Rick Santorum scheduled to speak for Presidential Lecture Series

Kelly Zatlin
Editor

With a new election year on its way, the Dordt Political Action Committee is getting a first-hand experience in politics as they help to organize Presidential Lecture Series on campus.

Former U.S. Senator Rick Santorum will be speaking at Dordt on Monday, May 2 for the third Presidential lecture, hosted by the Family Leader.

“The Family Leader sets it up, but we help organize it on campus,” said DPAC member, Emily Rens.

Before the lecture begins, there will be an invitation only “Leadership Roundtable” where influential members of the community can come to discuss issues with Santorum. This allows business owners and prominent members of the community to ask questions about legislation that affects them directly.

Santorum will begin his lecture to the public at 4:30 p.m. and everyone at Dordt and from the community is encouraged to attend this event.

DPAC founder Hank Houtman said, “The Presidential Lecture Series is an important opportunity for students to further gain a perspective on possible future presidents.”

The DPAC recognizes the importance of knowing what is going on in politics and wants Dordt students to be aware as well.

Rick Santorum, whose website slogan is “fighting to make America America again,” is a Republican from Pennsylvania who served in the US senate from 1995 to 2007.

To name a few of his accomplishments, in 2000 he was elected to the position of Senate Republican Conference Chairman, he wrote the 2005 New York Times Best Seller, It Takes a Family, and he formed legislation that outlawed procedures known as Partial Birth Abortions.

As stated by his website, Santorum is a family man, “most proud of his role as a husband and father.”

DPAC president Chris Van Dam recognizes this importance and wants the Dordt community to experience it as well.

“The Presidential Lecture Series offers an amazing opportunity for students and the community of Sioux Center to hear them speak on family issues and to interact with the presidential hopefuls in a positive manner,” said Van Dam.

TOMS: Shoes for a cause?

Kristin Janssen
Staff Writer

Noticed those colored and lightweight canvas shoes popping up all over Dordt’s campus recently? Although not ideal for wet weather conditions, they aren’t just appearing because Iowa’s snow is finally gone (for now). TOMS Shoes are not only popular at Dordt; other campuses across the United States are also experiencing the same fashion trend. In fact, TOMS are becoming quite the pandemic.

The shoes sell for $50 for the classic style, while patterned, wedge, and wrap boot styles cost as much as $80. Mycoskie claims TOMS also give off an eco-friendly, hippie-like style. However, according to two TOMS-owning Dordt students, there are more important reasons to wear the shoes.

Recently, Mycoskie chose to film a promotional video for TOMS Shoes at Biola University in Southern California. The students at Biola already knew about TOMS—the trend has hit harder in California than Iowa due to the company’s headquarters being located in Santa Monica, California.

Every student involved in the production of the film on Biola’s campus was given a pair of TOMS.

So what makes TOMS so popular? The shoes sell for $50 for the classic style, while patterned, wedge, and wrap boot styles cost as much as $80. Mycoskie claims TOMS also give off an eco-friendly, hippie-like style. However, according to two TOMS-owning Dordt students, there are more important reasons to wear the shoes.

TOMS shoes are created by the Blake Mycoskie, a young American traveler who grew to love the bare-foot children in Argentina during a trip to South America in 2006.

He based the style of the shoe off the Argentine “alpargata” shoe. Upon his return, Mycoskie decided to create TOMS Shoes, a company that gives a child in need a pair of shoes with every pair purchased. Within a year, Mycoskie was able to return to Argentina with friends and family to give 10,000 pairs of shoes to the children in need because of TOMS customers’ purchases.

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Sophomore Alex Geleynse wears the shoes because he likes the “idea behind the organization.” Having spent two months in Africa, he has seen and interacted with children too poor to own shoes. “Wearing my TOMS is a reminder of the children,” he said.

Victoria Johnston, another sophomore TOMS owner, agrees with Geleynse. “I like the idea—one pair for a kid who doesn’t have a pair. It’s great.” Johnston also mentioned a drawback with the TOMS Shoes organization. She commented that buying children shoes and personally sending or hand-delivering those to the children would be much more personal than the TOMS situation.

