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THE DIAMOND

Iowa ranks third in wind energy production

Lydia Marcus – Staff Writer

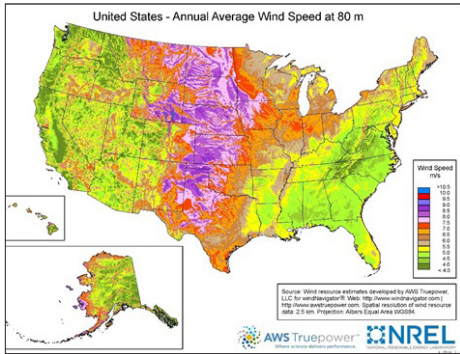
Iowa is full of wind and corn. It is not surprising, then, that Iowa ranks third and first in the nation for wind power output and production of ethanol. According to the Iowa Area Development Group, Iowan wind farms power the equivalent of more than 1.5 million homes each year and Iowa accounts for over 27 percent of the nation’s total ethanol production.

Wind and corn are not unique to Iowa, though, even if we have especially high concentrations of these resources. What is responsible for Iowa’s good renewable energy rankings?

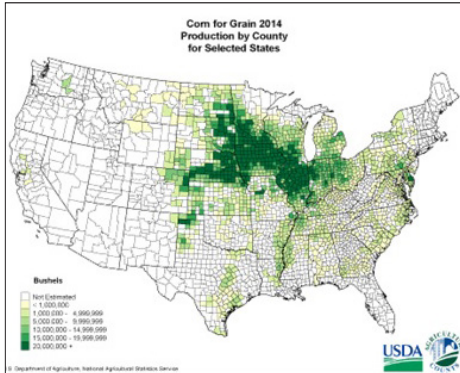
Iowa’s renewable energy success is a product of a couple factors, including location and state legislation.



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Annual average wind speed.



Corn for grain 2014 production by county for selected states.

state’s development of wind power. Iowa has legislation which promotes and incentivises the development of renewable energy, particularly wind power. This legislation, combined with access to harvestable wind, proximity to metropolitan areas, and hefty power lines which can transport the electricity the wind farms generate contributes to Iowa’s successful wind farms.

Iowa’s high ethanol yield is self-evident when you look at a United States’ map of corn production by county. As it turns out, Iowa does

have an unusually high concentration of corn. This, combined with the state legislation which promotes renewable energy and lots of nearby ethanol refineries, contributes to Iowa’s high national ranking.

Given Iowa’s high concentration of renewable energy resources, the state has been able to capitalize on these resources and produce significant quantities of energy. While Iowa does not have renewable energy completely figured out, it may be on the right track.

Tennessee bill explores free speech on campus

Eric Rowe – Staff Writer

Exposed to differing viewpoints or exploited by violent ideologies? While defending a bill which supports free speech on college campuses, Tennessee Rep. Martin Daniel said that the first amendment rights of ISIS recruiters should be respected.

On March 16, Tenn. legislature met to debate the merits of the Tennessee Student Free Speech Protection Act. Rep. John DeBerry challenged the bill for being too broad and asked Daniel whether ISIS should be allowed to recruit on college campuses.

“So long as it doesn’t disrupt the proceedings on that campus,” Rep. Daniel said. “They can recruit people for any other organization or any other cause. I think it’s just part of being exposed to differing viewpoints.”

The bill will require universities in Tenn. to allow offensive speech. It emphasizes, “That lack of mutual respect or civility shall not be a justification for closing off the discussion of ideas, no matter how offensive or disagreeable the ideas may be to members of the community.”

Rep. Daniel is concerned about the trend that he sees in colleges to attempt to protect students from being antagonized and disrespected. He listened to students who are not comfortable



Martin Daniel, Tennessee Representative

expressing their opinions due to college policy.

Dordt junior Daniel Lucht can see that the modern culture we live in makes it harder for people to say what they want because people may be offended by it. He says that free speech

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Dordt on display: the openness of college tours

Janelle Cammenga – Staff Writer

If you’re like most American students, you went on several college tours before picking the school to which you would sign away the next few years of your life. Due to a limited number of students graduating from high school, college advertising has become quite a commercial business. This means that college tours and tour guides tend to focus on the good points of their school and gloss over the minor – or not-so-minor – faults of the institution.

Does Dordt fall into this category of advertising, too? Do the tour guides really say what’s on their minds, or do they just stick to their scripts?

Three Dordt student tour guides shared their experiences with Diamond staff. As expected, the guides do have certain subjects and highlights that they are supposed to talk about on their tours. For example, sophomore Bri Enerson said guides are supposed to mention the school’s diversity when bringing potential students past the flags in the Campus Center.

“I usually say that even though Northwest Iowa isn’t very diverse, we like to think of ourselves [Dordt] as diverse,” Enerson said. Freshman tour guide Nick Geels reported similar expectations of his tours.

Other requirements include mentioning the group-oriented classrooms under the Science Building stairs and emphasizing the 95% job placement rate after graduation.

But are these student tour guides holding anything back? Are they falling into the habit of hiding the institution’s flaws?

In response to these questions, sophomore and tour guide Jenna Van Ravenswaay declared herself to be “the type of person who really doesn’t have a filter sometimes,” and said that one of the only things she keeps quiet about is Commons food. “I do really believe that the Commons food is better [than before], but I don’t really talk about how many times you’re like, ‘What is this crap?’” On most occasions, she also refrains from mentioning the football statistics of Dordt.

For the most part, it would seem that Dordt tour guides are very open about what goes on around campus. The tour guides strive to be honest when answering questions, no matter what the question is. When a visiting student asked Geels about how the parties were, he answered, “I don’t know. I know there are parties on campus, but I’ve never been to one.”

“One time they asked me what ‘Reformed’

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Dordt on display: the openness of college tours (cont.)



Photo by Daniel Seaman
Jenna Van Ravenswaay, a student tour guide, introduces a visiting family to life at Dordt.

