The rumors have been flying for weeks, but after weeks of waiting, all the votes for the latest “Hottest Guy on Campus” poll have been tallied and the winners have been decided. You might be surprised if you took a look at the stats on student diversity.

A recent study of Dordt diversity shows that the number of Dutch students is going down. Why? Well, it turns out that one Dutch kid decided not to attend Dordt about four years ago, so all of his relatives decided to follow suit: none of them have attended Dordt, either. Those Dutch people love their family traditions.

What will Dordt do without their Dutch people? Will the few remaining Dutch students suffer from Dutch bingo withdrawal? We ventured out into the halls of Dordt to find out how those students are doing.

“I’m freaking out! I was super excited for the chance to change my last name from Van Vleetstra to Vander Vleetstra. Now my last name might have to change to something weird, like Muenez or Smith. My parents are going to freak out!” said Dordt freshman and MRS degree aspirer Samantha Van Vleetstra.

Even the higher-ups are worried that the lack of Dutch students will have a negative effect on the Dordt community.

“Sure, we love to allow non-Dutch students to enroll here, but it’s the Dutch population that really keeps things clean and orderly,” said Dordt president Erik Hoekstra. “We need the people who eat meat and potatoes every day. We can’t have other cultures overthrowing the food regime with their spices and things that are not meat and potatoes!”

So what steps are being taken to raise the number of Dutch people at Dordt again? Rumor has it that even more admissions counselors are being hired and will be sent to the typical Dutch communities, including Pella, IA; Luverne, Minnesota; and Lyden, Washington. But high school students in those areas may not be convinced.

“Going to Dordt just wouldn’t be as fun now that I don’t have any relatives who went there,” said a Dutch high schooler, “so I don’t think I’ll apply there.”

Does Dordt diversity exist? The answer will shock you!

Sassy Fran – Staff Writer

Dordt people: We like ‘em, we love ‘em, we want more of ‘em, right? Sure, but you’d be surprised if you took a look at the stats on student diversity.

Sassy Fran – Staff Writer

Dordt’s totally like that!

Sponsored post

Interview with a Vander-bae <3

Wynn O. Askewout – Staff Writer

The rumors have been flying for weeks, but after weeks of waiting, all the votes for the latest “Hottest Guy on Campus” poll have been tallied and the winners have been decided. You won’t believe the results!

Diamond staff approached Martijn van der Guy, officially crowned as the “hottest guy on campus,” for an interview last weekend. Van der Guy won the poll by a landslide, with multiple opponents ranging from “modestly attractive” to “fairly good-looking” who tried and failed to upset van der Guy’s victory. Van der Guy had this to say in his brief interview with the press:

“…”

I wonder if anymore has noticed that these might mean closer relationships, or that the rest of the world is just a bit more diverse.

We can’t have other cultures overthrowing the food regime with their spices and things that are not meat and potatoes!”

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Is this the end of Dordt Dutch people? Only time will tell.
Soli Deo Gloria! You’ll never guess what new language classes Dordt will offer next fall

Registration opened April 5, and students are frantically re-working their four year plans for the fourth time this year. As they plan for next semester, they will have six new Core language classes to choose from.

101 Neo-Calvinistic terminology (3) ………………. Fall
Learn basic Reformed terminology such as sphere sovereignty, modal aspects and total depravity, and practice strategically incorporating it into your academic papers. Required for students not meeting denominational requirements through their home church or high school affiliation.

102 Advanced Neo-Calvinistic terminology (3) ………………. Fall
Learn terms employed by lesser-known Neo-Calvinists, including cosmico-mneme philosophy and presuppositional apologetics. Also review usage of official Dordt vocabulary including terms like shalom, community and worldview. Recommended for all students. Prerequisite: Neo-Calvinistic terminology or letter of sanctification form your home church or high school.

105 Conversational Neo-Calvinism (3) ………………. Fall
This course is for those who want to move beyond merely incorporating Neo-Calvinist jargon into their academic writing and truly live out “every square inch” by dropping Reformed phrases into daily conversations. Prerequisite: Neo-Calvinistic terminology or Advanced Neo-Calvinistic terminology.

106 Elementary Midwestival Diet (3) ………………. Fall
Learn to navigate local colloquialisms and improve your interactions with the natives. Subjects include what time of the day “dinner” is served, what constitutes a salad and how high the corn should be by the fourth of July. Required for all non-Midwestern students; recommended for all non-Northwestern Iowan students.

108 Nuptial Terminology (1.5) ………………. Fall
Learn the definitions and connotations of phrases such as “ring by spring,” “Dordt walk,” “senior scramble” and “MRS degree” so you can avoid embarrassment and more fully appreciate the Dordt culture. Note: Nuptial Terminology credit does not count toward your MRS degree.

109 Introduction to Dutch Surnames (1.5) ………………. Fall
Learn how to correctly spell and pronounce Dutch surnames. You’ll need all the help you can get. Topics will include how to pronounce Kaemingk and how to spell Eckhardt. Recommended for all students who have never lived in a Dutch community before.