Whether the TOMS Shoes company is the best way to provide children in need with shoes can be debated. However, the truth still stands. The TOMS trend is running through campuses across the United States.
Delayed spring weather in Sioux County

On Thursday, April 28, Spring has been overcast in Sioux Center, IA as we reached the monthly precipitation average and have not yet seen the sun.

Weather.com statistics say that the highest temperature so far for this month of April was 79°F and the lowest was 32°F. The average precipitation in April is 2.83 inches and so far we have received 2.84 inches.

In the Midwest there have been, “violent and destructive severe thunderstorms,” said Chris Dolce, meteorologist for weather.com. “Not to be left out are a couple of significant snowfall events across the Midwest.”

Senior Meteorologist Stu Ostro from weather.com calls the April atmosphere “supercharged.”

Harry Hillaker, State Climatologist at the Iowa Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship predicted 4.0 to 5.5 inches of snowfall for March 2011 in Sioux County.

“Precipitation was fairly even distributed throughout the month and was generally greater than normal over the northeast one-third of Iowa…greatest snow amounts of three to five inches fell over north central and northeast Iowa,” Hillaker said.

The delayed spring could be a result of the delayed snow this winter, but keep in mind that weather can change in an instant, especially in Sioux County.

Fighting the freshman 15

Luke Schut
Staff Writer

Your school year is coming to an end. If you’re a freshman (or even if you’re not) you may be worrying about the freshman 15, those pounds that many college students gain when they come to school. Well, matters aren’t as dire as you may think.

Generally, students gain weight when they come to school because they’re getting away from their parents. At school, students have full control of what they eat, and that can end up meaning lots of Mountain Dew, pizza, and Cheetos because mom isn’t there to make sure they don’t ruin their dinner.

Exercise habits often change when students enter college, too. Fewer people are involved in athletic activities, and having more homework means less time to get out and exercise. In Sioux Center, the -15 wind that persists through nearly half the school year also deters students from getting out and running around, meaning fewer calories are burned.

Finally, all that studying can get you to students. While people sit and read their homework or type their papers, they’re not burning a lot of calories. If someone happens to have that bag of Cheetos within reach, he might find himself absent-mindedly eating the whole bag while studying the mating habits of cougars.

So what can you do about it for next year? To start, the Rec Center has some great options including a track, racquetball, and stationary bikes. Just a short ride on a bike can be a good step.

To make sure you work out, find a workout buddy and set a time to work out. Having a set time and someone expecting you can do wonders for your commitment, and the socializing is a great break from all that studying.

The best most important advice, though, is to simply watch what you eat. The Commons always has salad and other healthy foods available, and you don’t need to have a massive ice cream sundae with every meal (even though they’re really good). Fill up on salad and other healthy foods before you break into the main course, and you’ll end up taking in fewer calories. Also, watching what you bring to your room can help both under- and upperclassmen. If you have a tendency to snack, don’t buy chips or cookies, or limit the amount you eat by placing them in a bowl instead of bringing the entire bag to your desk. You can also try healthy snack alternatives. Get some apples and peanut butter instead of a packet of cookies. It’s tasty and healthy.

Finally and most importantly, don’t sweat it. Gaining a little weight isn’t the end of the world, and you don’t need to go on a crazy diet because of the freshman 15. Chances are that you’re actually pretty normal weight-wise anyway, even if you don’t look like a movie star.

If you’re still worried, avoid those cookies and take a jog at the Rec Center a few times a week with some friends. Just focus on staying healthy and don’t worry about the weight.

Ideafest, allowing students from all fields to exchange ideas

Rachel Mulder
Staff Writer

“Rain, rain, go away!” Spring has been overcast in Sioux Center, IA as we reached the monthly precipitation average and have not yet seen the sun.

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Ideafest, allowing students from all fields to exchange ideas

Alex Updike
Staff Writer

Have you ever wondered what exciting topics your friends are working on in class? Do you sit and wish you could learn about all the awesome subjects you do not have the time to take? Are you hungry and craving pizza? If you answered “yes” to any of these questions then Ideafest is the event for you!

On Thursday, April 28, students from all academic disciplines will have the opportunity to present their work in front of their peers and professors.

