String of arsons spark confusion in Sioux Center community

Jonathan Janssen – Staff Writer

Sioux Center, long considered an oasis from the types of crime usually prevalent in highly-populated areas, no longer holds its spotless status. Several suspicious building fires have occurred throughout the past few months. The latest target of the increasingly malicious attacks, a Sioux Center’s Heritage Village, went up in flames as authorities responded to a call on the afternoon of Thursday, Nov. 5. The Heritage Village marks number 5 in a string of arsons dating back to July 10 of this year. The preceding fire occurred earlier this summer. The fire destroyed the structure and items within with English Professor Joshua Matthews’ livery stable. The stable, 100-years-old and original to the 1914 house, stood as a piece of history in the Sioux Center community.

On the night of the fire Matthews was on vacation with his family.

“Our neighbors called us and said there are firetrucks at our barn,” Matthews said. “I thought, what? What? What stupid thing did I do? He didn’t tell me anything about why there was an investigation, so I stewed about what could have happened.”

It wasn’t until he arrived back in Sioux Center that he realized the significance of the occurrence.

“The police officer showed up to my house and told me there was someone in there who had dumped accelerant,” said Matthews, shaking his head. “It is something I can’t inhabit. I can understand thieves. I can, to some extent, understand murderers. But I can’t understand arson. I never cared for fire.”

English Professor Bill Elgersma poked his head in Matthews’ office to offer his opinion.

“It’s a rush,” Elgersma said. “It may not be in your world, it may not be in my world, but it’s a thrill. It’s just a thrill. It’s a sense of power. It’s a sense of danger.”

Matthews then suggested the police look at the pattern of incidents.

“If you look at it geographically with their close proximity, think it’s absolutely somebody in the area,” Elgersma said.

Police Chief Paul Adkins confirmed the police are considering this idea.

“They’re tracking the motive behind this,” Adkins said. “Are they targeting buildings owned by older people? Are they targeting the city for not building newer buildings in their place?”

He noted that the problem with arson in small towns is that the fire department and police are not inclined to suspect a crime when they respond to a fire.

“If you’re a firefighter driving to a scene, you’re not thinking about arson at that time,” Adkins said. “Your adrenaline is pumping. You aren’t watching for anyone.”

“Look, I’m confident that eventually we will find the person or persons to solve this,” Adkins continued. “I’d like to say before Christmas we can wrap this baby up, but that would be presumptuous. We’re not CSI Miami. Cases don’t get solved in an hour. You work at it and work at it. You follow some leads.”

Elgersma spoke optimistically when responding to questions concerning Dordt College’s safety.

“The Dordt community is certainly not in any danger,” Adkins said. “We believe they are safe. We would welcome with open arms any help they could give us. If they notice anything in particular, they should come and let us know.”

As for Matthews, the professor remains bewildered.

“It’s a very sick, disturbing feeling,” Matthews said. “At the same time, it wasn’t as terrible as it could be. I thought it would be more gone. Still, I don’t care if I get new stuff; it doesn’t matter. I got a huge check in the mail, and I still felt sick. But when faced with the hypothetical opportunity of facing his transgressor, Matthews referred to the original owners of the house.

“I learned about it happening, I would have been happy to sermonize,” Matthews said. “But after some time thinking about it, I’d like to have that person talk to the people who used to live there, whose names are up on the walls in there, whose lives were wrapped up in the place.”

Dordt College Accounts Payable Clerk Andrea Westerbeek lived in the house in her childhood and her name was on the wall Matthews referred to. When asked what she would say to the perpetrator, she echoed Matthews.

“When I first heard about it, it was very shocking,” Westerbeek said. “Now that the Heritage Village house was burned, I feel even worse. My only real question is, ‘Why?’ I don’t understand why in the world someone would do this.”

Her response, no doubt, hits home for anyone connected to such a confusing, troubling crime.

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Careful consideration surrounding proposed pro-tech degree

Abigail Olson – Staff Writer

A new type of student may soon arrive at Dordt College. In responding to the increasing demand from industry leaders, Dordt may begin to offer two-year degrees in professional-technical programs. The change would introduce a new type of student which would broader the pool of applicants Dordt is currently reaching.

Within the last few weeks, confusion surrounded the issue of mandatory class sizes for the upcoming semester. Professors were under the impression that the administration implemented a new policy of an 8.2-student minimum, while administration said that they passed no such policy. Where did the confusion come from, and what resolutions have been reached?

For many years, it has been Dordt’s policy that each class should have at least six students. If the number is any lower, administration takes a look to see if the course is necessary for graduation, if it can be combined with another course or cross-listed or if it can be cut out completely. This does not mean that no class can have fewer than six students, but that course will be carefully considered before it is allowed to happen.

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Recently, Dordt’s administration calculated how economical this six-student policy was. Was that really the minimum class size needed to break even? Taking into account how much each faculty member is paid, how much each student pays and how many classes each student takes, they found that the correct size was actually higher: 8.2 students per class.

They then sent out an email alerting faculty to their discovery in which they advised professors to take this number into account. The language was not clear in stating this was a suggestion and not a new policy. Many faculty members were under the impression that a new policy was in place.

