



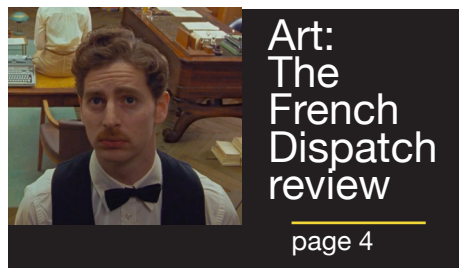
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THE DIAMOND

Multiple on-campus incidents bring student safety into question

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Editor's Note: This article includes sources whose names have been kept anonymous at the request of the sources for the sake of their privacy.

Over the past six weeks, a number of individuals—masked men, a window peeper, and a stalker—have infringed upon the safety of Dordt University students, specifically women.

On the evening of Monday, Oct. 4, a freshman girl reported to her work study at the call center of the university's Advancement Office. The freshman, who requested her identity remain anonymous, worked through a list of people to call. She requested donations, collected them, and answered questions.

At 7:30 p.m., the freshman girl called Bradley Vande Griend, a former graduate.

"You should hit up my friend on Facebook," Vande Griend, 30, said to the freshman girl. He also complimented her laugh.

"He was a chatty guy, and it seemed like a nice conversation at the time," the freshman girl said.

After fifteen minutes, the call ended. The freshman girl mentioned the conversation to her coworkers, who had noticed its longer duration, but didn't think anything else of it.



Photo Credit: Gerrit Van Dyk

She continued calling other potential donors. Then, 30 minutes later, Vande Griend arrived at the call center.

Vande Griend requested to see the freshman girl, but her coworkers told him she had left the building and to return the next morning. He then left the call center, and the work studies alerted their supervisor of the incident, who notified Student Services. The following day, Derek Buteyn, associate dean of students and director of student life, notified the Sioux Center Police Department of the incident. He also called Vande Griend and told him not to return to campus and instructed the university's campus security to patrol the call center.

"I was a little concerned about the odd situation," the freshman girl said.

The following Monday, Vande Griend returned to the call center, now locked, and knocked on the office's doors. He requested to speak to the freshman girl, who, anticipating a visit from Vande Griend, had intentionally switched her schedule. The Sioux Center Police Department, campus security, and Buteyn were notified.

The police escorted Vande Griend, who did not resist, from university property.

Dordt University has since filed a restraining order against Vande Griend, who possesses a

history of overstaying his welcome. In August 2020 and January 2021, *The N'West Iowa REVIEW* reported Vande Griend trespassing at the Hegg Health Center in Rock Valley and Purdue Premium Meat Co. in Sioux Center, respectively.

The freshman girl said she has "felt safe" since the incident: "Dordt handled it properly."

Annika Brands, a senior, worked in the call center on the evenings following Vande Griend's first appearance.

"We were all on edge that night and I think I was the worst," Brands said. "It was just creepy."

Though Vande Griend has not been seen on campus since the university's filing of the restraining order, the incident isn't the only student safety-related matter of the semester.

On Sept. 19, a female resident of West Hall notified police of a window peeper. The student had seen the individual, later identified as Peter Jason Van Kley, hiding in the bushes of the former nursing building between West and North Hall. Then, eight days later, the 37-year-old was caught on camera peering into houses around Sioux Center. The Sioux Center Police Department arrested Van Kley on a charge of intentional trespassing.

When the police arrived at Dordt University to address Van Kley's presence on campus, Nic Hembrough noticed their patrol car from his living room. Hembrough, a senior, lives in the...

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Sidebar hosts trivia night

Elise Wennberg—Staff Writer



Photo Credit: Elise Wennberg

An indistinct chatter filled the room as eight teams sat ready to fight for the first-place prize. The smell of flavored drinks and flatbread pizza entered the space. An all-around joyous atmosphere filled the air and brought life to Sidebar.

Vaughn Donahue, instructor of graphic design at Dordt University, shouted the first question, asking teams to identify a quote from a movie. The teams put their heads together and discussed their answers. While cheers were heard from teams who answered correctly, and others groaned in failure. Some sat with an indifferent look on their face, possibly just trying to hide their disappointment.

"Jake [Miller] asked me if I would do [trivia] for Halloween, so I said, 'Sure,'" Donahue said. "We had no idea if we were only going to have a couple teams or more. Eight was a pretty good turnout."

The team names from the event included: Don't Take Candy from Strangers, Chaotic

Neutral, Stardew O'Malley, The Out of Towners, the BJ Haans, It's all Gouda, Quarter-Life Crisis, and No.

"I haven't done trivia in two years," Donahue said. "This is going to be general knowledge trivia, so more on the pop culture side. I used to do more academic trivia, but then people complained. And no cheating; we've had one team cheat before...and they were never allowed back."

These trivia nights are for everyone. They are not connected to Dordt University, but are instead advertised as a community event for locals to have fun and share drinks with one another. Donahue previously hosted trivia at Town Square Coffehouse for several years, but has not since the pandemic began. He arranges questions for trivia nights himself.

"My rule of thumb is, if I think I could answer this, if I was attending the same trivia night,...

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West hall floods with plumbing problems

Sydney Brummel—Staff Writer

Though its wing decorations change yearly, the dim lighting and aged-building scent remains the same. In Dordt University's West Hall, piano music flows from the lodge and laughter radiates from the lobby.

Over the past several weeks, however, the women's residence hall has experienced a number of unwelcome issues. On eastern end of West's first floor, residents dealt with overflowing toilets, flooding showers, and floors covered in sewage water.

"I came into our room, and I heard our toilet bubbling, and I was like, 'Ooh, this is spooky,'" Allie Bandstra, sophomore social work major, said. "The next morning I looked into our shower. It was full of this yellow liquid."

When Bandstra returned to her dorm later that day, she found an overflowing toilet and sewage-soaked carpet. She and her roommate, Isabel Pheifer, submitted a maintenance request, later learning the maintenance department had received almost ten similar requests from other West Hall residents. Maintenance workers cleaned their bathrooms, carpets, and rugs.

"It just smelled so gross, and then it kept going throughout the week," Bandstra said. "It kept happening and happening."

The maintenance department lowered a camera into the plumbing and found old paper towels clogging the pipes—amongst other things. Later that week, professionals attempted to fix the problem, but West continued to encounter issues. For example, one dormitory temporarily relocated to East Campus Apartments after sewage water soaked the carpets of their room.



Photo Credit: Sydney Brummel

These plumbing problems culminated on Sunday night, Oct. 24, when all of West Hall had to evacuate.

"Someone's dorm flooded," Bandstra said. "And the maintenance guy put a bunch of Drano down the toilet and created some kind of chemical reaction."

The West Hall residents stayed in Eckardt Lounge for twenty minutes until the potentially harmful gas aired out of the building.

