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John Hansen

Members of the Northwest Iowa Symphony Orchestra rehearse for their fall concerts.

NISO concert to feature senior

Kim Lucier
Staff Writer

The Northwest Iowa Symphony Orchestra will appear at Dordt College's B.J. Haan Auditorium on Tuesday, November 13 to present an afternoon Concert for Children and a full concert at 7:30 p.m. The theme of this first of four concerts scheduled for the season is Rivers, Horses and Other Surprises.

Featured soloists are pianist Grace Kim and violinist Erika Van Den Hul. Kim attends The Juilliard School in New York, while Van Den Hul is a senior at Dordt. They both performed solos with NISO in the fall of 1995 as high school students.

"I think the orchestra has helped me learn a lot about working as an ensemble and learning to contribute to the whole," Van Den

Hul says. "I've learned about what it means to be an active member of a group and how much work it takes to play together and listen to each other for a beautiful finished product."

The 90-member orchestra is comprised of some of the most superb musicians throughout northwest Iowa and southeast South Dakota. Adults and gifted students from area junior high schools, high schools and colleges are part of the orchestra. Dordt Professor of Music Henry Duitman has directed the orchestra for the past 16 seasons.

"I think it is a wonderful opportunity for our [Dordt] students to play in a full-size symphony orchestra, especially at a small college," says Duitman. "It is also one of the only opportunities for talent-



Photo submitted

Erika Van Den Hul, a senior music major, will be one of the featured soloists at the NISO concert.

ed area high school string players to participate in a large orchestra." Local fifth and sixth graders

attending the Concert for Children will participate in an art contest. The students will draw or paint scenes that will accompany the music of The Moldau by Smetana. The scenes of the music reflect the natural beauty of this Czechoslovakian river.

Dordt students will judge the art contest, organized by Professor Joanne Alberda. Tickets valued at up to \$105 will be distributed to the winning schools. The top entries will be shown as slides during the afternoon and evening concerts.

Season tickets are obtainable for all four concerts. Tickets may be ordered online at <http://niso.dordt.edu>, through e-mail at niso@dordt.edu or by calling 712-722-6230. If available, they may also be purchased at the door.

NCA accredits for 10 years

Steve Kloosterman
Staff Writer

The committee has deliberated and the verdict is in. Dordt College has been approved for further accreditation for ten more years by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.

Accreditation is evidence that a college has met the standards of quality set by the accreditation agency. Without accreditation, Dordt students would not have access to Federal financial aid and might not be accepted into graduate schools. The North Central Association of Colleges and Schools requires that an institution

must re-apply for accreditation every ten years. A college is accredited based on the following:

- clear and publicly stated purposes consistent with its mission and appropriate to an institution of higher education.
- effectively organized human, financial, and physical resources necessary to accomplish its purposes.
- accomplishment of its educational task and other purposes.
- continued accomplishment of its purposes and strengthen its educational effectiveness.
- integrity demonstrated in its practices and relationships.

To apply for accreditation, Dordt first conducted a self-study

of how it met the above criteria and submitted a report to the NCA. A team of evaluators visited Dordt from Saturday, Oct. 27, through Wednesday, Oct. 31. The team, made up of full-time faculty members of other colleges, gathered information from Dordt and will produce their own report and recommendation for the NCA based on their findings. It is a kind of a "peer review" process, noted Curtis Taylor, special assistant to the president, who coordinated the self-study.

Next, both the self-study report and the evaluation team report will be considered by the reviewer's panel, which will meet with Dordt representatives to discuss issues

brought up by the evaluators and to give Dordt an opportunity to correct or contest the evaluator's findings.

Last, the self-study report of the institution, the recommendations of the evaluators and the reader's committee are considered by the NCA Commission.

The NCA team that visited campus will be making an extensive report that will outline areas of potential improvement for Dordt. A formal confirmation is still months away.

"We're excited we're getting this done; we've been planning it since February 1999," said Taylor.



File sharing is illegal

Mitch Beaumont
Editor

Computer Services officials are expressing dismay over the extent of file sharing on campus.

Director of Computer Services Brian Van Donselaar recently made a presentation to the Student Forum about the number of students who are using file-sharing services on their individual computers.

At the meeting, Van Donselaar said that 60 percent of Dordt's available bandwidth was used by students taking advantage of these services.

