**Covenant fiesta spices up Friday night**

Sarah Groneck
Staff Writer

With lights and bright colors, the Covenant Hall courtyard was transformed into a salsa dance floor. The dance floor was set up as part of the Covenant College’s first campus-wide fiesta, which took place on Friday, September 25.

**Left:** Brittany Kooker races her goldfish along the gutter. **Above:** Matt Weirnin attempts to improve the salsa skills of Brandon Vander Puy and Ashley Husman; Heather Brand looks on.

**Photos by Ashlee Stallinga**

**With both new and returning talent, the women’s soccer team is off to strong start**

With both new and returning talent, the women’s soccer team is off to a strong start this season. The team won their first two games, against Bethany Lutheran College and Northwestern College, with scores of 1-0 and 5-0, respectively.

**Upcoming Speakers**

- **October 5:** Gideon Strauss
  - “Hearing the Needs of the World”

- **November 2:** Paul Marshall
  - “A Christian Vocation in…”

- **December 7:** Dr. John Kok
  - “A Transforming Vision”

**“First Monday” series brings new voice**

Grace Venhuizen
Editor

Four months, four new points of view. Dordt’s “First Monday Morning Speaker Series” brings guest speakers of different backgrounds to the campus to challenge students’ thinking.

“We wanted speakers that can bring a unique voice, yet with a perspective that wouldn’t counteract Dordt’s perspective,” said Rod Gorter, Dean of Chapel. The four speakers lined up for the series are all people that have had an impact on their communities. “They have life experience in applying their faith,” said Gorter. “Which is what we teach about here.”

The first Monday in October features Gideon Strauss, President of the Center for Public Justice, speaking on the challenges of and opportunities for Christian service. The Monday morning series replaces the “Last Lecture Series” of past years which have featured Christine Caine and Tony Campolo.

This semester’s series is designed to correlate with Core 100 class curriculum. The speakers of next semester will feature a broader range of topics. The Co-Curricular Committee proposed the use of the new community block time to feature a series of speakers this year.

“The evening [time] created conflict with other things,” Gorter said. The new time slot was approved by administration last spring and a committee was formed from students, staff and faculty to narrow down a list of potential speakers. Although the series is designed to complement Core 100 courses, Gorter says he hopes the topics will be able to connect with the entire campus. The first speaker, Syd Hielema, author of Deepening the Colors, addressed the idea of calling. Freshman Nicole Posthuma said she found Hielema’s speech a bit confusing, but helpful overall. “I found [it] kind of all over the place,” she said. But ultimately Posthuma says she understood his point, that having a calling is more than just a vocation. “I think I got the gist - God’s plan may be different than ours, and we must live life fully aware of everything around us.”

Gorter estimates that more than 600 students attended the first speech. The audience was mostly freshmen, but upperclassmen and faculty also attended.

Posthuma said that even though the lecture was designed with freshmen in mind, upperclassmen could learn something too, “because they’re thinking about their future even more than freshmen.”

Some goldfish stuck to the starting line instead of racing, but contestants still had fun. “Goldfish racing was awesome,” said Roland Oceae-Oppong. “The fish were so good that they could swim the opposite direction and still win the race.”

Every race winner could keep the goldfish as a prize. “My fish’s name is Fiesta,” said Nathan Couperus, who “dominated” one of his close friends in the goldfish race. As for the hot sauce-chugging contest, Jonathan Sims guzzled 20 cups of the spicy liquid to seal his win. The senior jokingly said that he felt “amazing” after having consumed it.

“It actually did make me feel better,” he said. “I think it cleared up my sinuses.”

He was given chips and salsa as a reward for his efforts.

Students concocted taco salads out of cheese, meat, lettuce, salsa, olives, and more, all provided by Carrie Foods. Choco-tacos and candy were also staples at the event. Those who participated in the cakewalk could win a chocolate or vanilla cupcake if they were standing on the right number in the circle when the music stopped.

The soda ring-toss was also a success. “Both years we bought enough soda for 200 people,” said Erin Mulder, an East Hall RA. “Last year we had a lot left over, but this year it didn’t even last to the end of the night.”

The event was a hit to the Resident Life Staff and event-goers alike. “Last year it was stressful at the end of the year because of finals, so not as many people came,” Mulder said. “So we decided to do it earlier this year just so that more people would enjoy it. We were very happy with the turnout.”

More than 300 students spiced up their Friday night at the Resident Life-sponsored event. Food was a drawing factor of the event, along with salsa dancing, a hot sauce-chugging contest, a cake walk, and even a goldfish racing event.

Dordt alumni Veero Torres-Carruba and Andres Acosta demonstrated salsa dancing to event-goers before cranking up the music to let students test out their newly-developed skills. “I’d never done salsa dancing before,” said freshman Erin Voss. “It was a lot of fun to learn.”