Year-by-year instruction to the ring by spring

Leighton Van Mooi & Princess Consuela Banana Hammock – Staff Writer

Every girl goes to college with one dream, one goal in mind: Getting her MRS Degree. We have identified the foolproof way to ensure every girl will get a Ring by Spring.

Freshman Year
1. WoW week is where you will meet the most guys possible, so make a list of potential candidates because you don’t want to run the risk of missing out on one.
2. Take “Don’t Date before Tri-State” seriously! You do not want to get a reputation.
3. You don’t want to seem too eager, so always date two to three guys at the same time. This will also ensure your odds are being maximized.
4. Always let the guy know that you are interested in him. Depending on their intelligence-level [which you can tell based on his major], this may require more deliberate measures.
5. Secure a man by the end of your freshman year for ultimate ring potential.

Sophomore Year
1. Now that you have a man, make sure everyone knows it. The best ways to do this are Dordt walks, constant hand holding and making out in the library.
2. Always make sure he knows when date night is. That way, you will never come second place to his friends and unnecessary “bro time.”
3. Never settle. You are still early enough in your college career to choose a better man if one comes along.
4. Don’t forget your girlfriends. Keep those relationships in case you want a large bridal party. If there is a certain look you are going for, don’t be ashamed of being picky and choosing new friends based on their facial symmetry.

Junior Year
1. You better be content with your choice by now, because it is far too late to start over.
2. If you don’t already have a Pinterest board, start one stat. It better be secret so none of those basic girls can steal your amazing ideas.
3. Hide your crazy until you get that bling. He doesn’t need to know every little weird thing that you do and TBH you don’t want him to leave you.
4. Meet his parents. If you haven’t already, nag him constantly until he brings you home to meet mom and dad.

Senior Year
1. Don’t start slacking yet. Always make sure your hair and makeup are on point. Let’s be real, it’s far too early for him to see you without makeup on.
2. Start dropping hints at the beginning of the year that you are ready for the next step. Drop the subtlest the closer you get to graduation.
3. Book a venue if you know that place fills up a year in advance. It doesn’t matter if you don’t have the ring quite yet, you know it’s coming, anyway.
4. Tell your girlfriends every detail of what you want in a proposal so they can give him the help he so desperately needs.
5. Always have your nails on fleek. You never know when he might pop the question. Preparation is key.
6. Seal the deal. Practice your surprised face and have your mom on speed dial for immediate debriefing after the event.
7. Now that you finally have that ring, you can use that Instagram caption you have been perfecting for months. It is necessary that everyone knows how happy and in love you two are, so bombard social media with those irresistible couple poses.

SHOCKING: You’ll never believe the secret summer life on Dordt’s campus

N. Cognito - Staff Writer

Every day, students walk through the dorms and classroom buildings, assuming they know everything about Dordt’s campus. But there is another side to Dordt most students never see. When students go home for the summer, Dordt’s campus transforms into a wild and chaotic place. Students who stay on campus run amok and even get paid for the havoc they cause.

You can sum up the shocking summer activities in one word: maintenance. Students use vacuums, paper towels and other cleaning supplies unsupervised. The Zircon could not believe its ears when it first heard the shocking horrors.

Junior Brittany VanderVangima brought this situation to the attention of the Zircon after her first summer on campus.

“It needed to be told,” she said. “I just couldn’t stand knowing that these things were happening and that no one really noticed it.”

VanderVangima admitted students go so far as to use clothing hangers to fish out items from the back of drawers. They keep the items for themselves—if they are worth anything.

“When you think ‘college dorms,’ you don’t think ‘clean,’” she said. “But here, these students are just scrubbing everything in sight.”

The maintenance horror is not limited to inside buildings. Students run outdoor maintenance equipment and now the same patches of grass over 20 times.

“As if it’s not bad enough [mowing] it once,” VanderVangima said. “They’ve got to do it every day.”

In order to hide this maintenance from incoming students, summer workers enact an elaborate cover-up. They know students would be suspicious if the dorms did not smell strange when they returned.

“When there are a few weeks left of summer, everybody just leaves things as messy as they can,” VanderVangima said. “We sleep and eat in the dorms and try to make sure all the sinks have that white water residue on them. It gives them a ‘lived-in’ look.”

President Erik Hoeftstra refused to comment on the situation. This leads Zircon writers to believe these horrors will continue in years to come.

“I found myself getting caught up in everything. Pretty soon, I just did it because I enjoyed it,” VanderVangima said. “It’s hard to keep your perspective when you’re right in the middle of it.”

Beware of summer employment on Dordt’s campus. Once you take part, it is hard to go back.
It’s that time of year again: study abroad applications are due and people are excited for their upcoming trips. We did all the research so you don’t have to! Here is the most comprehensive guide to studying abroad:

1. Make sure you have a phone that takes the best photos. Let’s be real, you could spend a ton of money on a DSLR camera, but you don’t want to look that much like a tourist, and frankly, your phone syncs right up with Instagram.