"When I say file sharing programs, I'm talking about what's referred in the industry as peer-to-peer file sharing programs," says

Van Donselaar. "Basically, what that means is an exchange of information between two computers. There are a number of file sharing services available. Last academic year, Napster was all the rage." Since then, programs such as Morpheus have taken the place of Napster.

These file sharing programs distribute copyrighted music files, like Napster did before it was shut down, as well as videos, pictures, and even pirated software. "I've heard of a couple of cases on Dordt's campus, Windows XP, the newest version of Windows," says Van Donselaar. "It was just released [October 25], but there were students on Dordt's campus who had pirated that software and installed it on their computers

before October 25, and they used programs like Morpheus to do it."

After his meeting with Student Forum, Van Donselaar has been gathering some preliminary numbers as to the extent of this problem on campus. After calculating the data, Van Donselaar says that 215 students regularly use those file sharing services, which adds up to about 15 percent of the student body.

Student Forum president Amy Vroom says that they have formed a subcommittee to determine the best way to address the issue, but no action has been taken yet.

Van Donselaar says he became concerned when he began reading about Internet police organizations that have raided a number of institutions, instituted fines and even

confiscated equipment. He says these organizations, should they suspect that Dordt students were illegally using these file sharing programs, could come to campus with search warrants, and the students using these programs would stand the chance of being prosecuted. He says that students could even face jail time for giving pirated data to other students.

Student Forum has proposed several ways of addressing this problem, but President Amy Vroom says they are waiting for Van Donselaar's preliminary data to decide whether or not to act. They have suggested putting up posters, creating focus groups, and asking the Residence Life staff to periodically speak with their residents about this issue. Van

Donselaar says the main goal right now is to raise awareness.

"There's a lot of legitimate music that's shared via these services, so there's no question there are good uses for these services," says Van Donselaar. "It can be an appropriate use of technology, but I'm concerned that it's not being used for innocent sharing of non-copyrighted material."

What if you're caught with pirated material?

You could receive a fine.
Your computer could be confiscated.
You could go to jail.

Positive Airwaves sponsors music discussion

Laura Apol
Assistant Editor

A fine line divides Christian and secular music, said Dr. Ben Kornelis, Associate Professor of Music; Howard Gorter, president and co-founder of Positive Airwaves; and Jim Bolkema, Music Director at KDCR, at a recent campus discussion.

The discussion began with a definition from each panel member of both Christian and secular music. Bolkema called the issue a dilemma because one cannot draw a distinctive line. He said listeners have to think about the music as being disobedient or obedient and what God's call to the artist is. Obedient music, he said, includes a broad spectrum from every genre, and we should be concerned with music that is unfaithful to the Bible and God's standards.

Kornelis said that from a Gen 200 perspective, Christian music is defined by students as music that has Christian lyrics, music by bands that lead a godly lifestyle, or music by groups that are produced under Christian labels. But Kornelis says that Christian music is not the music, but the lyrics. He says if you extract the lyrics, there is nothing musically Christian or unChristian about any music.

Gorter encouraged the audience to look for bands under record labels that hold biblical standards, but also said that just because it is Christian music does not make it good music.

"If you extract the lyrics, there is nothing musically Christian or unchristian about any music."

--Dr. Ben Kornelis

Kornelis said, "the burden is on each of us to put up filters and decide what is appropriate for me in this time in my life." He referred to Romans 14:11-12, "Every knee will bow before me; every tongue will confess to God." Romans 14:13 says that we may not cause our neighbor to stumble. Therefore, he said, if students are blaring music in their dorm rooms that may cause their neighbors to stumble; they need to exercise better restraint. Music has power and it can influence, but music cannot be blamed for causing people to sin. He said music can be "used as a nutrient for seeds already growing."

Bolkema said that at KDCR they reject as much music as they accept. They avoid "music that is lyrically trite," or music that refers to God in the same way as a boyfriend or girlfriend. These

kinds of lyrics, he says, appeal to a broad audience, but please nobody at the same time. About songs that proclaim, "God is waiting for you," Bolkema said that they imply that God is trapped until we make a decision, which is a trite view of how our salvation happens. He is looking for music that speaks to real and important issues that face the listeners, even if they do not use the name of God.

Bolkema said that music is entertainment media, and it is market driven. Artists are told by the record companies what they must sound like, and are thus limited. But, Bolkema said, some bands are definitely better than others, and some good songs appear on the same album as those that are not so appealing. He said we need to learn how to throw out the groups or songs that do not stand out.

