Claiborne brings character, challenges to First Monday lecture, students respond to his message

Rachel Mulder
Staff Writer

Shane Claiborne, author of The Irresistible Revolution, was Dordt’s final First Monday speaker of the semester. Claiborne is an interesting character—the audience would soon find out—as he donned a Santa Claus hat and encouraged them in singing “Santa Claus is coming to Town” when he walked up on stage.

Although his dress is unlike what we are accustomed to from a “First Monday speaker,” many students enjoyed Claiborne’s antics, attitude and message, entitled “Christian Troublemakers.”

“I really enjoyed Shane as a speaker. His stories he told were amazing, and you could tell how important giving was to him,” said Jamie Kek. However, others weren’t so impressed.

“I thought that Shane’s message was a biblical one,” said Joseph Esry. “However, I think it is sad that Dordt students need Dordt to pay thousands of dollars to an entertainer like Shane to speak on such a basic biblical message. Not only that, I found his message not inspiring and a waste of time.”

Claiborne stayed after the lecture to have lunch and then dinner with groups of students. He gave another lecture at night, and followed up with a “question and response” session.

His morning lecture was most highly attended. In it, he featured stories of Mother Teresa. As Claiborne was working with her in Calcutta he noticed that her feet were deformed. He was told they were this way because she picks the worst pair of shoes to wear and gives the best to the poor.

“The best thing to do with the best things in life is to give them away,” said Claiborne, quoting Mother Teresa. “But we don’t need to fly overseas to do our best for God; we should pray that we have the eyes to see, Mother Teresa said, because there are Calcuttas everywhere.”

Near the conclusion of his address, Claiborne showed a video of a man who had been a contestant on “The Price is Right” and walked away with two cars, a trip to Paris, and thousands of dollars in cash. Later, he sold the two cars, took the profits, and went to Uganda and worked in an orphanage.

Dordt College
9 December 2010
Issue 6

Danielle Richards
Staff Writer

A new, nonprofit gift shop in Sioux Center has opened its doors with the help of several Dordt interns to the surrounding community.

Hands Around the Plain (HATP), located next to The Fruitied Plain Café, features artwork, jewelry, books, and other eclectic items from both local and worldwide distributors.

All profits benefit The Bridge in Orange City, a transitional living home for women and children in Northwest Iowa.

Council members at The Bridge opened HATP to give women from The Bridge work experience, provide funds for The Bridge, build community relationships, and bring poverty awareness to the Northwest Iowa region.

“We are so fortunate to have support from Northwest Iowa as a whole and are excited for everyone to see the fun products,” said HATP Co-founder Jodi McDonough.

The shop currently has many interesting items for sale such as jewelry, handbags, and even local goat soap, according to Lauren De Vries, manager of The Fruitied Plain Café. Many products come from local artists and women at The Bridge.

“It’s interesting, and it’s definitely worth looking around,” De Vries said. HATP encourages Dordt students to take a look at its unique gift items available. In lieu of its opening, the first 25 Dordt students with a student ID to make a purchase will receive a free scarf, according to Sarah Skidmore, the Dordt student marketing intern at HATP.

“Working with HATP is a great opportunity to merge both business and ministry. It’s been a joy to interact with this type of outreach,” said Skidmore.

Hands Around the Plain is open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. until 5:30 p.m., with extended late hours on Wednesday and Saturday.

Students can keep up to date with the store’s blog at: http://handsaroundtheplain.blogspot.com
Or: students can email at: handsaroundtheplain@gmail.com.

Claiborne was a well-known author and Christian activist. He gave lectures on Dec. 6 as part of the First Monday lecture series. Photo by Andrew Homor.

Hands Around the Plain is a non-profit organization that supports The Bridge in Orange City. Photo by Aanna Stadem.

Dordt intern helps with opening of Hands Around the Plain

Rene Clement photos on display in the classroom building

Page 2
Cupcakes bring students to the Zylstra home

Brittany Haan
Staff Writer

Gloria Zylstra, the wife of President Carl Zylstra, will be hosting the 15th annual Christmas party this year at the Zylstra household on Sunday, Dec. 12th, from 7:30 p.m.-9 p.m.

