

# THE ZIRCON

## NO HATE NOVEMBER

Breath Hower – Staff Writer

The month of November is commonly noted to be a month of celebration for men—specifically, as they attempt to grow facial hair to prove their manliness. But this year, a different reaction has arisen among the populace.

It turns out that almost one-third of men cannot grow facial hair. Many others can only grow small amounts—just enough to make people think they are creepy or gross-looking. Men around Dordt’s campus are growing angry rather than hairy this November as a new movement has arisen in protest of the social norm.

By direct order of the president Erik Hoekstra, student services has deemed the “No-shave November” tagline a discriminatory social construct that needs to be abolished. Protestors among the student body have called for change and their voices have been heard.

But no change comes without costs. The ban of “No-Shave November” has men like Levi Knight extremely angry.

“I’ve been growing my beard for a long time and it keeps me warm,” says Knight, “and now I am being told I need to shave it off because it’s a symbol of oppression? Give me a break!”

Unfortunately for Knight, the change is being enacted all around campus. Student services has affirmed with the Zircon that they will have free and enforced shaving stations around campus to ensure no beard or mustache is left unshaven.

Still, many people on campus are refusing to conform to the new executive order. Even faculty have joined in with a group of resisters. Dr. Ploegstra, a well-known beard endorser on campus, has claimed that men who can grow facial hair should get social recognition, showing they are superior to men who cannot grow beards.

“A beard is a symbol of manliness that definitely is deserving of praise and social recognition,” Ploegstra said. He then performed the exclusive and secretive beard salute that has become a symbol between all men on campus who are holding out against the president’s decree. “Stay strong and hold on to your dignity

and manly power!”

Other men on campus are convinced that “No-Shave November” is, in fact, a very exclusive and oppressive idea towards men who cannot grow facial hair. Rule-abiding senior Josh Perkinson, beard and stache extraordinaire, admits he has seen the light of equality.

“I love my beard and stache, but I will not wield it to oppress others,” Perkinson said. “I think that growing a beard can indeed hurt others feelings, especially men who can’t grow any hairs on their chinny chin chins. Therefore, I’m doing what’s right and shaving every couple days so that I can keep my follically-challenged friends without any hard feelings.”

But for those on campus like junior Adam Heynen, who cannot grow facial hair, the decree is a real victory.

“I’m so sick of men with beards getting privileges I can’t receive during November,” Heynen said. “And on top of that, I’m always the brunt of the crude jokes my bearded classmates make about how I’m really participating in ‘No-Shave November’ but no one knows! It’s criminal—that’s what it is, and oppressive. Men who can’t grow beards are no less manly than those who can! And that’s a fact.”

It is obvious that tensions are high among the

male community on Dordt’s campus; however, women are also being affected by the ban on “No-Shave November.”

One woman said she resented all the men who rallied to enact this change.

“I can’t go the whole winter without shaving my legs, even though they’re going to be covered by my jeans anyway?” she said. “How ridiculous is that? I mean, what difference does it make that I don’t shave?”

Other women on campus, including faculty, are joining the resistance movement.

Some campus women are angry because their boyfriends or husbands look much better with beards, and now they are being forced to shave them off. One woman even stated that she would leave her fiancé if he shaved his beard and stache combo.

Another woman argued that she was very thankful for the executive decree, as she hates nothing more than kissing a furry lip.

The Zircon will continue to investigate the matter and be a mediator between the two hostile groups concerned with “No-Shave November.” But remember, folks, it should always be “No-Hate November,” whether it is “No-Shave November” or not.

## Freemason conspiracy at Dordt

William Morgan – Staff Writer

When seniors John Jacobi and Jonathan Janssen arrived at Dordt College in the fall of their junior year, the last thing they expected was getting caught up in a conspiracy theory. But merely a week later, they, just like many others before them, were browsing the far reaches of the internet and building their own tinfoil hats.

Stemming from an excited conversation between two roommates, Jacobi’s investigations began when senior Juan Benitez told him about the influence of Freemasonry in Paraguay, Benitez’s home country.

“He said that they are really shady over there and everyone knows it,” Jacobi said. “Like, firefighters went to a Masonic Lodge to put out a fire and there was a skeleton on an altar in the front. But then, he told me about the Masonic stuff at Dordt.”

The “stuff” of which Benitez spoke were the  
*Continued on page 2*

*The “Eye of Providence,” a notable symbol in the Masonic society makes its mark on The Gift*  
Photo credit: William Morgan



*No-Shave November: Nothing but skinny skin skin on their chinny chin chins: Dordt men forced to shed their winter coats. Photo credit: Kyle Fosse*

## #1 in ambiguity: Student confusion may invalidate survey results

B. Autriss – Staff Writer

Every student and faculty member at Dordt has recently become used to having the words “Number One in Engagement” thrown at them at every opportunity. President Erik Hoekstra is understandably excited about the good press that the Wall Street Journal results have brought about. But perhaps he and the rest of the administration shouldn’t be so quick to spread the results of the survey around.

After talking with those who filled out the survey, it seems an ambiguity in the word “engagement” caused confusion in students and inaccurate results in the Wall Street Journal’s research.

In typical Dordt fashion, students defined “engagement” as betrothal, instead of the level of interaction and interest in a classroom setting. “I’m actually really embarrassed about it,” junior Social Work major Christine Van Derstra said. “I’m just hoping I was the only one that was confused. I mean, just one person can’t mess up [The WSJ’s] statistics that much,

right?”

But Van Derstra was not an isolated case.

“I mean, when you see ‘engagement,’ what’s the first thing you think of?” said senior Engineering major Phillip Maynard. “I guess I just didn’t think twice when I answered the questions.”

Unfortunately, Van Derstra and Maynard were among a multitude of mistaken students. While it is hard to calculate an exact number of students who misinterpreted the survey, we have yet to come across a Dordt student who interpreted the survey correctly—and we have interviewed more than 379.5 students from varying majors and years.

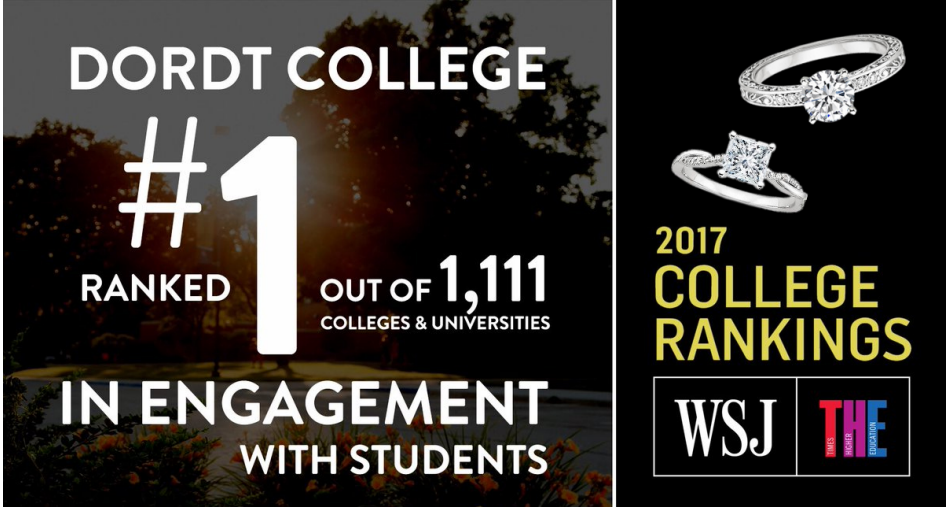
“My roommate got engaged the week before they sent out the survey, and I kept seeing proposal pictures from people on Facebook,” said senior Business major Alex Smith. “When they asked about engagement, it was a no-brainer. A literal no-brainer, I guess.”

“I don’t think the confusion is as widespread as you assume it is,” Hoekstra responded when confronted with the reality of student confusion.

“And I don’t think those students would have responded differently even if they had read the questions right.”

“I would have responded completely

differently if I had read the questions right,” Smith said. “I hope I didn’t skew their results or anything.”



