Kristina Heflin
Staff Writer

During the week of February 12, the Des Moines Register examined the unique economic and community success of Sioux County residences in a three part series of articles titled, “Rooted for Success.”

The idea to do the story sprang from a conversation with a banker in Rock Valley who said that the city has more jobs than it has people to fill them. From there the story expanded into an analysis of the entire county, said Adam Belz, the business writer for The Register who covered the series on Sioux County and also narrated the short video “Sioux County: An Economic Success Story.”

The articles cover a variety of aspects of the county, from its agricultural roots that are the source of its current economic boom, to the influence of the Dutch Reformed religion that permeates the area.

At the center of this hype is Dordt College.

Dordt’s own president, Carl Zylstra, was interviewed by Belz and featured in the articles. “Reformed Christianity teaches the divine value of building things, whether that be a company, a cattle farm, or a part for a skid loader. We’re called not only to preserve Creation, but to develop Creation, and that affects business too, because human flourishing needs wealth creation,” said Zylstra in the article.

Belz says he believes that this principle held by Dordt graduates is inherent to the success of Sioux County.

“The way I see it, Sioux Center is a Dutch and Reformed place, and Dordt College is a key example of that. Since many Dordt graduates are in the area, the view of the world promoted by Dordt is important to understand,” said Belz.

One of the biggest aspects of Sioux County is its agricultural base. “The churches, the work ethic, the belief in free enterprise, the educational component…that’s all built upon the foundation of some of the best farmland in the world,” King said.

Belz, and many others quoted in the article, seem to believe that Dordt College, with its emphasis on the “Protestant work ethic” and top-notch agriculture department is integral to moral and economic success of the county in which it’s located. “With a mix of feedlots and biotechnology, Christianity and capitalism, hard work and higher education, Sioux County is showing the rest of Iowa that it can be done," said Belz.

Kristin Janssen
Staff Writer

Nearly two years after the Kuyper Apartments were opened up to seniors, students and staff reflect on the changes, improvements, and problems associated with the new building.

To gain a professional and behind-the-scenes perspective on the apartment buildings, Stan Oordt, the head of the Maintenance Department on Dordt’s campus, took time to share some information on Kuyper.

There are both disadvantages and advantages to the upkeep and maintenance of Kuyper, as shared by Oordt. He “projects” that maintaining Kuyper will be less work, but Oordt commented that it is “hard to tell” after only one full year’s use of the building.

“Because Kuyper has polished concrete instead of carpet, there is no need to do carpet cleaning in the summers,” said Oordt, regarding advantages of the building’s upkeep.

Due to government regulations, however, the electrical breakers Dordt was required to install are, according to Oordt, “very sensitive to certain pieces of equipment.” In addition, the sheet rock installed in the walls is a “more economical” and “user-friendly” grade, but this also means the walls are thinner and echo more than other grades of sheet rock.

In summary, Oordt called Kuyper “energy efficient.” He also referred to the senior housing as “structurally and aesthetically, a very nice building.”

Oordt and the rest of the Maintenance Department are pleased with the results they have had with Kuyper thus far, and he is thankful that the Kuyper residents are easy to work with and patient with the minor difficulties.

Senior Hannah Cooper also provided her opinion and insights into the campus’s recent housing addition. A previous resident of Southview, Cooper said she prefers living in Kuyper. She especially enjoys the large amount of space, big windows, clean and new feel, and kitchen which she described as “very nice for cooking.”

However, Cooper also shared that some residents of Kuyper would prefer other apartment choices. Because Kuyper lacks carpet, Cooper described the apartments as feeling “more sterile” and “less homey.”

“Big rugs are expensive for post college students,” said Cooper, “but without them, the apartments are uncomfortable.” Cooper also said the echoing bathrooms and hard couches add to the discomfort of living in Kuyper.

Cooper, still a fan of Kuyper, summarized her opinion and said, “Really, it’s not that bad at all. You can make it nice; it just depends on how you decorate.”

Matt DeBoer, a junior, is hoping to live in Kuyper next year. Why? “Because they’re better,” he answered almost immediately. DeBoer said Kuyper Apartments are bigger, nicer, newer, and in general, simply a step up from his current living conditions. DeBoer lives with four other guys in one East Campus apartment. He is sure that six guys in a Kuyper Apartment will still give them much more room than they currently have, along with other improvements.

