In this Issue

34-year-old record falls  Pg 2
Reclaiming the blue bin  Pg 3
Ed Prof to South Africa  Pg 4
Columns  Pg 5
Men’s Basketball  Pg 6
New Works Festival  Pg 7
Fury  Pg 8

TX: Talent and humor in one extravagant show

Lydia Marcus - Staff Writer

On Feb. 7, Dordt students and community members enjoyed the annual Talent Extravaganza, an evening of humour and talent hosted by Jake Byma and Matt Van Soelen.

“I’m just a grizzled veteran trying to show he’s got something left in the tank,” said Byma, who hosted both the Freshman Talent Show and TX last year. “I jumped at the opportunity to come back and host again. I just love making people laugh. Seeing everyone have a good time, knowing Matt and I were a part of it, feels excellent.”

The Student Activities Committee (SAC) asked Byma to host TX, and Byma asked Van Soelen to join him in the position of M.C.

“I hosted the Freshman Talent Show during VoW week with my sister, Madison, so I was pretty excited when Jake asked me to help him out with TX,” said Van Soelen. “It is just a lot of fun to be up on stage and get people to laugh and smile!”

The SAC, Byma and Van Soelen sat in on the auditions for TX, which took place on Jan. 27. Together, they decided which acts would be included in the final show.

“SAC has the final say, because no one in their right mind would give me that much authority,” said Byma.

After auditions, the performers, M.C.’s and crew got to work. Byma and Van Soelen spent their time “brainstorming ideas, filming, and collaborating with other people.”

“We actually started planning TX back in early October, I think,” said Van Soelen.

“But really we didn’t put in half as much work as those tech workers in the BJ Haan! They don’t get enough credit!”

Daryl Bruinsma was responsible for creating videos for TX.

“My preparation for TX was spent filming and editing Matt and Jake’s video ideas, which was a lot of fun,” said Van Soelen.

“Talent show he’s got something left in the tank, ” said Van Soelen.

“The event went well because the clubs were able to recruit a bunch of new members,” said Kelly. Students were able to browse the many options offered here, and many took advantage of this and signed up to join clubs.

“I felt safer there than in the U.S., even when I was walking around alone at night in the second largest city in the world, Seoul, South Korea, I did not feel endangered,” said Ludens. “The culture emphasizes group image and honor, and to do something dishonorable like violating or harming another person - especially an old person or a foreigner - would tarnish that person and their family’s honor, which is worse than death to my understanding.”

“Everyone there was totally willing to help me out and to make me feel safe, which was huge when I understood so little of the Korean language. Koreans are such a kind and helpful people,” said Ludens.

“Senior Megan Ludens also experienced Korea with DeVries.

“An individual who experienced a little less jetlag was junior Shelby Herrema, who spent her time in Nicaragua through the SPIN program.

“My preparation for TX was spent filming and editing Matt and Jake’s video ideas, which was a lot of fun,” said Van Soelen.

“The culture shock and differences between Korea and the US are not that big, but the hardship for me was being 100% ethnically Korean and having people always expecting that I know the language and culture of Korea,” DeVries said. “I knew it would cause a little bit of a challenge. I didn’t like how people were disappointed that I didn’t know about the place I had come from, assuming that I purposefully turned away from the Korean culture.”

“From doing an off-campus semester in a different state, to doing an off-campus semester in a different country, students learn and experience a lot over the course of their four-month absence from Dordt.

“Junior Kim DeVries took the jump and traveled thousands of miles away for her semester abroad. She attended Handong Global University in Pohang, South Korea.

“Global University in Pohang, South Korea.

“The semester abroad. She attended Handong Global University in Pohang, South Korea.

“Senior Megan Ludens also experienced Korea with DeVries.

“An individual who experienced a little less jetlag was junior Shelby Herrema, who spent her time in Nicaragua through the SPIN program.

“There are more than 25 clubs active here on Dordt’s campus, but many students can probably not even name even half of them. Therefore, many students miss out on possible opportunities to meet other students with the same interests, or even find a new hobby.

“There are more than 25 clubs active here on Dordt’s campus, but many students can probably not even name even half of them. Therefore, many students miss out on possible opportunities to meet other students with the same interests, or even find a new hobby.