Kornelis said popular music is meant to wear out to sell the next one. He said this is not a bad thing, but popular music cannot hold as high standards as classical music. He gave the example that we do not sit around waiting for Mozart's newest, but that his music is timeless. He also gave an analogy saying that popular music is to classical music as the Happy Meal is to a gourmet dinner, but then decided that was not a very good analogy.

Even if a group is not Christian, that group is still under common grace, and God can do something amazing through them.

--Dr. Ben Kornelis

One student said that Christian music "brings him down." He said he knows that there is Christian music that fits his style, but the performers sing like they are always

happy. He said they are not dealing with real life issues. Secular music tells what is going on, he said. Christian music does not give any perspective.

Kornelis said that even if a group is not Christian, that group is still under common grace, and God can do something amazing through them.

The question was asked if supporting a secular band means supporting a secular lifestyle. Kornelis then asked if we buy literature by authors such as Hemingway even though it is secular literature. He said that the listener needs to revel in the creative structure. "It may not be to glorify God, but we can praise God for their giftedness."

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Correction:

NOTE: The Diamond wants to correct and apologize for the mistakes made in the last issue in the article about the West Hall music festival. The members of Different are Dan De Boer, Bandy Langton, Luc Ver Mulm, Jason Baartman and Bart Ver Mulm. The members

of Scatterglass are Brian Krygsman, Matt Van Rys, Josh Vander Plaats, Paul Krygsman, and Eric Haan. The picture on the front page was of Different, not Scatterglass. The duo consisting of Brenda Janssen and Liz McPherson was the first group featured in the festival. Rachel De Bruin joined the duet for one song.

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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Hug-a-Linguist coming

Bethany Fopma
Staff Writer

Dordt students will have a special opportunity to learn about the work of the Wycliffe Bible translators during Hug-A-Linguist Days, November 5-7.

Wycliffe sends trained workers out to all areas of the world to learn an unknown language and then translate the Bible into that tongue.

There are currently 3,000 languages that have not been translated, and Wycliffe hopes to reach these people with God's Word. However, many people in these countries are illiterate, so representatives from Wycliffe must first teach natives basic literary skills. "There's no use in giving these people a Bible if they can't read it," says Corinne Huisman, Assistant Professor of Foreign Language.

Representatives from Wycliffe will be sharing their experiences with Dordt students and will be focusing on the importance of literacy and the use of computers in the mission field. Jim Leamer, an expert in computer science in mission work, will be leading a session. Dave and Cindy Lux, who spent time in Cameroon, Africa, doing Bible translation work, will also be speaking. Of special interest will be a presentation by Jonathan Vander Waal, a Dordt graduate who will be speaking on his preparation to do Wycliffe translation.

"We hope these days will help students get a better understanding of other languages and cultures by listening to people with first-hand experience," says Huisman.

In addition to the speakers, the film "The Harvest" will be shown Monday evening, November 5, in C160. Posters will be placed around campus with more specific details regarding time and place of the sessions. All foreign language students are required to attend Hug-A-Linguist Days, but all Dordt students are welcome to attend.

Seerveld lectures on ugly art

Ben Groenewold
Staff Writer

Calvin Seerveld opened up the wonders of the ugly in the world of art for the Dordt community on Tuesday. Seerveld opened with the question, "What would it mean [in contrast to seeing beauty as art's keystone] to say that being allusive is the norm for art?"

Allusivity (or playfulness and lucidity), he said, was the essence of the aesthetic art is not content to lob us easy pitches, but throws us curveballs, making us gasp with surprise at its unexpected twists.

In his presentation, Seerveld showed the exciting range of twists of allusivity using the concept of the ugly.

Through a slide presentation, Seerveld sought to show how we must replace the old western notion of beauty with a new sense of playfulness. Beauty, he said, showing a Raphaelite painting of a saint with every line perfect, absolutizes the characteristics of proportion and harmony. In such pure-cold symmetry there really is no room for free laughter, for mercy, for the jazz of life. What we often think of as "ugly" however, say, the wrinkled face of an ape, or a

South African mask can do much to "deepen the features of our imagination... far beyond the harmony of beauty," Seerveld said. There can be a sense of "delightful horror" here, of "awe" and of the "sublime" which transcends the traditional notions of beauty.

