



# Dordt Diamond

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John Hansen

Matt Smith, Ben Van Holland, and Josh Visser try their luck at getting a date with Stephanie from Northwestern.

## Dating game joins campuses

by **Laura Apol**  
News Page Editor

In another attempt to bring the campuses of Dordt and Northwestern together, select students from both colleges were matched up in "The Dating Game."

The stage scene was a 70s living room including a love seat, chair, and what looked to be flowery wallpaper. A divider separated the person who asked questions from the bachelor/bachelorette so that the results would be an actual blind date. How they answered the questions would be the basis for who was chosen for the date, according to the asker's standards.

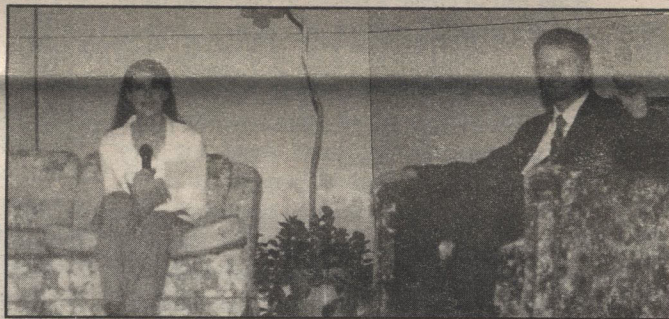
Jodi Ribbens was the first Dordt bachelorette to choose a Northwestern date. She asked each potential date a series of questions

ranging from "what kind of animal would you be" to "what do you look for in a woman?" Ribbens asked what Bachelor #3's prized possession was, and to the groans of the audience, he answered, "Family, because they're always there for ya."

The lucky guy ended up being

Bachelor #1, and Jodi was greeted with a hug and a \$20 gift certificate at TGI Fridays.

Aaron de Jager from Dordt got the chance to pick from three bachelorettes. He asked Bachelorette #3 what the nicest thing she could say to a guy was, and she answered, "Besides hello?" Ouch.



John Hansen

Stephanie from Northwestern talks with host Luke Shannon about what she wants in a date.

Being from Canada, de Jager asked Bachelorette #1 what she thought of *Canadians and Canada*. She answered, "It's okay. It's probably really cold." He wasn't too pleased with her answer, but she ended up being the one he chose.

Stephanie from Northwestern chose from three Dordt students: Matt Smith, Ben Van Holland, and Josh Visser. Her first question, which she asked all three guys was "Would you kiss on the first date?" Visser got the biggest reaction with, "No, no, no, I'm not a big kisser." To Van Holland, Stephanie asked, "What is the best trait in a girl?" He answered, "The smile. A girl with a good smile can say a million 'I love you's' without saying a word." That answer got him a date with Stephanie.

## False alarm wakes Covenant

by **Mitch Beaumont**  
Assistant Editor

"Get out now! This is a fire alarm and we aren't sure if there is really a fire." Those were the words that Covenant Hall residents woke up to early Sunday morning, February 27.

At approximately 4:00 a.m. the alarm went off, and some 10-20 firefighters, a few paramedics and one policeman responded to assist campus security in the evacuation and investigation. A cold night sky greeted the students as they straggled out one by one. Many were

unprepared for the near hour wait they had to endure before being allowed back into the building.

The matter is still under investigation so there are conflicting reports as to what actually happened, but according to Mr. Mark Christians, Interim Director of Student Services, one thing is for sure. A student discharged the fire extinguisher in the Southwest stairwell somewhere between second and first floors. Some of the haze and discharge could have sifted down toward the basement through the air-handling system.

The uncertainty starts when

trying to determine who pulled the actual alarm. Some speculate that a second student saw the haze from the fire extinguisher and pulled the alarm thinking there was a fire. Christians cannot confirm that at the moment, because the time line is still being investigated. Christians also had no comment as to who was being investigated in the event and the disciplinary actions that they are receiving as a result of their actions.

A number of students were also caught drinking at the time of the alarm. According to Christians, the normal violation policy rules are

being followed for those students who were caught drinking, or were drunk, at that time. Students will receive levels according to their violation.

Christians also wants to remind students that, in light of the Seton Hall tragedy a few months back, whenever a fire alarm goes off in any building, whether it be a dorm or the classroom building, heed the warning and evacuate. According to Christians, there were some students that had to be evacuated by the firemen because they thought it was a prank and didn't take the warning seriously.



# Ecologist calls us to be creatures of virtue

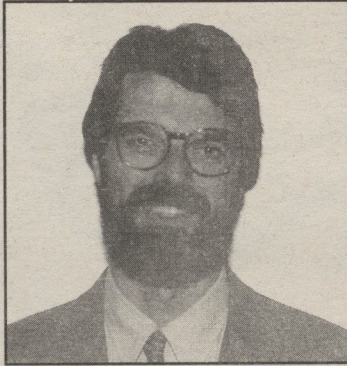
by Marty Christians  
Guest Writer

In a world of finitude, what is to keep the human race from becoming "belly-gods"? What is keeping us from divulging ourselves in the enticing pleasure and wealth which is so abundant in our American culture? With world human population increasing exponentially, with the extinction of "one species every eight hours", and with massive deforestation practices for human developmental purposes, what is a person to do?

According to Dr. Steve Bouma-Prediger, associate director of religion at Hope College in Holland, Michigan, this is the wrong question to be asking. Dr. Bouma-

Prediger, who was sponsored both by Dordt and Northwestern colleges, spent four days, from February 20 to February 23, developing a better question. His suggestion is that we must, instead of asking what we should do, simply ask the question of "who we are called to be" as Christian caretakers of God's creation.

In his public lecture on Tuesday night in C-160, he proposed that the shape of our ecological obedience should be mandated by our own conduct which affirms our character. He



John Hansen

stated that our moral virtues are formed by our behaviors and that these moral virtues are manifested through our excellence of character. In other words, we, as Christians, are commanded by our Creator to act in a way which would be pleasing to Him. Since it is He who molded us from the earth, we must live a life of virtue, not succumbing to a life of pleasure and wealth but to, instead, achieve excellence through contemplation.

In a world of finitude where human-

induced ecological disasters occur on a regular basis without much protest, who am I, as a Christian, to be? Dr. Bouma-Prediger calls us to be creatures of virtue, to act out of humility, self-restraint, wisdom, justice, frugality, love, and hope, and to do what is right. We must, then, avoid "belly-godliness" and seek righteousness and justice in our duty as Christian caretakers of God's creation.

In closing, Dr. Bouma-Prediger encouraged Dordt College by saying that we "have done a good job with our Environmental Studies department" and he urges us to keep building in our call to be faithful caretakers of God's creation.

