



Volume XLIV  
Number V

# Dordt College Diamond

November 16, 2000

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## Students produce "Charlie Brown"

by Kristi Mulder  
Staff Writer

Dordt College is going comic. "You're a Good Man Charlie Brown," a musical directed by Kim De Groot and Lani Van Someren, is coming to New World Theater December 7, 8 and 9. "It's a comic strip come to life," said Kim De Groot. "It's a musical about Schultz's characters. We thought it's a nice way of remembering Shultz since he just passed away."

Lani said that although the cast is small, there's a lot of excitement and everyone feeds off of each other's energy. The cast includes Charlie Brown played by James Klaver, Snoopy by Laura Groen, Lucy by Rochelle Van Ry, Linus by Kevin Schenk, Peppermint Patty by Beth Vander Ziel, and Schroeder by Seth Postma.

"I think the cast fits their characters very well," said Lani. "Don't be alarmed if you see Kevin Schenk walking around with a blanket; it's because he's Linus. We've also noticed that James is starting to say 'good grief!' all the time."

In addition to the cast, there will be a small orchestra. Eric Van Wyk, set designer for the show, said the orchestra will be onstage with the actors to make a kind of nightclub-like atmosphere where the musi-

cians, actors, and audience can all interact. Eric is also using square shapes, bright colors, and out of proportion props to make this comic strip/musical come to life.

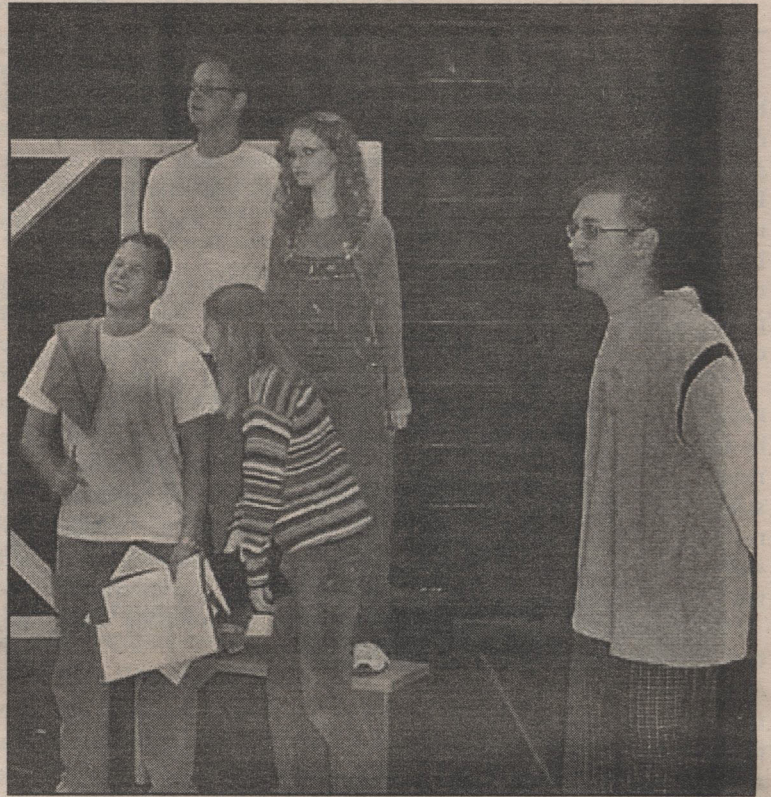
Kim is directing the musical as her Senior Theater Project and Lani is in charge of the music for Individual Studies, but both are enjoying the challenge. "It's definitely a learning experience," said Lani. "I love the show because Charles Shultz [material] has little specks of wisdom in it, and who can't relate to Charlie Brown at some point in their life?"

"I still have a hard time choosing a favorite scene or song," said Kim. "I'm just loving this show more and more as we work on it! I think it shows that childhood games have so much to teach us in an adult world."

The musical opens with Charlie Brown waking up in the morning thinking nothing can go wrong. Then all the characters storm in to get him ready for school and mess everything up. Good Grief!

"It's a heartwarming musical that leaves you with a fuzzy, Christmasy feeling," said Kim. "I think the audience will enjoy coming to see it because it's entertaining and fun."

Tickets will go on sale after Thanksgiving.



Andrew Moody

The cast enjoys a laugh during rehearsal. Clockwise: James Klaver, Rochelle Van Ry, Seth Postma, Laura Groen, and Kevin Schenk.



Andrew Moody

(left) Rochelle Van Ry, who plays Lucy, reacts to Linus (Kevin Schenk) during rehearsal. The play will be held in New World Theater on December 7, 8 and 9.

## Phil Joel concert canceled

by Rose Ann Vander Wal  
Staff Writer

The Phil Joel concert, scheduled for Saturday November 18, has been canceled. Dordt was unable to provide the technical support needed for the performance, according to resident life director, Sandi Altena.

SAC was working on acquiring some of the technology but ran out of time. Altena said there is the possibility of bringing Joel to campus sometime during second semester, maybe in April, if there is enough student interest. In the meantime, students who have already purchased Phil Joel tickets can get their money back by stopping by Altena's office in the SUB.

Jack Du Mez, who was slated to open for Joel, will still be performing a free concert in the B.J. Haan on Saturday at 8 pm. Du

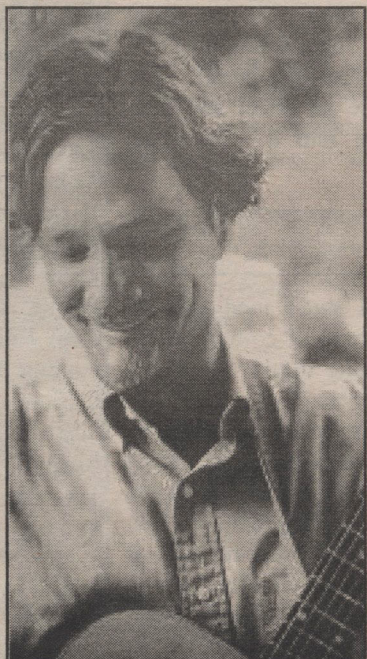
Mez has been working on his musical career ever since graduating from Dordt several years ago and writes all the music that he performs. His younger sister, Ann, a Dordt sophomore, explains that he sings mostly folk songs and for the most part accompanies himself on the acoustic guitar, but he does do variations with the electric guitar as well.

Du Mez spent a year in Albany, New York working with troubled youth but this year is based in Wisconsin and is touring around the Mid West and along the East Coast promoting his music. In addition to performing at Dordt, Du Mez will also be making some appearances at local high schools and in area churches. Ann Du Mez also said there is meaning in each of her brother's songs. "Sometimes the meanings are hidden" she said, "but they are always

there." Du Mez has released two albums already and has made a name for himself performing in clubs and coffee shops. Sandi Altena has listened to his CDs and has said, "He is on the brink of going big."

In addition to Du Mez's performance, SAC is working on getting several current Dordt musical groups to support the performance, but those have yet to be confirmed. SAC is also working on the possibility of having Comedy Club make their debut at the performance, but that also has to be confirmed.

SAC promises that this will be an exciting and entertaining event, even without an appearance by Phil Joel, and looks forward to supporting Dordt talent of the past and of the present. Sandi Altena says that SAC is excited about the event and encourages all to come.



Jack Du Mez, a recent Dordt graduate, will perform in the B.J. Haan this Saturday night.

## Psychology students conduct experiments

by Jen Hoogeveen  
Staff Writer

Several Dordt students will be volunteering in a number of different experiments taking place around campus. Experimental Psychology, taught by Professor Sherri Lantinga, requires members of the class to complete a research project on the subject of their choice.

The purposes of this assignment are to teach the students how to perform original experimental research, how to apply statistics to the data, how to review others' projects and, when completed, how to present the material professionally.

Students were asked to pick a topic that they were interested in or had heard of before, research the topic and narrow down the possibilities. It was also required that they study something that had never been done before.

Steve Runner, along with his partner Cynthia Sneller, did a

project on personal space. "We wanted to check where a person would sit at a table if there was another person already there." It was found that most would sit diagonal rather than across or next to the confederate (an accomplice of the experimenter).

