



Dordt College TheDiamond

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TX: Talent and humor in one extravagant show

Lydia Marcus - Staff Writer

On Feb. 7, Dordt students and community members enjoyed the annual Talent Extravaganza, an evening of humour and talent hosted by Jake Byma and Matt Van Soelen.

"I'm just a grizzled veteran trying to show he's got something left in the tank," said Byma, who hosted both the Freshman Talent Show and TX last year. "I jumped at the opportunity to come back and host again. I just love making people laugh. Seeing everyone have a good time, knowing Matt and I were a part of it, feels excellent."

The Student Activities Committee (SAC) asked Byma to host TX, and Byma asked Van Soelen to join him in the position of M.C.

"I hosted the Freshman Talent Show during WoW week with my sister, Madison, so I was pretty excited when Jake asked me to help him out with TX," said Van Soelen. "It is just a lot of fun to be up on stage and get people to laugh and smile!"

The SAC, Byma and Van Soelen sat in on the auditions for TX, which took place on Jan. 27. Together, they decided which acts would be included in the final show.

"SAC has the final say, because no one



Photo by Aubrey Pasker

in their right mind would give me that much authority," said Byma.

After auditions, the performers, M.C.'s and crew got to work. Byma and Van Soelen spent their time "brainstorming ideas, filming, and collaborating with other people."

"We actually started planning TX back in early October, I think," said Van Soelen.

"But really we didn't put in half as much work as those tech workers in the BJ Haan! They don't get enough credit!"

Daryl Bruinsma was responsible for creating videos for TX.

"My preparation for TX was spent filming and editing Matt and Jake's video ideas, which was a lot of fun," said

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Life back on campus: Students abroad return home



Megan Kaiser - Staff Writer

From doing an off-campus semester in a different state, to doing an off-campus semester in a different country, students learn and experience a lot over the course of their four-month absence from Dordt.

Junior Kim DeVries took the jump and traveled thousands of miles away for her semester abroad. She attended Handong Global University in Pohang, South Korea.

"The culture shock and differences between Korea and the US are not that big, but the hardship for me was being 100% ethnically Korean and having people always expecting that I know the language and culture of Korea," DeVries said. "I knew it would cause a little bit of a

challenge. I didn't like how people were disappointed that I didn't know about the place I had come from, assuming that I purposefully turned away from the Korean culture."

Senior Megan Ludens also experienced Korea with DeVries.

"I felt safer there than in the U.S., even when I was walking around alone at night in the second largest city in the world, Seoul, South Korea, I did not feel endangered," said Ludens. "The culture emphasizes group image and honor, and to do something dishonorable like violating or harming another person - especially an old person or a foreigner - would tarnish that person and their family's honor, which is worse than death to my understanding."

"Everyone there was totally willing to help me out and to make me feel safe, which was huge when I understood so little of the Korean language. Koreans are such a kind and helpful people," said Ludens.

An individual who experienced a little less jetlag was junior Shelby Herrema, who spent her time in Nicaragua through the SPIN program.

"I was there to learn Spanish for my minor and to learn about a different culture, the people, and to have some great opportunities for photography! I did a photography course independently during my semester there," Herrema said.

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Film, wilderness, swing dance? There's a club for them all

Megean De Graaf - Staff Writer

There are more than 25 clubs active here on Dordt's campus, but many students can probably not even name even half of them. Therefore, many students miss out on possible opportunities to meet other students with the same interests, or even find a new hobby.

In an effort to change this, Student Symposium arranged a club fair on Thursday, Feb. 5, before Praise and Worship. Usually the Student Symposium acts as a resource for clubs by way of financial support, but the governmental group wanted to help the clubs draw in more members this year.

"Our clubs have great events and offer experiences to learn beyond what is taught in the classroom," said Steve Kelly, on behalf of the Student Symposium and the clubs supported.

Many clubs also bring people together and help students to make friends who have similar interests, and Dordt has clubs that offer an option for every student.

Some clubs are specific to various majors or fields of study, but others center on hobbies and extracurricular interests. About 10 to 15 clubs set up booths around the De Yager Student Activity Center Thursday night.

For example, there are agriculture, communication, social work, engineering, business and theology clubs for students who are either studying or interested in those subjects. Clubs supporting hobbies are also popular. Some of these include swing dancing, film and wilderness club.



"The event went well because the clubs were able to recruit a bunch of new members," said Kelly. Students were able to browse the many options offered here, and many took advantage of this and signed up to join clubs.

For many clubs, this was the case. Several had an increase in membership numbers as a result of this fair, and some even doubled the amount of members they had. For the clubs and those involved, the event was a great success.

Student Symposium too was satisfied with the outcome, and is considering making it a regular event at the beginning of each semester, which would help not only clubs but also new students who are looking for ways to get involved with people sharing their interests.

Overall, the club fair was a successful evening full of discovery. Many students found that there was a place for them to join a new club here at Dordt.

Annual Engineering Tour hits Kansas City

Eric Rowe - Staff Writer

From Minneapolis to Milwaukee, the annual engineering big tour has spanned quite a few cities since it started around the turn of the millennium. This year, the engineering student clubs, ASME, ASCE and IEEE, are traveling to Kansas City for two days to tour engineering manufacturing, consulting and construction companies.

The students will leave Dordt at 5 a.m. on Feb. 12, drive 5 hours to Kansas City and arrive in time to start the first tour. Engineering professors Nolan Van Gaalen and Justin Vanderwerf are accompanying the students this year.

"I have gone every time since we've started," Van Gaalen said. "Except for the spring of '07 in Omaha. I enjoy it. I see the different way that students process what they've seen from tour to tour."

Locations for past years include the Omaha, Minneapolis, and Central Iowa area. The locations are all relatively near Dordt.

The Milwaukee tour in 2004 was the farthest from Dordt that the clubs have traveled.

In the past, the electrical engineers might have gone to a Chicago while the mechanicals toured in Minneapolis. In recent years, the different engineering clubs have done more to coordinate the tour destinations with each other.

"It's become a three-threaded tour," Van Gaalen said. "And the threads interweave some times."

This year's tour itinerary combines the three club emphases together for a tour of Black and Veatch and pairs the civils and mechanicals to tour JE Dun Construction. Burns and McDonnell will also be a multiple discipline tour with both civil and electrical emphases.

The ASME Club traditionally handles the financial logistics of the tour. The engineering department supports the tour to lower the cost of the overnight tour to \$30 per student.

"It's valuable because it gives us a chance to talk to engineers," Van Gaalen said. "It gives a



broader professional interaction or exposure that can be as useful to students as seeing an assembly line."

