Justice Week raises campus awareness

Jacob Kroeze
Staff Writer

During the week of April 9, Justice Matters hosted Justice Week by manning a letter-writing campaign tent, sharing Blood Diamond with the campus, fasting with fellow students and praying for 24 hours. The club also sponsored a discussion with Paul Kortenhoven about Sierra Leone and "blood diamonds," a presentation of exit strategies for the war in Iraq, a talk with Jason Fileta of the Micah Challenge and a presentation by Wrede Vogel of the Luke Society. These activities encouraged the campus to think and act on justice issues.

The letter-writing campaign was held in a large white tent just outside of the classroom building. The sample form letter students were given explained facts about the sex trade, including the alarming percentage of sex trafficking that is caused by American citizens (80 percent in Central America). Students and professors wrote over 1,500 letters throughout the week. Along with writing letters to their Congressperson, students were treated to hot coffee on the cold days and free notebooks. The notebooks, a project developed by the club, are bound by Dordt's print shop and are made of recycled cardboard and paper.

A discussion hosted by Professor Schelhaas was also part of Justice Week. The discussion focused on three exit strategies presented by Donald Roth, Elaine Hannink and Nathan Smith. One of the strategies is to continue with President Bush's plan of a troop surge, another is to divide the country into three provinces with a loose central government and the third is to withdraw troops to free up funds that can be used to rebuild the country.

After a week of advocating for justice, the club culminated the week's activities by enjoying the outdoors and removing litter from the campus. The members of Justice Matters strive to continue discussion and action on justice throughout the year with the entire campus. Look forward to topics such as "Invisible Children" and a Bread for the World advocacy workshop. Questions can be sent to justicematters@dordt.edu.

Ideafest displays student creativity

Alli Hagey
Staff Writer

Have you written a great research paper that you wish could get some recognition beyond that of your professors? Maybe you’ve designed an impressive project for an engineering class that you’re just dying to show off. Either way, your chance to show off your academic ingenuity will come at Ideafest 2007.

Ideafest, coordinated by Dr. Fessler, began in 2003 as a way for students to share their research and hard work with the community instead of just one department. While Ideafest can be a wonderful experience and great résumé-booster for students who participate, that is not the ultimate goal of the event. The event began as a chance for the Dordt community to share and learn from student work.

Dr. Fessler strongly encourages students to apply for Ideafest. It is not just for seniors — any student may apply. The work also doesn’t have to be done this past semester but can be any type of academic study or project that students want to share. The deadline for applications is April 19, but Dr. Fessler will take submissions until Friday afternoon. The process is relatively painless — presentations are limited to 10 minute time slots including five minutes for questions. The style is also flexible. In the past, students have displayed poster exhibits and answered questions or presented papers with question and answer periods following.

Ideafest will take place on May 3 from 3:00-5:30 p.m. in the Campus Center. The schedule of presentations will be posted with creative Schoolhouse Rock posters approximately one week beforehand. Come to learn what other students have been doing all year and to support your friends, and stay for free pizza as well as coffee from the Humble Bean.

The event is informal, and visitors may come and go from exhibits as they please. So take a break from your studies to see what others have been studying all these years. Plus, why would you turn down free pizza?
New developments in Darfur genocide

Joel Veldkamp
Staff Writer

The conflict in the Darfur region of Sudan has seen some new developments in recent weeks. As U.S. diplomats continue to accuse Sudan's government of perpetuating the genocide, the prospect of a new anti-government alliance among the tribes of Darfur suggest that a new phase in the war is about to begin.

The Darfur conflict, which has been ongoing since 2003, has claimed anywhere from 200,000 to 400,000 lives, and created two and half million refugees. The war began when a collection of non-Arab tribes in Darfur known as the Sudan Liberation Army attacked government security forces in Darfur. The government responded by launching a fierce campaign of extermination against the non-Arab tribes of Darfur, using Arab fighters (called the "Janjaweed") to wage their war. The government has repeatedly denied supporting the Janjaweed militias, a claim that the U.S. government and most international human rights organizations reject.