Due to the confusion, faculty members met with Provost Eric Forsell, who clarified that there was no new policy and the minimum number of students remained at six.

New policy or not, the difficulty of supporting small class sizes still exists. The humanities remain the most affected by class size requirements. English professor Mary Dengler

Continued on page 3

Minimum class size study leads to miscommunication

Janelle Crammenga – Staff Writer

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Dordt forensics wins the debate time and time again

Lydia Marcus – Staff Writer

Between jouthing jackrabbits and eating places at plums, the Dordt College Forensics Debate Team has had an eventful semester. The twelve members of the Forensics team meet regularly to hone their rhetoric skills. There are two types of tournaments each team participates in: debates and individual presentations. Debate teams meet for roughly 400-500 rounds a year to practice for upcoming tournaments. They discuss current events, debate techniques and reasoning, and practice their skills in individual events, ranging from dramatic interpretations to persuasive speaking, meet in individual events, ranging from dramatic interpretations to persuasive speaking, meet in individual events, ranging from dramatic interpretations to persuasive speaking and their knowledge of contemporary events.

Forensics is active from late September through mid-November, though they attend tournaments that do not compete on Sundays. There are several tournaments which this excludes us from, but we believe that protecting the Sabbath for those who value its observance is an important part of our identity,” said Roth. “We do make one exception a year, and that, oddly enough, is to compete at NCCFI.”

Though it is unfortunate that NCCFI insists on competing on Sunday, Defender Forensics “felt the limited exception to our normal practice was acceptable given the opportunity to compete and commune with our sister schools at the event,” said Roth.

Defender Forensics grew to eighteen students this year and seasoned students have continued to grow. “I hope to see us continue to solidify our ability and to compete at a high level through the rest of the year,” says Roth. “I have a lot of hope for a few of the new folks, and I hope they can accumulate adequate experience so that we have a killer team or two to compete in the novice (1st year) division at NCCFI along with a quality showing in the varsity division.”

Students reevaluate Syrian refugee problem

Since September, there have been numerous attacks both domestic and foreign that can be attributed to ISIS. However, on November 13, the city of Paris, France was hit with a series of attacks, later claimed by ISIS, that killed 130 people and left 368 injured.

Ever since the Paris attacks, the United States has been in a constant state of fear. Over half of the nation’s government has refused refugees in their states, with a total of them backing out in the days after the attacks.

Tyler Coopers, the representative for Dordt on World Renew’s board, said that their position has relatively stayed the same.

“Unfortunately, it seems that too often in the United States, especially in small communities, we seem sheltered from the harsh realities of the outside world.”

“After the Diamond released an article at the beginning of the semester, five students were interviewed and asked about their feelings toward ISIS and the ever growing refugee crisis. Now three short months later, much of the nation’s opinions have shifted, but did Dordt students suffer the same effect?”

In September, junior Rachel Du Mez felt strongly about helping those who were suffering abroad. “It seems as though not much has changed.”

“Defender Forensics earned success earlier in this fall. In the first PLUM tournament, Ranea Boonstra and Vos made it to the Bronze (Quartifinal) Round. Vos also came in 4th place in the individual speaking category. At the second PLUM tournament of the year, Boonstra and Courtney De Wolde made it to the Bronze (Quartifinal) Round. Vos came in 1st place in his round.”

Vos joined the team a few months after its inception. “I hope to see us continue to solidify our ability and to compete at a high level through the rest of the year,” says Roth. “I have a lot of hope for a few of the new folks, and I hope they can accumulate adequate experience so that we have a killer team or two to compete in the novice (1st year) division at NCCFI along with a quality showing in the varsity division.”

Dordt Professor Visscher publishes new space theory

Ashley Huizinga – Staff Writer

Imagine the scene. It’s a Monday evening in the depths of November. Even without snow on the ground, the weather hints of winter. The bitterly cold wind blows in the thin air and cuts through the thickest of parkas to make all but the toughest of the Canadians suffer. Not many people would choose to be outside, but there is one. She is looking for shelter, a place that is warm.

She finds it in the form of the Dordt Forensics building. As she enters, she is greeted by a woman. They are not friends, but they are acquaintances. She is looking for her mentor, a woman who has been her guide in the world of debate.

They are astronomy students.

Fearlessly braving the cold night air, they hid behind walls and exits that were once a haven for them. It is time to turn a new page for the debate team.

In addition to teaching Astronomy as professor of Chemistry and Plant Science on Dordt’s campus, Visscher participates in a myriad of events, as a visiting scientist at the Southwest Research Institute, headquartered in Boulder, CO. His team, headed by physicist Dr. Robb Camp, strives to explain the origins of Earth’s Moon - that is, they use science infused with a Christian worldview to help others understand how they may have created the universe in the beginning.

