Caucus Information

Who: Any American citizens over the age of 18
What: The caucus is a primary election that decides who will represent the respective parties in the United States Presidential Election. Come register, receive a ballot, listen to or give a speech in support of a certain candidate, and vote! Republicans vote in a secret ballot format, democrats sway support through further speeches.
Where: Republican Caucuses – BJ Haan Auditorium, Democratic Caucuses – All-Season’s Center
When: 7:00 PM – Monday, Feb. 1
Why: The caucus strongly affects the eventual candidates for the President of the United States. Let your voice be heard through your vote!
There is no requirement for registration to vote in the caucuses. Come to your caucus site and join the political process!

Lydia Marcus – Staff Writer

Very few people can say they built a bridge over Christmas break. Even fewer can say that they built a bridge on the other side of the world in mere 8 days of work.

On Dec. 31, 2015, a group of Dordt students, with the aid of Harbel, Liberia residents and several Sioux County businesses, completed work on a 53 ft. long bridge across a creek in Grand Bassa County, Liberia.

The inspiration for this project came last January when Lindemulder visited Liberia on an AMOR trip. Aaron Baart, Dordt dean of chapel and co-founder and president of ORPG, and Lindemulder discussed the developments Harbel hoped to make to the farm.

That dream to expand the farm to provide rice, corn, and okra to the local churches and, as the farm grows, sell the goods in the market. The creek makes travel to and from the farm difficult. The only way to access the farm’s rice mill was a bamboo footbridge which workers navigated while carrying heavy bags of rice.

As an engineering student, the solution became clear: build a bridge.

“We got talking about building a bridge and as an engineering student, the idea hatched of making it a senior design project,” Lindemulder said. The goal of this project was to offer vehicle access to the farm so food can be easily exported to the church and to the market.

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One Body One Hope install bridge in Liberia

Caucus Information

Trump holds political rally on Dordt’s campus

Cauden Tucklenburg – Staff Writer

Seeking to recover from his controversial convocation at Liberty University on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Republican presidential front-runner Donald Trump reached out to another strategic group of evangelicals Saturday morning at Dordt College.

Introduced with a prayer that began with “Thank you for Donald Trump” and went on to mention Trump more than twice than God, the billionaire businessman weighted the front end of his speech with his thoughts on Christianity: “I’m a true believer. Is everybody a true believer in this room?” The overflow crowd at the school’s B.J. Haan Auditorium cheered loudly in response to his question.

“Saying Christianity is ‘under tremendous siege’ and ‘losing power,’ Trump, who describes himself as a Presbyterian, assured those in attendance that if he were elected, Christians would have plenty of power: “You will be, very well represented.” Other than promising that the nation will say “Merry Christmas” under a Trump administration, Trump did not offer other details on how he’d protect the religious liberty of believers.

Sioux Center is a proven conservative political stronghold in the state—voting more than 80 percent Republican in the last presidential election. Other GOP candidates have made visits to the area in recent months, with Sens. Marco Rubio and Ted Cruz holding rallies in the past two weeks at the college, hoping to lock in the area’s undecided caucus-goers.

But Trump pivoted away from his faith soon after he began today’s speech and did not delve into the Bible like he did at Liberty, when his quoting of a verse led to some derision for calling Second Corinthians “Two Corinthians.” Instead, he covered a variety of topics using a freewheeling style that showed little organization and very little dependence on notes. He spent most of his time on stage bashing an array of people, including his own supporters: “They say I have the most loyal people. I could stand in the middle of Fifth Avenue and shoot somebody I wouldn’t lose any voters, OK?”

The muffled laughter in response didn’t match his expectations, with some in the audience shaking their heads in disbelief.

Trump also took shots at members of the media, calling them “horrible people.” He singled out political commentator Glenn Beck, who endorsed Cruz earlier today, calling him “a stone-cold loser.” As for those currently running the country, they were “stupid” and “do-nothing” politicians who have been “living off the trough” of big government. “And where have they taken you?” Trump asked. “Maybe

Michel Gomez & Ashley Huizinga – Staff Writers

In the early morning of Jan. 23, 2016, thousands of people stood in a freezing line for hours outside the BJ Haan auditorium in order to hear the candidate speak.