## PLIA retreat prepares participants

by Mitch Beaumont  
Assistant Editor

The final stages of planning and preparation for PLIA are now underway. The PLIA retreat was held February 17th and 18th at New Life Reformed Church in Sioux Center.

The retreat is held every year about two or three weeks prior to spring break in order to build team unity and to give the team members the chance, often their first, to meet one another. This year's retreat was lead by Nancy Van Surksom, the SWIM Coordinator for Northwest Iowa.

Friday night was the most dynamic of the two sessions that occurred during the weekend. The evening started out with some praise

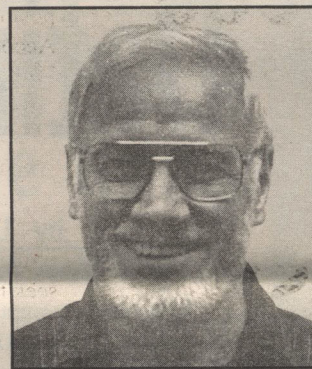
and worship music and then each team divided up and did some warm-up activities to learn each other's names. Before long Van Surksom handed out a sheet of paper with different servanthood duties on it. Each student had to go around the fellowship hall and do things that were on the sheet for other people. Van Surksom also gave her personal testimony and she challenged students to find where Christ and the cross intersect because that is where you will find His peace and love.

Saturday's morning session was built primarily on team-building activities. Every team had to create a poster to take with them on their trip. The poster had to have something from each team member about what they had learned so far from the retreat. Some posters had observations about team members and others had comments about something they had learned about their relationship with God. The highlight of the morning was when each team had to gather in a group hug and they were tied together with string. Each team had to make a trip around the room and end by traveling up and down the stairs of the stage at the front of the room. The activity proved to build unity and helped many teams develop a way to work together.

## Vanden Bosch to retire after 32 years

by David Schaap  
A & E Page Editor

When the academic year of 1999-2000 ends, the Dordt College community will say good-bye to a faithful professor of English, Dr. Mike Vanden Bosch, and welcome Dr. Mary Dengler who will fill his absence. Vanden Bosch has been working at Dordt since 1968, providing his expertise in areas of poetry, and later British and American literature. During his years of teaching, Van Den Bosch helped expand the English curriculum with such class-



John Hansen

es as Reading and Writing Poetry, as well as Film and Novel. Dengler will pick up some of Vanden Bosch's classes such as Modern British Literature and American Literature II.

Also, she is expected to teach other classes such as English Novel, World Literature, and 19th Century Women's Literature. Dengler's area of expertise. Dr. Dengler will be leaving her job at Chattanooga Christian School in Tennessee where she worked as Director of Curriculum, English Department Chair, and instructor in Advanced Placement English courses. Dengler graduated from Calvin College in '69 and received her MA and Ph.D. in English from University of Las Vegas, Nevada.

## Dr. Moes to teach at Calvin

by Laura Apol  
News Page Editor

Dr. Paul Moes announced that he will be accepting a teaching position at Calvin College after 18 years of teaching at Dordt. His new position will be similar to his duties here in the physiological psychology area.

Moes' graduate school programs were heavily rooted in research, and his goal after graduation was to pursue research positions. After receiving a recommendation to teach psychology for educational purposes, he said, "Forget it! I'm not going to teach... period." But he did and found out it wasn't so bad.

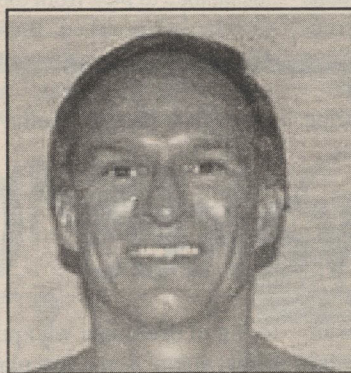
His original intention was a short-term teaching position at Dordt, but it turned out to be an 18-year stay.

Brain research is his specialized field, and he has

interest in returning to research. Calvin College offers the benefit of having people in the area that are also interested in this field.

"Collaboration is the name of the game," he said. Because research projects are difficult to do alone, his new location will "improve my ability to maintain contacts." Many well-known researchers visit or are based in the area near Calvin College.

Moes will take with him many memories of Dordt. He especially enjoys watching the students be able to move on either to grad



school or into the workforce. Many students, after landing a job that they are excited about, will come to him

and thank him for the preparation he gave them. "Those are the best moments," he says. "I've learned as much from them here as the other way around."

The strong psychology department including professors Bussema, Eigenbrood and Lantinga have been especially supportive of Moes. "They are great people to work with," he said.

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## Acappella visits campus

by Laura Apol  
News Page Editor

Acappella, meaning "without instrumental accompaniment," entertained Dordt students and residents of the area with a concert that sent out shivers because of their smooth sounds.

The four men entertained the audience with great antics, showing their musical ability. In their opening song, one member had his hand around an imaginary dial, "turning down" the volume and lights near the end of the song. Only when another member "pulled the plug" on the group, did they fade out quite quickly.

Through their amazing vocal talent, it sounds like there are drums, bass guitars, and even trumpets playing in their songs. But it's all vocal, "even though it doesn't seem like it," said one member.

Although they don't play instruments, their hands were usually busy. As if they were playing air instruments, their arms were constantly outstretched with fingers reaching towards God.

God has truly blessed their missions work. For the first time, they performed in China this summer and have since coined the term "musicianaries" as their description.

During the concert, Acappella encouraged the audience members to be themselves as God sees them. "Take the mask off," said one member. "Don't worry, nobody sees you but God. Can you see yourself?"

The masks that he was talking about were the ones that keep Christians feeling dirty, afraid, and ashamed in the face of God. But after removing those masks, "God will take you and use you because He loves you," he said.

Acappella ended their concert and left the stage with loud cheers from the crowd, but came back to do two encore songs.

## Why we don't need Social Workers: our hurting culture

by Emily Klaasen  
Guest Writer

March is social work month. The purpose of this designated month is to recognize the developing profession. To celebrate the month, the junior social work class will include various activities. The month, however, has greater significance for our campus than just activities. Although Dordt has a strong social work department, many students "outside" the social work department do not seem to truly understand what social work is. In fact, some Dordt students have distrustful and unfavorable attitudes toward social work. These attitudes might be changed if everyone was more informed about the profession.

Although a typical stereotype of a social worker may be a secular Department of Health and Human services worker trying to take away a family's child, social work involves many different aspects ranging from caring for the elderly to lobbying for social justice within the legislature. Because of the wide range of jobs, social work deals with issues of human life near and possibly dear to the hearts of almost everyone.