“Ideafest is an opportunity for students from all majors to present their academic work,” said faculty coordinator Professor Fessler. “Academic work doesn’t often draw the large crowds or the standing ovations of other student accomplishments. Events such as Ideafest offer a venue for a celebration of God-given talents across the curriculum.

Individual presentations will last about ten minutes, with five minutes for discussion. The event itself runs from 2:45 until 5:30 and involves about 70 presentations from more than 80 students and covers topics from Psychology, English, Engineering and many more. All students, and the general public, are invited to come share in what others are doing.

The best most important advice, though, is to simply watch what you eat. The Commons always has salad and other healthy foods available, and you don’t need to have a massive ice cream sundae with every meal (even though they’re really good). Fill up on salad and other healthy foods before you break into the main course, and you’ll end up taking in fewer calories. Also, watching what you bring to your room can help both under- and upperclassmen. If you have a tendency to snack, don’t buy chips or cookies, or limit the amount you eat by placing them in a bowl instead of bringing the entire bag to your desk. You can also try healthy snack alternatives. Get some apples and peanut butter instead of a packet of cookies. It’s tasty and healthy.

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Prairie Grass Productions honored with Webby Award

Kelly Zatlin
Editor

Dordt’s own Prairie Grass Productions recently received a Webby Award for their involvement in a filming project, teamed up with Mission India and Click Rain online marketing.

A Webby is a very sought after award that recognizes and honors great work that people have done online. According to Click Rain’s website, over 10,000 entries were submitted to the 15th annual Webby Awards, while less than 10 percent were distinguished as Official Honorees.

As stated by Click Rain’s website, “When it comes to recognition in the online space, the Webby Awards are at the top of the pile.”

Click Rain teamed up with Prairie Grass productions, Mission India, and Sonlight Curriculum to create a ten episode web series called “My Passport to India.” The project began during Christmas of 2009 when Dordt’s digital media professor, Mark Volkers, was approached by former Dordt College graduate, Josh Visser, the project’s communication director.

“Josh is the creative power behind the whole thing,” said Volkers. “Last Christmas, a year ago, Josh called and said we just received a grant to do a huge project in India. They wanted to know if Prairie Grass Productions could help them do the heavy lifting on this project.”

They hired Chris Ogny, a Lutheran pastor from the Baltimore area, as their on camera host and spent twelve days filming ten different episodes throughout India.

In each episode, Ogny takes the viewer on a different adventure in India, exposing them to the culture and showing how God is working in the lives of the Indian people.

Sonlight, a Christian homeschooling organization, was really the founder of this idea to film in India. “They provided the money to make these series of episodes,” said Volkers. “They produced this whole series and marketed it to Sonlight customers.”

People from all over the world signed up to view and receive these episodes that came out twice a week for five weeks. Their goal was originally to raise $150,000 through the episode sales, but they ended up raising $300,000.

“All these people started signing up,” said Volkers. “We literally had people from Antarctica to Zambia.”

Volkers and former Dordt student Dale Vande Griend did a lot of the filming in India and then came back to Iowa to do all the post-production and editing in Dordt’s own media lab. Another Dordt graduate, Dan Kasten, moved out to Sioux Center for eight weeks to help with the post-production.

Prairie Grass Productions entered the website and episodes into several contests, but never expected to be Webby Honorees.

“We didn’t have high expectations to win so we were delighted when we did,” said Volkers. “It’s not just Prairie Grass, though. We couldn’t have done it without Click Rain or Mission India.”

Prairie Grass Productions also received a Davey Award for their contribution to this big project. The episodes began their release the fall of 2010 and are still available on mypassporttoindia.net.

Confessions of a Dordt photography student in NYC

Aanna Stadem
Staff Writer

This semester one of my life dreams came true…I went to New York City. I still remember

As a senior, I had always been part of our photojournalism classes. When the first semester of our second semester was over, we had the opportunity to travel to New York City as a photojournalism class trip.