But not everyone came to show support or interest in the candidate and his policies. A small group of Dordt students, the Sioux County Democrats, local church members and other communities gathered together to voice their concerns about Trump’s agenda in a silent protest.

The protest began at 6:00 a.m., when Dordt senior Erica Hughes took a stand outside the auditorium with signs reading “Perfect love casts out fear” and “Only love is credible.”

The muffled laughter in response didn’t match his expectations, with some in the audience shaking their heads in disbelief.

Whether one agrees or disagrees with the actions of the protesters, their silence spoke volumes. Trump may have had his fair share of support at Saturday’s rally, but he didn’t come to Dordt College uncontested. It appears, in some cases, silence indeed speaks louder than words.

Michel Gomez & Ashley Huizinga – Staff Writers

Love “Trumps” hate at Saturday rally

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Michel Gomez & Ashley Huizinga – Staff Writers
One Body One Hope install bridge in Liberia (cont.)

Continued from page 1

“We started design work on the first day of class last August and exhausted all the way up until December when we started getting materials together for the trip,” Lindemulder said.

Over Christmas break, the students who designed the bridge and three additional Dordt students, Monte De Kam, Kevin Steiger, and Mark Tiemersma, traveled to Harbel where they worked alongside local community members to build the bridge. The bridge construction was completed in 8 work days between Dec. 19 and Dec. 27 using materials donated by businesses in Sioux County and materials purchased locally in Liberia.

“God built this bridge, and we were only servants working for Him.” Lindemulder said. “We saw his hand so clearly in everything that happened, and the reason it went so smooth and fast was only because of Him. We are humbled that He considered us worthy of this task, and we praise God for everything that happened as a result. This bridge will be used to serve His kingdom in Liberia.”

Student employment numbers drop in commons

A large mass of students returned to campus after Christmas break, but much fewer returned to their jobs at the Commons. Dordt Dining lost 20 workers over Christmas break and 5 more in the first two weeks of classes. The Commons typically loses 7 to 10 students between semesters, but this year’s number is more than double the norm. In regard to the sudden drop in employees, catering supervisor and student employee coordinator Jenn Vander Broek said, “We have not made any changes to the program; the available hours have been adjusted to better fit the class schedules.”

She went on to say that the pay has actually increased over the past three years. According to Vander Broek, common reasons for students dropping the Dordt Dining work study include finding a job with better pay and hours, finding a major-related work study, and disliking the quantity or type of work. Some students only quit the Commons for a semester and return to work when their course load is lighter. “We’re very excited when they return,” Vander Broek said.

Freshman Evelyn Reinders recently dropped her Commons work study. She said, “The only reason I dropped it was because I got asked by another work study, the bookstore, to work there over Christmas break because I live in town.” Sophomore Sydney Korn said, “It was just a big time commitment, and it wasn’t a good fit for me.” Both these responses line up with the reasons cited by Vander Broek.

Whatever the cause of the loss of workers, Dordt Dining is working to fix the problem. Food service director Keith Ashley stated that they are trying to find incentives to keep students working in dining services. “A number of ideas and suggestions are being discussed,” he said, “but no final decisions have been made.”

Vander Broek wished to share her appreciation for the students who still work at the Commons. “We have a great group of student employees. We all appreciate them more than they know,” she said. “The flow of the dining hall would not be as smooth as it make it.”

The Commons has gained four workers since Christmas break. While this does not make up for the shortage, it is a step in the right direction. Dining workers will have to wait and see whether the incentives being discussed will help bring in and keep employees.

Janelle Cummungen – Staff Writer

Long-acting reversible contraceptives as a viable option for birth control

Imagine a small bar the size of a matchstick. This bar, once injected into the upper arm, releases a slow trickle of hormones into the bloodstream. These hormones effectively halt ovulation—and thus, pregnancy—for up to three years. It’s not science fiction, it’s Nexplanon: the under-skin implant that may change how women approach birth control.

Whether national stats for sexual activity and contraceptive use among college-aged students hold true at Dordt may be a debatable question. For the average U.S. college student, contraceptive use is a concern, and it’s one that deserves a platform. As Dordt’s 23 year olds, we are in the population most at-risk for unintended pregnancy, and therefore the population most at need for effective contraception.