When talking to people around campus about the issues/problems of social work and social services, I discovered that many people are initially responsive to the harm of the profession and its controversies, which in turn tends to cast a negative light on it. Most students initially raised comments of those who abuse the welfare system, and of the problems social workers cause when they take kids out of their homes.

Some thought that while social workers hearts may be going in the right direction, they were causing more problems than helping, often due to inadequate training and knowledge.

Social work, as in other fields, does have a number of faults. We live in a broken world, where sin pervades all of our actions and decisions. There are many positive aspects that social workers bring to society. According to the National Association of Social Workers Code of Ethics (Preamble), "the primary mission of the social work profession is to enhance human well-being and help meet the basic human needs of all people".

Social workers work with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities in the context of the clients' environment and needs. Social workers seek to enhance the capacity of people to address their own needs, and as found in the social work program handbook, seek to promote the responsiveness of organizations, communities, and other social institutions to individuals' needs and social problems. Social workers can be found in schools, counseling agencies, crisis centers, adoption agencies, and community planning, working with core values of cultural diversity and human dignity.

Christians in social work strive to influence the way those in need are treated, and work from a biblical foundation that views all humans as created by God and dependent on his grace because of our inherent sinfulness. While we may not agree with all of our client's decisions, we help them discover the resources available to them and help them identify consequences to their decisions.

The struggle to accepting the social work profession is not only due to limited knowledge, but to judgmental attitudes. A common response in connection to social work is that the clients are at fault for their problems, so there is a great reluctance to helping and "handing out aid" to the clients social workers help. However, we cannot ask if someone deserves to be helped because we do not deserve God's grace upon us. We are too sure of our own ability to decipher God's judgement on others in society. We have all made mistakes, our society is imperfect, and there are times in our lives when we simply are going through a hard time and need some extra help. If your response is that churches and charities should be responsible for helping others, then I challenge you to stand behind your answer and actually volunteer and initiate discussion in our churches about the issue of helping those in need. We cannot expect others to pick up our slack if we are not willing to make an effort towards change. Because of our lack of involvement, the government must intervene.

We wouldn't "need" social workers if we had a concerned and caring society willing to help those who have made mistakes, have varied cultures, claim differing sexual orientations, and are caught in poverty. Are you willing to help others different from you, and willing to support the social work profession?

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"(Romans 3:23).

## Professor Quatro joins Blades as coach

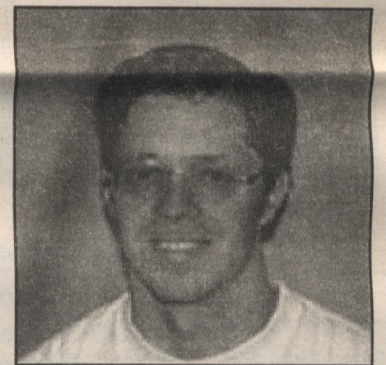
by Franklin Guillaume  
Guest Writer

Business professor Scott Quatro is a big hockey fan. That's why when Dordt's club hockey team came looking for some extra leadership this season, Coach Quatro was an excellent fit.

Quatro grew up in Detroit (aka HockeyTown), Michigan, where he developed a passion for the game of hockey and a loyalty towards the city's professional team, the Detroit Red Wings. Quatro will not hesitate to tell you about Detroit's chances for the Stanley Cup this season, and as his office well indicates, he is pretty proud about the Stanley Cup victories the Wings enjoyed in 1997 and 1998.

What makes Coach Quatro an even better fit is his own history as a hockey player. Quatro's experience is very similar to many of the members of the Blades's team—he spent nine years playing goalie in youth hockey in Detroit and then helped set up a club team similar to Dordt's at Pepperdine University in California. The hockey program at Pepperdine is still going strong today.

So far Quatro is enjoying his return to the hockey arena after being gone for nine years. "Hockey has been a constant positive presence in my life as long as I can remember," Quatro stated when asked why he took up the job of coaching the Blades. "It's been a lot of fun and challenging at the same time . . . and humbling. Despite the losses, I've still left every game having had a great time, even though I don't like losing. It's also been a lot of fun to get to know the guys."



Even though Quatro joined the team late in the season, the players received him well. Captain Josh Vande Kraats, who was relieved of some of the coaching duties when Quatro joined the team said, "A non-player coach receives and demands a certain level of respect, which is a good thing for this team."

Quatro's future involvement in the team is still uncertain at this point. Quatro stated, "If Dordt College, the Blades players, and my family all agree that it's best that I be involved in an ongoing basis, then I'd love to keep going." Whether Quatro returns or not, he hopes that the hockey program will grow and be successful in Sioux Center. "I think Dordt's got a great hockey heritage despite the fact we've never had a status. My vision is to continue in that rich tradition while increasing the level of play which will hopefully include institutional sport and the program becoming a varsity sport."

Coach Quatro's love for the game is just as strong as any of the Blades' players. Despite the fact that he's a little rusty on skates and the Detroit Red Wings will not repeat as Stanley Cup Champions this year, the players definitely enjoy having him around.



# The Grammys have gotten rude

By Jill Vossen  
Opinion Page Editor

I have a confession to make. I like awards shows—the Golden Globes, the Oscars, the Emmys, the American Music Awards, you get the idea. So, when the Grammys were on television last week, I tuned in to watch for a while. I watched long enough to see one of my favorite artists—Sting—win an award and perform, and then I shut it off, partly out of time constraint and partly from disgust. The Grammys have gotten rude.

The impudence of several of the presenters, as well as host Rosie O'Donnell, was astounding. I couldn't help thinking several times, They can get away with this on national television? Don't get me wrong—I like Rosie and, on the occasions that I have seen her show, I have enjoyed it. At the Grammys this year, however, a new level of brash and rude outspokenness was achieved. Shania Twain was ridiculed for her absence by presenters who noted that she was "having her belly waxed." Shortly before Sting's

performance, Rosie felt it necessary to fill time by informing the audience that Sting was delayed because he was "having tantric sex backstage—whatever that is." I include the lewd statements as examples of the rude and inconsiderate comments that characterized the Grammys this year.

I think the rudeness of the Grammys is indicative of a larger trend in society. We have become a rude people. There is no topic off-limits for mixed company discussion and television humor is often based around rude and inconsiderate behavior. What was once considered highly inappropriate public behavior has now become the norm. We have lost a sense of the inappropriate on a societal scale. Our generation has never been taught the lines of respect for one another. I know in my own life, it is easy to descend into the mire of sewer-like thinking, smacking along the bottom mire.

