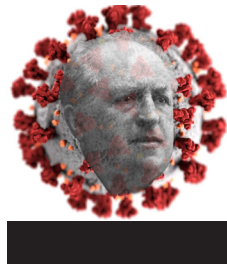




**I hate living through historical events**

page 11



**COVID-19 variant raises hands and bends knees**

page 2



**Worship team changes the lyrics of "The Blessing"**

page 5



**Opinions about Sioux Center's Sidebar**

page 9

twenty-twenty-doom issue 4, the Zirc.



# THE ZIRC

## Hoekstravilles heighten housing crisis

*Third-Floor Kuyper Resident*  
– Staff Snooper

As Dordt University's enrollment has grown, the institution has struggled to house its students. While the directors of residence life have opted to place students in the old nursing building and on off-campus properties, administration has taken no recent action to address the housing crisis or revise the housing application process, leaving students to fend for themselves.

Last week, those living in now-overcrowded Kuyper Apartments and Southview Apartments peered out their windows to observe a burgeoning shantytown in the Southview lawn. The residents of the homeless shelters had constructed makeshift tents out of syllabi and unused CORE-399 books. They nicknamed their village "Hoekstraville." In addition, other Hoekstravilles have been sprouting across campus.

Hoekstraville began when six male upperclassmen were unable to find an additional roommate to live with in Kuyper Apartments. Ben Krupt, the mayor and first member of Hoekstraville, blames the existence of the town on his university.

"I don't understand why housing hasn't been included in the \$90 million capital campaign, Krupt said"

Krupt isn't alone. As Hoekstraville expanded across the Southview lawn, other Hoekstravilles



popped up across campus. Now, the campus' nearly dead grass is barely visible, covered by a complicated maze of shacks and impromptu shelters. Lately, residents of East Hall have

Photo Credit: Thanks Obama

vacated their apartments and moved into a nearby Hoekstraville, citing better living conditions.

"At least there isn't mold in my cardboard

box," a former East Hall resident said. "There's more natural light too."

Despite facing the problem of poverty on campus, residents of Kuyper Apartments capitalized on the Hoekstravilles by kicking their tacked-on seventh roommates to the curb.

"I cannot believe how the speed at which my former roommates got rid of me," Ned A. Buck said. "I am not feeling shalom right now. I am angry at my old roommates and am furious at the directors of residence life for dropping the ball."

Hoekstraville residents have protested the university's multi-million-dollar projects, including the American State Bank Sports Complex and the addition of a dining hall to the Campus Center.

"The clear and immediate problem is obviously the living situations of students," Buck said. "The rec center is functional, the dining hall is serviceable, but there are students camping out on the green without warmth and without showers. I'd rather sleep soundly than tee off at the golf simulator."

At Hoekstraville, discontent has caused rowdiness and numerous reports of break-ins at Southview Apartments. Specifically, a dirty group of Hoekstraville residents stole the shower of Burt Guoise, a junior.

"I pay for that privilege," Guoise said.

As Hoekstravilles grow, the pressure mounts for Dordt University.

## Dordt Admissions sends "Shalom Shacks" to prospective students

*Your Feedback Matters—Staff Disappointment*



Photo Credit: How The Other Half Lives

The upcoming 2022-23 academic year is looking crowded for Dordt University. As the admissions department expects a record-breaking enrollment, the university community can count on a bustling, overpopulated campus and, quite literally, a full house.

Even though the university's housing space remains limited and Hoekstravilles have spread across campus, the admissions department has not lessened their efforts to recruit as many students as possible for the upcoming years.

"Our team really upped their admissions game this year," Greg Van Dyke, director of admissions, said. "We've implemented new strategies to genuinely excite our potential students."

"Shalom Shacks" represents one such tactic. For the past several months, Van Dyke and his colleagues sent each prospective student a...

cont. on pg. 4

## McCarthy to oversee negotiations between Russia and Ukraine

*Andrei Kirilenko – The Other AK-47*



As the Russian invasion of Ukraine drags on into its second month and negotiations have begun take place, Dordt University history professor Dr. Mark McCarthy has been tapped to facilitate a resolution to the ongoing conflict.

McCarthy received his doctorate from the University of Notre Dame in Modern European History with a focus on Russia and

Eastern Europe. This knowledge, as well as his experiences in and around Russia, have led to officials to select McCarthy to lead a team of mediators that will facilitate discussions between Ukrainian leader Volodymyr Zelenskyy and Russian leader Vladimir Putin.

McCarthy has previously interacted with...

cont. on pg. 4



## Dordt Worship Album, Acoustic Sessions, awarded top spot on Billboard Hot 100

Totally depraved—Staff Writer

The Billboard Hot 100. We all listen to it. Is the music entirely God glorifying? Probably not. Does that stop us? Probably not. You've likely relearned the alphabet after listening to Gayle's "abdefu" or taken it "Easy" (on me) with Adele's number six ranked song. Whether you've seen *Encanto* or not, you've probably heard "We Don't Talk About Bruno." It's ranked at number two on the charts. But what else don't we talk about?

Experts are baffled by the number one hit album, "Acoustic Sessions" by Dordt University Worship Arts. The album will begin its third week at coveted spot number one on March 28. "We have no idea how we did it, but I'm not complaining." ShalomSeeker, the producer, said.

In an exclusive interview with musicology expert MacInnis VanKilljoy, *The Zircon* discussed the album's success.

"It's clearly a one hit wonder," VanKilljoy said. "I doubt we'll ever see them on the charts again."

VanKilljoy reckoned rising gas prices and the Russian invasion of Ukraine prompted audiences turn to music with Christian themes. "We see this all the time in pop culture,"

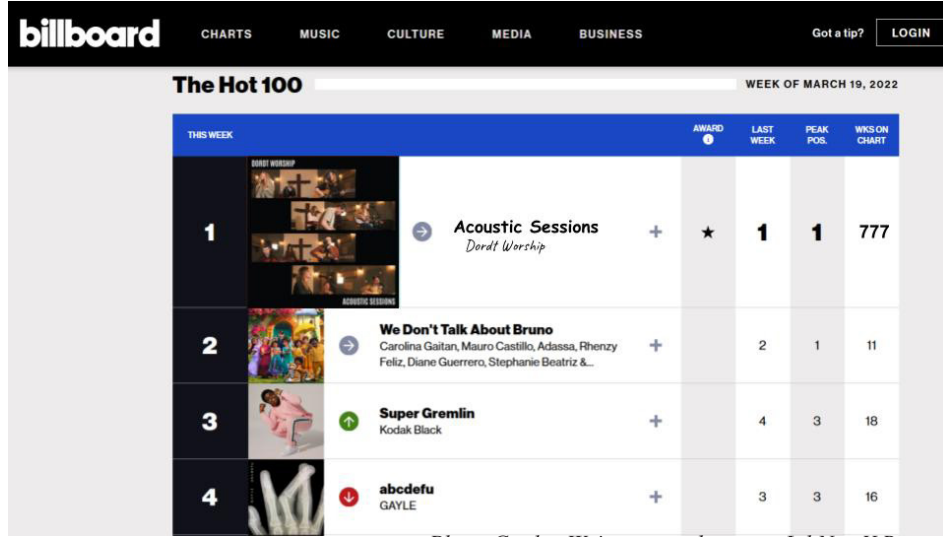


Photo Credit: We're sorry about our Lil Nas X Review

VanKilljoy said. "Whenever there's a national tragedy, people become more invested in faith. That's what's at play with the Acoustic Sessions album."

He added: "The music is still outstanding, and it definitely deserves its number one spot, however surprising that spot is."

Dordt student and singer Faith Chorus said the

worship arts, with a minor in graphic design. As a graduating senior, this is her last year with Dordt worship.

"I am a very busy person," Chorus said. "But being invested in Dordt worship is obviously a time commitment that I am going to prioritize, because if Dordt has taught me anything, it's more important to worship God than go to class."

However, her spot on the Billboard Hot 100 is not all without strife. After their first week on the charts, her Instagram inbox flooded with messages. Her friend, Truth Proverbs, helped her manage all the incoming messages.

"I mean it's crazy, I gained like 2,000 followers overnight. People are literally proposing to me in my DMs," Proverbs said. "I don't think I was prepared for all the publicity."

So far, Proverbs said she revels in her newfound fame, feeling protected from harsh backlash regarding the album's number one spot.

"People do keep asking me if I think Acoustic Sessions deserves its spot," Proverbs said. "Truth is, I'm just as surprised as you are."

During the recording sessions, Chorus wrestled between attending class and worshipping Jesus through the album. She is a triple major in theology, education, and

## COVID-19 variant raises hands and bends knees

Martina Luther—Staff Writer

On March 24, scientist Darles Charwin and representatives for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) arrived at Dordt University to investigate a new strand of COVID-19: The Reformed variant. Over the last few weeks, the variant has spread throughout the campus, infecting the residents of dorms and apartments.

Currently, Charwin is unsure of the origin of the variant. He thinks the COVID-19 virus may have mutated among students attending Thursday Night Praise and Worship or Friday Prayers:

"I've heard about Living Loved," Charwin said. "I think the virus loved living around the Reformed men and women of this campus."

The Reformed variant doesn't cause negative symptoms those it infects, but rather causes its host to become Reformed.

Kooper Kuyper, a freshman, was patient zero. On March 14, he nailed a list of his ninety-five symptoms to the organ of the B.J. Haan Auditorium. These symptoms included hand raising, recitations of John 3:16, balding, and a fever for evangelism. Kuyper remains highly contagious.

"He's spreading faster than a middle school revival," Charwin said. "I'm concerned."

Charwin recommended isolating those exposed to the Reformed variant from worship

and chapel, but Dordt University remains unsure of its role amidst the outbreak.

"We don't want to live in fear," President Erik Hoekstra said. "I think you're either predestined to catch the Reformed variant or damned to Arminianism."

Still, Charwin has distributed TULIP pamphlets that educate students on how to prevent the disease: Trust the disease is not deadly, Utterly repent of your religion, Listen to health professionals, Ice knees that are sore from praying, and Pray to the one true God.

Some students are concerned about the Reformed variant and worry it will disrupt their way of life, while others think of the virus as a blessing in disguise:

"I believe we should think of all the good that could come out of this pandemic if we spread our godly germs," Joanne Calvin, a sophomore, said. "The whole world could become Reformed."

Calvin thinks the variant represents an effective way to live out the Great Commission. In addition, it is rumored her university's Administrative Cabinet sent infected students on PLIA trips to spread the virus throughout the country.

It is uncertain whether Charwin or the CDC will impose more restrictions on how far Dordt is allowed to spread the virus.