Goldfish racing was an event highlight. Each contestant loaded a goldfish into his or her trough and blew through a straw to make the fish swim to the opposite end. “It was a random idea we had last year,” said Brianna Butler, a Covenant Hall Resident Assistant. “Apparently they do it at fiestas as a fun event.”

Goldfish racing was an event highlight. Each contestant loaded a goldfish into his or her trough and blew through a straw to make the fish swim to the opposite end. “It was a random idea we had last year,” said Brianna Butler, a Covenant Hall Resident Assistant. “Apparently they do it at fiestas as a fun event.”

Students concocted taco salads out of cheese, meat, lettuce, salsa, olives, and more, all provided by Carrie Foods. Choco-tacos and candy were also staples at the event. Those who participated in the cakewalk could win a chocolate or vanilla cupcake if they were standing on the right number in the circle when the music stopped.

The soda ring-toss was also a success. “Both years we bought enough soda for 200 people,” said Erin Mulder, an East Hall RA. “Last year we had a lot left over, but this year it didn’t even last to the end of the night.”

The event was a hit to the Resident Life Staff and event-goers alike. “Last year it was stressful at the end of the year because of finals, so not as many people came,” Mulder said. “So we decided to do it earlier this year just so that more people would enjoy it. We were very happy with the turnout.”

More than 300 students spiced up their Friday night at this Resident Life-sponsored event. Food was a drawing factor of the event, along with salsa dancing, a hot sauce-chugging contest, a cake walk, and even a goldfish racing event.

Dordt alumni Veero Torres-Carruba and Andres Acosta demonstrated salsa dancing to event-goers before cranking up the music to let students test out their newly-developed skills. “I’d never done salsa dancing before,” said freshman Erin Voss. “It was a lot of fun to learn.”

Goldfish racing was an event highlight. Each contestant loaded a goldfish into his or her trough and blew through a straw to make the fish swim to the opposite end. “It was a random idea we had last year,” said Brianna Butler, a Covenant Hall Resident Assistant. “Apparently they do it at fiestas as a fun event.”

Some goldfish stuck to the starting line instead of racing, but contestants still had fun. “Goldfish racing was awesome,” said Roland Oceae-Oppong. “The fish were so good that they could swim the opposite direction and still win the race.”

Every race winner could keep the goldfish as a prize. “My fish’s name is Fiesta,” said Nathan Couperus, who “dominated” one of his close friends in the goldfish race. As for the hot sauce-chugging contest, Jonathan Sims guzzled 20 cups of the spicy liquid to seal his win. The senior jokingly said that he felt “amazing” after having consumed it.

“It actually did make me feel better,” he said. “I think it cleared up my sinuses.”

He was given chips and salsa as a reward for his efforts.

Students concocted taco salads out of cheese, meat, lettuce, salsa, olives, and more, all provided by Carrie Foods. Choco-tacos and candy were also staples at the event. Those who participated in the cakewalk could win a chocolate or vanilla cupcake if they were standing on the right number in the circle when the music stopped.

The soda ring-toss was also a success. “Both years we bought enough soda for 200 people,” said Erin Mulder, an East Hall RA. “Last year we had a lot left over, but this year it didn’t even last to the end of the night.”

The event was a hit to the Resident Life Staff and event-goers alike. “Last year it was stressful at the end of the year because of finals, so not as many people came,” Mulder said. “So we decided to do it earlier this year just so that more people would enjoy it. We were very happy with the turnout.”
Dordt partners with Zambian university

Kristina De Graaf
Staff Writer

Returning to college each fall includes an unavoidable barrage of questions about summer break. But Thomas Wolthuis, Theology professor, is one who should have a lot to share.

Wolthuis spent six weeks this summer teaching New Testament theology at Northside University in Zambia, the country’s first officially-recognized private college, and Dordt’s new partner in agriculture. Northside University, founded in 2004, strives to equip people to serve the Lord and develop their academic programs in order to build up Zambia. They initiated discussions with Dordt about three years ago after discovering the college’s strong agriculture program. This began a series of discussions about creating a partnership between the two schools.

On Sept. 8, Dordt officially entered into a partnership agreement with Northside. In addition to aiding in the development of an agriculture program there, the schools will likely begin to work to set up a student exchange program.

Dordt considers adding program in fall of 2010
Ashlee Stalinga
Editor

The Athletic Committee passed a proposal to add women’s golf to Dordt’s list of athletic teams.

The proposal has been sent out to Provost Eric Hoekstra, who will be bringing it to the Academic Senate - a group of faculty and administration - on Tuesday, Oct. 6. If recommended by the Senate, Hoekstra will bring the proposal to President Carl Zylstra for the final decision.

“[I came] to check out what this is all about,” said Adrianna Oudman, one upperclassman who stopped by.

Although the event failed to draw a big crowd, a few freshmen stopped by to have questions answered, but most of the crowd was made up of curious upperclassmen.

