Immigration Reform encourages equal rights

Narayan Núñez Blandón - Staff Writer

More than 80 individuals, including students and faculty members from Dordt College as well as Hispanic and American members of the community, gathered at Sioux Center’s Public Library to hear Eliseo Medina, an advocate for the Immigration Reform, on Feb. 18.

Medina, former Secretary-Treasurer of the Service Employee International Union and also named one of the Top 50 Most Powerful Latino Leaders, provided insight about the current issue that 11 million undocumented immigrants face in the United States, including unfair wages, lack of health coverage and unhealthy working conditions.

"This is a moral crisis, it says what our values are in this nation, and what we believe as people. The immigration reform is not about politics: it’s about people,” Medina said.

Medina believes that the current system of law needs to be fixed because it’s not working efficiently for a vast number of immigrants. He pointed out that the issue also extends to the employers who do not follow the established law regarding work, wages and health coverage.

“If the employers are not following the laws, it is not good for the nation. We have a system of illegality and that is not the rule of law,” Medina said. “If the law is not working, you have to fix it; otherwise you live in a no-law.”

He believes that the law has to be fixed when there are social issues in the country. He pointed out that just as the law was fixed to allow women to vote or to eradicate discrimination against African Americans, the law has to be fixed again so that millions of people can have a decent and honorable life.

A number of students from Dordt were required to attend the event for their Diversity and Inequality class. Social work professor, Tara Boer, believed that the talk and the personal testimonies would benefit her students, especially the students who are not involved or exposed to the issues of the immigration reform.

“The purpose was to get students to understand—not to change their mind about the topic—(and) to create some awareness of what is going on out there and to make it a more well informed decision when it comes to vote and authenticating what the immigration reform means to them,” Boer said. “I am not here to impose my opinion on them, but I want them to make an informed decision when they need to.”

Boer encourages her students to remember that they are descendants of immigrants who also looked for a better life. Boer believes that even though we are at a different point in history, the factor that causes immigration are still the same: everyone is looking for opportunities to get a better life away from violence and unhealthy environments.

Currently there is a big portion of undocumented immigrants who pay taxes and pay into the social security system but are unable to claim any benefit. Furthermore, many are exploited or forced to work in unhealthy working environments for inadequate wages because there is no law that regulates their living.
First Monday Speaker to talk about sexuality

"Many Christians struggle with how to talk about sexuality issues," said Baart. "Dr. Simon has thought through how to ask the right questions and she's asking all the right questions that Christians should be asking." Baart stressed his belief in the importance of Christians asking the right questions, especially on the topic of sexuality.

"I feel like the biggest role in my teaching, and even preaching, is to help disciples ask the right questions," said Baart. "Jesus showed us that it's not important to have all the answers. He showed us what a better question looked like and how to ask the right questions.

In addition to learning how to ask the right questions, the First Monday Speakers can provide students with valuable knowledge that spans across a variety of subjects. Mia Cornelia, the Andreas Center assistant, thinks that the variety that the First Monday Speakers provide is important.

"When the First Monday Speakers are chosen, there's a desire to get a variety of experts to come to campus," said Cornelia. "The last speaker lectured about something totally different. The speakers are engaging and relevant to students at Dordt."

Baart expressed the same appreciation for the diversity of the speakers.

"We're trying to create critical thinkers here," said Baart. "It's not fair for someone to get through four years here without us serving them well."

Baart hopes that Simon's time here will be beneficial to the Dordt community even after she has gone.

"We were planning to set up student and faculty forums," said Baart. "I hope this will be a catalyst for other discussions and introduce bigger discussions."

Both of Simon's lectures will spark good discussions in the evening.

Simon's first lecture, held in the BJ Haan auditorium, is drawn from her most recent book, Bringing Sex into Focus. The Quest for Sexual Integrity. According to a press release from the Andreas Center, the book "explores the filters through which we examine issues of sexuality and how they can, when paired with a virtue ethic, help us achieve sexual integrity."

Other activities on Dordt's campus involving Simon include her evening lecture held in CI 1144/1148, a Dordt Reads event that will look at the first and last chapter of Simon's recent book, and further discussion among Dordt's community of the questions that Simon will bring up in her lectures.

