paced dance routine.

The members of Stick it 305 won the viewer’s choice award for their dance routine wearing glow-in-the-dark sticks on their suits. “We had a blast,” said Stick it 305 member Sarah De Jong.

Other acts included a duet, a human puppet show, and an “August Rush” guitar solo, among a variety of other vocal and instrumental performances. Even the hosts, Aaron Coon and Devin Williams, got involved as Coon played the flute with his nose.

“I loved the show,” said Andrew Tacoma. “I thought all the acts were really good this year.”

In contrast to previous years, though, some students thought that this year’s TX did not have as much variety. “There were far fewer random acts,” said Tacoma. “It was almost all singing and dancing.”

“I think people had the Bieber fever,” said Coon. “That’s just how it goes sometimes.”

Nevertheless, spectators maintained positive views on the show. “It was good,” said student Stephen Pederson. “It was the best of the three years I’ve been here.”

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When we lose the ones we love...
In light of recent deaths that have effected many students on Dordt’s campus, Linda Van Wyk of student services reaches out with encouraging words.

Linda Van Wyk
Guest Writer

“I heard your mom died. I, uh, hope that goes well for you.” This was one of the first well-meaning but uncomfortable comments I received from a fellow Dordt student when I returned back to campus after my mother’s funeral five years ago. I had watched her suffer significantly through two occurrences of cancer and, post-funeral, had now returned to Dordt to start off a new semester. It’s a strange experience to witness someone you love pass away in the midst of a college community.

It’s hard to be a student in the midst of the typical routine of classes, meetings, activities, and homework, all while trying to process losing someone you love. It’s hard to play the role of student and friend when you’re suffering in a way that those around you don’t understand. It’s even harder to listen to everyone try their best to express sympathy and comfort—dealing with their fumbling words and sometimes trite condolences.

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More difficult still is how quickly everyone else’s lives go back to normal when yours is still stuck in the limbo of loss. The cards, flowers, and prayers last a week or two perhaps, but the grief for a loved one never truly leaves; it’s more like a constant companion that is sometimes silent, almost invisible, even, but never gone. There are anniversaries of deaths that go unnoticed by all but the one grieving.

Recently a number of persons in the Dordt College community have been touched by the loss of a loved one. Anna Kalis, Case Ryzebol and Janelle Thomas recently lost their fathers, and many others in the area were impacted by the death of Western Christian student Trisha Wood. As a community of Christian brothers and sisters, we grieve for them and with them. We remember that Christ is the one who enters into our suffering with us, and whose love sustains us as we face the prospect of dark tomorrows.

Sometimes as Christians I think we try to fast forward through pain as though we were a people ill-suited for grief. We convince ourselves that Christians should avoid sorrow in the face of death, and it is true that there is a place for hope in the resurrection. Nevertheless, lament is natural component of grief, and the loss inherent in death ought to cause lament to spring forth.

Lamentations 3:19-23 gives us a good picture of both the reality of suffering and the comfort of God’s faithfulness: “I remember my affliction and my wandering, the bitterness and the gall, I well remember, and my soul is downcast within me. Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: Because of the Lord’s great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.”

As people striving to support those who are grieving, we can do our best to be the outpouring of this faithfulness. We can listen, sometimes silently, to those who are hurting; we can remind ourselves that, although our lives may become busy with everyday tasks, there are those among us who feel isolated by their grief. In the midst of this suffering, sometimes the best we can do is to simply be a friend.

Dea Lupei is one step closer to a kidney thanks to Dordt fundraiser

Adam McDonald
Editor

Now that the dancing has stopped and the “stars” have gone back to their normal lives, we are taking a closer look at Dea Lupei’s condition and the progress of raising the funds to help him.

Dea has developed a disease in which the capillaries in his kidneys scar over. This could potentially result in death.

