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Colloquium series brings the sciences together

Eric Rowe - Staff Writer

“An assortment of students from chemistry, biology and math walk into a lecture hall.” Though this sounds like the beginning of one of those jokes science professors always seem to have up their sleeves, on Dordt’s campus it describes Colloquium, the weekly science talks that have been ongoing for the 2014-15 school year.

Every Friday at 3 p.m. for the past two semesters, the research and scholarship office brought in speakers on behalf of the natural science departments. These talks were presented by professionals in biology, engineering, math and other science fields, and were attended by students and faculty alike.

The idea for colloquium developed at the end of last year, but organizing it and gathering speakers was a challenge.

“It was noticeable that there was no internal mechanism to bring external speakers in,” said Nathan Tintle, director of the research and scholarship office.

In order to host colloquium regularly, the research and scholarship office took care of the logistics and paperwork. The faculty members could focus on hosting the speaker without worrying about reserving the lecture room, promoting the talk, figuring out where the speaker would stay and giving a small compensation.

“We asked faculty to give names,” Tintle said. “From those suggestions, we try to keep it balanced and rotate between departments. We do a little filtering and put fall suggestions off until the spring. We work with faculty to get people to come.”

Whether Colloquium will continue or change next year and how it will change is still a discussion in the natural science departments at Dordt.

“It’s a little unknown in the future,” Tintle said. “Each department is looking at how to integrate it into programs and support it.”

Math professor Tom Clark taught a one credit colloquium class in which students would go to the talks and write a response.

“Colloquium is a neat thing,” said Clark, who taught the class in the fall semester. “But it didn’t make for a good class.”

Celebrating Ideafest

Meagan DeGraaf-Staff Writer

On Thursday, April 23, Dordt College hosted its annual Ideafest, an all-inclusive, campus-wide event where students are able to present anything they have written, created, or studied over their time at Dordt.

The purpose of this event is to celebrate the learning and research that has occurred throughout the past year, no matter what the field of study. Students present their research not only for their fellow Dordt College students, but also to the public.

Many different topics were explored at this year’s Ideafest, both research and exploratory. Some of the research topics covered were history, education, algebra, sex, coffee, poetry, and music.

The all-day event took place in many different areas of the campus, including the campus center, science building, library and classrooms, so that attendees could get the full experience of Dordt’s campus.

“I only went to a few presentations but I wish I had gone to more, because the ones I went to were pretty interesting,” said freshman Ada Erlandson. Many other students felt the same way; they attended a few events and left more interested in the topics researched.

Campus small groups discuss Baart’s series

Haley Mudder-Staff Writer

Pastor Aaron Baart did chapel in a unique way this semester.

By sending out a survey to all students, he gathered their most pressing questions and formed his Lent series around those questions. The small group sessions that connect with his chapel messages were also run a bit differently than before.

Without students signing up online with either a faculty member or student as their leader.

Groups ranging in size from four to 12 members met once a week engaging in discussion topics that may be considered controversial in today’s social culture.

In last year’s groups, the discussion was primarily linked with readings from the book, The Cure. However, the groups this year were formed more around open conversation and created a place where students and faculty members could safely ask their spiritual questions.

“These groups were started for those who are looking to do something for Lent,” Baart said.

Continued on page 3
Senior engineering projects begin

At Dordt, an engineering student’s senior year culminates in a project which uses his or her engineering abilities to fill a need in a local or international community. Seniors will present their projects at 7:30 p.m. on May 6 in SB 1606.

Seniors choose their projects in the fall semester and spend the remainder of the school year working on it. These projects are a part of the Senior Design course, which is entirely devoted to the development of the projects. Senior Design is not taught by one particular professor, rather, each engineering professor mentors one or two groups.

“The objective is to provide students with the opportunity to use the skills and project management tools to complete a relatively large-scale project,” said senior Emily Riihl.

Eleven projects will be presented this year. Topics range from a solar air heating system to a round bale processing unit.

“The project I am working on is a water management system for the Esther School in Nyangwena, Zambia, Africa,” said Riihl. Riihl, Amanda Donnell, and Kim De Boer have developed a rainwater collection system and a greywater distribution system for the Esther School.

“The greatest challenge has been the communication lag between Zambia and the U.S.,” says Riihl.