“East Campus seems cold,” DeBoer shared, “I’m not really sure why.” Another highlight of the newer Kuyper Apartments is the dishwasher which DeBoer is excited to use. Although the general consensus is that the brand-new Kuyper Apartments are nicer than the newly-remodeled East Campus Apartments and several improvements to Southview, there will be more new changes made to East Campus buildings A and B over summer 2012.
Cultural Fair brings diversity and awareness

Kelsey Sederstrom  
Staff Writer

This year’s Cultural Fair, held February 18 and hosted by the Students Without Borders Club, offered Dordt College students a rich taste of cultural diversity from sixteen different countries. At each country’s booth, students could read a poster, see the flag, sample food, and even receive artwork. The Korean booth handed out shaped candies and calligraphy of student’s names, the Mexican booth gave out pastries from Olivia’s Bakery, and henna drawings were available at the Indian booth.

Photo by Aanna Stadem

On Thursday, the Residence Life Staff will be serving the student body by taking out residents’ trash. Friday, each CDA will lead an hour of prayer in 55th Avenue, while Saturday will consist of campus-wide fasting. Sunday wraps up the week with a time of reflection and discussion in the Kuyper Loft at 7:30 p.m.

So far, the encouragement on campus seems contagious, and the CDAs are hoping it will continue to grow and serve on campus and in the community throughout the semester.

Finally, the Prayer for the Nations campus team is hosting a future event open to all students. Jinny Seo, one of the team’s four leaders, shared a few details of the upcoming ministry. On February 28, Professor Mark Volkers will be joining the team for their usual time of prayer and worship. When the group usually meets, students share about prayer needs in many different nations; however, this special meeting’s focus will be on Kenya.

Following the opening singing, Volkers will talk about the prayer needs in Kenya based on his own time spent there. Volkers will share about the country’s history, current religious and political issues, his own experiences in Kenya, as well as what it means to use God’s gifts in different parts of the world.

“This special focus,” Seo said, “is to raise awareness of different nations because we don’t have opportunities to see what’s going on in other parts of the world.”

The meeting will conclude with prayer for Kenya and worship songs. It will take place at 9:30 p.m. in the Kuyper Loft and will be open to anyone who wants to come.

Nicole Baart releases fourth novel: Far From Here

Danielle Richards  
Staff Writer

Critically acclaimed author Nicole Baart discussed her writing process and recently released book at Dordt College on February 14.

Nicole Baart is the wife of Aaron Baart, the Dean of Chapel here at Dordt. She recently released her fourth novel, entitled Far From Here. Her new novel is available on Amazon.com and has received 4.5 stars on several reader review sites.

Baart visited two fiction writing classes and answered questions from staff and students about her strengths and weaknesses as an author. She also discussed the difficulties of being an author and mother of three.

“I want to write books that I would want to read,” she said on Tuesday. She says her stories often include situations or emotions that she has experienced in her own life.

“I love listening to people tell their personal stories, and I tend to internalize them,” Baart states on her website. “Some of those ideas find their way into my books, but they are much altered by my own creative interpretations.”

Baart also discussed her own writing process and how she writes her novels in the midst of a busy life.

“I typically spend six months in the planning,” she said. “I think about it and play it out like a movie in my head during certain times of the day.”

Baart said she tested out a few different majors in college before choosing Secondary Education for English, Spanish, and ESL. “Of course, what I really wanted to do was write, but since I figured I needed a ‘real’ job, I bounced around a lot,” she says on her website.

Along with her busy life as a mother and author, Nicole Baart works as a foundational member of One Body One Hope, a non-profit organization seeking to improve the lives of orphans at Christ Our Hope Orphanage in Monrovia, Liberia.

