How are your manners at hockey games? p. 3

Want to get to know Pastor Cliff? p. 4

Student Services ok’d “beer-mongering”? p. 5

See more of your fellow student’s work. p. 6

Comics, a book review and a movie review... p.7

Defender basketball has high hopes for this season. p. 8

NC/DC eXtreme charges forward

Upper Left: Justin Yande Kirk holds a long note during Round Two.
Upper Middle: Rebekah Oudman a round two contestant sings Whitney Houston’s classic, “I will always love you.”
Upper Right: Round Two contestant Joe Hokabergen does his moonwalk as he sang R-E-S-P-E-C-T!
Lower Right: Laura Gould, a Round Two contestant from Northwestern, sang an original composition.

Dordt partners to alleviate hunger

Sara Burgin - Staff Writer

More than 70 area residents gathered at the Ag Stewardship Center to celebrate a time of thanksgiving for the blessings and the harvest.

The Siouxland Partners for Christian Development arranged the November 6 occasion to honor the organizations that donated supplies to plant and maintain this year’s crop. However, much of the attention was focused on four guests from Nicaragua. Terry Hubers, another organizer for the event, said, “They were the highlight.”

The Siouxland organization accumulates “Farmer-to-Farmer” funds from the profits from the grain. The funds assist farmers in Nicaragua through the humanitarian organization Foods Resource Bank, which strives to provide food security to developing areas of the world. In addition, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) matches all the contributions that Siouxland Partners make.

The money is used to purchase land that is divided into five-acre plots and distributed to families in Nicaragua. Farmer-to-Farmer missionaries teach the Nicaraguans farming techniques and family skills. In return, the Nicaraguans make land payments, and those payments purchase more land in Nicaragua. Thus, the people are able to actively combat poverty and hunger for other Nicaraguans. Hubers said, “Now we’re to the stage where we can help Nicaragua,” so Nicaraguans “learn to help themselves.”

Siouxland Partners began working with the Nicaragua program three years ago and has been able to establish farms for 53 Nicaraguan families. “With a little pride and hard work, they can rise above the poverty”, Hubers said.

The $197,172 Dordt recently received from the U.S. Department of Justice to begin the “Safe Campus Project” was given to fund an effort to educate the campus about violence against women. Dordt College is now looking for a “Safe Campus Project Coordinator” to help them increase awareness about sexual violence.

Sexual violence within a given area is hard to gauge, and it’s hard to know for sure whether the $200,000 given is necessary. Police reports often reveal stunningly low numbers, but in anonymous studies carried out by social statisticians, invariably large numbers of women reported being the victims of sexual assault.

For instance, although there are eight registered sex offenders in Orange City, five in Sioux Center—three with a mile of campus—not a single sexual assault or forcible rape has been reported within recent memory. But Dordt’s Associate Professor of Social Work Jim Vanderwoerd directed a student research project last year in which 28.9 percent of women surveyed at colleges in northwest Iowa reported being subjected to sexual harassment, on campus or elsewhere during their lifetime.

According to a study done by the National Center for Victims of Crime, less than 5% of college women reported the incident to college or police authorities.

Vanderwoerd also cited a recent study showing that rape is more likely to occur in rural settings than urban surroundings and in the Southern or North Central United States than the West or Northwest. These two correlations to the act of rape are surpassed only by that between alcohol, the study claims.

“We don’t have any data that I know of that compares religious colleges to non-religious colleges,” said Vanderwoerd. “We hope that this grant can help us to better understand the unique challenges of religious colleges and perhaps share what we’ve learned with other similar colleges.”

“Campus Crime statistics include any crimes reported to the institution in the last three calendar years 2001, 2002, and 2003. I did not receive any reports of sexual assault or abuse within these years.” said Vice President for Student Services Ken Boersma. “The reality is that you and I never want that to happen, but if it does, I want the College to be able to respond ably and appropriately.”

Fast Forward

Top cross country runners Tim Eisenga and Dan Van Engen have been invited to the NAIA National Meet in Louisville, Kentucky, on November 20. They qualified for this trip because of their times in the regional meet in Lincoln, Nebraska, on November 6. Van Engen, a senior from Orange City, finished fourth at the region meet with a time of 26:11.06 over the 8,000 meter course. Eisenga, a junior from Randolph, Wisconsin was in 12th place with a time of 26:48.28.

