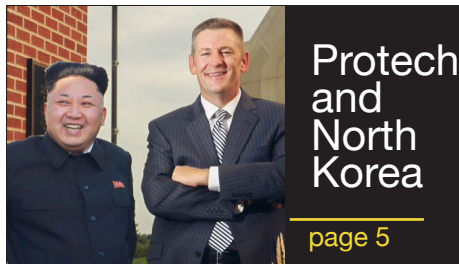




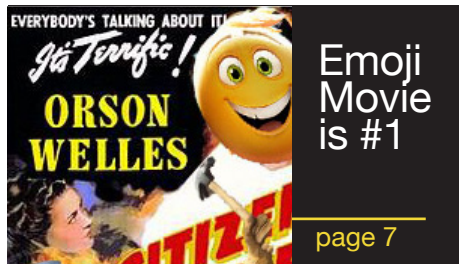
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THE ZIRCON

Dordt goes Amish due to anti-technology sentiments

Ezekiel Don - Staff Writer

Dordt has decided to go Amish. The increased rate of students facing depression due to a two-day Facebook outage pushed Dordt administration over the edge.

Dordt College has decided to withdraw itself from the age of computers, smartphones and social media.

They plan on fully mirroring the lifestyle of Amish communities.

Starting next school year, the teachings of Abraham Kuyper and John Calvin will no longer be the major doctrine that Dordt adheres to and continually references. Both Calvin and Kuyper are to be replaced by Jakob Ammann, the founder of Amish Movement.

"Technology in our life brings nothing but addiction. These addictions have caused Dordt Student to spend hours of their time going on Facebook," said President Erik Hoekstra. He has asked not to be called president anymore but now prefers Brother Hoekstra. "Student grads have plummeted. And this is the solution we have decided upon."

He is not wrong. According to a recent statistic, Dordt students spend 15 hours a day on Social Media. Students' average grades have dropped from B's to C's.

"Facebook stops essential human communication," Hoekstra said. "Technology does this in general. Dordt is losing its community because of technology and adhering to the Amish lifestyle will help put an end to this."

Many Dordt students are not pleased.

"We need our smartphones and we need our computers," said Andrea Van Opps, a junior. "I can't live without them."

Brother Calvin, a theology Professor at Dordt, believes that adapting to the Amish lifestyle is essential to solving societal issues.

"Technology has caused major problems in

the world," Calvin said. "First, there is waste from unused phone and computers. Secondly, much of technology we use is built by children. Dordt cannot support this, we are doing this out of an effort to minimize child labor."

Most of the smartphones that people buy are created from the materials discovered in mines in Congo worked in by children.

Core 100, currently called, Kingdom Identity and Calling, will be replaced with Community, Meditation, and Work. In this class, incoming freshman will be required to spend 1 hour a day working on the Dordt Farm, one hour a day in class learning the value of community and one hour a day focused on meditation.

What frustrates students the most is the new Attire that they will be forced to wear. Women will be required to wear a long colorless dress and a hat that completely covers their head. Men will be required to wear black pants and a flat wide-brim hat.

"We will look like we are going to a funeral," said Brian Van Dorm, a junior.

"Students should not be distracted by the

things of this world such as clothing," Calvin said. "They must be free of this. We are called not to worry about our clothing. Our urge for clothing has forced people around the world to work in small stuffy rooms making the things we wish to wear. The clothing that students will wear will be handmade. We wish to decrease their interest in the material and perishable things."

Canvas, Dordt Administration says, will be replaced by chalk boards. Students must make their own personal chalk boards to use as planners. Every students grades will also be placed on a large chalk board in the middle of campus.

"Adapting to the Amish way of life is nothing new and is done in a lot of countries and different educational systems around the world," Calvin said.

The aim, Dordt says is to help increase community at Dordt, as well as detangle itself from system in the world that both intentionally and unintentionally promotes human suffering.

Photo Credit: Sandy Sanderford



New complex in-progress

Boaty McBoatface - Staff Writer

Last week, board members voted to begin accepting bids for a new apartment high-rise.

If all goes smoothly, the board is hoping to see construction begin as early as next summer. The building will be finished by the fall of 2020.

The new building; however, is not planned to house students. Early thoughts and ideas show that the building is designed to house parents and family members that are not ready to let their child go to college alone.

The thought is to allow parents to live on campus anywhere from a few weeks up to the entire first semester with their freshman children.

Cody Kaemingk, an admissions counselor at Dordt, says that all too often he is met by parents that aren't sure if they are ready to see their babies leave the nest quite yet.

"I think it's a great idea to give parents an option to live on campus for a while with their child until they're ready to see them start a new chapter in their lives," Kaemingk said.

There are mixed feelings on this topic throughout the school. Many think it sounds silly to bring your parents to college.

"College is a time to make your own decisions," said senior Carol Stevens.

Others see this apartment complex as a "helpful transition for families" into an unknown chapter in their lives.

Dordt is focused on growth and maintaining a strong community within its campus. The zoning committee said that building a new place for people to stay could possibly be what kicks Dordt College into the next gear for growth.

Kaemingk later added that if the complex falls through, the planning board also introduced an idea for super-senior housing. The building will also house several psychiatrists to help assist super-seniors with their guaranteed last effort to change their majors once again.

Faculty member's cage fighting legacy exposed

Anneli Kanerva -- Staff Writer

Since the beginning of the semester, students have seen English professor Mary Dengler making her way around campus with a boot on her leg. Despite the injury, Dengler has continued to instill fear in her students while on crutches or zooming around in a power-chair.

Students around campus have theorized and whispered rumors about how she injured her leg, but even the most far-fetched theories cannot compare to the actual story.

A video has surfaced on YouTube showing an epic sparring match between Connor "The Notorious" McGregor, a UFC cage fighter, and an unknown female. In the video, the woman and McGregor spar intensely for the majority of a round before the woman sustains an injury. Before the video cuts out, McGregor lands a powerful kick to the woman's lower leg and she collapses to the ground.

For months, the internet has been theorizing about the mystery woman's identity, but her hair and the angle of the video hide her face entirely from view. Some speculated that she was a fellow MMA fighter, others said she was

a stunt woman or amateur fighter.

However, using advanced biometric technology, the Diamond has been able to identify the unknown fighter using a clear shot of the woman's ear. The technology revealed that the ear was a 98.7% match to Dengler.

This match was publicly confirmed by McGregor, who said, "She's one of my favorite

people to spar with, she really holds her own. Honestly, I would say she beats me 50% of the time. I felt pretty terrible when I hurt her leg, but she knows my weaknesses now. I'll have no chance the next time we fight."

The newly christened "Dengler the Wrangler" has yet to comment on the video, but many professors are unsurprised by this

Photo Credit: Yellen Ingird



discovery. Some of her fellow professors say she is "the scariest person I know" and that she is "actually Chuck Norris."

A professor who has chosen to stay anonymous said that Dengler terrified him into starting the Kuyper Scholars Program, Dordt's honors program. Students in KSP are notorious around campus for balancing continually on the edge of insanity and can often be found procrastinating and talking to themselves at extremely late hours of the night.

A professor from University of Nevada, where Dengler previously taught, said that he once witnessed her roundhouse-kick seven men who tried to mug her. She knocked the men unconscious with a single kick, and the muggers later went to jail for the attempt.

"I always knew she had a dark side," said sophomore Mandy Marsh, a KSP student. "I can totally see her as that one guy from Fight Club or Bruce Lee. Either way, I would not want to run into her in a dark alley."

This summer, she plans to make a cameo appearance in then new Netflix series "GLOW."

Engineering programs incorporates MINECRAFT



Photo Credit: Sandy Sanderford

Scrilic Fajita - Staff Writer

MINECRAFT for Dummies (EGR-MOJO) will be added to the course list in the 2018-19 school year. It will be a required course for all Engineering majors.

"We want to equip our students to be ready for anything," said Engineering professor Steve Brick (steveyforprez893). "When our students graduate we want them to know how to use every computer platform for engineers. It's part of 21st century technology and communication."

"MINECRAFT for Dummies" is a newer program for Dordt, but the professors think that the students will find the content helpful.

"We expect some reluctance from the students at first, but we hope they will take it seriously and really learn something," said professor Jane Blond (silentcatfighter54).

The content of the program will introduce the students to basic building and collecting techniques. Lessons such as "Beat the tree til' it gives you wood," "Dig, dig, dig," and "Kill the chicken" are all taught the first day. Building houses and properly picking flowers for dye are learned a few weeks in due to the intensity of the program.

"I have played Minecraft for a few hours before," said luckcharms777, a senior who wished to remain anonymous due to the fact

that he was procrastinating during the interview. "After only 300 hours and countless redstone circuits, I've made a train that sorta works and goes about 10 feet."