Seerveld also pointed out some possible misuses of the notion of allusivity. Art could become blatantly playful and absurd, as was the case with Dada art, or become kitschy, Precious Moments type art (Andy Warhol's problem), or it could become art that renders art meaningless, as was the case with Marcel Duchamp's urinal art.

After the slide presentation, there was a discussion time. Questions about Seerveld's condemnation of Dada art were raised and Seerveld acknowledged that Dadaism had helped to restore playfulness to art. Seerveld also agreed with a comment that Duchamp's art had worth as irony, but also said that he was leery of the marked tendency of such irony to go overboard and eventually wind up with nothing serious to say. Instead, Seerveld wants his aesthetics to "help develop a gift of refined tears and contagious joy worldwide."

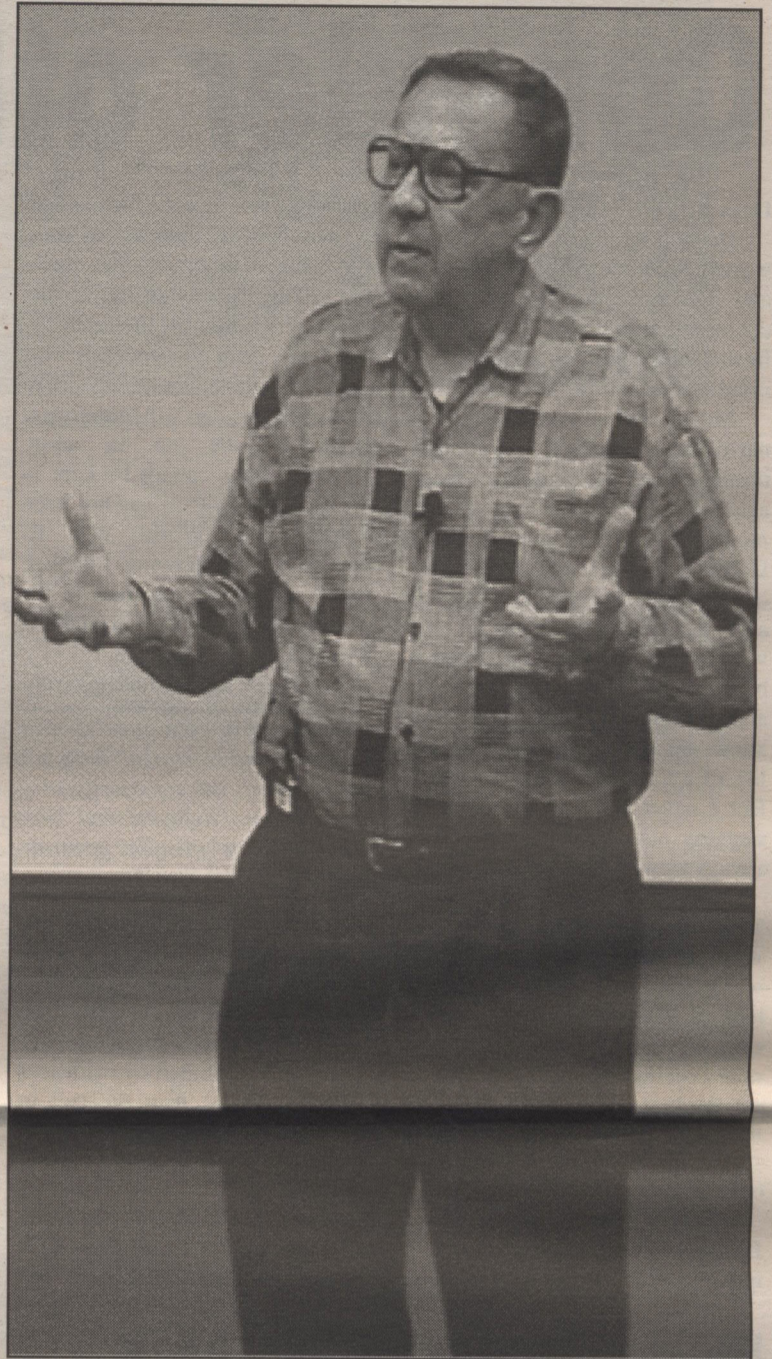


photo by John Hansen

Cal Seerveld gave a lecture on the aesthetics of ugly art on Tuesday afternoon.

Dinner builds mystery

Allison Schaap
Assistant News Page Editor

Students on the east side of campus will soon be immersed in mystery as part of their supper.

