



Volume XLV
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DORDT DIAMOND



February 21, 2002

Inside Your Dordt Diamond

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Page 2 - A new inter-disciplinary major is being added. Hear from several professors about the new program.



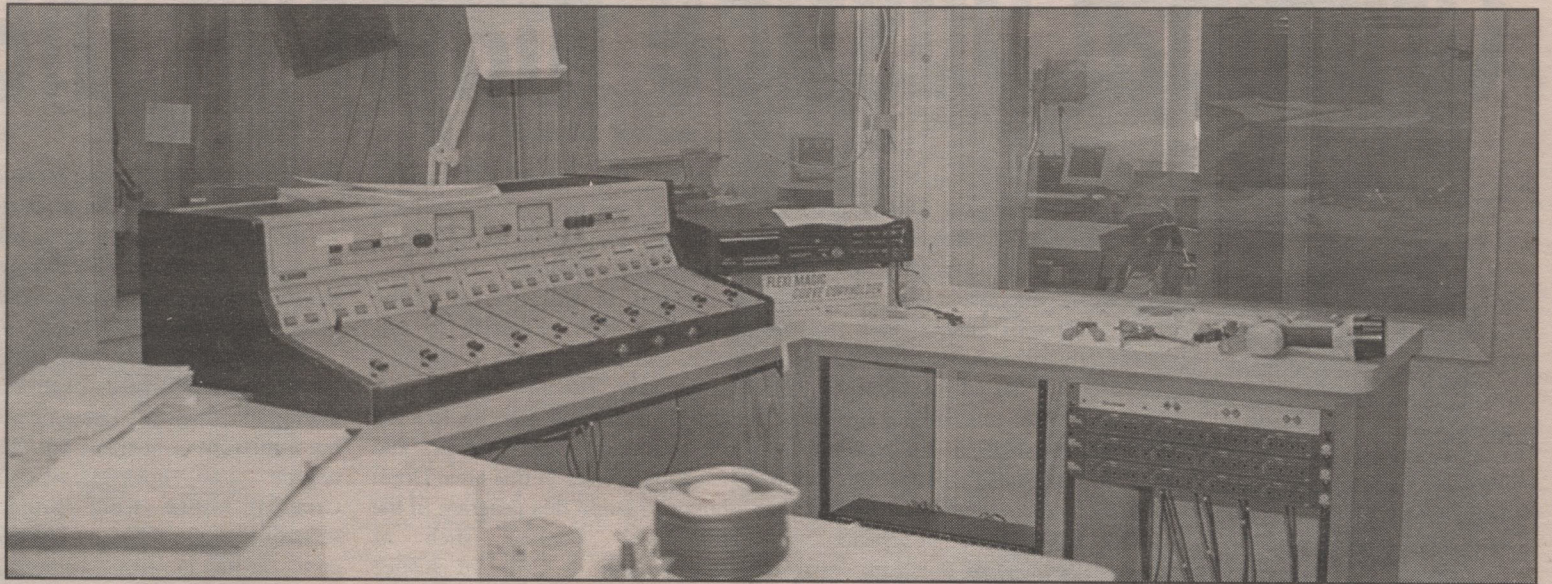
Pages 3,4,5-- Check out the highlights from last weekend's Talent Extravaganza.



Page 6-- Preview the Spring production, "House of Bernarda Alba."



Page 7- The men's basketball team has made the playoffs! Read about their season and what lies ahead in the playoffs.



Lori Panchot

The master control room at KDCR is in the final stages of renovations.

KDCR renovations in progress

Josh Bowar
Assistant Editor

You may think the sounds of drills and hammers wouldn't jive with today's Christian contemporary music, but if you take a step inside Dordt's KDCR radio station, you may hear power tools in the mix. The station's master control room is in the midst of a much-needed face-lift.

The day prior to Christmas vacation, Dordt maintenance personnel began to tear down the control room, stripping it of all equipment and taking out a wall to enlarge the space. During the renovation project, all announcing and on-air programming is being conducted in the station's large production studio.

This is the first renovation at KDCR since the construction of the Recreation Center. At that time, the radio tower and transmitter were moved north of campus and a new production room and work area were created. Now the control room is being brought up to date

with current technologies.

"KDCR's master control room was long overdue for an update. Much of the equipment and set-up was obsolete," says station manager Dennis De Waard.

The renovation was brought on because the room was too small. It was also organized around turntables and reel-to-reels which are not used today. The configuration of the wiring system had given station personnel problems because many different engineers had worked on the system over the years. Documentation of the work of these engineers was out of date or nonexistent. During the current renovation, all wiring is being removed and campus engineer, Ralph Goemaat, is supervising the set up of a wiring system from scratch.

Along with new wires and more space comes a different type of board operation. On-air announcers will be able to stand up to run the controls. Track lighting and flat-screen monitors will also add to the modern feel of the control room.

"Our style of programming includes more interviews and talk programs. We needed to change the physical layout of the control room to accommodate the new style," commented De Waard.

Also included in the renovation are additional microphone stations in the control room, which will accommodate talk shows such as President Zylstra's Friday morning talk show "Conversations." New carpet, ceiling improvements, and better ventilation are additional improvements that will enhance work environment quality.

With the new control room comes further capabilities to stream over the Internet, and more versatility in routing sound between studios. Wiring will also be done in cabinets instead of being draped across the walls and the floor.

"It is going well and there have been no major problems," says Goemaat. "I am quite pleased with it and am excited with what it will look like." Goemaat is also enthusiastic about the convenience the new system will offer.

"If there is a problem in the future, we will be able to shut off one room and broadcast in another room and be able to work on the problem instead of having to go off the air or work late at night."