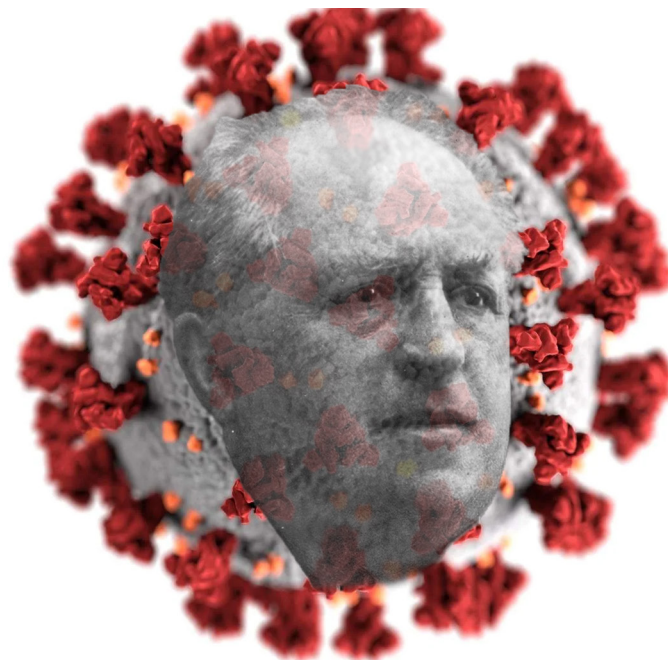


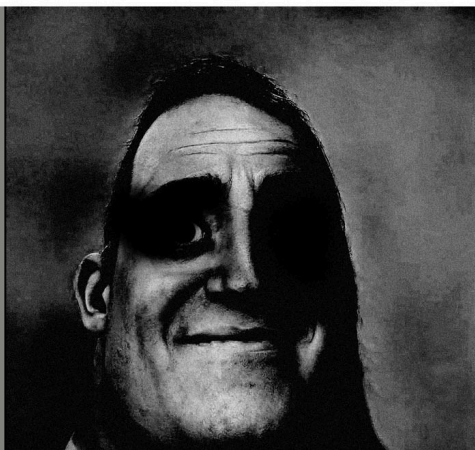
Photo Credit: National Institutes of Health

## Men's baseball on strike

Rob Manfred—Staff Writer

Baseball team throws strikes!

Baseball team throws strikes



After Major League Baseball's lockout this offseason due to a disagreement between owners and the players union, the Dordt University Baseball Team followed in the league's footsteps and went on strike.

While MLB's lockout has now been resolved with a new collective bargaining agreement, Dordt Baseball has committed to staying strong and will not end their strike until their demands are met.

In a statement released Wednesday, players outlined what it would take for them to return to the diamond.

At the top of their list of demands, they petitioned for the legalization of e-cigarettes on campus. Second, they sought after an exclusive area in the The Commons for baseball athletes only.

"I respect my players' choice to go on strike," Head Coach Nathan Bacon said. "They are stand-up individuals and contribute greatly

*"They are stand-up individuals and contribute greatly to Dordt's campus culture."*

*-Nathan Bacon*

to Dordt's campus culture."

## Dordt University buys Wordle

Three Guesses - Staff Average

In a stunning turn of events, Dordt University has bought out the New York Times for Wordle, the web-based word game that has taken the nation by storm. Wordle gives its players six chances to guess a five-letter word. However, the game will change under the oversight of Dordt.

The first change will be the name: Wordle is now Dordtle.

Jake Brouwer, a member of the university marketing department, headed up the name change.

"Dordtle is the right name," Brouwer said. "It fits with our branding, and we will be shifting the colors of the game over to the black and gold of this university."

Dordtle will also adopt Museo for its font, allowing it to fit in with other marketing and publications of the university.

When Dordt University took over Wordle they wanted to further their mission of engaging their students in Christ-centered renewal in all aspects of creation. This renewal has included changing the five-letter words of the game into six letters. This will allow for more Dordt-centric language: Kuyper, Redeem, Shalom, and Calvin.

"If we look at the words that Wordle has the user guess, there was no redemptive aspect to it," President Erik Hoekstra said. "We wanted to redeem the game by rebranding it and by making it Christ-centered."

Before the rebrand, lewder, less family-friendly words were included. According to Aaron Baart, chief of staff, these words and

their negative, worldly connotations made users falter instead of flourish.

"So many of the words that Wordle implemented before were just crass and causing our brothers and sisters in Christ to stumble," Baart said.

"Not only will this help restore aspects of creation – specially this corner of the internet we are dealing with, but it will also bring awareness to our college and help boost enrollment numbers," Hoekstra said.

Although Dordt was already facing record high enrollment for the 2021-22 school year, they are hoping Dordtle will boost enrollment for the 2022-23 year.

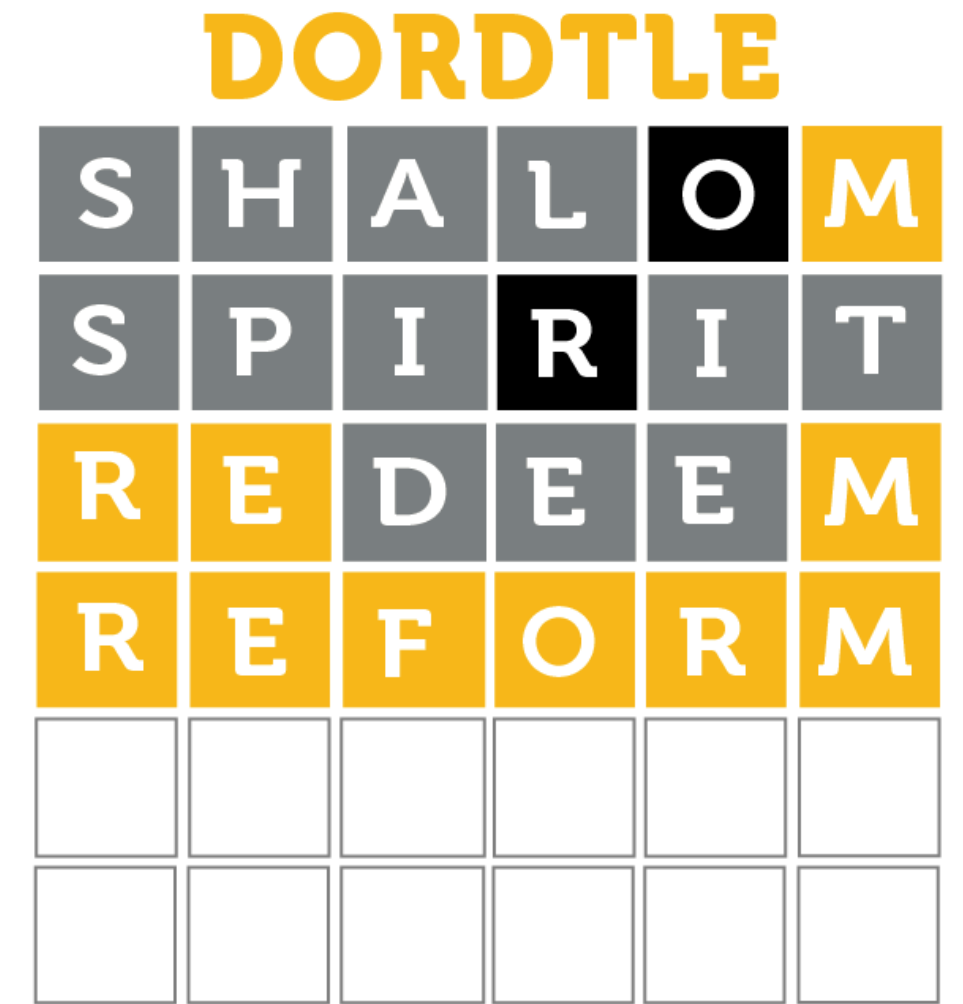
There have been various student and faculty responses to Dordt's purchasing of Wordle and subsequent rebranding of Dordtle.

"I am excited to open Dordtle every morning and think I GET to do this," Dave Mulder, an education professor, said.

English major Greta Van Fleet has been playing Wordle since it gained popularity earlier this year. She watched the transition as it shifted to the New York Times and has mixed feelings about the Dordt take over.

"It feels like another bad attempt at Christians trying to be cool and engaged with culture," Van Fleet said. "I will probably stop playing it."

Dordtle is set to release on April 1, 2022.



## Digital Media department crumbles with Prairie Grass

A Concerned Viewer – Staff Writer

On Feb. 18, Mark Volkers, digital media professor hosted the fifteenth and final Prairie Grass Film Challenge's awards ceremony. He drove home afterwards and cried himself to sleep. Two days later, Volkers was still inconsolable, and on Monday morning he began petitioning the PGFC board to start the challenge back up.

"I just knew it couldn't really be over," Volkers

*"Maybe someday you'll understand. But you can't know real loss until you've loved something more than you love yourself."*  
*-Mark Volkers*

said. "If my life is a movie, Prairie Grass was the part that everyone could agree was perfect – like the opening scene of Sound of Music. I can't just let that end."

Volkers has spearheaded the Prairie Grass Film Challenge since its inception. Before that, he served as a missionary in Africa and made documentary films. But he said none of his works measure up to the standard of a PGFC winner.

"Every jump cut, plotless script, and bit of out-of-sync audio reminds me why I love teaching," Volkers said. "These young people have so much spark and enthusiasm in them!"

But Volkers' petition doesn't seem to be gaining much traction. The board set the challenge's end date five years ago, and student opinions are divided.

"Prairie Grass is yesterday's news," freshman digital media major Emma VanShowoff said in an Instagram message from Malaysia,



where her semester abroad has tasked her with hunting down an international crime ring for a documentary. "We need to aim higher than dinky little small-budget films."

Merlin Dutchman is a junior digital media major. He has participated in PGFC since eight-years-old, starring as the title role in his cousin's film: *Gus' Big Adventure*. As a high school freshman, Dutchman made his own films for the festival.

"I couldn't stop crying for the first few days," Dutchman said.

On Tuesday, Dutchman visited the hospital after not eating and drinking since the ceremony, where his film, *Apocalypse*, made it

to the Winner's Circle. He was released from the hospital Wednesday morning but, "by that point I figured I might as well skip, since I'd missed the rest of the week."

Now, Dutchman said he is a shell of his former self. He had planned on participating in the challenge even beyond his senior year. There was a Post College category, and Dutchman had hoped to complete a personal streak of at least 15 years.

"I just wanted a Dordty award," Dutchman said. "There's really nothing left to me now. Dordt is the real world, and if I can't make films here, what else is there?"

Though Volkers can still form sentences,

some students admit he seems distracted.