Since the end of that eventful week, the plumbing in West Hall has, more-or-less, returned to normal. Still, Bandstra and her...

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News

Dordt Dining to host sandwich competition

Emily Vander Ploeg—Staff Writer

For the remainder of the fall semester, Dordt Dining will host a grill-off. The submissions of student workers from the Commons and the Defender Grille will be featured in the grill line of the Commons and judged by the student body.

The contest was first conceived by freshmen Annabella Mosher, Moira Iniguez, and Isabel Boer.

“We were chatting and decided we wanted to show up all the other grill shifts,” Mosher said. “I mean, we’re part of one of the only, if not the only, all-girls grill shift.”

The Commons workers involved presented their idea to Andrew Mullins, production manager at Dordt Dining, wanting him to judge the competition. And, with Mullins’ help, the competition grew.

“The competition will be for student employees who work at the Commons or Grille,” Mullins said. “And the judging will be open to anyone who tries the sandwiches.”

the competition entries can include

hamburgers, grilled chicken, crispy chicken, or spicy chicken—basically, anything that can be made by the grill line at the Commons, Roman Galles, retail manager at Dordt Dining, said.

“The entries could include almost anything that is feasible for a college-level dining hall,” Mullins said. “We have said no to things like truffles and wagyu beef, though, since we don’t want to have to raise everyone’s meal plan pricing.”

Mullins and Galles worked with the students who came up with the idea to put down rules and guidelines for the competition. When the judging process begins, each sandwich submission will be featured for one day in the burger line at the Commons. Mullins and Galles are still figuring out if the sandwich of the day will be a surprise, or if a schedule will be posted in the Commons or online. At the end of the burger line, a QR code will allow diners to rate the sandwich from their phones. Students can vote once per day, as each day will highlight a different sandwich. However, the student-

created sandwiches will not be featured on particularly busy days at the Commons, such as campus visit days.

“We didn’t want to have to make a few hundred extra of one sandwich on a busy campus visit day when not everyone who gets it will be voting,” Mullins said.

At the end of the competition, the ratings will be analyzed, and the sandwich with the highest ratings will become a permanent menu option at the Grille during nighttime Grille hours. The winner will also be able to name their sandwich.

“This is always something that I wanted to do

here,” Mullins said. “I can’t wait to see the fun ideas the students come up with.”

The length of the competition will depend on the number of entries. The winner will be announced, and their sandwich will be added to the permanent Grille menu, by the end of the semester.

Mosher is looking forward to the competition too: “I was excited to hear that the winner’s sandwich will become a permanent menu item at the Grille. I think that adds to the competition, and it’ll be nice to have a new addition to the night menu.”



Contributed Photo

The Price is Fright returns

Emma Bennett—Staff Writer



Contributed Photo

item cost more or less than the price listed with it, and the fourth round was guessing whether the price of an item was current or from the 1990’s. The items for the beginning of each round connected to each other via a pop culture reference, such as Bones/No Bones Day and the Our Table Is Broken! video.

Most rounds offered prizes, which went up in value as rounds went on. After the fourth round, the previous winners were invited back up to spin the wheel. The goal was to get as close to one dollar as possible. Each person had two spins, which they could choose to use or not. The winners were Kendra Oostenink, Emily Brinkman, Brittany Bloenhof, and Sharlee Fopma. Each won \$100 for their spins and now had a chance to win more. Their last task of the evening was to look at two different baskets filled with items, the closest to the real price getting to keep the basket. The first one contained a Beatles record, a record player, two glass mugs, a live plant, a coffee maker and coffee. The second was more outdoorsy, with a marshmallow fork, grill set, hammock, rope, two camping chairs, and the game Bottle Bash. Each girl wrote their prices, and in the end, Oostenink won the record basket in addition to cash.

“Now I’m slightly less broke!” Oostenink said.

The Price is Fright event was cancelled last year due to COVID-19. Because of this, many sophomores got their first taste of this Dordt tradition. Though there was some initial confusion on how the game worked, as well as technical issues with squeaky mics, the audience kept in high spirits and laughed along with the host.

“It was really fun, and I was really thankful for the opportunity,” Klein said. “I love doing hosting stuff, [and] this was very different than anything I’ve ever done before.”

West hall floods with plumbing problems cont.

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...fellow West Hall residents have remained cautious. Bandstra and her roommate continue to use friends’ bathrooms on other wings and rely on water bottles to brush their teeth.

“I was just scared,” Bandstra said. “Every time I went to the bathroom, I was like, ‘is this going to flush? Am I going to be coated in sewer again?’”

Yet, Bandstra has kept a positive outlook on the situation: “This is just the college experience; We’re going to look back on this and laugh.”

This is Bandstra’s first year living in West Hall after residing in Covenant Hall last year.

She and her roommate chose to live in the dorm for its increased living space.

A collage of pictures and posters decorates Bandstra’s wall, a wax warmer fills the her dorm with a pleasant fragrance, and colorful Christmas lights hang from the ceiling.

“It’s just homey,” Bandstra said.

Despite the unpleasant and smelly experiences of the past several weeks, the building still feels like home to the women inside.

“West is still best,” Bandstra said.

Dash the Defender unveiled at Late Night with the Defenders

Ellie Bergstrom—Guest Writer

Over this year’s Defender Days, Dordt University students, alumni, and families packed into the DeWitt Gymnasium’s bleachers for Late Night with the Defenders. The university’s basketball, cheer, and dance teams put on a showcase of games and competitions, including a dunk contest. Mel Knobloch, head dance and cheer coach, announced each member of her teams as they waved to the crowd. The night was more than just a pep rally, though.

“We have one more addition to our Spirit Squad that we would like to introduce to Defender Nation,” Knobloch said. “Defender Nation, please put your hands together and welcome,” she paused. “... Dash the Defender!”

The mascot—a grey knight with a bright yellow plume rising from the top of his helmet—ran through the cheer tunnel and into the middle of the gym. Dash the Defender raised his foam sword to the audience’s applause and pumped his foam fists in the air. He then got right to work, tossing rolled up t-shirts into the crowd.

The university had posted several hints on social media about the mascot, but for most of Defender Nation, Dash came as a surprise.

“Originally, we had the mascot set up and were hoping to have Dash last year,” Knobloch said. “But due to COVID-19 we decided it would be best to hold off until games and crowds were back to more normal attendance.”

The university’s new cheer team, the dance team, and Dash the Defender, comprise what is referred to as the Spirit Squad. Dordt University added a mascot to the spirit squad with the intent to engage the fans in the stands, according to Knobloch.

“Creating that overall gameday environment,”



Photo Credit: Dordt University

Knobloch said, is the goal.

“Crowd involvement is a big deal during football games,” said junior linebacker Tanner Millikan. “We feed off the crowd’s energy.”