2. Try out all the Instagram filters ahead of time so when the moment comes for you to post that amazing landscape pic, you won’t have to waste through the 23 different filters to find the best one.

3. The 50th limit is just a suggestion, so pack what ever fits! You never know what the weather is going to be like, so be prepared for all conditions.

4. Everyone lovesssss Americans, so be proud of the fact that you are from the United States and tell everyone you meet where you are from.

5. Also, everyone in Europe speaks English, so don’t bother learning the local languages.

6. Hostels are always a good place to stay no matter what. Honestly the cheaper the better, and who cares about the reviews, it will be your own adventure.

7. Only travel with your friends. Meeting new people is too scary and possibly dangerous. It is better to stick with what/whom you know.

8. Don’t be afraid to skip class. Be real, that hangover is going to take more than three hours of sleep to get rid of.

9. When you do finally get back home, never stop talking about your time away. Everyone will want to hear you tell the same stories six or seven times, and they would love to know all the differences between the States and the rest of the world.

9 tips for studying abroad

You won’t believe what happened when Dordt students failed to take red brick wall picture

Ruth Ruthless - Staff Writer

The entire campus is in an uproar over a serious misadventure that has surfaced. Extensive Facebook stalking on the part of an investigative committee has revealed that three female Dordt sophomores have failed to take part in freshman initiation: taking a picture with the red brick wall of Covenant Hall as the background and posting it on social media.

The three non-conformists, whose names will remain private, have been suspended from attending all wing events until they have properly established their place in the Covenant Club.

“My mind is blown when I hear that people actually exist who don’t want to take cute pics with that gorgeous backdrop.” freshman Violet Van Messen said. “When my friends and I take photos shoots on Sundays after church, we use my professional camera and make sure we get all the ‘white girl’ poses because they’re so stinkin’ adorable!

What poses, you may ask? While trends come and go, nothing says "timeless Dordt girl" like a printed floral dress, a sunhat or an authentic laugh caught in a snapshot. To get the intriguing vintage look, don’t look directly at the camera. Instead, turn so for a side profile, hold back a wiris of hair with your hand, and cast a dreamy-eyed gaze somewhere off in the distance...at that beautiful, red brick wall.

If you and your friends are looking on-point, an assortment of poses and facial expressions will prevent the 2002 family Christmas photo look. A cluster of smiling and laughing forever friends can be even more enhanced by a carefully enhanced Instagram filter and a couple of hashtags. # Blessed is a given, but the creative minds of Dordt College never cease to impress with their catchy hashtags and captions.

“Whenever I can’t decide which inspirational quote or Bible verse to use, I just go with the default ‘inset sappy caption here’ and use brackets or asterisks to give it that aesthetic look,” Cadie Vander Beek said.

One reason the red brick works especially well is because pictures can be taken on any side of the building in order to get the best lighting. All sorts of angles may be used in capturing a girl’s beauty, but when it comes to couples, things get a little more straightforward.

“When a guy takes a picture with his girlfriend in front of Covey, that’s when you know things are getting serious,” Vander Beek said. “We call them Covey-Couples. It’s best to have your first picture as a couple taken by the red brick wall, so that when you get engaged you can go back and take another picture. They make the best Transformation Tuesdays!”

Unfortunately, the three who chose not to pay homage to the red brick wall will suffer the consequences. Not only will they miss out on Saturday morning muffins and Friday night movies, their Facebook profiles will be sorely neglected. In the meantime, Covey Club members will continue to bless every square inch of social media with their glowing artwork.

7 moments that make dordt professors yell “Kuyper!”

Leighton Van Moos - Staff Writer

1. When students complain about taking tests

It’s no secret that Dordt professors love giving tests, especially at the most inconvenient times. Aka, when all the other professors are giving tests. A reliable source tells us that professors often have faculty meetings at which they decide which days they will schedule all tests. Rather than ending each meeting by saying, “Meeting adjourned,” they will end these meetings by putting their hands together and yelling, “Kuyper!” This is because they believe they are bringing about a Christ-centered renewal to students’ time by forcing students to cram for all their exams at once.

2. Squirrels

If you’ve never been to a history professors’ house for a potluck, you’re missing out. Rumor has it that the history department is fond of meat, especially squirrel meat! Professor Fessler likes to encourage his students to bring squirrel meat to department get-togethers. “We’re really fulfilling Kuyper’s square inch idea by utilizing every part of nature, including squirrels,” says Fessler. “Kuyper!”

3. Campus golf

This one makes the profs say “Calvin!” Professors who are particular Calvin enthusiasts and believe that Sunday should be a day of rest will be outraged at the campus golf players who generally come out on Sundays. The teachings of John Calvin discourage things like dancing and card playing, and, to some professors, games like campus golf fall under the same category.