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was,” Van Ravenswaay said. “I had to explain to them Heidelberg and all of that.” Sometimes this policy of openness leads to awkward and amusing situations. Van Ravenswaay told the story of one of her first tours, when she showed East Hall to some visitors. “There was a boy walking down the hall in his towel, and he saw me, and I saw him, and I ran out as fast as I could,” Van Ravenswaay said. This was not an isolated event, either. “I’ve seen a few guys in their towels,” she said. “I might’ve seen boxers once.” Enerson shared that she once walked in on a

room full of sleeping males on one tour, but the guys immediately woke up and tried to make a good impression on the visitors. Awkward situations and all, Dordt tour guides love their jobs and strive to be the best they can. They appreciate Dordt’s openness and honesty about campus life. “Dordt wants what’s best for the students,” Geels said. “If it’s not the place for you, we understand that, and we’re not going to make you come just to get money.” While other campuses may be using college visits and tours to trick students into enrolling, Dordt doesn’t follow this trend. Dordt’s campus life isn’t perfect, but it is open about what goes on and what prospective students can expect.

Naps in college and beyond: a thing of the future?

Lauren Bird – Staff Writer

Large corporations around the world have started to implement a scheduled naptime into their employees’ days. These naptimes are said to have numerous health benefits and to increase productivity. Many businesses—particularly ones that demand a lot of creative thinking, like Google and Facebook—have developed their workplaces to make them not only conducive to napping, but also to other activities that stimulate the brain. In many Spanish-speaking countries, shops and businesses close down in the afternoon for “siesta” time. This is partially because the temperatures rise during the midday hours in these countries, but it is also a part of the culture: People like to have a long lunch and spend time with their families during the siesta time. Many students at college are used to finding time in their day for a nap. Dordt even includes a community block hour so that students and staff can get a break and spend time with others. But is this something that graduates can expect to have the opportunity to do when they get a job? Dordt senior Kyle Roelofs thinks that it’s an idea that employers should consider. “Businesses are more in tune with how the human body functions. They’re becoming more aware of what their employees need to be productive. Encouraging things like naptime means that employees will be healthier, which gives the company a better name. But naps are just one piece of the puzzle. There are many different ways to improve health that we should consider,” said Roelofs. As Roelofs says, these scheduled nap times don’t necessarily have to be for naps. The goal is to give workers a time to slow down and get a break from the constant rush of work that comes at them every day. Robin Suing, administrative assistant for the theatre department, says that



Photo by Daniel Seaman
Sam Boman and Morgan Spoelstra enjoy their Sunday afternoon nap.

she enjoys a longer lunch break, which provides a break similar to a naptime. “I had a job a while back where I got an hour long lunch break, which was really nice to get things, like errands outside of work or different appointments. Then I got a job where I had only a half hour break for lunch, which made me feel more frantic, especially when I was pregnant,” said Suing. Suing proves that we don’t need to call the time “naptime” in order to implement it into our daily work routines. When you graduate, you may not find yourself in a company that has mandated naptime, but it is likely you’ll find other ways that your employer is looking out for your wellbeing.

Dordt puts up record performances at indoor nationals

Alli Young – Staff Writer

On March 3-5, 12 women and seven men on the Defender track & field team competed at the 2016 NAIA Indoor National Track & Field Championships in Johnson City, TN. Seven different events earned All-American status—finishing in the top eight—and two events broke Dordt records. “We had an excellent trip to nationals with many great performances,” Head Coach Craig Heynen wrote to the team in an email. The women’s 4x400 meter relay set a new school record of 3 minutes, 54.5 seconds, earning seventh place and All-American status in the finals. Miranda Velgersdyk, Elizabeth Rankin, Jenna Wilgenburg and Marisa Broersma passed the baton in that order. The other school record came as a result of Jacob Moats’ 2.10 meter (6-10.75) performance in the men’s high jump. Moats had an impressive fifth-place finish. Additional All-American performances: Sam Wensink: eighth place in the men’s 1,000-meter run Kelsey Lewis: eighth place in the women’s 800-meter run Justine Van Zee: sixth place in the women’s 1,000-meter run Kelsey Lewis, Kayla Byl, Nicole Slater and Justine Van Zee: fourth place in the women’s 4x800 meter relay Mycah Hulst: seventh place in the women’s high jump

The women’s 4x800 team placed highest out of all of Dordt’s events. Despite Lewis, Byl, Slater and Van Zee already running the 4x800 in the preliminary round the previous night, in addition to their individual events, the quartet posted a blistering 9 minutes, 16 seconds in the finals—a full 10 seconds faster than their qualifying time in the prelims. “Usually, the final times are not as fast as the prelim times because people are tired,” Lewis said. For the past three years, Lewis has competed in the open-800 at Indoor Nationals. This year marked the first time she made the finals and earned All-American status. “It was a cool moment,” Lewis said. “I knew I could do it, but to actually do it felt pretty good.” The past few years, Indoor Nationals has been hosted at a state-of-the-art facility in Ohio. This year’s host facility, David E. Walker Track at Gentry Field, presented less than ideal conditions for the athletes. The indoor track was 280 meters around, as opposed to a standard 200 or 300-meter track. “It was weird because handoffs were at different places,” Lewis said. “The finish line was actually in the middle of the track, so you had to start kicking it in on the curve. You had to run it a few times before you got comfortable with it.” In spite of the facility downgrade, Dordt athletes made the best of it. “I don’t know why they chose to host a



Contributed photo
Junior Jacob Moats clears the bar as Assistant Coach Nate Wolf looks on.

national event there, but everyone was in the same circumstances as us,” Lewis said. Dordt’s performances at the Indoor National Championships reflected a strong indoor season that will likely lay the foundation for a successful outdoor track & field season. “Speaking for the team, everybody has expectations for themselves, and not everybody

meets those expectations, so you have victories and disappointments,” Lewis said. “But overall, I think the meet went really well for the team. I think there were a lot more victories than there were disappointments.”

Social work month: redefining love

Jaden Vander Berg – Staff Writer

Very few professions get time out of the year dedicated to recognizing those who work in their respective fields. Nurses, teachers and police get a week, administrative professionals are recognized for a day, but the entire month of March is dedicated to the work and service of social workers.

The Practice Methods I class under professor Abby Foreman led Dordt’s chapter of the month’s activities. Breaking away from the National Association of Social Workers’ theme for the month, Forging Solutions Out of Challenges, the Dordt students chose a new topic to base their events around: pornography and redefining love.

“[Pornography] is something a lot of people deal with and has completely invaded our whole society on a large scale, but it is not talked about often. As a society, we have become desensitized to it – the level of sexual content and the overall pervasiveness of sexuality in our society,” said junior Mikaela Dragt, a social work student. “By tackling pornography and opening it up as a conversation, rather than attacking those who are struggling, we can come at it in such a way that acknowledges the impact that it has on the people that are involved in the industry – those who are struggling – and bring awareness to those who may not understand what it is.”