In the neighboring nation of Chad, the leaders of two prominent rebel groups in Darfur met recently to discuss the possibility of an alliance against Sudan's Islamic government. Adam Shogar, a commander from the non-Arab Sudan Liberation Army, the group that began the war four years ago, met with the leader of an Arab rebel group in Darfur, and declared, "We are brothers for Darfur. We are in the same struggle for our rights."

If the Arab and non-Arab tribes of Darfur unify against the government and its militias, it could signal a huge change in the conflict. Alex de Waal, a scholar at the London research institutes Africa, says that such a move would result in a "decisive switch in the balance of power. Should they shift against the government, then the government is in big trouble."

Perhaps that is why the government is beginning to cave in to UN demands. For months, the Sudanese government has refused to let UN peacekeepers into Darfur to aid the hopelessly outstretched African Union force there. (The AU has sent just 7,000 troops to patrol a region the size of Texas.) On Monday, Sudan's government agreed to let UN attack helicopters into Darfur to help the African Union forces protect the population. However, Sudan is still refusing to let in peacekeepers from non-African countries. The UN's three-phase plan for Darfur calls for the deployment of 20,000 international peacekeepers to the region.

Speaking in the Sudanese capital of Khartoum, John Negroponte, the U.S. deputy secretary of state, once again accused the Sudanese government of supporting the murderous Janjaweed militias. "The government of Sudan must disarm the Janjaweed, the Arab militia that we all know could not exist without the Sudanese government's active support," he said. Negroponte also accused Sudan of obstructing humanitarian efforts in Darfur.

The outcome of the Darfur war is far from certain, and most likely a time before they are forced to end their genocide.

Campfires build bonds behind BJ Haan

Grace Venhuizen
Staff Writer

Bonfire? Isn't that short for "bonding-fire"? Well, it should be.

Gray smoke floats toward the star studded navy blue sky as the aroma of burnt marshmallows hangs in the air. Laughter occasionally punctures the conversations about college life - next semester's residence arrangements, class schedules, and year-end projects.

Dordt College provides this atmosphere for its students by giving them the essentials to produce a perfect bonfire: a cement pit behind the BJ Haan Auditorium, benches circled around the pit to create a community atmosphere and thick logs to feed the flames. The only things Dordt doesn't provide are the matches, marshmallows and friends.

The sad reality of the Dordt bonfire pit, however, is that it is under-utilized. A junior Dordt student says that she has never used the pit in her years of college and neither have any of her roommates. Sadly, this seems to be the norm with a majority of the student population.

"Friends bond around the flames; the pit provides a comfortable atmosphere to meet new people or catch up with friends. The fire creates a feeling of casualness; jeans and sweatshirts are the attire and people come to laugh and relax."

The entire vibe of the bonfire is simplicity - good food, good friends and good stories. What better way to spend an evening? The circular cement pit behind the BJ Haan stands to do battle with the common complaint on campus of having no entertainment in this small Iowa town.

That pit stands up to the confessional criticisms proving that fun can be found without being surrounded by the skyscrapers of a big city. Bonfires really can be "bonding-fires," so if it seems like an evening's going nowhere - no dance parties are scheduled in East Campus and the restaurants are closed because it's after 10 p.m. - round up the friends and marshmallows and hit the cement pit behind the BJ Haan.
His hands and feet in an amputated culture

Bridget Smith
Staff Writer

"True religion will not let us fall asleep in the comfort of our freedom." - Bono

Our culture – our world – is hurting. In Romans 8:22 we read, “For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together.” As Christians, we have this foundational knowledge of a groaning earth. But seeing the hurt goes beyond the knowledge, knowledge must lead us to conviction.

The hurt is manifest in visible ways all around us. Poverty surrounds us, AIDS/HIV pervades the lives – the lifestyles – of many, and people have lost God – lost a knowledge of Him, His will, His face. Indeed, some have never heard the Gospel.

The culture of America is hurting. My friend Mandi summarized the problem this way, “I think a three word motto for North America today would be: Create, Consume, and Carry-on.” This is our way of life – to carry-on.

Yes, we see the injustice occurring. Yes, we are moved. But we are moved for only a moment. Not moved enough to do anything.

Maybe we don’t know how or think we don’t know how. I used to think getting involved was a big deal. Getting involved took time – time I didn’t have. I was already overwhelmed by what organization to support or how to support it, and I thought I had to be equipped with something more than I had. With what? More knowledge? More time? More money? I don’t know – just something. Maybe I was one among many who feel that way.

