Budget deficit causes cuts, not expected to affect tuition

“Budget deficit causes cuts, not expected to affect tuition”

Dordt has been facing a $700,000 budget deficit. The freshman class, pictured during the Week of Welcome, has 360 students. That number fell short of the expected 400, causing financial difficulties.

"There are two ways for salaries to increase—increase base salary, or increase increment for levels of experience,” Hoekstra said. “Sometimes we increase both, sometimes just one. But we are hoping not to have to cut any salaries.”

Kobes notes that Dordt is doing much better than many other institutions.

“It’s not an ‘oh, the sky is falling’ kind of thing,” he said. “Dordt’s been sturdily and responsible with what students and donors give.”

Hoekstra said the same, specifying that Dordt has been financially conservative over many years, where other schools have not.

“We try to do what’s right, and not be wasteful,” Hoekstra said.

Had Dordt taken the financial risks that other schools took, dipping into endowment funds, students would be feeling the effects.

Therefore, tuition does fluctuate because of inflation, but it also varies to accommodate different class sizes and school expenses—though neither factor has an immediate or exact effect.

“Now you have at least $5 to give back,” she said.

"That’s why campus visit days are so important,” Hoekstra said. “We focus on recruiting: we try to get the whole campus out to show what kind of a place Dordt is.”

If enrollment continues to fall short of expectations, tuition over time will reflect that deficit.

"What you should do is encourage your friends to come to Dordt—then tuition will be less expensive for them,” Hoekstra said.

Yet Hoekstra noted that the price of tuition was not something the Board takes lightly.

“There are cheaper ways to get college degrees,” Hoekstra said. “Dordt degrees are a large investment. We try to make that degree infinitely valuable for students, as far as what God’s doing in the world.”

The final budget will be set at the board meeting on April 23.

What about the other 15 percent?

Dordt pays for 85 percent of its expenses through income from tuition. But that still leaves 15 percent.

The remaining funds come from the endowment. The endowment is made up of money that has been donated to Dordt which is invested. Interest made on that money is spent by the school. Dordt has a relatively small endowment—some schools will cover up to 40 or 50 percent of their expenses through endowment funds, according to Provost Erik Hoekstra.

Dordt’s endowment, though small, is still crucial in running the institution. Donations from friends and alumni increase the amount Dordt has to invest. This is why it is critical for Dordt students to give back to their alma mater. One proponent of giving back is Gloria Zylstra— and she leads by example.

Every year at the senior breakfast, Zylstra gives each graduate $5 from her own pocket. She does so to remind students the importance of giving - that there are people that they do not know who have helped pay for their education, and that they should do the same for future students.

The money also leaves them without excuse when Dordt calls.

“Now you have at least $5 to give back,” she said.

Not only are they smaller... they’re smarter, too.

According to statistics from Quentin Van Essen, Head of Admissions, and Jim Bos, Registrar, the freshman class on average had a higher ACT score and a higher GPA than the other classes in this school did when they were freshmen.

Because the academic scholarship system is based on set numbers, a higher ACT and GPA is for a class means Dordt gives away more scholarship money.

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“Don’t miss the top ten worst reasons to miss the Olympics”

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"It doesn’t seem like much difference, but with over 350 students, it takes quite a bit to move that number," - Jim Bos
Prairie Grass Film Challenge Awards: ‘Sam Beasley, P.I.’ finds coveted ‘Dordty’

The Prairie Grass Film Challenge Awards Ceremony was held Friday, Feb. 19 in the B.J. Haan. Winner of Best in Show was Sam Beasley, P.I., created by Duck, Duck, Goose! Productions. Members of the group (pictured above) were Dave De Wit, Kenny Gradert, Lee Radle, Jeremy Brue, Eliot De Wit, Ben Christians, and Jon Trueblood. They received a $500 check, the coveted Dordty Award, and Avid software worth almost $3000.

