Get the low-down on the Salsa Dancing Club on page 7.

Dordt College             20 October 2011                  Issue 14

Editor

Presidental Candidate Michele Bachmann Visits

Kelly Zatlin

Congresswoman Michele Bachmann, current candidate for the Republican nomination of president, spoke directly to the students last Friday when she focused her speech on her proposed economic plan to create more jobs.

Bachmann spoke about her eleven-step “American Jobs, Right Now” plan, which she hopes will “create real jobs here at home and return America to a position of economic prominence in the world.”

As students at Dordt plan their futures, they have to deal with finding jobs in America’s current economic situation. Bachmann’s speech was centered on the concerns that many Americans will have to face.

Student Jensen Callaway said about the speech, “She hit on critical points regarding how to restore America’s economy and create jobs, how to get rid of Obamacare due to it being unconstitutional, how to cut government spending, how to strengthen the family, and finally, how to rebuild America as the world leader.”

Bachmann started off by giving the audience some statistics concerning spending and job loss in order to drive home her point that something needs to change in America.

Bachmann cited the current unemployment rate of 9.1 percent, America’s 16.7 trillion dollar debt, and claimed that in this year alone, the government is spending 40 percent more than it is taking in.

Bachmann also expressed her concern for her own three children in college. “The one thing I don’t want is for them to graduate from college and for them to A-- not be able to get a job and B-- pay so much in taxes that they won’t be able to have the standard of living that your parents have.”

She then introduced her eleven-point “American Jobs, Right now” plan, which includes cutting federal spending and government enterprises, repealing Obama care, cutting taxes, legalizing American energy production, and enforcing immigration laws.

“We’ve got to grow the economy. That’s what my plan does,” said Bachmann.

Her speech ended with her views on family and marriage. Bachman stated that she is pro-life and against the Supreme Court defining marriage. “We know that the family is important, and the family is under siege…marriage is also under siege,” said Bachmann.

Much of the audience seemed to be in agreement with Bachmann’s views on family and economics as they cheered during pauses throughout the speech.

“Her views hit home with the audience here at Dordt, resulting in applause and smiles,” said Callaway. “Michele Bachmann brought light to issues that need to be addressed in Washington, and for that, I feel her political platform holds a strong chance for presiden- cy in 2012.”

Not everyone has full confidence in her. One of the Political Action Committee’s Co-Presidents, Ward Matthias, said, “My main concern with Congresswoman Bachmann is that she has not held an elective office as an execu- tive governor… [her] drop in the polls since her win at the Iowa Straw Poll appears to indicate that she does not have widespread appeal to conservatives be- yond Iowa.”

Dordt’s Political Action Committee with Bachmann

Dordt’s Political Action Committee sponsored her appearance here on campus in hopes of getting students more involved in politics.

“It was great to see all the Dordt students and community members at the Bachmann event on Friday. The DPAC will continue to reach out to candidates of all ideologies to speak at Dordt College,” said Matthias.

Your Wireless Internet

Dordt’s new system to manage Internet Bandwidth

Kelly Zatlin

Lately, there has been a lot of confusion going around campus about the new system of managing internet bandwidth.

An e-mail was sent out on Friday, October 7, regarding the changes put into place. “For some time, Computer Services has been aware that a small percentage of students consume a disproportionate amount of the bandwidth available,” the note advised.

Some less-technologically savvy people may be wondering what internet bandwidth even is. According to the Director of Computer Services, Brian Van Donselaar, it is the total amount of capacity that Dordt has to send traffic to the internet.

“Think of it as a highway. A four-lane highway is capable of moving more traffic than a one-lane highway; but bandwidth, a one-lane highway, has capacity to move so many cars and a four-lane so many more,” said Van Donselaar.

The new system started the first week of October. Each day, every computer or laptop gets one gigabyte of traffic, which, according to Van Don- selaar, is equivalent to watching two full-length movies on Netflix or downloading 300 audio tracks on iTunes.

“We think of one gigabyte of traffic per computer, per day, is quite a bit of traffic,” said Van Donselaar. “They get the first gigabyte wide open, no re- strictions, no limitations. When they pass that, we start saying, “Ok, we’re gonna slow you down.”

In order for Computer Services to keep track of how much traffic is being used, they look at the IP address. “Every computer has an IP address; so basically, we record or count the traffic for every IP address,” said Van Donselaar.