The renovation also brings about new possibilities for the station. "We see ourselves moving to an all-digital medium," notes Jim Bolkema, KDCR Music Director. "One of our goals is also to become a twenty-four hour radio station."

With much of the construction completed and the wiring in progress, the renovation crew hopes to have the project done by March 14th. With the completion of this project comes more opportunity for Dordt students.

"Students will now have the opportunity to work in a setting that resembles state-of-the-art control rooms found within today's radio industry," says De Waard. He also believes the new control room will help KDCR become an even bigger asset to Dordt College and the Sioux Center community.

Comedian Ken Davis coming soon

Steve Kloosterman
Staff Writer

This Saturday, February 23, at 7:00 p.m., Comedian Ken Davis will perform in the B.J. Hann auditorium, sponsored by KDCR 88.5 FM and RISE Ministries. "I absolutely love his comedy," said Rob Roozeboom, director of RISE Ministries. "Most of his stuff is personal. He delivers God's truth, the gospel message, through humor. He definitely relates it to

the Bible."

The B. J. Haan's doors will open at 6:00 p.m. this Saturday, but the three-hour act is not scheduled to start until 7:00. Ken Davis is bringing fellow Christian comedian Mike Williams from Florida to open the show for him. Roozeboom and KDCR Director Denny De Waard will speak during the intermission.

"I've seen Ken at a couple of different functions," said De Waard. "He doesn't come out of a

reformed background, but what I've seen of him, his style and content fit well with what we consider to be our perspective."

KDCR airs a short piece of Davis' gut-splitting program "Lighten Up" at 6:40 a.m. each weekday. RISE Ministries also produces a short devotional program, which is played on KDCR ten minutes past the hour, every hour during Illumination. RISE Ministries works toward helping high school students face the challenges of

growing up. "Our ministry is teaching people how to hit a home run when life throws them a curve," said Roozeboom.

Tickets go for \$10, or four tickets for \$30, at RISE Ministries, KDCR, Synod for the Heartland, and True Vine Christian Bookstore. They will cost \$12.50 at the door. All if any proceeds will go to Ken Davis' ministry. "We expect it to be a sell out.... Tickets are going fast," said De Waard.



Criminal Justice major in the works

Jen Hoogeveen
Staff Writer

As a result of increased demand from potential students and a need in the field for more criminal justice programs, Dordt has been working on incorporating this program into the curriculum.

Donald King, Associate Professor of Political Studies, has been sketching out the program with Dr. Jasper Lesage, Professor

of Economics and Dean of the Social Sciences. Others involved are the Psychology and Social Work professors and Mr. Chris Rehn, who teaches law.

King expects this new interdisciplinary major to start out small. He says the jobs possible by gaining a B.S. in Criminal Justice will be many, from law enforcement and prison ministry to working with certain populations and public administration.

Because of this wide range of

options, the major will include courses from psychology, political science, sociology, social work, and possibly business.

Dordt is working on hiring someone with expertise in this area, and until they do, everything is tentative. The new criminal justice professor will have the first job of setting up the program and teaching classes in this area. Dordt hopes to begin this program in the fall with courses such as Introduction to Criminal Justice

and other courses focusing on juvenile justice, probation and parole. As the program progresses, internships may be possible in the area jails, county attorneys' offices, and other areas of student interest.

In the past, students have gotten involved in these types of careers after graduating from Dordt by taking a mixture of courses, but their degree was not specifically Criminal Justice. King says the objective of the major is "to prepare students to pursue a vocation

in different aspects of criminal justice. This program will make us more aware of the criminal justice system and its role in our society. Dordt can make a contribution in this field. It's important for Christians to be involved in criminal justice."

Contact Professor King or Dr. Lesage for more information about the Criminal Justice Program. As the program develops further and an expert is hired, there will be more publicity about the program.

"River" to benefit local ministry

Allison Schaap
News Assistant Editor

A contemporary Christian group will be coming to Dordt College's B.J. Haan on Monday, February 25.

River has been in existence for 11 years, and is composed of members Kurt Linn, Paul Marino, and Phil Reesnes. According to the band's website, they have written, produced and performed seven independent albums, and since

1997, three of those projects have achieved six, top 10 radio hits on the national inspirational charts.

Next week's concert will benefit Marriage Matters of Northwest Iowa. Marriage Matters is a non-profit organization that holds to the mission of strengthening and promoting marriage and family.

Mark Buss, Regional Director of Marriage Matters, said that this is an effective way for them to get their name out into the public arena. Last year, Steve and Annie

Chapman came to Orange City for a similar type of event.

A banquet will be held prior to the concert at 6:00 p.m. in the West Commons for \$32 per couple. Punch will be served at 5:30 p.m.

"We are also going to have a

dinner before the concert for the men who didn't do anything for their wives on Valentine's Day." Buss says, "Actually, it is a banquet to celebrate marriage and family."

The concert will begin at 8:00 p.m. Tickets are on sale until

Friday, February 22. Tickets will be available at the door that evening or through Marriage Matters. The ticket cost for adults is \$10, and for students \$5.

Ensembles to perform

Rachelle Vander Werff
Staff Writer

On Friday, March 1 at 7:30p.m., the Dordt College musicians will be performing instrumental ensembles in the B.J. Haan auditorium. The evening will consist of various pieces of music performed by three different groups, including Dordt College Campus Band, Chamber Orchestra, and Jazz Band. The program will consist of both large group pieces and a variety of soloists.

With Dr. Diteman being absent from Dordt College this semester, these musical groups have taken on a different twist. Norm Gaines, Charles Dibley, and Nancy Meendering have graciously stepped in to fill the hole with Meendering directing Chamber Orchestra, Dibley directing Dordt College Campus Band, and Gaines directing Jazz Band. In regards to the changes, Heidi Karges, senior orchestra member, says, "With all of the new people in orchestra this year (the incoming students) and having Mrs. Meendering as director, it feels like a completely different orchestra. We have really enjoyed working under Mrs. Meendering and getting to know her."