Interested readers can visit Nicole Baart’s website at www.nicolebaart.com. Her website contains novel excerpts, interviews, a recent blog, and more information on One Body One Hope.
Dordt bids farewell to a number of esteemed professors

Kristina Heflin
Staff Writer

This year, Dordt College will be saying farewell to several professors from various departments. Karen DeMol (Music dept.), Socorro Woodbury (Spanish dept.), Keith Sewell (history dept.), Robert Hilbelink (business dept.), and Jim Schaap (English dept.) are all among those currently serving their last semester at Dordt College. Although these professors come to us from different backgrounds, they each have found their place in Christ’s kingdom here at Dordt College.

Professor Sewell has come to us from perhaps the farthest away. Originally from London, England, he has also spent many years living in Australia, and will be returning there once he leaves us.

For Professor Schaap, retirement also means a journey, though one of words, not miles. He plans to continue writing stories, some of which Dordt students may already be familiar.

“Retirement for me means no more classrooms and more time with my fingers on the keyboard,” Schaap said.

Over the years, though, it’s the students that have kept these hard working professors young and engaged.

Professor Schaap, when asked about his favorite part of teaching, replied, “Students. They drive me nuts, but sometimes going bezoerkers is a good thing.”

The professors aren’t the only ones who benefit from the relationships built within the classroom, however. Hundreds of students have been touched by the faculty’s gifts throughout the years, whether it is in the music department, learning a new language, or how to conduct business in a Christ-like manner.

For example, History Education major and Dordt junior Ashley Henry, has had many classes with Professor Sewell and loves the classes that focus on world history.

“He [Professor Sewell] has taught a lot about the past and other countries and has shown how they were essential to America and other nations. He helped me to see how the past shaped history to what it is today, and that the past is a major key in understanding the founding and ideas that occurred in America,” said Henry.

Linguistics/Spanish major and Dordt junior Lisa Young has also enjoyed the many classes that she had with Professor Woodbury. “Aside from helping us improve in Spanish, she also has classes discuss issues that relate to the people of the Spanish speaking world and Spanish speakers who live here in the States. We learn to think about things as someone from a Latin American country might,” Young said.

“She always had a big, beautiful smile on her face…”
The Dordt community remembers former student Tina Heilman who was recently killed in a tragic skiing accident

Tina was putting her God-given skills and education to good use to help others. But Tina was much more than a local girl, much more than a Dordt graduate, and much more than a registered nurse. Even in her short life, she affected the lives of many people for the better.

Ashley Huisman, a friend of Tina’s from both Unity and Dordt, fondly remembered how Tina “always had a smile on her face and cared deeply about people.”

“That’s what inspired me,” Huisman stated. “Her heart to serve others. Tina was a beautiful example of what Christ calls His people to be: salt and light in the world.”

Nasia Wagenaar, a nursing student here on campus, first met Tina through her local church in Orange City, and then as they both moved through the nursing program. “She always had this biggest beautiful smile on her face whenever I saw her,” Wagenaar said. “Tina and her family were often my source of encouragement as I studied nursing. I hope that someday I can become the compassionate and dedicated nurse that Tina has inspired me to be.”

Jason DeBoer, another local Unity grad and Dordt student, also remembers Tina fondly. “Tina was always willing to help anyone one no matter how busy she was. No matter where you were in life, you could always trust Tina to be there for you no matter what you were going through. Through knowing her and her passing, I’ve learned that every day is a gift from God and to live every day the best you can.”

Still other’s remember Tina through specific stories of how she changed their lives. Chris Van Dam, a senior, remembers being a scared, introverted freshman at Unity and walking into the classroom of Tina’s from both Unity and Dordt, fondly remembering how Tina “always had a smile on her face and cared deeply about people.”

“She was incredible,” Van Dam said.
The true story behind “The Gift”

In 1994, art Professor Jake Van Wyk had an idea—an idea that would alter Dordt’s campus and community. This idea was one that would take eight months of hard, honest work. The fallback, however, was that the process of such a major installment had to happen by the fall of ’95. Ever wondered where “The Gift” came from? For those of you who are lost, it’s the friendly, stationary greeting you receive every time you go to class—perhaps even waiting for a salutary hug.

“Despite seeing it every day, many people are unaware of the symbolism and time behind this elaborate work of art. After Van Wyk presented the planned permanent art piece to the Dordt board, it was eventually decided to be a commemorative work for Dordt’s 40th Anniversary. It took 750 total hours of planning, creating, and installing—180 of those hours completed in ten days. You do the math.”