4. Ideafest

Professors go gaga for Ideafest. Have you seen those posters? Somewhere there’s a gaggle of professors cackling maniacally over their creativeness. If you wander around Ideafest this year, you’re sure to find many professors everywhere. If you listen carefully, you may even hear some of them exclaim, “Kuyper!” out of joy.

5. Quarter dogs night

Cosgrove in a hot dog costume? “Nuff said.

6. Iowa weather

Our professors have chosen to live and work in Iowa but that doesn’t stop them from cursing the cold. “I blame Kuyper,” said English professor Bill Elgersma. “If it wasn’t for Dordt’s love of Kuyper’s teachings, I’d probably be on a beach somewhere in the Caribbean. Stupid seductive Kuyper.”

7. Tom Sawyer Tuesdays

If you’re out of the loop and have wondered why there’s a random tree full of students on a Tuesday, it’s a new trend called Tom Sawyer Tuesdays. Not only does this make professors yell “Kuyper,” but they have also been known to scream, “Dooyeweerd!” upon seeing Tom Sawyer Tuesday participants. “Dooyeweerd was all about worldview. Well, students sure are getting a great view of the world from those trees! Dooyeweerd!!” said Dordt chemistry professor Carl Fictorie. Several reports say that professors can be seen hanging from trees in their yards, celebrating Tom Sawyer Tuesdays in their own way.
Fred,

It doesn’t look like it’s going to work for me to dog-sit for your family next week. A lot of stuff has come up that really filled my schedule. Long papers are coming due that I need a lot more research than I thought they would. I’m sorry about that. I hope your mom finds someone to help you guys out while you’re all gone to Florida.

You were really slow when you were bagging my groceries last week. You put several large cans in the same bag as my bread so it got all squished. I was really disappointed when I took it out of the bag. I was going to have some great sandwiches this week, but—thanks to you—they all look deformed and disgusting. To be honest, I could say the same thing about your clothing choices.

I was really offended at some of the comments you made while scanning items. You started talking about my boyfriend, which was pretty rude, since he broke up with me last Tuesday. I know you knew that too, since I overheard you talking about it with your mom when I dropped off some stuff at your house this weekend. You should learn to be more sensitive about others’ feelings. We all stopped bringing up the fact that you got fired from your last three jobs, so you should do the same courtesy and be careful what subjects you talk about. If this kind of thing happens again, your new friends just might find out what happened at your senior prom.

Mom says you’re supposed to bring the hamburger buns when you come over on Sunday afternoon. Make sure they’re not squashed. She also says she wants to get together with your parents sometime when you get back from your trip, maybe for a game of Pictionary or a couple rounds of Euchre. I think she wants to talk to your parents about your future. She thinks you could really do something if you work hard enough. I’m not convinced that the case at all. I don’t think everyone’s meant to your parents about your future. She thinks you could really do something if you work hard enough. I’m not convinced that the case at all. I don’t think everyone’s meant to

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Sincerely,
McKaylah Den Weerf

An open letter to my second cousin who works at Walmart on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday evenings

WOW: Defender Dollar goes Canuck

Trustin Judeau - Staff Writer

In an effort to increase its tolerance for its largest international population, Dordt has switched the Defender Dollar to match Canadian currency.

This decision was made after a month long series of diplomatic meetings between Dordt president, Erik Hoeckstra and a random guy from Terrace, British Columbia. (That’s in Canada by the way.)

“After much deliberation, we decided that switching our defender dollar currency base is the most gracious way to appease our northern neighbors,” Hoeckstra said.

As a student, you may wonder how this change affects you directly. Hoeckstra employee Xavier Caffee, says, “not one bit.”

“The prices will stay the same,” Caffee said. “So literally there’s no point. Two hundred Defender Dollars will still get you 444 Defender sandwiches.”

At first, the new Defender Dollar raised excitement from the couple dozen or so students who represent Canada on campus, but things quieted down after some reflection.

“So you’re telling me that I converted my individual to Canadian to US currency and now it’s being converted back?” Canadian senior, Ryan McNamara said. “What idiot dreamed this up?”

After whipping out a calculator, McNamara went on to point out that the ratio of 0.77 US dollars to one Canadian dollar means that US students get to pay only $77 instead of $100. Canadian students would only have to pay $100 instead of the previous $130.

“On second thought, the only people getting screwed over are those running Dordt Dining and 55th Ave,” McNamara said. “Suddenly, I am OK with this.”

For its 60 years, Dordt has always had a consistent connection with the physically large and largely ignored constitutional monarchy, but hopes to add some spice to the relationship midway through this spring semester:

“I think it’s cute,” junior Heather Kaemingk said. “I appreciate the gesture. I feel like I have some Canadian blood in me somewhere that is positively jumping with joy.”

Canadian sophomores Jon Attema, Mark Schussler and Davis Konynenbelt plan to drop out of engineering and set up a money changing racket outside the Grille.

