Dordt students comment on world-wide parenting controversy

Rachel Mulder
Staff Writer

Dordt students are addressing the recent, nation-wide controversy involving Yale professor Amy Chua’s comparisons of the parenting tactics of Chinese mothers versus that of “Western” parents. As “Western” children, many of us had play dates and sleepovers growing up. We couldn’t imagine not being allowed to watch TV or play games. It is a different story, however, for Sophia and Luisa Chua, daughters of Amy Chua, a “Tiger Mom.”

Chua is a professor at Yale Law School and the creator of games. It is a different story, allowed to watch TV or play games. It is a different story, although I definitely think that I was more disciplined than “other kids.”

The solution to standard performance is always to excoriate, punish and shame the child,” said Chua.

Her style of parenting has shocked readers around the world. This national controversy has been addressed in many newspapers across the country and even in China.

Chua’s book has many parents outraged, but it isn’t only parents who think Chua is wrong. Many Dordt students were asked what they think of Amy Chua and her wild parenting strategies. Here’s what they said:

“I would rather not have a ‘Chinese mother’ because they force too much on their kids; they give them no freedom to choose on their own what they really want to do. In a sense they are brainwashed into being perfect.”

Amy Chua stands a proud mother next to her daughters, Louisa and Sophia. Photo from wsj.com by Erin Patrice O’Brien for The Wall Street Journal


Amy Van Voorn: “Children should be encouraged and taught not to give up, but they shouldn’t be insulated by their parents in the process. Too much coddling is harmful for a child but rigorous schedules are as well because a child needs to have fun and enjoy her childhood.”

Barry Dykstra: “I would not want a ‘Chinese mother’ because they force too much on their kids; they give them no freedom to choose on their own what they really want to do. In a sense they are brainwashed into being perfect.”

Severe weather posed problem for an international student’s journey home

Danielle Richards
Staff Writer

Imagine—you are 5,000 miles away from home, you have not been home in a year and a half, and you are stranded in a snowy foreign city without a place to go. Oh, and you don’t have your winter coat.

Miriam McAuley, a Dordt student from Malawi, Africa, found herself in this situation on her way home for Christmas Break. The problems all began when Miriam arrived in London in the midst of a light storm. Having gone to Dordt for three and a half years and gotten used to very snowy Iowa winters, I didn’t think anything of the snow in London,” Miriam said.

The Heathrow Airport, however, thought more of the snow. Even after the snow had stopped falling, Heathrow announced that it was closing its doors.

In the midst of confusion, Miriam befriended Sarla, an Indian woman who was also traveling alone. Miriam knew no one in the city, and Sarla invited Miriam home with her until she could catch the next flight out of London. After an hour and a half wait for a cab and a long drive, Sarla’s father, niece, and sister treated Miriam with great hospitality.

“They all tried to mother me and fed me chai and hot milk and sat me in front of a space heater and then sent me to bed,” she said.

Miriam called the airport repeatedly to reschedule her flight, it would be another five days before they could reschedule.

“I waited at their house, called the airlines office repeatedly, watched some Indian soap operas, learned a few words of Punjabi and.stew, and drank lots of tea,” Miriam said.

Because the airport was only operating on one lane of runway, Miriam finally left London on December 23, nearly a week after she had left Sioux Center.

“I thank God so much for watching over me and putting Sarla in my path so I would have a safe place to stay in London,” Miriam said.

On Christmas Eve, Miriam arrived in Malawi. Because of her late arrival, she extended her break and was able to miss snow storms on her way back to Dordt.

“It was a wonderful break, and I learned a lot of trust for God through the travel frustrations,” Miriam said.
Dordt adjunct adopts street dog during AMOR

Melissa Braunschweig
Staff Writer

There’s a new face on Dordt’s campus, and she has a new pet.

Judy Bowman is not only a recently hired English adjunct at Dordt, but is also the proud owner of a no-longer-stray dog that she rescued during the AMOR mission trip to the Dominican Republic.

A little while into the fall semester, the former-journalist was accepted for the AMOR trip to the Dominican Republic.

After reviewing the handbook for her upcoming trip, Bowman was troubled by the high population of street dogs in the Dominican Republic. Her deep passion for dogs compelled her to rescue one of the many abused animals.