The professors who teach this course have each made accounts and created a party. Inside this party world, they have built museums and workshops that students can go online and play around in.

Students will begin with Creative Mode in order to learn and get a handle on all the tools in the program. Redstone will be the basis for the program as it is used in working, moving, and creating active objects.

The second half of the semester will focus on Survival Mode. It will teach the students to be constantly watching their backs for spiders and listening for the distinct warcries of zombies, skeletons, and slendermen. Registrants will also get the chance to trade with or completely take over villages and redeem everyone.

"Students will get a chance to grow virtual farms and breed animals: pigs, chickens, cows, and sheep," said professor Cob Stone (sand+fire=glass33). "We will teach them the right way to dig. Straight over, straight down. How to identify contents of rocks and what tools to use to properly mine them so you don't lose it."

Professors will also explain how to lay tracks, build castles, and make working microwaves.

The final assignment will be to create a stone castle with four bedrooms and a spell room, craft a full-body diamond armor suit, and collect five artifacts from five challenges. Students must also make five loaves of bread and catch two baskets of fish to trade with the villagers. The ultimate challenge is to build a portal to another dimension and slay the dragon that lives there.

"I'm excited to make a bed and make my character sleep all day," said Ty Eard (needmoreschool919). "I want to hug one of those green guys with four little feet, they seem cool. Oh, I also want to travel in one direction forever. I hear from the class it promotes 'flat-world thinkers'."

For students and faculty who are new to the game, there is much to learn.

"I love to build blocks, I also love to destroy blocks," said President Eric Hoekstra. The course's initial inspiration originated with President Hoekstra himself (eric4th_prez4_20_12) when he studied Block Building back in college. "I would really love to see our students involved with a creative side and be able to communicate with the younger generation by bricks."

There's so much more than meets the keyboard in Minecraft. Professors and students are excited to try this new program platform in the classroom, but warn that the homework load will be pretty heavy.

Laundry scandal sends students for a spin

Heidi Way - Staff Writer

Last Saturday, students were in an uproar during an organized protest outside Covenant Hall's laundry rooms. A resident of Covenant Hall, sophomore Becca Blizzard, had discovered two laundry machines in the far corner larger than the others, but for the same price.

"Normally it takes two loads for me to get all the laundry done," said Blizzard. "I ended up going to the far corner to put my laundry in that fateful day, and noticed something was different about these machines. I was all too right, I only had to do one load! But it was the same price!" said Blizzard. "Can you believe it? It's twice the size! All this time I could've saved so much money. I've been cheated!"

Erika Hunter, a junior Political Science major, organized the protest, appealing to her fellow students' sense of justice.

"We have been oppressed for too long!" Hunter said as she stood in front of the crowd, "See how the upper classes are abusing their power. These unfair laundry practices are a sign of the long-standing oppression of the elitists. The time to strike is now! We must put an end to it before this college becomes a despotic state!"

The mass of upset students began marching

towards President Hoekstra's office to make their complaints heard.

College students are notoriously conservative with their money. The average Dordt student is even more so, due to the heavy influence of Dutch culture and their renowned thriftiness. It didn't take long for the situation to boil over. Students began fighting over the machines. People crowded around the two washers, trying to get their laundry in. Students shouted, jostled and even called names. Someone reportedly took another person's laundry out of the machine while it was running. Campus Security had to be called in to keep the peace.

The administration has expressed confusion at the chaos.

"It's really a great system," said Greta Nell, a member of the housekeeping staff. "This way students can choose whether to do a lot of laundry or a little laundry and nobody has to pay more! I'm honestly not sure what everyone's upset about."

When originally purchasing the machines, Dordt had the option of either choosing washing machines that were all the exact same size but different prices, or having different sizes with the same price. Ultimately they decided to go with the second option.

"We thought it would be less confusing that

way, and nobody has to pay more. It's a win-win," said Cindy Groeneweg, Dordt's Facilities & Services Coordinator.

President Erik Hoekstra commented that perhaps there was not enough variety in washing machine size, and commented on future plans.

"We're phasing out the current machines," Hoekstra said in an interview as the crowd of students chanted outside his office. "Each new one will have a random capacity anywhere between two tons and a single sock. Of course, to keep things simple and fair, it's all going to be the same price."

Lucinda Woods offered an opposing opinion with the support of her roommate Blizzard. "I'm not sure the machines are quite double the size. Last I checked, the only reason that you had to do two loads in the smaller ones was because you had just a few extra clothes, so you split the load into two half-loads. I mean, that technically still makes the two machines bigger, but not by much."

The protest was eventually quelled to some degree, but students in all areas of campus remain disgruntled.

"This is outrageous!" senior Matt Bluman said. "First I lost a sock, and now this! I've just about had enough. That this would be allowed to happen for so long... it really shows the sad

state of America today."

Despite the complaints, Dordt administration does not seem willing to change their current plans regarding the washing machines.

"I don't get what everyone is getting so worked up about," Groeneweg said. "We're giving them more choices. Isn't that a good thing?"

Photo Credit: Sandy Sanderford



Students hide drug ring in old campus greenhouse

Anneli Kanerva - Staff Writer



Photo Credit: Sandy Sanderford

The old greenhouse near the science building is worn-down, relatively unused and the perfect place to hide a drug ring.

On Nov. 7, Blaze Stinkweed, Mary Jane Pot and Herb Reefer were expelled from Dordt for growing, selling, and smoking Marijuana out of the old greenhouse on campus.

The school first learned of the situation

when an anonymous source informed the school of smoke rising from the building at 20 minutes past 4:00p.m. every day. The school immediately began an investigation into the report and discovered the students had been growing and smoking weed in the greenhouse since the beginning of the semester.

"It was pretty easy to be honest," Pot said.

"We all watch Breaking Bad but none of us like chemistry, so we figured we could change it to fit our mutual strength: agriculture. We just bought the seeds online and had them shipped here. Later, we got a key to the greenhouse and we were golden."

On Nov. 6, the school seized an unprecedented 20 marijuana plants from the greenhouse along with several hundred kilos of dried product from the students' dorm rooms. All three of the agriculture students have refused to explain how they grew so much by themselves.

"We are baffled at how they were able to grow so much," said a Dordt representative. "It's almost impressive. Just goes to show how good our agriculture students are at what they do."

The students did not offer a defense for their actions and told the school their exact motives for creating their illegal business.

"We're broke college kids, we needed the money," Reefer said. "The growing and selling part was just to cover tuition. The smoking part was just for fun, man, you know what I'm saying?"

When asking students around campus how they felt about the events, there were a wide variety of sentiments. Some were sad to hear about the expulsion of their classmates, while others thought it was warranted.

"Dang, there goes my supplier," said Zachary Hughes, a senior at Dordt. "Truthfully, I don't see what the big deal is about weed in Iowa. It's legal where I'm from! I guess Colorado is just ahead of the curve, man."

Nancy White, a junior at Dordt, said, "I think they earned it, they didn't even think the whole thing through. I watch a lot of Narcos on Netflix, so if they'd asked for my help they never would have gotten caught."

The expelled students are already making plans to continue their college education despite the set-back. Stinkweed plans to attend University of Colorado Boulder, Pot plans to attend University of Washington and Reefer plans to attend University of California-Berkeley. Not coincidentally, marijuana is legalized for recreational use in all of these states.

Paranormal activity in cadaver lab

Anneli Kanerva - Staff Writer

The thought of having dead bodies on campus is unsettling for some, but even the toughest students are worried about reports that these cadavers are “coming alive.”

The cadaver lab, one of the crown jewels of the science program at Dordt, is now an area of scrutiny for many students. This lab is meant to provide valuable experience to students, but some refuse to go near it after having strange experiences inside.

“I was just about to leave when I saw one of them flex its fingers,” said senior Noah More. “That’s not even the first time something weird has happened in the lab. Sometimes things move around or disappear and we can’t explain why. I’m so freaked out, I’ll never go in there again.”

Security cameras are rare on Dordt’s campus, so many students have requested that cameras be installed in the cadaver lab to capture this so called “activity.” Campus security has denied the request so far, claiming that there is not enough evidence to make the cadaver lab a legitimate security concern.

“Look, some kids are just hyped up after playing ‘Humans vs. Zombies’ this semester,” said Biology professor Jelsmy Jelsma. “This is the first year we’ve had cadavers on campus and people are just being nervous and superstitious.”

Some students are interested in seeing the cadavers in action so they have taken matters into their own hands; setting up cheap cameras and camping-out in the hallway in hopes of capturing evidence of cadaver activity.

“It was pretty terrifying,” said senior Bob Welsh. “I put a baby monitor in there and waited in the hall, but I fell asleep. At 2:04 a.m., I woke up to this weird static feedback, but it was too dark in there to see anything. I even checked the cameras, but they cut out too.”

