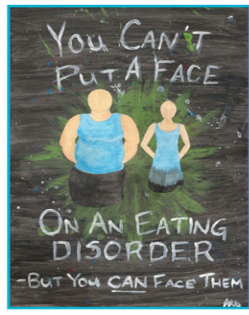




Dordt hosts dancing competition to raise money for kidney transplant



Dordt recognizes Eating Disorder Awareness Week Feb. 21-25

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Dordt College

10 February 2011

Issue 8

“Here’s to you, Ms. Robinson”

One-on-one interview with Pulitzer Prize winning author, Marilynne Robinson



Photo by Emily McFarland

Kenny Gradert
Staff Writer

Harper Lee. William Faulkner. Ernest Hemingway. John Updike.

Such giants of American literature share a common honor: the Pulitzer Prize in Fiction. Dordt College’s Andreas Center gave campus a wonderful gift when it brought fellow Pulitzer Prize winning author Marilynne Robinson to campus on February 7, 2011 as a lecturer in Dordt’s First

Mondays Speaker Series.

After her morning lecture on “Where Does It Come From?,” Robinson was kind enough to give me an interview.

Kenny Gradert: You’ve set two of your novels in Iowa. You’ve lived in our fair state for over twenty years while at the renowned University of Iowa’s Writer’s Workshop. You’ve called Iowa the “shining star of radicalism.” What do you truly think of this state?

Marilynne Robinson: Insofar as I’ve experienced the state, I

like it very much. It certainly is a place where I’ve chosen to live a major part of my life. It’s a beautiful state and I love the history of it. Of course it doesn’t always live up to the best moments of its history but in general it seems to me a good civilization.

KG: Is it still the shining star of radicalism?

MR: It struggles to be! (Laughs). In certain ways, yes, and no.

KG: The main character of Gilead, Reverend John Ames, is a pastor that seems to go against popular negative images of Christians. He’s sophisticated yet unpretentious. He’s educated—well-read in contemporary philosophy and theology. He can hold his own against skeptic, sophisticated atheists. Did you purposefully create Ames to go against stereotypes?

MR: In a certain sense, I knew I was writing against stereotypes. I myself have had the privilege of knowing elegant, sophisticated, and well-meaning pastors and I would have simply been falling into the cliché if I had been describing something else. I struggle with the tendency that some Christians have to stereotype themselves.

KG: In what manner?

MR: Well, to forget that they have a profound intellectual history behind them, to use scripture in ways that are often sort of abusive because they are not

conscious of history and contexts in ways that people like Luther and Calvin were conscious of. I think that people often are demanding respect for Christianity who are not themselves, it seems to me, respectful to the best traditions of Christianity, including intellectualism.

KG: What was your first experience with writing?

MR: When I was a little kid I fiddled around with writing poems. I’ve always done it.

KG: Do you still write poetry?

MR: No—no, no, no, heaven forbid. I got to a certain age and realized how bad my poetry was!

KG: Do you have an intended audience for your fiction?

MR: It’s hard to know. This sounds odd, but in a certain way, my characters are my audience. Because if I do something that feels wrong to me, it feels like I’ve wronged them.

KG: In your morning lecture, you discussed the “mystery of being.” I think often we have a hard time seeing that mystery. How can we train ourselves to see more mystery in life?

MR: I read the Scientific American all the time. There are new cosmologies and things like string theory, where they just sort of fracture assumptions and talk about the deeper realities that are so elusive and so surprising. And just consider the incredible improbability of this little luminous planet in an obscure corner of

what is, for all purposes, an unimaginably gigantic explosion. Consider the fact that we can feel that anything is ordinary. The ordinary is the most amazing thing in the universe.

KG: It’s interesting to hear you talk about science that way, because often it seems that people come to science as a way to demystify the world. You’re saying that if people dig deeper with science, it’s a way to bring to light the mystery of the world.

MR: Absolutely. And I think one of the things that religious people deprive themselves of is what science actually is and does. The whole fabric of existence is unbelievable. I think that too many religious people are afraid of science. Maybe physicists can look at what they describe and feel as if that’s a simplification. But I think in general they don’t feel that at all. I think that awe is something that more or less saturates all cutting edge discovery. Just to be afraid of science as a category when if you look at it—and I mean real science, not these doodle books that come out—it’s a great enrichment of theological consciousness.

KG: Thank you so much for your time. I hope you enjoy campus!

MR: I think it’s been a success so far!

Tim Pawlenty kicks off the Presidential Lecture Series at Dordt

Rachel Mulder
Staff Writer

Tim Pawlenty, former Minn. governor, spoke at Dordt College Monday night as the first of several speakers in a new Presidential Lecture series hosted by The Family Leader.

“The Family Leader is a Christ-centered organization that will lead with humility and service to strengthen and protect the family...our goal is to honor and glorify God – not a political party, not a candidate, and not a program,” said the Family Leader website.

Pawlenty’s speech was evidence for his support of family and faith. “We have to put individuals and families in the driver’s seat...we don’t want to be a country that turns away from God, we should turn to God,” said Pawlenty.

“Iowans play a vital role in hosting the first in the nation presidential caucus,” said Bob Vander Plaats, president and CEO of The Family Leader. “The Presidential Lecture Series is a focused strategy to facilitate meaningful exposure to the candidates.”