However, when one comfortable chair, placed next to the confederate--the rest uncomfortable--were added, people preferred the comfortable chair, especially if they were going to be waiting for awhile. This was a surprise to the experimenters who predicted people would rather sit in an uncomfortable chair than feel uncomfortable sitting next to someone they don't know well.

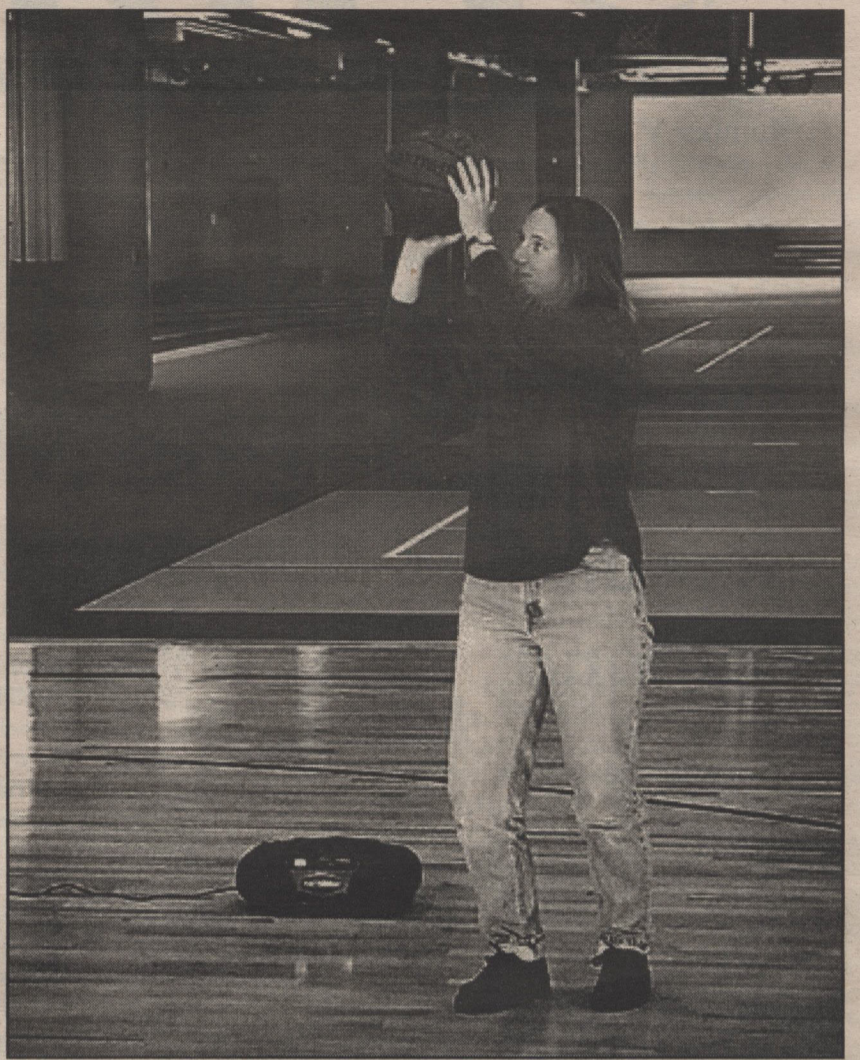
A listening experiment, conducted by Karen Langelaar and Rachel Kroll, compares listening to a speech in three conditions--with classical, pop, or no music in the background--and is determined with a questionnaire.

"We're looking for efficiency, how much of the speech is

processed and how fast it's processed. So far we have found that the quiet condition results in higher efficiency." This has real-life applications, since we often do two things at one time and many students listen to music while studying.

Kristin Zomermaand and her partner, Sarah Juhl, are also students in this class. Their experiment is determining whether performance is affected either positively or negatively by people or noise. Zomermaand, looking at sports psychology as a future career, is curious how "athletes in sports react to certain situations, if fans increase or decrease players' performance, and techniques to balance the difference out."

Zomermaand expresses the feelings of other members in her class. "It takes a lot of time... and we've been spending the entire semester until now running research. The best part is doing the experiment. This is what psychology is about."



John Hansen

Kristin Zomermaand demonstrates her experiment, where students are asked to shoot baskets while listening to loud music to determine how noise affects performance.

## Van Ee, Van Vliet to give recitals



Andrew Moody

Tricia Van Ee

by Allison Schaap  
Staff Writer

Several students will be participating in two upcoming junior and senior recitals. The students have been concentrating on putting their heart into what

they are singing and are looking forward to their upcoming recitals.

Tricia Van Ee, a junior at Dordt, will be using her vocal talents at her recital on Friday, November 17 at 3:00 p.m. in the B.J. Haan auditorium. Van Ee, a vocal performance major, sings in both Kantorei and Concert Choir. She has been anticipating this recital since last spring and is looking forward to this performance. Van Ee mentions that as a vocal performance major, she is required to present two recitals: a half-recital during her junior year and a full recital during her senior year.

For this performance, most of her pieces will be from the 19th and early 20th century. Van Ee will be singing a set of German songs, in which she will be performing one song by Schubert and two by Mahler. Van Ee says that she has chosen

some short Italian songs from the late romantic period. She will also be performing an aria from the opera *Madam Butterfly* by Puccini. Zach Vreeman, a junior, will be joining Van Ee on a few humorous songs by William Ryden, and sophomore Kim Philipsen will accompany Van Ee on the piano.

Jocelyn Van Vliet, a senior, will also be presenting a recital, and is looking forward to singing on December 2 at 7:30 p.m. in the B.J. Haan Auditorium. She will give a half-recital, in which she has prepared a range of music to sing. Laura Vander Stelt will be accompanying her in this vocal performance. Van Vliet sings mezzo-soprano in both Concert Choir and in Kantorei.

Van Vliet, a mathematics major, mentions that many people have asked her why she is not a music major, to which she

replies, "To me, music is a stress relief; it is something that I don't want to make work because then there is a possibility that music may become stressful." She mentions that she will be singing a variety of music, and the last three pieces that she is doing are from the *Four-Note Opera*. Van Vliet liked these last pieces because they are upbeat and unexpected. "I really enjoy these pieces because the words are only relative to the music and not to what is really going on," she says.

Van Vliet has been preparing for her recital since last semester, and she is looking forward to performing. "I am really excited. There is so much you can put into [the music]. You can create an effect and pour your soul into it," Van Vliet says.

come and have a good time, sip a warm mug of coffee and let the soothing music of fellow students relax them.

SAC works hard to define what Christian entertainment is, keeping in mind that Christians must glorify God in everything they do. Van Driessen talks about the focus of the weekend activities. "Dordt life is more than just academics; the whole person needs to be educated. It's all about students relaxing together and having fun in a Christian context."

By Josh Christoffels  
Staff Writer

The Student Activities Committee (SAC) is bringing laser tag to campus on Saturday, December 2. Laser tag has been coming to Dordt for a number of years now, and has been a popular event among the student body. Between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and midnight, teams of five will compete in fifteen minute games in the gym that will be full of special lighting, music and obsta-

cles. Lori Van Driessen, co-chair of SAC says that "Sioux Falls no longer has laser tag so the best place to play is right here on campus, and best of all, it's free." Anyone is welcome to come just to watch if they don't want to play. Sign-ups start next Tuesday in the SUB.

Also that night, there will be an open-mike coffee house at 9:00 p.m. in the SUB, where anyone who wants to share their talents publicly is welcomed. Students are encouraged to

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## Laser tag among upcoming events

## PLIA challenges students to grow as servants

**Rachelle Vander Werff**  
Staff Writer

"To challenge one another to grow as servants through cross-cultural communities in which we are encouraged to put love into action." This is PLIA's mission statement. PLIA stands for "Putting Love Into Action," and the PLIA planning committee is working hard to ensure that this happens.

Over spring break, PLIA sends several groups of 12-14 Dordt students to various sites throughout the United States. This year there will be approximately 16-18 sites

for people to choose from. The new sites include a camp for troubled teens in Colorado, a site in Gatlinberg, Tennessee and possibly one in Salt Lake City, Utah.

