**Lights Out**

Dordt participates in global Earth Hour

Kyla Jameson  
Staff Writer

Sixty minutes. Two episodes of *The Simpsons*, a typical church service. One hour – that’s all it took last Saturday for Dordt students to realize the impact of global warming.

Earth Hour, which began in Sydney, Australia, last year, is a campaign encouraging people to turn off their lights and non-essential electrical appliances for one hour.

The Creation Care Club brought this event to Dordt’s campus because of the reality of global warming.

“I think it’s a great way to raise awareness of global warming,” said Junior Jill Bratt.

The event is now global: 29,337 people signed up this year. At the Earth Hour website explains, one hour of reducing energy is only the start of an effort against global warming.

“If the greenhouse reduction achieved in the Sydney CBD during Earth Hour was sustained for a year, it would be equivalent to taking 48,616 cars off the road for a year,” it says.

This year’s Earth Hour is over, but the problem still exists. Sign-up for 2009 at www.earthhour.org.

Zylstra denies Altena appeal

Bridget Smith  
Staff Writer

Sandi Altena, former Director of Residential Life, said she received no warning of the decision to dismiss her from her position last month.

“When students received news of the decision, they expressed a myriad of emotions to board members and to each other – chief among these emotions was confusion.

Altena said she, too, experienced a great deal of confusion and decided immediately to appeal the dismissal. ‘I met with Zylstra to discuss my case and to try to understand why this was happening,’ Altena explained. ‘I expressed my disappointment and confusion.

‘I also submitted a document outlining my recent work history, etc. The president considered it for 10 days and then met with me to discuss his decision.”

President Zylstra decided to uphold the decision announced by Bethany Schuttinga, vice president of Student Services, Altena said.

Sue Droog, Human Resources, declined to comment on whether a board met to make the initial decision regarding Altena’s dismissal.

Droog cited confidentiality and respect for personnel information as the reasons college administrators have declined comment on the situation.

Schuttinga also declined an interview, citing privacy of personnel information both before and after an appeal process.

“I don’t understand at all,” Altena said. “Every indication I had while working at Dordt, was that I was very much a part of 2008-09 and beyond. I also have no history of disciplinary action or poor performance, etc.

“It doesn’t make sense to me at all.”

Altena is unsure about her plans for the future and a career beyond Dordt College.

“I hope the Lord lets me work with people,” she said. “I pray for those kinds of opportunities.

“I hope I get a job where I can love and empower others and teach and help those who can’t help themselves. I hope I find a community where I feel that I belong. I hope I can minister wherever I land.”
Track competes in Florida

Jessi Rieken
Staff Writer

Over spring break the Dordt track athletes hopped on a charter bus and embarked on their long, 27-hour journey to Florida for the Disney Wide World of Sports Complex track meet.

The team left Sunday, March 16 and came back on Easter Sunday, March 23. The track meet was held outdoors, with a wide variety of competitors including people training for the Olympics.

College and high-school teams from all over the United States attended the meet.

Although the teams didn’t keep scores this year, Jen Kempers guessed that Dordt placed high in a lot of the categories because of the number of competitors Dordt brought to the meet.

“I enjoyed spending my spring break at the meet,” remarked Kempers, who balled away from the meet with two gold medals and a silver in the Open Eight.

Track team at Florida’s Disney track meet, where they saw Olympic gold medal contenders. Photo courtesy of Jen Kempers.

The Florida trip was a great team-bonding experience,” said Vander Ark. “We had really thoughtful team devotions, we played a lot of sand volleyball, boogie and skim, boarded and really enjoyed swimming in the ocean.”

When they were not competing the team spent their time on the beach trying to complete their “Bucket List” of digging a hole to China in the sand. Although they did not succeed, Kempers said that the hole was at least five to six feet deep.

Building sand castles, being attacked by jelly fish, drinking energy drinks and watching the coach dance to hip-hop songs were among the many things the team did besides track.

The next track meet will be the Augustana Invite on April 5 in Sioux Falls, S.D.

Facility changes: three pros choose to leave

Jessica Assink
Staff Writer

Three Dordt professors have accepted teaching positions at other universities for the coming academic year.