The runner up was The Fourth Degree by Dual Conscience productions. This team of Benjamin Groenendyk, Laura Heckmann, Luke Kreykes, Mirah Kreykes, Jon Nederhoff, Jonathan Postuma, Nate Vruwink, and Matt Weirnsma took home $250.

Approximately 50 people attended the discussion, which was moderated by Dr. Charles VanEnnstra. For those of you who missed out, here’s a re-cap of the four panelist’s presentations.

Jacob Bossman: Bossman read a letter from Grassley emphasizing that serious problems do exist in our healthcare system. Costs are rising dramatically, and people are running out of ways to pay for doctor visits and medications. However, he says, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act passed by the Senate will make the problems worse. Grassley supports throwing out the bill, and creating a new plan with bipartisan support.

Dr. Nick deVries: deVries believes that everyone should have access to healthcare. However, he makes the point that many who don’t are the ones who do not want it—they’re willing to take the risk to avoid the cost. De Vries does not support requiring healthcare, but he desires that its cost is lowered to the point that all people can and most people will pay for it. He claims that right now, we have the best quality healthcare in the world, but that the costs are unsustainable. He would like to see interstate insurance options to provide more competition, and anti-trust laws in effect. He also wants us to move toward less expensive equipment, tests, and precautions by removing the constant threat of malpractice lawsuits.

Barbara Stolle: Stolle, a nurse at St. Luke’s, stated that she believes everyone should have healthcare, that she support the right to universal healthcare. She is directly affected by the shortage of nurses right now—a problem that will not go away, because when there is a shortage of nurses, there is also a shortage of nursing instructors, and therefore qualified nursing students are turned away. She desires to see quality of healthcare improving, keeping patients out of the hospital longer.

Roger Henderson: Henderson agreed with the rest of the panel: healthcare needs to be changed. He said that the greed which caused good Christian people to hold slaves and mistreat factory workers in the past is now evident in the healthcare system. He has held medical insurance in Germany and in the Netherlands, and he has seen how much they study healthcare system. He believes we should devote more time and money to the study of healthcare, to find the best way to provide it. He also wants citizens to be more aware of what healthcare costs.

symposium update

SYMPOSIUM UPDATE

On Tuesday night, Feb. 23, Symposium hosted a Healthcare Forum, with a panel of four experts in various areas: Jacob Bossman, regional director for Senator Charles Grassley; Dr. Nick de Vries of Orange City; Barbara Stolle of St. Luke’s College, and Dordt philosophy professor Roger Henderson.

Pass rates exceptionally high in Dordt’s nursing program

Four of the last five years, nurses have a 100 percent pass rate on their first try becoming a licensed RN

Dordt’s program has had a 100 percent passing rate in four of the past five years. This statistic, while quite impressive by itself, is even more impressive when compared to the state and national averages. Nursing students in Iowa pass the exam on their first try only 85 percent of the time, while 88 percent of students nationwide pass the test on their first try.

Dr. Pam Hulstein, Dordt’s Director of Nursing, credits this success to St. Luke’s Regional Medical Center and the partnership that Dordt has established with them. Nearly ten years ago, Dordt entered into a consortium agreement with St. Luke’s, allowing for the dual enrollment of students in Dordt College and St. Luke’s nursing program. A typical Dordt nursing student will take two semesters of core classes at Dordt and four semesters of clinical study at St. Luke’s.

Hulstein believes that this partnership with St. Luke’s is a “wonderful collaborative” because of the high quality of St. Luke’s program. The faculty at St. Luke’s is very experienced and supportive, providing students with an environment conducive to an excellent learning experience.

Dr. Hulstein particularly appreciates the combination of theory and clinical practice that St. Luke’s program offers. Not only does St. Luke’s Medical Center offer students the necessary hands-on experience, but it also tests students by forcing them to think critically. This combination is one of the largest factors in the program’s success.

Although St. Luke’s does have an excellent program, Hulstein recognizes that the pass rates would not be where they are without the extraordinary diligence that the students display.

