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Student teaching in an online school

Jaclyn Vander Waal—Staff Writer

After spring break senior Katie Bartels expected to stand in front of a classroom of Sioux Center Middle School eight-grade language arts students.

Instead, she introduced herself to them for the first time this past Monday via YouTube video.

Bartels, an elementary education major, is among 41 Dordt University student teachers who have had their educational training dramatically altered by the COVID-19 virus outbreak. With schools suspending in-class instruction, their educational platform has shifted from the classroom to online to fit the needs of their homebound students.

"I love teaching because of the relationship building and the communication between the teacher and student," she said. "I will not be able to observe how my students are processing information or see first-hand how they are responding to anything. I hope to teach online in a way that is collaborative. I hope to create a community with these eighth-graders in a place



where we all are alone on our computers."

Dordt University student teachers are unsure about how their student teaching experiences will unfold. They also are uncertain if they will meet state requirements.

Education professor Ed Starkenburg is staying in touch with cooperating teachers, student

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teachers, and university supervisors during this time. Dordt is waiting on the state of Iowa to make final decisions on student teaching since teacher licensure is a state issue. He said these decisions take time and patience, which can be difficult to accept during this pandemic.

As of now, student teachers are expected to

help out their cooperating teachers in as much as possible. Schools are taking many different approaches, however, so it is difficult to create a standard for what each student teacher should be doing.

"That varies a great deal from teacher to teacher," Starkenburg said. "We have some students who are the primary teacher for most of their classes and subjects. Others are helping teachers find resources to utilize and are involved in communicating with students and their families. We have a few students whose schools are simply closed, and they are doing very little other than the other assignments and paperwork that goes with student teaching. The wide range of experiences is part of what makes this very complicated."

Senior elementary education major Hayley Visser also finds it difficult to effectively give students feedback without developing a relationship.

"When I provide comments to them, I want to be able to connect with them," she said. "I do *continued on page 3*

Bore and peace: exploring boredom in the time of social distancing

Emi Stewart — Staff Writer

"You know I'm bored when I start cleaning." Nebraska resident and former Dordt student Megan O'Gorman feels the pressure of boredom. If there were not a viral illness festering throughout the globe, she -- like all of us -- could fill her day with errands and social outings. However, that is not the case. She resorts to dusting.

On March 12, the World Health Organization declared the outbreak of COVID-19 to be a global pandemic. Suddenly, establishments are closed to the public. Suddenly, employers are imploring their staff to work from home. Suddenly, millions of people have no option but to be still, to sit with themselves, and to endure long bouts of boredom. For most, Netflix, Twitter, and good old fashioned books can only provide so much relief. Eventually, we need to address boredom and see it for what it truly is -- which is... what, exactly? going to like what we see if we go towards contemplation, and we aren't sure that we have what it takes if we move towards creativity. And so it's easier for us just to distract ourselves."

He sees the word as a sort of catch-all, junk drawer for many emotions.

"We're not being accurate and naming exactly what it is we're feeling." Digging a bit further into the sensation of boredom often unveils deeper, root emotions, and he notes that "if we're honest, when we say we're bored, what we really mean is that we're lonely."

2019 Dordt graduate Elayne Heynen agrees.

"My desire to avoid boredom is really a desire to avoid loneliness,." said Heynen, who moved to California after graduation. A new job is a big transition in itself -- when paired with a new state and few established relationships, that jump proves to be an even more daunting one. "When I run out of things to do, I realize I don't have any friends to hang out with." According to Heynen, we often confuse boredom with rest. When people are uncomfortable with the idea of being at rest -- for whatever reason that may be -- they may simply claim that they are "bored." Heynen views this time through the lens of Sabbath. "Rest is something God commands us to do in order to remind us of our own insufficiency and our lack of time, and the fact that we actually need God," said Heynen. "Our current addiction to caffeine is an indication of our desire to be sleep-optional people. We refuse to rest... and that is a form of self-idolatry, in some ways." Is this refusal to rest anchored by weighty feelings, and not simply wanting to accomplish more tasks? It could be an indication of underlying negative emotions that we don't wish to address, or rest in disguise, or the instinct to create. Why does the prospect of

Canceled on the court

Sam Landstra—Staff Writer

Ebby Prewitt knew her tournament was over as soon as the commissioner stepped foot on the court. Southeastern and Ohio Christian had just finished their game and had gone into the locker rooms. Her team sat next to her on the bleachers dressed and ready to play.

With resignation in his voice, Commissioner Westra spoke and the Tyson Events Center fell quiet.

"The NAIA National Basketball Tournament has been cancelled." He said.

Players looked around at each other. Stunned. Were they serious? Was it really over? Prewitt buried her face into her hands and started to cry. Her senior season had vanished in an instant, stolen by the COVID-19 epidemic.

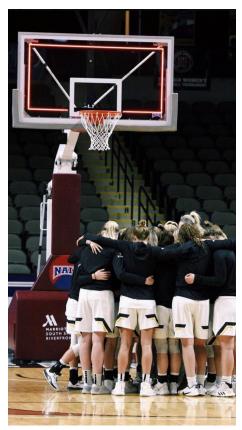
A teammate approached her and placed a hand on her shoulder. Another cradled her head. Sienna Stamness, the junior guard who lost much of her own season from two ACL tears, wrapped both her arms around Prewitt.

continue.

Earlier that evening, assistant coach Abby Schultz led the team in a devotional on showing gratitude in every moment. She told a story of a boy who suddenly passed away after collapsing on the court during a game, urging her players to recognize the gift of basketball, of living each day. We are not guaranteed anything, she said.

"It's true." Prewitt said. "I thought I was going to get up and play my game at nationals. But I didn't."

After the announcement, Prewitt and her teammates wandered onto the court to meet their families. Still shaken, tears flowed for lost opportunities and hugs shared in their grief. *continued on page 8*



"Boredom is that place that either leads to distraction, or to contemplation and creativity," said Dr. Justin Bailey, Assistant Professor of Theology at Dordt. "We aren't sure we're

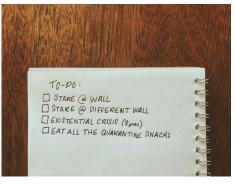


Photo Credit: Emi Stewart

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This was supposed to be their year.

"It was almost unbelievable at first." Prewitt said. "All of us players have a bond that won't be broken because no one else understood what that was like."

With two games already played on the Thursday morning, and eight others the previous day, a sudden abandonment of the tournament seemed out of the question. Any news of similar cancellations or postponements in the sports world felt distant before that moment, small ripples in an ocean far away.

"Never did I think that we would just cancel it." Coach Bill Harmsen said. "The rug was kind of pulled out from under them."

At 11:07 pm the night before, Harmsen received an email while in his hotel room mandating a restricted number of fans at the tournament. Each player would be given six tickets for immediate family members, amounting to 126 people per team.

"I won't forget it," Harmsen said.

Still, while dominoes fell in the NBA and NCAA, he believed the tournament would

Photo Credit: Ebby Prewitt



Concert Choir ends tour early, but their song continues

Sydney Brummel— Staff Writers

On Thursday afternoon, March 12, in the sanctuary of Sussex Christian Reformed Church, NJ Dordt University Concert Choir members scattered themselves throughout the pews. Some singers gathered in clusters, excitedly sharing plans for their free time in New York City the next day. Others diligently reviewed their music for the concert that would take place in a few hours, preparing last-minute for the pieces that weren't fully memorized. Some students simply lounged in the benches in solitude, attempting to gain some much-needed rest from an exhausting week of tour.

The choir's chatter is broken by their director, Professor Ryan Smit, asking them to assemble in the first few rows of pews. The director stands in front of the fifty-three singers and proceeds to read Proverbs 16:9, a passage testifying of God's direction over all man's plans. After a small eternity of silence, Professor Smit informs the choir that they are being sent home early from their tour due to the growing concerns over COVID-19. They would begin the journey back to Sioux Center the following morning.

"I think that hearing the news made everyone realize that you couldn't take anything for granted," sophomore Carlie Hoekstra said. "None of us were really ready to leave."

The Concert Choir had planned to tour the Northeast United States as well as a portion Southern Ontario through spring break. Throughout the week, the ensemble had made stops in Cedar Rapids, IA, Michigan, Ontario, and Vermont. After their concert in New Jersey, they had planned to spend a day in New York City and then have two more concerts in Guelph, ON and Ann Arbor, MI.