Music professor Henry Duitman, co-director of the Concert Band, and psychology professor Daniel Hitchcock will not be returning to Dordt in the fall.

Duitman, who has been a professor of music at Dordt for 23 years, recently accepted the position of director of orchestral activities at Grand Valley State University in Allendale, Mich.

Duitman currently directs the Concert Band, Campus-Community Band and Chamber Orchestra, along with teaching classes. He has also been the music director and conductor of the Northwest Iowa Symphony Orchestra (NISO) for 22 years.

After many years at Dordt, Duitman recently began looking for a new position. “I needed something that would really give me a drive every day to improve myself,” he said. “I would like to finish my career focusing much more on one top group, rather than four like I have, along with various courses that I teach.”

Duitman, who will direct the symphony orchestra, enrolls approximately 23,000 students, with 24 full-time and 40 adjunct faculty in the music department. “I really need the challenges and the focus,” said Duitman. “I’m leaving Dordt with wonderful feelings about the years I’ve spent here.”

Although Quest is not a Christian university, it is “obviously faith friendly,” said Warner. “It should present interesting different challenges. There are ways you can get across Christian principles without being forced to do it even within the confines of a secular institution.”

Hitchcock supported the founding of Dordt’s Presbyterian Student Fellowship club and helped the club coordinate a van to take students to the Presbyterian church in Hospers, where he and his family attend. He and his wife enjoy having students with the chance for students to participate in a letter drive for the Global Poverty Project.

Students do not realize the difference letter writing can make, Warner explained. She explained that organizing the letter writing campaign has helped her realize the impact of each individual on the global community. Dordt’s letters will be multiplied by churches and schools across the region that are sending similar letters to government officials.

Warner said the club’s goal is not to change the policy or agenda of the college or to condemn students for not getting involved. Instead, the club hopes to raise awareness, allow students to ask questions and see different perspectives.

“I like about Justice Awareness Week is just the different topics it allows students to engage in,” she said. Each topic will impact each student differently, Warner explained. Justice Week will hopefully provide students with the chance to see an issue they are passionate about and give them an opportunity to interact with both the local and global community.
From a Student Bored with Life

Dear fellow student,

Most of you know me—I'm a pretty normal guy. I attend most of my services. I'm a "thrill" student. I go to Dordt dances on occasion. If I'm not too hung over, I attend church Sunday. If I do make it to church, I try to go to GIFT or something like that.

The problem is that I am bored, I am bored. I would do anything to avoid it. So, I keep seeking new things to do. I would like to have a girlfriend and I go a little too far every once in a while. I check out porn online, nothing too harmful, I guess. I even started drinking more. I even tried marijuana once. I just don't want to be bored.

Sometimes I think that the problem is with lowa. There is nothing to do. I bet that the city would be pretty interesting. It must be having bored to live before television and the Internet. I'm not saying that Alena is a criminal, but I'm saying that maybe as students we need to show our administration that Alena is a criminal, and I'm saying that Alena is not a criminal, but I choose not to consume those images as I believe that consuming is a form of temptation.

All of us are sinners, and our problem is with Dutchness. I'm tired of wooden shoes, and I'm not sure that I would ever want to meet anyone from Sandi Alena some place. So, maybe a "no comment" to the administration's question would suffice in this case.

Furthermore, I don't think most students can understand the role of administration, simply because we have, on average, no management of a staff. But if we do have valuable input, we must think through and run our group of respected elders—perhaps our ideas have been tried before. Above all, we need to use our minds to analyze our idea while including an ounce of grace out Lord leaders are not perfectionists.

And so the most effective time to overhaul Dordt is now, but after we've a little older and wiser.

But when we are "sitting at the city gates" in 30 or 40 years, we need to remember our idealistic thoughts of our college days and see what the students say then (even the minority protesting our views).

If you are still not convinced, and still want to protest the changes across Dordt, then you are 52 and on the board, "valued," you remember your idealistic mindset of your college days. While some protests are quite necessary, I think our voice will be more effective when we get The Voice.

Dr. Daniel F. A. Hitchcock
Guest Writer

We all are familiar with the Sunday School song, "Oh be careful little eyes what you see; oh, be careful little mouth what you say; oh, be careful little feet where you go." My question is: is there any wisdom in that little song for us who graduated from preschool long ago?