Kuyper Scholars Program starts off

Drs. Arnold Sikkema and Mary Dengler, co-directors of Dordt College’s Kuyper Scholars Program, will be attending the National Collegiate Honors Council in New Orleans November 10 through 13. While at the conference they will be discussing various honors programs and the Christian mandate, as well as participate in workshops and lectures and examine possible grants and fellowships. Fifteen students are currently enrolled in this program and the introductory course, KSP 151.

Dordt runners take off for nationals

Eric Lady comes to Dordt

Eric Lady, author of “When God Writes Your Love Story,” is coming to Dordt College. While here, Lady will be speaking in the BJ Haan on Thursday, November 11 at 7:30 pm. Also, Lady will be sitting in on various Dordt classes and talking at the Sioux Center Public High School. Lady plans to be in the Humble Bean on Thursday afternoon. Dordt’s Student Activities Committee is responsible for inviting Lady to Dordt’s campus.

Patricia Vanderpost - Staff Writer
from somewhere in the bowels of the Science building. Prof. Danny Hitchcock and his Psychology 302 students were working their way on a group of hairy four-legged individuals responding to names like “Tiger,” “Flip,” “Beans” and “Uncle Rico.”

In this year’s Rat Olympics, “Beans,” trained by Kelly Vander Pol, won the Full Hurdles and the Half-Hurdles. Beans took the full hurdles with an all-time second-best score of 6.54 seconds—the best time in that event since 2000, when a rat trained by Shannon Snider and Jen Hoogeveen crossed the line in just over 5 seconds.

“I was so surprised he won!” said Vander Pol. “He’s pretty feisty, lively.”

“Flip,” trained by Josh Van Ensen, won the standing long jump with a leap of 17 inches. “Uncle Rico,” trained by Kathleen Dendrind, won the High Jump with an amazing jump of 23.5 inches.

Psych 302 is a class about Learning Theory. Students spent three weeks coaching their rats using operant conditioning. The rats were regularly fed all-bran pellets, but were rewarded with special, sweetened, “precision pellets” for completing events like the hurdles or long jump.

“They’re a little sweet. I tasted one. They’re not that bad,” said Van Ensen, of the pellets.

“This is very similar to the motivation that all of us have as we work to get money or good grades,” said sophomore Rayne Soderburg. “It’s about trying to understand how God made us, and how He made us to learn.”

Election 2004 results

Sarah Meyers
Assistant News Editor

November 2, 2004 election returns for Sioux County established the Republican majority of the county as President Bush was re-elected while Republicans swept Congressional, state, and county seats. The President won Sioux County with 85.89% of the vote and 51% of the national vote, with 99% of precincts reporting. Senator Kerry lost his presidential bid with 48% nationally and 13.62% in Sioux County. For the United States Congress, Senator Chuck Grassley and Representative Steve King won re-election with 92.21% and 88.93%, respectively.

In local races, Chuck Soderburg and Dwayne Alons were re-elected for State Representative while newcomer Royal Chambers won his first bid for State Representative by getting 81.51% of the vote. State Senator Dave Mulder was re-elected. Sioux County Supervisors John Degen, Vernon Beemink, and Mark Sybesma were all re-elected. County Auditor Dennis Lange was also re-elected, while Dan Altena secured the Sioux County Sheriff’s office. Judges David S. Wiggins, Jerry L. Larson, Louis A. Lavorato, John D. Ackerman were re-elected, as were Court of Appeals officers Gayle Vogel and Robert E. Meehan. Judge Jeffrey A. Neury was defeated by 63.52%

Club News

Game Club: Break out the Boardgames!!

Nathan Nykamp
Staff Writer

Sick of causing thousands of animated deaths? Looking for a cure for those TV screen-induced bloodshot eyes? Well, the Gaming Club may be your answer. As member Mike Oschner put it: “We’re really just a bunch of people who like to play games.” The club does not play video games, as they do not promote a sense of community among the players. Instead, they look to board games as a way to socialize, and have a good time. They are always looking for more people to play, so don’t be afraid to join in on the fun.

