Blades earn glory

Jesse Veenstra
Staff Writer

After a long and grueling season, the Dordt Blades are not ready to quit. The 2007-2008 Blades team is the first in Dordt history to make it to the national tournament, and they look to continue the history-making season with a high number of wins. The Blades will be continuing their season at the ACHA Division II national tournament.

Dordt traveled to Oakland, Calif., for the regional tournament on Feb. 15 and 16. Dordt swept UC-Davis and University of Wyoming to qualify for the national tournament.

"We are the first team in the 40-year history of the Blades to play for a championship, and that is pretty special," said Captain Jared Rempel.

Dordt faced UC-Davis early in the morning on Feb. 15 and jumped out to an early 3-0 lead in the first period. The Blades added two goals, scored by Jared Rempel and Brandon Breukelman, in the third period. Dordt coasted to a 5-0 victory, and Ted Gibbons, at goal, registered the shutout.

The Blades then played the University of Wyoming and again clinched an early 1-0 lead after an unassisted "goal from Todd Bakker.

continued on page 2

Top: Goalie Ted Gibbons and Defenseman Andrew Vink defend the Blades' net against Iowa State. Bottom Left: Center Todd Bakker breaks away from a four man pile-up, including Defenseman Jake Esselink. Bottom Right: Defenseman Jon Van Keulen looks to play the body.

Changes in Student Services raise questions

Bridget Smith
Staff Writer

The recent dismissal of Sandi Altena from her position as Director of Residential Life has raised concerns, rumors and confusion among members of the Dordt College community.

"Yes, it's true that Bethany has decided not to renew my contract and it was effective immediately Feb. 15," Altena said in an email to the Diamond, though she declined an interview.

"I had no forewarning," she explained. "[But] the college was gracious enough to pay out my contract."

Altena will appeal the decision with President Carl Zylstra this week.

Joel Veldkamp, a sophomore at Dordt, has written a letter to President Zylstra and is trying to raise support for Altena by getting Dordt students to write respectful letters as well.

Veldkamp said Altena has helped numerous people in her 11 years of work at Dordt College. Considering all she has done for the school, he believes it is wrong for the administration to take drastic measures that seem unwarranted.

Bethany Schuttinga declined an interview with the Diamond regarding the issue. Schuttinga said it would be inappropriate for her to comment due to Altena's impending appeal.

President Zylstra did not reply to a request for an interview with the Diamond.

At a student forum meeting, students questioned Schuttinga concerning the Altena decision. Schuttinga stayed for additional questions after the meeting. Veldkamp said the meeting did not really shed light on the situation, but he respected Schuttinga for attending and talking to students.

"I have to go off what I know, and what I've seen of Sandi," said Veldkamp.

Schuttinga and Residential Directors also met with the RA staff to announce the decision to dismiss Altena.

Bethany Kooiman, an RA in East Campus, said she appreciated being told directly instead of being left to find out about the dismissal.

Kooiman had an automatic reaction of grief and was upset. But, she said, common sense indicated that a person could not be dismissed without reason or without the mutual approval of a board of people.

"It's really hard to have a reaction, because I don't know everything," Kooiman said.

"I don't know the facts, to blindly support would be unwise," she said.

"But to accept the decision does not mean I do not grieve."

"This is not to say Altena's statements are illegitimate," Kooiman said.

continued on page 2
Blades enter nationals with 20-7 record

continued from page 1

Both teams played a tough second period, keeping the game tight as they went into the final period. Dordt widened the gap in the score, as Kevin Prins scored twice and Bakker once. "We came together as a team and played extremely well at regions," said Senior Matt Chesla. "We talked about doing the little things and we did them. We played hard and the results were on the scoreboard."

With the win, Dordt joined three other teams—Northern Colorado, San Diego State and Northern Arizona—in qualifying for nationals from the Pacific region. "Making it to nationals is pretty big for the juniors and seniors on this team. Two years ago we only won two games and were pretty down, but now we have the opportunity to play for a national championship," said Chesla.

"Our goal for the year was to make it to nationals, and now that it has become a reality we have made a new team goal," said Rempel. "We want to make it to the Final Four."

The national tournament involves 16 teams and takes place in Rochester, Minn., on March 12-15. Dordt is in a bracket with Central Florida, Albony and Saginaw Valley State. Dordt faces off against Central Florida on Wed., March 12 at 4:00 p.m.

English major to read paper at conference

Nate Gibson
Staff Writer

On March 7, junior English major Rachel De Smith will travel to Drury University in Springfield, Mo., to participate in a paper-reading conference.

