In this Issue

Prairie Grass Film Results Pg 2
College Bar Dances Pg 3
Violent Sex Culture pg 4
Columns Pg 5
Spring Break Golf Trips Pg 6
Senior Recital Pg 7
O Brother, Where Art Thou? Pg 8

Where does your money go?

Eric Rowe - Staff Writer

Whether Christian or not, Dutch or Irish, all Dordt students have a common bond—tuition. While tuition can be both an investment in the future and a source of stress for student debt, managing the pressure that comes from both can be helped by clearly seeing where your tuition money goes.

Dordt’s operating budget is roughly $35 million. Through tuition and fees as well as auxiliary revenue from housing and food service, about 85% of revenue comes from students in one way or another. The rest of the operating revenue comes from gifts, grants, sales and Dordt’s short-term investments. The categories that you see on the chart that apply to Dordt are set up by the National Association of College and University Business Officers (NACUBO). These standards provide consistency while comparing finances across the board.

Gifts come from Dordt alumni, people involved in founding the college, and people who believe strongly in the mission of the college and from support from churches.

The $12 million cost of the science building link was provided through donations—not from money from students. It’s been the college’s policy that any building that is primarily for education is paid for by money raised from donors.

Eric Rowe - Staff Writer

Wellspring raises depression awareness

Megan Kaiser - Staff Writer

On February 22, the Student Wellness Advisory Team (S.W.A.T) hosted Wellspring and used it as a time to raise awareness of depression. They asked Dordt professors Neal DeRoo and Walker Cosgrove, who have both struggled with depression, to tell their stories and answer students’ questions.

In addition to hearing DeRoo and Cosgrove’s stories, Dordt counselor Jessica Huist facilitated the question and answer time. All three emphasized a few ideas about depression.

“Hopefully it helps students to see and hear from someone who’s been through depression. It’s a chance for them to see that there is hope, that they can get through it and still be successful,” said DeRoo.

The main goal that S.W.A.T wanted to accomplish through this time was to raise awareness of depression on campus by bringing in people that students know and respect who also struggle with depression.

“We want to normalize it. I’ve realized how not open people are about depression, and so that’s made me become more vocal about it. I think of my class as a family, so I tell my story in the first day of class, to be open and transparent about it. My door is open to students, and I usually get six or seven students who come to me about it,” said Cosgrove.

Another point that Cosgrove and DeRoo emphasized was the fact that depression is a disease and sometimes needs to be medically treated.

“I think it’s good for students to hear that Neal is on medication for his depression. It shows that it’s okay to treat depression, because it is a disease, just like cancer. Just like you would seek treatment and medication for cancer or diabetes, depression can be treated medically too,” said Cosgrove.

Not only did DeRoo and Cosgrove give advice to people who are struggling with depression, but they also answered some questions and gave some insight on how other people can deal with someone who has depression.

“Just being there is the biggest thing you can do for someone who is struggling with depression. You can’t screw it up, just be there for them and let them know that you care about them,” said DeRoo.

“I think that we as Christians tend to over-spiritualize depression. Sometimes Christians are unsympathetic and think that it’s simply a spiritual matter, when in reality, it is a disease that needs medical attention,” said Cosgrove.

If students have further questions about depression, Dordt counselors Jessica Huist and Arlene Heynen will be hosting an informational lunch on Wednesday, March 4. More information about that lunch will be published in the near future.

Luke Venhuizen - Staff Writer

Men’s volleyball to be new varsity sport in 2016

Dominating every tournament that they have gone into, the men’s volleyball club has put itself on the map.

“The Men’s Volleyball Club only came into existence last year. Eric Geels, the team’s captain, with the encouragement from friends, got the ball rolling in the fall of last year.

“How we were originally planning on doing it was getting together with a group of guys to play once a week, or every other week,” said Geels.

Now, with a year under their belt, they came back even stronger than before. Moving under the athletic department, the club team started out dominating the first two tournaments they were entered, and then winning their first home tournament of the season, bringing their record to 17-0.

This year the club team added Brian Hoekstra as their coach, which was a blessing according to Eric Geels.

“There’s a lot of pressure on the game and how we play on the court is so helpful, and letting Brian worry about when to sub people and other stuff has been so nice,” said Geels.

Eric Rowe - Staff Writer

Dordt College

The Diamond

February 26, 2015

Issue 3

Pick it up, pass it on, and please RECYCLE.
PLIA teams are striving for this spring break. Many weeks of preparation were invested in PGFC. Megan Kaiser, a digital media major, was responsible for producing promotional material and video footage for PGFC. 

I spent A LOT of time in the lab," said Kaiser. "I took care of all of the digital aspects. The advertisements, the videos that were shown at the ceremony, the audio. If you saw or heard it and it wasn’t a 48 hour Prairie Grass film, I made it."

Creating all the videos and advertisements was a large responsibility, but Kaiser said she loved doing it all. "My favorite part is the scheduling of time… Organization is my jam," said Kaiser. "I also have a love/hate relationship with stress and timing. When I’m given a task, I do everything to the best of my ability to make sure it gets done ASAP, even if it is not due for another month."