Recently, the team published an article detailing their creation of what is now known as the “Twice-Baked” Theory.
Student led club represents Dordt by hosting dance

Eric Rowe – Staff Writer

What do you do on the first snowfall of the year? Curl up by the fire with a good book or curl up with a partner on the dance floor? On November 20, many Dordt students chose the latter and attended The Garden of Lights dance held in the De Witt Gym. Building upon seven year history, the 2015-16 Dordt Swing Dance club continues to establish its profile as a hub of student activity on campus. Dordt’s Student Activities Committee, the organization responsible for the Talant Extravaganza and Airband, funded the event. The Garden of Lights dance proves that the Swing Dance Club engages a significant number of students.

The event took about 12-15 couples on the dance floor for each song. With the snow still falling outside, dancers grooved to 50s tunes such as the Everly Brothers, with less conventional songs such as Michael Jackson’s “Thriller” and “I Wanna Be Like You” from Disney’s Aladdin.

“We hope this dance will set the tone for future events,” Club leader Courtney Braun said.

Our opinion after serving on the Task Force. As a result of the meeting, the night came when the Club leaders decided to play an impromptu mixing game.

“A better dance,” Braun said over the microphone. “We just decided to play a game of snowball.”

Braun made an announcement of excitement through the room from individuals who regularly attend the weekly club meetings. Students who expected academic catch up on fast as everyone sat in a circle on the gym floor with one couple in the middle.

As the night got started, Daniel Lucht and Fayth Ponson started dancing. After a bit, when the Fren热 had cooled, Lucht and Ponson separated and each grabbed a new partner. Braun called out “Snowball” at intervals as the people dancing in the middle grew larger and larger until everyone was up and dancing.

Lucht, a regular swing dance club attendee, thinks that the opportunity to dance on campus is unique and more enjoyable than other overdone and limited traditional Dordt outings. “It’s a lot of fun,” Lucht said. “Not too many people do it.”

Braun and fellow leader Josh Evans have been involved in organizing three on-campus events. “For us it really was a God thing,” Zevenbergen said.

Dordt has many students and faculty that are of Korean descent. Annie Pinkerton’s two brothers are the sons and daughters of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. One big happy family.

Dale Zevenbergen has four children and two stepchildren. He expressed his opinion after serving on the Task Force.

“What does Christian education currently serve? Every single thing except for the trades,” Elgersma said.

The goal of a ProTech program, for Elgersma, is to maintain a Reformational worldview but mix it with pragmatic application, but he knows some of his colleagues will be hesitant about teaching students in ProTech programs.

Some professors will ask, “But surely I don’t have to teach this population, right?” Elgersma said.

Elgersma concedes that Dordt must answer many logistical concerns and practical questions before ProTech can become a reality. How much will the new students pay for tuition? What companies will they intern with? Where will they live? How will they be integrated into the campus community?

Sophomore Riley Schap thinks it may be hard to attract students to a trade school at Dordt when some of these programs are less expensive tech schools that are also closer to home. He doesn’t see if it’s right to expect students who will enter technical jobs to pay the price tag for a Dordt education. However, the diversity the programs would bring to campus is a good thing for Schap.

“It’s more people to be friends with, I guess,” Schap said.

The addition of these programs would significantly alter the student body of Dordt. If Dordt rolls out seven ProTech programs by 2022, as the Task Force predicts, ProTech student enrollment would number 242 students. This would account for nearly 15% of the total Dordt population. A large portion of these ProTech students would be male, further skewing the male-female ratio at Dordt.

For this reason and others, students, professors, and the broader community who want to maintain the status quo will be likely to push back against this change. Current students may worry their degrees will become “watered-down” or that some of Dordt’s intellectual nature may be lost.

Yet, for President Hoekstra, reaching out to serve this new population of students interested in the trades is still the obvious next step for Dordt College. In his words, “It’s like two plus two equals three.”

Minimum class size study leads to miscommunication (cont.)

Continued from page 1

shared her opinions on the matter.

“For of course, small classes are always desirable, especially in 300-level classes, for those are the places where students generally give the most input, carry the most responsibility for learning,” Dengler said. “But the continued lowering of the number of classes and students that are required for graduation is going to skewing the male-female ratio at Dordt. Fewer students enroll in the humanities to start with. The English program in particular has varied class offerings, fewer required classes. This means that their students are more spread out which increases the problem of class sizes.

“In the weeks ahead, we will be doing a program review to rethink our offerings,” Dengler said.

Dordt’s administrators realize the benefits of small classes, but also see that they need to think practically about these issues.

“Our goal is offering what students need to graduate,” said registrar Jim Bos. Because of the limited number of faculty, this means that the under-enrolled classes every once in a while; however, there are ways around the enrollment requirements. Bos mentioned that on several occasions a professor has stepped forward and volunteered to teach a large class so a different professor can teach their specialty class to very few students.

“It’s great to hear that spirit,” Bos said. “More of that would be good! We want classes where our faculty are gifted and really want to teach.”

Dordt’s class size policy remains at six students. Many complex issues surround these decisions. What does the university do with finding enough students and deciding which classes need to be dropped, especially in the humanities? Zevenbergen thought this necessary discussion to light once more.