Riihl’s group partnership with Zambia is unique. The other project sponsors are located in Iowa or South Dakota.

“I have most enjoyed the open-ended feel of the project because it has allowed us to think outside the box in terms of traditional water management designs,” said Riihl.

Senior design projects require large amounts of time and effort, but they provide seniors with an excellent opportunity to practice the engineering skills they’ve cultivated over the past four years.

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Senior engineering projects begin

Seniors to perform year-end talent show

Halley Mulder - Staff Writer

This year, Dordt’s advancement department has put together a senior talent show that is set to take place on May 7 at 7:30 p.m., the night before graduation, in the BJ Haan Auditorium.

“The senior talent show is a tradition at Dordt for many years,” Career Development Assistant Missy Mulder said. “It’s a fun way for the seniors to end their time here. Many of them even bring their parents, grandparents, and siblings.”

Altogether there will be 21 students performing, two MC, and the entire concert choir.

“This year is Mulder’s first time coordinating the show.

“I have to solicit performers and different acts for the show and I also help coordinate all the other details with the help of Sarah Moss and Brandon Huisman,” Mulder said. Mulder is the most excited for the variety of performances that will be showcased.

“There will be several musical performances, and some of them might even be comedic, but you’ll just have to come and see the show if you want to know more!” Mulder said.

The two MC’s for the show will be seniors Sam De Groot and Andrew De Haan. To open up to show, Dordt’s concert choir will perform several pieces.

“The show will be a great time to enjoy performances by your classmates and friends,” Mulder said.

Following the show, there will be an ice cream social at the Commons for the seniors and their families.

Concert choir to tour the Netherlands

Jonathan Janssen - Staff Writer

With the advent of summer comes numerous plans for how students will use all of their new free time. However, members of Dordt College’s Concert Choir already have their plans made for the middle of May. Leaving on May 12 and returning on May 24, the Concert Choir, led by Dr. Benjamin Kornelis are heading to The Netherlands for their overseas choir tour.

The choir will spend their days traveling through The Netherlands and performing at various venues. For the performances, they have acquired a large repertoire of music—even a few in Dutch for local appeal—and will fine tune their performances to each different space that they are singing in.

Sophomore baritone choir member Josh Van Gorp was jumped at the opportunity to travel abroad with the choir.

“There will probably be less than ten opportunities in my lifetime to do something like this, so I want to get the whole experience,” said Van Gorp, adding, “I’ve traveled coast-to-coast, but it was all within the United States of America. I think it’ll be great to be in The Netherlands because I have Dutch heritage. Coming from a Dutch settled area, I’m excited to see where my ancestors came from.”

As for cultural experience, sophomore bass choir member Jacob Meyers is ready for a change.

“I’m not from a Dutch background, so it will be interesting to get a sense of the true Dutch heritage: where it came from, where it is, and where it is going,” said Meyers. “I like to see how different cultures interact and live, what kind of food they eat – it will be interesting to get a new perspective on a different style of life.”

Senior alto choir member Aubrey Pasker is ready for the artistic attractions available after leaving a small, rural area like Sioux Center.

“The thing I’m most interested in seeing on this trip is the Van Gogh museum,” said Pasker. “He’s my favorite artist, so it will be incredible to see some of his original works of art.”

While the trip itself will be memorable, many members of the choir are looking forward to staying in Europe after the tour is over.

“I’m taking five days after the tour to backpack from Amsterdam to London,” said senior Chris Geels, adding, “I’m just winging it. I haven’t put any thought into how I’m going to get there or what I’m going to see. I think this will give me an opportunity to fly by the seat of my pants and make the trip more memorable.”

The choir will be having a going-away concert in the BJ Haan on Saturday, May 9, and will be selling CD’s there and all through Europe in order to provide the members with less of a financial concern throughout the tour.

News
News

Adjusting to campus life after Korean military service

Narayan Núñez Blondin - Staff Writer

“It is a good opportunity for reflection and struggle. It is a good experience for life. But I do not want to go back there again,” said Dordt student Jinu Jo.

At some point in their lives, every South Korean male must serve in the armed forces. As part of their mandatory law, they must register to a difficult military training and also serve in specific fields for approximately two years. After two years of serving, Dordt College students from South Korea, Jinu Jo, Kwan Yong Park, Hyeunwoo Lee, and Joon Hwa Chung return to college and resume their studies after fulfilling their service in the military.

