

April 31, 20180  
Issue 5



# THE ZIRCON

## History prof cast as new hobbit for Rings reboot

Anneli Kanerva - Staff Writer

History Professor Walker Cosgrove has been announced as a cast member for the upcoming Amazon reboot of The Lord of the Rings.

It has been a lifelong dream of Cosgrove's to star as a hobbit in a Lord of the Rings movie since he was a young boy. Cosgrove used to run around his house barefoot and request second breakfast from his mother as a child. In 2002, the year after the first Lord of the Rings movie came out, Cosgrove even scraped together enough money to travel to attend the San Diego Comic-Con. The professor treasures the memory of his time cosplaying as a hobbit at SDCC. To this day, he frequently jokes with students about being destined to be a hobbit.

The unexpected journey began when Cosgrove received a call from the casting director for the series. The director said that Cosgrove was recommended to him by a Dordt alumni who now works in the film industry in Los Angeles. The alumni had mentioned that he knew someone passionate about the franchise who would also require "literally no time in hair or make-up" because he was "born for this role." The professor's stature and appearance are similar enough to a hobbit that they prompted the casting director to give him a call.

The director had screened several dozen people for hobbit roles but was unsatisfied with

his options, sensing that they lacked a strong connection with the roles. When the casting director got to speak to Cosgrove, he said he felt that Cosgrove had a good understanding of the role and was a great match.

"I knew right away that he was a viable option even though he has no acting experience," the casting director said. "You can't look that much like a hobbit and not get into the right mindset to understand the role."

Shortly after their phone call, Cosgrove sent in headshots and facetimes the casting director.

Within the week, Amazon footed the bill to fly Cosgrove to Los Angeles to audition in person. The audition proved what the casting director already knew: Cosgrove was a perfect fit.

"Thankfully, we won't have to miniaturize him in post-production," said the director. "We won't have to shrink him at all."

There is no word yet on what character Cosgrove will be playing, but he will be given a speaking role because background character roles are typically filled by extras from the local area. The casting director has confirmed that

Photo by Sandy Cheeks



Cosgrove's role is "indispensable to the series."

The professor has yet to address his students or the Dordt community about his new role. News of Cosgrove's success has quickly become common knowledge in the small Sioux Center community because of the church circuit and Dordt grapevine.

"This is the best thing that's happened to Dordt in all my years here," said Dordt professor Channon Visscher, Cosgrove's colleague in the popular Cosmologies course.

Cosgrove now has paparazzi in front of his house almost every week, causing all Sioux Center to feel starstruck. The professor reported issues with being followed around the school by students-turned-fans for weeks now. His privacy has become enough of the issue that Dordt is discussing a budget for private security.

The professor has received tons of support from the local community including numerous fanpages on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and Tumblr. There will also be a movie night held on Dordt's campus to watch the original Lord of the Rings movie the night before the Amazon series premiere.

Cosgrove's success has also inspired other professors. Visscher will soon pursue the role of Gandalf's Dutch cousin.

"I've already begun weaving cornstalks together to make a staff."

## Trump plays at the Masters

Harry Flames - Staff Writer

The recent 2018 Master's Golf tournament got a taste of the political world when American President Donald Trump forcefully inserted himself into the revered competition last week.

The President's love of golf has been no secret throughout his varied career, but the hobby has been particularly emphasized and criticized during his time within the White House. His love of the sport was perhaps most evident, however, when on April 1 he signed an executive order allowing all present and future presidents to play in the golf tournament. The media initially perceived the action to be nothing more than a strange, Trumpian prank for April Fool's Day but soon discovered, with the rest of the country, that the Order was legitimate when Air Force One landed in Augusta, Georgia, a few days later.

The stunt largely overshadowed Patrick Reed's victory at the end of the tournament, but Trump competing with the likes of Rickie Fowler and Tiger Woods caused the Masters to receive a monumental ratings spike compared to the last tournament, a fact the President was quick to point out on Twitter. Fox News transformed its entire network into a 24 hour coverage of the Augusta National Golf Club during Trump's stay, with Sean Hannity acting as an unofficial commentator for the tournament.

The historical exploit was foreshadowed on Trump's Twitter account a week earlier. The 3 a.m. tweet stated, "SAD! Fake News media can't stop lying about how I play too much golf. Just jealous of my amazing skills with so little practice. I could beat all the FAKE news anchors easily in golf. Believe me!" The executive order to play in the Masters came a week later, after the tweet was thoroughly dissected and joked about by the media and talk shows.

Despite the warnings from Chief of Staff John

Kelly about the questionable legality of the executive branch dictating over a private event, Trump played all four days of the tournament. As expected, Trump's presence disrupted the usual quiet and focused atmosphere of the tournament. Many of the other players were shocked to find many of the greens ruined after Trump had played on them, as he exercised his habit of driving carts over the putting greens, a taboo practice within golf circles.

On one occasion, Trump shanked a swing and launched his ball off course into the rough. The tournament was delayed for 30 minutes as the secret service desperately tried to retrieve the lost ball. Though the ball was eventually declared lost, Trump reportedly denied it as he moved to the next hole yelling to reporters, "Anyone who tells you I didn't find the ball is a dishonest person. It was not lost—that's a hoax perpetuated by the Chinese!"

The crowds attending the tournament were

larger and louder than in past years, as the President's supporters and critics often clashing throughout the weekend. Hillary Clinton even made a surprise appearance to watch the unusual spectacle. She was first spotted by the crowd, wandering out of the woods surrounding one of the holes on the course. It is still unknown how she got there but she claimed to be taking one of her now infamous forest walks in the area when she heard of the President's recent exploits.

The President returned to the White House the night the tournament ended April 8th. The next day in the White House News Briefing, press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders claimed Trump had achieved the best golf score in the history of the Masters but had opted to pass the winning title to Patrick Reed anyway. The PGA has denied this statement as being inaccurate.

Photo by Sandy Cheeks



## Students advocate for female mascot

Gurl Nexdore - Staff Writer

Goodbye, Carl. And hello—Carla?  
Nearly 1420 female students, representing all females in a 1500-student campus, plan to stage a walkout on Friday, April 13, to protest their lack of representation in Dordt College's mascot, Carl the Defender.

Carl is a familiar face around campus and Defender Nation. He can be found stitched on apparel, slapped onto the rear window of your mom's minivan and painted on a massive mural in the Rec Center. When Dordt released its new mascot in 2012, students found it exciting to finally have a real mascot. But following the feminist movement which has gained steam in recent months, the women on campus realized that they too have something to fight for.

"The men have had their time. Now the women need a chance to be the image of Dordt College," junior Rosie De Riveter said.

Female students, along with one male who desperately wants to impress his crush, are fighting for a mascot name change from "Carl" to "Carla." It's just one letter, but the movement it has sparked on campus is astonishing. The walkout's organizers are doing all they can to inform women about the issue. Posters hang on every Covenant bathroom stall, and West Hall wing events have become pro-Carla rallies.

The walkout will take place at 8:00 a.m. on April 13, a time suspiciously aligned with Professor Cosgrove's CORE 140 class. Campus security is currently undergoing riot control training, as their beloved tire boots and tickets

Continued on page 5



## Pop stars compete in 2020 Presidential Election

Mona Lisa - Staff Writer

Kanye West, Katy Perry, and Eminem are running for the 2020 presidential election. President Hoekstra, an American Idol finalist from 2003, is still debating whether or not he should run as well.

Unlike many political debates, that range from kind insults to literal objects being thrown by candidates, this debate is said to be a musical. Each of the candidates will be debating each other with songs.

"The debates are always boring, we have always needed something to spice it up more," says America's Media Network host Don Pen. "With a musical, we will have record numbers of viewers and higher ad money and of course, but most importantly, it will mean higher voter turnout."

Kanye West, the first of the candidates, announced his ambition for the oval office back in 2017. He will run under the campaign slogan "Making America gold diggers." His slogan, which is based on his song "Gold Diggers," is meant to signify where he hopes to bring America in years to come.

"We were once a nation of gold diggers, it's time we return to what we once were," West said.

West also says that he is not new to politics and that all of his songs have always had a double meaning.

"In all my music, America has always been my message. I have been making political music since the day I could sing. Now is the chance I can finally make a difference. I am conquest, and I am going to win."

After the musical debate, voting will be done via tweets for voters' favorite singer and the best performer. The event is said to be for 18 years and older, and throughout the speech, audio discretion is advised.

Katy Perry, who will be 35 during the election, is set to be the youngest person to run for president. Her slogan is "Making Tiger Champions."

"My goal as president is to make America into a nation of champions, of people who can overcome anything. I want to help them to be fireworks and to shine brightly."