The Residence Life Staff shaped the idea of the Mystery Dinner. According to Southview R.A. Danielle Vander Linden, the purpose of this activity is to help build community among students living in East Campus, Southview

and off-campus.

The process of the Mystery Dinner is not complicated to carry out. Vander Linden has the names of those who wanted to be involved, and she will randomly select certain people to be hosts and guests of the Mystery Dinners. The hosts will not know who the guests are, and the guests will not know who the hosts are. The only information that Vander Linden will give to the host will be the

number of people coming to supper. Likewise, the only information that she will give the guests will be the room is that they to visit; they will be told this only two hours before the dinner. The guests are required to bring a dessert, which emphasizes "giving and receiving."

Vander Linden says that this Mystery Dinner will take place on four days: November 7, 11, 14 and 18.

Each room signed up for this activity will have an opportunity to both be a guest and be a host for the Mystery Dinner. Currently, 30 rooms are involved in this activity, and Vander Linden believes a few more rooms will sign up yet. "I think that this is something that people will get excited about, and it will give students an opportunity to get to know other students that they may not normally get to know."

Discussion addresses spiritual warfare

Rachelle Vander Werff
Staff Writer

"Satan cannot read your mind. Satan is a created being and so is not omniscient, omnipresent or omnipotent. However, he can read your words and actions just as people can," said Alan Walquist,

speaker at the spiritual warfare lecture sponsored by Covenant Hall

Leaders of a ministry called "New Beginnings" from Lingrove, IA, were invited as guest speakers for this event. They presented their ideas and answered questions about spiritual warfare in our world.

The lecture about spiritual war-

fare included three main ideas. The first emphasis was on a relationship with Jesus and a relationship with the Holy Spirit. They stressed the idea that the only way a person can distinguish between God speaking to us and another power is by really knowing His voice.

Second, the speakers talked about the ways people allow vari-

ous spiritual activities in their lives. They touched on the idea that horoscopes and Ouija Boards are not just toys. They are serious spiritual powers, and when people listen to things of the world long enough they will begin to believe what they are hearing.

Finally, they addressed the ways Christians can equip them-

selves to wage spiritual war. Christians should get so close to God that they force everything that is not from Him out of their lives.

The lecture was based on II Corinthians 10:4, "The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of this world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds."



Consider other perspectives

Dear Editor:

Dordt Talk: Step into a larger world. Jump out of the fishbowl and into the ocean (and let's not consider the fact that goldfish are freshwater creatures). Expand your mind. Broaden your horizons.

Maybe I'm a worst-case scenario, but somehow I slipped through the cracks and never managed to significantly "expand my mind" in my first three years at Dordt. Sure, I wrestled with issues of faith and a devotional life, and also a Christian's place in the world, and finding that balance between getting my studying done and spending time with friends—you know, all the tough issues in the life of a Christian college student. But I never came to the point of stepping outside of the way I had always viewed the world.

Despite all the Dordt talk of "worldview," I never understood what it meant to examine my worldview, to critique the way I look at the world. And I never, ever, came to the point I've reached now—seeing that my perspective is not the best or only one, and that maybe it's time to discard these spectacles and replace them with others.

So here I am, living in Cairo, Egypt; I've been here for over two months. In these past two months,

unprecedented events have taken place: America, bulwark of freedom and democracy, has been attacked by nasty Muslim terrorists. America has, for the past couple weeks, been engaged in a "war against terrorism," bombing strategic points in Afghanistan. Americans are up in arms, American flags cannot be kept in stock, and patriotism has not been higher since World War II. Americans are drawing together, united against the terrorists in the Middle East, and everyone is "Proud to be an American."

To present an alternate perspective

I am realizing even more clearly that the word "terrorist" does not apply to the majority of Palestinians. "Refugee" and "victim of injustice" are more accurate terms.

tive on the events of the past several weeks: Imagine living in a country in which 90 percent of the population is Islamic. I walk past Muslims every day on my way to class; I'm surrounded by evidences of the Qur'an; I hear the call to prayer several times a day. After September 11, every single Egyptian I talked to, whether Muslim or Christian, expressed their sympathy over what happened in New York and

Washington D.C. Strange—after being here for eight weeks I still have not run across any Muslim terrorists.