Dr. Ron Vos pumps water from bore holes drilled by Seeds of Hope, a Christian missionary service organization working to supply clean water to the poor compounds of Ndola. Photo courtesy of Thomas Wolthuis

When he wasn’t teaching, Wolthuis worshiped around the city, participated in African churches, saw the sights, and took the time to experience the culture.

Zambia is a very poor country, but Wolthuis said he had “a real sense of seeing God at work in a broken situation but with hope.”

After coming back to American culture, Wolthuis said he is having a hard time trying not to become so busy again. But he’s trying to look at our culture the same way he discovered Zambia’s, and he’s learned a lot. “Our nation’s struggling, too,” he said. “But we really need to center on hope.”

Wolthuis kept a blog of his experiences while in Zambia. Those interested in visiting Zambia as part of the cross-cultural class or a study-abroad program can find his thoughts at http://twolithuis.wordpress.com.

Students show love for library
Vanessa Theel
Staff Writer

Talking in the library is encouraged during “Love Your Library Day.”

The event was geared especially toward freshmen and students in CORE classes: those who would “have no idea what to expect for the first test,” said Jessica Suk, Learning Community Assistant, said. A panel of “experts” consisted of ASK Center tutors answering questions about Theology, History, the Natural Sciences and Communication.

Suk explained that the LCA’s wanted an “informal setting” that would be “easy for students to just come and go.”

Although geared toward a large freshmen audience, when he wasn’t teaching, Wolthuis worshiped around the city, participated in African churches, saw the sights, and took the time to experience the culture.

Zambia is a very poor country, but Wolthuis said he had “a real sense of seeing God at work in a broken situation but with hope.”

After coming back to American culture, Wolthuis said he is having a hard time trying not to become so busy again. But he’s trying to look at our culture the same way he discovered Zambia’s, and he’s learned a lot. “Our nation’s struggling, too,” he said. “But we really need to center on hope.”

Wolthuis kept a blog of his experiences while in Zambia. Those interested in visiting Zambia as part of the cross-cultural class or a study-abroad program can find his thoughts at http://twolithuis.wordpress.com.

Students show love for library
Vanessa Theel
Staff Writer

Talking in the library is encouraged during “Love Your Library Day.”

The event was geared especially toward freshmen and students in CORE classes: those who would “have no idea what to expect for the first test,” said Jessica Suk, Learning Community Assistant, said. A panel of “experts” consisted of ASK Center tutors answering questions about Theology, History, the Natural Sciences and Communication.

Suk explained that the LCA’s wanted an “informal setting” that would be “easy for students to just come and go.”

Although geared toward a large freshmen audience, when he wasn’t teaching, Wolthuis worshiped around the city, participated in African churches, saw the sights, and took the time to experience the culture.

Zambia is a very poor country, but Wolthuis said he had “a real sense of seeing God at work in a broken situation but with hope.”

After coming back to American culture, Wolthuis said he is having a hard time trying not to become so busy again. But he’s trying to look at our culture the same way he discovered Zambia’s, and he’s learned a lot. “Our nation’s struggling, too,” he said. “But we really need to center on hope.”

Wolthuis kept a blog of his experiences while in Zambia. Those interested in visiting Zambia as part of the cross-cultural class or a study-abroad program can find his thoughts at http://twolithuis.wordpress.com.

Students show love for library
Vanessa Theel
Staff Writer

Talking in the library is encouraged during “Love Your Library Day.”

The event was geared especially toward freshmen and students in CORE classes: those who would “have no idea what to expect for the first test,” said Jessica Suk, Learning Community Assistant, said. A panel of “experts” consisted of ASK Center tutors answering questions about Theology, History, the Natural Sciences and Communication.

Suk explained that the LCA’s wanted an “informal setting” that would be “easy for students to just come and go.”

Although geared toward a large freshmen audience, when he wasn’t teaching, Wolthuis worshiped around the city, participated in African churches, saw the sights, and took the time to experience the culture.

Zambia is a very poor country, but Wolthuis said he had “a real sense of seeing God at work in a broken situation but with hope.”

After coming back to American culture, Wolthuis said he is having a hard time trying not to become so busy again. But he’s trying to look at our culture the same way he discovered Zambia’s, and he’s learned a lot. “Our nation’s struggling, too,” he said. “But we really need to center on hope.”

Wolthuis kept a blog of his experiences while in Zambia. Those interested in visiting Zambia as part of the cross-cultural class or a study-abroad program can find his thoughts at http://twolithuis.wordpress.com.
Runners support work on Ivory Coast
Dordt students and alumni to raise money for an alumn who raises rats in West Africa

Lance Kooiman
Staff Writer

Many Dordt students despise running. But what if it was for a good cause? At the Siouxland Lewis and Clark Marathon held on Oct. 17, students will have a chance to turn their love (or loathing) of running into a benefit for a Dordt alumn in need. That alumn, Dea Lieu, graduated in 2007 and lives along West Africa’s Ivory Coast. He is a small farmer working to teach local farmers proper methods and techniques, as well as sharing the gospel.