I had heard so much about New York City, but being there was an entirely different experience. I was completely taken with him. Approximately three and a half months later, we embarked on our epic field trip on steroids. I’m at a loss of words to accurately explain how great of an experience this was. It still amazes me that such a trip on steroids. I’m at a loss of words to accurately explain how great of an experience this was. It still amazes me that such a trip

I couldn’t help but want to go back. Countless people have asked me how many pictures I took and what my favorite picture was. I took approximately 3,700 photos and picking a favorite part is nearly impossible. I loved the fact that we were able to experience so many different artistic aspects of New York. At the airport, we jumped into a taxi and upon arriving were immediately bombarded with art in our crazy hotel, Ye Olde Carlton Arms, followed by spending hours in MoMA, the Museum of Modern Art. That night we experienced the chaos of Times Square—loved it so much it was a unanimous decision to return (multiple times). We also did a day and a half of mission work on Staten Island. All of us took photos and videos for the missions, Project Hospitality and El Centro, around the community and at the dinner projects; we, as a whole group, learned a lot about photojournalism and how we can use our talents to serve other people.

Spending time with Rene Clement, a professional photojournalist living in NYC and working on publishing his 3rd book, was a pretty big deal; by the end of the week, it was as if he had always been part of our group. Throughout the week we had one-on-one critiques with Clement and Burg, which I cannot begin to describe the learning benefits it provided.

Combine all of this with the busyess of Canal Street, Wall Street, and Chinatown, the history of the World Trade Center, the beauty of Coney Island and the Brooklyn Cemetery, and the breathtaking view of the setting sun from the top of the Rockefeller Center, and you just might catch a small glimpse of my class’ epic spring break.

I can’t write a whole article on my spring break without mentioning the people; we were incredibly blessed with a great group of students and a professor who had the motivation, energy, and excitement that made this trip the excellent experience that it was. Every night, all eight of us would pack into one of the hotel rooms and edit until 1:00 a.m., sometimes 2:00 a.m. Not only was it a lot of work and a half, we all learned from and inspired each other.

Coming back to Sioux Center has been different—all the buildings are “Ran size!” On a serious note, I’ve come back with a lot of knowledge—knowledge on HDRs, panoramas, photojournalism, and most importantly, a fresh outlook on “making pictures,” as Rene Clement would say. Or, rather, in the words of Martin, “I’m under the influence...of photography.”
You may have heard rumors that Dordt will be going through various changes during the summer. From the East Campus parking lot to the building of a new clock tower, things will definitely be different for all of us who plan on returning in the fall.

“We will be tearing up the parking lot and replacing it with drainage underneath to dry out the East Campus area,” said Bethany Schuttinga. “After the drainage goes in we will replace it with grass. It’s been part of a campus master plan that has been in progress for the last thirty years.”

In doing this renovation, the total number of parking spots lost will total around 150. Currently there are 209 existing spaces. Dordt plans on expanding the parking north of Covenant this summer to make up for the lost spaces.

Another change that will be made is the total renovation of the East Campus apartments. “The floor will be ground to make it polished concrete, the walls will come out, the apartments will be painted, and new carpet will be placed in the bedrooms,” said Schuttinga. “We plan on doing minor changes to the kitchen as well but we are still waiting on the prices for that,” said Schuttinga.

Also new to the campus will be Dordt’s first ever clock tower. The plan is to place it right outside of the campus center. “The clock tower will be constructed this summer and hopefully be finished by the time students come back from their break,” said Schuttinga. “It is nearly 54 feet tall.”

Dordt faculty and students are not paying for the clock tower. Various donations have been made to the clock tower fund. “It was funded with significant contributions from the Henry and Helen Van Klaveren family and several other donors, but they are definitely the lead donor,” said Vice President for College Advancement John Baas.

Another interesting change that may be implemented is the email storage for Dordt faculty, staff and students. It has been proposed that Dordt may switch to either Google or Microsoft for email maintenance and storage, although nothing has been decided for sure.

“It’s not official,” said Network Administrator Jeremiah Schutte. “We are considering the possibility because quite a few faculty and staff are running out of quota. Their space is full all the time. If we were to switch, we would get twenty-five gigs of memory for each person. Right now we only have six hundred megabytes.”