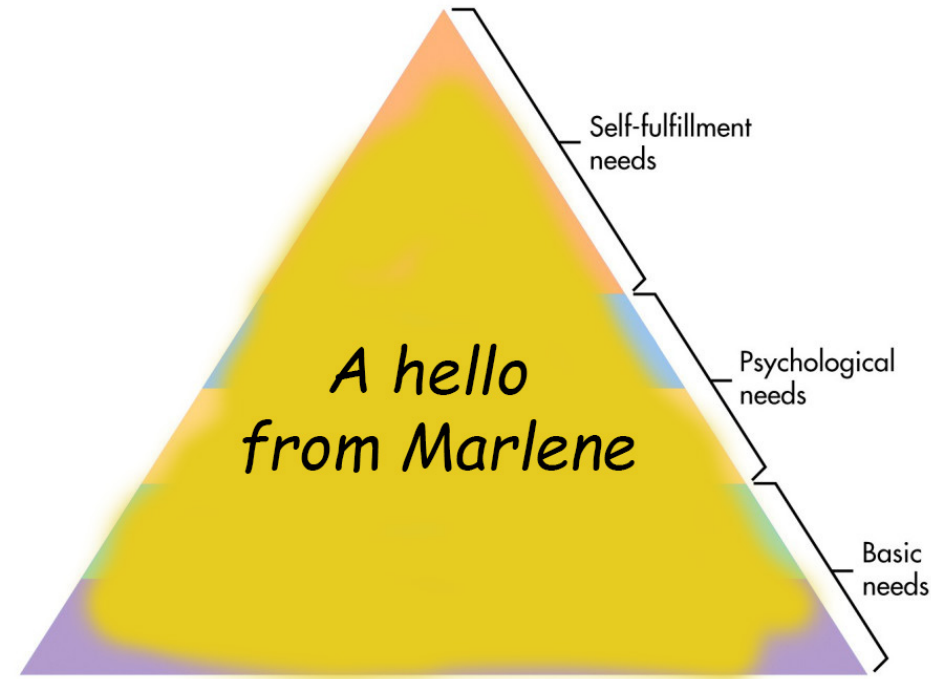
"Sometimes you catch him just staring out the window at a bird," one student said. Another mentioned he'd seen Volkers crying in the bathroom between classes.

Volkers didn't deny his preoccupation. "Maybe someday you'll understand. But you can't know real loss until you've loved something more than you love yourself," Volkers said. "That's from *Good Will Hunting*."



## The Commons offers a full a ride on food

*Hungry for Help—Staff Writer*



It's a typical Thursday at Dordt University, as students wake up for class and head to The Commons for their morning omelet and waffles. This morning is different, though, according to a sign posted above the Action Station.

"Due to low staffing, The Commons will be serving only cereal and toast for breakfast." Students were shocked.

"What am I supposed to do without my half dozen eggs and sausage in the morning," Marty McEatsALot said, filling three bowls with cereal.

Dordt University dining employment has dropped, leaving scarce options available in The Commons. Currently, two students on staff and four full-time adults complete the entire staff of The Commons. Since Dordt's opening, no less than 10 individuals have been on staff at once. The reason for this shortage is unknown.

To combat the problems, the commons has tried a variety of solutions. In January, they tried to stop the burger line and no longer offered wings on Wednesdays. Students were outraged

at this and with threats of transfer in the picture, burgers and wings quickly found their way back onto the menu.

"It's frustrating having the students expect so much for their dining experience but not be willing to work in order to make it happen." The Head of University Dining said.

The next solution dining came up with was to hire Dordt grads that did not get a job after graduation, ultimately also improving the employment rate for Dordt's graduates.

"I was so hopeful with this idea. But reality is that there just aren't many grads who don't have jobs. And there are even less grads who are willing to stay in Iowa after they graduate. So we were back at square one. Again." Head of University Dining said.

Starting in the Fall, Dordt plans to launch the "Full Ride on Food Foundation." This scholarship will be given to any and all students willing to work at the dining hall as their work study for the year. The scholarship will cover all room and board, tuition, textbooks, and housing deposits needed for the academic year.



"We hope this is an incentive for the students to step up and work." Head of University Dining said. "The sad reality is that every student on campus eats and we simply cannot afford to not have staff."

The only requirements for the full ride scholarship is that the recipient must work four meal shifts per week.

"I think I will give it a shot next year. I really need the money. I'd never be willing to work there unless they were offering this scholarship."

A prospective scholarship recipient said. The dining predicts a rise in employment and expects to return to full service from the grill and action stations:

"It will definitely cost the university some money, but you know, the kids have to eat"

## Dordt Admissions sends "Shalom Shacks" to prospective students cont.

*cont. from pg. 1*

...small cardboard box shelter as an opportunity for them to effectively experience on-campus housing at Dordt University.

"Our hope with the Shalom Shacks is to start giving our future students that authentic, diverse experience that we promised them from the get-go," Connie Maxwell, an admissions counselor, said.

"The fact of the matter is, we really don't know where we will be housing our students in a year's time," Director of Residence Life Derek Buteyn said. "The notion that we may have to resort to more, well, temporary means to house our students isn't entirely out of the picture."

Students from numerous states and several different countries have been receiving their cardboard shelters with a variety of responses.

"My parents and I had no idea what it was at first," high school junior Josie VanderBond said. "I just assumed it was a poorly-packaged Amazon delivery, and my dad was about to use it for some fire kindle."

With an approximate warranty of two days, each Shalom Shack is furnished with a pillow, a copy of *Vivid: Deepening Your Colors*, and a dresser drawn in permanent marker. The university's logo is drawn on one wall while Abraham Kuyper's portrait is sketched on the other.

"Most of my upper body fits in the box,"

prospective student Vincent Martin said.

Many students who have since committed to attending Dordt have prepared themselves for such atypical housing by spending several nights in the cardboard shacks.

"Yeah, I lasted about 45 minutes until I started getting premature back pain," high school senior Ari Simmons said. "I'm hoping I at least land a mattress when I actually move into Dordt."

Interestingly, prospective students may not be the only individuals who get to experience the Shalom Shack accommodations. It is rumored that, depending on these students' responses to the shelters, the cardboard lodgings may be implemented campus wide.

"I am eager to hear these upcoming students' feedback on how they enjoyed their Shalom Shacks," President Erik Hoekstra said. "If we receive at least one positive comment regarding their effectiveness, I'd say we can plan on seeing some more Shalom Shacks in Southview lawn next year, year-round."

"Even though this certainly isn't a conventional way to recruit our students to Dordt, we really hope they see the underlying message and encouragement that we have been pushing with the Shalom Shacks," Van Dyke said. "As the students reside in their cardboard boxes, we hope that they're reminded that this world really isn't their true home."

## McCarthy to oversee negotiations between Russia and Ukraine cont.

*cont. from pg. 1*

...Putin. Over the course of his galivanting across Eastern Europe in the 1990s, McCarthy spoke with the future Russian leader while traveling through St. Petersburg.

McCarthy said, "I spent 20 minutes in the passenger seat of Putin's car when he was using his personal vehicle as a taxi in the 90s. While our time was limited, I was able to get a feel for Vlad as a person. I am less than a fan of his policies, but I must admit the man has rebuilt his country to an impressive extent. I am honored to reconnect with Vlad and hope we might be able to become friends in the long run after this issue with Ukraine is sorted out."

Putin did not respond when *The Zircon* reached out for a comment on the veracity of McCarthy's account.

McCarthy's relative anonymity on an international political scale has raised questions about whether he can command respect in a room of influential politicians and power brokers. Despite this, McCarthy's students know he can be a powerful presence in a room. Sophomore McKayla Carlson said, "The way he gets so excited about history combined with his insistence on showing off his white-tube-sock-clad-ankles really can be intimidating. Hopefully, Putin is just as intimidated by questionable fashion choices."

McCarthy's expertise on Russia and Eastern Europe has provoked his classes to take on a more informed view of the conflict between

Russia and Ukraine. Recently, McCarthy dedicated an entire class time to give his informed perspective on the conflict, to discuss the history of the region, and to offer reasoning behind the Russian invasion.

Senior Nick VanBrugge said, "I really appreciate Professor McCarthy's dedication to making sure his students understand what is happening in the world around them. Taking time out of class to teach us about the history of Eastern Europe and going through the historical motivations for Russia's invasion was very helpful and allowed me to have a much better grasp on current world events. I always look forward to his stories about his time in Russia and the real-world examples of his interactions with these places that can often seem so far away and unreachable."

As McCarthy prepares to guide the future of geopolitical relations for the European continent, he tries to remain grounded. He said, "For a person who has spent a lot of time in small Midwestern towns to be thrust onto the global stage, I could have never anticipated this opportunity. It has always been a dream of mine to have a meaningful impact like this and to come from such humble beginnings. It is so spectacular to have come so far."

In-person negotiations will take place during the last week of March in Russian-aligned Belarus. McCarthy will depart this weekend and hopes to arrive back on American soil by April Fools' Day.

## Worship team, Hoekstra changes lyrics of "The Blessing" to encourage funding

*10,000 Reasons for Dordt—Staff Writer*

In the warm desert hills of Arizona, Dordt University faculty, worship team, and wealthy donors gathered to raise money for the university. The institution's supporters were invited to attend President's Weekend at the Ritz-Carlton's Dove Mountain location.

President's Weekend focuses on providing supporters with worship and an inside look at the future of the university. In order to help Dordt in its attempts to increase funding, President Erik Hoekstra encouraged the worship team to reorient the lyrics of "The Blessing" to better fit the fundraising atmosphere of President's Weekend.

"When President Hoekstra first requested the change, I felt conflicted," Jeremy Perigo, Director of Campus Ministries & Worship Arts, said.

Perigo is also known as an honorary "cool dad" to the travel team.

"The more I thought about changing the lyrics, the more comfortable I felt because I knew it would help Dordt raise funds to spend on trips like these," Perigo said.

Perigo, Worship Arts Technical Director Alex Priore, and worship students meddled with the lyrics until gaining approval of the university advancement office.

The adjusted lyrics of "The Funding" include "May Dordt bless you \ And keep you \ May

Defenders shine upon you \ And you be generous to us \ Erik Hoekstra \ Turns his face towards you \ And asks for help \ Funding, funding, funding, funding, funding, funding."

"We've seen a substantial increase in donations since the release of the altered track," Hoekstra said. "Many people had grown tired of the original lyrics, and this fresh take brought a more Dordt-centric version that melted hearts of true Dordt fans."

In addition to monetary giving, many donors pledged the lives of their children to Dordt to help keep enrollment numbers up. Perigo noted the changed lyrics of "For a thousand generations / And your family and your children / And their children, and their children / Will donate to Dordt" had a large impact on this increase in future enrollment.

Donors were also assured in the lyrics that Dordt will never leave them, "May your funding go before you / And behind you, and besides you / All around you, and within you / Dordt is with you, Dordt is with you / In the classroom, in the B.J. / In your donations, and your funding."

In your alumni, and your family, / Dordt is with you, Dordt is with you / Dordt is with you, Dordt is with you / Dordt is with you, Dordt is with you, Dordt is with you / Dordt is with you, Dordt is with you."

"While leading the worship sessions I felt that this revamped version of "The Blessing"



*Photo Credit: Living Loved Spiritual Industrial Complex*

resonated very well with the donors," Kombucha, Dordt's travel team worship leader, said. "We could feel the wallets growing lighter in the hearts of donors."

After raising \$3 million immediately after the

performance of "The Funding," Dordt Worship Arts has launched a new project specifically aimed at rewriting worship songs with an emphasis on Dordt fundraising.

## You have died of dysentery: The trail to the West (Hall)

*Manifest Destiny—Staff Writer*

Ice clung to the soles of Jane Smith's shoes and her car lock chirped in Siberia, the remotest parking lot on campus. Snow fell in the parking lot as the temperature dropped. While the flurries glistened underneath the streetlights, Smith dreaded the cold journey set before her.