PLIA adopted a new Bible verse this year, I Peter 4:10-11, which says, "Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the

power for ever and ever. Amen."

Anthony Drost and Shara Griffin are the two main organizers of PLIA this year. Last year 212 people went on PLIA, and this year they are hoping for 250. They seem to be off to a good start with about 220 people signing up at the first mass meeting.

Drost said, "It's going great this year, and there are lots of competent people on the planning team." He hopes that PLIA will spread from being just a spring break thing to something year round. He says, "Putting love into action should be a part of everyday campus life."

This year, for the first time, PLIA is going to have a web site. The web site is aimed at four groups of people. They include the following: students going on PLIA, churches that sponsor PLIA participants, alumni and the actual PLIA sites. In the past, PLIA organizers looked for places to send groups, but they hope that through the web site the organizations will begin to contact the college asking Dordt to send them PLIA groups. The web site should be completed December 20, 2000, and will be located at <http://www.dordt.edu/clubs/plia>.

For students considering PLIA

as an option for spring break, Drost says, "It's a great way to serve the Lord through serving others." Griffin says, "Through PLIA you can see the way God works for his people in different cultures."

Drost and Griffin agreed that PLIA is about serving others, but there is more to it than just that. It's a good cross-cultural experience, it takes people out of their comfort zone, it builds community, and it encourages personal growth and team building. "It's a great way for people to experience putting love into action through their natural gifts," says Griffin.

### Missing your bike?



Andrew Moody

A Schwinn bike is located in the tree to the right of the library behind the evergreen trees.

## OMSC conference to take place in January

**Mikala Poll**  
Staff Writer

Care for an icy dip in the Atlantic in January? How about meeting and worshipping with Christians from around the world? Attending seminars about world missions from scholars who know what it's like to serve in different cultures?

A group of Dordt students took the challenge last January and many will be doing so again this coming year. The annual conference is sponsored by Overseas Ministries Study Center (OMSC) and seminaries around the country. Attending students can choose either or both of two week-long sessions, which take place the first two weeks of January.

Each of the five days spent at the Connecticut base provide time for worship, seminars, discussions, and more. The seminar topics address critical mission issues related to evangelism, theology, ethics, strategy, and spirituality. Senior Doug Dirksen, who attended last year's conference, says, "The week at OMSC made me more aware of the challenges of fellow Christians and enabled me to pray for these Christians in their struggles."

Many students who have attended share how much they love the diversity present during the conference. Students and speakers come from Korea, Japan and many African countries. "The interaction with people from all over the world helped me begin to think differently on a variety of

issues," says senior Brandie Ochsner. "OMSC was an eye-opening and horizon-expanding experience for me."

Senior Doug Gorter agrees. "There were people from many different church backgrounds. It was inspiring to worship with people of different ethnic and denominational backgrounds." Gorter looks forward to attending the conference again this January.

Dordt students meet together nightly to discuss the sessions of the day and to worship together. Ochsner says of their meetings, "It was helpful to go with other Dordt students because we wrestled with the issues together and discussed so many life issues that continue to challenge how we live."

While students spend much time in seminars, discussions and worship, they also take time out to have fun. Last year's group went for a swim in the nearby Atlantic Ocean and even spent an evening under the stars praising God and discussing some of the issues brought up in the seminars.

Theology professor Wayne Kobes has been involved with OMSC for the past six years. He organizes the group of Dordt students who attend in addition to giving a seminar about presenting the gospel in Western culture. Dr. Kobes may be contacted for more information.

Worshiping and learning in this setting is an experience to remember. "It was a small taste of what the reunion in heaven will be like," says Gorter.



"When I started looking at engagement rings, I went to the big stores first. But it seemed like they were just trying to sell me a ring and weren't really trying to help me find the right one for me. But when I went to Pat's Jewelry, I found out that Pat's wanted me to get the best ring too. Their considerate staff made sure that the rings I looked at were the ones that were best for me. They were completely sincere and always gave me their honest personal opinion about the diamonds and didn't just try to sell me one. I heartily recommend Pat's to anyone who is looking for engagement and wedding rings."

-- Eric Carlson and Nikki Daane

**PAT'S**  
JEWELRY CENTRE

Questions? Comments?  
Contact the Diamond at x6431  
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## Election debacle yields some positive results

by Sarah Eekhoff  
Editor



On November 8, 2000, the day after the presidential election, the most powerful nation had not elected a new leader. In one of the closest presidential races in history, the United States hung, and still hangs, in the balance between Democrat Al Gore and Republican George W. Bush.

As the predictions for electoral votes rolled into news stations across the country on election night, it became obvious that this election would not be an easy one to call. Indeed, America woke to an undecided Florida and two exhausted candidates. Bush's 1700-vote lead in Florida was contested by the Democrats, who pointed to the boxes of lost votes in Florida and the confusing ballots in Palm Beach, where voters intending to vote for Gore accidentally marked the ballot for

Buchanan. Florida still has not completed their recount.

This election has not been an easy one emotionally. The candidates are not the only ones who are perplexed. Voters in Florida have rallied on the streets, and Republicans and Democrats all over the country continue to argue over the legitimacy of re-votes in West Palm Beach. Citizens everywhere have grown weary of the wait. We want a leader.

This election has been difficult for everyone, but a number of positive things have emerged as well. First of all, public political discussion hit a high. Everyone is eager to hear the emerging news and ready to argue for why or why not the West Palm Beach precinct should have a re-vote. People are involved, at least verbally, in the political system and through discourse are learning about how our government operates.

Second, the concept that Gore might win the popular vote but not the electoral vote has raised discussion about the electoral

college. Throughout history hundreds of bills have appeared before Congress urging the reforming or abolishing of the electoral system, but no action has ever been taken. It does not seem fair that citizens don't actually elect a President, and that a man who wins the support of a plurality of Americans could be denied the Presidency. But the popular and electoral votes have been the same since 1888, and Congress has operated by the theory that "if it ain't broke, don't fix it." With a race this close, however, Congress may be forced to look for a new way to handle elections.

Third, the media's predictions of which candidate possessed which state—a risky call—finally caught up with them on election night. With the early prediction of a Gore-supported Florida, Republicans claim their supporters on the west coast were discouraged from even voting. Regardless of whether that is true, the embarrassing mistake caught the news media off guard. After retracting Florida as too

close to call, giving it to Bush early Wednesday morning, and then recalling that prediction also, the media brought themselves under public scrutiny and, I hope, learned a lesson in waiting for news to happen before reporting it.

Fourth, American citizens seem to have found the voice that was previously buried in apathy. In the chaos I watched on C-SPAN last week, while voters held signs and yelled to be heard, I saw a positive thing. Citizens, average men and women who are normally relatively apathetic about their government, wanted to be heard. They may not always use their voting voice, but when it seemed they were denied a vote, they reacted strongly.

So while our nation waits impatiently for the votes to be counted and recounted and then counted again, I want you to see that through the chaos of the 2000 election some important things have come to light, issues that need to be thought about and publicly debated. Maybe America is rediscovering her voice.

## We the People

by C. Alan Yates

Letter to the Editor

I am an American, born in a Christian home. I have a dream for my life and myself. I love American history and studying the founding fathers' faith in God. I stand tall at the sound of our national anthem.

But I have a problem. I have come to a Christian college, or so I believed I did. But I am quickly losing respect for some of the political ideologies of this college. I am beginning to discover that many in this college appear to have little respect for this great nation.

At home, I studied US history and learned about the things that America has done. I learned about American supreme power and the peace it has brought. I know that no nation is perfect but I remember one thing: we have a freedom that is like no other country.

People talk about Desert Storm as if America's only involvement in Kuwait and Iraq was to get cheap oil. Others wonder why we never killed Hussein. We wonder why America does not do this or that, but how many things must America do in order to gain the respect of the students at Dordt College?

We successfully prevented Mexico from going bankrupt. We responded to German aggression and atrocities in World War II. We tried to stop Communist aggression in South Korea. We protected Taiwan from Chinese aggression.