Understandably, people are worried for their safety and a group known as the Zombie Awareness Program (ZAP) has formed to look out for the welfare of students. ZAP is a group of students who feel they are qualified to protect their fellow students should the cadavers attempt to leave the lab. It is not uncommon to see ZAP members “on patrol” wandering the halls of the academic buildings armed with miscellaneous weapons. The school does not endorse ZAP but it seems that campus security has given them space to roam.

“I can’t understand how some people don’t believe us,” said Holly Blue a senior at Dordt. “I had my hand in one of them when we were doing a dissection and I swear on my life I felt the heart beat in my hand. Since then, I haven’t been back and I’ve changed my major from biology to education.”

Photo Credit: Sandy Sanderford



New club promotes engagement

Mack Ranum - Staff Writer

This is the second year in a row Dordt has received #1 in student engagement in the Wall Street Journal. As such, engagement expectations are similarly soaring.

Dordt’s newest club, “Dordt Together Forever” recently emerged to celebrate this achievement. The club welcomes everyone, and as of their meeting last Monday has 76 attending members and over 200 social media members. The purpose of the club is singly focused – any suspicion of potential marriages is tracked down and recorded instantly.

However, because of the club there has been some confusion. According to Janice Rich, club organizer, 5 out of 6 students walking around campus seen wearing rings are confused for being engaged.

“I was so sorry! I had just momentarily confused my right and left,” said Jane Van Den Derp (married), after congratulating a bewildered freshman in the library. In response, purity rings and graduation rings have been packed away in sock drawers and pencil boxes to avoid embarrassment.

“I can’t believe it; a \$200 ring just sitting on the shelf. But there’s no way I’m flashing that in the Commons!” said sophomore Maurica Smith (single), when asked about her class ring. Even students with dollar-store, birthday-party favor trinkets are peeved but not brave enough to stand up to nosy fellow students or the intense

curiosity of “Dordt Together Forever” club members.

Quiz Bowl chose all their questions for this year related to historical marriages to commemorate Dordt engagement, according to Jakob Smithereen, quiz bowl coordinator (engaged). However, not all of the questions were necessarily historical – some of them rather personal, said Smithereen. One of the team members faces (single) was reported to turn tomato red during a portion of the quiz bowl.

Dordt wants to students to feel safe, and continue their education without fear of suspected engagement, said a Student Services representative (engaged).

Consequently, to avoid confusion, Dordt requires any students who are engaged or married to receive “#1” temporary tattoos to differentiate them from other students and resolve any conflict that might arise. The cost of the tattoos will be fully covered by an anonymous donor.

Any students dating are required to pick up their temporary tattoos from Health Services by the first day of classes in January and apply them where they are easily visible. The use of forehead space is strongly suggested.

In the meantime, the college hopes to successfully resolve potential engagement confusion while celebrating their highest national achievement of bringing people together. Forever.

App adds FindME feature

Edwardo Snowmon - Staff Writer

Searching and looking for roommates or a current or potential significant other? Dordt students no longer need to go to DCC to know where their friends’ rooms are, nor do they need to send messages regarding when they would be eating.

Starting after Thanksgiving, Dordt is expanding the capabilities of the Eatable app with a new feature called FindMe. The new feature will be able to track and monitor other students with the goal of building community.

“The purpose is for student to be able to build community by quickly finding their friends and perhaps their significant other,” said Robert Taylor, Director of Lots of Things, while looking at his computer that shows little blinks of where students are.

FindMe would work by having “Location” search for other students with the app. Once registered, you can find and track the movement of others, and they can do the same for you. For an added bonus, anytime a person appears in the Commons or the Grille alone, their status will automatically be changed to “Alone, and in need of company.”

“I have been trying to find time to meet up with [junior] Brian de Smith, and, you know, get closer to him. He’s so shalom-y,” said super senior Maddie DeVon, who failed to get her Mrs. Degree in four years and was held back from graduating. “This app would enable me to know where he is at all times. I cannot wait for the end of Thanksgiving break to come, and for the search to begin.”

DeVon is not alone. Few Dordt seniors that are about to graduate have been able to complete the additional Core requirement of an Mrs. Degree, and those unhappy students hope that

this app will bring them closer to their goal. For freshman, the new feature would be invaluable for helping them get a ring before spring and be married off during the summer.

“I heard once you are married, you get half-off tuition” said Engineering freshman Jake VanMon. “I don’t have a girlfriend yet, but this [app] would certainly increase my chances. I barely have enough time to meet new people, or to begin starting a relationship. There’s not a lot of engineers who have time to find searching singles. This app will surely help with that.”

The Eatable app, introduced during this semester, received a positive response from over 75% of Dordt students, many of whom stopped using their cards at all in favor of the new app.

“This new feature is just like extra pepperoni on the Grille pizza,” said freshman Brett VanWall.

However, there are several students who are skeptical of the addition.

“The tracking features are a violation of people’s privacy. I don’t want some creep knowing where I am 24/7. Privacy trumps community,” said de Smith.

But Taylor disagreed.

“That’s not the purpose of the app. Students who say otherwise don’t understand community and perhaps should think about taking Core 100 again. We want students to strive to fulfill Dordt’s goal of being both number one in engagement, and number one in the hearts of the community. It’s not like we’re especially tracking students who are known for pulling pranks, or anything like that. We definitely don’t hire people to pose as students and collect that kind of information, not at all.”

FindMe will be going live yesterday.

#PaveThePrairie gains traction

Isaiah Jacobs - Staff Writer

It all started as an inside joke about three years ago. In the back corner of the science building, a handful of disgruntled students prepared to head out to the prairie for the third week in row for a class they wanted no part in. Their professor, an environmentalist if there ever was one, reiterated the importance of experiencing the beauty and grandeur of the Dordt prairie. It was in this moment that a student leaned over to his fellow peer and whispered, “We should just pave the prairie.”

And thus, a movement was born.

It did not take much for the #PaveThePrairie movement to gain traction at Dordt. Students have long complained about the lack of convenient parking around campus, especially seniors living in Kuyper. By paving at least the front portion of the prairie, enough parking would be supplied for students as well as community members who are forced to park on the street for sporting events. With a new parking lot, Dordt would no longer have to share Siberia with Sioux Center.

This means students would no longer be inconvenienced by having to move their cars to the fairgrounds whenever a big game is being played.

“I think the #PaveThePrairie movement has

done a lot to raise awareness about the need for parking here at Dordt,” senior Brenda De Boer said. “People are starting to realize that we aren’t using our campus space very efficiently with that massive weed patch in our backyard.”

In addition to the parking problem, many have raised issues with the high levels of allergens generated by the prairie itself.

“Every fall when those flowers bloom, my sinuses get all messed up,” junior Kyle Vande Noor said. “It’s even worse during the spring.”

Pair these complaints with the growing concern of harassment occurring on the prairie’s path, and one may begin to also understand the need to pave the prairie.

The Dordt administration is attempting to fight the movement by utilizing the prairie for events other than a handful of STEM classes. For example, the recently-built pergola serves as a place for students to hang out for the six weeks in the school year that the weather permits. The prairie also played host to the GPAC cross country meet this season. If such a popular sport cannot rally the community behind the importance of the prairie, who knows what will.

Nevertheless, the #PaveThePrairie phenomenon has and will continue here on campus until the administration is forced to give in, one hashtag at a time.

Photo Credit: Sandy Sanderford



Jenna, just married...

Sheese Bakaddit - Staff Writer



Photo Credit:

A letter from Dordt administration showed up in our mailbox last week.

As I walked down the steps to our apartment, I couldn't help but wonder what it was about. A warning about a huge tuition increase? Shocker. Did Conner get in trouble again? Of course not, he's an angel. I slit open the envelope, addressed to Mrs. Jenna Stephens, pulled it out and read the fine print.

After skimming through a formal greeting and a paragraph or two about a new Wall Street Journal ranking, I finally came to the purpose of the letter — a statistic. It said that the number of engagements between students has dropped by 40 percent in three months. The drop occurred right in step with the Diamond's publishing of my column chronicling our first year of marriage. The letter went on to say that the likelihood of finding a spouse at Dordt is one of the college's biggest selling points when recruiting students. This drop could destroy their student numbers, and they couldn't take that risk, so I was asked to discontinue my writing.

Wow, that letter hurt. I had been trying to write from the heart, showing the reality of relationships — the good and the bad. But apparently, Conner and I live really horrible, unhappy, dysfunctional lives, and people want none of it.

I handed Conner the letter during supper. He read it and then started pushing around the food on his plate without making eye contact.

"I don't blame them," he said. "If I read that column before getting married, I'd rethink it too."

And then when I looked up at him, he quickly added, "But I love you, and have no regrets, of course."