Last semester, Drury University sent out a request for students across the Midwest to submit papers for consideration.

At that point, Dr. Mary Dengler spoke to De Smith and encouraged her to submit a paper of her own. According to De Smith, Drury's most important requirement was that "the paper had to fit an interdisciplinary category."

In other words, it had to touch more than one field of study.

De Smith chose to submit a paper that she had written for her British Literature class, comparing and contrasting W.B. Yeats' poem "The Circus Animals' Desertion" and Joseph Conrad's novella "Heart of Darkness."

"I took the paper and expanded it—revising, as well as including more sources and philosophical perspectives," De Smith said.

The conference will begin with a breakfast introduction. Following this, De Smith and six other students will be given 45-minute slots throughout the day to present their papers and to field questions. The event will conclude with dinner that evening.

De Smith expressed great excitement. "I'm likely going to get a good grade on this paper."

"It's a good way to learn about other institutions and to let people know about this place called Dordt," she said. "It's a chance to get your paper to the point where you want somebody else to see it, apart from the person who graded it."

On a local scale, De Smith recommended both the Purple Martin Writing Contest and Ideafest as good places for students to start.

Covenant leads campus energy contest

Jurgen Boerema
Staff Writer

Results of the Creation Care Club's campus energy contest show at its halfway point an average 11 percent drop in energy use per student from previous years. The contest, which began on Jan. 15, reached its halfway point on Feb. 15 and will last until the middle of March.

The contest was originally designed to see which building could conserve the most energy, but the leaders of the contest decided to judge based on kilowatt-hours per resident to make the contest more fair. Various factors, such as increased enrollment in certain halls and the number of appliances using electricity in certain halls, affect the collected data.

There has been an overall drop in campus energy use throughout this portion of the contest. However, energy use is not balanced across campus. North Hall and East Campus saw a 3.82 and 3.60 percent increase in energy use, while such as increased enrollment in certain halls and the number of appliances using electricity in certain halls, affect the collected data.

The contest was designed to see which building could conserve the most energy, but the leaders of the contest decided to judge based on kilowatt-hours per resident to make the contest more fair. Various factors, such as increased enrollment in certain halls and the number of appliances using electricity in certain halls, affect the collected data.

There has been an overall drop in campus energy use throughout this portion of the contest. However, energy use is not balanced across campus. North Hall and East Campus saw a 3.82 and 3.60 percent increase in energy use, while East Hall and Southview saw a 4.39 and 13.28 percent decrease in energy use, respectively.

The overall drop in energy use comes during an unusually cold winter when electricity use is normally high.

The progress in this contest is sufficient enough to increase the likelihood of a similar contest monitoring gas and water use for the 2009-2010 academic year.

Student Forum discusses cable, Union University

Emily Wierenga
Forum Correspondent

Over the past several weeks, Student Forum has engaged in two pursuits: an evaluation of the provision of cable television in campus housing and the initiation of a fundraiser for the tornado-damaged Union University in Tennessee. Student Forum is requesting student input and involvement with both of these projects.

The evaluation of cable television was first brought up by a student proposal. The proposal, written and submitted by Student Forum member Micah Schuurman, argues that cable inhibits community and interferes with our primary office as students. In addition to the fact that almost all educational content on cable can now be found online.

Having perceived several strengths and weaknesses in the proposal, Student Forum has decided to send representatives to the administration, faculty, Computer Services and Student Services to gain a better understanding of the issue and its history.

Several students have requested to meet with the forum to defend the use of cable, while others have voiced support for the proposal, claiming that cable is a detriment to the overall community. Student Forum desires to hear any and all thoughts on the subject.

Student Forum hopes that students will give serious consideration to the issues raised by the proposal. The student body should wrestle with these issues, why Dordt should provide cable to every room on campus, taking into account how it may impact the promotion of a Christian worldview, and whether there is a place for cable in our role as students.

If you have specific questions, concerns or suggestions, write them down and give them to your Student Forum representative. Members are listed on the bulletin board. Also, look for upcoming town hall meetings for further discussion of the subject.

In addition to the cable proposal, Student Forum would like the campus to engage in fundraising efforts for Union University in Jackson, Tenn.

On Feb. 5, Union's campus was devastated by a tornado. Nearly 50 million dollars worth of damage was done and nearly 800 students displaced because of damaged dormitories. Many of the students lost their rooms when the storms went off, leaving all their personal items and identification behind.

"Situations like this can be very difficult," she said. "I would advise [students] to pray for both parties—the decision-makers of Sandi's firing and for Sandi and her family," said Kooiman.

