



September 14, 2016
Issue 1



THE DIAMOND

Dordt football with historic perfect start

Christian Zylstra – Staff Writer

Powered by AC/DC’s “Hells Bells,” a new coaching regime and a renewed energy, the Dordt College football program began the 2016 regular season campaign with its first-ever 2-0 start.

But the 2-0 record did not come easily; it took a nail-biter against Dakota State University under the lights, some remarkable individual performances and a fake punt against McPherson College to establish the best start in the program’s nine-year history.

Game one against Dakota State presented its challenges. The defense struggled in the first half, allowing 28 points and bundles of yards through the air. However, the defense showed up when it came down to the wire, allowing only 14 points in the second half, and Jason Miller and Bryce Lidtka really stepped up.

When the first game of the season was over, Dordt’s offense totaled 606 yards in a 45-42 victory. Miller had 15 receptions for 233 yards and a touchdown.

“I was able to be successful because of the game plan schemed up by Coach [Aaron] Mingo, our offensive coordinator,” Miller said. “We showed a lot of different looks that they weren’t ready for, kept the pace up-tempo, and because of that I was able to make plays when the ball came my way.”

Lidtka had a good game as well, with 43

carries for 254 yards and four touchdowns.

“I honestly had no idea I had been given the ball so many times throughout the game until after the end,” Lidtka said. “But what the team was doing was working. It wasn’t just me that had to push through the exhaustion; we each had our individual assignments to fulfill.”

“It was our first game, and we were going to throw everything we had at Dakota State,” said Dordt College Head Coach Joel Penner. “That means a lot of touches for certain guys. Right off the bat, it was ‘we’re going to throw the kitchen sink at them’ and let our playmakers shine.”

However, the superlative offense was not off to the same electric start in the game against McPherson. In a tight game with Dordt’s lead only 14-13 in the third quarter, the Defenders took a risk.

Fourth-and-four on the team’s own 48, everyone expected Dordt College to punt. Everyone except Penner.

“Momentum, we call it the 10 percent,” Penner said. “10 percent of football games are won or lost because of momentum, and we are in control of momentum. We don’t want to wait for something good to happen; we want to steal momentum.”

Glen Thompson’s snap wasn’t actually directed towards the punter, Casey Byker. Rather, the ball was snapped into the clutches of Lidtka. Following the blocks of two linemen,



Photo by Mike Byker

Lidtka raced around the left edge, passed everyone, converting the fourth-and-four with a 36-yard run into the red zone.

Consider momentum seized.

From that point on, Dordt scored 13 unanswered points and cruised to a 27-13 victory over McPherson, sealing the best start in the football program’s history.

Dordt’s 2-0 start has renewed the atmosphere of the stadium and the fan base attending Dordt football games.

“You’re at the games,” said junior Derek De Vries. “Most people are excited all week for the next game, and why wouldn’t they be? We’re 2-0 for the first time ever.”

A perfect start to the season also helps team confidence and morale.

“Since the beginning of fall camp, the team has really bought into the coaches’ philosophies, and I believe this program is heading in the right direction,” said sophomore quarterback Brock Lamle.

The biggest challenges still lay ahead for the Defenders, with Morningside — four consecutive semifinal appearances — on Sept. 17, as well as a full slate of GPAC matchups following.

But with a historic perfect start under their belts, the confidence to grab a couple more wins is there.

“We have a lot of potential with this year’s team, and every week we will work hard to reach that potential,” Miller said.

New \$30 fee for Computer Services

Jaden Vander Berg – Staff Writer

Another year has begun and students, along with their electronic devices, have come pouring onto campus. For over half of the student body, this isn’t their first year at Dordt. Since computer services has been in operation, they have offered free computer and technology repairs; however, as of July 1, 2016, they will be charging a \$30 evaluation fee for all student computer repairs.

This announcement has caused campus-wide outrage, with students now debating if they will still be using the service.

Sophomore Haley Wilting used computer services multiple times last year for issues with both her computer and her phone. She said it was nice to know there was some place that could help her out with minor problems. But with the addition of a fee, Wilting said she will no longer bring her laptop in.

“Thirty dollars is a lot of money, especially as a college student. The money could go towards one of my nursing textbooks, instead of having [computer services] look at little issues,” Wilting said.

In his three years of working for computer services as a student workstudy, senior David Te Krony said most students bring their laptops in due to viruses. On a busy week, they see around 10 laptops; on slower weeks, 3 or 4 come through the offices.

One proactive way that students can protect

their computers and avoid taking them in, Te Krony says, is to “Avoid clicking on ads when online - that’s where a lot of viruses come from. Make sure what you download is what you intended to.”

However, not every student has an issue with the extra fee. Senior Dylan Lundburg used computer services for the first time this year in order to improve the speed of his laptop. They removed some viruses and gave advice on installing a larger RAM to improve his speed. Lundburg said the whole process was very quick and with in a few days he was emailed. He also mentioned that he had an extremely pleasant experience and will go there again if he ever needs anything - regardless of price. used computer services for the first time this year in order to improve the speed of his laptop. They removed some viruses and gave advice on installing a larger RAM to improve his speed. Lundburg said the whole process was very quick and with in a few days he was emailed.

“It’s quicker than lightning,” Lundberg says. “I have eight Random Access Memories [RAM] now and it’s great.”

Computer services is responsible for more than just fixing slow laptops and broken screens. They manage all of the computer labs and software, wireless internet throughout the campus, and maintain DCC and Canvas.

Brian Van Donselaar, director of computer services, says that they never consciously decided to start repairing student computers;



Photo by Brittney Ryks

it was something that just happened naturally. Over the years, repairs became more expensive and they began to spend tuition dollars to fix the computers.

“We decided to start charging for computer repair, and we use those funds to help us run that whole repair program,” said Van Donselaar.

Computer services is in the process of expanding the number of help guides already on DCC, which have been designed to help a student who doesn’t want to pay \$30 so they can do the repairs on their own. Guide topics range from removing a virus to installing a hard drive and more.

Dordt no longer a solely four-year liberal arts college

Allison Young – Staff Writer

Dordt started as a two-year college to train Christian teachers in 1955. Beginning in the fall of 2017, Dordt will once again offer a comprehensive program of associate’s degrees, but this time for professional and technical degrees in manufacturing and agriculture. Pending final approval by Dordt’s accreditors, Dordt will begin accepting applications to the Pro-Tech program on Nov. 1, 2016. Students will arrive in the fall of 2017.

“We’re trying to fill this hole in Christian education,” said Dr. Joel Sikkema, Director of Professional-Technical Education. “The way college in the U.S. is set up right now, we say, ‘Ok, this place is for four-year people; this place is for two-year people.’ And that doesn’t make sense. If we go back to our values, all of these different callings are noble in God’s eyes. If

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Dordt no longer a solely four-year liberal arts college (cont.)

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we’re saying that, then our Christian colleges had better reflect that, too.”

Dordt anticipates hiring four new professors to meet the needs of the program: two for the Manufacturing Technology component and two for the Agriculture: Farm Operations and Management component. Sikkema will collaborate closely with Gary DeVries, Agriculture Department Chair; Ben Saarloos and Ethan Brue, engineering professors; and Jade Van Holland, the Pro-Tech Enrollment Coordinator.

No other college in existence offers a two-year technical degree that incorporates Christ-centered learning, affordability, residential community, soft skills, hands-on learning and continuous paid internships.

“It’s such a unique thing for a Christian, four-year college to be doing more technical education,” Sikkema said.

In this program, it is Dordt’s mission to equip students with not only the skills and expertise

they need to excel in a particular trade, but also with a Christian Reformed foundation. Over the course of five semesters, including a summer, students will complete five internships, all classes that pertain to their major, and nine core classes. Of those nine, Core 100 and Core 150 will be the only core classes synonymous with the four-year students. All of the major-specific classes will be separate from those in the four-year program.

