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Issue 2



THE DIAMOND

A Hawley, jolly night of live music in 55th Avenue

Ashley Huizinga – Staff Writer

Did you know a guitar that looks and plays like a piano exists? Did you know keyboards can come with two levels? Did you know one lead singer could make three different girls as embarrassed as possible (of which I was privileged to be one) by unexpectedly directing his song at them? After all, by Dordt terms, direct eye contact for more than three seconds is practically a proposal.

Well, I didn't. At least not until Caleb Hawley and company (Devon Yesberger on keys, Spencer Stewart on bass, Jordan Rose on drums) rocked out on the stage of 55th last Monday, Sept. 19. With a few opening hits by up-and-coming local band The Ruralists (featuring Dordt's own English professor Luke Hawley and theology professor Ben Lappenga), Minnesota local Caleb Hawley sang to a packed crowd of Dordt students avoiding their Monday night homework. After a lot of pelvic thrusting and dramatic lighting shifts, the group finished off their set with a solo acoustic rendition

of Luke's original "On My Own Two Feet." Crowd favorites included "Bada Boom, Bada Bling," "I Believe I Can Fly," and "Wish You Were."

With lines like "We all got problems/We all got pain/We all need lots and lots of drugs 'cause we're insane" and the interactive experience of watching Caleb stalk and soar and slide across the stage, both the singer and the audience seemed to be having a great time.

"I enjoy the Dordt crowd," Caleb said. "I feel like they start off reserved, but there's something inside them that just wants to jam out" – This is no doubt a direct reference to the inner Praise-and-Worship Pentecostal in even the most Reformed of Dordt students.

Caleb Hawley, a Minnesota native by birth, came to campus last October, but that didn't stop him from coming back for a Read What You Want meeting, a songwriting session and Monday night's concert.

"I'm proud to see him doing something he really enjoys, something he excels at," said brother and professor Luke Hawley. "Just him,



in the fullness of his humanity."

Caleb Hawley and company will be undertaking another US tour in the next few weeks, but maybe next year will see them returning to the 55th stage with more loud shirts, skinny jeans, pink furry guitar straps

and permed-up hair. Until then, keep up on the Hawley brand of Midwest rock by following Caleb on "all the social medias" (including calebhawley.com) and attending The Ruralists' concert on Oct. 15 in the Fruited Plain Cafe.

Time Warp wins Air Band in flurried fashion

Jaden Vander Berg and Mindi Wikstorm – Staff Writer

Friday night, Sept. 23, students packed into the BJ Haan auditorium to watch their peers dance around the stage, lip syncing to pop songs of past and today. This year only four groups performed, but the humor of hosts Lincoln Rus and Kevin Steiger helped to keep the audience involved and entertained.

After competing in different groups for three years, Luke Venhuizen and his ensemble of Maddie Vande Kamp, Esther Kielstra, Shaniese Quist, Rachel Blom, Levi Minderhoud, Mariellen Hofland and Janelle Cammenga took the stage and claimed victory.

The group practiced their routine for almost ten hours, and much of the time was used learning Venhuizen's choreography. Coming up with a concept proved difficult, yet after listening to nearly every song from every era, the group settled on a medley of music starting with Beethoven's 1807 classic "Symphony No. 5" and ending with Sia's 2016 hit "Cheap Thrills."

For many of the group members, including Esther Kielstra who represented the 2000s, Friday night was their first time performing before an audience.

"I have never been in front of a crowd; especially this many people," Kielstra said. "But once we got out there it was pretty chill and pretty fun. You just go with the crowd."

As a group of mostly seniors, Time Warp knew this

year was its last chance to participate in this competition.

The 70s representative, Mariellen Hofland, knew this moment may have been her last chance to shine with an invisible microphone.

"We just saw how much fun people had on stage [previously]," Hofland said. "And we were like OK, [this is our] last year, we have to be in it."

Millions of thoughts raced through each performer's head the closer it came to show time.

Shaniese Quist, the 80s representative, offered a peek inside her brain before showtime:

"I'm so nervous," Quist said to herself. "What am I going to do? I hope I do great. I hope I make Whitney Houston proud."

After the victory, Luke Venhuizen, 90s rep, gave advice to students interested in Airband who might be too scared to perform.

"Just do Airband! Get a random group together, pick a couple of songs and just have a good time because it is so fun," Venhuizen said. "Winning is a good cherry topper, but in the long run it's a joy just to do it, and the friendships are made stronger because of Airband."



New communication professor Tom Prinsen tells his story

Elizabeth Bouwkamp – Staff Writer

"Karla always says, 'if you want to see the Lord's sense of humor...tell him your plans.'"

Communication Professor Tom Prinsen and his wife Karla recently moved to Sioux Center, Iowa. The small Iowa town is familiar and reminds them of their college years when they first met at Dordt College. Karla was a freshman at the time, and Tom was a senior.

Tom had no interest in dating during his senior year. Motorcycle rides, time with friends, schoolwork and a 40-hour work week allowed for little down time.

"That way when graduation comes, I can walk across the stage, take my diploma and go whatever way the wind blows," said Tom in response to any senior scramble questioning at the time.

However, the beginning of a new school year brought new beginnings in areas other than classes and schoolwork. In the first week of September, Tom met Karla while playing doubles in tennis with some friends. After the third time playing tennis together, Karla left the tennis court and headed to the Commons. Then Tom's pity for Karla's "common" supper raised a simple question.

"You want to have homemade pizza with my family tonight?"

One dose of Saturday night homemade pizza with the Prinsens, and three months later, the word "engagement" entered Tom and Karla's dating vocabulary.

During Thanksgiving, Tom left for Karla's hometown in Corsica, South Dakota. His good intentions of asking Karla's father for her hand in marriage disappeared when he drove off the yard Sunday night without asking. Disappointed and convicted, Tom turned his car around only one mile into his trip back to Dordt.

With motivation, Tom headed for the machine



shop. Upon entering, he immediately spotted Karla's dad.

"Um, Mr. Lefers," he began. "Karla and I have been talking a lot about our future and we would really like to spend the future together. I guess what I'm asking for is her hand in marriage."

Having only met Tom twice before, Karla's dad appeared hesitant at first, but Tom gained his approval, and the two got married and moved to Sioux Falls. The following years after college involved having two children, Calvin and Bethany, moving for Tom's work and changing plans.

Tom continued to tell Karla of his desire to teach. The desire continued, and Karla gave Tom a teaching ultimatum.

"Either do it or quit talking about it."

Tom listened; he sold their acreage, four wheeler and tractor, then packed up his family of four for a one bedroom apartment at the University of South Dakota.

"Those were good years," laughed Tom and Karla.

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The Yetis and The Basics show promise at the Fruited Plain

Ross Van Gaalen – Staff Writer

Get excited, Dordt College, because something special may be developing on campus right before our eyes.

Last Saturday, the band known as The Yetis took the stage at the Fruited Plain Café to play covers of their favorite rock songs. For those unfamiliar with the band, The Yetis are made up of frontman freshman Joseph Bartels on vocals and rhythm guitar, freshman Henry Rynders on lead guitar, junior Caleb Smith on bass guitar, junior Daniel Amin on the keys and junior Sam Roskamp on the drums.

The group’s Saturday night set consisted of 13 songs from a range of artists including the Beatles, Modest Mouse and the Black Keys. This diverse program kept the enthusiastic crowd engaged for the duration of the show, which got better and better as the night went on.

At this point, all of you astute and experienced readers may be wanting to laugh and say, “Oh really, a band at the Fruited Plain got better and better as the night went on, eh? Are you sure that it wasn’t just the beer getting better and better?”

To this comment, I reply: “Shame on you.” First, those two things aren’t mutually exclusive. Second, The Yetis were awesome - if you had seen them shred Arcade Fire’s “Rebellion,” you would agree! While the beginning of the show may have

been a bit shaky, with wind blowing the band’s papers around and a few rushed sound checks, The Yetis found their groove by the second half of the performance and took ownership of the moment, playing with visible joy and a healthy dose of swagger.

Bartels said the night was “A bit spontaneous, because we weren’t planning on playing outside, but it was fun. It felt really good to play ‘Seven Nation Army’ and ‘Don’t Let Me Down.’” “The night was a lot of fun,” sophomore Holly Hiemstra remarked. “I really liked it when they played ‘Gold on the Ceiling.’ I also had never been to an outdoor concert at the Fruited Plain before, so that was cool too.”