A picture sure is worth a thousand words, in that picture both attitudes and behavior. If you doubt this conclusion, why are billions of dollars spent per year on advertising? People are looking at our behavior, and if we allow our children to see. As a man, given my own boredom, I try to avoid thinking about this too much. But, in the darkness, these thoughts find me anyway.

I think about death. Would death end this boredom? I'm scared of death. When I wake at the trumpet sound, I will be any less bored or will these thoughts plague me forever? That is the worst feeling: the feeling that I may never escape this boredom, that every day of this world will come to an end. That is the feeling that makes me seek more eternal life. If the new creation looks at all like this old one, it will be nothing short of hell for me to exist there for all time. Sincerely,

A. William

Christ-like Film Choices: from Dinner & Dialogue

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A. William
Senior engineers put education into practice

Ashlee Stallings
Staff Writer

For engineering majors like Amanda Arkema, the senior design projects are the "culmination of our engineering education." Five groups of seniors have been working on a variety of projects over the course of the entire school year.

Arkema is working with four other students on an aquaponics system. A combination of aquaculture and hydroponics, the system allows for both plants and fish to grow simultaneously.

Currently, Northwestern College has a similar system functioning in Moldova, a small country near Ukraine. The system helps feed the people there. Arkema's group is optimizing that system, working on technology that keeps the water clean and helps fish grow at the desired rate.

When the project is finished, the group will send its results to Northwestern so people there can use the information to improve their system in Moldova.

"Coming into [the project], I was really excited," Arkema said. "I enjoy serving others, so it is combining my major and my passion.

Daryl Visser is working on a project with his group that is helpful a little closer to home.

"It's a distillation column for an on-campus ethanol production system," Visser said. Simply put, he explains that there is a product pressed from the sorghum called sweet sorghum juice, which is fermented into a beer, ethanol and water mixture.

The column separates the ethanol and water mixture and turns it into usable ethanol.

Once the project is finished, it will be used for ethanol research, to determine if it is economically feasible to have a small system on a farm. Another group is working on the same production system, focusing on the fermentation process.

"I was looking forward to the design process," Visser said. "It was nice to do an actual application, rather than just theoretical designs."

The designing process is finished, the pieces for the project have been ordered, and many have arrived. "We basically have to construct it now," Visser said.

The construction will have to be finished by May 7, when all five of the projects will be featured in a presentation in S101.

Prairie/wetland project awarded $20,000 in state funds for native seeds

Luke Schut
Staff Writer

A grant from the Iowa Department of Transportation will allow the seeds of Dordt's new prairie and wetland to begin this summer.

"They awarded us $1000 an acre for seed," said Robert DeHaan, associate professor of Environmental Studies and member of the ad hoc committee in charge of the prairie project. "Sometime in May or June we intend to plant much of the prairie.

De Haan said the grant will cover approximately 80 percent of the estimated $1200 per-acre seed cost. The new prairie will be 20 acres of land south of Dordt's campus and will replace a quarter-acre prairie patch that was paved over when the Campus Center was constructed.

Six of the 20 acres will be devoted to a wetland. This will be a habitat for wildlife and will also serve as a retention pond to prevent campus runoff from flooding land further downstream.

After this summer's seeding, De Haan said, regular mowing will keep the prairie grasses between six and 18 inches for the first two years in order to allow the shorter plants to receive more sun and grow more quickly. The area will then likely be allowed to flower, giving it the appearance of a true prairie.

"It will look like a hayfield for the first two years," said De Haan.

De Haan also hopes that the prairie will attract certain species of mammals, insects and birds. Trees are being removed from the area to stop hawks from perching in them and scaring away some bird species.

The new prairie will be on 20 acres of land south of Dordt's campus. The prairie will be used by Dordt classes such as ecology and botany and will facilitate students' research projects. It will also be made available to local schools and the community.

A bike trail will also run through the 20 acres. The trail, a cooperative effort between Dordt and the city of Sioux Center, will start near the Harry and Gert Kuhl farm and will end at the soccer field.
Dordt Dances at Doc’s: a review of weekend parties

Micah Schuurman
Staff Writer

The beat pulsed through every bone in my body as I found myself in a sea of men and women dancing the night away. I had taken my first step into the world of Dordt Dances.