The concert on March 1 will be composed of three parts. Dordt College Campus Band will begin the evening by performing Fanasia in G Major by Bach, Illuminations by Bocook, Cyclone Coaster by Bulla, Irving Berlin: A Syphonic Portrait by Berlin, and The Free Lance March by Sousa.

Campus Band will be immediately followed by Beautiful Savior arranged by Arthur Luck, Concerto Grosso Op. 3 No. 2 by Francesco Geminiani, Waltz No. 2 by Antonin Dvorak, Serenade for String Orchestra by Carl Reinecke, and Andate Festivo by Jean Sibelius performed by the Chamber Orchestra.

Jazz Band will then be performing the following songs: Alright, Okay, You Win by Wyche and Watts, You're Nobody 'Til somebody Loves You by Morgan, Embraceable You by Gershwin, and It Had To Be You by Jones.

There will be a short intermission between Chamber Orchestra and Jazz Band. During intermission an offering will be taken for music ensemble tours.

The musicians and the conductors alike are very excited about this performance. Gaines, Jazz band director says, "The concert will be interesting and entertaining with a great variety of music."

Students lobby in nation's capitol

Andrew De Young
Staff Writer

Recently, while most people were listen to lectures or writing papers, students in Fred Van Geest's Environmental Policy and Politics class were in Washington, D.C. participating in the political process. The students were there on behalf of Restoring Eden, an environmental group, lobbying to protect the Alaskan National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR).

The refuge, 1.5 million acres of land, is one of the world's largest protected areas. The land could be used to drill for oil, which many say will make the United States less dependent on foreign oil.

That's not necessarily true, according to Steve Brouwer, one of

the students who went on the trip.

"It would take about 10 years for the oil to even get to market. There are alternative energies we can use, and renewable energies." Brouwer also thinks a bill proposed by John McCain, which would require cars to run at 36 miles per gallon by the year 2012, could be another solution. "We have the technology to make efficient cars," says Brouwer, "we just need to use it."

Matt Van Voorst, another student on the trip, thinks that the ANWR issue is very relevant for Christians. "As stewards of God's creation, we have an obligation to protect creation," he says. "Focusing on this issue leads to the broader issue of energy and how to avoid a crisis."

During the trip, the students got to meet with a number of congressional aides, and at one point had a meeting with one of Iowa's senators, Chuck Grassley.

The people who went on the trip say that it was a great experience. "We saw that lobbying is effective, and that senators do care about what people have to say," says Todd De Rooy.

Other students found the trip useful because they are interested in careers in the political arena. Van Voorst says that he may be interested in lobbying or in city government. Brent Dieleman says, "Before the trip I wasn't interested in a career in politics at all, but the trip made me consider a political career."

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The *Diamond* is published by students of Dordt College to present and discuss events on campus and beyond. Any letters, comments, or opinions are welcome. Contributions must be received before 5:00 p.m. the Monday before publication to be printed in that issue. Send contributions to:

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Talent Extravaganza 2002



Lori Panchot

From left to right: Reuben Vander Kwaak, Luke Shannon, Tony Rietema, Phil Vande Griend and Paul Olsen perform one of the first skits of the Talent Extravaganza. These five emcees presented skits after each act that went along with the show's theme: Dordt Discount Medical Plaza.

Lori Panchot

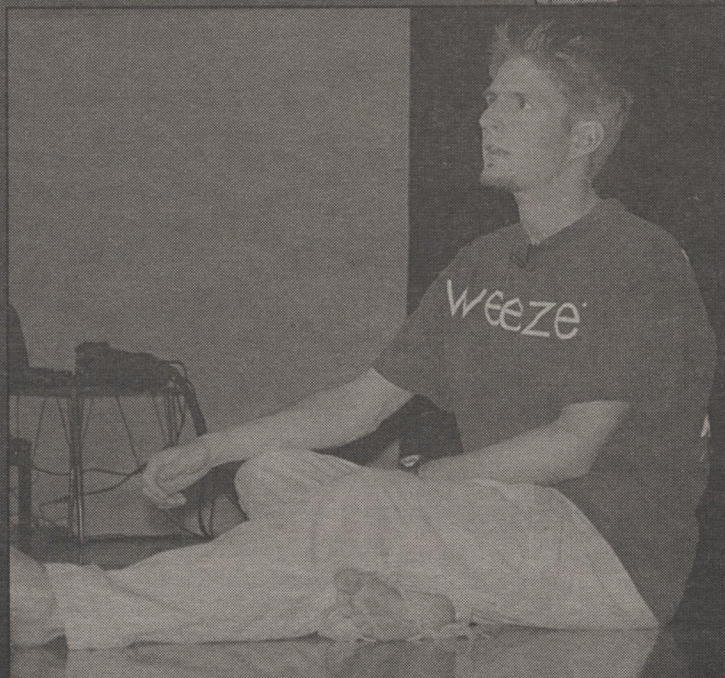
(Below) Senior music majors Tricia Van Ee and Zach Vreeman performed an Italian love song with their own personal orchestra comprised of students in the Dordt Chamber Orchestra, including Vreeman's fiancée.

The act began with Van Ee singing the first part of the love song. After a few moments, Vreeman appeared out of the audience and walked down the aisle and onto the stage.