The social work majors planned three events for the Dordt community in order to bring light to the profession they are passionate about and educate the campus on the issues surrounding pornography.

The first event promoted healthy relationships. They sold flowers, encouraging people to send them to those they care about with a message of appreciation.

“[The flower delivery] was to promote community around Dordt College, expressing love towards others in appropriate ways and through acts of kindness,” said junior Natalie Van Essen.

The pancake supper has quickly become a staple for Social Work Month, with this year being no exception. The group decided that the freewill donation would go towards ATLAS, a local non-profit that provides a variety of services to hurting people.

“I loved being able to serve others and interact with people I don’t always have the opportunity to talk to. Being in the apartments and not going to the commons anymore means we don’t always get to talk to others as frequently as we used to. I think this event benefited the upperclassmen because we had the chance to socialize,” junior Jennifer Den Boer said.

Social work is one of the fastest growing professions, increasing by 12% a year according to the U.S. Department of Labor, but why do they deserve an entire month?

“Social work needs its own month because a lot of people don’t know what social work is. It is very broad; you can do many things with a social work degree; you can go into therapy and do counseling, but you can also work with all different groups of people in different settings, helping them be successful in life,” said Professor Foreman, head of the social work department. “Oftentimes, social work is



Contributed photo

Members of the social work club volunteer at the pancake supper.

misunderstood to only be child protection work or adoption work, and that is part of it, but not all of it. The purpose of the month then is to highlight the things that social workers do and that there are lots of ways that we help people.”

The final event will be next Monday, March 28 at 6:30 in SB 1606. The group is showing the documentary, “The Porn Pandemic: The

Devastating Effects on Children, Families, and Society” along with a discussion. The purpose is to open the conversation on campus and create a safe environment for students to ask questions and learn more about the harmful effects of pornography.

Concert choir spring breaks to Pacific NW

Lauren Bird – Staff Writer

The members of the Concert Choir visited the Pacific Northwest area on their annual spring break tour. Among the cities visited were Lynden, Washington; Boise, Idaho; and Abbotsford, BC. Dr. Ben Kornelis, choir director, explains the reasoning for visiting those cities.

“Our tours are on a six-year rotating plan. We work with the admissions and advancement offices and plan according to where there are constituents and alumni. This year, we have someone in the choir from that area, so we visited their high school, which provided a neat opportunity to make connections,” Kornelis said.

Connecting with donors and alumni is not the only reason to make this trip, however. Kornelis said that it is also a promotional opportunity and a chance to show what a part of Dordt is like.

“Some students may have a certain picture in their minds about what Dordt is like. By touring to schools and performing at assemblies, we can show them that music is a big part of Dordt and we can showcase the quality and excellence of music here,” Kornelis said.

It is not only about raising money and gaining more students. Senior Logan Radde believes it is also about impacting communities in a positive way.

“It’s always interesting to see the ways in which communities are influenced by music. We stay with host families each night after our concerts, and it’s always neat to hear about the ways they reacted to the music we sang,” Radde said.

Even more than impacting communities, a trip like this can also teach the students many



Contributed photo

things. They gain performance experience that they can’t get from only singing at Dordt.

“When we prepare for a concert at Dordt, we prepare for weeks and then only get one chance to perform the songs,” Kornelis said. “With a tour, we get a chance to live with the music longer and work to improve it even more. The

students also have to figure out how to make the music fresh and new with every concert.”

Rest assured, the Dordt music department has been well-represented in the Pacific Northwest area.

Tennessee bill explores free speech on campus (cont.)

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can be an unpleasant experience.

“A lot of disrespect happens when you exercise that right,” Lucht said. “There has to be mutual respect.”

The Tenn. bill serves as an invitation for students to challenge the beliefs of the institution and the broader community of the college as an open expression of their right to free speech. As it was proposed, the bill requires universities to inform their students of this right every school year.

The bill was put off notice at the hearing shortly after Rep. Daniel’s comments about ISIS. He intends to revise the bill and present it again after a summer study.

While reflecting on situations when exercising the right to free speech goes too far, senior Ben Vermeer mentioned Dordt’s policy towards pornography. He asked the question why we deny free speech to pornography.

“Free speech is important, but so is morality,” Vermeer said. “It’s always sticky when you try to draw lines with free speech.”

In response to his Islamic State comments, Daniel released a statement confirming his belief that ISIS is evil and affirming the illegality of supporting a terrorist organization. Daniel clarified his intent for the bill.

“The remedy for objectionable disagreeable non-violent speech is not silence or suppression of speech,” Daniel said, “It is more speech.”

PLIA teams once again travel nationwide in annual service trips

Janelle Cammenga – Staff Writer

As tradition dictates, 120 students traveled to 14 different locations for Dordt’s spring break service trip. Members of Putting Love Into Action (PLIA) had opportunities to help others in locations like New Mexico, Kentucky, Ohio and others. These are the well-known facts about PLIA. Less well-known are the shenanigans and inside jokes participants experience on PLIA trips.

Junior Nathan Ryder, a leader of the team in Grand Junction, CO, shared that his team was able to foster community by eating meals with community members almost every night. He faced the brunt of a heavy load of teasing following his conduct at one of these meals. He ate his dessert earlier than the rest of the group and then looked dismayed when he found out there was ice cream in addition to the cake. This was suitably blown out of proportion, and Ryder was mercilessly mocked for his gluttony and open disappointment.

“I am an emotional man and will wear my heart upon my sleeve, fearing the mockery of no man,” Ryder said. “Upon the news that I had eaten a sadly unbalanced dessert, my face may have fallen somewhat, although not to the sheer exaggeration of certain Indonesian onlookers.”

Happily for Ryder, the situation worked out, and he got ice cream with another piece of cake.

“I will say that I find the scale of this event to have been grossly magnified, and that I feel no shame except for those who continue in their malignant attempts to sully my name,” Ryder said.

Jill Schouten, a leader of the group in Denver, recounts the one time she filled the van up with gas and she forgot to put the cap back on. They only found out her mistake because one of their team members had to use the bathroom and someone pointed it out to them when they

stopped.