I took a course from the Political Studies department and learned of the negative side, of our involvement in every situation or action that America has done. But how many have ever looked into the other side? We never took out Hussein because if he had left, a power vacuum would have been created, and a bigger war than Desert Storm would have begun. America gets involved because America is strong, but America cannot do everything. People can do two things at once, but can a nation do a million things at once and do them all right? Think about this concept the next time you hear something negative about America. Are you willing to research this and not just take the word of what we hear in class?

We tend to look at professors as the ultimate authority on a subject, but the only real subjects that are clear-cut are sciences and math. Subjects that require us to interpret ideas are not clear-cut. There are always two sides to every coin and always more than one way to interpret things. America was founded on the sacrifice of Christian men. We are free because of the blood of American founders. If you do not understand why America does what it does, find out why! Do not always accept what you hear. Find out what the truth is. But if you are too closed-minded to find the truth and can only bash America, I suggest you find the nearest airport and fly to a country that is better, with more freedom, than America. The only way things are going to get better is by getting involved and starting to think for ourselves.

I will admit that I am irritated with what I have heard being taught; and some of the reasons I write this are in response to the "worldview" of the curriculum and recent Diamond articles. I am a full-blooded American who would die for the freedom that my forefathers established in this country. I want desperately to change America for the immorality that is occurring, but I will in no way degrade this beloved country where I have innumerable freedoms.

## Careless dating contrary to Christian values

Mitchell Beaumont  
Assistant Editor



About a month ago, the *Diamond* published a front page article on the Blind Date event sponsored by

Covenant Hall, and last week they showed the video of those dates in the BJH. When I saw the signs advertising the videos, I started to wonder about the worth and purpose of sponsoring a campus event such as Blind Date. What kind of values is the college supporting by approving such an event; good or bad? I would like to sort through the various reasons why the Blind Date is a good idea and why it's a bad idea for a Christian campus.

I do think that sponsoring a version of Blind Date is a good idea, in a way. By taking part, and/or attending the Blind Date, students have the opportunity to get together with their friends in a social setting and/or get to know people they don't know by volunteering to be a contestant. Quite possibly two students who meet while being contestants on the show could become very good friends. Also, anyone who wishes to attend the viewing of the videos of those dates could be merely looking for a "getaway"

from the stress of studying and an opportunity to get together with friends.

On the other hand, what kind of values are being promoted by Dordt College when it decides to sponsor Blind Date? I think it encourages students to go on a date without ever getting to know a person. The game also seems to promote careless dating, something quite contrary to what Christians should be supporting.

Going on an actual date with a person you've basically never met before is dangerous. The past week or so in Interpersonal Communication, Dr. Veenstra has been lecturing about relationship development. He identified five stages of development: initiating, experimenting, integrating, intensifying, and bonding or marriage. Essentially, by going out on a date with someone you hardly know, you are skipping the first two steps. Granted when the couple is out, they will start to get to know each other and then decide if they are compatible.

The amount to which a couple moves up the relational ladder on a date depends somewhat on the type of activity they choose to do. If they go to a movie, they won't get anywhere because they can't talk during a movie—in fact they are probably watching a movie because they are afraid to talk with each other.

But why not do that here, on campus, without feeling obligated to spend money on the other per-

son even if you don't like them (guys) and without feeling obligated to spend time with someone you could never see yourself marrying someday (ladies)?

It seems that if a serious relationship develops out of a blind date, that relationship could be in danger down the road. By skipping or going up to the third stage, and then coming back down, a relationship isn't built on the values that are essential to a successful, godly relationship with the opposite sex.

Also, Blind Date encourages students to carelessly date, thus setting them up for a possible heartbreak. Careless dating also causes you to give a part of yourself to the other person, and whatever you give away you can never get back. By giving part of yourself away, you are denying your future spouse the pleasure of seeing that part of you. When you meet your future spouse you will want to know every part of them, and if something is missing, you will feel that you don't know every part of that person.

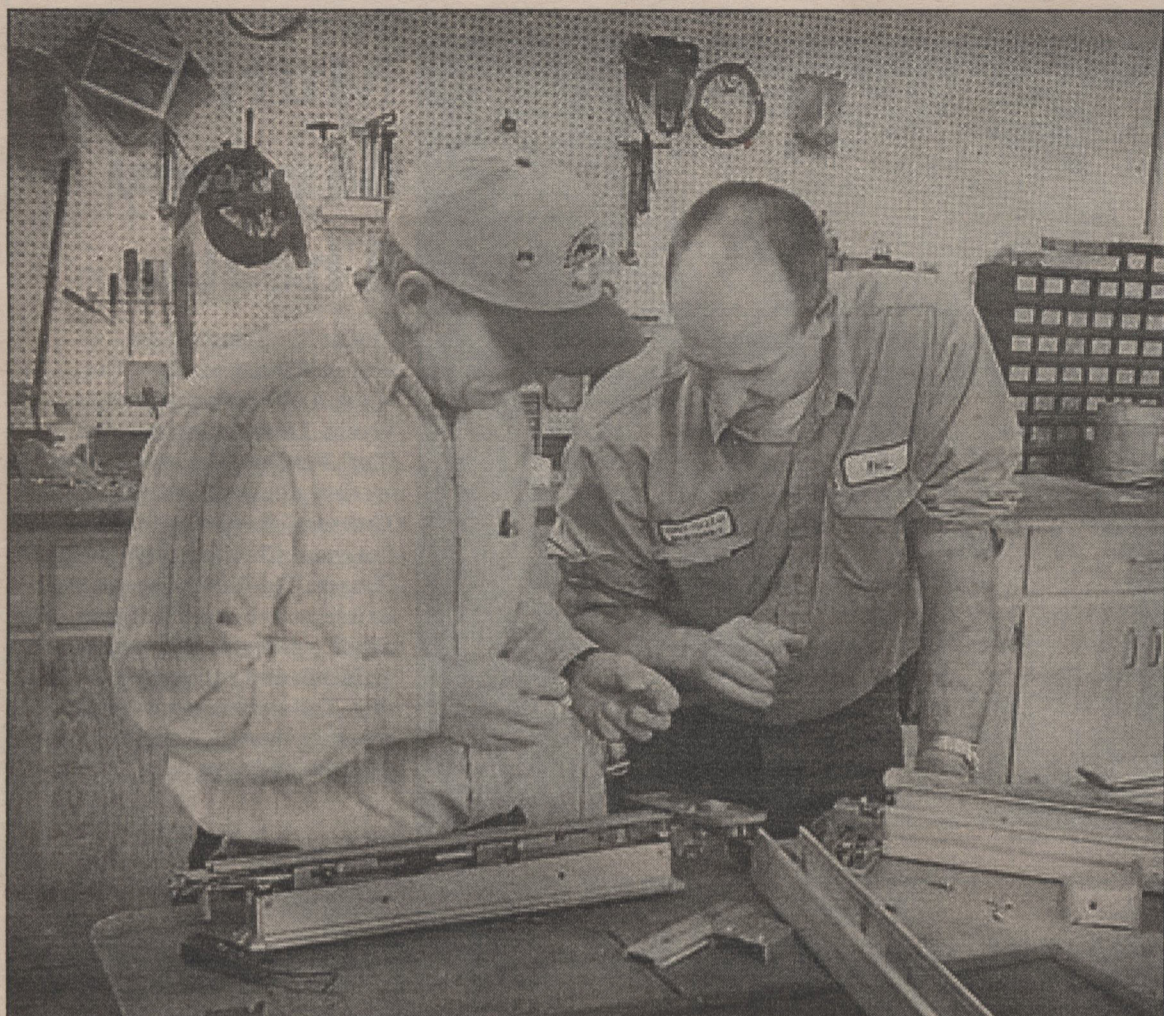
In high school I dated a few girls fairly seriously, so when I came to Dordt and met my girlfriend, I felt there was a part of me that I couldn't give to her. I have heard numerous friends say to me in my almost two and a half years at Dordt that they wished they could just find the right person for their future and get on with it instead of having to go through the absurdity of dating

everyone they are attracted to.

You don't have to date, however, everyone you're attracted to—you can become friends with them first. Sit and talk in the SUB, in the lobby of their dorm, or in their apartment for hours on end before you decide that maybe you should try going on a date. I understand that students date because they feel lonely and they have a need for affection. Affection can come in many different ways other than going out with another person and them spending money on you. Affection can come from being listened to, cared for, and loved for who you are.

