Local Justice Matters at Dordt

Ashlee Stallinga
Editor

Justice Matters Club is currently in the middle of hosting its annual Justice Matters Week, and the activities continue tonight.

The theme of the entire week is “Every Square Inch,” but each day has a theme of its own as well.

Today’s focus is “Love your neighbor.”

There will be a potluck dinner at 5:30 p.m. in the north commons—everyone on campus is invited, says Michelle Smith, part of the leadership committee for the Justice Matters Club.

The dinner will feature sample letters, information sheet, lists of all the United States Senators and Representatives, paper, envelopes and pens.

Students gather inside before and after classes. Some stop by intentionally, and some wander in after smelling the donuts.

This year’s letters are about protecting key tax credits for low-income families. Smith explained that because their wages stay the same and the cost of living rises, these families will fall back into poverty if they lose their credits.

Last year we did modern global conflicts and wars, while this year we are focusing on local justice,” said Daniel Mahaffy, another Justice Matters Club leader.

The letters will be sent at the end of the week; about 20 were written yesterday.

Nick Van Ee contributed one of them.

“I’ve seen the tent the last couple of days, and so I decided to stop in,” he said. “Plus it cleared up, stopped raining, and I had time.”

Van Ee, an RA in North, also mentioned that one of his residents is part of the Justice Matters Club, which helped draw his attention to the tent.

He hasn’t made it to any other Justice Matters Week events, but many other students have.

On Monday, Nick Breems came to give a speech entitled, “Unplugging our lives,” which was also that day’s theme. Over 20 people were in attendance.

There was supposed to be game night as well, but no one showed up for that.

Tuesday saw better results. Local farmer John Wesselsius came to speak about natural and organic growing practices, as well as his own experience.

After the talk, about 40 people watched the documentary “Fresh” on the same topic, and many stayed to talk about what they had heard and seen afterwards.

“Discussion continued long after the film had finished,” Mahaffy said.

Yesterday, the theme was “Stuff.”

In accordance, the club organized a free garage sale in the Grille area where people could take what they wanted and leave what they wanted on the tables provided.

Andrew Horner took advantage of the tables.

“I got rid of some of my old junk,” he said. “I left a nerf gun and a couple textbooks. And I picked up a Def Leppard CD.”

Later, the club screened “The Story of Stuff,” to finish their themed activities for the day.

Last night also featured a Reader’s Theatre. It was planned by the theatre department, but intentionally coincided with Justice Matters Week.

Nothing is planned for tomorrow, because the Cultural Fair was originally scheduled to take place then.
Due to large class size, not all seniors will be able to live in new apartments

Adam McDonald
Staff Writer

The mystery surrounding the new apartment building is fading.
The outside is taking shape, and some have even seen the inside.
Many seniors now know that they’re going to live there, and have begun to dream of dishwashers and multiple showers. Some seniors face the disappointment of drawing a number just a little too high.
The housing for the new building, like all other housing, is based on a point system.
Seniority trumps those who haven’t earned as many points, and from there it’s based on a lottery system of numbers drawn.
The apartment building was designed to hold an average size class of seniors. But this year, one full room of senior women and one full room of senior men won’t fit.
Those groups will live in Southview, and the overflow trickles down from there. Therefore, though only four East Campus apartments were intended to be in use, one more will have to be opened because next year’s juniors have a large class as well.
But the seniors in Southview will still be welcomed to use the new building, as will the rest of campus.

Trip to Haiti may not include Dordt students

Kelly Zatlin
Staff Writer

The upcoming trip to Haiti, initially put together by several Dordt nursing students, might not go over quite as planned.
Recently, several Dordt nurses, with the help of Haitian freshman Claude Gillot, made plans to get together a medical relief team to go down to Haiti in late June.
Gillot planned the trip with medical professionals from Sioux Falls and his host mother, Jeanne De Jager from Rock Valley.