“For many clubs, this was the case. Several clubs had an increase in membership numbers as a result of this fair, and some even doubled the amount of members they had. For the clubs and those involved, the event was a great success.

“Student Symposium too was satisfied with the outcome, and is considering making it a regular event at the beginning of each semester, which would help not only clubs but also new students who are looking for ways to get involved with people sharing their interests.

“The event went well because the clubs were able to recruit a bunch of new members,” said Kelly. Students were able to browse the many options offered here, and many took advantage of this and signed up to join clubs.

“For many clubs, this was the case. Several had an increase in membership numbers as a result of this fair, and some even doubled the amount of members they had. For the clubs and those involved, the event was a great success.

“Student Symposium too was satisfied with the outcome, and is considering making it a regular event at the beginning of each semester, which would help not only clubs but also new students who are looking for ways to get involved with people sharing their interests.

“Overall, the club fair was a successful evening full of discovery. Many students found that there was a place for them to join a new club here at Dordt.
Annual Engineering Tour hits Kansas City

Bundick breaks 34-year-old track record

Covenant Garage Sale
Reclaiming the Blue Bin

The second article in a series on sustainability and "good living."

by Lillie Koerner on behalf of the Sustainability Committee

"You mean to tell me you don't recycle!" I don't know about you, but the poster bearing Professor Ploegstra's hipster-esque incredulity is enough to make my hand hesitate over the trash. What are students to do when there are so many recycling bins around campus? It was "rehearsing and getting to know each other members better. We laughed, made mistakes, and developed some chemistry along the way. But overall, it was a great time." Bihl is thankful for the cooperation of the whole group. Bihl choreographed most of the routine, but "everyone had fun with it and made it their own."

Byma and Van Soelen agree that one of the most challenging parts of being M.C.’s is selecting good material from the show due to the constraints of time and tact. "Jake is hilarious and super creative, but it was really hard to narrow down what ideas we wanted to use in our videos, jokes, and games," said Van Soelen. "It’s tough picking out ideas that we think people will enjoy. Hopefully we did a good job!"

"It is the premiere on campus event of the year," said Byma. "I could argue that this is Matt and I’s best work yet."

Preparing an act for TX required a large time commitment from each performer. Coordinating practice times can be especially tricky with large groups. However, all the hard work each participant invested paid off; the show was well received. Students agreed that each performance was distinctive and well

Meet Dick Katte: Overtime author

Lydia Marcus - Staff Writer

Every square inch....including the track, the field and the rink.

On 6 Feb., Dick Katte visited Dordt to discuss his thoughts on "reforming" sport and his new book, Overtime. Katte was warmly welcomed by Dordt students and faculty, and his words of wisdom were taken to heart.

Dr. Craig Stiemsma and Dr. Eric Forsest invited Katte to visit through the Lilly Fellows Perspectival Mentoring Grant for faculty. Stiemsma is coordinating a year-long program related to Health and Human Performance (HHP) "Reformed Perspectival" growth. "Dr. Stiemsma has done an excellent job this year challenging this growth of faculty members and coaches," said Forsest.

Katte is a professional role model for coaches and teachers in K-12 education. He served for over fifty years at Denver Christian High School. While at Denver Christian, Katte was a math teacher, coach and mentor for thousands of students. Last October, Katte published Overtime, a book that discusses his thoughts and principles of serving in Christian education. "Dick Katte was famous for making teaching his top priority, even though he coached for 50+ years," said Forsest. "He was a model teacher as well as coach. He has had an unbelievable impact on many families because of the way he has conducted his professional and personal life from a Reformed perspective."

"I appreciated that he was very candid about his teaching and coaching experiences and was willing to offer advice based on these past experiences," said Ross Douma, the men’s varsity basketball coach. "In doing so, Coach Katte was very transparency as he was intent on helping current coaches become more effective leaders."

"I found it refreshing and encouraging so many students were sincerely receptive to what Coach Katte relayed to them," said Douma. Katte’s prominent contributions to education and athletics gave him a good deal of credibility with his audience. Katte is “able to still connect with young people today, since he has been blessed with the gift of an engaging, genuine style of communication,” said Mr. Glenn Bouma, director of Athletics. "The students that heard him in class and at the book signing in the library were very engaged with his stories and answers to probing questions about his career in education."