*Engagement: ‘Ring before spring’ mentality ruins engagement survey. Photo credit: Kyle Fosse*



## Perilous Sundial to be moved inside academic building

Leighton VanderMooi - Staff Writer

After being relocated earlier this year, the Sundial is on the move once more. For the entire semester, Dordt Maintenance fielded complaints from commuters and faculty regarding the Sundial’s hazardous and distracting qualities.

Pamela Smith, head curator of Dordt’s Campus Community Arts Initiative, facilitated the sundial’s first move after multiple student bystanders were injured by campus golf accidents. The Sundial had been a popular spot for the golfers, but the balls that ricocheted off the dial posed as a safety hazard.

“Students were coming into Campus Health with bruises, welts and occasionally a broken nose,” Smith said. “It came to our attention that we needed to remove this threatening presence before someone died.”

In response to the complaints, maintenance relocated the Sundial to a spot behind the science building, hoping to discourage campus golfers. However, there were still consequences.

George Townson, a junior commuter, said the Sundial distracts him as he attempts to tell the time every time he drives by.

“[The Sundial] is in a bush, so when I drive by I have to stretch my neck extra far to make sure I can read it,” Townson said. “If it’s a cloudy day I don’t know what time it is and I’m late to class.”

One of these days, he said, will be his last, all because of a piece of art.

With growing concern surrounding the placement of the Sundial, Smith said the art department and maintenance decided that the Bosma Lounge in the Ribbens Academic Complex is the best place for the Sundial’s new home.

After announcing the new location, Dordt’s community offered mostly overwhelming support for the new site. The lounge was chosen for its abundance in natural lighting and the skylight in the center of the room.

The Sundial will be placed directly under the skylight so students and faculty will still be able to tell the time using this unique and historic device.

Dr. Janette Solders, professor of Ancient Antiquities and Historical Artifacts, was one of the few members of the Dordt community to protest the Sundial’s initial creation.

“This is an absolute disgrace,” Solders said. “The Sundial is not historically accurate, nor are the students intelligent enough to know how to use it.”

Criticism aside, the Sundial is set to be unveiled in its new location on Sunday, Nov. 31, 2016.

The Sundial now calls the Bosma Lounge its new home. Photo credit: Kyle Fosse



## Professors come to grips with increased minimum class size

Basil the Bat Lord - Staff Writer

How many students does it take to screw in a lightbulb? For Electrical Engineering professor Douglas De Boer, the answer depends on how many students enroll in Fundamentals of Household Electronics. If the class fails to enroll the new minimum number of students recently approved by administration, it will be cut from next semester’s course list.

Starting in spring 2017, all Dordt courses will be required to have at minimum one student enrolled in order to be considered a legitimate class.

According to provost Eric Forseth, the decided number of one student represents a shaky compromise between the majority of faculty and the administrative leadership.

“The professors were pushing for a one-fourths of a person minimum class size,” Forseth said. “But through many conversations and much prayer, they graciously consented to raise the class size to one student.”

President Erik Hoekstra declined to comment on the firestorm that resulted from the increased class size.

The balance between accommodating the enrollment of as many fractions of students as possible and ensuring good stewardship of both classroom space and a professor’s salary is always a touchy business.

“I wouldn’t say I am angry, but yes, I am angry,” Education professor Dave Mulder said. “Forcing a professor to cancel a class that sparks interest in less than a single full person should not have to happen.”

Mulder’s frustration is shared by many faculty, but his viewpoint is softening over time.

Though the initial pushback to the new minimum class size was fierce, most professors have resigned themselves to the reality of larger

classes at Dordt and some have even gotten creative with ways to engage a whole person for a 50-minute lecture.

Theology professor Ben Lappenga is planning to relocate his office to the Fruited Plain and have class over coffee.

Environmental Studies professor Rob De Haan is already anticipating the spring semester and the opportunity to take his one student out on excursions into nature.

“I pulled the old tandem bicycle out of my garage and oiled up the chain last night,” De Haan said.

Students can be difficult to get to know in the class setting, and some professors find it easier to invite them to special events.

“If engaging one-on-one is too daunting,” said Math professor Valorie Zonnefeld, “do what I do: invite your husband along. Ryan and I spent our last anniversary dinner chatting with a Math Education major.”

Professors who teach classes that historically have averaged equal to or more than one student enrolled – such as upper level history, literature and theatre classes – are not worried about the confirmed change.

“I have experience teaching classes with at least one person, so it’s not such a shock,” History professor Walker Cosgrove said. “You just have to learn how to get to know a single student.”

Cosgrove encouraged professors who really try to get to know their student by name to rely on some tried-and-true methods for keeping a person straight.

“A seating chart can go a long way,” Cosgrove said.

Whether or not this minimum class size affects the culture on campus and Dordt’s reputation for a low teacher-to-student ratio remains to be seen.

## The True Presidential Email Scandal

Berna Sanderas - Staff Writer

In shocking new developments, the president is under investigation due to an email scandal. That’s not the President of the United States, mind you, but the President of Dordt College. President Hookstra is under attack and being investigated by the FBI all because a certain private email account popped up on the dark web. The FBI will not share its findings until the investigation is complete, a process that may take months, even years.

What could the President have been doing? Talk among the faculty offices reveals suspicion that the president was giving out students’ personal information, such as Social Security numbers and banking information.

For a still unknown reason, this man whom everyone trusted for many years is being asked to step down from his current office.

It may be argued that there is no reason for the college president to have a private email account at all, especially if the person in that

position is abusing its powers beyond emailing friends and family members.

Commenting on the accusations, the president said, “I am not doing anything illegal and I do not understand why the FBI has to be concerned with my private email. At this time, I will not be resigning because of the investigation. I hope to spend the rest of my years at Dordt College before I retire to a small house on a lake in Florida.”

Not everyone believes the president is as innocent as he appears. One staff member, who withdrew his or her name from the record, said, “Word has it that he has been doing this for years. It is truly horrible to see such a thing to happen to a great college.

The investigation will continue and new items will appear throughout the next coming weeks. In the worst case scenario, the president will spend three months in jail, according to FBI authorities.

## Freemason conspiracy at Dordt (cont.)

Continued from page 1

stained-glass windows on either side of the BJ Haan Auditorium. On the west side is a stream of white letters that read “In thy light shall we see light” (taken from Psalm 36.9 KJV) with a white symbol next to them. On the east side is a single Latin word – “PHOS” or “light” – encased in a black, double-pointed oval reminiscent of the shape of an eye.

Jacobi, after some investigations of his own, told Janssen about his findings.

“I didn’t really take any of it seriously until the thing happened with José,” Janssen said. “That was when I started to wonder if something was actually going on.”

The took took junior José Benitez – also from Paraguay – on a tour of campus, at which time they pointed out the white symbol on the west side of the BJH and asked him what it looked like.

“Masones...?” said José, clearly alarmed. “What is going on? Why is that on there?”

What José spotted was the symbol of the Freemasons, a secret fraternity of stone masons dating back to the late 14th century which has been the subject of endless scrutiny and criticism by concerned parties worldwide since the 18th century. One such party of interest to the Dordt community is the Christian Reformed Church (CRC), which split from the Reformed Church in America (RCA) in 1857, citing the RCA’s allowance of its members to join the secretive Masonic society as a major reason for dispute and eventual separation.

The idea grows more disturbing when one realizes that “In thy light shall we see light” is a phrase that is specific to one relevant event: the initiation of a new member into the Masonic brotherhood. Here they are said to receive the “light” (read: “phos”) that is offered to all members of the Freemasons.

These symbols are instantly recognizable in Paraguay, which led senior Paola Alonso to sleep with a knife underneath her pillow when she became aware of the BJH windows, according to Juan.

Continuing the search out from the BJH, Jacobi and Janssen arrived at The Gift sculpture on campus. Underneath the figure’s foot is a blue slate with several conspicuous symbols engraved on its face, including an eye with rays of light shining down from it and an hourglass with an angel wing and a devil wing on either side – intriguingly, many of these signs have direct ties to Masonic symbolism.