Some of the licensed Dordt nurses—this year’s juniors and seniors—wanted to go with.
However, Amanda Haan, who was working with Claude to plan the trip, now expresses her uncertainty about nursing students from Dordt being able to make it.
“It was a fast decision and we don’t currently have all the information,” Haan said. “This particular trip may or may not include Dordt students, but it is still going to happen.”
She is hopeful also that the nurses will get a chance to go— if not in June, then another time.
“Even if we can’t get nurses to go on this trip, my goal is to try and get a group together over spring break next year,” Haan said. “It’s not that we don’t want to do this trip now, we just don’t have all the information and there may be risks.”
The goal of the trip is to bring medical relief to people still suffering in Haiti. The group plans to set up medical clinics where they teach basic wound care and hygiene. They also are planning on getting together supplies and everyday necessities like toiletries, medicine, and vitamins.
Another thing Haan said that the group would like to do is a Vacation Bible School along with an evangelism feeding program. But because they do not have all the specifics, they are not aware of exactly what the current needs are in Haiti.

Hani Yang
Staff Writer

The Students Without Borders (SWB) club is hosting their third annual Cultural Fair on Saturday, April 24.
This year, the club is organizing the event in a different way. Instead of having a little bit of food from each country, the club will feature food from Spanish-Speaking countries; other food will be featured in coming years.
The audience will still be able to experience other countries through performances, games, and crafts like henna, calligraphy, and origami.
“We changed the organization of the fair because we realized that in the previous years we just presented info out there, but it maybe didn’t catch a lot of interest,” said SWB president Sonam Tsering.
“Last year, we were more involved with the performers, so we want it to be more activity-oriented." The Fair first started with hopes of widening students’ cultural horizons by providing them a glimpse of different cultures that are represented on campus.
“The purpose behind the cultural fair is just to spread awareness of different cultures to the community,” said Tsering. “The international students who attend Dordt come here and experience the culture here, so we also want the community to have a taste of the culture we come from, as we do each other’s.”
The Cultural Fair will be held in the Grille Area from 4-7p.m. It is open to the public.
SAC brings back Price is Trite

Lance Kooiman
Staff Writer

SAC will be holding its “Price Is Trite” games on Saturday, April 17 at 7 p.m. in the BJ Haan Auditorium. Closely modeled after the classic “Price Is Right” television game show, the “Price Is Trite” games will give students the chance to win prizes and gather for a night of fun.

“This will be very similar to ‘The Price Is Right’ from TV,” said Kurt Franje, member of SAC. “The games will include a contestant’s row, wheel, Barker beauties to showcase prizes, and the Showcase Showdown.” Prizes have been donated from area businesses for this event. All businesses participating will be recognized for their donations during the games. “The prizes will be kept a secret until the night of the event,” said Franje. “Be assured though, these will be prizes that go beyond any handmade creations. They are legit!” Along with the games, there is also a costume contest, so students are encouraged to dress up for the event. This year’s theme is around the world, so students are encouraged to dress in their most exotic outfits. There will be prizes both for best dressed guy and best dressed girl.

“Students are really encouraged to get into this event”, said Franje. “We want them to be loud and crazy, just like the audience on the real game show. Shout price guesses and try to influence the contestants, just like you see on TV.”

Hosts for the evening will be Justin Carruthers as Bob Barker and Nick Breen will be Rod Roddy.

Come for the pizza, stay for the presentations

Adam McDonald
Staff Writer

Ideafest will be held on Thursday, April 29, featuring presentations and pizza.

“How [the pizza] a bribe? Yes,” said Paul Fessler, history professor and Ideafest coordinator.

But it’s also a part of the celebration of the thoughts and projects being presented, he said.

Ideafest is a gathering of students from all majors presenting their work, their ideas, and their research through presentations given in Eckhardt Lounge, the library, the Humble Bean and the Grille area between 3:00 and 5:30 p.m.

Sexual Abuse Awareness Month marked at Dordt

Joe Venhuizen
Staff Writer

April 1 marked the beginning of National Sexual Abuse Awareness Month. Its purpose is to “inform the community that sexual abuse is a real issue out there today”, according to Barb of the Family Crisis Center in Sioux Center.

The center has been serving victims of sexual and physical abuse for over 25 years, and because of the delicate nature of their work, their advocates are not considered to be identified by their last name.

The biggest problem with sexual abuse is that it goes largely unnoticed. The fact is, sexual abuse occurs. People are victimized.

And it happens a lot more than many people think.

The latest studies state that one in three girls and one in five boys will be sexually abused by the age of 18. Similar studies show that every day in America 480 women and children are raped.