Aaron Baart, Dean of Chapel, hopes that Simon's lectures will spark good discussions on campus and help students learn how to talk about sexuality.

Student Symposium Update

Student Symposium has developed goals for what we are trying to achieve this year. One of our main goals is assessing student satisfaction on various aspects of our campus. Last semester we talked with students and also met with representatives from Dordt Dining Services, the Business Office and Computer Services. Through engaging with these representatives, we passed on student requests, concerns and encouragement while also gaining a deeper understanding of how Dordt runs. Student Symposium is doing their best to be a voice for Dordt students, as well as a resource. Have any questions or comments relating to institutional finance, clubs, student satisfaction or Student Symposium? Please contact us via email: Symposium@dordt.edu or find us on Facebook! During the month of March, we will be giving away a free t-shirt and sweater from the Dordt College Book Store! To be eligible for the random drawing please like our Facebook page: Dordt College Student Symposium.

Have a great week!
Reuben Van Gaalen

122 students to go on PLIA over Spring Break

Rachel Mulder - Staff Writer

PLIA (Putting Love into Action) is an annual spring break missions trip on which Dordt students travel to various locations to do service projects.

With spring break just around the corner some students are preparing for a relaxing break, while 122 others are preparing to travel on a team to one of fourteen locations across the country. The teams do a variety of service projects and jobs at the organizations they work with, including construction work, painting, serving food and working with kids in VBS or school settings.

Chicago, Ill., and Mendenhall, Miss., are two sites that are relatively new this year. PLIA teams have been to these sites before, but not for a few years.

"Chicago is a great opportunity to work with inner-city youth as well as just interact with those in the community. The team will be working with Roseland Ministries. In Mendenhall, the team will be working with Mendenhall Ministries on a farm, doing physical labor projects, and possibly helping with VBS," said Courtney Bjorklund, PLIA committee co-chair.

Other organizations that some PLIA teams will be working alongside are the Atlanta Youth Project in Atlanta, Ga., TouchGlobal in New Orleans, La., Brothers Redevelopment in Denver, Colo., UrbanPromise Ministries in Toronto, Ont.; and Cary Christian Center in Cary, Miss.

If you are interested in learning more about PLIA contact the 2013-2014 PLIA Committee Co-Chairs: Tanner Brassier, Courtney Bjorklund, or Emily Tuuk.

It’s a small way to show Christ’s love on a gloomy day.

Beekeepers learn to create own colonies

Megan Kaiser - Staff Writer

Agriculture professor Duane Bajema was reluctant to open his beekeeping course up to Dordt students, but due to their persistence and questioning, he agreed. At an informal informational meeting Thursday, Feb. 21, 38229 was full of individuals interested in learning about bees and starting their own colonies.

"I can’t believe there are that many people here that are interested in learning about bees," Bajema said at the beginning of the meeting. Ten minutes in, individuals continued to roll into the room. Of 30 attendees, ten were Dordt students.

Bajema opened the meeting by asking everyone to state their name and reason for coming to the meeting. Some grew up in families that owned bees, some wanted to start their own bee farm and others were just curious.

Bajema used a PowerPoint presentation to explain the fundamentals of beekeeping.

As the slides hit the screen, he continually asked, "Why are you here? Do you really know what you are getting into? What do you want to learn?"

He reminded everyone that beekeeping is no walk in the park. "Winter is tough, but there are a lot of other external factors as well," Bajema said. "I lost 40 hives from an airplane spreading pesticide, animals like skunks and raccoons are trouble, and one of the biggest problems would have to be vandalism."

Half an hour into the lecture, five members from last year’s beekeeping class showed up. They were excited by the number of people in the room. Bajema left the room and for the next 15 minutes they answered every question thrown at them.

"I don’t know if I’m a beekeeper, but I know I’m a bee-tryer," one visitor stated with a chuckle.

An older gentleman proceeded to tell a story of how he had recently been stung with a chuckle.

"I don’t think many people can say that," he said.

