The best thing to do on Valentine’s Day (slightly apologetically?)

$p.2$

Fair trade coffee—buy it @ the Bean.

$p.2$

JJ Reed retackles Campus Center art

$p.3$

Every wonder how America’s capital

$p.8$

Career Symposium offered Friday

On Friday, February 20 the Placement Office is hosting a Career Symposium. Former Dordt students return to share their personal stories of how their college experience equipped them for their life after Dordt. The symposium will take place in the Campus Center, beginning at 1:30 and going until about 4:30. Take advantage of this opportunity to hear directly from alumni how a comprehensive, Christian education can equip them for a wide array of career opportunities.

Homecoming Schedule

Dordt’s Homecoming Week is February 23-28. During these days, keep an eye peeled for the Canon of Dordt hidden around campus. See the TODAY daily for more information and clues.

Also, daily dress-up days for all students and faculty are: Monday—“comfy day”; Tuesday—favorite prof day; Wednesday—nerd/jock day; Thursday—superhero day; Friday—Dordt attire day.
Hy-Vee Cheap or Fareway-Free?

We'll compare. You decide.

Bethany Fopma
Staff Writer

Since grocery shopping is an integral part of a college student's life, it's important to find a store that satisfies one's need for low prices, friendliness, selection and efficiency. While the supermarket selection is fairly limited in Sioux Center, together Fareway and Hy-Vee are able to satisfy most grocery shopping needs, but they each do so in different environments and different ways.

For those of you who prefer a small-town grocery store atmosphere, Fareway may be a better fit for you. The people there are friendly and personable. When I needed help finding an item, the employee didn't just tell me what aisle I should go to, she personally led me to the item. When checking out, the prices are manually punched into the cash register, and a teenager is usually there to push your cart of purchases to your car and unload them.

Fareway is also a good place to shop if you are watching your budget. Out of ten items of the same brand and size as those at Hy-Vee, nine were cheaper at Fareway. The largest price difference observed was on a half gallon of Blue Bunny ice cream that was $2.00 cheaper at Fareway. Comparing my two grocery lists, I saved $4.67 shopping at Fareway.

However, Fareway does not have a huge selection of items and does not accept all types of debit cards. Larissa Brown, a junior from Highland, Indiana, experienced this inconvenience during a recent stop at Fareway. "The cashier would not accept my debit card because it wasn't a specific kind."

Fareway and Hy-Vee are able to satisfy most grocery shopping needs, but they each do so in different environments and different ways.

It takes too long to write a check, as a manager has to come and approve ones from out-state, so I had to use the last of my cash."

While Hy-Vee may be a little more expensive than Fareway, it is a good place to stop if you are looking for variety. Hy-Vee offers a vast selection of grocery items, allowing you to check off every item on your shopping list in one stop. Hy-Vee also houses a pharmacy, a video department and a deli.

In addition, Hy-Vee is open for certain hours on Sunday; Fareway is not. Hy-Vee also accepts a variety of debit cards, and items are scanned at the cash register, providing a more efficient environment.

However, this efficient environment may come at the cost of a less personal shopping experience. While the employees are friendly, they seem to be in a hurry most of the time. When I asked an employee to help me find the exact same product as I did in Fareway, I was not led there like at Fareway. Instead, I was pointed to the specific aisle where the product was located.

Fareway and Hy-Vee offer different environments and have different advantages. If you prefer a more personal environment that offers low prices, and you don't mind a limited selection, Fareway may be the supermarket for you. However, if you don't mind paying a little more for the convenience of a wide selection of items, an efficient environment, and different departments, Hy-Vee might be your best bet. Either way, Sioux Center's two supermarkets together satisfy all of your shopping needs.

You just might have to make a stop at each to get all of those needs met.

More For Your Money

Fair Trade Coffee costs more but is a responsible attempt at helping farmers

Kim Lucier
Staff Writer

Since the Humble Bean first arrived on campus it has worked with Equal Exchange's coffee products.

Equal Exchange was founded in 1986 in order to create a new approach to trade. This approach includes informed consumers, honest and fair trade relationships and cooperative principles.