Katte addressed various topics and answered numerous questions at the HHP department luncheon. “Numerous young coaches were in attendance and I feel they clearly heard the message that teaching and coaching is much more than just teaching the facts or the game, but helping young people in their journey of becoming kingdom citizens,” said Bouma.

Douma highlighted three key points Katte offered to the Dordt HHP department: Be intentional about being active in the life of young people, doing what is right and necessary is always worth fighting for; you make a difference, whether intentionally or unintentionally, through your day-to-day interactions with people.

"It was our pleasure to have Mr. Katte on campus for a few days," said Bouma. "A great role model with an exciting story to share with others. God has truly used him where he was planted."
Van Soelen takes two weeks in South Africa

Haley Mulder - Staff Writer

Education Professor Tim Van Soelen spent his first two weeks of the semester learning the importance of Christian education in South Africa.

“AROS is a Reformed Christian teachers training college in Pretoria, South Africa,” Van Soelen said. “I was invited to come to South Africa for two weeks to work with their students, lecturers, program directors and Executive Council.”

In 2013, Dr. Lourens Erasmus came to North America on a tour of Reformed Christian colleges looking for best practices for equipping Christian pre-service teachers. He found Dordt to be the program that they aspired to be like and invited Van Soelen to come and work with their growing program.

“I found the people I interacted to be very inquisitive, asking deep questions, and constantly wanting to know more details about how Dordt operates,” Van Soelen said. “The Executive Council was enamored with the concept of the four coordinates and how it provides a foundation to all that we do at Dordt.”

Van Soelen found the people of Pretoria to be incredibly hospitable and welcoming.

“After each presentation I gave, there were constant receptions where I would be escorted to a different part of the campus to have coffee and tea with different groups of people,” Van Soelen said. “We would have conversations about the content of my lecture or questions about how Dordt helps students prepare for the concept of teaching Christianly.”

Van Soelen realized that the people who are apart of AROS are very similar to the people who he interacts with at Dordt.

“From students who are passionate about developing their knowledge, skills, and dispositions to teach Christianly, to my colleagues who are passionate about helping students gain this perspective, I found that we are very similar in many ways.”

While in South Africa, Van Soelen also had the opportunity to enjoy much warmer temperatures and explore the exotic wildlife. “Kruger National Park was incredible,” Van Soelen said. “Being close enough to reach out an pet a lion or a rhino in the wild was quite an experience!”

At the end of his two weeks in Africa, Van Soelen gained a broader understanding of what it means to teach Christianly in different cultures.

“AROS is training students to teach in such a variety of contexts – from a classroom that many of us would be familiar with, to a classroom under a tree,” Van Soelen said. “The principles of teaching Christianly are universal but the application differs greatly.”

Students of Dordt: Brandi Buchanan

Haley Mulder - Staff Writer

Brandi Buchanan has written six full-length novels, all before graduating college.

“I don’t remember not writing,” Buchanan said. “I started when I was about 14. Most of them were terrible.”

Buchanan has written books of sci-fi, fantasy, suspense, childrens, and teenage drama.

“We were adopted, and we would go to bed an hour later if we planned to read before we went to sleep,” Buchanan said. “That’s how I began reading every night.”

Often times, dreams inspire Buchanan in her writings, and she loves the ability to create and expand on situations she’s experienced in her life.

“I love being able to create a separate world with entirely new characters,” Buchanan said. “Professor Matthews has influenced Buchanan’s love for writing and has pushed her and motivated her to keep going.

“He’s so passionate about stories and literature,” Buchanan said. “I was working on a book for five years, but after taking his class, I was finally able to finish.”

Along with her personal writing career, Buchanan also runs the Writing Club here at Dordt.

“We usually work on our own stories, bring ideas or questions, and do writing prompts together,” Buchanan said. “We are a small group, but it’s always nice to get together with people who love to write.”

Buchanan is a clinical psychology major who plans on working with people with severe disabilities.

Though she plans on a career in psychology, she promises to never stop writing.

“Writing makes me so excited,” Buchanan said. “I will never stop.”

Depressed at Dordt

Renee Mahaffy - Guest Writer

“What if I died? Would anybody miss me? What if I just died?”

Those thoughts passed through Anne’s mind time and again. What was so awful about her life that she didn’t think it was worth living? She had depression.