One hundred percent of last year’s class created a bee colony.

"I’m going to shoot for one hundred percent again this year, but I’m going to put the pressure on them. I’m going to twist their arms. I’m going to do everything in my power to help them make that jump," Bajema said.

Like certain individuals who attended the first lecture out of curiosity, Bajema was once in the same position. He knew nothing about beekeeping, but he educated himself, talked to a lot of people and simply began.

"From those to no experience to the opposite side of the spectrum, everyone in the class will receive a hands-on experience. "You may potentially make your neighbors nervous, but that’s ok," said Bajema. "If you want to keep bees, you have to be a little strange."

Duane Bajema satisfies curiosity by opening up beekeeping course to students.
Film challenge concludes with awards ceremony

Dordt alumnus plays ball overseas

Belgium is a European nation that borders Germany and is known for its 800 different kinds of beer. What you may not have known is that it is the home of Mercurius BBC, the professional basketball organization Dordt College alumnus Jordyn Vogel has the privilege of playing for.

Vogel played four years of varsity basketball for Dordt, but it wasn’t until a meeting with coach Douma and coach Keizer after Vogel’s junior season that he really thought he had a chance to play professionally.

“I was having a post season meeting with coach Douma and coach Keizer and they were the ones who proposed the idea to me,” Vogel said. “They told me they thought I had the ability to do it and since that meeting I made it my sole focus to put myself in the best position to play overseas.

With that advice and newfound confidence, Vogel began to work harder on his game than ever before. His extra time in the gym allowed him to stretch his outside game and increase his range.

But extra work in the gym isn’t always enough, so Vogel went to Europe with an athletic ministry called News Release Basketball. For three weeks, Vogel and other Christian men saw Europe’s greatest sights, spread the Good News and played the game.

“The artists had spent many hours on, whether that was by locking themselves in the paint room all night, or something that they had worked on the entire semester. Art often shows who the artist is, and these six girls portrayed their thoughts and ideas through truly beautiful, inspiring and powerful art.”

Juniors show art

Continued from page 2

Dahl presented her works from the printmaking course she took.

“These pieces are so hippie, and so me!” Dahl said. "Doing art like this is so rewarding.”

She and Dykhuisen also presented graphic design pieces, including a huge medical records project for children in third world countries.

“There’s something relaxing about doing art,” Dahl said. “It’s therapeutic and I enjoy doing it.”

Dykhuisen presented two self-portraits. Both were close-ups of her eye, one in color pastel and the other a black and white photo. Dykhuisen also had a portfolio at the gallery of most of the work that she has done in graphic design since coming to Dordt.

The gallery represented the work that the artists had spent many hours on, whether that was by locking themselves in the paint room all night, or something that they had worked on the entire semester. Art often shows who the artist is, and these six girls portrayed their thoughts and ideas through truly beautiful, inspiring and powerful art.

News

Juniors show art

Continued from page 1

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Film challenge concludes with awards ceremony

Award fever descended upon Dordt’s campus on Feb. 21 at the Prairie Grass Film Challenge screenings and awards ceremony. Films entered into the challenge were shown in several locations around campus, including the De Yager activity center, the Ekhart Lounge and various classrooms.

The awards ceremony began at 8 p.m. in the BJ Haan auditorium with professor Mark Volkers as the host. The awards were presented after a few brief introductions by Voelkers and a short address by President Erik Hoekstra. While in previous years the awards ceremony was co-hosted by local pastor and adjunct theology professor Mark Verbruggen, this year Voelkers hosted alone.

“We wanted to trim a bit of the fat from the show,” said Verbruggen. “Having both of us up there took longer than we wanted.”

Awards were given out in several categories. Minor certificates were presented for the films that incorporated the various criteria of the film challenge: best use of assigned prop, line of dialogue, etc. Major awards were presented to the best film in four categories: pre-college, college, post college and overall best of show. Each winning team received $250 and an engraved plaque with the overall best award also receiving the “coveted Drinks” award.