Equal Exchange is a worker-owned co-op that offers consumers fairly traded gourmet coffee direct from small-scale farmer co-ops in Latin America, Africa and Asia. It became the first U.S. company to officially adopt European fair trade standards as guiding principles. These standards are adopted from the international association of Fair Trade Labeling Organizations. "Free trade supports endeavors to produce coffee in a more substantial way," Eric Van Wyk said. Van Wyk is co-manager of the Humble Bean.

Coffee farmers in the developing world never know how much money they will get for their crops, so they and their families often struggle to make ends meet. This outcome is due to the constant change of coffee prices and "c coyotes" (processors, creditors, exporters, brokers and middlemen) paying the lowest price possible.

Equal Exchange takes pride in the fact that its flavorful coffees are organic, Farmers promote natural cycles and controls, rather than using chemical pesticides and fertilizers to develop the beans. The coffees are shade grown as well. A shade grown farm is usually composed of coffee trees grown with other food crops under a canopy of taller trees. The taller trees provide fruit, wood and other essential products to the farmer. These trees offer protection and nutrients to the coffee plants and prevent soil erosion.

Although purchasing coffee from the Equal Exchange is not a cheaper value than most large coffee brands, the money goes to support the values of fair trade. "If we want our coffee cheap, we are extorting farmers," says Van Wyk. "We can't rip these people off."

The concept of fair trade is growing throughout the U.S., especially among large companies. Starbucks, for instance, has created a fair trade line of coffee products. "Fair trade can make bigger companies change because consumers want farmers to have better treatment," Van Wyk said.

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The government of San Francisco created needless controversy last when they began giving marriage licenses to gay couples. Since Thursday, courts have wed nearly 2000 couples even though future court rulings may void these marriage con- tracts. Beyond the world they can have of homosexuality hail this decision as a move towards greater equality rights. Equally unsurprising, traditionalists are taking the time to send the San Francisco mayor of contra- vening the law. This situation, however, does not need to remain in an endless stalemate of pull and pull between competing value sys- tems. Marriage will only remain a controversial issue as long as the state defines the definition of mar- riage.

Consider today's world in which homosexuals fight for legal recognition of marriage. Their relationships do not fall under the state's guidelines, and many have felt left out of the legal and social discussions beyond the world they can see. The homosexuals who feel the state marginalizes them currently lobby the government for legal recognition of their status. To the contrary, those who feel that the government should not legalize immoral behavior like homosexuality pressure the state to avoid legally recognizing these associa- tions. Herein lies the crux of the controversy.

Traditional family advocates and homosexuals both pay taxes and both want their agendas to pre- vail concerning marriage. Whichever agenda the state choos- es in regards to marriage will anger one of these groups. When the government chooses to define mar- riage, they also choose to propagate antagonism between opposing tax paying value groups. Thus, as long as traditional family individuals and homosexual individuals contribute to the state through taxes, the government defines marriage in a way that goes against their beliefs, controversy will pre- vail.

In the current case, the govern- ment can avoid the hostile feelings and events surrounding the defini- tion of marriage if they stop defin- ing marriage. Such a solution will not force traditional family advoca- tes to contribute to the legal benef- its of homosexual marriage nor will the legal system marginalize alternative unions. Marriage will once again fall under the realm of private consummation, potentially by churches or private legal autho- rities, and private recognition. The choice of recognition belongs to individuals, churches, hospitals, etc. The state will no longer force competing value groups to recogni- zing relationships they find either immoral or unjust. In the end, the choice is not between legalizing or denying marriage, but between traditional family individuals and homosexual individuals contribute to the state through taxes, the choice is between controversy and dispute or voluntary recognition and peace.

Dear J.J.,

The morning, as I was eating a decent breakfast by the Grille, I almost lost my lunch. It was not due to the noise, the orange juice or even the paintings on the wall of the Grille, I have almost lost my lunch. It was due to a badly written criticism of nearly all the artwork in the Campus Center.

You said that of all the paint- ings and sculptures in the Campus Center, only “Creation and Fall” reflected a reformed Christian pers- pective. You told art majors and minors to “start looking [for] how they can reflect God more in their work”.