“What we’re looking to do is get some of those courses that [a four-year student] would do during [his or her] junior and senior year and get some of that content down into the first two

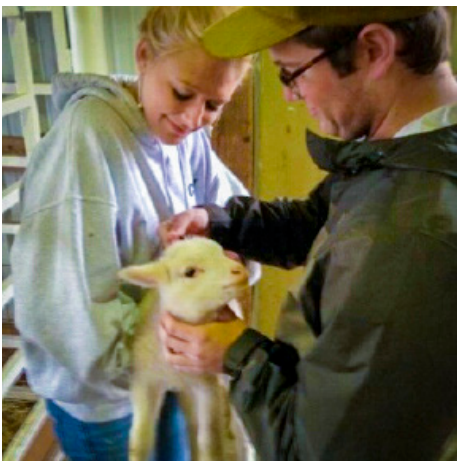


Photo by Alli Young

years,” Sikkema said.

Unlike an associate degree from a community college or trade school, Dordt will invite its Pro-Tech students to fully immerse themselves in the campus community. Pro-Tech students will live on campus and will be eligible to participate in sports, music and all co-curricular activities.

“We want to make sure they are an integral part of the campus culture,” Sikkema said. “We don’t want them to feel like they’re separated.”

Perhaps the most obvious difference between Pro-Tech students and other two- and four-year students will be the internship component. Dordt has partnered with a number of local

companies in manufacturing and agriculture to provide paid internships to students during every semester. Dordt Pro-Tech faculty estimate that students will earn \$15,330 total from their internships, which they will participate in on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The summer internship will be full-time.

The idea behind the paid internship is to help offset the cost of tuition, which will also be lower than the normal rate. According to Gary DeVries, a donor will pay a portion of every Pro-Tech student’s tuition, leaving the sticker price at \$29,523 for the entire program.

“We say things like ‘every square inch’ but... Christian colleges really need to be thinking of these areas,” Sikkema said. “If we’re not, people can perceive that as if we’re saying that callings which come from serving in these areas are less noble in God’s eyes, and that’s totally opposite of what our philosophy and theology would tell us.”

Dordt may be the beginning of a trend among Christian colleges, but only time will tell.

Where do all the nursing majors go?

Eric Rowe— Staff Writer

“Clinicals...validations...obstetrics.” If you overhear these terms in a conversation, there’s probably a nursing major speaking.

Dordt’s nursing program is the college’s fifth largest major, with around 120 students enrolled.

Dordt is able to offer a Bachelor of Science in Nursing because of its partnership with St. Luke’s College in Sioux City. Students pursuing this degree are required to enroll in St. Luke’s four-semester-long Associates program.

“They teach you one week and test you the next,” said sophomore nursing major Megan Bulthuis.

The lectures at St. Luke’s are paired with clinicals, a hands-on learning experience in which nursing students are assigned to a patient until that patient is discharged. The combination of clinicals paired with challenging classes makes for a rapid learning style, an educational approach that tests all nursing students. In fact, it is not uncommon for a nursing major to retake a certain class, and therefore be set back a semester, due to a below-average grade.

Sophomore Emily Currey describes the program as “fast-paced.”

“They throw you in right away.”

Using patient transfers as an example, Currey

said, “Transfers! Oh my gosh. In lectures, you spend time learning the proper body position to transfer someone from a wheelchair. But when they actually need to transfer someone, it’s ‘Can someone help me?’ Bam. It’s done.”

Because St. Luke’s College is a 45-minute drive from Dordt, nursing students carpool and are reimbursed for their mileage. Students bring personal vehicles or rent Dordt vans from the maintenance department. The daily drive forms a bond among the students, one that is stronger than the community built within many other majors.

“We work together as well as going to school together,” Currey said. “So it’s easier to get to know them.”

Although nursing majors are allowed to participate in extracurricular activities – sports, music, theatre – splitting time between Dordt and St. Luke’s can be disconcerting.

“Many nursing majors feel like they don’t even go to Dordt anymore,” Currey said. “This is just the place where they sleep.”

Cherish your nursing major friendships, and get to know these human beings on a personal level.

“We need to have friends outside of nursing,” Currey said. “We need to talk about something other than tests, quizzes and crazy stories from what we see on the floor.”

Will the Dakota Access pipeline access the Bakken Oil Fields?

Caeden Tinklenberg – Staff Writer

In what may become a repeat of the Keystone XL debate, protestors are gearing up to fight the construction of the Dakota Access pipeline.

Anticipating retaliation, pipeline protestors emptied shelves once filled with mace, wasp repellent, spray paint and other deterrents, said Bismarck resident Lane Buwalda.

A medical technician at CHI St. Alexius Hospital, Buwualda spent this past weekend on call to operate a detoxification room in the event of large exposure to chemical irritants.

“As a Christian hospital, we are called to accept any patients, regardless of their stance on the DAPL, and to treat them as Jesus would,” said Buwalda. He was never called in.

However, although this protests didn’t end in violence, the fight is far from over.

The 30-inch pipeline, planned and managed by Dakota Access LLC., will span 1,172 mi., from the Bakken Oil Fields in NW North Dakota to Patoka, Illinois, transferring 470,000 barrels of oil per day. The pipeline will cover four states and is projected to offer an annual tax revenue of \$129 million for state and local governments.

The company totes that the 470,000 barrels of oil, running through the pipeline at 400 degrees Fahrenheit, will significantly reduce the shortage of rail cars and create room to transport grain. Considering Bakken field oil production has more than tripled over the past four years, some question the pipeline’s actual impact.

Protests are taking place in various forms. Prior to the Iowa caucus, Rand Paul’s campaign distributed signs reading, “Stop Eminent Domain Abuse” in reference to Dakota Access gaining land rights via eminent domain. Also,

a Facebook group called the Bakken Pipeline Resistance posts steadily about how the pipeline has endangered the Des Moines River ecosystem for months.

National spotlight recently detected the protests as a large concentration of Native Americans are organizing near a section of the pipeline that borders the Standing Rock Reservation. The tribe worries that construction will disturb sacred burial grounds and that crude oil from the pipeline will contaminate the Missouri river, the tribe’s source of water. In August, a group of teens from the reservation ran all the way to the U.S. Capitol to deliver a petition signed by thousands requesting construction of the pipeline be halted. Upon their arrival, no one was present to hear their appeal, yet their efforts inspired many more to join the protests.

Protestors are intensifying as individuals are creating human barricades and some have chained themselves to the heavy machinery. Jill Stein, the Green Party’s White House candidate, joined protestors in spray painting a bull dozer blade. If charged with vandalism, Stein may be eliminated from the presidential race.

Concerned about protests becoming violent, the Obama administration halted construction via three different federal agencies in charge of the project. Yet the Standing Rock tribe continues its fight, recently suing the Army Corps of Engineers and federal judge who approved construction of the pipeline.

In the meantime, hundreds of individuals and families in Bismarck are without places to stay, food to eat or gas to put in their vehicles as they try to figure out their next steps.

Four new faces grace Dordt classrooms

Cory Van Gilst – Staff Writer

As certain professors leave Dordt’s campus for opportunity elsewhere, the college greets four new faces to its academic arsenal: Dr. Tom Prinsen, Dr. David Henreckson, Nathan Miller and Terrance Attema.

For two of these individuals, arriving on Dordt’s campus resembles a return home. Both Nathan Miller and Dr. Prinsen are Sioux Center natives and Dordt College alum. Nathan Miller, an engineering professor and ’07 graduate, noted he is teaching alongside professors whom he learned from while attending Dordt. Dr. Prinsen, a Communications professor, moved back to the area to be closer to family.

For Dr. Henreckson, the new Andreas Center Director and assistant director of theology, and Terrance Attema, professor for mathematics and

statistics, Dordt College is a new experience. Attema especially faced many new experiences near the beginning of the year, from getting married in June and to moving from British Columbia to Sioux Center in a few short months.

Attema appreciates the unique faith and culture of Dordt College, as all professors are highly appreciative of the students’ commitment to academics. When these four individuals were asked what drew them to Dordt, all responded that it was their desire to pour knowledge into students via Dordt’s Reformed perspective that drew them to the campus. Each new face is eager to work at Dordt College and excited to start building relationships with students, not only this semester and but also well into their time at Dordt College.

Iowa grants utility’s push for 100% renewable energy

Jonathan Fictorie – Staff Writer

MidAmerican Energy has recently been given the go-ahead to build 1,000 new wind turbines across the state of Iowa. Wind XI is the first step in the company’s push for providing 100% renewable energy to its customers. The construction is expected to be completed in 2019 and will bring 2,000 megawatts of wind energy to Iowa.