Don’t let that scare you. Computer Services isn’t stalking your activity or what kind of traffic you use, just how much traffic your computer is using.

These changes were put into place because Computer Services was getting many complaints about slow internet. They had to do something about it.

“We received a number of student complaints at the beginning of the year saying they can’t get to a site, browsing is slow, they can’t skype mom -- it’s always something or an- other,” said Van Donselaar.

Computer Services found that most of the bandwidth was being used by traffic coming from peer-to-peer activity, otherwise known as downloading music or sometimes illegally) from programs like Limewire and Utorrent.

“Twenty to fifty students consume fifty percent of the bandwidth. We didn’t think that sounded like a very good deal when people outside of that were getting hurt,” said Van Donselaar.

This system affects only personal computers on Dordt’s campus. The internet bandwidth on Dordt computers (those in the computer lab, science building, residence halls, etc.) is not affected by this change.

Computer Services would like students to know that they are still experimenting with this change and are open to hearing what students think.

“If students don’t like this, we can take a vote, and if stu- dents don’t like it, it’ll turn it off…But then there are going to be students that are going to be hurt by that,” said Van Donselaar.

“Computer Services believes that this helps more students than it hurts, and as a student population if you’re finding that not to be true, all you have to do is say the word; we’ll turn this off, and I’ll be happy to do so,” said Van Don- selaar.

Summer trip to Northrise University in Zambia. Page 3
News

Remembering Donna
A happy face in the Commons

Rachel Mulder
Staff Writer

If Dordt students have ever eaten in the Commons before this school year, they likely remember the late Donna Brink, who greeted those that came for lunch each day. Amazingly, she knew everyone’s name. When the new freshmen arrived, she put the student directory out on the table in front of her so she could learn names in no time at all.

Reverend Herm Van Niejenhuis, pastor at Covenant CRC in Sioux Center, gave the message at Donna’s funeral, August 9. She died on August 3.

Van Niejenhuis’s memories are touching: “We’ll miss those times when you just happen to be on 4th street and there you just happen to see a determined employee speeding in her wheelchair toward her lunch-line perch where she’d be ready for any name in the line!” he said in his funeral message.

Donna was a joy to everyone who met her, and she brought joy to students as well. “Donna was the eyes of the commons; not only did she notice everything that came in and out, but she noticed every person that walked through the doors,” said Madeline Schmidt.

“Donna was a joy to everyone who met her, and she brought joy to students as well.”

A Clearer Picture of Dordt’s Vision 2020 Campaign

Bryan Visser
Staff Writer

As its end-of-the-year deadline approaches, Vision 2020, a fundraising campaign managed by Dordt’s advancement office, nears its $50 million goal, and students can already see some of its benefits.

The funds raised by Vision 2020 are being divided into four main categories: scholarships and financial aid, support for academic programs and faculty, creating new building projects, and managing operating support.

Funds have been gathered since Dordt’s 50-year Jubilee in 2005, with donations ranging from a few dollars to a few million.

For 2020, the funds have been allocated as follows:

Academic Complex and some improved labs in the science building.

“We hope before too long that we can make much more substantial facility improvements in the Sciences,” Baas remarked.

The improvements to the Ribbens Academic Complex include new offices, classrooms, and a lounge for the education department.

“In general, I appreciate the work done in the classroom building to update the classrooms and to provide more common space in the classroom building for students and faculty. There’s more room to gather and discuss and enjoy life!” Starkenburg said.

Students and faculty alike have benefited from Vision 2020 in financial aid and research funds.

“There has been significant growth in the opportunities for students to do joint research with faculty, thanks to campaign contributions. The number and amount of scholarships has grown tremendously, so almost any student who is receiving financial aid can attribute at least a portion of it to the Vision 2020 campaign,” Baas said.

As the late December deadline for Vision 2020 approaches, Baas is confident that the $50 million will be met, exceeded, and eventually used to better the college.

We’re getting near enough to our goal that we are confident we will exceed it by year end,” asserted Baas.

“The campaign will provide Dordt a much stronger foundation--in terms of people, infrastructure and finances--that we can build upon for years to come. Through all that, we believe students will be better educated [and] better equipped to be great employees, citizens, and effective agents for good in God’s world,” Baas said.