Katy Perry is hoping she can get Christian votes and has promised to release more Christian music to capture more of the conservative

audience's votes. She says that if Trump could do it, she could, too. She has even gotten a tattoo of Jesus to show her commitment to the core Christian values that shaped her beginnings.

"On the day of the debate, my songs will be religious. You know, conservative vote turned the last election; we can use it again. I know I stand a good chance."

Perry is not afraid of challenging the other candidates.

"They are no match for me, I can easily get the vote. [West] is just too vulgar to get votes."

West, on the other hand, does not believe Perry's criticism.

"I'll be fine," West scoffed. "Trump managed, and it was his language that got him votes. I can easily do the same, and I can top him."

Some people are outraged, arguing that this is not how the presidency should be done.

"This is stupid, plain stupid," said Jeff Bush. "They don't even know how politics work. None of them have had any practice. What happens to candidates who cannot sing or rap?"

"They simply won't get any coverage," Pen answered. "Because the American people don't want them. We know what America wants, we have poll statistics."

During the debate, each candidate will be given 10 minutes to produce a song and sing it to the American people. Candidates are expected to relay their point of view and counter their opponents' opinions.

The Entrance Fee will be \$200 and the money will be given to the non-profit organization Making Presidents. The cause of the organization is to redefine the process of how a president is elected.

"I am glad that we are using diversity in how we do elections," says Pen. "We have had actors as presidents before, and we currently have an ex-show host as a president. We are truly changing the name of democracy and politics."

Hoekstra is no stranger to fame. Having nearly won American Idol with his breakthrough original hit, "Every Square Inch," he knows the pressures of being in the spotlight. The song, described by critics as "Bob Dylan meets Taylor Swift," led to a generational surge in applicants to Reformed Christian colleges.

Hoekstra has said that, if elected, he will institute the Dordt Core program in universities nationwide. He has suggested the possibility of a support rally to be held in his office, April 31..

## Higher powers reconsider Good Friday classes

Holly Day - Staff Writer

Good Friday, a day of reflection, remembrance, worship and... going to class? For students at Dordt, this is pretty typical of the religious holiday.

While other Christian colleges take Good Friday off, Dordt has historically held classes as usual. Administration received complaints from various students, faculty members and extremist religious groups in the area. Members of the faculty and administration finally decided to hold a meeting to discuss the issue after a group of students stood up in the middle of Core 180 this past Good Friday, reciting Mark's version of the crucifixion in protest.

"I wouldn't have minded, but they were using The Message," English prof Joshua Smatthews said. "That's taking things too far."

Complaints included the fact that classes made it hard to treat Good Friday with proper reverence.

"There's not much to set Good Friday apart at Dordt," said sophomore Jason Van Vanderinga. "It feels just like any other school day. I actually missed my church's service last week because I forgot it was Good Friday and just started on my homework after classes finished for the day."

This, in addition to other complaints, was discussed during the meeting this past Thursday.

"Christmas always gets celebrated because it falls at a convenient time for a break, but can't

we give students space to think about Christ's work during Good Friday?" said English prof Dary Mengler.

"Nah," registrar Bim Jos responded. "I mean, we already have chapel on Friday instead of Wednesday that week, which basically does the same thing."

Mengler conceded that that was a good point, actually.

They briefly entertained the possibility of taking classes off.

"Chances are, if we gave students Friday off, they wouldn't actually attend a Good Friday service," President Eruk Hoekstra said. "Students who live farther away would just take advantage of the extra day and drive home to spend the holiday weekend with their families, worshipping at their home churches on Sunday. So really, there would be no benefit."

They chose to continue with the usual scheduling of classes. After all, it's important to have classes as much as possible.

"Following the Bible is obviously first in our minds," said chaplain Erin Bartholomew. "But we also know that these reformed traditions have a valuable purpose. Reciting the creeds, singing the old hymns and having classes on Good Friday all serve to connect us with the faith of those who have gone before us."

Administration will continue taking a reading day as close to Valentine's Day as possible.

## Netflix banned to improve Wi-Fi

Silence Dogood - Staff Writer

Starting in the 2018-2019 school year, students will not be allowed to watch Netflix using Dordt's Wi-Fi.

In a move considered extreme by some, the proposed Netflix ban is part of a last-ditch plan to improve the Wi-Fi at Dordt.

According to statistics from computer services, 70 percent of Dordt's bandwidth goes to Netflix streaming services. The remaining 30 percent is split between 29 percent Fortnite and one percent school-related usage.

The entertainment site takes up 36.5 percent of bandwidth nation-wide.

The Wi-Fi has been notoriously bad at Dordt College, markedly degrading over the past school year. Multiple attempts to rectify it have taken place over each of the breaks, but the Wi-Fi remains touchy for many users.

"I need Wi-Fi and I need Netflix," junior Steve McGarrett said. "I physically cannot survive without both."

Dordt's Computer Services originally planned on revamping the whole system over the summer. On closer examination of the student population's bandwidth use, the department decided that limiting the use of Wi-Fi for entertainment would both increase Wi-Fi quality and encourage students to spend more time working on homework.

Student response has been almost overwhelmingly negative.

"My plan is to hack the Dordt Wi-Fi and allow students access to Netflix," junior Sir Hackalot said. "It's almost my last year and I need to binge-watch as much as I can before I enter the adult world."

Coincidentally, several new graphic design and business courses are being introduced this fall, including BUAD-231 Business in Entertainment, COMM-227 Filming for TV, and ART-302 Netflix Graphic Design.

While Netflix usage will be banned for the general student population, those taking one of the three new courses will be allowed limited access to Netflix for homework use.

"If Dordt thinks I won't take any of those classes just because they have nothing to do with my major then they're wrong," junior Jim Kirk said.

In anticipation for the potential influx of illegal personal routers, Dordt is hiring an outside agency to block any and all routers aside from the Dordt and DordtGuest Wi-Fi services.

"If they really want to improve the Dordt Wi-Fi, I think they should start with getting a new Wi-Fi service—not banning Netflix," said senior Jyn Erso.

A peaceful riot regarding the issue is being planned for the afternoon of April 28 around the clock tower.

Photo by Sandy Cheeks



## Core Program institutes mandatory marriage counseling class

Sandy Sanderford - Spicy Hot Staff Writer

In big news for people wanting to make that "ring by Spring" a reality, a new Core class, CORE-113 ("Marriage Counseling"), is now a requirement for incoming freshmen.

"Synergy means one plus one equals three," says professor Lee Pitts, who supports the change.

A scholarship is also available for people who have shown deep commitment to the course in high school and beyond. The money comes from the previous men's volleyball scholarship, as discussed further in the men's volleyball article.

Because of Dordt's ranking as #1 in Student Engagement for two years in a row, it's more important than ever to make sure students know what they are doing for the rest of their life. In combination with CORE-113, Dordt plans to integrate an M.R.S. program sometime in the future. Administration sees its potential to be a successful major, bringing in students who want this kind of enhanced experience.

"Kids these days don't know how to court properly," said Dr. Gary Chapman, who will be teaching CORE-113. "We will help you discover yourself and what you want in a potential spouse. We will start with appearances and then move to attainability, because the other person may not always be in your league, and

that's hard for some to realize."

Chapman is the author of "The 5 Love Languages," which will be a part of the curriculum. Students will be reading the Bible as well, with emphasis on the Song of Solomon.

The class will watch videos from "Flirting Academy," a hands-on (wink wink) learning experience to practice what they've learned in class. The class will also look at successful marriages and failed marriages to analyze what works and what doesn't.

Everyone is different. The third focus of the class will be each person's personality. Because getting friendzoned is not an option, "How to Read Flirting Signals" will be part of the course material. Each student will have tests in front of the class to "feel the pressure" and ultimately get used to different flirting situations.

"Flirting is all a part of courting," Chapman said. "We will talk about flirting at the gym, in the grocery store, Ritalin flirting... and why it is so crucial to getting the right person. We can't let this younger generation accept failure."

The class wants to encourage students to ask important questions: What are your deal breakers, and what are you willing to sacrifice? How do you determine whether the person you want to marry is striving for the same goals you have, and what happens if they are not?

Students who fail this class will be advised to transfer to the nearest monastery.



## Vladimir Putin on the docket for First Mondays

Jenah Steefins - Staff Writer

Vladimir Putin secured his spot as the next First Mondays speaker. Billy Graham was scheduled to speak on May 7, but his recent death left the First Mondays committee scrambling. After putting out a plea for willing speakers on Twitter, they got a Direct Message from Putin himself.

"We couldn't say no," said Richard Dogood, president of the committee. "Saying no to Vladimir Putin is like eating the Commons' seafood. You just don't do it."

