



Color where you've never seen it before!
Page 4



Caucasian crop circles,
'Club Extermination
Club' exterminated
Pages 2-3



Schaap does
live art display
to promote book
Page 7

the zircon.

Convent replaces Covenant Hall

Newly approved housing changes attempt to control the mixing of underclassmen sexes



After the new housing changes, Covenant has been renamed.

Photo by Shutterfly Simmons.

Longbranch Pennywhistle
Staff Writer

Administration recently approved plans for changes in Dordt housing. Next year, freshmen and sophomore women will be put in Covenant Hall, vastly removed from all the men who will be residing in North and East Halls.

This plan puts into action the Puritan values of Bethany Schuttinga and the Residence Life staff.

When asked about the motives for the new housing arrangements, Robert Taylor, Director of Resident Life said, "Though marriage is a prerequisite for diplomas here at Dordt, we can't let such an

important decision be decided by ignorant college students. Therefore, we've decided to make it as difficult as possible for males and females to freely interact on Dordt's campus."

It appears the long-term objectives of this plan include professor-chaperoned dates and arranged marriages.

Upon completion of the

new apartment complex, the chain-link fence surrounding the new building's construction site will be used to encircle Covenant Hall, deepening the schism between men and women.

The fence will only be open for males between the hours of 4 and 5 AM. Blueprints are also in order for a series of watchtowers manned by armed gunmen.

"Let's see you get them now, boys!" said Res. Life member Sita Riblet.

Records have also been discovered from the financial

office that detail the purchase of several dozen German Shepherd puppies. When grown, these ferocious beasts will be the final defense against the "hand-holding, Dordt-walking hooligans!" President Zylstra said.

These pups will be trained rigorously by the science department, headed by Professor James Mahaffy. They will be pitted against full-grown cougars as part of their training.

Regrettably, the final member of the group, Bethany Schuttinga, was not available for comment, as she is currently locked away in a tower with her sister Rapunzel, drawing up future plans for the housing at Dordt.

In addition to these procedures, Dordt plans to add extra classes to the Core program for future years.

Core 320: Kuyperian Kourtship and Core 340: The Calvinistic Approach to Marriage will be requirements for all students. However, Core 375: How to Make a Baby, will be optional.

We've decided to make it as difficult as possible for males and females to interact on Dordt's campus.

Health Services recommends extra precaution

Hyp O. Chondriac
Staff Writer

After a great number of students fell ill halfway through the semester with Swine Flu (sometimes called H1N1), the remaining students should be aware that they need to step up their preventative measures to prevent contracting the virus. At the recommendation of Health Services, Dordt students have been taking extra care to not contract or spread the outbreak of Swine Flu.

Keep M. Healthy, worker in Dordt's Health Services, commented that "Students just aren't taking this illness seriously enough. I mean, its almost as if they wanted an excuse to skip a few days of class. Maybe they just haven't heard about this illness."

Healthy suggested a few

preventative measures to not contract the flu.

"The best thing you can do is hand sanitizer, hand sanitizer, hand sanitizer." Said Healthy. He suggests applying it every five minutes or so, and always directly after sneezing, coughing, or touching your face, nose, or any other object. Applying sanitizer to things like doorknobs, keyboards, silverware, pencils, mugs, pocket change, umbrellas, scissors, water bottles, notebooks, backpacks, bath towels, shoe laces, zipper pulls, and other commonly used objects will also prevent the spread of the flu. "You can never be too safe!" he said.

Healthy suggested that propaganda spreading the various health risks of contracting Swine Flu might also help raise student awareness. "I think a picture of a sick pig might do the trick," he said.

For students wondering what to do if their roommate contracts an illness, Healthy had some suggestions. "You should make sure that you come into as little contact as possible with your roommate," he said. "Wrap your roommate in blankets, that way they can't breathe on you. You should wear a full body protection suit while you do this, just to be safe," he added.

If your roommate needs

The best thing you can do is hand sanitizer, hand sanitizer, hand sanitizer.

some food, Healthy suggested making a long pole to push food at them. "You can use a regular broomstick if you need to," he said, "just make sure you apply liberal amounts of hand sanitizer to the broomstick afterwards."

"The flu vaccine may also help prevent illness," Healthy said.

With these safety precautions in mind, students should be able to finish the flu season with as little illness as possible.



Health services recommends full body protection to prevent against the harmful effects of Swine Flu. Kevin Brouwer (above) finds the method "tedious, but ultimately necessary." Photo contibuted

Club Extermination Club exterminated by the Club Extermination Club

Club forms in order to reduce number of useless clubs - first club to go is their own

Lavender Gooms
Staff Writer

A few short months after its formation, the Club Extermination Club of Dordt College has shut itself down as its first and only official club action.

The club was formed with the hopes of minimizing the amount of clubs offered at Dordt.

Ryan Vander Pol, club founder and former club president, said they had been meeting for months trying to decide which club to shut down before agreeing that their own club needed to go.

“It came down to just one vote. That was the only difference between closing and keeping our club,” Vander Pol said. “But since there were only three official members, I guess one vote wasn’t really that small.”

A two-to-one decision ended the Club Extermination Club. Vander Pol and his younger brother Steve, the former club secretary, both voted in favor of the termination. However, Vander Pol’s roommate and former club treasurer Mark Osterkamp voted opposed.

“I couldn’t vote against

the club that had given me so much hope in this world: hope that my children and my children’s children could see a day where Dordt College didn’t have so many

I couldn’t vote against the club that had given me so much hope in this world: hope that my children and my children’s children could see a day where Dordt College didn’t have so many clubs.

clubs,” said Osterkamp, wiping tears from his eyes.

Vander Pol said that voting to shut down the club he had founded was hard, but

had to be done given the criteria that had been carefully laid out from the beginning.