“We were really impressed with Dea’s dedication to the Lord,” said Daniel Davis, one of the runners. “He took four years away from his family and home just to come to the United States and receive an education at Dordt. He is passionate about his faith and he runs a very effective ministry.”

Unfortunately, there are many students unaware of Lieu’s situation. The Ivory Coast of West Africa is a very dangerous region to live. Civil war and cruel government rulers have cost many of the Ivory Coast’s inhabitants their possessions, homes, and even lives.

“Lieu has been forced to run from his home and has had his original farm destroyed by invaders,” said Davis. “The farm that was destroyed is what will be restored with our charity.”

The restored farm will not be the farm Americans are used to. Lieu will specialize in raising and breeding animals referred to as “grasscutters.” These are 15-pound rats, an African delicacy. Known for their good taste and nutrition, many people in Africa capture them in the wild and sell them in the markets to buy supplies for their families.

With the help of students and others, money will be raised to help pay for grasscutters, the supplies needed, and the support of Lieu’s ministry: Association for the Fight Against Poverty. Along with a poor agricultural environment, the spiritual condition of the area is down as well. “You can imagine how poor the spiritual lives of the people must be when it is left to the will of man,” said Davis. “Lieu’s ministry brings a lot of support for believers struggling in the area.”

There are ways other than running that will help to benefit Lieu’s farm and ministry. “I would encourage students to read Lieu’s blog at the very least,” said Nathan Gross, another runner.

There will also be a tip night on October 26 at the Pizza Ranch. All tips and 10 percent of the profits made that night will go to Lieu,” said Gross. “There is also an organization called Partners World-wide that will match whatever dollar amount the runners raise for Lieu. For more information on Lieu’s farm and ministry, visit his blog site at http://dealieu.blogspot.com.

Counseling services return to campus

Ashtee Stallinga
Editor

Counseling services have been restructured this year; students are encouraged to take advantage of the free, on-campus facilities.

Psychology professors Natalie Sandbulte and Mark Christians are working as counselors with offices located in Campus Health Services, in the basement of Covenant Hall. Sandbulte has her doctorate degree in clinical psychology; Christians, in counseling psychology.

Students may make appointments for many issues, including depression, anxiety, substance use, pornography, and pre-marital counseling.

Often times, there’s a stigma about counseling, but college students do struggle with things and counseling can help them function better, both academically and socially,” said Sandbulte. Both Sandbulte and Christians are allowed to use time previously toward teaching a class and direct it toward providing counseling to students. Psychology students who take classes from either Sandbulte or Christians feel that a conflict of interest may occur meet with students individually on a weekly basis at Campus Health Services.

They are block devoted to teaching a class and direct it toward providing counseling to students. Psychology students who take classes from either Sandbulte or Christians feel that a conflict of interest may occur. They meet with students individually on a weekly basis at Campus Health Services.

SYMPOSIUM UPDATE

Symposium encourages new clubs to register as soon as possible. Club registration forms should be turned in by Oct. 16. Funding request forms can be turned in as events come up.

Both forms are available on a table in the Grille area, and should be turned in to Jessica Beimers’ mailbox (3431). Funding proposal forms must be submitted at least a week before the Symposium meeting at which they will be discussed.

Forms will also be available online soon at http://homepages.dordt.edu/symposium.

Anyone with questions about club funding should talk to their respective academic department representative: Mark Eekhoff in Social Sciences, Matt Schippers in Natural Sciences, and Danielle Roos in Humanities.

The Prairie Grass Festival of Faith and Film, which will be funded by the $5,000 gift to Symposium from an anonymous donor, has been postponed for one year. It is now scheduled for March 2011.

The committee began work on the logo and website, and felt that they were rushing to meet a deadline, according to Mark Volkers, one of the event organizers. They still need to do work on the fine print: things such as rules of submission, judging, and disqualification.

They are currently researching where to market the festival—where to put print advertisements, and where banner ads should appear on the internet.

Some of the research has been a lot of fun: “Four of us went to the South Dakota Film Festival last Saturday in Aberdeen to do research,” Volkers said. “The three students along got to sit on stage with Kevin Costner.”

But the work is still being taken seriously. “We want a festival that showcases great films that explore deeper issues of humanity, and helps us reflect—in some way—on those big questions of the divine,” Volkers said.

Symposium unanimously passed a motion to help with funding for the Goheen Gallop, a 5K race sponsored by the cross-country team and named after its previous coach, Ross Goheen. David Christensen brought a proposal before Symposium with a list of funds and gifts he has already obtained: a total of $776, along with gift certificates, sunglasses, a running stroller, and an ice pack to give away as door prizes. He hoped to raise a total of $1,000 before the race, to cover the costs of t-shirts, snacks and Gatorade for the runners. Symposium granted him the $224 needed to reach that goal.