During the five weeks we studied Islam, I attended Friday prayers at a mosque, studied a passage of the Qur'an, and talked to several Muslims about their faith. In doing all this, I clearly saw Muslims as individuals—Mohammad and Mediha and Ahmed—and not as a faceless, homogeneous entity. I learned firsthand that not all Muslims are radicals or terrorists. Now that we have moved on to studying the Arab-Israeli conflict, I am getting to see both perspectives, and I am realizing even more clearly that the word "terrorist" does not apply to the majority of Palestinians. "Refugee" and "victim of injustice" are more accurate terms.

Many people do not know many details of the conflict; some don't even realize there are two valid sides. I'll be the first to admit to 22 years of shameful, willful ignorance. Even when I thought, "Hey, it might be a good idea to know what's going on in the world," I did nothing about it. I had to come to the Middle East, meet the people, and experience the culture before I realized the importance of being informed about world

events. But I hope that the events of September 11 and following have changed all that.

Is it possible for Americans not to be aware of the rest of the world now that America is at war with Afghanistan? Is it possible for Americans to be blinded to the logic of the situation: surely, surely there must be some reason for Arabs in the Middle East to be so angry with America and the West; what else would warrant such a blatant, violent act? Why are Americans so quick to fire up the patriotic spirit and so reluctant to examine their history and their treatment of the rest of the world?

I came to the Middle East with

Why are Americans so quick to fire up the patriotic spirit and so reluctant to examine their history and their treatment of the rest of the world?

typical American oblivion, almost completely ignorant of the history and present happenings of the Arab-Israeli conflict. But I am being educated with a vengeance, and the more I learn, the more anger I feel towards Western attitudes, American foreign policy, and the extremely biased reporting of Middle Eastern events by the American media.

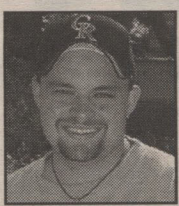
Yet perhaps what angers me the most are the self-centered, ignorant attitudes of so many people—of so many Christians. As the body of Christ, we have an enormous responsibility to be aware of what's going on in the world. And more than simply being aware, we have a responsibility to act against injustice: not simply responding to the results of injustice, but striking at its roots in order to bring a real and lasting peace to the world. When will our attitudes change? When will we evaluate our worldviews, our beliefs and our actions? When will we open our minds to other perspectives, our eyes to injustice, and our ears to the cries of suffering people? When will we step into a larger world? You tell me.

Allison DeJong

Be responsible with technology

Mitch Beaumont

Editor



As a college student who's at least ten thousand dollars in debt, I value cheapness. When I go to the grocery store, I typically buy only what I need. If you read my last editorial you even know that I can be a miser with my money, rarely spending money for the fun of it.

As a campus of college students who are each in debt, some double or triple the amount I am, we all value cheapness, and we sometimes go to extremes to save money. It's one of those extremes, though, that has me concerned.

There's a news story in this issue of the Diamond that addresses the dishonest use of file sharing services among Dordt students. I'll let you read it first so you get the background of what I'm addressing in this column. I wrote that story, and in the midst of doing so I realized that there's something terribly out of place here in comparison to the values Dordt College stands for

and represents out in the world.

My roommate asked me an interesting question the other day in the midst of a discussion on this topic. He asked me what the difference was between using these services and speeding. On the surface it may seem that the two have nothing in common, but in truth they share some ethical elements.

I merely ask that you think twice when you download the next MP3 onto your computer. No one may know that you stopped yourself, but it's the job of the Christian to live by example.

At stake here, it seems to me, is our integrity. When you're driving down Highway 75 toward Sioux Falls, do you go exactly 55 miles per hour (mph)? Do you go five mph over the speed limit? Do you go 15 mph over the speed limit?

It's very rare to hear of Internet police organizations biting down on those illegally using file-sharing services. Brian Van Donselaar said he only read about these organizations cracking down on a list for computer center directors, not something the rest of us read. So, are you using these file-sharing services for the free music, or

videos, or whatever? Are you using these services to get around the system? Are you using them because you don't think you'll get caught?

The ethical questions for speeding and file sharing are similar but the consequences differ a little. Unless you go way over the speed limit, all you'll get is a ticket (a big one) and some points on your license. However, if you are caught with pirated material on your computer, you can be fined and have your computer equipment confiscated. In addition to that, if you distribute any pirated material to anyone else, you can go to jail! That's enough to make me think twice about installing one of these services on my computer.