“As far as funding goes,

the series is sponsored and funded by the Family Leader, [Dordt] is simply a venue,” said Sonya Jongsma Knauss, Dordt’s Director of Marketing and Public Relations.

Pella Christian High school and the University of Iowa are two other venues at which this series will take place. Once a month these three venues will host a prominent political figure. The next speakers in the series are Congressman Ron Paul, Congresswoman Michele Bachmann, and Senator Rick Santorum.

“Dordt is nonpartisan and does not take political stanc-



Bob Vander Plaats stands with former governor Tim Pawlenty in a press conference prior to the lecture.

Photo by Zac Edens

es on issues or candidates,” said Jongsma Knauss. “I think that any time Dordt has an opportunity to host

nationally prominent politicians of any party, it is a good opportunity for us and for the entire community.”

Dea-ncing with the Stars

Dance competition at Dordt will serve as a fundraiser to save a life



Adam McDonald
Editor

You can try to take a seat, but when you see these dancers perform you'll want to get up and move with them.

Dordt College will be hosting "Dea-ncing with the Stars," a dance competition and fundraiser where experienced dancers will partner up with amateurs and dance their way to the number one spot.

The money raised is go-

ing to help former Dordt student, Dea Lieu's Medical Expense for a kidney transplant, so he can then continue his agricultural ministry to the poor in the Ivory Coast.

"I have done other fundraisers patterned after the TV show 'Survivor' and 'Who Wants to be a Millionaire.' I always thought it would be fun doing one patterned after Dancing with the Stars," said event coordinator, Vern Eekhoff.

I read Tim Gallagher's article on Dea's situation about all the trials, hardships, and sacrifices he has put into his ministry to help his people back home in the Ivory Coast. The least we could do is give some of our time and talents in one short evening to help Dea carry out his mission."

There are six experienced dancers coming from Robin's School of Dance here in Sioux Center. They will be paired with six inexperienced contestants from five nearby towns. The professional dancers will have only two short weeks to come up with a freestyle

ballroom dance routine.

The participants are Amy Doppenberg, Monica Aalbers, Nicole Baart, Cesar Gomez, Pastor Verlyn Boone, and Rick Kooistra. The experienced professionals are Lee Stover, Loken Vande Vegte, Jonny Grotenhuis, Mel Knobloch, Ashley Wood, and Amanda Hulstein.

"I want to tear up some floor and have some fun," said sophomore Johnny Grotenhuis. "Dancing has always been a passion of mine, and I can't wait to show off our routine."

The professional dancers had to be willing to give their time not only to teach an inexperienced dancer a new ballroom dance, but also choreograph a routine to perform in front of a large audience in the B.J. Haan auditorium.

The criterion for being a contestant was not only to embrace Dea's situation, but be willing to raise one thousand dollars from their local community.

Picking representatives from five different towns adds to the excitement and

friendly competition to have people come to watch and support their dancer.

That evening the audience will be able to participate by using their cell phones to vote for the dancers of their choice along with the judges.

The judges will be Bob Vander Plaats, President and CEO of the "Family Leader" out of Sioux City; Robin Van Es, owner of Robin's School of Dance from Sioux Center; Kiley Seligman, dance teacher at Dancers Unlimited in Spirit Lake. Jenna Rehnstrom, news anchor of KCAU T.V. Channel 9 Sioux City, will serve as Master of Ceremonies for the evening.

The event will be held Saturday, Feb. 12 at 7:00 p.m. in the B.J. Haan Auditorium.



PLIA Preview

Bryan Visser
Staff Writer

PLIA has added two new sites for students this year.

Those who signed up for PLIA may now find themselves assisting in service projects in Las Vegas, Nev. and Salt Lake City, Utah.

PLIA (Putting Love Into Action) is a spring break service program that sends groups of college students to sites across the country to help where they are needed doing a variety of jobs.

"Activities range from working with children, doing construction, painting, working with homeless, helping charities, homeless shelters and putting love into action anywhere needed," said Bjorn Vaagensmith, area leader for the Las Vegas site.

PLIA leaders have high

hopes for PLIA this year.

"I hope that Dordt students and the people that they affect, will feel refreshed and be ready to further the kingdom of God as they learn more about who they are and who they want to be through Jesus Christ," said area leader Kelsey Reitsma

"I am super stoked for this PLIA year! I believe God is going to do some really cool things this year so be ready if you plan on going!" said Bjorn.

Those who signed up for PLIA help to further God's kingdom while growing in their faiths.

Unfortunately for those who may be interested in signing up for PLIA, the deadline for applications passed Feb. 4. Prayers go out to all who will be traveling over spring break.

Commons TV: Let's change the Channel

Danielle Richards
Staff Writer

For students who eat in the Commons' west dining hall, Jane Velez-Mitchell and the program HLN is a common meal-time conversation topic.

"Through compassion and honesty, Jane reveals perspectives not seen anywhere else to deliver one of the most compelling hours on TV," the official HLN website states.

"I like the way it fills me in on the news for the day since I don't really watch news in my room," said freshman Courtney Kelderman.

But many students have questioned the appropriateness of recent headlines such as "Father Accused of Dismembering Child" and "Brutal Pigeon Shootings" during meal-times.

"It barely plays any news that my friends or I actually want to hear about, and the news anchors act as if every part of the news story is like some dramatic Spanish soap opera," said freshman Jordan

Bousema.

Other students have suggested other shows that they would rather watch.