Dordt Dances are put on by Musical Edge DJ Services (www.iod.com), a company owned and operated by two Business Administration majors here at Dordt: Jeff (Kor) Meuzelaar and Jesse Veenstra, both from Pella, Iowa.

Jeff founded Musical Edge in 2001 and began to DJ parties at the age of 16. When he came to Dordt in 2004, he began to get involved with the dances by providing lighting. Over time, the duties of setting up the dances fell into his lap.

Over the years, Jeff has established a name for himself and his company. Jesse joined the company last year as a DJ and marketing assistant.

Operating a DJ company is a lucrative business, one that Jeff and Jesse plan to continue working in after graduation. While the schedule requires a lot of effort, many of the individuals on the floor I learned is that Dordt students. Yet, Jeff stated that only 15 percent of the company’s revenue comes from Dordt Dances. Most of their revenue comes from wedding receptions, school dances, private parties and corporate events. In fact, they have 60 events booked through 2009 with more expected, mostly weddings.

However, neither sees this as their main career. They plan on working as DJs for a few more years in Des Moines before moving on with other things.

Musical Edge is merely a stepping stone, giving them real life experience as they begin their athletic careers. Jeff and Jesse said with a grin, “I asked them how their business fit in with Kuyper’s language about social justice and the uncultivated parts of God’s creation. They both affirmed that Christ is Lord of all creation, including parties. After a look at the Bible, one sees that David danced naked in the streets, and Christ’s first miracle was turning water into wine. But Jeff replied, ‘The dances are not distinctly Christian’ and not distinctly neutral? Jeff and Jesse in creating that place? I think they are saying that all of those who are allowed to come in and party has no idea that we are doing anything wrong. We, as an institution, are terrible at partying. We have left parties as an option for people to provide a safe environment.

Doc’s is a lot safer than just any old place. There is a bouncer walking the floor throughout the night, attempting to ensure that all of those who are drinking are of age.

After my brief stint in the world of Dordt Dances, I have decided to leave the partying to the partiers. It never was my kind of thing anyway.

Dordt gets a campus-wide facelift by 2009

Jamin Hubner
Staff Writer

Construction plans are underway for Dordt’s campus that will begin as early as this May.

Arian Nederhoff, the Vice President of Business Affairs, detailed these plans in a recent interview with the Diamond. The plans, first approved in 2004, include changes to the classroom building, the science building, East Campus apartments and the Commons.

While the schedule remains somewhat tentative, the majority of the following plans should be completed within a span of about three to four years in the future.

The earliest changes will take place in the classroom building, beginning in May and being completed in the fall of 2009. The plans will mostly affect the Art and Education departments.

The Education pod, located on the second story, will be a new home above the current entrance and a new brand new second floor. Several of the rooms currently on the second floor will be modified for more appropriate class sizes.

Additionally, C160 will feature a partitioning wall. Jim Bos, the registrar, had revealed that there is a greater need for 40-60 person classrooms than large lecture halls. A partitioning wall will effectively allow the room to be split in half for smaller classes and opened up for larger ones.

The Art Department will gain a painting, sculpture and print-making room in a new addition on the southern side of the classroom building (south of the art gallery). The old labs will be refitted for classroom use or other needs if there may be.

At the same time, the Commons will undergo a major remodeling and the East Campus apartments will most likely be replaced in chunks beginning in fall of 2008. If all goes well, by 2009 all of East Campus will be replaced with new housing units similar to Southview.
Seniors refine their theatrical style

Nathan Smith
Editor

This month the Dordt College Theatre department will produce three plays of wide theatrical variety. The three "senior shows" feature the acting and directing of three seniors, and for the first time are all produced by one senior theatre management major, T.J. Lagestee.

On Apr. 3-5, Jonathan Shaffstall will perform Becky Mode's one-man comedy "Fully Committed." The play is unusual and challenging, as Shaffstall will be playing nearly 40 characters. The main character of the play, Sam, works in the basement of an upscale French restaurant in New York. Shaffstall also portrays the numerous characters that phone into the restaurant to make reservations, such as the old Mrs. Vandevene, whose quivering voice Shaffstall easily slid into during our interview.