The club is currently sponsoring a game sale, and if you’re curious, here is how it works: Go to www.fairgames.com and find a game you would like to purchase. E-mail the name of the game to gameclub@dordt.edu. When the Game Club orders all the games, they will get a discount, which they pass on to you. So if you want to purchase Settlers of Catan, now is the time! Speaking of Settlers of Catan, the tournament has been moved from November 13 to November 21, so you still have a chance to become the next King or Queen of Catan.

Anago: Funny name, Serious intent

Anago participants Ruth Lynch, Kirbee Tagney and Daniel Heckmann

Islamic faith. Starting with the basics of Islam, he moved into a discussion about the relation of America to Muslims. Christians always seem to feel judged and alone, but, in fact Muslims feel very much the same way. He spoke of the ways that he, as a Muslim, had been treated. Some events were almost humorous; others were a painful reminder of our limited knowledge of each other. One thing that Mr. Saddin stressed was that until we can respect each other, not only tolerate each other, we will never be able to come together as a nation. Anago’s next speaker will be coming from the Alpha Center on November 17, and on December 1 they will be showing “Making Abortion Unthinkable.” Keep an eye on Today for more details.

World Toilet Day

World Toilet Day is November 17, and it will give them a chance to promote proper toilet etiquette.

Out 'n' About

WORLDNEWSBRIEFS

Jill Hiemstra
Staff Writer

Gravy Soda

The Jones Soda Co. will be launching new drink flavors for the upcoming holiday season, but they are not what you would expect. Green Bean Casserole and Mashed Potato soda are two of the five flavors that Target, Albertson’s and Safeway will have in stores on Thursday. Last year’s unexpected success of the Turkey and Gravy Soda and Fruitcake Soda has contributed to these new inventions; the only drink you might be able to stomach is the Cranberry Soda. Jones Soda company started in the mid 1990’s, attracting a following of surfers, skaters, and snowboarders with unusual flavors like bubble gum, fuful berry and green apple.

$10,000 Double Bubble

Dubble Bubble National Bubble Blowing Contest winner Kelsey Lea of Conway, Arkansas, recently bested Great Britain’s bubble-blowing champion 11-year-old Amber Johnson to win the bubble-blowing crown. Lea has worked on perfecting her talent for over a year. By using three pieces of gum she blew a 16’ bubble to claim her title. She has now saved $10,000 savings bond for her winnings, and will look to compete elsewhere.

World Toilet Day

China is hoping to get rid of their bad image byflushing it down the toilet. City officials in Beijing will use the 2004 World Toilet Summit to showcase efforts to transform the capital's restrooms into clean and usable environments. China's public restrooms are often little more than open trenches and have long shocked and disgusted tourists with their stench, lack of soap, toilet paper and other basics. The city has spent over $30 million on this project in the last three years, and hopes that World Toilet Day (Nov. 17) will give them a chance to promote proper toilet etiquette.
It's not easy bein' red

Nate Gibson
Staff Writer

As life gets busier with studying, homework and everything else, I tend to spend a lot of time reflecting on life. I have come to one important conclusion: Having red hair brings a lot of disadvantages into my life.

We redheads can't rap. Have you ever heard a redheaded rapper before? If so, you probably laughed at him. Admit it.

So, to make up for not being able to rap, we redheads try to dance. The average redhead lacking any coordination, this always results badly. In fact, many fatalities among redheads are "attempted dancing-related". For our own safety, we redheads always end up resorting to the trusty "Old Lady with a Shopping Cart" move. It never fails unless we are really redheaded; people will think we are having a seizure due to the erratic convulsions we are making.

Another disadvantage is our setback with relationships. We redheads can't talk to girls without our heads spinning. For those of you not present at the time, the look he gave you? For those of you which those names, their hair WILL be red. I guarantee it.

Another devastating drawback is our inability to tan. Our skin will not tan under any circumstance. If we stay indoors, our skin stays very pale, and people may call us albino. However, if we dare venture into the sun's rays, we burn like a pyromaniac's birthday cake on steroids, on the fourth of July, soaked in gasoline...and...well, you get the picture. After we have been sufficiently burned, people call us rednecks. Our only hope is that we have enough freckles to cover up our skin so that our shade of melanin remains unknown.