“Gradually, the kidney becomes unusable,” said Ron Ryders from Dordt’s Human Resources. “His kidneys have deteriorated to the point where death is near, and so we helped him go on dialysis, which he takes three times a week. This keeps him alive, but it’s expensive, and it drains the small intake of money we have been raising.”

Ryders said they have several donors, at least two from the Dordt community, and have gathered enough money to start the process. They are still, however, in need of huge portions of funds in order to proceed to the transplant stage.

No matter what the outcome of the situation, Dea’s life will change.

“He cannot return to Ivory Coast simply on dialysis because there is no machinery there to serve his needs,” said Ryders. “When he gets back with a transplanted kidney, he will have to be on medication for the rest of his life which is going to be expensive as well.”

Ryders says they are all dedicated to helping him for the long haul. “Many days, Dea gets very sad and lone-some,” said Ryders. “We love him and he loves us, but we are not his people. He tries hard to trust God in all things, but his spirit lags some days.”

The man behind the Dea-ncing

Lake Schol
Staff Writer

It may not have all your business and financial news, but it’s a great read when you’re on the can.

That’s right, the Dordt Library’s Stall Street Journal brings you all the latest information and what’s happening in the library, and it’s conveniently packaged for your personal use while you answer nature’s call.

The newsletter started in October when Library Director Sheryl Taylor heard about Calvin College’s bathroom newsletter from her dad.

“I thought that would be easy to do,” said Taylor.

Taylor and her staff brainstormed names for the newsletter, but it was Professor Nick Bremin who came up with the name, “Stall Street Journal.”

The newsletter takes information and articles from the library’s blog and website and packages them in a Microsoft Office template for, as Taylor said, “something of a captive audience” that might not read the websites.

“We didn’t devote the time if we were doing it from scratch,” said Taylor. “[This way] we could repack [the information] and put it there for a different audience.”

The newsletter usually has a story from the library’s blog, information on new movies, and a short teaser review for a new book in the leisure along with a library joke.

“We like the mix of content,” said Taylor. “The jokes are terrible, but they fit.”

The Stall Street Journal also spices the library bathrooms. “The bathrooms are a little drab,” said Taylor, “it adds some color in there.”

So far, the response has been good. “It’s only been here and there from a few people, but all the comments we’ve heard have been positive,” Taylor said.

So stop by the library, visit the john, and find out what’s going on.
Kelly Zatlin
Editor

He walks down the abandoned dark halls of the grade school that has been a part of his life since kindergarten. “This place is like home,” he says. He knows these halls like the back of his hand. Unlike his hand, though, this place hasn’t changed a bit. He points out his old locker and smiles. The memories of the years he has spent here as a student and as a janitor come flooding back.

He scrubbed toilets and swept floors in this building since eighth grade, alongside both of his older brothers. He sweated floors in this building that would make the hospital almost the entire month. That’s why he is still alive.

The most significant thing about this story is that he is still scrubbing toilets. He is still walking. He is still going to college. He is still eating big, juicy steaks. He is still watching football. He is still living, laughing, and loving. He is still alive.

Ben Olthoff is now striving to live his life as a junior at Dordt College as normally as possible, a year and a half after having 75 percent of his body left with severe burns that almost cost him his life.

“Sometimes I wonder why I am still alive. Like I wonder why God chose to save me.”

“I prefer not to notice but I’ll know every time,” said Ben. “I don’t really care about being ignored, though, I’d rather have that then have people focus on me. I never speak my mind about it because I don’t want to be the focal point of a joke to people. It’s not like I go home and cry about it or anything.”

The worst pain that Ben feels today is emotional, but even then he has very high spirits and lives a life very similar to that one he had before.

Dordt College student Jana Van Zanten doesn’t know Ben, but she, like Drew De Vries and Zack Peterson, knows him and his story.

“Ben is a pretty cool guy, I guess,” said Zack Peterson, one of Ben’s roommates and long-time friends. “We like to think we’re the fun ones in the room.”