On the other side of the figure are four pillars, one standing and a bit weathered, and the other three trailing away, increasingly beaten down as they go. Underneath the figure is a pillar

that is still being formed. Incidentally, within Masonic symbolism, a broken pillar stands for a fallen leader. Three broken columns. Three past presidents of Dordt. One standing pillar. One current president. One future column. One future president? The math seems to add up.

And, of course, with a simple widening of vision, one will notice that The Gift is in the shape of a triangle within a brick inlay. Setting aside the obvious allusion to masonry brought about by the use of brick (a suspiciously ubiquitous material on Dordt’s campus), the triangle is also chopped off at the top, making it resemble the pyramid on the back of the U.S. Dollar Bill – a symbol often tied to Freemasonry and other secret societies.

Jacobi’s and Janssen’s search eventually led them to the local Fruited Plain Café where their barista, Dordt junior Jennifer Allen, heard of their findings and alerted super-senior Chris Geels – who ran home and returned with a box full of Masonic sashes. According to Geels, around 30 masonic robes and sashes were found when the costume shop had cleaned out its stock in the previous spring.

And the Dordt Theater Department confirmed that they never, nor would they ever, have performed anything requiring that great an amount of identical costumes.

“My entire body had chills running through it,” Janssen said. Jacobi said it was “super freaky.”

Where does this investigation lead? Dead ends and laughs at each turn. And yet, the sashes sit, testaments to the truth of Masonic influence at Dordt. Attempts to trace the sashes tied them back to a Lodge manufacturer that provides for a Masonic chapter based in Modesto, CA – the same location of many Dordt benefactors, including Henry and Henry Van Klaveren, who sponsored a \$1 million “campus beautification” program in 2011 primarily consisting of the new clock tower.

And who taught them to be so generous with their funds? As an archived Voice edition on their program proclaims, “That education began under the leadership of former Vice President for College Advancement Lyle Gritters and Development Representative Harold De Wit in the mid 1970s. Gritters and De Wit were raising money for Dordt’s first major fund raising campaign—to fund the chapel, today’s B.J. Haan Auditorium.”

Still wondering why you should care about Masonic influence creeping into Dordt College, that school that you call your own? Do a quick Google search on my name. Open your eyes. Stay paranoid, my friends.



# New phone, new form of protection

*Rain Mudsplash - Staff Writer*

Have you ever been angry at a friend and thrown your phone across the room? Ever felt trapped by your social media apps and wanted to get rid of your phone in a fit of fury? Or wanted a legal hand grenade?

The Samsung phone Note 8, which will be replacing its predecessor the faulty Note 7, focuses on protection and relevance through the new additional feature of “mini-bomb.”

“We want to give our customers the opportunity to explore new horizons, to be productive and to have more uses for a phone than just being a phone,” said Samsung’s CEO Fixda Fone.

The bomb deploys after users mistype the four-number code or when they press “timer” on the clock application. In both scenarios, a wave of fire surges ten feet from the device.

Many customers have praised Samsung for their new products, posting online videos on the usefulness of the “mini-bomb.”Critics and governments officials around the globe have praised the invention as “super safe” and “super useful” and “biggest literal blockbuster of the year.” Officials have attributed the reduction in violence to the invention.

Governor Pet Instone said that gun violence

has dropped by 60% as potential victims, instead of disturbing the 911 officer-on-call (which can take anywhere from minutes to hours), have begun to just toss them at the perpetrator, making sure that they no longer commit crimes.

Angela De Pain was walking on the street of Chicago one blissful night when she was disrupted by two men with guns. She recalls them forcing her to hand over her bag. As they were scavenging through her things, they picked up her phone. Their finger print did not register, and the phone violently responded to the denial with a fizzing sound and a burst of bright light, after which De Pain woke ten feet from the scene with a broken arm but was otherwise completely unharmed.

“I feel more secure with the phone around,” she said with fondness. “I grew up on a farm far from civilization, and each time I visit big cities like New York or Chicago, I feel safe now.”

Sioux Center resident Ben Drool told the Zircon about how one cold night, he was locked out of his house. He was frozen and could not move. Then, he remembered his phone, which allowed him to blow open the front door of his house.

“I’m gonna get more of these,” Drool said. “It’s the most valuable phone of 2016.”

# Quidditch at Dordt College

*Whilhelmina Krum - Staff Writer*

“I am delighted by this, I really am,” J.K. Rowling said in response to a reporter who asked her how she felt about Dordt College’s adoption of the sport that she personally created.

That’s right, ladies and gentlemen, Quidditch is coming to Dordt College.

J.K. Rowling initially created the sport to be played at Hogwarts, a school of magic buried deep in the English countryside. The sport surpassed cultural boundaries, however, when it gained popularity with American youth and young adults after professional Quidditch player Harry Potter became famous in 1997. The game gained even more acclaim when documentaries about Harry Potter first became popular in 2001.

“Who would have thought that my little idea could have spread to the outskirts of civilization, to the northwest corner of Iowa, of all places. When I designed it [Quidditch] I never could have foreseen this,” said Rowling when questioned on the scope of Quidditch’s reach.

Dordt students are thrilled about the new sport. Although team members have not yet been selected, fierce competition is in the air as try-outs loom in the future. From freshmen to seniors to commuters, all men and women of all ages will compete for a spot on the team.

While many of the students are enthusiastic about the athletic addition, others are not so exultant.

“It’s baffling. I can’t believe that people are so interested in this idea,” said one disgruntled local Reformed church leader who wishes to remain anonymous.

“It’s witchcraft, it’s evil, and Dordt might as

well throw out all their Reformed textbooks since they’ve practically tossed out all their convictions by allowing such an immoral sport to infiltrate campus. The athletes play on brooms, for Pete’s sake!”

Leading up to the crucial vote on whether or not to bring the sport to Dordt, there was serious debate about Dordt College’s ability to take on another sport. Those in opposition argued that college students aren’t ready to decide for themselves whether their personal convictions would allow them to play or even watch this controversial sport. After all, in terms of the recent election, college campuses across the nation are finding themselves protecting students because apparently young adults are physically incapable of handling objections or bad news.

“Clearly students must be pamper – I mean, protected! We wouldn’t want someone to have their ideas or opinions challenged. College is a time to have fun, not a time for growth and conviction. I’m afraid the addition of this sport just presents too much of a serious question for students to answer on their own,” said a concerned Dordt faculty member.

“My mom didn’t let me read the books or speak about you-know-who [Harry Potter and his friends], so of course I’m not going to try out for the team!” said a Dordt freshman who was homeschooled until this fall.

“Besides,” she adds, “it would be immodest to ride astride a broom with my jean skirt, and I’m not allowed to wear anything else.”

Despite the few protesting voices, though, the majority won out, and Quidditch will be offered as an official sport at Dordt College next fall.

Three new Dordt transfer students take to the skies in an aggressive game of Quidditch. Photo credit: Kyle Fosse.



# Surprise spending exasperates students

*Akra Nym - Staff Writer*

Last week Thursday, the Engineering Department professors sent out an email requiring specific erasers for class. Many students are dissatisfied with this demand, only the latest of several incidents in a chain of strange requests.

The email called specifically for “large Paper Mate Pearl Pink erasers” which students consider unnecessary.

“I’ve been using the same old purple pencil-topper eraser for twelve whole weeks, and it’s been working just fine,” said freshman Amy DeLynn.

DeLynn remembers seeing the email for the first time, peering closely at the screen in disbelief, and then slamming the lid of her laptop closed in disgust. But she isn’t the only one who was miffed by such requests. Several others spent their Friday afternoon on the steps of Jacob’s Ladder with large cardboard signs in protest, but so far with no results.

“I don’t even like pink,” said DeLynn, sighing in frustration.

Sitting back in his cushioned black swivel chair, Professor VanDeer related his reasoning for sending out the email.

“I want the absolute best performance from students,” VanDeer said. He has concluded that top test results are achieved when only optimum tools are used. According to the internet, he claims, the rubber elastomer compound with which the erasers are made create negative space with the exact precision that he finds the assignments require. In further research, VanDeer found that this particular pink parallelogram was designed to suit “everyone

from students to serious artists.”