“We wanted to target the newest and least popular clubs for extermination; that

Steve Vander Pol had mixed feelings: he was proud that his club succeeded at exterminating a Dordt College club, but he was also very sad that the club they had shut down was his own.

“I was a little bummed out. But the goal of our club was to exterminate any unnecessary clubs here at Dordt,” he said. “So technically by shutting ourselves down, the club was a huge success. But it was also a huge failure.”

was our doctrine,” Vander Pol said. “Unfortunately, our club was the newest and also had the fewest members.”

Building gets its name

Newly constructed apartment building NOT named after a cardinal direction



William Roberts
Staff Writer

Dordt College administrators revealed the name of the new apartment building that is being erected near the Southview apartments: Cornerstone Residential Apartment Building for Seniors.

“They chose cornerstone for its biblical implications and the idea that this building will serve two

purposes,” said an anonymous source inside the President’s office. “The dual-purpose building is one of campus-wide community, and also a dwelling place for senior students in the years to come.”

The building will feature a 24-hour lounge area for all students, a stage capable of hosting Praise and Worship, and a coffee shop.

The residents of the

Cornerstone Residential Apartment Building for Seniors will be pleased to use the two showers that all rooms offer, as well as the dishwasher and other new luxuries.

The building is set to open for residency in the fall of 2010. Anticipation is high as juniors anxiously await the prospect of living in the new apartments.

Stalking made easier

Chesterfield McMillan
Staff Writer

After reviewing many proposed models, Dordt administration has approved several major revisions to the current “Dordt Stalk.”

The DENIS directory has undergone only minor changes over the past several years. “We really felt it was time to improve the student directory in order to encourage more community,” said Bethany Schuttinga.

Several of the more useful data fields will include students’ height, current hair color, current relationship status, major club, music or athletic involvement, heritage, and current known associates.

“I’m really looking forward to it,” said junior

Hannah Nelson. “It’s going to really help when you’re trying to describe someone to your roommates or remember the name of an assigned group member.”

“It makes it so much easier to identify potential dating candidates!” Sarah VanderHill said.

Senior scrambler Luke Baun agreed. “It really helps to figure out who’s still available this late in the game.”

But some students are worried about what may show up on their profile. “What if it’s complicated?” one student asked.

The improved directory, still only available to current Dordt students and faculty, will be available on Dec. 21, 2009.

Restaurant rejected in Sioux Center



The Board of Sioux Center rejected a new restaurant, due to lack of Italian word for “tulip.” *Photo contributed.*

The potential owners were rejected last week in their proposition to add their restaurant to Sioux Center.

The Sioux Center Board of Supervisors gave the owners one stipulation: the restaurant must include a form of “tulip” in the name. “We tried everything,”

said one of the potential owners. “But they would accept nothing less than a direct translation of tulip. Too bad that word doesn’t exist in Italian.”

The restaurant was rejected from Pella, Iowa, last month. The owners have been warned that they don’t stand a chance in Orange City.

**THIS FALL GIVE
YOUR BODY
SOME CLASS**

Snap Fitness
1921 S Main Ave
(712)722-2594
www.snapfitness.com



FINALLY, THE
WORKOUT FACILITY
YOU’VE BEEN
LOOKING FOR!

- No contracts, no hassles, no risk.
Pay affordable prices month-to-month

- Always open and nearby.
Work out 24 hours a day, 365 days a year in a clean, safe and secure environment

STUDENT RATES AVAILABLE
Join now and
pay NO Enrollment Fee

Program explores “real” Dutch culture

Stereo Van Type
Staff Writer

Students looking to go off-campus will have a new location come next semester: Orange City, Iowa.

“It’s exciting,” said Megan De Haan. “The Netherlands is all well and good, but I think Orange City is the real Dutch experience.”

The town is well-known for its facades, which present the impression of a bigger building than is actually there. Windmills also mark the landscape as signs of its heritage.

Orange City’s inclusion in N-SPICE was spearheaded by Professor Van Beek, who says he saw the program as the first step into recognizing the true Dutch spirit.

“While there are a lot of jokes that fly around campus about Dordt’s ‘Dutch-ness,’” Van Beek said, “most students are unaware of how ‘non-Dutch’ Sioux Center really is in comparison to Orange City.”

Students who plan to go on the program will have to go through a series of orientation classes to acclimate.

Classes will be led in the

week prior to the program’s start in January. They will cover such topics as food, culture and the pronunciation of names. Also, they will be addressing common Dutch myths, such as rampant blondeness and the unfair height advantage.

Sarah Greenfield, a senior, was overwhelmed by “too much Dutch” when she arrived her freshman year. “I’m actually German,” she said. “So when I saw all these Dutch names, I had to quell the urge to take their land... but I got over it. I even have Dutch roommates now, and I’ve decided to take this opportunity to learn about their culture.”

Space is limited on this program. Van Beek estimates



only four students will be able to go each semester, because of the native population’s aversion to newcomers.

“We are very grateful for this opportunity and don’t want to squander it,” he said. “These people are leery of outsiders, and we have to be careful not to upset their perceptions.”

The program is currently accepting all applicants, and it encourages those interested in pursuing Dutch culture to consider it heavily.

“It’s Mecca,” De Haan said. “Only with Jesus.”

Most students are unaware of how ‘non-Dutch’ Sioux Center really is in comparison to Orange City.

Students spot caucasian crop circles



Confused students attempt to decipher the most recent message left in the snow outside Covenant Hall.

Trapezius Milkington
Staff Writer

When students awoke last Sunday morning, they soon discovered something wasn’t the same. Imprinted in the freshly fallen snow were intricate and absurd patterns all around the campus grounds.

Some speculate that a group of lighthearted students created these designs in the spirits of freedom and fun, but it’s obvious that a far more paranormal situation has occurred.