"The large number of characters is an acting challenge that requires great flexibility but is a challenge Shaffstall enjoys. "I want people to be entertained," he said, "but I hope they realize how difficult it is."

Fellow theatre major Justine Moelker did a production of a show of her own, said that in light of the heaviness of this year's theatre productions, comedy like Shaffstall's "is almost needed."

Moelker's show, David Auburn's "Proof," will showcase on Apr. 16,17 and 19. In her show, she plays the lead of Catherine who is coping with the death of her mathematician father who had slowly gone insane and died. Three other actors and actresses play supporting roles as family and friends.

Moelker said she finds the task of both acting and directing is complex. "There's so much more to think about," said Moelker, "but I feel prepared to do it."

Shaffstall, who has read the script for "Proof," said he thinks that Moelker and company will be able to do a wonderful job of acting the multi-dimensional play, and that "the play itself is so well-written."

Moelker said that these productions allow her and the other seniors to "find their style, and work on it" - an important process to do at the end of an undergraduate career.

Melissa Schans will give the final senior show of the year on Apr. 24-26. The play, which she has entitled "The Women of Greece," is her composition of scenes from four Greek plays: "Antigone," "Lysistrata," "Iphigenia" and "Medea."

Schans worked on cutting and compiling these scenes over the past summer and part of the school year. She was inspired by the impressive "Medea," which she felt was too long to perform in entirety. Instead she decided to use fragments from four Greek plays to emphasize different strengths of women.

Her show also emphasizes drawing the audience into Greek culture and even includes original music composed for her production by Hollywood composers who wrote music for the films "Troy" and "300."

She said she wants the audience to feel like they're "coming into a new world when they enter the coincidentally named New World Theatre." Schans' play includes violence and sexual guile that may make some uncomfortable, but those under 12 will not be admitted.

Schans also had to deal with several directing difficulties. "It's challenging to have to watch actors and be taking care of myself at the same time," she said, and also related the difficulties of having to replace actors who dropped out of participation in her production.

Each of the three plays is produced by Lagestee. His "triple-play" producing role is atypical for the department, but is not surprising because he is the first theatre management major to come out of the theatre department.

Producing a play entails mainly fund raising the play and securing the rights to perform it publicly. In the "real world," his tasks are usually accomplished by many different people.

Lagestee spends a lot of his time coordinating the groups of people that make the productions possible, and he will be the person selling you a ticket at the theatre door. "I enjoy being behind the scenes," said Lagestee. "I like organizing and making sure that all elements of the shows come together and that people are keeping on task," he added.

Like the three seniors directing the plays, he finds producing the plays to be hectic, especially keeping the elements of the shows separate from each other.

But he said he has learned to "keep things relatively straight."

Lagestee said he feels confident that the three directors could have pulled off their plays without him, but he feels he "made the whole process a little easier for them."

All four seniors said that community members should come to see the shows because they and the other participants have put tremendous work and effort into the productions.

The Theatre Arts program does not require seniors to stage these shows, and all four seniors feel quite strongly about the amount of work they have been doing. "The three shows will be done well, and they're so different," said Shaffstall.

On the difference and importance of the plays, all four agreed. "Every story has something to say about being human," said Lagestee. "If there was ever a time to enjoy a variety of theatre in a short time, this is the opportunity."

The shows all begin at 7:30 p.m. in the New World Theatre on their respective nights.

Choir festival boasts 12 choirs, Russian lyrics

Bree Wierenga
Staff Writer

On Friday, April 11, Dordt's Music Department, led by Dr. Benjamin Kornelis, will host the High School Choral Festival in the B.J. Haan Auditorium and the De Witt Gymnasium. The Festival, held every even spring semester, gathers all the Dordt choirs along with many nearby Christian high school choirs to perform on an individual and cooperative basis. The Festival runs all day, with choir performances starting at 7 p.m.

Since 1996, Kornelis has headed the Festival by choosing the repertoire and organizing the events of the day. "There are lots of really positive things about the Festival," Kornelis said. For example, he works with each high school choir individually during the day to make them feel more confident about their performance. He also prepares all the choirs (including Dordt's) to sing a few selections together at the end of the day in the De Witt Gym. "Experiencing the massed choir is musically overwhelming," he said.