The Cincinnati, Ohio, team spent much of their time pranking each other with toy rubber snakes the organization they worked with wanted to throw out. The snakes traveled from sleeping bag to urinal and back to sleeping bag.

The PLIA trips were not just filled with fun and games, but also with service to different organizations. Freshman Jalyn Vander Wal shared her experience in Mendenhall, Mississippi. Her team built relationships by helping kids at a school.

“It was really wonderful to get to love on these kids in a way that their teachers couldn’t,” Vander Wal said.

Vander Wal’s trip was also filled with lessons. “One thing I learned was to make sure that I remember that serving is not about results,” she said. “Even if I don’t see what our work did right away, it still impacted people’s lives and still glorified God.”

Like the other groups, Vander Wal had her share of memorable experiences.

“One of the little boys at the school told me that I looked like man with my hair down,” she said. “That was a real confidence-booster.”

No matter what team the PLIA members served on, they experienced a week full of service, fun and growing in faith. Ryder mentioned he enjoyed having daily devotions with his group.

“At the end of the trip, we departed with hearts filled to the brim with love, minds aided with new wisdom and stomachs packed with homemade food – although some stomachs could fit more food than others, and that is not something the owners of these said stomachs should have to feel bad about,” Ryder said.

Next spring break, think about trying PLIA and experience this fun and growth for yourself. You will not come back the same.



Global agriculture summit brings diversity of people and knowledge to Sioux Center

Alli Young – Staff Writer

On March 2, 3, and 4, a vacant campus sprang to life with the kickoff of the first ever Global Agriculture Summit. Over 600 attendees flew and drove in to Sioux Center, representing 22 states, eight countries, and two provinces. Several dozen agricultural students, along with a sprinkling of other students, stayed to assist with and attend the conference. These students had the privilege of extending a warm welcome to international guests who share similar passions.

“Guests really liked the hospitality of the whole campus,” said conference coordinator Dick Joerger. “That, combined with the message, with the Lord, and something they love, which is agriculture, community development, or missions, it’s kind of like ‘We haven’t experienced this before.’”

Joerger, a professor in the agriculture department, has been planning and praying for the success of this conference since he came to Dordt in October 2014. Aside from having disappointingly low numbers of local producers at the summit, Joerger believes the conference achieved the purpose it was intended to serve: to enable a diverse body of people who share a Christian calling and passion for agriculture to connect, to inspire, to equip, and to take action.

“I’ve asked a couple people how they felt about it,” Joerger said. “One of the things they were very vocal about from the get-go was the fact that it’s a Christian conference for people with a passion for agriculture. It’s not an agricultural conference, oh by the way, for some Christians.”

The format of the conference consisted of breakout workshop sessions, key note lectures with discussion panels, Agri-Ed talks

(much like TED Talks), open networking, and banquet-style meals. Activities kicked off on Wednesday night with praise & worship, a trade fair, a discussion with chapel speaker Sarah Theberge, and a showing of the documentary Poverty, Inc. On Saturday, March 5, conference attendees who were not familiar with American agriculture were given a tour of several dairies and farm operations within Sioux County.

“The people who came here said, ‘You know what? I feel safe, I can talk, I can interact, I can meet new people,’” Joerger said. “That’s exactly one of the things we were trying to accomplish, and I think we did.”

Planning, organizing and funding an event of this magnitude took a great deal of time and energy from Dordt College and its co-host for the summit, Partners Worldwide. Other major sponsors included World Renew, Bread for the World, and In All Things. Now that the

conference is over, the biggest question is, will Dordt be able to host another similar event?

“Before the end of the first day, people were coming up to us, quite excited, saying ‘When are you going to do this again?’ Joerger said. “And I think it had to do more with the atmosphere that was there than it was necessarily the content of some of the workshops. I think they felt the spirit move among them and were saying, ‘I really like this atmosphere.’”

Whether or not another Global Agriculture Summit will occur is yet to be determined. For now, coordinators like Joerger are simply enjoying seeing the fruits of their labor.

“We’re happy that it’s past, but we’re really happy that it had an impact,” Joerger said. “And we think it’s going to continue to reach. We are continuing to get feedback about connections people are making.”

From midwest village to downtown Los Angeles

Megan Kaiser – Staff Writer

Take a girl who grew up in a village of 150, throw her into the heart of Los Angeles, and force her to function for three and a half months. Sounds like a great idea to me.

On that note, I was fortunate enough to attend the Los Angeles Film Studies Center in the Fall semester of 2015. Such an opportunity has always been my dream. When I was a junior in high school, I traveled to New York for a week and visited the New York Film Academy. Boom. Instantly, I believed that everything I needed was there. Then, I began to reroute my thinking, and all of a sudden I needed to be in LA.

I just didn't think I'd ever make it there. But somehow, eight months ago, I found myself sharing a \$2000-per-month apartment with 4 other individuals that I'd never met before.

Let's name some highlights.

I landed a job at Lionsgate. Yeah, that Lionsgate, of Hunger Games, Insurgent, Mad Men, and more. How? Great question. I tried my luck by applying at every corporate company in the area that summer. By a stroke of luck, good timing and a resume that was

doing something right, I landed the job in Santa Monica. I walked past celebrities, shook hands with directors and sat in on commentaries. If you ever go on iTunes and look up Lionsgate films, I may have potentially written the special feature descriptions.

The people, especially my roommates. I had some amazing roommates with whom I will remain friends for years to come. I also had a great class. We jived like it was meant to be.

The location. I was living in downtown Los Angeles. I can't lie—it is such a cool place; however, not always safe. The amount of people talking to themselves while waiting for the bus was much higher than the number of those not talking to themselves while waiting for the bus.

Other highlights? The school. My co-workers. The fact that I was able to visit my fiancé's family all the time.



In general, the pros outweighed the cons. Unfortunately, there were things that did suck. These included:

Traffic. I worked eight miles away, and some days getting back to the apartment took 45 minutes, some days it took 1.5 hours, and—on the day that Joe Biden decided to come to town—it took 2.5 hours.

Our slow elevator. We had one out of commission the whole semester until the day we moved. 12 floors, and 1 slow-moving elevator. I learned to always take the stairs to our 7th floor apartment.

All those dumb hoverboard things. You know, the Segway-looking things without the steering wheel. Every high schooler had one, and every 27-year-old in Prada and Gucci had one.