Scientists have confirmed the overwhelming

evidence. Roswell had them, Kentucky had them and now it seems Dordt too has been visited by extraterrestrial beings.

No one can confirm what these aliens want at Dordt, but it’s clear that they are attempting to reach out and communicate to us.

Many of the strange marks appear to be spelling out words, though none have been deciphered.

The language and art departments have been working tirelessly with the scientific evidence to try and sort out the confusing images.

It seems these messag-

es weren’t the only things witnessed. Students have claimed to see things that further the claim of extraterrestrial beings.

When interviewed about the night’s events, Jared May said: “So I was sitting in my room playing Modern Warfare 2, pretty sweet. You should try it. Anyway, I looked out my window for a second and there it was way out in the sky: a little moving light. It moved pretty fast, but I could’ve shot it... if I had my auto-rifle.”

This, scientists say, is only the first of many UFO sightings that will occur in the next few weeks.

As a precautionary measure, a government agency comprised of the highest-level extraterrestrial experts has set up camp in the construction site on campus.

“It’s for our students’ own good,” Bethany Schuttinga said. “Any student interaction with another living being can only mean trouble. Sex segregation may be a year off, but I’ll not have any aliens try to bully their way onto MY campus!”

Nightly patrols and awkward building examinations from the agency have been ordered by Schuttinga.

SYMPOSIUM UPDATE

Student Symposium recently announced a series of forums for next semester on discussion planning and etiquette. The forums will address how discussions on important issues can be improved so that future discussions on important issues can be held in a more efficient manner.

“We were thinking of doing the whole thing standing up,” said Alvin Shim, a senior Council Member. “Most discussions are held in a ‘round-table’ or ‘a town-hall.’ But that is such a joke. People have discussions everywhere, but they aren’t always labeled. Why aren’t ‘shower discussions’ open to the campus? Or ‘roof-top discussions?’ Why can’t we have more of those?”

Before the forums, Symposium will pass out a pamphlet detailing how discussion forums on discussions will go. Senior council members will speak first and then let others at the forum speak by microphone. Most importantly, high-grade French-press coffee will be provided at the events.

“We really wanted to do away with the whole ‘opening the floor’ cliché,” said Shim. “That is so absurd. Is a floor really being opened? Is the area itself open? Maybe if we all meet in a corn field, we could have an open discussion. Those are the questions we are going to be asking. We want to really challenge Dordt students to ask themselves, ‘Am I discussing important issues the way they should be discussed?’”

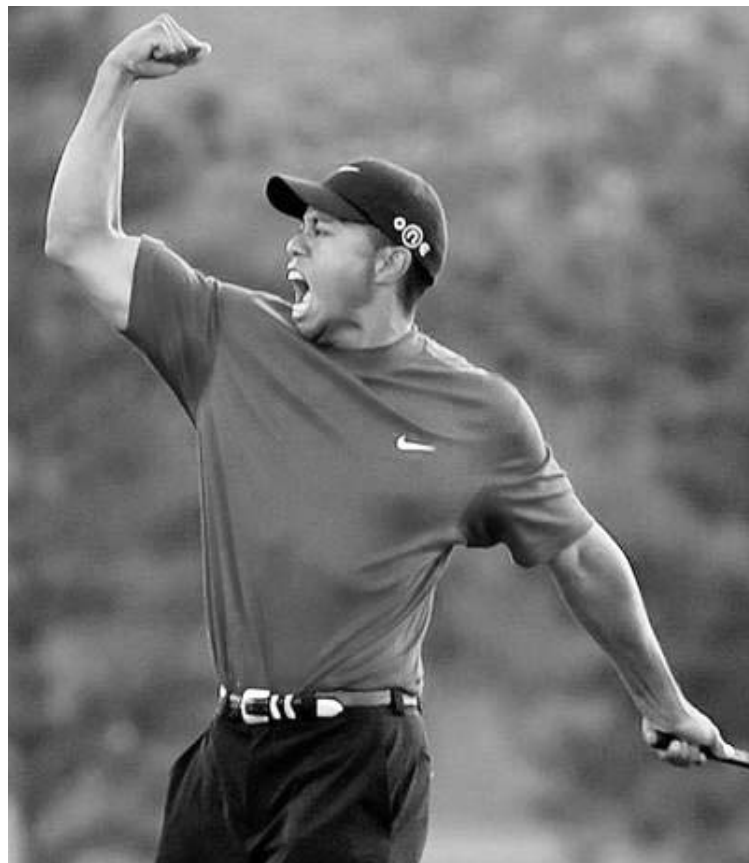
Many students noted the importance of Gen 300 in pushing them to ask how discussions on important issues could better be discussed. The professors often cited the need to “create space” and “come alongside” certain issues. These phrases meant a lot to students.

“The key here is that the students are tackling and grasping the issue,” said Professor Howard Schaap, a huge proponent of the discussion forums on discussions. “We will get to hold the issue close and ask ‘Issue, how can I treat you better?’”

“Don’t you dare leave the forums early by going out the back, either; go out the front,” said Shim.

(compiled by Methuselah Honeysuckle)

The Tiger Woods story



Lemongrass Gogulope
Staff Writer

Not to be outdone by other newspapers, the Zircon has included what has become the standard “Tiger Woods story.”

This is Tiger Woods. He seems to be getting himself into some trouble lately.

That is all. Look to your local news source to find out more details.

He’ll be there.

Look at all the pretty colors!



Left: That would be a colorful bird.

Above: You are seeing a colorful sunset.

Right: Over there, we have colorful color.



Hummingbird Saltalamacchia
Staff Writer

Diamond readership went up this year, as the editors made the bold decision to include a splash of color on the front and back pages.