A smart man — see, he's already got this husband thing figured out.

He probably wouldn't have proposed if he knew that I put the toilet paper roll on "wrong," and I probably wouldn't have said "yes" if I knew he constantly taps his foot and bounces his knee. These are the kinds of things that break up marriages. But we're in the thick of it now, and after making promises to each other, our families and ultimately God, we'll just have to deal with it.

This column wasn't supposed to be an ugly representation of marriage. But apparently we are a wreck and people can't handle reality.

Why am I writing all of this? Because I want you to save my column. The only way to do that is to suck it up and get engaged. Guys, I ask that you reconsider getting out that ring — it isn't doing any good just sitting in your sock drawer until "the right time." The right time is now. Girls, quit saying "we need to talk," and just say "yes" already. Do it for the sake of your relationship. And for the sake of engagement numbers so I can continue writing my column. I can't disappoint my fans.

Thank you in advance, and I hope your marriages contain nothing but bliss and perfection. It's rather unlikely, but one can wish.

Symptoms of becoming British

The Right Honourable Reverend Doctor Lydiar - Staff Writer



Photo Credit: The Right Honourable Reverend Doctor Lydiar

I've gone in too deep.
I am becoming a British academic.
Help me.

It began when I was suddenly physically incapable of saying words that end with "a" without adding an "r." I've been introducing myself as Lydiar from Minnesotar or Iowar since mid-September. Three weeks ago, I asked for a white tea when I wanted tea with milk. Last Tuesday, I sprouted a foot-long professorial beard and a monocle (which appears to be permanently adhered to my eye socket). I've been declining ever since.

I thought I was fitting in well, but it transpires that I fit in too well. They think I am one of them. And they won't let me leave. They made me an MP. They ordained me into the Church of England. They granted me a D. Phil. for my thesis on naturalistic morality in the early Postmodern Era (which I have no recollection of writing, by the way. But I must've, and since Wednesday I've also published three books on the topic. Stay tuned for my second doctoral thesis, which is apparently on the impact popular acceptance of Schleiermacher's new religion had on the Anglo-Norman conception of eschatology. Don't ask).

I find myself unable to leave my flat—they say "flat" here; I say "flat" here—without first donning my tweeds, a woolen jumper, and a cap. The monocle truly will not come off. I have taken up smoking a pipe, in spite of all I learned in Cancer Biology last autumn. I subsist exclusively on tea and Jaffa cakes. I think traveling farther than 30 minutes is an implausibly long journey. I call Europe "the Continent." I think that 3 degrees Celsius is unbearably cold. For entertainment, I pace around the perimeter of Oxford with my hands clasped behind my back, pondering the metaphysics of nothingness and the chances that Oxford will beat Wilberfordshire in the next cricket match. I sing Rule Britannia in the bath.

It is unlikely that my transformation can be reversed at this point. I suspect that an over-large helping of sweet potato casserole and Jell-O salad eaten while wearing sweatpants and a t-shirt emblazoned with a bald eagle may help diminish the size of my beard slightly, so, if you could see your way to sending these items in the post, I would be eternally grateful. The beard is terribly inconvenient when one is attempting to tie a bow-tie.

Farewell, friends.
God save the Queen.

Everything you know is a lie

Serilic Fajita - Staff Writer

Have you ever seen the Truman Show? Harmless fun, right? But how do you know that YOU are not in one? Or are you?

Every time someone gets a lead in a play or a One-Act, that person's life becomes The Truman Show. If you don't think that is true, just hear me out.

Memorize. Audition. Roles assigned. Lead. Memorize. The world now revolves around the lead character. Depending on the length of the play, the lead's schedule of classes and time may be the determining factor for rehearsals. The lead always has to be somewhere at a specific time, and people will ensure you get there. Also, the set is staged for your big moment.

"It's weird," said senior Will Eyeam, who starred in this semester's production of "A Wrinkle in Space." "I want a doughnut, and the next thing I know my best friend has an extra doughnut in his sack lunch. Or, like the klutz I am, I trip on the sidewalk, and someone is always there to catch me."



Photo Credit Sandy Sanderford:

The other actors, director, designers and stagehands all focus on the lead. Every move, every line, everything is based off of the lead actor's or actress' moves, lines, and basically everything he or she does. If the lead messes up, the rest of the cast makes sure to mess up. The whole play is scripted out to fit the lead's needs, story and life.

Ever get the feeling someone is following you? Or maybe you got the last laundry machine available on Sunday, or you found a quarter on the floor in the library. Maybe your crush said they like you over Facebook messenger, or things are just always going your way. Yeah, that's The Truman Show. This is what acting is like. Everything has "you" written all over it.

"That's our intention," said Theatre Arts professor Josiah Wallace. "We want the actors and actresses to feel like they are being watched and listened to constantly, and we even hire workstudies to watch them intently. I know their every move even before they think about it. It's all done here at our control room in the back of the Theater Department. We watch everything."

And there's no escape. The only way to not be the center of attention in a play where a person is the center of attention is by dying. And even then, you'll be the center of attention. But wait, there's more! The script will always call for you to come back as a ghost to teach your younger protégé. That's what happened in Star Wars, right?

Or it might be aliens.

The real senior scramble

A senior genuinely terrified about the future - Staff Writer

What art this horror that doth appear before mine eyes? 'Tis my destiny, the darkness of oblivion and unemployment.

I went to the job fair on campus the other day, since I, a responsible senior, figured it was about time I started figuring out what I'm going to do with my life. I stood over by the Grille for ten minutes, then walked around the aisles of booths for different companies and avoided eye contact with every single person who looked official. I then held my free professional padfolio closely to my chest and hurried out the door and back to my apartment. Ah, what a successful evening of job-hunting. This is the most progress I've made in the "future employment" sphere of my life so far!

Turns out staring at the hiredefenders website also does not help, as I have done that for myriad hours at a time, only to have received zero multi-million-dollar-salary job offers (so far). I'll stay posted, but it doesn't appear to be promising so far. I even clicked on a couple of them, but the links didn't automatically give me a job. I'm an intelligent, overachieving, ultimately perfect, millennial student of a private college, and am thus entitled to whatever job my mouse hovers above and clicks upon.

But seriously. Every time I make an attempt at finding jobs online, it seems like I run into some trouble with one thing or another. One job posting says the company is looking for applicants with a certain major. Alright, it's fine. Let me just change my major real quick. Another wants to hire an individual with 3-5 years of experience for its entry-level position. That's cool. It's not like I've been striving toward just passing my many classes these past few years. I totally had time to be part of a large corporation's communications department for the past five years. It's fine. Still, another company promises work for a year but then it's all up in the air after that. Where is the stability? It must have disappeared with the last semblance of ability I thought I had before attempting to apply to these career fields.

It's FINE. I'm totally fine.

Clearly I'm also a liar, as this job search has driven me to complete insanity. How do people do this? My high school guidance counselor made it sound so easy, like I just had to chill in his office for a good five minutes taking a career test, look at my top options, quick pick one, then go to school and get a job and live with that decision forever. Super easy. High school me was all like, "We got this, future me." And present me is like, "Past me, what are you doing?" And now I'm, like, screaming internally all the time without a promised paycheck to alleviate the agony of my vocal chords.

I am absolutely terrified to start applying for jobs, considering I'm not even sure what I want to do with my life. I am also thoroughly terrified of not having a job when I move back home. It's a fun dichotomy, and definitely hasn't kept me up at three in the morning, staring at the black hole of darkness where the ceiling should be, pondering ways to explain to my great-aunt who told me she was proud of me once that I'm incapable of accomplishing anything more than working at Starbucks part-time while living in my parents' basement.

I have a mini-fridge that has the perfect height for a bottle of wine, I guess, so it really could be worse. I've rescinded each of my dreams slowly up until now, and this is what I'm meant to be. If only there was an office on campus that could console me, one that could lead me to the light of future employment, one to help encourage me and edit my experienceless resume, one to work with me and find a career fitted for my gifts and abilities, one right here in the Campus Center, within walking distance of my apartment. If only someone could point me towards a job.

♡XOXO ♡XOXO ♡XOXO Disclaimer ♡XOXO ♡XOXO ♡XOXO
The Zircon staff is an industrious and talented group of people who are sincerely full of # @ it. Therefore, take thee not a word uttered or written by this dastardly bunch seriously. The Zircon pages, aside from their obvious humor value, are worth a mere fraction of their printing cost. Happy reading, live long and prosper, may the road rise up to . . .

Building a ProTech empire

Guinevere Saladbowl - Staff Writer

Dordt is looking to develop these programs even more within the upcoming years, but no one ever expected the program to grow quite as rapidly as it will next semester. This fall, an astounding two hundred new international students are anticipated to attend Dordt, all of them headed in the same direction: the ProTech Manufacturing program. These students all hail from North Korea, and they plan to head back home as soon as they have completed the program.