The news of an early end to the tour brought a variety of emotional responses from the choir-students in tears, students in disbelief, or students who had already suspected that this was a possibility. After some encouraging words from Dr. Ethan Brue, who accompanied the choir along with his wife and Dr. Carrie back not to resume classes, but to leave campus Groenewold, the choir gathered for one last tour rehearsal.

"With a trip to New York City and Broadway. as well as the rest of an exciting tour stripped away, I expected to see anger and rudeness come out in the frustration," sophomore the same thing." Lindsey Zuidema said. "I saw the opposite."

Indeed, despite the abundance of tears among choir members, the following rehearsal held a sense of hopefulness and a firm resolve to finish the tour off strongly, to God's glory.

"We consoled each other. Students and adults alike offered each other compassion and kindness," Zuidema said. "That last concert in New Jersey is something I'll remember for the rest of my life.'

The Concert Choir sang their entire tour repertoire for the final concert. From the first line of "Cantate Domino" to the concluding Alleluia of "Praise to the Lord," the musicians dedicated the night to the Lord in song. From their deep disappointment arose an even stronger desire to worship together, sharing the joyful message of the pieces to their audience.

"At one point, after we finished singing 'When We Love,' I looked away from Smit, and I don't remember seeing an audience as emotional and connected as they were in that moment," senior Anna Blauw said "I don't know if they knew it was our last concert, but I think they knew that there was something different and special about that night.

"The air was thick with God's presence," it...We sang with all our might.

The choir and accompanying adults spent the following two days travelling back to Dordt. Even though they knew they were heading entirely, many members ensured that the journey was remembered positively by the whole choir.

"On the bus home. I think we were all strong in different ways," Hoekstra said. "We got to be there for each other. We were all going through sad to leave each other.

From choir-themed Jeopardy to enthusiastic Zuidema said. "We knew he was king, in all of karaoke led by the back end of the bus, the overlying feeling of heartbreak and uncertainty was temporarily relieved by joking, laughter, and, of course, singing. Senior members were specially commended for their leadership, and the bus erupted in applause for their gifted organist, Dr. Groenewold, and their beloved director. Professor Smit. By the time the bus rolled onto campus on Saturday evening, the members, though ready to rest at home, were

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Photo Credit: Dordt University Music Department Facebook

The effects of panic buying

Lexi Schnaser—Staff Writer

We've probably all seen the pictures of the empty toilet paper aisles in Walmart. The question is: why are people panic-buying toilet paper when COVID-19 is a virus with respiratory, not gastrointestinal symptoms?

All jokes aside, panic-buying and hoarding have become the new norm amidst the craziness of stay-at-home orders and social distancing. In a time when everything feels out of control, many people all over the world have turned to director, he said the panic-buying and hoarding

retail therapy to regain some sense of control. While it may seem smart to stock up on as many boxes of Kraft mac and cheese and toilet paper as possible to avoid having to go to the store later, panic-buying can have more negative consequences than positive.

For example, the PLIA team that travelled to Colorado Springs over spring break spent a day serving at Crossfire Ministries, a food and toiletry pantry. When talking to John Miller, the originator of the ministry and current operations

of toiletry products like toilet paper and hand ago. sanitizer really hurts ministries who try to provide these goods to those who cannot afford to buy them themselves. He encouraged people to take a bigger picture at the whole mess. Do we really need to be hoarding out of fear when some people can't ever afford these products? When Miller went into the store to stock up on toiletry items for the people he serves, he could not get enough of what he needed. Some people who depended on Crossfire for these products were out of luck. That was almost four weeks

Now, the panic buying is still an unfortunate everyday reality. "Products are still being produced, so you can purchase things at a normal pace," said Kendall Snyder, a Dordt student who works at Fareway.

Snyder has a few words of advice for customers. "There is no need to panic and make the jobs of service workers more difficult. Give them a 'thank you' because they are working really hard for you right now."

Forseth steps back from Dordt

Lauren Hoekstra — Staff Writer

On March 19, Dordt released that Dr. Eric Forseth, provost since 2013, would be transitioning to serve as Head of Schools at Holland Christian Schools in Holland, MI.

Forseth said that he was originally drawn to Dordt from his previous place of employment at Nampa Christian Schools in Nampa, ID because of the high-quality Dordt graduates that came to work for the school

made such a difference [in the classroom]," he said.

He was immediately attracted to that solid and high-quality education that Dordt was providing. When Dr. Erik Hoekstra came to Nampa for a Dordt event and met with Forseth for coffee, Hoekstra urged Forseth to apply for the position of provost. Hoekstra was "very impressed" with Forseth and his commitment to Christ personally and to Christian education and thought he would be perfect for the job.

Although a lot of his work is behind the scenes, Forseth has been a part of many important developments on campus. Forseth commented that he was proud of all the new facilities that could be built during his time at Dordt: the Agricultural Stewardship Center (ASC), the completion of the Science Building, the new Nursing Building, the Sky Walk, and he is especially proud of the Kielstra Research and Scholarship Center, as it fulfills his deep desire

of helping people reach their full potential. Even though Forseth may be leaving, Hoekstra

knows that his impact will be felt across the community for years to come "It continues to hit me level by level the

years," Hoekstra said. "I am more grateful for him today than [ever before]. My appreciation for what he has done has definitely deepened." Students as well can feel the impact of Forseth and his work, both on the grander scale "Their biblical worldview was so solid and it and his work interpersonally with the campus community. Staci Seaman, a senior who has recently returned from a semester abroad in Uganda, admired his intentionality. She has seen him be incredibly open and personable during her work with Student Government.

Seaman mentioned her time serving with him on different committees. She knows that the interest of the students is on his mind in every meeting. If he were to feel that the voice of the students was not being heard, he would ask very specific questions about how the change that was being discussed would look from a student's perspective.

Juliana Martinez, the current Student Body President, has seen some of the same things that Seaman has witnessed. Having first met Forseth in her visit to Dordt during inher senior year of high school, he has consistently kept tabs on her throughout her time at Dordt. Whenever she would bump into him in the halls, he would ask how she was doing and how he could be helpful

to her

"Dordt will miss having him around," she said

For Hoekstra, these next few weeks will be full of online meetings with more than a dozen impact that he's had on our campus over the past of people that Forseth was directly responsible for, asking them questions such as what went well during Forseth's time as provost that think about it now. It starts today, not just at should be replicated in the next leader, what graduation." changes should be made so that the next provost can thrive, and how can everyone help Forseth finish his time well at Dordt. Hoekstra is unsure of the future beyond the listening stage.

Hoekstra commented that he had grown very close to Forseth during his seven years here at Dordt. They had bonded over a love for pheasant hunting and bird dogs and had lots of fun going hunting and raising money for the Rooster Booster Scholarship

Since Hoekstra travels a lot, he was encouraged by knowing that Forseth would take care of things while he was gone.

"There's definitely a sense of loss and sadness, but ultimately if what we say is true and God calls us into places to serve, we can't argue with that," Hoekstra said.

Forseth's favorite part of his job has been "absolutely the students," he said. He and his wife, Kim, frequently opened their home for groups of Dordt students to come for Sunday dinners. He called it a "gift" that he was able to interact with so many students over the years. As he moves on to a new job and new place,

Forseth leaves Dordt with a blessing and encouragement to students

"We serve a big God [with a] big Kingdom. God bless you, and grace be with you," he said. "We try to talk so often about living transformationally. Don't think about living transformationally when you graduate,



Contributed Photo

(cont.) Student teaching in COVID-19 throws a wrench in an online school senior research and design continued from pg.1 Benjamin Boersma — Staff Writer

not know them well enough to do so. I just try to

experience.

face to face on a daily basis. Veteran teachers and student teachers are

home

Gretchen Lee- Staff Writer

comes to entertainment

large amounts of free-time

busy during quarantine? beginning of Spring Break.

shows more than marathon movie-watching.

When deciding to watch a show or movie, everyone is faced with the question of whether to watch something new or revisit an old favorite. While students have certainly done a mix of both, 66% of students said that they made an effort to expand their horizons by watching shows and movies they hadn't seen yet.

Marissa Peel, a junior elementary education major, has taken the time to use digital entertainment and television series as an opportunity to spend time with her family. "[My family] really likes the original series nice that we have so many options to choose on Netflix, like 'The Crown' and 'Dracula.' I've from with today's technology." been showing that to my parents lately," said



be positive to them with my comments.'