Next year PGFC will celebrate its tenth anniversary, and "we’re kind of going out across the country" said Brasser. "I’ll be a senior so that means I’ll have to take somebody under my wing so they can continue doing what I’ve been doing. I love teaching this kind of stuff to people so I’m excited for that."

Who knows what year 10 will bring? "Holograms, a bounce house… the possibilities are endless," said Kaiser. "I will for sure work to the best of my ability to make it a 10 year anniversary that no one will forget."

Q Commons Part 2

At 7pm on February 26, hundreds of people from Dordt and the surrounding community will gather in the Campus Center to "learn and consider how to advance good in Sioux Center.”

The original mission of Q Commons was to encourage Christians to recover a vision for "their historic responsibility to renew and restore cultures.” Q Commons hopes to accomplish this mission by initiating conversations, both on a global and on a local scale, about relevant cultural issues. Q Commons begins these conversations by featuring a series of talks delivered by Christians who have experience with or interest in those aspects of our culture.

Q Commons is composed of three streamed presentations from global speakers and three live talks from local speakers. Through these six talks, Q Commons hopes to inform, inspire and equip participants to advance good in their local community.

Global speakers include New York Times Bestselling author Malcolm Gladwell—who will discuss legitimacy, broadcast journalist Soledad O’Brien—who will discuss race in America, and television producer Mark Burnett—who will discuss virtue in entertainment.

Among college students there is a common perception that spring break trips should be about personal indulgence but PLIA committee co-chair Tanner Brasser said PLIA teams seek to be an encouragement to ministries and churches that are trying to make an impact in their local communities. Service activities often range from taking care of kids to construction work. "PLIA is the complete opposite idea of spring break," said Brasser. "In every way you are giving yourself up to service."

Sean Quinlan, whose first PLIA trip this year is to Denver, CO, said, "I see this as great opportunity to learn and to meet people while serving God together. It’s exciting!"

Like many PLIA goers, Quinlan is hoping that God will use him to touch someone’s life both on his team and in the Denver community.

As a Dordt college senior, this is Brasser’s fourth year of being involved with PLIA and contributes his freshman year experience as his reason for being so committed to the club. "When I came back at the end of spring break freshman year, I came back refreshed, rejuvenated and knowing that God had done a work," said Brasser.

Some question the effectiveness of short term mission trips but PLIA committee co-chair Kevin Steiger has a different perspective. "Short term trips don’t get much credit" he said. "Even though we are there a short amount of time, I believe we can encourage the local bodies of Christ. Also as teams we grow together and encourage our teammates.”

Both Steiger and Brasser are joined by a number of other PLIA committee members who invest many hours of their time year round to make the spring break mission trip possible. Speaking on behalf of the committee, "We are excited about having 112 students going out across the country” said Brasser. "I love seeing students when they come back. Everybody just wants to stick together!"
Sustainability Update: A Compost Crusade

The scene is rather typical: freshmen's blood racing, hearts sprinting at the thought of handing their IDs to someone besides the local police officer. Minds of frantic upperclassmen slowly eased as they mentally rehearse the call home to mom and dad. "Yeah mom, she's a great girl. Loves the Lord and loves her family... How did we meet? Um, I think my friend Jack introduced us..."

College students are no strangers to local bar dances. The Black and White dance held last Saturday at the Cue Bar may have gained additional attendees during its fifteen year run. While the posters themselves did not promise a night void of law enforcement, &wednesdayshutdown. Clearly a standard for campus promotions has been set, which brings a deeper question to surface. Should posters hang on campus be regulated based on content? Or should bulletin boards act as an area of expression, displaying more than just the opportunities sponsored or promoted by Dordt?

The following are standards enforced by the Office of Student Services concerning the poster placement policy on campus for external events:

1. All posters displayed must be approved by student services.
2. The "Student Services Approved" stamp grants approval to a poster.
3. Because approvals may take one business day to consider, contact information may be requested in order to notify the individual or group of their poster being either granted or denied.
4. A maximum of 10-12 posters for an event may earn approval.

Social media sites have provided a large avenue for students to promote activities freely, and events in the area are often displayed on the DCC website. This works against any argument that without the posters students would have no access to such information. Yet the question remains of how strict Dordt's standards should be, and how strictly they may regulate various happenings. Student reaction varied in response to the proposal of no regulations on bulletin board postings.

Bekah Olson, a sophomore at Dordt College, disagrees with zero-policy standards. "There should definitely be a regulation on posters because otherwise you could put up anything you wanted to. It could be completely and utterly offensive. By putting up the posters, Dordt is saying it supports this event!"

Michael Grady, an engineering major, agrees there should be some regulations, but that the Black and White dance poster "definitely should have been approved."

Is this a conflict between freedom of speech and school policy? Or is it vitally important for the college to enforce standards upon posters hung? Continuing discussion is inevitable as the two continue to intersect.

Stamp of approval?