Millikan attended Late Night with the Defenders and thought the event was a hit. He is looking forward to seeing Dash “add more excitement to the atmosphere” on gamedays.

After the football team’s victory against Dakota Wesleyan over Defender Days, students and spectators, especially children, approached Dash the Defender for pictures with the mascot.

Other Dordt students have mixed opinions. Jess Brander, a sophomore, attended the football game and observed Dash’s interactions.

“There is definitely room for improvement, but I appreciate that they are putting the effort in. It’s about time we had a mascot,” Brander said, “But I would like him to have more of a personality.”

Dash the Defender will join the spirit squad in some of their routines, and otherwise hang around at games and events, interacting with fans.

The identity of the person wearing the suit, however, is a mystery.

“That’s part of the fun,” Mel Knobloch said; “we want people to wonder...who’s in the suit?”

The concealment of Dash’s identify is done to fashion the mascot into a timeless symbol of the Defender spirit that can appeal to all ages, according to Knobloch.

“It’s always been, for the longest time, ‘What’s a Defender?’” Brander said “Now we have a physical representation.”

Cross Country teams seek conference win

Dayna Wichhart—Staff Writer

For the past two weeks, Dordt University’s cross-country teams have been focused on one date and one date only: Nov. 6. The Great Plains Athletic Conference Championship meet.

This meet is important for the team for two reasons. First, how well the team runs defines the future of the season. For the men, they must finish in first place in order to qualify for the national meet. On the women’s side, they must take first or second in order to qualify. If they fail to qualify then their season is over. Second, winning the meet will also determine the conference champion for 2021.

“We want to be able to say we were one of the better teams of the conference year in and year out,” head coach Nate Wolf said.

The team has been preparing for this meet since the beginning of summer. The team practices six days a week consisting of long runs, interval workouts, and fast pace runs that mimic race days. On some days this means practicing morning and afternoon.

“We all know that our preparations have been for winning the conference meet and performing at the highest level at nationals,” senior Eric Steiger said.

Wolf has chosen not to change up the workouts for the teams much the past two weeks.

“We are staying consistent in our training,” junior Jessica Kampman said. “We are focusing on getting quality runs day after day.”

Historically, the cross-country teams have

been a successful team on campus. The women’s team has qualified for nationals the past nine years, and if they qualify again this year, they will round it out with ten consecutive years of qualifying. The men’s team has qualified the past three years.

Fall 2021 has been no different. Throughout the five meets this season, the men’s team has taken three first place wins and the women’s team has taken two. At the Mount Marty Invite, the most recent meet, the men’s team had eight runners finish in the top ten, and first through seventh place were made up of Dordt runners.

Three Dordt runners have earned the GPAC runner of the week honor consistently throughout the year. In order to earn this, the runner must be nominated by either their coach or any coach in the GPAC. The nominations are then voted on by various Sports Information Directors in the conference.

“Jessica Kampman has been our top female runner all season,” Wolf said.

She has earned GPAC runner of the week four times this season, senior Jacob Vander Plaats has earned it three times, and Steiger has earned the title twice.

“One of the important aspects of the team this year is the overall experience the team has,” Vander Plaats said. “Close to three fourths the team is either a junior or senior.”

This experience has played into how the team has been preparing for the season. Kampman has been preparing for the season since June and claims the keys to her success have been consistency in training and staying healthy.

“Both teams have interchangeable runners,” Wolf said. “Whoever is having a good day slides to higher spots and whoever is having a rougher day fills the back spots on the scoring group.”

Having a team that is not dependent on a few set runners has allowed the team to have a more relaxed running style.

“It’s been fun for the team because it takes a bit of pressure off because they know there is someone else to pick up your spot if you don’t have a great day,” Wolf said. “‘It frees us to just go run and run our best and not worry.’”

The men’s team is heading into the meet ranked 13th and the women are 14th. But this season’s records do not impact qualifying; it all rides on this one race.

“We could be really successful all year and go lay an egg there and it didn’t matter,” Wolf said.

The teams run at 10:45 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. on Saturday Nov. 6. Dordt runners are all eager for the race and looking forward to seeing how they can continue the season. Wolf is confident in his runners and his teams.

“This has been the most focused and intentional team, both the men’s and women’s, that I’ve ever had,” Wolf said. “I’m excited to see what we can do on Saturday.”

Dordt Football falls to Northwestern

Connor Van Hulzen – Staff Writer



Photo Credit: Jacob Huebert

The streak continues.

The Dordt University football team fell to the Northwestern College Red Raiders 28-63 on Saturday, extending their winless streak against their Orange City rival to eleven.

Northwestern—who entered the game ranked second in the NAIA Coaches’ Poll—showed exactly what it takes to earn a win. Their ruthless offensive efficiency combined with an ability to force timely turnovers slammed the door on Dordt’s efforts to beat their cross-county opponent for the first time ever.

Northwestern quarterback Tyson Kooima completed all 13 of his pass attempts, resulting in 283 yards through the air and six touchdowns.

Kooima’s performance earned him the distinction of GPAC Offensive Player of the Week. When combined with running back Konner McQuillan’s 130 yards and two touchdowns, the Raiders outpaced what the Defenders’ offense was able to produce.

“They played a really clean game offensively and did a great job of being able to both run and throw,” head coach Joel Penner said. “I haven’t personally seen our defense play that passively in five years. We certainly made it easier for them, and they did a great job.”

In regard to Dordt’s offensive performance, Penner said, “I was very pleased with how we were able to move the ball, but our four turnovers unfortunately compounded our poor defensive game.”

With two games left in their season, the loss to Northwestern results in Dordt holding a 5-3

record.

Last year, Dordt finished their regular fall season with a 7-2 record before beating Oklahoma Panhandle State in the spring, resulting in Dordt’s first-ever NAIA playoff berth.

Unfortunately for the Defenders, their current record will exclude them from participating in the playoffs this season.

“This game eliminated us from the postseason discussion,” Penner said. “While last year we thought we may have been eliminated, this year we know that there is no chance this season.”

Despite the elimination from playoff contention and failure to meet expectations, Penner is excited to see the outcome of the final two games against Briar Cliff and Jamestown.

“At this point in the season, these games will be a really good test of what motivates and drives our players,” he said. “I have full confidence in our team to respond really well and to play our best football. We aren’t playing ranked teams, but I still look forward to seeing what kind of competitors our players are.”

The Defenders await next year for another chance to outplay Northwestern.

Until then, they are focused on their upcoming competitions against Briar Cliff and Jamestown as they work to, once again, put themselves in a position to compete on the national stage in the NAIA playoffs.

Sidebar hosts trivia night cont.

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...then it makes for a good question,” Donahue said. “But I try not to make it just stuff that I know. I have to research this stuff and put it together, but I try to keep it in the area that I think I would know.”