What makes her Christmas party different than any other? Her “glorious” chocolate cupcakes. Zylstra makes over 350 of her secret recipe cupcakes to feed hungry students.

Her cupcakes are well-known throughout the community, because she makes them every year for the KDCR auction, as well as for faculty and staff who have newborns.

Zylstra has had many years of practice perfecting the special cupcakes.

“It has been over 30 years since I have started baking them,” Zylstra said. “I can bake cupcakes in my sleep.”

Students enjoy coming to the Zylstra home because it is spacious, welcoming, and a great place for fellowship with other students.

Dana Haneburg, a student at Dordt, said, “The cupcakes are the reason I have to go every year! They’re definitely worth the walk from my apartment, even if there is a blizzard outside.”

Students also admire the beautiful Christmas decorations, especially the themed nativity scene collection throughout their living area.

“Usually around 200-300 students stop by, some for 5 minutes, and some for an hour,” Zylstra said. “I remember one student saying that one of her favorite memories at Dordt College was sitting on the edge of a bathtub…eating a cupcake.” One year students were even carding through-out the house. If you’ve never been to the Zylstra home before, the best way to come is through the sidewalk path by the side of the road near computer services.

“I remember one student saying that one of her favorite memories at Dordt College was sitting on the edge of a bathtub…eating a cupcake.”

-Gloria Zylstra

Van Wyk sends students all over the world

New off-campus program coordinator enjoyed her own experience, wants students to have the same

Linda Van Wyk
Kelly Zatlin
Staff Writers

What?? You mean to say that I can get an education and travel...at the same time?

Linda Van Wyk, Dordt’s new Coordinator of International Students and Off-Campus Programs, is here to help anyone who would like to make this dream a reality.

“There are so many international opportunities,” said Van Wyk. “We are currently trying to grow opportunities for people that are harder to fit in with off campus programs – such as nurses and engineers.”

There are many different study abroad programs that Dordt can connect people with. Dordt itself has four of its own programs. “We offer SPICE (The Netherlands), SPIN (Nigeria), SPAN (Zambia North Rise University), and Chicago Semester,” said Van Wyk.

Dordt does not limit students to just these four programs. Van Wyk is more than willing to work with students that want to study abroad in other places with different programs.

Students can study in places like Oxford, China, Uganda, India, Egypt, Australia, Costa Rica, France, and Hungary, even though these programs are not directly associated with Dordt.

“I’m so encouraged by what happens here at Dordt with the partnerships we have,” said Van Wyk. “It’s exciting to see the connections that we have formed.”

Van Wyk’s past experience studying and traveling in foreign countries has provided her with a knack for helping students go abroad as well as working with the international students here on campus.

“Growing up I had very little experience with going abroad,” said Van Wyk. “A lot of it started through my experience as a student abroad at Dordt.”

While Van Wyk attended Dordt, she went on the Middle East study abroad program in Cairo, Egypt.

“It was a phenomenal experience,” said Van Wyk. “I learned so much about what the study abroad program can do for you.”

After college, Van Wyk taught in South Korea for two years. It was there that she realized she wanted to work with foreign and international students.

“I had some friends from Korea here at Dordt that were really struggling,” said Van Wyk. “I knew firsthand how hard it was to be a foreigner so this really made me want to work with international students.”

Van Wyk knows she has found her calling here at Dordt. She not only gets to send students around the world, but she also gets to work with international students on a personal, one-on-one level.

“I love talking to students and having them go abroad,” said Van Wyk. “I want to make that happen for them so that can be a part of a bigger picture.”

News

Rene Clement photos on display in classroom building

Adam McDonald
Staff Writer

You may have noticed the new pictures hanging on the wall outside of the Digital Media Lab. “These are photos from Rene Clement, a documentary photojournalist,” said art professor David Versluis. “He was at Dordt in 2009 for the Justice Matters Week where they highlighted various conflicts in various parts of the world.”

Clement sent 33 prints to Dordt of the Palestinian West Bank conflict and the Haitian conflict.

“Part of the agreement we made with Rene was that we would print these and keep them as a department,” said Versluis. “It isn’t trying to make a statement, but it is something we wanted to display again. I guess it’s always relevant because there is always conflict around the globe.”