"There are better quality shows that we could be watching while we eat our meals, like either ESPN, local news, or anything is better than what we are watching now," said freshman Joe Solorzano.

"We picked HLN because it gives headlines and lets

students catch up on what's going on. We've had requests for other programs, but how do you decide what to show? Everyone won't agree on one program," said Carrie Foods representative Jeremy Vandenberg.

Students wishing to learn more about the program can visit HLN's website at www.cnn.com/hln.



Please don't stop the music

A new band on campus encourages students to start rocking



Kelly Zatlin
Editor

Photo by Aanna Stadem

Amos Slade, the only current alternative rock band on Dordt's campus, is speaking out in hopes that talented musicians who have a passion for music will step up and create bands.

Their three members Kenny Gradert, Nick Engbers, and Caleb Buum, share this passion and want others to help in bringing back the music scene at Dordt.

Several years ago, there were a total of five student

bands on campus. Today, there is only one.

Kenny Gradert, the band's drummer, expresses disappointment as he remembers the days when rock shows were a part of the culture at Dordt.

"I thought it was cool when I came to college and there were all these talented rockers," said Gradert. "Not only did I enjoy that scene, I partook in it and contributed to it and now it's died away."

Nick Engbers, a 2009 Dordt grad who sings, plays the guitar, and writes many of Amos Slade's songs, encourages students to get out there and make music. "It's an outlet to say fun things in a fun way," said Engbers. "Be creative with it. You also meet a lot of people that way."

Gradert brings out one of the many perks of being in a band on a college campus like Dordt. "It will get you chicks," said Gradert who is happily

engaged. "I met my fiancé at an east campus block party show. I'm not even lying. She fell in love with the drummer."

Though "getting chicks" is a definite plus, Amos Slade is all about the music.

"I don't care what kind of music there is as long as people start bands," said Gradert. "And that was another cool thing; there was a lot of variety. You didn't have huge crowds but people would still come."

If you're worried about where to rehearse, there are plenty of practice rooms on campus. If you are brave, however, you could always do what members of Amos Slade did back in the day: play in their Southview apartment where they, as Gradert said, "annoyed the crap out of everybody."

"We honestly had the drum set and the amps cranked up in Southview," said Engbers. "It was really loud."

Amos Slade, hopes to

have a show at Dordt "soon and very soon," said Gradert. "Keep your ears peeled and come to our next show."

Amos Slade, which got its name from the villain on Disney's "The Fox and the Hound", rocked a show at Dordt back in November after only having two practices. Since then, they have recorded several songs that are up on amosslade.com as well as their Facebook page which has received as many as 68 "likes" in only a matter of weeks.

"Go to our website and listen to our songs," said Engbers, who has been sending a constant flow of e-mails around the area to get gigs and expand their fan base.

The group hopes that their music might inspire students to create bands on Dordt's campus.

"This is a call for any musicians to make bands," said Gradert. "Start a band and come to a show."

Cultural fair and fashion show, combined

Marilyn Dyck
Staff Writer

The annual cultural fair and the international fashion show were combined into one event for the first time ever this past Saturday.

Linda Van Wyk, coordinator of international students, organized and oversaw the Cultural Fair.

"It used to be two events so it was difficult putting the two together," said Van Wyk. "It's exciting to see things come together."

The Students Without Borders club, which hosts the Fair each year, decided to combine both events this semester in hopes of attracting more people.

Wendy Gomez, who helped organize the fair, said one of

the purposes behind the events being combined was to reach out to the community. Many families in Sioux Center were there, as well as members from the Laos Church in Sioux City.

"Lots of people were helping out," said Van Wyk. Dordt's own 55th Avenue cafe was there providing free drinks while Olivia's Bakery in town gave away free food. Both American and international students were helping out at both the different booths and the fashion show.

The fashion show was hosted by students, Sam Yang and Adam McDonald. Volunteers from the community, as well as students and faculty strutted down the runway in the latest fashions from all over the world.

During the fashion show some of the students sang

while others performed a dance from their native country. A few of the students, like Sam Lee and David Lee who were representing the Philippines, made the audience laugh with their antics as they walked down the catwalk.

There were other various performances by Dordt students.

Dordt senior Bjorn Vaagensmith did a demonstration of Tae Kwon Do, six girls did a Latin dance, the swing dancing club performed, and Cesar Gomez showed the audience his salsa dancing skills.

The outcome was greater than years past. Gomez said that you could really see people having a good time.

There were many booths people could visit; you could have your name written in Korean, or get henna on your



Photo by Kaitlyn Hekstra

hand. There were also different foods to try, or games to play like "match the flag to the country".

Matt Bonnema, one of the Dordt students who attended the show said, "It's all really interesting; lots of variety and lots of good food."

The evening ended with a student-led praise and worship sung in different languages.

Gomez summed up the entire afternoon by calling it, "A beautiful image of God's creativity and sovereignty, and a preview of heaven."