So what exactly is my point? As Christians, shouldn't all we do be in accordance with Scripture? Our actions, when it comes to ethics, should be in accordance with God's Word and His proclamations to us. Did not Christ say that we should obey the government and the Lord? This is an issue of obeying government because it's against the law to distribute copyrighted material without the explicit consent of the artist. That would seem straightfor-

ward enough.

Then we get into the issue of money. College students can't exactly afford to buy a new CD all the time and some would argue with me that using these services is a stewardly use of their money. So, why do we have to buy a new CD or movie, or whatever, all the time? Why can't it be an occasional thing when we actually have the money? I realize that I may be offending some people that I know by my stance on this issue, but that's a chance I'm going to have to take. If it's not enforced, then what's the problem with doing it? If penalties for murder weren't enforced, would you just kill anyone who upset you? While murder and file sharing isn't in the same realm, the ethical concept is the same. I don't wish that any of us get fined or arrested, rather I want our campus to be one of integrity and honesty. No one would know it, but that's the point. I merely ask that you think twice when you download the next MP3 onto your computer. No one may know that you stopped yourself, but it's the job of the Christian to live by example.

Be Wise

Laura Apol
Assistant Editor



Ever since the attacks on American soil a few months ago, our economy has been falling.

President Bush is working to boost consumer demand and provide for those workers who have lost their jobs.

Consumer confidence is what President Bush is aiming towards when trying to get Americans back into the economy. He's trying to reassure the nation that the security levels are high enough to travel again. When reopening the Ronald Reagan National Airport on October 2, he said, "Every person who gets on an airplane, who goes to work, who takes their family to visit relatives is taking a stand against terrorism."

But recently, I have been uncomfortable with the companies that are taking advantage of President Bush's plea. Chevrolet put many of their vehicles on sale, leaving the consumer with these last words, "Keep America Rolling." Granted, this has been their motto for many years, but within the context of the commercial, it was aimed toward a response to the terrorist attacks.

Another television advertiser boasts great deals on flags that will attach easily to your car, either by hooks or stickers. All for a great, low price. These people are capitalizing on the newfound sense of patriotism that is sweeping the country. I can almost see the smile on their faces after the terrorist attack when they realized how much money they could make off American pride.



A typical monument left from the Soviet days. This one was near Sarah's family's apartment.



The mischievous twins, Masha and Dasha.

Russia: raw and rich

Sarah Den Boer
World and Features
Co-Editor

I turn my head to the window, biting my lip to smother my grin. Outside it's snowing; inside the taxi the heater is melting us as Russian polka music hops in the background. My friend, sitting in the passenger seat, turns around and gives me the thumbs up, not even trying to hide his grin as we hurtle down the street--backwards.

That late night in early February two friends and I got on the wrong bus and ended up on the other side of the city of two million people. After getting on the wrong bus three times, we went for a taxi. Russian cab drivers, eager to carry Americans in the hope of ripping them off, flocked to us. Surrounded by four different cab drivers who argued about who would get us, we ducked from the escalating shouting match and jumped in a fifth car.

A car with bald tires, it turned out. On a snowy evening, coupled with Russians' ingrained disregard for traffic laws, this is not good. As

expected, once at a red light, we couldn't get going again. The wheels spun, the driver cursed, and suddenly we shot backward down the street before we flew forward again and took the widest corner I've ever experienced in my life.

Several people have said to me, "Russia . . . I've never even had a desire to go there." After spending last semester on the Russian Studies Program (RSP) and falling in love with the huge country, I try not to take those comments personally.

I'm baffled why people wouldn't leap at the chance to go to Russia. The shiver of excitement when standing in Red Square and reflecting on the history that transpired on those cobblestones is indescribable. The intricacy of St. Basil's Cathedral, the majesty of Russian Orthodox churches, the grimness of Lenin in his mausoleum and observing slight blackness of decay on his fingertips, the thrill of watching "Swan Lake" in the Bolshoi Theatre, the amazing life-size puppet shows, the ostentation of the czar's palaces, the

brehtaking moment of finally seeing Rembrandt's "Prodigal Son" in the Hermitage.

The RSP immerses students in Russian life. We studied the Russian language and had seminars in history, Orthodoxy, literature, contemporary issues and more. Our main home was in Nizhni Novgorod, Russia's third largest city. We stayed in university dormitories, and then with our own Russian family for the second half. I grew to love Ura, Ira, Katya and Alyosha Terekhina, my family, despite their vigilant protectiveness.