So, do we redheads have any advantages? We most certainly do. We have this fine list of excuses to keep with in our life. We also have a great shot at such future careers as stack up finks/wusses in movies, mascots for the St. Patrick's Day parade, and stars of AT&T commercials.

In conclusion, copper tops, don't despair. Our day will come. Now, some of you might be thinking, "What are you talking about?! Redheads aren't disadvantaged at all. This column is completely pointless." Well, the joke's on you. This column is written to redheads that are a redhead minority, campus carrot-tops Laura Henson, Bethany Fopma, and Aaron Van Zee drown their angel-ridden woes in Mario-Kart.

I say most of the time because I like hockey. I guess that's not surprising since it's not only mood-enlightening, but is also necessary to show our team we support them.

But let's keep ourselves in check.

Still don't care about the other team players? Fine. But keep this in mind: soon our team is going to start this season's away games. We can't help but wonder how they're going to be treated by students from other colleges once rumors of how we treated their players get passed along. Is it fair that our hockey team gets treated like junk because a few Dordt students are bubbling with immaturity on hockey nights? No. I think we all have a sense of what's called for and what's just bad sportsmanship. Need help deciding? Do unto others.

And please, keep your pizza to yourself.
What kind of person would you consider yourself to be?

Well, I would probably put myself in more of the melancholy camp, meaning that I am as much in touch with the sad parts of life as I am with those that are happy and upbeat. I tend to be a bit more reflective of life.

What do you think has been the most important part of your ministry on college campuses?

Something that has always been a very important part of my ministry is the ministry of discipleship. I really have a conviction that significant ministry is done by starting small and working towards depth. When Jesus sought to build the kingdom, he didn’t go to the crowds. He made more and more avoid the momentum of the crowd and basically devoted himself by and large, to investing himself primarily in twelve people. Jesus invested his whole life in teaching and instructing his disciples. If he was radically rooted in God’s word. Jesus had a strategy for establishing the kingdom of God on earth that is dramatically different from the megachurch movement today. I don’t spend my time faulting other people, pastors, or approaches. But I think that, for me, I feel called more to an in-depth ministry of discipleship.

I’ve always had serious-minded people of various ages gravitate to me, wanting to spend more time with me in order to be discipled. During my last two and a half years at Madison, I had eight freshmen ask me if I would begin to disciple them. I agreed to disciple them, provided that they agreed to a list of commitment expectations that I gave them. I discipled all eight of them for two and a half years, in addition to my other ministries. To me, that’s what matters, and will matter, in the end. I just truly believe that if you invest in people deeply and treat them seriously, God can do tremendous things through them.

How have you felt God’s calling to college campuses?

I’m not exactly sure why, but I have a love for this age group. They still have this flexibility, this openness, this receptiveness, this sponge-like quality; they’re still shapeable, moldable, and still developing philosophies and worldviews. They’re teachable, and I just really love to work with people in that context—who aren’t set in concrete. Yet, there’s a wonderful energy about this age group, and there’s a wonderful creativity about them. They still are more connected to their childhood imagination than the older generation is. I just love working with college kids and I think that they somehow press the right buttons in me and call forth the best from me. I just sense that they feel from me an acceptance of them. They feel from me that I really have a high regard for them, and I really respect them immensely. They do not feel in any way below me, and I feel like I receive so much from them as well.

What is it about Dordt that pulled you out of retirement?

That’s a good question. The first way I would answer is that I was quite surprised to be asked. There were so many different pressures that I retired first of all, but also that I have never served as a campus pastor at a Christian institution. I was a bit surprised that they approached me, but they felt that my having worked at a secular university was an asset, not something that would detract from whatever I could bring here. So the idea of being part of a community of scholars and learners who embrace and share my perspective, and who celebrate my ministry was a whole new thing for me, and was something that I was quite attracted to. So far it’s been a wonderful experience to work within a Christian community in campus ministry.