Freshman Ryan Pasveer is one of the ASCE officers looking forward to touring the

companies.

"The one with the coolest name is Black and Veatch," Pasveer said. "I don't know what any of them do, so it will be a fun time."

Bundick breaks 34-year-old track record

Christian Zylstra - Staff Writer

Have you ever seen an athlete whose charisma and bright personality made it impossible to root against him or her? That's Grayson Bundick in a nutshell. His beaming character, work ethic and thoughtfulness for others makes him someone everyone can root for.

Bundick burst onto the scene in 2014, his freshman year. For 34 years, Pete Hamstra held the Dordt College indoor track and field men's shot put record with a distance of 46 feet 9 inches.

It had been years before any thrower threw even close to Hamstra's distance, but Bundick came in with plenty of potential. Early in the season, Bundick threw for the third-longest shot put distance in Dordt history at 45 feet 7 inches.

Many, including Bundick, thought he would be able to build up and break that record before the season was over. Unfortunately, Bundick did not reach his early season total, but he did not let that keep him down.

"As a thrower, I don't really want to put a distance on how good I want to be," Bundick said. "I would rather look at my throw and ask, 'how much more efficient could I be?' The goal is to be as fast and technically efficient as possible."

And so Bundick continued to work on his throwing during the offseason. On Jan. 23, 2015, the extra work paid off. At the Prairie Wolf Indoor Invitational, Bundick set a new record for Dordt College shot put, throwing a distance of 47 feet 4.25 inches.

"When I saw my distance on the board, it was like a weight was lifted off my shoulders," Bundick said. "I got pretty close to the record early last season and just never got past it. It was a years worth of hard work that had finally paid off."

Breaking the record was remarkable for



Dordt College, and Bundick hopes it's a sign of more things to come.

"This record is more about the fact that 'DC Throws' is on the rise," Bundick said. "We are in a great conference and, with our new coach, we are headed in a direction where we will be competitive in such a hard conference."

It's that team approach that makes Bundick so likable. Teammates have called him humble and hard working, and it seems that only scratches the surface.

"I hope that this record becomes a bar that is beaten in the future," Bundick said. "Years from now, I would love to hear that the throws program at Dordt is producing national level throwers consistently."

Not many athletes want their record to be broken, but Bundick welcomes it. This is just a reflection of the person Bundick is, the man behind the athlete.

Covenant Garage Sale

Last semester, students at Dordt College raised money for One Body One Hope (OBOH). The goal of \$15,000 was reached and exceeded, with a total of over \$17,000. The success of this fundraiser was celebrated by a public mass sheering of four members of the Dordt College community.

The funds will be used to provide a building for children in Lofa County, Liberia who were orphaned by the Ebola crisis.

This January, there was another fundraiser to support One Body One Hope. The Residence Life staff wanted to be sure that the season of giving did not end during the holidays, so they came up with an idea that would benefit everyone involved.

On Saturday, Jan. 31, the Residence Life staff held a garage sale in the basement of Covenant Hall. Students were encouraged to donate old clothes to the cause.

Many students had clothes, shoes, or jewelry they had outgrown or no longer wore. This event provided an opportunity for students to make some space in their closets while simultaneously helping out a good cause.

It also benefited other students, who were able to purchase some clothes for cheaper prices.

Because of the garage sale, a little bit more money will be donated to OBOH.



News

Reclaiming the Blue Bin

The second article in a series on sustainability and “good living.”

by Lillie Koerner on behalf of the Sustainability Committee

“You mean to tell me you don’t recycle!?” I don’t know about you, but the poster bearing Professor

Ploegstra’s hipster-esque incredulity is enough to make my hand hesitate over the space between the grey and blue waste bins. Trash it or recycle? We make these split-second decisions many times each day, but how can we condition ourselves to make the right one?

I’m told that the average person generates 4.5 pounds of trash every day. That means an apartment of 6 is throwing out close to 200 pounds across campus each week. It’s no wonder my trash bin in Kuyper fills up so quickly! The EPA estimates that 75% of solid waste is recyclable, but only about 30% actually is recycled. What about Dordt? Can we claim to even hit 30%?

While recycling in our rooms is a matter of education and personal choice, recycling in Dordt’s public spaces is another story. The Grille’s meal-exchange model with disposable tableware allows students to eat with more mobility than ever before. Never has the humble salad seen so many corners of

campus. But something must become of our cups and cartons when we dine on the go, and the overflowing waste bins at The Grille are a telling sign of what happens — they become trash. What are students to do when there are few recycling bins, there is little they can even recycle, and there is no culture of recycling that motivates them to seek solutions? This kind of passive confusion renders Dordt’s half-hearted recycling program several steps behind that of many contemporary institutions.

Our solution? Educate students about what to recycle and add some more blue bins! Easy fix. Or is it? As it turns out, simply adding some large recycling bins around campus is a more complicated process than was first envisioned. Maintenance is stretched thin, lacking the time and manpower to collect extra recycling bins, especially given the fact that a few errant pieces of trash means the whole bin must be either sorted or trashed. Dordt’s entire community is going to have to band together if we want to make recycling a priority. Without the active support of maintenance, dining services, work study coordinators, administrators, faculty, and students, diverting closer to 75% of our solid waste stream will be a near-impossible feat.

If recycling requires so much effort, is it even worth it? The answer to that is open for

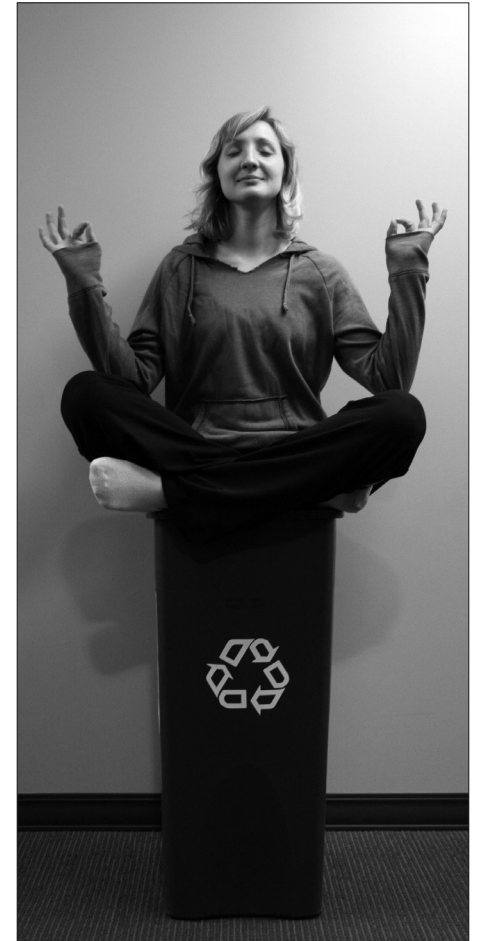
debate, but I would argue that yes, it is. One ton of recycled plastics saves 16.3 barrels of oil, 98 million Btus of energy, and 30 cubic yards of landfill space. The same amount of recycled paper saves 17 trees and

7,000 gallons of water. Furthermore, recycling results in a net fiscal gain for Iowa’s local and state government. The charges for picking up recycling are less than those for picking up trash, so it works in Dordt’s best interest to. Recycling is important because it fosters a climate of environmental awareness that prompts us to become better global citizens living healthier lives.