“Who wants to sit through another Vander Werf lecture when we could be converting US dollars to Canadian currency with exorbitant margins,” Konynenbelt said.

Attema echoed Konynenbelt’s sentiment.

“With all visitors who normally pay US cash, there’s a definite need for someone to step up,” Attema said. “Besides, they are already saving 33 cents per dollar, so a slight fee is no big deal.”

Schussler was the only one to find the potential wrench in the plans of the three bright-eyed individuals.

“Oh, guys?” Schussler said. “What do we do about the US penny?”
I’m so freaking mad and you need to know why

Mother Nature endorses Bernie Sanders - what else do you people need!

Karol Atkinson - Staff Writer

I am a changed man. How could I not be? After witnessing that miracle at Bernie Sanders’ rally last week, I don’t think anyone could walk out as the same person that walked in. That precious little bird that was flying about and then chose to land on Bernie’s podium is my hero, and I want the whole world to know that because of him, I’m feeling the Bern.

This is obviously a sign that the universe approves of Bernie. Mother Nature has made her endorsement. Bernie himself stated immediately after the bird lighted off his podium, “I think there may be some symbolism here.” Right away my Twitter feed exploded with the pictures and expressions like, “We don’t need your corporate endorsements. #mothernaturechoice #birdiesanders” That’s right we don’t need these evil corporations, because we have nature on our side!

My favorite one was a joke from God that read, “Hey Bernie, did you get the tweet I sent you?” How funny is that?

I almost forgot to mention what it was that Sanders said that the bird wanted. “That bird is really a dove asking us for world peace!” he said after it flew away. It was so wonderful that he revealed this because it reminded me of a picture I once saw of a young revolutionary speaking to the people of Cuba, I think. There was a dove perched on his shoulder. It must have meant so much to the people of Cuba, to see the sign of peace accompanying their liberator into the next chapter of their country. I feel that peace and assurance now.

But those feelings haven’t protected me from feeding a young fawn. She said, “Cute animals liked Hitler too.” If an animal makes you vote for Bernie, you are a moron.” I don’t know what she’s talking about, but she certainly doesn’t understand how this makes me feel.

It’s alright, though, because my hopes were lifted when I saw another meme with the image of Bernie looking at the bird. Written on the image was the line, “You’re never too small to make a difference.” How inspirational.

What hurts me most is seeing tweets and memes from selfish Republicans who think the encounter is meaningless and we Bernsters are turning it into a false hope for the campaign. I unfollowed a news anchor who posted the meme “Crowd mistakes small bird for 800 delegates.” But what does that really matter when I have in my heart a good feeling about Bernie and the way he looked at that little finch. That’s what this campaign needs, not some lousy delegates.

I was ecstatic to see one of my friends who is on the fence between Bernie and Hillary tweet “I always say that animals and children are the heat judges of true character.” This is so true. When I’m at the park the ducks, geese, and fish always follow me around when I’m walking by the pond.

I actually reported a tweet of another black and white picture of that same guy with slick black hair feeding the fawn, but this time I could also see a square mustache below his nose. He had a bird on his shoulder in this picture, and the corresponding tweet read “The ‘Mother Nature endorsement’ hasn’t always turned out so great.” I don’t get what the big deal with this guy is, maybe they just hate that animals liked him too?

Interview with a Vander-bae <3 (cont.)

Continued from page 1

questions. Such as, What’s your favorite animal? Do you wear contacts? Are your siblings hot too? You’d have to ask him yourself for the answers, though. How, you ask? No problem! Van der Guy can often be found flexing in that big window outside the Commons that everyone uses to check themselves out as they walk by, or else he might be in the basement of the library working on his new memoir, Hot or Not: My Journey of Self-Discovery. If that doesn’t work, you can always knock on his door, room 3336 in North Hall. The only requirement for your visit, van der Guy says? “You should probably wear your sunglasses.”

Bobby Wickham – Staff Writer

After getting up for an eight o’clock class, slugging through the subsequent nine and 10 o’clock hours and collapsing on the couch in the music building to repay my sleep debt, I pulled myself to the library to start the daily homework gauntlet in early afternoon. I had just settled in the study café when I saw the tennis ball.

It was nestled up against the glass of the window between the picture painted by the “near sighted man with only one contact lens” and the one painted by a “two year old missing his left thumb.” To whoever thought that it was a good idea to play campus golf on a weekday, this column is for you. It’s not a good idea.

I have one word for you: Flauting. That is what you are doing. Just because you don’t have responsibilities doesn’t mean that I have to sit and watch you flittering away your school day. It’s not even a super nice day. After five months with snow on the ground, your perception of warmth is so vast that 75 degrees Fahrenheit feels like an acceptable temperature to flash and watch you frittering away your school day.

And the one painted by a “two year old missing his left thumb.” To whoever thought that it was a good idea to play campus golf on a weekday, this column is for you. It’s not a good idea.