These guys spend some of their free-time playing video games like Call of Duty, Halo, and Mario kart. They are your typical guys.

Zack and Ben have known each other since elementary school. He went to visit Ben while he was in the hospital not long after the accident. Ben ended up with burns on 75 percent of his body and at the time of the accident, Ben had a 25 percent chance to live.

The most pain he ever felt was after skin graft surgeries. He was overcome with so many drugs during the first couple months that he can’t remember much physical pain.

A burn on your skin is burned, everything else on Ben, besides one of his pinky fingers that doesn’t bend, is completely normal.

“I didn’t lose anything,” said Ben, surprise and shock in his voice. “I mean, I’m not sure if I’m as right as I used to be, but that’s why I go to the rec I guess.”

Ben considers himself a miracle.

“Sometimes I wonder why I am still alive,” said Ben. “Like I wonder why God chose to save me.”

One of the reasons why Ben kept fighting for his life in the hospital was his parents. His mom stayed at the hospital almost the entire five months, while his dad came up practically every weekend.

“It’s amazing what they sacrificed to be with me in the hospital,” said Ben. “Looking back, I think that I might have given up if it wasn’t for them. I saw how much they loved me and I just couldn’t let them down. They are a huge part of my recovery and I couldn’t have done it without them.”

Their love for Ben is a huge reason why he continues to live the life he has today.

Back at Sioux Center Christian School, Ben showed the ball and scores. He dribbles and continues to shoot hoops as music blares from boom boxes placed at the side of the court. Today was a snow day for Sioux Center Christian, so instead of cleaning the school, he decided to play a little bit of basketball in the empty gym and procrastinate on homework.

SSCS is Ben’s escape from everything. “I come here by myself sometimes to just not think about things. Sometimes I’m just there. Sometimes I’m yelling and screaming,” said Ben.

This place really means a lot to him. To many, it is just a school building, but for Ben it is his childhood, his summer memories, good and bad, and a place where he formed some of his greatest friends.

“I’ve been here for so long I feel as if I’m a part of the school. It’s like a second home,” said Ben.

“So, what do you call the place?” said Peterson.

“I don’t know if I’d ever be able to make it through that,” Ben said.

Ben doesn’t know what the future holds for him, but he is alive and knows that there was a reason why God spared his life that summer even if he can’t understand why.

Ben hopes to attend graduate school after his junior year. He doesn’t know where he will go from there. He is confident about one thing though. He is not going to go back to being a hog farmer. God has plans for Ben that are bigger than we can imagine. Ben’s life almost ended a year and a half ago, but today, he is more alive than ever.

“One of my earliest memories (in the hospital) is one of the nurses telling me that I was lucky and that I must have a higher calling,” said Ben. “Is it for some specific reason that I am alive and do I have some higher calling? Why did God save me instead of somebody else that has a lot more potential for doing something? Am I actually following God’s calling for me? Honestly, I think about this every day and I have not been able to come up with the answer. Let’s just say that I’m a little confused.”

Every day Ben has to deal with people staring. He can’t walk to class or work out in the gym without having people look at his burned skin.

“As soon as you get past that barrier, Ben is one of the funniest guys I know.”

Ben doesn’t know what the future holds for him, but he is alive and knows that there was a reason why God spared his life that summer even if he can’t understand why.
Acolorouslyconsistentscanc of theGrill area on a busy afternooncan reveal a lot about Dordt as a student body. There are pocketsof maroon, blue,black,and goldscattered amongtheadultsandchildren. Friends chatter—amongothers—abouttheweather back home, the latest engagements, andreports from localgossip markedby names of peoplethat thenext tableover doesn’t recognize.