As the game went on, some competitors relished in their high scores, and others despised their incorrect answers. The points added up and the excitement turned louder as cartoon villains, songs, movie quotes, and names of the Roman gods were guessed. But ultimately, there could only be one winner: with 163 points, Stardew O’Malley took the metaphorical cake.

“It’s more fun when we have trivia going on for a while because rivalries start to form between teams that come over and over again,” Donahue said.

The categories range from I Hear Dead People, Rebrand (did you know that Google used to be named Backrub? Or even more

shocking, Dordt University used to be called Dordt College), Take a Look it’s in a Book, Of Anvils and Pianos, and Don’t Touch That Dial.

The categories consisted of a basic question and answer formula, a How Many Villains Can You Name category, and audio categories where a small portion of audio was played, and contestants needed to guess the pop-culture reference or theme song.

“I like the audio categories, whether it’s the like the TV themes or the songs just because people really get into it, and especially if it’s like you know, nostalgic, kind of thing,” Donahue said.

“I own an LLC, but kind of act like a subsidiary of the Fruited Plain,” Miller said. “So, in that case we [the Fruited Plain and Sidebar] share a beverage licensing. Laremy [De Vries] already having the license allowed us to sell beer and wine immediately, but I needed to get a different class of service [license] to serve other beverages.”

“We had a bunch of soft openings before we ‘officially opened,’ but I would say we opened

officially toward the end of July,” Miller said. “Business has been positive, but it was hard to predict what to prepare for; however, having events are a good way to make [Sidebar] more of a destination.”

The soft openings Miller talked about were mainly events to test out the waters of the new bar. Despite this, Sidebar has been keeping community members updated on events, specials, and menu updates through social media.

“I turned an LLC, but kind of act like a subsidiary of the Fruited Plain,” Miller said. “So, in that case we [the Fruited Plain and Sidebar] share a beverage licensing. Laremy [De Vries] already having the license allowed us to sell beer and wine immediately, but I needed to get a different class of service [license] to serve other beverages.”

“We had a bunch of soft openings before we ‘officially opened,’ but I would say we opened

the favorites of people as well as providing more local beers from Iowa.

To keep the bar lively, Miller has commented about trying to host at least two events each month. Whether it be live music, trivia, or supporting professional sports teams to their victory, there is an event for everyone to enjoy.

“I like being a bar for everybody, but I do I look forward to serving college kids. It’s been a learning experience so far,” Miller said. “We’ve had some crazy nights where it’s hard to keep up with everything going on. With luck, this can be that place where people can find their niche. It’ll be kind of a growing experience for us, and hopefully, it’s something that other people want to be a part of too.”

The French Dispatch: Wes Anderson’s artistic interpretation of journalism

Daniel Ketchelos—Staff Writer

The French Dispatch, Wes Anderson’s latest contribution to cinema, follows the publication of an American newspaper in a fictional French city. The film’s structure is composed of a variety of stories contained in the final publication of The French Dispatch Magazine. Full of stylized storytelling and compelling narrative structure, The French Dispatch is a viewing experience unlike other recent film releases.

Wes Anderson based The French Dispatch off his obsession with a real publication, The New Yorker. While the premise behind this film is on a newspaper organization, the film’s plot visualizes the journalists’ eccentric written works rather than focusing on the French Dispatch. This fresh direction creates an experience different from other journalistic films.

Three publications drive the storyline of this film. First, a piece on Moses Rosenthaler, a struggling, but brilliant, artist serving a life sentence for murder. Second, an interaction between French Dispatch journalist Lucinda Kremenzt reporting on a French schoolboy named Zeffirelli in search of a youthful revolution. The final story follows writer Roebuck Wright as he profiles Nescaffier, a famous chef who crafts specialty dishes for the French police department.

Each article beat is heavily stylized and focuses on intimate visual storytelling rather than visual realism. Scenes are enjoyable to watch and overall are a pleasurable experience. Notably, the story beat on the young revolutionary group of students creates an interesting take on America’s sexual revolution of the 1960s. Each story felt like a film on its own, and when placed together they collectively expand the



Contributed Photo

film’s overall narrative and create an enjoyable piece.

The stories are what drive the three-act film structure of the piece. Additional scenes between the journalist’s articles convey information about the atmosphere of The French Dispatch and help transition between articles. There is also a very informative and witty description of the film’s French setting by Owen Wilson’s character, Herbsaint Sazerac. This scene’s visual structure and storytelling set the tone for the rest of the piece.

Wes Anderson’s distinct style is seen throughout The French Dispatch. His typical storytelling techniques of immaculate flat-lay images, 90-degree whip pans, and an emphasis on movement through a two-dimensional plane create a visual style unmatched by other modern directors. Not to mention Anderson’s central framing motif, this film utilizes visual

elements to their fullest potential to convey so many intricate emotions and storytelling that separate this film from other recent releases.

Anderson’s style is so heavily stylized it may put off viewers who are not as versed in cinematic storytelling. The average moviegoer may find this film confusing and jarring since it is such a far stretch from typically visual storytelling found in blockbuster releases. Although this is a restraining factor for viewer turnout, those who are lovers of cinema will appreciate Anderson’s deviation from traditional visual techniques.

Viewing this film also presents a challenge, especially for those positioned in Northwest Iowa. The French Dispatch is not widely released and is almost exclusively reserved for small indie-film Arthouse Cinemas, such

as Film Stream’s Dundee Theater in Omaha (where I made the two-and-a-half-hour drive to view the film). This restriction creates a barrier for those who want to see the film but live too

“The French Dispatch provides something fresh and new to the indie-cinema world and is a must-see for those who are passionate about cinema.”

-Daniel Ketchelos

far away to do so without making it a day trip.

While this film is one of Anderson’s most ambitious projects, it will be most likely hard for the average viewer to watch without a large amount of focus and attention to subtle details. The French Dispatch is not meant to be a casual viewing experience to pass the time on a weeknight, but rather a meaningful experience requiring attentive viewing.

The French Dispatch provides something fresh and new to the indie-cinema world and is a must-see for those who are passionate about cinema. Overall rating of 5/5.

Living in a (sports) fantasy

Isabel Pheifer—Staff Writer

Every sports requires skill and athleticism. But some people, no matter how badly they want to possess these abilities, just never will. So, what do you do when you desperately want to succeed in sports, but just don’t have what it takes?

You don’t hit the court, you hit fantasy sports. This is where the real competition takes place. You take your knowledge and love of the game to battle against your buddies with the best athletes in the world. You can also study players and statistics to ensure that you can make money moves on draft night.

So, how do fantasy sports work? To start, you join either a private league with people you know or a public league with strangers. Once you join a league, you choose real players to add to your team in an online draft, which happens before the season of that respective sport starts.