Rene Clement, a documentary photojournalist from the Netherlands, now resides in New York City and works as a freelance photographer. He accidentally found himself in Orange City and became interested in the town. Since then he has taken numerous photos of the townspeople, particularly as they dress up for the Tulip Festival.

“His current project is a book project for Orange City. All of those portraits that he has come up with are based on his intrigue with Dutch-American cultural phenomenon,” said Versluis. “He is intrigued by how people dress up like they do in the old country. No one in the old country dresses that way anymore, so he is curious why people here have held on to those traditions.”

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What?? You mean to say that I can get an education and travel...at the same time?
Web series by Prairie Grass Productions wins award

“A documentary film won’t change the world, but media does have the potential to shine a spotlight on important issues,” said Mark Volkers on his website.

Mark Volkers, Dordt’s digital media production instructor, along with Dordt alumni at Mission India and the president of the online marketing company, Click Rain, shared their unique skills to create My Passport to India, a virtual tour of India’s slums.

The web series, produced by Prairie Grass Productions, proved so powerful and engaging that it recently received a 2010 Davey Award, the largest and most prestigious award competition held exclusively for small firms with big ideas. Prairie Grass Productions is Dordt College’s production company.

The Mission India series sheds light on the growth of the church in India and allows children to explore India’s diverse culture, people, and country.

After being contacted by Mission India, Volkers along with Dale Vande Griend, a current Dordt student, journeyed to India to capture the experience on film. Click Rain owner Paul Ten Haken began the work of creating a web structure for smooth and easy access to the videos and the program. Prairie Grass Productions began editing the content and produced the webisodes within eight weeks. Volkers believes that opportunities such as this help set Dordt’s digital media program apart.

“Not only are Dordt students doing professional work while they are students, they’re making a difference in the world.”

-Mark Volkers

This is the second Davey Award given to Prairie Grass Productions.

Contributed by Sarah Vander Plaats.

Web series by Prairie Grass Productions wins award

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-Mark Volkers

Student Symposium Update

Calling all students! Calling all students! Symposium needs your help!

Symposium has been given the responsibility of running Covenant storage system and needs student input to know how best to run storage.

Here are some of the ideas symposium has to improve storage:

• Specifically sized boxes that would maximize the usage of storage space. These boxes would be sold to the students who want to store items.
• Shorter time slots for when storage is open to cut back on staff hours.
• Signed contracts that would keep students responsible for the removal and transport of their personal belongings.

What other suggestions do you have as students for this system? Are Symposium’s ideas useful or should they be changed?

To provide feedback on this topic please talk with a Symposium member or stop by the Symposium office located at the bottom of the stairs outside of the library.

Compiled by Steve Olson, Symposium’s Officer of the Press

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Create your own success story at The University of South Dakota.
Chris Van Dam, on his semester in the Netherlands last spring:

Who? Chris Van Dam, senior, history and political studies major.

Where? The Netherlands on the SPICE program.

Why did you choose The Netherlands? “I had a lot of family that went. My cousin and sister went and they had a really good time. My cousin lived with the SPICE coordinator, so when he came the next year for recruiting and interviews he came to my house. His family stayed with us for two weeks, so I had that whole connection.”

What was your living situation? “I stayed with a host family which happened to be the SPICE coordinator. Their home was three or four miles from the Gereformeerde Hogeschool we attended. I biked to school every morning and biked back home in time for dinner which my host mom did not allow me to miss.”

Did you do a lot of traveling? “For my Dutch culture and society class we traveled every other week to different places in the Netherlands. On weekends we traveled individually. We went to places like Ireland, Paris, Germany, and Spain. We toured everything in Rome for a week with GH school.”

Did you have a favorite place that you traveled to? “Probably Ireland. The countryside was just beautiful. The people were very laid back and spoke English which was nice compared to the other places we traveled.”

What is the most important thing you took away from your experience in The Netherlands? “Appreciation of other people’s opinions. You have to do a lot of exploring for classes, and in order to understand the topic you have to immerse yourself in that aspect of their culture. I talked to a number of random people about their opinions on politics. I developed an ability to weigh out different opinions and not be so close minded about how I think things should be.”