“It sucks,” said Sue about depression. “You forget God’s grace. You just feel like you’re worth nothing, and you’re in this hole of blackness and there’s no way out. You don’t want to do anything but sleep and watch movies. You just want to forget. You feel numb. Feel like life isn’t worth it anymore.”

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, one in 10 adults report struggling with depression. Based on that statistic, 145 students on Dordt’s campus may be suffering from depression right now. Furthermore, 59 students at Dordt may suffer from major depression, according to CDC statistics.

Anne, a junior at Dordt, has been struggling with seasonal depression since her junior year in high school.

“I don’t want to do anything first of all. Going to class sometimes is a struggle. Doing extra curricular activities are also a struggle. I just want to sit in my room and waste time,” said Anne.

“I realized something was wrong when I lost motivation to do anything, especially things I enjoy, and my anxiety started acting up more,” said Anne.

Anne’s guidance counselor suggested that Anne had seasonal depression. Anne never went to a doctor to get an official diagnosis because seasonal depression made sense to her.

According to Mental Health America, seasonal depression is a form of depression that affects a person during the fall and winter months. The depression is caused by the changing of months. Seasonal depression is also known as Seasonal Affective Disorder or the winter blues.

Another student, Sue, has been fighting depression for five years. “To combat the depression, Sue exercises six days a week for half an hour or more, carefully monitors her diet, gets eight hours of sleep every night, works with a counselor and spends regular time with God.

Anne never went to see a counselor about her depression, figuring that she could stick it out herself. Because Anne was told that if she went on medication, she would not have any really bad days, but she would also never have any really good days, Anne decided not to go on medication so she would not have to give up those good days.

“I didn’t want to go on medication because I wanted to be myself,” said Anne.

Not many people know that Anne struggles with seasonal depression. She has told her close friends, her roommates and her sister -- she never told her parents.

Continued on page 7

*Names have been changed for sale of privacy.
Let’s face it: feminism has a bad reputation in the Christian community. Parts of the overtly feminist approach are fair—we never want to denounce God’s law. But what if I propose a different perspective? What if we look at the social role of women in true nature, a narration of God’s grand story, and not a handy Christian self-help book? In Scripture, ladies like Sarah, Rahab, Chloe, Priscilla, Mary the mother of Jesus, Mary Magdalene, etc. play a huge role not only in God’s grand narration, but also in the life of Christ. As the self-proclaimed artistic intellectual Christian woman that I am, I desire to speak truth and to shed light on the reason why the intellectual Christian woman endures. We like to say here at Dordt, “find your place in God’s world”; I say I have found my place: and my place in God’s world is not being “barefoot and pregnant.”

Now, I am not criticizing women whose desire is to be a homemaker. However, let’s face it: we live in a male dominate society. But as I personally watch the disrespect, aggression, and disdain that some men indulge in when being taught by a female professor, reading female literature, and listening to females speak out on very controversial issues. I’ve heard of women who use the “I” as if my entire body is being cooked in a cauldron—it boils. Are not these men Christian men? Have not these men vowed to follow Christ to His cross? As a Christian who is a seeker of sound ideologies regarding this life, I am sure of one thing: females are implicitly oppressed by the general Christian community.

Hear me out: in the Christian community, what women are most valued by most men? They are the girls who fit in at youth group, the ones to whom President’s decisions and the immigrants have concerning these issues. Should we, other globally spoken languages. In these past four years, I have stated that they have no interest in en the way they thought were experiences that in which we live.

Additionally, learning about the personal backgrounds of my fellow classmates and the way they thoughtwere experiences that allowed me to understand that there are more than one way to view a single issue. I have encountered different people who have stated that they have no interest in en gaging with what is different or are too afraid to embrace new cultures. In these past four years, I have met students that recognize the need of learning more than two languages, but since they already speak English, they re ject the idea of learning or attempting to learn other globally spoken languages. I wonder what posture Christians should have concerning these issues. Should we, Christians, avoid talking and taking some sort of action regarding the events that occur in this country? Are we going to let racism and ignorance infest heart of the American population? Should we continue hating the President’s decisions and the immigrants that year for having a taste of the American dream? Are we ever going to attempt to un derstand those who are different from us?