The pass rates would not be where they are without the extraordinary diligence that the students display.
A philosophical approach to graphic design

Joel Venhuizen  
Staff Writer

“I have a crazy, crazy love of things,” philosophy professor Mark Tazelaar said and quoted a poem by Pablo Neruda, which he plans to apply in a speech to art and engineering students.

Graphic design professor David Versluis asked Tazelaar to address the line being drawn between fine arts—classical, noble, and intellectual arts like painting or drama—and applied arts—those pursuits like graphic design which have more practical, marketable value.

The lecture will be held in CL 1223 on Tuesday, March 2 at 7:00. All graphic design students and engineers are encouraged to attend, but the invitation is extended to all students who have an interest in the nature of things or the place of art in the world.

“The main question,” Tazelaar said, “is: Can design students be interested in the nature of things?”

Or instead, is the place of design merely to deal in commodities and product communication? Tazelaar will use examples of ordinary objects like shoes, a jug, and a chair to illustrate the connection between the everyday, practical things and the “finer” and “nobler” things. He may also touch on the connection between the methods for finding truth within the fields of art and science.

So is there something more profound about the business-driven field of graphic design? Tazelaar hopes to show students of design that they too can also possess a crazy, crazy love.

‘Fundamental Elements’ concert benefits PLIA

Kelly Zatlin  
Staff Writer

Fundamental Elements, will be performing on Dordt’s campus on Friday, March 5 in the B.J. Haan auditorium. PLIA is hosting this benefit concert in order to raise money for the upcoming mission trips across the country.

This concert has the potential to be PLIA’s biggest fundraiser ever, and we’re going to make it a great event,” Kevin DeGroot, a junior, said.

DeGroot hopes to get around 750 people out to this concert. He has been trying to get the band to come play here for the last two years. He wanted them to come out for a good cause and PLIA was a perfect opportunity to ask them to perform.

Angelina Wikkerink, co-chairman of the PLIA organization said, “The PLIA concert was Kevin’s idea. The planning committee decided to go for it as a fundraiser so we can better support the students who desire to go on PLIA.”

Fundamental Elements is a well known band in the St. Louis, MO, area and their talent continues to spread across the nation. Their music style is a mix of pop/rock and soul. They have opened for artists such as Rihanna, Matisyahu, Three 6 Mafia, and Matt Wertz.

The band was excited when they heard about the chance to play for an organization that sends students across the country to help out those in need. Fundamental Elements is only charging Dordt for transportation and all other profits will go to PLIA to support their mission work.

“I am really excited for the concert, to hear the band, and reach more people about PLIA’s goals and to increase support,” Wikkerink said.

Tickets for this event can be purchased from PLIA members or at the door the night of the concert. Fundamental Elements will be playing at 7:30 on Friday night.

Online personal training in the final round

Hani Yang  
Staff Writer

Mike Behnke, Erica Huisman, Daniel Poel, and Mark Wescott aren’t messing around—they mean business.

Tomorrow, this team of four moves forward to the final round of New Venture Business Plan Competition with their Online Personal Training business plan. The competition offers $5,000 to Iowa’s three best entrepreneurial business ideas.

“We were happy and excited because we had worked really hard on it,” Behnke said. “We even joked about starting our own business if we win this competition.”

The business plan was originally made for the Entrepreneurship and Small Business Management course taught by Professor Gary Vander Plaats.

The students had to develop a business plan for a new start-up company. “Dan [Poel] had been thinking about it a long time, as he is a certified personal trainer,” Behnke said. “We all thought it was a good idea and went with it, targeting small businesses that don’t have enough resources on their own and emphasizing that we can still effectively communicate with customers even online.”

Administered by the John Pappajohn Entrepreneurship Centers, the New Venture Business Plan Competition is intended for Iowa, college and university students with business teams interested in starting their own business. Team plans are judged based on content and business viability with seed grants being awarded to the top three plans presented in the finals at the Collegiate Entrepreneurs Iowa Conference.