Over fifty percent of Dordt's student body come from 500 miles away. With the addition of the two hundred students, this increases to a whopping ninety-seven percent.

One has to think, of all places, why Dordt? "We need more workers to manufacture things in North Korea," Jong Un said. "Dordt was more than willing to take our students and teach them quickly and efficiently, and if they do that while teaching this shalom-y stuff, then so be it."

North Korea's economy is in need of repair, as the CIA World Factbook reports. Large amounts of spending are focused on military expenses and not on the civilians. In response, North Korea's Chairman of the Workers Party, Kim

Jong Un, took control of the situation. In hopes of increasing production, he hoped to build a fast-track education for future manufacturers.

Dordt still wants to achieve the same things with these students as they do with all students. A Christian worldview and education are still main priorities in the program.

President Hoekstra sees this partnership as a great opportunity to expand the cross-cultural mindset of students currently here at Dordt and the culture of the incoming students.

"Just like the minds of the students, the Dordt community is growing larger," said Hoekstra. "As this community develops and heads out into the world, they are bringing Shalom to everyone they meet."

Dordt is in the process of accepting all of the applicants and arranging housing. The main focus as of now is making sure that all of the ProTech students are able to use the program's facilities despite the number of students. Despite this sudden influx of students, this doesn't seem to bother other ProTech majors.

"It's incredible," says ProTech freshman Johnathan Deer. "We all knew that Dordt was great at building community, but to have students from North Korea come and join the manufacturing program is great!"

Photo Credit: Sandy Sanderford



Classes in Memology added to course list

Paleb Collema and Klarissa Crayonedge - Staff Writer

Dordt College is set to offer a new series of cross-listed courses in both English and Communications this next Fall to satisfy the widely popular meme culture that is growing at Dordt College.

At this stage in the process there are four courses that will be offered pertaining to memes. The first course that academic advisors are encouraging students to take their freshman year is COMM 125 Introduction to Memology.

This course option is set to be a three-credit, full semester course that can give students credit in either English or Communications majors. The course will include how memes have influenced modern day social media as well as an expansive history of memes.

Many students are elated at the opportunity to take courses that involve this great source of humor in modern-day culture.

"I can't wait to get involved in these courses," said senior Frederick Van Memen. "Memes are a great stress reliever when I'm having a bad day, or I need a break from homework."

Dordt plans to roll out a second and third course beginning in the fall of 2019, each of which will be worth four credits. The first is COMM 210 Dank Memes, which will be followed by COMM 211 Spicy and Edgy Memes.

Students will look at dank memes in the first semester, which are memes that everyone can understand and are used frequently. The second course will study spicy and edgy memes. These memes are typically offensive and are often more difficult to understand.

If these courses are well received by the student body and deemed necessary to further the social and educational well-being of Dordt students, the Academic Affairs Committee on Curriculum and Academic Policy is willing

to consider expanding the courses offered involving memes. The classes will hopefully pave the way for a future degree in Memology.

The Crying Jordan Meme or a picture of an extremely upset girl with the "My Reaction when I am in a movie and the people behind me are talking" caption above the picture are just a few examples of all the dank memes that these three courses will examine.

The fourth and final new class offered will be COMM 099: Meme Generating. This course will be taught by Communication associate professor Bruce Kuiper.

"I've been pushing for this class for a long time now," Kuiper said. "I'm so glad it's finally been approved."

COMM 099 does not have any prerequisites and is open to any major. Public Relations majors especially will benefit from this class.

"With the way social media is headed nowadays, these courses are a must for PR majors," Public Relations professor Tom Prinsen said.

Prinsen said that employers are looking for all kinds of ways new graduates can relate to clients and potential customers. Memes are so widely-used now that it is standard practice to be able to create and interpret them to appeal to all age groups.

These courses will go through everything you need to know to create the best meme possible. Ranging from the history of memes to choosing the right photo to writing the caption and deciding which topics can be made into a meme, the courses will prepare you for any meme war in which you might find yourself in the future.

"We're taking 'every square inch' and expanding that to the cyber world," Kuiper said. "We need to equip students to dominate meme wars and redeem every square inch of the internet, too."

Forensics showcase planned

Silence Dogood - Staff Writer

The Dordt Forensics club will be hosting its second annual showcase for some of their work this Wednesday evening.

The Dordt Defender Debate and Dialogue Demonstration, which will take place from 4-5:15pm in CL-1144 on Friday the 17th, is slated to include eight of the Individual Event (IE) participants.

The 8-10 minute presentations include a variety of styles including poetry, after-dinner speaking, prose, and informative speaking.

1. Prose – DaNae Can't Hull
2. After-Dinner Speaking – Bethany Minivan Eps
3. Prose – Cole Wynjyqyhsi
4. Poetry – Emma Stoltzzzzzzfufus
5. Informative Speaking – Holly Testerwoman
6. Prose – Emily Schuiteman
7. Poetry – Anna Heathens
8. Prose – Anne Wrong

Topics range from the mundane to the absurd, with previous exhibitions featuring poems describing the virtues of post-it notes, after-dinner speeches on the fashion and functionality of sweater vests, prose readings from the book

of Revelations, and informative speeches on the history of kazooos.

Forensics is filled with traditions that make very little sense.

For example, speakers are often discouraged from actually reading off the binders containing their speeches that many IE styles require the speaker to hold. In parliamentary debate, if someone wishes to ask a question of the speaker mid-debate, they must stand with one hand outstretched and the other resting on their head until recognized. This has caused some confusion in previous events where the practice was not made known to a Dordt debater before they went up to the podium.

In addition, Forensics members are required to keep to a strict dress code of togas and powdered wigs all day, every day. This requirement is meant to aid students in understanding the perspectives of other famous rhetoricians and speakers like Socrates, Thomas Jefferson, Melania Trump and Britney Spears.

Dordt's Forensics club also includes a debate team, but they will be unavailable for the exhibition. Reports indicate the debaters have a previous engagement to petition Student Symposium for a larger budget.

Students test sleep schedule

Ri Porter - Staff Writer

It is a common assumption that college students never sleep. With all the schoolwork, sports, extracurricular activities and general socializing that happens on campus, this saying rings true for many.

But sometimes, it is unavoidable to put off sleep until an ungodly hour. Senior mechanical engineer Zeke DeKlok has advice for the average student to get a good night's sleep.

"Whenever I head to bed, I check the clock and mentally calculate how many hours there are until I wake up," DeKlok said.

The process looks something like this: DeKlok goes to bed at 2 a.m. He has five and a half hours until he has to wake up for his 8 a.m. He lays down and stews over this fact for a while. The time is now 2:20. He thinks to himself, "If I fall asleep in the next ten minutes, I'll get a full five hours of sleep." A few minutes come and go and he starts stewing over the time again. He checks the clock: 3 a.m.

"Unless I fall asleep right now, I won't even get four and a half hours of sleep." And so on.

"It does the double service of making me appreciate sleep more and making me regret every decision I made that day," DeKlok said.

Often, he does not need to employ this technique, as he just passes out in the middle of doing long math problems and sleeps wherever he's sitting.

But for nights when his brain has been too focused for too long and won't stop churning about homework and deadlines, his technique comes in handy.

The trend seems to be catching on. "See, I used to just mindlessly lay in my bed at night," freshman Tay KeBrake said. "But then I talked with Zeke. His technique just adds another element of excitement to my already stressful life. It's perfect."

KeBrake is not the only one following DeKlok's example. The mental calculation technique is helping to grow community and camaraderie on Dordt's campus.

"You can tell when other people have been employing the technique," DeKlok said. "Because they've all got matching bags under their eyes."

Calendar problems arise

Madi Handsome - Staff Writer

A member of the Dordt College marketing department was recently brought under fire for not meeting specified requirements in the development of the college's annual calendar.

Kim Hooyer, who has worked in marketing for the college for the better part of a decade, had been appointed with the task of making the calendar early in the summer. It was her first time leading the project.

"I was very excited for the challenge," Hooyer said. "I had been working toward the project for several years."

Unfortunately, Hooyer's dream of crafting the all-important Dordt calendar came crashing down after the first draft was reviewed.

"I didn't see the reprimand coming at all," said Hooyer when reflecting on that ill-fated day. "I've been in a state of shock since."

The problem with Hooyer's calendar was not a misprint of dates, events or anything of the sort. Rather, Hooyer had failed to place the required amount of international students in the calendar itself.

For several years now, Dordt College has attempted to break away from the idea that the school is comprised primarily of white students with a Dutch heritage. One way it has done so is by promoting itself as a campus full of diversity with an increased amount of international students being featured on praise teams,

music competitions and in Dordt publications; including the calendar.