On the publication day of the first issue, a collective “ooh...ahhh” went up around campus. Sure that the staff had done a splendid job with the writing, the editors set off on an informal poll, questioning which article students like best.

“Article? Oh, um...I liked...LOOK! Red!” said Jim Johnson.

Even faculty had similar reactions. The general consensus was as follows: “Nice job with the paper this year. It’s in color!”

In related news, the newspaper crisis that affects America has gotten no less depressing. In fact, it is estimated that roughly 13 percent of people will even read to the end of an article: congratulations, you’re one of the few. Now just go admire the pictures. You know you want to.

Paranormal Activity: Dordt Edition

Dooby Scoo
Staff Writer

Over the past few months, a striking mystery has gripped Dordt’s campus. The beloved “Gift” statue has, on several occasions, found itself the victim of vandalism, albeit appropriately themed vandalism. First, there were the pumpkins placed in the outstretched arms during Halloween; then came the Mr. Tumnus dress-up, and, more recently, the ironic Christmas gift in the Gift’s right hand.

While students and maintenance staff everywhere quaked in superstitious fear and confusion, the noble President Zylstra stepped in to offer a wise, rational explanation that could only come from a man his age.

“The Gift is obviously haunted,” declared Zylstra in a recent press release, to the astonishment of the few who actually pay attention

to those sorts of things. “We have eliminated all other possible options, and now we face the question of how to deal with the problem.”

On the alert, Dordt’s newly-formed Paranormal Investigation Squad (PIS) set off to collect eyewitness reports and various opinions from students.

“I don’t doubt it,” said an anonymous senior. “I hear every time that Dordt loses a sports event to Northwestern, the Gift’s eyes glow red.”

“Has anyone ever noticed it doesn’t have...you know...male parts?” asked a confused sophomore. “I mean, are they in the rock, are they behind the rock, are they nonexistent? Has nobody else noticed this?”

One of the members of the men’s singing group, the Canon’s, had this to say about the Gift’s awkward seating position: “Ah, yes, I believe that is an accurate representation of how tenors

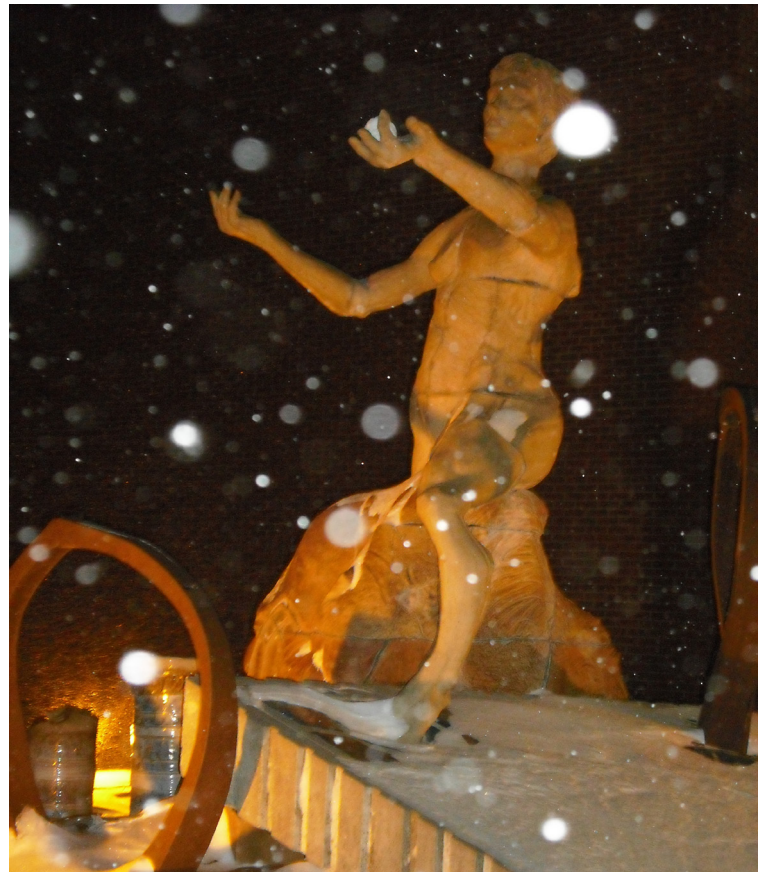
are created.”

Having gathered the opinions of most of the student body, PIS turned to the one man who could possibly present a solution: Provost Erik Hoekstra.

“We’ve actually been toying with replacement statue options, hopefully ones that will better represent what Dordt stands for,” Hoekstra said. “My personal favorite is a giant statue of Abraham Kuyper, with his arm outstretched in some type of salute thing.”

For the time being, though, it looks like the Gift (Ghost Inhabited Friesland Tenor) will remain undisturbed, much to the appreciation of President Zylstra himself.

“Sometimes during the summer I like to take a mattress out there and sleep in its arms,” sighed Zylstra serenely. “It helps me to know I’m not alone.”



Experts believe the GIFT was responsible for the blizzard this week.
Photo by members of PIS

Edward or Jacob?

Dordt students are divided on this explosive issue - who is the better vampire?
To decide, Zircon staff went to the best source for unbiased opinions: celebrities.



No disrespect to Jacob or Edward, but Beyonce had the best movie this year.
-Kanye West



How can I decide? I love them both! They are so wonderfully talented, and I predict big things from both of them in the future.
-Paula Abdul



I pick which ever one will help me take over the world.
-The Brain



Edward has played both a wizard and a vampire. He gives a strong voice to these two very under-represented and often forgotten minorities.
-Oprah Winfrey



Jacob, definitely. Actually, no, I meant to say Edward. Well, now I’m not sure...
-Brett Favre

Dating = Great

Misty Hart
Columnist

Despite the winter frost outside, I can still smell love in the air. It comes across the crisp air and wafts into my nostrils, and I feel lightheaded. It can only get better from here.