Adoption month sees students reflecting upon adoptive connections

Jaden Vander Borg – Staff Writer

November is a month of thankfulness, family and community. It can be a time of great stress and great love. We hold those closest to us a little tighter and celebrate a time of togetherness. But November is more than just Thanksgiving in the beginning to the Christmas season: it is National Adoption Month.

National Adoption Month includes National Adoption Day on the November 21st. The day is dedicated to raising awareness for over 120,000 children waiting for a loving “forever family.”

Adoption Day on the November 21st.

Most of the Sioux Falls dancers are several generations older than Dordt students. The group selected the De Witt as the venue to have students who may have trouble with stairs. In order to ensure the dancers were comfortable, Braun added a few older tunes to the playlist along with the modern music that students usually dance to in the weekday club meetings.

The extra effort could not be helped by the Sioux Falls dancers because the snowfall kept them from attending.

Even though heavy snow marked the night of the dance, about 12-15 Northwestern students braved the cold weather. Braun said that the Northwestern students have signed up for the weekly email list and may come to the Tuesday evening meetings.

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Care Consideration: Surrounding proposed pro-tech degree (cont.)

Continued from page 1

For children adopted internationally there can be an internal struggle between what outward appearance and inward feeling.

I remember growing up when we had to check the boxes for the ACT. I didn’t know how to answer any of those questions. “I was born in Korea. My mind is so white, Dutch-American, and I am not Korean.” This is where I thought I thought this thought out to light once more.

For children not being adopted or having a difficult time is often why people have their reservations on international adoption; however, this is not a case for Zevenbergen’s family.

“I never could say I was Korean-American, like my family, than ‘Oh, I’m Asian-American,’” DeVries said. “I never could say I was Korean-American, than ‘Oh, I’m Asian-American’”.

Kim DeVries, a senior from Indiana, was born in South Korea. She comes from a family of all adopted children with her two older siblings from Indiana and she and her brother from South Korea.

“I am not sure if my parents were really ready to adopt internationally, but the adoption agency contacted them and said they had a little boy and if they would be interested in adopting him,” DeVries said. They prayed about it, looked into it, and adopted my brother.

Dale Zevenbergen has four children and two of them are adopted.

“For us it really was a God thing,” Zevenbergen said. “We had two daughters. We had been through a lot with pregnancies and everything, but in 2004 a bunch of things happened that made it clearer and clearer that God wanted us to adopt.”

Most people are young when they experience their families going through adoption; however, Annie Pinkerton was 18 when her brothers were adopted out of the foster system. The senior said her family already had three siblings, but her mother never felt like their family was finished.

“We met Bryan and Angel the day before school started for the first time at Applebee’s and they were so shy,” Pinkerton said. “They came home with us that night because school was starting the next day and the agency didn’t want them to switch schools two weeks later. At this point, we knew we were getting them, but it was just a matter of integrating them into the family and legally getting it through. They lived with us from August until May and they were adopted May 15.”

Photo by Courtney de Wolde

Calvin Vander Borg, a second-year student, expressed his opinion after serving on the Task Force.

“Watered-down” or that some of Dordt’s
diversity the programs would bring to campus and legally getting it through. They lived with us from August until May and they were adopted May 15.”

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A reason to dress fancy

Lauren Bird – Staff Writer

If you’ve been looking for a reason to dress to the nines and raise awareness for a cause at the same time, Dressember is for you. Sophomore Annie Sears is heading a project called Dressember to raise awareness for human trafficking. In order to participate, students can dress up – women in dresses and men in ties – every day in December. Sears hopes that this project will spark conversation.

“People will notice when you dress up,” Sears said. “They’ll ask why, and then suddenly a door has been opened for meaningful conversation. A lot of the reason that human trafficking, especially sex trafficking, is so rampant nowadays is because it’s such a private transaction. So by dressing up, we’re speaking out for these people that can’t speak for themselves.”

International agriculture conference: networking to improve lives through agriculture

Lydia Marcus – Staff Writer

On November 17 through November 19, three agriculture students, two biology students, and two professors attended the 22nd annual ECHO International Agriculture Conference in Fort Myers, FL.

“ECHO (Educational Concern for Hunger Organization) is an organization of Christian scientists, missionaries, and people who are passionate about how agriculture can be used to further God’s kingdom and empower impoverished people,” said biology major Renee Ewald, who attended the conference.

“The conference was focused on bringing in people who had extensive experience in the mission field to talk about the successes and failures of their different missions/agricultural practices around the world.”

ECHO gathers solutions to hunger problems and shares these solutions through its network of farmers and educators. The solutions promote “sustainable farming techniques, nutritional plants, and appropriate technologies” that have proven to be successful. ECHO has centers in Thailand, Tanzania, Burkina Faso, and South Africa.

“In light of Dordt College’s emphasis on serving Christ in all areas of life, the fit is a natural one,” said agriculture professor Wayne Meyers. “Many of the Dordt students who attend minor in Ag Missions or at least have a deep interest in it.”

“I knew the founder, Martin Price, before we started going,” said emeritus agriculture professor Ronald Vos. “The conference began 1995-ish and Martin urged me to attend and to take Dordt students along.”