Ashley Bloemhof - Staff Writer

The third article in a series on sustainability and “good living” by Lillie Koerner on behalf of the Sustainability Committee

I probably don’t need to tell you that food waste is a prominent issue of global magnitude, but just to be safe, I’ll rattle off some statistics from the NRDC’s 2012 report titled Wasted. About 10% of the U.S. energy budget goes toward bringing food to our tables, yet 40% of food is lost somewhere from field to fork. As the largest component of municipal solid waste, decomposing food in landfills accounts for 23% of all U.S. methane emissions, which are contributors to climate change. The craziest part? Reclaiming just 15% of the food we waste could feed more than 25 million Americans every year.

What can Dordt do, you may ask, to decrease its flow of food into our landfill? The EPA’s “Food Recovery Hierarchy” prioritizes actions that organizations can take to prevent and divert wasted food. The most preferred action is reducing the volume of surplus food generated (aka source reduction). Next comes feeding hungry people, then feeding animals. Finally, there’s composting. Composting is the last attempt to repurpose food before it ends up in the solid waste stream. As nature’s recycling system, it transforms waste into a valuable soil amendment that ultimately helps create more food.

Many colleges across the country have enriched campus life by embracing student-led composting systems. Recent graduate Chris Rybims and I began our own compost crusade last year in an attempt to reduce waste and build community here on Dordt’s campus. After a semester of researching we put forth a proposal, but the logistical hurdles of implementing and maintaining a compost pile proved too much for Dordt to sanction at the time. Sound like a theme similar to my last article on recycling?

So what first began as a quest to compost on campus ultimately turned into an assessment of how much food waste Dordt is actually producing. The conclusion we came to? A lot. In fact, a 20-day audit of the Dining Hall estimated that over 74,000 pounds of food waste is generated each school year, over half of which is considered compostable. Furthermore, a waste collection study in the apartments revealed that the average room throws out nearly eight pounds per week of compostable food scraps alone. All this accumulates to thousands of pounds each year, leaving behind a food waste footprint with numerous ecological implications.

But all is not lost! I am hopeful that Dordt will once again consider composting and other food reduction strategies in the near future by supporting those with a passion and vision for sustainability. Creative Dining Services has already been a big supporter of sustainability on campus and are carefully considering ways to address food waste in the years to come. I’m also beginning to hear more and more students talk about things like composting and trayless dining. All this tells me we’re headed in the right direction.

In the meantime, a little part of me still dies when I see whole apples disappear with their trays into the Commons dishwasher. No matter what Dordt is or isn’t doing, we should always be mindful of the way we’re consuming. How we treat food says a lot about what we value. And what we value is ultimately a reflection of who we are. The world is not a Pizza Ranch buffet, friends, so let’s show our appreciation for the good gift of food by putting a stop to needless waste.
Sex and violence glorified and romanticized. Not many are eager to admit their interest in the film 50 Shades of Grey. The glorification of violence and sex in the media is stronger than ever. Speaking out against it and facilitating conversations about it helps spread awareness and encourage advocacy against these harmful views portrayed by the media.

What are Dordt students saying about 50 Shades of Grey, but more specifically, what are students saying about sex and violence in the media? I surveyed an Intro to Sociology class and got some answers. Anonymously, students replied with some quite intelligent comments on this subject. Here are a few of the responses I collected.

"The rising amount of sexual ideas and violence in the media is having great effects in our society and it's spreading to younger and younger ages. If this keeps happening, what is it going to be like for our future kids?"

"Sexual violence objectifies something that is supposed to be a gift, which is not okay," said one student.

"Because our society is so sex-saturated, more and more teens are feeling the need to have sex or watch porn. This also stretches to sexual movies. More people are watching them because they think they are okay."

"Because sex is constantly trivialized in the media, it becomes harder and harder to take it seriously. How do you see sex as valuable when everyone else is giving it away for free?"

As Christians, it is so important to continue to see sex as a holy gift from the Lord. Though it is portrayed differently through the media, not just 50 Shades of Grey, we have to remember what sex is really about. Sex is an emotional connection and expression of love that God designed.

Social work professor Erin Olson also weighed in on the subject. As a culture, we communicate to people that sex is both the most important and least important thing," Olson said. "Our music, movies, television and advertising show our obsession with sex and it appears to be a very important, if not the most important, thing in the world. At the same time, however, we also hear the message that it's 'just sex' and we try to downplay the emotional significance that sexual intimacy should require and should develop."

Olson believes that it's a scary thing to realize that sex and violence are linked in a public format, and that is has been happening even before 50 Shades. "We see images of sex and violence every day and this is damaging for people of both genders," Olson said. "This culture changes the expectations of both genders when it comes to sex and makes violence the norm instead of love, which is what God intended for sex to be about. While I think movies like 50 shades could potentially be damaging to both women and men alike, I don't think it's anything really new that we need to be shocked and concerned about."

Movies like 50 Shades of Grey are unfortunately only the beginning. It wasn't the first and it won't be the last. The media's influence on sex and violence is getting stronger and stronger in our society. Remembering the gift of sex and how it is meant to be enjoyed serves as an important reminder to all of us who are continuing to live and be influenced by this ever growing dark world.