What about on a college campus? A study done in 2000 estimates that over the course of their 5-year college career, 20-25% of college women will be victims of rape or attempted rape. Among these, 9 out of 10 victims personally know their offenders.

Most people think their potential rapist will be a stranger,” said Pam of the center. “But it isn’t some Boogey-man in an alley… it’s usually an acquaintance or a date.”

The Family Crisis Center set up a booth in the Campus Center on April 14 and will do so again on April 19 from 9:30-3:00. Students to come by and pick up pamphlets and information about sexual abuse, along with free lip balm.

The goal for the Crisis Center this April is to get the word out. They want more people to recognize this problem, which makes it easier to fight.

SYMPOSIUM UPDATE

Symposium will be sponsoring a “Flee” Market on May 1. All students are invited to the campus green—outside the Rec Center—to buy and sell any unwanted possessions before leaving for the summer.

The sale will last from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. To reserve a space for selling, sign up on the sheet hung on the Symposium office door in the Grille area.

You may sign up with a group of roommates or friends, but you will be responsible for keeping track of your items.

During the afternoon, Symposium will provide popscicles and give away Frisbees.

Music is expected, perhaps played by Symposium’s own Alvin Shim.

An ultimate Frisbee game will also be organized later in the afternoon.

Everyone is encouraged to check out the sale!

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Symposium would also like to announce that elections will be held for the 2010-2011 school year on April 19 and 20.

On Monday, April 19, the voting will open in the Grille area at 9:00 p.m. after speeches from some of the candidates. It will be open from noon until 10:00 p.m. on Tuesday.

(compiled by Ashlee Stallinga)
Dordt College Library celebrates National Library Week

Luke Schut
Staff Writer

The Dordt Library took part in National Library Week this week to encourage students to celebrate their library and have fun.

“It’s a way to celebrate librar-ies and what they do,” said librarian Janis Versluis.

This is the fourth year that the Dordt Library has cele-brated National Library Week. The event is sponsored by the American Library Association but has generally been a pub-lic library event. Hosting the event at an academic library was something of an Unusual idea.

“I thought, ‘We could do that,’” said Director Sheryl Taylor.

And Dordt does National Library Week in a unique way, too. It has made a tradition of hosting a paper airplane con-test and having students read original fiction and poetry dur-ing the week.

But the most notable fea-ture of Dordt’s Library Week is the READ poster. Just like Library Week, the READ posters are something of a tradition in public librar-ies, but Dordt does things dif-ferently.

While most libraries buy READ posters with pictures of celebrities, Dordt gets a poster of a Dordt campus celebrity every year, and the unveiling of the poster is one of the Li-brary Week events.

This year’s READ poster, unveiled yesterday, features football coach John Heavner.

“The READ poster is the crux of Library Week,” said Taylor.

The library also has daily drawings for gift certificates to various community businesses during the week.

If you’ve missed the first part of Library Week, there are still a few events planned.

The library will have a photo booth available all day Thursday. Friday will have a football toss contest to go along with the new READ poster, and the library host the Library Gladiators: After Hours-Part from 10 PM to midnight.

Good Friday decision to be made in May

Ashlee Stallings
Editor

The Academic Senate is working a proposal to change the academic calendar so that classes would no longer be held on Good Friday.

“Many have thought it would be appropriate so there could be a focus on the Passion Week and on spending time with family,” Wayne Kobes, Academic Senate Chair said.

However, the date of Easter shifts every year, and next year it falls nearly in dead week.

Therefore, the Senate decided that if the new calendar takes effect, it won’t be until 2012.

But the time off has to be made up elsewhere.

As a result, Spring Break will be shortened.

Instead of lasting from Thursday to Tuesday, Spring Break would not start until Fri-day, and classes would resume either Monday or Tuesday— the Senate is still ironing out the details.

This change could affect PLIA groups, sports teams, and choir or band tours, but Kobes seemed confident that each could adjust to the new sched-u-le.

“We’ve talked to music groups and PLIA leaders,” he said. “I think it would be work-able.”

Nothing is set in stone yet, but Kobes shares his pre-dictions.

“I’m not a prophet,” he said, “But I believe that it will be accepted in some form. I think the sentiment was favor-able that the problems can be worked out.”