The whole situation is a little scary for Bartles. She cannot help but consider how COVID-19 may negatively impact her students and herself. "Students will be behind in their content knowledge," she said. "The lack of new instruction due to COVID-19 will probably make next year's curriculum look much different. Students are being shaped in all different ways through this time, and teachers will do their best to keep everyone on track. I will also not be as prepared for classroom management and lesson planning for middle school English language arts, but I will learn a lot of useful skills in technology through this

This lack of relationship and face-to-face communication is a struggle that all student teachers are facing at this time. However, Kim Lee, cooperating teacher for grades 5-8 mathematics at Orange City Christian School, thinks there are ways to combat this struggle.

"It promotes creativity and encourages student teachers to go outside of the content in creating those extra fun things normally included within a school day or week," she said. "Making sure each child still understands that they are a unique, valued learner and loved by God is a different ballgame when you aren't interacting

finding that everything must be more intentional now that they are teaching their students from

"During this time of online education, Orange

City Christian School is really focusing on teaching only the essentials and getting rid of all else," Visser said. "We want to deliver the same high-quality instruction students received in school, so we really are working to narrow the curriculum and content down to the skin and bones of the standards and skills. That, in itself, is challenging me in a good way. It is making me reflect on how I do things and why I do

Visser remains positive about their student teaching experience despite the many struggles. She understands that this unique experience has much to teach her.

"I am trying to make the best of it," she said. "This is a great learning opportunity for me, and I am glad Dordt recognizes that and has asked us to capitalize on it. This is a great time for me to practice online education despite its drawbacks. As much as I would rather be in the classroom with my students and mentor teachers, I am trying to do what I can to help them both virtually.

In the end, what matters to Bartels is the mindset she keeps during this difficult situation. "I want to make the most of this time despite the corona virus," she said. "Everyone is a bit worried and angry that this is happening right now. I want to help bring peace to this, and I can do that by doing online teaching well and creating community through online learning." Through the experience, Visser has gained a

new appreciation for teachers "Teachers are rockstars," she said. "Like,

wow. I have always known that, but seeing them in this context just proves it over and over again.

Thursday, March 12: in the wake of Dordt's decision to extend spring break and move classes online, a new decision had to be made: what to do about senior projects.

"Part of the process is managing the project, so this had added a new wrinkle to all of that," said Ben Saarloos, who is charge of the engineering students' lab access. "The students are having to balance what they can and cannot do given the ever-increasing level of restrictions.'

Senior engineering students Matt Frazeur, Ryan VerMeer, and Jeremy Riege have been working on their project since October of last year. The grounds crew had been having some difficulty working underneath some of their bigger lawnmowers, so they asked the Frazeur, VerMeer, and Riege to come up with a portable lift to make the job easier. They spent the rest of the fall semester coming up with designs and have been working on construction this semester

"We had the pieces cut before break, but not assembled," said Frazeur.

Senior engineering students usually have to present their projects to the rest of the class, but with classes now completely online for the rest of the school year, they have met with their professors virtually and they will record a video of their presentation for the class.

"I found out that it's really distracting when you can hear yourself on someone else's mic," said VerMeer. He and Frazeur are roommates, so they were usually in the same room when they started meeting with their professor. The problem was that one person's microphone would pick up what was coming out of his

speaker system, creating a feedback loop and causing what was essentially a digital echo.

Engineering students aren't the only ones having to navigate the online side of senior projects. According to junior nursing student Gideon Brandsma, clinicals have been replaced by online simulations and case studies.

"Our prof said the added infection risks of students in the hospital is just not worth taking," said Brandsma

Overall, it appears that the transition has been going relatively smoothly.

"Some projects are more computational or 'paper-based' so they transition easier. Other projects are very much prototype and hardware driven," said Saarloos

Lawnmower lift project had been slightly behind schedule because of some mistake with measurements, but the extra time has allowed Frazeur, VerMeer and Riege to catch back up.

"It's been good for us to not have to meet for classes. We've had more time to work on our project," said Frazeur.

They expect to be finished in time to present on their work at the end of the semester. Work is also being done on other senior projects, in spite of potential setbacks.



Photo Credit: Rvan VerMee

Entertainment in the age of quarantine

While in-shelter quarantine isn't being enforced by law in every state yet, most Dordt students have been practicing social distancing. With so much time at home away from friends, students are left to fend for themselves when it

In the era of digital streaming and bingewatching, Dordt students found sufficient ways of keeping busy. Participating in digital entertainment, like movies and television, is certainly one of the easiest ways of occupying

Out of the Dordt students surveyed, only 8% reported that they do not usually watch movies or television. So how have the other 92% kept

Streaming services like Netflix and Hulu were a go-to for a majority of students, with 80% of use an online streaming subscription to watch participants have used the service since the

While not many of Netflix's original movies made the list of student's favorite movies from their time in isolation, several of Netflix's original series did, including "I'm Not Okav With This," "Watership Down," and "Ragnarok." Overall, 66% of students surveyed stated that they participated in binge-watching

Peel. "We like to watch shows as a family when I'm home Among the most popular shows were "Brooklyn 99," "The Office," and "Criminal

Minds Students seemed to watch a wider variety of movies. Surveyed students listed movies they have enjoyed recently and Frozen 2 was the only one listed by multiple people. The majority of student's favorite movies were recent releases, but some older favorites, like "Finding Nemo," "How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days," and "Old Yeller" also made it in the mix.

Outside of movies and TV, other students said that they preferred to stream video games through Steam and Twitch. Peter Shippy, a freshman computer science major, is one such student

"Typically when I am bored I will load up Warframe, an online, squad-based multiplayer students surveyed stating that they prefer to game." Shippy said. He has also taken the opportunity of being trapped at home to play media. Netflix was the most popular; 79% of longer videogames with his brothers.

Other students however are finding most of their entertainment outside of the digital screen altogether.

"Helping my dad on the farm has been a big part of entertaining myself because I enjoy doing that," said Hallie Beck, a sophomore general agriculture major. "[Quarantine] hasn't really been too different from what I'm used to because we are always busy on the farm."

While Beck has watched some movies, she says that her preferred methods of selfentertainment are driving, working with her livestock, and listening to music.

While some students are growing tired of screen time and being cooped up at home, others, like Acacia Phillips, a junior digital media major, haven't grown tired of watching movies and shows quite yet.

"I'm not bored yet, no. There are so many movie and TV options that I don't really get bored of watching them." Phillips said. "It's

Ever since Dordt University went online, the campus sidewalks-once was filled with students-are empty. The school of around 1,500 students now has less than 200 students living in its dorms. Among those few students still on campus are the Residence Life staff.

Yee Lim Shin — Staff Writer

The Residence Life staff, which consist of RAs (Residence Assistants), CDAs (Community Development Assistants), and LCAs (Learning Community Assistants) are still on campus to provide students with any help they may need. While their titles remain the same, as Geels. Dordt shifts to online learning, their duties also change

"A lot of our work is centered around planning events and being with our residents," West Hall RA Yovela Belicia said, "and now since all our residents are gone, well, that's a huge part of it taken away.³

Every day there is an RA or LCA on duty for every residence hall, and one CDA for the apartments. They have duty and security phones to keep in contact and do rounds around their respective buildings, answer calls, and help students.

"Now since we have more online classes,

more of my position has been getting people into their rooms or their buildings if they get locked out or helping people move out as people come back over the weekend," CDA Michael Buma said

Instead of staying on duty from 5 pm-8 am like they usually do during the semester, the Residence Life staff hold the duty and security phones 24/7 so there is always someone available to help.

"The pro-staff was saying they just want people to know that we're on campus and available as a resource," said CDA Jacquelyn

Like the rest of Dordt University, the Residence Life staff is making adjustments to serve students



Diamond Staff 2019-2020

Residence Life on campus

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The Invisible Man review

Zach Dirksen-Staff Writer

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It was 2014 and it was high time Universal Studios had its own cinematic universe. Disney and Marvel, with only a handful of fun, interconnected movies, had themselves a cash cow with the MCU. But Universal didn't have superheroes. So, scouring the depths of their intellectual property, someone had an amazing idea. What if, we rebooted all the classic monster movies we made in the 1940's, but also crossed them all over, Avengers-style. The idea was solid gold. Soon, the first film in the so-called Dark Universe, Dracula Untold hit theaters

No one remembers Dracula Untold, and rightly so. It's not a bad movie, per se, but it certainly isn't one that can anchor a tentpole franchise. Unfazed by Dracula's lack of success, Universal went all in. You know what'll really put butts in seats? Tom Cruise. Fighting a mummy. Heck yeah! 2017's The Mummy came, and went, with a whimper. It seems as though the Dark Universe just wasn't meant to be. But, Universal still had release dates lined up for future releases. Surely cancelling them all would be embarrassing. Plus, it might be nice to get a bit of the money they spent back, right? Thus. Universal turned to Blumhouse, which was dominating the scene with low-budget, but consistently entertaining horror movies like Get *Out* and *Split*, to help them pick up the slack.