The money raised through entry fees and free will donations given by participants will be donated mostly to Dea Lieu, with the remainder going towards the cross-country team.

Christensen expects anywhere from 150-200 runners to participate. Registration for the race is $10 and opens at 9 a.m. on race day.

(compiled by Ashtee Stallinga)
Putting a new SPIN on classes

Jenny Borger
Guest Writer

The John and Louise Huist library got a kick of color with its new furniture, a gift from its first-ever director. Earlier this month, the typical quiet atmosphere of the library was taken over by the sounds of about a dozen men who assembled the new furniture. The makeover took more than 12 hours. “It was fun to watch the students come in and move from chair to chair, trying it all out for the first time,” Sheryl Taylor, library director, said.

Library officials started communicating last spring with All-Markets, an Omaha company, about new furniture. All-Markets connected Dordt with an interior designer who came up with different styles and color schemes.

Hester Hollaar, the first Dordt library director, made it possible to pay for the new furniture. Hollaar worked at the library from 1964 to 1982. When she died this past year, she left money in her estate for the library.

On a recent, rainy afternoon, students were putting the new furniture to use. Some were reading in the sleek blue chairs with red foot rests. Others used the tables for writing or listened to music on the bar stools.

“There is different furniture for different personalities,” Taylor said. “My hope is that it is meeting the variety of ways that students prefer to work.”

Three students...
“With regret, I have to say you’re really going to get the hell kicked out of you,” said the Russian government official in the week after 9/11, recalling his own nation’s war in Afghanistan.

“We’re going to kill them,” replied Cofer Black, head of the CIA’s Counterterrorism Center. “We’re going to put their heads on sticks. We’re going to rock their world.”

Eight years later, we haven’t exactly gotten the hell kicked out of us, but the swift victory most of us hoped for has not come either. Osama bin Laden remains at large, and Taliban insurgents have waged a back-and-forth struggle against the U.S. and its allies for the past eight years. Over 1,400 soldiers from the U.S., U.K., Canada, and elsewhere have died. The fight we wanted has degenerated into something far less exciting and far more painful: a dirty, drawn-out, guerrilla war. Now, the top general in Afghanistan, Stanley McChrystal, is asking for 45,000 more troops for the fight.

In the face of all this, many are questioning the need to so tragically diminish our resolve. Many Democratic legislators are conservative columnists to allied heads of state. Support for the war among Americans.

Who actually abides by it? I have no idea. It’s just one of those annoying little phrases you hear every year.

Really though, what’s the worst that can happen? You experience your first college break-up. Wow, what a crazy concept—two 18-year-olds breaking up. It happens.

The don’t-date-before-Tri-State rule might take some preventive measures against an ugly break-up, but why not embrace life and (maybe that certain someone) and take a chance on it? I’ve noticed that in the dating world we’re playing a game where rules change, the board shifts, and chance is an inescapable factor. Old rules hardly apply when new ones are constantly being made.

I’ve made a couple rules of my own over the years, such as don’t make plans more than two days in advance, and don’t ditch my friends for a guy—no matter how good looking he may be.

But I’ve definitely broken these rules a time or two. I’ve made plans a week in advance and feared disappointment. I’ve sent my friends off for the night to go have fun without me because I had plans with good-looking guys.

I always leave room for the rule of exception because in a given situation, what was once a safety precaution becomes a ridiculous rule that’s meant to be broken, and I take my chances. With rules as disposable as relationships, there’s hardly any room for calling foul play.

So go ahead, take a chance, toss out that old set of rules, and don’t hesitate to ask out that certain someone.

Who is this burlap certain someone. Don’t hesitate to ask out that toss out that old set of rules, and So go ahead, take a chance, to destabilize already-unstable

To the wolves is not an option, surprisingly speaking.

Neither would it be moral. Many things separate us from the people of Afghanistan and Pakistan, but an affinity for Islamic terrorism is not one of them. Polls show that only ten percent of Pakistanis support the Taliban, and only four percent of Afghans would trade the current chaos in their country for a Taliban government. The Afghans and Pakistanis know the horrors of Talib rule all too well. If the West leaves them now, it will be their disaster and our disgrace.

This war is not hopeless. The key is setting up an Afghan government strong enough to take care of itself. Gen. McChrystal’s strategy accomplishes this by accelerating training for Afghanistan’s army, sending troops to protect Afghan civilians, and using incentives to try Taliban leaders away from the fight. President Obama should give General McChrystal the troops and resources he needs, and we should provide President Obama the political support he needs. The struggle will be long and difficult, but a just peace is still possible. The Afghan wish to be free, and that is our biggest advantage.

I’m still cycling through my impatiently to see more of them.

“With the sweet freedom of a gardening glove if they don’t feel love, loss or stand up for themselves. But a whole group of people came to mind - intriguing, interesting and provocative people. Unpredictably whole human beings. They aren’t.