He believes the decision will be made at the May meeting of the Senate.

“Many have thought it would be appropriate.”

Hoekstra makes plan to restructure faculty

Departments take responsibility as Dean positions disappear

Adrian Hielema
Staff Writer

Erik Hoekstra is a man with a plan. Drawing from his ex-perience with business ad-ministration, Dordt's provost of only two years is seeking to change the way the admin-is-tration and faculty positions are structured.

“We’re trying to push the decision-making closer to the action,” said Hoekstra in a question-and-answer session for faculty.

For years, the decisions made by various department members had to go through one of the three Deans and then the Provost himself; under the new system, department heads are encouraged to make inno-vative decisions more on their own.

“Often times faculty mem-bers feel responsible [to make decisions] but don’t have the authority to do so,” said Hoekstra.

The new plan would feature 8-13 tentatively named “De-partment Area Chairs” who would report to the Provost himself.

If the DAC’s ever felt a cer-tain issue went beyond their expertise, they would be able to turn to a team of internal consultants, including the Registrar, Associate Provost, Director of International Stud-ies, and two new “functional” Deans who would focus more on consulting than decision making.

The new structure places much more emphasis on side-to-side cooperation than top-down hierarchy.

One of the issues stressed in the input session for faculty last week was the problem of the Deans’ current roles.

Dordt's three Deans (of So-cial Sciences, Humanities, and Natural Sciences) are current-ly responsible for a large num-ber of faculty and far-ranging decisions.

“Finding three Deans that are uniformly good at every-thing is pretty difficult,” said Hoekstra, stressing that it was the efficiency and not the skill level of the system that needed to be fixed.

As for the students, Hoek-stra hopes that the new system will more effectively support student learning and devel-opment, as well as bringing down the costs of operating the college thanks to improved efficiency.

The new plan is currently accepting input from various faculty and administration members before it is presented for final discussion by the Acad-emic Senate on April 22nd.

“Ultimately the question is, do we build positions around people, or do we hire people to set positions?” said Hoekstra.

“We’re trying to create a hy-brid of both.”

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Reality check:
Be a voice for North Koreans

Imagine this scenario: the government announces that in order to increase its control over the economy, it is revalu- ing your country’s currency. You have one week to trade in all your old cash savings for new bills. The maximum amount you will be allowed to trade in? $40 worth. Anything else you saved is now worthless.

If you object, you, your siblings, grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins will be sent to a prison camp for life. If you obey, you face the possibility of starvation.

Kind of puts the health-care debate in perspective, eh?

This is exactly what the North Korean government did last November. This is life for the average North Ko- rean—forever subject to the whim and paranoia of a party whose ideological convictions allowed a million people to starve in the 1990s, and a dictator, Kim Jong II, whose sanity is open to question.

Cut off from the rest of the world for sixty years now, the North Koreans have become a voiceless people, largely for- gotten in international poli- tics, where the major players are far more interested in con- sume nuclear weapons and over a million soldiers to reform. There are no easy answers, but the church in America cannot be apathetic about this problem. We must, at the very least, bear witness to the suffering of our broth- ers and sisters in North Korea, so that the world will not forget.

The organization called Liberty in North Korea (LiNK) is working to spread awareness about the continuing oppression in North Korea, and to help North Korean refugees living underground in China escape to free countries, one at a time.

Next Thursday, April 22, LiNK will come to campus to show a documentary and talk about their work. I’d encour- age all Dordt students to at- tend and learn more.

In the meantime, let us pray that the injustices in North Korea will soon come to an end. Even when everything seems hopeless, we can put our trust in a God who David says “does not ignore the cry of the afflicted.”

Joel Veldkamp
Columnist

This year, I tried writing mini-essays fueled by, as my current editor says, my inces- sant cynicism.

This is my last column. I’ve been writing for the Diamond for four years, starting with a piece that was prompted by whether I enjoyed Week of Welcome or not.

Back then, The Dia- mond was edited by the great Nathan Smith, a good friend and mentor.

In the following year he asked me to write a column. “You’ve got thoughtful opinions and a distinct writing voice,” he assured me. This was helpful. “Do whatever you want.” This was not. Give a monkey a typewriter, give a mouse a cookie and so forth.