Now, don’t get me wrong. I am all for relaxing and enjoying God’s creation in a way that – giant hanks of uprooted grass aside – isn’t destructive. Though I am not an avid follower of the sport, I have participated once. It was on the Friday of national library week and I played in the afternoon while waiting for them to cut the cakes for the edible book contest. I see this as an extremely respectful time to play campus golf.

Friday afternoons are also an accepted time to relax. The random engineering majors and overachieving elementary education majors who will be potentially offended by your expressions like, “We don’t need your corporate endorsements. #mothernaturechoice #birdiesanders” That’s right we don’t need those evil corporations, because we have nature on our side!

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Dordt de béisbol en La Habana

Xander York - Staff Writer

If it works once, try it again. Due to the rousing success of the Tampa Bay Rays-Cuba exhibition baseball game in Havana on March 22, President Barack Obama is sending another baseball team down to Havana: the Dordt Defenders.

The Dordt College baseball team will head to Havana on May 13 to take on the Cuban national team at the famous Estadio Latinoamericano. Dordt was selected after an invigorating lottery system.

Five NAIA and 20 NCAA baseball programs were randomly generated and selected to be in the running for this unique experience. From there, each school’s logo was imprinted on a Ping-Pong ball.

President Obama himself drew one ball from a basket which held all 25 and revealed on national television the result: an overlapping black “DC” intersected by a gold cross.

Only college programs were in the running for this exhibition trip.

“We want to give our younger generation a chance to establish an intercultural relationship with the Cuban people,” President Obama said. “It’s unprecedented, the progress we’re making with the new Castro regime. I’m confident Dordt College, a Christian college, will represent the United States of America proudly.”

President Obama broke ground in March of 2016 when he and President Raúl Castro agreed to host an exhibition baseball game in Havana, Cuba. Tampa Bay was the first MLB team to play in Cuba since the Baltimore Orioles played in 1999.

“It’s an honor to be selected for this trip,” said Austin Hough, a junior from Taylor Morris. “The Cuban people love their baseball and so do we. The atmosphere and environment should be electric.”

The players are looking forward to the opportunity as well.

“The weather in Cuba is great,” said shortstop Cameron Gingerich. “And to play in a stadium with the history of Estadio Latinoamericano, it’s a dream come true.”

Another exhibition game in Havana is expected to continue the improving relations between Cuba and the United States.

“Baseball is America and Cuba’s pastime,” President Obama said. “It only makes sense to create these connections and relationships through whatever common avenues are present.”

Another reason is that a Raider cannot catch a baseball when its sole job is to attack the Raider self-esteem.

There are many reasons a Defender is 100 percent better than a Raider. Another reason is red and white does not go together with every outfit. For those ladies, black and gold can be a part of every single day’s attire.

Yet another reason is that a Raider cannot catch a baseball or softball. We have hands of steel to reach up and grab the ball out midair.

The players are taking a slightly different approach.

“I’m pumped,” said junior Eric Van Drunen. “ESPN’s decision only confirms the growth of the sport and the idea, thinking it would help all Dordt sports and softball. We have hands of steel to reach up and grab the ball out midair.”

Dordt football is going big. It’s YUGE!

Xander York - Staff Writer

New box, new channels and new ESPN. If you’ve stopped at Computer Services and received a new digital box from Premier Communications, you can access ESPN. And if you can access ESPN, you can watch Dordt College football on Channel 100.

ESPN expanded its programming horizons once again, this time extending its reach to the NAIA level. On April 30, ESPN will air the Dordt College spring football game and activities in their entirety.

“I’m pumped,” said senior Eric Van Drunen. “With the unpredictable Northwest Iowa weather, April can be cold and damp or sunny and gorgeous. If the weather is crummy, I can experience everything Dordt football has for me from the comfort of my own apartment.”

Van Drunen isn’t the only student excited. “ESPN is Sioux Center,” said junior Christian Zylstra. “I’m an aspiring sports journalist and broadcaster, so I’ll be there handing out business cards and resumes.”

ESPN’s decision only confirms the growth of a specific football culture within and around the Defender football program.

“This feels like a real collegiate football program,” said sophomore Derek De Vries. “NCAA Division-I programs have these events. This new coaching staff has likely not only improved Defender football on the field, but also the off-field culture.”

Dordt’s selection left some NCAA Division-I programs puzzled. ESPN overlooked most of the 128 NCAA FBS football programs and

Continued on page 8

RIVALRY: Defenders v. Raiders

Austin Hough — Staff Writer

A Raider is an attacker who pillages villages. They are complete savages and tend to be poor, evil human beings. How can Northwestern name their school mascot after someone who kills just to survive? They tend to attack and steal and murder for fun.

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Continued on page 8

Dordt sports legends: that’s cold, ice cold

Austin Hough - Staff Writer

There will be a new addition coming to Dordt next fall. The bodies of past Dordt sport legends will be frozen so they can come back and be a crucial part of their alma mater’s teams. Think of it as a redshirt year, but instead being frozen for long time with only one reason to come back.