After weeks of communication with animal shelters in the DR, Bowman finally found a match. The puppy stole her heart on the first day, and the Chihuahua-mix ended up staying with the group the whole week. Chica, Bowman’s fourth Chihuahua, became an attraction for the children they met during AMOR.

“I consider my dogs to be little ministers,” said Bowman. “Whether it be going to nursing homes or other places.”

Kaitlyn Broersma, who attended the AMOR trip in the Dominican Republic, could not stress enough how much Bowman loved dogs. “You could really tell that Judy has a passion for dogs,” said Broersma. “She was constantly taking pictures of stray dogs and even wore doggy pajamas to bed. At the end of the trip, she took Chica home with us on the plane.”

Bowman said that the AMOR trip was definitely one of her biggest highlights since coming to Dordt. That, and her newly adopted puppy.

Supply of students equals demand of new professors at Dordt

New addition to the Business department

Adam McDonald
Editor

Dordt has been hiring new professors to meet the demand of the growing student body, and one of the newest additions to the Dordt family is Randy Smit, Instructor of Business Administration and Accounting.

“I’ve been teaching business and accounting for years now. It was an easy transition since I’ve been in this role before,” said Smit. “I taught at North Iowa Community College before Dordt. I came here because my wife got a job in Orange City. Thankfully, the good Lord provided a job for me too.”

Smit is not new to the business field. He has worked for various companies including CPA Farm, helped people with their taxes for more than ten years and worked as a marketing consultant for Cabin Coffee Company, a franchise in north Iowa, as the head of the franchise department.

“I don’t really know how I got involved in business,” said Smit. “I was what I would call a ‘lost individual’ for many years. In college, I kind of played the game of ‘I’m here but I don’t know why I’m here’. I knew that the good Lord was guiding me and directing me though.”

Smit enrolled in a few business classes just for the simple enjoyment of them. After taking a few classes and falling in love with the subject, he began to think about teaching others what he had been taught. “One day someone said to me ‘you might make a good teacher’. So I took some classes to become a teacher and combined my two passions.”

Although Smit is absolutely committed to his love of teaching business, there is one other love that trumps it: his family. “I have been married for ten years. I have a seven-year-old boy, a four-year-old daughter and two-year-old daughter. It’s my job away from my job, and I take them both very seriously. I don’t want to work to the point where I neglect my family, and juggling both has proven to be a challenge.”

Smit has taught at other secular universities but he says none of those can compare to the atmosphere of Dordt. “From a community college standpoint, the students are very different. The nontraditional student usually has more baggage, but, here at Dordt, student’s minds seem freer to explore with no worries. I have been on college campuses, and Dordt is the first place I’ve seen this.”

With a passion for teaching, Smit says his favorite aspect of his job is getting to know the students. “I really enjoy the culture of Dordt, and it is very different from what I am used to. You can see in the classes that people have an inherent respect for one another. The idea of teaching on a Christian campus is invigorating. I’ve never been able to emphasize the Bible before where I have taught. Now I can freely express my beliefs in class and I love it.”
Enrollment at Dordt remains stable despite hard economic times

Bryan Visser
Staff Writer

Times may be tough in today’s economy, but enrollment at Dordt College is not going anywhere.

In spite of the current economic climate, Dordt College has managed to maintain an average spring semester enrollment of 1285 students.

“Given where some other institutions are with enrollment in the current economy, to have our enrollment normal is good,” Registrar Jim Bos said.

Of the 1368 students that attended Dordt last semester, 121 did not return in the spring. Mr. Bos explained this drop by saying that some students graduated at semester while others transferred, failed or otherwise dropped out.

The fall semester often has higher enrollment due to the larger number of incoming freshmen. Some of these freshmen, as well as upperclassmen, leave after the fall semester. As a result, the average enrollment for spring semesters is lower than in the fall.

On the other hand, 38 new students transferred or enrolled at Dordt, leaving Dordt with a average spring semester.
Dordt’s digital media department kicked off their most widely participated Prairie Grass Film Festival yet with the shock of a new twist: every group was required to create a film with the same genre: Comedy.

On Thursday, Jan. 13 at exactly 4 p.m., a total of twenty-eight groups from Dordt College and different parts of the country began this forty-eight hour short film competition.