Now, in 2020, we have the first of their efforts. The Invisible Man. In it, we follow Cecilia, a woman racked by fear and paranoia. After barely escaping the clutches of her abusive, tech millionaire ex-boyfriend, Cecilia finds herself holed up in a friend's house. She ishesitant to even go outside, fearing the possibility that her controlling ex, Adrian, is out there looking for her. Adrian and Cecilia's relationship was extremely one-sided, with Adrian controlling nearly every aspect of her life. Separating herself from that will take some time

Cecilia soon finds that Adrian has committed suicide, and that he's left much of his fortune to her, pending she keep to some conditions. She can't commit a crime and she can't be ruled mentally unstable. Cecilia is ready to move on, and having this money and Adrian out of Universe is dead, all hail the Dark Universe.

her life can help her do that. But soon, strange things begin to happen. Cecilia feels breath on the back of her neck. Kitchen items begin to move, seemingly by themselves. Someone else is in the house with her. Is she crazy? Is it a ghost? Or is Adrian not ready to let her go just vet?

The Invisible Man is a masterclass in suspense. We know what we're expecting going in, it's in the title after all. What we aren't expecting, however, is how nervous that thought can make us. The Invisible Man could be anywhere. Sitting in the chair in the corner or standing right behind us. He might not be there at all, but how could we tell? This is the constant state of paranoia that Cecilia is in throughout the film, and we feel that with her. Every empty space becomes a held breath, an I-Spy book, where we search for the slightest abnormality.

On a metaphorical level, the concept also works marvelously. While an Invisible Man is literally stalking Cecilia, the trauma of Adrian's abuse haunts her as well. Those memories will never leave her, and Adrian's presence, whether that be physical, mental, or metaphorical is still with her

Perhaps the strongest element of *The Invisible* Man is Elizabeth Moss as Cecilia. Moss has been consistently tearing it up on television for two decades, starting on The West Wing and moving to Mad Men and The Handmaid's Tale. Only recently has Moss made an impression in film, but she's certainly here to stay. Moss brings a realistic and energized performance here. We experience these horrors as she does and Moss does wonders expressing Cecilia's fear and pain

I don't know the state of the Dark Universe After The Mummy, it seemed dead in the water. But with the success of The Invisible Man, Universal might actually have something. Instead of pandering to box office guarantees, they've chosen to take a risk with a smaller amount of money, making a personal story while still being scary, reinventing the classic monster movie for a new generation. With Universal and Blumhouse making plans to do the same with another Dracula movie, it looks like the monsters are here to stay. The Dark



Disney+ early releases

Cinema 5 theater in Sioux Center has announced they will be closed until the end of March. They are not alone as theaters all over the country temporarily shut their doors over COVID-19 as families stay home. Many movies have pushed back their release indefinitely, while those that have made it to the theater came out with poor opening weekends.

Streaming services are stepping into the entertainment gap left by movie theaters. Disney brought a happy surprise by releasing Frozen 2 globally on Disney+ over three months ahead of its original release on June 26.

"Frozen 2' has captivated audiences around the world through its powerful themes of perseverance and the importance of family," said Bob Chapek, Chief Executive Officer of the Walt Disney Company, on the early release, "messages that are incredibly relevant during this time, and we are pleased to be able to share this heartwarming story early with our Disney+ subscribers to enjoy at home on any device."

Sophomore Acacia Phillips is currently subscribed to Disney+ and says appreciates that movies are being made available to the public early.

"I was trying to figure out what to watch one night and saw that Frozen 2 was already on there than a month after its theatrical release.

so it was really nice to see it already," Phillips said, "especially due to the coronavirus."

Noah Deist, another sophomore, said it was "a smart business move from movie studios" to get audiences excited about their movies.

"They spent millions on these film and three months from now when the theater open up again, the hype for their movie will have died out," said Deist.

Both Phillips and Deist have a positive look towards Disney's early releases in Disney+ because of the changes and isolation that has been going on due to COVID-19.

However, Phillips did have some worries on people wanting more from the companies. "People may demand them to be on [Disney+] sooner now because it is certainly really nice,"

Philips said Even though for now, people will have to

watch movies through their streaming sites, Deist believes that the movie theatres will not have a negative impact in the future.

"I think the theaters are going to be extremely overbooked once they are allowed to reopen.³ Deist said. Disney has announced that Onward will also

be streaming early to Disney+ on April 3, less





Contributed Photos

turned Tables for the theatre: where to next?

Allison Wordes— Staff Writer

Dordt's response to COVID-19 has changed the direction for the theatre department this semester. The theatre building sits empty, without the raucous laughter and jokes from the theatre students

infee major upcoming events included the performances of three seniors for their final projects-Zach Dirksen, Kaitlyn Baljeu, and Harrison Burns.

So, what are these seniors going with their shows now? For the most part, the news of change wasn't too much of a surprise.

"It was already a week into the major shutdowns around the country so I was already expecting it," said Harrison Burns, who was going to put on his own piece of playwriting, Bankrupt. "So, it wasn't really surprising, but it was still really disappointing and frustrating." Because he is a senior, Burns will not be able to direct this play as a Dordt student. However, there are perhaps bigger and better things for his production. After several months of revising and rewriting, he hopes to publish his final draft. It would then be possible for it to be performed at another time or in another place.

"In my mind, this felt like my big, creative senior project that all my theatre experience had been building to," Burns said, "so to have it completely disappear like this is rather jarring." The group was able to do one read-through before spring break—unaware that it would be

their last. Still, it was an encouraging experience and Burns praised the talent of the cast.

"I was incredibly lucky to even have the chance to perform the play in the first place," Burns said, "and I am confident that much of my work on the writing will pay off eventually." Senior Kaitlyn Baljeu also has to deal with these changes with her show about Vincent Va Gogh, Break of Day, but sees hope ahead.

"I have the chance to continue Break of Day next [fall] semester, which I am so grateful for." She originally planned to graduate in May, but earlier circumstances caused her to add an extra semesterto accommodate a third major

Baljeu has been in this process of putting on a show for almost two years. She felt the change coming over spring break as well as Burns, because as the fear of COVID-19 slowly crept over campus it started to affect her meetings in the theatre and put her project on hold.

The process was just about halfway for Baljeu-the production team had been working on their designs, and the cast had two rehearsals down. Luckily, she won't have to recast everyone—just the people who are graduating. "I'll have the chance to finish out my dream project," she said. She has been learning just

how big of a task directing a show can be, and a little extra time is a hidden blessing. She plans to spend most of the summer prepping for Break of Day rehearsals and production meetings, so that the result will be even better

away

Lindsay Kuiper — Staff Writer

social gatherings are no exception. In response to the coronavirus crisis, a new

friends or family

screen



Writers

slide's twists and turns.

Porte, reflecting on the trip. tune began to play.

"I can show you the world... leading down into the valley below.

view..." We pulled up to Bethel CRC of Shiprock, we weren't in Iowa anymore.

some of us helped drywall for a member of

Feature •

Movie nights from miles (cont.) Bore and peace

During this time of social distancing, many aspects of life have been moved online, and

Chrome extension called Netflix Party has been increasing in popularity. Netflix's website states that it "synchronizes video playback and adds group chat to your favorite Netflix shows," making the virtually impossible task of connecting with friends a virtual reality.

Only one person has to download the extension on their browser, but all participants must have their own Netflix account. From there, they can find the movie or television show they'd like to watch and create a link to share with their

Anyone in the group can play or pause the show unless the host has specified otherwise. Everyone can share their thoughts in real time using the group chat feature on the side of the

Freshman Sommer Schaap recently tried out

the Chrome-exclusive feature. "It's super easy to navigate," she said. "It's a really creative way to talk about the movie without verbally interrupting it so you can still understand what's going on.

So far, over 1 million people have downloaded Netflix Party to their browser. However, some users have pointed out issues with the extension. For example, it automatically kicks everyone out of the chat room once a show is over, and a new session must be created for every episode that is watched with the extension.