All that said, here are some steps you can take towards reclaiming the blue bin here on campus:

Educate yourself. Find out what packages, trays, cups, and plates can be recycled. All the cups at both

55th Avenue and The Grille are recyclable, so commit that to memory for the next time you grab a smoothie. Be responsible. Don’t dump trash in blue bins, and certainly don’t be that roommate who ruins it for the rest in a moment of laziness. Finally, question your superiors. Every time students confront institutional leaders about recycling, we are one step closer to making a change. Rest assured that each time they hear us we will sound a little louder.



Contributed Photos

TX (cont.)

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Bruinsma. “They would meet up with me having lots of ideas and I just captured what we needed to make the videos work.”

“It was great working with these guys because of how laid back and spur-of-the-moment the filming was,” said Bruinsma. “Most of the time I would get a text about 45 minutes before they would want to film and we would make it happen.”

Though it was challenging, Bruinsma enjoyed working and being creative “on the fly.”

“My favorite part so far has just been running around with Jake and Daryl,” said Van Soelen. “Filming the videos and then watching them afterwards is the best!”

“I love brainstorming this kind of stuff,” said Byma. “We had enough material to make two or three equally as funny shows from the material we didn’t use.”

Emily Rihl, who performed in the swing dance act, said her favorite part of TX was “rehearsing and getting to know the other members better. We laughed, made mistakes, and developed some bruises along the way. But overall, it would be safe to say that we all had a great time.”

Rihl is thankful “for the cooperation of the whole group.” Rihl choreographed most of the routine, but “everyone had fun with it and made it their own.”

Byma and Van Soelen agree that one of the most challenging parts of being M.C.’s is “eliminating good material from the show” due to the constraints of time and tact.

“Jake is hilarious and super creative, but it was really hard to narrow down what ideas we wanted to use in our videos, jokes, and games,” said Van Soelen. “It’s tough picking out ideas that we think people will enjoy. Hopefully we did a good job!”

“It is the premiere on campus event of the whole year,” said Byma. “I could argue that this is Matt and I’s best work yet.”

Preparing an act for TX required a large time commitment from each performer. Coordinating practice times can be especially tricky with large groups. However, all the hard work each participant invested paid off; the show was well received. Students agreed that each performance was distinctive and well done.

Meet Dick Katte: *Overtime* author

Lydia Marcus - Staff Writer

Every square inch...including the track, the field and the rink.

On 6 Feb., Dick Katte visited Dordt to discuss his thoughts on “reforming” sport and his new book, *Overtime*. Katte was warmly welcomed by Dordt students and faculty, and his words of wisdom were taken to heart.

Dr. Craig Stiemsma and Dr. Eric Forseth invited Katte to visit through the Lilly Fellows Perspectival Mentoring Grant for faculty. Stiemsma is coordinating a year-long program related to Health and Human Performance (HHP) “Reformed Perspectival” growth. “Dr. Stiemsma has done an excellent job this year challenging this growth of faculty members and coaches,” said Forseth.

Katte is a professional role model for coaches and teachers in K-12 education. He served for over fifty years at Denver Christian High School. While at Denver Christian, Katte was a math teacher, coach and mentor for thousands of students.

Last October, Katte published *Overtime*, a book that discusses his thoughts and principles of serving in Christian education. “Dick Katte was famous for making teaching his top priority, even though he coached for 50+ years,” said Forseth. “He was a model teacher as well as coach...He has had an unbelievable impact on many families because of the way he has conducted his professional and personal life from a Reformed perspective.”

“I appreciated that he was very candid about his teaching and coaching experiences and was willing to offer advice based on these past experiences,”

said Ross Douma, the men’s varsity basketball coach. “In doing so, Coach Katte was very transparent as he was intent on helping current coaches become more effective leaders.”

“I found it refreshing and encouraging so many students were sincerely receptive to what Coach Katte relayed to them,” said Douma. Katte’s prominent contributions to education and athletics gave him a good deal of credibility with his audience.

Katte is “able to still connect with young people today, since he has been blessed with the gift of an engaging, genuine style of communication,” said Mr. Glenn Bouma, director of Athletics. “The students that heard him in class and at the book signing in the library were very engaged with his stories and answers to probing questions about his career in education.”

Katte addressed various topics and answered numerous questions at the HHP department luncheon. “Numerous young coaches were in attendance and I feel they clearly heard the message that teaching and coaching is much more than just teaching the facts or the game, but helping young people in their journey of becoming kingdom citizens,” said Bouma.

Douma highlighted three key points Katte offered to the Dordt HHP department: Be intentional about being active in the life of young people; doing what is right and necessary is always worth fighting for; you make a difference, whether intentionally or unintentionally, through your every-day interactions with people.

“It was our pleasure to have Mr. Katte on campus for a few days,” said Bouma. “A great role model with an exciting story to share with others. God has truly used him where he was planted.”

Van Soelen takes two weeks in South Africa

Haley Mulder - Staff Writer

Education Professor Tim Van Soelen spent his first two weeks of the semester learning the importance of Christian education in South Africa.

"AROS is a Reformed Christian teachers training college in Pretoria, South Africa," Van Soelen said. "I was invited to come to South Africa for two weeks to work with their students, lecturers, program directors and Executive Council."

In 2013, Dr. Lourens Erasmus came to North America on a tour of Reformed Christian colleges looking for best practices for equipping Christian pre-service teachers. He found Dordt to be the program that they aspired to be like and invited Van Soelen to come and work with their growing program.

"I found the people I interacted to be very inquisitive, asking deep questions, and constantly wanting to know more details about how Dordt operates," Van Soelen said. "The Executive Council was enamored with

the concept of the four coordinates and how it provides a foundation to all that we do at Dordt."