Digital Media Instructor Mark Volkers, who helped start the PGFC 5 years ago, commented on this year’s film challenge. “Usually we assign a different genre to every team,” said Volkers. “This year, everyone got comedy.”

Some competitors had mixed feelings about comedy being the across-the-board genre.

Brett Leyendecker, a second-year participant of the PGFC, expressed his thoughts on the new genre. “The fact that it was comedy was difficult in itself to write,” said Leyendecker. “However, it might make it easier for judges because every film has the same foundation; the judges can see which films have most successfully achieved the genre of comedy.”

Zac Edens, digital media major and first-year participant, thought this genre was a challenging one to work with. “To achieve the comedy genre you have to have a good actor with a good script,” said Edens. “Comedy was a lot harder than I thought it was going to be.”

Dordt graduate Elliot De Wit enjoys incorporating a laugh or two into his films whether or not the genre is comedy. “It was good for our group because we make our films funny anyways,” said Elliot. “Our competition is bigger, though, because now everyone is trying to make people laugh.”

There were even some participants that were not digital media majors and have never made a film before.

Sara de Waal, a freshman elementary education major with no previous experience in film-making, enjoyed PGFC. “We really liked the comedy genre,” said de Waal. “There are a few limitations, but you have so much ability to be creative and to do what you want.”

Though comedy may have posed to be a difficult genre to incorporate into their short films, many students thoroughly enjoyed the competition and look forward to doing it again. This year also saw another change: online submission. Groups could submit their movies via The Internet. Technological complications arose for several groups during the process, but no one was disqualified.

“Because of the great opportunity of being able to film in high-def this year, there were some setbacks when it came to rendering and exporting,” said Leyendecker. “There have been a lot of technological advances, and some things still need to be adjusted.”

Volkers was not about to disqualify participants because of problems that were out of their hands. It was not their fault,” said Volkers. “The software we purchased to do this wasn’t living up to its expectation. Next year we hope to have more reliable software so people know exactly what is going on.”

De Waal is already getting excited for next year’s PGFC and strongly encourages students to participate, even if they have never done it before. “It’s good to be involved in as many different things as you can at Dordt,” said De Waal. “It’s a great way to get to know people too because you’re with them for 48 hours. There are differences in opinion and ideas which is not a bad thing; everyone sees a shot in different way so you have to filter through all of that and come up with the best idea.”

Volkers really wants competitors to “discover their inner Spielberg” through this challenge. “Filmmaking is one of the most collaborative of all the arts as you learn how to combine your talents with other people’s talents,” said Volkers. “We want people to have fun and discover some gifts and talents that they didn’t know they had along the way.”

Why Digital Media?

By Kelly Zatlin, Editor
**A Dordt kid’s adventures in Cairo: My Fatalistic Cab Driver**

Adrian Helena Columbist

Bukra. A plump, chumpy, Egyptian woman writes the word out on our classroom’s white board. In perfect unison, the eight American kids cramped around tables in front of her repeat the word, mispronouncing it horribly. She smiles and continues, regardless, “Bukra means tomorrow.” The class nods in understanding and quickly scratches in their notes.

While it’s the first day of Arabic for me and 27 other students on the Middle East Studies Program, we’ve been living in Cairo for at least a week. A structured learning environment is a welcome occurrence; my Arabic knowledge so far was limited to “Sawy” and “Beef,” which, although helpful, don’t quite cut it.

“When we say Bukra, we also add Insha’allah, our teacher continued. “Insha’allah means God-willing, and we say it after Bukra because only God knows what will happen tomorrow.” To their credit, Muslims intertwine their faith with everything, including language, as compared to the politically-correct culture of the West where Muslims are better at applying the “Every Square Inch” idea than we are, but I’m kind of keen on returning to Dordt for at least another year.

Language is just one of the many things that makes Cairo different from Sioux Center, and to even begin to list the differences would take too long. As my 70-year-old seat neighbor on the flight in said, “It’s like we’re landing on a different planet.” Then again, this was before she started talking about belly-dancing and quoting Pirates of the Caribbean tome to me, so feel free to doubt her credibility as a source.