The First Mondays Series "brings thinkers, writers and cultural leaders to Dordt College to discuss with the campus and broader community ideas that will stretch our imaginations, grow our understanding and help us re-form our world in God-honoring ways." Although it is uncertain how Putin will tie in the "God-honoring" part, one can assume that our imaginations will be stretched to painful new levels.

Putin released a preview of the main points he will present during the speech. He intends to tie Kuyperian themes to politics, promoting his nation's powerful nuclear weaponry and its ability to reach "every square inch of creation." The committee who made the final decision to host Putin admits that they are skeptical of his intentions. But then again, it won't be the first time they host a speaker with controversial views.

Following Donald Trump's presidential campaign visit two years ago, people thought the college had seen enough politics for a while. At one point during his speech, Trump said, "I could stand in the middle of 5th Avenue and shoot somebody, and I wouldn't lose any voters." This quote sparked controversy around the world, and Dordt College also received a bit of this publicity. But it was not the type of attention the college desired—rather, they prefer

to flaunt the life out of other accomplishments. Did you know that the Wall Street Journal ranked Dordt College as "Number 1 in Student Engagement" two years in a row?

Rumors state that Trump intends to make a surprise visit during Putin's stay at Dordt. The two have a complicated, love-hate relationship, and a Dordt walk might provide the perfect opportunity for them to figure it out.

"Just think of it—two world leaders establishing world peace here in Sioux Center," said Sophie Tremont. "It would be touching."

Trump drew in huge crowds during his campaign visit, but Putin might attract even more. The college expects a record turnout of students who will finally find more value in attending First Mondays than taking a nap.

Warning: If you receive a campus-wide email invite from vldmrptn@dork.ru please disregard. Computer Services has been having technical difficulties with server security. Thank you.



## "Unholy union" of Dem and Rep sparks controversy

Ugotta B. Kidinme - Staff Writer

Two Dordt students, one Republican and one Democrat, are getting married.

This has led to two opposing political groups coming out with a unified message: "we reject the marriage."

"How can a Christian get married to a democrat?" says Sioux Center resident Aaron Van Moss, head of the Sioux County Conservatives.

"How can a Christian get married to a conservative?" says freshman Mathew Van Dol, President of the Dordt College Democrats.

The marriage between Noll VanMaan and Jessica Grace is scheduled for next Friday, to be held in the Campus Center. Both VanMaan and Grace are seniors and will be graduating from Dordt this spring. Discussion of the controversial marriage has sparked conversation on Facebook, where rumors of a planned protest have begun circulating. Some have even called for President Hoekstra to cancel the wedding, which has been branded "the unholy union."

"I cannot reject these students," said Hoekstra. "Our campus is known nationwide as being number one in student engagement. If we start getting directly involved in banning marriages, students may be reluctant to get engaged."

Noll VanMaan grew up in Sioux Center and comes from a strongly conservative family.

"I just want to tell my parents I have not converted from the ways of conservatism," VanMaan said. "I am not getting married for political unity, but for love."

His parents do not agree.

"Love? Love?? No, it is not love! It is a betrayal of his upbringing!" Mr. VanMaan said. "He is giving in to the way of liberalism, and we all know that no liberal is truly a Christian. She doesn't even believe that America is a Christian country, and she advocates on her Facebook page for more porous borders!"

His mother went on to say that she was disappointed with her son for choosing such a bride.

"Religion and politics are one and the same," she said. "A Christian worldview affects all areas of life, including politics. Her political beliefs are wrong, and I cannot accept her."

Mrs. VanMaan said that she has not sat down with her potential future daughter-in-law because she does not want to give her any glimmer of support for the marriage.

The Graces feel much the same.

"Conservatives are so stuck in their tradition. If she marries him, she'll start advocating for small government, or join the NRA," Mr. Grace said. "Where in the Bible does it say 'thou shalt own and love thy gun'? Our daughter is fraternizing with the enemy."

Jessica Grace disagrees with her parents' sentiment, and, while she agrees that growing up as a democrat in Sioux Center was difficult, she maintains that she will remain liberal.

"I don't agree with conservatives, and I have always and will always be a democrat," Grace said. "But Noll and I never even talk politics. It's not really a big deal, but everyone is acting like we're different religions or something."

With such disagreement among family members, the couple has requested police protection for themselves and the bridal party at the wedding. In addition, the seating has been arranged so that the VanMaan and Grace families will be separated by the aisle, with the notable exception of Noll's liberal aunt ("crazy aunt Ester") and Jessica's conservative second cousin ("redneck Randall").

"If it comes down to it, we may take the path of Romeo and Juliet," VanMaan said, eluding to rumored plans of eloping with VanMaan. "Perhaps then our families will be forced to talk to each other after all."

## Students organize Fortnite Club

Lawyer Trailmix - Staff Writer

The popular game Fortnite recently released its mobile version of the game for IOS and Android devices, which quickly shattered records from previous games such as Candy Crush, Clash of Clans, and Pokémon Go.

Fortnite is one of the fastest-growing games the world has ever seen, estimated to include somewhere near 3.4 million concurrent players. And the majority of those players come from Dordt.

But this is bad news for the school, according to some of the professors.

"I have a strict phone and laptop policy during class for a reason," said Physics prof Dr. John Zwart. "Having devices out when students are supposed to be taking notes only means bad news."

Reviews of the new Club are not all bad, however.

"I think having a Fortnite Club at the school will help ease the temptation to play during class, with students instead getting together with others on specified nights to play," Zwart continued.

Students' excitement about the club, which has already met a few times, is growing. Not only is it a fast-growing club, it has also been bringing in money as students stream when they play. This makes the club one of the most sustainable on campus, according to Student Government.

Fortnite has become a profession for some around the world. Stories have circulated of gamers making hundreds of thousands of dollars a month streaming their games as they play. Seeing the profit to be made from this

opportunity, the college has demanded that whoever signs up for the new club must also stream as they play to bring in even more money for the school.

Dordt saw profits of over \$150,000 from the first two club meetings after this ruling. That money will be put towards gaming consoles and improved Wi-Fi throughout the whole campus so that students can continue to enjoy building Fortnite's indefensible shelters and knocking them down.

Club president Forrest G. Night said he is excited to see the club grow with all the support that is coming from the school and community.

"I started this club in my dorm before the game got big," said Night. "Now there is talk of campus-wide Wi-Fi improvement and possibly even the construction of a Fortnite Club building in the near future, probably in place of the current classroom building."

Still, Night never thought his club would grow like it did. He said for now the club has reached maximum capacity and anyone wanting to join must go through extremely rigorous testing of their Fortnite skills to determine if they deserve to be a part of this prestigious organization.

Those looking to join will have to set up individual meetings with Night throughout the week to test their skills. But unless you are "Ninja good," the odds of getting in are less than getting a perfect March Madness Bracket: 1 in 9.2 quintillion (see article "Student wins big for perfect bracket").

The next club meeting will be this Friday, starting at 5pm. Night and other club representatives apologize in advance for hogging the Wi-Fi this Friday evening as they "Fortnite it up."

Photo by Sandy Cheeks



## Defenders dash away from deadlines

Matthew Mayhem - Staff Writer

Saturday morning dawned bright, early and freezing cold, as per the usual this year. Students anxiously peeked out of their dorm windows and skittered towards the Recreation Center, ready to receive their matching T-shirts and take part in the Defender Dash.

The Defender Dash was a 5K fun run and walk organized by the social work students on campus. Originally intended to raise awareness and income for a program called ATLAS, the students hoped for a large turnout Saturday morning.

The sign-up process for the race was competitive. Each potential participant had to prove to several board members through a two-hour interview why they deserved to participate. On top of that, applicants also had to provide several academic and professional references.

The race began at 8:30 a.m. directly behind the Rec Center. A gun signaled the start.

Students ran away from all responsibilities. Some set an even pace, intending to get far away from homework, deadlines, and any aspect of being an adult in general. Other students ran at

breakneck speeds, but quickly faltered out and collapsed in the snow.

Dordt College security was called in to handle the masses that were attempting to escape campus. Several students were able to outrun security and found shelter in off-campus buildings. The rest of the students were detained, tackled into the snow or cut off from their route and taken back to the recreation center.

"We wanted a lot of participants," said Joe Talkson a senior social work student. "But we wanted them to stick around too, not just to show up and dash off."

Dordt security is not holding the social work students responsible for the actions for each of the runners, but those who made a break for it have been placed under surveillance and are not allowed to leave campus for activities other than church until their assignments for the day have been completed.