I think another thing that attracted me was that in talking to people like Syd Hielema, Ken Boersma, and Carl Zylstra, it became apparent that there was an openness and a tremendous openness here to explore what this position could be. They said that they wanted me to use my imagination, draw upon my experience, and help them to revi- sion, not only the chapel, but the whole position. And in meeting with Dr. Zylstra, he said the position would not be limited to the normal campus pastor responsibilities, but would be supplemented by other tasks. It would be a sort of “Dean of the Chapel” position with more connectedness to the entire academic community. I completely embraced that. So when I found that there was an openness and flexibility to move in this direction, I was much more attracted to taking the position. At the same time, I’m really stimulated by the fact that I have the opportunity to teach, preach, and help shape the whole worship culture at Dordt. That’s at least the beginning of an answer as to some of the influence that led me to be attracted to this position, and to accept it.

How do you feel about being at Dordt so far?

I’m very privileged to be here at Dordt, and to have this year to just work with some outstanding students. There are so many serious-minded kids that really want to serve the Lord, have a passion for Christ, a desire to learn, and also flexibility to be stretched. I just feel very privileged to be a part of what God is doing here. I am an immensely wealthy man—immensely blessed. This is just frosting on the cake to have this year at Dordt and have the opportu- nity to just be associated with such a fine institution. It is so good to have the opportunity to be a small part of a spiritual momentum that I think God is building here, which I think is very exciting.
The Kidnapping of Herbie

Excerpt from the September 26, 1974 Dordt Diamond

Drew Persenaire, sophomore student at Dordt, was found innocent of charges of kidnapping and witholding evidence leveled at him Thursday, September 19 in North Hall Court Room. The Honorable Thomas Christian Vreeman, Presiding in the case, says he could not override court decision although he felt the verdict was not in accord with justice.

The court audience was large, with standing room only. The jury, under foreman Jay Kole, consisted of men and women. Since an American flag could not be obtained the Canadian flag was used. The eight witnesses were sworn in by the words of Herman Dooyeweerd under the watchful eye of Bailiff Ed Wieren. Any pleas of the Fifth Amendment were not recognized because the court was under the Canadian flag, and there is no such Amendment in the Dordt Defender.

During the Trial, a mock-kidnapping of Herbie was staged by Dan Dykstea, Gerald Vekhoff, and Al Schaap. He was returned within fifteen minutes. The unanimous decision of the court brought a wild reaction from the audience. Pip considered it a "lousy verdict", but would make no comment because he was under "emotional stress." Persenaire left the court among cheers of congratulations, smiling excitedly.

For most people, including Pip, it remains a mystery as to who stole Herbie. The Dordt Diamond refused to allow such a mystery to go unsolved. Trying to get any leads possible, Persenaire was asked if he had any ideas about who the kidnappers could be. "I commented, "I stole him and had a good time."}

Honduras
May 13 - 31, 2005

GEN 251 - Honduras: Language, Culture, and Society

This course is designed for students who would like to go abroad to fulfill their cross-cultural requirement or their study-abroad credits for a Spanish minor. Knowledge of Spanish is not a requirement.

For more information see
Dr. Socorro Woodbury - Room CL 113

Diamond • Features

November 12, 2004

Student Services Approves Senior BYOB Party

Bethany Fopma
Staff Writer

Last weekend was a pretty typical weekend at Dordt College. There was a hockey game, the annual Price is Trite, and a few parties. And then the Senior Southview Party, which encouraged students to bring their own alcohol if they had their I.D., received the approval of student services.

"This was an experiment," admits Ken Boersma, Vice President for Student Services. "After talking to the staff and giving it a lot of thought, I felt it was worth doing this time."

The party, which was put on by Southview RAs, was held at a farmhouse by Faith Cre with permission from the owners. Since the event followed the Price is Trite and was on Halloween, students were encouraged to dress up in costumes. In addition to a dance, there was also a bonfire, food, and prizes.

"We didn't want alcohol to be the sole focus of the party," said Myron Kalnper, Community Advisor of Southview. "That's why we had the costumes, dance and bonfire. However, we knew that we would be competing with other parties. Overall, we wanted to provide an environment where there was a safe place to have alcohol if one would choose to do so."

Boersma felt as if this environment was a more positive one than other places students might choose to congregate on weekends if they chose to drink. "This was an alternative to another party held the same weekend and provided an environment where alcohol was less likely to be abused and was more closely monitored. The goal was to provide a positive social environment, one where you could have a responsible beer with friends, as opposed to being in a crowded bar."