Their four students agreed that there are a lot of mixed feelings before entering the military service. Some feel excitement for the new stage of their lives and find the military service a good time to reflect on life in general. Others feel nervous and anxious as they recognize that it could be one of the biggest challenges of their life.

The South Korean students explained that there are many South Koreans that try to avoid conscription. Some try to avoid serving by pretending to be sick, others even use certain chemicals on their bodies to disqualify themselves. Despite the fact that most South Koreans go through very similar physical training, they all serve in different fields and areas. As a fuel and food supply specialist, Lee served in the office settings of the infantry regiment and was given the responsibility of managing the systems.

“I shoot to prepare for warfare, and I was very nervous to die,” Choi stated as he shares how there was an instance in which North Korea declared an attack on South Korea and a spirit of fear filled him. But Choi was not the only one who experienced fear; Jo also went through a similar experience in another instance of uncertainty.

“When I was a private, the lowest military rank in the army (former dictator of North Korea) died, so all military officials thought that North Korea was going to prepare for a war and show they are good even though their leader died,” Jo said. “There was a fear of war (in the country).”

As an instructor in a training center, Park was responsible for giving proper instructions to the individuals beginning their two years mandatory service. Although his experience was not as fearful as those of Choi or Jo, his position was challenging because he had to work and deal with people who could not cope with the training.

“While there are some people that cannot adjust to the military service, so they wanted to commit suicide, so our job was to take care of them,” Park says. “We could not rest because he had to be prepared for any emergency situation.”

After the two years of military serving, however, the students stated that the obligatory conscription helped them reflect on their lives. The challenges and the pressure, they agree, helped them know more about themselves and their limitations.

“American students do not have to deal with the thought of obligatory service in the military for national security. Even though the United States is at war against terrorism and holds a posture against the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), its citizens are not obligated to serve in the armed forces. Despite the fact that men between ages 18 and 25 must register to the Selective Service System, the system itself is more of a contingency plan in case of emergencies. There are students at Dordt College that have not yet been exposed to experiences that challenges them and help them develop character. Although life changing experience varies from person to person, only a few students have been able to face extreme pressure and fear in their lives and learnt from it.”

Ideafest (cont.)

Continued from page 1

The presiders, who ranged in education level from freshman to senior, presented not necessarily on their major, but something that was interesting to them.

Bailey McKee and Dominic Vermeulen created a short film for their documentary-making class, which they then presented at Ideafest. Their film was about coffee and its effect on culture, and, of course, coffee was provided during their presentation.

Other students, especially in the engineering program, also showed the culmination of their studies through the opportunity of Ideafest, showcasing their senior engineering projects that were a culmination of a semester’s work. Many English majors too showed what they had learned, through poetry readings or their recent compositions.

Students don’t get too many opportunities to see what their fellow peers are doing within other fields of study because they are too busy learning their own subjects. Ideafest gives students and the community a great excuse to see all that happens on Dordt’s campus.

Ideafest also helps people of the Sioux Center community to see the range of learning that happens at Dordt, be it agriculture or art. It is essentially a campus-wide showcase of the knowledge acquired by Dordt students.

Small Groups (cont.)

Continued from page 1

Baart decided to mold the groups this way so that a student was unable to go to chapel, they wouldn’t feel left out of the conversation in their small group sessions.

“There is a plan to continue having small groups for many years to come,” Baart said. “I would like to form the groups around a book again and have the author come and speak if possible.”

The small groups are a perfect way for students to grow in relationships with others and discuss heavy topics that are prevalent on campus today.

Colloquium (cont.)

Continued from page 1

It was expected that colloquium would expose people to a broad understanding of how to do science across disciplines, but students tended to attend talks that are from their major or from themselves.

“It is like there is this bifurcation in the audience from week to week,” Clark said. “If there is a chemistry talk, then chemistry students come. If it’s a physics talk, then physics students come.”

The desire to continue Colloquium is there, but there is still a discussion addressing whether it will be worth the effort. The natural sciences department didn’t have regular talks, so there was a backlog of speakers who manage our resources and money,” Lee said. “If you made one slight mistake, a lot of money would disappear.”

