Senator Thune rallies for McCain

Jurgen Boerema  
Staff Writer

John McCain is in urgent need for your vote on Nov. 4, said Senator John Thune in a speech to several hundred Republican party faithful in Dordt College’s gymnasium on Oct. 16.

Thune headlined an event which was attended by several of Northwest Iowa’s prominent political representatives. He highlighted the virtues of the McCain/Palin ticket and underscored the perceived dangers of a Barack Obama presidency.

Thune was preceded by candidates Christopher Reed and Randy Feenstra. Feenstra is seeking a spot in the second district of Iowa’s State Senate. Reed is running against long-time incumbent Tom Harkin for a seat in the U.S. Senate.

Both used their time to promote their bids for office and press those in attendance to go vote for Republican candidates.

After explaining his background and recalling his campaign for the Senate, Thune offered thoughts about political campaigning.

“Running for office is hard to do,” said Thune. “It’s hard to go out there and raise the money. It takes a lot of effort and it’s almost impossible unless you have a good team around you.”

Thune then brought his statements into a larger context.

“The stakes are very high, the differences couldn’t be clearer,” said Thune.

“I’m concerned about what we face as a nation. But I’m confident that John McCain can lead the nation forward. I’ve travelled with John McCain on missions around the world. I’ve seen the respect that other leaders have for [him].”

He contrasted this image of competency with an image of uncertainty.

“I think we in our part of the country have a very clear choice with the Republican ticket,” said Thune. “Do you want to choose freedom when it comes to the issues of national security, the economy and the judiciary, or do you want to choose their ticket which is all about government?”

Thune closed out his speech with a call toward participation and engagement. He singled out young people as a group in particular that needs to be involved in the political process.

“Every decision that gets made in the state capital or Washington affects [citizens], so the young generation needs to be involved in the discussion.”

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Voting numbers affected by early date

Grace Venhuizen  
Staff Writer

Convenience was not enough to bring people to the satellite voting polls last Thursday on Dordt’s campus.

A line of 10 election officials created a border in the Defender Grille area. The officials stood guard over the red ballot boxes and voting booths each marked with an American flag above the word “Vote!”.

Yet the convenience of the satellite voting did not bring out the kind of numbers that Bob Wiersma, interim director of Career Services had initially expected.

“Northwestern saw 81 votes cast two days ago,” said Wiersma. “We’ll be lucky if we reach that.”

Dordt saw 66 ballots cast, about half of that number was cast by the community.

Wiersma explained that the event was well advertised around Dordt and Sioux Center for people in the precinct.

Because the voting was held three weeks prior to the regular election day, “many [people] either are not decided or just aren’t thinking about voting yet,” said Wiersma.

For some students, the 2008 election will be their first opportunity to vote and they wanted to exercise that right on actual Election Day.

Another complication of voting at Dordt was the issue of chang- ing residency to Iowa. Out-of-state students were unwilling to take the chance that problems could arise if their residency was legally switched.

Other students saw the issue differently.

“Michigan is a swing state,” said Muskegon resident Kaila Westra, who chose to vote via absentee ballot for her home state. “They need my vote more than Iowa does.”

Despite varying reasons for choosing not to vote on campus, Wiersma still calls the event a “worthwhile activity.”

“In the future,” Wiersma said, “we will more likely have a formal voter registration event or some other kind of event related to the election.”

He admits an event closer to the Election Day would have been desired but because of Iowa law, satellite voting could not be held much later than the Oct. 16 date Dordt chose.

Continued on page 3

satellite voting took place on campus on October 16. Photo courtesy of Dordt Archives.
Scholarship issues spark discussion

Alvin Shim
Staff Writer

Interviews contributed by Jessica Veenstra, David Christensen and Bridge

Scholarships: students react

Alvin Shim
Staff Writer

Interviews contributed by Jessica Veenstra, David Christensen and Bridge

Unredeemable voters could determine election

Adrian Hielema
Staff Writer

The national election is just over the horizon, and the med

Staff Writer

October 24, 2008
Copyright enforcement frustrates students

Sonja Doty
Guest Writer

After a long week, watching a movie with friends sounds good. The plan grows from three people, to five, to ten. Time to reserve a lounge, these rules apply to “schools, public libraries, day care facilities, etc.” and include dormitory lounges on school property.

In previous years, students have been free to watch movies in the lounges of East, West, North and Covenant. This year, however, policy is changing to comprehensively comply with federal law, according to Bethany Schuttinga, vice president for Student Services.