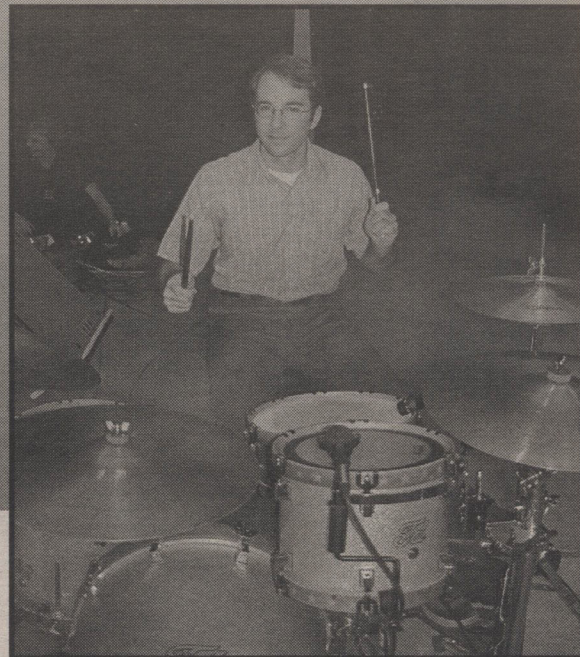
John Hansen

Adam Smit and Laura Groen won the "Most Original" award for their original play "Nightswimming." Smit and Groen performed the play for the first time in public at the Talent Extravaganza. They will enter the play in a regional theater competition this spring. Smit and Groen were awarded \$25.





John Hansen
 Left: Brad Bierema participated in a two-part act that also included a rap song with Thomas Thomas, David Akerele and Jill Effermeyer. Bierma and five other current or retired military servicemen marched on stage and stood at attention throughout the National Anthem and rap song. The act was a tribute to the September eleventh terrorist attacks.

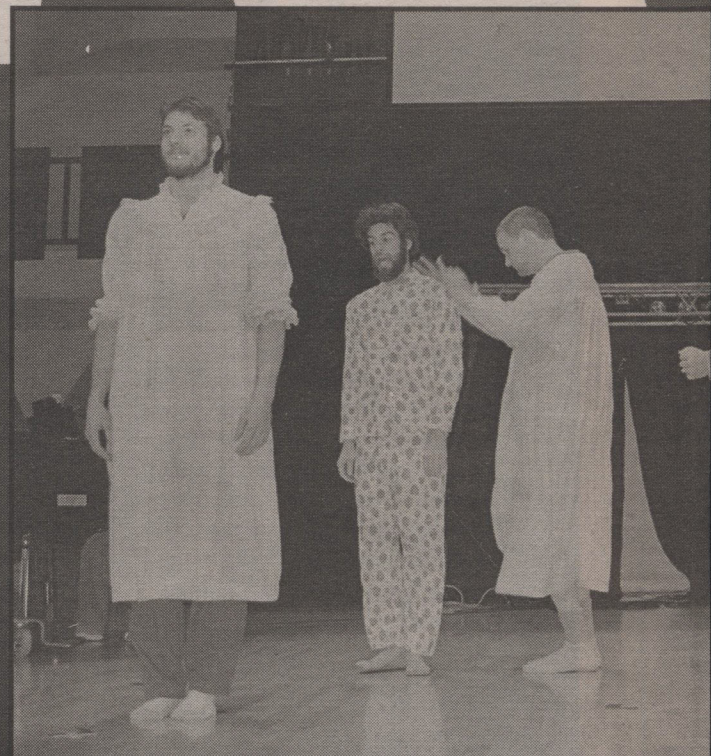


Lori Panchot

Lori Panchot
 The opening act of the show was the Dordt juggling club. The TX was their first public performance.

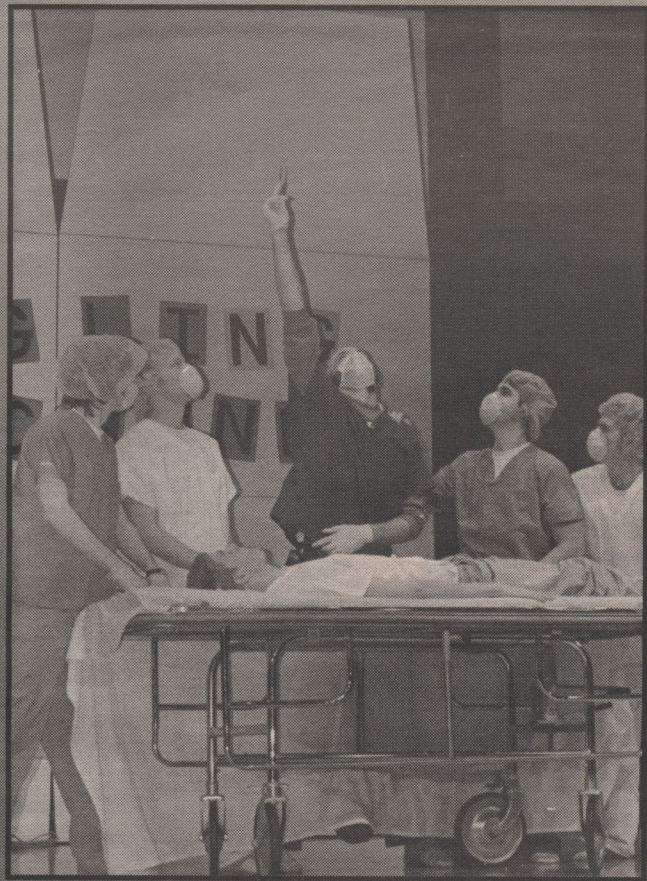
Lori Panchot

The show closed out with the 408 singers. These nine seniors (including Rebecca Schelhaas and Lynn Temple who are not pictured) performed their version of a scene from "The Sound of Music."