“They (Microsoft and Google) are doing it free for schools,” said Schutte when asked about the pros and cons of having an outside company manage Dordt’s emails. “You have to trust them with your data and trust they will function all the time. The theory is when they are in control there aren’t as many issues. The other big reason is that it’s mostly free. It’s not without cost, but if we switch to switch, it won’t happen for at least another year.”

Nothing has been decided and nothing is official.

What do students think of the changes?

Jory Kok: It’s cool, but instead of taking out the parking lot of East Campus, they should take out the commons.

Michael Gallagher: The new design of the East Campus Apartments makes me wish that we were living in East Campus next year.

Calvin Smith: I think the clock tower is a nice idea.

Nathan Rider: The renovations are much needed. Hopefully it will give East Campus a new face. It seems to be hanging under a negative light, but I think with time, we will all forget about the parking lot. It’s a responsible choice.
Opinion

Too much, too little: A Late Article (By a Blessedly Busy Columnist)

Jaleesa Dyk

Columnist

Saturday afternoon channel surfing frightens me. Everything from cheesy Lifetime movies to Fit TV belly dancing and everything in between flashes across the screen in 3 minutes. Normally, as a true child of generation Y2K, I flip through black and white shows as quickly as possible, but the other day was different.

There he was, a blast from the past, the kid that could make my gramps laugh till he cried, the “Beaver” himself. I watched for about 5 minutes as Mrs. Cleaver settled a dispute between her sons.

As commercials came across the screen, I flipped the channel. “Oh my Gawd!!!” shrieked from the speakers as onlookers giggled. The infamous Snooki was screaming into her telephone, attempting to defend herself and her, err, hobbies.

Normally, this outburst would seem normal; but this Saturday, something was different. It was like I had heard an epiphany: what exactly had happened between the days of Beaver to Snooki, and more importantly, what would June Cleaver to Snooki, and more importantly, what would happen.

I’m speaking all of this in between shifts DJing at KDCR and selling steaks at Fareway. I need to get a wedding ring and get fitted for tuxes too—something else I just remembered that I’ve forgotten to do. I’m not asking for a pity party, just some grace.

Realistically, it bugs me that my final article should be written this way. It ought to be something especially thoughtful and clean. Instead, I’ve forgotten about writing the thing until three days after it was due and I’m ranting about Beeping Jeeps in St. Louis. Was this busy? Dead Week is a myth, we know. But if I can draw anything purposeful out of this hectic yakking, it’s that I’m busy because my life is filled with fantastic matters. I’m busy because I’m going to grad school, because I’m about to be the first male Gradert to earn a Bachelor’s degree, because I’m getting married to the smokin’ hot fiancée whom I’ve mentioned elsewhere in this paper. I could try and moralize this: “must your hectic schedule in these final days, pause and remember the true meaning of life.” Blah. There’s something terribly mundane about this schedule every now and then and you’re busy. You’re not a pile (which, I’ve learned from some Californians, is not a universally known phrase). It’s shortened from “pile of sh**” and refers to a sluggish, if you didn’t know—it’s a good thing. Bliss can be great.

I’ll end with a disclaimer: double-check that you’re busy because your life is filled with marvelling purposeful matters. Don’t waste your precious time on pointless projects.

Fellow Midwesterner Garrison Keillor says it simply and says it often: “do good work.”

I still moralized, didn’t I? Forgive me, it’s been a busy (and wonderful) year. Have a great summer.

A Dorid Kid’s Adventures in Canada

Hehe. Canada.

Adrian Hielem

Columnist

For the unlucky few who have read my columns in the past, you will have noticed that they tend to focus on the specific part of the world in which I am living. When I was in the Middle East, that was no problem; the land was full of excitement, adventure, passion, and intrigue. Now I’m in Canada. Which, let’s face it, has none of those things.

Don’t get me wrong, I like Canada. Actually, that’s a bit of an understatement. I love Canada. If Canada were a person, I’d friend request it on Facebook, find its favorite movies, and then casually insert quotes from them into conversations. Canada and I do not have any choice but to fall for me.