How strongly would you recommend this semester on SPICE? “Very strongly. This trip in particular is great for a Dordt student because The Netherlands is at the root of where Dordt came from.”

Jordan Turner, on his semester in Kazakhstan last spring:


Where? Kazakhstan.

Why did you choose to study abroad in Kazakhstan? “I got invited to go there by the president of Kazakh-American Free University (KAFU).”

Were you the first Dordt student to study abroad there? “Not just the first Dordt student, but the first American student. I had no idea what to expect from the culture, and I did not speak the language [Russian] at all.”

What was your living situation like? “I lived in a hotel for a couple of weeks and then moved into an apartment with one of the teachers across from the main campus.”

What were the people like? “They were very welcoming, and it was very easy to connect with the students. They had previously learned English, so they would practice on me.”

Do you have a different perspective on life and the world since your semester in Kazakhstan? “Most certainly. Although cultures and languages are different, people are basically the same everywhere I’ve been on this planet. We’re all after the same things – getting recourses to continue with our lives.”

What was one of the most important things you took away from your experience there? “Definitely the friends I made while I was there. I have close friends now because we went through so much together in that short amount of time.”

How strongly would you recommend taking a semester in Kazakhstan? “Unbelievably strong. Next semester I’m going to see if the study abroad program at Dordt would be interested in having a program with the KAUF.”

What will you be studying? “Ecology and ecological issues in light of our calling as Christians. We will be studying a lot of literature on ecological issues and our calling as Christians. We will be bringing the two together.”

Traci Hoogland and Kyle DeBoer, on their plans to go abroad next semester:

Who? Traci Hoogland, senior, biology major.

Where? New Zealand with the Creation Care Studies program.

Why did you choose to study abroad in New Zealand? “It’s one of the few science-related, off-campus programs available through Dordt. Dordt has a lot of other study abroad opportunities, but most are geared toward art or political studies.”

What are you most looking forward to on this semester abroad? “The landscapes. We’re going to be spending a lot of time outdoors and the New Zealand countryside is gorgeous. I’m really looking forward to the incredible beauty.”

What are your plans after this semester on SPICE? “Very strongly. I see myself visiting New Zealand again and then probably going to Europe.”

Who? Kyle DeBoer, sophomore, theology major.

Where? The Netherlands on SPICE.

Why did you choose The Netherlands? “I wanted to be able to visit Europe and see the different places there. Also, being Dutch I was interested to get to know and understand the culture. Academically, I fulfill a lot of core and theology classes through this semester.”

What are you most excited for in this semester? “Being able to experience Europe and all the different cultures and lifestyles as well as getting to know people from the different cultures and countries.”

How do you feel this semester abroad will help you in your major? “It will provide experience with cross cultural opportunities. I’ll be getting away from the usual and typical lifestyle here and be able to immerse myself in the culture and then reassess when I come back here. The part of Europe that I will be visiting is the center of the Reformation, and it’s easier to learn about these things when you are up close and personal.”

Are you planning on doing any traveling while you are there? “I hope to go to Denmark and visit a friend for a weekend, and I am so excited for the trip to Italy. I would also enjoy watching some European soccer in either Spain or England. There is so much, though, to learn about in the Netherlands itself. I really want to get to know the Netherlands.”

Do you have any apprehensions about going abroad? “Other than the fact that I do not know any Dutch, I am not nervous at all.”

Are you the first Dordt student to travel there? “Not just the first Dordt student to travel there, but the first American student. I had no idea what to expect from the culture, and I did not speak the language [Russian] at all.”

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Do you have any apprehensions about going abroad? “Other than the fact that I do not know any Dutch, I am not nervous at all.”
Opinion

Forming Defenders: My American Christmas

Chelsey Munneke Columnist

My rule is that I cannot listen to Christmas music until the day after Thanksgiving, but when I wake up at 3 a.m. in the morning to go shopping, the jingle bells break loose. The next month is meant for purchasing gifts, overdosing on cookies and candy (or pretty much anything containing almond bark), and reciting Elf a few too many times. Ah, the preparation for Christmas – what a wonderful time.