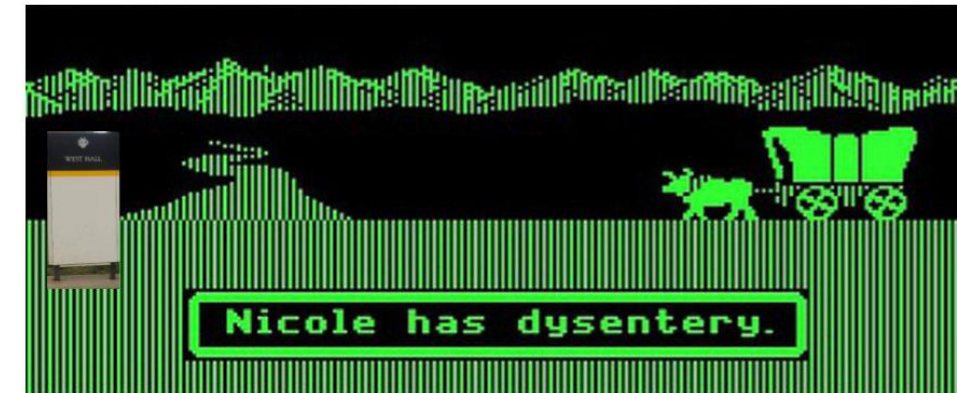
Smith has been warned by her friends about the treacherous walk through the cold towards the coveted lands of the West (Hall.) The luckier West residents may have snagged a parking spot in the Covenant parking lot or the West lot. Not so for Smith.

Brick buildings loomed in the distance, promising solace from the cold. Smith had two options: She could call campus security or make the trip herself. The cold numbed her fingers before she could finish dialing the number. She chose to walk.

"I feel I have no other option," Smith said. "I can't take the chance waiting on campus security, so I guess I'll walk."

First, Smith accessed her supplies. She collected a granola bar, a single mitten, and some number two pencils. Equipped with all three, she began the first leg of her journey towards the All-Season's Center.

The wind whipped her hair in her face and stung her exposed nose. Smith began to wish



she had brought a hat.

"Manifest destiny, Manifest destiny," she mumbled.

In rapid succession, Smith forded the 7th Ave. Crossing, passed the East Campus Apartment Mountains, and spotted a distant landmark: The Clock-Tower. At this point, Smith decided it may be safe to take a short break. She crinkled open her granola bar, and huddled in the lee from the wind provided by a local landmark known as the Rec Center.

With renewed vigor, and the thought of the warm welcoming halls of West to sustainer her, Smith crumpled the granola bar wrapper into

her bag and continued on. Up ahead, Smith spotted another traveler. She hurried her pace.

"Looks like you're heading West too?" Smith said.

The other traveler didn't look up. She read a text in green block letters reminiscent of the Oregon Trail game she used to play.

"You have caught pneumonia."

The other traveler shivered slightly.

"Can I make you a trade offer?" The traveler, whose name was Eliza, said. "I'll offer you a package of Grille cookies in exchange for your mitten."

Smith accepted. Together the two girls continued towards

West, enjoying the snowy scenery through their ice-covered eyelashes.

Eliza's health declined and Smith slowed their pace from grueling to steady. She rationed out the Grille cookies, giving extra to Eliza who wheezed for breath. The snow continued to fall. Smith checked their inventory. Low.

West was close. Very close. They couldn't give up now. With a final spurt of energy, Smith dragged Eliza past the North Hall Plains. She counted each step, one foot in front of the other.

"Manifest destiny, Manifest destiny." The snow crunched under her feet. Smith focused on keeping her footprints steady.

"So close, so close," she told herself.

And just like that, they arrived at that golden promised land: West. It stood bathed in orange lamp light, the snowfall framing it perfectly against the night sky. The tantalizing smell of warm brownies cooked by the local RA wafted into the girls' noses. Home. They made it.

Panting, Eliza and Smith flopped onto the lobby couches before heading to their rooms.

"It could've been worse" Eliza said. "At least we didn't die of dysentery."

"And to think, we'll have to do it all over again tomorrow." Smith said.

## Summer Break canceled: "Spring break was enough."

*Every Square Inch University - Staff Writer*

Recently, Dordt University announced the cancellation of this year's Summer Break. On the Reformed Christian campus, Abraham Kuyper's principle of "every square inch" has taken on a new meaning.

"Every square inch of our students' years should be filled with Dordt because Dordt is love and Dordt is life," President Erik Hoekstra said.

After experimenting with the lengths of breaks and canceling the 2020-21 Spring Break in its entirety, Hoekstra and the administration decided to make a change:

"We have decided to create a more holistic educational experience by canceling Summer Break," Hoekstra said. "Spring Break was enough."

You see, here in the Midwest, everyone, including Dordt University, is concerned about

COVID-19. As case counts fail to fall away across the country, Dordt University stays diligent.

Let's take a look back: In 2020, COVID-19 hit the nation and students were sent home from school during the spring semester. While many universities didn't return to in-person classes in the fall, Dordt decided otherwise.

However, students were sent home at Thanksgiving Break in an effort to mitigate the spread of the virus.

In the spring, Dordt used the same strategy by canceling spring break. Here again, they were concerned about the pandemic. They removed the mask mandate a few weeks later, but that's okay. We don't talk about that. Also, we had less than 30 percent of the student body vaccinated at that time. That's great!

"We had really great feedback on the lack

of a break last spring and have been working tirelessly since to figure out a way that we can offer more to our students by offering them less," Hoekstra said.

In addition, the university wanted the student body to experience a muggy, cicada-filled Iowa summertime, especially considering its students only experience the state's frigid, godless winter times.

"In the summer, you can feel the air stick to your skin and clothing. It's great." Absolutely Nobody said. "I'm looking forward to more days of less rest."



*Photo Credit: Megamind (2010)*



## Which Dordt Eatery are you?

*Dyspepsia Pyrosis—Drank Too Much Coffee Prior to Writing This*

Coffee, cinnamon rolls, breakfast burritos. Smoothies, cookies, and tea. Sandwiches and soups. Food galore. Dordt has a wide variety of options available for its students, and we all have our personal preference regarding which eatery is the best for acquiring The Good Stuff™. If you’re new here, however, it can be difficult to identify which Dordt Eatery is ideal for your tastes. Not to worry! This quiz will help pair you with the best place to eat based on your personality. As you answer each question, tabulate the letters to see your result.

### Pick a type of Midwestern “salad”:

- A: Ramen Salad
- B: Jell-O Salad
- C: Potato Salad
- D: Snickers Salad

### You’re at a potluck after church, which type of casserole do you take an entire plateful of?

- A: Tuna Casserole
- B: Cheeseburger Casserole
- C: Tater-Tot Casserole
- D: Green Bean Casserole

### How hungry are you after reading the last two questions?

- A: I’m starving, stop talking about food
- B: Not at all, those foods are gross
- C: I could eat, I guess
- D: I need a snack but not a full meal

### Drink?

- A: Chocolate Milk
- B: Mountain Dew
- C: Smoothie
- D: Espresso

### Which Dordt building do you spend the most time in?

- A: The Classroom Building or The Rec Center
- B: My Dorm/Apartment
- C: The Student Center or The BJ Haan
- D: The Science Building

### Which Dordt-ism appears in your vocabulary the most frequently?

- A: “Every square inch”
- B: “Shalom”
- C: “Ze Cultural Mandate”
- D: “Stewardship”

### Which Hoekstra do you most often awkwardly run into around campus?

- A: Erik
- B: Barb
- C: Erik
- D: Barb

### What do you look for in a meal?

- A: Fellowship
- B: Comfort
- C: Sustenance
- D: Energy

### What do you not look for in a meal?

- A: Nutrition
- B: A Full Stomach
- C: Fellowship
- D: Quality

### Pick a college student coping mechanism:

- A: Telling jokes to hide how stressed you are
- B: Decorating your dorm/apartment so intricately because maybe if your apartment looks like your life is put together maybe your life will feel like it is put together.
- C: Going to see movies every other weekend in the hopes they will distract you from real-world events.
- D: Drinking exorbitant amounts of caffeine even though you know you will Have Regrets® because otherwise you will fall asleep on your feet.



### Mostly As: The Commons

Ah yes, The Commons. It’s mostly an underclassmen hangout and the food options aren’t consistent, but it has its moments. Fridays are busy there, with all the campus visitors, but the food quality is so much higher on those days that it’s almost worth getting trampled by nervous high school students and overeager parents to get the good stuff. Otherwise, Wing Wednesdays and the ever-elusive Baked Potato Bars are your best bets for fulfilling sustenance and top-notch flavor.

### Mostly Bs: 55th Avenue

If you’re an upperclassman with a group project (or an underclassman who’s brave enough to flaunt your youth and vitality in front of the upperclassmen), 55th Avenue is the place to be. The smoothies might be more of a slushie, and the availability of cookies and ice cream is variable at best, but this is a good spot to go to get yourself through a late night or meet with those inevitable group project members who are bound to let you down in a safe space.

### Mostly Cs: The Grille

The Grille might have a bit of a superiority complex, despite the fact that it has less options than The Commons, but you sure can’t beat its consistency in terms of food availability and quality. It’s an excellent option for people who are on the go in the middle of a busy day or trying to waste time in the Campus Center so they don’t have to go out in the middle of a snowstorm to get back to their dorm, only to return two hours later for an afternoon class.

### Mostly Ds: The Bunsen Brew

The Bunsen Brew is not for the faint of heart – sometimes there’s ice in the middle of your burrito, or weird flecks of who-knows-what in your espresso – but it’s absolutely THE place to be if you need a quick caffeine fix or a questionable snack. Many a science major would have been lost by now were it not for the availability of 8:00 a.m. coffees and cinnamon rolls to assist as they cry their way through yet another chemistry or biology test.

## Dordt Campus Store combats fast fashion

*The Fashion Police—Staff Writer*

The Dordt University Campus Store has gained prominence for its unique designs and fashion trends, overpassing Wal-Mart as students’ favorite place to shop.

From a crew neck with ‘Dordt University’ in cursive lettering to your favorite Dordt University Football hat, the campus store offers the whole package. Or so it would seem. Recently, our investigative team discovered a deep, dark secret lurking underneath the bright lights and trendy patterns of the beloved shopping center.

In her startling exposé, student Monica Van Zijlstra realized several of the most popular campus store items, including the Champion pullovers, stylish cropped crew necks, sweatshirts, tank tops, and t-shirts, were made in different countries, including Pakistan, China, Mexico, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Madagascar, Mexico, Honduras, Jordan, and Mexico.

Van Zijlstra’s sensed something sinister was brewing in the store. As a theater department costume shop employee, she was familiar with the world of fashion and the making of clothing. Her close examination of fashion manufacturing and distributing processes led her to question the ethics of these foreign-made products.

“Often, fashion pieces are made in other countries because it is cheaper due to incredibly underpaid workers,” Van Zijlstra said. “The fact that Dordt is choosing retailers that use labor from other countries makes me concerned about the state of global-wide shalom.”

In response to these accusations, The Campus Store released a statement, explaining their retailers were “trustworthy” and urging students to not worry about the use of cheap labor in the manufacturing of the clothing.

“Workers were compensated immensely,” the statement said, “and we used the clothing manufacturing as an outreach opportunity,

expanding every square inch of God’s creation by preaching to the other nations.”

Additionally, the university plans to create more “Dordt apparel” factories in other third world countries, including many in the 10/40 Window, a region of North Africa, the Middle East, and Southeast Asia.