The major award winners were:

- ULI Productions with its film “All American Metal Chef” in the Best of Pre-College category. Food Fight Club’s film “Class is in Session” tied with Good Emuf productions’ film “Rock Bottom” in the College category. Paragon Productions won in the Best of Post-College category with its film “Survival Of The Fittest.” The overall Best of Show award went to the Northwestern Rad

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Raiders for its film “Farts Rack.”

Food Fight Club was the only Dordt team to win a major award. Senior Sara De Waal, a member of Food Fight Club for the past four years, said that winning was not the main goal, but added to the experience.

“I think since it was our last year, we all just wanted to have a blast making the film and come up with a storyline and film product that we could be proud of,” said De Waal. “We’d sat in those seats the last three years hoping and leaving saying ‘next year.’ But this year is the last year, and what a great way to end.”

The look of this year’s awards ceremony was quite different than it has been in the past. There were lights, music and a second screen erected in the auditorium. The choice to add these features was made by junior Jessica McCarty, the stage manager for the ceremony. This year was the first year that the show has had an official stage manager.

This was done to cut down the run time by eliminating confusion and to have the whole night feel more professional.

There are always things to improve on,” said McCarty. “But we achieved what we set out to, which was to make things work together and look professional!”

After the ceremony, refreshments were served and a photo booth was available for teams to get a snapshot of the night together.

The awards ceremony is complete but the 2014 Prairie Grass Film Challenge is not quite finished. The last event of the challenge is the presentation of the People’s Choice award. The People’s Choice award is presented to the winning team based on an online vote.

The voting opened on Friday night and is scheduled to close on March 3. Fans may vote online on the Film Challenge page of the Dordt website.
Contributed Photo

Lindsey Vander Ark is student teaching in Indonesia. 

Do you recommend teaching overseas (or going abroad) to other students? 

"I have seen Dr. Helming make very positive adjustments to life at Dordt College. This is the first opportunity she has had to work at a Christian college, so many aspects of university life are new to her and she has embraced the mission of Dordt," Christians said.

"With the music program we have and the musical talent we have here, this would be another outlet to have students express themselves."

"Yes. All the kids and teachers speak English, though there is a wide range of ability. For most, English is their second language (or third, fourth, fifth...). I teach a variety of low-level English and upper-level English students."

"I have envisioned myself at a state school, where I could not teach all of the classes on my own, but here I am able to teach all the classes on my own. I think it will be great to get to know her personally and professionally. She has a quiet confidence that makes it easy to connect with her and this gift also allows her to connect with students on a personal level," Christians said.

"I love my job and my students," Helming said.
Lee Ver Burg - Columinst

To put it bluntly, Dordt College is nothing short of a wild matting ground. It is the sort of thing you typically find in the desert of sub-Saharan Africa or the enriched jungle of the South American Amazon, where male and female alike are involved in the "dangerous game" of finding a spouse.

It comes as no surprise that Dordt College fosters an environment ripe for match-making. Many girls come here intentionally looking to receive an MRS degree, rather than an actual education. However, these girls often fail because of the mistakes they make in the dating game.

So ladies, fasten your seatbelts and hold on. Your wildest dreams are coming true. I’m going to give you an exclusive inside look at the male brain so that your success in the dating game brings you to levels only your mother could have thought possible. In the following paragraphs, I’m going to tell you what not to do to win over the man of your dreams.

First, you have to understand what I call the "space boundary." Going over to his room for 5 hours every day is cute and all, but you are forcing him to miss out on guy time, no doubt a man’s most coveted time. One final warning: If he sits down with his friends for a 40 minute X-box session and talks about the "space boundary," going over to his room is a surefire way to make worse decisions than usual. I could go on, but I think everyone can agree – alcohol is sometimes abused.

3. Alcohol needs Redemption – If alco-
hol can be used for good, but we abuse it, it is clear that we need to reform our view of this substance. Where better to do that than at a reformed, Christian College?

I love my parents, but they did not teach me about alcohol. I didn’t know how much was too much. I didn’t know what was safe and what I should avoid. It was clueless. I think it would be safe to say that many students at Dordt are in the same situation. This leaves you with two main options: avoid drinking or go jump in and hope for the best.