Both Boersma and Kamper felt as if the party accomplished its goal of providing a positive atmosphere for students who are of age to drink in a responsible manner. "I didn't see any excessive drinking or anyone drawing unnecessary attention to oneself," Kamper said.

Kayla Vander Plaats, a Southview senior in attendance, says she usually doesn't go to parties where alcohol is present, but she felt safe going to this party. "I don't like being in an environment where I have to worry about drinking getting out of hand. I thought it was a good thing."

Boersma acknowledged that most seniors are 21 and can legally drink, and they provided an environment where drinking wasn't condemned for people of age.

Boersma stressed that the college does not believe that alcohol in and of itself is wrong when used responsibly, and this is a message that he wanted to convey by allowing this party to take place. "The responsible use of alcohol from a Biblical and legal perspective isn't wrong."

Reactions have been mixed. Some people can't fathom how Dordt could do something like this.

While Erin Brown didn't attend the party, she is shocked that the college permitted this to take place. "As a former R.A., I'm surprised that this got the approval of student services. Maybe this is Dordt's attempt to be open about Dordt students really drinking. There's probably a lot that went on at the party that student services wouldn't have approved of."

Others believe that the message of responsible drinking is one our students need to hear, and this is a good way to get that across. We shouldn't be portraying the message that alcohol is evil, and this may be one way to do it," Boersma says.

A third type of reaction Boersma is bracing himself to hear is, "If you can do that, why can't we do this?" In other words, since the rules were bent to allow drinking to be permitted at a Dordt-related activity, why can't the rules be adjusted for another activity? While Boersma hasn't had any trouble yet with this type of response, he is preparing himself for it.

Professors have mixed reactions. "The party was held on non-Dordt property and Dordt did not provide the alcohol the students who attended were presumably of legal age to drink. Therefore, that the party was held doesn't bother me; that the party appeared to be formally sponsored by Dordt via its "student services approved" stamp on the advertisements seems to have crossed a line somewhere," says Professor Sherri Lanthing.

While there have been both positive and negative responses regarding this party, for the time being Boersma has decided that there will not be any parties like this in the future, at least not ones that bear college approval.

"It's not that this isn't a good idea, but there are too many questions about doing something like this again, and we as an institution are not yet far enough down the road," Boersma says. "If done again, there would have to be a much broader campus wide discussion about it. There are so many ripples that affect other parts of campus: faculty, staff, prospective students, and constituents that it would have to be done."
Little Angel
Sara Wasco
black and white photograph

Andrew Wyeth's
"Christina's World"
Revisited
Joshua deGroot
acrylic on canvas
I Love Huckabees

Mic Altena
Guest Writer

Overburdened environmental activist and aspiring poet Albert Markovski (Jason Schwartzman) has been blinded to life's purpose. Albert's passion has been lost to superficial fundraisers and meaningless photo ops; what once spurred Albert along life has gone missing.

Promoted by seemingly significant coincidences, Albert visits a pair of existential detectives to unravel the meaning of life to give his lost soul direction. The husband and wife duo, Vivian and Tommy dance between the two opposing theories of connectedness and separateness until they eventually find a combination that momentarily satisfies their quest for deeper meaning.

Conceived by filmmaker David O. Russell (Three Kings and Flirting with Disaster), I Heart Huckabees directly confl ats the deeper questions behind existence in a way no other comedy has. Huckabees encourages viewers to be uncomfortable with certainty in life and provokes viewers to shed their egotistical traits as they ask deep questions. Jon Brion's (Eternal Sunshine, Punch-Drunk Love) surreal score beautifully complements the film.

Huckabees claims to embrace Eastern ecumenical spirituality which claims no absolute truths, but an embarrassing scene portraying a narrow-minded Christian family exposes Huckabees' hypocrisy of embracing everything except Christianity. The family is unfamiliar with Christ's teaching to love one's enemies, thereby making it impossible to be transformed by the renewing of the mind, and chooses to be comfortable in their certainty by refusing to ask deep questions: the same comfort and refusal Albert and Tommy once felt. Christians are unfairly portrayed as closed-minded legalists.