The most typical options for contraception among college students are the Pill and/or condoms. Yet, there is another option, a whole group of contraceptives known as long-acting reversible contraceptives, or LARCs.

LARCs such as under-skin implants like Nexplanon and intrauterine devices (IUDs) are a method of birth control that is becoming increasingly popular. In 2015, out of all women using contraceptives, 12% used LARCs, which is a sharp increase from only 2% of women in 2002, according to a recent report in the Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology.

Why are LARCs becoming more common? Because they are more effective at preventing unwanted pregnancy—up to 20 times more effective, according to a Guttmacher Institute report on contraceptive use in the U.S.

Because of incorrect or inconsistent use, the actual effectiveness of the Pill is near 90%, despite its theoretical effectiveness of 99.7%. Nexplanon and IUDs are “fool-proof” in this sense. Once they are implanted, the user can’t misuse the contraceptive. The observed effectiveness of LARCs thus reaches 99.95%.

This increased, near-perfect effectiveness has not been well publicized. “When a woman tells her ob-gyn she wants to go on birth control, most doctors offer the Pill right off the bat,” Dr. Jeffery Peipert, professor of obstetrics and gynecology, said in an interview conducted by CNN Health. “That needs to change. If there were a drug for cancer that was 20 times more effective, we would recommend

Abigail Olson – Staff Writer

Students display newly made bridge in Liberia, created with One Body One Hope.
Gloomy winter weather provokes mood-altering symptoms in students

Moagan De Graaf – Staff Writer

As spring rolls around, it is hard to forget the cold winter in the rearview mirror. Just a week ago, residents of South Africa were experiencing some of its coldest temperatures in a while, with double digit negative temperatures for several days in a row. That kind of record, in addition to the dark and dreary skies, is enough to ruin a good mood. Winter often leaves students tired and cold, but it also gives them a reason to appreciate other things. Some students are faced with depression during the season with little sunshine. Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD) affects roughly 10% of the general population, but that percentage jumps to 15-20% for college students. SAD is a depressive disorder that affects the brain in the fall, winter and spring, and it causes a lack of motivation and general sadness in those who experience it. This disorder is actually a diagnosable form of depression and is common in college students. The root cause of SAD is minimal. The sky is darker in the winter, the body increases its production of melatonin, a sleep hormone. This increase in darkness often brings a decrease in concentration or energy levels. Some people experience more mood swings and an increase in appetite as well. Other frequent symptoms for young adults include increased anxiety, frustration, irritability and more difficulty waking up in the morning than usual. “I’m always tired, but it gets even worse in the winter and I’m glad that’s not unusual,” said one sophomore who admits struggling with SAD. Students with SAD often attribute their lack of motivation to stress over work and finals, and it is difficult to determine what stress level is fit and what could potentially be unhealthy for a young adult. There are steps students can take to help alleviate the effects of SAD. Simple things like going outside for a little while or getting up earlier can help. Students who eat more healthily also feel better when their depression is minimal. If you or someone you know is struggling with Seasonal Affective Disorder, it is important to find some of the easy treatments that can help alleviate the sadness. A doctor or psychologist can identify specific triggers and help minimize the effect of SAD. The most exciting part of returning to Dordt for Geleynse is seeing the life and energy on campus. He said God’s faithfulness to grow people’s desire to seek him and wants to be a part of that life. “I was the one being equipped,” Geleynse said. “Now God has given me the opportunity to equip. It’s a really neat thing to be a part of.” Geleynse’s career path changed from occupational therapy and healthcare to a ministry position in the last six months to a year. Geleynse said he has a passion to minister to people even before he came to Dordt, but says that at that time, he was, “very practical.” The turnout in his career has been building for the last five years or so, but it wasn’t until the beginning of last September: Geleynse listened to a speaker in church from Youth for Christ who talked about a summer camp. While hearing the testimony of the man, Geleynse had tears in his eyes; and God said, “Abigail, Alex, I want you to pour my love into the lives of people and walk with them.” Jane Lee was shocked by the concern—or love—of others in the OR, “And the procedure there is wearing clean socks and sandal shoes into the OR,” Lee said. “So, the idea of them being dressed in scrubs is minimal.” A highlight for all seemed to be their two-day trip to Nicaragua—zip lining through the forest and surfing the waves are reflected on the experience and knew that the Lord was confronting him to change direction. Though on human terms, the timing was frustrating as he was still finishing