One of the more heartwarming parts of the show occurred when The Yetis invited freshman Abby Grubbs and sophomore Ray Badudu up on stage at separate times to perform with them. Grubbs and Badudu, who form the duet group called The Basics, opened for the Yetis with a 9-song acoustic set featuring songs from Of Monsters and Men, Kodakline and Ed Sheeran, as well as other artists. Seeing The Yetis give their nod of appreciation and respect to the opening duo really brought the event full circle.

Within The Basics’ opening act and The Yetis’ full length performance, one of the subtler themes of the evening was youth. Five of the seven performers on Saturday night were underclassmen. Levi Smith and Seth Weirup, sophomore members of last year’s popular NCDC band Gopher Broke, were also in



Photo by Ella Swart

attendance, further highlighting a fact we should all be getting excited about here on campus: Dordt has lots of young and talented musicians actively seeking chances to use their skills. Is there a greater amount of skilled musicians on campus than ever before? Probably not. Are more students looking to share their musical talents in live performances? Possibly. Would we all benefit from an increase in musical events? Absolutely. Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters

who possess musical talent, USE IT! There can never be too many musicians in town, and this town needs you! As for the rest of us with no apparent musical abilities, let us all hoist our (hypothetical) Heinekens high to salute those who will rock Sioux Center in the weeks and years to come. The Basics will be performing next on Oct. 4 along with other students at the 55th Cafe. The Yetis did not provide a date for their next performance.

Professor Tom Prinsen (cont.)

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Each year, the couple wrestled with the question, “We want to serve the kingdom, so where do we best do that?”

The couple valued Christian education for Bethany and Calvin. While pursuing his PhD at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, Tom’s family spent Friday nights cleaning the kids’ school; Friday night family cleaning they called it. The way Tom and Karla paid for their children’s Christian education.

Tom went on to teach in various college settings. In his last year as a faculty member at the University of South Dakota, Karla suffered a brain aneurism, affecting the behavior and personality area of her brain. A few years later, she was diagnosed with early-onset Parkinson’s.

“The aneurism and the Parkinson’s have an effect on every facet of every decision of every day. And that’s something that...I don’t know if you ever get used to,” Tom said as he looked at Karla.

Before, Karla loved the outdoors: she gardened, mowed the lawn and went for long walks with Tom.

“We would walk the dogs for about 8 miles each day, a couple miles before work, a couple miles after work and a couple miles before bed.”

In the last year, moving to Sioux Center seemed a natural choice, closer to family and closer to a support system. In addition, Tom

and Karla’s parents both struggled to maintain control of Parkinson’s as well, and having the couple around helped them.

“It’s been more them learning from us than us learning from them,” remarked Tom as he looked again over at Karla.

The two learned the art of moving on earlier than most.

“Crying and feeling sorry for ourselves got old,” they said.

At first, the two enjoyed motorcycle rides, but when the getting on and off became difficult for Karla, an open Mustang Convertible seemed better to ride in. When getting in and out of the convertible became difficult, they bought a camper. Now, Tom said, we plan to take more day trips. They still enjoy biking, and Karla’s “pedal-assist” bike enables her to bike with him. “The bike helps with Karla’s endurance and strength,” said Tom.

When they are outdoors, or when they see hiking trails, it is not easy. “Some days we say, ‘you know what, we just want to go for a stinking hike...is it too much to ask Lord?’”

“But you have to move on,” said Tom. “Do what you can and move on.”

“If the Lord still allows you to do something, do that something that He still allows you to do.”

For it is not our plans,” said Tom, “but His plans that matter”—an enduring and continuous theme in their story.

Producer confidence low despite bountiful harvest

Allison Young – Staff Writer

The start of harvest season is usually a time of optimism and celebration for farmers. But this year, things are different.

According to the latest reading of the DTN/The Progressive Farmer Agriculture Confidence Index, this year, ag producers’ confidence dropped to a record low in its seven-year existence.

The index, based off an annual survey of 500 crop and livestock producers, gathers opinions on the strength of the farm economy. Scores below 100 on the index indicate pessimism, while scores above 100 indicate optimism. The more the number deviates from 100, the stronger the feeling. The 2016 confidence index indicated that, as of August, producers’ confidence had dropped to 71.9. A year ago, it was 98.2.

In the DTN/The Progressive Farmer’s September 19 publication, Editor-In-Chief Greg Horstmeier said, “Our previous index research indicated that producers’ attitudes trended neutral-to-optimistic for their present situation and pessimistic for the future. That’s now flipped with producers who are more pessimistic for the current situation and optimistic for the future.”

After experiencing several years of high yields coupled with high market prices (2011-2014), producers struggled to readjust their spending habits. When land values and market prices plummeted, the cost of inputs, such as seed and fertilizer, lagged in reducing their price as well. Now that corn, soybean, hog, dairy and cattle prices have remained exceptionally low for more than a year, producers are settling into the mindset that ‘bad’ is the new norm.

“Harvest time is usually a season of optimism for ag producers, but not this year,” Horstmeier said.. “Many producers will need record crops just to break even given today’s rising production costs.”

USDA predictions of record production for corn and soybeans, 15.1 billion bushels and 4.2 billion bushels, respectively, drive prices even

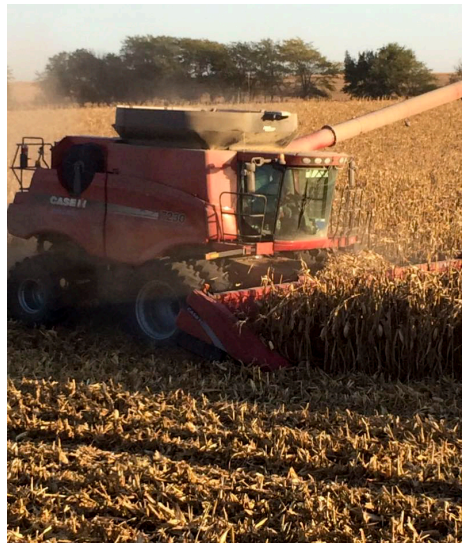


Photo by Alli Young

lower. The economic principle of supply and demand makes it difficult for farmers to come out on top. If Northwest Iowa experiences high yields, it’s likely the whole Midwest also reaps above-average yields, creating lower market prices because of the surplus.

When producers are still paying the same amount or more for cash rent, seed, chemical and fertilizer as they did when corn was \$7.00/ bushel and soybeans were \$14.00/per bushel, it can be nearly impossible to break even. According to the DTN survey, 39 percent of producers surveyed rate input prices as bad, with 57 percent saying that input prices will not improve in the next 12 months.

The ag economy is notorious for its boom and bust cycles, and this is certainly not the first time producers have been in a pinch. Still, as attitudes and outlooks slump along with prices, it is important for farmers to receive encouragement from families and friends and producers. Many students on campus are friends with or related to a farmer. Thanking a farmer for what they do may seem insignificant, but these individuals need encouragement right now.

As always, the ag economy will improve. But for now, margins are slim.

No substitute for human blood

Allison Wordes – Staff Writer

LifeServe Blood Center will be hosting a blood drive in the Eckardt Lounge of the Campus Center on Tuesday, Oct. 25, from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. LifeServe is a blood donation center out of Des Moines, Iowa, that has set up mobile donation centers in Iowa, South Dakota and Nebraska. According to the website, lifeservebloodcenter.org, the center is “one of the 15 largest blood centers in the country.”

There is a constant demand for donations; for example, a patient of a car accident may use up

to 50 units of blood. The basic donation consists of one “unit” - or pint - of blood. The blood units collected during blood drives are divided into the components of red blood cells, platelets and plasma.

There are benefits to having a blood drive on campus, such as the fact that the proximity and availability of this drive is accommodating to students and allows them to become involved without even leaving the campus. Students can even fit a donation in between classes. The

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Dozens of students attend debate viewing party

Steve Kelly – Staff Writer

After getting a front row seat to the Presidential primaries during the Iowa caucuses, the Dordt College Republicans are staying engaged in the race for the White House. Over 50 students came to the Science Building to watch the first of three debates between Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton.

Some came to learn more about the candidates and their plans for our country. Others came for some food and entertainment. By the end of the debate, everyone was able to experience a little bit of both.

Seeking to educate students about politics, the College Republicans club hosted the event to start discussions about the candidates and their policies. For some students, this was their first

time attending a College Republicans event. A few in attendance were interviewed by the local newspaper about their thoughts on the debate.