**Students of Dordt:**

**Lauren Davis**

Haley Mulder - Staff Writer

Senior Lauren Davis is anything but conventional.

"My sophomore year at college, I got five piercings."

"There are a lot of special things about Davis, she is truly one of a kind. "I have a tattoo on both of my feet," Davis said.

"One is a lantern that represents Psalm 119, which says 'I am your lamp, I will guide you in the dark world.' The other one is an anchor that stands for God being the anchor in the wind and in the waves."

Her tattoos and piercings represent a part of who she is, and how she chooses to express herself.

Davis is a Theology: Youth Ministries major and pop-culture minor.

"Youth ministry has always been a part of my life," Davis said. "I saw brokenness in my fellow peers, and I desired to reach out to them. I've realized that I am supposed to be in ministry and am called to help out teens." Davis believes that it's important to relate to teenagers on their level, and to honestly connect with them.

"We need to get to know them," Davis said. "They aren't just rebels."

Along with a passion for ministering to teenagers, Davis has a huge heart for music. "Music will always be a part of my life," Davis said. "I love every kind of music except country."

After excelling in many sports in high school, Davis tore her ACL and meniscus during a basketball game. "After that happened, I knew I was not going to be able to play sports in college," Davis said. "It started to question who I was and my gifts and talents."

After that, Davis' church asked if she would be willing to learn the bass guitar to play in church. Davis accepted, and that's when she fell in love with music.

"It was God's way of teaching me that my identity is in Him," Davis said.

After her family moved to Sioux Falls, she applied to Dordt and began her journey at college. Davis made mistakes in her beginning years here, and realized it was time to get serious with God.

"I went through a journey of repentance and one on one time with God," Davis said.

Fast forward to now, Davis is happily engaged to her fiancé, Jesse Herman.

"He was part of a progressive Christian metal band," Davis said. "We immediately hit it off. He was the cutest guy in the band."

Davis now displays a real two-karat red ruby on her ring finger.

"I knew I wanted something different," Davis said. "We found it at an antique store. He told me he was going to the bathroom, but really he bought the ring. I had no idea."

Davis is the kind of girl that you just can't help smile around. I guess you could say one way to describe her is "more precious than rubies."
As a society, we've become so safe. We avoid tough topics in fear of offending our postmodern mentality; we read every other blog post telling us what's newly discovered to be unhealthy, and we love one another through a thin glass pane—a touchscreen soul.

On Friday the 21st, we smiled at the cuteness of “Rucksuck Productions’” Best of Show Prairie Grass film “Bitter/Sweet,” as the hipster in the coffee shop tick-tacked out little notes on his typewriter to ask out the girl. Maybe we all wish someone would write us a little note on a typewriter and deliver it by hand.

What do we have to show for our friendships and relationships in contrast to what our parents and grandparents have? Gone are the days of the inconvenience of having to write letters in ink and eagerly awaiting a reply, of pinning Polaroid memories to a real wall, or of actually walking... well... anywhere.

How often are we really ever alone with someone, or even just ourselves, before a phone buzzes or a little red flag pops up to tell us we’re popular? I’m not trying to be a cynic. Sometimes I cringe at myself and my inability to engage fully in the here and now; simultaneously existing in so many places, yet present in none of them.

When we’re always off in another world, or with another person, it can be difficult to find true connection beyond 140 characters, and the fear of opening up too much too quickly to too many people. Sometimes we, just want... maybe need... to sit down and just be real for a moment.

“To love at all is to be vulnerable.” CS Lewis once said that. Certainly, we put on a façade of vulnerability. In our self-pity, we cry out to be unhealthy, and we love one another through a thin glass pane—a touchscreen soul. Then your Father, who sees what is in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is in secret.

The United States has been one of those powerful countries that distribute media content around the world for quite a while. Along with this global distribution this is not necessarily a bad “thing” but it is definitely something that is worth of noting. A study performed by the Pew Research Center in 216 different countries, demonstrated that in a 5 years long period (2007-2012), people in such countries have a more positive attitude towards US American pop culture, ideas of democracy, ways of doing business, customs, and technological advances. Nevertheless, despite the positive attitudes, a median 70% from the research say that the dissemination of US American pop culture (Americanization as other one call it) is not good.

I grew up watching American TV shows, many of which were translated into Spanish; most of these shows displayed a entire different reality to that of my country and demonstrated the big contrast among societies.

Before I learned English, I had a strong desire to see Mount Rushmore, visit the Twin Towers at New York, eat at Chuckie Cheese’s, become an exchange student, have a basement or have a bedroom on the second floor with a window facing the road. I also wanted to build a snowman, drink hot choco-late, talk to Santa Clause, eat a legot chocolate chip cookie, and speak English in the “American way”. Such ambitions of my childhood, I spine, are enough evidence to support my point: powerful media content from abroad affect the way I thought since I was a child.