If one were to look over the Dordt website, they notice a disproportionate amount of international students being represented. In fact, this is no mere coincidence, Hooyer claimed. Hooyer was told to include a picture of at least one international student in eight out of the twelve months.

"I knew what the requirements were beforehand, everyone knows what they are," Hooyer admitted. "I just thought I'd toe the line a little."

She went on to explain that she does not have any issue with Dordt's international student population. As a matter of fact, she has acted as a host family to students from South Korea, Indonesia and the Netherlands in recent years.

"If anything, I want to see more international students on campus," Hooyer said.

Unfortunately, Hooyer will likely not have the opportunity to add more international students into the calendar. The marketing department has a strict "one strike, you're out" policy, so it is possible that Hooyer will not be given the chance to make up for her mistakes. Common disciplines for such negligence in the past have been being forced to pull leaves off trees to hurry fall along into pleasant Iowa winters, and changing all clocks on campus to run three minutes fast so that notoriously late students can make it to classes on time

Pingpong set to achieve national prestige

Silence Dogood -- Staff Writer

As of Monday, Dordt has a new sport on the scene: table-tennis.

Dordt's table tennis—affectionately termed “ping-pong,” according to some players—club applied and has been accepted into the National Collegiate Table Tennis Association (NCTTA).

As members of the NCTTA, players on the Dordt team will play against other schools around the nation and be included in a national ranking of NCTTA member schools.

While the NCTTA is not part of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), officials from both organizations state that table tennis is expected to become an official collegiate sport within the next few months.

“It’s about time Dordt’s table tennis club became recognized as being on the next level,” Athletic Director Ross Douma said in an interview Tuesday morning. “They’re incredibly talented.”

Since the official acknowledgement of Dordt’s table tennis club as a sport, the team will now be recruiting from incoming freshman and current students. Several scholarships between \$5,000 to \$10,000 will also be offered to top players.

The table tennis club will begin competing in the 2018-19 school year, with a chance at the championships in the spring of 2019. Training will begin immediately in order to bring club

members up to professional level.

“This is fantastic,” table tennis player and freshman N.E. Bode said in response to the announcement. “It’s going to be a great experience and allow us to become even better.”

Practice is held on Friday nights in the Grille area from 7:30 to 9:00pm, but dedicated members often continue the training regimens until 10 or 11.

Table tennis is a grueling sport and requires a high calorie intake. Many players keep their energy up by eating grilled cheese or pizza and sipping soda between games from the nearby Grille.

With the advancement of the club from a hobby team to official Dordt representatives in the ranks of table tennis players nation-wide, the membership roster is expected to grow. After a larger team and national prestige has been established, petitions are expected to come before Student Symposium to install six permanent Olympic-level tables in the Campus Center. Discussions are already ongoing regarding how to obtain professional-quality balls and paddles.

Practice times are open to any students who might happen to follow the sounds of ping-pong balls echoing throughout the Campus Center. The table tennis team is encouraging any and all Dordt students to join them as the team gears up to serve into the world of college sports.

Photo Credit: Sandy Sanderford



Exciting development in sports



Photo Credit: Sandy Sanderford

Boaty McBoatface -- Staff Writer

Acting talents probe modern sports world through art of “flopping”

It’s seen in the “Not Top Ten” highlights of every Friday night episode of ESPN’s SportsCenter as athletes across the globe employ a newly-developed form of acting in sports... flopping.

This new art form has been most noticeable in soccer and basketball.

In what has become an almost daily occurrence, sports fans see players like Brazil’s international men’s soccer superstar, Neymar, flailing his body 10 yards across the pitch while writhing in pain after suffering an apparent quadruple spiral fracture to his left big toe.

This all was the result of being “tripped” by a defenseman on the opposing team.

NBA fans see LeBron James driving into the lane and proceeding to throw the basketball into the second deck while he ends up critically injuring five reporters from Sports Illustrated and USA Today under the hoop. This is a perfect example of the “flopping” concept.

This all resulted from James claiming to have been “bumped” by Brook Lopez in his attempt to lay the ball in the net.

“He knew what he was doing,” James said. “He needs to be fined for throwing me into the deck like that.”

This occurrence has been so common for LeBron James that it has been called “Lebron-ing” by sports fans all over social media for the past few years.

While LeBron is known for his flopping, this art form seems to have started on European basketball teams, according to flopping expert

senior Kyle Guinn.

“Flopping began in European basketball leagues and has slowly transitioned to the NBA,” Guinn said.

This art has spread from the players in soccer and basketball to the coaches as soccer coaches across the globe have adapted their coaching techniques to include the art of flopping.

The most notable was a soccer coach that presumably “died” on the field after a confrontation with officials.

This soccer coach disagreed with officials and preceded to grab his neck as if choking and fell to his knees because of the egregious mistake on the part of the officials. The coach then collapsed face-first into the grass and laid there as if dead.

It is only a matter of time before this style of acting translates to other sports, like football. It has been reported that Dez Bryant has been working on his flopping skills after dropping several passes in crucial playoff games.

“I think it’s needed,” Bryant said. “Especially for guys like me who struggle to catch a ball when it’s thrown right at my hands.”

According to reports from the Dordt College Athletic Department, athletes will soon be required to follow in the footsteps of pro athletes.

Beginning in the fall of 2018, the Health and Human Performance Department will be requiring all athletes to take HHP 101- Flopping in Sports to teach athletes how to flop in their specific sports.

It is unclear to what extent this will reach through Dordt athletics, but faculty and administration are looking forward to this addition to the curriculum.

Athletic department announces new allocation of funding

Klarissa Crayonedge - Sports Editor

This week, Dordt’s athletic director Ross Douma announced a new way for funds to be allocated for athletic teams. Funding will now be based upon performance of each individual team, with the better teams getting more money for frivolities such as light-up shoes and blinged-out warmups.

“We went back to the books and decided this was the best way to reward teams’ performance,” Douma said. “I see it as a good thing. It’ll give teams incentive to play well on the field or court, especially if they want those extra privileges.”

This new policy will go into effect next school year, after the athletic department can evaluate each teams’ performance for their respective seasons. Coaches will also need to submit proposals to Douma for how they would use their extra funding. With the football team improving each year, head football coach Joel Penner is already thinking of things he can spend the money on.

“Since the moment I arrived on campus, I always thought it would be cool to paint the football field Dordt gold,” Penner said.

Other teams are looking forward to ways they can use the money to push their competitive advantage above that of the competition. Nothing is final yet, but volleyball and basketball fans can look forward to having some kind of anti-Northwestern display in the De Witt for the 2018 season.

However some graduating seniors are upset that they’ll miss out on this new opportunity for their teams. Rest assured, Douma said, that alumni can come visit anytime. Even though they’ll have graduated, the legacy they’ve built up will last far beyond this year – and will be seen on some of the playing fields.

“Their work will not go unnoticed,” Douma said. “If it weren’t for the work they’ve put in during their four years here, this policy might not even be possible. And they are invited back anytime to see what improvements have been made for their former teams. #DEFENDERNATION.”

Douma encourages all players and coaches to begin working on their proposals now, as they will need a significant amount of time to be reviewed before approval and for logistics to be worked out.

DORDT COLLEGE SPECIALS

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The Emoji Movie: The Citizen Kane of our generation?

Luke Skywalker -- Staff Writer

The Emoji Movie: The Citizen Kane of Our Generation?

Last week, I saw the long-awaited blockbuster hit “The Emoji Movie.” Yes, I know it came out several months ago, but who’s writing this, you or me? This is my un-ironic and 100% serious review, not yours. Anyways, where were we? Ah yes: “The Emoji Movie.”

Expectations were high. Emojis, as everyone knows, are a popular symbol across the globe, and an absolute staple of pop culture. Who could forget such loveable characters as Train, Mushroom and Tiny Piano? Then there’s the timeless Top Hat, the memorable 8 Ball and everybody’s favorite: The Finnish Flag. Needless to say, the anticipation for this film was unlike any I’ve ever had before.

No movie could ever stand up to the hype of this colossal and ambitious project: not Star Wars, not Finding Nemo, not the Shawshank Redemption, not any Marvel movie, not Schindler’s List, not even The Bee Movie itself can stand up to the triumph that is “The Emoji Movie.”

Sony Pictures Animation once again steals the show with what is ultimately a deeply moving, highly innovative and—not at all—terrible modern masterpiece. With “The Emoji Movie,” Director Tony Leondis sets a new, even higher standard for Sony’s already-perfect track record.

The film centers around a young Emoji named Gene (played by T.J. Miller), who is a “meh” emoji. He is truly relatable in every way; from his inability to function to his inability to be likable to his inability to be funny. It’s genius. He’s the modern-day Citizen Kane.