I don’t find either of these options satisfying, which is why I believe Dordt needs a bar; a safe place where students, professors and community members can come together and enjoy a nice, cold beverage. Some will learn that alcohol isn’t always bad, while others will learn that it’s not always good. Every square inch.

I admit, implementation of this idea could prove difficult, but I have a few ideas. I will deal with this and more in my next column.
Injury Update: Katje suffered a strained ankle late in the Defenders’ Feb. 19 win at Northwestern. After missing the regular season finale against Midland, Katje expects to be ready for the conference semi-final game on March 1.

Katje is one of the top long-distance shooters in school history. Photo by Andrew Deelstra

Katje shooting lights out during senior season

Sam Ekstrom - Staff Writer

There is plenty of change that occurs in this world, but also a few things that remain the same: the moon waxes and wanes, the sun rises in the east and sets in the west and Austin Katje hits 3-point shots.

The Dordt College senior will graduate as one of the top long-distance shooters in school history and a 1,000-point scorer. “Austin has been a perimeter threat since day 1, and that’s still his biggest asset,” said head coach Ross Douma.

Ironically, Katje didn’t start out as a perimeter player.

“Growing up, I was kind of a post player,” said Katje. “I just dropped growing in about eighth grade, so since then I’ve really been focused on jump shooting.”

The Dordt coaching staff knew Katje, the Orange City, Iowa native, would help the Defenders’ jump shooting, and they inserted him into the lineup as a freshman.

Katje started all 35 games his first season and made 65 3-point shots, shooting at over 40.1 percent from beyond the arc. The 22-year-old explained how his freshman season set the tone for the next three years.

“That experience of playing heavy minutes and knowing what to expect and knowing how your body’s going to feel throughout a long season is really big,” said Katje.

Since Katje’s freshman season, the Defenders have had nothing but wins. Katje’s teams have appeared in the conference title game each of his first three seasons, reached the nationals the past two years and only lost six total games at home.

Katje has played a big role the entire way, scoring over 100 points in his career, breaking the record of former point guard Cliff Warner. He credits hours of work in the gym, as well as shooting up to 700 shots per day in the summers.

Douma has witnessed Katje’s drive and determination firsthand.

“Austin is a more fiery, vocal leader who is just a gritty, follow-me type competitor,” said Douma. “He is going to do it regardless of what it takes.”

Earlier this season, Katje showed his grittiness by carrying the Defenders with 33 points on route to a road victory over no. 13 Hastings College.

As a junior, Katje was the source of the season’s most dramatic moment. Trailing by three with just seconds remaining in the Defenders’ national quarterfinal against Cardinal Stritch University (Wis.), Katje hit the game-tying 3-point shot to send the game to overtime.

“That was definitely one of the most exciting moments of my basketball career,” said Katje. “That was just cool to be a part of that.”

Entering the current season, Katje and fellow senior Kyle Lindbergh were called upon to nurture a young team with eight freshmen on its roster.

Freshman Alex Terpstra has been one of the recipients of the veteran leadership.

“Many of times Austin has pulled me aside and either told me what I needed to improve on or showed me the correct technique,” said Terpstra.

From a numbers standpoint, Katje has delivered his finest season. The senior is averaging over 15 points per game while shooting 87 percent from the free-throw line and a team-leading 46 percent from 3-point range.

But there’s one thing Katje is aiming for that nobody has ever accomplished: to be a part of the first GPAC team to win both the regular season title and postseason title in the same season.

“No team has ever been able to do that,” said Katje. “It’s something that Kyle (Lindbergh) and I would definitely like to do — kind of stamp our seal onto Dordt basketball, to be able to be the first team that’s ever done that.”
Music ensembles to present spring concerts

Lauren Bird - Staff Writer

If you’re looking for something to do in the short amount of time before spring break, the music department at Dordt has several opportunities for entertainment. These include a student recital on Feb. 28, a guest string quartet on March 1, an instrumental concert on March 4 and a choral concert on March 5.

A student recital on Feb. 28 will showcase the talents of Kristen Rayerg on saxophone and Jessica McCarty on flute. The recital will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the New World Theatre.