So what? you are thinking. We are liberated and free to do what we want, or so we think. I think in losing a sense of public respect and decency we have given up a freedom that is not easily

regained. We lose a sense of self-worth and identity as children of God. Rudeness is just another form of individualism. I can say what I want and it doesn't matter what you think or if it affects you negatively, it's about my freedom of expression and my freedom of speech. There is no longer a premium placed on sparing the feelings of our neighbors and striving not to be a stumbling block for those around us. Rudeness and inconsideration are a form of stumbling. The Bible says we are to love our neighbors as ourselves, but if we are rude and inconsiderate, this behavior can hardly be compatible with the mandate to love.

I think we must first examine ourselves for rude behavior and place respect for others as a priority in our lives. Of course, placing respect above rudeness requires some effort. It is infinitely easier to make rude comments than it is to be respectful. We must stand against the stream of society and set ourselves apart as Christians. The world will know us by our respect for one another.

# Enjoy being a student

by Sarah Eekhoff  
Editor



"Where are you going?" I asked my roommate as she shrugged into her coat two minutes after we had finished supper.

"Work," she replied shortly.

"Again?" I asked. "Didn't you work yesterday? And the day before?"

"Yeah," she sighed. "And I have no idea when I am going to get my research paper done."

In 1973, only 36% of full-time college students, ages 16 to 24, were employed. These numbers jumped up to 46% in 1993. One-fourth of these students are working at least 20 hours per week, according to the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.

What does this mean? Obviously, more and more college students are attempting to balance employment with education. Is it working?

The National Center for Education Statistics thinks so. "Workplace exposure can help students prepare for future, full-time employment," they claim. However, they admit, "employment may have some negative impact on students' school experience and on their study time, especially if too much time is spent at work."

There are advantages to holding down a job at the same time as earning a degree. Students who work learn to

budget their time, balancing their work responsibilities with their homework for class. By observation, they learn about the business and economic aspects of running an organization. The exposure to the labor force can prepare them for full-time employment, as well as make them aware of what they need to look for their future jobs, what office procedures they like and which atmospheres they want to avoid.

However, holding down a job while attending classes can also be detrimental to their educational health. Most of the jobs held by college students require a low level of skill. For example, I am a waitress and although I love my job, it does not stretch my mind. Beyond testing my memory of the customer's drink orders, I am not challenged. My job also does not prepare me for the career that I want as a journalist. Most part-time jobs do not lead to the careers that college students want to go into.

Another difficulty with low skill level jobs is that usually they are not highly motivational. Many of my fellow employees at Perkins Family Restaurant and Bakery are high-school and college students working during the summer and over breaks to make it through school. The rest are middle-aged ladies who are uncomfortable with the thought of being waitresses for the rest of their lives. Both of these groups complain about management, fellow employees, and the work in general. Obviously, Perkins is not on the list of the 10 most desirable places to

work, and I doubt many of your summer jobs are either. For that reason, morale is often low, and a bad attitude toward work easily festers.

I realize how much money it takes to attend college, but I believe that it is the wrong motivation for work. We need to work because it is good, because God created it, and hopefully because we love what we're doing. We should not be so caught up in getting ahead financially that we sacrifice the best experiences of our college life—playing sports, participating in a play, going on PLIA, camping with your friends, volunteering for the various programs—because we need to work.

I am not saying that we should all quit our jobs and live for extracurricular activities. God made us as creatures who need work, who enjoy work. We can learn good lessons from our jobs—how to be responsible, how to manage our time, and what qualities we want in our full-time job atmospheres once we graduate. Instead, I am calling for a balance. Work, as important and God-initiated as it is, needs to be balanced with play.

Be careful to make wise decisions regarding your employment. We are students first and employees second. Work at a job that you enjoy. Work hours that fit into your schedule, putting your homework first. Give your best attention to your studies, your friends, and your extracurricular activities. After all, we have our whole lives to work and only four years to be college students.

# Strive for weakness

by Mitch Beaumont  
Assistant Editor



Are you a weak Christian? If so, then good for you! All right, don't panic, I haven't turned into an apathetic Christian or anything. I'd like to tell you about the valuable lesson I learned a couple of weeks ago.

There are many people who claim that Christianity is only for the weak and that we are nothing without our fellow believers. For instance, Jessie Ventura, the Governor of Minnesota, made the following claim recently: "Organized religion is a sham and a crutch for weak-minded people, who need strength in numbers." That's right, and we're proud of it!

OK, Christianity is not a sham and we shouldn't use it as a crutch. However, following Christ does require that you be a weak-minded, God-dependent man or woman, not the proud, self-reliant person that Ventura obviously thinks a Christian needs to be. Although this is hard to say, I think Ventura is right on. There is strength in numbers and, especially for Christians, it is much more effective to tackle an issue or obstacle with a group of friends and believers than it is to go at it alone. I would like to suggest that the only way for us to be effective Christians is to be weak and vulnerable to fellow believers and to be weak and totally dependent on God.

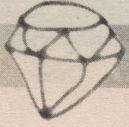
When I hear the word vulnerable, I shudder. Usually that means revealing your deepest, darkest secrets to someone you hardly know. In a way that's what I'm suggesting now, but there is another dimension to it that is even more important. To be vulnerable to God means to be open to what God has in store for your life. It means that when you discover that you are in the wrong major and when you feel God calling

you to another field, you listen to the still, small voice inside of you. To be vulnerable to fellow believers is to listen when your best friend bluntly tells you that you are living contrary to God's Word, and then adjust your lifestyle.

But what does it take to actually listen when God or your friend wants to help you along? That's the hardest part, if you ask me. Listening to criticism, much like listening to your friend in this case, is one of the hardest things for me. How else can we be expected to grow as Christians if we can't be shaped and molded into what God's wants of us? And what better way to be shaped and molded than to take and apply the criticism of fellow believers and God?

As a journalism major I do a lot of writing. I have two particular classes in which each person's writing is critiqued by the professor and by fellow students. When the first of my stories was critiqued in print journalism class, I got very defensive and attempted to shoot down anyone who mentioned that I make some adjustments, even though I knew they were right. As the semester has progressed, though, I have been able to take my writing to another level because of the constructive criticisms that I received.

Listening to God and fellow believers is very similar to the refinement that my writing has gone through. When you first hear that message from God that you are not living according to his Word, it's hard to take. But I'm here to tell you that if you open up and actually apply what God wants you to, your life will take on a very different form: a beautiful form. Before you know it, you'll look forward to hearing God tell you what you can work on next. I'm not quite to that point with my writing, but I know if I keep my defenses down and listen intently to what others have to say, my writing and my life will take on a form that I didn't even know is possible.