Although Blind Date and other such games do present some positive values, I think that the negatives far outweigh the positives. I encourage students to think about what they are participating in next time Dordt sponsors an event like this, and I would like to encourage the college to consider the negative values that are presented in this type of activity.

Your heart is the most fragile organ of your body, when it comes to relationships anyway. Protect yours, and I urge you to adopt a style of dating that encourages a "friends first" attitude. I had my heart broken twice in high school and it was devastating each time it happened. I have less of myself to offer to my future wife because of that, and I regret it. Don't make the same mistake.



George Hoekstra and Phil De Stigter work on crash carts.

Andrew Moody

## Maintenance keeps busy during winter

Jacque Scoby  
Staff Writer

The snow is falling, the wind is blowing and you have to walk to class. Thanks to the maintenance staff, the path from your room to the classroom is clear.

Now that winter has set in, maintenance often starts the day clearing the snow from the parking lots and sidewalks before classes begin and then tackling their other duties. "Wintertime is tough," says Brian Van der Stoep. "Things start to get busier."

Clearing the snow from the parking lots and sidewalks before classes start is just one of the myriad of duties that maintenance takes on. They also deal with all plumbing and electrical problems that arise on campus.

Van der Stoep says that plumbing issues are also common, along with snow. It is not unusual to pull a variety of items from the sewer system, including paper towels, boxer shorts or even the occasional pink rubber duck.

One of Van der Stoep's main duties is to service all of Dordt's vehicles. "That takes a big part of my day right now," he said. He, along with three work-study students, makes sure all 40 vehicles are in working condition. They will also look at students' cars in an emergency.

Maintenance personnel are on duty twenty-four hours a day. Each person takes a turn being "on call" once every seven or eight weeks, and responds to all after-hours calls during that week.

## Stan Oordt heads maintenance

Laura Apol  
Features Page Editor

Stan Oordt, head of maintenance, is working to make the maintenance staff not so behind-the-scenes. His personal goal is "to make us more in touch with the college and to make them more in touch with us." Recently, the administration has been helpful in achieving that goal. Administrative meetings now include administration, faculty and staff. This has made these two groups "more of a unit, more a team effort," said Stan.

"The other side of the street" is what Stan calls the residence halls. This is where all the living, studying and student interaction takes place. Usually, the faculty is not very informed on what goes on in the residence halls as far as studying time or whether the residence halls are quiet enough to study in. Maintenance is supportive of the

residence life staff in their attempts to make the faculty and the Dordt community aware of what happens in residence hall life.

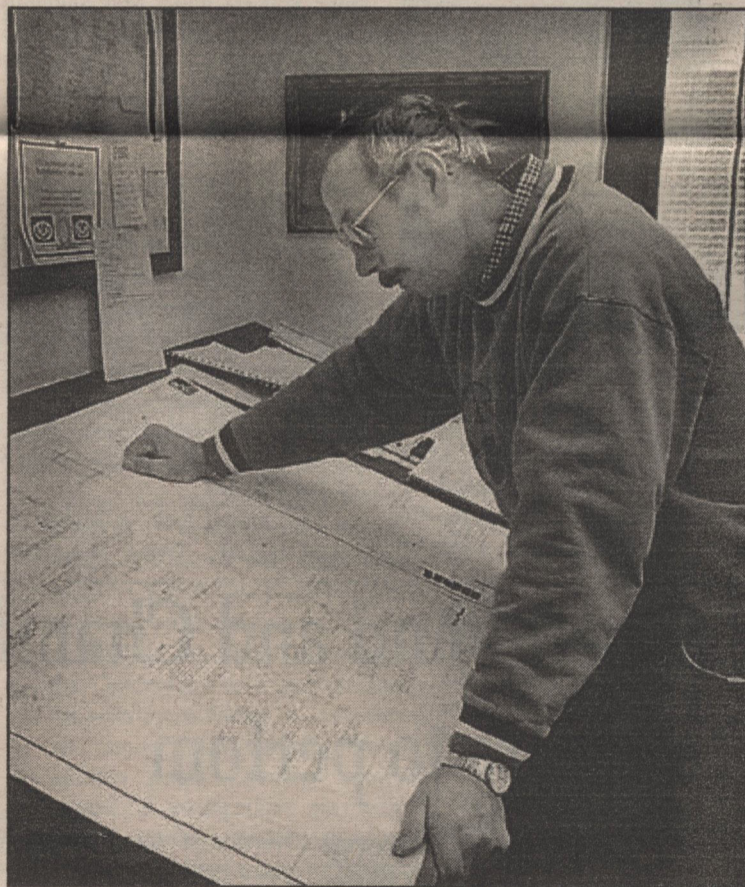
Stan has been quite involved with the remodeling projects that occur every summer. He found the remodeling of S108 to be a very challenging task because of the differing opinions of what the lecture hall needed. But in using a cooperative effort with the professors that would be using the room, they developed a "technology enabled" lecture hall, which is top of the line.

Another remodeling project that Stan was heavily involved in was the installation of the fire alarm dialers, which dial 911 with every residence hall alarm. The dialers are also wired to call five maintenance staff members, including Stan. "The false alarms are not fun," he said, "but it's a commitment toward possibly saving someone's life."

"I love coming to work 99 out of 100 mornings," Stan said. "I work with quality people with a strong work ethic and a Christian commitment." The maintenance crew consists of 19 regular staff, 55 summer student employees, and 100 plus student workers during the winter. Stan really enjoys working with the summer student employees. "They have an energy that revitalizes us," he said. He says this comes from working with their hands after studying so hard during the semester.

Besides the maintenance Stan does for Dordt, he also enjoys working in the mission field. Recently, he and his family have become involved in helping North Lighthouse, a new CRC church plant in Lincoln, Nebraska.

As the slogan for the maintenance newsletter says, the maintenance crew is "At your service in His service."



Stan Oordt looks over the blueprints for the Campus Center.

Andrew Moody

## Canadian federal elections approach

Roxanne Houweling  
Guest Writer

With the American election behind us, it is time for the Canadians on campus to consider the federal election going on at home.

Deciding who to vote for is the biggest decision. One of the people running in the election is Jean Chretien for the Liberals, whose platform includes making Canada a stronger country with a more successful economy and a better soci-

ety. Stockwell Day is the leader of the Canadian Alliance. Their party platform includes tax relief for Canadians, providing government funding for health care, and putting into effect a concrete plan that focuses on national debt reduction.

Alexa McDonough is leading the New Democratic Party with a platform that focuses on the environment, increased government spending in health care, starting a job training fund and a fund for preschool and early childhood edu-

cation.

The Bloc Québécois is being led by Gilles Duceppe. To read their party platform, you will need to be fluent in French.

The Right Honourable Joe Clark has returned to lead the Progressive Conservatives with a party platform that includes securing the future of health care and the environment, cutting taxes, and restoring integrity to the government.

Added to this list are a host of smaller, less popular parties that

may interest you and they can be found at [www.cbc.ca/election2000/links](http://www.cbc.ca/election2000/links). A visit to this page will also lead you to the home pages of the five major political parties where a more in-depth version of their party platforms can be read. Another source for the issues and information is Maclean's magazine which can be read in the library or at [www.macleans.ca](http://www.macleans.ca).

As a resident alien, you will need to send for an absentee ballot in order to vote in the upcoming election. To apply for a ballot you

will need to go to [www.elections.ca](http://www.elections.ca) and click on the heading "Voting While Away," then find the sub-heading "Registration form" and print this form. Fax the completed form with a photocopy of your drivers license, or pages two and three of your passport, to: (613) 998-8393 (the cost is one dollar per page in the library or business office) or 1-800-363-4796 (toll-free in Canada and the United States).