This year's competition will be held at the end of the Festival, and the choirs will have to choose a song that is Russian in language. "The affect of the music will include "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" and the Russian folk song "Part vui buhul ka."

Audiences have something exciting to look forward to: "Listening to 700 plus people trying to sing Russian really fast," said Kornelis. "I don't know what I was thinking."

Choir director Randy Bliek will include a number of Russian songs in the festival, including "Alyoshka" and "Khovanshchina." The festival will be held at 3 p.m. in the De Witt Gymnasium.

Cartoon by Nate Gibson
Will Smith vs. the zombies: "I Am Legend" comes to DVD

Joel Veldkamp
Staff Writer

For those who missed it in theaters, the recent DVD release of "I Am Legend" gives movie-watchers the chance to check out a powerful entry to the zombie/sci-fi/end-of-the-world genre. Directed by Francis Lawrence, "I Am Legend" set a record-breaking box office debut last December, and for good reason. In terms of acting, cinematography and suspense, this thriller does not disappoint.

"I Am Legend" is the third film adaptation of a 1954 novel by Richard Matheson. Will Smith stars as Dr. Robert Neville, the lone human resident of Manhattan Island in the year 2017.

By day, he roams the abandoned streets of New York with his dog Sam, hunting deer, growing crops and scavenging supplies from empty houses. At night, he turns out the lights and shutters up his house, because at night, the zombies come out.

In a series of very effective (and scary) flashbacks, we learn that the majority of the human race has been turned into light-phantom zombies by a plague that started out as a cure for cancer. Neville was the head of the military's effort to find a cure for the plague. He was also one of the few human beings with a natural immunity. For three years, he has lived alone, still trying to find the cure.

In almost every way, "I Am Legend" is fantastic. For the majority of the film, Will Smith is the only actor on screen, and he handles the role magnificently. The sweeping shots of a desolate New York City are breathtaking, and the first two acts of the film deliver plenty of pulse-pounding moments.

"I Am Legend" has all the makings of a sci-fi epic. But it's not quite perfect. Two things hold it back: poor CGI and the ending.

Ideally, movie zombies are supposed to create feelings of terror. The entirely computer-generated zombies of "I Am Legend" do not. They're effective in quick, blurring moments, but several of the film's most important moments require Will Smith to get up close and personal with the zombies, and they simply do not impress.

As for the ending, it's not that it doesn't make sense. It just doesn't match the buildup. The final act feels thrown-on. In short, it tries to be M. Night Shyamalan's "Signs" - and doesn't quite succeed. (The two-disc DVD release contains an alternate ending which is actually a moderate improvement on the theatrical ending.)

Still, for anyone remotely interested in the genre, this is a film to see. Its flaws are far outweighed by its tri- umphs, and it will bore no one. "I Am Legend" doesn't have to be perfect to get its viewers to cheer on Will Smith in the timeless battle against the undead.

Vegetarians? Maybe not so scary after all

Alvin Shim
Staff Writer

Kim Deelstra has deep, brown eyes, similarly brown hair and moves about in a collected, delicate way, as if she were the type of person that knits or bakes in her spare time (she does both). She'll graduate this spring with a degree in Chemistry and a minor in Missions & Evangelism because someday, hopefully, she'll move to Africa as a physician and treat HIV/AIDS patients.

She first went to Africa in the summer of 2006 to work with Africa Inland Missions (AIM) in Namibia, and that is the last time she intentionally ate meat - Oxys, a wild antelope that often uses its horns to kill lions and is a popular game trophy, adorning the walls of distinguished hunters, clad in khaki, all over the world.

Kim is a vegetarian. I thought she was strange for that.

I sat down with Kim a few nights ago to discuss how meat can taste so good but can seem so horrible, where fruits like mangos and bananas come from, and why anybody would order a dish called Chicken and Broccoli and then ask to hold the broccoli.

We also discussed everything she ate that day - granola for breakfast that she made with dates, flax seeds, sunflower seeds and walnuts; a veggie burrito with brown rice and garbanzo beans for lunch; for dinner, because her fiancé (Kris Walhof) wasn't around, she settled for a cheesy omelet (two egg whites, one yolk) with toast. No meat, but also not the diet for a strict vegan. Also note the lack of pills or other supplements, protein, calcium or otherwise.