## Picture Poll

### "What are you doing for spring break?"



"I'm going swimming in Lake Michigan."

-Ann DuMez  
Freshman



"I'm going to party on the beach and meet chicks."

-Anthony Vanderwal  
Sophomore



"I'm going to California for a couple of days and then to Lake Havasu, Arizona."

-Sherene Stewart  
Junior



"I'm sticking around here and working so I will have money for my graduation trip."

-Ryan Punt  
Senior

## AMOR reaches out in Haiti and Nicaragua: evangelizing despite language barrier

by Allison De Jong  
Staff Writer

Over Spring Break, two dozen Dordt students will be participating in AMOR (A Mission OutReach), flying overseas to work in Haiti and Nicaragua.

Dan Altena, AMOR's coordinator for the past four years, and Professor Apol are taking 12 students to Nicaragua; this team will be working at the Rancho Ebenezer, an hour away from the capital city of Managua. Rancho Ebenezer is a farm to which the local people can come in order to learn how to best use their land and care for their animals. This year, AMOR is beginning construction on a classroom building for these farmers.

On the weekends, the team will probably go sightseeing, as well as attend worship services in Managua. Worshiping together with the Nicaraguan Christians is one way the group will witness to the people. Evangelism is made difficult by the language barrier, but as Altena says, "The day-to-day interaction of working alongside the Nicaraguans is a powerful witness."

The second AMOR team will

be building an infant home in Cap-Haïtien, a city of 175,000 people on Haiti's northern coast. This group of nine students is working under an organization called Children of the Promise, of which senior Travis Bonnema's parents are a part.

The Haiti team will be doing evangelism as well as construction. They plan on showing "The Jesus Film" on a couple of nights and then doing a follow-up. Also, every team member will have the opportunity to give his or her testimony through means of an interpreter. This part of the project can be a little scary; as Bonnema says, "I think people are most excited and most nervous about evangelism, but it's an incredible experience."

Going on AMOR costs about \$1500. Most of the support is raised through letter-writing, although AMOR does have fundraisers as well. The price may seem high, but it's worth the cost. Altena says, "I definitely encourage anyone to go on it, even if they're not interested in missions. It's good to get into another culture, to step out of North America. For a lot of kids it's a life-changing event."

## Housing process underway

by Rose Ann Vander Wal  
Staff Writer

Every spring all Dordt students make their way through Dordt's housing process. This can be confusing as well as nerve wracking. But it doesn't have to be—there are just three steps.

First, students will receive a packet of information about housing. It was put out on the first of March. The packet will contain information on Dordt's point system as well as a housing sign up card. Students need to group together the correct number of roommates for the living situation they plan to apply for.

The next step is to turn in the completed housing form along with a hundred-dollar deposit for every group member. The business office is tentatively scheduling times to accept these applications and deposits starting on March 22.

The actual selection of rooms is the last step, and it occurs on two different days. Apartment sign ups are tentatively scheduled for the 29th of March, and dorm sign ups

will be held most likely on the 3rd of April.

The order in which students pick their rooms is determined by the point system and lottery. The group with the most points is automatically at the head of the list for sign ups. Points are determined by high school graduation dates. Freshmen don't have any points and Seniors get six. Groups with the same number of points are determined by a lottery. Nancy Hibbelink assists Altena in this process, and they use a bingo chip to assure absolute fairness. The sign up order is posted in the SUB.

Many people often complain that the housing process is unfair. But according to Altena this is not true because it is done randomly with seniority. Altena said that, "[She] does the best with what she has." She says that the best way to go about the housing process is to follow the rules. Students who read the information and follow the guidelines usually have no problems.

## Concert Choir heads west on tour

by Tricia S. Van Ee  
Features Page Editor

While many students will be participating in PLIA, competing in sporting events, or traveling home during spring break, the 49 members of Concert Choir and their director, Dr. Ben Kornelis, will be spending March 9-19 performing throughout Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, Montana, and South Dakota.

The choir alternates between spring break and Christmas break

tours with the Concert Band and Chamber Orchestra each year. Last Christmas break, Concert Choir traveled South to Texas. Dordt sends its large musical ensembles on tours such as these to connect with its constituents. The college's support base is so widespread that most of its constituents cannot make it to Sioux Center to attend a concert; the musical ensembles in essence bring part of Dordt to them.

Concert Choir will be performing over 20 pieces at school

assemblies, church services, and church concerts. Kantorei, the select 17-voice a capella group, will also be performing several pieces, directed by both Dr. Kornelis and student director Andrew Compton.

Kornelis says that touring has several benefits for the choir, the primary one being musical. In preparing this vast amount of music, the choir rehearses each piece so thoroughly that they develop a sense of ensemble they would not otherwise be able to

achieve. Also, the many hours choir members spend together on the bus helps them to get to know each other extremely well, thus they feel much more comfortable singing together. Kornelis also said that the anticipation of a tour is encouragement for the choir to work hard all year.

Concert Choir and Kantorei will be giving a pre-tour concert Saturday, March 4, at St. John's Lutheran Church in Le Mars, and will also give a Home Concert at Dordt Friday, March 24.



-Renae Visscher, Owner/Stylist-  
-Paula Oostenink, Stylist-  
-Missy Driesen, Stylist-  
-Alissa Roetman, Stylist-  
-Carmen Mulder, Stylist-  
-Gwen Van Roekel, Stylist-

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# Concert Band, Chamber Orchestra performs winter concert



Dr. Duitman directs the Concert Band at the winter concert on February 27.

by Andrea Voogt  
Staff Writer

The Concert Band and Chamber Orchestra performed their winter concert in the B.J. Haan Auditorium on the afternoon of February 27.

The Concert Band performed five pieces, including *The Florentiner* by Fucik, *Colonial Song* by Grainger, *Thus Do You Fare, My Jesus* by Bach, *Scenes from the Louvre* by Dello Joio, and *Concerto for Trumpet* by Haydn. The Concerto featured trumpet player was Craig Broek, a senior who is majoring in Communication.

The Chamber Orchestra performed three pieces, including *Hjertesår* (Heartwounds) by Grieg,

*Symphonie No. 12 in E Major* by Haydn, and *Concerto in d minor for Two Oboes* by Vivaldi. Sophomores Jill Starkenburg and Ken Elgersma performed a duet in accompaniment with the *Concerto in d minor for Two Oboes*.

The winter concert also featured a special performance of *Serenade (Opus 44)* by Dvorak by a select group of woodwinds and strings, including oboe, clarinet, bassoon, french horn, cello, and double bass.