The piece required 3,800 pounds of clay; it was then hollowed by section and filled with cement. For you pottery fanatics, the piece required six weeks to dry and thirty kiln firings of forty-five hours each. In a recent interview, Van Wyk said, “I lived in the studio. It was nuts. My wife took meals out to me.”

The thought behind the piece is what Van Wyk really desires people to embrace while looking at The Gift. “It is both abstract and a celebration,” he said. “It’s outdoors and in public—people are forced to respond to it.”

Themes such as total depravity and human frailty inspired Van Wyk in the early stages of planning. “We, as human beings, are held back by our temporal existence,” Van Wyk said.

“The piece required 3,800 pounds of clay; it was then hollowed by section and filled with cement.”

Van Wyk also experienced a personal epiphany in the middle of creating The Gift which then added more symbolic meaning to the work of art. “While in the process, people came to me and asked me if I realized that it really looks like the form is receiving rather than giving,” Van Wyk revealed. “I didn’t consciously think of this...we’re presenting, yes, but we receive the grace to do so from God.”

A common question students often ask regards the figure’s gender. Van Wyk acknowledges that it is indeed androgynous, possessing both male and female characteristics—the intent is to provide everyone an opportunity to relate. “It feels like humanity,” Van Wyk said.

Despite clear intentions behind the nudity, The Gift is a prime target for pranks. It is often covered by a plethora of objects, including, yet not limited to, a Snuggie and Mardi Gras necklaces.

Throughout the years, “The Gift” has been the target of many Dordt pranks. These are just a few of the many looks “The Gift” has displayed.
Columnist
Hank Houtman

As I heard the President speak during the past weeks about his contraceptive plan in regards to religious institutions, I became worried about the future of Religion within our country. I understand the work the president said he would not force religious institutions to pay for these contraceptives, but the act of allowing your workers access to this medication through another means is no different. If your religious conviction is that these medications are a form of abortion, then it is fundamentally wrong and hypocritical to stand by and allow your workers to have access to these contraceptives.

I am not stating my opinion on this medication, but rather showing you the danger of allowing the government to force these regulations upon a religious institution. The moment we allow a government to intrude into the religious realm, we are all at risk. Whether a person is a Christian, Muslim, or Mormon, everyone faces the threat of future threats.

You do not have to agree with the other persons beliefs, nor do you even have to talk to them, but one must remember that as religious people we all stand threatened when a government tries to tell us how to act. We all have fundamental freedoms that cannot and will not be infringed upon.

Therefore, it is time that Christians, students, teachers and parents stand standing by. Yes, we are not strictly against some contraceptives, but we sure don’t want to see us and those who are alone in this fight. If we do then we are no different than those who choose to leave us on our own when be faced with persecution for our public openness about our faith.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, we need to take this issue seriously and not ignore it. We are the future of the nation, and it’s time to stand up. Do you want to wake up in ten to twenty years and say “Where was I when this started?” Now is the time to stand up for your faith. Don’t be afraid to tell the government to cram their regulation.

There are moments in history where the people stood up and made a change. Now is that moment. I pray that we will have to courage to actually stand and not cower in a corner. The walk of faith is not an easy walk, and if you are simply coexisting with the world, then there is a problem. We are supposed to make noise; we are supposed to be known as the crazy folk. Why? Our Faith goes against everything the secular world stands for!

“IT is not so much that prayer changes things as that prayer changes us and then we change things. We can’t ask God to do Himself what He created us to do ourselves.” – Oswald Chambers.

Isn’t it so easy to just ask God to help the poor? to heal the broken? to feed the hungry? We think that by interceding through prayer on behalf of those in need, we have done our part and can move on with our day. But God has different ideas—His ideas might not be as easy, but they bring much more satisfaction, the kind that goes way down deep and can only come from doing the work of our Lord.

He has given us the amazing privilege of taking part in His work, and yet we so easily pass up the opportunities and opt for a simple prayer instead. Don’t get me wrong—I don’t want to undermine the power of prayer, but God has empowered us to do so much more than pray. That’s why I think Chambers hit it right on target by saying that prayer changes us so that we can in turn go change things.