We all came here with a story, aclaim to fame, a color, and ablackstock of T-shirts. “Illana Softball,” “WesternChristian (fill in the blank),” “Pella Eagles,” “CaidetCheerleaders,” “Okalahoma Cats,” “Blue Crew,” “LyndenBasketball,” “Unity DrillTeam.” And the everpopular: “StateChamps.” We’ve all seen it, we’ve all worn it. Some of us are blessed to enter this institution with ourfriends and team mates. We’ve known themforever and know that we can count on them; they know the people and places in ourstories and remember our moments of glory and fame in high school— we meantowear allprettyawesomemost of the time. But why did we all gather in the middle of this cornfield—lacedquarry Timbuktu? For the majority of us, we’re here to prepare for a career and to makefriends and build relationships along the way. Unfortunately, instead of going out and building those relationships, we tend to stick to what we know best.

The kid behind you in theGrill line doesn’t really care that you went to state or that you were the lead in the school play. Every single kid on this campus has his or her own story to tell. Branch out! Sit at a new table. Try on anew color! This is a campuscommunity full of amazing people—takeadvantage of it.

The “Western” Way

Adrian Hilema Columnist

Guns N’ Moses. I can’t help but let out a chuckle looking at that T-shirt hanging in front of me. I’m in the old city of Jerusalem, which lies between theMount of Olives, theCity of David, and the Temple area, placesyou half-paid attention to in Sunday School. The other T-shirts hanging in thestorefront all seem to revolve around puns on theword Jew, there’s a “Just Jew It,” “Jew-Us,” and a “Jew talking to me!” shirt with a picture of the very non-Jewish Robert De Niro plastered on it.

There’s something about being conquered no less than 37 times throughout history that gives Jerusalem a very unique sense of humor. T-shirts from the Jaffa Gate store captured this.

“For your girlfriend!” Almost every T-shirt I passed by carried the inscription “Buy a very nice scarf here, for your boyfriend!”

Despite the jokes, there is a darker undertone to the city. It’s common to help noticing that, of the three “Middle-East” countries I’ve been in, Israel is the only one where the local store has a section dedicated to Jewish relations.

There’s also the mandatory military service, for men and women. And then there’s the security checkpoint to reach the Western Wall. It’s not that I haven’t gotten used to armed men eying me down, I’ve just gotten used to it. Luckily even the past month and a half, it’s just that, usually they’re men. On this particular day I found myself under the examining eye of a rather attractive female soldier, dressed in the same olive-green military fatsigues as the boys around her. Something about the way she was stroking the M-16 hanging from her shoulder made me think twice about asking her if it hurt when she fell from heaven.

I couldn’t help noticing, I don a Kippah, the famous Jewish cap, and head down to the wall myself. There’s a sign to my right that reads, “Dear visitor, you are now entering the Western Wall Plaza, where the Holy Presence always rests. Please act and dress modestly.”

I’m wearing a Dordt College Tshirt and some dirt-stainedbluejeans. Close enough.

To my right, a group of about 200 Israeli soldiers have formed a miniature mosh pit. They’re all jumping up and down, waving Israeli flags, and singing in unison. The words are in Hebrew; given our location I assume it’s some sort of religious chant about the holiest open section along the wall, wiggling into the free space, and reach out to touch the stone. A quick moment is all that’s needed; I quickly make way for the people who place more importance in the wall than I do, and head up the plaza away from the crowds.

On my way out, I overhear a tour guide: “They have initiation services here for Israeli soldiers. They bring in Israeli flags, piled with M-16 assault rifles, one piled with Hebrew Bibles. As you finish your initiation you pick up a scarf.”

A holy and strange land, indeed. Harry Truman once said that the modern state of Israel was “an embodiment of the great ideals of our civilization.” I’m still not sure if that’s a good thing.

The “Western” Way Columnist

Too much, too little: Time for Tomfoolery

My last article lamented the downfall of the rock scene at Dordt. At the risk of sounding a bit of a goody-two-shoes, I wish to lament another downfall in Dordt culture as of late. I need more pranks.