But I’m overwhelmed with the outrage or all that different from who I believe I am, but and I hope this is true - I know them enough to realize how complex and dynamic they are. And I’m overwhelmed because of it. I look at them, and they stare back with defiant smiles and I say, who are you? What is my idea of myself? I am never i

Maybe it’s someone that we only knew for a few hours in our lives, or someone that we’ve known for years and years, but only speak with every few months. Maybe we have people that we see everyday to share the laughter and journalism of our lives with.

I still ask myself who these people are from time to time. I honestly look at them and say, ‘Who are you?’ (Sometimes out loud, and the people who are standing by say, ‘I am kidding’.) (I am never i

Like with the characters in the film, I don’t understand these people – haven’t figured them out - but I’m so enthralled with the creative, meticulous and beautiful photography and the sweeping story that I’m in for the ride, waiting somewhat impatiently to see more of them.

Dear Polly,

I know Northwestern has some sort of rule about freshmen dating before a certain day and I have heard some crazy stories about things happening to those who have gone against this rule. Does Dordt have any sort of rule like this? I really do not want to wake up duct-taped to a light pole…

Perceptive Polly

Perceptive Polly

Perceptive Polly

Perceptive Polly

Perceptive Polly

Perceptive Polly

Perceptive Polly

Dear Anonymous,

It’s called “The October Rule.” It is a tradition at Northwestern that freshmen students are not allowed to date someone they met at school until the first of October. If they decide to break this rule, they are subject to any sort of punishment by upperclassmen.

To the upperclassmen’s dismay, this tradition came to a halt this semester after too many parental complaints.

Dordt does have a similar saying: “No date before Tri-State” (aka: Reading Break), but there are usually no repercussions for those who break this rule. Although I do think Northwestern’s idea was a good one… maybe something Dordt upperclassmen should consider.

When you are freshmen at a new college it may seem like you NEED to date, especially since the culture here makes you feel like you should find someone before all the good ones are taken. I mean, you need to be married by your senior year.

NOT! Don’t fall into this thinking - just have fun. Get to know new people and make good friends first. Dating can wait.

Perceptive Polly

Roommate Problems? Relationship Issues? Falling out of class?

Polly is here with advice for it all! Send your questions to diamond@dordt.edu, and your questions will be anonymous!
Sports.

Men’s cross-country scores a perfect 15

Ashlee Stallinga

First…second…third and fourth…fifth…sixth.

That’s how the men’s cross-country team crossed the finish line at the Buena Vista Invite in Storm Lake to earn 15 points: a perfect score.

Five schools competed at the Sept. 26 meet, including Northwestern.

Dordt’s top four runners packed together to lead the race for the first four miles, with the fifth and sixth runners not far behind.

With a mile to go, Brent Van Schepen broke out of the pack to earn the men’s title, followed closely by David Christensen. Mark Eckhoff and Josiah Lutjebosch crossed the line almost in perfect sync.

Eric Tudor came in seconds later to finish off the perfect score, but Ryan Tholen also got across the line before any other team could get a runner in.

The women’s team also won the meet, with Michelle Steiger and Merissa Harkema taking first and second, and four other runners placing in the top 15.

Now, after only four games this season, they have played to an exhilarating victory and a devastating defeat, and have been reminded what it takes to compete in the GPAC.

“We have to get to a point where we’re playing good football more consistently,” said Heavner.

They do hope to claim victory at least once more this year. In fact, they guarantee it. “I guarantee we double our wins this year—two wins, at least. Maybe more,” said receiver Alex Henderson.

Their next chance to make good on that promise is Oct. 3, when they play Hastings at home.

Dordt defeated Waldorf at home, but lost 72-0 against Morningside on the same field. The team is 1-3, and guaranteed at least one more win this season.

Know the name

Sam Hart

Staff Writer

Last year’s leading scorer for the men’s soccer team, Phil Nywening, is back, with hopes of bigger and better things for a team that finished last season with a 4-12-1 record.

Nywening, a sophomore forward, is tough to knock off the field. He scored a perfect 15 for his team.

Lowest score wins; the top five runners from each team count.

Placing first through fifth gives you 15 points: the lowest possible, and thus perfect, score.

The sixth runner’s score does not count for the team; it helps give other teams a higher score.

The equation for perfection

Cross-country runners earn points for the place they finish: first place gets one point; second, two points, etc.

Across the finish line at the Buena Vista Invite in Storm Lake, an athlete finishes in first place, followed by second, third, fourth, and fifth place.

Know the name

Sam Hart

Staff Writer

Last year’s leading scorer for the men’s soccer team, Phil Nywening, is back, with hopes of bigger and better things for a team that finished last season with a 4-12-1 record.

Nywening, a sophomore forward, is tough to knock off the field. He scored a perfect 15 for his team.

Lowest score wins; the top five runners from each team count.