Regardless, in the midst of all the massive differences, it’s the small things that remind you how far away home truly is. Maybe it’s the sunny 60 degrees Fahrenheit with a cool breeze, affectionately known by the citizens of Cairo as “winter.” Or maybe it’s the fact your favorite eatery has prayer mats outside so the workers don’t have to interrupt their shifts for too long. Maybe it’s knowing that nobody here cares who makes it to the Super Bowl. Or maybe the thing that convinces you’re you’re on a “different planet” is as simple as a taxi ride.

Well, “taxi religious experience” is probably a more apt description. In Cairo, there are virtually no stop-lights, stop-signs, highway lanes, or traffic laws. Cars, buses and motorcycles move at high speed and fill any empty space on any road. To avoid accidents, everyone who operates a motor vehicle in Cairo uses a complex system of communication: when double horn horn, horn. If that a car, person, or other obstacle in front of you, you honk. If the obstacle in front of your is moving too slowly, you honk. If your neighbor does something you don’t like, even if it’s simply putting on a turn signal, you honk. If you see a pretty flower, you honk. And sometimes you just honk to let the world know you’re still alive and honking.

After my first ever Arabic class, it was into this nightmare of Cairo traffic that I stepped. My taxi-driver on this particular day had decided to prove to me that he was, fact, qualified to drive for NASCAR.

What looked like an impassable wall of cars to my naïve Western eyes he managed to maneuver through with all the grace and caution of a drunken gazelle in a minefield. Bumpers were scratched, doors were opened, and cars passed each other by only a few feet, deaths seemed the most statistically reasonable outcome.

Noticing my anxious expression, continuous stomp of the imaginary brake pedals in the passenger seat, the taxi driver started chucking. In surprisingly good English he asked if I was scared.

I responded, “It’s not you, I just have this thing against dying, that’s all.”

He laughed. “Maybe you die today, maybe you die in thirty years. It’s going to happen sooner or later, only God knows.”

“Insha’allah?” I lobbed.

He smiled and nodded. “Insha’allah.”

I may be living in an extremely Islamic police state, where a police officer and AK-47 guards my classroom building, and a terrorist attack occurred two weeks before I arrived, but the scariest thing I’ve experienced so far is a fatalistic cab driver.

I’ve spent my whole life in these parts, and even I get depressed over these prospects for the coming months. I can’t imagine what the Californians think, coming back from a balmy Christmas.

Spring may seem a depressing dream for some, but many of us are probably once again wondering why we decided to spend four years in a place with some of the moodiest and harshest weather in the country. During these trying times, I remember a bit of advice my dad always gave.

“There’s beauty everywhere,” Dad would say, “if you’ll look for it.”

It’s a conditional statement: if we look for it. And what a difficult qualifier that can be during these harsh winter months.

With our tendency to crab, grouch, grumble, nag, and whine, Iowans can sometimes pass for more than poorly frozen misery—even without the embarrassing slaps and tumbles on the ice.

But have you noticed those mornings where a light snow has dusted campus to make it sparkle wildly come sunrise? And how can anyone fail to take notice of those afternoons where freezing rain has graced every tree with a diamond-like coat of ice that bosoms light every which way?

Granted, Iowa doesn’t have a particularly thrilling landscape—especially during the winter months when the fields lie empty.

We lack the grand mountains of Colorado or the beaches of California. Even South Dakota

Nonetheless, I’d like to think God compensated us with an absolutely brilliant sky.

In winter, sunsets pair with the white landscape marvelously. The sky is an artist’s rich palette, streaked full of lavender, royal blue, fiery orange, bright pink, and violet. Have you noticed those skies?

Will campus be a miserable and desolate place this winter? Can we keep our beauty, cracking with divine artistry? Really, it’s up to you.

Though it sometimes stinks of hog confinements and burns with frostbite winds, this small nook of Sioux County is a beautiful place. That is, of course, if you’ll look for it.
Division One volleyball coach soon-to-be "Dordt Defender"

Alex Updike
Staff Writer

Dordt’s volleyball program filled the absence left by head coach Van Den Bosch with their new hire, Chad Hanson.

Hanson has major experience at the division one college level from coaching at both the University of Iowa and the University of Georgia. It is hoped that he will continue the proud tradition of winning with high character that Dordt has come to expect from its volleyball program.