Senioritis: Adrian Helema Columnist

So things are heating up in the U.S. presidential race. Not that I care, I just needed a segue into this week’s topic: the Dordt presidential race.

Come graduation, President Zylstra will have done his time on our fair campus, and will pass on the torch, most likely while laughing maniacally. I’ll be honest, I don’t know how much faith I have that the next president will be a good one. Usually these types of decisions are made by committees, which is an easy out, but I do think that this election is going to be the same. We’re probably going to have to give the people an opportunity to take part in benefitting His kingdom.

So my challenge for you is to open to recognizing the needs in our world. Once you ask God about these needs, be prepared for God to transform you so that you can go out and do it yourself. Then take a step back and marvel at the satisfaction you receive from being able to take part in God’s work.

Opinion

“You Do It!”

Danae Geels Columnist

Take an example from the Bible. In Mark 6:30-44 we read the story of Jesus feeding the five thousand. We’ve all heard the story – Jesus had been teaching the crowd for a while and the disciples suggested that the people were probably getting hungry. They asked Jesus to send them away so that they could get something to eat. In some sense, they were interceding for the crowd to be fed. But Jesus wanted to give the disciples an opportunity to take part in His work. So He said, “You feed them.”

Not surprisingly, the disciples didn’t get it. Thinking practically, they asked, “What? We’d have to work for months in order to earn enough money to buy food for all these people.” But Jesus told them to gather all they had and to give it to Him. By asking about the need to be changed, they were instead changed by God to be able to go out and do the work themselves. Once they gave all they had to Jesus, He stepped in and performed the miracle.

I believe that the same is true today. When we recognize a need and ask God to fix it, I believe He is still telling us, “You do it.” Because of His incomprehensible love, God refuses to do what we are capable of doing ourselves. We are so fortunate to have a God that lets us take part in benefiting His kingdom.

So my challenge for you is to open to recognizing the needs in our world. Once you ask God about these needs, be prepared for God to transform you so that you can go out and do it yourself. Then take a step back and marvel at the satisfaction you receive from being able to take part in God’s work.

The Hendy Show

Alex Henderson Columnist

Could you imagine what it would be like if all your friends were famous? Let’s be real -- those odds are limited. How about a more reasonable scenario? What if you met real-life saints? Who would you be? That just sucks to think about.

Imagine life without the people whom you have shared your most cherished memories with. I know; it’s irrational to even make you consider such a thing.

Lately, I find myself reaching out to my friends and making sure that they know how important they are to me. I can always count on my friends to be there for me whenever and wherever I am. I’ll even go so far as to say that my friends are better than your friends.

You would be surprised to know that I don’t have as many friends as you think I do.

I can’t speak for everyone, but I find it interesting and unusual how I have gravitated to these same people and vice versa.

We all have our differences, but we’re real mavericks that flout normalcy.

So I guess you could say we’re not fighting for the same space and we’re just trying to find our niche as we enter a new chapter in our lives.

The most important thing for me, however, is knowing that no matter what my next move is I know I still have those who were there from the very beginning.

From the playground until now, plus or minus a few years, I have become exactly the company I keep. Thanks to gravity.

Be glad that your friends are your friends. Let the people around you know how much you enjoy their influence.

In the end, who needs fame when you have great friends? Count those blessings and show love.
The Dordt College baseball and softball teams will kick off their respective seasons within the next week, and that brings us in a point about this game that is muted often — Baseball is boring to watch.

Here we go:

Frankly, I get a little when people call baseball boring. I have even had one person tell me they would rather watch a NASCAR race than watch a baseball game; seriously? If you think the game is boring, you don’t get the bigger. Let me explain.

Think of each pitch as a “play.” This means that baseball has over 300 “plays” and each of these plays might end innocently with a foul ball, strikeout, or a slow grounder to the second baseman, but then each might also change the outcome of the game. One play turns the game around.

Look back at the World Series last fall between the St. Louis Cardinals and Texas Rangers. The Cardinals were down to their last strike and Cardinal’s third baseman David Freese came up with an 86-73 win. Freese was named the World Series Most Valuable Player.