He suggested an advice column—an Ask Alvin type of thing—but nobody wrote in, and I made up problems for the duration of the semes- ter.

Then I tried writing a food column. That was fun for some time—I wrote about vegetarianism on campus, wrote about eating rice with my family; I wrote about how cottage cheese was good, and then I ate some.

Alvin observes: Final words of wisdom

Through all of these stag- es, wonderful people have stopped me to say they en- joyed my writing. Others have e-mailed to comment, argue, or question. Maybe these bits of writing have been useful.

And here we are, again: this is my last column. Two hundred words in and three days past deadline before I get to my point. Hear me if you will, members of the Dordt community.

Nobody will feel pity for your apathy or lack of inter- ests.

Though some may allow you to be ignorant, unin- formed, or incapable, you should not. You should not accept these descriptors.

Read Joel’s column on North Korea above. If you don’t understand what’s happening, then call your professors, scour the Inter- net, and email the author of the piece (he’s really nice).

At this school, with its resources, nobody is al- lowed to claim being igno- rant, uninformed, or incapa- ble. If you think you’re any of these, you’re lazy.

If you don’t care, you should be able to defend why. And you’d do much better to find something you do care about; far too many people are wasting time in class, and at work.

Higher education wasn’t created for its students to keep from asking questions.

Have a great end of the year, and thanks for reading.

Robert Minto
Columnist

The anti-Moderate: State of the College

The last issue of the Diamond is a perfect time for reflection on the successes and failures of our institution over the past school year.

What form should our evaluation take? An accountant’s balance sheet? Statistics on the number of graduates and their GRE scores? Lists of engagements? I propose instead a catalogue of the substantial changes made to student social and academic life.

First, chapel was restructured. It became smoother and more well-organized (not entirely without coercion) for unprecedented numbers of students. This may be a good or bad development, depending whether it marks an increased concern for the quality of campus liturgies or a cosmetic hunger for numbers.

Most signs suggest the better interpretation.

We also witnessed the first series of First Monday Speakers. They occasioned numerous discussions among students, providing excellent opportunities for cross-disciplinary conversation. We can gladly anticipate even better success as students integrate the tradition and speaker selections improve.

We enjoyed a renovated classroom building and library, and witnessed the first academic conference in the humanities that Dordt has hosted in years.

But our year was not all good. We also witnessed a disturbing number of faculty and staff resignations, one of the poorest convocation speakers since I have been a student, and the insulting censorship of student art. We also saw (or didn’t see, as the case may be) the second year of a restructured student government that still seems to have failed to find a successful role for itself.

Our evaluation is inescapable, but that is as it should be. As Dordt has survived, so must it go forward: trusting God, hoping for improvement; aiming for academic glorification of our Lord, avoiding the marketplace ideals of an antithetical society.

Allyssa Hoogendoorn
Columnist

Dating daze: Don’t settle

High standards are out, set- ting in is. Go find yourself a husband.

In the midst of all the wom- en looking for Mr. Right comes Lori Gottlieb’s newly released book, Marry Him: The Case for Settling for Mr. Good Enough.

The title itself has grabbed much public attention, and book critics are already claim- ing it’s the next He’s Just Not That Into You.

But a lot of negative associ- ation goes along with the word “settling.” It’s not something too many young women like to hear, myself included.

In Alice in Wonderland, I was relieved to see 19-year- old Alice not take Gottlieb’s advice. Instead of settling and accepting her suitor’s marriage proposal, she went chasing af- ter a rabbit and had herself an adventure.

If we’re anything like Alice, we’d rather fall down a rabbit hole and get hit in the head than force ourselves to fall head over heels for any old Joe.

Alice had better things to do than settle and so do we.

But according to Gottlieb, that mentality will lead us to being forty and single with a baby made from the local sperm bank. So, it would be in our best interest to stop search- ing for Mr. Right and settle for the next best thing that comes along.

Women in their twenties don’t need this advice. Too many of them have low stand- dards fueled by even lower self-esteem—maybe He’s Just Not That Into You had something to do with that.

But the fact remains that no one is writing a book, telling men to lower their standards, and you can’t tell me they don’t have any outwardly expecta- tions.

Before you go out and des- perately throw yourself at the next eligible bachelor on the street, decide if that’s what you really want to do.