In attendance Monday night was Skyler Wheeler, a local Republican candidate for the Iowa State House. “It was a phenomenal event,” said Wheeler. “The younger generation has to be politically involved, and for the right reasons.” He was delighted to see so many students showing an interest in the Presidential race.

The College Republicans club will host debate viewing parties for the Vice Presidential debate on October 4 and the next two Presidential debates on October 9 and 19. The viewing parties are open to members and non-members of the club.



Photo by Steve Kelly.

New club asks hard questions and eats good food

Janelle Cammenga – Staff Writer

Lydia Marcus, a soft-spoken student with a loud mind, is not afraid to ask questions. Most often, these questions fall in the realm of her two passions: science and faith. Last year, she saw the importance of asking and discussing these questions, but she was also aware of the obstacles.

“If you don’t know that other people are asking the same questions,” Marcus said, “you can feel isolated and maybe even alone - which, if you want answers, are not the most helpful things to feel.”

In order to solve this issue, she started the Science and Faith Club, where students can feel free to discuss their questions with peers and mentors who are concerned with similar issues.

“Everyone comes from different perspectives, so you get well-rounded [answers and discussion],” Marcus said.

The group is open to anyone, and Marcus notes that the issues are often applicable to the whole student body.

“Science has implications for everyone,” she said. “It’s important to be informed and think about how we react and interact Christianly.”

The club has no regular meeting schedule yet, but it has hosted a few events. Last year, this included inviting geneticist Dennis Venema to campus. Club members discussed evolution and ate pizza.

On Oct. 20, the Science and Faith Club is hosting a movie night for “Blade Runner” with a following discussion on the essence of what it means to be human. Snacks will be provided. They hope to host an event once a month during the upcoming school year, including book clubs, small group discussions and breakfast meetings.

Marcus appreciates her fellow club-members and how they approach the hard questions of life.

“The club deals with sensitive areas of life,” said Marcus. “These questions define us. It takes love and graciousness to talk about them.”

She also appreciates the variety of questions they are willing to ask.

In the near future, the club hopes to have breakfast meetings every other week in the Commons where anyone can come and talk about issues and questions that interest them, but the club leaders are still working out issues with reserving the dining area. They also hope to produce a calendar of events so the student body can participate in events when convenient for them.

If students have questions about the club, they can talk to or email Lydia Marcus.

“I don’t bite,” she said, smiling. “And maybe I can even answer their questions.”

She hopes that the campus can get involved in these discussions and enjoy the food and friendship the club has to offer.

Depression or fatigue: advice for overcoming in college

Anna Veltkamp – Staff Writer

Depression is a genuine burden, and trying to suppress it is equivalent to driving a car with the parking brake on. The car still runs, but it’s slower and it’s being damaged by the unseen issue.

The effects of depression are profound, and can worsen even with a sound faith. The pain, the suffering, and the baggage that constitute depression are weighted down with a sense of guilt; a temptation to believe that you’re not a good Christian.

Though it has the same name, not every case of depression is equal. It may be periods of feeling out of it, it might be feeling far from God, or it may be days of calling in sick because it feels impossible to get out and live life. In any case, depression can feel like it is taking over by interfering with every aspect of life.

The American Psychological Association found that depression is the second leading mental disorder at 36.4 percent among college students, with it’s runner-up being anxiety at 41.6 percent. It’s a colossal problem, and yet so

few reach out for help.

Aaron Baart, Dean of Chapel at Dordt, advises students to get help, even if they’re questioning the actuality of depression.

“There’s a good number that have not gotten help. They really don’t need to carry this struggle,” Baart said. “A lot don’t want to reach out; they don’t want this to seem real.”

He advises students to communicate, to voice their concerns, even in the case that they don’t actually suffer from depression. There are many counselors on campus that are more than willing to offer help, or to lend a hearing ear at the least.

Aaron Baart noted that some students may simply suffer from fatigue, that “they’re stretched out too far in life.” It is easy to confuse the two, but the effects and solutions can be interchangeable.

Whether it is depression or fatigue, neither issue can deter God’s love for you. Depression is not an embarrassment, it is real. It can take control of your life and if you or someone you know might be suffering from it, get help. Talk about it, find solutions that might work, and take the first steps in the hike to unload this burden.

Basics of the EpiPen debate

Lydia Marcus – Staff Writer

So...what is an EpiPen and how does it work? Nasal allergies may be obnoxious, but they’re seldom fatal.

Food and medicine allergies, on the other hand, are known to trigger anaphylaxis, an allergic reaction that causes a person to go into shock. When in shock, a person’s blood pressure drops suddenly and the airways contract, making breathing very difficult.

As you might imagine, breathing and blood flow are important bodily functions. Being in shock can cause a person to lose consciousness or, in extreme cases, die.

Epinephrine, otherwise known as Adrenaline, is often used to treat anaphylaxis because it helps a person recover from shock by lowering blood pressure and relaxing the airways. Epinephrine is commonly administered via epinephrine auto injectors, more commonly known by the brand name EpiPen, a syringe that can be used to inject a pre-set amount of epinephrine into the person suffering from anaphylaxis. The “Epi” in EpiPen stands for Epinephrine.

Why is the news suddenly full of people upset about EpiPens?

The EpiPen is somewhat unique—it has a monopoly on the market. Many of its competitors have failed, and Mylan, the pharmaceutical company that currently owns the rights to EpiPens, lobbied to pass the “EpiPen Law” in 2013. This law encouraged schools to stock epinephrine auto injectors and to mandate that school personnel are trained to use them. Mylan initiated a program called EpiPen4School, providing schools nationwide with more than 700,000 free EpiPens. As a result, EpiPens have steadily become the most familiar and, consequently, the most trusted brand of epinephrine auto injectors.

Because it has a monopoly on the epinephrine auto injector market, Mylan’s decision to raise the price of EpiPens continuously since 2009 impacts a lot of people with serious allergies. In 2009, two EpiPens cost about \$100 wholesale; in 2016, two EpiPens cost more than \$600. Obviously, this has significant ethical implications, and Mylan has received criticism

from various fronts, including Congress.

Is this scheme new?

Mylan isn’t the first pharmaceutical company that has sold its medicines at inflated prices. In 2015, it was revealed that Turing Pharmaceuticals had increased the price of Daraprim, a drug commonly used to treat and prevent malaria, by 5,000 percent; customers pay \$750 per pill, or about \$75,000 per month. Rather than lowering the price to something more reasonable, Turing provided programs that helped patients obtain the drug and forced insurance companies to pick up the slack.

The CEO of Turing, the suddenly infamous and widely loathed Martin Shkreli, justified the price increase, explaining that very few people actually use the drug, and the extra profit would be used to develop better treatments.

Both Mylan and Turing followed a similar pattern, one that has been used by a number of pharmaceutical companies in recent years: buy the rights to an old, infrequently used drug and remarket it as a speciality drug, raising the price accordingly. Apparently few people are impacted by the price increase, and pharmaceutical companies claim that the profit made will be used to benefit the people.

What should we do about it?

It depends. Do you think it is ethical for pharmaceutical companies to charge more money for “speciality drugs” if they claim they’ll use the extra money to develop better drugs? Is it the role of the government to prevent companies from having monopolies on a market? Should people with allergies or parents whose children have allergies “vote with their wallet” by purchasing the epinephrine auto injectors sold by smaller companies, such as Adrenaclick, which costs about one-quarter of the price of EpiPen? Should insurance companies and/or taxpayers be expected to foot the bill for expensive medications? Should schools continue to buy the Mylan brand of epinephrine auto injectors?

You’ve got the basics of the situation, now. What are you going to do?

*Information taken from Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America, Bloomberg, and The New York Times

Students jockeying for professors during registration

Eric Rowe – Staff Writer

At the starting gate. The doors open. Clang! Hooves thrum as riders strive to maneuver into the most successful situation possible. Students jockeying for position in the class of their choosing with their preferred professor is nothing new. Discussions with peers of who’s the best to take for which class influence many students, for better or worse.

“I am sure it happens,” said history professor Mark McCarthy. “Sometimes you overhear those conversations. I remember doing it myself.”

For senior education major Gracia De Boer, the conversation is irrelevant as she primarily schedules her classes based on the class meeting times. The one exception is when she avoids classes that require her to “regurgitate the professor’s opinion.”

Sophomore Ben Tiemersma chose his core professors through conversations with upperclassmen last year because he did not

have any experience with different teacher’s styles. After taking CORE 110 and 140, he is now equipped to give his list of pros and cons of professors when other students ask.