Van Soelen found the people of Pretoria to be incredibly hospitable and welcoming.

"After each presentation I gave, there were constant receptions where I would be escorted to a different part of the campus to have coffee and tea with different groups of people," Van Soelen said. "We would have conversations about the content of my lecture or questions about how Dordt helps students prepare for the concept of teaching Christianly."

Van Soelen realized that the people who are apart of AROS are very similar to the people who he interacts with at Dordt.

"From students who are passionate about developing their knowledge, skills, and dispositions to teach Christianly, to my colleagues who are passionate about helping students gain this perspective, I found that we are very similar in many ways."

While in South Africa, Van Soelen also had the opportunity to enjoy much warmer



temperatures and explore the exotic wildlife.

"Kruger National Park was incredible," Van Soelen said. "Being close enough to reach out and pet a lion or a rhino in the wild was quite an experience!"

At the end of his two weeks in Africa, Van Soelen gained a broader understanding of what it means to teach Christianly in different

cultures.

"AROS is training students to teach in such a variety of contexts – from a classroom that many of us would be familiar with, to a classroom under a tree," Van Soelen said. "The principles of teaching Christianly are universal but the application differs greatly."

Students of Dordt: Brandi Buchanan

Haley Mulder - Staff Writer

Brandi Buchanan has written six full-length novels, all before graduating college.

"I don't remember not writing," Buchanan said. "I started when I was about 14. Most of them were terrible."

Buchanan has written books of sci-fi, fantasy, suspense, children's, and teenage drama.

"Two of them are for sale on Amazon," Buchanan said. "My first one, 'Developing Angels,' was published when I was 16."

The book follows a teenager running from a killer, and is a fiction and a Christian story. "The Witches of Saybrook" is her other novel that can also be found on Amazon. It tells the story of a witch and her assistant attempting to resist the charm of the devil. Both of these stories include themes of religion, women, and freedom.

Buchanan is from Marcus, Iowa, but grew up in California.

"When I was little, my mom told us that we could go to bed an hour later if we planned to read before we went to sleep," Buchanan said. "That's how I began reading every night."

Often times, dreams inspire Buchanan in

her writings, and she loves the ability to create and expand on situations she's experienced in her life.

"I love being able to create a separate world with entirely new characters," Buchanan said.

Professor Matthews has influenced Buchanan's love for writing and has pushed her and motivated her to keep going.

"He's so passionate about stories and literature," Buchanan said. "I was working on a book for five years, but after taking his class, I was finally able to finish."

Along with her personal writing career, Buchanan also runs the Writing Club here at Dordt.

"We usually work on our own stories, bring ideas or questions, and do writing prompts together," Buchanan said. "We are a small group, but it's always nice to get together with people who love to write."

Buchanan is a clinical psychology major who plans on working with people with severe disabilities.

Though she plans on a career in psychology, she promises to never stop writing.

"Writing makes me so excited," Buchanan said. "I will never stop."

Depressed at Dordt

Renee Mahaffy - Guest Writer

"What if I died? Would anybody miss me? What if I just died?"

Those thoughts passed through Anne's mind time and again. What was so awful about her life that she didn't think it was worth living? She had depression.

"It sucks," said Sue about depression. "You forget God's grace. You just feel like you're worth nothing, and you're in this hole of blackness and there's no way out. You don't want to do anything but sleep and watch movies. You just want to forget. You feel numb. Feel like life isn't worth it anymore."

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, one in 10 adults report struggling with depression. Based on that statistic, 145 students on Dordt's campus may be suffering from depression right now. Furthermore, 59 students at Dordt may suffer from major depression, according to CDC statistics.

Anne, a junior at Dordt, has been struggling with seasonal depression since her junior year in high school.

"I don't want to do anything first of all. Going to class sometimes is a struggle. Doing extra curricular activities are also a struggle. I just want to sit in my room and waste time," said Anne.

"I realized something was wrong when I lost motivation to do anything, especially things I enjoy, and my anxiety started acting up more," said Anne.

Anne's guidance counselor suggested that Anne had seasonal depression. Anne never went to a doctor to get an official diagnosis because seasonal depression made sense to her.

According to Mental Health America, seasonal depression is a form of depression that affects a person during the fall and winter months. The depression is caused by the changing of

months. Seasonal depression is also known as Seasonal Affective Disorder or the winter blues.

Another student, Sue, has been fighting depression for five years. To combat the depression,

Sue exercises six days a week for half an hour or more, carefully monitors her diet, gets eight hours of sleep every night, works with a counselor and spends regular time with God.

Anne never went to see a counselor about her depression, figuring that she could stick it out herself. Because Anne was told that if she went on medication, she would not have any really bad days, but she would also never have any really good days, Anne decided not to go on medication so she would not have to give up those good days.

"I didn't want to go on medication because I wanted to be myself," Anne said.

Not many people know that Anne struggles with seasonal depression. She has told her close friends, her roommates and her sister -- she never told her parents.

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*Names have been changed for sake of privacy.

Terrace View & Vendor EXPERIENCE SHOWCASE

WEDDING IN THE WORKS OR ENGAGEMENT ON THE HORIZON? WELL THEN IT'S TIME TO PLAN!

THE TERRACE VIEW EXPERIENCE & VENDOR SHOWCASE
SEPTEMBER 28, 2014 | DOORS OPEN AT 1:00

First 100 brides receive a Free wedding guide
Over \$3,000 in Wedding Gift Giveaways
Win a Reception Package from the Terrace View!

Waiting for the ring?
That's ok, no ring necessary to attend. Experience a Mock Wedding Ceremony and Reception, complete with Bridal Vendors showcasing what your wedding could look like. Relax, and experience your wedding!

RSVP & FIND MORE INFO BY JOINING OUR FACEBOOK PAGE!

Opinion

Hughes' Views



Erica Hughes - Columnist

Let's face it: feminism has a bad reputation in the Christian community. Parts of the overall Christian apprehension is fair—we never want to denounce God's law. But what if I propose a different perspective? What if we look at the Scripture in its true nature: a narration of God's grand story, and not a handy Christian self-help book? In Scripture, ladies like Sarah, Rahab, Chloe, Priscilla, Mary the mother of Jesus, Mary Magdalene, etc. play a huge role not only in God's grand narration, but also in the life of Christ. As the self-proclaimed artistic-intellectual Christian woman that I am, I desire to speak truth and to shed light on the silent angst the intellectual Christian woman endures. We like to say here at Dordt, "find your place in God's world." I say I have found my place: and my place in God's world is not being "barefoot and pregnant."