The week before, Engineering professors sent out students in search of a simple mathematical calculator that was not capable of graphing functions. VanDeer especially argues that he wants to challenge his class, and being forced to use a basic hand-held calculator deters them from taking the easy route.

“What’s the big deal?” engineer Jake Wade asked. “First the calculators, now erasers!” said Wade, “I didn’t come to college expecting to invest this much cash into my classes. Don’t they know college students have low budgets?”

So far, Wade hasn’t experienced any problems with using a graphing calculator for his assignments, and he’s not happy with professor expectations for new tools. Wade expressed concern over this progression, even warning other students about taking that course next semester.

“Next thing you know, they’ll make us show up to class with brand-name staplers,” said Wade.

In true thrifty fashion, Wade and a handful of other students pooled their funds and scoured Amazon for the best deals. They soon agreed that the three-pack calculator was a serious save.

The Education department has been suffering as well. Next week the education classes won’t be using the traditional number two pencil – they’ll be filling in the bubbles on their quizzes with Crayola crayons. Professor Martin DeVin explained that the Scantron wasn’t accepting anything else but Crayola marks as of late.

“We’ll market the change as ‘There’s a child in all of us’ or something,” DeVin said.

# New department chair looks to recent election candidates for new curriculum

*Liber Tar ’yan - Staff Writer*

After the recent election, Dordt College has decided to hire a new Political Science Department Chair, Gary Partisan, to educate students in Hillump politics. He plans to incorporate these political ideas in all Political Science classes.

Professor Partisan received his undergraduate degree in Political Studies from American University in Washington D.C., with a graduate degree in Scandal and One-Liner Political Persuasion.

“Our students seemed distraught and confused as to how to vote in the recent election,” said Dordt College Political Science professor Jeff Taylor. “But the exemplary politics and intellectual talk shown by each candidate were novel.”

Taylor teaches American National Politics, International Relations and Contemporary Political Thought this semester. Next fall, he plans to adjust those classes to include the perspectives of the previous two party candidates—Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump.

Partisan saw the candidates as good worldwide exposure for America. Their contribution to American politics cannot be forgotten.

Partisan’s graduate degrees emphasized “winning” in debates, using your hands to make your points and appropriately using the word “WRONG” (with emphasis necessary for full effect) to contradict your opponent. He also mentioned the importance of incorporating scandal into politics as a form of distraction and using private emails for the majority of political dialogue between colleagues.

Next year, Taylor plans to teach American National Politics from a defense perspective.

The department is adding additional defense classes entitled Terrorism: Where and How to Suspect It and Build the Wall: Making America Great Again.

The International Relations class hopes to expose students to politics around the world while teaching them about America’s superiority to other countries.

“I’m excited to see what I saw in the election debates, in the political commercials and on my Spotify station playing a key role in my classes,” said Levi Vander Molen, junior Political Science major at Dordt College.

In the spring, Partisan plans to teach a Global Security Issue class focused on keeping immigrants and refugees out of America.

“It may seem unfamiliar” he said, “but it is the trend, and it coincides with the Build the Wall: Making America Great Again class offered in the fall.”

In addition, spring classes, American Constitutional Law and Public Policy, will include topics related to email etiquette and healthcare reform.

“Even though I did not support either of the two main party candidates this year, I feel Professor Partisan will help students understand the trends in Hillump politics,” said Caeden Tinklenberg, Senior Chair of Student Symposium. “Understanding and engaging culture—even politics—is what we do at Dordt.”

The election increased interest in politics and the Poli-Sci department expects student enrollment in the program to grow.

“We are excited about potential student growth,” said Partisan. “Using the modern techniques and practices from our recent two party candidates allows us to remain engaged in the present direction of politics.”



# Merry Christmas and Crappy New Year

Belinda Eeyore - Staff Writer

Imagine yourself, a poor college student, walking through the aisles of Walmart just two days after Halloween, looking for some cheap candy. While looking for Halloween candy, you stop for a minute because you hear what sounds like Christmas music. You think to yourself, “It can’t be Christmas music already. It’s only two days after Halloween.” But sure enough - it is Christmas music. Then, to your surprise, while wandering throughout the store, you find that there’s no leftover discounted candy to be found. At all!

After giving up the solo search, you finally hunt down a Walmart employee to ask for help. To your despair, they tell you they’re already sold out of Halloween candy, but they do have full-price Christmas candy.

So what happened to Thanksgiving? There are more Christmas decorations out there than you can throw a stick at.

Sofia Martinez, a valued Walmart customer, just recently moved to the United States from Mexico and mentioned that she always buys discounted candy for her children, as well as for her nieces and nephews. She also liked to stock up on the discounted costumes for them to use the next year, but they were sold out of those, too.

With Thanksgiving about a week away, all of these crazy truths are even more true. Everything “pumpkin spice” will soon turn into “peppermint spice.” Starbucks has already brought out their red and green cups for Christmas. If you’re having trouble coming up

with ideas of what to get your special someone for Christmas, no worries - you have about two full months to look at all the different options to get them. The preview magazines usually come out before Halloween and then the gifts will be available for the next several months.

But we can’t forget about Black Friday. You have probably already seen ads going around the past couple weeks showing all the good deals you can attempt to get –as long as you don’t get trampled. Thousands of other people are rushing around, too— trying to get the best deals on items that will be just as cheap, if not cheaper, after the holiday season.

Merna Vandenberg, a 58-year-old Walmart employee, said she used to always love Christmastime until she started working at Walmart nearly 3 years ago. Now, instead of being enchanted by Christmas, she almost dreads it. She has to listen to Christmas music for two and a half months, knowing all seven songs by heart thanks to the endless repetition, and she has to listen to parents complain when they’re sold out of “the only toy little Timmy wanted for Christmas.”

Honestly, the simplest solution would be to move the holiday up a month to save us all the prolonged pain. Stores wouldn’t have to worry about decorating early. After all, they already decorated for Christmas on Nov. 1.

Candy cane streamers are everywhere. Next thing you know, we’ll see lawn decorations of Santa Clause and his reindeer and elves in yards long before the first actual snow, even while there are still leaves on the ground. Maybe before there are leaves on the ground.

Have a holly jolly Thanksgiving? Walmart saturates store with premature Christmas cheer.



# Student found unconscious in Covenant Hall

Lucinda Woods - Staff Writer

On Thursday, Nov. 13, sophomore Engineering major Becka Vonke frantically called Student Health Services to report that she had discovered her roommate, sophomore Theater major Anna Swaan, unconscious and wrapped in blankets on the floor of Covenant 399 at 9:05 p.m. CST.

“Anna’s not moving!” Vonke is reported to have said, according to 911 call records. “I came into the dorm and she’s just lying unresponsive in bed! Something’s wrong!”

However, while Vonke was explaining the situation to the emergency respondent and most of the students who happened to be in the hall at the time, Swaan shocked everyone by sitting up.

“Becka, please stop yelling,” Swaan is reported to have said groggily. “I’m trying to sleep.”

Vonke wasted no time expressing concern for her roommate. “Anna! Are you OK?” Vonke purportedly yelled. “You were passed out on the bed!”

“What? I was just sleeping, I was done with

my homework so I went to bed,” Swaan said. “Until you started freaking out.”

Swaan was quickly taken to a doctor and evaluated for comatose symptoms.

“Going to bed at 9?” Vonke says. “You’ve got to be kidding me! This is college! It had to have been serious. I thought she had to be delirious. There was no other explanation.”

“It’s rather rare for this sort of thing to occur on college campuses,” said Director of Campus Health Services Beth Baas. “I certainly can’t remember another case like this.”

Swaan is now doing fine and has returned to classes and college life as normal. She issued a statement via tweet early Saturday morning.

“I don’t see why everyone is freaking out right now. I just went to bed a little earlier than normal,” Swaan said. “Honestly, I used to go to bed at nine every day!”

After five days of recovering from the trauma, Vonke was able to calm down enough to reflect on the experience.

“I’m so relived everything turned out alright,” Vonke said. “I can’t imagine what would have happened if I hadn’t done anything. It’s just not natural to go to bed that early in college!”