"I know I can make it through the semester, there are only 5 weeks of school left," said sophomore Matthew Sprinton. "But I needed a break and my professors just don't get that. I needed freedom from responsibility."



## Snapchat Easter egg hunt causes chaos

Anneli Kanerva - Staff Writer

In preparation for Easter, Snapchat launched the “Great Snapchat Egg Hunt!” nationwide on their app. To get Easter eggs, the user had to search snapmaps to find the eggs, get within a certain range and then tap on the eggs to collect them. Snapchat also allowed users to view leaderboards with the scores of their friends and national highscores. The impact of the game reached even to Dordt’s campus, causing many students trouble in the chaos of the hunt.

The app functions similarly to the popular app Pokémon Go, which was a worldwide success in 2016. With the popularity of Pokémon Go came issues, as there were many incidences of trespassing, car crashes and even fights caused by users of the app arguing over Pokémon. Because of the similar construction of the games, the Snapchat Easter egg hunt was responsible for chaos nationwide.

Ryan Stein, a junior at Dordt, was caught trespassing in a Northwestern College girls dorm after open-hours in pursuit of an Easter egg. Northwestern College personnel had to detain Stein while the school got in contact with Dordt representatives to discuss disciplinary action. Stein was given several levels by Dordt as a consequence of his actions.

Another student, sophomore Trenton Peters, was pulled over for accidentally trespassing on private property while searching for Easter eggs near Sioux Center. Peters was let off with a warning the first time, but soon had another encounter with police the same night while looking for Easter eggs in Orange City. This time, Peters claimed to be searching for an Easter egg located just inside of Landsmeer Golf Club. He was given a \$50 fine.

Some students suffered even worse than fines and warnings as a result of the game. Junior John Remington fell off the roof of

East Campus apartments after he climbed up searching for Wi-Fi so that he could collect a nearby Easter egg. The two-story fall resulted in several fractures in his ankle and a few bumps and bruises.

“It seemed like a good idea at the time,” said Remington. “I just thought I’d be able to collect it really quick and come back inside, but I got too close to the edge because I had to wave to a girl while I was up there.”

Remington’s injury put an end to his basketball season, but he said that it won’t prevent him from playing basketball for Dordt next semester.

Freshman Carly Maroon accidentally interrupted a drug deal while she was searching for Easter eggs in Le Mars late at night on a weekend. Maroon and friends were driving around collecting Easter eggs when she pulled into an empty parking lot. According to Maroon, another car pulled up next to them and rolled down their window.

“He asked what we wanted to buy and when we didn’t immediately reply, he asked where we were from,” said Maroon. “After we said ‘Dordt’ and he asked ‘Where’s that?’ then he must have realized we weren’t his buyers, so he took off.”

After all the trouble Dordt students got into because of the egg hunt, President Eruk Hoekstra spoke briefly at the Good Friday chapel service to ask students to be mindful of how they play such games. The president believes that the students’ behavior while playing carelessly could damage the school’s reputation in the local community.

“As C.S. Lewis said, ‘We are what we believe we are,’ so I think that Dordt students should focus on becoming more than the number of Easter eggs they collected... but, anyways, I have 276 eggs, just for the record,” said Hoekstra in his address.



## Commons announces Fasting Fridays

Silence Dogood - Staff Writer

A new themed meal is coming to the Dordt Commons. However, in contrast to Taco Tuesday and Wild Wing Wednesday—which add special foods each day—Fasting Friday will instead limit eating options.

The decision was made in the face of a recent dispute regarding the odd hours required of the Commons staff. Some arrive as early as 4 a.m. to prepare breakfast for the 1,500 students on campus.

A trial run for Fasting Fridays will start on April 16. If it is well received, the plan will be instituted permanently starting in the Fall of the 2018-19 school year.

Students arriving at the Commons on Fridays will now be greeted by closed doors and a table in the lobby bearing a large plate of pita bread and a jug of water.

The debated proposition will drastically cut down on work for the commons staff.

“It’s going to be fantastic,” said Commons

staff member Pat Pretzel. “There’s basically no prep-work and I’ll pretty much get the day off.”

The alternative dining options on campus—which include the Grille, 55th Avenue, and the Bunsen Brew—are expecting many of the students to turn to them for meals on Fridays.

“I don’t understand why the Commons is doing this,” said sophomore Jan Bague. “I don’t know how to cook my own food yet and I really don’t like pita bread.”

Questions are being asked regarding how “Fasting Friday” will affect prospective students—many of whom get their first impression of Dordt on Friday tours.

“It’s going to be an issue,” Dordt admissions counselor Brian Bagel said. “These high-school students are coming to Dordt expecting to be catered to, and not feeding them will definitely affect the number of incoming freshman.”

Whether the Commons will continue Fasting Fridays after the trial run is debatable, as rumors abound of a potential student boycott on Dordt dining.

## Spotlight Student: Ami Stewart declared a freakin’ idiot

Anne O. Nimus - Staff Writer



Contributed Photo

This has gone on long enough. It’s time to talk about sophomore Ami Stewart.

Maybe you’ve seen her working at the library. Maybe you’ve see her doing her weird crouch/run/weaving thing.

But we need to address the facts: She cannot function. She just can’t.

Her one ability is this: making any simple task as complicated and overwhelming as possible.

“When she was a freshman I saw her walk into the Commons and just start crying because there were too many choices,” said Rebecca Graninga, a junior.

She has also been seen failing to open her mailbox properly and struggling to set up a camera tripod.

But she has pretty good fashion sense. She can be seen wearing unexpected color combinations and oversized flannel shirts. Somehow she pulls them off—while keeping them on. So... she has two abilities, I guess. But that’s it.

There is no way she could defend herself in a fight.

“Her strength is nonexistent,” Graninga said. “One time, my friend Jamal just grabbed the strap on the top of her backpack and Ami kept walking in circles and wailing because she couldn’t get away.”

She’s easily frightened. Taylor Swift’s new album makes her nervous because it’s—in Ami’s own words—“edgy.” But she’s not talking about “Look what you made me Do.” She means “Ready for It.”

“The instrumentation at the beginning is just so heavy,” Stewart said.

Her inability to function should come as no surprise. From birth, there have been hints that her life would turn out crappy. Shortly before she was born, her mother got in a fender bender. When Ami was born, it became apparent that she had gotten scared.

“I was born covered in poop, and I’m planning on going out the same way,” Stewart said.

Seriously. If you see her, help her. Save her from her own idiocy.

## Athletic director Douma decides to coach all Dordt sports himself

Minnie Applis - Staff Writer

After numerous coaching changes at Dordt this offseason, new athletic director Ross Douma has decided he will coach every team himself. Not perturbed by the scheduling nightmare this may bring, Douma is overjoyed with this new opportunity.

“I needed a new challenge in my life,” Douma said. “Athletic director is one thing, but I didn’t feel that was quite enough.”

In order for Douma to be present at all the practices, they will start at 6 a.m. and go all day, one right after the other, five days a week. If an athlete has a class at the same time their practice is scheduled, they are out of luck. Douma says athletes have to pick between class or practice. Teams will alternate practice times so athletes won’t always miss the same classes.

An advantage to this change is the consistency. “You always hear the saying, ‘Consistency is key,’ and we really wanted to capitalize on that here at Dordt,” Douma said.

Where are all of the other head coaches going? The coaches that Douma is replacing will assist him in coaching, but only if they pick a new sport they know very little about.

“I couldn’t be the only one with a new challenge,” Douma said.

Previous head football coach Joel Penner is ecstatic about helping out with men’s and women’s volleyball in the coming year.

“Ya know, I was getting kind of bored with football anyways,” Penner said. “Guys just hitting other guys to move a ball down the field? Where’s the element of surprise in that?”

Dordt’s new coaches will even be involved in the restructuring, something they didn’t know they signed up for by accepting their new

position.

“I thought I would be coaching men’s basketball, but I was just informed that I’ll actually be assisting with softball,” said new hire Brian Van Haaften. “Not exactly my area of specialty, but I guess you’re never too old to learn a new sport.”

Douma has refused to change his mind despite protests from numerous athletes.

“I’m the answer to the problems the athletic department has faced in recent years,” Douma said. “My wife tells me that I have control issues, but I like to see it as an opportunity to showcase my abilities to the rest of the conference.”

This new plan will be implemented in the 2018-2019 school year. Be sure to attend next year’s sporting events to see how our Defender teams do under these new changes.

Contributed Photo from prev. Zircon





## Gift statue worshipped as cult phenomenon

Kult Leader - Staff Writer



Contributed Photo

After a particularly low attendance at Chapel last Wednesday, April 4th, Dordt College's Chaplain Aaron Baart asked students what could have caused such a light turnout. After inquiring about the phenomenon through Facebook, reliable news source Dordt College Communist Party (DCCP) responded in a comment: "Haven't you heard? We now pray to the Gift for safe passage during finals."