Christ’s own words and life exemplify how we should serve. We are called to help “the fatherless and the widow.” Reverend Roets, Cornerstone URC, explains “We didn’t come to this world naturally, desiring to serve.” But servanthood is “A gift of grace – from grace.”

Servanthood is difficult because it often means giving up things we are more inclined to do. But the need is great, and the reward (not simply in our eternal life, but in the lives of those we serve) is everlasting.

Focusing on our own needs and desires is especially easy in college. We’re supposed to be looking out for our grades and for our own provisions. We can even forget the people in our immediate surroundings. We forget even more about those outside the “Dordt bubble.”

We lose sight of what life really is. Life is made up of serving others. Servitude is not an interruption to our day. Rather, servitude is a manifestation of our belief in Christ. We don’t usually find who we are when we look at ourselves, but when we turn to Him as His servants.

The chance to serve comes in simple ways. Service starts with awareness. I have been amazed that simply getting the word out about issues has begun movements. I have seen this working both in myself and in the larger community.

I watch documentaries like Invisible Children and see three young men who set out just to let the world know the truth have made a difference. They have started schools, given children mentors, and voiced the cries of thousands of Ugandans.

We tend to think the actions of one man can’t make a difference, but examples show otherwise. We are called to take up the cross as Christ and imitate the actions of one man – Christ. Reverend Roets describes servanthood as “A gift of grace – from grace.”

Let us serve with boldness in this world. May we not ignore the more than 200,000 killed in Darfur, the hungry mouths of people around the world, the sexual slavery of millions of children, the brutalities, and the hungry souls. May we remember that God calls us to serve others – our hands are not our own, our feet are not our own. May He will our hands to perform His work, and may He quicken our feet to follow His path.

We must move beyond the surface knowledge of a groaning earth, and move to conviction.

My beef with Dr. James Dobson

Micah Schuurman
Staff Writer

A few days prior to the election last November, my parents received a letter from Focus on the Family signed by James Dobson. The purpose of the letter was to remind voters of the threat posed by militant Islam. Dobson reminded his readers that radical Islam is a danger to our Western Christianity.

Dobson’s influence over the church has grown. Dobson used his position as a leader to great effect in the failed re-election bid of Tom Daschle and in George Bush’s overall victory in 2004. Why is he getting so heavily involved in politics? Is Dobson an expert in political thought?

While we are questioning credentials, has he ever attended seminary? Or the going to his knees regarding Islam, has he spent a significant amount of time getting to know real Muslims? No, no and no.

Dobson is simply a clinical psychologist who is very good at what he does when he sticks to what he understands. However, this is only one part of my problem with Dobson. What makes me more uncomfortable is the manner in which he has conducted himself as a leader in the Church. There seem to be only two sins in Dobson’s Bible that are worth mentioning: homosexuality and abortion.

Last month, Dobson signed a letter along with many other leaders in the Church that read, “[Some] are using the global warming controversy to shift the emphasis away from the great moral issues of our time, notably the sanctity of human life, the integrity of marriage and the teaching of sexual abstinence and morality to our children.”

As Christians, we need to care about the sanctity of marriage. We need to care about the right to life. Such things are biblical and Christians need to care about the Bible. But, caring about the Bible also involves caring about creation and the poor.

Ask Alvin:

How is it possible to be selfless? Can you ever really do anything good without thinking of yourself first? Even if I do something truly really good, I just do it in order to make people like me. Seriously, the whole purpose I am at school (the real reason I mean) is to impress girls.

Thanks,
Me

Dear Drama major,

Think about the last effort you made for someone else’s benefit. Did you honestly go pull your friend out of the ditch so that YOU could pull him out of the ditch? Or did you go pull your friend out of the ditch because it was cold and he was stranded in rural Iowa, at night, with three feet of snow surrounding his slanted car, miles and miles away from semi-civilization? You pulled him out because, even if he wasn’t your friend according to your definition of friendship, he’s a human being. More than that, YOU’re a human being and you acted accordingly.

If you answered yes to my first question, then disregard the above paragraph.