An open discussion of professors’ strengths and weaknesses can allow students to choose a strong fit, but it can also lead people astray.

Freshman Alisha Giesselmann does not put too much trust in the experiences that fellow students report because they come from individuals.

“Everyone learns in different styles,” Giesselmann said. “What’s good for one person isn’t necessarily good for you.”

Sophomore Nate Pryor sees these learning differences as a reason why sharing experiences is important.

“I always make recommendations,” Pryor said. “You should talk to different people to get different perspectives.”

As one of the five professors teaching seven sections of CORE 110 this semester, Bruce Kuiper is at the center of one of the most

common professor decisions that students make. He sees the benefit to matching how a student learns with how a professor teaches, but also sees that prejudging how the class will go can lead to problems.

“If you come in with preconceived notions that this prof is tough, fun, easy or controversial,” Kuiper said, “I highly expect that it will color your experience.”

An image that your professor is tough may induce better study habits or cause you to feel defeated before even reading the syllabus. A belief that your professor is easy may lead to less effort put forth, thus less learning.

“If it’s against expectations, your preconceived ideas are thrown out the window,” Kuiper said. “That would probably be especially stressful.”

Electrical engineering professor Douglas De Boer is aware of his reputation as a tough professor and is comfortable with his style of teaching.

Whether or not their opinions are held by the entire class, “The loudest students set the tone

in the classroom,” De Boer said. Throughout his three decades at Dordt, De Boer has noticed how powerful these opinions can be.

After his first wife died about 20 years ago, De Boer got behind in his work and earned a reputation of being late to class and unprepared. This image was passed down from upperclassmen and it took five years of being punctual to erase the one year that he deserved his reputation.

“You might say, the time constant of student response to reality is very long,” De Boer said.

When it comes time to register for classes next semester and the registrars start lining students up at the starting gate, conversations about which professor to take will increase. Whether you are looking to avoid pain or seeking a challenge, know the decision and even the conversations that lead up to it can influence you in ways that you may not expect.

Intimate all-campus retreat in spite of conflicts

Eric Rowe – Staff Writer

“It just took a chunk of my skin off,” senior Luke Venhuizen said as he pointed to the scar on the outside of his right knee. You can still see the remains of the injury he sustained playing group games at the All-Campus Retreat his freshman year, nearly four years ago.

“I won camper of the weekend for putting my body on the line,” Venhuizen said.

Venhuizen can trace the beginning of most of his close friendships now back to that All-Campus Retreat weekend.

Despite conflicts this year with other campus events and a low attendance of 50 students, the annual All-Campus Retreat to Lake Okoboji was deemed a success by Venhuizen and fellow student coordinator Fayth Ponsen.

Because the traditional date of the third weekend of school coincided with Camp Okoboji’s 50th anniversary celebration, the retreat was pushed back a week.

It was only just before school started that planners realized the schedule’s conflict with a concert choir retreat, four different varsity sports games and the Pops Concert.

Ponsen pointed out that the attendance of fewer people made it easier to learn names and

get to know those who were able to attend.

The special activities at this year’s retreat, speed friending and an inflatable movie screen, turned out to work better with fewer people.

Although the coordinators try to add new elements every year, there are some staples of the All-Campus Retreat such as the ice cream social, worship at the fire pit and the belly flop and freshman toss competitions.

The winning freshman tosee, Hannah Veldhuisen, was pitched into the lake after being swung from her wrists and ankles by two throwers who jumped with her and let her go in mid-air.

Veldhuisen’s favorite part of the weekend, she said, was when the campers were around the fire.

“There was a full moon,” Veldhuisen said. “Very beautiful.”

After three years of planning the retreat together, Ponsen and Venhuizen decided to compete in the traditional belly flop competition, the last event of the weekend.

“Fayth finished out the girls and I finished out the guys,” Venhuizen said. “You could say we ended on a flop, but it didn’t. It ended on a bang! ... ‘Cause it hurt.”

The Dordt prairie: then and now

Elizabeth Helmkamp – Staff Writer

It is a sunny September day in the Prairie, and the flute-like trills of crickets rise and fall in the grass. As the wind brushes through the grass and the purples and yellows of the flowers show through the natural greens and golds, a butterfly flits by and lands gently on a flower: It’s another normal day in the Dordt Prairie. Dordt College students and Sioux Center residents enjoy the Prairie as a place to spend time in nature. How did this place come to be?

Professor Robert De Haan says that on one Earth Day in the 1970s, Dr. Del Vander Zee had the idea to start a small prairie in the area where the Campus Center and parking lot are now. Many people enjoyed the prairie until the administration built the Campus Center in 2002. However, the administration promised they would find a new place for the prairie.

In 2003, the college purchased the Kuhl farm, an ideal place to start a prairie.

The project proposal calls it a “sage meadow prairie,” which thrives in wet areas and filters rainwater runoff. At the time the project was proposed, the toxin levels in the runoff from Dordt’s campus were above limits set by Sioux Center.

No progress was made until 2006 due to financial reasons. That year, De Haan attended a conference where an unnamed donor, wanting to support prairies in northwest Iowa, approached him and offered to help fund the prairie.

The process of seeding the prairie began in

2007 and ended a year later. First, a crop of soybeans helped prepare the land and get rid of weeds. After tilling the land in the fall, a group of students and professors planted the seeds so everything could bloom in the spring. For the first year and a half, the prairie was mowed every few weeks to keep weeds from choking out the perennial plants.

What is the future of this iconic piece of Dordt?

Howard Wilson, Vice President and Chief Admin Officer of Dordt, said that the master plan showed a strong possibility of a road cutting through that area, but the plans are not concrete. He stressed that the project would be in the far future.

There are three possibilities for the location of the road: across the east side of the Prairie by the soccer fence, through the middle of the Prairie, or up the west side.

“We found that the community opinion, both the campus and community, was somewhat anxious about a middle way across the Prairie,” said Wilson, “At a certain point it may become necessary in the development of the campus, but our goal would be to make it as unobtrusive as possible.”

Renee Ewald, Sustainability Committee chair, said: “Honestly, I am a little disappointed [by plans to cut through the area]. The reason the Prairie holds so much value is because it is untouched and it is a place you can go to get away.”

No substitute for human blood (cont.)

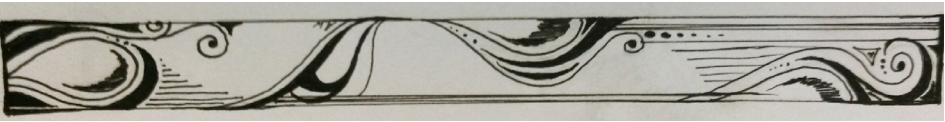
Continued from page 2

number of blood drives on campus per year prove that Dordt students on campus really care about blood donation, and many freshmen who have never donated on campus before seem willing to go and donate in October. Many other Dordt students are frequent donors and make it a priority to fit a donation into their busy schedules between classes.

Student Services also encourages students to participate by providing free items to donors - this year, most likely T-shirts.

Those wishing to donate are required to be 16 years or older and must weigh at least 120 pounds.

At the end of the day, this drive is more than a social event. Giving blood is about life.



Contributed photo.

Talking shop: Laremy De Vries of The Fruited Plain

Jonathan Janssen – Staff Writer

The Fruited Plain Café, owned and operated by local businessman and Dordt College alum Laremy De Vries, is a community center for many residents of Sioux Center. Opened in January of 2010, The Fruited Plain is approaching its 7th year of operation.

Last Thursday, as Laremy cooked soups, baked croissants and fried paninis in The Fruited Plain kitchen,. he opened up in conversation spanning a broad, eclectic range: from his Great Gatsby life in Annapolis to his brilliant country song ideas to the future of the business.

Along the ride, he revealed his thoughts on business-owning, living in the world, and dealing with scam artists.

Can you give a quick summary of your post-grad journey?

Laremy De Vries: I graduated from Dordt in 2002 and started the Humble Bean coffee shop in what is now the “Terrace Room” off of Dordt’s Grille with Eric Van Wyk, Jake Van Wyk’s son. It was a cool gig – Dordt took 12% of our income in return for rent – but it’s not like we were making a ton of money. We were living in a farmhouse, splitting \$300 four-way for rent. Eventually, Student Services got sick of the HB being a financial drain, so it closed in 2009.