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Advisor: Jim Schaap

Upcoming SAC Events:

Saturday, February 27: TX

Students have been working hard on their routines and ensembles in preparation for the show which will take place at 10pm, in the BJ Haan Auditorium. So far, the schedule for the show is:

- 2 at 7:00. All graphic design members or at the door the night of the concert.
- 3 at 7:30 on Friday night.
- 4 at 8:00. All graphic design members or at the door the night of the concert.
- 5 at 8:30 on Friday night.

20 February 2010
Love made into loaves: Story of Olivia's Bakery

Allyssa Hoogendoorn  
Staff Writer

Olivia’s Bakery is the product of the love between Martin Palma and Blanca Estela. They may not be legally married, but he’s been calling her his wife for three years, and on Valentine’s Day weekend, the couple celebrated the official opening of their new business on Main Street.

The bakery, named after Estela’s mother, is a family-run business, but the business also runs in the family. Right now, Martin’s son Diego and brother-in-law Gabriel are helping out at the bakery until it’s running smoothly, but Blanca explained the family ties go farther than that.

She spoke to Martin in Spanish and he translated, “She says they’ve had bakers all her life.”

Then he added, “All my brothers- and sisters-in-law own bakeries some place in Mexico.”

The beginnings of Olivia’s Bakery started in a small, Mexican town where Palma and Estela grew up. He said they’ve known each other their whole lives, but they haven’t always been together.

Palma has been living in Rock Valley for the past six years. He’s partnered with his brother, and together, they own and operate La Rosita, named after their mother. The restaurant, located in Rock Valley, has been around for over four years.

Estela was cooking at La Rosita when she and Palma started to make plans to open a bakery.

“We thought about putting the bakery in the back of La Rosita,” Palma said, but he and Estela sided against it because they saw a greater need for the bakery in Sioux Center.

We have a big Hispanic community [in Sioux Center], and we want to serve our people,” Palma said. “I want to serve the community with fresh product—then it’s homemade. We cook here. We sell here.”

There are others living in Sioux Center who came from the same town in Mexico as Palma and Estela.

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But Palma also said they seek to serve people from all backgrounds—whether that be Guatemalan, Mexican, or American, they want to serve the community.

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Testing their stomachs

Man Club plans eating contest to go along with February beard judging

Vanessa Theel  
Staff Writer

What are the Dordt men up to now?

Something tasty by the look of it. Or, not.

On Friday, Feb. 26, Man Club is holding an eating contest to compliment the Februhairy beard judging. The contest will have five events to test even the strongest of stomachs.

The first event is “The Buffalo Wild Wings Blazing Challenge Extreme.” Each man competitor has ten minutes to eat as many of these boneless buffalo wild wings as he can.

But there’s a catch to this fiery contest: no drinks allowed.

Competitors will have to endure ten minutes of buffalo sauce burn if they want to win.

“The Gut Busting Hot Dog Explosion” is the second event.

Competitors have ten minutes to consume as many hotdogs as possible.

They have to eat the buns too, but water—and presumably ketchup—is allowed to help competitors down their ‘dogs.’

Next on the list is “The Impossible Milk Chugging Challenge.” The contestants have to drink as much milk as they can in 10 minutes, and they have to keep it down. Winners don’t vomit.

The fourth event, the “Chocolate Pudding, Artery-Clogging, Hands-Free, Pie-Scarfing,” will be anything but a piece of cake.

The event sees who can eat a whole chocolate pie first without using his hands.

Competitors will have to jump in head-first and use their primal instincts; real men don’t need utensils.

The last option is something of a mystery.

In “The Nasty Textured Condensed Triathlon” competitors will be given three unspecified, condensed items; the first man to suppress his gag reflex and choke down all three items wins.

The winners of each contest get a $30 gift card for more food at Buffalo Wild Wings, Casey’s Bakery or Hy-Vee.