Placing first through fifth gives you 15 points: the lowest possible, and thus perfect, score.

The sixth runner’s score does not count for the team; it helps give other teams a higher score.

The equation for perfection

Cross-country runners earn points for the place they finish: first place gets one point; second, two points, etc.

Across the finish line at the Buena Vista Invite in Storm Lake, an athlete finishes in first place, followed by second, third, fourth, and fifth place.

Know the name

Sam Hart

Staff Writer

Last year’s leading scorer for the men’s soccer team, Phil Nywening, is back, with hopes of bigger and better things for a team that finished last season with a 4-12-1 record.

Nywening, a sophomore forward, is tough to knock off the field. He scored a perfect 15 for his team.

Lowest score wins; the top five runners from each team count.

Placing first through fifth gives you 15 points: the lowest possible, and thus perfect, score.

The sixth runner’s score does not count for the team; it helps give other teams a higher score.

The equation for perfection

Cross-country runners earn points for the place they finish: first place gets one point; second, two points, etc.
Art department keeps discussion going
Campus Center art show features Dordt graduates Kunnari and Mulder

Becky Love
Staff Writer

Students are being given more opportunities to get out of their dorms and into the art scene. With lectures from Dan Siedell and numerous shows going on in the campus galleries.

The Art department often showcases the work of both current and graduated students, encouraging involvement in the art scene specifically after college. Showing now is a series of paintings by Dordt graduates Matt Kunnari (06) and Sara Mulder (03).

Using paints and mixed media, both artists worked steadily in the past few months to produce and finish pieces for the show. They opened the gallery for viewing on Sept. 19, with both artists introducing themselves and their work at the reception.

Friends and family of the artists attended the reception, and students and faculty alike walked through the campus center gallery, looking over the pieces on the walls.

Paintings of landscapes and still life are a prominent theme in the works, emphasizing both the beauty and fallen nature of creation.

Kunnari makes use of non-recyclable objects in his work, emphasizing the responsibility that Christians have in caring for the world. He says that we need to “realize that our actions have consequences and that our consequences require action.”

The art show will continue until October 14.

Art students find new home
Art department consolidates facility

Mark Bjelenga
Staff Writer

During the last year of demolition and reconstruction, art students have called many different rooms home. They were forced out into the Campus Center building photography lab, the mezzanine of the gymnasium, and the Jim Bos Visual Arts Center – aka a doublewide trailer.

But over the summer, the Classroom Building underwent a $5.5 million makeover that includes an area for learning, creating, and displaying students’ artwork.

Framing the art department entrance, Professor Jake Van Wyk and a group of six advanced ceramic students created a clay floor-to-ceiling column display. The column incorporates biblical symbolism and apocalyptic images of dragons, winged horses, and angels. The project titled Apocalypse Then, began last fall, while firing and installation continued throughout the summer months.

Past the columns, the 13,000 square foot facility houses department offices as well as studio, photography, digital media, and gallery spaces. Construction created new areas for print-making, sculpting, painting and a kiln room.

The new gallery areas will provide a setting for the display of both student and professional artwork, while giving students a more convenient and localized place to do their work.

“If you’re gonna do it, you might as well do it well,” Larissa Arkema, fine arts major, said. “The new facilities will attract more attention and people.”

Canons explode back onto campus
All-male choir begins another year of “random acts of singing”

Jonathan Postuma
Staff Writer

Who said Reformed Doctrine can’t sing? “The Canons of Dort” may have been written in 1618, but The Canons are still exploding across Dordt’s campus – with gusto!

The Canons of Dordt, or The Canons, is an all-male singing group that sings together every week and makes noted appearances on campus.

According to member Andrew Tacoma, “We get guys together to sing awesome songs, have camaraderie and impress the ladies. It’s that simple.”

“I only went to The Canons because I kept hearing, ‘Come Radde, Lee. Come Radde, Lee.’ But then I went and I realized they were just saying ‘camaraderie!’” member Lee Radde said.

The Constitution of the Canons of Dordt states the following:

The purpose of The Canons is to
1. Praise God through the gift of song
2. Sing explosively in an exclusively male chorus
3. Publicly perform musical literature not available in current Dordt ensembles
4. Woo women with lush chords of male harmony

The Canons make formal performances throughout the year but can be seen in action through Random Acts of Singing (RAOS), typically after their 9:00 rehearsals on Wednesday nights.

Every meeting of The Canons opens with the singing of the “Can-anthem,” which includes a rendition of the five points of TULIP. The group of about 20 to 30 men is led by Ross de Wit and Jander Talen, and advised by Dr. Kornelis.

“We get guys together to sing awesome songs, have camaraderie and impress the ladies. It’s that simple.”

Member Andrew Horner said he enjoys The Canons because of the fellowship he feels within the group, “I like the man-love that occurs here, plus we sing the best music of any choral ensemble.”