Veldkamp took issue with the process of dismissal. "The way we do things at Dordt with hiring and firing should be different from the rest of the world."

"But in order to know the facts, a person needs more than one-sided information," he said. "I would advise [students] to pray for both parties—the decision-makers of Sandi's firing and for Sandi and her family," said Kooiman.

Veldkamp took issue with the process of dismissal. "The way we do things at Dordt with hiring and firing should be different from the rest of the world."

"But in order to know the facts, a person needs more than one-sided information," he said. "I would advise [students] to pray for both parties—the decision-makers of Sandi's firing and for Sandi and her family," said Kooiman.
Quit hoggin’ my college

Micah Schuurman
Staff Writer

All institutions have internal struggles. Dordt is no different. The tension between faculty and administrators is escalating.

As seen in the case of Dr. Horton, students are beginning to enter the fray as well.

Many issues split us in two and draw lines between us: football and cable is healthy for our community. Cue the Student Forum is trying to bring to the students is community. Cue the Student Forum is trying to bring to the students is community.

Many administrators make decisions without thinking about the full consequences of their actions. Many students expect the college to act like a business, supplying them products in exchange for money.

All the while a large number of faculty cross their arms and sit, disgruntled with any change made to their beloved college.

The problem with our college is that we are possessive. Each of us views the college as in some way belonging to us.

Each of us runs around cavalierly claiming to have the best interests of the college at heart as though no one else does.

The time has come for everyone, myself included, to take a step back and take a slow sip from the cup of humility. We act as though we own the college. Even a hint of such possessiveness flies in the face of Dordt’s motto, Soli Deo Gloria, to God alone be the glory.

We have become attached to an institution. Dordt is our home. Dordt is our work. Dordt is our life. However, Dordt will die one day as all things must.

The time has come for everyone, myself included, to take a step back and take a small sip from the cup of humility.

That day may be 10 years from now or 50 years from now.

Regardless, Dordt is merely one institution, among millions, seeking to do God’s will. That should be the focus.

But the change around our college is so fast that we forget for whom we are reclaiming the square inches.

However, even if we all approach our college with the utmost care and humility, there will still be conflicts. God-fearing, thoughtful individuals can still disagree on major issues.

Rather than viewing this as an inherently bad thing, we should see this tension as being necessary to decision making. But, as we argue, we should remember our place as stewards, not owners.

Do you realize what you’re saying?

Bridget Smith
Staff Writer

Retard, Gayard, Moron.
You must ride the short bus.

Name-calling: The number one way to win over your opponents or at least prove your point, right? Not exactly.

Name-calling is one of the most counterproductive methods a person can use in an argument. But the error in this name-calling is more problematic than its lack of persuasive capacity.

I take particular offense to using conditions of people with mental challenges to insult others.

The offense is not due to a deep cut to my emotional core if someone calls me or something I did retarded. The offense is against people who actually do have mental challenges.

Maybe this will help explain why my uncle, who has Down’s Syndrome, is incredibly precious and dear to me. My uncle’s disability shows—in unexplainable ways—God’s work and goodness in His creation.

This is also the case with many other people who have mental challenges. They show a contentedness, joy and almost an innocence I can’t find so beautifully displayed anywhere else.

Particular days in my life simply stand out among all the others. I guess I would call them some of my “favorite days.”

I had one of those days when I was 15 years old. My friends and I were asked to volunteer to work a day at Camp Jubilee—a camp for people who have disabilities.

We volunteered on one of the days the camp was hosting young adults with severe challenges. I was incredibly intimidated by the whole situation. I didn’t really know what would be expected of us.

I walked in with knees shaking and stomach churning. Shortly after arriving, one of the guys threw up bright pink puke all over the floor.

That didn’t help my nervous stomach.

One of the young men, Mike, was incredibly strong but could not comprehend his own strength.

At first, I was a little afraid of him. Later in the day, we became buddies. I sang songs while he clapped, we walked and played ball, we laughed and I helped him at dinner.

Although he may have forgotten me the next day, I consider him my friend.

Over the course of the day, I was able to develop a number of beautiful relationships with both the volunteers and the campers.

People with disabilities can teach us much about life. Many of my greatest role models are the people I know or have met who have disabilities.

Sometimes issues and struggles surrounding people with disabilities overtake our heavenly joy. I often find this joy clearly revealed when I hang out with people who have disabilities. I find it in their everyday rejoicing, in their pure smiles.

I admire the nearly unmatched perseverance and ambition of my cousin. While he does not have a mental disability, he has physical disabilities caused by cerebral palsy. He rarely complains, works hard at his job and shows more ambition to tackle political issues than many people I know.