Everyone—women included—is welcome to come and watch the competition, provided they have the stomach to watch.

Spectators can even take part in some side events such as cracker-eating and drink-guzzling races.

Winners of the side events will also receive prizes.

The showdown will take place in Grille area from 9:30-11:00.

It’s possible: Siouxpreme love

Mark Bylenga  
Staff Writer

Love is possible anywhere—even at Siouxpreme.

In last issue’s Top Ten, I listed taking your date to Siouxpreme as the number one worst place for Valentine’s Day. I was wrong.

Kathy Harmelink, Dordt’s Human Resource Assistant, met her husband Harlan at Siouxpreme 25 years ago.

“I started working at Siouxpreme Egg while at Dordt,” Harmelink said. “All the workers back then were either in high school or college.”

It was quite a job.

“I was in the loading room and he was a floater.” Harmelinkers back then were either in high school or college.

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Society’s obsession with football

Alvin observes: ‘A time for everything…under the heavens’

When Bella and Alice are flying into Italy in the Twilight Saga: New Moon, the name of the airline was blatantly cast on the screen: Virgin America. I could hear snickering coming from the teenage girls sitting a few rows ahead of me in the theater. What was so funny? In a culture that otherwise flauts sexuality and promiscuity, it is surprising (and apparently funny) that a company would include the word “virgin” in its name.

Wendy Shalit wrote in Girls Gone Mild, “There is an unmistakable misogyny in our attitude toward the virgin.” But perhaps mainstream media is trying to reclaim the word and shed some positive light on it.

Could the virgin be making a comeback and the happy hooker be on her way out?

A look at Virgin Mobile’s homepage, promoting Lady Gaga’s “Monster Ball” tour, showed the singer wearing some kind of thong and midriff-baring top.

Showed the singer wearing a riff-baring top.

There was nothing virgin-loving.

Thanks to society’s obsession with pop stars, we know Lady Gaga is most certainly not a virgin. Her ad epitomizes the conflicting expectation for women to be virgin whores, because no one really wants either one of those labels by itself.

We have a society that tries to strip women of their dignity whether they’re virgins or whores so the logical conclusion would be to magically encompass both and create a new category—the virgin-whore heroine.

But it can’t be done.

If only try to do the impossible, our audience will be entertained at our expense. Our efforts will be futile, and we will fail because that’s how the match has been set up.

So think twice about the images you see, and if all else fails, laugh while you can.

Allysa Hoogendoorn Columnist

When the earthquake in Haiti or North Korea continuing to receive international aid despite its government refusing to dismantle its nuclear weapons program is more important than a football is beside the point.

A professor at Dordt College recently told an anecdote where, because of a Vikings game, he was distracted and detached from his life for three days. The players were withering in wrath and despair. The black waves continued on and on, for as far as the eye could see.

Third down. At the snap, dozens of enormous men charged to action and their muscles and rage collide against each other.

The great Brett Favre cradled the ball, scrambling to the right and throws a pass that was picked off with mere seconds left in the game. They lost.

In the middle of a week, in a room filled with upperclassmen students at an academic institution, the man retold this trauma that disrupted his abilities as a professor, husband and father—all identities were influenced by the football fan, yielding utter frustration at the outcome of the football game.

“Now, I can rationalize this,” he said, understanding that the football game was largely insignificant in comparison to the rest of the world. While the top stories on the CNN homepage feature American Idol and the games available on Facebook, the professor acknowledged that the aftermath of the earthquake in Haiti and bombings in Northern Ireland, as well as Iraq, are more significant than an American football game.

Had he not said this, the students would have thrown their text at him and left the building.

Matters of life and death, drought, oppression, and starvation are exponentially more significant than a football game where the players are paid million-dollar salaries. They’re more significant than publishing a piece of short fiction that a few hundred people will read and even less will remember, and more significant than the Bel- gian Confession, middle-school curriculum and music theory.