# Extreme Dutch bingo: Oh, brother, THERE art thou

Elleley Cammuizinga - Staff Writer

Many of us have found relatives at Dordt we never knew existed, all thanks to Dutch bingo. But all of the Dutch bingo stories shared over stroopwafels and fancy tea are nothing compared to the experience of junior English major Jenna Vanderslaag.

She found a sibling.

“People on campus have been, like, telling us we, like, look alike for almost two years,” Vanderslaag admitted. “I just, like, wow, I can’t believe I, like, found a brother, you know? I’ve wanted a brother for, like, ever. Soli Deo gloria, right?”

Her long-lost sibling turned out to be none other than fellow student and senior English major Ryan Van Derslaag (the space is silent).

“We met in one of those department meeting things that no one ever goes to. Apparently, she’s my long-lost sister or something?” Van Derslaag said. “Not long-lost enough, I guess, ‘cause she found me.”

Years of couch-potato living and a pizza-only diet stunted Van Derslaag’s growth long ago, making him a year older and nearly a foot shorter than Vanderslaag.

“A little brother,” Vanderslaag says. “That’s how it works, right? I don’t, like, know these things. I watched The Parent Trap, like, four times, but there’s no manual for suddenly, like,

finding a sibling. Maybe I’ll, like, totally write one.”

As it turns out, Vanderslaag was accidentally left behind at the hospital and had been taken home by one of the night nurses. The nurse, curiously named Vanderslaag, assumed the child was hers when she noticed the label on the basket.

“I think it’s because they, like, misspelled my name or something,” Vanderslaag said. “The space is really important. Like, crucial.”

It should be noted that children are not normally placed in baskets and labelled at hospitals anymore, strictly to prevent situations like this. Research shows that the exact same thing has happened at hospitals near rival colleges Northwestern, Calvin and Hope, each with a different name but the same tragic story.

“It’s sad to think that, like, this has, like, happened all over the place,” said Vanderslaag. “I mean, it was really fun to figure out I had, like, a little brother, but I wish I had, like, known him longer. Had the chance to, like, do his hair when he was too young to care, and make him watch rom-com movies with me, like, all the time.”

“I’m really glad I didn’t meet her sooner,” said Van Derslaag. “Actually, given the choice, I’d probably have postponed the meeting a couple more years. There’s only so many ‘likes’ I can take. I’m not a Facebook status.”

# Student in search of Commons cutlery chokes on chicken

Mergern DeGerf - Staff Writer

Last week, freshman Dina Eetsfast began the process of suing Dordt College Dining Services after an incident involving a knife and an undercooked chicken.

“I was just eating my half-cooked chicken breast one night,” she reminisced, her face growing darker as she considered the horrors of that fateful evening. “It was a sunny evening, a good time to walk to the Commons to eat dinner with my friends. Unfortunately, everyone else seemed to have the same idea.”

Dina had to stand in a long line for her undercooked chicken and overcooked carrots, and she was then forced to wait for an awkwardly tall guy to move out of the way so she could get some fruit. By the time she and her friends were ready to sit down, the silverware was gone.

“There were just... no forks. None,” Eetsfast said. “It was a disappointing moment for me. I really expected better.”

But after waiting in line for so long, Eetsfast would not give up that easily. She would never let such a small setback ruin her dinner.

“I basically said ‘screw it’ and grabbed a

knife. They’re not gonna give me a fork; fine. I’ll innovate. I’ll work around what I’m given. I’ll think outside the box. I just didn’t expect it to cause so much pain,” she said, with a single tear falling from her left eye.

The knife lacked proper sharpness and the chicken was not cooked enough to cut it into pieces, but Eetsfast again got creative. She stuck the whole chicken breast on her knife and bit off pieces using her large and strangely knife-like teeth.

But out of nowhere, the grease and butter lathered on the white meat caused the chicken to slip off the knife, and she felt her life flash before her eyes as the entire piece of meat slid down her throat, choking her.

“It was so sudden,” she said, weeping.

She added that some good did come from the horrible event. “I’m thankful my boyfriend was right there to give me the Heimlich and save my life. I’m so blessed to have him. We’ve already been dating for two weeks and I think this really sealed the deal.”

Eetsfast hopes to win the case in order to bring to light the issues surrounding student dining and the dangers of cutlery shortage.

# Dordt adds Canadian culture to core program

King Leo - Staff Writer

Dordt faculty and staff are excited to announce a new class within the culture studies program: Canadian 101. Professor Canadeh Tremblay will teach this course that promises to feature “the uniqueness of Canada.” Tremblay will offer helpful hints to mastering many of Canada’s cultural idiosyncrasies, such as the pronunciation of sorry (‘sar-i) to (sore-i) to pull off an authentic accent, in addition to methods of correctly adding “eh” to the ends of sentences and effectively introducing maple syrup to every diet.

Tremblay will teach Americans authentic politeness and the right way to stay out of politics – that is, how to avoid honoring a

human being with the presidency. Many Canadians are ecstatic to have Americans take this class because of the lack of knowledge that Americans have about that wild north yonder.

Canaday Veldhuzien, a Canadian student, says she is excited to see Dordt bringing in some Canadian culture.

“I’m really tired of people asking me all the time, ‘what other words do Canadians say,’” Veldhuzien said. “It will be nice for Americans to take this class to finally learn what real Canadian lingo involves.”

Dordt’s Academic Enrichment Center invites native Canadians to apply for the position of peer tutor in anticipation of the influx of Americans who will have a hard time grasping Canada’s language and culture.



# Dordt faces new threat from legalization of essential oils

Limberbutt McCubbins - Staff Writer

In an election cycle featuring two of the most polarizing presidential candidates in recent history, many were thankful for the merciful ending given on Nov. 8. While Gary Johnson and Jill Stein provided abstract hope to a voting population fixated on Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton, another important voting measure lurked beneath the surface. Unbeknownst to many Iowa voters, the controversial substance known as Essential Oils was on the ballot to be legalized starting in 2017.

Essential Oils is a substance often used in diffusers to alter a person’s mental and/or physical state. Examples of this substance’s effects include relieved stress and tension, drowsiness, and even altered physical appearance. Once these oils are placed into a diffuser, they are vaporized and can impact anyone in the enclosed area.

Unfortunately, any news about this law went unnoticed thanks to the media directing attention towards the presidential race; resulting in the vote passing with little resistance.

What are the implications for Dordt College? Since the college resides in Iowa, the campus students can now openly trade, sell and use essential oils freely – news that is music to the ears of some Dordt residents. For several years, students had been dealing behind closed doors and out in dark parking lots like Siberia. Among the students who rejoiced upon hearing the news was Henry Muers, a well-known dealer in Southview.

“This definitely changes things for my business,” Muers exclaimed, “I’ve been having to smuggle [Essential Oils] across the Canadian border for over two years.”

Muers and others are optimistic that an open market will encourage safer use along with a sense of open mindedness.

Despite the positive feelings arising from the student population, Dordt faculty and staff are wary of the implications of the new law. Derek Buteyn of Residence Life at Dordt College stated, “This isn’t a joking matter, and we don’t want a substance as dangerous as Essential Oils in the hands of our student body.”

Several other members of Dordt’s hierarchy

resonate with these comments, including Robert Taylor III, Dean of Students. “Dordt will take the necessary actions to prevent any real trouble on campus in the next few months. In the meantime, the college is planning on going to court to seek exemption and remain an Essential Oils free campus,” said Taylor. The current plan to seeking exemption is based on the claim that the new law inhibits the religious practices of the institution. “We are aware of the fact that students often attempt to replace the Holy Spirit with the supposed healing qualities of the oils,” explained Taylor, “These oils offer the false promise that a person can bring about calm and peace in their own life; something only God and the Holy Spirit can accomplish.”

Dordt is planning on pulling their top lawyers from the case seeking exemption from Obamacare and the abortion drug to fight the new law.

The total impact of this new law has yet to be seen, but be sure to expect changes to come soon to Dordt and the rest of Iowa. To get more information about Essential Oils and how they can affect your life, go to [youngliving.com](#).

Controversial essential oils in their natural habitat.