There are also no usernames in the chat room. so users must memorize the icons given to each member of the group to determine who is saving what

Despite the issues, many people are praising Netflix Party as a way to make social distancing more tolerable. While everyone is confined to their own homes, having more online features such as Netflix Party makes the isolation easier.

continued from page 1

. .stillness and a blank to-do list make some of us so uneasy?

Associate Professor of English Luke Hawley they let themselves become bored. He believes to do that, I think it's really beautiful. some of his most creative moments come from embracing boredom, and allowing his curiosity to wander. However, having actively, willingly participated in boredom, he understands the instinct to avoid it at all costs.

around the corner, all the time," said Hawley. To Groundhog Day in his curriculum on the basis him, boredom -- although intimidating -- creates space for crucial questions. "Be brave and ask the hard questions of yourself. What do I really a time.' like to do? What am I interested in? What do I think would be really fun to learn, instead of just learning in order to get a degree?"

Senior social work major Holly Testerman s another defender of boredom, but her focal point is presentness.

"What am I doing now? Who am I with now? What's important now?" Testerman frequently checks in with herself by asking these questions. She was living in Uganda for the semester, as a part of a study-abroad program. Once the news of the COVID-19 outbreak spread, she was ordered back to the U.S. Although her experience was cut short by several weeks, she

finds immense value in the time she was given. The director of the program had a motto that sticks with Testerman. This, here, now. This, here. now.

In Uganda, Testerman would spend hours in silence, drinking tea, waiting for transportation, or watching chickens run across the road. She turned her watch and phone off, allowing herself to not be aware of the passing time.

"When you take time out of the equation and you just let yourself sit, I think you can surprise

yourself with how much time you can actually spend," said Testerman. "Which is hard to do in America because we are super time-oriented. It is an advocate of boredom. In his classes, he is hard to detach from that and still be a member encourages students to see what happens when of society. But when you have the opportunity

> Boredom is an inevitable element of human life. It can be an opportunity for personal growth, rest, introspection, or the launching pad for a new creative endeavor.

"How we spend our days is how we spend "I think there is a deep existential dread that is our lives," said Bailey, who includes the movie of this idea. "What could you do with 30 or 40 years? Guess what, you have them. One day at



Contributed Phot

PLIA 2020: a journey to remember

Tabetha DeGroot and Benjamin Boersma — Staff

During this time of social distancing, many aspIt started with French toast in our leader's kitchen and ended with a cinnamon roll hug. We left the first Friday morning of spring break after breakfast and stopped at the Maurice City Park on our way out. Towards the back of the park is a tube slide that looks like it was built inside the tank of a water tower. One by one, the seven of us slid down and experienced the

"That was a good indication to me that we would have a great week," said junior Isaac

Little did we know, however, that our trip would end with twists to rival the Maurice Slide. After stopping overnight in Western Nebraska, we traveled the windy roads into Colorado. Gideon Brandsma, one of our leaders, plugged in his phone before heading out. As the mountains rose before us, a familiar

Slowly, the music grew in excitement, and we crested a hill just as the big crescendo happened. Before us was the winding highway

"A whole new world, A new fantastic point of

New Mexico, as night fell upon the dusty desert town. We breathed in the dry air, excitement spreading through the van. It was crystal clear:

A Navajo woman was sweeping the entryway as we approached the door. We greeted her, and she explained that she was cleaning up after her daughter's funeral. Death is a common occurrence on the Navajo reservation of Shiprock. There had been two funerals shortly before we arrived, and there was a third during the week we were there. Later in the week,

had lost a granddaughter while on the way to the hospital. None of us were ready for how straightforward she was in telling us.

We found Pastor Jon Greydanus inside the church and he showed us around. We would sleep and eat in the church. Our only option for showering was at a nearby pool, which was closed when we arrived on Saturday night and would not open until Monday. This was our first lesson on how to "improvise, adapt, and overcome." We became practiced in the art of sink bathing, dry shampoo, and deodorant wipes that week.

"I'm going to have to be okay with looking Grace Nanninga remarked.

how He answers

For most of the week, we cleaned up around the church, burned tumbleweeds, hauled tree branches and two-by-fours, and drywalled. When we weren't working, we spent time getting to know our teammates and introducing ourselves to the local wildlife, such as dogs, peacocks, and lots of spiders.

On Wednesday we traveled into Arizona to visit the Grand Canvon. It was overcast and foggy when we arrived. The rangers told us not to expect good visibility. We went in anyway, just in time for the fog to lift and a rainbow to appear several hundred feet below us. As the day continued and we hiked around the canyon, the sky cleared up. We saw at least seven more rainbows that day, as well as a sunset that turned the canyon walls from brown to flaming red before fading into the blackness of evening.

"God just can't stop flexing," said sophomore Sydney Stiemsma.

"Careful what you ask for," someone else replied. "He's more than happy to oblige."

We returned to our work Thursday morning

were beginning to reach us that classes might be cancelled when we returned. Those rumors were confirmed when we quit for the day. Almost half our group was from Canada, and they suddenly had to get home. They booked flights as fast as they could. The rest of us, except for two who lived in Sioux Center, would have to drive home.

Friday morning came very quickly. There was a storm brewing in the mountains of New after that and we made it back to Sioux Center Mexico and Colorado, so we decided to try safe and sound. While we were in Shiprock, going through a different pass in the Rockies. Stiemsma had taught us something called "the Nebraska border. As the sun set, the sleet finally turns inwards until we're all wrapped up like and feeling a bit greasier than usual," freshman caught up with us, and the roads began to ice a cinnamon roll. With our feet safely back on over.

that God would use the time to help us reorient the hill and stopped to put on chains. We lost hard to part, any journey that starts with French our focus toward Him. A word of advice: be momentum and couldn't get started. Vehicles toast and ends in a cinnamon roll hug will not careful what you ask for. You might not like flew over the hill, unable to slow down. A few easily be forgotten.

the congregation. She explained to us that she with the coronavirus on our minds. Rumors of them barely missed our front bumper. We were scared

Someone suggested that we say a prayer. It was there, on the side of the road just outside of Nebraska, that we experienced the most effective team building activity of the week. For a moment, the coronavirus and online classes were forgotten. It was just us and God in the middle of the storm.

Thankfully, there were no more surprises The trip went smoothly until just before the cinnamon roll hug." Everyone joins hands and familiar soil, we did our best cinnamon roll hug For devotions that evening, one of us prayed The truck ahead of us couldn't make it up yet and said our sad goodbyes. Though it was



Opinion

Zen and the art of the guarantine

Harrison Burns — Staff Writer

Like most of my fellow students, when I came home for Spring Break, I was expecting a pleasant reprise from college stress and a quick trip. But in the span of 72 hours, all expectations for the rest of the semester burnt to ash faster than marshmallows when I make smores.

a waterfall. James Bond is delayed until November. No crowds at March Madness. Italy is on complete lockdown. My friend's college goes fully online. March Madness is canceled entirely. Tom Hanks has been diagnosed with coronavirus. Dordt is now online.

As with many others I've spoken to, the Tom Hanks diagnosis was when things became just found some 5-year-old acrylic paint in your real for me. And the prospect of not returning to campus coupled with the government lockdowns is when things became surreal. Surely these sorts of things only happen in movies?

But turns out Mr. Covid-19 is a rather industrious pandemic and has disrupted our lives quicker than we can often process. And to save lives, the best thing we can all do is become lazy, shut-in hermits.

With this in mind, I have compiled a map of the quarantine experience, to hopefully provide some catharsis for what you've also experienced or a warning for what may be in your future as we continue in this hibernation season.

Stage 1: Denial- This coronavirus thing is starting to sound serious. You're sure that it will pass in a week or so. Just hunker down for a little while and things will get under control. Right

Stage 2: Frustration- No sports. No wing events. No concerts. No theatre. No dinner parties. No group meals in general. No hanging

out with friends. This is going to be harder than you thought.

Stage 3: Paranoia- You just sneezed, have you been infected? Can pets carry the virus? Why does everyone want toilet paper? Are you missing something? And have you seen any birds since everything went on lockdown? You don't think so... and just when the government caught in a time warp of doing nothing. The The slow drip of dread quickly became is shutting things down... coincidence?

Stage 4: Existential Crisis- Existential crisis. Stage 5: Creativity Explosion- Alright if you're stuck, you're going to do what you've always wanted to do! Learn an instrument. Heck, you're going to write a symphony. And finally get to that book you've been wanting to write. Eat your heart out Michelangelo, you closet

Stage 6: Limbo- You roll out of bed. You're trying to remember what day it is, let alone write a book. It's been two weeks. Or has it been two months? Or two years? You're not really sure... you walk out of the shower. Scroll through social media in quiet trepidation. Look at the clock. It's already 5pm. What the heck are you doing with your life?