When I was 16, I had my first boyfriend. It was glorious! We walked along beaches and scooted across town together. We held hands and watched Fred Astaire movies. But it couldn't last forever: we hit a rough patch, and then the unthinkable happened: he didn't want to watch Titanic! Oh, it wrenched my heart when I heard him say those words!

My heart could not go on. We broke up, and I came out here, where, lo, there were new guys! Greatest day ever: orientation and seeing all the possibilities!

There is nothing better than having a guy first ask you out—your heart just pitter-pats in excitement, and then there's the actual getting ready for the date itself. I've had to strategically arrange my hair a few times because the curling iron got away from me in the excitement. Nothing will kill that date faster than being burned like toast.

He meets you at the door: hopefully there are flowers involved (I'd go with roses—anything less is a crime against romance itself!). Go out to a restaurant—I'm not picky, just something that has a vegetarian menu, good lighting, excellent music, great service, doesn't expect tips (I'm a simple kind of girl, ya know?). Then, at the end of the night, after a drive home listening to Josh Groban—maybe Taylor Swift if he's up for such wildness—he'll walk me back to my room and we'll say good night (with whichever kind of communication he's earned for the night out).

Dating is great! I don't really get why people don't do it more often—I swear, people are so freaked out about what could go wrong that they miss all the stuff that could go right. Like this one guy I dated: terrible kisser, but he was a great dancer. So what do I do? Keep going to dances with him, but make a firm close to the night with no touching.

My advice: focus on the positive, avoid the negative. Works every time!

While the world slept

Mann Baer Pigg
Columnist

In the late 1930s, as the British government ignored the growing threat of Nazi Germany, Winston Churchill warned his fellow Englishmen, "The era of procrastination, of half-measures, of soothing and baffling expedients, of delays, is coming to its close. In its place we are entering a period of consequences."

Today, these words are more relevant than ever. Despite the overwhelming evidence that our world is facing catastrophe, our government has so far done nothing about it. And time is running out. If we the people do not rise up and demand action, the world will soon enter the period of consequences.

I am speaking, of course, about the disaster scheduled to hit Earth in the year 2012.

I recently had the chance

to view Roland Emmerich's documentary about the coming apocalypse, aptly titled *2012*. On the basis of that experience, let me assure you: it's going to be horrible. We can expect 99.5% of the world's population and 100% of the world's treasured landmarks to be destroyed in cinematographically stunning ways.

Emmerich's film has packed theaters, but it has not yet moved our leaders to action. Over in Washington D.C., the government spends its weeks arguing about frivolities like healthcare, while keeping their heads buried in the sand over the real issues.

Painful sacrifices must be made to prepare for 2012, sacrifices which will not be vote-getters. And after all, when that fateful year comes, President Obama and our senators and representatives will no doubt have bought their way onto the handful of giant survival ships the G8

is building in the Himalayas. They have no interest in helping the rest of us survive.

As for the media, don't expect the truth for them. There's money to be made in running endless stories

running out, some newspapers have even taken to running editions composed entirely of satirical comedy pieces. It would be hilarious if the stakes weren't so high.

Corporation-funded 2012 deniers are fond of saying that there's no scientific evidence that anything out of the ordinary will take place that year. Don't believe the lies.

A *galactic plane alignment* is scheduled to take place in 2012. If the words *galactic plane alignment* don't scare the tar out of you, the scientific facts about how it will lead to the boiling of the earth's core, supervolcanoes, tsunamis and comet impacts certainly won't.

The obfuscation and inaction have gone on long enough. This is my ultimatum to America: rise up, speak out, and demand government action to avert the crisis.

Because you, dear reader, will not be welcome in my titanium bunker when the crisis begins.

We can expect 99.5% of the world's population and 100% of the world's treasured landmarks to be destroyed in cinematographically stunning ways.

about Tiger Woods' car crash. End of the world stories sell considerably fewer papers. Guess which you'll be reading about?

Believe it or not, with the disaster only three years away and the time for action quickly

Does Professor Shim hate you?

How does this Theology professor really feel about his students? A close source weighs in.

Alshim Vin
Columnist

Probably.

(But not exactly. Yes. Yes is the short answer.

Well, I'm sorry. What did you expect? Did you want me to assure you that he's accidentally ignoring you when he walks past your sad, nervous wave in the classroom building? Come on. Really? This is college now. They don't give you a manual for these days. I'm the best you got. And get the following straight while we're both here: if he actually hated you, he would give you what your friends call "the stink." You know? He would bring himself to exert his eye muscles and focus on you, if he hated you. But he doesn't do that.

Professor Shim doesn't do that. He'd rather soft-focus on the new-smelling beige walls of that classroom building (or the new red brick walls surrounded by old red brick walls) and enjoy a few

If he actually hated you, he would give you what your friends call "the stink."

moments without having to listen to... well, you know.

So. There it is. Please don't stop me when I'm getting my soft-focus on around campus to ask if he hates you. If you have to



ask, you should know.

Why don't you take a second to think? He's my father. I tell him about every sweaty, agitated student who gets in my way to check on his/her standing in class. But I'm kidding myself of course. If my father gripes about anything to me at our

weekly Kool-Aid binge, it's about how nobody appreciates Calvinist theology anymore.

Then it's about how the younger generation thinks they like Simon & Garfunkel, but they only like Cecelia because they sing about making love. THEN, after that, the gripes are about the brown-nosing students who think it's better to smile and nod in class than to read the assignment.

Read the following carefully: if you ask me about my dad, we will mock you the following Thursday in the back room at Tofher's, where they now serve Kool-Aid. And Dr. Shim laughs hard. He laughs harder than I. Believe that. Enough. Have a great break.)