# Student lobby for early Thanksgiving Break wins approval

Bertha Bedraggled - Staff Writer

For college students, the enticing allure of an approaching break seems to always correlate with a sharp plunge in motivation, attitude and, for the Huck Finns of campus, class attendance. This year’s Thanksgiving break has proven to be no exception.

The student body has once again come together in protest against holding classes on the last day before break begins — Tuesday, Nov. 22. After an unblemished dry spell of no mercy, the Dordt administration has finally come to their senses and decided to cancel all classes on Tuesday the 22nd.

“It just doesn’t make sense to keep my students caged up in the classroom when they’re all dying to leave, anyway,” said Professor Barb Hookstra. “It’s pointless to teach when only one-third of the class shows up. That’s why I told Eric he was going to be sleeping in North Hall if he didn’t give the kids the day off.”

All across the country (and Canada), moms are setting an extra place at the table with sheer joy that their babies are coming home a day early. Desperate empty-nesters cherish Dordt more than ever now that Dordt is respecting the fact that students miss their moms and want to go home.

Ecstatic with the news of early dismissal,

students across campus are creating a buzz about their plans over break. Word on the street has it that many students are planning to play hooky, skipping out on classes on Monday the 21st to gain a whole extra weekend.

“There’s no way I’m sticking around till Monday night to go home,” said Missouri native Scott Byus. “Giving us Tuesday off was a gift that will just keep on giving. They gave us an inch, so I’m taking a mile.”

Many professors, fearful of exactly this sort of insurrection on campus, object to the early dismissal. They’ve slaved long and hard over their lesson plans for that particular Tuesday and feel that it’s a waste of educational resources for their students to miss out on a day of learning.

“It’s just a tragedy that students are being allowed to leave early,” said Professor Dane Bahema. “I’ve been teaching here at Dordt for 31 years and not once have I seen such manipulation rise up from the masses of the student body. Today’s youth are just plain out of control.”

Regardless of how rebellious or manipulative today’s college kids may be, they’ll no doubt enjoy their extra day – or weekend – to go enjoy quality time with the family members that they’ve missed so much.

# Protestors make headlines post-St. Carle election

Leighton VanderMooi - Staff Writer

After a long and malicious campaign season, the country of St. Carle held its presidential election on Nov. 8, 2016.

A winner was announced later that night: John Doe, the leader of the Open Freedom Party (OFP). His victory came as a shock to the small nation of 5 million people.

The perceived favorite was Open Progressive Party (OPP) leader Jane Smith. She achieved her fame as the first woman running for president in the country’s 550-year history.

Tuesday night, protests erupted all over the island as citizens chanted “Not my president.” The rallies and demonstrations lasted throughout the week as more people turned out in force, hoping to change the government’s mind on their newly elected leader. Other protestors were in mourning, needing emotional support from fellow citizens.

James Jones, Dordt’s new badminton coach and the school’s only connection to the small island nation, said he wasn’t surprised at the outcome of the election, nor at the people’s response.

“St. Carlians are a very passionate and temperamental people,” Jones said. “They don’t like when they are wrong or things don’t go their way. Especially the younger generation.”

But in a shocking turn of events, only a week and a half after the election, the protesters had convinced the government to name Ms. Smith the new-new president of St. Carle.

Supporters of Mr. Doe began protests of their own before having to disband in order to go back to their jobs.

Ms. Smith recently held a press conference addressing the change in events.

“So, it’s been what they call a historic event, but to be really historic, we have to do a great job,” Smith said. “And I promise you that I will not let you down. We will do a great job.”

In other national news, Donald J. Trump was elected President of the United States.

Protestors of St. Carle take to the streets. Photo credit: Kyle Fosse



# Satanic rituals spell trouble for Kuyper residents

Artanis Knarf - Staff Writer

The dog days of summer are finally over and the cooler temperatures are seeing the advent of students walking outside, and with this, the evidence of satanic rituals.

In the bushes behind the BJ Haan, a large amount of incriminating evidence was discovered, revealing multiple Dordt students’ involvement in Satanic rituals. Pentagrams, candles, spell books and dead animals of every sort were found after a student – who wished to remain anonymous – caught sight of a horse leg poking through a hedge.

“I saw the foot and pulled on it. I fell back onto the ground when I realized that it wasn’t attached to anything,” said the traumatized student. “After poking through the bushes and finding a pentagram, I called campus security.”

Robert Taylor, Dean for Campus Life, was horrified at the news of Satanism occurring on campus and ordered a full investigation of the area.

“We take every case that comes before us very seriously,” said Taylor. “It grieves me that students are resorting to this sort of behavior and makes me wonder whether Dordt College is fulfilling its intended purposes.”

Among the evidence, police found an abundance of DNA evidence and the word ‘wi-fi’ frequently spelled out in many of the rituals and spells. Through the DNA and further interrogations, 13 students were found to be involved with the rituals. Dordt authorities refused to release the students’ identities.

“We are still processing what has transgressed here, and we think it would be foolish to give out their identities for the campus newspaper until

we have dealt with this situation accordingly,” said Taylor, remarking that the names of the offenders were surprising. “Some of our best and brightest, most outgoing students were involved in the sacrifices – many of your colleagues and friends. They will be undergoing extensive counseling sessions offered by Pastor Baart and other local ministers.”

After talking with the students, police discovered that they had turned to the rituals after their complaints about low internet bandwidth speeds in the Kuyper apartments appeared to go unnoticed by Dordt College’s faculty and maintenance.

“They said they had tried everything they could think of,” said Chief of Sioux Center Police Paul Adkins. “They talked to various faculty members, complained frequently to professors, submitted maintenance request forms via email – they were out of ideas. Then someone had the idea to appeal to the Prince of Darkness for help.”

According to Kuyper apartment residents, the internet speeds had improved significantly since the time that students professed to have begun their sacrifices.

“Oh yeah, the internet was great,” replied one student who wished to remain anonymous. “Every once in a while the internet browser would open up to weird websites with ‘666’ and ‘Behold the Antichrist,’ but I just thought I had an annoying virus or something.”

The student also brought up the fact that bandwidth speeds had decreased significantly since the perpetrators had been caught.

“Honestly, I think I’d be alright if they started up again,” the student said. “It seems like a small price to pay for good internet.”

The Kuyper Apartments may look innocent on the outside, but underneath, they hide a dark secret.





## Dordt to join B1G conference

Samantha Ponder – Staff Writer

Due to the newfound success of the football program, Athletic Director Glen Bouzma held a press conference this week to announce that Dordt will enter the Big Ten Conference. Bouzma said that he feels all of the sports at Dordt are now up to par with fellow Big Ten schools and Dordt can compete with the best of them.

“I think we can all safely say we saw this coming,” Bouzma said. “It was just a matter of time and a matter of logistics to get all the details ironed out.”

Reactions around campus regarding this change have been mixed. Most of the coaches are excited for this new challenge to present to their athletes. Some welcome the change, saying it has been a long time coming and it’s about time this is happening. One of the college’s newest coaches, football Head Coach Joe Pender, is glad he could help accelerate this process.

“I knew this was something Bouzma wanted to do – it was talked about in my hiring process,” Pender said. “I just didn’t expect it to happen so soon. I’m thrilled we have helped the process along and the decision practically made itself.”

Big Ten Conference Commissioner James Delaney says he is excited to admit Dordt into the conference as the group’s first small, private school, and he hopes that this will open the door to other smaller schools.

“I want to start something of an athletic revolution,” Delaney said. “Maybe if all goes well with Dordt, we can start a Big Ten of small

schools.”

Other coaches around the conference aren’t so sure about this change, especially in the realm of football. Michigan football head coach Jim Harbaugh is uncertain as to what kind of message this will be sending. He doesn’t want people thinking that just because their schools’ teams are improving that they can all join the Big Ten.

“I know my team just got beat by the Hawkeyes, but how far will Commissioner Delaney take this?” Harbaugh questioned. “There are already 14 teams in the Big Ten. We need to put the kibosh on this nonsense.”