But even with the cons, the overall experience was amazing. I finally figured out what I wanted

to do with my life. I got engaged. I stood next to Evan Peters.

Next step. I graduate, and then what? For my whole life, I hadn't thought I would ever amount to anything if I didn't move somewhere big or do something big. It was all I'd ever been able to think about. And then Los Angeles happened to me. The city is cool, but it's also a lot of hype—yes, it's warm, but so is a tanning booth. Anyone can have an amazing life anywhere.

I don't ever wish that I had grown up somewhere else. I can say that I will be happy no matter where life takes me. Los Angeles is cool, and so is my village of 150 people. Maybe my village isn't for everyone, and maybe Los Angeles isn't for everyone either, but I realize now that you don't need to be somewhere flashy just to do something with your life or to make a difference.

Kaiser notes that she uploaded 50 vlogs throughout the course of the semester. If you would like a taste of her LA experience, type "Megan Kaiser" into the YouTube search bar and you're bound to find her.

The case for home-grown compassion

Ashley Bloemhof – Staff Writer

Speaker of the House Paul Ryan took the CPAC stage on Thursday morning to discuss the Left's unsuccessful efforts to win the "war on poverty." Ryan spoke unfavorably towards the current administration's efforts, claiming that the "definition of success" has been distorted by government programs that continue to absorb taxpayer money without producing substantial economic growth. Success, argued Ryan, should be measured by the amount of people who are able to escape poverty and not by the amount of funds poured into ineffective programs.

Such programs result in what Ryan called the "poverty trap." When the federal government creates restrictions to make it harder for people to aim for greater economic opportunity, it's not the wealthy who most suffer, but the poor instead. The top tax rate does not devastate the rich but instead those on the brink of moving beyond a minimum-wage income, removing all incentive for individuals to create career goals.

"They're missing out, and we're missing out on their talents," said Ryan.

Ryan proposed that the federal government must be pushed back from the front lines and forced to respect the space between itself and local communities. This space, what Ryan called "civil society," is in jeopardy as the Left tries to bridge the gap and become more heavily involved in people's lives.

According to Ryan, in order to "go to the root cause to break the cycle of poverty," this space must be defended.

On Friday, a panel discussion proposed strong marriages and family stability as the solution to attacking poverty at the source. In a conversation addressing the findings of the Family Prosperity Initiative, a joint effort by the American Conservative Union Foundation, economists and "state-based leaders across the country," economist Larry Kudlow expressed strong arguments in favor of family unity and its impact on economic prosperity.

Kudlow offered a four-step process to guide a young person down a positive societal path: Finish school; get a job; find a person to spend the rest of your life with - "the real lesson here is not to just jump into bed together" - and then, then "you have the kid."

Kudlow argued that society is accomplishing these goals in the wrong order and that traditional family values regarding child-rearing have been lost. Part of the blame, he conceded, fell to the federal government's intervention in the economy and the negative impact of the welfare state. With the end goal of increasing America's annual growth rate, the economist suggested that a return to traditional values is the ultimate answer to increasing the nation's economic prosperity.

In a closing round of questions, Kudlow claimed marriage rates should be used to

determine success in regards to decreasing American poverty and increasing economic growth. "In respect to poverty" and its link to declining marriage, Kudlow argued the correlation is undeniable. He encouraged the audience to discuss the issue and shared his disappointment that, with the "possible exception of Ben Carson, the Republican candidates have not talked about this issue."

Lo and behold, Carson took the stage later that evening and professed the need for compassion in a conservative sense. Compassion, he said, is not providing for an individual's every need but instead creating avenues for people to become "part of the productive side of America."

"Our pillars of strength are our family," he said.

Yet the struggle to redeem America's view of conservatives' poverty policy continues. On the Democratic side, agendas offering more and more money to federal programs sound like the perfect solution to impoverished individuals who are enabled by programs that disincentivize hard work. Do Ryan and Kudlow's proposals effectively address the lives of the impoverished?

According to Marvin Olasky in Compassionate Conservatism (2000), they do. Olasky defines compassion as "suffering with" someone, walking alongside them in order to restore their personal well-being. He states that increasing government funding for large

programs fails to show true compassion because the effort is void of a personal relationship as well as an understanding of a person's needs. The institution to address those needs, argues Olasky, is not the federal government but local leaders, those operating within civil society. The government should not be a friend to everyone, but instead move aside so that local leaders have the means to accomplish far more than that of a check in the mail.

Like Ryan, Olasky recognizes the importance of a government that works the supply line, and, like Kudlow, Olasky believes in the power of family and non-governmental institutions. The author therefore encourages local community leaders and organizations to step into the civil sphere and transform their environments using resources as efficiently as possible.

As organizations constantly move money overseas to help the sick and disadvantaged, thousands of citizens within our own communities desperately need someone to suffer through a crisis with them. Heaven knows Social Security can't do it; neither can food stamps; neither can Medicaid. There is a difference between enabling and empowering, and though neither party has constructed the perfect strategy to deal with poverty, conversations held at CPAC may prove valuable if given the chance to materialize.



Paul Ryan, Speaker of the House



Larry Kudlow

Spring break trips for Dordt athletics

Christian Zylstra – Staff Writer

While MLB teams spent Spring Training in Arizona and Florida, multiple Dordt athletic teams escaped the cooler Northwest Iowa temperatures for southern air and the desert sun. Continuing the trend of the past several years, Dordt baseball and softball traveled to Arizona for spring break to enjoy sunny skies and 80-degree temperatures. Dordt golf, a year after traveling to California, remained closer to home, playing numerous golf courses in the Kansas City area.

Temperatures and weather patterns in Northwest Iowa are unpredictable in the month of March. By traveling south for break, players and teams have ample opportunities to hit the course or field and gain valuable reps.

“The game slows down a lot,” said Dordt sophomore catcher Josh Van Eps. “With several games under your belt, the game slows down and starts to feel like regular baseball, which is obviously a good thing.”

Making a 27-hour trip down south isn’t to be taken lightly. It’s a blast for the players and coaches, but in the end, it’s a business trip with specific goals to accomplish.

“My goal individually was simply to learn,” said Dordt freshman pitcher Tianna Top. “For me, this is the beginning of college softball, and I knew I was going to find out what I do well and what I need to improve on.”