To say people with disabilities have less value by using them to criticize an idea or person that you think has less value is a tremendous and offensive error.

People with disabilities should not be considered inferior—the value of an individual cannot be quantified or compared.

Their value even reaches into a realm and gives a perspective that is, in a way, inexplicable.

So next time you think about using “retarded” in name-calling, imagine this: a “retarded” person can display an aspect of God and show us a perspective and value many of us will never completely understand.

She’ll Say YES!

Dordt Students receive 20% off free financing available
M, T, Th, F 9· 5·30 Wed. 9· 9 Sat. 9· 4
Evenings By Appointment

Center Stone
Jewelers
736 North Main Ave.
Sioux Center, IA 51250
712-722-1601
csj1@mitc.net

This Summer... Make an impact for eternity!

Camp China has impacted more than 33,000 middle and high school teenagers for eternity.

Find out how to help us this summer! 1.866.7alkcamp · campchina.org

Go With Our
The Beret Bunch
Winter hats, cool cats

Matthew Kunnari
Guest Writer

While Jackie Kennedy Onassis inspired sweater sets as a staple for American women, her first husband, John, is often blamed for the death of the hat. President Kennedy did not wear a hat during the reciting of his inaugural address, thus expressing the growing sentiment amongst American men that the fashion of hats was expiring fast.

While baseball caps remain popular, the fedora (unless you’re a Justin Timberlake resurgent) and top hat are a thing of the past. This current dreaded Iowa winter, however, brings the necessity of a hat, stocking cap, or, for our Canadian populace—the tuque—to the forefront. A hat not only keeps one warm but can express the uniqueness of the individual that dons it.

From left to right, top to bottom: Katiegrace Youngsma, Josh Cheney, Karen De Mol, Bob Taylor, Jonathan Warner, Mark Bonnes.

Adjunct De Koster awarded for “inspiring” columns

Ashlee Stallinga
Staff Writer

Luke De Koster, a Dordt adjunct, won six awards for journalism in an Iowa Newspaper Association contest. The awards were for first and second place in three categories: Best News Story, Best Spot News Story, and Excellence in Editorial Writing.

De Koster won the awards for his articles that appeared in the Sioux County Index-Reporter, a Hull newspaper for which he is a sports writer.

"Technically, I’m paid for sports writing," De Koster said.

But he often writes about more than the Boyden-Hull and Western Christian School games that he is paid cover.

"I write technical stuff, political pieces, and I do ‘bad news’ too," De Koster said.

Since the fall of 2006, he has also written an occasional column, called “Not yet home.”

"I’ve probably done about 40 to 50 columns," De Koster estimates.

"People think this is heaven here... but we can still learn from other places." —Luke De Koster

His columns, for which he won two awards, focus on different biblical topics and are written in light of the fact that De Koster has spent time living in Japan and Hong Kong.

De Koster says the goal of the column is to "write about politics and culture as a person who has lived overseas and has theologival training."

"People think this is heaven here," he says, "and it is a great place to grow up. But we can still learn from other places."

One comment from the judges on De Koster's columns was that "he does not shy away from handling controversial topics. Even if one does not agree with him, the columns inspire debate and are fun to read."

According to De Koster, this was the highest compliment the judges could have paid him.

"That is exactly what I try to do," De Koster said.

De Koster brings his talent in journalism to Dordt as the adviser for the Diamond and an instructor of the Communication 241: Introduction to Journalism and English 101.
Arkema emphasizes team-building or this year’s PLIA

Sarah Groeneck
Staff Writer

With 20 spring breaks under its belt, PLIA is still spreading the love across the United States and Canada. Instead of relaxing by the beach or road-tripping with college buddies, Dordt students who participate in PLIA use their days of spring break to minister and learn through different organizations across the country. This year’s sites include Camden, N.J.; Grand Junction, Colo.; Jackson, Miss.; and others.

One aspect of this year’s PLIA experience is decreased attendance. Although committee members have attributed the lower number of applications to the fact that spring break is over the Easter holiday, choir tours and athletic meets also play a role. "It is disappointing that not as many people are participating, but the decreased team size also means that team members will grow closer with each other," said senior Amanda Arkema, PLIA co-chairperson. Despite these decreased numbers, the committee has tried to put a different spin on things. Besides the usual church letters and annual soup supper, the fundraising committee has taken part in a football tailgate and a Pizza Ranch tip night. PLIA is trying to place more emphasis on team-building this year as well. "On the Saturday before the teams leave, they will get together and do a service project," said sophomore Monique Lieuwen. "That way, teams will get to know each other before spending 20 hours on a bus together.