No one is dictating your life to you. It’s your dream, your choice. You decide.

Joel Veldkamp
Columnist

This is an Ask Alvin type of thing—but nobody wrote in, and I made up problems for the duration of the semes- ter.

Then I tried writing a food column. That was fun for some time—I wrote about vegetarianism on campus, wrote about eating rice with my family; I wrote about how cottage cheese was good, and then I ate some.

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Sowers turn season around, host game on April 17

Staff Writer
Sam Hart

The Dordt College lacrosse team, the Sowers, have qualified for postseason play in what has turned into a surprisingly successful season so far.

After getting annihilated in a 19-3 season opener, they have responded well with a 2-1 record in their last three games. Their only other loss was a one-point defeat to Bethel University.

In their last game, a road trip to Mount Vernon, Iowa, to square off against the Cornell squad, the Sowers played extremely well in a convincing win.

Cornell was overmatched from the beginning, and the final score was 17-2. The leading scorers for Dordt were Nick Campbell with six and Mark Opp with four.

Ryan VanDonselaar also contributed three goals of his own.

Rookie goalie Jordan Yntema has been getting better as the season progresses, and is currently the 4th-best goalie in the conference in save percentage at .571. He has stopped 52 shots and let in just 39.

Leaders on the field for Dordt have been Nick Campbell and Ryan VanDonselaar. Both Campbell and VanDonselaar are in the top 20 in the conference for goals per game. Campbell averages 2.75 points per game, while VanDonselaar averages 2.5.

Playoffs for the Sowers will take place April 30 – May 2 in St. Louis, Missouri. They have a final home doubleheader scheduled for April 17, when they will take on Creighton and Rockhurst.

(Compiled by Ashlee Stallinga)
Movie Review:

Clash of the Titans

Laura Heckmann  
Staff Writer

Nearly 30 years after the original (1981) version of “Clash of the Titans,” the Louis Leterrier remake has at least one major advantage: the advancement of technology. Unfortunately, what this film boasts in breathtaking visuals it lacks in its depth of story-telling, script and character development.

Based on the exploits of the demigod Perseus and mankind’s rebellion against the gods, the focus lies too heavily on the extravagance and spectacle than on the rich source material of the Greek mythology. Granted, the complexity and unorthodox storytelling of Greek mythology presents significant challenges for big screen adaptations. Still, I can’t help but wonder if this movie might’ve had a chance if half as much effort had gone into developing the plot as did the scorpion battle scene.

The mammoth Kraken, breathtaking aerial shots and majestic recreation of Mount Olympus are a far cry from the marinara sauce oozing from Medusa’s head in the 1981 version. Giving credit where it’s due, the visuals are extremely impressive and visually appealing. But my appetite requires a little more flavor to satisfy.

Ralph Fiennes does stand out in chilling expertise as the tortured Hades, adding some much needed depth to the story. And although Liam Neeson’s Zeus is a bit watered down, Neeson makes the best of what he’s given. Painful attempts at overacting from the rest of the cast may be some sort of compensation for their lack of meaningful dialogue. The actors do their best, but either miscasting or a cheap script riddled with one-liners and cheesy inspirational speeches steal whatever potential may have existed.

The story felt bigger than the filmmakers in this one. While it provided some thrills and fun, the story deserves more than that.

Hani Yang  
Staff Writer

2010s. A young woman. Mrs. Jones is trapped in a mechanical world that consists of work and home. All she wants is happiness, and she thinks she can obtain it through seeking freedom—freedom from mechanical work, freedom from marriage, freedom from all the routines she’s surrounded by.

Director Danielle Roos portrayed some of the characters mechanically, strongly noted in Mr. Jones (played by Nate Scheurers) and the nurse (Jenna Veenbaas). Their great acting was effective to the story as they dramatically differ from the man (Lee Radde) Mrs. Jones has an affair with. The man has a carefree spirit, who the only repetitive thing he seemingly does is to say “queen sabe (who knows)”?

Outstanding performance by Mr. Maria Bouwkamp brought the audience to the 1920s right away, and the overall phenomenal acting by the cast pushed the story forward smoothly. The videos played between the episodes fit well and, along with the title of each episode, provided a little snippet of what to expect.