On a more dangerous field, Choi served at the front line of warfare at the demilitarized zone. Even though they do not actively fight each other, there are times in which fear is present among those in the field because they are uncertain of what could happen in the zone.

“Although South Korea has been in peace and civil rest after the Korean War (1953) there has still been uncertainty and military threats coming from their northern neighbor, North Korea.”

“I shoot to prepare for warfare, and I was very nervous to die,” Choi states as he shares how there was an instance in which North Korea declared an attack on South Korea and a spirit of fear filled him. But Choi was not the only one who experienced fear; Jo also went through a similar experience in another instance of uncertainty.

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The desire to continue Colloquium is there, but there is still a discussion addressing whether it will be worth the effort. The natural sciences department didn’t have regular talks, so there was a backlog of speakers who professors really wanted to bring in. Going forward, the list of speakers seems much shorter.

How to get students to come and learn is tricky as well.

“There are lots of models and ways you can do it,” Tintle said. “Do you do it for credit? How is it credited? Extra credit can be challenging as well.”

Colloquium may change its time, regularity or the extent to which students can get credit for it, but the basic idea of broadening a student’s learning is something that the natural sciences at Dordt are excited to promote.
Rain or shine, Dordt’s annual Ag Day enjoyed by all

Megan Kaiser - Staff Writer

Rain two hours before the event began was not enough to put a damper on the liveliness of Dordt’s annual Ag Day. On Friday, April 24, individuals from both on and off campus gathered to celebrate the joys of Agriculture.

Ag day had it all, especially the machinery. Sprayers, skidsteers, tractors, semis, combines, and utility vehicles all made an appearance on Dordt’s lot.

“The purpose of Ag day is to showcase the talents and hard work of farmers and Dordt Ag students, educate the public about agriculture, and provide fun and interactive opportunities for people to get involved,” said Ag Business major Alli Young.

There was definitely plenty to do and plenty to eat during the special afternoon.

There was tire tossin’, a photo booth with costumes, sack races, plenty of ‘face in hole’ photo opportunities, and the many sights and smells of the barnyard. From reptiles to horses, each and every petting zoo station had their own fact boards. Professional livestock judges came to oversee a livestock-judging contest for the local high school students. Ag club members served locally raised pulled pork lunches that satisfied everyone’s appetite.

“I noticed some pretty big differences between this year and last year. A lot of improvement was definitely made. Most of the changes occurred within the Agvestigations program. Last year, all the stations were set up in the rec center and led by mostly Dordt Ag students,” said Young.

Anna Den Herder hatched the idea of using the parking lot between the commons and East Hall as a “barnyard” that featured a different station for each species of livestock. Anna spent countless hours making educational posters to help kids learn about the different species. Instead of using Dordt students to teach, the Ag Club brought in experts on each species, such as veterinarians and local producers,” said Young.

Young also had to spend from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. with several hundred preschoolers and fifth graders and guide them through a series of interactive workshops.

“Working with the kids all day was a little tiring, but definitely worth it! My 5th graders were respectful and attentive. They asked great questions and seemed to soak in a lot of information,” said Young.

Planning this event takes much longer than many realize. They begin thinking about it through months in advance.

“The Dordt College Ag Club delegates an entire committee to coordinate events with people and businesses in the community,” said Young.

The day was a huge success, but with cute animals and friends all around, how could one not have fun.

Check out dc_agday2015 on Instagram to check out more of the photos from Ag day!

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News

Year in review for Symposium

Back in August, Symposium met during WOW Week to discuss its goals and plans for the year. During this meeting, the council decided upon four main goals to pursue during the course of this year. Those goals were: to increase student satisfaction, to increase awareness of Student Symposium, to promote sustainability on campus, and to be a resource to clubs. Symposium proceeded to work all year toward these goals, and kept very busy in those pursuits.

This year, three of the largest issues that Symposium dealt with were the Sustainability Committee, talking to Dordt Dining about sustainability and satisfaction, and helping the Men’s Volleyball Club gain varsity recognition and financial backing from the administration and athletics department.

With Dordt Dining, Symposium discussed various issues, including food waste, menu and facilities improvements in the Commons, lines at the Grille, tray-less dining options, and aesthetic and service renovations to be made in the Commons.