In April, the Des Moines-based company announced plans to greatly expand their wind farms across the state of Iowa. The \$3.6 billion investment is the state’s largest renewable energy plan to date. Nearly two-thirds of the state is under MidAmerican’s service area, whose energy production comes from both coal and wind energy sources. As of 2015, 41% of their energy production comes from wind and the company hopes that number will reach 85% by the time the project is completed.

Given wind energy’s reputation for being a clean form of energy with zero greenhouse gas emissions, proponents of the plan are excited about the state’s approval, as it paves the way for other utilities and states to follow suit. Dr. Kevin Timmer, professor of engineering, is

excited about MidAmerican Energy’s plan. “It is a step away from fossil fuels and therefore in the right direction,” he said said.

Wind energy is attractive not only because of its low environmental impacts, but also because it is a cheaper form of energy. The economic benefits of wind energy make it a good investment because of low government subsidies and tax benefits for land owners who allow turbines to be built on their land. Dr. Timmer says that this will play a big factor in the growth of wind energy.

“We will continue to see expansion of renewables in other states, but I don’t believe it will be driven by a ‘keep up with Jones’ type attitude as much as by economic factors,” he said. In locations where there is an adequate resource, wind power is currently one of least expensive sources of electricity.

However, wind energy isn’t a perfect source of energy and has its disadvantages. Opponents say that the turbines create sound pollution because the generators don’t run silently as the turbine spins, and they create visual pollution due to dozens of turbines poking out of fields. Studies have also shown that the turbines negatively affect wildlife like birds and bats.

There’s also a factor of unreliability with the turbines because they only efficiently generate power when winds are blowing between about 5mph and 60mph. They also require the use of rare earth metals to be mined, which in and of itself is not an environmentally friendly operation. Dr. Timmer suspects that solar energy may surpass wind because of its decreasing costs and growing efficiency.

“Wind turbines are mechanically and electrically complex machines,” he said. “Operating under the challenging conditions of extreme temperature and humidity, they require significant maintenance. If trends continue, it will be hard for them to compete economically with solar panels.”

When asked if Dordt could rely solely on wind energy, Timmer’s answer was conditional.

“Yes, it would be possible, but we would have to decide to either only hold class on windy days or invest in an expensive means to store large amounts of energy, like a huge battery bank,” Timmer said. “Technologies that efficiently store energy are a research priority around the world.”

Locations for this wind farm expansion have yet to be finalized, so it is unknown who these



turbines may effect. The company is also not asking for state funding and doesn’t expect to increase rates for customers in order to cover the cost of the construction.

Currently, MidAmerican Energy’s largest wind farm, Highland Wind Energy Center, is in O’Brien County and produces 502 megawatts of wind energy. The State of Iowa itself ranks second in the US for wind production, with 3,719 turbines producing 6,365 megawatts of energy.

Lingering effects of Zika continue

Elizabeth Helmkamp – Staff Writer

The Olympic Games may be over, but the problem of the Zika virus is not. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) documented various cases in parts of Florida and all the US territories, and cases have shown up all over the United States as an after-effect of travel. The virus, primarily detected in North and South America, has also been found in a few of the Pacific Islands.

So, what exactly is Zika?

Zika belongs to the family Flaviviridae, which includes yellow fever, dengue fever, and West Nile virus. All of these viruses are RNA-based, which means that they take over a cell quickly by directly hijacking the protein-making systems.

These viruses are often transmitted through ticks or mosquitoes. According to the CDC, the Zika virus is transmitted by an infected Aedes mosquito, which can also be infected with dengue fever. There are over 3000 species of mosquitoes in the world, but this is the only species which transmits Zika.

To an adult, Zika is not very threatening. Any symptoms experienced would be mild, such as those of a head cold.

The Zika virus only becomes threatening when it is passed from mother to child. In a developing fetus, the virus interferes with the development of the brain, causing a condition

known as microcephaly. This fact explains the widespread scare that the virus causes.

No medication or vaccine can currently counteract Zika, so prevention efforts are mostly focused on mosquitoes. In addition to the CDC recommending that people wear bug spray, long sleeves and pants, local governments in areas affected by the virus are also using pesticide spray to control the populations of mosquitoes and removing places for the mosquitoes to breed.

Recently, many people have been worried that these efforts will harm the environment. However, the pesticide is used in small amounts and degrades quickly, not staying around long enough to pollute the water or degrade the soil. The pesticide doesn’t kill all the mosquitoes in the population, so the insect population eventually does recuperate and the ecosystem is not harmed permanently.

However, if a method of controlling a population does not kill all the members of a population, natural selection will allow those surviving members to pass on their immunity. In the near future, mosquitoes may likely develop a resistance to the pesticides currently being used.

No permanent solution to the challenge posed by the Zika virus exists, but scientists continue to work towards a better one. For now, we can and should remember those affected by Zika in our prayers.

Dead reindeer spark scientific hypothesis

Heath Brower – Staff Writer

Do you ever wonder where animals go when severe thunderstorms strike? Well, for a herd of reindeer in Hardangervidda, Norway, the top of a grassy plateau seemed as good a place as any. Unfortunately, this particular herd of reindeer soon found themselves directly under a very severe portion of a thunderstorm system working its way through Norway on August 29.

The storm most likely caused the herd to huddle together, as most herd animals do doing during severe weather events, said Dr. Robin Eppinga, a professor of Zoology at Dordt College.

Huddling in reindeer herds is thought to occur because it helps the reindeer from becoming separated while also helping the collective group of animals preserve body heat. The powerful storm produced intense lightning strikes which killed all 323 reindeer instantaneously.

According to Kjartan Knutsen, an official within the Norwegian Environment Agency quoted by the New York Times, it is not uncommon for animals to get struck by lightning and die, but rarely does an event kill hundreds of animals at once.

Despite how common or uncommon this phenomenon may be, the real question revolves around how lightning strikes can kill so many reindeer at once.

Channon Visscher, a professor of Astronomy

and Chemistry at Dordt College, initially hypothesized that some of the electrical charge from the strikes could have traveled through the herd due to their close proximity and physical contact.

However, he later stated that it is more likely that the mass death was caused by something called a ground current. Visscher explained that when lightning hits the ground, negatively charged electrons traveling from the cloud to the ground disperse outward in all directions in an attempt to equalize the large electric charge. Visscher noted that electricity will flow through the path of least resistance. Therefore, when an animal is standing near the lightning strike, their legs create a bridge for the electricity to flow through rather than the current-resistant ground. The electricity then flows from the charged ground closest to the strike to the lesser charged ground further away from the strike, resulting in a large shock within the animal’s body.

Eppinga then explained that when the large surge of electricity flows through an animal’s body, it depolarizes the pacemaker cells in an animal’s heart, which then stops the heart.

This unprecedented occurrence may have been shocking for the reindeer, but it was also shocking to the scientific community. The event serves to create an even greater appreciation for lighting and severe weather safety practices.

Dordt featured on shame list; but what are the facts?

Kyle Fosse – Staff Writer

In August, the pro-LGBTQ website Campus Pride posted an article titled “Shame List: The Absolute Worst Campuses for LGBTQ Youth.” The article lists all colleges in the US which filed for an exemption from Title IX, which is a portion of the US Education Amendments of 1972.

The article sparked some discussion online regarding the merit of such an accusation. The website states that “[Dordt College] has applied for an exemption to Title IX in order to discriminate against its students on the basis of gender identity while still receiving federal

funds.”

The Title IX in question states that “no person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be... subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.”

However, President of Dordt College, Dr. Erik Hoekstra, said that “Dordt College has been in compliance with Title IX since the inception of that regulation.”

He went on to say that the recent expansions to the Title IX definitions have caused some concern. He explained that there is, “in the original provisions of Title IX, an allowance for

and process to request ‘religious exemptions’” and that the college sent a letter requesting exemptions from specific aspects of the expanded provisions.