Students share service experiences from AMOR

Abigail Olson – Staff Writer

When students return from AMOR trips, they come back with not only new friendships on their passports, but also with new stories on their hearts. On Thursday, Jan. 21, Campus Ministries hosted an AMOR presentation night where these students were given an outlet to tell these stories. While the vast majority of the crowd was made up of other presenters, the AMOR travelers found recounting memories of their trips to be a rewarding experience. The first thing attendees learned is that Lesotho is not pronounced like “Lo-sotho,” but rather “Lee-sotho.” The digital-media team under professor Mark Volkers traveled to this mountainous country within South Africa to film a documentary about sheep herding. Dordt alumnus Mark Ekhofff, now known as “the White Shepherd,” hosted the Dordt team. Ekhoff was vivid in his faith and witnessing to Lesotho shepherds for nearly two years. The team spent time in the remote, isolated areas where only the shepherds live. Nathan Walter spoke of his experience staying overnight in the stone hut where Eekhoff lives. “It was not a very quiet night’s sleep,” Walter said. When interacting with men who have reputations as criminals and rapists, Ellen Haggrid Dengah admitted feeling fearful at times. “I know now that fear shouldn’t stop us,” Dengah said. Next, Dr. Robert Epping and his team told of their trip to Tanzania. The team spent time in orphanages, hospitals, schools, traditional villages and homes learning about the Tanzanian culture. A group of five students from Morningside College joined the 12 from Dordt. While observing three operations, the nursing and pre-medical students were able to get a glimpse of health care in the developing world. Jane Lee was shocked by the concern—or love—of others in the OR. “And the procedure there is wearing clean socks and sandals into the OR,” Lee said. “And the windows are reflected on the experience and knew that the Lord was confronting him to change direction. Though on human terms, the timing was frustrating as he was still finishing
Canada. Trump even mused about filing a lawsuit over Cruz’s eligibility to be commander in chief.

But Trump did not give his other rivals a pass. He called much of the political establishment weak, pathetic, and low energy. He mocked Jeb Bush for using his mother, former first lady Barbara Bush, in a commercial and suggested the former Florida governor’s campaign money would be better spent as donations to the Wounded Warrior Project.

Sometimes referring to himself in the third person, Trump had plenty to say about himself as well: praising a recent cover story in Time magazine, boasting about how a candidate forum that went on in New Hampshire without him had low attendance, and touting his polls numbers: “I like polls. I love them because I’m No. 1 in all of them.”

Trump did not hit many policy specifics during his remarks. He mentioned creating jobs and raising taxes on imported goods, and outlined what eminent domain was, but he gave few details to back up his claims. “Why talk about the polls and press?” Dordt senior Juanpi Benítez asked afterward. “Policy is what Trump should be focused on.”

Lines for today’s event formed well before its scheduled 11 a.m. start and stretched through the center of campus despite temperatures near zero. Some students reportedly lined up as early as 5 a.m.

Protestors also staked out a spot on campus, including senior Jeremy Vreeken who said he was bothered by America’s worship of celebrities: “I’m really into symbolism, and knowing that a symbol like Trump is going to be idolized in our auditorium—a place that symbolized the worship of Christ—really creep me out.”

Editor’s Note: A version of this story was first published by the WORLD News Group at WNG.org.
Taking a look at Hoekstra's open letter

Aaron Ladzinski – Staff Writer

Shortly after Donald Trump spoke on our campus, we received an open letter from President Hoekstra which addressed the matter of his appearance and the subsequent reaction to his speech. It also served as a sort of follow-up on the previous open letter sent to campus which addressed concerns about Dordt politically affiliating itself.

I have debated the matter of whether or not to write a letter regarding this second letter, so I figured I would take a further look at its contents.

In his letter, Hoekstra states, “Each time a candidate comes to campus, I have a certain sense of ‘cringe’ for what it says to our students—political speeches are always full of broad-brush promises about what the candidate will do.” I couldn’t agree more. When politicians make promises to their crowd, they tend to spell out details which often result in far less than what was promised.