Stage 7: Hallucinations- You've just had a deeply personal and illuminating conversation with your cat. You're 97% sure that your dog just walked down the hall on his hindlegs. Something doesn't seem quite right. Oh yeah, you left toast in the toaster five hours ago.

Stage 8: Loneliness- You really, really, really need to see a friend's face or at least hear their voice. You can only talk to your pets for so long.

Stage 9: Adaptation- You've finally started to get into a routine. To stay on task, you've scheduled out every hour of your life for the next two weeks. Your household has had family meetings, laying down how you all will get

along during the lockdown. All this screen time days, cabin fever can feel overwhelming and has forced you to order blue-light protection glasses. You don't know if you should feel relieved or ashamed about this.

Stage 10: Confusion- Online classes at least provide something for you to do. Maybe a little too much to do. One day you feel like you're next day you feel like you're caught in a time Zoom presentations. Not exactly the balanced lifestyle you're trying to adapt to.

Stage 11: Insanity- Last night you listened through David Bowie's album, "The Rise and Fall of Ziggy Stardust and the Spider from Mars". At 2am. Twice. What a time to be alive! You can't stop dancing. You clean your room and then make it messy again. Why? You don't know, why does Ewan McGregor say "Hello There" better than anyone who has ever existed? Stage 12: Acceptance-

This is a tough time for all of us. And some Quarantine Zen by accident.

the news can be oppressively depressing. Sometimes, life is bleak and there is no covering it up in glitter.

But I know that in the midst of this, I have also been inspired by the grace and generosity I've seen from family, friends and strangers.

As lonely and annoying and difficult as this isolation can be, we can be encouraged warp of doing endless discussion posts and knowing that by doing this, we are stopping a terrible situation from becoming an absolute catastrophe.

So call a friend (I know I feel ten times more invigorated when I do). Enjoy some homemade cooking (that's hopefully better than The Commons). Maybe even try something creative. Watch great movies, listen to great albums, read great books, play great video-games, pray for the healthcare workers, pray for those afflicted. Stav sane.

Who knows? You might even achieve some



Photo Credit: Harrison Burns

Will we come back?

Yage Wang — Staff Writer

On March 25, Howard Wilson, the Chief of Administrative Office of Dordt University, announced that students will not resume in-person classes for the rest of the spring semester. Students will have online classes with the corresponding professors. While making this determination, Dordt has shown its priority considerations are student's health and education. Though the coronavirus has changed many people's 2020 plans, it also a good time for us to reflect on our lives through this outbreak.

As of March 30, the number of people who are infected with coronavirus is 766,336; the total death toll worldwide is 36,873. Behind those horrendous numbers, many families have lost their loved ones. Then we ask ourselves: how did it get to this point so fast?

According to the existing data, coronavirus was discovered in December in Wuhan, China. While the provincial government was trying to uncover the truth, two million civilians left Wuhan for the Chinese Spring Festival. Soon after the coronavirus outbreak in China, large numbers of confirmed cases started popping up in Italy and France. On March 17, the French government publicly announced the lockdown of the country. But in the US, Trump still encouraged enterprises to reopen by Easter after a short time of people working remotely. Now, at the end of March, New York stands out as the worst-hit area in the United States. In Japan, immature and easily lonely that we desperately the confirmed cases were under 100. But after

the decision of postponing the Olympic, the number quickly shot up to the thousands.

Interestingly, although the countries most affected by corona virus are all very different, they have all faced criticism for being ineffective and having a slow reaction to the virus.. Many people are frustrated that the many countries have underestimated the destructivity of coronavirus and prioritized maintaining daily life over the health of the nation. It seems that the immediate actions of responding to the coronavirus are ridiculous. Some countries want to appear composed and don't take any precautions for a minor "flu"

Another frustration is that many people are ignoring advice to social distance and stay home. Though governments have at various levels required social-distancing or locked down areas, many people still ignore the risk of getting the virus. It is often written off as "the flu" or a "bad cold."

People who are taking precautions seriously are sometimes branded cowards or overly dramatic. Through the coronavirus period, maybe it is time for us to reflect on the ultimate purpose and goal for socializing. Author and social activist Gloria Jean Watkins once interpreted solitary in a way I found quite applicable for our current situation, "Knowing how to be solitary is central to the art of loving. When we can be alone, we can be with others without using them as a means of escape." So, is quarantine really a joy-killer or we are just too need other's presence?



Caleb Pollema — Staff Writer

"God is our refuge and strength, an everpresent help in trouble.'

These words and more have gripped my mind over the past two weeks since being told that my team and I won't be able to finish our baseball season

It feels eternity has transpired since the news came out two weeks ago. After our final games in Tucson, I headed home with my dad and said goodbye to my teammates. It was one of the strangest situations I have ever been a part of. It didn't feel like the end of a season or the end of a semester because we hadn't finished

our season and school will continue online. I don't know if I can speak for athletes at Dordt or athletes across the country, but it has been truly difficult to swallow. I feel for our women's

basketball team that was literally minutes from beginning the final chapter of their season when they were told that it was simply over.

baseball team and many others in the same boat garage. across the country that had their careers come to an unexpected close.

I got home from Arizona and it felt like I was home for an end-of-semester break. It felt somewhat normal. I got up the following Monday morning and went to the gym only to find out that most gyms around California would probably be closing by Wednesday.

I really didn't think anything of it until Wednesday. Our governor issued a stay-athome order and I, like many other athletes, was refuge. He is God of the hills and He is God in not only left without a season to finish, but also without a place to train.

At this news, I went over to an old coach's house to grab some mismatched free weights to continue to get workouts in as best as I could. As soon as I got home, I decided to play catch with my dad. The last time I threw was in Arizona with my boys, with my team.

I finished throwing and decided to get a workout in. Then it hit me, as soon as I started working out, tears slowly ran down my face. I The thoughts of any athlete. Real and raw. was sad. I was confused. I was angry. I went

and grabbed that same baseball that I had just played catch with and threw it into the empty dirt field next to our house to let off some steam. I told my dad that I had frankly not planned to be home. This wasn't what I had planned.

I was planning on being at school, at practice with my team preparing for the upcoming road trip to Doane. My dad understood.

I have still yet to determine the direct source of my emotion or the reason for my teary eyes. But one thing I have been reminded of is that the process is what you remember not the results.

I would do anything to set my alarm for 4:45am to get ready for another 5:30am practice after getting only five hours of sleep because I was up late doing homework. I would do anything to be back in the weight room getting a workout in with my team. Just one more practice, just one more game.

But here I am at my dining room table writing this, working on homework for my online classes, and thinking about another at-home My heart goes out to my five brothers on our workout that I am going to complete in my

This is the new normal for now. I don't know when we will get back to school or back to sports across the country. I don't know which presents more of a problem: the virus or the panic about the virus. I don't know. That's simply it. I do not know.

I am reminded once again how God uses sports as a beautiful tool even if that means that tool can't be used for a while

I take comfort in the fact that God is our the vallevs.

I don't know when Opening Day for Major League Baseball will come. I don't know when I will be able to get back to normal training. I don't know when I will see my teammates again

I don't know, but God does. And THAT is my peace in these uncertain times.

Maybe as an athlete you can empathize with some of my feelings. These are my thoughts.

Thanks for reading.

please

Connor Van Hulzen — Staff Writer

personally.

their seasons is extremely unfortunate.

to replace the Stanley Cup or the NBA Finals.

morale boost.

the post-tragedy recovery.

resume play.