Like the other Emojis, Gene lives inside Alex’s phone. Alex is a multi-dimensional, highly conceptual stroke of scriptwriting genius, because like most of those gosh darn millennial teenagers, he doesn’t know how to talk to other people outside of texting.

But the brilliance doesn’t stop there. This 21st century Charles Foster Kane archetype launches viewers into a zany, wacky adventure. Alex accidentally makes an unreadable face and—gasp—sends it to his crush Abbie. Now she doesn’t know what he’s trying to tell her! What will they do? They obviously can’t speak to each other, that would be silly.

So, back to our hero Gene Kane. He gets banished by Smiler, a smiley emoji and the modern-day equivalent of Hitler in the phone world. Smiley will certainly take the place of Darth Vader as the most menacing antagonist of all time.

But Gene is soon rescued by a very funny and not at all annoying emoji named Hi-5, played by the equally funny and not at all annoying James Corden. Just remember, he’s funny.

Hi-5 is also an outcast, because, he’s a hand,

so, obviously nobody likes him and he’s relatable. Another ingenious move on the part of the writers. Truly, I have never before seen a character with such depth and complexity as Hi-5. He’s not just a comic-relief sidekick—he’s a comic-relief sidekick who looks like a hand. A bold move to say the least.

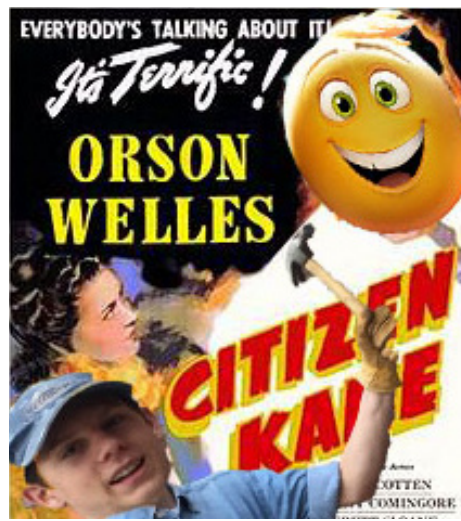
Hi-5 and Gene team up with Jailbreak (Anna Faris); a strong, independent, hacker emoji who serves a powerful image of self-empowerment for women and a perfect role model for feminism, because she’s played by an actual woman. It is truly amazing what progressive times we live in, giving women roles in movies. Jailbreak is by far the most innovative and completely original character of them all. You’ve never seen a character like her before in any movie, anywhere, ever.

One of the most brilliant artistic choices of the Emoji Movie is the use of product placement. While other filmmakers tend to stray away from the insertion of corporate messages in their art, The Emoji Movie takes the industry in a bold new step towards full length, feature film commercials. There are so many apps in this movie, from Spotify to Instagram to Twitter. It’s just like real life, guys.

Perhaps the real crown jewel of the Emoji Movie is Sir Patrick Stewart’s role as “Poop.” “Poop” is actually the first poop character in a major motion picture to be played by a literal pile of @*!#. A resounding victory for poops everywhere, as they have always dreamed of acting but never got the chance to live their dream to due to societal prejudices and bigoted casting trends in Hollywood. Indeed, it is a big step for poop rights activists everywhere.

There is no doubt in my mind “The Emoji Movie” will forever be remembered as The Citizen Kane of our time, the crown jewel of modern filmmaking that will inspire future generations of filmmakers and set the standard for the future of the movies.

Photo Credit: Sandy Sanderford



Stranger stuff



Dordt's Covenant Hall normally and in the upside-down
Photo credit: Sandy Sanderford

Mack Ranum -- Staff Writer

Something strange is creeping into Dordt. Students have reported seeing unusual happenings around campus.

Several buildings have been reported for turning upside down unexpectedly.

“I just blinked, I swear, and Covenant had flopped completely around!” said Tami Van. She described the experience as unnatural and disorienting, like looking into the inner side of a spoon. Likewise, students have been saying similar things about cars and the clock tower. The events have been written off as the combined effect of morning haze and three-month old contact lenses.

Other reports include an ongoing investigation into a secret group which has regularly been meeting in the late hours of the night. This group, suspected to have cult tendencies, have been seen sneaking into labs and classrooms late at night, appearing only as dark shadows moving around hallways with blankets and 16 oz. mugs of coffee. In the morning, the only evidence of the ghostly presences are traces of gnawed popcorn seeds under desks and weird goo left on the walls.

One youngster with a buzz cut, short stature, and an unusual style of long white shirts, who has yet to be recognized as a student, has been found stealing food from the Commons. Last week she was caught smuggling whole tubs of fruit and Eggo waffles. Anyone who spots her is to report to campus security. One defining feature is a tattoo on her arm.

Students have also been stringing Christmas lights all over campus, to the dismay of maintenance. Strings could be seen trailing from the business office to West Hall, and haphazardly around East Campus apartments. While it might seem like students are eager for the holidays, the amount of energy they consume from constant blinking has resulted in their prohibition for the year.

Post-Halloween pumpkins have been

crumbling and deteriorating all across campus, causing a stench. Maintenance has posted a notice that all pumpkins, no matter the state, be chucked before the end of the month. They have threatened to remove them soon and charge for the removal, because the stench is so intense.

The response to the popular show “Stranger Things” has been an oddity as well. With a movie poster that looks like a throwback to Star Wars, students are magnetized to this story of a fictional Indian town which smashes sci-fi and horror with Edgar Allan Poe.

“It’s so creepy!” said freshman Ted Lemongrass, his face contorting into a grotesque, crow-like expression. A whispering of the name turns half the room into terror-stricken civilians and the other half into a crowd of vociferous chimpanzees.

In English classes, the current strangeness is being analyzed in comparison to Poe’s short story, “The Tell-Tale Heart.” Poe was well-known for his parodies, according to Professor Matthews, like in other stories such as “The Devil in the Belfry” – set in the picturesque Orange City. In the show “Stranger Things” a special girl named Eleven channels her inner reality, not unlike the narrator in Poe’s story channels his version of reality. Her tendency towards silence labels her the lonely, genius figure in the story.

This seems to be a popular theme of strangeness with the theater kids especially, according to Josiah Wallace, theater professor. In the recently staged show A Wrinkle in Time, the characters were dressed in a similar 1980s fashion and battling supernatural circumstances with impossible forces, traveling to alternate dimensions of space and time.

The philosophy department posted warnings to report sightings of upside-down buildings, thieves, or other odd phenomena. They encourage students to stay safe by avoiding swimming pools, and middle schools.

Building halts on Dordt Wall

Sheese Bakaddit - Staff Writer

Ding-ding. An email notification broke the silence during the CORE-140 exam. Super senior Emily Richfield glanced at her phone and stowed it away in her backpack until lunch. “We get mass emails all the time lately,” Richfield said. “Nothing urgent.”

But her reaction might have differed had she known what confidential information it contained.

Plans for the construction of a wall around Dordt has been in the making since March 2017. Progress on the project came to a halt last week when news of the wall’s true purpose was leaked. A faculty member accidentally sent a mass email to all Dordt students rather than hitting “reply” to a fellow professor.

According to the email, the real purpose of the wall is to block the world from corrupting the college. Dordt’s administration plans to quarantine students from any outside views, preaching only the Reformed perspective. All First Monday speakers will undergo extensive

background checks. Campus security will patrol 24/7 — yes, even on Sundays — to seal the borders from anyone with radical beliefs.

In a news conference last spring, President Erik Hoekstra told the Dordt community that the wall would be built to prevent Northwestern students from sneaking across the border in search of opportunity. This notion held for months, slowly gaining support and donations. By simply hitting “send,” a faculty member caused this progress to come to an abrupt stop. Just weeks before a ground-breaking ceremony for the wall was to be held, its true purpose has been made public and the campus community is divided.

Many students are on edge. Some are in the process of packing up and transferring to more open-minded schools, arguing that at Dordt, there is no “world” in “worldview.”

Reporters spoke to super-fresh freshman Eric Kathalick as he finished putting the last cardboard box of belongings into his car.

“I need to get out while I can, and you should, too. They’re cutting us off from everything non-



Photo Credit: Sandy Sanderford

Reformed. There’ll be nothing left to redeem here.”

Other students and faculty still stand behind the building project with full support.

“I grew up in the church — I’m a purebred Christian Reformer,” super sophomore Kristin Vander Stiff said. “If we want to raise future generations of uncorrupted youth, we need to start by separating ourselves from the real world.”

With this as the biggest controversy since mandatory upperclassmen meal plans, emotions are high and many feel betrayed by administration.

Dordt officials released a statement yesterday, apologizing for the “misunderstanding”: “Here at Dordt, we want you to find your place in God’s world. Dordt is exactly that — God’s world. We’re just putting a wall around it to keep it exactly where it should be.”