But many artists on campus are discovering what it is to create truly God-honoring art. God made the world much deeper than a few well-known Bible stories, and He gave humans the ability to imagine things beyond our awareness. And artists can bring glory to God in many ways, even through post-modern art. While many artists are taking the time to find ways to do this, seemingly haven’t taken the time to reason- ably respond to their attempts.

Bring us more of the good- humored and informative conver- sation that you did so well with in the past!

-Nathan in Aesthetics class

First of all, I want everyone to understand that I do not turn a blind eye to criticism or consider it invalid. I am glad that Nathan wrote in because I have been curi- ous as to what effect my article had on the Dordt community. I received the idea for the artic- le from my page editor. “What is with the ugly art in the Campus Center?” It was my task to write an informative opinion article on the subject. I used my knowledge of art to critique the pieces of art adorning the Campus Center.

I have had no formal schoolin on the subject except for GEN 200, however, I have a museum next door to my house. I have spent many Sunday afternoons there, try- ing understand the meanings behind the paintings and sculp- tures. I am one of the few (or is it the manny?) that “don’t get abstract.”

Part of the problem I have with art in the Campus Center is that it is almost always unlabeled. The average student has no idea who painted “Creation and Fall” or even what its real title is. It’s hard to appreciate a piece of art with so little information.

When I hang around the Grille, it is an almost entirely different world than the Commons. The paintings on the wall of the Grille have no theme unifying them, while at the Commons, they are grouped together as pictures of whales, dogs, cats, etc. Another brilliant idea that I wish I had wished copied in the Campus Center is the plaque behind the computer termi- nal in the front of the Commons. The plaque at least gives an expla- nation of the pottery by the artist and when it was created.

I really don’t have anything against abstract or post-modern art, it’s just I would like sit the artist down and ask, “What does this mean? What thoughts went into this?” I would like sit the artist down and ask, “How are you glorifying God through this medium?” This would be excellent for us non-artists.

To all art majors and minors: I understand that you consider your work an expression of your- self. Let us all share in that expression. We want to be able to interpret your pieces, and you can help us in that. The art-artist-audience triad needs a bit of help on the art-audience side.

God gave us creative minds, and I think we should use them. However, we should not focus so much on ourselves when we make art as we should focus on the Maker who gave us our talent. How is God glorified through the art in the Campus Center? Maybe the artists will tell us, maybe they won’t.
Above: Kaarlo Hinkkala solves his Rubics Cube while Seth Shannon looks on.
Right: Ashley De Wit performs a ballet to "Toecata and Fuge in D Minor"
Below: Ethan Koerner performs "Somewhere Someone"

Above: The Twine (David Prins, Erika Hydeen, Josh DeGroot, Danny Klever, and Bob Taylor) celebrate their 1st place prize after performing "Lady Gray."
Right: Vaca Flaca (Micah Vogel, Travis Haveman, Mike Zwart, and Jesse Hagey) beats some rhythms in "You're an Eight, You're a Nine"

Download these TX photos plus many more at http://diamond.dordt.edu
Jessica Braunschweig  
Staff Writer

Where there’s a long, winding line, you know it’s talent show time! The Eckhardt Lounge was proof of that this past week, as groups of devoted Dordt students flocked to the Student Services Center to begin waiting in line for tickets to the Talent Extravaganza.

The first arrivals “set up camp” early Friday night in preparation for the Monday evening ticket sales. By Monday morning, a slumber party appeared to be in the making. The hallway was filled with people on all sides, curled up and propped up on blankets, couches, pillows, mattresses and chairs. The floors were littered with TV’s, games, munchies, radios, laptops featuring movies and even the occasional sleeper. The “pre-game show” was a sight to see. Attempting to do any homework in such chaos was a talent in itself.

Waiting for the tickets required patience, but preparing for the talent show required so much more. Auditions were held February 3rd and 4th, as the prospects were reviewed—let in or let down. The following week required an outstanding amount of effort by Media Center and B. J. Haan staff, setting up and perfecting all the technical work. Meanwhile, SAC members organized and readied the last details, and the contestants worked at putting on final touches to their acts.