But with such a massive Republican club and a growing Democrat club on campus, the effect that presidential candidate appearances have on students considering a political science degree is appropriate and beneficial. By inviting candidates to Dordt College, the school helps students who want to go into the field learn from the achievements – and mistakes – of some of the most powerful people in the world.

In what could be considered the best part of his letter, Hoekstra adds, “To fulfill our mission (equipping students, alumni, and the broader community to work effectively for Christ-centered renewal) we seem to be the best path to regard to political candidates.” This is a good reminder that whether we agree or disagree with any of the candidates coming to campus, we do it with Christ in our hearts and mind, not casting judgment on any of them but approaching their arrival with openness.

It may seem like a trivial matter, but presidential candidate Trump said some inflammatory things at Dordt on Saturday. Obviously leading the crowd was his appeal to the loyalty of his supporters, referencing shooting不死 people in the head. As I read this quote on 5th street, I was impressed with Hoekstra’s willingness to engage with it, stating, “Our students can handle such comments and they are wise enough to discern what Christ-like leadership looks like.”

I am a political science major and a democrat, and I could not have been happier that we were able to have so many candidates on campus. I think rather than the president writing us a letter, it is we who should be writing him a thank you letter. Thank you for allowing us to experience a lifetime in a lifetime event and have the ability to say that we saw and met so many people that challenged us and pushed our thoughts and beliefs to a higher level.

Why you have every reason to caucus

Caiden Tinklenberg – Staff Writer

This February includes one of the most important days of your college years; a day that only happens once every four years. No, I’m not talking about leap year.

I shouldn’t have to explain the importance of caucus or try to convince you to take 45 minutes out of your night to participate in this rare and crucial event. However, a recent poll conducted by the Dordt College Republicans shows that 35% of those polled were either not planning on caucusing, or were unsure. And if my intuition serves me well, those polled were likely more politically engaged than the average student.

If you are willing to stand in line for hours on a frigid morning just to hear a magelamnic celebrity talk about himself for an hour, you have no excuse not to be a part of deciding who this nation’s next president will be.

Once you’ve realized the significance of your say in the democratic process, it might be wise to know a little about the candidates running and why you should—and shouldn’t—for them.

The most important thing to remember while caucusing is that poll numbers are not reason to vote for a particular candidate. People will try to pressure you into voting for a certain candidate with reasons like “He is our only real chance at beating so and so.” The truth is, a unified vote is important during general elections because a division within a party can allow the opposing party to win, but this is not the case during primary elections. Winner does not always take all in a state’s primary election like they do in a general, and it is not necessarily over for the second, third, and even fourth place candidates. You should be voting for who you think represents you best within the party.

If my mentality is that your vote would be wasted if you voted for someone who isn’t near the top of the polls, you’re wrong. First of all, the polls have been wrong about Iowa since 2004. Not once in the past three election cycles have the polls predicted the winner of Iowa, or been anywhere close to gauging the actual percentage of support each candidate receives. The only accurate poll is the one tallied Feb. 1.

Another thing to remember is that polls never mention the most influential block of voters, those who are undecided. Pending voters have the numbers to completely invert what the polls are predicting—and as shown during past elections, they do. So what’s the purpose of polls? They control who you think is winning and provide the media with material to stir up drama. The resemblance between the rose ceremony on The Bachelor and the decision of who made the debate stage should raise hairs on your back.

The next thing to remember when voting—electability. Candidates all talk about their electability, but I suspect even some of them don’t even know what it means to be electable.

It’s a very complex hodgepodge of variables that, when it comes time for the general election, all boil down to who is going to pull in the majority votes and get the W. While it’s nearly impossible to accurately weigh and compare the candidates on all these criteria to determine the most electable, it is easier to point out who may be failing in one area or exceeding in another. For example, Jeb Bush’s vulnerability to Trump’s attacks moved him from being a top contender for the nomination, to almost a nobody here in Iowa. On the other end, Rand Paul’s platform which addresses criminal justice reform and the war on drugs has attracted many young and minority voters from across the aisle.

It seems as though nothing is more important to northwest Iowan than homegrown conservations values. Unfortunately, it also seems that politicians and commentators have redefined what it means to be “conservative.” Today, many people think that to be conservative you must be a hawk and promise preferred status to Christianity.