Since then, Dordt students have served as interns and in full-time paid positions at ECHO. This is the first time in about 20 years that Professor Vos did not attend the conference. Conference attendees enjoyed days full of presentations, discussions and demonstrations on a wide variety of topics.

“In the mornings, there were plenary talks about various approaches to integrating new agricultural practices in various areas of the world, appropriate technologies, perspectives on community development and cultural engagement, and entrepreneurship within community development,” said biology professor Jeff Pleegstra.

The afternoons were spent at the ECHO demonstrational farm.

“There were workshops on propagating tropical fruit trees, grafting, cultivation of bamboo, urban and small plot gardening, Aquaponics, seed banking and forage diversity,” Pleegstra said.

“The most memorable part of the conference for me was walking through a tropical forest with an agronomist that just gloved as he talked about his plants and fed me random shoots and delicious fruits,” Ewald said. “Or staying at the farm with the interns after everyone had left and helping cut branches to feed the goats, catch cows, or cook dinner from the food harvested from the farm.”

“Honestly, I would recommend it to anyone who is interested in agriculture, biology, missions, or community development,” Ewald said. “It was educational, fun, and a great bonding experience as well.”

Photo by Christina Chahyadinata

Three students showcase their dresses in the midst of Iowa’s snowfall.

Student led club represents Dordt by hosting dance (cont.)

Continued from page 3

Swing dance club members could not decorate the gym until basketball practice ended at 6:30. They worked together to hang lights from the bleachers, make a ring of lights around the gym floor from the four basketball hoops on the sides and set up tables with centerpieces. The dance had been scheduled to begin at 7:00 p.m. However, because the décor and lights took time to set up, the dance officially began when the lights dimmed at 7:27.

The Student Activities Committee decided to fund the dance because of the club’s large and growing momentum. Beginning in the fall of 2008, the swing dance club offers on-campus music, dance and lessons on a weekly basis. At the 2015 Taste of Sioux Center event, 96 people signed up for the email list. Though not all of its members regularly attend, the Swing Dance Email group has around 150 recipients.

Robert Taylor, who oversees SAC, said the group’s decision to fund the dance proved to be strategic because it allowed them to serve the student body without expertise in swing dancing.

“It’s a way to reach another population of interests,” Taylor said. “For some, swing dancing will be the only organized activity that students go to in college.”

Taylor and Student Services Assistant Lisa Smith were impressed by the budget’s sustainability for the Garden of Lights. The décor and strings of lights they purchased can be reused for future dances, making the only loss the cost of refreshments.

The Swing Dance Club meets on Tuesday nights in the REC Center Aerobics room. The warm up dance begins at 8:00, the lesson begins at 8:30 and the music ends at 10:30.

Photo by Christina Chahyadinata

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Journalists: stop poisoning the public with “junk food”

Allison Young – Staff Writer

Sensationalized journalism is the junk food of our news diet. We scarf it down in spite of potential consequences. But just as it’s hard to turn down a brownie sundae, it’s also hard to pass up the temptation of wasting what the public wants to read: fully-disclosed, up-close and personal details about the killer, his motives, his life story, etc. Americans are becoming increasingly conscious of the types of calories they ingest. Likewise, the media is starting to notice a pattern of copycat acts of violence and our own ritual response, then speculating the motive behind the committed act. Oftentimes, the people who commit mass crimes are not rash, hotheaded individuals. They scheme and plot their acts in an organized, calculated fashion well in advance of their chosen day of infamy. These individuals’ minds construct a “woe is me” narrative to garner the personal printed propaganda as a marked victory. Killers should not be given the satisfaction of knowing how deeply the victims’ families are grieving. These criminals’ meals are clearly troubled and disturbed, so why flaunt the fruits of their labor by publishing detailed descriptions, photographs or videos of the event? Such articles confirm the concrete reality of an abstract fantasy. Writers should not even speculate the motive behind the committed act.

Many would argue it is a journalist’s duty and right to truthfully and accurately divulge the truth to the public. These individuals contend that providing more information could prevent future crimes. After all, is it not a journalist’s responsibility due to the nature of our society. Reporters must stop sensationalizing crimes, and more importantly, the terrorists themselves. Journalists must stop indulging their sick and twisted desire for more. One does not suppress the truth by refusing to platter the shooter’s name and face all over the front page. By prioritizing the public’s safety above the number of papers that fly off the rack, the media may protect the nation against future acts of violence. I’m not arguing that no violent act should be covered, however. Journalists need to succinctly record these events in a fact-based way. Adequate evidence proves that the over-hyped, over-glorified coverage of mass shootings and similar crimes inspires copycat acts of violence. Thus, minimal activity should be placed on the perpetrator. Oftentimes, the people who commit mass crimes are not rash, hotheaded individuals. They scheme and plot their acts in an organized, calculated fashion well in advance of their chosen day of infamy. These individuals’ minds construct a “woe is me” narrative to garner the personal printed propaganda as a marked victory. Killers should not be given the satisfaction of knowing how deeply the victims’ families are grieving. These criminals’ meals are clearly troubled and disturbed, so why flaunt the fruits of their labor by publishing detailed descriptions, photographs or videos of the event? Such articles confirm the concrete reality of an abstract fantasy. Writers should not even speculate the motive behind the committed act.