How is it possible to be selfless? There are a few ways to go about this question. As a Calvinist, there’s only the faintest whiff of joke when I say that there is no good person.

But what about when you hold open the door to the classroom building for that girl that you’ve never seen before? You’re not thinking of the small she’ll give you, maybe even her saying, “Thanks.” And she’s not going to run to her friends and point you out. Unless you consciously thought about what you were going to get for the act of holding open a door on your way to class, then that, sir, was a selfless act.

Another way that you might consider selfless is to act with humble and exciting secrecy! Cut out letters of a magazine and drop an encouragingly freaky note through someone’s door… at night… in a ski mask. The point is, don’t let them know and feign ignorance if they tell you about it. Especially if they do think it’s creepy and call Ken Boersma. Then seriously feign ignorance. You never wrote me.

- Shim
Dordt community bids farewell to Sam Gutierrez

Sam Gutierrez, Resident Director of North Hall for the past several years, will be heading to Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Mich., next year to earn his Masters of Divinity. After taking a break, Gutierrez feels that the timing is right to leave Dordt.

"I've been thinking about going to seminary ever since I graduated from Dordt in 2000. It has just taken me a while to get there," says Gutierrez. "I chose Western because when I visited, it just felt 'right.' It was an intuition thing. I have no idea how this will help me, or what pathways this experience will lead me down, but I know that God will make a way for me. He always has."

Gutierrez does not know who will replace him, but he does know he will miss Dordt. "I will miss the people, of course. I will also miss the environment. I'm the kind of person who has a lot of different interests. And working on a college campus has allowed me to get my hands dirty in a lot of different areas... I will miss all the interesting ideas and conversations happening all the time. I will also miss North Hall. Some people think that it smells like nasty barf, but I think it smells lovely. Like MEAT! And that, ladies... is a sweet, sweet smell!"

Does he plan on coming back? Gutierrez says, "Not really. But nothing is for sure. Who knows, maybe someday, I will come back and be Lord Chancellor. What does that mean? I have no idea. But it sounds cool."

Ruth Harthoorn Kocisko

Before she came to Dordt, Kocisko was a lawyer. She told her juvenile clients that "education is never wasted." She hopes that even though Dordt administration has downsized the Criminal Justice program, her students can still use the knowledge they learned in her classes.

Although she feels Dordt fulfills education through a "stimulating intellectual environment," she also feels that "Dordt wants to be so emphatic in criticism that they don't encourage gifts." So she tried to build an "affirming community."

"Just because a student receives a D on a test doesn't mean that they are without gifts," explains Kocisko. "Even faculty that are being let go have gifts," she parallels. Teaching was stressful for her because she says professors are "expected to be brilliant, inspirational, and organized to a 'T.'"

Kocisko has also been working on her master's degree from Boston University online over the past three years. She plans to walk across the stage for graduation on May 20. After graduation she wants to take a long vacation and "write a novel and go to the gym to lose the thirty pounds I've gained from Dordt." Kocisko, a widow, hopes to spend more time with her two sons during the summer.

Matthew Stutz

"I would have liked to stay," says Stutz. Dordt is cutting a position in the Environmental Studies program, and with it, Stutz. Dordt was his first teaching job, where he thought of himself as a freshman — "someone who hasn't thought about faith and learning." He says he has learned a lot from students and faculty in the past four years at Dordt.

"I've been humbled a lot," he says, especially during evaluations at the end of terms and also when students share their knowledge during class. He said many people were willing to help him and give him advice, even when teaching was challenging. Stutz did not attend a Christian school before coming to Dordt, so he learned about how to articulate his Christian beliefs into a teaching philosophy. He also learned at Dordt to appreciate the Midwestern prairies as a "critical part of God's creation."

Stutz came to know new people as well as new academic concepts. He participated on a PLIA trip — "a great experience where I could just contribute. I didn't lead or anything."

Stutz says he will miss a lot of things about Sioux Center as he and his family may be moving away from the prairies in search of a new job.

Q: What should happen to Cowboy cheese in the last strip?

Mike Bylisma: "He should go into the ministry. It would be ironic."