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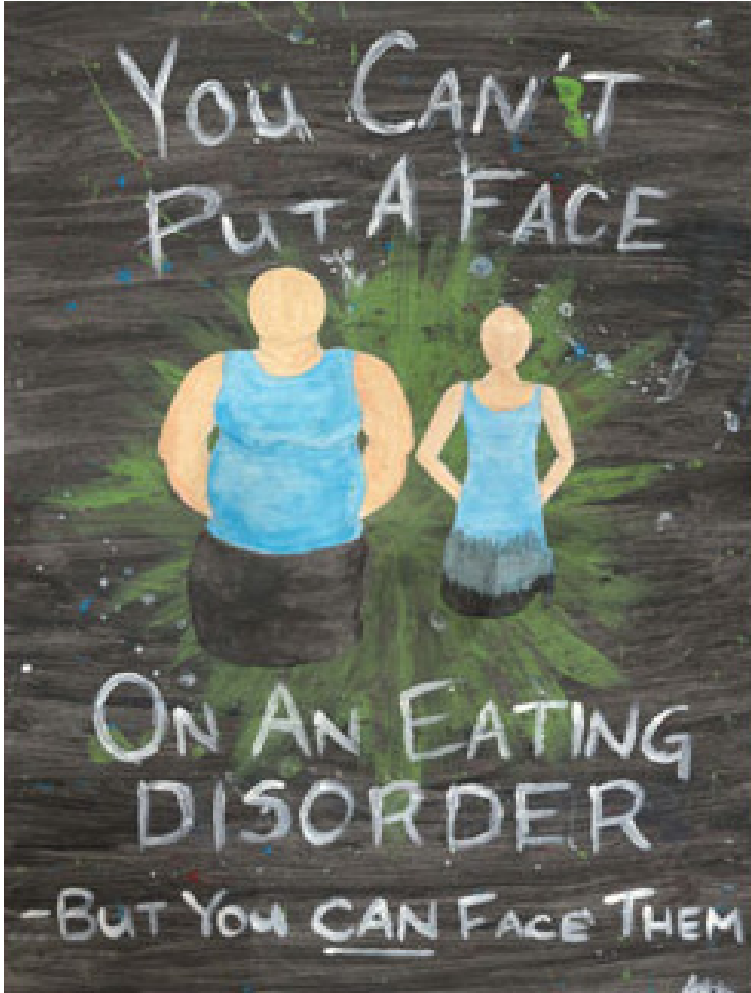
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Features

National Eating Disorder Awareness Week



Kelly Zatlin
Editor

We live in a broken world where over 45 million people are fighting a life and death battle because of their relationship with their food.

Statistics show that 80 percent of American women are dissatisfied with their appearance and 81 percent of ten year olds are afraid of

getting fat.

In America, many women are afraid of food while 15 million children in different parts of the world die of starvation every year. Why is this?

Is it because women's magazines have ten times more ads about weight loss than men's magazines or because we as a nation spend \$40 billion on diet-related

products each year?

Women all across the nation are struggling with body image and eating disorders, and our campus is not exempt.

Natalie Sandbulte, student counselor and professor of psychology at Dordt, introduces some of her classes with these stats each semester and now wants to introduce these stats to all of Dordt.

With the help of Dr. Sandbulte, Dordt College will be recognizing National Eating Disorder Awareness Week on Feb. 21 – 25 by hosting events around campus.

Sandbulte hopes to raise awareness about eating disorders amongst the Dordt campus and community.

"Up to 20 percent of all college women have eating disorders," said Sandbulte. "I've seen first-hand that women on campus are struggling, and I think we need to do more to prevent it.

"It's one of the things I'm really passionate about in my work as a clinical psychologist. I've seen it devastate a lot of lives."

All week long there are events planned around campus to help raise student awareness and promote possible change.

"One of the biggest things is a project called 'Room with a View'," said Sandbulte. "This is going to be a large

visual display depicting the four stages of an eating disorder and what it would be like for someone to go through that. You get a feel for what it would be like."

This will be located in the Eckardt lounge and will include a box for comments and a prayer wall where people can post prayer requests for themselves and loved ones.

Monday Feb. 21 will be designated as "mirror-less Monday."

Sandbulte hopes to commit everyone to covering up large public mirrors for the day with paper that is littered with encouraging messages. This is being done in hopes that women will realize that it does not matter what you look like.

There will also be a "Great Jeans Give-Away" encouraging women to give away an old pair of jeans that they do not fit into anymore.

"A lot of times people try to make their bodies something that they are genetically not," said Sandbulte. "We can't change our genes with the 'G.' Women need to embrace health, truth, and inner beauty."

Jean drop-off locations will be in the Eckardt lounge, 55th Ave), and the lobby of Covenant hall. Jeans will be donated to a charity.

In addition, there will be a movie night on Wednesday Feb. 23, followed by a panel discussion about eating disorders.

One way for the male community at Dordt to get involved is through prayer. "Men's prayer groups around campus are going to specifically be praying for women during that week," said Sandbulte.

Sandbulte is encouraged that Student Services as well as the theater, art, and psychology departments are becoming involved and making this week possible.

"My goal this year is to just raise awareness," said Sandbulte. "I'm really hoping we can make this an annual event.

This year I am focusing on making people aware so that they know just how broad the problem is."

People at Dordt may not realize how much of a problem eating disorders really are here on campus.

"I don't think we're any different," said Sandbulte. "You look at national stats and we fit right in there. A 20 percent prevalence rate is unbelievable."