The church has a term for the preparation of Christmas: Advent. But this preparation looks nothing like the Americanized version I explained above. When I was little I loved when the Advent Candle went up in church, I saw it as the church’s Christmas countdown. Just two more candles and then it’s present time! I know; I was a shallow child.

But then Christmas Day would come, the last candle would be lit, and before I knew it my mom would be vacuuming up pine needles off the living room floor. Barbie arms broke off, the chocolate got stale, and just like Christmas was over. The sad thing is that all too often we feel this way, and when Christmas “ends” the joy that comes with it my mom would be vacuuming up pine needles off the living room floor.

A look at a smoker’s psyche, part two

Matt Bleyenberg Guest Columnist

You probably think it sounds strange when I say that smokers make an emotional attachment to cigarettes. But every smoker has a “I got started when...” story, and this story is the basis for the addiction. We smokers learn what kind of addiction we have based off of how we started.

I started smoking in high school, but it wasn’t until college that I became addicted. The first week of class I started smoking one a day because I was a bit homesick, and all the people I hung out with lived in North while I was in Covington (I didn’t even have my blankie). After that first week the addiction only progressed. I started smoking because I was lonely, but continued because my friends started smoking too, which made for awesome smoker’s talk pads; by this time, the nicotine had already been in my system.

Ever since then, I’ve almost always enjoyed smoking much more when I’m alone. It’s my time to reflect on how stupid I am for smoking, and how my life could have been different.

If we can combat the base reason we started, I think we have a much better chance of quitting. The fear of the unknown is the main reason people continue to smoke. We will have filled the void that smoking used to fill. I was lonely, so I shoved nicotine into it to feel better. But when (someday) I’m not lonely I can kick out the smoking because my body/chemical make up/soul is complete again. If loneliness is your thing, it’s tough because you always have other smokers, so you don’t feel lonely. But this type of social smoking is just a crutch to justify smoking. Try hanging out with your smoking gang and not smoking. You’ll realize the loneliness is not filled.

No matter what your reasons, quitting is tough because there are usually so many good memories tied to smoking: watching the stars and thinking, triumph over your first deer, chillin’ at the lake. Then when you think of quitting, you think that you’ll never have good memories like that again, because you won’t be complete without smoking. It’s also scary because we know that we’ve abused the privilege, so we can’t enjoy a single smoke anymore. Maybe some can, but it’s not for me. It’s addiction is something that keeps us from the idea of ever quitting, and quitting for good.

To the smokers, I hope nothing I said was new. Also, take this advice with a grain or salt considering I still haven’t quit. To the non-smokers, please don’t judge us as weak willed individuals who love killing ourselves. Most of us struggle enough already. Also to non-smokers, I hope you never get addicted. If you never feel the need to try it, more power to you. Just know that addiction will trick you into thinking you have the power to easily stop it. The French poet Baudelaire states it best when he says, “The greatest trick the devil ever pulled was convincing the world he didn’t exist.”

And nowadays, one should be single as a twenty-something to have more fun. This reaction bothers me not for what it says about marriage (or about fun, for that matter), but for what it says about life in general. That is, when did life become so much about play?

College, it would seem, is not education and professionalization. It’s fun. The job one gains after college is, more often than not, a means towards weekend fun rather than anything substantial in and of itself. Anything that intrudes upon the incessant desire for fun is ball and chain. Do I think everyone ought to get married at a younger age (or that the single life is invalid)? Of course not. Is college fun? You bet. I’m just attempting a bit of cultural analysis. The wariness that many young people feel towards college engagements and marriages is a fairly recent phenomenon. What does this say about the culture in which you and I live? What does this say about you and me?

I don’t have your answer. But I do have a smokin’ hot fiancée.

Too much, too little: Another one bites the dust

Five couples that I know of got engaged during or just before Thanksgiving break. My smokin’ hot fiancée and I are one of them.

After experiencing four years and untold of engagements at Dordt College, I’ve noticed a common reaction certain folks have when they hear of engagements: “I cannot imagine being engaged in college. We’re still so young!” certain folks will say—implying either “How can you possibly be ready for marriage?” or “There’s still so much fun to be had!” These actions bother me for two reasons.