I got married, moved to The Netherlands to get a masters in philosophy and then moved to Annapolis where my wife got a teaching job. I managed a coffee shop, and we lived among a bunch of rich people who would invite us to their parties.

It was the Gatsby years of your life?

Laremy De Vries: [Laughing] Oh, it was absolutely the Gatsby years of my life. Then I moved back to good, old Sioux Center to teach philosophy at Dordt as a fill in for the infamous Roger Henderson. I taught for one year, and then I started looking for coffee shops that were for sale. Eventually, I put together a business plan, met with bankers, got laughed out of a bank and finally found someone who would invest – against his better judgment.

I closed on The Fruited Plain on Labor Day of 2009, started working and remodeling and finally opened in January of the next year.

Fast-forward to today. The Fruited Plain is obviously well-attended. Why do you think so many people choose it over its competitors?

Laremy De Vries: I always tell my employees that there are two reasons that people will come back: Because they like you and because they like your stuff. Our goal is to be both – to have high quality products and take an immense amount of pride in what we serve.

You should read the article I wrote for In All Things a few years ago – it’s based on this Wendell Berry essay where the basic principle is that if you do shoddy work, you are blaspheming God because God made something and He said “This is good.” And if you take that good thing and you make something bad out of it, you’re basically saying, “You know what, God? You’re wrong. This is bad. And I’m going to make s#!t out of this because I want to make money or

this or that.”

So the idea of quality ingredients, made from scratch, good coffee – all that stuff – is really important to us.

And that’s something that you think you have that your competitors might not offer as much?

Laremy De Vries: From a coffee perspective, I would absolutely say that our coffee is better than our competitors.

And I love our pizzas, our soups. We don’t just dump something out of a bag and serve it. Like, here I am, back in the kitchen, crying over my onions. Quality is important to me.

Other than that, I think our atmosphere is comfortable as well. I think people like being here. It’s not “nice,” necessarily, but it’s comfortable. It’s not presumptuous, it’s not assuming.

And certainly the variety of things we offer helps us as well. Sometimes I’d love to “just be a coffee shop,” or “just be a wine bar,” or “just be a pizza joint,” but in a town like this, you sort of have to be everything because there’s not enough people to just sell lattes to and still make a living.

That’s interesting because I’m sure it’s a lot different operating a service industry business in Sioux Center versus Annapolis or even Sioux Falls. What do you think the major differences are in operating in a town versus a city?

Laremy De Vries: I think the biggest thing is that you have to cast a wide net.

Someone asked me once, “What’s your target audience?” I told them that I had no idea. I want to have something for everyone, if that’s soup and croissants for sixty-year-old women for lunch, that’s great. If that’s loud music and three-dollar Angry Orchards for college kids, that’s great. You have to cast a wide net as to the actual people and what kinds of products we’re going to serve those people.

But I mean, there’s other things, too. Some people are impressed with our low prices. And even just having the opportunity to actually purchase a building – that wouldn’t even happen in Sioux Falls. If I wanted to buy a building even just big enough for the Fruited Plain, it would be a half a million bucks. And that’s not this 6000 square foot building.

When you started the Fruited Plain, what was the biggest surprise that made you change your original thinking?

Laremy De Vries: I think it’s more like everything was a surprise. It’s not that there was one thing, it’s that there was everything.

Like a constant learning?

Laremy De Vries: Yeah, it really is. And just thinking back to the old days when we had just opened, we were running around like chickens with our heads cut off. We had no idea what we were doing.

But I think the biggest surprise was the extreme levels of organization that were required. Like, I just wanted to hang out and sell coffee, right? But it turns out that I’m also like a tax collector for the government, like I

have to collect taxes from people whether that be customers or employees and mail out checks to people.

In fact, most of the surprises were money related. We kind of overspent on our build out, so we didn’t have a nice pool of money like we were hoping to have.

And this is the downside of the humanities background – you don’t always count the cost or you aren’t always made aware of the risks before you try something. Like, employer contribution to social security – what is that going to cost me per month and is that the kind of thing that is going to tip it from the black to the red?

And these are the times that I sound like a Republican, too, like big government does make it hard to run a business in this country. Working for yourself is really difficult. And then when you have employees it’s even more difficult. And then when you’re trying to carve out this little niche of “Hey everybody, we have soup – come and eat it.”

There’s an idea that every person at some point has said to their friend, “We should buy a bar/coffee shop.” Is this idea as stereotypical as people think?

Laremy De Vries: Oh, it’s absolutely stereotypical. Definitely.

Is that how The Fruited Plain came about?

Laremy De Vries: That is exactly how The Fruited Plain was made. In so many ways, The Humble Bean was the “minor league baseball” version of The Fruited Plain, down to the article-adjective-noun format. I sort of wanted to call this place “Article Adjective Noun,” but that’s because I’m married to an English teacher, and we think that kind of thing is hilarious.

But yeah, that is always how it starts. And those are the kinds of dreams I was dreaming in Annapolis about starting a place similar to this. Just talking with a buddy like, “You know what we should do…”

So everything is just born from dreams?

Laremy De Vries: Absolutely. It’s dreams and stubbornness. I’ve never had a real job in my life. The closest thing I’ve had to a real job is managing a coffee shop… and I guess working at Dordt was kind of a real job, but not really. And I’d never worked any place for more than three years before The Fruited Plain. I am an odd person. I often tell people that I was born to do this. And not in an angry way, but in an inventive way.

Well, you sort of brought this up earlier, but my roommate and I were wondering why you don’t have beer on tap – like, we were thinking that would be the logical next level… What does the near and far future for the Fruited Plain look like?

Laremy De Vries: Near and far future? Well, I’ll tell you what, I am presently in conversations with a human being who seems relatively serious about starting a brewery in the back room and then turning one of our rooms into a tap room.

So he’s jumping through the frustrating hurdles of licensing – you think selling beer



Photo by Jonathan Janssen

is hard? Try making it. But he’s very serious. He’s a retired marine. A month after he moved to town, I ran into his wife and somehow we started talking about beer club and then brewing and then she said, “My husband brews beer and wants to start brewing…”

So anyway, it was a… I don’t want to be too either pious or fatalistic about things, but I certainly feel that if you sort of roll with the punches or blow in the wind or whatever kind of thing you want to say, and just kinda keep open, try not to have too fixed of an idea about “what you’re going to do,” opportunities show up.

I don’t really like using that college student language of, “God really brought this person into my life,” but I don’t really know how else to phrase it, right? Because I believe that. I believe that if you’re just open and nice to people, then you meet a guy and you say, “You know, to be honest, I’m not trying to blow smoke up your ass, but I have a room, I have a client base, I don’t know how to make beer and I don’t want to work at it because I’m also really busy, but if you’re interested, I’m interested.” Right?

Yeah, absolutely. With that piece of wisdom, what is the single most useful piece of advice that you would give to an aspiring service industry business owner?

Laremy De Vries: [Pause] Everything that I’ve said so far.

But if you could boil it down into one simple sentence it would be?

Laremy De Vries: You just have to love what you do. Everything I sell, I love and I’m proud of.

[Laughs] Except for Angry Orchard and stuff. But to do what I do is really difficult. If you’re not passionate about what you do that even when you’re feeling busy, down, overwhelmed, stressed out, whatever – if you’re not going to love what you do, then go be a banker. There are much easier, more sensible ways to make money in this world.

But you have to have this deeper need and love for what you are doing to get you through the inevitable frustrations.

Because in this world, you will have troubles. But “behold, I have overcome the world.”

Vern Eekhoff: the man of the hour

Danny Moores – Staff Writer

Vern Eekhoff earned an Outstanding Employee Award this past year for his involvement in bettering the Dordt College community.

“I enjoy my job because helping people out is the bottom line,” Eekhoff said.

Eekhoff has been an employee in the Dordt Grounds Department for 15 years. On any given day, Eekhoff can be found laying new sod or cutting down dead trees across Dordt’s campus.

“It’s nice to be recognized for my work,” Eekhoff said. “I never expected anything like

this. I was recognized for things I do every single day.”

Eekhoff sees countless possibilities in his career as a Dordt maintenance employee. 10 years ago, he joined a team for the first ever Prairie Grass Film Challenge. His team ended up winning, and he has continued participating in the challenge ever since.

“Mark Volkers made me go back to school and take five classes to get familiar with filming,” Eekhoff said. “I even went on a trip with him to Nairobi, Kenya, and helped with his ‘Fourth World’ documentary. I hope to do more trips

like that in the future.”