Still - the Belgian Confession is a comforting affirmation for so many lives; a well-designed middle-school curriculum allows teachers to teach and students to learn; studying music theory enables students to practice, and interpret, music— we can hear and appreciate Fleet Foxes, Jay-Z, Lady Gaga, Radiohead, Schubert, Bob Dylan and Ella Fitzgerald more than we have before.

We weep in wrath and despair at the earthquake and drought because they leave us unable to do these things. There’s still a place for football games in the ongoing activities of community, play and heartache that we are able to enjoy.

Robert Minto Columnist

I think we Dordt students can only focus on distractions. I distracts myself from writing this editorial, I had a great discussion with an engineering major friend about the relationship between our minds and the world. He’s been sucked in by his Technology and Society class – he’s even thinking about it apart from lectures and homework.

Poor fool. He’s got philosophers’ disease. This occurs when your classes start interest you in a non-mandatory sort of way, distracting you. I ought to know. I’m passionate major so my whole education is one big distraction. The disease can result reading extra books and making friends who are interesting because of what they think, Gatsby.

If only my friend could get himself some healthier distractions—like video games or junk food. We’d all like him more and he’d have a happier life.

I think I’ve figured out the way for us to be passionate about what we want. This is how it works: you take something unimportant (say, Facebook) and tell yourself that’s your reason for existing, that’s your vocation. Then you do whatever’s important (say, homework) in order to avoid the pretended main thing. You’ll enjoy yourself and get things done.

Or maybe that’s just self-deception. Maybe our exclusive interest in distractions is the symptom of a deeper problem. When he came last semester to lecture here, Dr. Sweetman said that young people today sharply divide work from play. Work is something to get over with; play is something to enjoy. Maybe we can only focus on distractions because they seem more like play?

If we could be excited about our work we might find our selves more fulfilled, more successful and – not least – more useful for the kingdom of God. A wise man once said, “purity of heart is to will one thing.”

Think about it – but wait until you have something else you need to do, then you’ll find it more interesting.
Against odds, Blades make Nationals for third year

Three months ago, things looked bleak for the Blades. A 9-3 loss to Wisconsin in mid-February marked the lowest point of the season; the playoffs seemed to be a distant dream.

“We didn’t believe it was within the realm of possibility,” said first-time head coach Bill Elgersma.

Now the Blades are coming off two victories in the regional playoffs and are headed to Florida for their third straight berth in the national tournament. Something definitely changed to allow the Blades to get this far.

“We had a better idea of who we were going into the second semester,” said Elgersma. “We realized this is the team we have, and we have to make it work. Nobody was going to come to bail us out.”

Part of the Blades new identity came from the addition of several first-time players throughout the year. The six returning players from the 2008-2009 season found themselves in a mentoring role to the add-ons.

“I think a lot of the rookies viewed the season as a learning point,” said senior Nate Woudstra. “[The veterans] chipped in and just tried to pass on what ever knowledge we could.”

Sophomore Doug Veldhuizen, one of the mid-season additions to the lineup, believes learning from the veteran players was a priceless experience.

“I loved it from the beginning. Practice at 6:15 a.m. was never a chore...and we’re still getting better every day,” Veldhuizen said.

With a decisive, morale-lifting defeat of UW-Oshkosh in mid-January, along with a clutch win against Iowa State in the last game of the regular season, the Blades found themselves headed to Las Vegas last weekend to compete in the regional playoffs.

They took both of their Vegas contests to secure a spot in Florida, where in early March they will face some of their toughest challengers yet.

“We’re coming in as an upset team; other teams probably won’t expect us to win,” said Woudstra. “We can use that to our advantage.”

Elgersma, while acknowledging Dordt’s position as an underdog, points to the Blades’ achievements already: “Who would’ve thought we’d make regionals? Who would’ve thought we’d make nationals? We’re just going to go there and give it our best shot.”

As for the team’s attitude, Woudstra has that covered:

“We’re nervous, excited, and ready to go.”