John Hansen
 Left: Bob Taylor and
 Minister Dean entertained
 the audience while the
 judges deliberated over
 winners of the 2002
 Talent Extravaganza.

Lori Panchot
 Right: The Masters of
 Ceremonies from left to
 right, Reuben Vader
 Waak, Luke Shannon,
 Tony Rietiema, Phil Vande
 riend and Paul Olsen
 perform "open heart sur-
 gery" on a patient.



1st



2nd



3rd



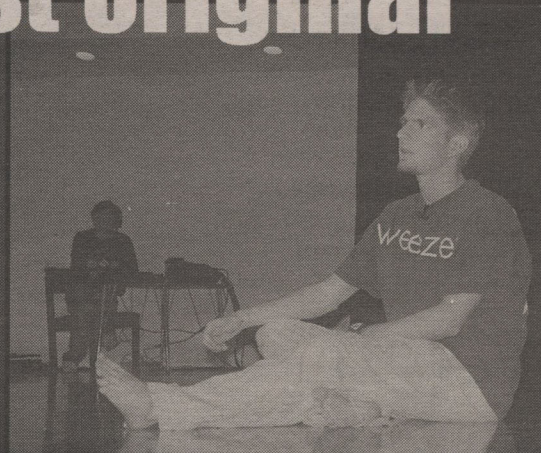
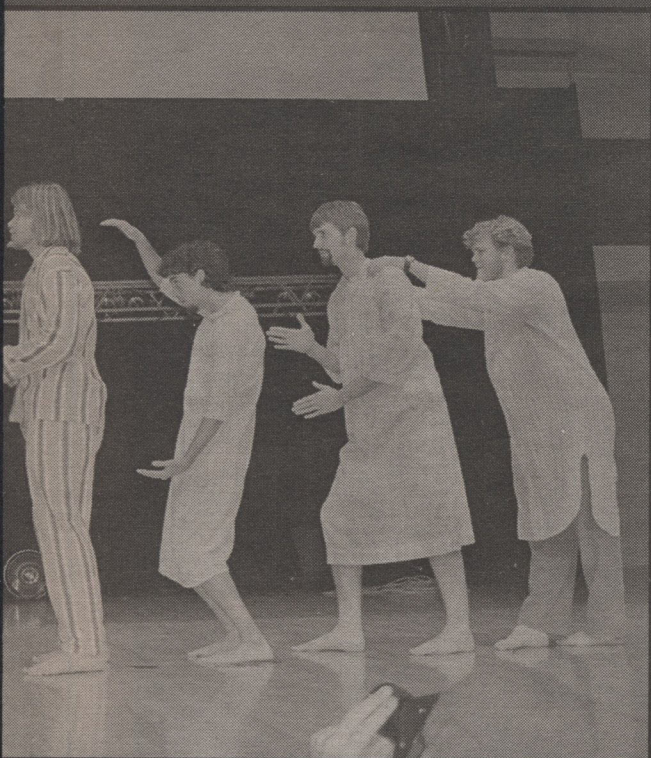
John Hansen, Lori Panchot
 From top to bottom: The act
 "Where'd He Go?" featuring
 Travis Patten and Justin Vande
 Kerk won first prize.

"Missed" featuring Darin
 Vander Well and Damon Dotson
 won second prize for an origi-
 nal song written by Dotson.

Mark Jansen and his act enti-
 tled "Solo Suite" won third
 prize this year. This was
 Jansen's first public appear-
 ance.

"Nightswimming" featuring
 Adam Smit and Laura Groen
 (not pictured) won the Most
 Original prize. The original play
 was written by Smit and Groen
 and will be performed at a
 regional theater festival this
 spring.

Most original

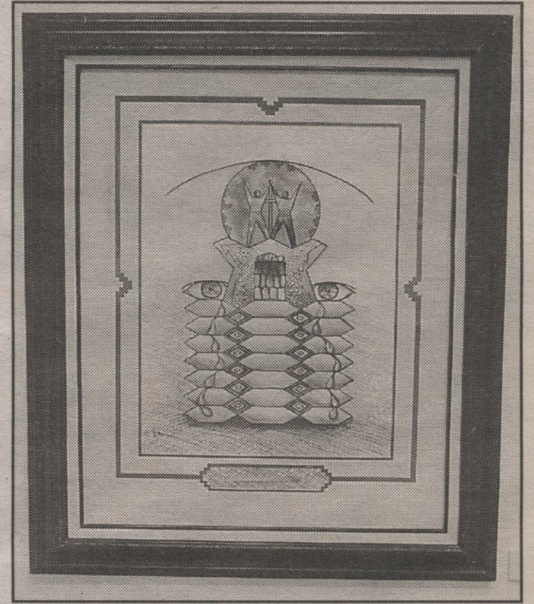




Icons of Faith



The Artwork of Elmer Yazzie



Eric Van Wyk Guest Writer

The expressive and symbolic artwork of Elmer Yazzie is being displayed in the mezzanine art gallery until the 28th of February.

Born into the Waters Come Together clan for the Tall House clan, Yazzie lives on the Navajo reservation in Rehoboth, New Mexico. Yazzi graduated with an art degree from Calvin College and started out as a teacher for Rehoboth Christian School in 1976. Today he divides his time between teaching and creating art.

In 2000 he received the Distinguished Alumni Award from Calvin College and has also won other awards for his art, coaching and athletic activities. Another interesting anecdote is that, as a cross-country runner in 1984, he was one of six finalists for the

Wheaties box cover.

His display of artwork covers a range of styles and ideas. Included in the show are a number of Yazzie's earlier pieces from junior high and high school. This early work shows the history of Yazzie's creative career and demonstrates the artist's strong drawing talent and his interest in his New Mexico surroundings and his family.