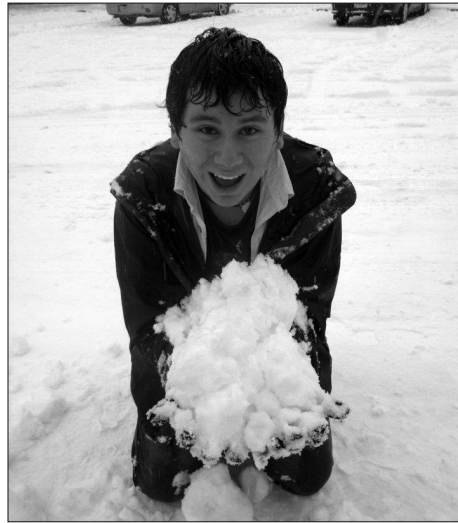
Now, I am not criticizing women whose desire is to be a homemaker. However, let's face it folks: we live in a male dominate society. But as I personally watch the disrespect, aggression, and disdain that some men indulge in when being taught by a female professor, reading female literature, and listening to females speak out on very controversial issues, my blood feels as if my entire body is being cooked in a cauldron—it boils. Are not these men Christian men? Have not these men vowed to follow Christ to His cross? As a Christian who is a skeptic of most ideologies regarding this life, I am sure of one thing: females are implicitly oppressed by the general Christian community.

Hear me out: in the Christian community, what women are most valued by most men? They are the girls who fit in at youth group, can hold a decent conversation, are pretty, can answer all politically jarring questions politically correctly, and don't rock the social boat. I refuse to be that one dimensional. In fact, I don't believe any woman wants to be one dimensional. But what about those of us who have decided to study engineering, write obscure poetry, paint abstractly, and speak when not spoken too? Easy: we are bypassed because of our innate being. We are overlooked because of our oddities. We are dehumanized because a female should never be smarter than a man.

When those questions arise, I ponder the women of the Bible: Rahab, Chloe, Priscilla, Mary the mother of Jesus, and Mary Magdalen. Then I contemplate Charlotte Brontë's heroine Jane Eyre. Those women were brave, and those women refused to forsake the oddities of art, scholarship, and social peace for the pleasure of men. Men, you are but mere men, just as women are but mere women: equal in the sight of God. So, we artistic-intellectual Christian women shall not forsake our oddities for the comfort of man, but we shall embrace them for the glory of God.

I would love to see the day that my female professors are no longer called "Mrs." when they should be addressed "Dr." Yet my hope lies in the day when all the saints—women and men alike—are seated at God's table.

Narayan's Knowledge



Narayan Núñez Blandón - Columnist

About four years ago I moved to the United States in order to obtain a Bachelor's degree at an American institution of higher education. I had previously studied in an American-based school for six years, so I wanted to further my education the same way. I was pretty confident that moving to the United States was going to be easy, especially after studying with American students in Nicaragua, but I was wrong.

My first couple of months in the United States were difficult; everything was different. The culture, the conventional practices, the topics of conversation at the commons, the things people watched and read, and the way people approached each other. During my freshman year I had to make a choice out of the two: criticize those that were different from me and never try to understand them, or embrace the differences and attempt to understand them and adapt to the environment.

Gladly I chose the latter. It was hard but certainly rewarding. I remember that during my first days in the United States I had to learn not to kiss female students on the cheek to greet them, and to keep a broader distance from other people I talked to. Eventually, I learned to interact with U.S. Americans.

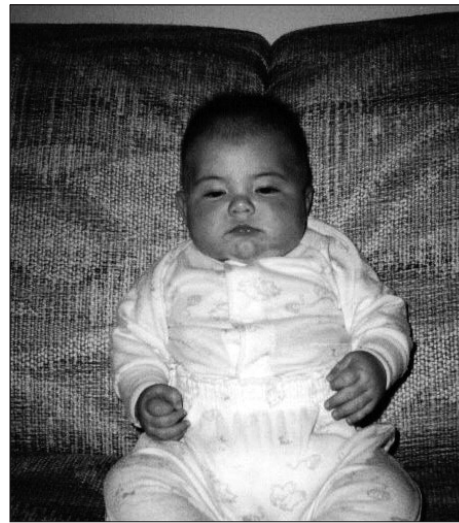
Learning another language and exploring different cultures are opportunities for self-development. Either learning languages or engaging with different cultures opens new doors and allows oneself to get better educated on global topics. From personal experience I can state that learning English has provided various opportunities for self-development. By interacting with my US American and foreign friends, listening to their stories, thoughts, and opinions, I have been able to grasp a more realistic concept of the world in which we live.

Additionally, learning about the personal backgrounds of my fellow classmates and the way they thought were experiences that allowed me to understand that there are more than one way to view a single issue.

I have encountered different people who have stated that they have no interest in engaging with what is different or are too afraid to embrace new cultures. In these past four years, I have met students that recognize the need of learning more than two languages, but since they already speak English, they reject the idea of learning or attempting to learn other globally spoken languages.

I wonder what posture Christians should have concerning these issues. Should we, Christians, avoid talking and taking some sort of action regarding the events that occur in this country? Are we going to let racism and ignorance infest heart of the American population? Should we continue hating the President's decisions and the immigrants that yearn for having a taste of the American dream? Are we ever going to attempt to understand those who are different from us?

The Kaiser has spoken



Megan Kaiser - Columnist

You no longer have time to judge a book by its cover, because it may be way too busy judging you.

Thijs Biersteker, a member of a creative agency in Amsterdam, has created an experimental electronic book cover that will only open if you approach it without prejudice. Equipped with a camera, facial recognition software, and a controlled bolt, it can be put on any book. Let that sink in. No, not that it can be put on any book, but that it has a controlled bolt. The book is literally bolted shut.

Thijs Biersteker made the statement on CNET that "my aim was to create a book cover that is human and approachable...if you approach the book, the face recognition system picks up your face and starts scanning it for signs of 'judgment.' If you're over excited or your face shows a skeptical expression, the book will stay locked. But if your expression is neutral (no judgment) the system will send an audio-pulse and the book will unlock itself."

The cover certainly has a funky look. It's like an abstract face, but the twist is that when you step in front of it, it projects your own face back at you like a mirror. Google it. Or don't.

If your facial expression is disgusted or even overly excited, the book will continue to stay locked. The key is to approach the book with a neutral face, like you are going into it with an open mind.