Some students have found that PLIA is almost an addictive experience. "Many who go on PLIA once find themselves drawn back for a second or third time," said Arkema.

Teams will travel to their various sites on Thurs., March 14 and will return to Dordt the following week. "We feel that God's hand is guiding PLIA," added Arkema. "We trust that His will is being done in all aspects of it."

Road Trippin’ Spring Break
see D.C. and NYC on nickels and dimes

Nothing is cheaper than a free parade. An NYPD officer enjoys the St. Patrick’s Day parade as teenagers drink beer and Irish whiskey behind him. Washington, D.C. is one of the most inexpensive places to tour. Smithsonian museums and public buildings have free admission. Photos by Andrew Hamstra
Concert Choir to perform 326 songs while on tour

Cheryl Hiemstra
David Vos

It’s the year of the rat... and month of the Bernster?

With the flip of the Dordt calendar page revealing Professor Bernie Weiden “a rat day,” senior David Vos had a revelation: “Hey, it’s the Chinese Year of the Rat, and now it’s the Month of the Bernster!”

With one of their own on the calendar, the business professors decided to honor their calendar boy. After Vos explained his revelation to Professor Gary Vander Plaats, they decided to share “the Month of the Bernster” with the rest of the pod.

Professor Mathias was quick to make the connection between the Chinese Year of the Rat and the Month of the Bernster.

Vos, careful to protect his credibility with his professors, decided to put up a sign with a picture of the Bernster next to a rat, with a non-equal sign in between.

“But after consulting with some other professors, we decided that it would be more accurate to say that the Bernster is a ‘rat’,” said Vos. He quickly changed the sign to equate the Bernster and the rat.

Following the announcement, articles from the BBC and other trusted news sources began to appear next to the calendar in the business pod. With the help of the other professors in the department, Vos found several articles relating to vermin and the distinguished professor. “Since the celebration of the Month of the Bernster began, we have seen how prolific Bernie – and rats – really are.”

The Wal-Mart marketing staff appears to have gotten wind of the celebration and is stocking an organic form of Spaghetti-O’s called “Bernie-O’s.” Junior Elaine Williams summed up the month: “It’s been a lot of fun celebrating the Month of the Bernster,” said Vos. Several professors have been giving Vos ideas on whom he could target next.

A group Dordt students and alumni, led by Professors Tazelaar and Henderson, braved the winter weather two weekends ago to travel to the L’Abri Conference in Rochester, Minnesota. The three day trip was sponsored by Dordt’s newly-formed Philosophy Club.

The conference carried the theme “Culture and Common Grace: God’s Good Gifts in all of Life” and featured topics including modern housing, psychology, and internet piracy. The conference was attended by students, educators and pastors.

Also lots of Rook and card games, and hopefully some memorizing and polishing of the music.

Professor Henderson’s van broke down on the first day of the conference, but the stranded passengers were able to find a ride home with a generous fellow conference-goer.

“The speakers were worth hearing (even if you disagreed with some of their points),” said Junior Elijah Palmer. “The conference allowed me to look at different issues that we discuss at Dordt but in a way that is much different,” said senior Lynn Edwards.

Dordt College Concert Choir, 2007-2008
Photo Courtesy of Dennis Kortelis

Kyla Jameson
Staff Writer

Dordt College Concert Choir performs 326 songs while on tour

Kornelis said, Dr. K, as his students call him, looks forward to working with all of his choirs every year.

“Concert Choir does a lot of literature that is challenging, so it challenges me as a conductor as well,” said Kornelis.

The challenging songs that were chosen are centered around the theme of Palm Sunday and Easter, since the tour will fall on those days.

“Preparation for this tour has been intense,” said junior Claire McWilliams. “I’ve never been very good at memorization, so I’m definitely putting in a lot of time. Although it’s somewhat challenging now, I know it will pay off when tour comes.”

In 12 days, the choir will perform 16 times, singing about 21 songs at each performance. This adds up to be 326 songs total, and each performance has to appear as if they are singing these songs for the first time.

“There is a multitude of details,” Kornelis said. “I have to plan for a 12-day tour, and know the details of each day in advance – where we will eat, sleep, and perform.”

The choir still finds time to relax and bond during their down time.

“When the choir is not performing, a lot of sleeping happens, but a bit more studying occurs during the spring tours,” Kornelis said. “Also lots of Rook and card games, and hopefully some memorizing and polishing of the music.”