During the first semester of her sophomore year, Kim worked at a local restaurant where she observed the proper and legal handling of enormous piles of meat - mountains of raw chicken and piles of bloody beef that Sioux Center would plow through with every meal. It wasn't just that she would clear plates with tire vegetables portions untouched, but that no plate would be clean and the rest of the meal (precious meat, stinky vegetables and all) would go to the trash while more boxes of animal carcasses were prepared for the next rush.

At this point in the story, Kim crinkled her nose and said, "It changes your mentality, you know?" She stopped eating meat there and started thinking more about food - what it is and where it comes from - shortly afterwards.

"The other day I really wanted some nectarines at the store, but it's March and where are they coming from? Chile! So I couldn't get them." Mangos and bananas are both tropical fruits that magically appear in grocery stores in the Midwest (from almost every continent except North America). "When you start thinking about the fossil fuels it costs to bring them here and try to imagine the laborers that picked them to be sent here, I mean, it's not very stewartly."

I had thought we would spend the night throwing speculations about the meat industry around - what free-range or organically raised actually means - but, instead, we contemplated food consciousness in general. The fruits sprayed with preservatives and shipped from South Asia, the microwave popcorn that trial vegetarians would eat for an entire week and efforts to be conscious about what we eat.

Kim is a vegetarian, but she "doesn't want everybody to become a vegetarian." She isn't a vegetarian because she feels guilty for killing the animals (she makes chicken for Kris and he has to eat it) or because it's somehow more convenient (she stresses out because she doesn't want to inconvenience friends or hosts when they eat out together).

She is a vegetarian, and makes an effort to stay one, because she honestly believes it is better. Not that she is hostile to the idea of meat, but thinks that the idea of meat should be more like "a butcher preparing an animal specifically for a family, so the steak doesn't become an item to be bought like a pair of jeans, but is acknowledged as food.


Formation for Ministry is the integrating principle of education at Calvin Theological Seminary. Our goal is to be a community in which, by the Spirit of God and through many activities and relationships, Christ forms students into his likeness and prepares them for ministry. Their ministry will, in turn, involve them in forming others into Christ's likeness.
Coaches at work: the art of recruiting

Amanda Henke
Cheryl Hiemstra
Staff Writers

Head Coach John Heavner explained that this year would be the hardest for football recruiting. Despite a few players who left, he said, "It was better than I expected. We only lost one player during the season. That's unheard of." Heavner mentioned it was too early to judge retention of the football program: "In five years if we have retention, we'll have a good football program."

He added that a factor in retention involves everyone in the community. However, there are many factors that are out of a community's control and out of the football program's control. Finding recruits that fit Dordt's criteria is quite a challenge, said Heavner. "I get 10-15 e-mail requests for more information about the program per day," Heavner said. He first looks on their application to see if they have a church affiliation and then what their academics look like.

Junior wide receiver Ryan Campbell of Fort Worth, TX, helped out with the recruiting process. He said that what attracts players to Dordt is that they have a chance to "build a legacy." He added, "We're here to leave them a team with the reputation of being the little dog that fights.

He mentioned that northwest Iowa looks on football different from the South. "When I was in elementary school we got an inch of snow on the ground. The principal cancelled school and told us to go outside and play football," he added. "We would play in front of 60,000 folks at our State games."

But for area Christian high schools like Unity and Western Christian, State means nets, a hardwood floor and tennis shoes. Around here, fans at the State tournament are watching bunks, sets and spikes in the fall. And after Christmas, they are back to watch assists, lay-ups, jump shots. Area Christian school athletes haven't been trained to think football because, until recently, they didn't even have a team. For Dordt volleyball and basketball teams, the idea of building a legacy started over 50 years ago.

With the football program in its first year, Heavner doesn't have the luxury of having the number of experienced recruits in the area like basketball and volleyball coaches Tom Van Den Bosch and Greg Van Soelen. However, both point out they never assume someone is coming, whether a recruit lives 10 miles or over 10 hours away. "You try to say what you can as many times as you can," said Van Soelen, "but in the end it's in the players hands. It's their decision."