The real battling begins when you match up against someone in your league for the week. The points you earn for your team are based on your players’ real-game statistics. The better your players perform, the more points you earn. You can switch your roster during each weekly matchup, picking up and trading players as the season goes on.

Currently, the sports available are football, basketball, and hockey.

There are millions of people around the globe who take part in fantasy sports. In a study done by the NCAA, the governing body found that over 70 percent of NCAA athletes participate in at least one fantasy sport. Dordt University

is no different than these schools. There are many students here on campus who are active participants in the fantasy sports world.

“Fantasy basketball keeps me engaged with the NBA season,” senior civil engineering major, Parks Brawand, said. “It also provides a nice 1.5 second break from vigorous homework, all before hitting the books again.”

Whether you are a basketball fanatic or not, you can succeed in a fantasy league. Some may say it is all about the luck of the draw, and others may say it takes skill to win a fantasy game. From the process of finding other dedicated participants to be in your league to coming up with a clever name for your league, there is a lot that goes into fantasy sports.

The more seriously you take it, the more rewards you will reap. If you are an active manager, you can convert your previous knowledge of the sport and turn it into making important managing decisions. You can trade players, drop players, and pay close attention to what moves need to be made for each matchup.

Another way to succeed is to truly be engaged in each matchup. Because of this, you may come to love and cheer for certain players and teams that you never thought possible.

Fantasy sports encompass all that a real game does. When you win, there is a sense of pride and accomplishment that comes with it. When you lose, there is despair, pain, maybe even tears. Sometimes there is just no way to succeed and your players do not perform the way you had envisioned.

“Fantasy sports is just another reminder to me that when you try to succeed in this world, all your hopes and dreams get dashed into pieces,” senior mechanical engineering major, Chase Pheifer, said.

The amount of pride you feel after getting a big win in your week of fantasy is worth the sheer amount of blood, sweat, and tears you pour into your team each week. For some, fantasy is exciting, and they are successful beyond belief. For others, winning a game of fantasy just never happens.

Fantasy sports are truly a fantasy. A world where super teams are the new normal, where LeBron James and Stephen Curry share the

court, and where having Tom Brady does not guarantee you a win. In Fantasy, anything can happen. It can even make you believe that one day your name will be an option for the court.

“Seeing LeBron or Harden have a big fantasy game also motivates me on the court,” Brawand said. “Maybe one day I’ll be a hooper like them, you know?”



Contributed Photo

Dordt University alumni Dr. Richard Vyn returns as a new agriculture professor

Georgia Lodewyk—Staff Writer



Contributed Photo

agriculture department, especially as they look to expand their agri-business program and the Agriculture Stewardship Center.

“We really benefit from having the Agriculture Stewardship Center... there’s a lot of potential for applied learning aspects,” Vyn said. “We’ve got to make sure that it’s used in a productive way for them (students). I just think with the growth that’s happening there, there’s a lot of great potential.”

For Vyn, who grew up on a farm in Canada, agriculture has always been something that has fascinated him, and a love of numbers and math drew him to being involved in the agri-business field. A great positive of this field is the variety of areas students can go into: from agricultural loan officers, to big agriculture corporations, to sales.

Vyn said this also creates potential challenges for ag business professors; it’s their job to prepare students for the wide range of job opportunities they could find themselves in, and for the ever-changing and evolving nature of agriculture.

“When they’re passionate for what they do, they can use the passion to truly make a difference in the agriculture industry,”
-Dr. Richard Vyn

Nevertheless, one of Vyn’s greatest joys of teaching is seeing students foster the passion they have for their field of interest.

“When they’re passionate for what they do, they can use the passion to truly make a difference in the agriculture industry,” Vyn said. “Whether it’s on the farm or working for a big ag business.”

From stage to screen

Katie Ribbens—Staff Writer



Contributed Photo

This year’s film season has seen an increase in adapted screenplay musicals—from the countless remade West Side Story to the newer Tick, Tick, Boom! Here’s a guide for all that’s Broadway:

In the Heights

While Hamilton may have made Lin-Manuel Miranda famous, In the Heights came first. The heart-warming musical follows the struggles and successes of bodega owner Usnavi. In the Washington Heights of New York, a collection of dreams emerges through the songs of immigrants from Cuba, Puerto Rico, and the Dominican Republic.

In his token maneuver, Lin-Manuel Miranda wrote the music for In the Heights and starred as the main character, Usnavi. Since its first showing in 2005, it has earned nominations for thirteen Tony Awards and won four. But its past starts long before that, on the campus of Wesleyan University. Nineteen-year-old Miranda started penning music to the film during his sophomore year of college in 1999. He staged the musical at Wesleyan University during his spring semester.

Twenty-two years later, the musical made it

to the big screen. It opened in theaters on June 10 and can be found on multiple streaming services. Anthony Ramos, known for his roles as John Laurens and Philip Hamilton in Hamilton, replaced Miranda as Usnavi in the movie remake.

However, Miranda remained intimately involved with In the Heights by serving as one of the producers. He also starred as a minor character in the film. Miranda also offered Christopher Jackson a cameo appearance in the movie. In the Heights is responsible for Miranda and Jackson’s friendship; their roles as best friends, Benny and Usnavi, evolved into a real-life friendship. It is also the reason why Jackson later played George Washington in Hamilton, his more widely-known role.

While the remake altered the plot and music slightly from the original show, critics and audiences alike welcomed it with open arms. It scored 94% on Rotten Tomatoes. The colorful musical is testament that twenty years of work pays off.

Tick, Tick... Boom!

Lin-Manuel Miranda and his musicals in New York just keep coming. But this time, instead of writing it, Lin-Manuel Miranda debuted in a feature directorial role. Tick, Tick... Boom! is actually written by Jonathan Larson, who is better-known for creating Rent.

Larson wrote the musical in 1990 as an autobiographical solo show that he originally called Boho Days. He expressed his fear that he had pursued the wrong career path in the performing arts as he struggled to establish himself. He felt the pressure as he waited tables instead of performing. He wondered what he should do with this limited time, and how he could possibly address the problems ravaging those around him. All these stressors culminated in a ticking sound that only he could hear.

The playwright died suddenly at the age of 35 in 1996, before he saw Rent’s success. After Larson’s death, playwright David Auburn reworked it into Tick, Tick... Boom! in 2001.

Andrew Garfield played Jonathan Larson in the remake, even though he lacked the musical experience the other veteran actors brought to the film—he had performed in some Broadway plays, but not to the extent that some

of the other actors had. Of course, he is also well-known in his role as Peter Parker in The Amazing Spider-Man. Garfield embraced the role as an opportunity to understand Larson and work through his grief after the passing of his mother.

“Every frame, every moment, every breath of this film is an attempted honoring of Jon,” Garfield said in The New York Times. “And, on a more personal level, it’s an honoring of my mom.”