Jen Vargas: "He should go live happily ever after with Miss Swiss Cheese."
several faculty and staff members

Lorna Van Gilst

After 20 years at Dordt College of teaching, editing, and critiquing all things grammatical, Professor Lorna Van Gilst has decided to retire. The English and Journalism professor will be leaving Dordt at the end of the semester. She has taught many students in courses ranging from English 101 to English grammar during her time at Dordt.

Professor Van Gilst has served Dordt's student body beyond the classroom. As the Dordt Diamond's faculty sponsor for over fifteen years, she has spent a great deal of her free time each week working with the Diamond staff. She also worked on the Signet for eight years and has been the coordinator of the Purple Martin Writing Contest for almost 10 years.

Outside of Dordt's campus, one of her most rewarding pursuits has been teaching English to local Hispanics and Asian-Americans at Amistad Cristiana for the last nine years. Her diligence and hard work with the program has allowed her students to get involved with teaching ESL at Amistad Cristiana as well.

"Teaching English as a second language is quite different from teaching at college," Van Gilst commented. "In some ways it is like journalism because we are teaching others to communicate. I've enjoyed watching the students learn and grow in their knowledge of the language."

Although Professor Van Gilst is not entirely sure about what she would like to do after retiring from Dordt, she has been exploring possibilities of working outside of the United States. "I would like to volunteer as a teacher in Latin America," she stated. She also expects to eventually move to California to be nearer to her family.

When asked what she has enjoyed most about her time at Dordt, Professor Van Gilst replied, "I enjoy nudging students to write better and encouraging them to do the best they can." Her advice to struggling writers of all kinds: "Don't give up on the first draft. Keep revising and rewriting your work as much as you can."

Marvin Wielard

Professor Marvin Wielard is retiring from teaching after 22 years at Dordt. Wielard, who teaches computer science and math courses, came to Dordt in 1985 after 21 years in Miami, Fla. He first taught high school Latin and English, but it wasn't long before he began teaching math and later some programming classes.

One of the most rewarding parts of teaching, Wielard says, is "having students really apply themselves." He says he loves to see how students respond to different circumstances and problems.

Although Wielard and his wife Sharyl, who recently retired from the ASK Center, won't just sit back and relax in the next few years, they aren't in any hurry to figure out their next move: "We're going to take the first year to decide what we want to do," Wielard says.

Wielard hopes to continue programming at least part-time and would like to visit his sons and do some volunteer work.

Syne Altena

Professor Syne Altena has been teaching at Dordt for 39 years. But this year, he'll be retiring from his work in the HPER department.

Altena has taught at Dordt for all but five years of his career, which he spent teaching at Northern Michigan Christian High School.

Altena says that he has enjoyed being able to work with students on projects. "I really see learning taking place with the hands-on service projects," he says.

As far as the future goes, Altena is excited. "I'm not really retiring," Altena says, "I'm looking forward to a different future."

Altena hopes to "travel and do things I haven't been able to do for 44 years." He also wants to work at discovering what God has in mind for him for the next few years.

The Dordt Diamond would also like to note several other full-time faculty members who will be leaving after this year. These faculty members include Professors Emmanuel Ayee, Matthew Dressler, and Fred and Susan Van Geest.

The Diamond wishes the best to all of the faculty who will be leaving after this year. Thank you for being a blessing to the Dordt community, and may God bless you as you seek his plan for your future.

Interviews by Kristina De Graaf, Sarah Groneck, Cheryl Korthuis, and Bree Wierenga

Melissa Schans:
"He should ride off into the sunset."

Jon Nederhoff:
"He should get eaten, preferably by a mouse."

Sonja Doty:
"Who's Cowboy Cheese?"

Picture poll by Becky Love and Naomi De Boer
Peasants perform in BJ Haan

Joel Veldkamp
Staff Writer

The Peasants, a popular local band, held a concert in the BJ Haan auditorium two weekends ago. The concert was the first time the band played in the BJ Haan; the band enjoyed a solid turnout of Dordt fans.

Freshman Piper Kucera says, "The general mood was just very laid back and cool. They had really good variety."

The rock/folk-ish trio consists of Chris Vogel (lead vocals and acoustic guitar), Ross Feikema, (electric guitar) and Alan Kloosterhoff, (bass). They were joined by various performers from Dordt for some songs, including Ross DeWitt on drums and pianist Jessica Veenstra.