February is Black History month. How have you been celebrating it? The way I choose to do so is by intentionally educating myself about black American history, and studying the lives and achievements of the countless men and women from whom our country has been bless ed and affected by. It is an unfortunate truth that our history classes have largely skimmed over and maybe Frederick Douglass, but who else? And how in-depth do we really understand these individuals’ lives and achievements, as well as the immense sorrow black Americans have faced throughout U.S. history?

I am ashamed to say that it wasn’t until last January that I read the entire “I Have a Dream” speech by Dr. King, start to finish. I was over whelmed that I began weeping where I sat reading in Dordt’s library: I’d gone twenty years without exposure to this rich piece of American history, authored by one of the most acclaimed people in the 20th century—of what else was I ignorant?

I suddenly understood how little I really knew about this great man of God, of his leadership and struggles in the civil rights move ment, and about black history in general. I imagin ed what our country would look like without his efforts, and I shudder in horror. The stains of our past history need to be addressed in our country aren’t merely dead issues of the past. If we’re honest, these issues are not as far back as we’d like to pretend. It wasn’t until 1967 that interracial marriages were legalized. It wasn’t until 1865 that the 14th Amendment was first read. It was not until 1866 that anti-voting laws against African Americans were removed. It was not until 1964 that the Civil Rights Act was signed into law. It was not until 1991 that the first black woman was elected to the U.S. Senate.

I suddenly understood how little I really knew about this great man of God, of his leadership and struggles in the civil rights move ment, and about black history in general. I imagin ed what our country would look like without his efforts, and I shudder in horror. The stains of our past history need to be addressed in our country aren’t merely dead issues of the past. If we’re honest, these issues are not as far back as we’d like to pretend. It wasn’t until 1967 that interracial marriages were legalized. It wasn’t until 1865 that the 14th Amendment was first read. It was not until 1866 that anti-voting laws against African Americans were removed. It was not until 1964 that the Civil Rights Act was signed into law. It was not until 1991 that the first black woman was elected to the U.S. Senate.

I suddenly understood how little I really knew about this great man of God, of his leadership and struggles in the civil rights move ment, and about black history in general. I imagin ed what our country would look like without his efforts, and I shudder in horror. The stains of our past history need to be addressed in our country aren’t merely dead issues of the past. If we’re honest, these issues are not as far back as we’d like to pretend. It wasn’t until 1967 that interracial marriages were legalized. It wasn’t until 1865 that the 14th Amendment was first read. It was not until 1866 that anti-voting laws against African Americans were removed. It was not until 1964 that the Civil Rights Act was signed into law. It was not until 1991 that the first black woman was elected to the U.S. Senate.

I suddenly understood how little I really knew about this great man of God, of his leadership and struggles in the civil rights move ment, and about black history in general. I imagin ed what our country would look like without his efforts, and I shudder in horror. The stains of our past history need to be addressed in our country aren’t merely dead issues of the past. If we’re honest, these issues are not as far back as we’d like to pretend. It wasn’t until 1967 that interracial marriages were legalized. It wasn’t until 1865 that the 14th Amendment was first read. It was not until 1866 that anti-voting laws against African Americans were removed. It was not until 1964 that the Civil Rights Act was signed into law. It was not until 1991 that the first black woman was elected to the U.S. Senate.
Men's basketball ready for tough schedule ahead

The Dordt College men's basketball team has a tough schedule for the month of February, including three road games against top-10 nationally ranked teams. This stretch will help Dordt grow as a team for the future, but also make or break their national tournament hopes.

Those tournament hopes took a hit on Feb. 4 when the Defenders went to Mitchell, SD to take on No. 6-ranked Dakota Wesleyan. Dordt fell 102-72 and dropped to 8-8 in the GPAC, good for fifth in the conference.

Dordt is having a decent year overall, but the past few seasons have the fans used to tournament appearances and competitive Defender games night in and night out.

To get back on the winning track, Coach Ross Douma knows the team must step it up on defense.

"For us, it's going to be a matter of how well we can drive down the opponent's field goal percentage," Douma said. "It's been kind of the crux of our problem when we've been on the losing end of things.

Defending the perimeter will be particularly key for the Defenders down the stretch. In late January, the Defenders gave up 17-3 point field goals against Briar Cliff, 10 of which came in the first half. A week later at Dakota Wesleyan, Dordt gave up 11-3 pointer field goals.