The question that many are asking, however, is “How did Dordt manage to hire a new head coach with such major division one experience?”

Athletic Director Glenn Bouma said, “It’s unique how that stuff works out in the larger scheme of God’s plan.”

When God’s plan involves a division one coach coming to your small school in North-west Iowa, you do not argue.

But Hanson’s hiring was not simply a divine miracle. Coach Hanson has connections to Dordt. His wife attended Dordt during her freshman year of college and then finished her degree at nearby Northwestern.

As a coach at the University of Iowa, Hanson was constantly recruiting from the volleyball powerhouse of Sioux County.

A surprising trend arose as many of the players who had division one talent decided to stay local at schools such as Dordt.

“He was looking for a job and looking for a change,” Bouma said. “Between the ties of his wife, his professional experiences and his conservative Presbyterian background, Dordt College, with its Reformed perspective, was something that interested him.”

Hanson is more than qualified to carry on the proud tradition that is Dordt volleyball.

“Dordt is a volleyball powerhouse of Sioux County. We are excited for the future as well.”

Kenny Gradert
Staff Writer

Amber Soodsma, a senior leader on the Lady Defenders basketball team, played a special game in November. More specifically, Soodsma had a very special shot.

During the Lady Defender’s game against Central College, Soodsma sank a short jumper with over twelve minutes to go in the first half. When she heard her family erupt from the crowd, Soodsma realized how special the shot actually was.

Soodsma had just earned the Dordt College women’s basketball all-time scorer award. The shot garnered Soodsma a grand total of 1416 career points and broke the previous ten-year-old record of 1414 points held by Lisa Roos, a Lady Defender from 1995 to 1999. The Lady Defenders went on to beat Central 106-58.

Soodsma, ever the scholar-athlete, doesn’t have much time to polish the glass trophy now resting in Kuyper 33 as she’s busy student teaching math at Western Christian High School.

After graduating, Soodsma hopes to continue with basketball by coaching at the high school level.

Ask an Athlete
Female vs. Male

Kristin Janssen
Staff Writer

Why did you choose to continue athletics in college?
I didn’t know what else to do with myself because I’ve been doing athletics since I can remember and wanted to continue them as long as possible.

How do you balance athletics, classes, and a social life?
I’ve never had too much of a problem with it. I get everything done on time and still have time to focus on sports and have a reasonable social life.

What’s your favorite sport to watch?
Soccer

If you could change one thing about your sport, what would it be?

It’s SO good and delicious.

Soodsma in action on the court. Photo by Hiro Yamada
Hollywood Dordt Students
An American College Theater Festival overview

Adam McDonald
Editor

Recently, a group of select Dordt students were provided the opportunity to show off their acting skills for professionals and other serious actors at the American College Theatre Festival.

The students selected were Mia Kornelis, Jason Kornelis, Lee Radde, Emily Hageman, and Maria Bouwkamp.

“You participate in events like auditioning for scholarships, or you can audition for professional companies and showcase things you have done in the past year and receive awards,” said sophomore Maria Bouwkamp.

The premise of the festival is for young actors to show off their skills and learn from one another, be critiqued by professionals and receive awards. You can go to workshops during the day to learn how to perform a great audition, learn to design a show, or how to operate the technology of a show.

The Dordt College actors performed a scene from the play “Machinal”, a story about Young Woman, played by Mia Kornelis, who is constantly questioning what to believe about life and love.

“We did the first scene of ‘Machinal’. It’s the fastest scene in the play. Everyone is talking over each other,” said Bouwkamp. “We are constantly attacking Young Woman and pressuring her to live the lifestyle that we advocate. I played Telephone girl. She really schmoozes everyone and tries to lead Young Woman into her own lifestyle of men, drinking and being carefree.”

The students were gone for an entire week in order to participate in the event, willingly sacrificing their free time and school time in order to pursue their passions. They were accompanied by Theatre Arts professors April Hubbard and Simon Du Toit.

Joe: Dinner for Shmucks was definitely a “wait-for-rental”. As a Steve Carrel fan, I’ll pretty much watch anything he’s in. But unfortunately this one just tries too hard.