Welcome to my World:

The story of a Dordt student who fought anorexia...and won

I never wanted to be like that. It's not like I planned on becoming anorexic. I just wanted to start eating a little healthier. Actually, my disorder got its start when I had to monitor everything I ate for 3 days as part of an assignment for class. After that, I figured I should start eating a little bit healthier. Three months later I was trapped in a full-blown eating disorder. Since I always had a healthy relationship with food and exercise, I was totally blinded by my disorder and in complete denial. At the peak of my disorder, I entered college as a freshman, and my body began to deteriorate. I hated college. I finally had a "light bulb" moment, and I realized that I had a problem and needed help. I was officially diagnosed with anorexia over Christmas break my freshman year. So here is a brief glimpse into my story. I hope that I can be a voice for those who suffer from anorexia on this campus. It is my prayer that God uses this brief personal reflec-

tion to show you a little more clearly what it is like to suffer from anorexia.

Darkness is everywhere. Everything is hopeless. Nothing is fun. You never smile or laugh. The life is sucked out of your eyes, and you don't enjoy doing things anymore. You don't want to be with your friends. You don't enjoy anything. You have no desire or passion for life. Your eyes look dead, your skin is pale, and your body weakens. You never look forward to anything. There is no light at the end of this long, dark tunnel. You want to throw in the towel. You don't want to be active or involved in different events. You just want to be alone with your thoughts. When it is just you and your thoughts, no one knows what is going on in your head but you. You don't have to be vulnerable, and you don't have to face rejection or your fears.

What are your thoughts like? Let me give you some examples: "If you eat that cookie, it will prove to everyone in

the room that you have no self-control. You are fat. Everyone is talking about you. You don't have any friends. You can't tell anyone what you are thinking about because then you for sure would have no friends. No one loves you. You are fat and worthless. You can't eat that. Look how beautiful that girl is. Your worth is defined by your appearance. You need to go to the gym. Do you know how many calories are in that? You need to go on a diet. You can only drink water. You are never allowed to eat dessert. Don't go to a restaurant. You will never have a boyfriend. You are a horrible and selfish person. You are a joke of a Christian. You call yourself a Christian? You are the most selfish person in the world. Why do you think about yourself all the time? You are full of sin and shame. There is no hope for you." These thoughts go through your head all day and every day. There is no escaping the thoughts. They are there when you try to do your homework. They are there

when you are sitting in church. They are there when you watch a movie with your friends. You cannot escape these thoughts. These thoughts are relentless, exhausting, and defeating.

Being a good Christian girl, you do what you were always taught to do: pray. You pray for God to just make it go away. You pray that God would just heal you. When that doesn't work, you pray that God would at least soften the pain. You pray that God would give you peace. You pray from the bottom of your broken heart that God would hear you. But God doesn't seem to answer. You feel distant from the only One who is supposed to save you. You don't feel peace. Instead, you are overwhelmed with shame. You beg God to take away your pain, but you still suffer. Any glimmer of hope eludes you. Your life is undeniably a living hell. Welcome to the world of someone with anorexia.

Now this all sounds depressing, and, well, it is. But it does not have to end like this!

The life-changing factor in this story is the grace of God. As I mentioned, God did not instantly deliver me from this pain, but I see now that God was with me through every horrible step of this journey. I see God's hand in the most painful moments, and I see how he has used this experience to shape me today. Healing does not mean that I never think about food and calories. It does not mean that I never face temptations and negative thoughts. Unfortunately, it does not work like that. However, healing means that I now have hope. I am not captive to food and irrational restrictions. God has redeemed me, and he is still working in my heart to make me more like him. I have life again, and I am free to make choices. I have passions. I have dreams. I have energy. I am a new person because of what God has done in me. May my story bring you hope today, hope that is only found in Jesus Christ. To Him be all the honor and glory.

Taking back His time



Jaleesa Dyk
Columnist

We as college students exist in an out-of-control world. We sprint from class to class, camp in the library, go crazy on the weekends, and sleep when our eyes finally clamp shut despite our best efforts to caffeinate our bodies into endurance. As Dordt students, we are repeatedly reminded of the importance of incorporating God into our crazy schedules. I'm certain that I don't stand alone in the self-imposed guilt trip that I endure following such reminders of my responsibilities as a Christian. This week especially I couldn't deny the obvious "God slap" following the echoing messages from Gift and Chapel.

Sunday night professor and writer James Schaap led his audience in viewing a series of slides depicting beautiful landscapes coupled with striking words attesting to the beauty of God's creation all set to the sound of angelic choral singing. Those beautiful words came from our one and only John Calvin, the gorgeous photos displayed the radiant beauty of our neighboring, stark white, farm speckled, manure spread Iowa landscape, and the angels singing reside in Dordt's own music classrooms. Guilt rippled over me. How many times had I complained about these very things?

As much as I thought I'd gotten the point, evidently God wasn't satisfied. Wednesday morning I shuffled into chapel barely awake as Pastor Baart and Professor Wolthuis introduced some Latin words implying a Catholic practice that I was sure would serve as a midmorning lullaby. As Professor Wolthuis walked his audience through Psalm 23 I was again shocked at how many things I overlook in the chaos of my life. Both Schaap and Wolthuis hammered home an invariably important fact: every component of every day was knit together for a reason; we need to set our agendas aside and take time to appreciate the abundance of blessings right in front of us.

A Dordt kid's adventures in Luxor: Demonstrations and Discos

Adrian Hielema
Columnist

The strangest thing happens when one tries to remember the events of a truly unforgettable day. The memory comes to you in pieces, like scenes from a movie, and you attempt to piece them together as accurately as possible. Sometimes, though, the hardest part is knowing which scene to begin with.