Another group of artwork incorporates traditional Navajo imagery as symbols of spirituality and meaning. Colorful light-filled washes contrast the articulately rendered shapes and lines of Navajo imagery, resulting in rich metaphors of life and spirituality.

Yazzie says in his artistic statement, "I believe the goal of the artist should be to create unique works that visually remind observers of some meaningful area of life."

Also being shown is a group of watercolor and ink/pencil works that are based in Asian settings. These works are gestural in nature with quick lines and bright colors. Many of Yazzie's works contain a yucca brush, which is presumably the very tool that created the painting. This interesting concept closely connects the viewer to the complete process of the work and shows the tool of the product. The viewer is reminded that art is both of the earth and of human talent.

There is a range of expressiveness in the medium and content of Yazzie's artwork. The piece "Seven Sons of Sieva" is emotionally gripping with powerful forms that arrest the vision of the viewer.

The Southwestern landscape is a viable thread that runs throughout all of Yazzie's work. The landscape studies are painted mainly in watercolor and are rich in the color and

form of the rocky landscape and bright blue skies. Incorporated into the work are the people of the land and their way of life. Yazzie portrays the landscape as a form for emotion and spirituality. The colors, lines and shapes of Yazzie's surroundings are reflected in all of his pieces, often in subtle ways.

Elmer Yazzie's artwork uniquely tells a story of faith, insight and reservation life in varied forms and expressions. The images unfold reflections and ideas for the viewer to uncover. Within the artwork the forms deal with spirituality and aim to symbolically visualize those ideas. Through his artist statement and his artwork, the Yazzie exemplifies how art is a connection to God and fellow man as he creates in close connection with the community of which he is a member.

Elmer Yazzie will be on campus

this Thursday and Friday to visit a number of classes, give a chapel speech and present a public lecture at 4:00 p.m. in C160 titled "Art and Life in Rehoboth, New Mexico." On Thursday at 7:00 p.m. there will be an artist's reception in the mezzanine gallery.

Artists participate in Iowa Student Salon Show

Three Dordt art majors had artwork accepted into the Iowa Student Salon Show held at Iowa State in Ames. A photograph by Jenny Goslinga, a painting by Angie Kevan and two drawings by Tatayana Miller were among the 63 works selected for the show. The Iowa Student Salon Show is an art competition for graduate and under-graduate students in Iowa.

Welcome to Señora Alba's Neighborhood

Chris Maust Staff Writer

They were days of honor. Bonds of duty held tighter than bonds of care. Such is the dark matter of "The House of Bernarda Alba."

The twentieth century had dawned mere months ago. An age of imperialism had risen and brought with it the taking of colonies. All the hip nations had them. All except Spain. Spanish Galleons had brought home holds laden with gold and tales of adventure, passing the takings on to the people of the land. But now this was no more.

Their status was gone, but their standards remained high. Since the Spaniards no longer assumed honor, honor had to be impressed upon them.

"The House of Bernarda Alba" tells of one such family, a family that was once gentry in the land.

The death of two husbands permanently strains the mind of Bernarda Alba, played by Heidi Kooiman. Bernarda holds a proper Spanish funeral for her husband and invites mourners to a rather gloomy reception.

Distempered by insincere guests and angered by her daughters' excitement at the prospect of leaving home, Bernarda plays upon history, calling for an eight-year mourning period as written in the cultural codex of Spanish tradition. Bernarda and her five daughters are to be sealed inside the house for eight years in honor of their late father. As you've already guessed, the fighting force of the play comes from the clashes between Bernarda and the daughters chafing under her rule.

In spite of the political history, this play is not about politics. This play is driven by the personality and the reactions of the charac-

ters—the female characters. The twenty-six female characters. For you mildly paranoid male readers out there, the lack of male actors in this play is not a result of overzealous feminism. Director Jeri Schelhaas chose this play for the large number of exceptional female roles to fit the large number of exceptional female actresses.

Special items to note include authentic Spanish costumes, featuring the latest in turn-of-the-century funeral wear. Other authentic theatrics include period Spanish dialect, accent, and original Spanish guitar music written by Dordt's own Gabriel Florit.

Show times range from February 28th to March 8th at the local Te Paske Theatre. Call the Dordt Box Office at 722-6430 for ticket information and exact show times. The director notes that this performance is not appropriate for children under the age of twelve.

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Defenders complete regular season



Dana Prins drives to the hoop during a recent home game. Lori Panchot

Jason Mulder Sports Writer

The Dordt College Defender basketball teams have completed their respective regular seasons with a win. The men defeated Mount Marty College (85-69) and the women defeated Martin Luther College (81-62).

The Defender men (19-8) earned a first round home-court advantage and the number three seed the GPAC tournament for Tuesday night's game against Dakota Wesleyan (14-18). Results were not available by press time.

The men started off the season with an overtime win against South Dakota Tech and have continued to play well all year. Dordt won the Thanksgiving tournament and has played very well at home while winning some big games on the road. The win against University of Sioux Falls was another high point.

The Defenders have high hopes going into the post-season tournament after having a strong conference season. "We feel we have the team to make it to the National Tournament," said coach Greg Van Soelen. "History shows that our conference does very well at the National tournament but sometimes the hardest part is qualifying out of our conference because it is so tough!"

Next year the team will be without four-year varsity player Brian Wassenaar. Van Soelen said that the junior class has had a great year and sophomore Kyle Van Arendonk has stepped into a bigger role as a starter. If the freshmen continue to play well and Dordt is able to land some good recruits, next year holds a lot of potential.

The Lady Defenders, despite a 5-21 record, have played very close with many good teams. "We had a fun season," said Darci Wassenaar. "Some high points were beating Dana and Martin Luther. I thought



Senior Brian Wassenaar looks down the court for a teammate during a fast break.