While many criminals have dark pasts, the media tends to grossly exaggerate their behaviors that would be overlooked in the life of an innocent person. Additionally, publications that discuss the motive may come off as justifying the act.

Ari N. Schuman, journalist for the Wall Street Journal, said “The massacre killer chooses to believe it is not he but the world that is filled with hatred—and then he tries to prove his dark vision by making it so. If we can deprive him of the ability to make his internal psychodrama a shared public reality, if we can break this ritual of violence and our own ritual response, then we might just banish these dreadful and all too frequent acts to the realm of vile fantasy.

I could not agree more. Modern day U.S. journalists must fill a role never before required of us—toward and protect and preserve. Let us not succumb to the temptation to take the easy route and feed the starving public the junk food they’re asking for.

The Huffington Post: money from athletics sucking up college budgets

Elizabeth Bouwkamp – Staff Writer

In a recent article from The Huffington Post entitled, “Sports At Any Cost,” The Huffington Post and The Chronicle for Higher Education completed a study examining the $10.3 billion flowing into university athletic programs from student fees and other subsidies. The study defined other subsidies as student fees, funds given by the school, and government support. The analysis poses potential academic and financial concerns for many university students who are concerned about the accumulation and obesity universities across the country have with sports.

Georgia State University’s athletic department brought in $124.8 million for the 2010-2014 school years. Of that amount, $104.7 million came from subsidies including 85 percent from student fees and other subsidies. Unlike many large universities, we pay no specific fee just for athletics. Students, it is easy to dismiss academics for surrounding schools and our country’s love for sports.

Along with Hughes response, this epidemic concerns the focus of our education. As students, it is easy to dismiss academics for extracurricular activities; however, what our country needs is more students engaged in athletic games and bound by athletic fees, but students using their financial resources and engaging in activities, clubs, trips, and learning activities.
Women’s cross country continues historic run

Christian Zylstra – Staff Writer

Dordt College women’s cross country made its fourth straight team appearance at the NCAA Championships Meet on Nov. 21 in Charlotte, NC. The women finished ninth with 217 points, pushing the program into its fourth consecutive team appearance at the nationals meet for her fourth consecutive time as a competitor rather than an alternate. Other veteran runners stepped up as well. Kayla Byl, another senior, returned to compete in the nationals meet for her fourth consecutive season, finishing in the top-30 for the second straight year.

Senior cross country member Karlia Byl races ahead of the competition at the NCAA Nationals.

Coach Nate Wolf
first season here at Dordt running with him as my coach and I can’t wait for the seasons to come! Thanks for being an inspiration and for demonstrating Christ’s love every day.”

Jordyn Visscher, one of seven female juniors originally recruited by Coach Van Dyke, also shared Tilstra’s comment, saying, “Congratulations to Coach Wolf for getting Coach of the Year! Honestly I couldn’t have asked for a better supporter. You deserve this title and more for all your hard work this year. Thanks a million. Looking forward to next year already!”

And indeed, the team and the college seem to have must have looked forward to from both Wolf.

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Next goal for women’s volleyball: Nationals

Aaron Ludzinski – Staff Writer

A 13-game winning streak. Then a 7-game winning streak. A 24-3 record. Defeating the top-seeded team in the NAIA tourney. A regular season conference title. What is next for the Defenders? It’s simple, actually. Nationals. The end of the road, one that ends every team’s season no matter if they win or lose.

The women faced a tough pool. They first challenged a strong Georgetown team and won both. The women then battled a strong Viterbo team, a team the Defenders defeated early in the year. The match raged back and forth between the two teams. The game came down to the last set, ending with the Defenders losing 15-11. The loss would eliminate the team from the tournament. But that was not the case. The Defenders used the loss to gear up for the historic season with a victory over Olivet. Brooke Gransta said, “We had a great season. As always, you have your highs and lows, but I felt like we did great things this year. We have a lot of talented

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New cross country coach Wolf wins much-deserved honor

Allison Young – Staff Writer

As the new head coach of Dordt College cross country, Nate Wolf has big shoes to fill. One of the shoes left by the previous coach Greg Van Dyke, who led the women’s team to a 3-year streak of conference championships and Top 10 placings at the NAIA Nationals Meet. But not only not achieved but also exceeded those high expectations; he was named 2015 Hauff Mid-America Sports/GPAC Women’s Coach of the Year shortly after the Dordt women clinched their 4th consecutive Great Plains Athletic Conference title on Nov. 7.

“It is humbling to receive this recognition,” Wolf says. “I feel it is an acknowledgement of the hard work that the entire women’s team— all 22 ladies—put in this year, along with their steady performances throughout the season. I am blessed to have the opportunity to coach amazing athletes who are even more amazing young women. I am incredibly proud of who they are, what they do, and how they go about accomplishing their goals,” says Wolf.