Another key for the Defenders will be building confidence. There are few things that make a team more lethal than playing confidence and energy. That confidence and energy starts with the leadership of our upperclassmen.

"Our upperclassmen have to carry the load through their leadership and consistent efforts in practices and games," said Dordt assistant coach Derek Keizer. "We will need to have guys step up and play better than they have been playing."

That leadership will help lead to consistency as well, something younger players pick up along the way.

"February is a whole different game and guys and will need to get comfortable being uncomfortable in order for us to get where we want to be," Keizer said.

Even if the Defenders can't climb in the GPAC rankings and lose in the conference tournament, it's crucial that the players learn to enjoy the journey:

That's one of the jobs of coaches, to help players enjoy the journey and focus on each day.

"Our guys compete really hard and do a good job getting along well and working with each other," Douma said. "We need to make those things jive to make it a fun experience for them. Then when game day comes, we just have to execute and be as tough-minded as we possible can."

Things are going to be much different for the Defenders this year if they hope to make the national tournament. At this point, winning the GPAC tournament is the only way to guarantee a spot, and the Defenders will have to do it on the road this time around.

"I think it will be good for us long-term," Douma said. "In the short-term, it'll be a difficult task."

It is not going to be easy, but don't count the Defenders out yet. If the team can pick up their defense and gain some confidence, it could get on a hot streak and be a tough out in the GPAC tournament.

Remember: it's February and March. Anything can happen in college basketball.
Cinderella opera coming to Sioux Center

Lauren Bird - Staff Writer

On Tuesday February 17, the Des Moines Metropolitan Opera will be coming to Dordt to perform Rossini's Cinderella as a part of their Opera Iowa Educational tour. The touring troupe, made up of nine professionals, will also be performing The Billy Goats Gruff touring troupe, made up of nine professionals, to perform Rossini's Cinderella as a part of their Opera Iowa Educational tour. The evening performance of Cinderella is at 7:30 pm. Admission is free.

“This is unusual for this troupe. They usually go directly to elementary schools and perform for the students. In this case, the evening performance is still appealing for children,” said Bartlett.

Even though the evening opera is appropriate for children, Bartlett and MacInnis still encourage Dordt students to attend.

“It’s free, which also makes it a good date opportunity. Once you graduate, probably won’t have another opportunity like this, to experience professional opera for free. So take advantage of it while you can,” said MacInnis.

“When people think of opera, they think of something that’s unapproachable and irrelevant. But this opera is done by a professional group from Iowa, and it’s comical and involves great music,” said Bartlett.

The performance of Rossini’s Cinderella will be held in the B.J. Haan auditorium at 7:30 pm. Admission is free.

Depressed at Dordt (cont.)

Lauren Bird - Staff Writer

On the other hand, Sue’s entire family knows about her depression and about 10 people on campus know about it. Approximately 145 students on campus may suffer from depression, but there isn’t much talk about it.

“I don’t want everyone to know and I don’t want people to be asking about the causes of it. People will begin to identify you as depressed. You aren’t depressed, you simply struggle with depression. You can’t let depression become your identity,” Sue said.

While Anne was in high school she told one of her friends that she thought she had depression. Her friend didn’t look up and said, “No, you aren’t; you’re just upset because the sun is out.” This rude and ignorant statement (seeing as the lack of sun causes the depression) really hurt Anne. She did not speak to her friend for weeks.

“I really hate when people say, ’just smile, think of all the happy things!’ If somebody told me that the first year, I probably would have felt hurt. It was hopeless and meaningless. You’re not helping me by saying that I don’t have it,” Anne said.

Sue’s biggest frustration with people responding to depression is that people with depression can’t “just get over it.” Depression can lead to thoughts of self-harm and suicide. “I think this is a big part of the theatrical development class, proposed the festival and got it going. The evening performance is an opportunity to showcase a variety of ideas. Some of the pieces I’ve read are very comical and relatable, while some are a little bit dark. There are some overarching themes of family, northwest Iowa lifestyles and relationships that will be interesting to explore and to see how the audience reacts to them. Theatre’s true purpose is to engage an audience and ask tough questions that no one else may be asking. I think this is a good way to do that,” said the committee member.