Instead of accepting what the big spenders in Washington tell us, let’s define it ourselves. True conservatism, the kind that swept the nation during the years of Reagan, valued fiscal conservatism, a strong national defense that was only used as a last resort, and religious liberty that extended to people of all religions—just not Christians. So when Marco Rubio says that we must surrender another trillion dollars (that we don’t have) to military spending, call him a hawk, but don’t call him conservative. When Ted Cruz calls for the carpet-bombing of Syria, call him a hawk, but don’t call him conservative. When Donald Trump promises to bring Christianity to power and ban Muslims…

Did you know that the US Federal Government is nearly $20 trillion in debt? That’s approximately $16k per taxpayer! Keep that in mind if you decide to do some research on candidate’s plans for tax reform and budget proposals.

So, who do I support? I stand with Rand Paul. He is intelligent, but humble. However, unlike the other doctor in the race, he has experience in politics as a senator since 2010. Accompanying that experience is a consistent record with vote attendance above 96%.

I believe in the entire Bill of Rights. He embodies the fight against government overreach in crucial areas like industry regulation, interest rates, eminent domain, healthcare, NSA spying, and foreign conflict. Rand is also committed to protecting the sanctity of life, recently introducing legislation that would give unborn children constitutional rights. Rand Paul is who we need to get government out of the way, so that we can enjoy living in liberty with freedom, privacy, and justice.

See you Monday night!
one of the most successful coaches in the history of the Dordt Fighting Tulips. He has been part of the program since its inception in 1997.

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13 Hours: The Secret Soldiers of Benghazi review

Jaden Vander Berg – Staff Writer

Michael Bay’s newest action movie, “13 Hours: The Secret Soldiers of Benghazi” recounts what happened in the 2012 attacks on the CIA Annex in Libya. The story is told through the eyes of the six ex-military men who served as security contractors for the base. Bay proceeds to tell us the story of what really happened four years ago—what our government never told the people of the United States. He starts off explaining how the fall of Gaddafi turned Benghazi into one of the most dangerous cities on the planet. When every other country pulled out their presence in the country, the US kept their covert operations base in the city.

Right from the start of the film, the viewer can get a sense of the level of action that will be faced throughout. Jack Da Silva, Tyrone S. “Rone” Woods, John Krausinski and James Badge Dale, respectively, get stopped by a militia group with guns blazing. The tension on the streets of Benghazi is palpable and it becomes obvious Americans are not welcome.

There is a constant power struggle throughout the movie. While Bay is often seen as an over exuberant director, Bob as he is called in the real life ‘Chief,’ Bob as he is called in the movie, has come out recently and said that there was never a “stand-down” order. However, Kris Paronto, one of the six men who fought to protect the Annex, stated in an interview with Politico, “There is no sensationalism in that. We were told to ‘stand down.’ Those words were used verbatim — 100 percent. If the truth of it affects someone’s political career? Well, I’m sorry. It happens.”

Some reporters say this will be the nail in Hillary Clinton’s coffin. Even though the movie fails to mention her by name, any person who has turned on the news in the past year or knows anything about the connection between Clinton and Benghazi knows she is more or less responsible for what happened that day, and, worse, she continues to lie about it to the country and victims’ families.

This movie is not a political film. It is not meant to sway you into thinking one way or the other. It is merely to honor the fallen heroes of a tragedy too few know about. Never before have I felt so emotionally drained, infuriated and yet at peace for the fact that their story was being told and they were getting the recognition they so desperately deserved.

Prairie Grass Film Challenge: 10 years of work and creativity

Janelle Cammenga – Staff Writer

A week and a half ago, certain students pushed themselves, added stress to their already busy lives and, in many cases, went without sleep—all in the name of a film competition. For 10 years, the Prairie Grass Film Challenge has been a hit among Dordt students and beyond.

This year, 47 teams from across the nation and Canada entered in one of three categories: high school, college and post-college. The judges will choose a winner from each category and an overall best of show.

After a decade’s worth of filmmaking challenges, Prairie Grass Film Festival continues to be very popular. “It’s the get up and go aspect,” said senior Jessica Lillo, who is participating in her third year of Prairie Grass. “There’s not a lot of thinking involved; it’s just a jump, which is sometimes more fun!” Because of the short production time, this “get up and go” attitude sets the tone for the challenge.