While some students and faculty rejoiced in the mission opportunity, Van Zijlstra urged her university to localize the products, materials, and production of their apparel.

“As a former costume shop employee, I can teach other students to use sewing, crocheting, and knitting techniques to create a new brand of Dordt clothing. A sustainable brand.”

Van Zijlstra is currently in talks with Dordt to get funding for the project. The new line would include a winter line of Dordt Christmas sweaters and hats and a summer line of cross-stitched t-shirts and prints.

The Dordt Campus Store confirmed their involvement in Van Zijlstra’s proposal, but many details remain unknown. Because of

their “third-world country cheap labor mission outreach” program (as coined by Dordt higher-ups), they will continue making clothing on two fronts, releasing it dually on Dordt’s campus as the “local fashion line” and the “foreign fashion line”.

They warned students that the prices for these hand-crafted items would increase.

“This work will be 5-star, designer quality,” the store said in a released statement. “We expect students to pay with designer prices, so prices will quadruple exponentially.”

Dordt plans to hire work studies to produce their local fashion line and partner them with one of their underpaid (possibly child) workers in foreign countries in a “pen pal” relationship. Anyone interested in being a part of this new fashion opportunity should reach out to the Dordt Campus Store, starting wages will be \$0.05/hr and all employees will be expected to work 80 hours a week. All commission and sales will go towards new student housing.

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## A predesinted parking predicament

*Parking Police—Staff Writer*



### What if You

The lovely view out of the west-facing windows of Kuyper Apartments offers endless entertainment. Not only can you people-watch from your perch, you can also observe the slow creep of cars looking for a parking spot. To no avail, they speed off in frustration and travel to the distant lands of East Campus, Covenant Hall, and Siberia.

As it turns out, Dordt University administration designated the two rows for student parking with sanctification in mind.

“Giving up space that is rightfully theirs and offering it to the community really provides students the chance to use their servant hearts,” Howard Wilson, Vice President for University Operations, said. “We feel we foster this quality in the classroom and wanted to give students a real-life application.”

“By purposefully not giving them the row closest to Kuyper Apartments, we thought we could teach them to rejoice in their sufferings,” President Erik Hoekstra said.

Dordt elementary education senior Patience IsaVirtue used to be frustrated with her predicament.

“I would have to take a 15-minute walk to my car in negative 30-degree weather every morning and every afternoon for student teaching,” IsaVirtue said. “When I finally got back to Kuyper, I saw guests piling into their cars. As soon as they left, there were plenty of spaces open for students, but I was too frozen to go back for my car and park it there.”

After a workshop at Dordt that sought to develop her servant heart, IsaVirtue realized she could use the opportunity to fast track her spiritual renewal.

“I realized it was not even their fault,” IsaVirtue said. “The signs do say the designated student rows are for guests. And they are closer to the B.J. Haan. Rather than get angry at them, I gladly sacrificed my time and wellbeing for them.”

The tactic also promotes a distinctly Reformed principle: predestination. It encourages students to realize they are not in control of their lives.

“I used to really struggle with control issues,” Dee Terminism said. “I finally realized there is no rhyme or reason to when there will be spots in Kuyper. I just have to trust that if I am supposed to find a spot that day, I will. If not, I must accept that what will be, will be.”

There is even a name circulating referring to the cars that find a spot and never leave.

“The frozen chosen,” Dordt student Tulip Ultip said. “I think it perfectly reflects our

Reformed faith. Don’t you?”

While Dordt upholds its Reformed theology, the administration had ulterior motives. A professor from Dordt University’s psychology department recently discovered their manipulation. He asked to remain nameless for

*“I finally realized there is no rhyme or reason to when there will be spots in Kuyper. I just have to trust that if I am supposed to find a spot that day, I will. -Dee Terminism*

protection.

“It all comes down to the principle of scarcity and student compliance,” the professor said. “When students have only two lanes instead of the whole lot, they will be much more thankful for finding a parking spot because it is such a competitive situation for the limited resources.”

When Dordt students were informed of this concerning development, they remained unconcerned. The damage had already been done.

“When I find a parking spot in Kuyper, I just feel so blessed,” Ultip said. “It makes me thankful all over again that I went to Dordt and get to experience all these things to be thankful for.”

## Dordt addresses housing crisis through fraternity

*Beta Theta Kappa De Dordt— Staff Writer*

While Hoekstravilles have heightened tensions across campus and increased the demand for a response to the housing crisis, Dordt University has alleviated the situation by adding Greek Life to campus.

In previous years, the house located between West and North Hall functioned as a living space for nursing students and graduate assistants. Now, the house operates as a fraternity.

Currently, ten members of the Sigma Delta Gamma fraternity occupy the house.

Their motto is “Party like B.J. Haan, dress like Howard Wilson, grind like Erik Hoekstra.”

Sigma Delta Gamma, a reimagination of Soli Deo Gloria, a Reformed phrase, began with senior and fraternity president Chad Carlson. He’s a third-generation student at Dordt and is majoring in business because “it’s easy.”

“Hoekstra can hang, man. He appointed me as the president of the fraternity after a night of waters at the Sidebar,” Carlson, whose father funded the clock tower, Campus Center, and American State Bank Sports Complex, said.

At the fraternity, members engage in activities such as including holy water-pong and communion cup shots.

Last week, Brad Tucker took the sacrament seventy-seven times.

“I was on a spiritual mountaintop,” Tucker

said.

Similar to Carlson, Tucker majors in business and has partnered with The Commons to launch a Dordt University non-alcoholic seltzer: Truly I Tell You.

“I didn’t want to slam Bubby with the boys anymore,” Tucker said. “I needed a change, and the seltzer game is booming right now. It’s booming with the boys.”

Tucker recalled Matthew 10:42, favorite Bible verse, as inspiration for his entrepreneurship:

“And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward.”

Though Tucker decided on Truly I Tell You when naming his drink, he considered naming the seltzer line White Boys.

“It’s like White Claw, but specifically for my demographic,” Tucker said.

In addition, the fraternity recently converted their basement into a live music venue where cover bands can stick to crowd pleasing, Christian classics such as “I Can Only Imagine” by Mercy Me and “God’s Great Dance Floor” by Chris Tomlin. For them, it’s a rager in the name of the Lord.

“We’re good kids,” Carlson said. “That’s what my parents tell me, at least.”



## Not Filler cont.

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# Taking advantage of my Dordt Univrsity education

Sierra the Service Pup—Staff Writer



What I'm about to tell you may change your opinion of me. Instead of seeing me as a cute, fluffy puppy—never mind, nothing will change the fact that I am a cute, fluffy puppy. Not even gentrification.

Oops, I guess I let the cat out of the bag. \*dog laugh\* Sorry, that was a bad joke. I actually love cats. It's just, the campus cats are the worst. It's not my fault I had to put an end to the whole thing. Whenever I patrolled campus, they hissed at me and then climbed a tree to spy on me. Whenever I tried to start a conversation with them, they said unspeakable things that betrayed this fine Christian institution. I could not believe the way they were abusing the students' goodwill by entering the housing facilities. One even peed in the Kuyper entrance. My nose still hurts from the stench—HEY. HEY.

Sorry, I thought I saw a squirrel. Although, now that we're on the topic, the squirrels might be worse than the cats. They litter their acorns all over the place. They run across roads and sidewalks like they own the place. They thought they were so untouchable, running in front of my nose when they knew I had to behave. I wanted nothing more than to knock that smug look off their acorn-stuffed faces.

Okay, so I knew that I had to get rid of the cats and squirrels on campus. But I needed help. Someone that could not be identified in a court of law. Someone that no one would suspect. I spotted my perfect accomplice at a sports game. I'm not sure of the specific name of the sport—once I see the ball I kind of lost focus. That is,

until I saw Dash. That guy had moves! I thought maybe he could "move" my plan along. Get it? Heh. But how to communicate my idea?

Thankfully, I had six months of Dordt University education up my sleeve. Yeah, you thought I was sleeping through all those lectures? Tricked you! I was listening to every. Single. Word. Even your whispered conversations that you thought no one could hear. I have scores of blackmail.

Okay. So, I snuck out of my apartment one evening and found Dash waiting in the lobby before a game. I approached him confidently so he would know I was someone to take seriously.

Hey, you want to be the Defender to my crusade?

He just laughed at my little barks. Fail. A little cringe too; it sounded like something that would be on a bad Dordt valentine. I went back to the drawing board. I could already pick up a pen, thanks to my super advanced service dog training. How hard could it be to write? I observed the students and professors in class. Just a simple sloop here and a loop-do-loop there. Soon enough, I snatched a piece of paper and wrote out my message:

Let's reform this campus once and for all. I thought it couldn't hurt to throw some Dordt lingo in there. Meet me at the Clock Tower at 8:00 p.m.

"I thought maybe it was a fan that wanted an autograph," Dash said. "I was flattered. I just did not think she would have four legs and a tail."

After the painstakingly slow process of communicating my plan to Dash (honestly, the

English language is so cumbersome—maybe you should all learn how to speak Dog instead), we outlined the first steps. He would convince Dordt to trim the lower branches of the trees so the cats and squirrels would have a housing crisis (like the students). The market would get so competitive that living in the trees on campus would become unaffordable.

But something went wrong. The furry fiends intercepted my message and took him instead. Then they had the audacity to use our tree plan against us. The chainsaws covered the sound of Dash's cries for help—at least for your human ears. I heard it all and am working to get him back. I recently heard the squirrels talking about their new plan to overthrow all of us. Now, both the squirrels and cats are on Red Notice by the Canine Intelligence Agency (CIA).

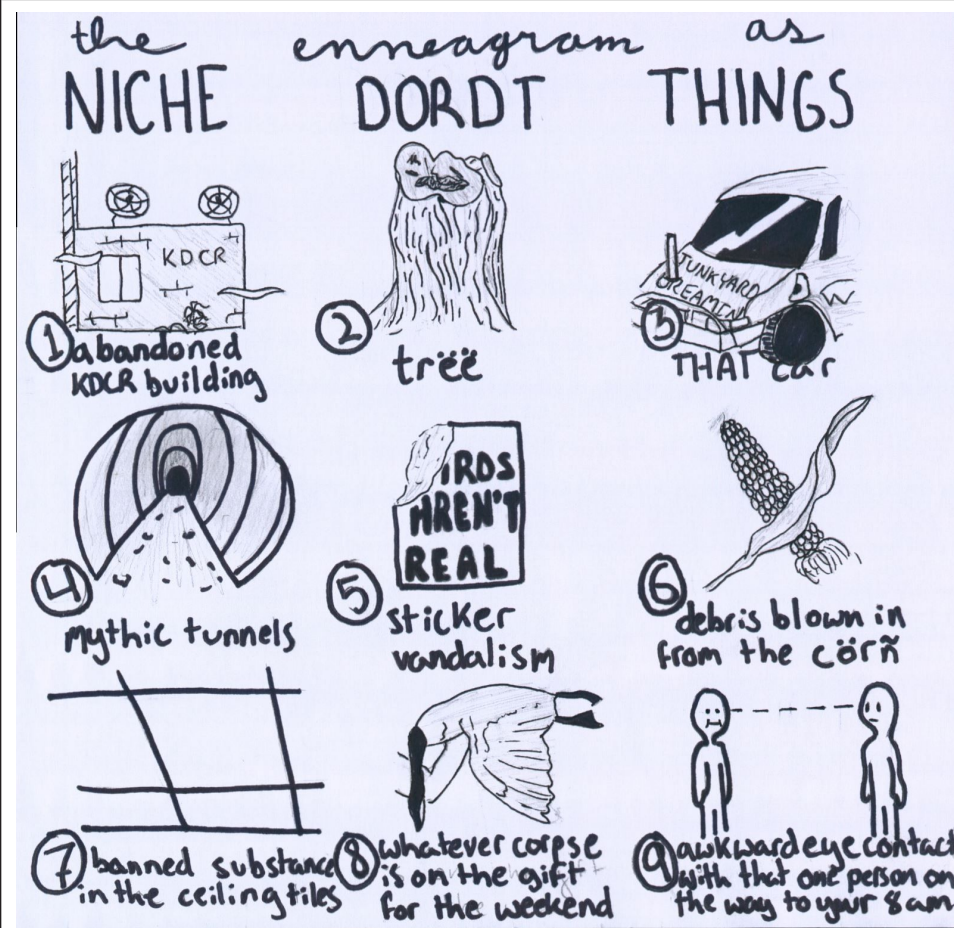
But Dordt authority won't take me seriously. I sat outside their door in Student Services for hours after I delivered my note. They thought it was a joke.