Going into effect during the 2017-2018 school year, all of Dordt’s athletic teams will be competing in the Big Ten. Bouzma will also be looking into adding gymnastics, field hockey, rowing, badminton, swimming, tennis, wrestling and women’s lacrosse in the coming years.

Contributed photo



## Cross country team runs to meet; still wins

T. Swizzle - Staff Writer

Long distance runners often say, “Cross country is 100% mental...and we’re all insane.” Last week, the Dordt College cross country team proved the statement with equal amounts of insanity and sheer domination when the team ran 45 miles to their meet in Sioux City and then proceeded to win the competition there.

“We just needed to get in a few more miles to reach our weekly mileage goal,” said senior Ben Brockmueller. “So we figured that running to the meet would be a good way to boost our mileage and get us warmed up for the race.”

Several freshmen on the team, still a little raw from high school, said their legs felt slightly like Jell-O on the 45-mile run. They also complained that they lost too much sleep. In order to make it to the race, which started at 10 a.m., the team had to start running at about 3 a.m.

While the long run may have been a bit of a shock to some athletes’ bodies, head coach Nate Wolf believes that it’s healthy to get those competitive juices flowing with a longer warm-up.

Much of the team agrees that it’s a good way to expend some nervous energy before the race.

“I just can’t get enough of running, so that jog to Sioux City was legit,” said senior Caleb Drake. “I have restless leg syndrome, so I might as well get up at 3 a.m. and do something

productive anyway.”

Team Manager Jennie Droog drove along with the team en route to Sioux City, passing out water bottles to thirsty runners. Every couple of miles, she held up a sign that said “Run Forest Run” and cheered for her boyfriend – a lanky kid who, oddly, resembled a young Tom Hanks. Forest was the first to arrive at the racecourse and proceeded to win the men’s 8K race.

Coach Wolf commented on the progress of the team after both men and women swept the team titles at the Briar Cliff Invite.

“We’re doing better at getting our mileage in and not wasting excess energy,” Wolf said. “This team just wants to go, and I got tired of holding them back. Now that they’ve had a taste of a 45-mile warm-up, it’s going to be hard to keep them satisfied.”

If he’s feeling generous, Wolf claims that he might let the ladies run part of the way to the National Championship meet in southern Illinois.

“I can’t wait to run more,” said junior Erika Douma. “It’s a craving that I just can’t quench.”

Thirsty for more, the Defenders look to turn their wheels a few thousand more miles between now and Nationals.

## Modest is hottest

Xander York – Staff Writer

Dordt College volleyball hosted a press conference on Friday, Nov. 11, to announce new guidelines for uniforms the team will adhere to, including switching spandex shorts for sweatpants.

“The move really was a simple decision,” said Defender volleyball head coach Chad Hansons. “Modest is hottest. It’s really about making everyone feel more comfortable, from the players to the fans.”

Hansons felt strongly about the move, one he’s been trying to accomplish during the past two seasons.

“If our women are concerned about how they look on the floor, they’ll be distracted from the gameplan,” Hansons said. “Plus, now nobody can claim our women are causing men to stray down a sinful path. Sweatpants scream, ‘Keep it in your pants.’ Spandex shorts, not so much.”

All uniform changes will go into effect starting with the 2017-18 academic calendar. The changes will have no effect on this season as Dordt gears up for this year’s national tournament.

The uniform changes appear to have the full support of the Dordt College Athletic Department.

“Look, this motion has been presented at our yearly fall athletics conference in August for two straight years,” said Dordt Athletic Director Glenn Bouman. “We just couldn’t take hearing his same speech anymore, so of course we went along.”

Not everyone is happy with the volleyball uniform changes. Several players voiced their disapproval for the move from spandex shorts to sweatpants.

“I’m not going to lie: I feel hot in those tight, short shorts,” said defensive specialist Audrey Brake. “When you look good and feel good,

you play good. Plus, my boyfriend likes the shorts.”

Other players are against the move for practical reasons.

“As a defensive specialist and libero, I need to be flexible and range in all directions to dig spikes, serves and so on,” said Jill Scholten. “Sweatpants will only prohibit that ease of movement, and I think it’ll put us at a disadvantage.”

Players aren’t the only faction against the volleyball uniform changes. A faction of male students on Dordt’s campus — calling themselves Sports Need Shorts — is planning weekly protests outside the clock tower on Fridays at 11 a.m.

“Whether Dordt realizes it or not, attendance will go down,” said Eric Van Maanen, a Sports Need Shorts member. “The short shorts aren’t the only reason I go, especially if Dordt is good, but they certainly make the whole experience better for the fans.”

As part of the protests, Sports Need Shorts members plan to wear speedos in attempts to demonstrate the allure of revealing the legs, even through the winter.

“We’re a little concerned about wearing speedos outdoors through the winter, but sometimes you have to do something crazy to make a lasting point,” Van Maanen said.

Hansons is confident that, given time, people will come to support this uniform decision.

“I recognize not everyone is happy with the move to sweatpants,” Hansons said. “But if we look at this issue again in four years, I think more Christian colleges will start to lean toward our decision and follow suit. We have the chance to be real trendsetters in our modern society.”

For now, Dordt volleyball will attempt to turn its focus to the NAIA national tournament.

Loose movement may not require tight pants as Dordt volleyball ditches spandex for sweatpants. Photo credit: Dordt College



## Mannequin becomes mannequin-not challenge

Austin Hough, Ace Reporter – Staff Writer

A brand-new, social media challenge has recently emerged. Many remember the ice bucket challenge, the cinnamon challenge, and others - but this one stands out from the rest. Introducing, the mannequin challenge! In this contest, people stand absolutely still, trying not to make a single movement or even breathe – like mannequins – while making a video. A popular hit with many sports teams across the nation, this pastime is not without consequences. Recently, the Dordt Blades decided as a team to take on the challenge, but the results proved disastrous.

As senior Dylan Bartels described the scene, he had difficulty recounting the majority of the story – the tears were almost too much to handle.

“All I remember is everyone was super still, and were doing great! But as soon we were done...that one freshman whose name I can’t remember was on the ground, not breathing at

all, and we couldn’t do anything! We quickly rushed him to the E.R., where they finally got him to start breathing again.”

Students hope and pray for a quick recovery for the anonymous freshman as he is on bed-rest for the remainder of the month.

Professors say that the mannequin challenge should be banned from Dordt’s campus because of how dangerous it has proved to be.

“The college will be going into a detailed investigation of the incident, but for now we recommend that none of the college teams, or actually any students, try the challenge until we receive more information on the subject. If it proceeds to become a life-threatening event, then we need to protect ourselves,” said President Hoekstra in a bold statement shortly after the incident occurred.

These challenges are becoming more dangerous and continuing to harm people. This is just one of multiple examples which, though devastating, will hopefully bring people to their senses.

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# Picking up the pieces after election

Wilhelmina Maxima van Oranje - Staff Writer

We’ve spent the past year being treated to continuous discussions of the best and worst candidates for the office of Commander in Chief of the United States. These discussions have been consistently gracious, enlightening and encouraging. In the days preceding Nov. 8, citizens radiantly expressed confidence in the future of this country.

However, now that Election Day has passed, a pall of epic proportions covers the country. The nation has been deprived of its favourite form of entertainment, and citizens do not know what to do with all the free time they have to contemplate things besides government. No longer are they fed character assessments of politicians in every YouTube ad, pleas for support in television commercials or helpful political brochures in their mailboxes.

“We have to wait three whole years before the next presidential election season begins,” says sophomore Michaela van den Winkle. “I just don’t know what I’m going to do now. Maybe I’ll have to take up a hobby. Like cage fighting. But I just don’t think it’ll be the same.”

Political Science professor Herman Kuyper says, “Although most people would think football or baseball would be America’s favourite sport, they don’t realize is that politics

is actually more popular than both sports combined. It’s our national pastime, and we take great pride in it.”

Many students have expressed similar sentiments. Dordt senior Abraham Bavink says that, like any other sport, election season should be an annual affair.

“We do have elections every year,” corrects Bavink’s roommate Nathan Vander Sluis. “We just need to publicize them more. Like, maybe we should have local candidates leave things in our mailboxes and put ads on YouTube. And there should be stuff on Facebook and the news about local elections, too.”