Contributed Photo

Opinion

some sports,

COVID-19 is a very serious issue. As of the writing of this article, there are over 140,000 confirmed cases in America and over 2,400 deaths. I understand why all sports leagues would rush to shutter the windows, but the decision to do so is still disappointing to me

March and April are very important times in the sporting world. The MLB starts their season. The NHL playoffs begin. The NBA playoffs begin. The NFL holds its combine and draft. For all sports to stop when they were just about to get going or reach the culmination of

Due to the lack of live sports, television companies have been scrambling to at least put some content out there. Rebroadcasting old championship or playoff games has been common. This has helped fill some of the hole left by the lack of sports being played - but it hasn't been entirely effective. There is no way to replace MLB opening day. There is no way

The part of the lack of sports that is even more disappointing is that there is no sustainable replacement anywhere. In the days shortly after all American leagues were suspended, there were actually still sports being played elsewhere in the world, just without crowds. At midnight one night, I watch an Australian League Football game. I had no idea what was going on. I knew none of the sport's rules. I just knew that live sports were on my television. To be able to watch any sport was a legitimate

After all the quarantines are over and everybody is ready to return to everyday life, I personally believe that sports will lead the way and help restore everything to the way it was beforehand. After other tragic events, such as 9/11 or the Boston Marathon Bombing (which, I will admit are very different scenarios from the one we are currently in), sports were essential to

In the meantime, sports fans are only left to dream of smelling the hot dogs and freshly mown grass of Opening Day and of the heartstopping drama of the NBA and NHL playoffs. There is no substitute for the experience of live sports and the thrill of watching entire cities, states, and countries come together to support their team. We can only hope that the day comes soon where we will see our favorite teams



Contributed Photo

just want Inside jokes; quarantine & comedy

Emi Stewart — Staff Writer

This is bleak. Every other notification seems to be about the virus, with a solid 80% of those notifications bearing net negative news. We are creator of comedy. stuck inside. We are out of our usual rhythm. We are isolated. We are scared. But, comedy is thriving.

With every swipe to refresh Twitter, a new surge of quarantine-related quips floods into the timeline. Content ranges from not knowing what day it is, to not feeling compelled to wear pants. Social media is bursting with funny takes on this dark, unprecedented scenario.

Comedian Alyssa Limperis has been particularly involved in the creation of quarantine-related content.

"It's almost like we have this shared trauma," said Limperis, whose most popular tweet yet is about befriending a bug in her home in the hopes of making some sliver of social connection. "When something like this happens to the world, we all of the sudden have the exact same shared reality... it's ripe for comedy."

Some may see nothing inherently funny about being stuck inside, but Limperis sees this as an opportunity to give others moments of relief. "Most days are so monotonous and dark and

scary. You really need that balance of light."

That being said, she doesn't believe comedy is only a vehicle for evasion and escapism. Sometimes, it takes a comedic approach in order to confront a daunting thing even more deeply.

"I think the best comedy comes from looking into the thing that's happening and reacting to it," said Limperis. "If comedy were full-blown evasion right now, no one would be making content about the guarantine.

She recalls a dark period of her life, which ended up revealing how important humor truly was to her.

"When my dad was dying, we watched Seinfeld every night. And that's helpful to me to remember that, even in the most dire [situation], people do still need to laugh... We're making comedy, but that doesn't mean that I am not aware of how dark this situation is. I'm not making light of it, I'm trying to find light in the situation

This magnetic pull to find the light is a common denominator among many of us. Dordt sophomore Caleb Schreurs used to enjoy

not only in terms of history and philosophy (both subjects that he studies), but also as a

"I think this is a form of suffering, and suffering is universal. Everything is so doom current state of the news. His prefered platforms are TikTok and Twitter. "When someone makes a very welcome escape from the situation."

Ankeny resident Connor Eischen believes laughing is as beneficial for us as a solid night encouraging his audience to see things a of sleep, right now.

"When you're in a fit of laughter, you're not you're laughing at," said Eischen. "It makes life comedy helps to soften that perspective. less of a marathon.

Cartoonist Alex Cohen certainly values times. He tries to bring an element of humor into everything he does.

"We as humans tend to take ourselves incredibly important to toss some absurdity and nonsense into everyday life," said Cohen, who runs popular Instagram page Tiny Snek Comics. my day to day -- what you're doing right now Twitter, and Tiny isn't that important."

entitled Quarantown, the seventh installment us all together again.

listening to NPR, but lately he is wary of hitting of which highlights some silly anagrams for the play button. He finds this time interesting terms related to the outbreak. For example, "social distancing," when scrambled, creates the words "dancing socialist." A sketch of a small, boogying Bernie Sanders accompanies the description

In the caption, Cohen asks his followers to and gloom," said Schreurs, concerning the participate. There are over 200 comments on the post, many of which are the followers' own COVID-19 related anagrams. "Toilet paper' a tweet about graduating in a Roblox world, it's turns into "alert pot pie," and "coronavirus" is now "various corn" Even in small seemingly inconsequential ways, Cohen is actively different way.

He notes that hyper-individualism in this thinking about anything other than whatever sort of scenario isn't particularly helpful, and

"The mentality that we're all in it for ourselves leads a lot of people to feel like laughter, but that is not just in light of these they're struggling alone, and I think relatable humor acts a comforting reminder that we're all in this together."

Comedy -- whether it is used as an escape so seriously all the time, and I believe it's a microscope, or a way to connect with one another -- is vital, now more than ever. So, crack open those old Calvin & Hobbs comic books in the basement. Put on an episode of "It helps me keep a broader perspective within Parks & Rec. Check out Alyssa Limperis on

Snek Comics on Instagram. In this era of The most recent posts on the page are a series prolonged isolation, we need laughter to bring



Contributed Photo

Drive-in church

Rochelle VanderHelm — Staff Writer

I have always thought that it would be moderately entertaining to go to a drive-in movie theater. Snuggle up in the car with aspecial person, lots of blankets, and a thermos of coffee. A slightly adjusted version of this would have me satisfied with snuggles and coffee, forget the vie. I won't ask for to

I wasn't exactly prepared for this alternative of no movie and no snuggles, although folding my whole family into one car for over an hour is not altogether inconsistent from such an activity. With all the jabbing, scratching, and wrenching, we were eventually all neatly tucked away, unable to wiggle, somewhat like 6 well-crafted burrito people. My brother, who is 6'3, had the benefit of claiming he could not possibly crumple his legs into the back seat. He, of course, sat shotgun.

I was blessed to have brought a ceramic mug of coffee that coordinated well with my outfit and a nude sweater that hides coffee stains well. Since I am under a "shelter in place" order I must utilize any opportunity in the public eye to do myself up. I have never before seen my mother wear slippers to church. Drive-in church comes with many firsts.

We drove in and were ushered to our seats, or rather, a patch of dust the size of our vehicle. It was cool, so Pastor Dave Morehead wore a suit jacket. I do not ever remember him wearing a suit jacket for a normal Sunday before, but he tastefully balanced it with a pair of jeans instead

of his normal slacks. The doves and tweeting birds rivaled Morehead for attention while he greeted us.

"If you cannot hear me, then honk" Morehead said

"Wait, what?" Mom said.

"Can all the field workers out in the orchards hear me?" Morehead said.

"Alright."

Morehead preached his sermon, which was in the front seat. I had to shove my head out the window to see. Did people really like to do this for fun? Seems like a lot of work

Drive-in church has a few flaws, namely the flora and fauna. Pedro the dog is about the size of a bread box and looks like one of those caricatures people draw at the fair. His simple existence presents a modest distraction, but when you see him toddling across the yard, it's unbearable. Additionally, the weather must be good for people to sit quietly in their cars for a are all blessed to see the real flesh and blood faces of our church family in the cars next to us excellent. Of course, because my brother was instead of a pixelated image that moves three seconds late. In the interest of social distancing, next week we will have music provided by one family



Contributed Photo

Back Page

(cont.) Canceled on the The Weeknd album review court

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Every player shot a layup to close out their season.

Having emerged from the locker rooms in equal bewilderment, the Southeastern team milled around the arena as well. One person scrimmaged one-on-one against her brother.

"We're both dressed. Do you guys want to play?" Prewitt asked a Southeastern player, only half-kidding.

She nodded back, jokingly.

... But when a group of Defenders struck up a game of knockout, Southeastern joined in one by one until both teams were fully lined up in competition.

"It was really fun to see these women find joy in the game they loved to play since they were little kids, find joy in the situation." Harmsen said.

Amid the hysteria and heartbreak of the COVID-19 epidemic, many seek out the silver lining, the sources of light and positivity. When the Dordt and Southeastern women came together in their brokenness and sorrow, they found theirs.

"I have never felt so connected to hundreds of other girls in other states from around the country." Prewitt said.

After returning to the hotel, Prewitt texted her

old AAU teammates who had their own seasons upended as well. Across the nation, student athletes became collateral damage taken in the name of necessary precaution. For seniors like Prewitt, many had played their last game without even knowing it.

"I hope that once all the pain goes away, I can realize my career was great." Prewitt said. "I think we can call [the season] a success just because we set the standard for ourselves even higher than last year."

During the 2019/2020 season, the Defenders etched their name into the record books with an all-time-high 24-win season. They also won their first GPAC conference tournament game and scored a repeat appearance at nationals.