The emotionally charged musical will be released in theaters on Nov. 12 and will be streamed on Netflix on Nov. 19.

West Side Story

This classic musical debuted in 1957 and has experienced several Broadway revivals in the half-century since. It has been nominated for six Tony Awards and will be released in a film remake in theatres on Dec. 10. The interesting thing is, this is not even its first movie adaptation. It first hit the big screen in 1961, but fans are excited for the 2021 film. Steven Spielberg, known for Jaws, E.T., and Schindler’s List, directed the remake.

In this Manhattan musical, Shakespeare’s



Contributed Photo

The lazy American labor shortage

Ella de Jong— Staff Writer

Americans are lazy. Who is willing to work at a job for 40 hours a week? I think the answer is sadly less and less people.

When hearing about an increase in unemployment, one would assume there is a labor shortage. But there are plenty of jobs available. You’ve probably seen the “Help Wanted” signs posted in the restaurant windows of your hometown and in Sioux Center. Yet, those who are unemployed refuse to take these jobs. And the reason why is simple— federal unemployment benefits from COVID-19.

The government has been mailing checks to households across America. Now, Americans would rather take their unemployment benefits than work a job. According to a poll done by the Society for Human Resource Management, nine percent of the unemployed are receiving more money from their unemployment benefits than they would receive from working. The tax money from the working class is being handed to these lazy Americans who refuse to work.

I have seen the need for workers all around my hometown of 100,000 in Idaho. Prior to COVID-19, fast-food restaurants like McDonald’s and Taco Bell paid their workers minimum wage (\$7.25). Now, as I drive through town, hiring signs are at every window where these fast-food businesses are paying \$14 to \$18 per hour. One day this summer, Red Robin was closed for a full day due to having no waitresses that could work. Just this past weekend, my family was in Moscow, Idaho and stopped at a pizza joint that normally would close at 10 p.m., but they were closing at 7 p.m. due to being short-staffed.

Sioux Center is experiencing job shortages as well. Kylie de Jong, a freshman at Dordt, says there has been a shortage of waitresses at Sioux

County Livestock Co. and that her employer has been looking for more workers all year.

She says that being short-staffed can make her job stressful and that current waitresses want to quit.

COVID-19 has had a huge impact on the recent increase in unemployment. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, September saw the unemployment rate go from 0.04 percent to 4.8 percent. Many people were laid off from their jobs with businesses having to cut down or close altogether. I am not saying that every person that is unemployed is lazy. Many of those who were laid off have been searching for new jobs that they are unable to find.

Americans are also not wanting to go back to work due to health concerns. COVID-19 is easily spread at restaurants and fast-food joints where most of these job openings are seen. But hasn’t this fear of the virus already ruined America’s economy enough? The virus is serious and deadly to the vulnerable, but it does not mean that a person is validated to use it as an excuse to never go back to work.

These unemployment benefits are scheduled to expire in September. I believe that these job shortages will decrease greatly as many people will go back into the labor force. The Christian perspective is that God has equipped people to work. More people in the labor force after September will show that our tax dollars were going to people who could have been working. America is not just helping those who are looking for jobs or unable to work. We have created lazy Americans.

It’s how you say it

Corina Beimers—Staff Writer

As a child, my parents always reminded me, “It’s not always what you say, it’s how you say it.”

The other weekend, I talked about the COVID-19 vaccine with a room full of other people. I had received the Johnson and Johnson vaccine this past April through Dordt University’s vaccination clinic. I was and still am thankful for the opportunity.

We conversed about our varying reactions to the vaccines, and I mentioned how mine had left me feeling pretty terrible for the next day or two. While talk about vaccinations can turn so opinionated and political, the discussion was a light. It wasn’t riddled with politics or ethics.

An individual entered the room and quickly monopolized the discussion. They declared the Johnson and Johnson vaccine contained aborted baby tissue and signified their discontent by making an ‘X’ with their arms.

“Okay,” I said. I couldn’t reply with anything else.

“It’s not about what’s right and what’s wrong. It’s about remembering the humanity of the person next to you, remembering that words can sting.”
-Corina Beimers

I don’t really care about your argument, evidence, or ethical opinion on the rights and wrongs of vaccines. I think our collective American society has heard about every argument under the sun. This article isn’t really about COVID-19. It’s not about what’s right and what’s wrong. It’s about remembering the humanity of the person next to you, remembering that words can sting, remembering that you don’t know the other person’s life story.

If you feel so strongly about vaccination to the point where you can’t interact with someone who disagrees with you, it’s exhausting for the rest of us. If you feel so strongly about something that you feel the need to throw shame on someone when they counteract you, please reconsider

the place this thing holds in your worldview. If you can’t get through this article without being judgmental, ask yourself why.

I think I’ve reached the point where I don’t care as much about what people are saying, but how they are saying it.

There are endless divisive and controversial issues in our country: critical race theory, government spending, and recent abortion laws in Texas, to name a few. Dordt University community is not exempt from these conversations.

When you enter a space and assume everyone agrees with you on issue of vaccination, religion, or politics, you cast shame, judgement, and offense on the other side.

I’ve taken classes with professors who assume the opinions and lives of the students—that nobody in the class has been involved with an abortion, that nobody in the class has dealt with an eating disorder, that everyone is conservative, or that everyone is straight.

I ache for the girl who was given a BMI lab while living with bulimia. I do not wish to imagine the shame or struggle of one my peers who may have dealt with an abortion. I cringe for the student who was degraded for voting for Biden.

I should never have to sit in a room full of boys who snicker and roll their eyes at me because I speak my mind for women’s rights. There isn’t anyone who should have to experience these situations, especially on a campus like ours.

This isn’t about the rightness and wrongness of our opinions. This isn’t argumentative. This is a reminder to think about your words before you speak them—a reminder that if you’re more focused making someone feel stupid for their decisions than being loving and encouraging, then you’re doing it wrong.

The nature of our conversations as being filled with respect is crucial to our Kingdom work. We must be able to live with others who think differently than us.

Why should my sister’s classmates pester her for loving the LGBTQ+ community? Why should others be bullied for not supporting former-President Trump? Why should vaccinated people be unwelcome in the homes of the unvaccinated?

I’m over this culture of people who simply try to yell louder than the person next to them.

If you don’t have anything nice to say, don’t say anything at all. It is that simple.

The heart of journalism is in storytelling. That is, readers want narratives about the immigrant not lectures on immigration, stories about the patient not presentations on healthcare. In this course, students will encounter subway fiddlers and professional birthday clowns, endure hurricanes and tornados, drift on a refugee boat, dodge reckless drivers, get evicted from homes, pursue escaped zoo animals, and run a marathon alongside a victim of brain damage. Then, students will write their own narratives, exploring how to use fictional techniques to tell true stories about real people.