One of their biggest focuses is getting recruits on campus. "A normal recruit day is similar to a regular visit day," says Van Soelen. After seeing the campus, potential players meet with the coaches and may watch or join in on a practice with the team. Each year, both volleyball and basketball look to add about 10-12 freshmen, though many more are usually interested.

Tuition costs factor into the decision, and both Van Den Bosch and Van Soelen admit it is hard sometimes to convince young athletes who could get bigger scholarship packages from bigger schools to come play for Dordt.

Regardless of the challenges and time commitment, the coaches agree that recruiting is enjoyable. "You get to meet a lot of interesting kids and their families," said Van Den Bosch. And fortunately for all coaches, a majority of those kids come. They walk to the classroom building, eat at the commons, go to practice and, on game night, put on their Dordt jersey.

And when it comes to taking the jersey off for the last time, most Dordt athletes have gained more than playing time here; they've received a solid Christian education, just like they were told when they were a fresh recruit.

Kari Van Beek, a senior at Western Christian High School, is officially recruited for track and volleyball by Tom Van Den Bosch. Photo courtesy of DENS.

Long Island 2008

Blades finish 13 out of 32 in the national tournament

Jesse Veenstra
Staff Writer

Some will say that the "Dordt Blades" motto of "Living the Dream" of going to Nationals became a reality this season. After cutting through the qualification process, the Blades entered the ACHA Division III national tournament over spring break with a lot of confidence.

The Blades drew Central Florida in the first round on March 12. After a slow start, Dordt came charging back to tie the score at 3-3 before heading into overtime and a shootout. Unfortunately the Blades fell by two goals in the intense shootout to drop their opening game in the tournament.

"I think we proved we belong," - Coach Nate van Niejenhuis

Dordt had to try to bounce back in their second game against Saginaw Valley State, who had also lost their first-round game. Dordt jumped out to an early lead, but Saginaw put up four straight goals to take a commanding 4-1 lead in the game and rolled to a 6-2 victory over the Blades. Dordt bounced back on March 14 with a hard-fought 5-4 victory over Fairfield University.

The Blades were able to withstand an onslaught of shots late to secure the first-ever national tournament win for the program. In Dordt's final game, and fourth in four days, Dordt faced off against Florida Gulf Coast. The Blades secured a 4-2 victory and finished the tournament in 13th place (out of 32).

The final two games of the year showed the extent of Dordt's ability and desire. Blades coach Nate van Niejenhuis said, "To bounce back after losing a team in the first round on a shootout that made the semifinals and then go 2-2 for the week in our first trip here—I think we proved we belong."

Junior Jared Remple claimed first-team All-American honors, as well as first-team All-Pacific region and academic All-American honors. Sophomore Todd Bakker received second-team All-Pacific region honors, as he led the team with 46 goals. Bakker led the Blades on a mission of scoring and ranked second in goals and seventh in assists with 42. The Blades finished the season with a 24-0 record and a 2-2 record in the national tournament.

Dordt Sport Report: Jeanetta Gronendyk

Year: Senior
Hometown: Downs, Kansas
Major: Psychology
Events: Hurdles, 200-meter dash and 4x1 relay
Who has been one of your athletic role models? Steve Prefontaine, of course. Who runner doesn’t idolize him?
Does the track team have any unique traditions? We like to slow clap a lot.
Pre-game meal? My pre-game meal usually consists of spaghetti and garlic bread, and ever since junior high my parents always brought me strawberries, red licorice and trail mix to eat between events. It’s a tradition that I still keep.

What are some personal goals you have for the remainder of the season? I want to (get at) personal record in the 100-meter hurdles—I’m shooting for a 15.4. I think it’s definitely within reach.

What are your plans post-graduation? I plan on going to the University of Iowa for my master’s in social work.

"Coach Heynen dance[d] to Flo-Rider’s “Low” and then SouJa Boy...he tried to do the worm, but it didn’t work."

What has been one of your greatest memories in your four years on the track team? Actively being a part of Coach Heymen’s practice just made a top memory. I watched Coach Heynen dance to Flo-Rider’s “Low” and then SouJa Boy.

And then he tried to do the worm, and it didn’t work. It was awesome!

Compiled by Alanna Duke