After the concert, conductor Henry Duitman commented, "I think it went very well. We had some really great music, and we did our best."

Travis Bonnema

## "The Normals" return to Dordt's Campus

by Ryan Vande Kraats  
Staff Writer

The Student Activities Committee has sponsored another concert. "The Normals," a Christian pop/rock/alternative band from Illinois, will be appearing in the B.J. Haan auditorium on March 25, and everyone is encouraged to come out and support the band.

Some of you may recall that the Normals were a part of the concert last year that featured All-Star United and Silage. It is my opinion that the Normals had the most compelling show of the three bands that played, and I would argue that they are one of the more talented Christian acts that I have listened to. I am reluctant to make

comparisons of who they sound like, but for the sake of this article I will. I suppose they sound sort of like Jars of Clay, but are more interesting, and have more energy. I really enjoy their first CD entitled "Better Than This."

The band consists of three principle members and a drummer that changes occasionally. Mark Osenga is in charge of singing and playing guitar, and keyboards. Mark Lockett also sings and plays a variety of guitars and is very good—he does a bunch of cool stuff with effects, like Edge from U2, or Tom Morello from Rage Against the Machine. And finally, Clayton Daily plays the bass guitar, the cello on a few songs, and sings back up as well. All of these guys are from Normal, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago, and have since moved to Nashville, where they live and work.

So, as a member of S.A.C., and a supporter of Dordt concerts, I would encourage all of you to check these guys out. They are a great band of guys who are basically our age. They would appreciate your support, and would love to talk with you. Ticket information will be available in the SUB later this month.

## Alumni art show now featured in galleries

Photographs from nine Dordt College alumni are on display in both of Dordt's art galleries. The exhibit will run through March 18 in the mezzanine art gallery in the B.J. Haan Auditorium and the new art gallery located near the C-160 lecture hall in the main classroom building.

Featured in the exhibit are black and white photographs as well as colored pictures and photos that have been artificially enhanced or combined with lithography for a surreal effect. Nature is one of the main subjects captured by the photographers, but there are also pictures of people, man-made structures and still-life. One of the photographers even combined pottery with a bright, yet simple photo of tulips.

Vanessa Bartels ('91), Helena Geels ('96), Sue Halma ('83), Michelle Hofer ('96), Ellen Mouw ('88), April Van Rys (has taken art courses), Melynda Van Zee ('93), Janeen Wassink ('97), and Sharyl Wielard ('89) are the exhibitors. Many of them live in Sioux



Double Image, by Helena Geels

Center or Orange City, but some hail from as far away as South Dakota and Wyoming.

The B.J. Haan Auditorium art gallery is open weekdays from 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and also during evening hours in the auditorium. The exhibit in the classroom building art gallery is open weekdays from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. There is no admission charge and the public is invited to view the work on display.

## Counting Crows—they're no teen heartthrob

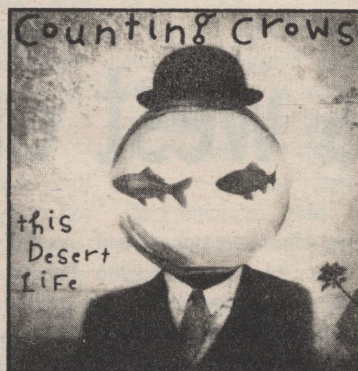
by John Hansen  
Staff Writer

Over the last nine years, the Counting Crows have only released three albums. In this amount of time, most bands would have put out 5 or 6. These verses have allowed the Crows to weed out the true fans from those just looking for another radio hit. Adam Duritz has been named one of the best songwriters of the decade. Because he pours all of his feelings and emotions into the lyrics it usually takes several listenings to understand them. Duritz truly expresses desire and longing, weary from the trip, but with the strength to keep going. Over the past decade, the Counting Crows have established themselves as an excellent blues/rock band, and their fall '99 release only confirms it.

The Crows newest release, *This Desert*

*Life*, is definitely better than *Recovering the Satellites*, and it gives *August and Everything After* a run for its money. This disc is full of hits, but only one single. "Hangin' Around" is the catchy, upbeat song that gets the radio play. From this first song on the disc, the beat drops down, and the emotions rise. Duritz and band referred to the second track, "Mrs. Potter's Lullaby", as the "best song they have ever written." This track definitely contains one of the best lines on the album, "I dream I never know anyone at the party, and I'm always the host."

Another lyrical high occurs toward the middle of the disk with the song



"Colorblind", which is also found on the *Cruel Intentions* soundtrack. In this song, Duritz laments his loss of attention to the world around him, and his need to be brought back to reality. The stirring piano melody (taken from Beethoven's "Moonlight Sonata") combined with heart touching lyrics, makes this one of greatest Crows songs to

date. Following "Colorblind" is yet another amazing song. It takes some guts to entitle a song "I wish I was a Girl," but Duritz pulls it off. Through explaining the difficulties of being able to express feelings as a man, this song is both up-tempo and thoughtful. After the last track, "St. Robinson and His Cadillac

Dream" there are a solid 3 minutes of silence. Opposing tradition, the hidden track found here is an amazing song. This Rolling Stones-style rock song kicks off a bit of the tranquility found on the majority of the disc. Duritz advises listeners to hang on to the ideals of love, friendship and fun.

The Counting Crows stuck with the style they started with in the beginning, and they made it work for them again. Despite some mellow and almost depressive lyrics, the album does have its light. All of these factors that make the Crows who they are and give them a style of their own. This album is sure to be enjoyed by any old fan or new listener. Don't be worried if you don't get much from it the first time around, it may take a few spins. Once this disk catches your ear, you won't be able to take it out of your CD player.



John Hansen

## Dordt Blades comes to an end

by Janelle Saarloos  
Staff Writer

The Dordt Blades finished up this year's hockey season on the weekend of February 18 and 19. Perhaps they did not win as many games as they had hoped, but the Blades vastly improved their season's record from last year, winning four games as opposed to none in 1998-99.

The 1999-2000 season was characterized by a strong offense. The Blades roster included many players who could consistently put the puck in the net. Perhaps the biggest challenge for the Blades this year was defense, in spite of excellent goaltending by both Hoogland and Guillaume. Overall, their performance was admirable.

When asked what the highlights of the season were, Dordt

Blades captain Josh Vande Kraats mentioned the game against Des Moines College Hockey Club. Though the Blades lost 5-4, Vande Kraats believed it was the best home game the Blades had played in two years.

This year's team consisted of many talented freshmen which makes for a bright future in Dordt Blades hockey. However, they by no means overshadowed the

upperclassmen who brought leadership, experience and heart to the game.