“This is not a Dordt rule, it’s a law,” said Schuttinga. When she took the job last summer, she began to ask questions about the public showings.

“This is not a discretionary decision – there are shared community expectations [to up hold].” For upperclassmen, however, this change has been an unwelcome surprise.

“It is a pain,” said student Amy Walker. “It seems unfair because SAC can still show movies in the Campus Center…[a student group] is no larger than a family.” Schuttinga agreed that students will be disappointed, but said that “when you agree to come to Dordt, you have expectations tied to agreement…there is a shared standard.”

Were a student found to be knowingly ignoring the law, said Schuttinga, they would have to be dealt with, but she added, “a community is not a place to do that.” At this stage, ignorance of the new rule is still expected and is anticipated more than outright non-compliance.

The Student Activities Committee has complied with copyright law in their periodic all-campus movie nights by obtaining the necessary permission for public showing, and paying the price.

“We order the movie from a company that grants us the rights,” said Reuben Faber, vice president of SAC. “We purchase the rights to show the movie, which costs us around $300.” Similarly, a teacher can show a movie in “the course of face-to-face teaching activities,” according to the FCA.

“We are obligated to comply with copyright law,” said Schuttinga. “[Otherwise] we could be fined as an institution or as individuals.”

Academic scholarships may also count toward the total amount that may be awarded to athletes, he said. Exceptions are permitted by the NAIA for students who acquire higher GPAs.

According to Vander Berg, the maximum scholarship an athlete can receive is $7,000 for one sport and $9,000 for two or more sports. As of this year, students may not roll-over more than $1,000 into one scholarship. The average athletic scholarship is $2,300. Dordt is in the bottom fourth of the thirteen Great Plains Athletic Conference schools in terms of the dollar amount it invests in athletic scholarships.

“Historically, Dordt’s athletic activity grants have been less than 10% of the total institutional grant money.” Heavner said he told his players the most important goal is that they remain at Dordt in the years to come. Neither academics nor the football team benefit from short-term commitments.

The football team is constantly restructuring its schedule for academics, Heavner said. The team actually has shorter practices than would typically be required due to organizing schedules around classroom requirements such as labs and additional evening lectures. Players alternate events they have to miss.

America strong, safe and prosperous for the next generation.” The appearance of the Thune and the Republican candidates was the centerpiece of a Get Out the Vote Rally sponsored by the Sioux Center Republican Party. Precinct officials began and ended the event urging people to sign up for times to make phone calls and go door to door encouraging people to vote for Republican Party candidates.

“Sports present an opportunity to combine physical and mental skills, to use particular gifts, to learn about oneself, and to develop integrity and leadership,” Vand Berg said. “The athletics department has to keep evaluating and assessing the values it is teaching.” Heavner said the football team has not been to a single football game where the other team’s coaches did not compliment the team’s sidelines behavior and respect for property. “Athletics help students learn to be part of a team, which is going to be an aspect of any business.”

“[Sports are] kind of a little practice at life,” he said.

Faculty and coaches respond to scholarship issues

Diamond Staff

Editors: Bree Brouwer Alli Moerman

Supervisor: Luke De Koster

Layout Editor: Rachel Clemens

Advertising Manager: Jamie Wiersma

Copy Editors: Kayla Rozendaal Luke Schut Alvin Shim Grace Venhuizen

Staff Writers: Jurgen Boerema Bree Brouwer Kristina De Graaf Amanda Henke Adrian Hielema Alyssa Hoogendoorn Kyla Jameson Robert Minto Alli Moerman Emily Sajdak Alvin Shim Bridget Smith Ashlee Stallings Grace Venhuizen

Photographers: Kelly Cooke Naomi De Boer Becky Love

Please e-mail diamond@dordt.edu with any questions or concerns.

Thune encourages McCain/Palin ticket

continued from page 1

Coaches sometimes do take possible recruits out for dinner, but the admissions staff does that for other recruits as well.

Heavner said student recruiters have only used the credit cards when a meal was unavailable at the Commons and he was unable to personally attend the meeting.

The number of athletic scholarships and the money invested in them is limited by rules of the National Association of Intercollegiate Scholarships.

Heavner said the football team awards 24 scholarships, which is in accordance with the maximum amount allowed by the NAIA.