Tons of “little games” go into a baseball game. Take, for example, a pitcher-versus-batter duel where one is trying to win the battle at the plate. Each pitch is important. What about a runner on first base in a tight game? Does the manager risk sending him to steal second and put him in scoring position? Far more exciting that watching cars circle for hours.

Those who think that baseball is boring probably haven’t played the game themselves. It’s not easy having less than half a second to decide what type of pitch is coming at you while you are at the plate. It’s not easy fielding a groundball with millions of people watching your every move. Professional ball players make it look easy, but that’s only because it’s almost second nature to them — but their abilities do not exclude the possibility their making a mistake.

Baseball is America’s pastime, one of the first organized sports created; It has a long, outstanding tradition of being one of the greatest games ever played. Respect the game.

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Taking Me Out to the Ballgame

Harmy’s Army (of thoughts)

Jordan Harmelink Sports Editor

Dordt College’s baseball team is ready for a new season to begin. Friday, February 24 is their first game versus Manhattan Christian in Manhattan, Kansas.

Although the team struggled last year, Coach Jeff Schouten is hopeful that this year things are going to turn around. “We have a lot of new freshmen and a few transfers this year” said Schouten. “We have some key positions that were filled due to the new guys coming in so we are definitely looking forward to a new season,” he said.

Three seniors, Travis Dekkers, Zach Staadt, and Eric Torgerson, spend a lot of time on court, and they bring strong leadership to the team. In addition there is some young talent as well. Aaron Parks, a freshman, will pitch, as well as Ben Van Kekerix who transferred from Augustana. Sophomore Lucas Card will add pitching, building on last year’s experience.

“We are a lot deeper than last year,” said Schouten. “The pitcher is such an important position and it was somewhere we were a little thin last year.”

Senior Zach Stout is excited for this year and wants to forget about last season’s record. “There had to be some bad luck involved last year,” Stout said. “It was a combination of bad luck and we weren’t as good and we don’t think it’s a big deal.”

We are a lot deeper this year, said Coach Douma. “Dur- ing the season there really is not time to reflect on what has or has not been accomplished or to focus on trying to constantly improve. Perhaps when the season is over we will be able to look back favorably on what we have done.”

This season also marked the first year in which all players were recruited by Coach Douma, many of whom have been seeing varsity playing time since they came to Dordt.

“Tons of little games go into a baseball game. Take, for example, a pitcher-versus-batter duel where one is trying to win the battle at the plate. Each pitch is important. What about a runner on first base in a tight game? Does the manager risk sending him to steal second and put him in scoring position? Far more exciting that watching cars circle for hours.

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Baseball is America’s pastime, one of the first organized sports created; It has a long, outstanding tradition of being one of the greatest games ever played. Respect the game.

As a senior, Dekkers tries to set a good example for the younger players and be a leader on the field. “If I need to be in tense I try to be intense, but at the same time I don’t want to overwhelm,” Dekkers said.

In March, the team travels to Arizona for spring break where they will be facing some difficult opponents. The team’s biggest opponent this year will be Doane College, who has been picked to win the conference. The players are eager to get outdoors rather than practicing in the gym.

Senior first baseman Travis Dekkers is the “big hitter” for the team. However he says he is used to the pressure by now and doesn’t think it’s a big deal. “We have a lot more talent this year as well as a lot more younger players, which can be good and bad,” said Dekkers.

“The game itself. Being on a sports team automatically have friends, as long as you’re not a loser.” When asked if the team was ready for their first game, Stout said, “I think so. Well, I’m ready. Left field is raring to go.”

As a senior, Dekkers tries to set a good example for the younger players and be a leader on the field. “If I need to be in tense I try to be intense, but at the same time I don’t want to overwhelm,” Dekkers said.

The team’s goal for this year is to make the conference tournament. Since they have been in the GPAC, Dordt has never qualified for the conference tournament.

As you eat your peanuts and cracker jacks and follow the Dordt baseball team to victory this season!
Emily Hageman: Senior voice recital

Hannah DeVries
Staff Writer

While the upcoming performance on February 25 will be a vocal showcase for senior Emily Hageman, it will not be your typical vocal recital.