Apology From the Staff

Regarding the article “Digital Media Crosses Borders” published in the last issue of The Diamond, the staff would like to clarify that the upcoming trip by Digital Media students to Mexico on behalf of Christian Reformed World Missions has no connection to The Fourth World documentary on slums in the developing world, as stated in the article. These two projects are completely separate from each other. The Diamond staff would like to apologize for any confusion that this caused, both for our readers and for those organizing and attending this trip.
Opportunity to Travel to Zambia

Core 286 offers a summer trip to Northrise University in Zambia

Hannah De Vries
Staff Writer

The opportunity to traverse the world and experience a completely new culture has arisen: Core course 286 involving a trip to Zambia led by Professor of Agriculture Ronald Vos. Professor Vos and students will leave May 10 for the city of Ndola, Zambia, where they will stay at Northrise University, a new Christian college in Zambia. Time will also be spent in the capital, Lusaka, and the city of Livingstone. They will leave Zambia on May 26.

While the overall goal of the trip is to fulfill student’s cross-cultural requirement, the real purpose is to “experience the culture and country of Zambia,” said Vos, “without overwhelming it.” This means students’ time will be spent participating in the daily activities of Zambian culture. From going to a soccer game to hanging out with the students from Northside University, Vos said he wants students to “experience some of the same things that the people living there experience.”

Ben Olthoff, a senior majoring in Business Administration, “I miss all the friends I’ve made there, and I learned so much about their culture and how to help others. I also learned a lot about myself and what is important to me.”

The city is not the only part of Zambia students will see. Plans have also been made for students to see some of the native wildlife in a visit to Chobe National Park in Botswana, experience local culture in museums and markets, engage in African worship, and visit Victoria Falls, for which “there are no words to describe,” said Vos. These trips will help students “appreciate our own culture,” said Vos, as well as “experience both the beauty of Africa and the challenges of Africa.”

“Although my [host family] lived in a different country, we were all very much the same,” asserted Hannah Clark, a senior majoring in Agriculture. “We were all attending school, trying to discover our gifts and talents and how God would have us use them,” said Clark.

The trip may seem like an adventure, but sacrifices also must be made on the students’ parts. “People who go on this trip should be willing to give up their cell phones, e-mails, Facebook… It helps one to fully engage in the culture and really be a part of what is happening,” said Drenten.

“My favorite memory from the trip would be pouring the first bucket of water into our drip irrigation system just as the sun was setting,” Drenten said. “It was rewarding for a long few days of hard, hot work…and then seeing how everything worked at the very end of the day.”

“The biggest thing I believe I learned was just how big the body of Christ is,” remarked Clark. “By traveling to Zambia, I was able to gain so much knowledge about other cultures and countries that it has allowed me to view my own life very differently.”

Apple Founder Steve Jobs’ Impact on Dordt’s Campus

Kristin Janssen
Staff Writer

Steve Jobs, the creator and co-founder of Apple Inc., passed away on October 5, 2011, after resigning as the CEO of Apple. The cause of his death was respiratory arrest due to a tumor in his pancreas. Throughout his professional life, he was credited with spearheading the creations of the iPod, iPhone, and iPad. Jobs also served as the chief executive of Pixar and the executive director of Pixar’s Toy Story.

Although Jobs may seem like he does not have a direct connection to Dordt College, his legacy and professional life will continue to live on in our small campus community in Northwest Iowa. iPods, iPhones, and iPads can be seen in almost every direction on Dordt’s campus.

Emily McFarland, an Apple consumer and junior psychology major, uses both a Macbook computer and an iPod Classic on a regular basis. Her iPhone sits in her apartment’s bathroom, blasting music every morning while she and her roommates get ready for class. “My iPod contains music, and music is the butter to my bread,” McFarland shared. “Music is one of my therapists.” Regarding her Macbook, McFarland said, “I use it for everything. I would be in pieces if my Mac would crash.”

Another Dordt student, Brandon McCracken, a senior business major, uses Jobs’ technological contribution of the iPhone on campus each day. McCracken thinks his iPhone is “awesome,” sharing some of his favorite features, he said, “My iPhone is smarter than me. I’m able to play games on it in class. It reminds me that someone has sent me a new Dordt email, and I’m able to check it right away. It’s a phone; you can text, and you can call.”

Clearly Steve Jobs’ inven- tive mind has left a legacy on Dordt’s campus. Although his name might be forgotten, the influence he has had on present-day technology will remain.
Are young people becoming too comfortable with obscene words because of the internet and texting?

Dordt students and faculty weren’t surprised by a recent survey showing that young people, immersed in an online world, are growing indifferent to derogatory terms.