The "Cover That Judges You" is an interesting concept. It has the potential to be wonderful reminder to never approach a book with a bunch of skepticism and judgment even before you read the title. We've all done it. We've judged a book by its front cover. We've even judged a book just by the little information we are given from the back cover. Sorry to break the news but if you struggle with "book judgment," the cover is only a prototype and won't be on sale anytime soon. However, that being said, we should not need an expensive, electronic book that locks with a bolt and contains facial recognition technology to remind us that we shouldn't judge a book by first glance. We shouldn't need, what I consider, a highly advanced Password Journal from 2003.

Open-mindedness should apply to more than just a book we pick off the shelf. People, places, food; judging any subject or object just by looking at it is a terrible way to approach anything quite frankly. I could tell you to "go out today and not judge anyone by their appearance," but it shouldn't just be today. It should be every single day. Everyone deserves respect and everyone should receive nonjudgmental attitudes 24/7. It can be tough, so start somewhere simple.

Like a book.

Jerusha Yerusha: Black History Month for Everyone



Jerusha Pimentel - Columnist

February is Black History month. How have you been celebrating it? The way I choose to do so is by intentionally educating myself about black American history, and studying the lives and achievements of the countless men and women from whom our country has been blessed and affected by. It is an unfortunate truth that our history classes have largely skimmed over many of the incredible contributions black individuals have, and are still making, towards the betterment of our country since its birth.

We all know the famous Dr. Martin Luther King Junior, and we are familiar with the condensed stories of Harriet Tubman, Rosa Parks, and maybe Frederick Douglass...but who else? And how in-depth do we really understand these individuals' lives and achievements, as well as the immense sorrows black Americans have faced throughout U.S. history?

I am ashamed to say that it wasn't until last January that I read the entire "I Have a Dream" speech by Dr. King, start to finish. I was so overwhelmed that I began weeping where I sat reading it in Dordt's library. I'd gone twenty years without exposure to this rich piece of American history, authored by one of the most anointed people in the 20th century—of what else was I ignorant?

I suddenly understood how little I really knew about this great man of God, about his leadership and struggles in the civil rights movement, and about black history in general. I imagine what our country would look like without his efforts, and I shudder in horror. The stains of slavery and legal racism in our country aren't merely dead issues of the past.

If we're honest, these issues are not as far back as we'd like to pretend. It wasn't until 1967 that interracial marriages were legalized by the Supreme Court. Think about it: most of our parents were alive during a time when marrying someone of a different race was illegal! We need to stop segregating ourselves from black history, because black history is American history.

Maybe you've heard of Ruby Bridges; she was the first black child to go to an all-white elementary school in the south in 1954. She was only 6 years old, but received death threats from white parents of classmates when she first began attending. She had to be protected by U.S. Marshalls because of the danger, and recalls following her mother's advice to pray each time she walked to and from the all-white school, in order to calm her fears and feel braver.

God specifically lead this little girl and her family, and their courageous obedience was the beginning step in a long battle of integration in southern education systems. And this is only an example of one story! There are so many individuals to be honored and commemorated!

Just to name a few that I was previously unaware of: Ida B. Wells, Madam C.J. Walker, Roy Wilkins, and George Washington Carver. But there are a sea of others, and I'd encourage you to also read the many personal stories: through plays, novels, biographies, movies, and music.

Because let's be real, friends; black history month isn't only for black Americans to celebrate—it's for all of us.

Sports

Men's basketball ready for tough schedule ahead

Christian Zylstra - Staff Writer

The Dordt College men's basketball team has a tough schedule for the month of February, including three road games against top-10 nationally ranked teams. This stretch will help Dordt grow as a team for the future, but also make or break their national tournament hopes.

Those tournament hopes took a hit on Feb. 4 when the Defenders went to Mitchell, SD to take on No. 6-ranked Dakota Wesleyan. Dordt fell 102-72 and dropped to 8-8 in the GPAC, good for fifth in the conference.

Dordt is having a decent year overall, but the past few seasons have the fans used to tournament appearances and competitive Defender games night in and night out.

To get back on the winning track, Coach Ross Douma knows the team must step it up on defense.

"For us, it's going to be a matter of how well we can drive down the opponent's field goal percentage," Douma said. "It's been kind of the crux of our problem when we've been on the losing end of things."

Defending the perimeter will be particularly key for the Defenders down the stretch. In late January, the Defenders gave up 17-3 point field goals against Briar Cliff, 10 of which came in the first half. A week

later at Dakota Wesleyan, Dordt gave up 11-3 pointer field goals.

Another key for the Defenders will be building confidence. There are few things that make a team more lethal than playing confidence and energy. That confidence and energy starts with the leadership of upperclassmen.

"Our upperclassmen have to carry the load through their leadership and consistent efforts in practices and games," said Dordt assistant coach Derek Keizer. "We will need to have guys step up and play better than they have been playing."

That leadership will help lead to consistency as well, something younger players pick up along the way.

"February is a whole different game and guys will need to get comfortable being uncomfortable in order for us to get where we want to be," Keizer said.

Even if the Defenders can't climb in the GPAC rankings and lose in the conference tournament, it's crucial that the players learn to enjoy the journey.

That's one of the jobs of coaches, to help players enjoy the journey and focus on each day.

"Our guys compete really hard and do a good job getting along well and working with each other," Douma said. "We need to make



those things jive to make it a fun experience for them. Then when game day comes, we just have to execute and be as tough-minded as we possible can."

Things are going to be much different for the Defenders this year if they hope to make the national tournament. At this point, winning the GPAC tournament is the only way to guarantee a spot, and the Defenders will have to do it on the road this time around.

"I think it will be good for us long-term,"

Douma said. "In the short-term, it'll be a difficult task."

It is not going to be easy, but don't count the Defenders out yet. If the team can pick up their defense and gain some confidence, it could get on a hot streak and be a tough out in the GPAC tournament.

Remember: it's February and March. Anything can happen in college basketball.

Bundick (cont.)

Continued from page 2

or she is without a strong support group and a great teacher.

"Probably the biggest influence on my throwing was my high school coach," Bundick said. "He's a fantastic coach who got me involved in the sport in middle school and has been like a second father to me over the years."

Parents are a strong influence on their children too. Bundick mentioned that his dad was one of his greatest encouragers.

"My dad in particular has always been a huge encouragement in the things that I am passionate about," Bundick said.

This all makes Bundick who he is today: a fantastic teammate who wants the best for others, even at the expense of his own record. His coaches, family and fiancée help him along the way, and he never gives up. Bundick is a talented and selfless athlete, a strong Christian man.