Let’s start with the first: being ready for marriage. Allow me to pose my own question: when is one ever ready for marriage? My Grandma Gradert (then a Vermeer) was on her seventeenthe, a love-struck Dutch girl in way over her head with a German Lutheran. After more than 40 years of more or less happy marriage, death did them part.

I doubt Grandpa and Grandma were anywhere close to being ready to marry. But don’t think that they valued their vows. Commitment to the promise pulls a couple through the surprises of the early years of marriage—not any sort of readiness that comes with a certain age. In the long run, I don’t think it would have made much of a difference whether Grandma was seventeen or twenty-seven when she was married.

That’s fine for the 1950’s, we may say, but in the 21st millennium a proper seventeen-year-old knows that “there’s still so much fun to be had”—the second reaction towards engagements. It seems one should be single in high school in order to have more fun. In addition, one should be single in college to have more fun.

Five couples that I know of got engaged during or just before Thanksgiving break. My smokin’ hot fiancée and I are one of them.

After experiencing four years and untold of engagements at Dordt College, I’ve noticed a common reaction certain folks have when they hear of engagements: “I cannot imagine being engaged in college. We’re still so young!” certain folks will say—implying either “How can you possibly be ready for marriage?” or “There’s still so much fun to be had!” These actions bother me for two reasons.

Let’s start with the first: being ready for marriage. Allow me to pose my own question: when is one ever ready for marriage? My Grandma Gradert (then a Vermeer) was on her seventeenthe, a love-struck Dutch girl in way over her head with a German Lutheran. After more than 40 years of more or less happy marriage, death did them part.

I doubt Grandpa and Grandma were anywhere close to being ready to marry. But don’t think that they valued their vows. Commitment to the promise pulls a couple through the surprises of the early years of marriage—not any sort of readiness that comes with a certain age. In the long run, I don’t think it would have made much of a difference whether Grandma was seventeen or twenty-seven when she was married.

That’s fine for the 1950’s, we may say, but in the 21st millennium a proper seventeen-year-old knows that “there’s still so much fun to be had”—the second reaction towards engagements. It seems one should be single in high school in order to have more fun. In addition, one should be single in college to have more fun.

And nowadays, one should be single as a twenty-something to have more fun. This reaction bothers me not for what it says about marriage (or about fun, for that matter), but for what it says about life in general. That is, when did life become so much about play?

College, it would seem, is not education and professionalization. It’s fun. The job one gains after college is, more often than not, a means towards weekend fun rather than anything substantial in and of itself. Anything that intrudes upon the incessant desire for fun is ball and chain. Do I think everyone ought to get married at a younger age (or that the single life is invalid)? Of course not. Is college fun? You bet. I’m just attempting a bit of cultural analysis. The wariness that many young people feel towards college engagements and marriages is a fairly recent phenomenon. What does this say about the culture in which you and I live? What does this say about you and me?

I don’t have your answer. But I do have a smokin’ hot fiancée.

Compromise. It could just as well be a swear word to me. When we’re consistently told we can do anything, be anything, it seems only out of foolish indiscretion we would choose to walk around closing doors of opportunity.

A woman can journey through her twenties, making decisions that define her in her own right. She has no boud...
Indoor track begins Jan. 15, ‘good core’ back from last season

Asthall Stallinga
Head Editor

Indoor track is right on the other side of Christmas break, and the team is preparing for its first meet: Jan. 15, at Dordt.

“Last year, we were really successful in the sense that we broke a few school records, and took more athletes to nationals than ever before,” Coach Craig Heynen said. “A big part of our success last year was the new people, so now they’re back with a year of experience. We have a good core.”

However, Heynen does have a couple concerns. “There are some events we’re not so strong in. We don’t have as many throwers as I would like, especially on the women’s side—we only have one returner, Rachel Smith.” Another danger is that injuries will really hurt the team, in more ways than one. “On both sides, men and women, we have quality, but not enough depth,” Heynen said. “If someone gets hurt, we could be in trouble.”

Standout track and field athletes, new and returning:

Women
Jenna Brouwer, Crystal VanderZee, Michelle Steiger, Merissa Harkema, and Briana Wubben.