Baart followed up on the statement by personally investigating the situation. On the night of April 4th, he waited outside of the classroom building until he saw students approaching the statue bearing gifts and offering, while chanting the doxology. Baart expressed his shock in his interview.

"They were all dressed in Walmart bath robes, putting down Root Beer and beef jerky by the statue's feet."

Baart further described what he saw as a desperate attempt from the students to save their GPA.

Upon returning home that night, Baart emailed Dordt Campus with referrals to tutoring, links to Dordt's academic enhancement programs, and the weekly schedule for all worship services on campus. Yet, news of Dordt students' late night activity resulted in mixed responses from the

community. Whereas some faculty and students viewed the event as a frat-like fad, this opinion was not shared by all. On hearing the news, without skipping a beat, Siouxland Reformation Society rebuked Dordt for such prominent display of the Gift, in a tweet paraphrasing Leviticus 26:1.

The Siouxland Reformation Society's Facebook group further attacked Dordt for having an "androgynous statue encouraging the homosexuals" and not displaying any overtly "Christian symbolism." Unaware of the reach of his email, Baart soon found his inbox full of messages from concerned parents, sponsors and pastors. The situation gained more public attention, and more groups felt the need to participate into the conversation by taking their own spin on it.

The Dordt Democrats critiqued the statue for being "white with distinctly male features," the DCCP for how "the nakedness of the statue makes a mockery of the student's dire financial conditions," and the Dordt Republicans fumed that they would "...hope that The Gift would display more American virtues and become a self-built family man who takes no handouts!"

The community gathered around groups who agreed, or disagreed, with the Gift, and—following the current trend in the nation—petitions circulated demanding removal of the statue. The students who initiated the Gift worship were not bothered at all by the growing commotion around their rites. They claimed their cult to be a way for students to bond over their common struggle. In their chanting circles, they argued, students feel less alone and comforted by being in the company of others in the same boat.

"Hence," said cult leader and senior Michel Gomes, "the statue is only secondary. They may kill the statue, but not the ideal!"

As groups debated the cult's existence, President Hoekstra reminded the community that college is a great time for learning and to be exposed to different views. He offered that though Dordt may give exposure, it does not condone the actions. When Howard Wilson was asked for comment, he replied, "We do not have a cult culture at Dordt College." The Zircon team pressed further by asking specifically about the role of the Gift in all of this, but he refused to comment further.

## Senior uncovers vampire blood drive

Heidi Way - Staff Writer

Vampires are drinking the blood of Dordt students and faculty under the ruse of a blood drive. Blood drive volunteers are actually a disguised band of traveling vampires.

The secret was uncovered when junior Suzy Van Drek walked in on one of the vampires transforming from bat form into human form.

"I've always been an avid reader of scary stories, so I knew right away that this was a vampire," Van Drek said. "It was just like in Dracula!"

The campus is widely divided about the subject. Several international students and students who didn't fulfill the weight requirement are grateful for "God's protection" in preventing them from donating their blood, considering that students from certain countries are banned from donating for their first three or four years in the country.

However, some students are upset and scared about this new discovery.

"I felt so betrayed," sophomore Sam Hull said. "I can hardly believe a thing like this could persist on our campus for so long without being discovered. I'm never going to sleep again."

Other students were rather chill about the discovery.

"Well, the whole point of the blood drive

was to save lives. Since vampires need blood to survive, this is really a win/win situation," senior Jamie Blumen said. "They get to eat, and we get fun stuff like tickets to a Sioux City Explorers game or a pint of ice cream."

As there are references to vampires in many cultures and myths, it can be difficult to sort fact from fiction. This blood drive discovery has prompted debate among students concerning whether they are in danger of becoming infected and turning into vampires themselves.

"It'll be like humans vs zombies, but way more extreme—and I'm really bad at that game," sophomore Alex Vynstro said. "To be safe, I'm going to build a bunker out of garlic in my dorm before anything starts."

Bob Gegulga, a self-proclaimed vampire expert, thinks the student population is safe from turning into vampires.

"I don't think that there will be a vampire outbreak," he said. "The vampire virus is transmitted if they transfer some of their blood into you, kind of like mosquitoes. So as long as they're not actually biting anyone, it should be safe."

The alleged vampires themselves declined to comment.

"I finally understand why there is a blood drive here every week," said professor Lee Pitts.

## Female mascot (cont.)

Continued from page 1

will be of no use.

Although the walkout has not yet happened, administration has been proactive by forming a new logo committee to address this feminist uprising. They found it difficult to fill all of the committee chairs.

"Women are unpredictable and sometimes downright scary. Believe me, I'm married to one," said a faculty member who wished to remain anonymous for fear of backlash. "I declined the invitation, because I'd rather not sleep on the couch."

Although change might not happen right away, designers are discussing ways to make Carl less masculine. One designer suggested adding some curves to the mascot's body shape. Another wanted to add locks of hair extending

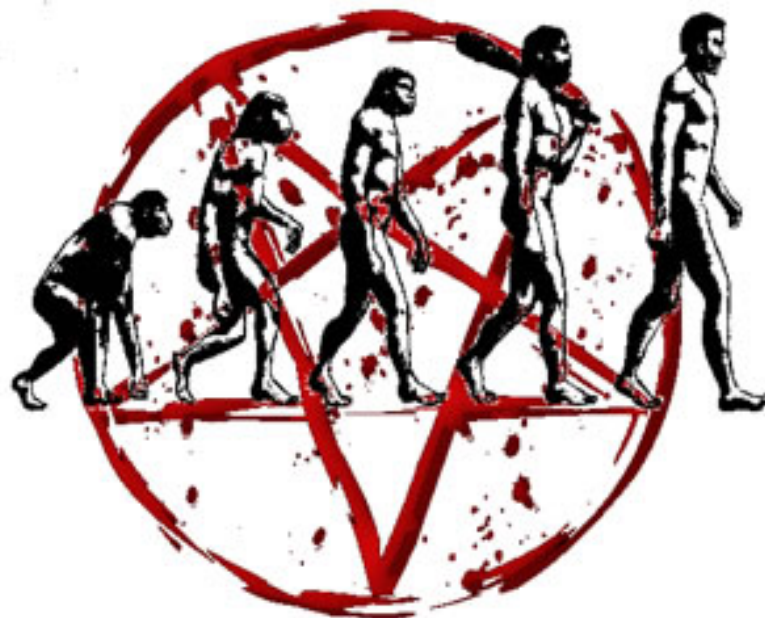
out from the bottom of the helmet. But pro-Carla supporters lashed back, saying those were gender stereotypes and fed into the unrealistic expectations pressed on women. They do not want the physical features of the sword-wielding mascot to change—only the name needs updating.

The voices of Dordt women are finally being heard, and the campus community waits in anticipation to see how this movement will play out. To make matters more complicated, Carl and Carla are competing against another potential mascot. A chairman on the mascot committee offered an idea for a mascot which would please every side of the debate. His solution: the Gift statue.

"Is it a woman? A man? Some sort of celestial being? We don't know what that thing identifies as, and that makes it the perfect solution."

## Reformation Society condemns Wiccan coven on campus

Pseudo Nym - Staff Writer



Contributed Photo

After intensive investigation, the Siouxland Reformation Society has revealed that the biology department is at the center of an underground Wiccan coven at Dordt College. The extent of infiltration into the biology faculty and curriculum is still unclear, but at least eight professors are known to be involved. Administration was notified about this secret group via a Facebook post by the Reformation Society on April 4, but has not released a public statement.

The operation of this religiously deviant group went undetected for what appears to have been years, but a recent uptick in activity gave Reformation Society members enough leads to confirm their suspicions. Reformation Society operatives tirelessly staked out biology labs and meticulously documented the activities of suspected witches.

It appears that the Wiccan community heavily influenced the design of the recent science building renovations. The increased ventilation in lab rooms has helped to hide burnt offerings and candle-lit ceremonies, and the cadaver lab provided a hidden location for the practice of necromancy. Thankfully, these renovations were noticed by the Reformation Society, and they increased their surveillance efforts.

Society members pieced together several seemingly unrelated occurrences to better understand the operations of the Wiccan coven. The loss of a goat from the Agricultural Stewardship Center, initially attributed to coyotes, was linked to a mysterious "steak" substance being served in the stir-fry line at the Commons. This prompted investigators to look into the source of the "steak," which they found to have been delivered by Professor DeHeks directly from the biology dissection room. When DeHeks was asked for comment, she

attempted to curse the interviewer by speaking backwards in Latin while drawing a pentagram in blood on her desk. An anonymous source inside the Reformation Society explained that they believe the goat was stolen by biology department head Dr. Tovenaar and used in a Samhain ritual sponsored by the department, after which the goat was butchered and mixed in with the Commons' steak delivery.