The Associated Press-MTV poll, concluded in August 2011, revealed that more than half of the young people are seeing things that could be thought of as offensive while they are online or reading their text messages. Common things they are seeing include ‘that’s so gay, slut, retard,’ and many more.

Charles Veenstra, a 35-year communications professor at Dordt College, said, “It’s too easy to hide behind that technology.”

Of the young people surveyed, 75 percent of them said that sometimes people do or say things on the internet or by text messages that they wouldn’t do or say to someone’s face.

Brandon McCracken:
I think that it has to do with the era we live in. We’ve grown up with technology and it has been a norm to talk to your friends like that. There is a comfort barrier on social networks that makes it acceptable to use obscene language, but I just think that’s the era we live in. I don’t think it’s just social networking that has contributed.

Jesse Schelling:
Today, people tend to be more obscene with their language than they were in the past. Like some grandparents can’t believe the things they hear from younger generations. At the same time, though, social networks push it further. It’s not a direct cause, but it contributes by making it easier.

Jenise Veenstra remarked, “My bias is against that mediated communication. Interpersonal is the richest. A lot of that mediated communication is lean. It’s missing.”

The survey discovered that not everyone thinks about what they are sending through their computer or cell phone. Of those surveyed, 32 percent had never even thought about their future employers coming back to look at what they were saying. Another 41 percent don’t consider what their parents would think. And almost half of the people didn’t think about what their school or the police would think.

Nichole Duncan, a Dordt College junior, said, “If I would have used those words when I was younger, my parents would have been upset with me. I would have been in huge trouble. Even words like ‘moron’ and ‘idiot’ I would have gotten in trouble for.”

Young people are active with social media and other forms of digital communication such as texting. They were asked if they had interacted with certain social media platforms within the past seven days. More than 75 percent have sent or received a text message, talked on a cell phone, or have sent a message from an online social networking site.

The survey people between the ages of 14 and 24. Of those surveyed, 86 percent said they were online at least once a day, often more than once. The people surveyed were divided equally between male and female.

The survey was conducted by Knowledge Networks, an online research organization.
В этом месяце, 20 Октябрь 2011

Opinion

Shall Not Perish...

Danea Geels (Columnist)

If I asked you to paraphrase John 3:16, what would you say? Maybe something like “That Jesus is God’s gift to the world, and whoever believes in Him shall not perish.”

Yeah, I’m not sure, and I think you’re not sure, too. When we accept this gift, we receive faith in Jesus. In our faith, we believe everlasting life in heaven rather than perishing in hell.

Let’s talk about the verse. In verse 6, “Jesus’ words ‘should not perish’” also mean that He wants to keep us from another kind of destruction. “Destroying our lives is what we’re doing by throwing our lives away here, now, on earth. God created us with many spiritual capacities and abilities. God intends marvelous things for the redeemed. He desires that our spiritual lives, lest on that day morning, and the pile of homework in the “in” box on the desk failed to migrate to the “out” box. Staring at the pile disapprovingly has failed to have any impact on its size.

If you think about it, we’re going to have a lot of work to do this semester. And that work is going to have to be done before the holidays.

If I were to ask you to decide if you liked the class you’re taking, you might say, “Yeah, I don’t want to,” or “No, I really enjoy it.”

If you think about something that you’re passionate about, you might have a hard time coming up with something you don’t want to do.

When we think about our spiritual lives, we want to be passionate about them.

We want to have a love for Jesus.

So let’s talk about passion.

Passion is a wonderful thing. Passion is what makes our lives different from others. Passion is what makes us who we are.

If you’re passionate about something, you’re more likely to succeed at it.

If you’re passionate about something, you’re more likely to enjoy it.

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Sports

Intramural Sports on Campus

Jordan Harmelink
Staff Writer

Intramural sports on campus are popular amongst students. It’s a chance for student athletes to display their skills in a less competitive environment than say a varsity or club sport on campus.

“I play intramurals because the competition is usually pretty solid, and it’s a lot of fun to play in a friendly environment,” said senior Rick Buteyn.

But is that environment as competitive as you might think? A recent study conducted among Dordt students ranging from freshmen to seniors, intramural sports were shown to be taken quite seriously. In fact, of the students surveyed, more than half responded by saying that on a scale of 1-10, with 10 being very serious, they voted intramural sports as an eight.

“I think some students can take it too seriously,” Buteyn said.