“All of these women qualified for Nationals,” Heynen said. “Also, Tara Postma is a key returner. Nichole Duncan is injured, but depending on how she feels, she would be a significant starter as well.”

Men
Josiah Lutjebroer and Ryan Tholen, part of the All-American 4x800; Nic Pfeifle, Alex Henderson, Andrew VanderWoude.

“The guys are a little different, because we graduated four or five really talented seniors. So we have a few holes to fill, especially in middle distance,” Heynen said. “The freshmen are a group with a lot of potential, though. They had success in cross country. We have Tim Biema, Stephan McNamara, and Nathan Brace; I think they can step into the 4x800 roles, and we won’t lose a whole lot.”

Compiled by Asthall Stallinga

Heartbreak at home
Dordt loses close contest with Northwestern

Joe Venhuizen
Staff Writer

A great effort fell short on December 1 as the men’s basketball team lost to Northwestern 65-79. That effort began with the opening whistle as the Defenders opened the game on an 11-0 run.

Freshman Kyle Lindbergh was hot out of the gates for the Defenders, racking up the game’s first five points, four rebounds, and blocked shot all in the first minute and a half. Fellow freshman Austin Katje added two 3-pointers to extend the early lead to 11.

“We started the game very well and with a lot of energy,” said coach Douma.

Dordt held onto their lead, going into halftime ahead 33-29. Then things started to slip. Dordt’s early lead disappeared quickly, and Northwestern’s 53% shooting in the second half was too much for the Defenders.

“We played well enough to win,” said Douma, “but we didn’t make enough plays in the final five minutes to secure it.”

A dunk by Northwestern’s Ryan Hoogevest with 1:18 left put the nail in the coffin for the Defenders. Dordt was led by Katje with 15 points, followed by Jordan Vogel with 13 and Brad Van Staalduinen with 12. For the Red Raiders, Daniel Van Kalsbeek led the way with 23, and Ben Miller added 22. The Defenders played without the injured Trevor Woltersroff.

Compiled by Jordan Harmelinck, staff writer

Ask an Athlete

Trevor Woltersroff, is a psychology major at Dordt, attended Western Christian High School in Hull, Iowa where he led his team to two state tournament titles in 2007 and 2008, with a third place finish in 2009.

What is your favorite part about basketball? I enjoy all aspects of the game. I enjoy the competition aspect, but probably most enjoy the bonds and friendships that you form with your teammates and coaches.

Thoughts on the season? Extremely excited. We have a lot of players who are ready and willing to work hard and improve. We have all the pieces, it now comes down to how we fit together and mesh as a team.

Do you have any pre-game traditions? I always wear two pairs of socks and put them on in a specific order and way. I have done this since I was a freshman in high school. Why I do it in that manner, I have no idea. Other than that I just try to slow myself down and focus on the game and matchups.

Who is your favorite basketball player? LeBron James

Favorite Team? Duke Blue Devils

Favorite Sports movie? Remember the Titans

If you weren’t playing basketball here at Dordt, what sport would you be playing? I have never thought about that question before. I really don’t know what sport I would play.

What’s more exciting to you? Hitting a 3-pointer or dunking over someone? Dunking over someone.

You played at Western, and now you’re teammates with some guys that you played against in high school. What’s that like? Its fun playing with those guys because they are all great players. They work just as hard and want to win just as much. I still enjoyed the competition against them in high school, but I definitely enjoy playing and practicing with them more.
Staff Writer

Meghan Aardsma

The Dordt College art sale offers another opportunity for students to show their work to the community, but this time they can make a little money in the process.

The art sale was hosted in Centre Mall near Casey’s Bakery December 2-4. “It’s a good chance for students to show off their work,” said Matt Drissel who organized the event this year. “It also helps them to learn how to part with their art, as well as get some money before Christmas.”

This year’s show presented a wide variety of media for sale including sculpture, pottery, prints, paintings, photos and drawings. “It’s pretty cool,” said Maggie Schmidt, a Centre Mall employee visiting the display. “Students are given the opportunity to show the community what they can do.”