The Sustainability Committee held several events on campus, including a plant-a-seed event, and “Mission Sustainable” in March. The Committee also met with the maintenance department, Dordt Dining, Bromers Sanitation, and Dordt’s administration to discuss ways in which Dordt could become more sustainable.

The Men’s Volleyball Club came to Symposium in the fall with a large funding request. In an effort to best serve the Volleyball Club, as well as other clubs on campus, Symposium began discussions with administration and the athletics department to find a solution to the club’s large funding needs. After extended negotiations, the Volleyball Club was taken under the umbrella of the Dordt athletics department and plans to play as a full varsity team in the 2015-2016 school year.

During the course of the 2014-2015 academic year, Student Symposium heard funding requests from a broad range of clubs, from the College Republicans, to the Juggling Club, all the way to the Biology club. Symposium also helped form and advise a few clubs this year, including the Tennis Club, the Sports Management Club, and the Sustainability committee.

Student Symposium met at 7 p.m. every Wednesday to discuss issues and funding. Symposium meetings are always open to the student body and visitors are welcome and encouraged. Symposium strives to be a voice for students on campus and values the feedback and cooperation and collaboration of all students. The council looks forward to next year when it can again serve the needs and concerns of the student body.

Symposium would like to thank Robert Taylor, Thaddeus Van Essendelft, Dordt Dining, the athletics department, administration, faculty, and above all, the students of Dordt College for a productive and enjoyable year. The council wishes all students and staff a safe and relaxing summer and a safe return to Dordt in the fall.

Jeremy Vreeken
Officer of the Press for Student Symposium

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1. Elise Maresh and Ben Korver and their respective animal friends
2. Some local grade school children hold up The Baryard banner
3. A delicious lunch was served by the Ag Department
4. Tanner Brasser is now a sheep

All photos taken by Megan Kaiser
As I go into working on my last edition of the Diamond, I realize that this is what college student says they’re not going to do their last couple of weeks but does it. After talking to someone whether or not they like to admit it. I'm able to look back on great nights with friends, relationships that I've developed, and mistakes that I've made academically, interpersonally and spiritually that I’ve been able to grow from. So get out of your room, get involved and enjoy what you have continued to teach me day in day out.

Everyone traveling near or far, I wish you the best. You might already be a part of that world, but we have a world waiting outside of our windows. There is a community that I have a narrow show off repertoire, but that I am talking about it from the other perspective. What about all of these people who have a narrow show off repertoire?...
Looking back on a strong year for Dordt teams

Christian Zylstra - Staff Writer

Dordt College Golf finishes a strong spring this weekend, leaving optimistic mindsets as the teams prepare for the 2015-16 season.

The women finished their season on April 24 in a GPAC meet, while the men close out their season this weekend with the highly anticipated NorDor Cup.

"Winning the NorDor Cup was definitely one of our main goals that we laid out at the beginning of the year," said sophomore Christian Manes. "We feel like we have a chance to win the cup, and it's starting to show. Consistency has definitely improved," said junior Micah Roos. "Having a best score of 77 and a worst score of 83 in meets this year shows some consistency which is nice in the game of golf."

More individual consistency has lead to better finishes this year than last, particularly down the stretch. But despite the better play, Dordt golf isn't satisfied to sit where it is.

"As a team, I don't think we are that far away from making it to the conference championship when they fell to Midland in the semifinals. Derrick Sackey, led the team in both goals and points and Brady Van Holland led the team in assists. We had a rebound from the year before. Coach Bill Eigermoser came back to coach the women. The team went from a 13-7 record and a 7-3 conference play. The team was one win away from making it to the conference championship when they fell to Midland in the semifinals. Derrick Sackey, led the team in both goals and points and Brady Van Holland led the team in assists."

"I was happy to be back again," Vander Kooi said. "It was a tough race and horrible weather for the race but overall being there was a highlight."

Both soccer teams had great seasons. The men played to a 13-7 record and a 7-3 conference play. The team was one win away from making it to the conference championship when they fell to Midland in the semifinals. Derrick Sackey, led the team in both goals and points and Brady Van Holland led the team in assists. The women had a rebound from the year before. Coach Bill Eigermoser came back to coach the women. The team went from no wins last year to going 6-10-1. The leading player for women's soccer this year was Natalie Sakuma, with 12 goals. The team was made of a few juniors, no seniors and an underclassmen majority. The team is one to watch for next year.