The lighting towards the end of some episodes dramatized monologues, and added more character to the story when four little scenes were going at the same time. Great jazz music throughout, effective stage direction, and suitable props, costumes, and makeup helped the audience to be engaged in the story of this conflicted young woman.

2010. Our world isn’t so different, is it? Work, home, church, home. We are all trapped in this mechanical world and we seek to escape it by seeking entertainment. Roos challenges the audience to reflect on where and how to find the true freedom and happiness. How do we find happiness in all these routines we follow? Where do we find happiness?

Conference inspires Re:form art show

Meghan Aardsma  
Staff Writer

Inspiration has been found in the Calvinist tradition and is brought to life in the hands of artists at re:form art exhibit. A new collection of art is currently on display in the Dordt Art Gallery, located in the Campus Center. The exhibit is in relation to the Calvinism for the 21st Century Conference being hosted by Dordt.

The artists featured in the exhibit are eight individuals who have been fostered in the Calvinist tradition and have responded to that tradition in their artwork. “It’s not just theological, or philosophical, its not just an intellectual exercise,” said Matt Drissel, a professor of art at Dordt and curator of the exhibit.

The artwork in this exhibit offer something that anybody can take from it, all it needs to be is explored and the tradition continues on.

The exhibit contains a combination of photography, photo manipulation, design, sculpture, painting and a story revolving around a little pocket knife.

“It’s intriguing to see the imagination has people explain their reformed faith,” says Bobbi Sutherland, assistant professor of History at Dordt.

The artists participating are Branden Williams, Phil Orr, Ryan Stander, Juan Garcia, Rayn Thompson, Dayton Castleman, Branden Williams, Adam Wolpa, and Jo-An Van Reeuwyk.

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The artwork in this exhibit offer something that anybody can take from it, all it needs to be is explored and the tradition continues on.

The exhibit contains a combination of photography, photo manipulation, design, sculpture, painting and a story revolving around a little pocket knife.

“It’s intriguing to see the imagination has people explain their reformed faith,” says Bobbi Sutherland, assistant professor of History at Dordt.

The artists participating are Branden Williams, Phil Orr, Ryan Stander, Juan Garcia, Rayn Thompson, Dayton Castleman, Branden Williams, Adam Wolpa, and Jo-An Van Reeuwyk.

Conference inspires Re:form art show

Meghan Aardsma  
Staff Writer

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Stories from abroad

Jurgen Boerema
Guest Writer

Washington D.C taught me to not take myself so seriously.

For the past few months I have had the misfortune of pitching story ideas to Bob Cusack, the managing editor of The Hill newspaper.

Who is Bob Cusack? Well here is a description.

“Cusack has won five awards from the National Press Club and the Society of Professional Journalists for investigative articles on a range of issues, including national security, healthcare and 2008 presidential politics surrounding Hurricane Katrina. Cusack regularly appears on MSNBC, Fox, ABC and CNN as a political analyst. Before joining The Hill, Cusack was a chief editor at Inside Washington Publishers.”

Yeah. So most of my stuff received either, “That’s a good idea, but someone else is working on it,” or “I don’t see a lede here.”

It’s OK though. I still peeled off a few stories here and there and got help from some of the other writers.

And Bob was actually a very encouraging and positive person . . . but he was a little like the Godfather. He spoke through surrogates, and I often had to wait all day if I wanted to have a face-to-face conversation with him.

The internship was very, very tough, but it was not the sum of the whole experience.

I got into a lot of random (and awkward) situations. For example, I was walking back from Union Station, and I had to wait all day if I wanted to have a face-to-face conversation with him.

I got a lot of random (and awkward) situations. For example, I was walking back from Union Station, and I said, “Hey, dude, what are you doing?”

She blanches. “Oh, just my friend who I have known since forever. I haven’t seen him in so long. I miss him so much.”

“Well, I am not Mason.”

She replies, “Yeah, I guess not. But oh gosh, total doppelganger though. Just exactly like him.”

What is the lesson here? I am not sure.

I try for common ground.

“So you work here?”

Blank expression.

“Ok, well enjoy your day,” I say.

We both leave.

That was Washington D.C. The internship was very, very tough, but it was not the sum of the whole experience.

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That was Washington D.C. It would be nice to continue to soak it all in. But now it’s time to graduate.