Dordt College has had lacrosse since the year 2000, when it was started by Matthew Nuier, a United Reformed pastor that now resides in Wellsburg, IA. Since then, Dordt lacrosse has been growing every year in terms of expansion, quality of players, and level of competitiveness in the league. Although lacrosse was only a sport for a few years, Dordt now has a men’s team, women’s team, and even a co-ed team.

“Some people seem to think that intramurals are too intense,” he said. “Intramurals are a chance to play sports in a somewhat competitively manner, without having to train all year long. I thoroughly enjoy the competition. Sports are supposed to be competitive, but at the same time they can be played in a friendly matter.”

Dan Dulk also commented, “With all sports, there is always the risk of injury.”

While the competitive nature of intramural sports is rising and it is obvious that the main ingredient to any good intramural team is attitude, Buteyn shares his insight on what makes intramural sports on campus so popular.

“I think some kids enjoy playing Dordt, to be playing intramural volleyball at a competitive level with a goal in mind - the coveted ‘Intramural Champs t-shirt’,” Buteyn said.

Conversations with Coaches

Shanna Braunshweig Staff Writer

Now that we have gotten to know a few of our athletes here on Dordt’s campus, it was time here a bit about the competitive side of the sports. And who better to interview than Mr. Schenk, a former lacrosse coach not only at Dordt but two Varsity soccer teams as well.

Knowing the kind of coach who has, it is not surprising that they have new sports each year. What is your full name? Where are you from?

“Chatham, Ontario Canada.”

Are you married? Do you have kids?

“I am married and have been for 23 years and have four kids. Oldest son, Josiah, is 17. Then I have three daughters: Kristin 14, Erika 10, and Anna 5.”

How do you propose to your wife?

“Oh man, I don’t know if I want this part in print. It was lame. I asked her in the middle of Dordt’s old soccer field to marry me. That’s about as lame as it gets right there. It was a nice winter day in January.”

What’s your most memorable Dordt experience so far?

“There’s no way. I probably wonder...well, there are probably more coach’s trips that you make through athletics. I am probably supposed to answer meeting my wife.”

How do you motivate your athletes?

“This is not a fun answer but just trying to demand that you learn how to motivate them. I hope, at least, I don’t try to get them to keep motivated. I think that is in particular. I would certainly expect to make the play off both sides. I would hope to get a first round home game which looks certainly for the whole. Both teams are sitting with identical records right now. What is your favorite part of being coach?

“Definitely probably doesn’t have to do with coaching anything but being a great one-on-one conversations players, with usually about things that have little to do with soccer. I think that is by far the most enjoyable and rewarding part of coaching.”

Do you have a dream car?

“No, I am not going to run any kind of sports car. I am just going to run and condition with them, I can still play soccer with the women and men. For me, I am not an athlete at all. I am an athlete with a dream.”

Hockey Season

Justin Pastoor
Staff Writer

Sharpen your skates. Dordt College hockey is underway. After qualifying for nationals three years in a row before last season, the Blades look to return back to national play.

Dordt’s competition comes through the American Hockey Coaches Association (AHCA), as the NAIA does not have hockey. Dordt is a part of the Pacific region in Division III, of four national regions. The closest DIII competitors are South Dakota State University, University of South Dakota, University of Nebraska, University of Iowa, and Iowa State University.

At present, the roster includes as many as 30, but 19 skaters and 2 goaltenders suit up. Juniors Joel Gostink and Brandon Fast will be looking to for leadership in this year’s much more experienced team. Many players will be needed to step up, as hockey is a game played in 30 seconds.

Coach John Langeraap handles the practices and offense during the games, Coach Adam Jenning takes the defensive responsibilities, and Coach Bill Elgersma oversees everything while taking care of the organizing of the team with responsibilities such as recruiting and scheduling.

The team has high aspirations for this year.

“After going to the National for three consecutive years, we want to get back on track.”

We essentially graduated the teams of the past with the exception of a few players and so last year was the beginning of a new era,” said Coach Elgersma.

“I look forward to playing every team we met last year to get back on track. Dordt has a hockey tradition and the program has had respect throughout the country. Now we have to earn that respect again and that comes through hard work.”

Coach Elgersma looks forward to enthusiastic fan support at the team’s home games.

“One of the most important things about this team is the fan base and support we have. When are on the road, we never play a team with more fans packed into the stands than our own.”