Tour is the highlight for members of Concert Choir, for reasons that go beyond the hard work they put into the music.

“Tour is such a great opportunity to bond with each other and see parts of the country you may not have seen before,” said senior Matt De Wit.

“I always look forward to tours because of the opportunity to get to know others outside of the busyness of school.”

The challenging songs were chosen are centered around the theme of Palm Sunday and Easter, since the tour will fall on those days.

“Preparation for this tour has been intense,” said junior Claire McWilliams. “I’ve never been very good at memorization, so I’m definitely putting in a lot of time. Although it’s somewhat challenging now, I know it will pay off when tour comes.”

In 12 days, the choir will perform 16 times, singing about 21 songs at each performance. This adds up to be 326 songs total, and each performance has to appear as if they are singing these songs for the first time.

“There is a multitude of details,” Kornelis said. “I have to plan for a 12-day tour, and know the details of each day in advance – where we will eat, sleep, and perform.”

The choir still finds time to relax and bond during their down time.

“When the choir is not performing, a lot of sleeping happens, but a bit more studying occurs during the spring tours,” Kornelis said. “Also lots of Rook and card games, and hopefully some memorizing and polishing of the music.”

Tour is the highlight for members of Concert Choir, for reasons that go beyond the hard work they put into the music.

“Tour is such a great opportunity to bond with each other and see parts of the country you may not have seen before,” said senior Matt De Wit.

“I always look forward to tours because of the opportunity to get to know others outside of the busyness of school.”

The road of the tour may be a long one, but it has been worth the work for the singers, as well Dr. Benjamin Kornelis, who has been in the Dordt choir program for 14 years.

“I like to see how the group comes together as an ensemble,” Kornelis said. Dr. K, as his students call him, looks forward to working with all of his choirs every year.

“Concert Choir does a lot of literature that is challenging, so it challenges me as a conductor as well,” said Kornelis.

The challenging songs that were chosen are centered around the theme of Palm Sunday and Easter, since the tour will fall on those days.

“Preparation for this tour has been intense,” said junior Claire McWilliams. “I’ve never been very good at memorization, so I’m definitely putting in a lot of time. Although it’s somewhat challenging now, I know it will pay off when tour comes.”

In 12 days, the choir will perform 16 times, singing about 21 songs at each performance. This adds up to be 326 songs total, and each performance has to appear as if they are singing these songs for the first time.

“There is a multitude of details,” Kornelis said. “I have to plan for a 12-day tour, and know the details of each day in advance – where we will eat, sleep, and perform.”

The choir still finds time to relax and bond during their down time.

“When the choir is not performing, a lot of sleeping happens, but a bit more studying occurs during the spring tours,” Kornelis said. “Also lots of Rook and card games, and hopefully some memorizing and polishing of the music.”

Tour is the highlight for members of Concert Choir, for reasons that go beyond the hard work they put into the music.

“Tour is such a great opportunity to bond with each other and see parts of the country you may not have seen before,” said senior Matt De Wit.

“I always look forward to tours because of the opportunity to get to know others outside of the busyness of school.”

The conference was attended by students, educators and pastors. The conference car-
"Dead Man Walking" a somber, thought-provoking drama

Kristina De Graaf
Staff Writer

The stage was somber as the audience entered the TePaske Theatre for the performance of "Dead Man Walking."

From the first line, the Dordt College Theatre Department transformed the little theater into a stage for a thought-provoking tale of prejudice, rage and the search for justice.

The story centers on the future of a calloused Matthew Poncelet (Jonathon Shaffstall). Sitting on death row for a number of heinous crimes, Poncelet begs Sister Helen Prejean (Becky Lancaster) for help. From there, the characters drag the audience through the world of "right now." I believe that youth merits that energy and enthusiasm that the audience through the energy and enthusiasm of the audience to struggle with the idea of the death penalty. The actors portrayed both sides effectively, presenting "a balanced view of the survivors and the killer."

I kept asking [myself] what I would believe if I were the parent, the jury, the sister, or even the minister," she said.

"There is a Bible verse for every side one chooses to defend," said Barb Mellema, who works in the Dordt Advancement office.

Writer Tim Robbins wrote this stage version of Sister Helen Prejean's book in 2002 and offered it to U.S. schools and colleges as part of "The Dead Man Walking Theatre Project." Dordt is one of nearly 30 academic institutions producing the play this spring.