DC Communists stage coup, overthrow Symposium

A Very Unbiased Comrade - Staff Writer

Nov. 7, 2017, the 100-year anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution. On this day, the Dordt College Communist Club banded together to celebrate the occasion by having a revolution of their own. Witnesses said that a massive army of students dressed in fur hats and red coats and armed with loaves of bread stormed the Campus Center early last Tuesday morning.

Student Symposium officials immediately called campus security in an attempt to extinguish the fiery flames of the kindred spirit, but efforts quickly failed when several students stood in front of the clock tower and gave rousing speeches calling their brethren to join in the “toppling” of “the oppressive oligarch regime that is Dordt’s corrupt capitalist government.”

After attempts to shut down the gathering were foiled by the united power of the working proletariat, the means of resource production were gradually seized. First, the assets of the Ag Stewardship Center were re-distributed among the student body, followed closely by the ration stores in the Commons and the Grille.

The following day, President Hoekstra called an emergency parliamentary meeting between administration officials and the unofficial club, whose presence up until now had been limited to a simple Facebook meme page. Negotiations ultimately fell flat, as the Communist Party had secured a strong base of support on campus. Party leaders demanded the current administration be dismantled due to their “long history of defending the bourgeoisie, putting the interests of the few above the needs of many.”

Administration officials were relieved of their duties, effectively agreeing to the demands of the proletariats and dismantling his autocratic position permanently, establishing Dordt College as the first private Christian educational institution to have a democratically socialist system of government.

“It was a great victory for the masses,” said Political Science professor Jeff Taylor.

Following the meeting, all classes were canceled and a campus-wide celebration was held. The DCCommunists flag was raised.

The campus instrumental and vocal ensembles banded together for a tear-inducing rendition of the National Anthem, “Be glorious, our free Fatherland.” A statue of Vladimir Lenin, sculpted by the art department, was raised in the center of campus. The army marched across the football field and gave a 1,917 gun salute to those fallen comrades who had given the ultimate sacrifice of time out of their very busy schedules to aid in the revolution.

Campus buildings have since been renamed after Communist leaders. The BJ Haan Auditorium was officially renamed “the Karl Marx auditorium,” the De Witt Gymnasium has been dubbed “The Friedrich Engels house of physical activities” and the Ribbens Academic Complex is now “the Leon Trotsky facility for common education.”

Meanwhile, the press, who isn’t at all being forced to write propaganda for their glorious leaders, interviewed comrades about the revolution.

“I think it’s great that the laborers finally have a voice,” said former Director of Student Activities Derek Buteyn, who was not tied to a chair in his office when the interview was conducted, contrary to popular belief. “The working class shall no longer suffer.”

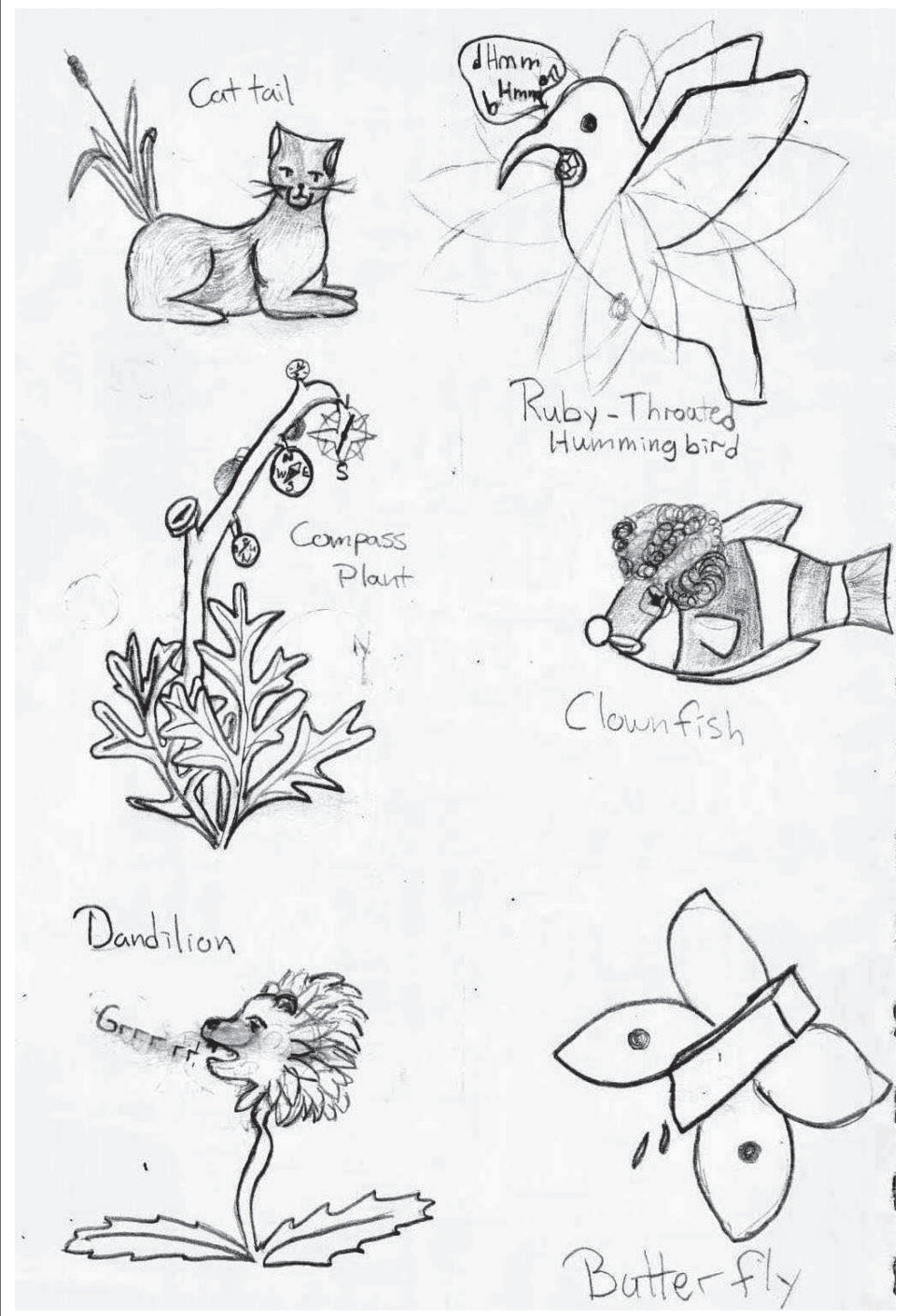
Buteyn’s position has since been changed to “Director of Campus Comradery.”

Early this week, all majors and degrees were declared null and void. Former agriculture students grabbed scythes and sickles and set to work reaping the bounty of the prairie, harvesting the fruits of their shared labor.

Engineering students grabbed hammers and began reconstructing the campus, while the humanities departments were assigned to making red and gold paint and set to work redecorating campus.

All science department funding and research efforts have been redirected toward building satellites and space shuttles. The chemistry and physics departments have since announced an upcoming “test” that will “fully display the military capabilities of our great state.” Interestingly, the former business and economics students were nowhere to be found.

Cartoon Credit: Elizabeth Helmkamp



Motivation vanishes

Klarissa Crayonedge - Staff Writer

It’s that time of the semester when students’ stress is high and motivation is low. For some more intense majors, motivation is nowhere to be found. Engineering majors’ motivations especially are at an all-time low.

Local search and rescue efforts were deployed last week after civil engineering junior Harvey Van Hollandsma called to file a missing person’s report on his motivation.

“I just started freaking out when we sat down to work on our final projects the other night,” Van Hollandsma said. “I had absolutely no desire to accomplish this task whatsoever, and neither did my motivation; so it did what any stress-induced college student’s motivation would do—it disappeared.”

Search and rescue officials soon appeared on-scene, first starting in Van Hollandsma’s East Campus apartment. They then spread out in all directions, going as far as Struble to the south, Newkirk to the east, Hull to the north

and Lebanon to the west. After three days and several attempts to find Van Hollandsma’s motivation, all efforts were proven to be futile.

“Dang it,” Van Hollandsma said. “I know they tried the best they could, but now I’m going to have to muster up enough new motivation to get this project done. Maybe the officials can write me a note for my professor to get me out of the project.”

In the case that you too are failing to locate your motivation, Campus Security encourages students to call in and file lost-and-found reports or fill out missing person’s information checklists. However, they can’t make any promises about successfully tracking down the motivation to look at the paperwork, and this time of year seems to be the busiest for them.

“Mid-November until mid-December, my guys are just swamped with calls,” said Bryce Oostra, head of Sioux County’s search and rescue team. “We’ll do the best we can, but we give each case only three days – two if we’re busy. We urge students to call as a last resort.”

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