The disco ball sends multi-colored beams flashing around the dark, crowded room. I stop for a second and survey my surroundings: Loud music, a bunch of white people failing at dancing, and no alcohol in sight. I feel like I'm at a SAC dance.

Wait, go back a couple scenes.

The hotel employee is shouting, "Stay down, stay down," but I ignore him and rush up the stairs to the roof, where several of my classmates are gathered, leaning as far over the edge as they dare. The sound of car horns mixes with the angry chants of the demonstrators on the street below us. Before I even get to the edge of the roof, the smell hits me. How to describe it? A little like a Fourth of July display out on the Sioux Center football field, only this time, my nose, throat, and eyes are starting to burn. My hotel roommate Mikail opens up a spot for me on the roof edge.

"I love the smell of tear gas in the afternoon," he says, smiling. "Smells like revolution."

Wait, rewind some more.

Me and 26 other students on the Middle East Studies Program arrived the previous day in the beautiful Luxor, Egypt. We were on a weekend vacation from the craziness of Cairo and the escalating protests therein. Luxor, being a quieter tourist town, was supposed to be a nice place to relax for a while. As our group pulled up to the hotel where we'd be staying, one of the leaders, Chris, gave us her briefing on the situation:

"Unfortunately the Egyptian government has shut off all Internet access."

Now let's fast-forward.

As me, Mikail, and many of the other students watched from the roof, a chanting throng of protesters, numbering at least a thousand, marched down the street that runs between our hotel and the Nile. From our vantage point, we see smoke trails emitted by the tear gas being shot over the Nile and into the crowd below us. One of the friendly Egyptians beside me decides to strike up a conversation:

"You American?"

"Canadian, actually."

"Same thing," he says. I actively resist the urge to punch him in the face.

"What are you in school for?" he asks.

"History."

The man laughs and gestures to the crowd below. Now, many of them are throwing rocks at a line of riot police further down the street. "This...this is history."

Fast-forward.

The demonstration has moved further into the city, out of sight from our hotel room.

Fast-forward two minutes.

An impromptu dance circle has formed comprised of about 10 Egyptians and 15 American students. The braver members of the group take turns venturing into the center of the circle to show off their moves. Suddenly the music stops. The Tabla-player gestures down into the floor, and the rest of the Egyptians get up and head for the stair case. Naturally, we followed them down seven floors into a dark, hidden room in the basement. For a brief moment, everything is still. Then boom, the stereos start blasting a surprisingly catchy Egyptian beat and a disco ball lights up the room. The dance party is back on. I stand on the sidelines with some of the others. Chris, one of our leaders, yells at me over the music, "Why aren't you out there dancing?"

"I'm Dutch."

She laughs. "Fair enough."

Too much, too little: Where did all the Rock n' Roll go?

When I came to Dordt as a freshman, I brought my drumset.

Part of me worried that going to a Christian college would mean bidding adieu to the rock scene of high school and saying hello to four years of squeaky clean praise teams.

To my utter delight, however, I was welcomed to Dordt by not one, but three less-than-squeaky-clean student rock bands. The talent was a wonder, and the variety was even better.

I remember the cigarette-smoke-laden vocals of prog-rock Operation Joykill and the marvelously talented Chris Vogel rushing his fingers over an old acoustic guitar like a nervous tornado as he fronted the folk-rock group Peasants.

Above all, I shall never forget The Fakers. Besides encountering my first legitimate mohawk at those campus center shows, I remember the fist-pumping, punk raucousness as a veteran Dordt RA and current youth pastor led students in chanting "burn down the schoolhouse!" I'll leave you to your own moral judgment, but as a freshman, I was enthralled. None of the kids at those shows ever burnt down a schoolhouse

in actuality (to my knowledge). Metaphorically? Perhaps.

I not only listened to Dordt's music scene. Even better, I contributed. At Dordt, I continued with a pop-punk band called The Benedict Affair. If I do say so myself, we threw one fun show. Our shows at the East Campus Block Party make up



Kenny Gradert
Columnist

some of my dearest memories from Dordt. Folks belted out our lyrics, breakdanced, and started wild circle pits all on their own. I also met my fiancée at one of those shows. (Meeting women truly is a great perk to playing in bands).

At one point during my

contributions to Dordt's music scene, there were five active student rock bands. But in recent years, such musicality has become part of a bygone era.

Today, I count how many active, fully student/alumni bands exist on campus. To my knowledge, besides a fledgling group I'm in—zero. Correct me if I'm wrong (by playing a show).

Bring the music scene back!

I know there are guitarists, bassists, and drummers out there. You need not limit yourself to praise and worship ensembles. Write your own music, get a group together, and throw some shows! Play Elton John covers—I don't care. Do anything! You need not be strictly rock and roll either. Dordt has hosted a handful of rappers too.

Dordt used to have a thriving music scene. Before my time here, even more bands existed. Campus even used to host "Cornstalk," the Iowan Woodstock—outdoor music and barbecue.

Bring it back! I'm aching for the days when Dordt was a bastion for bands, mohawked and rowdy or not.



my *feminist*
LABEL

Let's stop "shoulding" all over ourselves

Ally Karsyn
Columnist

Bottles and cans were scattered across the length of the coffee table and the kitchen floor was wet and dirty from tracked in snow. I was at my boyfriend's house with a group of our friends.