The professors of Dordt’s art department help students price their work, depending on medium used, size, as well as the time and effort they put into the piece.

Works can range anywhere from $10 to $30 on average and, depending on the quantity and quality of what they submit, a student can make near $50 in sales. This year’s artist totaled $900, although the usual sales of the show usually come up to $1000.

Anyone can participate in the art show, but it is usually publicized to art students first, due to a lack of space. The art show comes once every two years, so the next one is planned for winter 2012.

The biannual art sale was held in Centre Mall near Casey’s Bakery from Dec. 2 - 4. Dordt students displayed and sold their work. Other students, faculty and community members could purchase a wide variety of pieces, including sculpture, pottery, prints, paintings, photos and drawings. All together, they brought it $900.

Review:

Reitsma directs Arkansaw Bear

Through the use of humor and some excellent acting, Arkansaw Bear makes a valiant effort in an attempt to spin the theme of death, an aspect of life that many adults are baffled by, in a direction that is both appealing and understandable for children.

The play starts with Tish, played by Kaylee Engelsman, arriving at her grandpa’s house, only to find out he is on his death bed. After wishing to understand the concept of death, The World’s Greatest Dancing Bear, played by Corey Muijenburg, and his trusty mime sidekick, played by Shannon Spargo, arrive on the scene. He must find someone to pass his dances on to before his death.

By the time the ring leader, played by Vanessa Theel, comes to take him to the great center ring, The World’s Greatest Dancing Bear is content with his passing.

The themes of the play seemed to be a little much for what is considered a children’s play.

After all, the core of being able to interpret and enjoy a play is how well you can relate to it on a personal level. A child may enjoy a six foot four inch college student playing a dancing bear or a young woman popping out of a stairway ten feet above the ground playing a star, but I doubt that they fully understand what is going on.

However, the play was well produced, humorous, and the actors did a great job of conveying the feelings of the characters they were playing.

The play was going on. After wishing to understand the theme of death, an aspect of life that many adults are baffled by, in a direction that is both appealing and understandable for children.

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Comedy Classics

Ah, ready for another nice day of warm winter weather.

Meghan Aardsma

Comic Mishaps by Meghan Aardsma

Featured photo

Merry Christmas from Southview 104

It’s about that time again: time to deck the halls. The door to Southview 104 brings a little Christmas cheer with their 3-D Christmas tree.

The tree is complete with a wrapping paper background, presents underneath, ornaments, and of course, a star on top.

The residents of Southview 104 are Rindy De Nooy, Rachel De Waard, Joanna Hessels, Elizabeth Hummel, Jaya Nyhof, and Jessica Wesselius.

Compiled by Ashlee Stallinga

Photo by Graham Campbell

Miley Cyrus vs. Sacagawea

Hollywood VS. History Round 6

MILEY CYRUS vs. SACAGAWEA

Fame

MILEY: Riding on the mullet-tails of her father’s fame.
SACAGAWEA: You see her everyday on all of your Sacagawea dollars.

ADVANTAGE SACAGAWEA

Brains

MILEY: Very smart girl. She was actually a successful lawyer/surgeon before she decided to get into acting at age 9.
SACAGAWEA: Without Sacagawea’s brains, Iowa wouldn’t be a state, Dordt wouldn’t be a school, and the BJ Haan wouldn’t be here. Did she have the BJ Haan in mind back in 1804? I think she definitely did.

ADVANTAGE SACAGAWEA

Strengths

MILEY: Having the best of both worlds.
SACAGAWEA: Helping settlers take all the land away from her fellow Native Americans.

ADVANTAGE MILEY

Weaknesses

MILEY: Acting. Have you seen her show?
SACAGAWEA: Despite being a guide, she was terrible with directions. She just pretended to know the way to the ocean and got totally lucky.

ADVANTAGE MILEY

Sex Appeal

MILEY: She looked great on the show Hannah Montana, but in Hannah Montana: The Movie, she looked disgusting!
SACAGAWEA: When Lewis & Clark first saw her, they said, “Excuse us, sir. Do you know where the Pacific Ocean is?” She was not pretty.

ADVANTAGE MILEY

MILEY WINS 3-2

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