On March 1, a guest string ensemble called the Euclid Quartet will visit Dordt and perform at 7:30 p.m. This concert is the presentation of the Northwestern Iowa Symphony Orchestra’s annual guest concert. Tickets for the concert can be purchased at several businesses around the Sioux Center area or at the door on the night of the concert.

Dordt’s concert band, campus-community band and jazz band will be performing in the instrumental concert on March 4, beginning at 7:30 p.m. Henriques is enthusiastic about the pieces that the bands will be playing.

"The bands are excited to perform their newest spring repertoire," said Henriques. "One of the campus-community band's songs, Spitfire, calls for an expanded percussion section of eight players which adds great intricacy and interest to the music as a whole. Paxstra, which will be performed by the concert band, is a four movement suite of folk dances that is unique, has a lot of spank and is fun to hear as well as to play.”

Dordt’s choral ensembles, Bella Voce, Kantorei and Chorale, will be performing in the choral concert on March 5 at 7:30 p.m. Ben Kornelis, the choral director at Dordt, thinks that this choral event will be unique.

"Each of the groups is singing songs about love," said Kornelis. "Some songs will be upbeat, some sappy, some about different kinds of love. There will be a wide range of music styles."

Dordt students are highly encouraged to come to these concerts and show their support for their peers.

"College students don’t realize how easy, cheap or cheap it is to attend these events," said Kornelis. “It’s practically dropped in your lap. Outside of college, it’s harder to go to events like these. It’s expensive, you may have to drive a ways or get a babysitter. At Dordt, it’s so easy and it’s great music performed at a high level. And it could be a great cheap date!”

Doubt: A conversation

Eric Rowe - Staff Writer

The stage is set. The actors are meeting for final rehearsals with their student director, senior Nathan Sparks. The tech crew is figuring out lighting and sound cues. The cast of the theater production, Doubt, will which run in the New World Theatre Feb. 27 to March 1, talked with the Diamond about their experiences and what has gone into preparing for the play. There are only four members of the cast: freshman Kyle Fosse, junior Shannon Spargo, junior Lauren Bird, and junior Brandi Buchanan who play the roles of Father Flynn, Sister Aloysius, Sister James and Mrs. Muller.

Doubt follows the controversy surrounding a progressive new priest. The staunch older man who runs the local parish school thinks he may have done something very inappropriate, although he denies it. Doubt deals with themes the actors as well as the audience.

To work with a script that is so open ended. It may have done something very inappropriate, a nun who runs the local parish school thinks he although he denies it. Doubt deals with themes the actors as well as the audience.

Lauren Bird and Brandi Buchanan take on the roles of Sister James and Mrs. Muller in Doubt. Photo by Shannon Spargo

Eric Rowe - Staff Writer

Senior Kristen Rayerg and junior Jessica McCarty are presenting a recital on Feb. 28 at 7:30 p.m. in the B.J. Haan Auditorium. Rayerg will play both the tenor and alto saxophone and McCarty will play the flute. The recital will be one hour long, including a ten minute intermission. Each half will feature one of the musicians.

Rayerg hopes that showcasing a lower instrument and a higher instrument will provide good variation throughout the recital. This recital is based entirely around Rayerg and McCarty. The music department has guidelines for what needs to be done, but the two have organized their own music and written the program notes themselves.

"The reception afterwards is done totally by Kristen and myself,” McCarty said. “We’ve had awesome roommates that help us.”

"It’s a lot more work than I thought" Rayerg said. "Writing the program notes, you have to know the piece really well. I never really got into the listener's shoes before.”

Rayerg first thought about having a recital her junior year and was encouraged to pursue a recital by her music teacher, Pam De Haan.

"I had most of my music prepared before,” McCarty said. "Kristen did hers last year in the spring.”

Rayerg is a technical theater major with a general music minor and Rayerg is a clinical psychology major and a communication minor.

“Neither of us are music majors,” Rayerg said. “Our decision to play an instrument in college and have a recital is purely out of our love for music.”