"If this dog really learned to write, we should

be charging her tuition," they said. As Dordt likes to say, this is the real world—and it is about to end. They are concerned about

*"If this dog really learned to write, we should be charging her tuition,"*  
*-Someone*

charging me for tuition. Classic. The squirrels may be back, but at least the cats are busy detaining Dash. What's that saying about counting your blessings? They may have won the battle, but I will win the war.



# A definitive rating of Dordt water fountains

Age of Aquarius  
—Dihydrogen Monoxide Connoisseur

It's no secret drinking that from water fountains (or bubblers, for you upper Midwest folks) is a risky endeavor which all well-hydrated people must face.

Will the fountain produce cold water? Will it be lukewarm? Will it taste rusty? Will it taste like someone dumped a bunch of lawn fertilizer in it?

Dordt University has a variety of options when it comes to water fountains. Consider this your "traveler's guide" to the best—and worst—this institution has to offer.

**Science Building Lobby** — Conveniently located across the hall from the Bunsen Brew, this fountain offers a flavorful bouquet of nitrates and iron. No really, they test water from this fountain for nitrates in some of the chemistry labs as an example of what a high nitrate count looks like. 4/10

**Third Floor Covey** — It's crisp. It's clear. It's cold. It's a hike to get there, and the underclassmen girls there will most certainly stare at you as you enjoy the freshest H2O on campus, but it's worth it for the quality. 10/10

**Down the Hall from the Ag Classrooms** — It's got excellent water pressure, but that's its only redeeming quality. Otherwise, it's warm and it tastes like licking a railroad track. Don't ask me how I know what a railroad track tastes like. 4/10

**Outside the Mailroom** — Variable quality.

Sometimes it's cold; sometimes it's warm. Usually the pressure is fine, but if you press it too hard, it turns into a firefighter hose and shoots water up your nose, making your head and lungs hurt for the rest of the day until you actually cough water up when you try to lay down for bed at night. I'm fine. 7/10

**Basement of the Campus Center** — It's pretty good quality, but you might have to face off with campus tour people to get that quality. My advice: Unless you want the highschoolers and their parents watching you drink like a critter in a zoo exhibit, go through the library, out the AEC doors (watch for the alarm), creep down the hall by sticking to the shadows, and grab your drink quick. I tried it, and it worked. Once. 8/10

**The Skywalk** — It's very clear and clean and cold and it also doesn't exist, but you had to stop and think about whether there was a water fountain in the skywalk or not, didn't you? Gotcha. 10/10 for the author

**Outside the Soccer Locker Rooms** — The water pressure is superb, but the fountain itself is somewhat awkwardly high. Is this to accommodate the taller athletes? Or is it just a reflection of the average height of the local Dutch population? You're welcome to ponder this as you strain your neck awkwardly to drink from this lovely stream. 8/10

**BJ Haan Basement** — In terms of drinking, this fountain is rather unnoteworthy — it's not really too cold or too warm and it tastes pretty average. That said, this water is excellent for

wetting reeds and soothing sore vocal cords. 9/10

**The Ag Stewardship Center** — The pipes bringing in this water are new and thus, the



water there is magnificent. It's very cold, it's rather tasteless, and it's got excellent water pressure. This is the way God intended water to be consumed, I can feel it. 10/10

# Sidebar is Sioux Center's Sidebar is Sioux Center's Sodom and Gomorrah Promised Land

Definitely Not a Baptist—Staff Writer

It has been 241 days since The Business That Must Not Be Named opened.

241 days of waiting for God's hand of justice to strike down the immoral dwellers of this unscrupulous establishment.

Bars are unholy places to visit. They are breeding grounds for all sorts of sins: drunkenness, lying, gossiping, and lusting, to name a few.

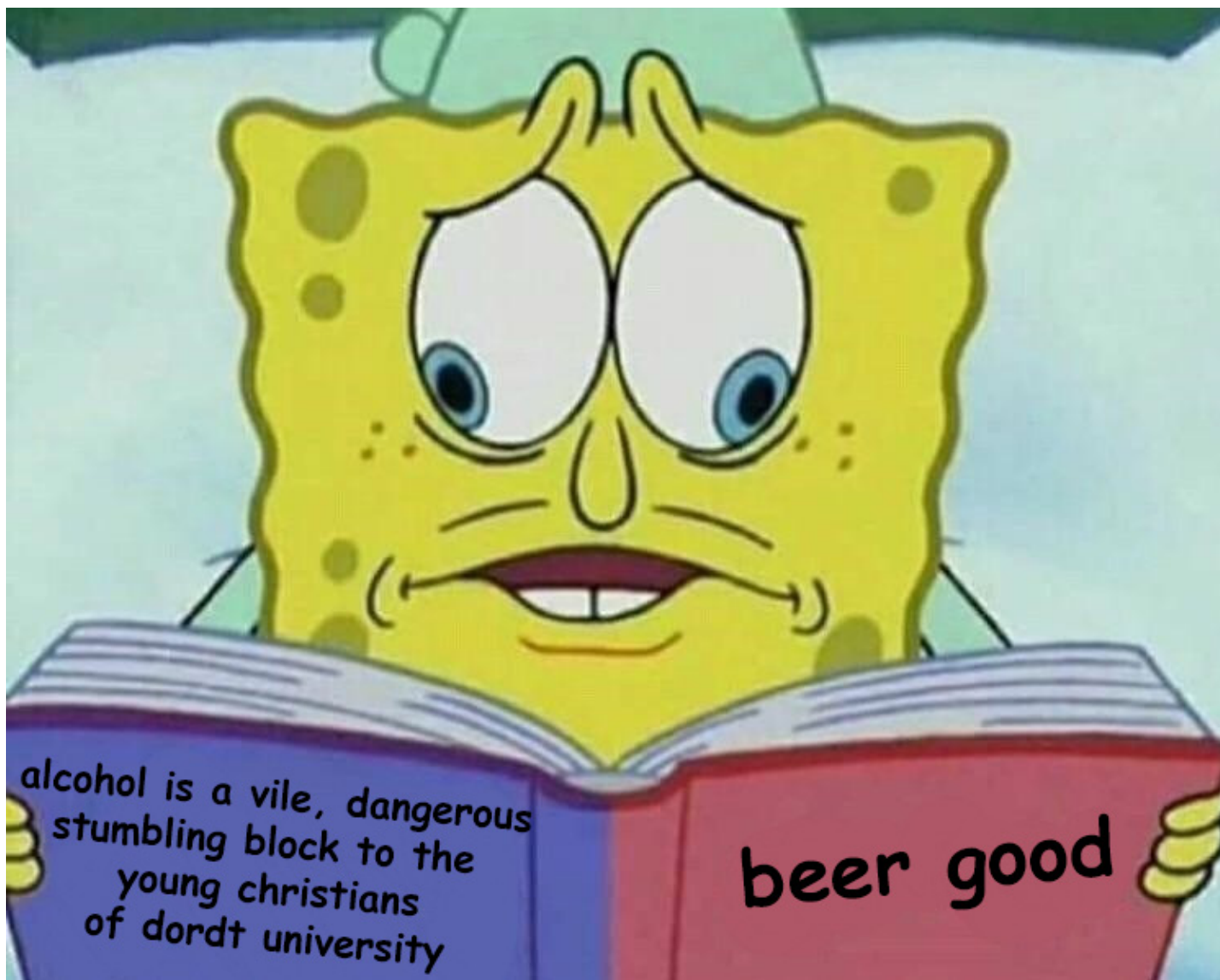
Although I have never stepped near its premises, know nothing of the owner, nor the intentions of the business, I know for a fact that all bars are grimy, gauche establishments. They are one of many places (Victoria's Secret, Disney World, cable television) where The Devil can find ways to trick and deceive God's holy and chosen people.

It has recently come to my attention that a concerning number of Dordt University professors have chosen to frequent this dishonorable building. What kind of example does this set for their students? Their children? Are they not thinking of how their actions reflect on Dordt University? This is not shalom.

It is only by Satan's hand that a saloon like this has been introduced to our perfect, Christian community. It will be God who strikes down the wicked who occupy this unholy enterprise.

You may not agree that a measly bar will influence the hand of God but think of the slippery slope we are experiencing. We started sliding when that awful Fruited Plain started serving beer. Now, we have a cocktail lounge. What is next? A brothel? A drug house? A disco?

We must think about the far-reaching results affecting our community, our schools, our



children, our grandchildren, our dogs, our cows, our corn, our athletic teams, our churches, and our defense of the gospel!

This repulsive operation will soon meet the same fate as Sodom and Gomorrah. The Old Testament is full of promises that immoral things—fun, friendships, card games, cranberry juice, rock and roll, March Madness, Star Wars, and churches accepting Afghan refugees—will be destroyed in fire.

I hope you will join me in thoughtful reflection as I pray for the total, utter, extreme, bloody, complete destruction of this business endeavor and all who support it. Stay in school, and more importantly, stay in church. Halleluiah. Amen.

It has been 241 days since the Promised Land opened in Sioux Center.

After four years at this institution, I am weeping tears of joy that we have an establishment flowing with the proverbial milk and honey.

The hand of God has intervened in this situation. At long last, he has liberated the people of Sioux County from their close-minded ideas

kind. This is the Sioux Center community the Lord intended.

If you'll recall Jesus turned water into wine. If a local bar that serves wine isn't a celebration of John 2, I don't know what is. I think Sidebar recognizes of our savior's first miracle.

Praise God from whom all blessings (and drinks) flow.

Soli deo Gloria.

# Your common COVID-19 questions answered for the 379th time

Campus Health—Guest Writer

**What is COVID-19?**

We knew, but then a handful of engineering majors who couldn't put together a Google spreadsheet told us we didn't. So, I guess we don't know.