But let’s face it, Canada doesn’t exactly top the list of countries where creative experiences happen.” We get on the news every once and a while for doing inhumane, cruel things like clubbing baby seals or producing Justin Bieber, but that’s about it.

So imagine my surprise when I got back home to my frozen wasteland and found out things are actually happening! Like, for example, the National Hockey League Playoffs, that’s exciting, right? Oh, just to us? Dang.

Well, how about this: we’ve got a royal wedding coming up. That’s right, we didn’t even notice the relationship with the monarchy over some silly taxes, and now we all get to revel in the excespageantry that is the holy marriage of Prince William and Kate Middleton (she calls him “Big Willie,” isn’t that adorable?). So hooyar for us.

Fast-forward a few years, I got another wedding in mind. Or maybe it was just the line there’s a moose and the northern lights involved, and somehow the Toronto Maple Leafs’ regular season record gets factored into the final results; it’s all a little confusing. Ah well; to quote the Canadian Ministry of Education’s motto: “The less we know, the better.”

So that’s it. Our elections boil down to a couple people spending a few weeks yelling about who’s the biggest Camuck and who hates Obamacare most. It’s a silly matter anyway; when a major candidate’s debate is re-scheduled because it conflicts with a Montreal Canadiens game, it’s pretty clear where your country’s priorities lie. Nobody cares.

As for me, well, my adventures will continue long after this column has died the fiery, painful death it deserves. You just don’t get to hear about them now. Lucky.

What happened to June Cleaver and Corey Matthews?

Jaleesa Dyk

Columnist

On April 29, while Will and Kate celebrate their wedding, I'm celebrating a wedding too—of my best and only girlfriend from my high school days.

Three years ago, the groom-to-be and I were sitting in my car, attempting to avoid the Difference. He was on the Relationship talk for the fourth or fifth time. It took me seven months to get out of this valueless relationship.

I cut ties with him right before I came to college. Fast-forward a few years, and now I'm a bridesmaid in his wedding.

But don't think this is a 27 Dresses kind of situation where I'm tweaking out because I'm "always a bridesmaid, never a bride." I'm not too worried. I'm 21.

The only downside is that I have to put on this real-length dress that hits me in all the wrong places, hope it doesn't fall down, put on a pair of stiletto, three-inch heels, and don't trip walking down the aisle while trying to maintain a smil- ing, happy-for-the-couple face the whole time. The upside is that, unless one of my guy friends goes modern and has me be a groomsman, I won't have to worry about being in another wedding party.

Unless, I guess, if I'm the bride. Last I checked, it's bad if the bride doesn't show up. But what do I know?

My feminist urges still find the idea of marriage a little repulsive, but maybe that's because I'm not the kind of girl with a fairy-tale wedding in mind. Or maybe it's just the tea-length dress talking.

I have to say, my boyfriend now, he's pretty amazing. He doesn't make me want to vomit when I think of marriage. As for the ceremony, well, we'll just leave that alone.

We'll have the "wedding of a lifetime" like Will and Kate. But that's okay with me.
Ask an Athlete:
By Giovi Romero
Staff Writer

Name: Briana Wubben
Hometown: Clara City, Minnesota
School Year: Sophomore
Major: Elementary Education.
Sport: Track and Field

What do you like most about track?
The team is awesome. Practice is not really my favorite, but it’s just fun being with people and talking with them. The meets are more of my favorite because you do your events and then you can talk to people and watch while they do their events and talk about their day.

What events do you do?
Heptathlon, high jump, long jump, 100 meters hurdles, 100 meters dash, 4x100, and I am learning javelin.

Which one is your favorite?
I can’t really decide between high jump, long jump and 100 meters hurdles.

Do you do anything special before you compete? Are you superstitious?
Not really, I don’t do anything out of the ordinary.

Do you have any special food that you eat the day before?
No, I’m pretty normal.

What were the highlights of your season?
Going to Nationals was really fun and just doing stuff with the team.

What’s your favorite drill, practice, or work out?
My favorite practices are Tuesday’s and Thursday’s because we do field events and it’s easy. We work in techniques for high jump, long jump, and hurdles. It’s not just running.

Do you have a least favorite drill or practice?
The ten 100 with only a one minute rest. That’s my least favorite practice ever.