The ways that the United States affects countries around the world are not limited to financial and economic ways, but also cultural. People around the world, this includes kids, teens, adults and seniors, are exposed to America’s culture. In a recent study performed by the Pew Research Center in 53 diverse countries and islands that Africa contains many, many educated, gifted— and therefore quite hopeless without the kindness and charity of white Christian strang- ers. It is also among the pile of reasons that many white Americans are somewhat shocked to learn that Africa contains many, many educated, gifted— and independent cultures and individuals who come from 53 diverse countries and islands and are not being influenced by US American media content. In these mission trip photos contribute overall to the white supremacist system that still quietly perverts our country and globe.

But if what I told you that by posting these photos, you are contributing to a very damag- ing stereotype known as the “white savior”? This stereotype advances the dangerous lie that the darker-skinned poor people on earth need to be saved by white Christians, it contributes to other stereotypes concerning black, Hispanic, or other marginalized groups as being poor, uneducat- ed—and therefore quite hopeless without the kindness and charity of white Christian strang- ers. It is also among the pile of reasons that many white Americans are somewhat shocked to learn that Africa contains many, many educated, gifted— and independent cultures and individuals who come from 53 diverse countries and islands and are not being influenced by US American media content. In these mission trip photos contribute overall to the white supremacist system that still quietly perverts our country and globe.

That isn’t a good enough reason for you. I’ll provide the second: the Bible says so. Read Matthew, chapter 6, particularly verses 5-18. “But be careful not to practice your righteousness...in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you give to the needy, do not let your right hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.” So, my dear reader: go, serve, be His hands and feet—but do it for Him, and not for Facebook likes.

As a society, we've become so safe. We avoid tough topics in fear of offending our postmodern mentality; we read every other blog post telling us what's newly discovered to be unhealthy, and we love one another through a thin glass pane—a touchscreen soul.
Dordt College golf teams California bound

Christian Zylstra - Staff Writer

Students across campus are looking forward to spring break; no class, road trips with friends, and going home are a few of the many plans students are lining up for the 10-day break. But for the Dordt College men’s and women’s golf teams, spring break brings a different excitement. Eight men, five women and two coaches have the privilege of traveling to California during spring break to play five beautiful courses: TPC Harding Park and Half Moon Bay in San Francisco, Poppy Hills in Pebble Beach, CA; Oakdale Country Club in Oakdale, CA; and Spring Creek Country Club in Ripon, CA.

Dordt will join the Trinity Christian College men’s golf team for a round at Poppy Hills. The Advancement and Admissions departments are also sponsoring a tournament for friends of Dordt and the Ripon Christian golf teams at the Spring Creek Country Club.

This is not the first year the Defenders are taking a trip during spring break. The tradition started in 2005 when Dordt decided to take its top eight male golfers; however, this is the first time the trip will feature the women’s team as well. Living in Northwest Iowa provides many challenges for a golf team, none more so than winter. Its cruel hand covers courses with snow and shuts them down for several consecutive months. Any chance to shake off some rust and fine-tune details is a chance worth taking.

If you talk to the golfers, playing these great courses isn’t the best part about the spring break trip; it’s the quality time spent together as a team outside the normal routine of an academic semester. The additional practice and experience playing difficult courses helps our team prepare for our spring golf meets and the strong competition in the GPAC conference, Christians said. “It allows each player to work on the parts of their golf game that needs improvement and gives the coaches an opportunity to interact with our team outside the normal routine of an academic semester.”

“Certainly the additional practice and experience playing difficult courses helps our team prepare for our spring golf meets and the strong competition in the GPAC conference,” Christians said. “It allows each player to work on the parts of their golf game that needs improvement and gives the coaches an opportunity to interact with our team outside the normal routine of an academic semester.”

The additional practice is necessary for the team as well. Living in Northwest Iowa provides many challenges for a golf team, none more so than winter. Its cruel hand covers courses with snow and shuts them down for several consecutive months. Any chance to shake off some rust and fine-tune details is a chance worth taking.

If you talk to the golfers, playing these great courses isn’t the best part about the spring break trip; it’s the quality time spent together as a team outside the normal routine of an academic semester. The additional practice and experience playing difficult courses helps our team prepare for our spring golf meets and the strong competition in the GPAC conference, Christians said. “It allows each player to work on the parts of their golf game that needs improvement and gives the coaches an opportunity to interact with our team outside the normal routine of an academic semester.”

The additional practice is necessary for the team as well. Living in Northwest Iowa provides many challenges for a golf team, none more so than winter. Its cruel hand covers courses with snow and shuts them down for several consecutive months. Any chance to shake off some rust and fine-tune details is a chance worth taking.

If you talk to the golfers, playing these great courses isn’t the best part about the spring break trip; it’s the quality time spent together as a team outside the normal routine of an academic semester. The additional practice and experience playing difficult courses helps our team prepare for our spring golf meets and the strong competition in the GPAC conference, Christians said. “It allows each player to work on the parts of their golf game that needs improvement and gives the coaches an opportunity to interact with our team outside the normal routine of an academic semester.”