Three members on rewarding scholarly gifts, to learn about oneself, and to develop integrity and leadership,” Vandberg said. “The athletics department has to keep evaluating and assessing the values it is teaching.” Heavner said the football team has not been to a single football game where the other team’s coaches did not compliment the team’s sidelines behavior and respect for property. “Athletics help students learn to be part of a team, which is going to be an aspect of any business.”

“Asports arekind of a little practice at life,” he said.

Thune quoted Abra- ham Kuyper to set a final framework around the ideas presented.

“When principles that run against your most deeply held convictions begin to win the day, then battle is your calling, and peace has become sin. You must, at the price of dearest peace, lay your convictions bare before friend and enemy; with all the fire of your faith, said Thune. “We need to be out there … trying to make a difference, to make sure that we elect leaders who will keep the
**Let's Barack and roll!**

**Ali Moerman**

**Editor**

As a born-and-raised Republican, I searched far and wide this election to find a GOP candidate who matched my ideals. Sadly, none of them could earn my first vote.

I was for John McCain before I was against him. But the pick of Sarah Palin as his running mate has caused me to jump ship. McCain’s best argument against Barack Obama was experience. Then, he picks Palin, who has arguably less experience than Obama. So if lack of experience is a reason to vote against Obama, how is it a positive for Palin? Oh right, McCain is a “maverick.”

Obama’s “change” mantra is not just fluff but a strong thread in all of his platforms.

Obama’s “change” mantra is not just fluff, but a strong thread in all of his platforms.

Obama’s health care plan, for example, allows those already satisfied with their health-care coverage to keep it, while requiring insurance companies to cover pre-existing conditions. This would do a lot more than McCain’s plan, which would merely provide a tax credit, allowing Americans to buy their own coverage.

This doesn’t solve any problems related to those with pre-existing conditions. What good is the McCain health-care credit if you can’t buy the coverage you need at any price, much less an affordable one?

When it comes to foreign policy, McCain claims his experience in the military as evidence of his readiness to lead the nation. While I’m not questioning his war-hero status, I wonder whether this contributes to being a successful foreign policy leader. Knowing how to fly a jet doesn’t mean you know foreign policy.

And besides, how important is experience, anyway? Ronald Reagan was a well-respected, good president and he worked from 9-8. It was his ability to delegate and have the right people on staff to do the work he could not do. That’s better than any experience.

Some voters may feel that Obama hasn’t been on the political scene long enough to show that he is able to make sound decisions. But think back to this May, when McCain and Hillary Clinton urgedly called to lift the federal gasoline tax in light of the soaring gas prices. McCain instead took a risk by assuming that voters would see this as a mere political ploy. He called the gas-tax holiday a “bad idea” and said it was “calculated to win elections instead of actually solving problems.”

The tax holiday isn’t just fluff, but a strong thread in all of his platforms.

McCain and Hillary Clinton urgedly called to lift the federal gasoline tax in light of the soaring gas prices. McCain instead took a risk by assuming that voters would see this as a mere political ploy. He called the gas-tax holiday a “bad idea” and said it was “calculated to win elections instead of actually solving problems.”

The tax holiday isn’t just fluff, but a strong thread in all of his platforms.

Obama started driving less and gas prices went down without enriching the oil companies or depriving the federal government of revenue. And let’s not forget McCain’s rash decision to halt his campaign during the recent economic crisis. Obama called him out on this, saying it was “more important than ever” for voters to evaluate the presidential candidates, one of whom will soon be responsible for dealing with the economic mess. “It’s going to be the president’s job to deal with more than one thing at a time,” Obama said.

Being qualified for the presidency has less to do with years tallied up in Washington, and more to do with the judgment and vision brought to the Oval Office. I’m ready to vote for someone who has proven himself to be of sound judgment.

Obama’s “change” mantra is not just fluff, but a strong thread in all of his platforms.

Cain reminds us, Americans started driving less and gas prices went down without enriching the oil companies or depriving the federal government of revenue. And let’s not forget McCain’s rash decision to halt his campaign during the recent economic crisis. Obama called him out on this, saying it was “more important than ever” for voters to evaluate the presidential candidates, one of whom will soon be responsible for dealing with the economic mess.

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Obama’s “change” mantra is not just fluff, but a strong thread in all of his platforms.

John McCain’s solid vision for America warrants my first vote.

And notice I said “reform,” not “change.”