CORE 279: Cross-Cultural Dialogues Through Role Immersion Games

This course gives students an opportunity to practice cross-cultural communication by immersing themselves in the historical events and cultural debates that have shaped China, India, and Rwanda. In this course, students will take on the personas and objectives of pivotal figures who struggled to change their cultures and the world through three Reacting to the Past simulations. So, come learn by walking in the shoes of those who went before us.

HIST 319 – Modern Middle East

This past September brought the 20th anniversary of the events of 9/11, which has shaped the last two decades of American and global history. This course will provide context, as well as a better understanding, for 9/11, as well as the more recent and rapid Taliban takeover of Afghanistan, the various iterations of the Palestine-Israel conflict, and the ever-growing Middle Eastern refugee crisis. We will also explore and seek clearer insight into various topics including radical Islam and terrorism, the place of women in the Middle East and Islam, and the ever-sensitive issue of oil.

Linguistics 201, Introduction to Linguistics

In a nutshell, linguistics is concerned with the complexities and study of language. Contrary to studying one particular language, this course will give students new insights into how language works in ever-changing contexts. Since we all use language on a daily basis, we are all language experts. If you want to dig deeper into the wide field of languages than cramming grammar and vocab, this course might just be the right one for you as it also looks into the roles of sounds and word structures and how they impact one another. Moreover, it is interested in the political, social, and cultural aspects surrounding language. This class is open to all students.

upper-level humanities courses for non-majors

ENG 220, Intro to Creative Writing

Are you into creative writing, but a little nervous about an upper level course? Are you not sure what kind of writing you’re most interested in? This course is a solid first step. You’ll get a taste of writing various genres: poetry, fiction, creative-non-fiction. It’ll prepare you for the higher-level creative-writing classes. And, it will replace CORE 120 in many instances.



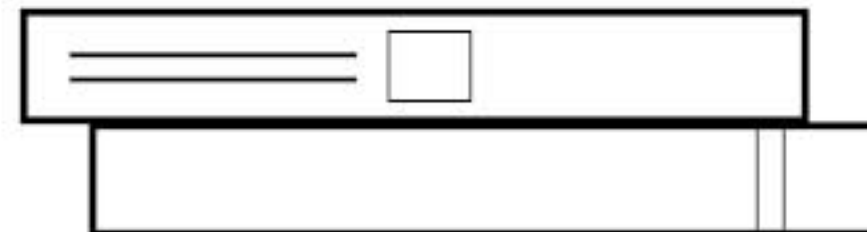
ENG 333, History and Theory of Literary Criticism

In this class, you’ll learn how to read the same eight-line poem in a hundred different ways. If you are looking for a CORE A.R.T. class, this is a fantastic option. An absolute must if you are going to grad school in English, law, or seminary.

for the Spring 2022 semester

Theo 324: Theology of the Reformation

This course focuses on Calvin’s Institutes and Luther against their historical and theological background to gain a deeper understanding of Christian theology, spirituality, and worldview of the Protestant faith. Our present confession and thinking are developed out of the basis they laid in the 16th century. Not only examination of the Reformed theological system, this course provides a foundation of theological thinking, spirituality, and culture. A good option for students who are interested in humanities, religion, and theological foundation for study and practice.



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Sexual assault training and the person sitting next to you

Corina Beimers – Staff writer

What did you learn from the sexual assault training? Probably not a whole lot, because you didn’t do it.

At the beginning of October, Robert Taylor emailed all Dordt University students about a federally-required sexual assault bystander training.

Since then, I have been a witness to more than one conversation on the subject. I have listened to boys make light of the subject matter. I have stood in the locker room and heard girls talk about how they have gotten away with not completing the module. I have overheard that nobody will track you down to make sure you do it.

These opinions regarding the training brought a lot of questions to my mind, but the one remains: Who is listening? Who is listening to your joke about sexual assault being okay if you are drunk? Who is listening to you talk about how the training isn’t important?

You have three options when it comes to

“We need to know what messages our actions and our words are sending.”
-Corina Beimers



Contributed Photo

the bystander training. You can watch all the videos, answering the questions honestly and thoroughly, you can skip through the videos and write next to nothing for the answers to the questions, or you can ignore the training altogether. After listening and asking around campus, I have discovered that the latter two are probably the case for a lot of students.

We hear that one in five women are sexually assaulted during their college years, but we think, “Well, that does not happen here at Dordt.”

It is hard to know what the exact statistics would be here at this university. While maybe the statistic is not 20 percent, for students to think that sexual assault is not something we need to be aware of, or something we do not need proper information and training on, then we would be quite naive.

There are instances of sexual assault on campus. So, odds are when you made that joke in the classroom, a victim of sexual assault heard you. It’s likely that when you downgraded the importance of the bystander training, a

victim of sexual assault was present. If you think that you are so educated when it comes to the issue of sexual assault that you do not need the training, making these comments proves that you actually do.

There are two things that I’ve learned over the years regarding sexual assault. First, it happens a lot more than you think it does. Second, it happens to the people you least expect. Sexual violence, and rape in particular, is the most under-reported crime. Sixty-three percent of cases are not reported to the police, according to the National Sexual Violence Resource Center. Maybe you think you will never be put in a situation where you could apply this training, or you think you would know what to do if you were. What I do know is you will meet people in your life who have experienced this. We need to know what messages our actions and our words are sending.

How honest are we about the issue and risk of sexual assault on our campus? What message do we send with a consequence-free module on

The Back Page

Dordt University campus safety cont.

cont. from pg. 1

...former nursing building with nine other male students.

The next day, the West Hall resident who had notified police spoke to Hembrough, alerting him of Van Kley's presence near his house the night before.

"I was taken aback because I didn't think those sorts of things happened here," Hembrough said. "I didn't feel as safe anymore."

Since Sept. 19, Hembrough and his roommates have been "more vigilant with locking our doors" and closing the blinds of their house. They heard of Van Kley's arrest through an article published by *The N'West Iowa Review* on Sept. 29.

"I feel better knowing that he got picked up," Hembrough said.

Though Vande Griend and Van Kley have been identified, the university has received reports of unidentified individuals as well. In mid-October, Ella Veldkamp, a freshman, encountered a masked individual around midnight in the parking lot of Covenant Hall.

That night, Veldkamp looked for a parking space near Covenant Hall. There were no available spots in the lot, so she turned towards the All-Seasons Center parking lot. As she drove, she noticed an individual approaching her passenger side door from the nearby sidewalk. She slowed to a stop, thinking they needed help. Then the individual, dressed from head to toe in black clothing, slammed their fists into Veldkamp's window. She screamed and pressed the gas. She met one of her male friends at the university clock tower, and he escorted Veldkamp to Covenant Hall. Later, the friend parked her car.