When one crams a boatload of creative students who are surrounded in a strange limbo between high school immaturity and apprehension towards adult life, the resulting mix ought to produce a wealth of shenanigans and tomfoolery. I’ve reconstructed a roommate’s Southview bedroom on the soccer field. Coffee grounds have been packed inside showerheads. Snowmen have been built on beds. For that matter, whole cars have been encased in snow. Rotten deer jerky (only in the Psycho Dwarf) has been strewn above ceiling tiles. And all of these are fairly lame in the history of Dordt student pranks.

Old classmates have broken into the library in the wee hours of the morning to play laser tag. Freshmen have raged at the top of the Co-op elevator with a giant slingshot to fling water balloons at stranded Dordt students leaving Doc’s dances. Alumni once hacked Professor Mahaffy’semail account and sent campus-wideemails under his name.

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The students who hacked Mahaffy’s email account and sent campus-wide emails under his name.

Furthermore, both sexes exhibit and encourage bad behavior in one way or another.

Then it seems, when we can’t be nice to each other, mutual defamation is the way to go—holding both sexes up to certain double standards, trying to figure out what each can get away with. It’s not the same.

While I was in London, I encountered many beautiful British and European men every day, as did the other girls. So when we passed by a group of guys in tailored suits sipping on pints of beer outside a pub, I said with some envy to my girlfriends, “I think viewing women as objects is wrong, but I have no problem objectifying men.”

We enjoyed the view, had a good laugh, and went on our way after making eyes with them.

Does that make us sexist, or can we get away with that?
Defender Baseball kicks off season with young team, but new potential

Gail Dirksen
Staff Writer

It is that time of year again: the smell of spring and the sound of bats cracking surround Dordt’s campus as the baseball team prepares to kick off its much anticipated season.

The Defenders have been practicing with hard work and much enthusiasm and they are more than ready to face the conference with their wide spread talent. Twelve fresh players will be coming in for Dordt.

“We are very young this year compared to most years,” said Head Coach Jeff Schouten.

“We graduated some key players last year.”

However, this year’s team is not without their strengths.

“We have the potential to play good defense and manufacture runs,” said Schouten.

“Our top pitcher from last year, Patrick Sinnema, returns as a senior and we have been able to add some quality new arms too.”

Dordt, however, remains competitive and has the will to win.

“With a young team, it is going to be important for our guys to scratch and claw for conference wins, and so far our competitive attitude has been a real positive,” said Sinnema.

The team will face a grueling battle to fill out the last five qualifying spots for the GPAC tourney against teams such as Northwestern, Doane, and Mount Marty.

The Defenders will see their first spring action this week against Manhattan College on the road in Manhattan, Kansas. They will be testing their mettle against the Central Region’s Champ Crusaders.

The first home game will be Friday, March 4 against Peru State at 2 p.m.

Despite rough Blades season, coach remains optimistic about next year

Kristin Janssen
Staff Writer

After failing to make Regional play-offs following three back-to-back years qualifying for Nationals, some hockey hopefuls may call the Blades’ latest season a disappointment.

Although he had expected last year to be the toughest year because of the loss of key athletes, Coach Bill Elgersma conceded that this year was much more challenging with many inexperienced freshmen.

“For the majority of the team, all the aspects of competitive, college hockey were new,” said Elgersma.

Even with that challenge, Elgersma is optimistic for future seasons due to the potential and growth his team has made during this past season.

“I’m confident my freshmen will lead by example next year,” said Elgersma, mentioning that players who had never played in contact league and didn’t understand how to hit properly or take a hit will be able to lead by sharing mistakes learned, allowing new teammates to catch on more quickly.

With a positive outlook towards next season, Elgersma also addressed the rumor that the Blades’ credibility is being questioned.

“The conference the Blades are a part of, not the team itself, has lost credibility,” Elgersma said.

One of them, Andrew Deelstra, has enjoyed the camaraderie between the returning players and incoming freshmen.

“Most of [the veterans] are pretty friendly,” Deelstra said, and “most of them know our names, which is pretty cool.”