Dordt College Shot Put Indoor Top 10

1. Grayson Bundick - 47' 4.25" - 2015
2. Pete Hamstra - 46' 9" - 1981
3. Jordan Huisman - 45' 7" 2013
4. Dirk Okkema - 44' 9.5" - 2015
5. Dan Oldenkamp - 44' 6" - 2004
6. Tony Engeltjes - 42' 11" - 2007
7. Arden Postma - 42' 4.75" - 1985
8. Neal Brenneman - 41' 11.5" - 1998
9. Brett Guthmiller - 41' 9.5" - 2002
10. Phil Steenstra - 41' 5.5" 1997

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Baseball looks to exceed expectations

Aaron Ladzinski - Staff Writer

Only a few more weeks until the beginning of America's pastime; baseball. The Dordt Defenders baseball team will start their journey starting Feb. 27th in Joplin, Missouri, a tad warmer climate than the chilly northwest Iowa. With a GPAC record of 4-16 and on and an out of conference record of 7-13, the baseball team is looking forward to a second chance.

The Defenders are looking to turn this year around. Even though their past stats have predicted them to land in last place in the GPAC this year, everyone on the team has faith that they can prove the rankings wrong. Coach Jeff Schouten said "We have a great group of guys. This fall and preseason have been great. The nucleus of guys is great. The only way to know if we're going to do well is get on the field."

This year's team is a mix of transfers, freshmen and upperclassmen. With such a mix, it can be difficult for the team to be able to blend with one another, but activities like team road trips and games help the team blend. Coach Schouten had this to say about the jelling "Of course during bus trips and our big trip to Arizona, where we will play eight games. This is where the team bonds together."

One of the big returners this year is the lefty pitcher and first basemen, Nate Forseth. Last year Forseth batted well. The tall lefty will continue to be a force on the mound. In cold weather, bats can be

the biggest problem. "The batters are looking great and with the addition of the one on one time with the coaches is helping a lot," said Forseth.

Aaron Parks, a strong infielder and pitcher, will provide a good deal of offense to the team. "It upsets me," said Parks, when asked about how he felt about the rankings they had received. "We can play with those guys and we have one bad bounce or a bad inning we drop to last? I don't think it's right, and were ready to show them up."

As the team needs leaders like Parks, there also needs to be new leadership coming in. In most cases the rookies learn from the more experienced players. Parks is one of these leaders. "The rookies are looking great," said Parks, "and we have a couple good pitchers and a new catcher."

Though the team may have a challenging season ahead of them, they have the enthusiasm and dedicated leaders to go into it ready to play their hardest.



Arts and Entertainment

New Works Festival highlights students' work

Lauren Bird - Staff Writer

On the evenings of February 25 and 26, Dordt's theatre department will be presenting staged readings of student-written plays and scenes. This event, officially named the New Works Festival, was established mainly for those students who took the department's playwriting class last semester to do more with their work. Josiah Wallace, who taught the class, proposed the festival and got it going.

"Plays are meant to be seen, or in this case, at least heard. This kind of thing is a pretty common part of the theatrical development process, even professionally," Wallace said. "It's a way for the writers to gauge whether they achieved what they wanted to with their piece."

Students were encouraged to submit any pieces of theatrical writing by January 30 to Wallace, who would then send them to the selection committee, made up of both students and faculty. They would then read each piece without being able to see the

names of the writers.

Once the pieces were selected, actors and directors were chosen for each piece. The director will work closely with the writer during the rehearsal process, making sure that the writer's intent for the piece is communicated correctly.

These staged readings will not be fully realized productions. That is, there will be no costumes, no set, and no specific lighting design. The actors will be sitting down with their scripts on stands in front of them, though Wallace thinks some pieces may require the actors to be off-script.

"The directors will play the part of the dramaturge (dramaturgy being the attention to dramatic composition and the way dramatic elements are presented on stage) and the collaborator," Wallace said. "Hopefully, the actors will discover things through the rehearsal process as well, and collaboration with all the participants will occur. This puts an emphasis on the non-static nature of theatre. There's refining that

occurs through every part of the production process."

Wallace hopes that each piece will be followed by a question and answer session, in which the audience will be able to give the writer feedback on their work. One of the members of the selection committee, who will remain anonymous, agrees with Wallace that this festival is essential in the theatre world.

"Reading plays is different than seeing them. It's important for the writers to see the actualization of their work, and for us to say, 'Hey, this is a viable piece of theatre that you've done.'" The pieces I've read have all been really solid, and all have valid themes. It will be interesting to explore these ideas more," said the committee member.

This committee member hopes that the festival will be an opportunity to showcase a variety of ideas.

"Some of the pieces I've read are very



comical and relatable, while some are a little bit dark. There are some overarching themes of family, northwest Iowa lifestyles and relationships that will be interesting to explore and to see how the audience reacts to them. Theatre's true purpose is to engage an audience and ask tough questions that no one else may be asking. I think this is a good way to do that," said the committee member.

Cinderella opera coming to Sioux Center

Lauren Bird - Staff Writer

On Tuesday February 17, the Des Moines Metropolitan Opera will be coming to Dordt to perform Rossini's Cinderella as a part of their Opera Iowa Educational tour. The touring troupe, made up of nine professionals, will also be performing The Billy Goats Gruff for elementary students from around the Sioux Center area.

This is the second year that this opera troupe has performed at Dordt. Last year, they contacted Ben Kornelis, Dordt's choir director, about visiting. This year, the event was put in the hands of John MacInnis, a Dordt music professor, and Anna Bartlett, the music department's administrative assistant.

"The music department has a budget to bring in groups to perform here. The Des Moines Metro Opera troupe is professional, they do a great job and it's not too expensive," said MacInnis. "It's a great opportunity to expose students to mature and well-done events."

The evening performance of Cinderella is free and open to anyone in the community, while the afternoon session is geared toward the elementary students who have been invited. According to Bartlett, each school that will be attending was sent an information packet about the show, which included a lesson plan and a song that they could learn ahead of time to prepare for the performance.

"We had about 700 elementary students attend the afternoon session last year. This event exposes them to fun, good music that's done well," said MacInnis.

"This is unusual for this troupe. They usually go directly to elementary schools and perform for the students. In this case, the evening performance is still appealing for children," said Bartlett.

Even though the evening opera is appropriate for children, Bartlett and MacInnis still encourage Dordt students to attend.

"It's free, which also makes it a good date opportunity. Once you graduate, you probably won't have another opportunity like this, to experience professional opera for free. So take advantage of it while you can," said MacInnis.