When asked to speculate on the 2000-2001 season, Vande Kraats responded, "I think that next year will be a good year for the Blades. We have gained the experience we need, found a coach to run the show and motivate the guys to play hard, and we are only losing one player to graduation." The Blades

have not yet announced the MVP for the season. This will be done at the annual hockey banquet on Saturday, March 4.

As for all the loyal fans of the Dordt Blades, including myself, we all hold a special place in our hearts for each player who fearlessly and constantly gave their all in the name of hockey this year. We are all proud of you guys and thanks for a fun and exciting season!

## Indoor track on the way to Texas

by Jocelyn Van Beek  
Sports Page Editor

On March 9-17, 43 of Dordt's track participants will be heading to San Antonio, Texas to try out the running conditions. The team will leave Dordt on March 9 and take a bus to Texas where they will participate in two track meets. The first meet will be on March 11 against Southwest

Texas State in San Marcos, Texas. Their second meet will be on March 16 against Southwest Kansas College in Winfield, Kansas.

While the team is there, they will be practicing, competing, sightseeing, and also taking part in a service project. The team will work at the Salvation Army in San Antonio for the service project. They will be staying in homes in San Antonio. Some Dordt students are providing their homes—Sara de Boom and Elizabeth Hartwell. There are also two churches, the Orthodox Presbyterian and PCA, that have host families to house these students. They will be working hard while down there and be enjoying a great experience as well.

## Men's baseball heads to Florida

by Rachele VanderWerff  
Staff Writer

Coach Tom Visker is very optimistic as he awaits the beginning of the baseball season. His guys have been working hard at practice since January and are eager to begin.

The hard-working team consists of four seniors, three juniors, three sophomores, and seven freshman. The seniors are Mike Bruxvoort, Kevin Van Otterloo, Craig Broek, and Tim Roose. The juniors are Jim De Stigter, Ryan Lefever, and Jason Dorhout. The sophomores are Scott Van Andel, Beau Bosma, and Scott Den Hartog. And the freshmen are Joe Vande Griend, Nathan

Huenemann, Galen Van Otterloo, Chris Begeman, Will Baumann, Scott Dunwoody, and Chad Roskam.

The team is not only excited to begin the regular season, but they are excited to play in the Gene Cusic Classic as well. The Gene Cusic Classic is a tournament at Ft. Meyers, Florida over spring break. It consists of seven games against five different schools, and Dordt looks forward to facing Calvin College in their final game of the tournament.

Dordt's baseball team is fired up and ready to go. You will not want to miss any of these exciting games. If you do not plan to go to Ft. Meyers, Florida, the next game is March 23.

## Young but experienced softball girls look forward to season

by Angie VanEssen  
Guest Writer

The year 2000 has arrived and the Dordt softball team is up and ready. The outlook of the team is great. The Defender softball team may look young, but it is very experienced. The team consists of two Seniors, Caral Geleynse and Marlene Van Wingerden, which the team will look to for positive leadership and

seniority, one Junior, seven Sophomores and five Freshmen. This year the team defense and pitching staff will be the strength. As long as the team comes prepared and ready to play, the year shall be a successful one. The season opener will begin in Salina, Kansas on the 10th of March during spring break. Come out and support your Defender softball team and experience an exciting season.

### Statistics

#### Men's Basketball

##### Feb. 17

vs. Dakota State 74 - 73

##### Leading Scorers:

Eric Maas - 19

Neal Brenneman - 12

##### Leading Rebounders:

Shawn DeStigter - 4

Neal Brenneman - 4

Randy Oostra - 4

Adam Van Meeteren - 4

##### Feb. 19

vs. Huron\* 75 - 79

##### Leading Scorers:

Michael Ribbens - 13

Randy Oostra - 12

Eric Maas - 11

##### Leading Rebounders:

Randy Oostra - 9

Adam Van Meeteren - 9

##### Feb. 23

vs. Sioux Falls 64 - 66

##### Leading Scorers:

Neal Brenneman - 18

Eric Maas - 15

##### Leading Rebounder:

Randy Oostra - 9

##### Feb. 26

SDIC Playoffs

vs. Sioux Falls\* 83 - 92

##### Leading Scorers:

Randy Oostra - 20

Michael Ribbens - 12

##### Leading Rebounder:

Neal Brenneman - 8

#### Womens' Basketball

##### Feb. 17

vs. Sioux Falls 63 - 69

##### Leading Scorers:

Carla Geleynse - 20

Serena Van Beek - 17

Marlene Van Wingerden - 10

##### Leading Rebounders:

Kelli Holwerda - 6

Carla Geleynse - 6

##### Feb. 19

vs. Huron\* 88 - 69

##### Leading Scorers:

Carla Geleynse - 24

Serena Van Beek - 19

Marlene Van Wingerden - 12

Kelli Holwerda - 12

##### Leading Rebounder:

Carla Geleynse - 10

##### Feb. 23

vs. Sioux Falls 58 - 66

##### Leading Scorers:

Serena Van Beek - 15

Carla Geleynse - 10

##### Leading Rebounder:

Kelli Holwerda - 8

#### Indoor Track

##### SDIC Indoor

##### Championship Meet @

##### Dordt -

##### Feb 19, 2000

##### Women: First place over

##### Black Hills State.

##### 1st place finishes:

Amanda Te Krony - shotput

Jill Starkenburg - pole vault

Erica Ton - triple jump

Sarah Haan - 400M

4x800 - Emily Kauk,

Rebecca Demarest,

Loralee Bykerk, Tabitha

Vander Wilt

4x400 - Rachele Walhof,

Jackie Eekhoff,

Alicia Wakefield, Sarah

Haan

##### Men: 4th place

##### 1st place finishes:

4x400 - Troy Ten Napel, Jon

Dekkers,

Mark Buwalda, Eric Carlson

##### NAIA National Results:

##### Feb. 26, 2000

##### Lincoln, NE

##### All-American Finishers:

Jill Starkenburg - pole vault

- 10'10"

Ron Kingma - 800M -

1:53.59



## News Briefs

by Jen Hoogeveen  
Staff Writer

### Shooting victims getting younger

A first grader was shot by her seven-year-old male classmate Tuesday morning at Buell Elementary in Mount Morris, MI.

After being shot in the neck, the little girl was rushed to a nearby hospital where she died approximately half an hour later. It is not yet known whether this was deliberate or an accident.

The boy is now in custody, and it has been said that it is unlikely that he will be charged with the crime due to his age. Officials say the boy is not sure where he got the gun. Unknown to teachers, other elementary students knew that the boy had the gun.