For both baseball and softball, the

opportunities to learn and grow were nearly limitless. Softball played 14 games in seven days and baseball laced up the spikes for 10 games in seven days.

With no class during this weeklong stretch, there was ample time for baseball and softball.

“It’s the only week out of the year that we get to focus solely on softball, so we took full advantage of that,” Top said.

Both baseball and softball went .500 during their trip down south, going 5-5 and 7-7, respectively, under the desert sun.

Dordt College softball started its slate of GPAC games this week when it hosted a doubleheader against Nebraska Wesleyan on Tuesday. Dordt baseball picks up conference play at Doane on April 1.

Dordt golf had slightly different intentions during its spring break trip to Kansas City. Rather than squaring off against other teams, the team used spring break to play as much golf in a six-day stretch as possible, all with the goal of preparing for the spring portion of the golf season.

“My goals heading into this spring break trip were to get back into golf and find a rhythm,” said senior golfer Micah Roos. “If you take a bunch of time off, it can be hard to find the timing of the swing back.”

Winters in Northwest Iowa leave golfers with large quantities of “off-season.” Shaking off the winter rust is a key goal each golfer heads into break trying to accomplish.

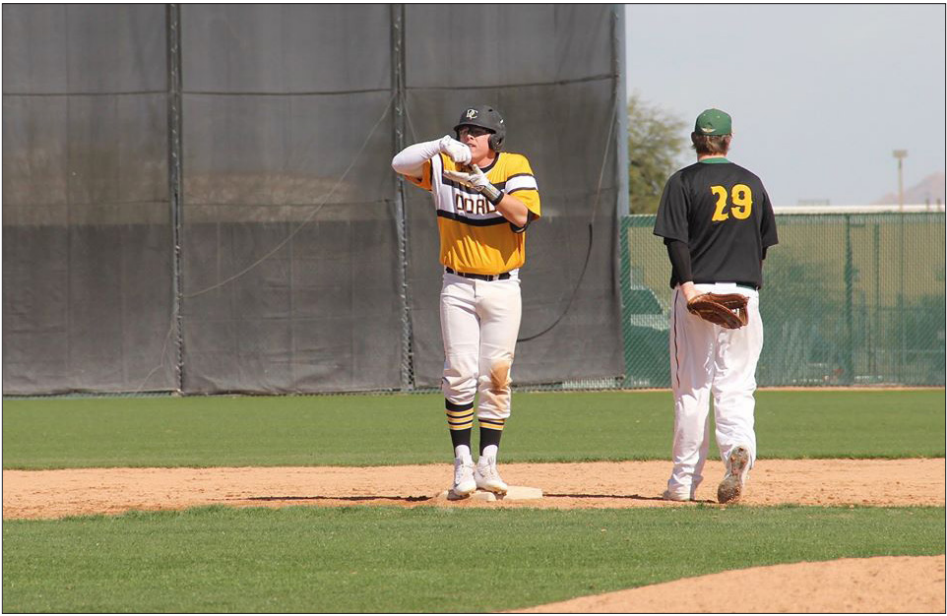


Photo courtesy of Patty Samuelson

Sophomore Josh Van Eps celebrates at second base.

“We got to play a lot of golf, more than we got to play last year,” said junior golfer Christian Manes. “We even had some 36-hole days. Just getting out there, getting some swings in and getting a lot of holes in is always important.”

Over the course of six days, Dordt golf had the opportunity to play six different courses, a major highlight of the trip according to multiple

golfers.

Students like to congregate towards the south over Spring Break. While most students go to escape responsibility and have a good time, Dordt athletic teams escape the bustle of mundane class schedules and take a business trip down south in preparation for the spring seasons.

One-on-one with Dordt’s new defensive coordinator

Aaron Ladzinski – Staff Writer

A new season, a new start, a new feeling and a new defensive coordinator for the Dordt College football program: Lynn Nutt. Nutt comes to Dordt from Eastern Michigan, where he served as an assistant coach for two years. Before that, he served as a defensive line coach at William Jewel (MO) and head coach at Pike County High School (MO) in 2012. We had a few questions that would help the Dordt student body get to know Coach Nutt.

Q: What was the biggest factor for you coming to Dordt?

A: The biggest factor is a tie between the people and the opportunity. People are what make jobs and experiences special. It’s not the shiny and pretty new weight rooms, or the 14 different jersey combinations or the National Champion banners that make something special – it’s the people IN those buildings and jerseys.

The people here are Dordt are not only genuine in the way they interact and socialize; they are all professionals within their department. There is an expectation and a standard here that raises everyone’s level of work and desire to impact. And the opportunity here is great because there aren’t those banners hanging all over the place. This is a young program, so the opportunity to do something that no one has ever done here at Dordt is exciting to me. Some people are scared by how hard they might have to work to set records, or how scary it might be being the first to do something, but that excites me! I’m ready to get this train rolling and represent Dordt College well on the football field.

Q: What are your plans to improve the defense?

A: Our defensive will continually play fast, tough and focused. We will be fundamentally sound, we will run to the football, we will play with (and bring) emotion and we will play with



unity – “family above everything.” This game is about setting new “bests” for yourself while playing for the guy next to you. Defense is an especially selfless job. And when we are fast, tough and focused, and we play fundamentally sound and with passion, we will stop the run and then pressure the QB. This will be a very fun defense to watch.

Q: What is your favorite Bible verse?

A: My life verse would be Esther 4:14b: “Who knows that you have been chosen for such a time as this?” I don’t know where the Lord will take me in the future. But I do believe He has chosen me here—for now—on purpose. And I plan to Glorify Him in all I do (Eph. 6:7 and Col. 3:23).

Q: What do you look forward to most?

A: I look forward to my wife and me getting settled here in the community and officially becoming part of the family. I look forward to seeing these players flying around during spring ball and seeing the looks on their faces when they see how good we’re going to be. I look forward to enjoying and embracing the process every day.

Women’s rugby takes home trophy

Eric Rowe – Staff Writer

After benefiting from a forfeit in its first match due to snowy conditions, the Northwestern-Dordt Women’s Sevens Rugby team won every game except the final at the March 19 tournament at Southwest Minnesota State University.

Even though they were playing their first tournament ever, the women were the best college team and got second place after losing to the Sioux Falls Phantom, a post-college team.

Rugby sevens is a faster version of the game. Each match takes 15 minutes instead of the 80 minute long matches for traditional rugby.