What exactly does Obama mean by “change”? He’s always been vague about that. At least McCain states how he is going to do his reforming. Whether you agree with him or not, he has firm beliefs and policies, and some concrete plans to implement them.

**McCain: a great gain**

**Bree Broussard**

**Editor**

I’m not voting for McCain because I’m a registered Republican and have a signed bumper sticker from him. I’m not voting for him because I’m a fellow Ari-izonan (yes, that’s right: it’s Ariz-0-nan). And I’m not voting for him because I agree with every single one of his policies.

Far from any of that, John McCain’s solid vision for America is the only one that warrants my very first vote.

Obama can throw around the word “change” as much as he likes; I still have yet to understand how his platform will cohesively and wisely make America, on the whole, a better country. Yes, Obama may have some good (or even great) ideas, such as his health-care reform, his campaign finance reform, his promotion of fair trade, and many of his other stances strongly outweigh the good in his platform. How can someone claim to believe in God and want the best change for America and yet support partial-birth abortion? I don’t want someone with such a practically non-existent respect for human life in my country’s White House.

And what about Obama’s support for nuclear power? Does he really think that removing 20% of America’s power grid from its citizens will change their futures? Change their futures for the worse, yes, because they’ll be living without the nuclear-generated electricity (which, by the way, is also greenhouse emissions-free). I don’t see the connection between his affordable housing efforts and his affordable-housing-without-efficiency-electricity efforts.

This isn’t to say I believe all of McCain’s policies are up to par. It’s great that he wants to promote democracy in other countries like Burma and Zimbabwe, but I don’t always agree with pressing our form of government onto other countries. And I agree with his choice of Sarah Palin as his running mate, but I’m beginning to believe people when they say she hasn’t have enough experience. Though her style is definitely kickin’. However, McCain doesn’t upbraid torture and has plenty of expe-

**Students should use brains to vote**

**Ryan Campbell**

**Guest Writer**

This election scares me. The American people in general are stupid. Yes, I said it.

We as a people have now found ourselves where those old people we make fun of and hope we never become told us we would be. We have been so dumbed down by our TV shows, loud music and new gadgets that we have forgotten how to think for ourselves.

You might say, “No, Ryan, you’re wrong. I watch the news; I’m smart.”

Where do you get your news? Do you get it from CNN? Do you get it from Fox? What about from your grandparents? Not that? How, well about the Daily Show or the Colbert Report? For goodness’ sake, please don’t tell me you get it from Kanye West.

I hate to break it to you, but CNN is for Obama and Fox is for McCain.

Chances are your grandparents voted because of a cause of political disregards of the issues. The Daily Show is obvious for Obama, and believe it or not, Colbert is not for McCain (listen to the hidden details). Kanye West is just an idiot.

The media will tell you things to make you swing your vote towards their best interest, not your best interest. Their business is news. If one candidate will be more newsworthy than another, make you turn to their station and raise their cash intake, that’s who they’ll push.

I’m not going to tell you who to vote for. That’s your beauty of voting: it’s your decision. But I am going to tell you this: learn. Learn about your two possible leaders; find unbiased news. Don’t trust the media. God gave you a brain to use it and to think for yourself. Vote for the candidate who you think really is the best because you care enough to do some research. After all, people are for you to have this opportunity, and God for some reason chose you to live in this day and age. For you to squander your vote because you vote based on the media’s opinion and not yours only deserves a disappointed head-shake.
Jason Kornelis
Guest Writer

People often wonder why I do the work I do. Rough town like this, a city of secrets and shadows. I just wanna clean this place up a bit. If you keep your wits about you and your hand at your holster, Sioux Center’s not such a bad place. But I was about to find out how shady this town really was.

The name’s Jack. Jack Vander Magnum. I’m a private eye. The moment she walked into my office, I knew she was trouble. Long legs, red lips, si-ren’s eyes that drew you in and refused to let go, the works. The kind of dame that Ray Charles would stand up to get a better look at. She was crying, silk handker-chief to her face. Whatever it was, this dame was in trouble, and she needed my help.

“Mr. Vander Magnum?”


I raised an eyebrow. Was this the daughter of Avery Casey, owner of the Casey’s restaur-ant chain? Avery was known for his wealth, and even more for the enemies he had made on his way to the top. Taking this case was dangerous—but it’d pay the rent, that’s for sure. “Jack, I’ll do whatever it takes to get my father back. Ever since he blew off the Dutch mob, they’ve been send-ing him warnings. I just know they’re the ones that took him! What’ll they do to him?”