Comfort foods can bring us back

Alvin Shim
Staff Writer

As a fresh, ambitious, punk-faced college kid ready to change the world, I'd be the first to say that change is often seen as a disruption to the "right now." I don't always take well to leaving the comfort of "right now," but I love to learn, and I believe that youth merits that energy and enthusiasm to read what is interesting, watch potentially dangerous films, listen to "hippie" music, and I also love, when I can, eating new food. It lessens my appetite when the same food is served over and over again. I love weight, slouch a bit more, stop smiling and no longer call people by their precious nicknames. (Betsy is Betty, not Lizzie-beaver. Justine isn't Nini or Lovey-beaver. She is Justine.)

Today, you can see the bags underneath these eyes - the plague of my fresh, young face. My suffering is nothing, I know. As we grow older, however, and we deal with and mold to changes, we have to learn to take care of each other and ourselves. Late at night, after taking stock of what I have finished and what I can't help anymore, there are a few things I can do to bring the day to a close, to put my mind at rest.

Once, I was really young - a bowl-cut kid running around in a miniature wife-beater, wrestling my brothers. Late at night, we would be practicing back flips off each other's faces, waiting for Dad to come home from both work and learning about teaching God. Mother would be in bed, either reading or asleep, and Dad would make egg sandwiches for us. We were starving young energy-burners, and the provider of the house probably hadn't eaten for several hours. The egg may be the universal comfort food - isn't that why we journey to IHOP in the middle of the night? But the most comforting foods, like our favorite albums, bring us back to a place in our lives - a place that we remember as good.

Once, it was six or so and living in Pennsylvania, he would stay up waiting for his dad to come home after closing his church. At the end of the treacherous day, little Shaffstall would sit on his father's lap and they would eat hot dogs together. "Hey! Make me laugh and smile," "It is a joy to dine with Jonathon today, on Lil' Smokies and laughter."

Sarah Hoogendoorn and her family would lounge about every Sunday afternoon with a rich Merlot and nibble on peanuts together. Being with friends with wine, peanuts and conversation brings Sarah home.

These memories are a celebration of our families and of the places we've been, the people we were at one time. I've found that sharing these pieces about ourselves, providing comfort food and listening to these stories late at night keeps the demons away. We can change the world in the morning. Let's reflect tonight.

SNOW, SNOW GO AWAY

Ten things to do in winter weather

Jessi Rieken
Staff Writer

This winter has seemed exceptionally long - for Peter's sake it is almost March and there is still a lot of snow on the ground! Are you feeling trapped in your dorm room or apartment because of the weather? Here are a couple hit things to do around Dordt College that bring the rejoicing out of the snow.

1. Make snow sculptures - the snow is just hard enough
2. Build a snow cave, they have always been a hit around campus
3. Go cross country skiing all around campus
4. Pick out your skates and go ice skating on the field behind Southview
5. Feed the stray cats in the gutters
6. Glide on the ice around campus; make sure not to crack your head open
7. Make snow cones; get some food coloring
8. Bundle up and go sledding
9. Snowboard with the commons trays on the big piles of snow around campus
10. And when you're cold, you can always go to the Humble Bean for a warm cup of hot chocolate.

Cartoon by Nate Gibson
Basketball: regular season wrap up

Amanda Henke
Staff Writer

With two more weeks until spring break, the men’s and women’s basketball teams are looking ahead to more than just no classes. As the conference tournament begins, both teams look to extend their seasons one game at a time.

The Dordt women finished their regular season 11-16 overall and 6-12 in conference play, coming in at the eighth spot out of 13 in the conference. The team is led in scoring by Kate Du Mez’s 11.7 points-per-game average. In just two seasons, Du Mez is already 28th on the all-time scorers list, with 612 career points. She also dished out a team-high 112 assists and 76 steals during the regular season this year.

Senior Allie Schmidt joins the team in scoring, averaging 9.6 points per game, grabbing a team-high 8.6 rebounds per outing. Her fellow post players, Bre Schneidermaan, blocked a team-high 80 shots and put up 5.6 points and 5.9 rebounds each game.

The lone senior, Kara Karlsgodt, is averaging 7.5 points and 6.8 rebounds each contest. Karlsgodt put up a season-high 22 points and 14 rebounds in Dordt’s final game of the season against Morningside, which put her at 17th place in all-time scoring (788 points) and 84th all-time in the all-time scorers list, with 612 career points. She also dished out a team-high 112 assists and 76 steals during the regular season this year.

The men’s team ended their regular season 19-9 overall and finished fourth in the GPAC standings. Dordt’s tied Dakota Wesleyan with a 13-5 conference record, but the Tigers’ 23-7 gave them the third place spot. Although the team would have liked to end higher than fourth, they are still optimistic about the postseason.