Bavink also proposed that the presidential election season should begin two years in advance. “It’s a big decision, you know. We need all the prep time we can get. Also, it seems like by the time Election Day comes around, we’ve only just gotten started. There is so much more mud-slinging and muck-raking to do. It seems unjust to cut it short like that.”

Like any sort of withdrawal, the beginning is tough, but it gets easier with time.

“I’ll get used to it soon enough, I guess,” says van den Winkle, “and I like our new President. But I am looking forward to electing the next one. Watching the elections is such good stress relief from normal life.”

# Student joins list of celebrities moving to Canada due to President-Elect Trump

Leighton VanderMooi - Staff Writer

Elle Blondisky, a sophomore Business major, joins the ranks of those threatening to move to the Great White North after the recent election.

Zircon: Let’s get right to the point - how are you dealing with Hillary’s loss?

Elle Blondisky: Not good. I seriously can’t handle this anymore. People are just so mean; they elected a big meanie. They are just super sexist, not voting for a woman. America just hates women, and that’s why I’m leaving.

Z: Yes, you did post on various social media platforms that you’ll be leaving. Are you still planning on following through with that?

EB: Of course! The protests around here aren’t even making that much of a difference. If you really want to make a point and stick it to the man, you have to leave the country altogether. That’s why I am doing this.

Z: So, what’s next? What are your plans once you get there?

EB: Lena Dunham and Miley Cyrus are starting a city of American refugees in Manitoba, near Winnipeg. They promised to offer solace to all Americans who can’t handle a Trump presidency.

Z: Interesting...and what, do you think, drew them to Canada?

EB: [Canadians] have such a stable government. Their leader is a really good politician and you can tell he comes from such a political background, unlike Trump. They also have snow - I like snow - and moose. On another note, they’re also still under the Queen of England so having a queen would be pretty cool.

Z: You seem adamant on going. I guess you haven’t heard that all of the celebrities who promised to leave are now saying they’ll stay. Lena and Miley are backing out of their refugee city plan as well. Thoughts?

EB: Well...looks like I’m staying.

# Engineering degree to include minor in singleness in 2017

Melinda Windstorm - Staff Writer

“Sorry I can’t hang out tonight – I have a date with my homework” is a phrase too-commonly uttered among Dordt’s engineering majors.

So, the department has decided to make a move on the issue. After seeing that student relationships were being affected by the business of engineer’s lives, faculty and staff have come up with a minor in singleness in order to help engineering students cope with the stress that a heavy workload can put on romantic relationships.

“Engineering is one of the most time-consuming majors when it comes to course load,” said Dug De Pit, bi-molecular engineering professor. “With this new minor, engineers will simply be able to hand their transcripts to friends in order to make it known around campus that dating for them will not

be an option, due to the enormous amount of homework given on a daily basis.”

The minor is automatically given to all incoming freshmen as they adjust to the advanced workload and multitude of complex classes.

Dordt super-super-senior Travis Harris uses the minor to help him keep his life organized and bat away unwanted advances.

“The minor was a great way to let girls know that I was too busy to enter a relationship,” Harris said. “Most of my Saturday nights were spent in the Science Building anyways, so I didn’t see the need to question the minor. Actually, I use the minor in my life even today – still single.”

However, some engineers do drop the minor due to the impending senior scramble and prioritizing relationships over a good night’s rest.

# Cry for help drives student to action with new food pantry

Mergen DeGerf - Staff Writer

Paying for food while living in the apartments is tough. Like, super hard. I have been eating Ramen noodles for the past three weeks. Morale is low and the troops are suffering. There are dirty dishes piled high in the sink and I don’t even know what food they’re from, because I haven’t eaten anything in so long. It’s like they’re mocking me, telling me that I could have some real food if only I’d go to Walmart and pay for groceries. That pile of dishes is a memorial of stubbornness that hurts me each time I walk out the door.

Maybe I could go to the Commons and use those five ever-so-helpful meals I get each week, but that sometimes seems even more daunting than preparing my own food. I would have to walk all the way across campus, straining my poor little legs from their normal position on my couch. Once there, I would not only have to eat the food offered there, but I’d likely sit at a table with another person and probably socialize with some freshman or something. I get shivers just thinking about the possibility.

But lo and behold, a hope rises in the distance! See him, our blessed hero, shine and bring us justice! From the great land of Hull, IA, he has come to deliver me and my fellow sufferers from our torturous lives. He has come to save us!

Johnny VanMan has risen to the occasion and decided to bring help for the malnourished college students. Last week, he realized what a widespread epidemic this has become, and he decided to become not the hero people deserve, but the one they need.

After one of his roommates moved out last year, VanMan was overwhelmed with the possibilities for the other half of the bedroom. He could have turned it into an additional TV space for when his suitemates tell him to “watch

anime somewhere else” because “it’s weird,” or it could have become a spot for his action figures to be displayed. But sitting in his kitchen eating the last cup of Ramen in his pantry, it struck him. He could do some real good for the community with this extra space.

So VanMan took all his money out of the bank and generously spent that fifty dollars on food items. He got mostly cheap stuff like Ramen and saltines, but he also splurged on a few healthy options as well. After packing his purchases into his vehicle in the Walmart parking lot, he estimated that he had “like, ten pounds of baby carrots and bottles of ranch, a ton of apples, some grapes and even a few bags of lettuce.”

He also dragged the spare fridge he used for his root beer into the room and set up a pantry. After he was happy with the finished product, he used Microsoft Word to create some really snazzy posters advertising his food pantry and hung them up around school — after getting them approved by Student Services, of course.

Visit Johnny VanMan the next time you’re feeling low nourishment-wise, and he’ll help you survive.

Contributed photo



# A letter to Aaron Cubswinski

Josh Bootsma and Cory Van Gilst - Staff Writers

Dear Aaron Cubswinski,

You’ve been through a lot in the last two weeks and, let’s be honest, it’s been embarrassing. From all of us at here at the Chicago Cubs organization, we’re sorry for you. You’ve been using our World Series drought to slander us since the day your parents told you that you were a Sox fan. And now that’s gone. We’re sorry to disappoint. We really are. Because now, let’s be honest, the article you wrote two weeks ago is pretty embarrassing.

Let’s think about it. As you astutely pointed out, we fell to the “Miracle Mets” in ’69, during a year we thought we could win it all. And the road to victory has been tough. We thought we might pull it off in 2003. And again in 2008. And last year. But you’re right; we didn’t.

But Aaron, the goat, Steve Bartman, the deaths of Ron Santo and Ernie Banks, and the restoration of Wrigley Field were not, as you say, “bad years.” They were merely a part of an elongated saga that ended in the rapturous applause of millions of Cubs fans worldwide.

Whether or not you want to say it, Aaron, it is our year. It happened. This year, 2016, is the year that the greatest baseball team on the planet won the most prestigious baseball award on the planet, resulting in the greatest moment in the history of American sports. What else could possibly compare? Did White Sox World Series viewership in 2005 reach 40 million viewers worldwide? Did the Cleveland Cavaliers wait 108 years for their first championship? Did the Denver Broncos’ victory parade draw the seventh largest gathering in the history of mankind? No, Aaron. They didn’t. But hey, at least the Sox have had a 108-year head start to win way more World Series than the Cubs,

right? Oh wait. They both have three.

So although we can’t fault you for being a fan of a team whose starting pitcher takes scissors to his jerseys and who now play at “Guaranteed Rate Field,” a company whose logo is literally a big red arrow pointing into the ground, we still think you should recognize greatness when you witness it. Whether or not you “hid away from any TV,” the world didn’t end like you said it would. In fact, millions of people woke up on November 3rd entranced in the euphoric surrealism of a world where the Chicago Cubs actually won the World Series. So please. Stop calling our fandom desperate, our success overrated and our drought pathetic and just realize that the greatest moment in American sports happened two weeks ago and you got to witness it. You’re embarrassing yourself.

Sincerely,

Your 2016 World Series Champion Chicago Cubs

Contributed photo