Not to be forgotten is the team’s assistant coach Lorilyn Van Dyke. “She put much joy much from coaching such wonderful women and men at Dordt College,” Lori says. “This honor results from God’s work and the hard work! Recognition should also go to previous coaches Greg and Lorilyn Van Dyke for all their work in Dordt’s team into his style of coaching, and by simply being himself.”

Freshman Tara Tilstra shared the press release on social media with the following caption: “Congratulations to Coach Wolf! He is so deserving of this honor. I greatly enjoyed my

The Women’s cross country has been the first to give credit to the Van Dykes for setting up the Defenders for success in the 2015 season. “Obvioulsly,” the pair says, “Coach Greg Van Dyke is a big part of this program’s history and sustained success. His work in recruiting and developing the ladies prior to his arrival was an incredible foundation to start from. He is a good friend, and his support this fall has been priceless.”

As he focused on the women’s season and the all the work they had put in all season building and developing DCXC.”

The Bladges scored a lead going into the last minute of the game. Though the Blades battled once again. “The game went all the way down to a shootout as possession between the teams flew back and forth. The Blades secured a lead going into the last minute of the game. Unfortunately the team could not keep the lead as the Ice Jacks scored on a 6-3. Not only did they have a two man advantage, but they also then pulled their goalies as an extra skater. Although the Blades

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Head football coach Greg Youngblood resigns

Christian Zylstra – Staff Writer

Greg Youngblood resigned from his position as head coach of the Dordt College football team after four years in the position.

The Dordt College football program went 8-36 under Coach Youngblood, and doubled its total of four games in the four years prior to Youngblood’s tenure. Dordt College started its varsity football program in 2008.

“Greg has worked to develop and guide the football program in a way consistent with the values of the Dordt College community,” said Dordt College Athletic Director Glenn Bosma.

“We have seen growth in the program over his four years here, and much of that can be attributed to his leadership.”

Dordt football did see a considerable increase in competitive football under Youngblood’s reign. Heading into his first season as head coach, Dordt had one Great Plains Athletic Conference win (Concordia in 2008). After Youngblood’s four years as coach, Dordt added two more conference wins to the record books—Nebraska Wesleyan in 2014 and Midland in 2015.

The 2015 season proved to be one of Dordt’s most successful seasons in program history in terms of consecutive seasons with a conference win and multiple offensive records.

“I felt like we made a lot good strides from a football standpoint, particularly offensively,” Youngblood said. “We set a school-record in points scored and were fourth in the nation in

Clash in the Corn a success for Dordt Blades

Aaron Ludzinski – Staff Writer

The Dordt Blades’ greatest efforts hit the ice during the Clash in the Corn hockey tournament held before Thanksgiving break. Perhaps the team displayed an exceptional effort due to the fact that Dordt hosted the annual tournament, or perhaps the fact that the Blades faced the best teams in the region ignited the fire amongst the players. Regardless of the cause, passion fueled the Blades’ effort.

The team’s game versus the Northern Arizona Ice Jacks began the weekend. The game went all the way down to a shootout as possession between the teams flew back and forth. The Blades secured a lead going into the last minute of the game. Unfortunately the team could not keep the lead as the Ice Jacks scored on a 6-3. Not only did they have a two man advantage, but they also then pulled their goalies as an extra skater. Although the Blades

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Eric Rowe – Staff Writer

From last minute dance submissions to juggling accompanied by violin, Mixed Revues has already delighted its organizers and looks to do the same for audiences at 7:30 p.m. in the New World Theatre.

Mixed Revues focuses on the joy involved with practicing a skill rather than winning a prize. The tagline for the event is, “a collection of practicing a skill rather than winning a prize.” There was always the main stage theatre performance being an excellent delivery of Suzanne Collins’ novel, which has already delighted its organizers and looks to have even more weight than mere revenge due to its roots in the theatre – Allen is a theatre major and the digital media department provides an example of this. Allen says. “We’re celebrating what we do as artists and the joy involved with practicing a skill rather than winning a prize.”

The Hunger Games series has been a cultural phenomenon since the release of the first book in 2008. Since then, at least three other young adult dystopian literature, with a similar feel, have been adapted for the big screen. The Hunger Games: Mockingjay – Part 2, the last one from the series, premiered in late November and grossed more than $100 million on its opening weekend.

The finale to The Hunger Games franchise ends on a high note. Francis Lawrence directed the film a little more in depth. While those involved have said that the experience has been exciting and fun, there have been some challenges along the way. Cameron said.

“One challenge in particular was when we were doing this travel scene around the river and it was very muddy and wet. During that scene I was walking across the mud and started singing really bad. I lost my shoe in the mud and never got it back. It’s probably still there buried in the mud, but oh well, you have to make some sacrifices to make a great film,” Cameron said.

“Defector filmmakers showcase work

Lauren Bird – Staff Writer

Professors here at Dordt like to give students hands-on projects and experience that prepares them for the future. The digital media department provides an example of this. The digital media department provides an example of this. Each member of the theater arts directing students their first experience with directing.