Koffie Coupon - \$1
off any (16 oz or
larger) Latte, Cap-
pucino or Caramel
Macchiatto.

(no expiration)



Yoghurt Hoek - Small
Frozen Yoghurt Sundae -
\$1.79
Enjoy fruit, nut & granola
toppings.
America's Healthiest
Frozen Yoghurt.

(no expiration)

**Absolutely
FREE
Tuition**

Redeem this coupon at Regis-
tration to receive a semester's
worth of free tuition to Dordt*!

*Coupon expires December 9, 2009

Dordt professor's rugby past revealed

Jacques Straap
Staff Writer

Once upon a time, mild-mannered history professor Keith Sewell was the most vicious rugby player in all of Australia.

Sewell played rugby professionally with the Kangaroos for three years, but decided it was no longer challenging and left the game to pursue something that could truly test him: a PhD in history.

Sewell's satellite television provider leaked the information

that he had been purchasing pay-per-view channels with Australian rugby matches. A look through the record books revealed that Sewell had indeed once been an all-star athlete.

The humble professor that he is, Sewell does not like to talk about the "glory days," but rumor has it that he has been trying for years to start of a club rugby team at Dordt. Apparently, the only thing standing in the way is the lack of a coach.

Sewell declined to comment.



Photo recovered by Shutterfly Simmons

Time for a new pitch

New recruiting tactics are suggested for football

Jacques Straap
Staff Writer

Considering the number of football players who leave after one semester of classes at Dordt, head football coach John Heavner has a difficult task ahead of him as he hits the recruiting trail.

In an attempt to help him draw some more serious prospects, students have created a list of recruiting pitches he can try out.

- "We'll win more games, I'm sure. Two wins next year. For REAL this time: I guarantee it."
- "It's really not *that* cold, you just have to get used to it. I'm from Oklahoma, and I adjusted."
- "Sign up today, and we will have a brand new Xbox 360 waiting for you in your dorm room when you get there."
- "There is not a lot of pressure because we really can't do much worse."
- "If you start all four years with us, we'll retire your jersey number when you graduate."

Sending an athlete to do the President's job

The reasons why NFL superstar Brett Favre should be taking over in the White House

Ovaltine Jenkins
Staff Writer

Our country has slumped into the worst recession since the Great Depression. Jobs are scarce, health care is on the fritz, and people are losing hope. In these troubled times, we're all searching for answers. Well, America, let me introduce your Most Valuable President: Brett Favre.

This MVP not only meets all the requirements for President laid out in Section 1 Article 2 of the Constitution, but also is thoroughly experienced and equipped for the job. Let's consider three of the biggest concerns of our country today.

First, health care. This one President Obama just can't seem to get figured out. Leave it to Brett, folks. Remember



Mr. Favre's addiction to Vicodin in 1996? He knows pain and drugs firsthand. And you can be sure that with over 17 years in the NFL, he knows injury. Brett Favre may know better than anyone the true meaning of "health care."

Secondly, social security. In his campaign, President Obama promised to eliminate income taxes for seniors

making less than \$50,000. Too bad that didn't work out. Brett Favre is practically a senior citizen himself. And his latest gig? A \$25 million job with the Minn. Vikings. Two dips into that bank account should make the social security crisis a mere memory.

Finally, the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Our current President still has a giant

goose egg in the category of "wars fought." But what about the 2007 Sportsman of the Year? This veteran quarterback knows a thing or two about battles. If you don't believe me, try becoming the face of the Green Bay Packers, captivating the hearts of generations, even writing books and promising fans that you'll never play for another team, only to turn around and play for their most hated rival. He sounds like a politician already.

So, America, if you're searching for true change, look no further than the King of Changes. Put your dreams on the indecisive, surgically-repaired shoulders of Brett Favre.

Step aside, President Obama. Let someone with a little experience take over.

Northwest Iowa gamers: A focus on the truly talented on this college campus

Know the name

A look at Dordt's young talent in athletics

Jacques Straap
Staff Writer

One word comes to mind when watching Zach Davis play: natural. His motions are fluid, his decision making is flawless, and his instincts are ferocious. He sees the field well, and takes little time to eliminate a vast number of enemies. Davis is a Halo superstar.

Since he was a young teenager, Davis showed tremendous promise as a potential Halo star. During high school, everyone knew him as "Master Chief". His success was unprecedented in his home town of Struble, Iowa, and he packed up his Xbox and came to Dordt a few years back, hoping that the competition here would be a better test of his abilities.

So far, Davis has preyed on fellow gamers here at



Dordt. The only unknown left for Davis is whether or not he can make a career around his amazing abilities.

Chris Vande Griend, a roommate of Davis's who spoke on the condition of anonymity, told us that he gave up Halo after playing against Davis. "I thought that I was talented, but he slaughtered me; he had 45 kills to my three. I realized that I was going nowhere."

Ask an athlete

Diamond sports writer Schoonie Singleton goes the extra mile to ask Dordt athletes the tough questions

Name: Ryan Van Surksrum

Major: Digital Media Production- It has the least number of required courses, and electives are encouraged.

Electives: COD4

Sport: Call of Duty 4: Modern Warfare 2

Position: Light machine gunner, but working my way up to level 40 to unlock the M16 A4 in order to be an assault rifleman again.

Xbox live Gamer tag: Surks

Title: The Rainmaker

Pre game rituals: Stretching, listening to heavy rock music, making sure my batteries are charged, and removing cell phone from pocket so I won't be distracted.

Goals for the season: Get kill-death ratio up to where it was in Modern Warfare 1. Break individual kill streak record of 25 kills in a row.

How many years have you been a gamer? 21 years, 4 months, 11 days

Most memorable moment: Having Halo 2 LAN parties with like 20 guys from high school every weekend. And then being # 56 in line to get Halo 3.