Northwestern student Teagan Hill-Norby was the top scorer for the women with five tries.

“When she was gone, no one could catch her,” said freshman Rebecca Groninga, who scored two tries herself. “She was so fast.”

Groninga went on to say that the entire team was smaller than their opponents, but their speed gave them an advantage over bigger teams.

The biggest challenge for Groninga was the mental aspect of the game.

“[It’s] knowing what to do when people are charging you,” Groninga said. “You’re being so physical, but you need to think about how to get the ball through and score tries.”

The women’s team experienced camaraderie from their opponents and talked with each other in between games. They even received tips and advice during game play from more experienced players.

“You really feel a sense of community playing with those people,” Groninga said. “As soon as we got there, everyone was so nice.”

Continued on page 8

March Madness virus spreads

Aaron Ladzinski – Staff Writer

March Madness is home to countless shocking upsets, but college basketball fans should not be shocked; these upsets continue to happen every year.

This year’s bracket was like walking into a room full of scorpions. Your significant other could have picked the games based on each team’s mascot and predicted with more accuracy through the Round of 64. Even the Round of 32 was insane; multiple teams not expected to win a single game made it there or beyond. There are no remaining perfect brackets. Experts estimate the odds of predicting a perfect bracket between 1 in 128 billion and 1 in 9.2 quintillion.

The major upset was 15-seed Middle Tennessee State over 2-seed Michigan State, where the Blue Raiders defeated the Spartans, 90-81. 22 percent of 13 million brackets submitted in the ESPN Tournament Challenge picked the Spartans to win the title. This upset ravaged many brackets.

Other games have been extremely close, with as many as half of the games going down to the last minute. Two of the three Iowa teams in the NCAA Tournament, Northern Iowa and Iowa, won via the buzzer-beater. UNI won with a half court miracle at the buzzer, and Iowa won on an Adam Woodbury tip-in as time expired in

Continued on page 8

Jurado creates sonically-rich album

Jeremy Vreeken – Staff Writer

Last winter, singer-songwriter Damien Jurado visited a frozen and wind-chapped Sioux Center to talk with a small group on Dordt’s campus about his work and methods and play to an intimate crowd in the living room of a local family. While the evening was cold, the warmth of Jurado’s voice, guitar, and lush, cozy songs was enough to keep the crowd comfortable.

This spring, Damien Jurado has released a brand new record—one that, although it is musically complex, lyrically cryptic, and thematically mind-bending, is as inviting and rewarding as that intimate house show last winter.

“Visions of Us on the Land” is the latest installment of a twenty year career that has garnered Jurado wide acclaim and a loyal following. “Visions” is the third installment of a trio of records – alongside “Maraqopa” (2012) and “Sons and Daughters of the Eternal Son” (2014) – that represents a departure from the more familiar, guitar-voice-sad-song, combination that began Jurado’s career and following.

Since 2012, Jurado’s work has intentionally moved into an overtly mystical and psychedelic realm that frees him to probe the important issues of life—about God, death, meaning and belonging—even if his phrasing is cryptic, complicated and more of a contemplation than a search for final resolution.

The songs on “Visions” cycle between complex, noisy, droning anthems like the lead track “November 20” and spacious, intimate, and wordy story-songs like “On the Land Blues” or “Orphans in the Key of E.” With 17 tracks and a nearly unmarketable 52 minute length, “Visions” is a rewarding ride through an immersive and captivating fictional universe that would leave a fantasy novelist green with envy. The overall length of the album is kept palatable by short, rolling songs with drive and rhythm to spare.

A new listener to Jurado’s work might be tempted to consider “Visions” as background music to other activities, as his frequent use of cryptic vocals and fuzzed out instrumentation seem to invite this sort of listening. He or she may also be scared off by the unconventional

songs and subject matter, but in this case, the weird is well worth it.

Visions is best experienced through some high quality over-ear headphones, on a set of booming, room-filling speakers, or perhaps in the car: a setting where the listener can really sink in and live inside the noise. The blend of lo-fi guitars, rolling Latin-inspired rhythms, 80’s style synthesizers, and an electric harpsichord that would make The Doors proud is expertly paired with Jurado’s rambling, philosophically psychedelic lyrics and stories.

With lines like: Went for a walk down a long road to unwind, / I met myself there saying, “Go home,” on the head scratchingly named track, “QACHINA,” to: On a warm October when the clouds are never / Good for rain, only changing shapes on “Sam and Davy,” Jurado demonstrates his skill with symbolic imagery and scene setting, and he somehow understandably conveys his ambiguous thoughts through cryptic, disorienting language. The details of Jurado’s lyricism and instrumentation reward close inspection, but the more casual listener can also find enticing hooks and motivated rhythms that will keep them coming back.

Jurado’s doubts and questions regarding his Christian faith make their way into the lyrics on the record, with some of his most compelling images and ideas stemming from a search for meaning, divinity, and peace in a world of unknowns. I didn’t know where I was / All I knew was that I didn’t belong anymore, sings Jurado on “Walrus,” and it feels like a summary of the root of the issue at stake on the record: Where and to whom does a person belong, and what does that belonging look like?

New listeners of Jurado will be drawn in by the strangeness of the music and the haunting and captivating quality of his vocal performance, but they will stick around for the cryptic, yet somehow relatable questions and yearnings in the lyrics and for the album’s immersive groove. “Visions of Us on the Land” takes time to get to know, but like any good art or relationship, it only improves over time.

“Visions of Us on the Land” was released through Secretly Canadian on March 18.



Alter the sound around you at SXSW

Megan Kaiser – Staff Writer

According to South by Southwest, apps are the past and altering the noises around us is the future. South by Southwest (SXSW), which has been going since 1987, is a film, interactive media and music festival conference. This year’s conference took place from March 11 to March 20 in Austin, Texas.

Kicking off the conference, President Barack Obama stated that law enforcement must be able to legally collect information from all electronic devices. He did not comment on the situation with Apple vs. the San Bernardino iPhone, but he did state that, “If, technologically, it is possible to make an impenetrable device or system, where the encryption is so strong that there is no key, there is no door at all, then how do we apprehend the child pornographer?” (NY Times).