Eekhoff is also the inventor of an infamous game: “Barnyard Golf.”

“It originated when we had Dordt students over for dinner at our house outside of town many years back,” Eekhoff said. “We had about nine acres to put a nine hole course around. We use an 11-inch softball and a bat. You toss the ball up and hit it - unless you are within two bat lengths of the hole, then you can’t toss it up anymore. You play the ball as it lies, and you can’t move anything that may be in your way.”

Barnyard Golf found its way to the town of

Sioux Center after Eekhoff moved here several years ago. The league starts on June 1, as soon as students are off campus, and plays every Wednesday until Aug. 1. The league usually plays a “best ball” format, but this past year they had their first singles match. They hand out a green shirt to the winner every year. About fifteen people participated in the league last year.

“My life is kind of like what Forrest Gump says: ‘You never know what you’re going to get,’” Eekhoff said.

World Cup of Hockey approaches

Aaron Ladzinski – Staff Writer

Hockey is back!
The World Cup of Hockey is here and ready to explode. This tournament may be the NHL’s own substitute for an event the size of the Olympics. However, unlike in the ancient games, NHL owners will make a profit off the tournament. This world tournament will also consist of only eight teams, as opposed to the many countries involved in the Olympics. World Cup teams include the USA, Canada, Russia, Finland, Sweden, Czech Republic, Team North America and Team Europe.
Some may ask, “Who are Team North America and Team Europe?”
The two are teams made up of multiple countries. Team North America consists of North American players under the age of 23 who did not make their own country’s team due to their age. Team Europe tells a different story, as its bench is made up of multiple countries spread across Europe. These countries’ teams are usually beaten out by Europe’s other powerhouse teams.
Even as you read these words, the World Cup is coming down to its final days. Canada and Team Europe are the two teams still remaining, and they will soon play a best-of-three series. The tournament was a bust for Team USA - they couldn’t even win a game. The biggest surprise came from Team North America, who almost made it into the next round.
“[Team North America] really have been a great team to watch and I jumped on their band wagon as soon as the tournament started,” junior Adrian Visser said.
Unlike the surprises in the tournament, there is one continuing dominant factor - Team Canada, who pushed its way right into the final without breaking a sweat.
“Am I excited?” said senior Levi Minderhoud. “Of course, but was I surprised that we made the finals? Not at all.”
The rest of the World Cup will conclude this week with games starting on Tuesday.

Bandstra and Drake impress at the Griak

Allison Young – Staff Writer

The Dordt cross country squad battled masses of runners and a soggy, hilly golf course at their biggest meet of the year: The Roy Griak Invitational.
In spite of poor running conditions, the Defender women placed 25th out of 40 teams in the NCAA Division II race, beating every NAIA school except for Morningside College. The men’s team placed 26th out of 40 teams, finishing fourth to other teams in the GPAC conference.
“I think that for our women, we didn’t probably get our position quite as well as we did last year at the start of the race,” Head Coach Nate Wolf said. “I think we moved really well through the middle of the race, but we just had so much ground to make up.”
Freshman Erin Bandstra moved up exceptionally well through the 6,000-meter race. Bandstra passed 53 women from the first thousand meters to the last thousand meters, finishing third for the Defenders.
“Erin Bandstra ran phenomenally,” Wolf said. “She ran incredibly, incredibly well.”
Lori Wolf, the team’s assistant coach and the wife of Nate Wolf, expressed her excitement about the Erin’s performance, along with Schuyler Malenke, a freshman on the men’s team, who finished fourth for Dordt.
“Both she and Schuyler moved very well throughout their races,” Lori Wolf said. “It

was really fun to see them progress through the pack.”
Nate Wolf thought the men’s team had a good showing, considering the absence of several of their top runners.
Caleb Drake, a senior transfer, competed for Dordt for the first time this season after running unattached at Grinnell and overcoming an injury prior to that.
“I told Coach before the start of the race, ‘No going back here,’” Drake said. “It felt good.”
Drake didn’t waste any time moving to the front of the pack in the 8,000-meter race, jockeying for a top-ten position at several points in the race. He crossed the line 31st out of 453 finishers in the Division II race. Drake led the Dordt men, with Sam Wensink and Nick VanderKooi scoring in the second and third positions.
Even though Drake is new to Dordt, he’s no rookie to cross country. Tenth-place individual finisher at the 2015 NAIA National Championship, Drake is already using his experience to help lead and motivate the men’s team as they head into the final stretch of the season.
“I think we’re in a few different spots [mentally] on the guys’ team, so if we get a collective mindset going, I think we can go forward with the season a little better, and try to get ranked, and see what we can do,” Drake said.



Contributed photo

Nonconference schedule preps Women’s Soccer for conference play

Christian Zylstra – Staff Writer

Though Dordt College women’s soccer team has been playing matches for a month, the real season starts now.
After a 4-3-1 run through the nonconference portion of the schedule, women’s soccer now hits the crucial portion of its schedule: the GPAC playoffs.
While the nonconference games count towards the team’s overall record, the team’s conference record carries all the weight.
This does not mean, however, that the nonconference schedule is insignificant.
“The record in [nonconference] does not mean much,” said Dordt women’s soccer coach Bill Elgersma. “All of us are trying to figure out our teams before we get to conference [play].”
For a team unlikely to make the NAIA national tournament, making the GPAC playoffs is an ultimate goal.
“I think people will underestimate us as we are young and inexperienced, but everyone has been doing their part to step up as well as they can,” said Dordt forward Natalie Sakuma. “I think playoffs are definitely realistic.”
With several new freshman inserted into the Dordt roster due to graduated seniors or injuries suffered, the nonconference schedule helps the team gain experience and work up to peak performance.
“We’ve had to learn how to work in more new players and freshmen than expected,” said Dordt forward Raquelle Mouw. “Progressively, we are getting better at working together as a unit, though, and I think our success is really coming together.”
Learning to play a certain style of soccer collectively is priority number two.
“Learning to play high-pressure soccer for 90 minutes is an essential part of our success when we are on and our failure when we forget to concentrate,” Elgersma said.
Dordt’s style of play includes high pressure and a high back line, both of which take energy and practice. The nonconference schedule gives Dordt the opportunity to smooth out the kinks so the team can head into conference play with confidence.
As conference games get underway, Dordt will soon find out if its preseason preparation will pay off.



Photo by Luke Venhuizen

New faces mean new challenges for Men’s Soccer

Christian Zylstra – Staff Writer

After missing the GPAC playoffs last season, Dordt College men’s soccer is trying to return to the postseason, this time with plenty of new faces.
With anywhere from five to eight new starters in the lineup, Dordt will have to face new challenges before reaching the Promised Land.
These new challenges include developing team chemistry, something that has not been easy in the past. But with concentrated efforts working on the field during practice and the nonconference schedule, the Defenders are moving in the right direction.
“Working out the kinks is something that is very important through those first few games,” said Dordt forward Alex Durbin. “It’s being able to find the right personnel and getting the right mix out there for the team, finding the best 11 to put out there that works together, works the hardest and is able to communicate well.”
Many of the players understand that their best shot at returning to the GPAC playoffs will come with teamwork and effort.
“We aren’t the most technically-sound team, but I think we make up for that in our work ethic and going out and giving 110 percent every game,” Durbin said. “Even then, it’s something we need to continue to work on and continue to improve.”
But don’t mistake Durbin’s comments for stating Dordt lacks talent.
On Sept. 6, Durbin was named the NAIA Player of the Week and GPAC Men’s Soccer Offensive Player of the Week.
“It was definitely a cool experience, one you don’t get too often,” Durbin said. “So it was cool to have my name thrown out there with some of the best players in the nation. It’s an honor.”
Dordt’s senior performance and leadership is key this year. After losing several players to graduation, a handful of seniors have stepped up and filled those leadership roles within the team.
“Cody Van Holland has been a leader for us — he is a coach on the field,” said Dordt men’s soccer coach Craig Stiemsma. “Alex Durbin also has contributed with creativity up front. A lot of guys have really contributed in a lot of different ways, most notably in practice work ethic.”
All the talent, effort and work ethic seems to be paying off.
Dordt traveled to NAIA No. 5 ranked Hastings on Sept. 24 and put together its best performance of the season, coming away with a 2-1 loss in overtime.
“We battled them hard and competed for a full 90 minutes,” said Dordt center back Nathan Van Peursem. “We compiled a collective effort offensively and defensively and battled pretty well.”
If the Defenders continue to apply similar efforts through the full slate of GPAC matches, they will have more on their mind than making the GPAC playoffs.