**What are the symptoms of COVID-19?**

You know what? You should pick your trith. Whatever helps you sleep at night because we've given up at this point. The symptoms of COVID-19 are a fever, cough, sore throat, loss of taste and smell, shortness of breath, fatigue, congestion, and chills. Actually, a freshman business major just told us that COVID-19 is just the common cold. It's no worse than the flu. To each their own, am I right? Mind over matter.

**What are the potential side effects of COVID-19?**

You may experience anger because you and your poor, little, privileged face can't stand the thought of a weightless piece of fabric covering your mouth and nostrils. That's okay. We'll rock you to sleep in your cradle every night until the big, bad masks don't ever bother you again.

**How is the virus spread?**

We think it's the campus cats.

**What is a COVID-19 variant?**

It's when the virus mutates because you didn't get the vaccine and it spread amongst you and became more advanced.

**How can I protect myself?**

Do not believe in the virus. Again, it is mind over matter. Ignorance is bliss. Protect those around you by erasing the belief of COVID-19 from our world. However, if you choose to believe, we recommend boosting your immunity by eating three meals a day at The Commons. If you can handle twenty-one servings of under seasoned chicken, you'll be alright.

**Should I wear a face covering or mask when I go out in public?**

Masks are itchy, hot, and uncomfortable! Yuck! They are purely an inconvenience and are not necessary.

**What should I do if I or my roommates get sick?**

Honestly, we don't really care! So far this semester, 100 percent of Dordt students have

gotten sick and only two of you have decided to get a COVID-19 test. If it fits into your schedule and doesn't inconvenience you, why not? Don't stress about it, though.

**What is contact tracing?**

Contact tracing is the most passive aggressive way to get back at the people who have done you dirty. Is your roommate not doing the dishes? Contact trace. Did someone not pull their weight in the group project? Contact trace.

**What treatments are available for COVID-19?**

There are vaccinations available! Doctors and scientists around the world recommend you get vaccinated to help stop the spread of COVID-19. But what credentials do they really have that make them smarter than us?

**Can I get COVID-19 from my pets or other animals?**

If it is a campus cat, yes. Other animals, no.

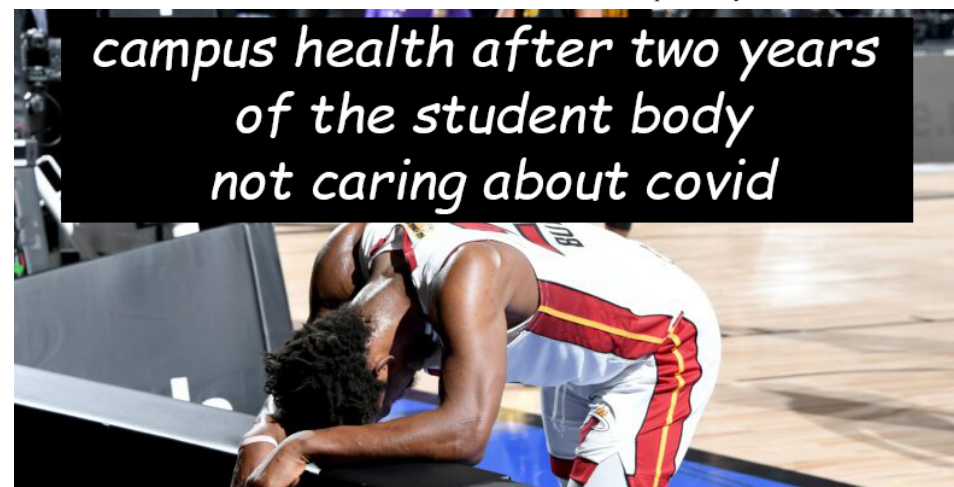
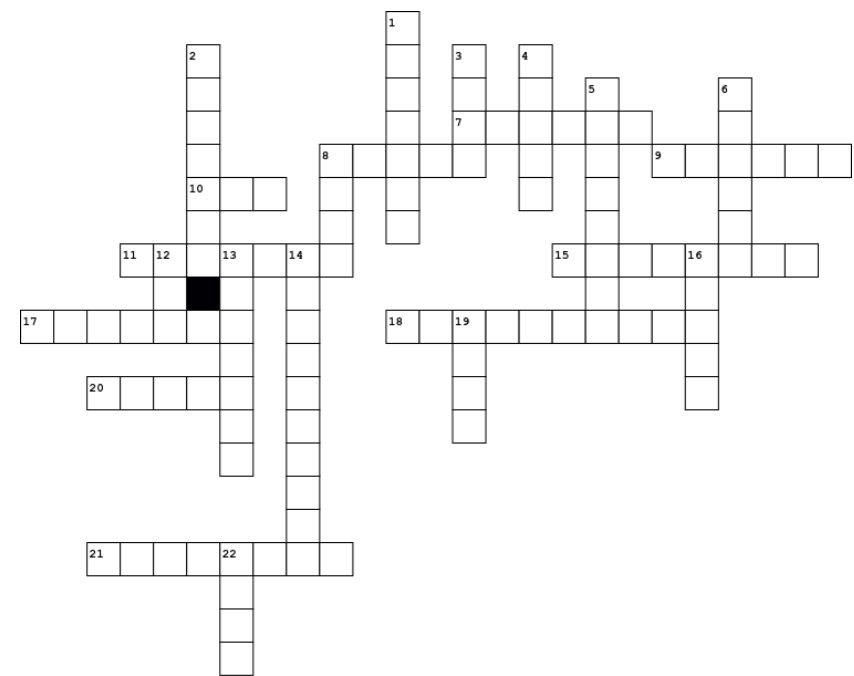


Photo Credit: The Zircon encourages students to receive the Fauci Ouchie



## How well do you know Dordt?



**Across**

7. Dordt University's favorite word
8. The most popular name for a church in Sioux Center
9. This communication professor possesses an undying love for his sweaters
10. Better dead than \_\_\_\_
11. What does every student study during March?
15. Out of housing? Don't worry, we will just put them in the \_\_\_\_
17. "At Dordt University we are called to be \_\_\_\_ citizens
18. Creation, Fall, \_\_\_\_
20. This Augustine v \_\_\_\_ paper was written the night before by every CORE 140 student
21. Engineering students think they are hot shots for making a canoe out of this material.

**Down**

1. CORE One-\_\_cased all your anxieties about your future careers and callings
2. Best parking lot on campus
3. Residents of this building claim " \_\_\_\_ is best"
4. What shape is the art department obsessed with?
5. Girls who live in this building think they are superior because of the "long walk"
6. Most students don't know this popular food location is spelled with an 'e' at the end
8. 10 guys live in the \_\_\_\_ house
12. Dordt is \_\_\_\_
13. Favorite place to get food poisoning
14. Dordt won (actually tied) for #1 in student \_\_\_\_
16. "Can we please have more of your \_\_\_\_?" - Dordt
19. Need a room to study in? Sorry, we made that a \_\_\_\_ room
22. What does everyone think they need by spring?

## Zoroscopes



Elle Woods—Dordt University Department of Astrology

**Aries:** Happy Birthday! This month will bring you lots of family phone calls, new relationships, and tummy troubles.

*Do:* Wordle, rumors, water your plants.  
*Don't:* Pencils, text your ex, Amazon shopping cart.

**Taurus:** You're insecure. Don't know what for. You're turning heads when you walk through the door.

*Do:* jump-rope, lemons, hold the door open.  
*Don't:* Bruno Mars, walks, flowers.

**Gemini:** Do you believe in karma? You should.

*Do:* Call a cab, tennis, sad poetry.  
*Don't:* Bangs, politics, salad.

**Cancer:** Make a cup of tea. You will need it for all that's coming to you this month. You will throw caution to the wind and find that sock you lost in the Southview dryer.

*Do:* TikTok, birds, text your ex's best roommate (cuter than your ex).  
*Don't:* Swim, doors, physics.

**Leo:** Good luck. You will have the worst group project partners in the world this month, but, on the bright side, you get to be the one to design the PowerPoint. (Pro tip: use Slides Go).

*Do:* Sign up for Battle of the Bands, Rubik's cube, ice water.  
*Don't:* Cardio, Southview lawn, burritos.

**Virgo:** Remember to put gas in your car. This month will bring you adventures, tears, and time to catch up on The Bachelor.

*Do:* Gluten, bread, carbs.  
*Don't:* Bacon, lettuce, tomato.

**Libra:** Congratulations! You're going to be an aunt!

*Do:* Leather jacket, sudoku, Jason Sudeikis.  
*Don't:* The Defender, paint, newspaper.

**Scorpio:** Break a leg! This month you will have the opportunity for revenge.

*Do:* Blood, fantasy books, joyride.  
*Don't:* Engineers, sweats, tea.

**Sagittarius:** Find the balance. This month it will be important for you to use your planner. Did you forget about that Matthews paper you have due tomorrow?

*Do:* Ice cream, thesaurus, Leviticus.  
*Don't:* Hamburger, unfollowing, couch.

**Capricorn:** Tell them how you feel. Speak now, or forever hold your peace. Should you stay or should you go?

*Do:* Hot chocolate, Birkenstocks, conversation.  
*Don't:* How to Train Your Dragon, empty room, shoelaces.

**Aquarius:** Try again. Long story short, last month was a bad time (breaking your leg right before Spring Break? Oof). This month will show you open doors and nice carpets.

*Do:* Mirrors, wheels, soccer practice.  
*Don't:* Glasses, peace, garbage.

**Pisces:** Wake up. You might be sleepy now, but you have a lot to be excited about! Take a trip to the Fruited Plain and pray they don't mess up your drink.

*Do:* Limes, windows, magazines.  
*Don't:* Jorts, hotel, cartwheels.

## SPICE is out, SPACE is in

James T. VandenKirk—Lives in Iowa, Works in Space

Space is a vast void filled with unexplored wonders, unknown dangers, and potential discovery. Dordt University has decided to tap into this potential by reforming their Studies Program in Contemporary Europe (SPICE). Given the effects of the pandemic, SPICE has not normally occurred in the past two years. So, SPICE will convert to SPAICE, a study abroad opportunity in space, offering students the ability to explore and learn outside of earth's atmosphere.

President Erik Hoekstra and Vice President of University Operations Howard Wilson have been hard at work finding an organization to partner with Dordt in their space-bound endeavor. But, after hours of negotiation, reformation, and many, many prayers, recently reformed Elon Musk and SpaceX have decided to partner with Dordt.

*"For us to have an exciting, inspiring future, we must be a space-bearing, Christian Reformed civilization."*  
-Elon Musk

When asked for a comment, Musk smiled and said, "For us to have an exciting, inspiring future, we must be a space-bearing, Christian Reformed civilization."

The programs' first students will receive financial aid from their university but are



required to fund their astronaut suits, space food, and other expenses.

In addition, Dordt encourages students majoring in environmental science, agriculture, and other STEM programs to enroll in SPAICE to observe intergalactic plant growth, specifically the effects of zero gravity on corn and big bluestems. Also, the university plans to ship its recently cut down tree limbs to space.

Channon Visscher, professor of chemistry and planetary sciences, has volunteered to join students in new study-abroad program.