The performance will involve more than just one person. Emily Hageman, majoring in secondary choral music education, said that this is what will make it unique.

“As a musician who takes performance very seriously, I’ve come to realize that it isn’t just solo work,” said Hageman. “A performer needs to be able to work with other musicians in order to create a wonderful musical experience.”

The recital is not only a culmination of Hageman’s vocal career at Dordt, but also a reflection of her education major as well. “Also, as an education major, it was important to me to work with others and create ensembles as that’s what I will be doing for my future career,” Hageman said.

Not only will there be a variety of students involved in the performance, but a variety of musical styles as well. Song selections range in date from 1688 to 1979.

Hageman said some pieces will be dry and simple, while others will be from sweeping, romantic operas. “I wanted to show my versatility as a singer, yes, but I also wanted my audience to be able to experience a little bit from each time period.”

There’s something in my program for everyone, or so I like to think,” said Hageman.

Hageman added that it is her hope for students to enjoy the music, but also gain an understanding of the various styles presented.

“There are several pieces that will be a lot of fun to watch including two vocal trios, a duet, and a piece with chamber instruments in a Baroque-style,” Hageman said.

Among the students accompanying Hageman will be Nicole Low on oboe, Jason Kornelis on cello, and Krista De Vries and Brian De Young as piano accompanists. Vocalists include bass Brian De Young, soprano Rachel Kooiman, soprano Mia Kornelis, and tenor Eric Spoelstra.

“Getting ready for this night has been a challenge,” said Hageman. “Some of my pieces are very demanding vocally,” she said.

Now that the work is done, she said she plans on showing her audience just what she is capable of. “I’m really planning on leaving it all on the stage and giving my very best performance in everything,” Hageman said.

The performance will take place February 25 at 3 p.m. in the B.J. Haan Auditorium, followed by a reception.

And the winner is...
Prairie Grass Film Award Ceremony

Rachel Mulder
Staff Writer

Twenty-six films were screened on campus on the evening of Friday, February 18 before the 6th annual Prairie Grass Film Challenge Award Ceremony.

The award ceremony was held in the B.J. Haan, but this year people could watch from all over the country via online streaming. This is the first year the award ceremony was streamed online. It allowed teams from all over the country to watch the ceremony even if they could not make it to Sioux Center.

Three main awards were given out including Best of Show for High School, Best of Show for College, and Best of Show for Post-College. Two other awards were Overall Runner-Up and People’s Choice.

Dark Matter Productions won in the high school category for their film entitled “Chronos.” Providence Productions’ film “Maxumentary” won best of show for college, and the post college best of show winner was Paragon Productions with their film “50/50.”

“The show as a whole has a surface-level it is very entertaining and I would strongly encourage anyone to come and see it,” said student actress Megan Ludens.

“We’ve been going at this so long we’ve forgotten the moments that are funny the moments that are deep and serious. I think it’ll be very interesting to feed off of what the audience gets from it,” Spargo said.

The cost of admission will be two dollars for students and five dollars for adults. We also offer cuts, colors, perms, manicures, pedicures, shellac facials, microdermabrasion, glycolic peels, massage, waxing, ear piercing and more!

South end of the Centre Mall • Sioux Center (712) 722-0008
What if... A humorous look at the many "what ifs" that could drastically affect your life

By Alex Updike

If I say the name Gjisbert Haan, it probably wouldn’t mean anything to most people, and not just because I wouldn’t be able to pronounce it correctly. However, good ol’ Gjisbert has played a pivotal role in your, yes your, education.

You see, back in 1857, Haan was the individual responsible for the Christian Reformed Church (CRC) splitting from the Reformed Church of America (RCA). Yes, Haan was responsible for a reformation of the reformed, a sort of reformation if you will, only without Hans Zimmer writing music to make it exciting.

But what if Haan hadn’t happened upon his reformation vision? What if, on the day the thought occurred to him that lead to that fateful split, Haan had seen his dream girl washing clothes in the river, or churning butter, or doing some other stereotypical 19th century female duty, and his mind had become preoccupied with her? I know that it may be hard to fathom a reality where members of the Reformed tradition aren’t always arguing and telling each other how wrong the others are, but bear with me on this one.