Katy Wilson upcoming senior recital

Daniel Seaman – Staff Writer

Eight months equals 34 weeks. One hour per day for five days a week during the school year, and four days a week during the summer. For math majors, these days and weeks add up to over 150 hours of practice time. For Katy Wilson, Dordt senior and music education major, this preparation also adds up to a 30-minute recital on Saturday, Oct. 1, in the BJ Haan at 7:30 P.M.

Amidst her constant practice and process of perfecting, Wilson regularly reminds herself to be excited about her music-making.

“It’s easy to get caught up in slaving away over technical details,” Wilson said. “But I want to make beautiful music and not just play an exercise.”

Wilson has played clarinet since 6th grade. Upon Wilson’s arrival at Dordt, her clarinet professor, Dr. Beverly Gibson, admitted to recognizing her raw ability. Gibson set goals to help Wilson “hone her control at any tempo, take the technique and apply it to everything.”

Ranita Badudu, Wilson’s accompanist for the past eight months and roommate for the past four years, appreciates the hard work Wilson puts toward knowing her music.

“She is secure enough in her musicality that I am able to follow,” Badudu said.

Brendan Miedema, who spent most of last year sitting next to Wilson as the 2nd chair clarinetist, respects Wilson’s “absolute passion for music and meticulous attention to detail in the [band’s] repertoire, but also in her independent study.”

For Miedema, it’s clear that Wilson has dedicated an enormous amount of time and effort to her practice.

Amidst this constant practice and perfecting process, Wilson regularly reminds herself to be excited about her music-making. Wilson says, “It is easy to get caught up in slaving away over technical details. I want to make beautiful music and not just play an exercise.”

When does music stop being a regurgitation of what is written on the page and start becoming music? For Wilson, it happened when she was putting something very technical together with her accompanist.

Gibson says Wilson has improved her playing by “incorporating the theory and history she observes when she looks at the music.” According to Gibson, all of the music classes Wilson has taken at Dordt have helped her to both interpret what composers try to say through music and make stylistic and artistic choices of her own.

“I’ve learned to see music as a means for communication with your audience,” Wilson said.

“This has helped me be less nervous in front of audiences because I focus on the art I am presenting and not myself.”

On Saturday, Oct. 1, Katy Wilson will be giving her interpretation of a number of pieces in her senior recital, and she hopes that many people will attend.

Photo by Daniel Seaman



Music in nature: Dordt hosts second “Arts in the Prairie” event

Janelle Cammenga – Staff Writer

Imagine this: you’re walking through the Dordt Prairie, admiring the beauty of creation. As the towering grasses and flowers sway in the breeze, something else catches your attention. It comes and goes with the varying force of the wind. Music.

Why would this be? Have the butterflies and birds suddenly learned how to play woodwinds and sing? No; instead, you’ve stumbled into Dordt’s 2nd annual “Arts in the Prairie” event, scheduled to be held on Saturday, Oct. 1.

The event began last year after a discussion between environmental studies professor Robert De Haan and Assistant Professor of Music John MacInnis. The two suggested hosting an event that combined the natural music of the Prairie with instrumental and choral music.

“I said, ‘Rob, you’re crazy,’” MacInnis says.

But they tried it anyway - and succeeded. Both students and community members came together and enjoyed the event last year. MacInnis also recounts that he received many positive comments from last year’s attendees.

“There’s a great love for our Prairie,” MacInnis says. “It’s a wonderfully special thing for our college to have. People enjoy anything that can promote the Prairie and bring people to it.”

The planning for this year’s event was an involved process, bringing together the Sioux Center Arts Council and Bethany Wallace, as well as Dordt’s visual arts, theatre and public relations teams. MacInnis also shared that

sophomore workstudy Ellie Koerner was instrumental in the organization process.

MacInnis is hopeful that this event will soon become a tradition.

This year, students, faculty, and community members alike can enjoy musicians, a poetry reading, a Prairie scavenger hunt, face painting and more. Refreshments will be provided. The event kicks off at 3 P.M. behind the BJ Haan Auditorium this Saturday, Oct. 1.

Contributed photo



Much to do about *Much Ado*

Luke Venhuizen – Staff Writer

An audience walks into a theater with the expectation of being entertained for a couple hours. However, those couple of hours are not orchestrated overnight. They are instead a result of almost half-a-years’ worth of designing, creating, and rehearsing.

Preparations for Dordt’s fall mainstage production Much Ado About Nothing, opening Oct. 13 at the TePaske Theater, started last April. The show was not announced until after design roles were distributed and sign-ups for auditions were posted towards the end of April.

Josiah Wallace, director of Dordt’s Much Ado, said, “I actually had people audition last spring to cast the major roles in the play, and that made it possible for those individuals to get a leg up on their lines because they have a lot.”

Wallace cast the main roles later in the summer and then held a second round of auditions for the rest of the cast during the first week of school.

Design meetings began this summer. At the end of May, around 15 students and faculty, hailing from three different countries and four different time zones, came together via Internet to start the collaborating process regarding the show. Scattered across the world, the design team successfully offered critiques and feedback with only a few minor technical setbacks.

Jennifer Allen, scenic designer and charge artist for Much Ado, said, “It didn’t really

affect me that much because the website we used was fairly effective. The only thing that was inconvenient about it was not being in the space together because you can catch onto what people actually think faster.”

When school started in August, the group finally came together in one place and presented their work to each other. Rehearsals began the second week of school with a read-through, then blocking, character analysis, and more. One person can spend well over 200-300 hours on the show before opening night begins. The group now meets every Monday at 11am to update all contributing members on their progress.

Some, like Josiah Wallace, are finished with the show when Tech week starts, most are finished when the set is officially “striked” and others aren’t finished until mid-January.

Stephanie Korthuis, stage manager for Much Ado, said “I am planning on taking my work to the American College Theatre Festival to enter it for potential awards and to receive professional feedback.”

A final production is not pulled together in one night, but instead over many late nights, many early mornings and many long days. In order to fully appreciate the experience, audience members should be aware that every minute on stage is the culmination of hours of creative work off-stage.

Me Before You: beautiful people and euthanasia

Ellen Dengah – Staff Writer

Me Before You is a controversial 2016 British movie based on a novel with the same title by Jojo Moyes. The controversy is caused by how this story handles death and physical disability. Most people - myself included - are bothered by the fact that (spoiler alert) the main disabled character dies so that his love interest can “live boldly”—so says the promotional catch of the movie.

To be honest, most parts of the story are easy to enjoy— up until the sickly artificial moment when Lou (Emilia Clarke) cries over the fact that she can’t change Will’s (Sam Claflin) mind about his desire to attempt assisted suicide.

The supposedly heartbreaking scene by the beach is sickening because Lou does not address the real problem that this guy has. Will has a hard time accepting himself and does not want to live despite the joy of living that Lou is trying to show him, but everybody in this movie has overlooked that problem.

We don’t know what exactly pushed him to kill himself. Even when he opens up to Lou, we are not provided with a candid moment on why is he so insistent on killing himself.

Will’s decision is never talked about – at least, it’s not discussed further than his grief over his previous life and his unwillingness to be a burden for other people. Me Before You ends with Lou reading a letter from Will saying that he has to die so that Lou can live freely, amplifying the message that Will is a burden.

For a movie whose character’s decision to end his life drives the plot forward, how false is it that to conclude his death—to put meaning or closure into Will’s death—the audience has to watch Lou be free because Will is dead?

I’m not saying that Lou shouldn’t move forward. However, for a movie that sets the audience up with the hint that Lou prefers Will instead of her physically superior boyfriend, how can the significance of Will’s death only amount to checks that Will wills to Lou in order to provide her financial freedom and opportunities to find another guy like the ex that she sacrificed for the living Will?

She wasn’t happy with her ex, even though he was physically healthy; thus, Will’s argument that he can’t be “the one” for her because of his physicality does not make sense when it is said right after Lou left her boyfriend to be with him.

Maybe the writer wants to make a point that Lou cannot or should not change Will’s mind about committing suicide. But if the writer is saying that “romance cannot save a life,” then Will’s argument to defend his decision about ending his life has to be stronger than just, “I can’t make you happy, Lou.” If a romantic affair with Lou cannot save Will’s life, then this affair should not even be discussed when Will is trying to justify his decision to end his life.