“Defactor” is a play produced by students. The play is directed by Jason Miller and Andrew Cameron and Sam Malan said. “It’s not as big of a commitment as Godspell, but it gives the theater students chances to act, but it gives the theater students their first experience with directing.” The play is written and directed by Kyle Fosse, produced by Jessica Lillo, edited by Jason Miller and Andrew Cameron and Sam Malan. The play is written and directed by Kyle Fosse, produced by Jessica Lillo, edited by Jason Miller and Andrew Cameron and Sam Malan. The play is written and directed by Kyle Fosse, produced by Jessica Lillo, edited by Jason Miller and Andrew Cameron and Sam Malan.

Malan says that his favorite part of working on the film was working with the actors.

“We have a great cast and I could see from their acting that they were giving 110%. The film expresses a lot of fear because it takes place back in World War II and the actors expressed that fear remarkably,” Malan said.

The film is set in World War II and focuses on two soldiers. Malan’s fellow cinematographer, Andrew Cameron, explains the plotline of the film a little more in depth.

“It’s about a person that faces challenges in life. It’s about a person that faces challenges in life. From last minute dance submissions to juggling accompanied by violin, Mixed Revues has already delighted its organizers and looks to do the same for audiences at 7:30 p.m. in the New World Theatre.

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Seven things not to do over Christmas break

Elizabeth Bouskamp – Staff Writer

1. Stop Listening to Christmas Music after Christmas Day—Come on…the 12 days of Christmas start after Christmas day!

2. Spend All Your Time with Your Friends—Let’s be honest, your family gets only a few weeks with you and your friends get the whole school year.

3. Go on a Diet—If you want to miss out on the best food of the year, go for it. But I wouldn’t recommend it.

4. Stay Inside—Find some little kids to go sledding with. You will make their day!

5. Miss out on Christmas Specials and Movies—Don’t underestimate the power of a cheesy and sentimental movie.

6. Forget to Go Under the Mistletoe—After all, what happens under the mistletoe, stays under the mistletoe.

7. Get Stressed—Keep Calm and Drink More Eggnog

Football coach Greg Youngblood resigns (cont.)

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With a team Youngblood recruited himself, Dordt started to make major progress on the offensive side of the ball. “This year, our offense was finally able to put it all together and be successful doing what we set out to do,” Vande Vege said. “Coach Youngblood has been bringing in triple-option talent for the past four years, guys that he believed fit our offensive scheme and would be able to get the job done.”

Coach Youngblood was successful off the field as well and helped young men grow into Christian citizens. For Youngblood and his family, these four years at Dordt meant more than just football.

“It’s been great to integrate our family activities with team activities,” said Kelly Youngblood. “It’s been great to integrate our family activities with team activities,” said Kelly Youngblood. “My kids love going to football games. It’s helped to show that this is more than a sport; it’s helped to build relationships outside the sport as well.”

During the season, Coach Youngblood invited a different position group to his home to enjoy a homemade meal and camaraderie.

“We have never felt God’s leading more in our lives than the way we did when we moved here [Sioux Center, IA],” Kelly Youngblood said. “We have never felt God’s leading more in our lives than the way we did when we moved here [Sioux Center, IA],” Kelly Youngblood said. “As we [search committee] look through the candidate pool, our primary criteria will be for a coach who is a professing Christian, rooted in the Reformed tradition and can fulfill Dordt’s mission,” Bouma said.

There’s plenty of work to be done to make Dordt a constant competitor in GPAC play, but the program has been fortunate to have two head coaches—John VanHerwerf and Youngblood—who have pushed the program in the right direction.

Clash in the Corn a success (cont.)

Continued from page 6

performed with everything they had, the team lost 7-0. Despite giving up many goals, the game turned out closer than it seemed. Overall, the team finished in the middle of the pack against some of the top teams in the nation. Their weekend performance pleased the team. The team is looking forward to the future. According to Assistant Captain Lucas Koomans “Clash proved to be our best weekend to date.”

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Art exhibit looks at immigration (cont.)

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American lives. This art gives us a look into that perspective.

There are several different art forms within the exhibit. Not only paintings decorate the walls, but three-dimensional art in the form of sculptures and hanging pieces fill the room. Each piece is a different image of someone’s experience with moving to America.

“The exhibit is being featured in part to help us realize that we should challenge ourselves to live out the biblical call to care for the sojourner,” Versluis said. “We should welcome these people with open arms and try to understand their view of America.”

This opens up an entire new set of questions, especially with the refugee crisis happening around us. Should Christians open up their homes and communities to people seeking refuge, furthering the diversity in America? The definition of an American is already hard to describe, as there are many races and cultures represented in the country.

Still, we often prefer people who look like us, so those who came to America as immigrants can feel out of place. This exhibit aims to point out some of the differences between cultures and the way in which immigrants struggle to merge their traditions with the ideals of their new country.

Each piece of art, compiled from works of immigrant artists from more than ten different countries, has its own statement from the artists. Some have simple meanings while others are complex concepts invented by each particular artist. It is important to read the statement to understand the meaning behind the piece. Each one of these works gives a different perspective on the answer to the exhibit’s overarching question: What does it mean to be American?