"The fact that [the masked individual] was doing it to girls outside of Covey, is a different story and makes it more scary," Veldkamp said. "Because that stuff does happen in real life."

This same masked individual, who appeared to be a man, was seen chasing other Covenant Hall residents that same night. In addition, also that night, a Covenant Hall resident recorded a separate man hiding amongst the building's dumpsters and chasing other girls.

"I don't want to be involved in that," the freshman work study at the call center said. "It sounds a little too real."

The university, according to Student Services, had received two reports related to campus security from that night: one from Veldkamp and another from a parent.

But after Veldkamp's incident, a screenshotted Snapchat message shared amongst students claimed Student Services had received eight separate reports of masked men chasing Covenant Hall residents

"[The rumored eight reports] unduly set the alarm level, and it is hard to come back from that," said Robert Taylor, dean of students. "It is hard for people to re-shift back to reality."

These types of occurrences, according to Taylor, have happened "for the last eight to ten years" around Halloween. On Oct. 16 of this year, a campus security work study caught four high school boys dressed up in all black on campus.

"In years past, we took care of it and moved forward, and no one got extra freaked out," Taylor said. "Then, all of a sudden, it blew up and people were like 'Student Services isn't doing anything, and they received eight reports.' It's like, 'Holy smokes, we got to switch it up here.'"

These rumors prompted a campus-wide email sent out three days after Veldkamp's encounter with the masked man. The email informed the student body of "incidents involving unwelcome individuals on campus" and "incidents involving individuals wearing masks." Also, it claimed the university "work[s] diligently to create a safe campus community."

"I feel like they should have sent out an email right away," Veldkamp said. "Because people who hadn't heard the story were just parking their cars normally. There were just kind of rumors going around on campus about it."

Georgia Lodewyk, a Covenant Hall resident assistant, agreed.

"We all want to get to a point where everyone feels safe enough to where they don't need to be escorted back to their dorm," Lodewyk said. "Girls don't want to have to rely on that. We shouldn't have to."

Taylor said Student Services worked as "quickly as they could" to get credible information on the incidents.

"It's important to know that no crimes were committed," Taylor said. "If a crime were committed, we would have issued an email immediately if those who committed the crime were still at large."

In addition, Student Services has reached out to those related to the incidents individually.

"I want [students] to know that we care so much. We just need people to come and tell us what is happening, so we know how to help them," Ally Veldhuisen, a Student Services employee who has contacted these Covenant Hall residents, said. "I have a really deep desire that girls feel at home on campus because part of feeling at home is feeling safe. It breaks my heart when that's not how girls feel."

The International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (IACLEA) reports that 92 percent of public colleges and 38 percent of private college utilize "sworn and armed campus officers."

At Dordt University, full-time campus officers are not employed. They instead utilize a rotation of six work studies. Every night from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m., one of these students is on call for campus security.

Additionally, resident assistants and

community development assistants are on call for these same hours of the night for their respective buildings, and a staff member from Student Services is on call 24/7. The institution also relies on the Sioux Center Police Department, whom they have a longstanding relationship with, according to Taylor.

"I don't know all of the details that go into hiring students for campus security," the freshman girl from the call center said. "I think the system could be improved by hiring trained security, but I could see issues that arise."

The addition of full-time, professional security workers on campus would be "hard positions to fill" because of the operating cost: "Since we have such a low crime rate, it's hard to make those choices," Taylor said. "We do feel well equipped—we do training sessions with local response people."

Over the past few years, the university has simulated active shooter and fire drills with local police and fire departments. These simulations have included university faculty and staff.

"We feel like we are on top of things, but you never know," Taylor said. "You have to expect the unexpected."

The campus-security related incidents from September and October prompted an increased police presence on campus in the following weeks, especially in parking lots at night.

If students should encounter a situation where they feel their safety is at risk, they are encouraged to call 911 and campus security. They ought to contact Student Services about the incident when they are safe.

The university is investigating the possibility of increased lighting around campus, particularly in parking lots, and locking residence buildings at different times.

"The biggest problem is what happened," Lodewyk said about the campus safety-related incidents. "The other big problem along with that was the communication—not totally knowing what's going on—[because] girls should feel safe."

Dune is slowly stunning

Aleasha Hintz—Staff Writer

With space travel, politics, secret societies, and corruption, *Dune* encapsulates everything we love about science fiction films.

The film provides audiences with an eerily-familiar plot line: a powerful and corrupt government ravages a planet for the universe's most valuable substance: spice. This commodity allows for interstellar travel, but the planet Arrakis is the only source of this good. The indigenous people, the Fremen, use spice as a powerful hallucinogen in religious contexts.

The will of the Imperium directly contrasts the Fremen's desires, and as a result, the planet Arrakis has watched many colonists come and go.

The Imperium replaces the House Harkonnen with House Atreides, making Duke Leto

Atreides Arraki's newest colonizer. At the same time, Paul Atreides, Leto Atreide's son, has had strange reoccurring dreams, with a Fremen woman present in almost all of them. Clearly, his arrival on Arrakis is important.

Even the Fremen are anticipatory. They expect Paul to become a Messianic figure.

In addition to being part of the House of Atreides, Paul is the son of a woman from a powerful clan called the Bene Gesserit. Thus, he has two birthrights – one from space nuns and the other from a colonial superpower.

The film follows Paul, following the plot of the book *Dune*, written by Frank Herbert in 1965. It's a slow-moving film, only getting through the first half of the original book's content. This is a popular critique of this otherwise fantastic film.

The movie is an introduction to a larger universe. If more movie-goers understand that *Dune* is part one of a larger story, the movie may not feel as slow moving. That being said, I consider this to be one of the best films I have seen in a long time.

Dune shows incredible promise for a future series. The film itself felt unfinished, but made up for this lack with a highly immersive experience.

The film is visually stunning. The set designs, costumes, and overall aesthetic is surprisingly clean. That is, it isn't particularly gaudy.

While the CGI seems, at times, difficult to track, it hardly distracts from the film. After all, I was not overly worried about a shot's frame rate when I was staring down the gullet of a giant sand worm.

The music is ominous and fills the theater with foreboding synthesizers. It is highly suspenseful, with rhythmic, primitive drums and deafening vocals. Essentially, composer Hans Zimmer has done it again.

My one qualm with this film is the clarity of

some politically heavy scenes. Two viewings are needed to fully understand what is going on. With that said, the movie is definitely worth it.

Whether or not you are interested in sci-fi films, *Dune* is certainly a must see. If Warner Brothers keep the same standards for the next few films, *Dune* could be comparable to *Star Trek* in terms of influence. It has the capability to move and shake the sci-fi world. At the same time, if writers aren't careful, the general public may lose interest because of overly-complicated politics and long-running plots.



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