What expectations do you have for the end of outdoor season?
Hopefully make a couple of more PR’s and break some more school records.

When you were in high school, did you ever think track would be like it is in college?
Track in high school is different than college. When I was in high school, I always wanted to do track. It was a little bit of a transition, but that was good.

What’s the funniest thing you can remember happening in practice or at a competition?
Something that was kind of funny is that at conference with the shot put, I had to do it one more time. So I am trying not to do that again.

Do you play another sport?
I play volleyball in the fall.

Is the atmosphere really different from track?
Yeah, it’s kind of different because in track you talk to guys and girls and volleyball is just girls, which is good too, but it’s just different.

Do you have any favorite athletes or role models?
Not really. I don’t really know any professional athletes in track. I know it’s kind of bad.

In the Sioux City Relays last Saturday you won 100 meters hurdles, high jump and long jump, right?
Yes. And I was also named MVP. That was exciting.

Gail Dirksen
Staff Writer

The track team has faced several barriers as they entered into their outdoor season. The weather has been less than exceptional and many crucial events have not been able to take place.

Along with this obstacle, many athletes are facing injuries in these crucial months. The women’s team has especially been affected this year as almost half the team is out with some type of injury. Whether it be the IT band, hamstring, shin, or the knee- it’s more than likely pulled, strained, or out of place in some way.

“The whole team as spent numerous hours in the training room and with time usually has overcome what has been possible,” said junior Samantha Sahian.

Coach Heynen points said that, “Some athletes have really had to step up to make up for the loss, but you are always weaker without people.”

Although this has been a very difficult situation, this hardship has strengthened the character and perspective of the athletes. The understanding that suffering produces perseverance is extremely evident in this group of people and positive things come out of the difficult situations.

As senior, Jenna Brouwer said, “Our team is like one big family. We are a great group of encouragers and we are always there for one another. It is great that we are able to grow in Christ together as well.”

Coach Heynen sees that “it is very humbling, and they continue to learn that God’s grace is sufficient and we can continue to contribute to the team in other significant ways.”

Despite the injuries, the team’s success in their indoor track season was phenomenal as they qualified for several relays at nationals and broke 17 school records.

More athletes were sent to indoor nationals than in most other years, and they are building high expectations for the next couple of years. Women and men’s 4 by 400 meter race were strong highlights as well as the men’s 4 by 800 meter race.
Alex Updike
Staff Writer

Everyone knows that Canada winning the gold medal at the Winter Olympics last year was a complete and total crock. I mean, Sydney Crosby doesn’t have the mental toughness to play through a little concession this year in America, but he made an impossible shot to win the gold for Canada?

Well, it turns out I’m not the only one who thinks this way. Senior Thad Harrington and Sophomore Nate Scheuers also share in my neuroticism and are putting it all on the line in their play Canada!: The Musical!

“I just kind of wanted to do something that could use all the stuff I’ve learned both in theatre and education,” said writer/director/technician Thad Harrington. “Nate and I just came up with this idea one day, and the theatre professors were supportive of it.

But what should an audience know about this production before coming to it? Well, according to Harrington, “It’s a satire, so don’t take it too seriously.” Yes, the play does poke fun at Canada, but it pokes fun at American and athleticics in general too. “If you can’t laugh with me,” stated Harrington, “you can laugh at me; if you don’t get the satire, don’t get mad - just think I’m an idiot,” he said with a huge smile on his face.

But the play is more than just a multi-cultural farce. Co-director Nate Scheuers is using the production to further his theatrical development.

Not only is Scheuers directing the choreography of the play, an aspect new to him, but he is also putting in his first work as a director. And he isn’t putting this opportunity to waste, saying that he has enjoyed helping others find the joy in acting that he has found.

Harrington finds enjoyment in a more personal matter, having used the production to work closely with his brother who has written about half the music. Harrington, who has always had a lot of respect for his brother as both a musician and a person, has enjoyed the camaraderie and opportunity to bounce ideas off of each other. “It’s been really good for me and for him,” he said.