My stomach dropped somewhere between my knees. The Dutch mafia had been edging in on Sioux Center’s busi-nesses for a few years now, and they were itching to get their fin-gers in the Casey em-pire. This case was no longer just dangerous; it was reckless. Then again, I’d never turned down a case this big…

“Alright, I’ll help you find your father. You go home and wait in case they call with a ransom. I’m gonna see if I can’t dig up what the mob’s up to these days.”

With a tearful thanks, she moved to the door. Before she left, she turned and thanked me again with a smile. I couldn’t shake the feel-ing that I was in over my head, but work was work. It was time to have a chat with a can-ary I knew down at Doc’s.

This concludes the first installment. Check the next Diamond for the continuing adven-tures of Jack Vander Magnum, Private Eye!
Women’s soccer dominates GPAC

Amanda Henke
Staff Writer

The Dordt women’s soccer team extended its win streak to 11 games with a 4-1 victory over Hastings College last Saturday. Dordt moved to 8-0 in conference play and 11-1 overall, gaining a three-game lead over Hastings. With the loss, the Broncos dropped to third place behind Dordt and Midland Luthers in the GPAC standings.

“The biggest challenge leading the GPAC is [being] the number-one target for all of the teams…everyone is going to come at us hard,” said junior Lindsay Baker. “We have to prepare for every game and focus on what we need to do to get better.”

Freshman keeper Jenna Noteboom picked up the win against Hastings, supported by a defense that has been solid throughout the season.

“Kelsie [De Nooy] does a great job organizing the defense, and each of the girls does a great job hustling and getting the ball where it should go,” Noteboom said. “We have unselfish girls [on offense] who work together…and have great communication…and can finish it in the end,” she said.

Together, the offense and defense have been dominant, creating memorable moments both on and off the field.

“This year has been very fun for me,” Noteboom said. “The coaches are very knowledgeable about the game…and we have fun wherever we go, even on long bus rides.”

For Kelly Smies, a season highlight was the long road trip to Jamestown, Neb., with “freshman initiation, the cold weather, and the good food at Texas Roadhouse.”

Smies said she appreciates the team’s focus on improvement both as players and as people.

“Being a part of Dordt’s soccer program so far has been amazing,” she said. “We can improve as individual players [and] support one another through prayer, growing spiritually as well.”

The Dordt soccer squads are under the guidance of Coach Dave Schenk, in his first year at Dordt.

Though they lead the GPAC, both Coach Schenk and the women’s team are looking to gain even more momentum before the postseason opens Nov. 4.

“We are just trying to focus on what we need to do to get better…and play our best soccer yet,” Baker said.

Next game: Saturday, Oct. 25 @ Nebraska Wesleyan.
Football overcomes Concordia for first win

Ashlee Stallinga
Staff Writer

It was late afternoon on a rainy Saturday; many students were cozy in their rooms, hiding from the chilly drizzle. But the Dordt College faithful were out on the football field, cheering the Defenders to their history-making win.

The 17-14 victory came Oct. 11 against conference opponent Concordia. “[Going into the game], I really felt like we had a chance,” said Coach John Heavner. “I wanted them to win so bad. They deserve some success for their work.” And they certainly enjoyed the success.

“It was definitely nice to win,” said junior wide receiver Joey Vander Schaaf. “Even at practice, everyone’s attitude is improved, because the possibility of having a winless season is out.” The win didn’t require any special strategy, according to Heavner. “I think the biggest difference was that we just had less turnovers than they did,” he said. The Defenders, who had struggled with hanging onto the ball, only had one giveaway in the whole game, compared to Concordia’s five.

“It’s always a focus in practice,” Heavner said. “We have to remember: we’re young. We will get better every year, even every week.” Along with the improvement shown in the team, Heavner is even seeing improvement in the fans. “I really thought it was awesome that our fans came back after the rain delay,” he said. “I think the people are learning how to cheer for football. It made it really nice to get our first win at home.”

Despite the momentum from the first win, Heavner looks at the next few games realistically. “We have five tough games ahead, and next Saturday, the Concordia game won’t matter.”

“I wanted them to win so bad. They deserve some success for their work.”

- Coach John Heavner

Dordt lacrosse players switch sides

Alyssa Hoogendoorn
Staff Writer

At Saturday’s lacrosse game, four mismatched players stuck out on the field wearing red jerseys with black and gold shorts.