Adam: There are a few hilarious parts, but on the whole it was very small observational, cheap humor. And Steve Carrel’s character Barry felt a lot like Michael Scott from “The Office”.

Joe: I agree with the cheap laughs observation. I think the sex humor was pretty overdone too. But I guess I wasn’t ever really bored with it.

Adam: Yeah, the plot itself moved quickly. The humor was at times a little dry but the overall pace of the movie added to the comedy.

Joe: Yeah, it’s worth a few laughs. But overall, I’d say it’s just another disappointing movie still attempting to ride the comedy wave of Anchorman and Step Brothers. Two stars.

Adam: It’s what I’d call a “rainy day” movie. It’s the sort of movie that people use as an excuse to cuddle, not really caring about the plot. I give it two and a half stars. However, I am a Steve Carrel fan and think he should be given the benefit of the doubt. He no doubt understands the elements of a good comedy and with an extremely contagious laugh, Carell leaves you laughing no matter what his role. Let’s just hope he can expand his acting roles for the future and find someone else who compliments his comedic timing, unlike the dry and stale Paul Rudd.

27 January 2011

Art Gallery welcomes new scenic photographs

Meghan Aardsma
Staff Writer

The Campus Center Art Gallery has made another rotation, this time welcoming the work of two Dordt alums, April Van Rys and Maggie Mellema.

A Photography Two Person Show features scenic photography of Van Rys and Mellema as well as some portrait and experimental works.

“You can get very compelling work by just going out with a camera and a good eye,” says Versluis, “The mind’s eye is captured.”

The emphasis on this gallery is “real photography” with little or no digital enhancement.

“Versluis, “The mind’s eye is a camera and a good eye,” says Versluis, “The mind’s eye is captured.”

The idea for this gallery was originally conceived by Van Rys when she contacted Professor David Versluis, who is in charge of the gallery.

Last year Van Rys asked Professor Versluis if she could have an exhibition at Dordt.

Meanwhile Versluis thought of another Dordt alumna, Mellem, who was also a photographer and whose work he thought would compliment Van Rys’ work well.

April Van Rys graduated from Dordt in 2005. She says in her artist statement, located near the door of the gallery, that she “uses photography to capture memories that would normally be forgotten over time.”

For Maggie Mellema, graduate of 2007, her one hope is that her photography gives others a small glimpse of how she sees the world.

Photos will be displayed until February 20 and the reception will be held on February 4 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Photos will be displayed until February 20 and the reception will be held on February 4 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Windows of Creation
Art Gallery welcomes new scenic photographs

Photo by Kelly Zatlin

This Dinner Sucks
By Joe Venhuizen, Staff Writer and Adam McDonald, Editor

With movie tickets costing an arm and a leg, the latest buzz for movie rentals for college students is Redbox, a dollar-a-day rental system and can be found at the WalMart in Sioux Center. Redbox usually has the latest releases about a week after they have come out on DVD. But so you don’t waste that precious Washington in your pocket, Joe Venhuizen and Adam McDonald are here with the latest movie reviews. This week, we reviewed “Dinner for Schmucks”. We carefully analyzed each aspect of the movie and have compiled a brief summary of our scientific endeavor.

menu

Joe: Dinner for Shmucks was definitely a “wait-for-rental”. As a Steve Carrel fan, I’ll pretty much watch anything he’s in. But unfortunately this one just tries too hard.

Adam: There are a few hilarious parts, but on the whole it was very small observational, cheap humor. And Steve Carrel’s character Barry felt a lot like Michael Scott from “The Office”.

Joe: I agree with the cheap laughs observation. I think the sex humor was pretty overdone too. But I guess I wasn’t ever really bored with it.

Adam: Yeah, the plot itself moved quickly. The humor was at times a little dry but the overall pace of the movie added to the comedy.

Joe: Yeah, it’s worth a few laughs. But overall, I’d say it’s just another disappointing movie still attempting to ride the comedy wave of Anchorman and Step Brothers. Two stars.