Students were encouraged to submit any pieces of theatrical writing by January 30 to Wallace, who would then send them to the selection committee, made up of both students and faculty. They would then read each piece without being able to see the names of the writers.

Once the pieces were selected, actors and directors were chosen for each piece. The director will work closely with the writer during the rehearsal process, making sure that the writer’s intent for the piece is communicated correctly.

“This is unusual for this troupe. They usually go directly to elementary schools and perform for the students. In this case, the evening performance is still appealing for children,” said Bartlett.

Even though the evening opera is appropriate for children, Bartlett and MacInnis still encourage Dordt students to attend.

“It’s free, which also makes it a good date opportunity. Once you graduate, probably won’t have another opportunity like this, to experience professional opera for free. So take advantage of it while you can,” said MacInnis.

“When people think of opera, they think of something that’s unapproachable and irrelevant. But this opera is done by a professional group from Iowa, and it’s comical and involves great music,” said Bartlett.

The performance of Rossini’s Cinderella will be held in the B.J. Haan auditorium at 7:30 pm. Admission is free.
Back to Dordt (cont.)

Continued from page 1

The biggest transition for her was the style of living. "Living in the right, busy city of León was definitely a transition at first. It was loud and chaotic! However, I came to love a lot of things about it," said Herrema. "It was a very walkable area because everything was close together. Lots of people sat out on their front steps during the cooler evenings so I became familiar with all of the neighbors."

Compared to the others, senior Jessica McCarty spent a semester right around the corner from Dordt. She spent her time in Los Angeles, California for the L.A. Semester.

"Los Angeles is not Sioux Center. With that being said, I had such a spiritual hardship. In that, I was constantly being challenged by the diverse LA area and the diverse religious affiliations within the school itself," said McCarty. "Even though being from California made that transition easier, it was still a challenge. It ended on a good note the culmination of which resulted in being baptized at a Place Called Mosaic and then getting a tattoo to signify the whole experience."

All of these individuals, whether they spent their semester near or far, experienced life-changing events that not everyone would endure in their day-to-day lives. Off-campus semesters aren't for everyone, but they are still good to consider. If interested in spending a semester abroad, contact Off-campus Coordinator Alexis Kreun.

Ayres Crafts a war film for the ages with Fury

Jonathan Janssen - Staff Writer

I'll be honest, I'm not a huge fan of war films. While this probably sounds ridiculous considering my coverage of Eastwood's American Sniper in the last edition, their frequent propagandist feel and clichéd plots generally fail to tickle my fancy.

With this mindset, I set my sights on David Ayer's newest work Fury. Fury tells the story of a group of soldiers during World War II in 1945 who operate an American Sherman tank dubbed "Fury". Led by Sergeant Don "Wardaddy" Collier (played by Brad Pitt) and alongside Shia LaBeouf and Jon Bernthal, the group is dismayed to find that their best gunner, killed in combat, is being replaced by greenhorn Private Norman Ellison (played by Logan Lerman). As the group breaks in this rookie, he slowly transforms into a soldier, shedding his humanity piece-by-piece along the war-turn's roadside.

One way Ayer conveys the horror of war is through his use of violence and gore. While an open-minded and a strong stomach are usually recommended while viewing war films, one scene that left me shaking my head was a scene in which Brad Pitt is eating, drinking tea, and engaging in various daily activities in a women's apartment. In the next scene, he is suddenly surrounded by a German tank and begins pillaging it while Collier takes Ellison up to two German women's apartment.

In a bizarre turn of events, the soldiers begin to play house with the women, eating, drinking tea, while Collier sends Ellison into the bedroom with one of the Germans so he can lose his virginity. The sudden civility is shocking, tense, and awkward, and it is almost a welcoming sight when the other soldiers rush into the apartment and disrupt the fake politeness with their uncouth behavior.

Shia LaBeouf and Jon Bernthal inhabit their roles beautifully with LaBeouf playing a highly religious soldier who believes it is God's will for him to kill as many Nazis as he can and Bernthal an ornery bad-to-the-bone character. The operators of Fury, while a bit archetypal, are fantastic in their interactions and realistically express the nuances of life. While the one-dimensionality of the Nazi army make the film feel a bit propagandist and cast any signs of their humanity under scrutiny, Fury's cast, themes, and creative scenes are more than enough of a witness for a candy bar!"