How do you hope to improve from your performance in Call of Duty 4: Modern Warfare? Well theres really not much to improve on. I'm the Michael Jordan of Call of Duty.

Any particular team you really want to beat? Every time I'm in the pgame

lobby I tell the other team that they are n00bs and I will pwn them.

Gaming system preference: Xbox 360 with wireless controller.

First gaming console: 1985 Nintendo Entertainment System

Biggest Pet Peeve: When I unlock a call sign or title, i have to search through 29 pages to get rid of it, just so it doesn't say NEW in bright green letters. I know its new; stop harassing me.

Favorite people to play with: trentg12, Roghog, theo 657, draih21, LEP-ROSY623

Other comments: I'm so much cooler online. And I think we should rename the Zircon the Zurks-con.

Live statue displayed in campus gallery

Galton McTavish
Staff Writer

Visual arts and the written word collide in the opening of a new art show in the Campus Center Art Gallery. The show entitled “Schaap finds Christmas” celebrates the re-releasing of Dr. James Schaap’s new book “Finding Christmas” and will be displayed in the gallery from Dec. 14-18.

The English and Art departments have joined together to design the show, which will feature Dr. Schaap in a series of poses that capture the true meaning of Christmas.

“We wanted to make a statement about the way we can discover the true meaning

of Christmas in many unlikely places,” art professor Jake Van Wyk said. “The English department volunteered Dr. Schaap as a model to display this intricate poses, and we agreed.”

Throughout the exam week, Schaap will be living in the gallery – holding a series of poses that demand focus, strength, and a strong aesthetic sense. As he performs the intricate poses, English students will be reading passages from Schaap’s new book.

“I think I am up for the challenge,” Schaap said. “I’ve been training for months for this show. Even though I will not be able to move for hours, the expression of art is worth the sacrifice.”

Each day the exhibit will change as Schaap works his way through expressions of the Christmas story.

“Some of the poses may take awhile to understand,” Van Wyk said. “But that’s art.”

Schaap says he knows some days will be harder than others. “I know the day I perform ‘Snake in the Grass’ will be easier than the day of the ‘One Legged Man doing a Cartwheel,’” Schaap said, “but I think my training will pay off in the end when I tell everyone the true meaning of Christmas.”



Dr. Schaap promises to “captivate audiences with [his] search for ultimate Christmas truth.”

Photo by Shutterfly Simmons

Jingle writing contest

Music department sponsors Christmas song competition



Ernest Lamberg Watkins
Staff Writer

What? A friendly competition between Dordt students

Who? You!

When? Right now!

Where? On Campus, at home, in the sewer—wherever you find your creative juices flow best!

Why? To spread Christmas cheer. Who are we kidding?—to win the prize, of course!

How? Who knows? Figure that part out on your own.

The first annual music department-sponsored Christmas Jingle Contest officially starts right now! Hurry, grab a notepad and jot down those tunes that have been spinning in the back of your mind. Put words to it and turn it into the next great Christmas song that everyone will disown come spring.

Make sure to fill out the 20-page application form and turn in your masterpiece at www.iwanttowinwoodenshoes.dordt.edu before Christmas or

your chance at happiness will be spent.

What is the coveted award that will be presented to the winning song? Something so close to students’ hearts that it is almost a rip-off as a prize. A wooden shoe Christmas tree topper! That’s right: move over, star; back to heaven with you, angel! We Dutchies are going to hang shoes on the top of our trees now—and they’re wooden!

But “What are the qualifications and guidelines to this contest?” you ask. It’s easy, you must have a valid Dordt ID, be cooler than a lump of coal, and your jingle must meet the following:

- It should encompass our wider worldview as a Christian body.
- It must mention President Zylstra at some point and degree.
- No foul language, and absolutely no mocking our Dutch, Christian Reformed heritage.
- Include at least one question and answer from the Heidelberg Catechism.

Make it good people! The winning jingle will be sung at next semester’s convocation!

Ask an artist



Name: The Prankster

Class: Undisclosed

Major: Classified

You claim to be an artist. What exactly is your artwork?

I am an artist – I improve pieces of art created by my fellow artists. Right now I am focusing on “The Gift” by Prof. Van Wyk.

Why did you choose that statue? What needs to be improved?

Are you kidding?! That thing isn’t even clothed! And is it a man? Or a woman? What is reaching out for?

And you solve that by...

Look, I am here to give students a chance to see what the statue should look like. So I add things to the statue to give it a concrete meaning. What good is art if you can’t understand it?

What are some of your most notable creations?

This semester I attempted to draw focus to the health care issue by putting pumpkins with political messages in each of the statues hands. I feel that really got students to focus on current events. I also tried to play up the mythical side of the statue by making it look like The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe’s Mr. Tumnus.

Do you have any big plans for the future of “The Gift”?

I do. Art really cannot be considered “good” if it means something different to everyone. But I really can’t give away future details. All I can say is that my next edition will be a commentary on Dordt’s history and may involve a mink coat.

PAT'S

JEWELRY CENTRE

Check out our wide selection of engagement rings, wedding bands, diamond pendants, and much more!

Every Dordt College student receives a discount of 20% off!

Notes of Inspiration

Bonaventure Smee

Staff Writer

“Party in the USA”
Miley Cyrus

I hopped off the plane at LAX with a dream and my cardigan.

Welcome to the land of fame, excess...am I gonna fit in?

Jumped in the cab: here I am for the first time, Look to my right and I see the Hollywood sign.

This is all so crazy, everybody seems so famous.

My tummy’s turnin’ and I’m feelin’ kinda homesick: Too much pressure and I’m nervous.

That’s when the taxi man turned on the radio, And a Jay-Z song was on.

So I put my hands up: they’re playing my song The butterflies fly away. I’m noddin’ my head like “Yeah!”