This is the newest Dordt sport strategy: to come out and win. But the athletes don’t realize the contracts they are signing for “insurance” are actually to be frozen if the necessity arises. Reactions coming from Dordt are mixed. Alumni who experienced subpar teams are happy to hear that the sports teams now will have a backup plan if the season starts to go away. The alumni were also behind the freezing idea, thinking it would help all Dordt sports really take off. These people believe it is the only answer.

There are many questions that those alumni still have to answer.

One such question was where to store the frozen bodies. The answer: the superstars will be frozen and put on display in the De Witt Gymnasium. The “higher-ups” believe it will work as an intimidation factor for opponents, for them to walk in and see the wall of greats waiting to be unfrozen and face off.

The current athletes are in uproar because if they do well, they will become a Dordt Defender for life, unable to live the life they desire until their eligibility is up. Dordt will freeze the best athletes their junior year so they will have one year of eligibility remaining.

Continued on page 8
Quiz: How badly are you suffering from senioritis?

Leighton Van Moor & Princess Consuela Banana Hammock – Staff Writers

1. How dedicated are you to class assigned readings?
   a. Oh ya... religiously, with a highlighter
   b. Eh... sometimes there is light skimming
   c. PLZ... ain't nobody got time fo that

2. How much time do you put into your appearance?
   a. 1 to 2 hours minimum...dress to impress, you know
   b. ½ hour...full hour of showering is involved
   c. Occasionally binge on Gay's Anatomy. That's education, right?

3. How much time do you spend watching Netflix?
   a. Only when my homework is done
   b. Occasionally binge on Gay's Anatomy. That's education, right?
   c. PLZ Netflix is BAE!!

4. What is your social life like?
   a. It revolves around papers and projects. A slow week is key.
   b. Weekends are when it is most hoppin'
   c. PLZ every night is Thirsty Thursday

5. Do you have a countdown to graduation?
   a. No way! Why would I want to leave these people?
   b. It's still too early to count, but it has crossed my mind.
   c. PLZ there are exactly 29 days left until I walk that stage

6-9 Points
Freshly Fresh
You are still a dedicated student, unafraid to sacrifice social status for the grade. You want to impress your professors more than anything and show the 'rents all A's. Appearance is vitally important. So don't give up hope, it will be here before you know it so cherish these last days of going out on weekdays. Your morning routine is still too long and sweatpants are not utilized as often as they should be.

10-14 Points
Sophomore Slump
Ehnh. You're getting there. You still try a little too hard in class and haven't quite mastered the art of going out on weeknights. Your morning routine is still too long and sweatpants are not utilized as often as they should be.

15+ Points
PLZZZZZZZ
You know who you are. You have mastered the 5-minute shower and sweats are your best friend. You shuffle between being a Netflix-watching hermit and participating in questionable senior activities. If you don't already have a countdown app you know at least one person who does that keeps you constantly updated. Getting a date is in your mind, but let's be real, graduation is way more important. So don't give up hope, it will be here before you know it so cherish those last days with the people who will be your lifelong friends.

Dordt concert choir drops hot new album

Move over Pentatonix; there's a new cappella game in town—Dordt College Concert Choir! This spring, in a jaw-dropping break from tradition, the music department at Dordt College assembled the Concert Choir tour set list featuring Top 40 hits, suggestions from students and some of the dopest beats from hip-hop history. From Justin Bieber’s recent hit “Love Yourself” and NWA's classic “Gangsta Gangsta” to the contemporary classic from Adele, “Rolling in the Deep,” the set list was a smash hit across the country during the choir’s tour. By popular demand, the music department recorded and released an album containing all of the songs done on the tour. Coming in at just under two hours, the album is an expertly arranged and angelically sung trip through the hits of today and the classics of yester-year. The album starts off with a thrilling rendition of the Queen classic “Bohemian Rhapsody.” Where there were strings and orchestral movements in the original song, the Concert Choir opts for “ooh,” “sahs” and “dun-dan-duns!” to create a truly stirring performance. About halfway through the song, the careful listener will be able to pick out a lone yodeler who adds a haunting – yet somehow whimsical – tone to the piece. The liner notes name Dordt senior Marshall Fynaadt as the contributing yodeler. The album really takes flight in the second half, with the choir performing a boppy and soulful rendition of Missy Elliot’s “Work It” followed by a cheerful and believable take on Eminem’s “Stan.” The Concert Choir proves their ability to spit hot rhymes and time and again on this album, but they do not seem content to be labelled a “one trick pony.” They sink their teeth into broadly varying genres, including a couple of dubstep and EDM tracks featuring some skillful beatboxing and “web-web-web” from the bass section. Truly dazzling—as well as a little head-scratching—is the inclusion of a cover of Devo’s 1980 smash hit “Whip It,” it’s a zany and energetic performance that gets even the most cynical toes tapping. According to an interview with Rolling Stone, when performing the track on tour, each choir member donned the iconic red cone hat worn by the original band and cracked a whip. Apparently, when Concert Choir comes along, they must whip it. The album adopts a solemn and intimate tone in the last five tracks. The choir downsizes to an all-male quartet for a simple and stunning version of Justin Bieber’s “Love Yourself” and makes Beliebers of us all. The understated and elegant harmonies lend entirely new levels of sadness and regret to the song, emphasizing the current musing present Justin’s work. If it doesn’t move you to tears, “oh baby, you should go and love yourself.”