With a blurry theme and a surprisingly lacking emotional charge, Huckabees fails to deliver the thought-provoking philosophy it promises; but it is delightfully funny and entertaining.

November 12, 2004

God or Romance? Why not both?

Lynette Andre
Entertainment Editor

"When God writes your love story..." Yah, that sounds like it would be exciting. God, who has been around since the world began, has too many rules and regulations on dating. Being in a relationship that is completely honoring to God is impossible in today's society anyway—no one follows the rules anymore, they're overrated.

Wrong. Eric and Leslie Ludy not only write about it, but also demonstrate, how God can be the center of a relationship without making it extremely dull and boring.

Eric and Leslie both endured broken relationships: relationships where God was not the center, relationships that were selfish. Leslie writes, "I had dreamed of a perfect love story for my entire life. But somewhere in the midst of the endless cycle of one temporary romance after the next, my dreams had shattered right along with the broken and fragmented pieces of my heart." After too many heartaches and break ups, both of them eventually realized their intentions in their relationships were not God honoring. After giving God the pen to their love stories and letting Him be the author, they started gaining insight on what a real relationship is. They still had their share of struggles, but getting through them was much more worth it than giving up to them. The reward was worth the wait.

As college students, away from our parent's watchful eyes, it is so easy to fall into a sporadic dating routine where people get hurt. It is so easy to date for the sake of dating; for the sake of being loved, even if it is only temporarily. Many of us may think that in just being Christians we are honoring God in our relationships—but that is not the case. We can give our lives completely to God and still fall into the ever-present temptation. Eric and Leslie understand this, and they provide a hopeful, redeeming way to a strong, healthy, Christian relationship.

"When God Writes Your Love Story" is not a step-by-step guide to dating. It is not only for single people to lay a firm dating foundation. It does not give all the answers, and it does not promise that there will never be hard times or temptations. It is an inspiring story of two people who have journeyed through dating; who have been hurt by past relationships, as many of us have, but who now have a strong God-centered relationship. Eric and Leslie are two people who want to share the struggles and joys of their own journey to help those who are struggling and want to build a strong romance around God.
Behind the Scenes
Vanessa Patino

Stan Haak keeps the Rec Center up and running for students
Jesse Veenstra Staff Writer

If a light bulb burns out, a basketball hoop won’t lower, or anything needs a fixin’ in the Recreation Center, Stan Haak is the man to fix it.

Haak is the Head of Maintenance at the Dordt Rec Center, and he has been working there since the Rec Center opened in June of 1997. His daily routine consists of upkeep and care of everything in the Rec Center. He has ten work-study students that help him in this daunting task.

One of the most demanding tasks for Haak is set-up and clean-up for sporting events. “Some days I am at work from 7-5:30, then I go home and come back from 7-11 for a sporting event,” Haak said.

The variety of the job is one thing that Haak really enjoys. “I like how there are different things to fix all the time. I also really like getting to know all the college students,” he said.

During the last summer the Rec Center crew turned into a construction crew as they revamped and remodeled the De Witt gym and lobby. They put new bleachers in and also drastically changed the lobby.

Although the job has its variety it’s not all fun for Haak. “I don’t enjoy being here really late at night. The job has its headaches now and then, but all-in-all I really enjoy it.”

Haak is a driving force behind keeping the Rec Center usable for students. He keeps everything operating smoothly and makes sure that everything is accessible for the students. From day-to-day cleaning, to mowing the lawn around the gym, Stan Haak keeps everything in Rec Center up to standard.

B-Ball Seasons Look Bright
Leslie Larson Staff Writer

The hoops are pulled down and the gym floor is shined to perfection. The Dordt men’s and women’s varsity basketball teams are ready to tip off their season November 12.

The men have a solid group of returnees and four talented freshmen to complete their varsity roster. This year’s team will have more depth, size, and will play at a faster pace.

Head coach Greg Van Soelen said, “the team has great chemistry on and off the court. Senior captains Dan Hoppers and Brel Van Wyk will lead by their hard-working examples.” This great cooperative atmosphere will create a balanced team.