The Peasants got rolling in 2005, during the summer after the band mates' freshman year at Dordt College. Feikema and Vogel had been childhood friends in Luverne, Minn.; they met Kloosterhoff during their first week at Dordt. ("This reinforces the value of college orientation," Vogel jokes.)

The Peasants' first concert on campus took place at the Humble Bean during the band mates' sophomore year. However, Vogel thinks the band took off at a later performance in the Campus Center. "We had a really big turnout at that show," he says. "That's when we started connecting with people."

In 2007, the Peasants put out a five-song EP album entitled "Parts of a Kickstart." As for a full-length album? Vogel says, "Everything we do, we do very carefully. We'll put out an album when we're ready." He adds that the Peasants are in it for "the long haul" -- "We're serious about our craft," he says. Vogel says that one of the things he likes best about performing is the chance it gives him to participate in Dordt's unique culture. "Culture is not a given [on college campuses]," he says. "At the concert it amazed me to see all sorts of different people in the seats, people who are here to learn and grow. Being able to share what I'm learning with them was very rewarding."

Lead singer Chris Vogel reflects on the recent Peasants concert that took place in the BJ Haan.

SAC's Super Saturday Spectacular!

Are you burned out? Are you sick of homework? Are you looking for an excuse to challenge some of your friends? Come out to SAC's Super Saturday Spectacular on April 21, 2007!

Schedule for the day:

2:00-6:00 Inflatable Games
5:00-6:00 Weiner World
6:00-9:00 Positive Airwaves Bands
9:00-11:00 Drive-in Movie

*All events will be in the parking lot in front of the campus center
*A rain location has been reserved, so the event will happen regardless of weather conditions

This year's inflatable games include:
Bungee Run
Gladiator Jousting
Obstacle Course
Sumo Wrestling
Twister
Velcro Wall
Human Bowling

Drive-in Movie: Casino Royale starring Daniel Craig as James Bond

We will be showing the new James Bond movie, Casino Royale. Bring out your couches, chairs, mattresses, cars, trucks, vans, etc. to watch the movie projected on the gym wall!
Did somebody say Sudoku?

Jamin Hubner
Staff Writer

It was 7 p.m. on a Friday night and I had just stepped into my girlfriend's house in Nebraska. I was anxious to see Jennifer again for the first time in weeks, and catch up with her parents as well. But now a great dilemma faced me. I stood in the living room facing the kitchen, where a tall man stared silently into the table. Should I say "hello" to Jen's dad and bring this furious war with the mysterious grids to his apparent obsession with Sudoku?

This wasn't the first time I had to wonder, what is with this little addictive paper-and-pencil game anyway? He usually told me it was to "stay sharp," which I found hard to believe. After all, I usually told him it was to help a person's mind. Of course, he's usually told me it was to "stay sharp," and I'm the theologian. Well, I don't know about you, but Sudoku is taking the world by storm, and it's high time someone solved this baffling puzzle before we are all in a gridlock.

Sudoku was invented by Howard Garns in 1979 under the name "Number Place." It took off in Japan in 1986, where it was officially named "Sudoku," which means "the digits must occur only once." By 2004, households around the globe were infested with sheets of Sudoku puzzles. Everyone seemed to find a bit of enjoyment from this simple game.

So, how does it work? The game is a logic-based number puzzle. The object is to fill a 9x9 grid so each column, row and 3x3 box contains digits from one to nine. But the game also works in reverse: there is a puzzle setter who provides a partially completed grid, leaving only the most brilliant minds to the task of completing it. Perhaps the reason Sudoku is so addictive is because the rules are simple but the reasoning behind solving the puzzle can be complex. There are also many variations to the game. In fact, a three-dimensional version of Sudoku was invented by Dion Church and published in May of 2005. As if finding even more ways to fry your brain wasn't enough, Richard John published an entire 94-page book of 3D puzzles last November called "Sudoku-Stak." But my favorite variation is the binary Sudoku, which maybe I'll have the same addiction as my girlfriend's dad someday, or maybe I'll rebel the revolution.