"I'm really excited about the new program," Visscher said, "It wasn't easy, but after weeks of pleading and bribing, Walker Cosgrove agreed to take over teaching astronomy course for that semester."

Mees Meijer, a junior agriculture major, has

advertised the program to anyone who would listen.

"I was sad to know I couldn't go to the Netherlands to study the culture and crops at first, but when Dordt announced that a new program in space was being offered I jumped at the opportunity," Meijer said.

SPAICE is set to blast off in the fall semester.

Photo Credit: The real world and beyond

## A totally real advertisement!!!

### Gender in The Workplace Panel

**Meet the Panelists!**



**Randy Ten Pas**  
Principal of Hull Christian School



**Emily Tuschen**  
Co-CEO of Promise Community Health Center



**Robin Suing**  
Robins school of Dance and Fitness and Dordt Theatre Assistant



**Ross Douma**  
Athletic Director at Dordt University



- Chat with professionals
- Ask questions
- Hear about real work experiences!

Snacks and refreshments will be available for free!

When: April 6th @ 7:00 PM  
Where: CI 1144/48

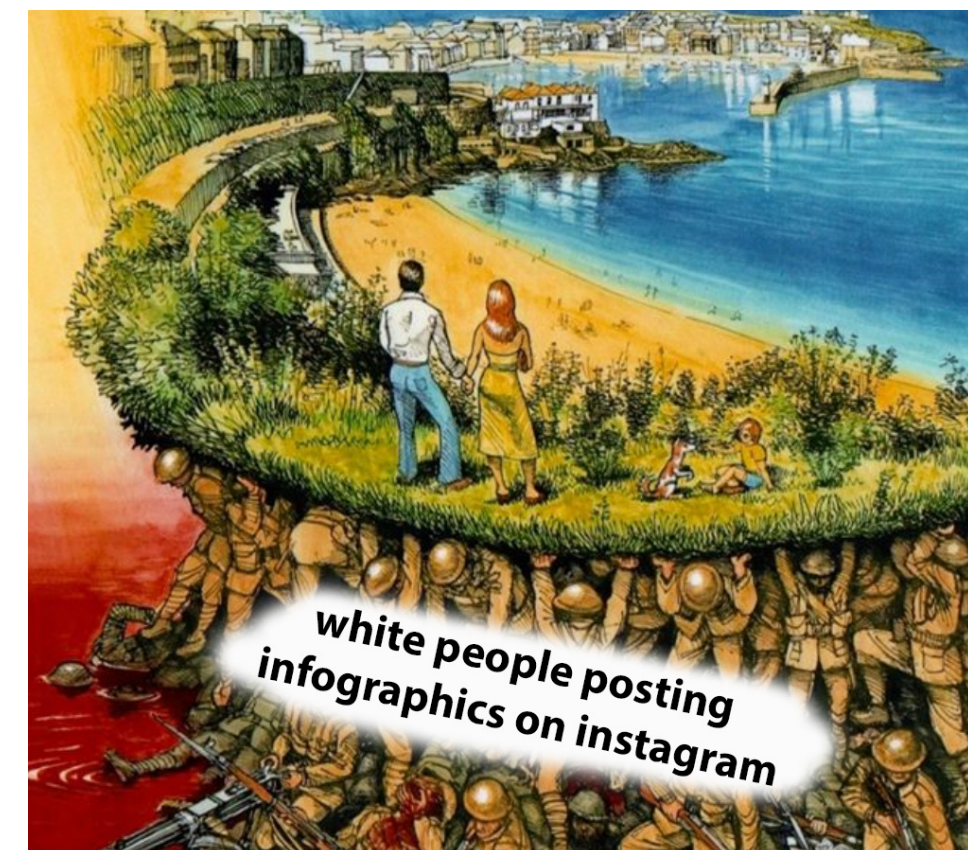
Hosted by the Dordt Communication Department

## I hate living through historical events

Awestruck Observer – Staff Writer

On a chilly, Saturday afternoon, Marigold Vanden Top sat on her couch and watched Master Chef. She drank her favorite iced brown sugar oat milk shaken espresso from Starbucks. For Vanden Top, Saturdays are the perfect "self-care" day. She can take a break from her foundational business classes and campus obligations. Her British Shorthair cat, Puddles, snuggled up next to her, accidentally sitting on top of the remote and changing the channel, ruining Vanden Top's reality-TV bliss.

*"I know it's my calling to support big resort corporations financially, and all these worldwide events are causing me to put my life on hold."*  
-Marigold Vanden Top



The world was falling apart, and all Vanden Top wanted to do was enjoy her last few college years. It was too much to live through.

Vanden Top doesn't have any connections to Ukraine, but she sees herself as someone with a "big heart."

"I'm hiding in the bunkers right there with 'em, really," Vanden Top said, taking another sip of her Starbucks in her comfy living room.

As war broke out versus Ukraine and Russia, Vanden Top worried less about the people

Photo Credit: Gal Gadot's Imagine Video

of Ukraine and felt more concerned about the implications for her future career. As an International Business major, she plans to marry her boyfriend right after graduation, and then travel the world by visiting each of her parents' ten timeshares. A potential World War III would put a big wrench in her plans.

"I would be deprived of these opportunities to see so many different places of the world in the most authentic way possible," Vanden

Top said. "I know it's my calling to support big resort corporations financially, and all these worldwide events are causing me to put my life on hold."

Vanden Top isn't the only student feeling the effects of ongoing global catastrophe. Blanton Blubberfield, a junior, said the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown in the spring of 2020 put him through some of the lowest points of his life.

"I had to stare at my friends though a computer screen and finish my classes online. I was at home, so my mom cooked and cleaned for me and bought me a new 4K TV," Blubberfield said. "You have no idea how rough I had it over quarantine. Worst six months of my life."

Blubberfield said he never worried about catching COVID-19, being in "peak condition." Over quarantine, he used his free time to play video games and invest in Bitcoin.

Blubberfield reflected on his rough experiences over the worldwide pandemic, but not without a few tears. "I definitely had it harder than most people that went through this."

In the background, Blubberfield's TV screen displayed NBC World news, with a new report of 11 million new COVID-19 cases and 43,000 deaths in March in South Korea and China.

Blubberfield hopes the government will reimburse all Americans for the trauma they have experienced as a result of recent events. Vanden Top just hopes a solution will come into fruition sooner rather than later.

"I just hate living through historical events," Vanden Top said. "It is just so exhausting for me. I want to be left alone. But hopefully my great-grandkids will hear about my life and be inspired by the courage I showed during these tough times."



# The back <3

twalf

## Dordt Look-A-Likes



Mindy De Jager



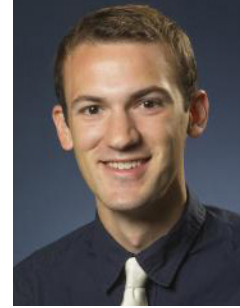
Linda Belcher



Vaughn Donahue



Seth Rogen



Derek Buteyn



Rudy Gobert



Justin Bailey



Christian Yelich



Tom Prinsen



Ratatouille Rat Dad



Erik Hoekstra



Alec Baldwin



Mark McCarthy



Neil Gaiman



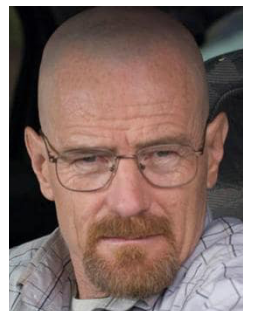
Nathan Bacon



Blake Shelton



Kevin Timmer



Bryan Cranston

## Dordt freshman solves the problem of poverty

Faul Pessler — *Not the Professor of History*

At Dordt University, Paul Fessler, professor of history, holds a reputation as the biggest, baddest CORE-145 professor. From jumping on a table to sing “A Mighty Fortress is Our God” to his eyes that stare into your soul during his lectures, he intimidates. He strikes fear into the hearts of both freshmen and seniors. Though students don’t often cry in his classroom, their notes become smudged with tears when studying for tests.

“Once, my pen ran out of ink during a test, Emily Van Dutchlastname, a CORE-145 survivor, said. “Fessler let me grab another. I was expecting him to kick me out for being unprepared.”

For decades (and perhaps centuries), Fessler has tasked his CORE-145 students with a

dreaded assignment: A comparative essay discussing the arguments made by Abraham Kuyper’s *The Problem of Poverty* and Karl Marx’s *Communist Manifesto*. For this paper, students pour their blood, sweat, and tears into their explication of centuries-old philosophies. During the final days of the assignment, the AEC floods with papers in need of proofreading.

For each new batch of essays, Fessler gives a different topic for discussion. This spring, he asked, “What best helps society as a whole?” Despite the stack of too short, poorly written, overworded, dull, surface-level essays, a particular student’s rose to the top. The paper, written by freshman Herman Dooyevinck, addressed the question with tact and zeal.

In six pages, Dooyevinck examined Marx and Kuyper’s arguments, pulling out key themes and specific details. He delved into each man’s

worldview and how it affected their work. He sketched out their solutions and how society reacted to them. Dooyevinck then reimagined their schools of thought into a crisp, coherent plan.

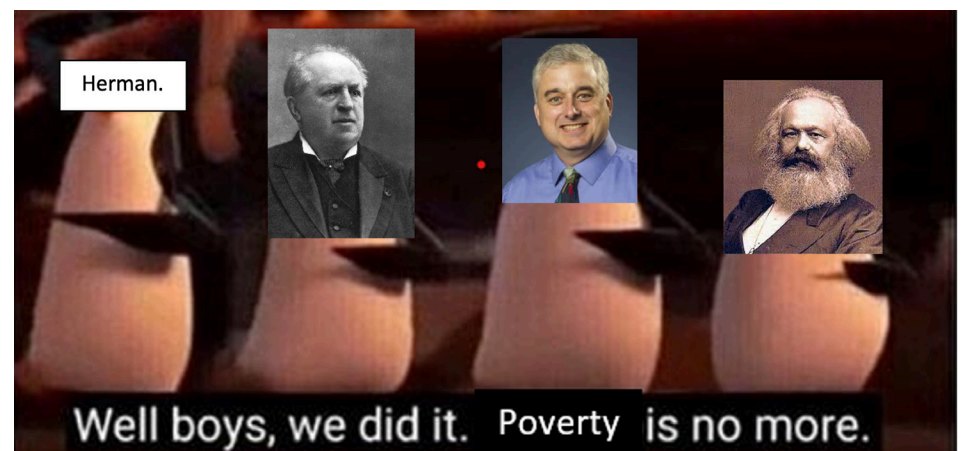
“Their plans didn’t work,” Dooyevinck said. “I figured I ought to fix their mistakes. It can’t be that hard, right?”

It wasn’t. Dooyevinck’s plan fixed the problem that has plagued society for a millennium. He solved the problem of poverty.

“As I was reading this 18-year-old’s paper, I was blown away,” Fessler said. “This boy, this young man, did what Kuyper, Marx, semesters of students, and I could not do.”

Fessler immediately sent the essay to the Dordt University Press and copies are available in the Campus Store for \$11.99. Dooyevinck is being considered for the Nobel Peace Prize.

Dooyevinck received a 78 percent on his paper.



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