The Sower’s do not play until March 26 but are already hard at work preparing for their first games. “With the skill and motivation from our captains we should be able to overcome our difficult schedule,” Jordan said.

With most of their returning players, and a plethora of fresh bodies, the Dordt Sowers should be well on their way to a successful season on the field.

As a team, I expect to go to the GPAC tournament and finish top 3 in the conference.

What do you look forward to most about this season? Winning and going to Arizona for Spring break.

What is your most memorable experience on the field? It was my freshman year here at Dordt. Well, I eat a lot.. and we got cookies in between games. I would take them, and every time I stole a base, I would pull a cookie out of my backpack and eat it. I like stealing bases and eating, so it was great.

Who’s your favorite major league baseball team? LA Dodgers

For those of us watching the Wii dance battle in Kuyper the other weekend, how often do you play dance games? Try to add some quality new arms to the starting pitching rotation runs,” said Schouten.

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Alex Updike
Staff Writer

It’s about that time of the year again: No, not baseball season, not softball season, not outdoor track, and not basketball playoffs. It’s time for the Dordt lacrosse team to start up its new season as a Dordt club sport.

After a record of 3-5 in their previous season, the Sowers have bigger expectations for the upcoming slate of games.

“The lacrosse team looks great this year,” said goalie Jordan Yntema, “we have high expectations as we lost very few players from last year.

“We definitely have lots of skill from our many returning players and have got some skilled freshmen.”

The Sower’s roster this year is indeed ripe with talented freshmen.
Dordt holds first ever student composition recital

Dordt student Jonathan Posthuma showcased many of his original compositions Friday afternoon in the B.J. Haan Auditorium.

Posthuma performed his own piano and organ pieces and directed a group of 15 other hand-picked performers. His final piano performance included muting strings, throwing a hymnal on the floor, and tapping strings with pencils.

The most difficult part of composing, Posthuma said, was notating—writing down what he plays and making the two match. He began composing in high school but became more familiar with composition in college.

Although Posthuma's performance included parts for over 10 other instruments, he admitted the piano was his primary instrument of choice. "I understand it the most," said Posthuma, "but I like to try different stuff as well."

His favorite piece of the evening was "Clustered Hymn Tunes" as a part of his "Five Studies for Piano." The piece required a hymnbook to play piano clusters and a complicated process to notate.

Posthuma says he was perhaps influenced most by the composer Igor Stravinsky, and that he listens to a "composer of the month." Other influences include Posthuma’s family farm landscape, contemporary poets, and the B.J. Haan Auditorium’s architecture.

As a Choral and Instrumental music Education major, Posthuma wishes to attend graduate school for composition. In the meantime, though, he hopes to promote his music and enter composition contests.

"Voices," a piece for piano and mezzo-soprano, has recently been chosen to be performed at the University of Central Missouri and will be Posthuma’s first composition performed away from Dordt.

Prairie Grass Film Challenge Awards

The fifth annual Prairie Grass Film Festival award ceremony saw a lot of “firsts” last Friday night in the BJ Haan auditorium. The ceremony, hosted by Mark Volkers and Mark Verbruggen, featured a new high school category award, a live band, and hundreds of balloons that fell from the ceiling.

There were 25 films that were submitted this year, and at the beginning of the awards they showed a one minute video with clips from all the films entered.

All the contestants were required to make a comedy film that included the same line of dialogue in their scripts, which was "How many times have we done this?"

In addition to the "best of show" and "runner up" awards, they added a "best of show" award in a high school category.

The top two films in the high school category were shown with A Different Drum productions film winning "best of show" in the first high school category.

Next, the top four films in the college level were shown. Paper Route Productions took the runner up prize, though none of the members were there to take it. Paragon Productions took the Best of Show in the college level, and the whole group was there to claim the check and the coveted "Dordty" award.

This group won once before and when asked if they had any advice for future film makers they all agreed that you have to have fun with it.