Lori Panchot

Coach Bouma stuck with us and continued to push us. He never gave up on us and he always was proud of us."

The loss of Wassenaar, Serena Van Beek and Dana Prins will be tough next year but the team will retain a lot of talented players. Van Beek concluded an outstanding career. She scored 1260 career points, good enough for third place on the all-time scoring list, and was an excellent leader and example. She also hold numerous records in three point shot attempts and three-point shots made. Next season, head coach Glenn Bouma hopes to improve on defense, rebounding, and play more up-tempo basketball.

The Lady Defenders play in the toughest NAIA conference in the nation in women's basketball. They challenged many tough teams and continued to improve throughout the season, while having a lot of fun.

We want **YOUR** story ideas!

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National Qualifying Continues

Five more members of the men's and women's indoor track teams recently qualified for the national track meet.

Jeff Taylor qualified in the 1000 meter run in the February 9 meet at USD with a time of 2:31.01, beating the cut-off time of 2:32.65. Taylor placed second in the event. He will also compete on the men's 4 x 800 meter relay team. Taylor, along with Stefan Peterson, Jon Dekkers and Marcus Scholten qualified at last Saturday's Defender Gold Club Invitational meet with a time of 7:53.13.

Senior Jill Schreurs also qualified in the women's pole vault. Schreurs jumped 10'6" to capture first place in the event.

The tracksters join the women's 4 x 800 meter relay team in qualifying for the national meet to be held February 28 through March 2 in Johnson City, Tennessee. Congratulations!

Stats

2/16/02 Martin Luther
W 81-62
Scorers: Serena Van Beek (25)
Colleen De Groot (17)
Angie Katsma (12)
Dana Prins (10)

MENS BASKETBALL
(19-8, 11-5 GPAC)
2/6/02 Hastings W 80-67
Scorers: Shawn De Stigter (17)
Evan Beimers (16)
Kyle Van Arendonk (15)
Brian Wassenaar (11)

2/9/02 Concordia L 64-80
Scorers: Shawn De Stigter (20)
Eric Maas (9)
Kyle Van Arendonk (9)

WOMENS BASKETBALL
(5-21, 2-14 GPAC)

2/6/02 Hastings Coll. L 46-94
Scorers: Serena Van Beek (6)
Darci Wassenaar (6)
Jacque Scoby (6)

2/9/02 Concordia L 46-59
Scorers: Katie Bleeker (13)
Serena Van Beek (8)
Darci Wassenaar (8)

2/13/02 Mt. Marty L 64-69
Scorers: Serena Van Beek (15)
Katie Bleeker (12)
Darci Wassenaar (11)

2/13/02 Mt. Marty W 85-69
Scorers: Kyle Van Arendonk (14)
Shawn De Stigter (14)
Tyler Schelhaas (13)
Eric Maas (10)

WOMENS INDOOR TRACK
Graphic Edge 2/9/02
4th place: Rebecca Baber-triple jump-33' 11.5"
5th place: Jill Schreurs-pole vault-10' 2"

Defender Gold Invitational 2/16/02
1st place: Rebecca Demarest-1000 meter run-3:13.32
Jill Schreurs-pole vault-10' 6"
Rebecca Baber-triple jump-33' 6.75"

2nd place: Rebecca Demarest-800 meter run-2:25.36
3rd place: Missy Van Dam-55 meter hurdles-9:48
Amanda TeKrony-shot put-37' 8"
4th place: Kristi Meendering-400 meter dash-1:01.90
Tanya Holtrop-600 meter run-1:42.58
Melanie Markus-shot put-34' 2.5"
5th place: Emily Kauk-800 meter run-2:28.84

MENS INDOOR TRACK
Graphic Edge 2/9/02
2nd place: Jeff Taylor-1000 meter run-2:31.01

Defender Gold Invitational 2/16/02
1st place: 4x800 meter relay-7:53.13
2nd place: Dan Van Engen-3000 meter run-9:27.50
Tony Reitema-55 meter hurdles-7.87
Dan Oldenkamp-shot put-44' 02"
4th place: Aaron Klein-55 meter dash-6.85
4x400 meter relay-3:31.67
5th place: Matt Ruter-300 meter dash-36.93
Tim Ives-1000 meter run-2:45.09
Chris Fransman-high jump-6'
Aaron Klein-long jump-20' 07"



NEWS BRIEFS

Compiled by Sarah Den Boer
World Page Editor

SRI LANKA

Up to 700,000 internal refugees in Sri Lanka have been without food rations for more than two months because of rivalry between the country's two main political parties. The dispute has been over which government department has responsibility and funds to feed the refugees. The situation has been made worse by the World Food Program halting its assistance to Sri Lanka because donors are concentrating on Afghanistan.

UNITED STATES

The Pentagon is toying with the idea of black propaganda. As part of George Bush's war on terrorism, the military is thinking of planting propaganda and misleading stories in the international media. A new department has been set up inside the Pentagon with the Orwellian title of the Office of Strategic Influence. It is well funded, is being run by a general, and its aim is to influence public opinion abroad.

INDIA

Girls are viewed as a burden in many communities in India, where in the past some families would ask village midwives to kill a newborn baby if it turned out to be a female. Now, thanks to ultrasound technology, they do not have to wait so long. A simple scan can reveal the sex of an unborn baby, and if it is a girl, the family is likely to force the mother to undergo an abortion. Affluent states in the north and west, where ultrasound clinics first sprang up, have the lowest numbers of girls.