Adam: It’s what I’d call a “rainy day” movie. It’s the sort of movie that people use as an excuse to cuddle, not really caring about the plot. I give it two and a half stars. However, I am a Steve Carrell fan and think he should be given the benefit of the doubt. He no doubt understands the elements of a good comedy and with an extremely contagious laugh, Carell leaves you laughing no matter what his role. Let’s just hope he can expand his acting roles for the future and find someone else who compliments his comedic timing, unlike the dry and stale Paul Rudd.

This Dinner Sucks
By Joe Venhuizen, Staff Writer and Adam McDonald, Editor

With movie tickets costing an arm and a leg, the latest buzz for movie rentals for college students is Redbox, a dollar-a-day rental system and can be found at the WalMart in Sioux Center. Redbox usually has the latest releases about a week after they have come out on DVD. But so you don’t waste that precious Washington in your pocket, Joe Venhuizen and Adam McDonald are here with the latest movie reviews. This week, we reviewed “Dinner for Schmucks”. We carefully analyzed each aspect of the movie and have compiled a brief summary of our scientific endeavor.

Menu

Joe: Dinner for Shmucks was definitely a “wait-for-rental”. As a Steve Carrel fan, I’ll pretty much watch anything he’s in. But unfortunately this one just tries too hard.

Adam: There are a few hilarious parts, but on the whole it was very small observational, cheap humor. And Steve Carrel’s character Barry felt a lot like Michael Scott from “The Office”.

Joe: I agree with the cheap laughs observation. I think the sex humor was pretty overdone too. But I guess I wasn’t ever really bored with it.

Adam: Yeah, the plot itself moved quickly. The humor was at times a little dry but the overall pace of the movie added to the comedy.

Joe: Yeah, it’s worth a few laughs. But overall, I’d say it’s just another disappointing movie still attempting to ride the comedy wave of Anchorman and Step Brothers. Two stars.

Adam: It’s what I’d call a “rainy day” movie. It’s the sort of movie that people use as an excuse to cuddle, not really caring about the plot. I give it two and a half stars. However, I am a Steve Carrell fan and think he should be given the benefit of the doubt. He no doubt understands the elements of a good comedy and with an extremely contagious laugh, Carell leaves you laughing no matter what his role. Let’s just hope he can expand his acting roles for the future and find someone else who compliments his comedic timing, unlike the dry and stale Paul Rudd.

Joe: Dinner for Shmucks was definitely a “wait-for-rental”. As a Steve Carrel fan, I’ll pretty much watch anything he’s in. But unfortunately this one just tries too hard.

Adam: There are a few hilarious parts, but on the whole it was very small observational, cheap humor. And Steve Carrel’s character Barry felt a lot like Michael Scott from “The Office”.

Joe: I agree with the cheap laughs observation. I think the sex humor was pretty overdone too. But I guess I wasn’t ever really bored with it.

Adam: Yeah, the plot itself moved quickly. The humor was at times a little dry but the overall pace of the movie added to the comedy.

Joe: Yeah, it’s worth a few laughs. But overall, I’d say it’s just another disappointing movie still attempting to ride the comedy wave of Anchorman and Step Brothers. Two stars.

Adam: It’s what I’d call a “rainy day” movie. It’s the sort of movie that people use as an excuse to cuddle, not really caring about the plot. I give it two and a half stars. However, I am a Steve Carrell fan and think he should be given the benefit of the doubt. He no doubt understands the elements of a good comedy and with an extremely contagious laugh, Carell leaves you laughing no matter what his role. Let’s just hope he can expand his acting roles for the future and find someone else who compliments his comedic timing, unlike the dry and stale Paul Rudd.
Keys to Fake Success

Dave De Wit

Today's lesson: Cooking

Step 1: Never commit to cooking meals for others. [if failed, proceed to STEP 3]

Step 2: Buy food from a restaurant for yourself

Step 3: Insist on preparing your meal in private because, “People watching me cook makes me nervous.”

Step 4: Buy food from a restaurant.

Step 5: Cover your dinner table with fancy decorations, nice dishes, and beautiful silverware.

Step 6: Place your newly bought food items on plates and discard any traces of the restaurants packaging.

Step 7: If, while eating, anyone says, “This tastes like [restaurant name],” you respond by saying, “I used to work at [same restaurant name], but I think I make it better than they do.”

Step 8: Never commit to cooking meals for others EVER again.

Congratulations! You’re now a fake successful chef!