A little after midnight, his roommate started picking up a few cans and dishes out of the living room while everyone else was playing cards around the kitchen table.

One of the guys told him to stop cleaning and join the rest of the group. Then he looked at me with a smirk and said, "Ally will clean it up tomorrow. That's what girls do—cook and clean."

He was teasing me, of course, probably just trying to get a rise out of me. I just shook my head and said, "Not this girl."

But then one of the other girls at the table picked up on his comment and said, "That's what girls should do—cook and clean and watch the kids."

I didn't exactly want to get into positive/negative ramifications of the women's movement on a Saturday night, and I was about to leave anyways so I leaned over to my boyfriend and said, "That's my cue to leave."

To a point, I knew where she was coming from—she's a young mother earning her degree from a community college. But my guess is that she resents having to get an education, having to do it all.

After all, wouldn't it be easier to say forget college, forget having a career. Give me a husband, a cookbook and some laundry detergent and I'll be set for life.

My best friend, who I've known since high school, didn't go to college because she wants to be a stay-at-home mom. She was expecting her future husband to be able to support her.

That was long before her darling boyfriend dropped out of college. She might have to do it all too—work, raise a family, keep a house—without a college degree.

She's never wanted a career.

But as I watch my mom, 53 and recently unemployed, try to find a decent job without any higher education, I'm thankful for the opportunities I've been given, for the chances I've taken, and for the people who believed in me and inspired me to reach for something more.

I know what I need to do.

Sports

Dordt track athletes make Nationals

Kristin Janssen
Staff Writer

The Defender Track & Field team has had a successful season thus far. With only two meets left, nine athletes have already qualified for the NAIA National Indoor meet in Geneva, Ohio, on March 3-5. The women's 4 X 800 meter relay team (Merissa Harkema, Kendra Kroeze, Katie Bonnema, Michelle Steiger) qualified last weekend. Steiger has also qualified in both the 3000 and the 5000 meter runs.

Bonnema, a freshman, is looking forward to the opportunities running at Nationals will give her. "It will be a good learning experience," she says, "plus, I'll get to know my teammates better."

The men's 4 X 800 team, consisting of Ryan Tholen, Tim Bierma, Nathan Brace,

and Josiah Luttjeboer, has also qualified for Nationals. Luttjeboer, a four-time Indoor Nationals qualifier will be running the 4 X 800 for the fourth year in a row. Regarding Nationals, Luttjeboer says he is most looking forward to the team bonding and competition. "Competition at that level is fun and intense."

Briana Wubben, a sophomore qualifier in the high jump and 60 meter hurdles, also has one year of experience at the National competition. Now that she has qualified for the meet, she feels relieved and hopeful for the rest of the team. "There's a good chance more of the team will still qualify," said Wubben.

The Defenders traveled to Storm Lake this past Saturday and will host the next meet on February 12.

Superbowl Fun Photos



Photos by Aanna Stadem

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Ask an Athlete

Jennifer Van Der Hoek
Guest Writer

Name: Jordan Janz

Year: Senior
Major: BuAd Marketing emphasis

Sport: Hockey

Hometown: Denver, Colorado

How long have you been playing/what got you started? I was 5, and my dad is from Canada and grew up playing hockey, so he got me started.

What is your best pre-game pep advice? That eliminates a lot. I always have pasta before a game and listen to AC/DC, and I have a routine for putting on my equipment.

What are your plans for next year? Looking for a job in marketing and plan on playing beer league hockey.

What is your favorite sport to watch? Hockey

If you could change one thing about hockey, what would it be? Play-off games shouldn't be allowed to end in shoot offs at the college level. If it's so important that you're in the play-offs, you shouldn't

be allowed to end in a shoot off.

What are the best and worst part about practices? I don't think there really is a bad thing; my 2 favorite things about practice are more time on the ice and getting to hang out with the guys in the locker room. I guess the worst would be when we're punished by skating lines.

What else are you involved in around campus? I'm on the golf team, teach "learn to

skate", and I'm on the athletic committee, too.

How many Defender Dollars did you have left over at the end of last semester? I spent them all. I bought a lot of scones and cookies at the end of the semester... and took our back-up goalie out on a date once.

Where is your favorite place to eat in Sioux Center? The Ridge



Photo by Dave Walters

Packers fans meet in Grille area to cheer on their team to victory!



Photo by Aanna Stadem



This ain't your mama's horror

Adam McDonald
Editor

Dordt senior Jason Kornelis and juniors Jonathan Posthuma and Clare Laverman have taken on the task of performing, producing, and managing the play "Bat Boy" for Kornelis' senior show.

"Bat Boy" is the story of a small West Virginian town thrown into turmoil after the discovery of a strange human/bat hybrid in nearby caves. A local veterinarian and his family take in the creature, who they name Edgar, and "civilize" him, but the rest of the town suspects he may be the cause of the mysterious cattle plague. Edgar strives only to be accepted by the community, but when the

tension reaches its breaking point, Edgar's terrifying origin must finally be revealed.

"'Bat Boy' is in many ways a homage to classic B-rated horror films--dark and stormy nights, mad scientists, weird monsters, that kind of thing," said Kornelis. "Sometimes it can get a little corny and melodramatic, but that's intentional. Vincent Price and Bela Lugosi would love this show. There's some violence and mild language, so parents might not want to bring small children. I'd say it's maybe a PG-13 musical."