The award ceremony came to a close with hundreds of balloons falling down from the ceiling.

“New York, New York” Photography students will hit the streets of NYC for spring break

This spring break Doug Burg, who teaches Photography at Dordt, is taking eight students up to New York City for a six day workshop.

The workshop is also being facilitated by award winning photographer René Clement.

“This is our first time doing this," said Burg. “This past November I had the best Photography class I’ve had, and as a reward I wanted to take them to New York.”

For the workshop, Burg and his students will be flying out to New York City and staying at the Carlton Arms, a 54 room hotel where every room and hallway has been uniquely redecorated by artists all over the world.

The plan for this workshop is to have the students explore and experience the city, shoot all day, and then come back to the hotel to edit and critique all night. On the last night, the group will be heading to Clement’s house for a final critique.

One of the main projects that Burg has set up for the workshop is doing some mission work for Terry Troia, the director of Project Hospitality.

Troia helps in taking care of the homeless as well as those with HIV and drug addictions. He provides services such as food kitchens, clinics, and housing.

Here the students will be taking pictures and filming videos for promotional, fundraising, and documentary uses.

“I’ve wanted to go to New York since I was a little kid," said Zac Edens, one of the students going on the workshop. “Hopefully I’ll bring back some contact information too.”

In addition to this workshop, the group is also planning on visiting one of the largest camera stores in the world, a book signing and gallery opening, Chinatown, Ground Zero, Green-Wood cemetery, and Time Square. Burg is also hoping to get them behind the scenes of Broadway.
Comic Mishaps

by Meghan Aardsma

Keep that “Buried” Dollar in your Pocket

By: Joe Venhuizen, Staff Writer and Adam McDonald, Editor

“When the description on the DVD said that ‘Buried’ was the story of a man buried underground for ninety minutes, I wondered where the plot could possibly go. It was something hard to enjoy. Considering that even the viewers were locked in the coffin for an hour and a half, it was a good number of plot holes and indiscrepancies that were tough to ignore.”– Joe

“All in all, ‘Buried’ left a lot to be desired. It had some intense scenes and some real suspense at times, but the everlasting cell phone battery, the lighter that doesn’t burn up his oxygen, and the out-of-the-blue rattlesnake made this movie more of a comedy for me than a thriller.”– Joe

Dave De Wit

Columnist

Keys to Fake Success

by Dave De Wit

Today’s lesson: Rubik’s Cube

Easy Way
Step 1: Buy a Rubik’s Cube.
Step 2: Pretend you solved it and show it off in a prominent place.

Hard Way
Step 1: Get one side completely solved along with the top rows that are touching that side.
Step 2: Follow the algorithm D L’ D’ F’ D F until you have two full layers and a side completed. It’s tricky, but you can do it!
Step 3: If the bottom layer has an L shape, put the L pointing in the top left corner and do: F U R U’ R’ F’. If the bottom layer has a horizontal line on it, do: F R U’ R F’. Do this until you get a cross on the bottom. Stay with me, you’re almost done!
Step 4: Take your bottom cross and permute the corners by doing the algorithm: L U’ R’ U L’ U’ R U U. Continue this until the desired corners have been properly permuted.
Step 5: Your Rubik’s Cube should be complete!
Step 6: Once you realize that it isn’t even close to being completed…
Step 7: Peel off the colored stickers and put them back on in the right place.

Congratulations! You’re now a fake successful Rubik’s Cube solver!

Out of Context

Luke Schut
Copy Editor

Here at Dordt we respect our professors. We listen to their lectures and glean from their wisdom. However, there are instances where when they say things, it has to be taken out of context.

Jim Schaap: You mean do you have to wear a hoop skirt and all that?

Jim Schaap: You have the blessings of the Pope to hand in your papers late.

Jim Schaap: Put him in the front of the battle line and someone will kill him off.

Matt Drissel: You are welcome to remove your clothing.

Jim Schaap: Unless some of you are closet carnes...