The defenders have many goals such as hosting the playoff games, being at the top of their conference and winning the close games. Dan Hoppers said, “even though we were ranked 5th in the GPAC, we see ourselves as underdogs that no one will be ready for. We’ve been practicing for a long time now and have had a few scrimmages. We’re really excited to get the season started.”

The varsity starts off with five games on the road before they play Mount Marty at home on December 1. Winning road games would build valuable confidence for the men.

The JV team will tip off their season on November 10 at Briar Cliff. The team is composed of four sophomores and eight freshmen. Right now they’re just starting to learn about each other’s playing style.

“Some of our main goals include playing together, displaying Christ-like attitudes and actions on the court, and win more than half of our games,” said sophomore Adam Van Gelder.

Sophomore Ethan Mesman also agreed and said, “If we learn our roles on the team, play together and have fun we can have a successful season.”

The team’s depth is one thing that Haak really enjoys. “I like how there are different things to fix all the time. I also really like getting to know all the college students,” he said.

During the last summer the Rec Center crew turned into a construction crew as they revamped and remodeled the De Witt gym and lobby. They put new bleachers in and also drastically changed the lobby.

The variety of the job is one thing that Haak really enjoys. “I like how there are different things to fix all the time. I also really like getting to know all the college students,” he said.

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Although the job has its variety it’s not all fun for Haak. “I don’t enjoy being here really late at night. The job has its headaches now and then, but all-in-all I really enjoy it.”

Haak is a driving force behind keeping the Rec Center usable for students. He keeps everything operating smoothly and makes sure that everything is accessible for the students. From day-to-day cleaning, to mowing the lawn around the gym, Stan Haak keeps everything in Rec Center up to standard.

Playoffs in Full Swing
Rachel Guthmiller Sports Editor

On Tuesday November 9, both soccer teams were in action in playoff games. The men’s soccer team took on Morningside in Sioux City after they received an invitation into the Region IV Quarterfinals. After a hard fought battle, Morningside scored with about six minutes left in the game. The Defenders were unable to answer and lost the game 1-0 and ended the season with a record of 12-9-0.

Although the soccer teams have completed their seasons, the volleyball team is still swinging.

On November 6, the Lady Defenders took on Briar Cliff in GPAC Quarterfinal action. The Defenders took the decision 3-0, with scores of 30-13, 30-20, 30-24. Tara De Boer led the way with 16 kills. On November 10, the Lady Defenders shut out Northwestern 3-0 with scores of 30-24, 30-19, 30-16. The Defenders advance to the GPAC finals Nov. 13.

The Lady Defenders will be playing Christ-like attitudes and actions on the court, and win more than half of their games. They’re just a great group that takes competition and academics very seriously,” said head coach Glenn Bouna.

Again, the women’s GPAC competition will be extremely strong. Currently, five GPAC teams are ranked in the top 25 in the nation and two conference teams are receiving votes. Dordt will play three teams in the top 25, Morningside, Sioux Falls, and Northwestern, twice in the regular season (they are in the northern part of the conference).

For the first time in history, Dordt has created a JV women’s basketball program. The team will start out its season November 23 against Dakota State University. JV Coach Craig Stiemensa said, “the new JV program will be fun for the women and for me. We are given tremendous opportunities we would not otherwise receive. The goal of the program is to give incoming freshmen a chance to develop into varsity players.”

Quick Hits:
It’s About Time
Rachel Guthmiller Sports Editor

So it’s about time. It’s about time that women receive fair treatment. It’s about time that women at Dordt receive the same opportunities as men. It’s about time that the women are given the opportunity to hone their skills. I’m not talking about the time for a radical feminist movement. I’m talking about the first official season of a women’s Junior Varsity basketball team here at Dordt. It’s about time.

I’m not trying to offend or put down the administration by taking so long to offer a JV program for the women—I realize there are a lot of details and money issues that just didn’t make it feasible. I’m just ecstatic about the opportunity that the women b-ballers now have. This opportunity can help the women’s basketball team build a stronger program and help them transition into the college competition with greater ease, not to mention attract more woman athletes to Dordt.

So if you agree with me, and believe that the women’s JV basketball program is a great addition, get out and give them your support and show them that this is a great opportunity for the women’s basketball program at Dordt.