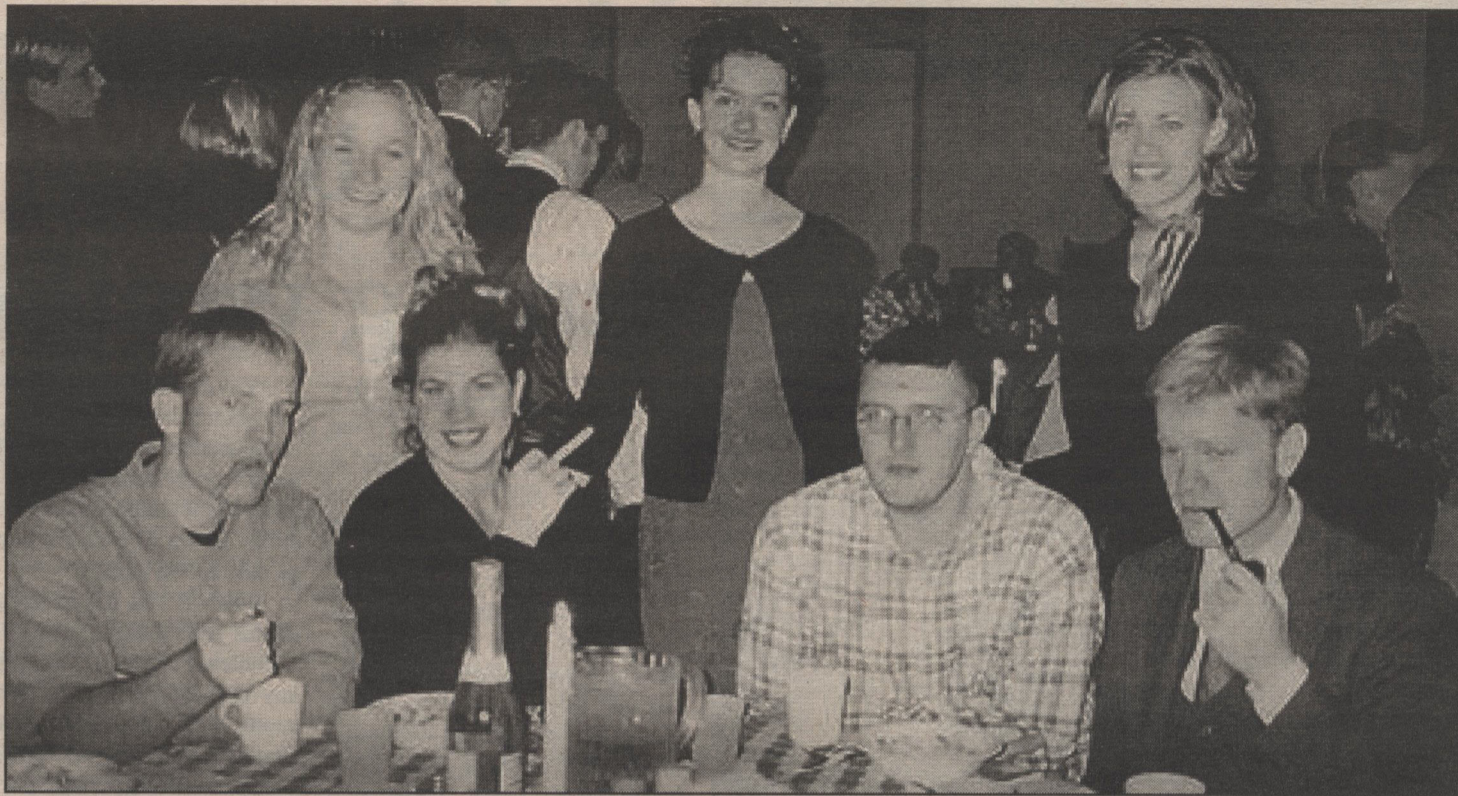
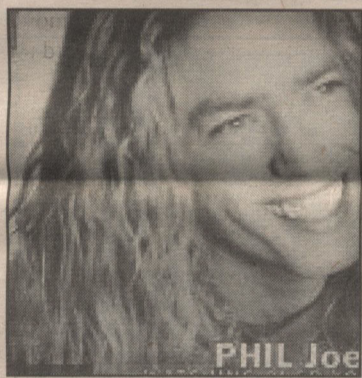


photo submitted

## Murder Mystery Theater

Clockwise: Erin Dykstra, Tracey Wikkerink, Kim Van Wyhe, Luke Shannon, Kris Wynia, Lindsay Carlson, and Chris Postma enjoy the murder mystery dinner theater, held Thursday, November 9th, at Covenant Christian Reformed Church. The dinner theater was an interactive event that portrayed a gangster who owned a nightclub and ended up getting shot. The audience was asked who they thought killed the gangster and why.

## A Newsboy on his own: Phil Joel goes solo



**PHIL JOEL**  
Mark Brink  
Staff Writer

Imagine this: you are a 19-year-old living in a relatively small town and you are in a garage band with a few friends. One day there is a call by another local band for

guitar players, so you go to the try-outs. You are hired, and suddenly you are the guitarist and co-vocalist for one of the biggest bands of its type in the world! Sound strange? Well, that's what happened to Phil Joel when he joined Newsboys, a Christian rock band out of Australia.

After spending five years and four albums with the band, Phil Joel felt it was time for a solo project. He is still with Newsboys, but took this opportunity to spread his artistic wings with his album entitled "God is Watching Over You." All the music and lyrics are written by Joel himself.

The album was released on Inpop records. When Newsboys

bandmate Peter Furler first created this recording company, Joel saw it as an opportunity to take the step toward a solo release. They proceeded to record ten songs for this first project. All songs are produced by Furler.

When giving it a listen it becomes obvious that Joel comes from the band Newsboys and is reluctant to change his sound. While he does add his own little touches, it could easily be confused with a new album from the entire band. Newsboys have always had a quirky pop sound with lyrics to match. Newsboys' lyrics are written by Steve Taylor and deal with big issues of faith in very peculiar ways (anyone famil-

iar with "Take me to your leader"?). Taylor is not a part of Newsboys. Rather, he was a Christian rock solo musician a few years ago but decided to take a less active roll. He became the go-to man for Newsboys' unique lyrics and insight.

Since Taylor quit writing for Newsboys in 1996, the content and quality of the lyrics have definitely gone south. Perhaps Joel saw this as an opportunity to try something of his own.

Phil Joel's lyrics tend to be very personal and sincere. From the encouraging words of the title track to the broken realization of "fragile," most of the pop-driven tunes are a comment on where we

are at, like the explanatory "My Generation," or a melodic prayer, like "Be Number One." Though the depth is a refreshing change, some of the awkward phrasings show that this is Joel's first time out alone.

The sounds and explorations in this album make it a good listen. Joel proves himself worthy of the success he received since joining Newsboys, and is certainly worthy of a chance to give it a try by himself. He succeeds in ways his bandmates have been failing as of late: he provides catchy original pop tunes and enhances them with honest catchy lyrics.

## Concert band and Chamber Orchestra to perform

**Andrea Voogt**  
Staff Writer

The Concert Band and Chamber Orchestra will perform their last concert of the semester on Friday, December 8. The concert will feature a wide variety of music, as well as several soloists. Also, the string quartet composed of Jennifer Van Den Hul, Erika Van Den Hul, Meagan Van Den Berg, and Coralin Den Boer will perform. The quartet recently performed live on KWIT radio in Sioux City.

The program will begin with the Concert Band. First they will perform the Earle of Oxford Marche by William Byrd, followed by the Aladdin Suite by Carl Nielsen. After the Aladdin Suite, a select group of concert band members will perform as a Wind Ensemble with trumpet soloist Richard Bogenrief. They will perform the first two movements of Sonata for Trumpet and Wind Ensemble by Kent Kennan.

Bogenrief is an accomplished player who has been principal trumpet in the

Northwest Iowa Symphony Orchestra since 1990. Before that, he was a member of the United States Army Band in Washington, D.C., for 21 years. He also has been teaching trumpet lessons at Dordt for a number of years.

The Chamber Orchestra will play a number of pieces as well. They will begin with Concerto Grosso in F Major by Archangelo Corelli, featuring soloists Erika Van Den Hul, Heidi Sorensen, and Coralin Den Boer. They will also perform the second and fourth movements of Serenade by Dag Wiren. Next, the string quartet will perform Canzonetta by Felix Mendelssohn. The Chamber Orchestra will end their performance with Dances of Transylvania by Bela Bartok and Sleigh Ride by Leroy Anderson.