In the letter sent on behalf of Dordt College to the U.S. Department of Education, the President affirmed the campus policy on sexuality, citing the Faculty Handbook, and requesting that the DoE “acknowledge that the College is exempt from Title IX and the following implementing regulations (to the extent they are interpreted to reach gender identity discrimination).” Dordt received official recognition of its exemption from this aspect of Title IX on September 12.

In short, Dordt College is legally entitled to deny transgender students from using locker rooms, restrooms and living accommodations of the opposite biological sex. Furthermore, the college has the discretion to consider gender identity in matters of admission and employment.

“Part of the government’s expansion of Title IX also calls educational institutions to do more about stemming sexual violence and harassment,” Hoekstra said. “We fully support such efforts and we continue in our support and compliance of Title IX on other matters, as well.”

◆ News ◆

A New Adoption Story: Visscher and China

Ashley Huizinga– Staff Writer

so let’s take this slowly / all I need is coming but / it’s just beyond what I can’t see / so if my eyes press forward and fears alarm / just turn my head back to see / to see how we got this far / and I’ll be alright. ‘Take This Slowly’ by the Gray Havens (“Joni’s battle song,” Visscher laughs.)

Chemistry and astronomy professor Channon Visscher and family were originally inspired to adopt in the aftereffect of a Medical Missions trip to a special needs orphanage in the Gansu province of China, near Thanksgiving time in 2015. However, it was only in the aftermath of the trip that the “convoluted story” of this particular adoption scheme was set in motion.

“We had some friends who’d adopted from the orphanage before, and we brought up the topic

of Sophie sometime after the missions trip,” Visscher says. “We were practically asking them to adopt her, but their only response was ‘You should adopt her!’ For the first time, we started to envision that reality, and right away, we could see the writing on the wall. This girl, essentially, began to haunt us - we were thinking about her all the time. ‘Bringing Sophie home’ has been the background hum in our house for months now.”

Wednesday, September 14th marks the day that the entire Visscher clan will board a plane bound for China to meet Sophie and bring her home.

“Five [people] on the way there, six on the way back,” Visscher said, somewhat wistfully. “We’ll never be the same family again, but that’s the amazing part about it. The kids are adopting her, too, you know. This is a sister, and

that means our family will be fundamentally different once we step off that plane in Northwest Iowa with her.”

As of yet, Mrs. Joni Visscher remains the only member of the family to have met Sophie in person, having seen her last October.

“It’s falling in love with someone you’ve never met,” Joni Visscher said. “We sent her a care package with photos of us and books...but there’s still a bond of trust that needs to be built. This trip will start that process.”

Expectedly, there will be challenges.

“The process itself is crazy. Home studies, interviews with everyone in the family to figure out if it’s a safe environment for her, immigration stuff...[Sophie] doesn’t speak any English, but counselors have told us that shouldn’t be too big of a deal. Kids’ brains are still plastic, even at 8-years-old. We don’t know

her real birthday, and everything she knows is changing. She’s coming from an orphanage at a young age so she doesn’t really have a reference point for what family looks like. There’s all kinds of stuff to figure out.”

The Sioux Center region offers certain blessings to counter those challenges, however. “There’s a strong adoption culture here,” Visscher says. “Support from the community will mean a lot. Even within the circle of Dordt faculty, there’s a lot of stories like ours. After all, [adoption] may be foolish, but it’s the gospel. It’s not for everybody, but the way it worked out for us was almost an obligation. It’s expensive and it’s a process and it’ll mess us up...but kids always do, right? Really, this whole thing is going right back to the basics of faith and fatherhood - in other words, all the feels.”

“A Dollar Worth Death”

Joshua Meribole – Staff Writer

“Ridiculous” was the word used by senior Jaden Vander Berg to describe the recent increased price of EpiPens, injections containing epinephrine, a chemical that narrows blood vessels and opens airways in the lungs. It is a life-saving medication for many who suffer from life-threatening anaphylaxis allergic reactions from bee stings or foods such as peanut butter.

Many people who are dependent on EpiPens, along with their families, friends and politicians, are criticizing Mylan, the manufacturer of the EpiPen, over the new price, now at an average of \$600 for a pack of two.

When Mylan acquired Merek, the company that once produced EpiPens, the price for two EpiPens was \$93.88 according to Truven Health Analytics. From 2007 to 2016 the price has gradually increased six times.

Those who are in need of EpiPens usually purchase more than one pack, leaving them in important locations. However, EpiPens last for only a year, meaning that patients must restock annually. Additionally, once an EpiPen is used, it becomes useless and must be disposed of

appropriately.

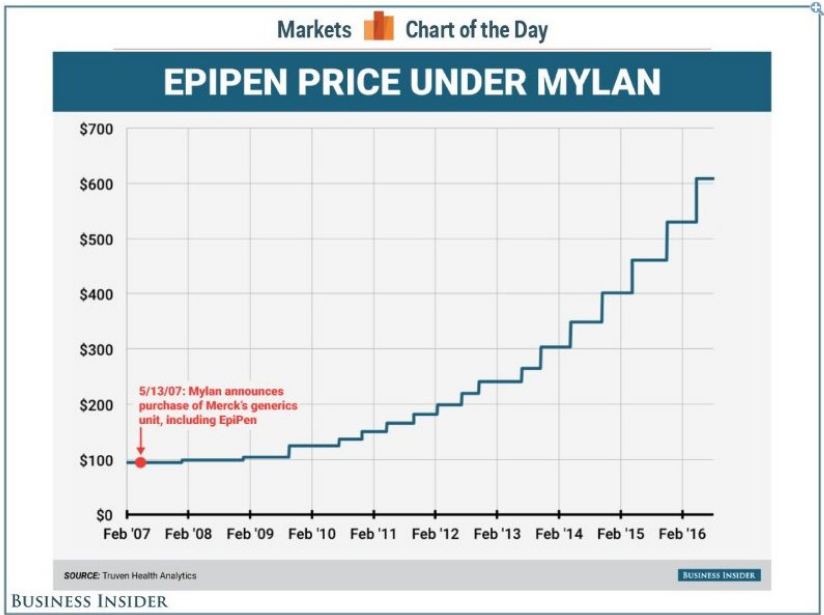
According to the New York Times and Business Insider, the price of epinephrine costs a dollar. EpiPens, as reported by Business Insider, are said to have about a third of a millimeter. And in an article by Money and NBC, the price of producing a single EpiPen may cost about \$30 or less. So why the high cost? Or the increase in cost for an EpiPen?

Many place the blame on greed. This is because many people who rely on EpiPens need it for when they get an allergic reaction; making a strong and dependent demand for it.

Senior Jaden Vander Berg is reliant on an EpiPen and she felt that she was being “taking advantage of” with the increase in price. There are no current competitors to the EpiPen after a major competitor had to recall their products, giving EpiPen a greater share of the market.

Mylan, on the other hand, has blamed the rise of the cost on the injection on medical care in the United States.

“With changes in the healthcare insurance landscape, an increasing number of people and families are enrolled in high-deductible health plans, and deductible amount continue to rise,” said Mylan Pharmaceutical in a reply to CNN.



Business Insider/Andy Kiersz, data from Truven Health Analytics

Contributed photo

In further response from complaints from consumers, Mylan has promised to

- “give a \$300 savings card to patients,
- double eligibility for patient assistance, and
- plan ways for customers to order directly from the company.”

Mylan is not the only pharmaceutical company that has been criticized for an increase in drug price. In recent months, Turing Pharmaceutical

rose the price of its HIV drug by over 5000%.

The increase in drug price in recent years has been met with backlash. People feel as if they are being taking advantage of for profit because their life-threatening health problems are a means, as described by Business Insider, to turn a “less than \$1 worth of medicine into a billion-dollar business.” To many people this “\$1 worth of medicine” is a salvation from death.

The More You Listen, The More You Hear...

Ashley Huizinga – Staff Writer

Such is the new slogan of Dordt’s radio station, KDCR at 88.5 FM, formerly “KDCR: Rock Solid Radio.” After coming under new management this summer, the station is mixing things up in a big way. From reinventing the slogan to revamping the format and everyday promos, KDCR is doing a lot of behind-the-curtain work in order transform its image among students and listeners.