The Sowers’ coach, Paul Hoogendoorn, went missing from the sideline. And Dordt goallies stood in both goals.

The Sowers usually have one last game for Parents’ Weekend, but Hoogendoorn struggled to find a team to play against. Northwestern and USD were not at the fall league meeting so he assumed they didn’t have teams this year.

Up until Thursday afternoon, no lacrosse game was scheduled for Saturday. A USD lacrosse player called Hoogendoorn to tell him they had a team, and a game was set up.

USD came with only seven players, so a few of them were chosen to play for USD. “Instead of drawing of the straws, we did drawing of the lacrosse sticks,” Hoogendoorn said.

Peter Hamstra, Ate Bremmer and Danny Glemby played for USD. Aaron Sandahl and Jordan Harmelink alternated as goalies for both teams.

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“I wanted them to win so bad. They deserve some success for their work.”

- Coach John Heavner

Dordt Sport Report: Jared Rempel

Ashlee Stallinga
Staff Writer

What is your favorite NHL team? Vancouver Canucks.

Do you have any pre-game traditions? Me and Nate Woudstra play pass on the ice two hours before each game, and we listen to AC/DC.

Why should people go to hockey games? They are fast-paced, physical, and creative.

What game would be the best one to go to? Against Calvin. [Thursday, Nov. 20]

Do you think they have a chance this year? No. Definitely not.

What is your favorite Disney movie? Hmm...that’s a tough one. Oh!—Mulan, because of the song “Be a Man,” which the hockey team has been known to break out singing once in a while, led by Todd Bakker.
Uninformed set-up ever,” "B.J. Haan Auditorium. Orches- ter, held Friday in the fall season at Dordt’s Fall Music Festival. Vocal and instrumental music highlights fall festival. Robert Minto

Heartfelt music highlights fall festival

Don’t worry about being perfect, says top poet and Dordt grad

Emily Sajdak

Staff Writer

Before her junior year, Jessica Assink had not written much poetry. Now, the 2008 Dordt graduate has been named the winner of the college division in this year’s Iowa Poetry Association contest. Assink’s winning poem is titled “Playing Games.” She describes it as the story of a girl and her veteran grand- father “and how their relationship and the games they play have changed, now that he’s back from the war.”

The inspiration for the poem came not from personal experience, she said, but from the image of a stain on a table. The characters, too, are fictional.

Assink started to consider herself a poet during her junior year, in Professor Dave Schelhaas’ class on reading and writing poetry. She said the class “made [poetry] more accessible and enjoyable to me.” Among the poems she wrote for the class was one experimenting with structure and line breaks.

Schelhaas encouraged Assink and the other students to try the contest, noting that Dordt students almost always win when they enter. Throughout the process, her poems were workshopped in the class and Schelhaas also read them over. Her prize for the winning poem was $25.

Assink’s advice for budding poets: “Write a lot. Don’t worry about it being perfect; just write it down. And read a lot of poetry… contemporary poets like Billy Collins are easily accessible and fun to read.”

Robert Minto

Staff Writer

Three girls from Kan- torei warm up in a hall- way with choruses from the Pussycat Dolls, as the last strains of Holst’s “The Planets” rose smoothly compared to past years.”

It was a marathon of a try-out this year, as director of Dordt’s instrumental ensembles. “I have worked with Miedema’s orchestra for a T. Bjorn Vaagensmith, a percussionist in the Cam- pus-Community Band.

President Dordt’s first theatrical event of the year. The last two shows are Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. in the Te Paske Theatre.

”This music is so good, you would have to pay for it anywhere else.” - Samuel Lee

said Luke Kreykes, who plays viola in Chamber Orchestra, “but it’s going smoothly compared to past years.”

It was a marathon of a concert,” said Ben Chris- tians, a cornet-player in Chorale. His musicians like that played with technique, brilliance, but left me cold because there was nothing warm in the process. Making music involves the whole person… I wouldn’t trade that for anything!”

He wasn’t the only one having fun. “Don’t we look angelic?” asked one member of Chorale, who asked to remain anonymous.

Another member, who also requested anonym- ity, couldn’t have disagreed more. “Chorale needs new robes,” she said.

But on one point, everyone agreed. “This music is so good,” said Samuel Lee. "I wouldn’t trade what a lot, don’t worry about it being perfect; just write it down. And read a lot of poetry… contemporary poets like Billy Collins are easily accessible and fun to read.”