Blades of Glory' not so glorious

Jurgen Boerema
Staff Writer

It wasn't too long ago that the movie Anchorman was made. It had a wide repertoire of talent, employed a variety of random humor and has been endlessly quoted ever since. It also seems to have cast a wide shadow over Will Ferrell and his acting range. He branched out briefly as an IRS auditor in Stranger than Fiction and met with a large degree of success. As flamboyant skater Chaz, Michael Michaels in Blades of Glory, he is back in his element as another off-kilter random humor and has been endlessly reproduced.

Jimmy MacElroy (Jon Heder) at the Skating World Championships. The two clashing personalities descend into two clashing personalities descend into a glorious catfight on the podium and they are banned from the sport of figure skating. Chaz drifts into depression as he clings to a job as an evil wizard "hanging with the woodland fairies" on a children's show. Jimmy is stuck in a job at shop selling skates and cutting open boxes.

The two are pulled back into skating and applying horse shampoo to his 80's haircut, and meets a director who sees potential for the two men's skating styles to mesh. The two must go up against a conniving brother-sister duo and attempt a secret skating move called the "Iron Lotus" which will guarantee victory.

Jimmy's answering machine at one point says, "If you can dream it, you can do it." That idea seems to be prevalent as people always persevere, caring for one scene to the next. The creativity and freedom given to Will Ferrell works for the most part, but the routine of screwball humor is starting to grow tiresome and needs a fresh start.

Cowboy Cheese

By Sam Gutierrez

Hey Cowboy Cheese, I love you.

Hey, I'm happy too, and trust me...this is not one of those senior scramble things...

OK.

I'm mean. Really, I'm not romantic.

Serious...
Lady Sowers start team at Dordt

Jessi Rieken
Staff Writer

The women's lacrosse club traveled to Ames, Iowa, last Saturday to take part in a tournament against Nebraska State and Truman University. On the home turf of Iowa State, the Lady Sowers played it up.

After overcoming the hardships of a low roster this season, the Lady Sowers combined forces with Cornell College and pulled off two more games, getting four games under their belt this year.

The women worked hard, got their cleats dirty and had a great time. Their intensity was unstoppable as senior Andrea Dykshoorn scored two goals in the first game against Nebraska and goalie Jessi Rieken had seven acrobatic saves against Truman.

With the steady hands of Erin Cooper, Joanna Eisselink and Leesa Schmidt, as well as aggressiveness of Jackie Medema, Megan Moore, Beth Van Dam and Dykshoorn, the Lady Sowers came home defeated but in high spirits.

Golf team swings into action

Jesse Veenstra
Staff Writer

The snow is gone and the grass is now green. The time has come to dust off the golf clubs and get out to the course. And that is exactly what the Dordt golf team has been doing. The season is well underway, with several important meets approaching.

After a successful fall season, the team looks to build on the success and perform at a high level. Coming up next week is the crucial conference meet in Sioux Falls where a good score will advance the team to the regional meet in Fargo, N.D.

The spring season started for the Defenders as seven team members and Coach Christians traveled to Branson, Mo., for a spring break golf trip and a major intersquad competition. In the second meet of the season for Dordt will be the GPAC conference meet in Sioux Falls on April 23 and 24.

Men's lacrosse dominates opposition

Karen Klynsma
Staff Writer

The Dordt Sowers have been 4-1 in their last five games and have out-scored their opponents by a commanding 39-14 in just those games. Team member Todd Bakker says, "We have proven ourselves as a powerhouse team and although known for our punishing defense, the strong play on the offensive end of the field is starting to receive some well deserved recognition."

The Sowers had some huge wins in their last couple of weeks including a 15-1 win over UNO and a 18-1 win over their division rival USD, in Vermillion this past weekend.

Coached by Paul Hoogendoorn and Andrew Postma, the Sowers are going into playoffs strong and they hope to make an appearance at Nationals. Although the team will be losing graduating seniors Nate DeGraaf, Kris Walhof and Daniel Van Ruler this year, the team hopes next year to continue its legacy as "the little school that could" and make the National Tournament.

The Sowers look to host arch-rival Northwestern this Friday afternoon at 5:00 p.m. in Augsburg Saturday afternoon at 1:00 p.m. So make plans to attend what promises to be an excit-