“I’m excited for the changes,” said Henry Meurs, one of the infamous work-study voices behind KDCR’s weather reports and daily announcements.

“I think it’s about time. I’m especially hoping they make it more student-oriented now — not many Dordt students, especially freshmen, know what KDCR stands for or what really goes on behind the scenes.”

Since its first broadcast in August 1968, KDCR has served as a way for Dordt College to connect with the community and its broader constituency. The station’s success in reaching alumni and the elder generation becomes evident in the reality that many people care about the radio station.

“We get calls all the time about the songs, the programs we play and the news we put

out,” Meurs said, “especially about the church services we play on Sundays. It’s thekind of thing has done a lot of good here and people have noticed.

“The community has so many expectations of [the station] that it’s hard to make changes freely,” Meurs said. “There’s a lot that we could do with it, like giving the work-studies more independence and more ability to express unique personalities over the airwaves — something to let frequent listeners get to know the people behind the mic.

“We could even use this as a chance to talk more about the college: student updates, news, upcoming events. Dordt has this radio building right on campus, and we should be using it to spark and sustain interest in the students and the college as a whole.”

The station remains in a transition phase until Oct. 10, when all the changes will be fully implemented.

What’s next for KDCR? Maybe a student talk show, or possibly more creative opportunities for student involvement. Maybe even a move to something above and beyond the daily Christian contemporary. Who knows? Future listeners are definitely going to test the truth of “The more you listen, the more you hear.” Will you be one of them?

An introduction to study abroad

Lydia Marcus – Staff Writer

As 1,523 people transitioned back into student life at Dordt, fifteen Dordt students were getting acclimated to life in a different part of the world. This semester, six Dordt students are participating in a domestic off-campus program, and nine are participating in an international program.

“I have always loved to travel, and this opportunity will allow me to learn so much about other cultures and ways of life,” says Erin Waanders, a Spanish major studying in Seville, Spain. “I know it will be a time of growth for me.”

Many students participate in off-campus programs that allow them to gain experience in their field of study. Agriculture: Biotechnology major Victoria Cast is studying in New Zealand through the Creation Care Studies Program, which offers agriculture-related courses.

“I first thought about studying abroad when the Study Abroad Coordinator visited my Core 100 class,” says Cast. “I was hooked on the idea. I have always loved to travel and experience new places and people. I love the adventure of

the unknown.”

Studying off-campus provides you with opportunities for hands-on learning in subjects related to your major, and it can also help you meet some CORE requirements. Each of the programs available to Dordt students offers at least one CORE course.

“We have over 30 different program offerings, and I meet with students to help them figure out which program best fits with their major, their educational and career plans, their personal goals, and their travel dreams,” says the Dordt Coordinator of Off-Campus Studies, Alexis Kreun.

“I would encourage everyone to at least consider studying abroad,” Cast said. “It opens your eyes to new ways of thinking, which allows you to broaden, stretch, and strengthen your thoughts and beliefs.”

Students interested in studying abroad should start their application process about one year in advance. If you’d like to learn more about the study abroad options available to you, stop by Alexis Kreun’s office in the Campus Center, or send her an email at Alexis.Kreun@dordt.edu.

Commons do’s and don’ts

Anna Veltkamp – Staff Writer

The Do’s and Don’ts of college dining... let’s be real for a moment. Food is life. But what food carries with it can also be very real. Dordt offers a wide variety of meal options, and though it may seem insignificant, “Because I get my exercise walking to class!” choosing a well-balanced meal is key to keeping off the college fifteen. Yeah. It’s not just freshmen that can gain the charming layers that protect those abs we all claim to have. So what do we do about it?

Creating well-rounded, well-balanced meals may seem difficult and more often than not, pointless. But developing habits of doing just that is crucial to maintaining a healthy diet and having a better day. Food is the body’s fuel, and what goes in it has consequential effects. How to create the best fuel for the body through Dordt dining may take practice, but it’s so beneficial in the long run.

Seniors have had the most hands-on experience of the student body, and a few of them have generously offered to share knowledge on the Dordt Commons for the rest of us to try out.

The Do’s!

- A great option when it comes to some desserts would be to substitute for a fresher alternative. “Put fruit in your ice cream, or better yet, get yogurt and fruit,” said senior Brian Bonnema.
- “Salads aren’t lame.” Straight from senior Marta Vander Top guys, salads aren’t lame. They may be unpopular, but they’re not lame. They’re also very important. Beth Baas, Director of Campus Health Services, recommends that students unsure of how many servings of vegetables they need each day should check out the USDA’s ChooseMyPlate.gov website. Everyone has different serving sizes and can find some very useful information there.
- Use up your leftovers. If you’re fortunate enough to visit home every so often, take advantage of your mom’s home-cooking and her desire to send food back with you. So worth it.

The Don’ts!

- Sophomore Ray Badudu advises students that they “shouldn’t take two plates of dessert.” With such great dessert options at Dordt, self-control can become pretty tricky. It might be

easier to take one plate of the desired dessert, and the other a plate of a “mock” dessert as Bonnema suggested.

- Similar to Badudu’s advice, don’t skip eating either. The grille is open throughout the week for those times you miss dining hours in the commons. Additionally, try to keep semi-preservable foods in your dorm room for those days you miss both dining areas, or for those midnight snacks as you finish up tomorrow’s assignments. Skipping meals is more detrimental than eating poor ones.
- Although it’s a great idea to keep emergency foods in your dorm, try to avoid the preservative-packed ones like freezer meals that pack in unnecessary ingredients for flavor.

The Should-Do’s

- The group of seniors also added useful advice on more than just eating at the commons.
- Freshman Greg Plooy pointed out that if you miss dining hall hours, you can “take advantage of the salad bar at the grille”, his personal favorite.
- “Be willing to sit with different tables so you can build more friendships” Vander Top said. A great way to keep up your social health while dining.
- Vander Top also advises students to “eat all the food because some day you’ll have to buy it yourself”.
- Poor dietary habits risk more than those extra pounds. Your mood, thinking capabilities and physical energy all depend on what you choose to eat, so why not make mealtimes good times? Dessert is great, don’t skip it, but be sure to grab all of the important parts to a meal too!



Photo by Kyle Fosse

Fight off the common cold

Lydia Marcus – Staff Writer

The kid who sits behind you in Core 150 gets it first. Then your friend gets it. Then your roommate gets it. It seems inevitable: sooner or later, you’ll probably catch the Campus Cold.

There are a few straight forward precautions you can take to avoid this unpleasant turn of events:

- Drink enough water. Yes, we know the water is kind of funky here, and it has much more flavor than water should, but drinking enough water is important if you want to stay healthy. If you really can’t handle the tap water, buy a water filter or buy some non-Iowan water from the grocery store. Just get enough to drink (coffee doesn’t count).
- Don’t share utensils, dishes or water bottles. We know college can be a time of lowered standards of living, but you really don’t want to share your bacteria with your friends, and you probably don’t want them to share their bacteria with you. If they’re starting to get sick when they share their water bottle with you, chances are you’ll get sick too. So don’t share water bottles.
- Get enough sleep (when you can). Though it is great fun to brag about the inordinately short amounts of sleep you can get by on, and pulling all-nighters usually seems like a good idea at the time, sleep is important if you want your body to function properly. Time is precious as a student, we know. But you will be a better student (and a happier roommate, nicer friend, more attentive work study, etc....) if you get enough sleep.
- Get some fresh air. Breathing in your

roommate’s sneeze germs won’t do you any favors if you’re trying to avoid getting sick. They probably won’t take it personally if you temporarily reduce the amount of time you spend in the room. Plus, the warm weather won’t last forever. So, get outside and take a walk, sit in the new gazebo in the prairie, or try to do your homework without the wind gusting all your papers away and assaulting your textbook.

- Wash your hands regularly. You touch dozens of door knobs every day, and hundreds of people (who may or may not have washed their hands after that particularly nasty nose-blow) touched those door knobs before you. We don’t want to freak you out—we’re just saying...
- Take a break. Lots of “top five was to avoid catching the common cold” lists include “reduce stress.” Though stress is apparently an integral part of what it means to be a college student, you can still reduce stress. It is okay to take a break from the busyness once in a while. Maybe you can even try out one of the items listed above, such as washing your hands. (Okay, maybe not that one. What about taking a walk? Or having a nap? Those sounds like good, stress-reducing options.)
- *Disclaimer: We don’t guarantee that following these pieces of advice will prevent you from getting sick. When you live in close quarters with hundreds of other people (carrying millions of bacteria), it is hard to avoid getting sick. However, you’ll reduce your chances of getting sick if you take care of yourself. And that counts for something, right?