Movin’ my hips like “Yeah!”

Got my hands up, they’re playin’ my song And now I’m gonna be okay, Yeah! It’s a party in the USA!

Maybe you have lived in rural Iowa your whole life. But, as someone who comes from a big city, let me tell you that when I arrived three years ago, I went through an experience similar to Miley’s.

When you arrive in Iowa, there is an overwhelming feeling of being lost. If you are anything like me, you feel that at any moment you could be enveloped by the corn and be lost forever.

Miley’s experience of feeling nervous and questioning whether she will fit in proves to be an issue for many of us here at Dordt. But we can overcome, just as she had to. If we can find our way, our butterflies fly away. Obviously, there is a little bit of Miley in all of us.

As we look to the future, we can take advice from Miley, and learn from her way of doing things. Flip on the radio whenever we feel there is too much pressure, when your tummy’s turning and when you are feeling homesick. If it works for Miley, it’s bound to work for us too. After all, this song has defined our generation and our nation.

It’s a “Party in the USA.”

Wise Walter

Dear **Wise Walter**,

I went to the new *Twilight* movie by myself to try to subtly meet women. Was that a good move? I did talk to one girl. She hinted that she "might" see it again. Should I see if she wants me to come with?

Sincerely,
Space Cadet

Dear **Space Cadet**,

Well, it would have been nice to have contacted me before you did this. I have a 24/7 hotline for these sorts of things. Not to mention I check my Blackberry and e-mail about every two seconds. You are in a tough spot. If you go again, you might have to explain why you saw it the first time. But you can play it off, and say you were meeting a good friend, who couldn't make it because she got called away to work.

Making fun of yourself first is not a bad move. I did that after I saw *Becoming Jane*, *The Time Traveler's Wife*, *The Devils Wears Prada*, and *Confessions of a Shopaholic* by myself. Really confronting your shame and complete lack of social skills is always a good move. Trust me, I know what I'm talking about: I write generic answers to life's problems in a school newspaper for free.

Sincerely,
Wise Walter

Dear **Wise Walter**,

A friend of mine keeps saying awkward comments in the middle of casual conversations, what should I do?

Sincerely,
Concerned part-time student living in the duplexes

Dear **Concerned part-time student living in the duplexes**,

You should respond by saying as many awkward things as you can back and see if the person notices. There is nothing better than two people saying awkward comments to each other at the same time and not knowing they are saying awkward comments to each other at the same time.

Sincerely,
Wise Walter

Featured Photo



Patty Simms
Staff Writer

This past Wed., Campus Security was getting ready to do an hourly check after a quick donut run to Casey's, when they heard a commotion by the commons. Two of the security personnel grabbed their high-powered flashlights and ran to the scene. They saw a figure shimmy down one of the flag poles and take off on a scooter.

Security ran after the individual but could not keep up. The suspect scooted in the direction of the Science building and was last seen disappearing into the trees behind the greenhouse.

Later that same evening, campus security found 13 Canadian flags sticking out of the snow covered fields just outside of campus.

"The red material practically waved us over," Alan Van Voorst, Security personnel said. "It was a pretty bright signal that something wasn't right."

Campus Security already has an idea of who may be to blame. "We believe this may be an anti-Canadian statement," Tim De Groot, head of Campus Security said. "All American students and professors will be investigated."

Zircon editors may have another lead. After Wednesday's suspicious happenings, a photo surfaced in the Zircon inbox featuring a sketchy President Zylstra standing in front of a field of corn. He appears to be trying to hide something.

Further investigation is needed. Campus Security asks all students to report anything they know concerning this situation.

OVER/UNDER

Your ultimate guide on how to think.



Talmidge McGooliger
Columnist

The topic: Zircon.

Zircon is often used as a cheap replacement for diamonds, but is it overrated or underrated?

OVERRATED: Why is zircon overrated? Read these out loud and listen to yourself.

- Q: Is baseball played on a baseball zircon?
A: No, it's a diamond.
- According to my dad, my mom's engagement ring actually has a zircon crystal in it, and they still love each other (at least until my mom reads this).
- The "Zircon MultiScanner i700 OneStep" is a very good stud finder, but it cost \$70. The "Stanley FatMax Stud Sensor 400" is just as good and only costs \$30!
- **FACT!** Zircon used to be December's birthstone (that's an actual fact, not meant to be humorous).
- Zircon is just a mineral with a color that can sometimes be changed by heat treatment. That's nothing! My color can sometimes be changed by heat treatment. Example: sunburn.
- Have you ever read Dordt's "Zircon" paper? **DON'T READ IT!** It's full of lies!

UNDERRATED: Why is zircon underrated? This could take a while.

- Zircon is actually worth more than a diamond...in Scrabble.

I conclude that zircon is **UNDERRATED**. There are many good reasons why zircon should be overrated, but I need the Scrabble points so I can finally beat my grandma at the game.

Don't know what to do over Christmas break?
Here are the

bottom ten

solutions to ward off boredom:

1. Gain the rest of your Freshman 15 on holiday food.
2. Attempt to fly a kite.
3. Hit a reindeer.
4. Go to the North Pole—it's lovely this time of year.
5. Embrace your inner Eskimo while faux fur is fashionable.
6. Go ad-lib caroling to the "Chipmunk Song."
7. Bring back global warming.
8. Re-gift last year's unwanted presents and insist they're not used—they're "vintage".
9. Give a minute-by-minute update of your family Christmas parties on Facebook or Twitter.
10. Try to build an igloo in southern California.

VALUE AND TRUST

www.centerstonejewelers.com

Center Stone
JEWELERS, INC.

Dordt Students receive
25% OFF!
On all in stock bridal

736 North Main Ave.
Sioux Center, IA 51250
712-722-1601