All this in mind, Harmsen views his team's commitment to each other as their truest achievement.

"Our seniors played for three different head coaches, stuck with the program, and absolutely were agents of change because they had to be." Harmsen said.

After 88 practices, 32 games, and 6 months of dedication to the game, the Defender women learned how to serve each other and took home a stellar season in the process. Not even a global pandemic could take that away.

Caleb M.S. — Staff Writer



Contributed Photo

Abel Tesfaye, better known by his stage name The Weeknd, returned this month to the forefront of the R&B stage with his newest album *After Hours*. The project is a 56-minute-long collection of 80s synth-pop inspired cocainedriven sex ballads, and perfectly culminates the anti-hero hedonistic persona the artist has been building across his previous projects.

Every song on *After Hours* could only be on *After Hours*, a quality which is lacking on most other main stream acts' albums. Each song is clearly part of a cohesive whole, and thematic and technical elements carry through each individual song. Abel is at his most developed in *After Hours*, and it is clear the most recent album is more polished than any previous work. Thematic elements from Starboy crosspollinated into *After Hours*, in only the best way. Early themes of a villainous aesthetic present in Starboy come to fruition in *After Hours* in "Hardest to Love," and "Save Your Tears."

Musically, *After Hours* contains similar elements to any Weeknd album. Driving bass lines, rapid synths, and reverb-heavy vocals permeate each song on the album. From the very beginning of the album in "Alone Again," listeners are treated to an aesthetic introduction to the album around the two-minute mark. Within the din of synth runs, airy vocals, and

Bored? Tired of sitting around doing nothing

all day? Looking for something different to

watch? Here's some movies to watch during

the next 4-6 weeks, at least, give or take. Who

REAR WINDOW: Sitting home alone needn't

be boring. In this 1954 classic, an injured,

apartment-bound photographer thinks he's

witnessed a murder from across the courtyard

Zach Dirksen-Staff Writer

knows?

Quarantine watchlist

stereo switches, a build in the synths emerges. A pulsing beat is added, the synths intensify, and like a brick of cocaine to the face, a heavy synth note drops- pushing forward Abel's vocals and intensifying the track. It is moments like these that justify the emphasis on instrumental bits throughout the album, though the lyrical content is strong as well.

The Weeknd moves from sorrowful, to disillusioned, to hardened across the 56-minute runtime of *After Hours*. What begins as mournful lyrics in "Too Late," becomes desensitized by "Faith," only halfway through the album. Cocaine-related bars increase in frequency around this mark, but a common theme is the singer's awareness of the pain he has caused for others. "I'm losing my religion," the singer notes in faith, but by "Save Your Tears," this self-loathing becomes more accepted and redirected into the portrayal of the jaded anti-hero.

After Hours' real achievement is in the cohesive aesthetic permeating all through the album. Similar to what made Panic! At the Disco's *Death Of A Bachelor* so impressive, each song belongs with the next in more than thematic content. The futuristic, yet retro-space age; soulful, yet emotionally distant musical elements of *After Hours* are timeless, and this album stands a better chance than any previous Weeknd album of solidifying Abel as a standout musician.

SONG BREAKDOWN <u>Will Listen to Again</u>: Alone Again Faith Blinding Lights After Hours Until I Bleed Out <u>Delightfully Meh</u>: Snowchild Escape From LA <u>Burn It Down</u>: N/A <u>Dark Horse</u>: Hardest to Love

(cont.) Concert Choir tour

continued from page 2

"I wasn't at peace with leaving at first, but the tour had been such an incredible and amazing experience that I was so thankful for it all," Hoekstra said.

"We sang and shouted praise and worship to God on that trip," Zuidema said.

Concert Choir spent nearly a week performing in concerts, church services, and assemblies at thirteen different locations. Although their longanticipated tour and overall semester ended much earlier than expected, they maintained the same goal.

"I think I will always be a little sad that my last [choir tour] got "cut short," but ultimately, since our goal is to be Christ's ambassadors, I think we accomplished that and more," Blauw said. "It could not have been more complete."

Throughout their tour, the choir celebrated

each other and the opportunity to sing in unity. Moreover, they celebrated the God about whom they sang so joyfully. To quote the closing song of the tour: "*Gladly for aye we adore Him*!"



Photo Credit: Dordt University Music Department Facebook

(cont.) Tables turned for the theatre

continued from page 4 than if the show had come out this April. "I have

aware of his role as a director.

"It's taught me to be more conscious of the needs of my audience and my actors," Dirksen said. "The director's place is sort of an inbetween audience and performer. I needed to be able to engaging films of the last decade, and a surefire good way to pass the time during this lockdown.

INDIANA JONES AND THE LAST CRUSADE: Film can be an escape, and you need one. Maybe bring the family along with you. I can think of no better way of escapism than a rip-roaring adventure with everyone's favorite Nazi-punching archaeologist. Join Indy, Indy's dad, and the rest of the crew in the quest for the Holy Grail. Last Crusade might not be the best Indiana Jones movie, but it's by

hope for *Break of Day*. Though the situation is not ideal, God will see us through," Baljeu said. "I'm currently still in a grieving process, but I'm hanging in there."

Zach Dirksen is feeling the effect of his Shakespearean show, Rosencrantz & Gildenstern, being cancelled for the season.

"I found out about it around the same time as when choir tour was cut short and spring break was extended," Dirksen said, "so all of those thrown together really put me out for a couple of days."

While disappointed, he clung to the hope that the show, while temporarily postponed, might yet go on. Even if he won't be able to get everyone back together to have another go at it, he wishes to direct again—either this show or another project—sometime in the future.

Directing has brought Dirksen a greater understanding of the collaborative process.

"I can't just tell my actors where to stand or my designers what their work should look like," Dirksen said. "I really enjoyed bouncing ideas off people and hearing their ideas as well, all working together to make something."

As well, working with actors has made him

know what my actors needed to be doing, but also what the audience would need to see onstage to get the story."

The theatre has provided these students with ways to tie up their projects this semester, even if they miss out on getting to be on the stage itself. "This was supposed to be my big final project for theatre," he said. "It kinda leaves my theatre experience at Dordt with an anticlimactic ending."

"It's disappointing to not see all the hard work put into these productions thus far be finished and put up before an audience," theatre faculty Laura Andersen said. "Having to be apart and not having the same sense of community that's so big a piece of the department is difficult."

As of now, Dordt's theatre arts is still communicating via canvas announcements, emails, and hopefully a virtual theatre meeting. Theatre activity scholarship interviews will take place soon. And there is always next season to plan for. of his apartment complex. When few people believe him, he takes it upon himself to solve the mystery. Rear Window is one of Alfred Hitchcock's most engrossing stories, and Jimmy Stewart's performance is a career best. MY DINNER WITH ANDRE: Do you miss those long, philosophical late-night talks with you friends? Ever get so lost in a conversation that you find yourself completely immersed in the words of another person. Such experiences are perfectly replicated in My Dinner With Andre. The film, made up entirely by a conversation between two friends who haven't seen each other in a while, is amazing. The camera work is minimal, the setting singular, but so much imagery abounds in the dialogue and the performances. Definitely check this one out.

THE MARTIAN: Quarantine can make you feel like you've been cut off from civilization, left completely to your own devices to survive and keep going. Now imagine if you got stuck on another planet, by yourself. Do you get depressed? NO! You suck it up and start a potato farm, just like Matt Damon. The Martian remains one of the most entertaining and

far the most fun.

RAISING ARIZONA: Sometimes you just need to laugh. Things are dark and crazy out there. Sometimes the only way to overcome it to watch two rednecks steal a baby to raise as their own. Raising Arizona boasts one of Nicolas Cage's best performances (yes, they exist), as well as a complete and fun crime caper. Plus, it';s a Coen Brothers movie. You can't go wrong there.

MARY POPPINS: Guys, sometimes you just want something to make you feel good. Mary Poppins does that for me. Maybe it will for you too. Tiger King: Okay, okay, it's not a movie. But have you seen it? It's insane. Like literally bonkers. This Netflix docu-series follows the exploits of private zoo owners and big cat breeders in the US, taking special focus on Joe Exotic, a gay libertarian polygamist redneck who at one point owned the largest collection of live tigers in the United States, and is now serving a 22-year prison sentence for murderfor-hire. And that doesn't even begin to scratch the surface of how weird this show can get. If anything can make you forget about the Coronavirus, it's this.