A local election worth your attention

Steve Kelly – Staff Writer

A vacancy in the Iowa State House District 4 seat has generated a contentious race for the next State Representative from Sioux County. Considering the relationship between the candidates, this race is expected to be a fascinating story.

On June 7, Skyler Wheeler, a 23-year-old recent Northwestern College graduate, won a three-way Republican primary for the House District 4 seat. Coming in third place was Jeff Vander Werff, Skyler’s political science professor from Northwestern.

Sioux County has an overwhelmingly Republican electorate, so any candidate who wins a Republican primary is almost certain to win a general election. Almost.

Despite Vander Werff finishing third in the primary, recent developments have led him to be petitioned back onto the ballot. Vander Werff is now running as an Independent.

“I am no less a Republican today than I was [twelve] weeks ago when the primary concluded. I will not only campaign as a conservative, but I remain committed to the GOP,” Vander Werff stated in a recent statement to the Sioux County GOP’s Central Committee.

Vander Werff emphasized his relationships

with community leaders and long-term residence in Sioux County as a justification for his candidacy.

On the other hand, Wheeler knocked on thousands of doors, rallied support from local activists and won the Republican primary with a conservative message. While both candidates claim to be running as conservatives, when their stances on the issues are considered,

Wheeler’s policy proposals reflect the conservative values of the Republican Party platform, but Vander Werff’s positions raise questions about his conservative ideology.

On the issue of taxes and the economy, Vander Werff has expressed support of the recent increase in the gas tax. Wheeler says he does not support increasing taxes. Wheeler pledges to fight for traditional marriage values, whereas Vander Werff says the issue is a lost cause. Wheeler will encourage local communities to control education standards and Vander Werff supports Iowa Core, the statewide program that regulates standards for schools in Iowa.

The differences between these two candidates is significant and this fall’s election will test whether or not Iowa wants its legislators to hold the conservative ideals that have traditionally been represented in Sioux County.

Are students buying into new meal plan?

Cory Van Gilst – Staff Writer

A few weeks into the semester, juniors are still reacting to the 5-meal plan imposed on them by the Dordt College Student Services at the close of last year. The plan met a significant amount of pushback from the student body when introduced last semester.

Robert Taylor, Dean of Student Life, explained that the purpose of the meal plan was to boost community on campus, to allow for a healthy diet plan among upperclassmen and to provide a cheap source of food for those having to cook in the apartments.

Now that the semester is in progress, juniors are experiencing how the meal plan impacts their daily lives. When asked about how often they used their meal swipes, many juniors said that they aim to use all five every week.

“Now that I have it, I use it,” junior Hannah Klos said. Several juniors also noted that the meal plan adds a certain level of convenience for their day by making lunch for class simpler or providing an easy post-practice meal for athletes. Many also acknowledged that maintaining a healthy diet was possible thanks to options at both the Grille and Commons.

But is the new meal plan reaching the expectations of community and savings laid out in the semester previous?

Unfortunately, not a single junior interviewed claimed that the meal plan was successful at improving community. Several mentioned that they have little-to-no desire to branch out to freshmen and would much rather spend their time with friends of their own social circles and class level.

“It’s not improving community,” junior Reggie Hostetler said. “It’s only maintaining what was already there.”

In addition, apartment roommates feel less

connected due to the lack of consistent cooking and meal times together.

Opinions on the cost effectiveness of the plan were split. Rooms of people who buy in bulk found it cheaper to buy their own food, while others reasoned that certain items such as meat and fruit cost too much outside of the plan.

With a few weeks under their belts, the juniors’ opinion of the 5-meal plan continues to remain distinctly negative. Many are still upset that Dordt is requiring them to pay more for something that is, in their opinion, hindering their independence. Many hope to see changes or more options introduced somewhere along the road if the meal plan for upperclassmen becomes permanent. In the meantime, they will continue to visit the Grille and Commons to use the meals they have already paid for.



Photo by Kyle Fosse

Women’s volleyball looks ahead to Nationals

Aaron Ladzinski – Staff Writer

As fall sports begin again, the Dordt College women’s volleyball team looks to improve upon its 2015 Nationals performance. The women went 1-2 in pool play at the nationwide tournament and finished the season with a 25-7 record overall and a conference record of 14-2. This year, women’s volleyball remains focused on returning to Nationals. The team currently hold a 8-2 record and is ranked 14th in the latest poll.

Though the Defenders started the season strong, the GPAC conference once again promises to deliver tough teams and close games. The women know their previous 14-2 record will be tough to repeat. Coach Chad Hanson is looking to his seniors to lead the team back to Nationals. “All three seniors in our program this year are strong contributors to our success. Jill Schouten is playing gritty volleyball with great hustle and she is growing in her consistency with passing and digging. Elizabeth Kiel continues to lead us in stabilizing ways as a blocker and attacker. She produces important points for us and is a smart player. Brooke Granstra is quite often part of every play, whether in passing, digging, attacking or blocking. We rely on Brooke a ton and she delivers.”



Contributed photo

Interview: Tyson Dahlgrin, defensive end

Clarissa Kraayenbrink – Staff Writer

Tyson Dahlgrin is a sophomore mechanical engineering major from Gering, NE. He plays defensive end for the Dordt football team and dons number 95 on his back and chest. Dahlgrin came to Dordt to play basketball, but after one season he decided he had fulfilled his desire to play basketball and reclaimed his love for football.

Q: Was basketball the main reason you came to Dordt?

A: I think it was a good part of it. I like the atmosphere a lot. I like the small feel, campus-wise. Those were things that pulled me in, and basketball was a pretty big factor. Engineering was a big part, too. I looked at a couple of other schools I could play basketball at, but they didn’t offer engineering.

Q: What was your prior football experience?

A: I played football since I was in first grade. I played flag football ... and I played tackle football ever since. I come from a school with only about 170 students, K-12, so when I was in high school I played two years of eight-man football and then two years of six-man football.

Q: What was the transition like going from basketball to football, and why did you decide to switch?

A: I always like to try something new. [Defensive coordinator] Coach Nutt and [head] Coach Penner came and talked to me, and they

Some of the toughest games this year will be on the road, and Hanson has specific games circled on the calendar.

“Our Hastings match on Saturday will be a strong one, as well as Doane on Oct 29. Midland on Oct 22 will be a difficult match as well. Briar Cliff, Morningside, and Concordia all give us great matches, too.”

Hanson is not the only one looking ahead to the conference schedule. For senior Jill Schouten, who led the team with 115 digs in the first 10 games, her eye is set on the path that leads to Sioux City’s Tyson Event Center. Arguably the backbone of the Defenders’ back court, Schouten said, “I was really excited to make it to Nationals. Our performance last year is a bit disappointing to look back on as we knew were better than we played. But I think it just makes us hungrier for this year. We want to make it back there.”

The Defenders have one more ace in the hole in Jamie Gesink. Gesink earned 337 assists already this season and played a key role in the Dordt’s 3-0 win over Northwestern. Reflecting on the win, Gesink said, “I was really happy. It’s always fun to play Northwestern, and even more fun to beat them.”

The Defenders’ next home game is this Saturday, September 17, against Hastings.

were really nice people and I thought I’d give it a try, and I really do like it.

Q: Did I hear you were the ‘popsicle player’ at training camp?

A: Yeah. So a popsicle is a defensive interception, fumble recovery or sack. In order to get this, you have to get the sack, get the interception or get the fumble recovery. But it makes it kind of hard sometimes because we’re not always ‘live,’ so you’ve got to work your technique.

Q: Where do you want to go with your engineering degree?

A: Once I’m finished with school, I would like to either go work for John Deere and design tractors, or I would be interested in doing some kind of aerospace engineering.

Q: How do you feel the football season is going to go?