The most conclusive evidence of the heretical group came in the form of an online posting of the "Dordt College Heathens" on Witchvox, a popular Wiccan website. The group is described as a "haven for all followers of pagan religious persuasions," and assures that, "if you're exploring paganism while at Dordt College, you aren't alone." The listed founding of the group was in 2002, but they have maintained a low enough profile that they have gone undetected until now. The Siouxland Reformation Society is skeptical about the ability of a group this large to go undetected for so long, and they believe the practice of witchcraft might extend further up into the college administration. President Eruk Hoekstra, when asked to comment, said:

"Dordt College is dedicated to maintaining both a Christian worldview and a campus environment of openness to new ideas. I can't speak to the specifics of the allegations surrounding the biology faculty, but I can assure you that all of our faculty and staff strive to follow what they believe to be a biblical and reformational lifestyle."

It remains to be seen what actions, if any, administration will take to prevent the further spread of witchcraft at Dordt, but thanks to the courageous work of the Siouxland Reformation Society, we know of the heresy that lurks among us.



## West basement hides secret lazy river

Ima Cawp - Staff Writer



Contributed Photos

The inhabitants of West dorm received an unwelcome email late Saturday night. Several students had been working diligently on their assignments in the basement floor of West, when it became apparent that they were getting cold feet—and not because of homework. While these students began complaining to their peers, other students ran down to the basement to check out the damage.

Water seeped through the floor in multiple places, soaking the feet of desks, chairs and humans. This, coupled with evidence of a water shortage across the rest of campus, meant that the water was soon turned off in the dorms.

Maintenance staff soon came to investigate and started at the most logical place: the laundry room. Maintenance workers dumped all the laundry out of the dryers and onto the flooded floor in order to absorb moisture and decrease water level. After the tide had receded a few inches, Wet-Vacs were brought down and electrical sockets dried out to employ fans.

However, this investigation almost spelled the end for West's best-kept secret, when the steady flow of water led repairmen to an air vent behind one of the washing machines.

"I can practically see it now," said junior Sally Rivera. "The headlines will be leaking out the

news about our once-secret lazy river! Now everything's ruined."

Hidden in one of the vents near the washing machines, one repairman said, is the entrance to a super-secret lazy river, complete with inner tubes and fresh towels on hand. The river starts in the computer room and loops around itself, traveling underneath of the West dorm and covering almost a mile in distance.

Maintenance workers will neither confirm nor deny having traveled the river themselves to calculate the distance.

Rivera claims that she and her roommates discovered the river while playing hide and seek in the dorm one day while procrastinating.

"I always knew there was something sketchy in West," said maintenance staffer Fred Fixit. "There were always too many people 'doing homework' in the basement. No one wants to be that studious."

It took several days to dry out the basement, and as of now the vents have been permanently closed off to prevent unwanted flooding, swimming and fun. The computer room has gotten significantly emptier, and the stairway is frequented only by those carrying laundry. It still remains unknown whether the river will be reopened or permanently shut down.

## Group caught delivering food via secret tunnel system

Anneli Kanerva - Staff Writer

Last weekend, six underclassmen girls from West Hall were caught running a new app called Labyrinth to deliver food and other products to students in North and East Hall after open hours.

The app functions in a way similar to other popular food delivery apps such as Uber Eats, Grubhub and Postmates. To get food or other products delivered, the customer would download the free app, place their order in the app and finally pay for both their order and the delivery fee. The major differences between Labyrinth and other delivery apps is that it delivers exclusively to Dordt students in West, North and East halls and only accepts orders from 5 PM to 2 AM.

The students were caught when security cameras captured their activities in the steam tunnels. The group had been doing business for months when their looping software cut out and the group was visible on the security cameras. The Dordt maintenance crew speculates that the flooding in West Hall's basement a little over a week ago may have interfered with the equipment they were using to loop the cameras.

The students created the app when they realized that no major delivery apps cater to the Sioux Center community or, more specifically, to Dordt students. The girls invested their own money to create the Labyrinth app and then selected trusted friends to work as deliverers.

The app delivers everything from McDonalds and school supplies from Walmart to Fruited Plain coffee. The app allows users to select what they want from a variety of locations and then give specifics about their order if necessary. Labyrinth delivers within the hour

and allows customers to buy the small items they need without having to go to the store or wait for their order to be shipped to them.

"We were just filling a need," said Skylar Macon, sophomore and creator of the app. "Sometimes people miss a meal at the cafeteria or need school supplies or something small from a store in town, so we go pick up whatever they need."

The six girls discovered the steam tunnels while working on campus over the summer. The group explored campus during their free time and eventually stumbled upon an entrance to the steam tunnels which connect various residence halls together. After further exploration, they quickly discovered routes between all three of the residence halls on the west side of campus. The girls decided that this was an advantage they had to use and devised a plan to launch Labyrinth in the Fall 2017 semester.

Each of the organizers has been contacted for disciplinary action by the school but it seems that there will be very few consequences for the group. After a meeting to discuss disciplinary actions, Dordt's disciplinary committee decided that they could not punish the group for such an act of ingenuity and entrepreneurship. The group was let off with a warning, under the agreement that they would discontinue the app and end their delivery services permanently.

Sophomore Lynette Hanson says that she has no regrets about her participation in the group. "I was the most tech savvy in the group, so I was in charge of creating the app and looping the security cameras," she said. "I am so glad I helped, not only because we got a ton of cash but also because I have something great to put on my résumé now."

## B.J. Haan: "Cease degradation of our sacred institutions"

B.J. Haan - Ghost of Former College President

It has become abundantly clear that Dordt College no longer holds to the Christian principles it was founded upon. I have observed this troubling trend from afar, and have seen signs of corruption spreading like leaven, corrupting the whole. It started off small enough: a weekend dance unpunished here, a card game there; but Christian discipline was not maintained, and now a guest, Losh Jarsen, has been invited to speak on the topic of movies as prayer. What can be more emblematic of the licentious attitudes present at this institution than inviting a known Arminian to discuss the merits of film? This is a disgrace, and a perversion of the institutional mandate of Dordt College as a bastion of Biblical principles in education.

It has long been understood in the reformed tradition that theatre and its modern accomplice, film, are contrary to Christian values. They serve to corrupt the youth, turning our young men into unscrupulous hooligans and our young women into recalcitrant vagabonds. Abraham Kuyper warned us of this nearly two centuries ago, and we do well to heed the words of such a wise and Christian man. Modern films, as Kuyper noted, are "purchased at the cost of manly character and of female purity."

While on the unwholesome topic of women in theatre and film, it must be stated that the film Mr. Jarsen chose to represent, a so-called "prayer of confession," has in its lead role a 14-year-old girl. Needless to say, it is beyond doubt that this young girl has been morally corrupted by acting in a film that encourages drinking to excess, using the LORD's name in vain and fornication! If this heresy is not stopped now, our children will be led down

the path to Lucifer, under our very noses! As I clearly said in my Life Magazine piece in 1948, Hollywood is a hindrance to the Kingdom of God, and an enemy of Christ. God will not stand for this debauchery, and neither will I. The institution I established was founded on Biblical principles, but it is being taken over by hooligans and heretics, theatricals and thugs. We must reclaim Dordt College and bring it back to secure reformed roots, lest Satan take hold and corrupt the vine of Sioux Center.

Mr. Larsen claims that God will accept the films of debased unbelievers as prayer. Will our LORD next accept the dancing of the Whore of Babylon as praise unto Him? Nay! And neither will He accept the "offerings" of charlatans and usurers who profit off of the moral degradation of the weaker sex. Let us be forewarned that, if we are unable to cleanse ourselves of this lechery, we will be cut off by God as a branch that does not bear fruit. We will be cast into the fire and burned. God will give us over to our sinful desires, and, as the Word of the LORD sayeth: "They sacrifice upon the tops of the mountains, and burn incense upon the hills, under oaks and poplars and elms, because the shadow thereof is good: therefore your daughters shall commit whoredom and your spouses shall commit adultery."

If this embrace of film persists, I demand that the framed photograph of my Life Magazine article be removed from President Erik Hoekstra's office and my name taken off of the B.J. Haan auditorium where such heinous activities like the Prairie Grass Film Challenge are held. Tolerance of this perverted view of film, if unchecked, will lead to the ruin of Dordt College as a reformed institution of higher education.