"When people think of opera, they think of something that's unapproachable and irrelevant. But this opera is done by a professional group from Iowa, and it's comical and involves great music," said Bartlett.

The performance of Rossini's Cinderella will be held in the B.J. Haan auditorium at 7:30 pm. Admission is free.



Depressed at Dordt (cont.)

Continued from page 4

On the other hand, Sue's entire family knows about her depression and about 10 people on campus know about it.

Approximately 145 students on campus may be suffering from depression, but there isn't much talk about it.

"I don't want everyone to know and I don't want people to be asking about the causes of it. People will begin to identify you as depressed. You aren't depressed, you simply struggle with depression. You can't let depression become your identity," Sue said.

While Anne was in high school, she told one of her friends that she thought she had depression. Her friend didn't look up and said, "No, you aren't; you're just upset because the sun is out." This rude and ignorant statement (seeing as the lack of sun causes the depression) really hurt Anne. She did not speak to her friend for weeks.

"I really hate it when people say, 'Just smile, think of all the happy things.' If somebody told me that the first year, I probably would have hurt them. It was hopeless and meaningless. You're not helping me by saying that I don't have it," Anne said.

Sue's biggest frustration with people responding to depression is that people with depression can't "just get over it."

Depression can often lead to thoughts of self-harm and suicide. Both Sue and Anne have had thoughts of hurting themselves and suicidal thoughts. Neither of them have acted upon these thoughts,

But they have gotten close.

Sadly, there is no cure for depression.

Counseling and medications have been proven to help with depression, but many people struggle with depression off and on for the rest of their lives.

"I just wait it out, honestly. I try to motivate myself to do things that I have to do, because I know that it's going to get better sometime, but maybe not right now," Anne said.

Side Bar: What if someone tells you they are depressed? Take it seriously. Depression is just as much of a disease as cancer.

Be patient and listen.

Don't judge them or blame them--it's not their fault.

Health Services: here to help

Health Services has a staff of counselors who work to provide mental health care from a Christian perspective.

Every Dordt student is entitled to eight free counseling sessions.

The staff is more than willing to help students get in contact with outside resources including other counselors and psychiatrists.

The Back Page



Back to Dordt (cont.)

Continued from page 1

The biggest transition for her was the style of living.

“Living in the tight, busy city of León was definitely a transition at first. It was loud and chaotic! However, I came to love a lot of things about it,” said Herrema. “It was a very walkable area because everything was close together. Lots of people sat out on their front steps during the cooler evenings so I became familiar with all of the neighbors.”

Compared to the others, senior Jessica McCarty spent a semester right around the corner from Dordt. She spent her time in Los Angeles, California for the L.A Semester.

“Los Angeles is not Sioux Center. With that being said, I had such a spiritual hardship. In that, I was constantly being challenged by the diverse LA area and the

diverse religious affiliations within the school itself,” said McCarty.

“Even though being from California made that transition easier, it was still a challenge. It ended on a good note the culmination of which resulted in being baptized at a Place Called Mosaic and then getting a tattoo to signify the whole experience.”

All of these individuals, whether they spent their semester near or far, experienced life-changing events that not everyone would endure in their day-to-day lives. Off-campus semesters aren't for everyone, but they are still good to consider. If interested in spending a semester abroad, contact Off-campus Coordinator Alexis Kreun.

Feature Photo

Contributed Photo



Ayer Crafts a war film for the ages with *Fury*

Jonathan Janssen - Staff Writer

I'll be honest, I'm not a huge fan of war films. While this probably sounds ridiculous considering my coverage of Eastwood's *American Sniper* in the last edition, their frequent propagandist feel and clichéd plots generally fail to tickle my fancy.

With this mindset, I set my sights on David Ayer's newest work *Fury*. *Fury* tells the story of a group of soldiers during World War II in 1945 who operate an American Sherman tank dubbed "Fury." Led by Sergeant Don "Wardaddy" Collier - featuring Brad Pitt reprising his role as a hard-nosed Nazi killer as last seen in the unrelated 2009 Tarantino film *Inglorious Basterds* - the group is dismayed to find that their best gunner, killed in combat, is being replaced by greenhorn Private Norman Ellison played by Logan Lerman. As the group break in this rookie, he slowly transforms into a soldier, shedding his humanity piece-by-piece along the war-torn roadside.

One way Ayer conveys the horror of war is through his use of violence and gore. While an open-mind and a strong stomach are usually recommended while viewing war films of any kind, a few scenes had me tasting my supper in my throat once again. Dead bodies squashed by tank treads, heads literally exploding from tank- and gunfire - with the occasional piece of face left behind to clean up - and a gruesome suicide by a tank operator burning to death are only a few of the scores of travesties witnessed in *Fury*'s 134 minute runtime.

In a deeper sense, Ayer and the film's actors portray the dehumanization of soldiers to a terrifying degree. When Ellison goes on his first tank ride, he sees a beautiful German refugee and they share a cinematic moment complete with a genius loving turn in Stephen Price's score - which is rudely interrupted by Corporal Trini "Gordo" Garcia (Michael Peña) exclaiming, "She'll f*ck you

for a candy bar!"

Later, in an incredibly tense scene, after witnessing both of their brother tanks and every soldier inside reduced to charred corpses by a German tank, our protagonist tank narrowly defeats the Germans. In the sudden quiet, the soldiers inside *Fury* fall back in their seats and begin to cry, questioning the meaning of war. Like a light switch, they suddenly begin to laugh uncontrollably with each soldier crying out the mantra of the film: "Best job I ever had!"

In the most interesting scene in the film, the American army rolls into a captured German town and begin pillaging it while Collier takes Ellison up to two German

women's apartment.

In a bizarre turn of events, the soldiers begin to play house with the women, eating, drinking tea, while Collier sends Ellison into the bedroom with one of the Germans so he can lose his virginity. The sudden civility is shocking, tense, and awkward, and it is almost a welcoming sight when the other soldiers rush into the apartment and disrupt the fake politeness with their uncouth behavior.

Shia LaBeouf and Jon Bernthal inhabit their roles beautifully

with LaBeouf playing a highly religious soldier who believes it is God's will for him to kill as many Nazis as he can and Bernthal an ornery bad-to-the-bone character. The operators of *Fury*, while a bit archetypal, are fantastic in their interactions and realistically express the nuances of tank-life.

While the one-dimensionality of the Nazi army make the film feel a bit propagandist and cast any signs of their humanity under scrutiny, *Fury*'s cast, themes, and creative scenes are more than enough of a witness for the film's deservingness of canonization in the history of war films.