Although the exact repertoire and schedule of The Canons cannot be released at this time, Canons members described it as “Epic!” and that “the harmonies will probably blow you away. So hold on to your hats.”

Matt Kunnari introduces his environmentally friendly artwork at the reception on Sept. 19. His work will be on display in the art gallery in the Campus Center until October 14. Photo by Paul Hanaoka

Notes of Inspiration
Michelle Kistler
Staff Writer

“Canons”
Phil Wickham

You are holy
Great and mighty
The moon and the stars
Declare who You are
I’m so unworthy
But still You love me
Forever my heart
Will sing of how great
You are

These words have rung true in my life this week. As I have struggled with highs and lows, Jesus has shown me His greatness and might.

I was thinking about all the ways Jesus has given me His grace this week. I literally kept a tally. My last count was over 107 times. Imagine how many other times there were that I didn’t notice. This is the kind of God we serve. He is with us and blesses us even in troubling times.

The other part of this song that really hits home is how unworthy we are, yet Jesus still loves us. As Christians, this is an amazing truth which is both humbling and awesome.

Daily, we sin and fall short and daily, He forgives us.

This week, I felt blessed by the grace given to me. And, this week, I noticed how often I fell short of my call to be more like Jesus.

However unworthy I am, God still shows me His grace by forgiving me. It overwhelms me with joy and peace. And, I continue to sing of His greatness.

If you have a song that has impacted you, I invite you to email me and offer your suggestions at mchkst@dordt.edu.
Thinking about getting away? Here are the:

**top ten reasons to study off-campus**

**Chelsey Munneke**

Staff Writer

1. Learn in a new environment with new professors and classmates, and pick up a different perspective.
2. Escape Northwest Iowa’s fragrant ambience.
3. Pad your resume or grad school application.
4. Travel before you get hitched, it may happen soon.
5. Become more independent and prepare for the real world outside of the Dutch bubble.
6. Learn about a new culture first hand, instead of sitting on your couch watching the Travel Channel.
7. Put a stop to those frequent visits from parents and grandparents.
8. Make lasting friendships and important connections. NETWORK!
9. Live somewhere cool for a semester at about the same price as it would be to live in Sioux Center…not that Sioux Center is boring.
10. **HAVE FUN!** You only live once!

---

**Featured Photo**

Last week, Southview and East Campus apartments competed in a “Best Door Decorating” contest. The prize? $50 worth of pizza and a party with the president.

The rules were simple: the decorations must be up by the time of judging and the door must include the residents’ names.

Judging the contest were President Zylstra and Linsay Vladimirov, Campus Ministries Coordinator.

Doors were judged based on originality, creativity, and clarity.

One winner was awarded in East Campus and one in Southview.

At right, the girls of Southview 308 took the competition with their rendition of the Seven Dwarves.

The dwarves seemed a perfect inspiration for a group living with seven in a Southview apartment.

The winning factor: the movie version of “Heigh Ho” playing in the background. “The music put you over the top,” Zylstra said.

The guys of East Campus apartment D5 won with their model clay representations of each resident.

_Photo by: Grace Venhuizen_

---

**OVER/UNDER**

Your ultimate guide on how to think.

_The topic: NOT riding a motorcycle_

The topic would be “Riding a Motorcycle,” but I've never actually ridden on a motorcycle so I wouldn’t know if it’s over or underrated. But I have **NOT** ridden on a motorcycle many times. In fact, I’ve been not riding motorcycles for as long as I can remember. So here we go.

**OVERATED:** Why is not riding a motorcycle overrated? Time to drop knowledge.

- You get to wear a helmet on a motorcycle!
- Point A to Point B on a motorcycle = quick. Point A to Point B walking = tired.
- Riding really fast on a motorcycle releases adrenaline in your body. Lots of adrenaline allows you to lift a 4,000-pound car. Therefore, using logic, motorcycles give you super human strength.
- It’s all the fun of bicycling without any of the horrible exercise.
- Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie both ride motorcycles.
- How many people have jumped over the Grand Canyon riding in a Prius?

**UNDERRATED:** Why is not riding a motorcycle underrated? Ascertain this!

- You have to wear a helmet on a motorcycle.
- STATS! Every minute on a motorcycle increases your chances of swine flu by 1% (according to www.fakesstats.com)
- One type of motorcycle is called a “Crotch Rocket.” Does this sound comfortable to you?
- Good luck learning how to ride; they don’t make training wheels for motorcycles.
- Abe Lincoln, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson: all three are American heroes. All three didn’t ride motorcycles. (Take that, Brangelina!)
- Have you seen the amount of bugs on your car windshield after a long drive? Now replace that windshield with your face.

I’ve decided that not riding a motorcycle is **UNDERRATED**. Although I’ve never ridden a motorcycle in my life, countless times I’ve tried pulling into a parking spot that I thought was open, only to find a motorcycle there to ruin my day.