At the news of yet another school shooting, President Clinton called on Congress to set a requirement that all handguns be equipped with locks to prevent this tragedy from reoccurring.

### Flood waters overwhelm Mozambique

Due to torrential rains, Mozambique and other areas of Africa are facing a huge crisis. Fast-rising flood waters have caused death for thousands; starvation is quickly becoming an issue, and flood-borne diseases like cholera and malaria are starting to take their toll. Those who are alive are huddling on rooftops, clinging to trees, or looking for available high ground. South Africa has seven military helicopters working on rescue missions, with another on the way.

However, this cataclysmic event is going to get worse before it gets better with another wave of water coming down the Limpopo River. It is expected that 20,000 are homeless in Mozambique since the beginning of this episode three weeks ago. Zimbabwe's homeless are calculated at more than 80,000 in addition to Botswana's 60,000.

Several countries are helping out financially including the U.S., Great Britain, Canada, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden and Norway. The International Federation of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent Societies in Geneva are also appealing for aid.

### "Pranksters" facing murder charges in Germany

Three American teenagers (believed to be children of American servicemen), who were throwing rocks Sunday from a German highway bridge at passing cars, killed two and injured five motorists. Two women, ages 20 and 41, were killed when large rocks hit their windshields. Six cars were hit within 15 minutes. These so-called "pranksters" were part of a group that met to try their aim at moving targets. The youth are now facing possible murder charges by the German police.

### Last rebel stronghold falls

Russian troops overrun the last rebel stronghold, Shatoi, in Chechnya Tuesday, sealing a victory in a five month campaign. The battle's clincher was in Russia's hand after they split rebel defenses by seizing two strategic mountain points. The rebels promise to launch a guerrilla war against Russian forces. For now, the remaining rebels are in groups in the mountains, being searched for by Russian troops, or heading for neighboring Georgia. The Russians plan to leave a military unit of 25,000 in Chechnya permanently. The brain behind the campaign, President Vladimir Putin, expects to have success in the presidential election March 26 as well, due to the victory over the rebels.

## Diamond lookback

Historical headlines and quotes from past March issues

### 1959

□ "Dordt's First Tangible Basketball Award"

### 1961

□ "1961 Dordt Choir Begins Tour April 15th"

### 1962

□ "Dordt Expands Facilities"—"Construction on this new \$85,000 Dordt College Music and Administrative Building will get under way as soon as the frost is out of the ground"

### 1963

□ "Skaters Waltz To Sandy Hollow"

### 1964

□ "Drama-Music Extravaganza Is Set For Tonight"

□ "The [new dining] hall is shrouded in blood-red tapestries which cast a red hue over the furniture when the drapes are drawn. It is not true that an attempt was made to duplicate the seventh room in 'The Masque of the Red Death' since the furniture is blond rather than ebony."

□ "Dordt Evolves New Center"—"Actually, it is both unfair and erroneous to call the new commons the Greasy Spoon. Reportedly, the silverware is untouched by human hands when it is washed. It is supposedly cleaner now than it was when dried with semi-clean

towels."

□ "Participation In Sports Grows"—"Meetings were called to determine the student body's interest in baseball and track and field. A sufficient number of boys showed up for baseball, and Dordt will have a baseball team this spring."

### 1967

□ "Dordt Sets Up Weather Station"

□ "Dordt Receives Finances for New Phys. Ed. Plant"

□ "Foosball In The Commons"

### 1968

□ "Twirpers Turn The Tables"—"During this week the girls were required to carry books, open doors, buy lunches, and perform all other acts of chivalry for the opposite sex."

### 1969

□ "Theatre Arts Courses Widen New Curriculum"

### 1970

□ "Seerveld To Direct 'Greatest Song'"

### 1977

□ Last Wednesday evening (during the prayer service) the Dordt College Library became a statistic. It was toilet papered.

-compiled by Brady Fopma

## Valuing time leads to a greater appreciation of the things in life

by Nicholas Davelaar

Guest Writer

Today is quite the age of efficiency. Not only can we travel from point A to point B in record time, but our food can be nuked for our consumption in only seconds. We now have the ability to be cured of some ailments through same-day surgery. We find ourselves shopping on-line, getting each item without wasting an afternoon and receiving our purchases at our doorstep within record time. What took our parents and grandparents an hour to do, we can do in half the time, if not less.

Yet, the alarming rate of efficiency that we have achieved is leaving something to be desired. We find

ourselves along with the elderly reminiscing about a different age when "things were made to last."

Even though daily tasks took place with more labor and effort, those were the "good old days." There is something happy, content, and grand about those days. We can assign no specific date to this time, but a clear image comes vividly to every mind.

It is easy to remember the love and care packed into certain things that added richness to life. Grandmother's pies, hand-crafted clocks, lazily-spent holidays, all indicate a raw inefficiency, a waste of time compared to today, that made life what it really was.

Yet, there is no question about the value of these things. From musical instruments to quilts, furniture to homemade baked goods, our culture shows its appreciation with added monetary value to such greatness.

Yet, the only factors that really made such things great were the time, energy, and care put into each item. A meal is worth nothing if a cook slaps a slab of beef onto the counter, cooks it until it is "good-enough," then randomly puts this or that vegetable hastily alongside the meat.

Likewise, a quilt is worth nothing if the makers decide that they want to get the thing done in an afternoon, nonchalantly throwing some random scraps together. The love and care that we learn to appreciate within hours of birth is fostered only through time.

Time is not only a factor in the "things" in our lives, but also in the relationships that we cherish.

The rat race scarcely seems to find time to nourish the many deep loves of yesterday. If we feel as if it is more advantageous to invest our energy into inhuman objects such as fame and wealth, we will certainly be lacking in the remaining time that we are able to use for our daily human interaction, the kind that lasts, not a quick spiel to the drive-up person at a fast-food restaurant or the representative for our Internet service provider.

It is not surprising that we can so easily ignore genocide in a foreign land or abortion by the thousands in our own nation when we will hardly concern ourselves with our neighbors. When life holds so little value, demanding little of our time, then why prevent its elimination or even beginning?

The point remains: life is short, and we have much better things to do than garner more wealth, power, or fame. When time is valued, life gains more appreciation.

When it takes time and energy to make a meal, a piece of furniture, or a painting, we truly appreciate our possessions, not quickly and carelessly packing them into a landfill.

When it takes years to gain a true friend, each person we have grown to love is a gem in our life, not another fool that we have met on our way. The most phenomenal thing that we can do, even today, is to "waste" our time, affecting those nearest to us and passing on the cherished, priceless, and rare legacies that are worth much more than any day's "wealth."

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