“Last year in a tight game, we scored a late third period goal to win. I felt alive and told the fans I had punched the puck into the net. When the refs notice the fans in a positive light, we can’t ask for much more.”
**Fall Music Festival**

**Kristina Heflin**

Staff Writer

Many of Dordt College’s brightest musical talents will perform during the Fall Music Festival on Friday, Oct. 21. This major exhibition will be an opportunity for students, community members, and visiting parents to sample each of the musical opportunities offered by Dordt in an intimate concert setting.

“This event offers a snapshot of everything. It’s like a good buffet with a little bit of everything,” said Professor Bradley Miedema, director of the Campus Community Band, Chamber Orchestra, and Concert Band who will perform during the first half of the evening’s program.

Following a brief intermission, the vocal groups will conclude the event. The featured groups are the Bella Voce Women’s Chorus, Kantorei, the Chorale, and the Concert Choir. The evening’s conclusion these ensembles will join together for a grand finale. Followers of the Dordt music program will notice a change in the namefor this year’s women’s chorus. Bella Voce mean “beautiful voice” in Italian, and was chosen as the new title for the vocal ensemble featuring 24 young ladies.

“There was no women’s chorus last semester, so we thought we’d jazz it up a bit for this year,” said Dr. Benjamin Kornelis, director of the vocal groups.

Also differing from previous performances, the women’s chorus’ first number will be directed by Dordt senior Sierra Tegs, who helped choose the traditional Japanese folk piece being performed.

Part of what makes the Fall Music Festival a unique experience is that the audience will get to experience the full diversity of Dordt’s music program.

“The Fall Music festival is an incredible opportunity to see all the music ensembles in one concert. It’s the only concert that features all of them at once,” said Emily Hageman, a Dordt senior and Concert Choir member. “It’s the perfect opportunity to see what the music department has to offer.”

It is also the perfect opportunity for many parents who are unable to be on campus for other performances to see their children on stage.

“Parent’s Weekend was actually built around the Fall Music Festival,” said Kornelis. The fact that the weekend coincides with performances by the Theater Arts department as well as sporting events made it ideal for hosting parents.

Besides parents, there is also a strong community presence in the audience as well as in the ensembles themselves.

“It’s a great atmosphere. People love to be there,” said Miedema. “It’s fun for the ensembles and us as directors.”

Kornelis added, “It’s especially exciting for students who are here for the first time, because when they step out on that stage, the place is packed.”

The Fall Music Festival begins at 7 p.m. in B.J. Haan Auditorium on October 21.

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**Maria Bouwkamp and Brian De Young Recital**

**Danielle Richards**

Staff Writer

After nearly a year of practice, Maria Bouwkamp and Brian De Young performed their joint recital on Friday in the BJ Haan auditorium.

Both students performed this concert as a requirement for Music Performance majors. This recital is intended to develop the musician’s musical abilities, display talent for friends and family, and also showcase the performance as an act of worship.

Bouwkamp is a junior Vocal Music Performance and Pedagogy major. She began singing in the seventh grade when her family encouraged her to develop her vocal talent. She continues to study at Dordt College under the guidance of Debra Vogel.

Bouwkamp’s selections for Friday’s performance included songs by George Frederick Handel, Giuseppe Verdi, and Jake Heggie. In these pieces, she sang sections of opera, musical theatre, and children’s poems set to song. Her performance ended with a collaborative organ piece by Brian De Young.

Brian De Young, an Organ Performance and Pedagogy major, started playing organ at age 13 when his pastor offered him free lessons to play for church. He now plays organ for churches in the surrounding area and studies under Matthew Geerlings. His organ pieces included selections from Johann Sebastian Bach and Olivier Messiaen.

He also chose songs written by the teachers of these two composers, including a Nicolaus Bruhns piece dating back to the mid-17th century.

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**Salsa Dancing Club**

**Aanna Stadem**

Staff Writer

Dancing. Some like it, some don’t. Whether it’s in front of your mirror—admit it, we all do it—or at the legendary Neon dance, dancing is a way of expressing yourself.

My friends and I always joke around saying that if guys knew how much girls adored dancing, more of them would make the effort to learn.

I was pleasantly surprised walking into the Aerobics room on a Wednesday night to find the room full of girls as well as boys. Apparently the Deed men have it figured out—the ladies were outnumbered.

I intended to quickly capture the excitement of the Salsa Dance Club through a couple of photos and get back to studying for my test. Dream big. An hour later, I left still humming the catchy Salsa tunes.