SAUDI ARABIA

Some two million Muslims have gathered in Saudi Arabia's holy city of Mecca to begin the rites of the Hajj. The annual pilgrimage, which takes them to the barren plain of Mina and the slopes of Mount Arafat, is the biggest yearly mass movement of people on the planet.

JAPAN

An internal investigation has found that Japan's post offices have been handling mail from the nation's gangsters with a little too much care. The probe by the Postal Service Agency found that employees at more than 300 post offices routinely gave special treatment to letters to and from suspected gangsters.

Live at the expense of others

A response to the Contemporary Political Opinion Column

Dear Editor,

Should anyone live at the expense of another person? In the Contemporary Political Opinion by Peter Anderson in the last issue of the Diamond, I noticed that several things which Mr. Anderson pointed out were not only wrong, they were ignorant.

First, Mr. Anderson suggests that the government's collection of taxes is the coercive taking of money from citizens. Wrong. Without taxes we would have no government, and therefore no roads, no farm subsidies, no welfare, no grants and loans for college...the list goes on and on. I don't like to bleed this saying to death, but give to Caesar what is Caesar's.

Also, Mr. Anderson seems to think that the \$3 million and \$2.9 million used for a museum and an airport, respectively, is first of all not worth it. I see both of these structures as worth taxpayer dollars. Not only is the museum an educational tool, the airport is considered a transportation structure

(which is what the bill was designated for in the first place). Also, the total of \$5.9 million to be spent on these structures is pennies compared to the \$2 trillion dollars+ annual federal budget (less than half of 1%), which is really nothing to be worried about.

Mr. Anderson goes on to describe what is unjust about someone legally living at the expense of others. I believe it is far more unjust for people to suffer from malnutrition, poor healthcare, lack of education, etc. because they are unable to provide for themselves and their families, and even more of an injustice that on a Christian college campus we don't think these people deserve our money. And no, a free market would not remedy the situation. Americans would not donate an extra \$17 billion a year to compensate for the loss in funds in Temporary Assistance for Needy Families. And that doesn't even include programs like Social Security, which was already in trouble and is threatened again

because of last year's tax cut.

Last, the United States has one of the lowest tax rates of all industrialized nations, while we are also one of the richest nations. Yet, at the same time, we seem to think that the approximately 25% of our income that we pay to the government is the biggest injustice this country has ever seen. I rarely hear our neighbors to the north complain about their tax rates, and they pay nearly 40% of their income to the government. So what happens when we keep complaining? We get a tax cut, and along with it comes strain on the federal budget.

In closing, we all have the responsibility to take care of our fellow human beings. We should be glad that our government looks out for the less privileged. If they didn't, there would be many more suffering people all over the country. So yes, Mr. Anderson, some people should be allowed to live at the expense of others.

Nathan Vander Plaats

Why Black History month?

Enelesi Nyirenda
Guest Writer

Martin Luther King Jr. Day passed on January 21st and I guess we did not notice it because we did not have the day off. Well, this month is Black History month in North America and other participating countries in Africa, Europe, and the Caribbean. Since 1929 the United States has observed February as a month when the contributions of African Americans to society were recognized. Of course one can only appreciate this after regarding the afflictions that African Americans faced before 1929.

It is only recently that the achievements of people of African descent have been recognized. Through out history, people of this culture have been dehumanized and had their history distorted. From the mid 1600's to 1833 in Canada and 1865 in the United States, people of African descent were used as slaves. This was also true in other parts of the world including Africa. Even after the abolition of slavery, life was still hard for people of color. They faced peonage, segregation and lynching. Having had their humanity and culture stripped away from

them, they had to work hard to sensitize the nation to their plight. At this time racist scholarship was in prevalence and it was a common thought that white Americans were smarter than black Americans.

This led African American scholar of Harvard University, Dr. Carter Goodwin Woodson, to struggle for the institutionalization of what would be known as "Negro History Week." Negro History Week was launched in 1929, with an aim of ridding the nation of the ignorant and deliberate distortion of Black History. Today, what started out as a week has been turned into a month, though it should be a year round process. I am sure most of us have heard about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X, who were in the forefront of the civil rights struggles of the 1960's. This is very well and good, but we should not forget the many unsung heroes of modern day life, who because of their dark complexion do not receive the credit they deserve.

A few of these people are: George Washington Carver, who with his many agricultural experiments invented synthetic rubber, mayonnaise, instant coffee and many other handy items we take for granted. Then there is G. T.

Sampson who, in 1862, invented the clothes dryer. In 1867, Alexander Miles invented the elevator. In 1872, T. Marshall invented the fire extinguisher. Then there is Lydia O. Newman who invented the hairbrush and in 1891, the refrigerator was invented by J. Standard. Imagine what life would have been like with out the efforts of these African Americans. So celebrate what your countrymen have done for you. Just as there are Asian Americans, American Indians, Latin Americans and Dutch Americans, there are also African Americans. Diversity is what makes American society so distinct from other nations. Though there are few African Americans in Siouxland and almost none at Dordt College, be proud of this society and celebrate Black History month by learning more about people of African descent. Happy Black History Month!

References
Facts about African American inventors courtesy of www.askjeeves.com

"February Is Black History Month" by Yaw Boateng, Professor of Education, and Eastern Washington University

DIFFERENT

•CD Release Party
self-published
"Refridgerator Magnet"

Tues, Feb. 26
Sioux Center Mall
9:00 p.m.
\$1 off cd's and t-shirts
w/ purchase of buffet

For Info E-mail:
the_band_different@hotmail.com

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PIZZA RANCH

TUESDAY NIGHT BUFFET

\$5.00 W/ COLLEGE ID



Members: Luc Ver Mulm, Bart Ver Mulm, Bandy Langton, Dan De Boer, Jason Baartman
with special appearance by Erika Hydeen