A: I feel like this football season is going to be Dordt’s best football season ever. ...I really think that people are going to be surprised at what Dordt football has to offer this year. I think people definitely need to watch out for it.

Q: Is it different that they have three home games in a row to start the season off?

A: It’s nice that the people get to see what we are and what we have to offer, so I think that’s going to help us to have good traveling numbers. I think people are going to actually come to our games so that’ll help when we’re traveling. I think it’s a good thing.

Baseball’s fall offseason in midswing

Christian Zylstra – Staff Writer

The offseason is no longer truly “off” in today’s world of sports. For Dordt College baseball, that “offseason” is starting to pick up.

With a spring baseball regular season ahead, the fall practice schedule is crucial for integrating new freshmen into the squad. This year, such a task is more important than ever.

“In the fall, we focus on skill/talent evaluation so we can decide on the depth chart for both JV and varsity rosters going into the offseason [winter],” said Dordt baseball coach Jeff Schouten. “There is strong competition at many spots on the field this fall since there are 22 new players in the program.”

Mix 22 new players in the Dordt baseball program with what is arguably the most talented senior class Dordt baseball has ever had, and hopefully you have a GPAC playoff contender.

But before Dordt can even get to that point, it has a long fall season of scrimmages and practices ahead.

Practices started almost immediately after the players were back on campus for the year. In a region with volatile weather, taking advantage of practicing outdoors is critical. It is also a chance for field renovations, including the addition of a new mound at Open Space Park.

“The mound is the finishing touch that our field needed; it is a big upgrade for our program,” Schouten said.

While the addition of a new mound is nice, it does make things more difficult for the position players who want to face live pitching, which serves as just another reason why Dordt’s annual fall scrimmages against Northwestern College are pivotal.

“We don’t get a lot of in-practice reps with pitchers throwing live, so the scrimmages against Northwestern are really important, not only from an evaluation standpoint, but also from a standpoint of playing against other competition and seeing what Northwestern is bringing in for the year recruiting-wise so we can compare ourselves and contrast,” said junior catcher Josh Van Eps.

On Sept. 8, Dordt played a 14-inning scrimmage at Northwestern, showcasing a bevy of new, young talent on the roster. 11 different pitchers and 16 different position players got on the field and saw live game action.

One event ahead for Dordt baseball is another scrimmage - this one in Sioux Center, IA, at Open Space Park, on Sept. 22.

“Some of the guys that didn’t play this week will play next week [Sept. 22],” said senior shortstop Cam Gingerich. “Obviously, some guys will play both, and we’ll just see how it goes. We’ll hopefully get a better idea of our depth chart and figure out who’s who.”

All these practices and scrimmages are just crucial steps along the way for Dordt baseball to hopefully make its first-ever GPAC tournament.

Defender cross country battles mud and hills in Grinnell

Allison Young – Staff Writer

GRINNELL, IA—After cruising through a short, flat course at their Sept. 2 Augustana Twilight season opener, the 55th Les Duke Invite, held on Sept. 10, tested the guts of the Defender cross country team.

“The course was really, really sloppy and wet, which really slowed down the race and made it a much more difficult race than it would normally be for us,” said Head Coach Nate Wolf.

Despite the tough course and the absence of several key runners on both the men’s and women’s teams, the men earned sixth place among 17 teams. The Defender women captured fourth place out of 14 teams, losing only to NCAA Division III schools.

“Wartburg, Augustana from Illinois, Cornell, Carleton are all really good, well-coached teams that typically are pretty highly rated within the NCAA Division III,” Wolf said. “So it was good to be able to see some teams that we don’t always see and race against them and see how we stack up.”

When team captain and front-runner Justine Van Zee was forced to step off the merciless course due to health issues, junior veteran Audrey Brooks kicked took the initiative and led the team to the finish line of the 6,000-meter race. Brooks earned individual recognition, finishing ninth out of 201 competitors. Julia Bos also “ran very, very well to pace the ladies’ team,” finishing thirteenth overall and second for the team.

The women Defenders’ next highest scorers placed as follows: Erika Douma, Erica De Schiffart, Kelsey Lewis, Erin Bandstra and Miranda Moss, respectively. De Schiffart, a junior from British Columbia, refused to let the grueling course intimidate her as she competed in her first collegiate race since injuring her knee in high school.

“She [De Schiffart] finished fourth on the team, which is a very good first race for her,” Wolf said. “I was very happy for her.”

On the men’s side, upperclassmen Sam

Wensink and Adam Daane came through. The pair finished 20th and 21st, respectively, in the 234-competitor field.

“It was probably Adam Daane’s best race,” Wolf said.

Nick VanderKooi and Ian Manske, the third and fourth scorers for the men, maneuvered the three loops of the 8,000-meter course to finish 29th and 50th, respectively. Freshman Luke Gilliland stepped up to finish fifth for the team in the absence of three senior men who did not race due to injury precaution.

“I think if both would have been full strength, we could have won the women’s and probably finished second or third on the men’s side,” Wolf said. “I thought the people that we had really ran well.”

Coach Wolf’s goal moving forward is to get the team healthy and injury-free as they prepare for their next meet, the Roy Griak Invitational on Sept. 24. The Les Duke Invite served as good preparation for the stiff competition and tough course in Minneapolis.



Contributed photo

Audry Brooks (right) and Julia Bos (left) lead the team.

Rend Collective coming to Dordt

Allison Wordes – Staff Writer

Northern Irish blood will usher in Sioux Center’s winter season this November. Rend Collective, a folk band making its name in contemporary Christian music, will make its Dordt College debut on Nov. 5 at 7:00. Ranking with names like Chris Tomlin, Matt Redman and Tenth Avenue North, Rend Collective has toured multiple times and shared the stage with artists such as MercyMe and Lecrae.

Rend Collective drew its name from a young adults’ Bible study that started in a church in Bangor, an Irish Coastal town. These young artists described themselves as a “group of twenty-somethings trying to figure out faith, life, God and community.” Led by drummer

Gareth Gilkeson, a group of five musicians came together, began to perform as a band and gradually garnered fame and acclaim for their talent and energy. Despite first resisting their growing popularity, these artists have since embraced their “task of praise.” Their most recent album, “As Family We Go,” came out in 2015 and includes their latest hits “You Will Never Run” and “The Joy of the Lord.”

Rend Collective also performed at this year’s LifeLight, a celebration of Christian music in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Other familiar artists include Lecrae, Michael W. Smith, and Mandisa. Compared to other years, students believe there has been a rise in the event’s outreach.



Contributed photo

Understanding campus art

Ellen Ingrid Dengah – Staff Writer

There is a certain style of visual art Dordt College subscribes to. For example, Dordt has many abstract sculptures and paintings with unconventional media hang across campus. Matt Drissell, one of Dordt’s art faculty, said that it is quite unusual for a campus the size of Dordt to have as many collections that we have. Even so, students’ reaction to Campus’ art varies from high appreciation to embarrassment, a consistency among students is they don’t understand the purpose.

Junior Josh Bootsma said that he does not get what “The Gift”, the life-size sculpture of a man in front to the classroom building, means, so he is embarrassed to show it to his family and friends from his hometown.

Junior, Ashley Huizinga, had a compelling conversation about the same sculpture with her family. Her conversation ranges from the sculpture’s history and meaning, one that she can enjoy because she understands Dutch history.

At the same time, Huizinga still echoes Bootsma’s frustration on their lack of understanding of art, especially the displays in 55th, the coffee shop in the Kuyper Apartment lobby.

She said, “a lot of the art, especially in 55th, doesn’t mean anything to me; it does not evoke anything.”

Junior Henry Mures agreed with Huizinga

statement, saying that some of the art feels like it exists only to fill up the space.

“Some of the art, for example, the quilt paintings in campus center, humanizes the space,” said Art professor Matt Drissell.

The campus center has many large beams and an industrial roof, Drissell claims that, “The art brings life into it.”

He suggests that students interact with the art in more personal way instead of just trying to figure out what the artist is trying to say.

Most viewers will find more information in a piece’s title card, however sophomore Daniel Seaman said that Dordt is not an art gallery and students don’t focus on reading the description. He said that Dordt is a place with a variety of cultural backgrounds and the culmination of art reflects that.