The Blades hockey team had rough schedule filled with a number of top teams in the nation. Three teams they played ended up at the national tournament. The Blades overall record was 5-21-1, an overall down year from years past. The leading scorers were Aaron Lutfishinski, Matt Campion, and Nic Enerson. Matt Campion was selected as an All-American for the 3rd team Pacific region. Men's basketball entered GPAC play with aspirations of making it to a 4th straight national tournament but fell short against a record strong conference. The team's record was 18-13 with a conference record of 9-11 and was bounced first round against Midland. Leading scorer and all-American Nathan Rindels, averaged 16.4 points a game.

Women's basketball faced a lot of injuries throughout the season but managed to pull off some great wins. Its overall record was 11-19. The team went 9-1 against the non-conference schedule. Abby Chapman led the team in points with of 12.5 ppg and Mykah Hulst lead the conference in both blocks and rebounds.

Both golf teams played well in the fall and spring this year. The key leaders on the women's team did excellent. Renae Visser led the women's team with an average score of 87.9 for 18. The men's leader was freshman, Tony Kallevig, with an average score of 77.3 for 18.

"I didn't expect to do so well," Kallevig said. "I just went out and played my game and it worked" The men's football team tied the best

Continued on page 8
The New City prepares for summer touring

On April 25, Bridget opened her gallery of art, called Perceptions, to the public. Since then, she has had many people visit, including Dordt College President Erik Hoekstra, who said in passing that he enjoyed the performance art pieces. Her art ranges from photographic performance art to more abstract pieces, covering a wide range of emotions and topics. She focused on relationships, perceptions, and human interaction.

"Through my art, I hope to make viewers think about their own relationships and how they treat others," said Rowe. Many of the pieces invoke this thinking through the use of text within the pictures, which ultimately exemplify the perceptive labels people are given.

She also wanted people viewing the art to think about what makes them the person they are. Many of her pieces featured important statements amongst the abstract painting surrounding them. The "Word Vomit" series was one that evoked such thoughts.

Many of her pieces were changed and completed over long periods of time, because she wanted the pieces to accurately portray her perceptions. "People and psychology are endlessly fascinating to me, and provide a source of inspiration," said Rowe, who is graduating this May with degrees in social work and art. Her interest of people and their relationships has led her to reflect that in her art and field of study.

The majority of her art pieces are very complex, just as people are. Her art is intended to make viewers think, as much art does. Viewers learn things about themselves and others through art more than they realize.

Until May 2, Rows's exhibit Perceptions will remain in the art gallery across from the Eckhardt Lounge in the campus center. This is the last senior show that will be displayed.

David Versluis, an art professor at Dordt College, stresses the importance of art on a college campus. This art is free to view and right in the campus center. Students are strongly encouraged to view the art exhibit while it is still open.
The Back Page

Sports year in review (cont.)

Continued from page 6

The Back Page

Kanye West takes a new direction with “Only One” and “FourFiveSeconds”

Jonathan Jansen Staff Writer

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

Overall, Dordt athletics ends the 2014-2015 school year on a strong note. Teams are looking forward to future successes and are excited to represent Dordt well next season.

Kanye West performing “All Day” at the 2015 BRIT Awards

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“FourFiveSeconds” sees McCartney backing Rihanna and West with muffled exuberant chords while the two belt out their frustrations with their respective partners. 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 the ubiquitous autotune, the underproduction here borderline 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.

After a rocky year, West finally jumped 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 own “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 mashups of one of rock & roll's most iconic members and the self-proclaimed “god” of hip-hop, McCartney takes up the background providing a poppy ballad 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. West touches on many different subjects, ranging from his recent bouts with public opinion to his
discovered end that breaks all conventions, distorting London high energy of the piece and an ending that breaks all conventions, distorting London and McCartney’s voices in a futuristic appeal. Taken as a whole, these singles prove that West has not run out of steam or ideas, and his future endeavors should prove to remain provoking and unsettling in the face of current conventionality. Time and time again, West forges through the banality of musical imprisonment to push genres to – and many times, over – their breaking points.

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Aaron Baart and “Carl the Defender” sporting the proposed “new uniforms” for Dordt athletics