The additional practice is necessary for the team as well. Living in Northwest Iowa provides many challenges for a golf team, none more so than winter. Its cruel hand covers courses with snow and shuts them down for several consecutive months. Any chance to shake off some rust and fine-tune details is a chance worth taking.

If you talk to the golfers, playing these great courses isn’t the best part about the spring break trip; it’s the quality time spent together as a team outside the normal routine of an academic semester. The additional practice and experience playing difficult courses helps our team prepare for our spring golf meets and the strong competition in the GPAC conference, Christians said. “It allows each player to work on the parts of their golf game that needs improvement and gives the coaches an opportunity to interact with our team outside the normal routine of an academic semester.”

The additional practice is necessary for the team as well. Living in Northwest Iowa provides many challenges for a golf team, none more so than winter. Its cruel hand covers courses with snow and shuts them down for several consecutive months. Any chance to shake off some rust and fine-tune details is a chance worth taking.

If you talk to the golfers, playing these great courses isn’t the best part about the spring break trip; it’s the quality time spent together as a team outside the normal routine of an academic semester. The additional practice and experience playing difficult courses helps our team prepare for our spring golf meets and the strong competition in the GPAC conference, Christians said. “It allows each player to work on the parts of their golf game that needs improvement and gives the coaches an opportunity to interact with our team outside the normal routine of an academic semester.”

The additional practice is necessary for the team as well. Living in Northwest Iowa provides many challenges for a golf team, none more so than winter. Its cruel hand covers courses with snow and shuts them down for several consecutive months. Any chance to shake off some rust and fine-tune details is a chance worth taking.

If you talk to the golfers, playing these great courses isn’t the best part about the spring break trip; it’s the quality time spent together as a team outside the normal routine of an academic semester. The additional practice and experience playing difficult courses helps our team prepare for our spring golf meets and the strong competition in the GPAC conference, Christians said. “It allows each player to work on the parts of their golf game that needs improvement and gives the coaches an opportunity to interact with our team outside the normal routine of an academic semester.”

The additional practice is necessary for the team as well. Living in Northwest Iowa provides many challenges for a golf team, none more so than winter. Its cruel hand covers courses with snow and shuts them down for several consecutive months. Any chance to shake off some rust and fine-tune details is a chance worth taking.

If you talk to the golfers, playing these great courses isn’t the best part about the spring break trip; it’s the quality time spent together as a team outside the normal routine of an academic semester. The additional practice and experience playing difficult courses helps our team prepare for our spring golf meets and the strong competition in the GPAC conference, Christians said. “It allows each player to work on the parts of their golf game that needs improvement and gives the coaches an opportunity to interact with our team outside the normal routine of an academic semester.”

The additional practice is necessary for the team as well. Living in Northwest Iowa provides many challenges for a golf team, none more so than winter. Its cruel hand covers courses with snow and shuts them down for several consecutive months. Any chance to shake off some rust and fine-tune details is a chance worth taking.

If you talk to the golfers, playing these great courses isn’t the best part about the spring break trip; it’s the quality time spent together as a team outside the normal routine of an academic semester. The additional practice and experience playing difficult courses helps our team prepare for our spring golf meets and the strong competition in the GPAC conference, Christians said. “It allows each player to work on the parts of their golf game that needs improvement and gives the coaches an opportunity to interact with our team outside the normal routine of an academic semester.”

The additional practice is necessary for the team as well. Living in Northwest Iowa provides many challenges for a golf team, none more so than winter. Its cruel hand covers courses with snow and shuts them down for several consecutive months. Any chance to shake off some rust and fine-tune details is a chance worth taking.

If you talk to the golfers, playing these great courses isn’t the best part about the spring break trip; it’s the quality time spent together as a team outside the normal routine of an academic semester. The additional practice and experience playing difficult courses helps our team prepare for our spring golf meets and the strong competition in the GPAC conference, Christians said. “It allows each player to work on the parts of their golf game that needs improvement and gives the coaches an opportunity to interact with our team outside the normal routine of an academic semester.”

The additional practice is necessary for the team as well. Living in Northwest Iowa provides many challenges for a golf team, none more so than winter. Its cruel hand covers courses with snow and shuts them down for several consecutive months. Any chance to shake off some rust and fine-tune details is a chance worth taking.

If you talk to the golfers, playing these great courses isn’t the best part about the spring break trip; it’s the quality time spent together as a team outside the normal routine of an academic semester. The additional practice and experience playing difficult courses helps our team prepare for our spring golf meets and the strong competition in the GPAC conference, Christians said. “It allows each player to work on the parts of their golf game that needs improvement and gives the coaches an opportunity to interact with our team outside the normal routine of an academic semester.”

The additional practice is necessary for the team as well. Living in Northwest Iowa provides many challenges for a golf team, none more so than winter. Its cruel hand covers courses with snow and shuts them down for several consecutive months. Any chance to shake off some rust and fine-tune details is a chance worth taking.
Music Review: Kanye West takes new direction

Jonathan Janssen - Staff Writer

What in the world is Kanye West up to? After releasing Yeus in 2013 to rave critical reviews, West took a year-and-a-half hiatus to go out of the media’s eye going into numerous extended rants in his concerts. In the infamous 2014 controversy, he stopped his show because there were people seated at his concert – only to discover he was directing his complaints at the disabled section.