Canada!: The Musical? premieres Friday night at 10:30 p.m. with a matinee the next afternoon at 1:00 p.m. but there is an open dress rehearsal Thursday night at 9:00p.m. as well.

There is also no need to buy tickets; just show up and enjoy! So if you’ve ever wondered how exactly Canada won that stupid gold medal that the United States doesn’t even care about, then this is the show for you!

Sucker Punch: is worth a shot?
Nate Palermo
Staff Writer

Take one attractive young blonde; combine with an abusive stepfather and the mental institute he puts her in. Add one active imagination and a plan to escape the hospital plus a sprinkling of samurai, robots, dragons, and zeppelins, and you’ve got Sucker Punch in a nutshell.

Directed by Zack Snyder (300, Watchmen), Sucker Punch tells an interesting story and provides scenes of absolutely everything boys are about to amaze you. The movie calls into question what is real and what isn’t, and both sides have plenty of evidence as the viewer rides through Baby Doll’s fantastic imagination.

However, at times this can seem quite like Christopher Nolan’s Inception, especially when there’s the possibility of a fantasy within a fantasy. But Snyder’s films aren’t usually about bringing an interesting point to light; they’re about amazingly rendered fight scenes. In this respect, he succeeds, and he seems to be trying to something deeper. Though not Oscar-worthy, it does provide more entertainment than just a generic action film, and the level of fanboy awesomeness recommends this film to anyone who ever thought it would be awesome to fight robots with a katana.

Person-alities shine through in third senior art show
Adam McDonald
Editor

If you have been walking through the campus center, you may have noticed the latest art work by Dordt College seniors for their senior art show. This is the third senior group to showcase their work. There are sixteen graduating seniors and this showcase has work from five seniors. Meredith Ritty, Rela Hansz, Cynthia Breyer, Kaylene Kramer and Mark Veldkamp are the featured artists.

“I think this show has a great variety of work, some diversity in terms of media and technique,” said art professor David Versluis. “In terms of work, I think, for me, the strongest pieces are the print making and sometimes the drawing, but it’s interesting this time. The print making is strong but the paintings seem to offer a lot of contrast in a very lovely way.”

The students are responsible for the layout and installation of their own work. When the artwork is on display, professors look for themes that focus on media or thematic subjects.

Along with the art pieces, there are always artist statements that go with the senior shows that come out of the senior seminar. The students are about a variety of issues such as what it’s like being an artist after you graduate.

“I think in terms of quality, this particular year all three shows had a fine sense of quality. What really came through were the personalities of the artists,” said Versluis. “Some were more conceptual and more focused on ideas.”

Kaylene Kramer created some of the larger scale paint- ings; Mark Veldkamp focused on screen printing on wood, some etching and started developing some furniture and a wine rack; Rela Hansz has several drawings, prints and paintings which are a little more representational in style and very impressionistic; Cynthia Breyer has a graphic landscape form piece and Meredith Ritty did many drawings and ceramics as well as a few sketches.

“Many students came in tight and as they progressed and became more experienced, they loosened up and became more personal with their work,” said Versluis. “As freshmen, they have too much concentration on form, trying to get things to look right and it lacks a poetic statement. I think by the time they are seniors, those two things come together, but overall, it’s very expressionistic of their personalities.”
Today’s lesson: Being a Lawyer

Step 1: Buy a suit. A suit is more important than the Bill of Rights in the world of lawyering.

Step 2: Make up really big, hard to say words. Lawyers completely make up words like “fiduciary,” “subpoena,” and “jury.”

Step 3: Don’t waste your money and time on law school! All they do at law schools is watch episodes of “Law & Order” for 10–12 hours a day. You can do that at home for free and get the same education.

Step 4: Yell “Objection!” after every sentence the opponent says.

Step 5: Buy every member of the jury an iPad2. If they ask you if it’s illegal to accept gifts from you during a trial, condescendingly ask them which one of you is the lawyer.

Step 6: If they ask your client a question that you don’t want him to answer, have him respond with “no habla ingles.”

Step 7: Filibuster whenever possible.

Step 8: Closing arguments are all about yelling louder than the other person did. I would advise the use of a megaphone.

Congratulations! You’re now a fake successful lawyer!