The album closes with a bombastic and inspiring take on Bruce Springsteen’s patriotic classic “Born in the USA” that really brings down the house. The entire tenor section puts on an imitation of The Boss’s signature gravelly voice and totally nails it. The enthusiasm of the performers is tangible and infectious, and the arrangements do absolute, divine justice to every section of the choir. This pitch perfect collection contains something for literally everyone and is sure to be a classic for generations. It represents a new direction for the Dordt College music program that, if the quality of this release is any indication, can only spell success. The album is available on Spotify, Apple Music and wherever CDs are still sold. Get it while it’s hot. 10/10.

Backstreet Boys, NSYNC to perform at commencement

Goth Sandals – Staff Writer

In recent news, the Backstreet Boys, NSYNC, '98 Degrees and O-Town have banded together to record a song for the upcoming zombie-western, Dead 7. The boy band extravaganza has 30-year-old soccer moms going crazy, due to the nostalgia surrounding the super group. The surprising twist in information is that President Erik Hoekstra is 20 steps ahead of this. The producer called to pay for this concert, but Hoekstra chatted to recoup. After some rest, I will make a public announcement sometime in the next few weeks. I am quite tired after all these lunches with the seniors,” Hoekstra said. “I need some time to recoup. After some rest, I will make a public announcement.”

Remember to purchase your “Dordt for Boy Bands” shirt, which will go on sale the last week of April.
The Back Page

Dordt football is going big. It’s YUGE! (cont.)

Dordt sports legends: that’s cold, ice cold (cont.)

An ode to library toots

Many musical artists crossover into other mediums, drawing inspiration from one creative form and appropriating it for another. What differentiates the husband & wife duo of The Gray Havens from other artists is how effortlessly they blend fantasy story, lyric poetry, theology and song to produce a sublime narrative-folk-pop. Dave & Licia Radford’s richly textured compositions and unexpected, imaginative lyrics create a listening experience similar to paging through your favorite book.

There is an evident theological undercurrent present in Gray Havens’ songs. Often this is expressed in stories, which occupy space with major influences—C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien. The Gray Havens fill a unique niche for listeners who desire music that communicates truth wrapped in compelling allegory and narrative. Two gifted individuals whose lives have been made richer by consummate storytellers and traffickers of truth, Dave and Licia Radford are together savoring the unfolding journey of being able to share their own stories with a waiting world.

This outcry was to remain anonymous. If said player was revealed, he would be at risk to the alumni finding out and using him as the first to be frozen.

Details of this story are still emerging.

Do the alumni have a good idea? Does this break the civil rights of students? Will this be a lawsuit in the making? Will this help the Defenders win more championships? All these questions will be answered in the next couple of months.

Continued from page 6

Continued from page 6

“I mean I am from Canada, and I like to be cold anyways, so not that big of a deal to me,” said Dordt Blades defender Lucas Kooyman.

Others athletes had different responses.

“No, I will not stand for this,” said an anonymous Dordt baseball player. “All we want is to be college baseball players, and that’s it. We want to play and then move on from Dordt.”

Continued from page 6

“We’ve watched NAIA football over the past few seasons, and the success it’s had on our ESPN3 format is obvious,” said ESPN President John Skipper. “The championship always brings in good crowds, and last year’s UW-Whitewater at Morningside showdown couldn’t have been more entertaining.”

The reasoning to mix in NAIA spring action makes sense, but others are still in denial about Dordt’s selection.

“If any NAIA program should be on ESPN, it should be Morningside,” said Morningside Athletic Director Tim Jagger. “That being said, congratulations to Dordt College. It’s certainly an exciting time for the GPAC.”

When quizzed by reporter from multiple national media outlets, Skipper provided a simple answer as to why Dordt was the NAIA team selected.

“We want to introduce the public to colleges who do things the right way,” Skipper said. “Dordt is a fantastic educational institution, and the new hires they’ve made inside their football program will only breed success.”

It’s an exciting time for Dordt College athletics. National exposure will be at a premium with football on ESPN April 30 and baseball in Cuba two weeks later.

“There has never been a better time to be involved with Dordt athletic programs,” said junior Nathan Van Peursem. “It truly is a joy to see how Dordt has expanded on the national level. I only hope this growth and success continues even after these current students graduate.”

So head on out to the football field on April 30, or stay indoors and tune in to Channel 100.

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