“It was my high school friends who really got me into it; they kept pushing me to try it,” said Jonathon Grottenhuis, a Junior Business major, said when asked how he got started with dance. He grew to love it and taught dance lessons at a studio near his home in Phoenix, Arizona. Throughout a normal week, he taught six days of lessons.

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**Glass Menagerie**

**Kristina Heflin**

Staff Writer

The play aims to hit on some serious subjects. In fact, it is deep enough that actor Nathan Sparks said, “I don’t know” when initially asked what it was about.

Eventually, however, he gave this synopsis: “The play is a memory.” Sparks said. “It is a memory of the main character, Tom, living with his mother and sister. Tom’s father had left him 16 years ago and is trying to get free basically, leave his family…live for himself.”

This production has the ability to speak to each individual viewer, meaning something different to different people. The theme is “really going to vary from person to person,” Sparks said.

For him, however, the theme is about discerning the difference between wanting freedom and being selfish. This struggle between wanting to be free, yet wanting to respect where you’ve come from, not wanting to simply leave it all behind without any appreciation, is something that most college students can relate to.

“The Glass Menagerie” opens tonight at 7:30 and plays again Saturday, at both a matinee at 3 p.m. and again at 7:30, as well as next Thursday, Friday, and Saturday at 7:30 as well.
What if...
A humorous look at the many “what ifs” throughout history

By Alex Updike

Let’s be honest—we all wish Tri-State break lasted a little longer. Ok, we all wish it lasted a lot longer. But shouldn’t we be grateful for the break we have? I mean, after six weeks of classes, assignments, projects, and tests, shouldn’t we just be glad that we get some sort of break from the madness. After all, this break isn’t required, but Dordt is gracious enough to allow the Heartland Conference to use our campus and thus give us the glorious four-day weekend we all start looking forward to approximately five minutes into our first class of the year.

But what if the assignments, the tests, and the homework just kept going. What if . . . Tri-State didn’t exist (cue dun-dun-dun sound). I shudder at the thought, but because I love my students so much, I’ll dive into what I think, but because I love my students so much, I’ll dive into one of Dordt’s most famous catch phrases, “Don’t date before Tri-State.” Without Tri-State in the picture, “Don’t date before Tri-State” becomes “Don’t date before approximately six weeks into the school year.” Doesn’t have the same ring. Plus it’s way too long for college students to keep saying; we’d get half-way through it and start thinking about something else. With no catchy reminder of how long freshman guys have to wait to “get with that,” of relationships on campus would utterly deteriorate. New males would start dating the first girls that talked to them and eventually the singles hold-outs would start dating just to fit in.

Now think about this: if the entire campus is in a dating relationship a month into school, are you going to break up with your significant other? No way! You know why? Because no single people are left to date after you kick your “other half” to the curb.

Eventually—because everyone knows that the only eligible spouses in the entire world are on Dordt’s campus—these couples are all engaged by the beginning of their junior year, and by senior year, they’re married! With the entire Senior class in matrimonial bliss, and literally a crap-load of married couples to do married-couples stuff with, it has something to do with why Dordt has shut down and eventually Dordt shuts down, making that clock tower one huge waste of time and money.

Maybe you’re wondering why Dordt has shut down in two out of three “what ifs” so far. Well, since I’m a psychology major, I’m sure it has something to do with seniors’ grades sink. Amazingly, not one student at Dordt to currently be a psychology major, I’m sure it has something to do with why Dordt has shut down and eventually Dordt shuts down, making that clock tower one huge waste of time and money.

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By Alex Updike

Soccer Symmetry:
“While at a soccer game, Aanna Stadcn captured this symmetrical moment as Alex Geleynse and an opponent battle for the ball.”

**Feature Photo**

**Persecution in Focus’ video contest**

Kelly Zatlin
Editor

Sophomore Digital Media major, Jayson Korthuis is entering a video he put together in a contest hosted by International Christian Concern.

The purpose of this contest, according to persecution.org, is to “engage as many viewers as possible in a heart moving experience that opens their eyes to the persecution of their brothers and sisters around the world, calls them to prayer, and provides them with a means to help alleviate their suffering through the ministry of ICC.”

The contest required participants to submit videos about persecution. The grand prize for winning this contest is $1,000. To view Korthuis video, type “Persecution in Focus—Everyday” into Youtube. Voting begins on October 20 and ends on November 3.