Professor of art, gallery coordinator and head of Dordt College Art Committee, David Versluis notes that the abstract art around campus exists not to exclude students, but to include them in conversation, inviting them to “participate in its ambiguities and vast room for interpretations.” The art faculty hopes that students are able to interact and be provoked by the art. Versluis encourages students to interact with the art. He smiled when he mentioned the “vandalism” students do to “The Gift” and connected it to the Avant-Garde movement. Drissell hopes students can make memories that are tied to the arts and to the space that it is in.



Photo by Brittney Ryks

Production starts rolling for short film class

Janelle Cammenga – Staff Writer

Writing the script. Pouring over audition videos. Scheduling. Scouting locations. Editing the script. Editing footage. Late nights. Late nights. Late nights. Senior Lucas Simonson understands that all these elements go into the production of a 20-minute short film.

Every part of the production process takes more thought and effort than the casual film-watcher would expect. With Connor Neal’s editing, Ellen Dengah and Rickey Nelson’s cinematography and Hannah Norton’s work of producing, Simonson labors to write and edit for “Homecoming,” the Short Film class’ semester project. He and the team have been working to overcome the many challenges that accompany making a short film.

One of these challenges is choosing a cast for the film. A lot of thought goes into the process of selecting actors from the audition recordings.

“It’s not something where we can just look at the videos and go, ‘Hey! We have our cast!’” Simonson said.

The group is currently still looking for one of their main actors: a 40-year-old man.

Other challenges include finding a good location and figuring out logistical issues like scheduling.

“Homecoming” takes place in a post-apocalyptic world, but—according to Simonson—the plot focuses less on the apocalypse and more on the after-affects the event may have on a family.

“It’s about how a house is not a home,” Simonson said. “Something’s wrong [in the family], and has been wrong for a long time.”



Photo by Ellen Dengah

In regards to choosing the plot, Simonson wanted to go with something new.

“I wanted to do something different,” he said. “But we have to think about what we can actually do. We can’t do a massive world-charting adventure story.”

Simonson is excited for the film to ask questions that may not be easy to answer, and he hopes it will spark discussion in the student body.

Students will be able to watch “Homecoming” during an on-campus airing in December.

Airband: An Old Tradition Revived

Janelle Cammenga – Staff Writer

When you have an excuse to break out your dance moves, win \$500 and throw bags full of sugar around the stage of the BJ Haan, you know you’ve been a part of a good tradition. Dordt Airband is a perfect example of just such a tradition.

Director of Residence Life Derek Buteyn shared Airband was not a completely new concept upon its re-establishment in 2012. The college had done Airband “way back in the day,” but had stopped putting on the competition years before. However, when the student life team noticed a void of activity in the beginning of the year, they realized they needed to do something.

Airband was not a completely new concept in 2012. Buteyn shared that Dordt had done Airband “way back in the day,” but had since stopped putting on the competition. When the student life team saw that there was a void in the beginning of the year, they realized they needed to do something.

“You have to think short term and long term,” says Buteyn. “How can we set it up to be good 10 years from now? You have to hit a home run from the beginning. People have to say, ‘That was awesome, I can’t wait for next year.’”

And thus, Airband was reborn.

“All you have to do is lip-sync and have fun,” says Buteyn. This year marks the fourth Airband competition since its 2012 re-establishment.

Airband was a perfect fit for amping up the beginning phases of the school year, and the \$500 prize contributed considerably to its success and popularity.

“It’s an excuse to dance on stage in front of hundreds of people. Doesn’t everyone have that dream?” said senior Luke Venhuizen, a two-going-on-three-time participant in Airband.

It’s not just the cash prize that makes this event so popular, but also the enjoyment the audience gets. For example, the process of getting onstage is more casual than most competitions.

“I’m tempted to do a solo,” Venhuizen said. “Just walk up there and say, ‘Can I go again?’”

When asked about his favorite Airband performances, Buteyn said, “the more extravagant, the better.” He mentioned a particular performance done by soccer team members who wore cutoff shorts, but when pressed to explain, Buteyn refused further comment.

Every new year of the event is promising and guarantees a night full of laughs. This tradition is one which promises memorable performances and low-key expectations, as well as a few well-spent hours you won’t regret.

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Softball prepping for spring

Clarissa Kraayenbrink – Staff Writer

Even though the official start to the softball season is not until spring, the softball team is hard at work preparing. The team began fall practices shortly after school began in August and have some scrimmages planned for September and October.

One of the purposes for the fall practices is to get more reps in and to build team chemistry.

“The repetition, just getting to know the team a little bit before the spring season actually begins,” said sophomore catcher Tessa Howerzyl. “It’s all just to get us prepared for our real season, which is in the spring.”

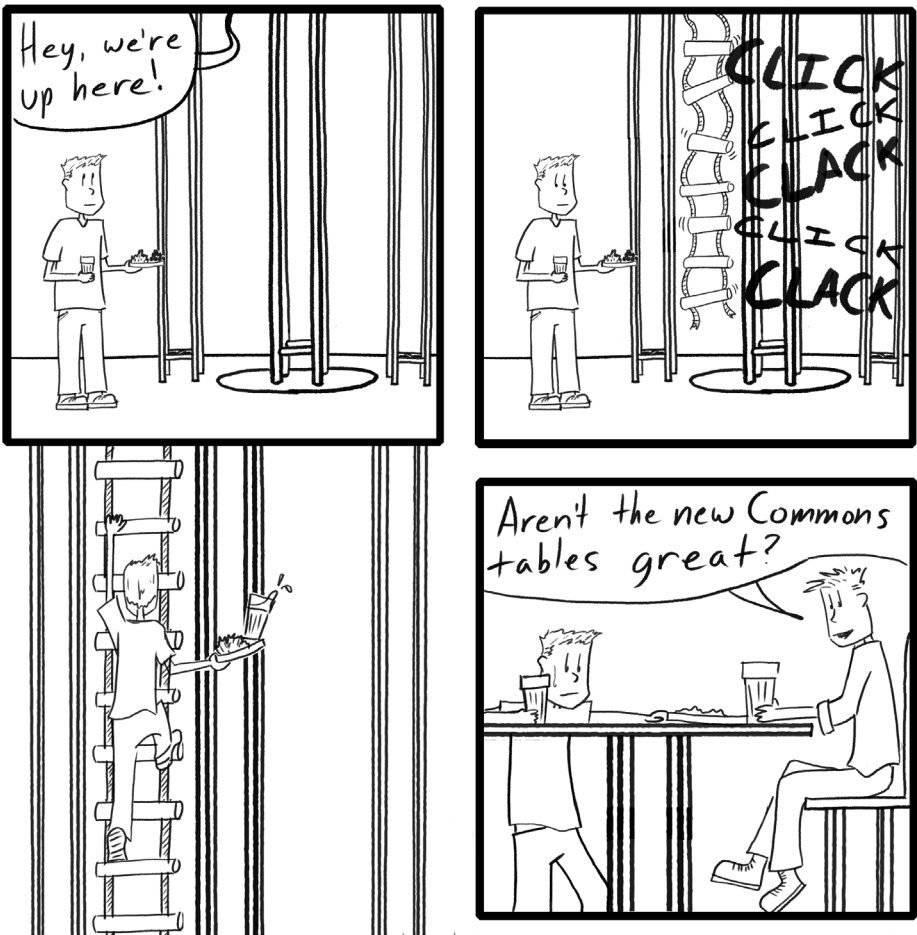
On game days the team usually participates in four games. Because varsity and junior varsity rosters have not yet been determined, Coaches

Jeff Zomer and Ken Roseberry divide the entire squad into two smaller teams, each team playing two games.

This creates great experiences among players. The freshmen are getting their feet wet with playing experience while meshing well with the returning players.

“The team is meshing really well,” Howerzyl said. “It’s been a lot of fun getting to know the freshmen so far, and I feel like they’re bringing in a lot of work ethic and talent in and that’s fun to see. I feel like everyone just adds to the team really well.”

The softball team has five game days planned for the remainder of the fall season. They will travel among locations such as Sioux City, and Sioux Falls, IA and Mitchell, SD.



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