After a rocky year, West has finally stepped back into the musical world with two new releases: “Only One” and “FourFiveSeconds.” While technically intended to be released on Rihanna’s upcoming album, “FourFiveSeconds” bears obvious connections to West’s single “Only One” in two primary ways – their stripped-down, minimalist sound and famous Beatles guitarist Paul McCartney’s feature on both songs.

In these unexpected (yet somewhat fitting) mashups featuring the king of rock & roll and the self-proclaimed “god” of hip-hop, McCartney takes up the background providing a puppy balled for West on “Only One” and an up-tempo acoustic riff for Rihanna and West on “FourFiveSeconds.”

“Only One,” sung entirely by West with the use of his signature autotuned voice, showcases West as an introspective son dreaming about Donda, his late mother, talking to him from heaven. Singing “As I lay me down to sleep / I hear her speak to me,” West stops speaking from his own perspective and switches to his mother. McCartney’s band in this song becomes more understandable when “Only One” is compared to the Beatles’ hit “Let It Be” – a record written by McCartney about his own late mother “speaking words of wisdom.”

“Only One” is a level-headed piece, yet it reaches its climax as West repeatedly and emphatically begs, again from the perspective of his mother, “Tell Nori about me.” In a previous interview West has expressed that his only regret is that Donda was never able to meet his daughter North “Nori” West, yet this line expresses his solace in the fact that he can still tell his daughter about her grandmother. The song ends with a beautifully simplistic piano solo from McCartney that extends well over a minute. Ending with a spayed out chord, McCartney provides a perfect outro to West’s most touching song since his last ode to his mother “Hey Mama” in 2005. “FourFiveSeconds” sees McCartney backing Rihanna and West with muffled exuberant chords. Belting out her frustrations, Rihanna declares “I think I’ve had enough / I might get a little drunk,” while West laments, “Woke up an optimist / Sun was shinin’, I’m positive / Then I heard you was talkin’ trash / Hold me back, I’m bout to spy.”

McCartney’s signature Beatles sound is displayed brightly on the bridge as he trades in his guitar for organ keys. On top of a gospel-sounding chord progression, Rihanna gets introspective about her relationship, realizing that there are problems on her end as well as his.

While the songs’ lack of over-the-top production is somewhat refreshing in a genre filled with artists covering up their lack of talent with every tool under the sun, the underproduction here borderlines on forced one too many times. While the idea could have spawned a more authentic, artistic sound, it instead falls into context-limbo – it’s hard to tell when and where these songs should be played.

Final Verdict: “Only One” definitely outshines “FourFiveSeconds” in terms of Kanye’s new sound, but if both records are an indication of the direction West will be taking his next work, the new jubilant Kanye will be a spectacle to behold.

in addition to performing pieces that both students have learned in their previous years of lessons, the two also had a chance to perform a song for both voice and flute. The song, written by Jean Berger, is among Berger’s lesser-known pieces and was given to the music department when Berger visited in 2001.

“ ‘There’s not a lot written for voice and flute. I think this was a really unique opportunity to be able to perform this song that’s really an unknown song,” said Hagemen.

While neither Hagemen nor Houweling were required to give a recital, they both believe it was a rewarding experience.

“Just because you don’t have to give a recital doesn’t mean you shouldn’t give it a shot. It can teach a lot and has lots of benefits, like professional development,” said Houweling.

Several other seniors will be performing in their recitals later this semester. Ivory Niewenhuis will give an organ recital on April 24, Sophie Bonnema will give a piano recital on April 25, and Leanna Bentz will give a harp recital on May 2.

In 2001.

Houweling and Hageman give senior recital

Lauren Bird - Staff Writer

On February 21, Dordt seniors Brittany Houweling and Jon Hageman gave a joint recital to showcase their talents. Hageman, a tenor, and Houweling, a flautist, are both music minors, which means they were not required to give a recital, but chose to anyway.

“I started out doing voice lessons for a music scholarship. Over the years, both my accompanist, Dylan Schmitz, and I started getting a passion for it, so we did a recital,” said Hageman.

Hageman, a theatre major, performed more musical theatre pieces than classical pieces.

“It makes sense for my major to perfect songs like this. I was able to do some songs that my mom and sister wanted to hear me sing, and I’ve always dreamed of performing a few of them, like Santa Fe from the Newies and What You Own from the musical Rent. One of the biggest things I’ve taken away from this experience is learning how to let the theatre part shine without the musical part floundering,” said Hageman.

Houweling’s recital experience also ties into what she hopes to do with her education as an elementary education major.

“I will be certified to teach both general education and music education. I’ve had some private students in lessons for many years now, and this recital helped develop my empathy towards them, to understand their struggles and motivations. Probably one of the hardest parts of this experience was not allowing myself to say that it was good or good enough. I feel like perfecting musical skills and making songs perfect never really ends,” said Houweling.