Jonathan Posthuma is the official director and is in charge of rehearsals and music. Stage manager Clare Laverman, has the task of keeping everything organized and focusing on the minute details so Jonathan and

Jason can focus primarily on the play.

"We have a brilliant design team that's coming up with costumes, set designs, lights, and many other things. It is a great musical in the sense that it's clever, weird, and simultaneously hilarious and poignant," said Kornelis. "The music is fantastic, and the script is incredibly witty. There's definitely a lot of social commentary going on, but it's never preachy; you could go all three nights and not learn a thing, if you choose. Whether it makes you think or simply entertains you, it's just plain fun."

The performances are April 13, 14 and 16.

It was quite the RUSH

Aanna Stadem
Staff Writer

I felt the rush. The two hours that were spent at the Northwestern dance performance, RUSH rushed by as the stage was filled with different styles of dance, genres of music, contrast of colorful costumes, and diversity of students

The energy and enthusiasm was apparent from the moment I stepped into the auditorium hall to the curtain call.

RUSH is an annual event at Northwestern College that embraces the fact that anyone can dance. Each year approximately 200 students are involved in roughly three weeks of intensive practices, encouraged teamwork, and an

incredibly exciting weekend of performances.

Tara Wiegel, Emily McFarland, and Teresa De Wit of Dordt College participated for this year's show. "RUSH is neat because it gives all students who love to dance the opportunity to do so through several different styles of dance," Weigel said.

RUSH encompassed a variety of energetic dances, such as swing, ballet, modern, and hip-hop. As often as the dances switched, the performers did too.

Whether it was a group of girls skillfully doing pirouettes, guys showing off the latest hip hop moves, or couples swing dancing to the "Zoot Suit Riot," the whole show was sure to keep the audience enthralled.



Photo by Aanna Stadem

Dordt Theatre chooses french comedy as next project



Tartuffe
Molière

Alex Urdike
Staff Writer

"Tartuffe," a French dramatic-comedy, is already in progress as the Dordt theatre department's next mainstage performance.

The play, which involves an insincerely pious villain attempting to dupe an unsuspecting Christian family, has an excellent balance of both drama and comedy as it shows the seriousness of

Christian piety while mixing it with subtle humor that keeps the audience interested and entertained.

Why "Tartuffe?" Well, as director Simon Du Toit said, Dordt thought that it was "time to do something fun." Many of Dordt's previous plays, while excellently done, were either serious dramas or musicals.

Professor Hubbard and Professor Ter Haar came to Du Toit and asked him to choose a classical play with

a comedic element as "they felt it would be a nice thing for the community."

Through consideration and communication, the trio of Dordt theatre professors came to the conclusion that "Tartuffe" was the play for them.

But "Tartuffe" was not simply one of many choices for the talented director; "I've loved this play for years," said Du Toit. "It's wonderfully well-written and perfectly structured--it practically directs itself."

He described the play as tremendously funny and warm, as well as having a good balance between funny and serious, a play which has a richness about it which has always been attractive to him. Rehearsals are well underway and "Tartuffe" is set to hit the mainstage Thursday, February 24th at 7:30 PM.

Amusements

Comic Mishaps by Meghan Aardsma



RED, white, and Bruce

By: Joe Venhuizen, Staff Writer and Adam McDonald, Editor



Joe: "Red" was pretty entertaining. It was an action movie, and it was a comedy, though it didn't do a great job of either one. The action was thoroughly unrealistic, and the laughs were by no means constant. And a lot of scenes actually developed rather slowly for an action/comedy.

Adam: I would agree. "Red" felt like another excuse for Bruce Willis to blow things up. But I will say that partnering Bruce Willis and Morgan Freeman was a good call for the director. I was entertained, although I wouldn't buy the movie I would rent it via Redbox.

Joe: Yeah, this movie's not going to win any awards. But it is a pretty light movie to watch with a group of guys. It's one of those you don't have to worry about talking through. That's part of the fun of the movie.

Adam: That is so true, Joe. You know, it's the kind of movie that warrants sarcastic comments, funny jokes and stupid humor. Please do not take this movie seriously. If you feel a need to watch an action movie, watch "The Rundown". If you have a need to watch a comedy, watch "Tommy Boy". If you have a need to watch a stupid action comedy, watch "Red".

Joe: You know, I wasn't disappointed when I watched this. I think the best part about "Red" is that it doesn't pretend to be something it's not. The producers know it's unrealistic. They know it's kind of stupid. But they play it up, and that's half the fun. Don't expect a masterpiece. Just throw it in with a few guys and have a good time.



Dave De Wit
Columnist

Keys to Fake Success by Dave De Wit

Today's lesson: **Basketball**

Step 1: Talk yourself up, e.g. "Scored 40 last time I played; it was an off night."

Step 2: Use basketball terms in your day-to-day activities. "Alley-Oop me that coke can." "Box out a spot for me in line!"

Step 3: Drink Gatorade.

Step 4: Get tattoos on every inch of your body.

Step 5: Create a "baller" nickname for yourself. Choose anything that sounds cool, preferably a dangerous animal, and if you're white, add "White" before whatever cool name you chose.

Step 6: Drink more Gatorade.

Step 7: Watch the 1996 live-action/animation film *Space Jam* minutes before game time.

Step 8: One last shot of Gatorade.

Step 9: Fake an injury during the tip-off.

Congratulations! You're now a fake successful basketball star!



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