Schmidt joins teammates at the top

They are not just scoring machines, either. Schmidt is the second leading rebounder all time for Dordt with 882; she trails a 1999 record set by Lisa Roos at 918 boards.

Soodsma, who currently has 1,232 points, trails the scoring record by just 182. She is just the 12th Lady Defender to reach that goal. She joins two of her teammates, Kate Du Mez and Amber Snelders, on the list.

Coach Craig Stiensma could not be happier with these girls.

“They help to make it a tremendously fun experience for all those who are involved with the team,” he said.

He also credited the trio of scorers for their incredible hard work over the years. They have all provided excellent leadership in games, practice, and outside the gym.

Baseball season begins in Metrodome

TheYellow jackets take the field against Dakota State.

The Defender baseball team is gears up for a new season as the snow begins to melt. Last year the team finished with a record of 10-33, and went 4-20 in conference play.

Travis Feekes, a senior from Spencer, center, returns to the outfield for Dordt. Hatted .335 last season, scored 40 runs, and posted an RBI of 27.

Another key returner is sophomore Travis Dekkers, who put up a batting average of .322 his freshman year as well as leading the team with 30 RBI.

Dordt has added a number of players for this season, from around the country: the 29 players on the team hail from 15 different states.

“The team is different than other years in that we have good depth at a number of our positions,” said coach Jeff Schouten.

Although they were voted to finish last in the GPAC in the preseason poll, the Defenders have high hopes. They have nothing to lose in the season ahead, and hope to prove the conference coaches wrong by getting some upset wins.

They began the season today by traveling to the Metrodome in Minneapolis to play a doubleheader against Dakota State.
Spring show, ‘Book of Days,’ to make its premier tonight

Laura Heckmann
Staff Writer

Hypnotic bluegrass tunes and an impressively revamped seating setup welcome entrants to the New World Theatre for Dordt’s production of Lanford Wilson’s “Book of Days,” which opens today.

With the help of visual aids and unique descriptions from the cast, “Books of Days” opens into a very quaint picture of a small Midwestern town in Missouri called Dub- lin, centering around a handful of its inhabitants and their connections to a local cheese factory, and each other, over the course of a year.

What follows is what could be described as a dramatic mystery involving the tragic death of one of the residents during a violent storm. Ruth, the wife of the cheese factory’s manager, begins to suspect foul play while arousing mixed reactions from the rest of the town.

The intriguing quality of the play, however, lies not only within the blatant mystery of a seemingly accidental death, but also in what is unearthed among the intersecting lives of the characters as a result.

The plot may leave something to be desired, but the diverse characters and their storylines make this play a compelling and controversial picture of small town life in the Midwest.

A clever component to watch for is the melding of Ruth’s character into the persona of Joan of Arc, the character whom she’s been playing in a local theatre production.

The talented cast of Dordt’s production lends a convincing believability to the eccentric group of Dub- lin. Their embodiments are believable and successfully stirred both sympathetic and loathing emotions, enticing the audience to care about their stories.

Some unique use of blocking, along with an understated yet effectively simple set and lighting design, enhanced the storytelling as well.

And while it does contain harsh language and suggestive situations, this play presents a platform for Christians to discuss the need to confront underlying evils that do exist and, while not pleasant to deal with, will wreak havoc if allowed to fester.

Whether or not you leave the theatre singing its praises, you’ll most likely leave it with something to talk about.

First six seniors showcase artwork

Hani Yang
Staff Writer

This semester’s first senior art reception was held on Saturday, Feb. 13, featuring the work of Larissa Arkema, Ana Brito, Mark Eekhoff, Jessica Folkerts, Jake Kloet, and Bel-sy Van’t Hul.

Van’t Hul, Folkerts, and Kloet focused on their photo- graphic work; Arkema on her naturalistic paintings; Brito on both her photographs and graphic design, and Eekhoff on both his photographs and prints.

The seniors explained their chosen pieces and the inspiration behind them.