The Valentine’s Day Extravaganza began at 7:30 p.m. And though love was in the air, the suspense of the acts to come was undoubtedly the cause for all the beating hearts. The audience was immediately introduced to a “super hero” plot of crazy antics and strategy that continued between each act.

Searching for the lost medallion (bump-bum BUM) proved to be a trying feat, especially for an unsuspecting cow who is rightfully “crabby” after a scissors-happy man added a surprise of his own.

The display of talent took on a wide variety of creativity, and spectators were never bored. Ranging from "boisterous bag-pipers" and a "punch-bowl plot" to "mystical music" and "lyrically descriptive," the successful show kept people laughing and clapping.

Prizes were awarded to the winners, but the medallion (bump-bum BUM) goes to all who took part in another spectacular presentation.

While thoughts and talk of next year’s show have already begun, the real question is: who will be the first in line?
Blackness

for Pam this awful October

It covers me again
No one sees it
It tortures me once more
Without reason
I try to hide it
But I'm certain others see
The blackness
That envelopes me
Yet so distorted in their vision
That they think the horror
emanates from me
They will not see
It covers me
I see them so clearly
All around us
They prowl stalkingly
Seeking
devouring
What purpose lies behind the visibility
With which they come
And haunt my hours
Why must I understand their presence
For the knowledge is the reason
They attack me
In their darkness
They attack me
The night is long and dark
Please bring morning
Although the light brings peace
I am weakened
I wish that I could tell the world
Of all the dangers
That befell them
I hold them down
But I cannot express
Now blackness
Is now present
For I am desperate
Maddened
Bond
I am silenced
By the torture
What is this suffering?
As it sifting...
Will it bring me new strength?
Can you tell me
I stand and cry to you
Not knowing if I wish to
Know the answer
If it comes
I fix my eyes on you
And pray that you will
Stop the madness
As it closes in
Yahweh
Save me
By your mercy
You are my shining light
Dispel the darkness
I find a glimpse of hope
One ray of sunshine
Help me to see
That I am not alone
In blackness
You are with me
Even know
The nails that pierce your hands
Have pierced the darkness
Your love
Your light
Are shining through
Light my way
Lord
Let me see you

--CT Bloemendaal

E. Pand: Gaze of a Writer, linocut, 2004, Matthew Kunnari
Untitled, acrylic on canvas, 2003, Erika Hydeen
Merry-go-round: Courtney Love abandons "The Hole" for solo career

Mike Van Beek Staff Writer

For years, Courtney Love has been the surrogate godmother of grunge. Taking a cue from leading riot-grill/grunge pioneers, Babes In Toyland and L7, Love began her rise to fame when her band, Hole, hit the airwaves in '91 with Pretty on the Inside. She then rose to prominence in '94 with the release of Hole's feminist-grunge masterpiece, Live Through This, and of course the subsequent, well-publicized romance with grunge godfather Kurt Cobain (including drug addictions, separations, poor lil' Frances Bean, and eventually, Cobain's suicide). Much to the world's dismay, Cobain committed suicide in '94, leaving us with a semi-realistic sculpture of a drug-addicted circus clown, or in humanistic terms, "Courtney Love." Somehow, she has managed to amass some respect, and apparently she even has some die-hard fans (some angry and 16 year olds who still hate their parents and want to cut their wrists or swallow entire bottles of Tylenol). "MY MOMMY SAYS HANDS" ZONNEFELD, us that music can be serious talent. super-villain to musician, performing an original piece. Eva Plante finished things off by lighting up the audience with an original piece. "IF I STAND" also helped to revive herself and her career. The album feels empty, feels bland, feels like a dying breath. The angst that fueled "Pretty on the Inside," the sadness of "Live Through This:" the eloquence of "Celebrity Skin." None of that is to be found. The mid-90s are long gone, and so is Courtney Love.

Merry-go-round: TX 2004 Superheroes

Jason Mulder Entertainment Editor

TX 2004 brought together tried and true performers with some fresh new faces for a Valentine's Day production that made it worth standing a day or two in line for tickets.