## Northwestern named #1 in Student Engagement

Sandy Sanderford - Staff Writer



You read that right. Northwestern College is next to be named #1 in Student Engagement. In the midst of high tensions between Dordt and NWC, this reporter has taken a closer look into these two schools.

As a whole, Dordt students agree that this is unacceptable. In order to regain their pride, students are engaged in the battle to outdo their competitor.

"We can't let this happen," sophomore Sandra Sanderford said. "Ladies must acquire more rings by Spring, and a higher student population must be accumulated." Rumors are spreading about professors and staff getting notifications that if these new higher standards are not met, they may lose their jobs to those who can get the job done.

But NWC students are confident about their win.

"We definitely deserved it this year, no doubt about it," said NWC sophomore Brian Vander Vander. "We should have gotten it a long time ago because of all the people who get married on this campus."

It is not just marriage rates in which NWC is pulling out ahead, but also chapel attendance, academics and number of international students. As Dordt falls behind, worries about the conflict

have arisen here on campus.

"We have to rethink everything about our approach to Christian studies," Dordt chaplain Erin Bartholomew said. "We really tried our best to get students engaged in everything. But the stats say that NWC is better."

Students are rallying behind Dordt—in the Prairie—to talk about possibly transferring to NWC because their resumes need that #1 in Engagement trophy. NWC students remain calm as they bask in the glory of their win.

The tension from campus to campus is real, maybe one more so than the other, but this resentment makes no difference to those in charge. Little has been done to unite these two colleges, and every year brings more pressure for each to rise above the other.

"There's absolutely no commonality between these two schools," said NWC sophomore Janna Van Dum. "Well, besides that each city is in Sioux County, both schools are in the NAIA, both are Reformed Christian colleges, both have tons of churches in a one-mile radius, both are some of the safest cities in Iowa... yeah, not that much in common."

Note: In order to keep privacy information secure, the author has switched the names of the schools involved.



## NAA threatens cancellation of defender baseball season

Balec Amellop - Staff Writer



Contributed Photo

The Dordt College baseball season has been cancelled.

The most recent weather phenomena in the Midwest, known as “Third Winter,” has ruined any possibility of completing the season.

The baseball team has already had several of their games cancelled due to cold, snow and rain. Contrary to popular belief, it is quite difficult to see a white baseball in snow.

The players are disappointed with the proposed ruling by the NAA that has ended the conference seasons for the Great Plains Athletic Conference (GPAC) and the North Star Conference, both of which are made up of schools from the Upper Plains.

With the seemingly unending blizzard conditions that have affected the area over the last few months, teams have been unable to play or practice outside.

“You know, it’s tough,” said third baseman Chris Schrieber. “I may have to look into playing another sport if we can’t finish our season. Is men’s volleyball still around?”

With the cancellation of the baseball season, some players have looked into joining the track team, but many players remain unsure as to what they will decide to do.

“I don’t know about track,” said junior Steve Tiersma, “it looks like they are dying when they are running and just don’t want to tell anyone.”

The baseball team has rallied together and has simply enjoyed the comradery regardless if they are inside or outside for practices and games.

“We know that it’s tough with all the cancellations,” said senior catcher Josh Van Eps, “but we just have to keep getting better and hopefully we can get hot at the end of the season.”

Coach Monsoon has required all players under scholarship to complete outdoor fielding sessions every morning regardless of weather.

“I don’t care about the weather,” Monsoon said. “I just sit in the warm press box while they suffer. No one said I had to be out there with them.”

Regardless of how many games get played or if the season gets cancelled entirely, one thing is certain: there is no quit in this team. Never has been and never will be, except for the few that quit in late March.

Some teams in the GPAC and North Star conference have relocated in hopes of finding a warmer place to play. However, with so few of the players and coaches who have travelled outside the Midwest, they aren’t sure where to go. Rumors are that the Midland baseball team travelled to Big Arm, MT., and haven’t been able to return due to massive snowstorms.

The Doane University baseball team travelled to Surf City, New Jersey, in hopes of finding warmth, only to be greeted by temperatures in the low teens.

The Dordt baseball team is still searching its options, but they have asked that readers please send any suggestions their way.

## Last year set for men’s v-ball

Sandy Sanderford - Staff Writer

Sportsmanship points aren’t cutting it with Dordt administration anymore, and the men’s volleyball team is set to be one of the first to suffer.

After many years of wins and losses, the college has decided that it doesn’t have the budget to fund scholarships for the men’s volleyball team.

“Yeah, well, that escalated quickly,” said sophomore Chris P. Bacon. “When I heard the news, I was devastated. I don’t know if I’ll be able to afford college anymore without the scholarship.”

The scholarship money will go to the new Marriage Counseling Class for students who are serious about getting married.

Bacon, the team bench organizer, said that he’ll miss his job, which consists of organizing chairs by height. He also said that the guys on the bench have just as much, if not more fun, than the players.

“Sometimes, they’re competing against each other just to get off the court and on the bench,” Bacon said.

Athletic Director Glenn Bouma said that if student body can’t get their heads into sports, then coaches shouldn’t have to either.

“The students don’t come to support at away games, away tournaments, or even at home games for that matter,” Bouma said. “Actually, I think I saw one girl in the bleachers with a Dordt jacket last game. But it’s not a matter of the great cheers or the glory. We play so the parents of alumni players come to watch—but they don’t anymore.”

“I just don’t get why these boys can’t cover each square inch of the court,” said head coach Chad Hanson. “It’s like they want to be on the bench rather than on the court. They get more exercise during practice because they are practicing for these ridiculous dance moves rather than the drills we have planned for practice.”

The dance moves in question are all part of the celebration scene after each point. Athletes rival Oscar winners with their stellar acting, improvised moves, and intense routines after each great shot is made. The moves have been titled “rob the grave” (for a nice dig), “you can’t touch this” (for an ace), and “you help me up, I get down” (for a set into a spike).

When asked about their opinions on the scholarship’s loss, some students admit to having no idea men’s volleyball ever existed on campus. And that’s without even mentioning the Polo team, Bobsled team and Underground Doomsday team, which were discovered only after a lengthy search and at great personal risk to a Diamond reporter.

“I got cuts and bruises running away after uncovering the truth,” said Diamond reporter Sandy Sanderford.

However, the college claims “no comment” on the existence of these secretive sports teams.

“I have no idea what you’re talking about,” said President Eruk Hoekstra. “It’s ridiculous, the allegations you’re bringing to us about this so-called men’s volleyball team or any of that other stuff. We already have the best women’s volleyball team around, why would we need another?”

## Curling added to intramural schedule for 2018-19

Balec Amellop - Staff Writer

Dordt College is set to introduce curling as the newest intramural opportunity for students. It will be available for students at the beginning of next school year.

After what has been another very long and cold winter, campus administration is looking to give students new opportunities to get their minds off of the temperatures.

“This is going to be great for our students,” said President Eruk Hoekstra. “It will allow them some much-needed stress relief from the long stretch between Christmas and Spring Break.”

According to Hoekstra, if the sport is successful at the intramural level, Dordt will look to add it as a club sport and would join the Collegiate Curling Association of North America (CCANA).

The CCANA has collegiate teams throughout seven countries that span from the northern parts of Canada all the way to Panama in Central America.

If Dordt were to join a conference in the association, they would join the Northern Plains League (NPL), which consists of teams from southern Canada and parts of the United States such as North Dakota A&M, the University of Canada at Saskatchewan, and Ottawa Oaks Catholic Preparatory School.

Even if the sport doesn’t make it to the club level, the excitement about the new intramural opportunity is being felt throughout campus.

“I am looking forward to seeing how the students run with it,” said intramurals coordinator Lynn Nutt. “I think it will be a great opportunity for students unfamiliar with the sport to learn how to play and appreciate it.”

The events will take place on the ice rink in the All Seasons Center on Wednesday evenings from 9 p.m. to 12 a.m. The season will span seven weeks with a six-week regular season and a week of playoffs.

The equipment for the sport has been generously donated by regional curling legend Pablo Francisco Ricardo Delarosa Ubaldo Jimenez of Sioux City who is famous for bringing the Dominican Republic its first Olympic curling medal in the 1994 Winter Olympics.

The teams in this intramural sport will compete for the “Iowa is Actually Antarctica” trophy, which is a silver-plated bowl filled with snow.

The winning team will pour the snow in the bowl on the runner-up team after the championship match. Additionally, the champions will get their names inscribed on the side of the trophy.

The excitement for the sport is increasing around campus and it will be great to see the enthusiasm continue as the season gets closer.