The premise is simple: each team has 48 hours to script, film, edit and submit a five to eight minute film. Depending on their category, the team will include one specific prop and line. A team can only have eight people involved in the producing process, but can have as many actors they need.

This challenge is not just for experienced filmmakers. Freshman Joel Kostelyk had his first run-in with the competition this year when one of his friends suggested that he try. “If told myself I was going to say ‘yes’ to a lot more things this semester and see where it took me,” Kostelyk said.

Overall, Kostelyk found the experience to be both fun and challenging. “It’s not something you can just crank out the night before like homework,” he said. “It was crazy to write it and see it unravel in filming just the next day.”

Each year of the competition has new prompts and new challenges. “This year, it was the prop-finding,” Lillo said. “How, in 48 hours, are we supposed to get our hands on vintage film equipment?” Last year’s problems, on the other hand, revolved around weather. “We did a lot of filming out in the cold in the middle of a farm,” she said. “We had to break heat breaks in the garage.”

Whether you are a film major or not, the Prairie Grass Film Challenge is a unique learning experience. “Anybody who wants to can have a chance,” Lillo said. “It’s not a challenge you usually get to do.”

The first stages of the judging process have already happened, and the results of the 47 teams’ hard work and creativity and celebrate10 years of competition.
Dordt football: stability nearby with Penner as head coach (cont.)

Continued from page 6

When an institution is in a healthy state, these three ingredients come naturally for a football program. Some of that institutional health is evident on the field and in the stadium, but when and who is hired in certain positions can be an even stronger indicator.

Soon after Penner’s hiring as head coach, Aaron Mingo was hired to be the new offensive coordinator at Dordt. Similar to Penner, Mingo’s offense at Bluefield College (Virginia) nearly doubled its output in points per game and yards per game.

“A coach’s ability to succeed is so affected by the quality of his staff,” Penner said. “My goal as a head coach was to be a head coach. What I think, in a perfect world, a head coach gets to do is turn those play-calling duties over. That is 100 percent my intention.”

Mingo and Penner have collaborated over the years on ideas and offensive schemes.

“That’s why I hired who I hired,” Penner said. “More than anybody I knew, I trust him to call the offense.”

It will be a different offensive scheme for Dordt in 2016. The triple option will essentially be eradicated and the spread option will be ushered in.

“When a fan’s perspective, imagine the offense that was run here before in the shotgun with 15-20 more throws a game,” Penner said. “Option principles are in place. I love what’s here foundationally in terms of the offense.”

There is one major coaching position still open on Penner’s staff: defensive coordinator. Every coaching hire is as important as the rest for Dordt to continue its building process. The direction must persist forward.

“My responsibility here is to move this football program forward,” Penner said. “We have to compete better. We have to compete at a level where we can simply be more competitive [in games].”

As spring ball nears and the 2016 season inches closer, a culture shift will take place. Under Penner, the football program will continue its process of growth and improvement.

“Coach Penner brings leadership and guidance to this team,” said Xavier Caffee, Dordt football’s first-ever 1st team all-GPAC recipient. “He wants to push the team so that we may become stronger and better on and off the field.”

Soon, this program will be a winner in every facet of the gridiron.

NFL Playoffs draw students’ attention (cont.)

Continued from page 6

it should have been. Of the Seahawks’ loss, junior Brandon Fokkema says, “Yes, we’re disappointed that we didn’t make it to the Super Bowl, but we’re content on making it to the last 5 playoffs and 2 Super Bowls and one championship.”

Even though some student favorites weren’t even given the chance to defend in the playoffs, the big game still takes campus by storm every year—especially in the North and East dorms. According to sophomore Ben Bajema, “The NFL playoffs are always a special time here at Dordt. Having so many students from all over the country representing tons of different teams really creates a fun and unique environment.”

Even a part of Dordt’s female population enjoys watching the big game. According to sophomore Marina Meyers, “I don’t like anyone in the Super Bowl, but I will still watch. I’m going to root for the Broncos ‘cause that’s the only team I care about.”

Whether a sports fan or not, one must concede that the NFL playoffs will affect a large portion of Americans for a few more weeks.