In addition to performing pieces that both students have learned in their previous years of lessons, the two also had a chance to perform a song for both voice and flute. The song, written by Jean Berger, is among Berger's lesser-known pieces and was given to the music department when Berger visited in 2001.

“ ‘There’s not a lot written for voice and flute. I think this was a really unique opportunity to be able to perform this song that's really an unknown song,” said Hageman.

While neither Hageman nor Houweling were required to give a recital, they both believe it was a rewarding experience.

“Just because you don't have to give a recital doesn't mean you shouldn't give it a shot. It can teach a lot and has lots of benefits, like professional development,” said Houweling.

Several other seniors will be performing in their recitals later this semester. Ivory Niewenhuis will give an organ recital on April 24, Sophie Bonnema will give a piano recital on April 25, and Leanna Bentz will give a harp recital on May 2.

Music Review: Kanye West takes new direction
Men’s Varsity (cont.)

Continued from page 1

However, they’re not stopping there. The club is looking towards the future to become a varsity sport next year.

Hoekstra was approached last year by captains Austin Lindemulder and Eric Geels about becoming the coach. Whether Hoekstra will be the coach if the team becomes a varsity sport is undetermined.

“I don’t think it’s an only teacher, only coach sort of a decision for me, but more where does God want me to spend my time,” said Hoekstra.

Professor Bill Elgersma understands the difficulties of transitioning from a club team to a varsity team. Elgersma started the women’s soccer club, coached Dordt’s hockey team, and assistant coached the men’s soccer team during their transition to a varsity sport.

Elgersma cautioned the men’s volleyball club team about transitioning into a varsity team.

“It’s a rethinking of the process of what a club is, verses what varsity becomes,” Elgersma said. “What I found is that you play in a club because it’s fun, you play because of the joy of the game . . . and sometimes with varsity you have to play because it’s a part of your financial package.”

The level of commitment for a varsity sport is greater than that of a club sport. There is now a set of rules that needs to be followed. Eligibility needs to be met. A full time coach needs to be hired, and traveling could be exhausting.

Nevertheless, there are many positives that come along with becoming a varsity sport. Scholarships could be awarded, the level of play will rise, scheduling between practices and games will be done through the athletic department, making everything more organized and easier taken care of.

“Throughout this season and into next year, I think our positive attitude and being a salt and a light will be challenged and tested,” said Hoekstra. “I think the team is becoming a team God is proud of.”

Throwback Thursday: O Brother Where Art Thou?

Jonathan Jansen - Staff Writer

This week as a throw-back Thursday of sorts, I’m going to take a look back at a film from the year 2000: Joel and Ethan Coen’s O Brother, Where Art Thou?

Taking place during the Great Depression, O Brother is the filmmaking brothers’ modern take on Homer’s ancient epic The Odyssey.

The pseudo-intellectual prisoner Ulysses Everett McGill (played by George Clooney) and his chain-gang mates, the hot-tempered Pete Hogwallop and foolish Delmar O’Dell (John Turturro and Tim Blake Nelson), escape their bondage and take a journey across 1937 Mississippi to uncover McGill’s treasure and run away from their troubles. The three idiots meet many dangers – including a group of beautiful, yet deadly singers, a cycloptic Bible salesman, and a blind radio station manager – and along the way are pursued by a devilish sheriff seeking their hanging.

At the same time, incumbent governor of Mississippi Pappy O’Daniel is seeing his campaign throttled and his name smeared by gubernatorial challenger Homer Stokes, who is emphasizing his efforts to “sweep the state clean” and his friendship with the “little guy” through the use of brooms and a dwarf. The race for candidacy and the three prisoners’ race for treasure are intertwined as Homer’s narration. Given the visual nature of film, this narration would be hard to portray, so the brothers must be let off the hook to an extent for this misgiving.

Through its problems, O Brother, Where Art Thou? holds its weight as a worthy contender in the current day. Like a fine wine, its taste has only increased with time. The real charm of the film (and, arguably the most praised aspect of the film) comes from the soundtrack, assembled by legendary producer and musician T-Bone Burnett. Mixing a variety of genres ranging from bluegrass to gospel to blues, the soundtrack, as much as the characters themselves, moves the story along. Among the most powerful uses of music in the film is a beautifully chilling performance of “Didn’t Leave Nobody but the Baby” by three deadly sirens, seeking to ensnare the prisoners for the reward. True to its Greek origins, the song is transfixing.

While critiqued in its day for its seemingly disjointed scenes with the characters jumping around from escapade to escapade, the Coen Brothers’ style has developed since this time and its scene choices make more sense given their future context. Given the source material – The Odyssey – these disjoints make even more sense. The Odyssey features separate adventures of the Greek hero Odysseus which are tied together only by Homer’s narration. Given the visual nature of film, this narration would be hard to portray, so the brothers must be let off the hook to an extent for this misgiving.

Through its problems, O Brother, Where Art Thou? holds its weight as a worthy contender in the current day. Like a fine wine, its taste has only increased with time.