## Senior predicts perfect March Madness bracket

Lawyer Trailmix - Staff Writer

Jody Vander Rich, a Dordt senior, created a perfect March Madness bracket this year. In return, Vander Rich will receive a million dollars a year for the rest of her life.

The challenge was created by Warren Buffet, billionaire CEO of Berkshire Hathaway. He promised to give a million dollars a year for life to anyone who predicted a perfect March Madness bracket.

Buffet wanted in on the March Madness action and so created this challenge years ago. No one won until now.

The odds of winning a perfect bracket, some argue, is around 1 in 9.2 quintillion. To put this in perspective, the odds of winning the Powerball are around 1 in 300 million.

“It doesn’t matter who you ask, those aren’t very good odds,” Buffet said. “That is why I created this challenge: to put those odds into perspective... But I guess that blew up when someone won my challenge.”

He heard about Jody winning the challenge a few days ago and will be hosting a celebration ceremony in Dordt’s B.J. Haan Auditorium next Wednesday, where he will present Jody with her

first check of \$1,000,000. Buffet said he was happy to hear about Jody winning his challenge but will not host another challenge like that in the future, even though he knows the odds of it happening again are astronomical.

There were many upsets in this year’s tournament that had fans outraged. Some say it was the year for some of the biggest upsets in NCAA March Madness history.

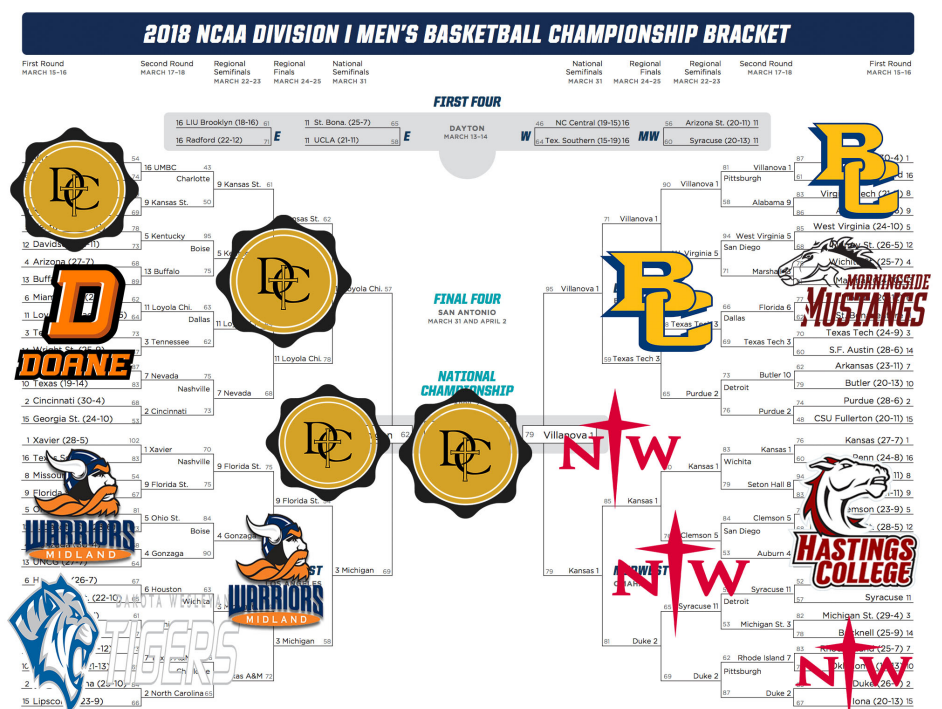
The University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC) beat Virginia, who was the number one ranked team in the country, in the first round of the tournament. This is the first time a No. 16 seed won against a No. 1 seed in the history of the NCAA tournament, which began in 1939.

“I always like to try and predict upsets in my March Madness bracket,” Vander Rich said. “A lot of my friends didn’t do that and quickly saw their brackets go down the toilet.”

Jody said she felt bad for her friends and will split what she has won among them.

“I will soon have more money than I know what to do with,” Vander Rich said. “I will use it to help pay for college, but the rest of it I plan to give away to those that need it more than I do.”

Contributed Photo





## Dordt changes name to Ord

*A Nonymous - Staff Writer*

In light of the recent Twitter bracket pitting colleges against each other, Administration has recently made an earth-shaking announcement: To claim the title of the most strangely named college in America, Dordt College will now change its name to Ord.

"I think this change will really benefit the school. Sure, we've been rated number 1 in engagement twice in a row, but I think it's always important to find new ways to excel as a college," President Hoekstra said.

Several weeks ago, administration invited students to suggest new names for the college.

"We received many great suggestions, such as Trdod College, Dot College, Dardt College, Dordt—but pronounced Da - oh - ri - do - tu — or even to adopt the common mispronunciation: Dork College. But after much deliberation, we finally decided on this one," Hoekstra said.

After the announcement was made, celebrations were held all over campus. Several groups of enthusiastic students even flocked out to help workers who were changing the sign, chanting, "Hurray for Ord!"

Students have many reasons to be excited about the change.

"I'm so glad we decided to change the college's name to Ord College," freshman Bruce Vander said. "Everyone knows that a college's name is the most important part."

"The college is advancing with the times, which is great," sophomore Mary Vansue said. "First the science wing gets an upgrade, and now this. Ord is making sure I get the best education possible."

"I don't have to worry about people mispronouncing the name as Dork College anymore," junior Victor Perdedor said. "I couldn't convince my grandfather that it was Dordt and not Dork before."

Other students have been hoping for this change for a long time.

"I've always said that it makes no sense for there to be two D's in the name if you're only going to pronounce one of them," senior Michel Der Grau said. "I've always been secretly hoping that this would happen."

Students who want to give administration feedback on the new name will be able to do so on an email survey sometime next week.



**DORDT COLLEGE RADIO**  
www.KDCR885.com

### Diamond Staff 2017-2018

**Editor-in-Chief:**  
Ashley Huizinga

**Copy Editors:**  
Janelle Cammenga  
Clarissa  
Kraayenbrink

**A&E Editor:**  
Janelle Cammenga

Tess Hemmila  
Joshua Meribole  
Caleb Pollema  
Zachary Sanford  
Zach Steensma  
Jenna Stephens  
Emma Stoltzfus  
Sawyer Strelnieks  
Allison Wordes

**Managing Editor:**  
Danny Mooers

**News Editor:**  
Danny Mooers

**Photography Editors:**  
Zachary Sanford  
Sawyer Strelnieks

**Layout Designer:**  
Brittany Duncan

**Sports Editor:**  
Clarissa  
Kraayenbrink

**Staff Writers:**  
Janelle Cammenga  
Evangeline Colarossi  
Elizabeth Helmkamp

**Assistant Layout Designer:**  
Emma Stoltzfus  
Retasya Badudu

**Staff Adviser:**  
Lee Pitts

## DORDT COLLEGE SPECIALS

Show this ad to the Sioux Center Pizza Ranch to receive these great offers!

**COLLEGE BUFFET \$8**  
STUDENT ID REQUIRED

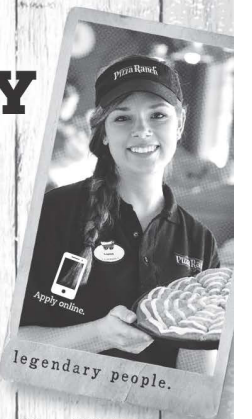
LSM3366

**FREE DELIVERY TO CAMPUS**

LSM2508



**SIoux CENTER**  
251 N MAIN #100  
712-722-3988



legendary people.

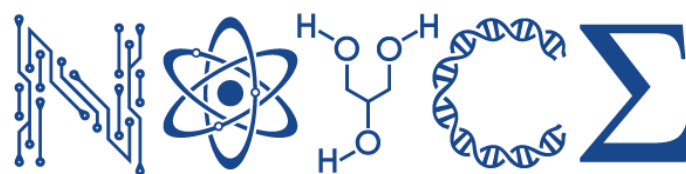
Now Hiring  
pizzaranch.com/careers



## NOYCE SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Interested in **STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering or Math)?**

You could earn a **\$15,000 scholarship** per year through the DC Noyce Scholars Program for your junior and senior year. Major in science, engineering, or math education and teach for two years in a high-need school district.



## Mi STEM Ed

**Mini STEM Education Internship**

**Are you:**

- A student not majoring in both education and a STEM field?
- Interested in learning more about teaching STEM?

**\$100 Stipend for students who:**

- Spend 7 hours in an approved classroom.
- Write a 1-page paper reflecting on the experience.

**Questions? Contact [Valorie.Zonnefeld@dordt.edu](mailto:Valorie.Zonnefeld@dordt.edu)**