Brito shared how professor Jake Van Wyk’s love for trees has affected her work. She chose to display both photogra- phs and drawings that centered on trees.

Eekhoff was motivated in a different way.

“My inspiration was the scribbles I drew in my notebook during classes,” said Eekhoff. He has three prints labeled accordingly: Comm. 110, Buad 206, and Gen 300.

The shows is on display through March 1 in the Campus Center Art Gallery.

Area high school orchestras join to play with Dordt for Music Festival performance

Adam McDonald
Staff Writer

Dordt College hosted the String Music Festival in the BJ Haan Auditorium on Feb. 18.

Dordt’s Chamber Orchestra invited three area high school orchestras to join them in playing a concert.

The three orchestras were from Unity Christian, led by Melody De Wit; Western Christian, led by Lyle Van Ravensway, and Fort Dodge, led by Laura McCarty.

Each orchestra performed one solo piece, and then all four played in the mass orchestra performance.

“I thought the students pulled it together very well,” said Bradley Miedema, the concert’s conductor and Instructor of Music at Dordt.

He was impressed with the students, who had very little time to learn to play together.

“We did a lot in a little bit of rehearsal time and the students were really responsive,” Miedema said.

He credits the students for their dedication.

“We rehearsed well and were focused on the work we had to do. I think it really showed tonight.”

It is tricky to put all the orchestras together, because only Dordt’s group was accustomed to being directed by Miedema.

But despite practicing only once as a mass group, Miedema said he was satisfied with the overall performance.

“I thought they were responsive dynamically,” he said. “Sometimes in a mass orchestra or mass band, all you do is keep time and hope for the best, but they were really receptive.”
Stories from abroad
Sonja Doty
Guest Writer

Here’s what Washington, D.C. does to you: it makes you paranoid. It’s not that it’s an urban environment, or that it’s diverse, or the homeless persons who are on nearly every street corner on the Hill. It’s how small it is. One of the very first things the directors of the program told us is that D.C. is the “biggest small town” in the world: there are connections everywhere. All we needed to do, they emphasized, was get our name out there.

I’ve been here a month and, while I can see their point, it’s how small it is. One of the very first things the directors of the program told us is that D.C. is the “biggest small town” in the world: there are connections everywhere. All we needed to do, they emphasized, was get our name out there.

I’ve been here a month and, while I can see their point, I still quite happily nested in my pocket. Why? Because everything I do has the potential to come back and bite me.

In a small town, if you mess up, you’re the anathema of the town, the local gossip, but it doesn’t really amount to anything. If I were infamous in my hometown and moved to New York, do you think that a job would be denied to me because of what I did back there? Probably not, because what does New York care for Chula Vista, California?

D.C. is the big small town because everything you do here matters. I’ve heard horror stories over the blogosphere of interns who shot themselves in the foot for silly, stupid, college-type things done in the subway, on the sidewalk, or just at the store.

Off-the-cuff commentary becomes much more important when the setting can have an impact on a future career—a newsperson from MSNBC is sitting at the next table in McDonalds. Anderson Cooper rides the same Metro car. The office worker you mouthed off to is close friends with your next interview. And all of the sudden you’re blacklisted.

Washington, D.C. is a land ripe of career opportunities. It’s also the land of the paranoid intern who suspects that the moment she trips over her tongue, she’s setting herself up for an epic fail.

The topic: Running

5 – 4 – 3 – 2 – RUN!

The top ten worst reasons to miss watching the Olympics:

1) Listening to “Pants on the Ground” from American Idol.
2) Staring at your clock in anticipation for Spring Break.
3) Becoming a shut-in and watching Halo Legends.
4) Watching Dear John (and crying) over and over...
5) Waiting for Tiger Woods and his wife to get back together.
6) Doing homework.
7) Committing your free time to talking about New Moon.
8) Complaining about the new Facebook layout.
9) Alphabetizing your roommate’s M&M collection.
10) Moving your car so they can clean the parking lot.