The Concert Band will finish off the concert with Shostakovich's Finale from Symphony No. 5. According to conductor Henry Duitman, this piece is "one of the greatest band transcriptions of the 20th century."

## Artistic endeavor happens again: Dordt and NW combine talents

**by Eric Van Wyk**  
Staff Writer

There will be a joint student art show at the Dordt Mezzanine Gallery on December 1. The show will contain both the work of Dordt and Northwestern art students. The show is student juried, and the art is arranged and hung by students of both colleges.

This is the second year of the event and promises again to be very exciting. Last year this joint show was begun and held at Northwestern, with over twenty Dordt art students bringing works of different media and subject matter to be judged by Northwestern students. In turn, three Dordt students judged the artwork sub-

mitted by Northwestern art students. After all of the work had been judged, the students arranged and hung the selected artworks.

Art professor Susan Van Geest, having been a student at Northwestern, knew the art department at Northwestern and was able to make an artistic connection and set the show on its feet.

The unique experience of this show benefits both groups of art students as well as the Dordt community as it is a unique and varied art show. For the art students it is a great chance to submit work and have the experience of someone judging it, while it is also great to interact with fellow art students and to enjoy different artistic views and

insight. Both groups' works are mixed around, so the show as a whole has many different styles and approaches.

Last year's show was a great experience because art students could interact with different artists, get new responses about their own work, and get a feel for what other artists their age were doing. Though this year's show is not yet hung or decided, it will be unique and promises a wide breadth of artistic creativity.

This is a great opportunity to see what fellow students have been busy creating this semester. The show will be up on the December 1 and will remain until after Christmas break.

## Volleyball team advances to regionals

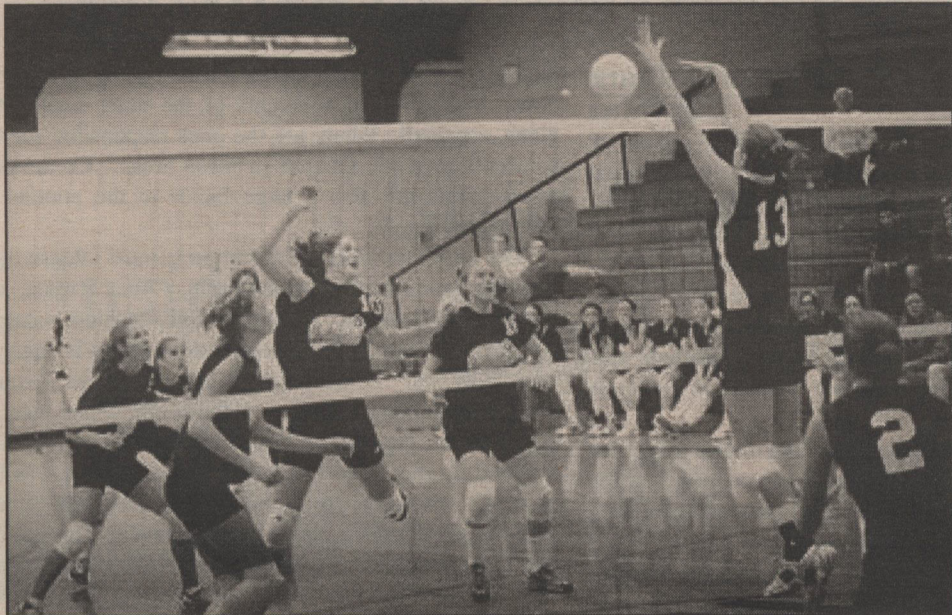


photo courtesy Sioux Center News

The 9th ranked Dordt College volleyball team won the Inaugural Great Plains Athletic Conference volleyball championship with a 3-1 win over Doane last Saturday night. Dordt receives the automatic berth in the NAIA Region IV Tournament November 16-18.

## Cross Country ends winning season

by Jocelyn Van Beek  
Sports Page Editor

Dordt's cross country team this year had a winning season with 18 wins and 17 losses for the men, and 25 wins and 13 losses for the women. Many of the runners stepped up to make this a great year.

The team finished the season at Yankton, S.D., in the GPAC meet. The men finished with a seventh place win out of eleven teams and the women with a sixth place win out of eleven teams. Since many of the teams they were competing against are nationally ranked teams, Coach Ross Goheen is very pleased with their performances. Dordt placed exactly where they were predicted with steady races and consistent times.

There are three graduating seniors this year: Jon Schaap, Dale Herredsburg, and Ben Groenewold. Schaap and Groenewold ran all four years, while Herredsburg ran for three. They consistently contributed to the team throughout the years.

Many of the runners steadily improved and performed better than anticipated as the year proceeded. Goheen was pleasantly surprised by many underclassmen. For the women, sophomore Rachel Baber was exceptional this year. She had a winning percentage of .919, and an average time of 19:38. She is currently fourth in all-time wins for Dordt women with 827 wins in only two years. She is ranked among national competitors and is well known in the running world. Baber came to Dordt without any cross country experience and is proving that she is

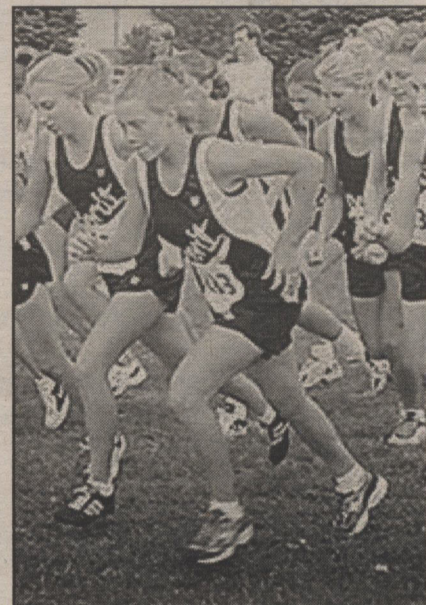


photo submitted

Members of the cross country team start strong in their last meet.

a runner of merit.

Another woman that has run consistently well all season is sophomore Becky Demarest. She has contributed to the team throughout the season.

For the men, the underclassmen deserve a word of recognition. The top three men of the year were freshman Travis Patten, sophomore Tim Ives, and freshman Matt Bosma. Their average times of the year were within three seconds of each other with 27:56, 27:58, and 27:59, respectively.

The freshmen really came through at Conference, as almost half of the runners for the Dordt team were freshmen. Overall, Goheen is very pleased with the outcome of the season and is looking forward to next year's season.

## Women's soccer ends with a bang

by Jocelyn Van Beek  
Sports Page Editor

Dordt's women's soccer season has come to a close, as #2 ranked Dordt lost in a 3-0 decision in the second round of the GPAC Playoffs. The women received a bye in the first round, but could not manage a victory against #3 seeded Hastings to continue on. The loss finished Dordt's season for the year with a 12-6 season record and a GPAC record of 6-2.

This year's team will be losing six seniors at the end of the season. Kristin Zomermaand, Heide Broekhuis, Sarah Vriend, Heather Broekhuis, Kalie Gaskill, and Laura Van Hattem provided great leadership for the team and did a great job on the field. Theirs will be tough roles to fill next year.

The five freshmen, three sophomores, and five juniors on the team have excelled this year

and helped the team. Coach Steve Westra says, "The freshmen have done a great job. They really stepped up and helped make the year a success." He is excited for next year as he expects the underclassmen to step up even more to fill positions.

One of the team's greatest moments of excellence for the year, in Westra's mind, is the 1-0 win over National American during Parent's Weekend. "That was really exciting for us as a team, and we played very well," states Westra. A personal highlight for Westra was the birth of his son Joshua during the season. The whole team met Joshua, as he was a fan at one of their games. That made this season more memorable than most for Westra.

The team has improved since the beginning of the season, as the women assumed new positions. It took a bit of time for the team to gel, but in the last couple of weeks, they played well together for a winning season.