Eleven years of music culminate in one night

Eric Rowe - Staff Writer

In fifth grade, Rayerg’s first instrument was the flute, and she sat in front of the saxophone players in band. When she saw that the flautists had fast notes and accidentals everywhere, while the sax player’s notes were easy, she switched and has been playing saxophone for the past 11 years. McCarty has also been playing for 11 years.

"It’s been half my life and all of my fingers plus one,” McCarty said. Rayerg has been a part of band and jazz band since her freshman year of college. Her experience in jazz band was helpful when she put together her recital music. One piece of music requires improvisation, which is something you don’t learn in band.

The recital will feature four solos by Rayerg and two by McCarty. McCarty is also performing a duet with a fellow flautist, junior Megan Ludens.

"Jessica and I have a nice saxophone and flute duet that should be interesting," Rayerg said. Rayerg hopes the recital will be “a nice leaving moment.”

Kantorei and Chorale, will be performing in the choral concert on March 5 at 7:30 p.m. Ben Kornelis, the choral director at Dordt, thinks that this choral event will be unique.

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In my Film Criticism class last Monday, we viewed the film Psycho. For those who are unaware, Psycho is a 1960 film directed by Alfred Hitchcock. This film was a huge deal in that decade. It was the first to contain a large amount of violence and ‘implied’ sexual content. It was also the first film to show a toilet flushing on screen. To catch you up to date, Psycho is about a young woman who takes off with $40,000 and ends up staying the night in the Bates Motel. If you guessed from the title that this movie is a horror genre, you’re right. You would do so well on Jeopardy. Alongside the horror, it is also a psychological thriller. I can’t really describe it without giving everything away, so I’m not going to. That’s what Wikipedia is for.

The main point of this article is that I found out the same exact day about this show Bates Motel vs. Psycho. I knew nothing about the series because my parents decided to get cable a month ago. When I woke up and saw the coloring pages with crayons, I was so excited!” sophomore Jantina Postmus said. “When it gets cold, grey and icy outside, the mood around campus makes me most happy in life, whether that’s making your own small plant, or growing your own small plant.” Riley said. “At the end of the week, each girl receives a small pot with a seed inside for them to grow. Sadness, clouds and frowns were nowhere to be found in the west and covey dorms during Sunshine week; just happy thoughts covering every square inch.”

West and Covey try to brighten up days

Haley Mulder - Staff Writer

For one week in West and Covenant Hall, dark clouds were replaced with a bright sun. During “Sunshine Week,” the week of Feb. 17-22, the signature big and bright yellow sun could be found in the lobby of West Hall with encouraging, and happy thoughts covering every square inch.

Each year, the resident assistants of West and Covenant get together and plan a week for the girls that live in their wing to brighten the mood around campus.

“This is the fourth annual sunshine week,” West hall resident assistant Elizabeth Riley said. “When it gets cold, grey and icy outside, we hope that we can brighten up people’s day.”

This week was picked specifically because it is known to be one of the toughest parts of second semester.

Each morning when the girls headed out for class, they found a little something special at their doorstep. The small presents included chocolate, coloring pages and crayons, Bible verses and Capri Sun juice pouches.

“I’m a little kid at heart and I love to color,” sophomore Janitana Postmus said. “When I woke up and saw the coloring pages with crayons, I was so excited!”

The small gifts and notes made each girl’s day a little brighter, even though it was 12 degrees outside.

In the lobby of both west and covenant there were bright yellow signs hung up where girls could write the things and people that make them most happy in life, whether that’s family members, boyfriends or their favorite celebrity.

“At the end of the week, each girl receives a small pot with a seed inside for them to grow their own small plant,” Riley said. “The small gifts have helped me have a positive look on the day,” freshman Jennifer Allen said. “Even when it’s the worst weather outside causing me to fall on the ice all the time!”

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Sadness, clouds and frowns were nowhere to be found in the west and covey dorms during Sunshine week; just happy thoughts and chocolate.

“Sunshine week is placed in the winter, because sometimes, this weather can make you sad,” west hall resident assistant Aubrey Pasker said. “This week is meant specifically for encouragement.”

It’s a small way to show Christ’s love on a gloomy day.