The story is confused about what to tell us regarding the importance of romance and what actually drives one’s life. As a result, the audience cannot see why is Will so set in stone about his decision to end his life. In this film, the plot’s causality is nowhere to be found, and the characters’ motivation is swallowed up by cheap, shallow romance.

Putting that aside, what enraged me the most is how nobody in the movie ever tries to convince Will that his life is valuable in spite of what he can or cannot do. Lou sets up trips to concerts and resorts so he can find joy, when what he actually wants is a normal human experience (like going to a concert with a woman wearing a red dress) and a real connection with her.

His mom is never seen by his side during his darkest times in the movie. Instead, in response to her son’s decision to end his life, she hires a pretty caretaker for him. This doesn’t mean that she does not care about him, but it is an excruciatingly shallow and uninvolved choice.

Despite Will’s selfishness and his rejection of other people’s attempt to love him, you’ve got to be kidding me when you say that a solution to his suicide attempt is travel and pretty girls.

Yes, travelling is fun and enjoyable for Will, but that’s not what gives meaning to his life, is it? I don’t think that’s what gives meaning to his glorious past, either. But still, I don’t know what that past is, because the movie doesn’t care to explain it.

Watching Me Before You is like eating delicious bunny tracks ice cream in a cone that is made of poo. Their romance, actor chemistry, intentional directing and cute, meaningful costumes are the bunny tracks ice cream that is unfortunately founded on a crappy philosophy.

It’s not that the story itself is gag-worthy; it’s the story’s shallow approach to what a life worth living looks like that makes it unbearable and ultimately offensive for a physically-disabled audience.

◆ The Back Page ◆

Q&A with featured athlete Jill Schouten

Clarissa Kraayenbrink – Staff Writer

Jill Schouten is a senior communications major from Sioux Center, IA. Schouten wears number “7” on the Dordt women’s volleyball team and plays libero/defensive specialist. After setting for two years and playing backrow last year, 2016 is her first year of playing libero.

Q: Why did you choose to attend Dordt?
JS: I chose Dordt because I’ve grown up around it – my dad works for Dordt – so I just grew up loving Dordt and knew I would always go here.
Q: How and when did you start playing volleyball?
JS: I started playing volleyball because my older sisters played. I can’t really remember exactly when I started because I grew up just playing with them all the time. But I started playing organized volleyball in middle school.
Q: What is your leadership role on the team?
JS: As seniors, we just try to set a good example by working hard and getting after it in drills and just being encouraging to the younger girls as well.
Q: If you could give advice to freshmen, what would it be?
JS: This is pretty cliché, but enjoy it. It goes by so fast. It seems like just yesterday I was a freshman beginning volleyball. But really just enjoy it, take it all in and make the most of it. Have fun with it.

Q: So why did you switch and how is that transition going?
JS: I switched to being a back-row player because I set for two years on JV. There was just more of an opportunity for me to be a defensive specialist on varsity and Coach [Hanson] said he’d be willing to work with me on those defensive skills. I thought I’d give it a shot. So I worked really hard over the summers and just tried to learn the new skill and it’s been fun.
Q: What do you like about the Dordt community?
JS: I like that the campus is a smaller campus, just because you have a lot of opportunity to get to know people well and you recognize most people that you see. It’s not weird to say hi to people on your way to class because you know or recognize most of them. Just the opportunity to have a Christian education too is really a blessing and to have this Christian community for support and encouragement is a real privilege.
Q: What do you want to do with your major when you graduate?
JS: When I graduate, I hope to just apply for some jobs in a variety of places. But eventually I would hope to go to grad school, maybe take classes online and get my Master’s while I’m working. And then possibly teach at a college level or coach at a college level.

Dordt Blades hit the ice

Aaron Ladzinski – Staff Writer

A fresh sheet of ice has been put into the All Seasons Center. The ice is thick and ready to be skated on, which means there is only one thing left to come: a brand new Blades season. This season could be one to remember for a long time. After last year’s performance of 10-15-1, the Blades are set to return to the ice next weekend in Kansas City to take on Kansas University.
“I’m really looking forward to the upcoming season,” Dylan Bartels said. “We lost some awesome guys from last year, but it should be a good time. With our first brace of the games this weekend, it will be a good indicator of how the rest of the season will look. All we have to do is put more pucks in the net than the other guys, give 115% and make sure our skates are sharpened.”
As Bartels stated, the team did lose some seniors last year, and one of the biggest was All-Star

Kevin Grootenboer. The senior student led the team in points and goals last year. Although the Blades may have lost Grootenboer, seven seniors did return this year. They also have four of the five top points leaders returning as well.
The team has been practicing since the first week of September, beginning with some general preseason workouts. They have now been on ice for the past two weeks, with this week signaling the start of the third.
“Despite only being a couple of week in, I believe we have committed guys this year who are willing to work hard and have fun,” said Lucas Koomans, senior and assistant captain.
The Blades will have their first few home games over Defender Day weekend against Northern Illinois. The team will also challenge their alumni over the same weekend. Be on the lookout for new and exciting developments!

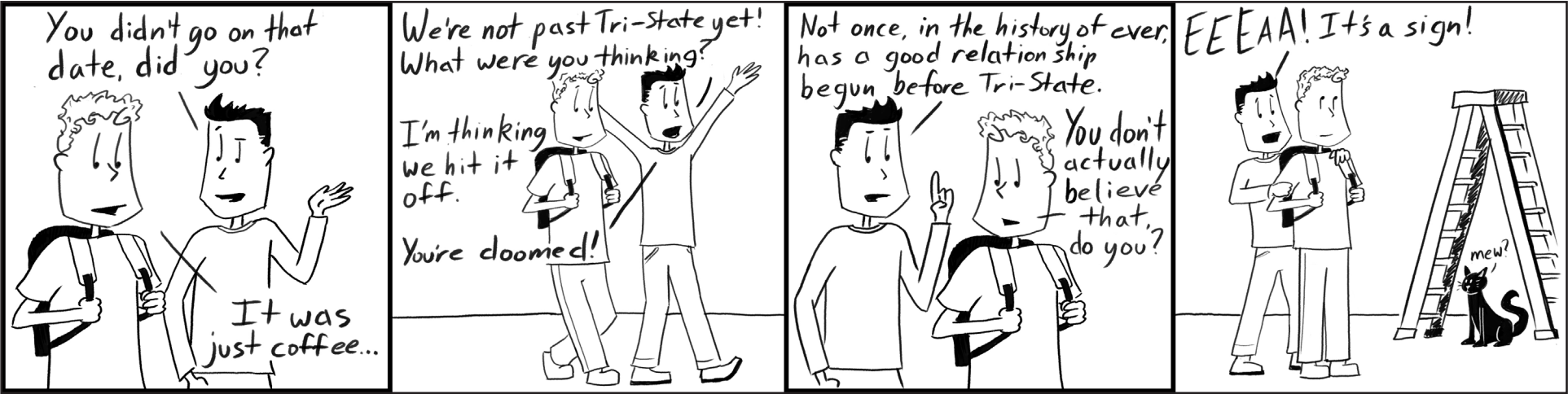
Intramural season is upon us

Clarissa Kraayenbrink – Staff Writer

Classes are in full swing for the year and so are everyone’s favorite extracurricular activities: intramural sports. Sand volleyball, soccer and softball are the sports currently in-season for this fall.
“Intramurals are a great way to get away from your studies for 30-45 minutes and just enjoy physical activity and competition with your friends,” said Glen Thompson, Intramural Softball Captain and student in charge of all scheduling for intramurals.
Intramurals have many physical and social benefits of participation. It is a good way for the average college student to stay active without having to devote the time and commitment that an intercollegiate sport requires. You also get to meet new people and solidify the friendships you may already have.
“I love sports,” said intramural soccer and

softball participant Christian Manes. “What I like about playing intramurals is that I get to play a variety of sports, some that I’m very familiar with and some that I maybe only have played a few times. It’s not always about winning, but just being a part of the team, league and community. Intramurals are a good way to keep me fairly active and can help grow relationships with friends and other students on campus.”
“I love the competition,” said intramural sand volleyball player Felix Alcover. “The thrill of being in a tight match, working together with your teammates, giving it all you’ve got together in order to achieve that common goal. I love to see everybody having fun, trying their best and smiling together, not just as teammates but as friends.”
Be on the lookout for emails regarding the late fall season that brings a new set of sports. Women’s volleyball and co-ed volleyball are a couple of the next sports to be played. Signups will begin the week after Heartland break.

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