Another serious topic discussed at SXSW was online harassment. There was a daylong Online Harassment Summit that discussed the awful effects of online abuse and the potential ways to solve the problem. “Rep. Katherine Clark announced a cybercrime enforcement bill at the event that, if signed into law, would fund training for police to help them better respond to online threats and harassment” (The Verve).

The only app that made some real buzz was Ohlala, the app that lets men pay for dates. It has been active in Germany since August 2015, but it is now making its way to New York. Male users create a profile and fill out paid date requests. The individual chooses a time duration, 30 minutes, an hour, etc., and a budget. All active female users see the request

and have 21 minutes to respond. Once the woman responds then the male can see their profile and chat with the woman. The app is planning on expanding, where the woman can pay as well as a version for the gay community. The main concern is that this app could lead to potential “illegal activity.”

Besides Ohlala, the main gadgetry that is currently hitting it big is virtual reality. The HTC Vive is a virtual reality set that will begin shipping on April 5. Their website states, “Experience room-scale gameplay with precise motion tracking and natural controller gestures. Get a glimpse of the real world when you need it thanks to the front-facing camera. Open apps and games without taking off your headset” (HTC). Sensors track physical movement, from walking around to interacting with the virtual world in real time. For those who were lucky enough to try the gadget, testers were transported into a giant Happy Meal they could explore and customize.

What did win Best of Show at SXSW was the Here Active Listening System (HALS), a successful Kickstarter project. HALS is a pair of wireless ear buds that lets the user personalize the atmosphere around them. The individual has control of the equalizer settings, so he or she could add more bass at a concert, block out a crying baby, or add fun effects like vinyl crackle.

With the music side, plenty of new and upcoming indie rocks hit the festival. Iggy Pop, an unannounced Drake and a Taiwanese rapper hit the stage, as well as the premiere of several wonderful and weird indie films. Tickets to SXSW range from \$895 to \$1800, so make sure to save every penny if you want to experience this festival for yourself.



10 Cloverfield Lane: Afraid of the dark, but I love it

Kyle Fosse – Staff Writer

I have been terrified, and it was done by a movie. “10 Cloverfield Lane” came out this month, and it scared the living daylights out of me.

Mary Elizabeth Winstead (“The Thing,” “Scott Pilgrim vs. the World”) deftly plays the protagonist, Michelle, who finds herself in the custody of Howard (John Goodman), who claims to have saved her from an attack and has taken her to an underground bunker where she’ll be protected from the “contaminated air.” Teaming up with Emmet (John Gallagher, Jr.), the two must figure out if they are truly survivors or merely captives.

“10 Cloverfield Lane” was a well-balanced movie, playing with tempo by jumping between edge-of-your-seat psychological discomfort and genuinely relatable and touching moments. Even so, the plot continually and subtly built up until the climax – an angst-ridden tour-de-force which stressed me out to no end.

The thing that makes this movie a perfect thriller is the fact that you never know what’s going to happen next – never. I’ve seen thrillers where the big jump scares are intentionally

built up to with droning monologues or all-too-comfortable silences, but in this film, the scares just seem to happen. That’s not only with the events, either, as sometimes the characters feel as temperamental as the elements—and often much more so. The movie is left just ambiguous enough that it’s hard to tell who’s telling the truth and who’s misguided as the plot unfolds.

The cast was excellent, with John Goodman’s performance as Howard being particularly memorable. He creates the ideal blend between a protective father-type and a time-bomb about to go off. We sympathise with him, even while being positively terrified of his potential in the plot.

Mary Elizabeth Winstead gives a balanced and well-defined performance as Michelle – sympathetic and likable, but flawed enough to make an excellent main character and to bring a heightened level of tension to the film. John Gallagher, Jr. (“Short Term 12”) plays Emmet, the bearded comic relief. One thing I liked was that his – and every – character was fleshed out far beyond the audience’s first impression. He skilfully added an emotional depth to Emmet and served as a necessary addition to the cast.



I’ve never seen the original “Cloverfield” movie, but at no point during this movie did I feel the need to. I don’t know what is or isn’t revealed in the original film, but I imagine that the less I knew in “10 Cloverfield Lane,” the more intense it became. Not knowing whether or not the outside world was really dangerous added a massive element of suspense.

This is director Dan Trachtenberg’s first official foray into feature-length films, and

he doesn’t disappoint. I don’t usually watch thrillers, but I will admit that, as a thriller, I found “10 Cloverfield Lane” to be a brilliant movie. So, if you feel like watching a movie with a unique premise, character development, emotional depth and plot—or if you like being mentally wrung-up and left out to dry— then I would absolutely recommend that you go see “10 Cloverfield Lane.”

◆ The Back Page ◆

Humans of Dordt College



Christy Gallagher, senior

“We started [Midweek Muffins] because we wanted to build community in different ways.

In apartment living you don’t see many people, so it is a really great way to catch up with other people, take a break away from studying and other stresses.

We want to serve the community of Dordt in some way and this is one way we can do that.



Women’s rugby takes home trophy (cont.)

Continued from page 6

The men’s team placed 6th out of eight teams. Though the men lost all four of their games, they were able to improve towards the end of the tournament. They scored their two tries in each of their last two games after getting shut out of the first two.

Andrew Yoon, a freshman player from Dordt, saw the team taking more initiative as the tournament went on. In the first two games, there was a lot of hesitation in terms of tackling

and passing the ball. Yoon didn’t expect to play any games with snow still on the ground. “My hands were cold so I couldn’t hold the ball properly,” Yoon said. “I couldn’t communicate because my mouth was cold.” Though both teams were bruised and sore after the tough games, they finished the first club tournament of the season and were able to experience what sevens rugby will be like in future tournaments.

March Madness virus spreads (cont.)

Continued from page 6

overtime. Some Dordt students bring the madness of March to their athletic teams. One that stands out is the baseball team, which likes everyone to be involved and join in on a bracket challenge. Brandon Fokkema had this to say “It’s a great time,” said sophomore pitcher Brandon Fokkema. “It helps us to come together and bond; watch some of the games together.” People can’t even walk through the dorms

without seeing one of the games on. This time of year can bring out the best and worst of the dorms as people like to cheer against each other’s brackets. Some wings even organize a bracket challenge. “Me and my roommate go back and forth with who is going to and what person is going to have the better bracket,” said sophomore David Davelaar. “It’s a bit of a rivalry between us.” The brackets are a mess after the first weekend. They have the potential to be a whole lot more muddled from here on out.



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