## Men's soccer team optimistic after disappointing season

by Jason Mulder  
Staff Writer

Improvement and learning summarize the accomplishments of the men's soccer team this season. Despite a disappointing 2-14 record, this year's young team learned a lot about each other and their new coach. Captain Eric Segaar is excited about next year and sees great potential. Only three

players will be graduating, leaving a solid core of players for the future. Next year's players will know each other and have the experience to improve.

New head coach Dan Oppeneer said it took awhile for him to get to know all the players and find where each fit on the team. They also had the job of adjusting to a new coaching style after Bill Elgersma left.

Joining a new conference was difficult, but the experience gained will definitely help

in the future. Oppeneer defended their disappointing record by saying that it did not always reflect how well they played. He said the team often played with their opponent but had trouble capitalizing on opportunities and filling the net. Injuries were also tough to overcome and young players were forced to fill places in which they were not accustomed to playing.

Many players expressed similar feelings of optimism for the future. Tom Draayer felt

that the team improved by the end of the year. He noticed that as the team got to know each other, their quality of play improved. He feels that the team will be much better next year and looks forward to playing again.

If the members of the team are excited about next year and optimistic of the future, then I, along with many other fans, am looking forward to next year and have higher hopes and greater expectations as our young team continues to improve.

### Statistics

#### VOLLEYBALL (30-6)

GPAC (9-1)  
GPAC Semi-finals  
Nov. 4 Mount Marty W(3-0)  
Kill Leader: Karen Netz 11  
Assist Leader: Alisa Kooima 21  
Nov. 8 Concordia W(3-2)  
Kill leader: Darci Bouma 20  
Assist Leader: Alisa Kooima 49  
Nov. 11 Doane W(3-1)  
Kill Leader: Karen Netz 15  
Assist Leader: Alisa Kooima 51

#### HOCKEY

Nov. 3 vs. Iowa State W(9-6)

Goal Leader: Woudstra 3  
Assist Leader: de Lange 2  
Nov. 4 vs. Iowa State W(9-6)  
Goal Leaders: de Lange 2  
Veurink 2  
Assist Leader: de Lange 2  
Nov. 10 vs. MSU L(6-8)  
Goal Leader: de Lange 3  
Nov. 11 vs. MSU L(13-20)  
Goal Leader: Woudstra 5  
Assist Leader: Woudstra 4

#### CROSS COUNTRY

Nov. 4 GPAC Meet  
Men:  
Dordt 7th of 11  
Individual:  
21. Travis Patten 27:09.79

30. Matt Bosma 27:34.29  
36. Tim Ives 27:50.56  
38. Jon Dekkers 27:52.57  
51. John Epema 28:44.42  
52. Greg Van Dyke 28:47.91  
55. Ben Groenewold 29:08.20  
Out of 73 runners.  
Women:  
Dordt 6th of 11  
Individual:  
12. Rachel Baber 19:03.08  
24. Kate Reinsma 19:46.91  
39. Jessica Rowenhorst 20:24.69  
44. Becky Demarest 20:41.27  
49. Rachelle Kroll 20:53.13  
52. Loralee Bykerk 21:02.14  
Out of 72 runners.

#### MEN'S BASKETBALL (2-0)

Nov. 10  
McKendree College W(74-71)  
Scoring leaders:  
Eric Maas 16  
Brian Wassenaar 15  
Dylan Haak 15  
Rebounding leaders:  
Eric Maas 6  
Nov. 11  
Northwestern College W(67-64)  
Scoring leaders:  
Evan Beimers 19  
Eric Maas 18  
Shawn De Stigter 10  
Rebounding leaders:  
Eric Maas 6  
Michael Ribbens 6

#### WOMEN'S BASKETBALL (1-1)

Nov. 10  
Jamestown College L(51-60)  
Scoring leaders:  
Alexis Smith 23  
Serena Van Beek 13  
Rebounding leaders:  
Alexis Smith 16  
Serena Van Beek 6  
Nov. 11  
Finlandia College W (64-40)  
Scoring leaders:  
Serena Van Beek 16  
Alexis Smith 12  
Rachel Schutte 10  
Rebounding leaders:  
Alexis Smith 12  
Serena Van Beek 9

## NEWS BRIEFS

### PALESTINE/ISRAEL

Eight Palestinian protesters have been shot dead during confrontations with Israeli soldiers on the day Palestinians treat as their symbolic independence anniversary. As UN human rights officials expressed further concern about Israel's "excessive use of force," Israeli officials announced the dropping of their "policy of restraint" to counter a new, more violent Palestinian strategy.

### INDIA

One of India's most dramatic hostage crises has come to an end with the release of top film star Rajkumar. The star, aged 72, has been held in a forest hideout for more than three months by one of the country's most notorious bandits.

### AUSTRIA

The last bodies have been recovered from the site of the Austrian ski train fire, the country's worst-ever peacetime disaster. A total of 155 bodies have been pulled from the charred remains of the mountain train, which was destroyed in a tunnel inferno on Saturday.

### ETHIOPIA/ERITREA

The United Nations has expressed optimism that a peace deal between Ethiopia and Eritrea could be in sight as the two sides have continued to observe a cease-fire brokered in June. Tens of thousands of people were killed in the war and more than 1.2 million people have been displaced.

### IRAN

One of Iran's best-known satirical writers has pleaded guilty to charges of insulting officials and propagating untruths. His satirical writings, poking fun at officials, won him a strong following of amused supporters. But he was arrested in mid-August, swelling the ranks of prominent journalists and writers now in Iranian jails. Now he has publicly recanted.

### RUSSIA

A United Nations official says Russia has the world's fastest growth rate for new cases of HIV infection. A statement by the group said the spread of HIV and AIDS in Russia could reach catastrophic proportions if action isn't taken.

## Our brothers and sisters are suffering

by Blake Walburg  
Staff Writer

Oftentimes it can be very difficult for us to see out of our own immediate circumstances. It seems as though we have more than enough to think and pray about within our personal lives, families, circles of friends, and country. This is certainly true, but there is a very important matter that we often neglect or are not even aware of. Our own brothers and sisters in Christ around the world are being arrested, imprisoned, beaten, tortured, and killed—all because of the faith that we have in common with them.

You may have heard this before and dismissed it, but it is true. There have been more Christians martyred for their faith in this century than in all previous centuries combined. Open Doors USA, an organization for the service of the suffering church worldwide, reports that more than 200 million Christians currently deal with intense persecution, and more than 250 million face discrimination because of their faith. The U.S. State Department says there are at least 60 countries where persecution of Christians is a reality.

The most persecution worldwide takes place within what evangelists call the "10/40 Window" of the world—a rectangle that spans from Africa all the way across Asia, and is between the 10th and 40th parallels north of the equator. This area is where the gospel has least been heard, and it is where it is most suppressed. In this

region, there are more than 1.6 billion Muslims, Hindus, and Buddhists, while the Christian population com-

prises less than two percent of all the people in the window. Many radical adherents of the other major religions, especially Islam, are the ones responsible for the persecution of the Church in these areas. Communist governments are also a large factor in the attempt to silence the church.

The countries where persecution is most intense right now are Saudi Arabia, Afghanistan, China, Russia, and Sudan, among others. As an example, consider some of the current events in Sudan: the entire country is engaged in a "holy war" in which the northern Islamic government is attempting to take over the south, where most of the Christian population is located. In one recent case, reported by the Bible League, a Sudanese man was the only one who escaped a church fire. He says, "I was praying in a church with 99 other believers. The Islamic government soldiers came and bolted the doors of our church shut. Then they began to burn the church down. We could not escape. The soldiers left us for dead. I was the only one who survived."

What can we do, as North Americans greatly blessed with the freedom of religion? There are several things we can do, but the most powerful and effective is to simply get on our knees in prayer on behalf of these brothers and sisters of ours who are suffering. We can also become more informed about persecution and donate to groups dedicated to giving aid to the persecuted church. There are many organizations that provide both information and opportunities to become involved. Here are a few good places to start:

- [www.opendoorsusa.org](http://www.opendoorsusa.org)—Open Doors with Brother Andrew
- [www.persecutedchurch.org](http://www.persecutedchurch.org)—International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church
- [www.persecuted.org](http://www.persecuted.org)—The Bible League
- [www.persecution.com](http://www.persecution.com)—Voice of the Martyrs



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