“We are where we want to be,” said sophomore Michael Eekhoff. “We have a great chance to go far into the tournament and possibly win it.” —sophomore Michael Eekhoff

The men’s team finished the GPAC regular season. 82-85 decision in double-overtime, which favored the Mustangs.

Scott Van Zanten and Brian Eekhoff round off the starting five in scoring with their 10.1 average. Van Zanten and Chad Hurnik currently have 467 and 465 career rebounds respectively, putting them on Dordt’s ‘career top 20 rebounders’ list, while (B) Eekhoff closes in on 450 career rebounds with 439 currently.

The guys will host Briar Cliff in the first game of the GPAC tournament tonight. A win would mean a Saturday match-up against Morningside, who earned a first-round bye as the 2008 conference champs.

Senior Eric Van Maanen leads the team with 14.9 points per game and 43 total steals. Van Maanen was a 1st team all-GPAC selection last year, and this season he broke the 1000-point barrier, with 1014 points scored so far in his career.

All four of the other starters consistently scored in double digits during the regular season. Logan Kingma came in second on the team with 12.5 per game to go along with his 5.4 rebounds, (M) Eekhoff followed with his average of 11.7 points and 3.7 rebounds, while leading the team in assists with 101. His 5.6 point performance against Morningside sparked a 20-point comeback and an 84-76 victory, which put him at 17th place in all-time scoring (788 points) and 84th all-time in the all-time scorers list, with 612 career points. She also dished out a team-high 112 assists and 76 steals during the regular season this year.

Do you have a pre-game song or playlist? I have a playlist that consists of calm songs, like Jack Johnson, Matt Costa, Matchbox 20 and Dispatch. It usually calms me down and takes away the pregame butterflies.

What has been your best memory playing for the Blades? I have two favorite memories as a Blade: My first time wearing the Blades jersey. We were playing Nebraska, and I ended up getting seven goals that weekend. Currently, going to California, and dominating the regional tourney. We decisively won both of the games. It was a team effort and we all did our parts. Taddy made sure nothing got past him, and we were able to find the back of the net 10 times over the weekend. It was just a great experience that I’m glad I could share with my teammates.

In your opinion, what is the greatest hockey movie ever made? I would have to say ‘Slap Shot’. It’s an old movie that everyone on our team and most other teams knows inside and out. Although it’s not a movie I would show my kids, I think it’s one of the classic movies that will always be the greatest hockey movie ever. On the more PG side of things, I would definitely say ‘The Mighty Ducks.’ The triple dele is deadly.

Do you have any professional or college hockey team loyalties? I am a Colorado Avalanche fan, ever since they came to Colorado. My one claim to fame is that I grew up playing hockey with Patrick Roy’s son. I received some expert advice from one of the greatest goalies to ever play the game. I am not to mention the trips down to the locker room after Avalanche games. I just wish Patty didn’t leave, because they are struggling without him.

What do you have to say about the great success the Blades are having this season? I think it comes down to the hard work we put in and our dedication to the game. All the guys love playing hockey, and it shows through how we present ourselves on the ice. The team is really close, which helps us work together. We feel like we are role models to a lot of the kids in the youth hockey league, and I think we will always want to be able to show them our best, None of us play for ourselves, but rather the team and the people that watch us.

Can we expect a national championship? We are going into nationals with our heads up, and we’re going to leave everything on the ice. We may not be a favorite right now, but after our regional tournament showing, I think the other teams will have their heads up too. We are going to give our all for the Blades alumni who couldn’t make it earlier, for our fans that come to our games faithfully, and for our team now.

The men’s team ended their regular season 19-9 overall and finished fourth in the GPAC standings. Dordt’s tied Dakota Wesleyan with a 13-5 conference record, but the Tigers’ 23-7 gave them the third place spot. Although the team would have liked to end higher than fourth, they are still optimistic about the postseason.

“We are where we want to be,” said sophomore Michael Eekhoff. “We have a great chance to go far into the tournament and possibly win it.” —sophomore Michael Eekhoff

The men’s team finished the GPAC regular season. 82-85 decision in double-overtime, which favored the Mustangs.

Scott Van Zanten and Brian Eekhoff round off the starting five in scoring with their 10.1 average. Van Zanten and Chad Hurnik currently have 467 and 465 career rebounds respectively, putting them on Dordt’s ‘career top 20 rebounders’ list, while (B) Eekhoff closes in on 450 career rebounds with 439 currently.

The guys will host Briar Cliff in the first game of the GPAC tournament tonight. A win would mean a Saturday match-up against Morningside, who earned a first-round bye as the 2008 conference champs.