The emcees were hilarious. JONATHAN HOBLEN's INFAMOUS "CLAW," KEVIN " SCRIBBLES" ZONNEFELD, and ETHAN " VANDERDAPER-SON- SMA" KOERNER went up against the back of THE WALL, with SETH SHANNON, TOM "SHMOOZER" MULDER and JACK "MY MOMMY SAYS I'M COOL" MAATMAN, an epic force which provided an excellent contrast to the go ld men's bath-room humor of last year. SAC should have no reason to send out any apology letters this year.

KEVIN ZONNEFELD gives Beth Knight a taste of metal, a shenanigan not includ ed in the original screenplay.

The Juggling Team threw some Scott Loplin rags into the mix, adding some live music to their routine, with BRANDA JANSSEN and LINSAY CARLSON following with a tooth-brush melody of which Brenda seemed quite proud.

Ethan Koerner transformed himself from super-villain to musician, performing an original composition entitled, "Somewhere Someone." I hear there is a sequel in the works. The Hard Rock Ensemble of TOM DYKSTRA, RUBEN SINNEMA, and JOSH VANDER PLATS finished things off by lighting up the crown with an original piece. It was a fitting end to an all around great show. Even President Zylstra got his medallion back, thanks to our local Superheroes!

Check this out!

Wish Fulfillment by Mactoplac

Have an event that you would like posted? Email jsnmldr@ldordt.edu

DIAMOND ENTERTAINMENT

February 20, 2004
Tired of college games that bear more resemblance to WWF matches than hockey? Try the NHL, where teams are rallying for position in the last half of the season. Though the much-anticipated Rookie Challenge featured the dynamic duo of LeBron James and Carmelo Anthony, the sophomore team held on for a decisive 142-118 win. In the intense West vs. East 53rd annual All-Star Game, MVP Shaquille O'Neal and the West emerged victorious by a margin of 136-132.

A-Rod goes to New York

Appreciated the New York Yankees are making just a little bit too much money. This became apparent with the week's announcement of Alex Rodriguez' move to the Texas Rangers. With Rodriguez and the rest of my family—here's yours. Thanks.

A Lady Defender shares her advice.

Leslie Larson
Staff Writer

"Ah it's only one game. You'll get them next time. This is the feeling of many fans. However, every home Dordt men's or women's home basketball game involves multiple departments, volunteers, and Dordt College students.

Rick Vander Berg, the athletic director, starts the multiple responsibilities required before the game. If the game has been rescheduled (earlier or later) from the original time, he calls the opposing athletic director to confirm the time. The concession stand must be properly stocked with money, products, and popcorn bags. One work-study person is in charge of the concession stand and each varsity team takes a turn helping. Mr. Vander Berg admits, "We have three great adult volunteers (some Dordt graduates) to help run the score table. I don't know how we would make it without them." The adult volunteers set up and run the thirty-second clock, the main clock and do computer stats. The computer statisticians also have a work-study spotter to accurately account for every play. There are two work-study ticket takers who come one hour before the game to sit at both doors. Two copies of the game are recorded by a work-study student, one for each team.

The maintenance department does many things for each game. Stan Haak, head recreation center custodian, starts setting up the gym at noon on game day. First, Haak, and sometimes another staff member, pulls out all the bleachers, puts up handrails, sweeps, sets up the score benches and the sound system. Everything is tested, including the clock's control lights. Next, outside the gym, the public bathrooms, teams and official locker rooms are cleaned and checked for adequate paper towels, hand soap, and toilet paper. Haak usually gets home by 5 pm, and returns at the start of the women's game at 6 pm. There is usually at least one maintenance staff member available for potential problem situations.

Casey, the head trainer, and a student trainer tape and treat athletes before each game and watch for injuries during the game. The head coaches, Glenn Bouma and Greg Van Soelen, as well as the assistant coaches, start preparing for the next team game a week before game day by receiving tapes from other teams in the conference. The previous year's tape is referred to so both teams are seen together in action.

The whole game entails multiple efforts from the athletic director, coaches, players, adult volunteers, work-study students, managers, maintenance, and announcers. True, there will be a next time, but for 60 people "it's not only one game."