I want to jump straight to one specific outcome of this alternate reality. I mentioned earlier how this humorously-named gentleman has affected your education. Well, that is because, obviously, without a split between members of the CRC and RCA, Dordt and Northwestern would not be separate colleges. Now calm down, pick up the paper you just chucked across the room, and keep reading - it’s not as bad as it sounds, I promise.

So what if Dordt and Northwestern were combined? First of all, it would still be called Dordt because the name Northwestern is boring and unoriginal. Can you imagine if everything were named as unoriginally as that? Instead of our capital being named Washington D.C., after the general who helped take down the 18th century powerhouse known as “Great” Britain, it would be called East. This has ramifications of its own that I refuse to go into, but I digress.

Secondly, all of our athletics would be combined into one mega athletic department. Our basketball teams would be better; our volleyball team, our track team, soccer teams, baseball team, and football team ALL would be better. Our school spirit would have the strength of a raging fire, it would have the force of a great typhoon, and our stadiums would be louder than my apartment last Saturday night. It would be .... wait for it ... legendary!

Thirdly, there would be so much more to do. Think about all the cool events Dordt puts on, then think about all the cool events that Northwestern puts on (yes, Northwestern does cool, exciting things too) and then imagine both of them together! There would literally be exciting events and fun things to do every weekend . . . like most colleges.

Finally, Dordt would be much more well-rounded. Did you know that some colleges actually have their own theater buildings? And that some colleges actually have dance events, not to mention dance events that students love? With lane-named Northwestern conglomerating with Dordt, the new Dordt would have all this artsy stuff, and with the merging of Northwestern students into the new Dordt, a decent percentage of the student body would actually care about theater.

So there it is. Without Mr. Haan, Dordt and Northwestern would have no reason to become separate colleges. Instead, we end up with Dordt 2.0, if you will. The only question left is, where would this new campus be? Well, Sioux Center has a Wal-Mart; Enough said.

Top 10 Things to Do in Sioux Center after 10 p.m.

We all know that most places don’t close around 10:00 p.m. However, many places in Sioux Center never got that memo. Here is a list of the top ten places to go and things to do after 10:00 p.m. in Sioux Center:

10) Home. With so many people living locally, home is always an option. Some can walk, others drive. There is always a friend’s house to go to off-campus, and if you are nice, maybe their mom will make you cookies and do your disgusting laundry free of charge. Just don’t forget to give her a kiss on the cheek.

9) Wal-Mart. Yes, many of us figured this out freshman year, but to students, Wal-Mart is more than just a supercenter. It’s a portal to a land with unlimited blankets, bouncy balls, foam swords, and giant-screen TVs.

8) Sandy Hollow. Where else can you find FROLF, FROLF and more FROLF? Sandy Hollow. I don’t know about you, but the name seems deceiving to me. There is no sand and most of the things aren’t hollow. Unless you count that time I met a girl named Sandy who had a giant hole in her stomach. Then I guess the name is ok.

7) Children’s Park. Not sure if the park is for children or if children own the park. Either way, it doesn’t step us when we want to relive our childhood. Just be careful not to run into the monkey bars.

6) A cornfield. “Now Adam, what’s so special about a cornfield at night?” I’m glad you asked. Looking up at the stars and back into your lover’s eyes almost makes you forget how small we really are.

5) Inside. In the Iowa winter, leaving the room isn’t always an option. Guys, keep playing Xbox. Girls, I can’t give you any tips because I honestly have no clue what you do when guys aren’t around so keep doing whatever it is that you do.

4) The gas stations. Wait…..is it past 10? Yeah, they are closed.

3) McDonald’s. Yeah I know you have heard about all the different health issues and ways they prepare your food. So what? Nothing is better than a McChicken and mandy mocha Frappuccino in the wee hours of the night.

2) The Internet. Yes, the internet. You can literally go and see anything in the world thanks to Google images and Google maps. Go to Egypt and see the Pyramids. Go to Australia and peruse the landscape. The world is at your fingertips.

1) Facebook. Let’s face it — at 10:00 p.m., none of us really want to organize something to do, let alone actually go anywhere and entertain ourselves. Besides, “Words with Friends” is actually pretty addicting.