But forget the sights and the learning. The best part of Russia is the Russians themselves. From our Russian language teacher who called us "my babies," to the university students eager to welcome us, to the friend who approached us on the bus and whose job is selling essays to people around the world, to the rambunctious kids in the orphanage I worked at (Masha and Dasha--8 year old twins with mischief oozing out of their smiles--were my favorites), to the

babushkas everywhere--Russia's strength is her people. Cold and solemn in public, Russians are sincere, genuine and warm once you know them.

Russia is for the adventurous, flexible, patient person. It calls for a humble attitude and a willingness to learn. One needs to adapt to infrequent showers, toilets that just never flush, invasion of personal space, buses so squishy the term "sardines" takes on a completely new meaning, unspoken rules such as never sitting on cement (because it causes infertility!).

Russia is raw. The people are blunt and honest. They embrace suffering. Their lifestyles are simple. Conditions are deplorable. I never felt more alive than I did during my four months there. Suddenly comforts and extras in life seemed frivolous, and I dug into the rawness of Russia and felt more real, more raw, and more alive than ever before. I wanted to hold on to that way of living and bring it back to the U.S., but it died soon after I got home, that rawness of life was strangled once it encountered surface-skimming Western society.

Russia is rich: the mind-boggling history, the distinct art, the masterful literature and music. Their knowledge and appreciation of the arts constantly put us to shame. The painful realization of Western Christianity's individualism was hard to accept, but participating in the Orthodox church gave

me a beautiful understanding of community. Russians are a reflective people who talk and share and remember and think deeply. I wanted to soak it all up.

My world view, my personality, my whole life changed. I dream about returning to my home in Russia to live some day.

I am saddened that participation in the RSP continually declines. Under the fine leadership of Harley Wagler, students inevitably transform as they glean from his wise, Reformed view of Russia. I wish more students would grab this opportunity.

I welcome anyone who has the slightest interest in the RSP to contact me. You can come over for chai, I'll show you stacks of photos and Russian artifacts, we'll listen to classic Russian rock, I'll tell you story after story, and we can admire the wall-size Soviet flag I discovered in a corner of a St. Petersburg antique shop. I guarantee by the end of our visit you'll be in love with the spirit and soul of Russia too.

Near the end of my semester, we were traveling from St. Petersburg to Moscow. It was about 3:00 a.m., the full moon outside was glinting off the fields of snow and several of us were in a coupe together. Vadim was playing guitar, Dave harmonica, Anna singing. The Russian landscape flew by, the train clunked over the tracks, warm chai rested in my hands, Russian folk music filled the room, and I looked out the window and thought, "This is life."

Boon studies in capital

Sarah Den Boer
World and Features
Co-Editor

Joel Boon, a junior on the American Studies Program this semester, is taking part in American history in the making. Calling it "an interesting time to be in the nation's capital," he said he was two and a half miles from the Pentagon when the September 11 strikes occurred. He cited participation in a relief camp and a candlelight vigil as some of the ways he dealt with the situation. Increased security, especially in the Capitol building when Bush is present, is "almost surreal at times."

Being immersed in politics is perfect for "a political junkie like me," said Boon. They study politics in their classes as they tackle

different issues. The ASP students recently finished a domestic policy unit and are soon starting an international policy unit. The first unit involved looking at embryonic stem cell research and the next unit will delve into terrorism.

Boon also has an internship with Earth Justice Legal Defense Fund, which is how he receives half of his semester's credits. Earth Justice is an environmental law firm. Boon interns in the policy office, a job that consists of "clipping articles from papers, attending meetings and taking notes, random little research projects someone at the office might have me do, and so on." The little jobs contribute to his broader learning about the government.

The ASP has a faculty member who sets up the internships for each

student. Boon's situation, however, was unique. "I knew in advance exactly what I wanted, and I got it," he said. He was in Washington, D.C., last March on a lobbyist trip with the Environmental Policy class when a speaker, the Legislative Director for Earth Justice, caught his attention. "I ran after him after his speech was done, got his card, and gave the contact information to the intern coordinator."

The learning extends beyond the classroom and the internships. Boon discovered that the Christian aspect is very similar to the approach Dordt takes. "In fact, I've been told that ASP likes Dordt students because we understand the idea of integrating faith with our vocations. Surprisingly, for some students here, this is a new revela-

tion." ASP classes include foundational units that involve looking at biblical justice and other issues with a Christian perspective.

Describing the 41 ASP students as a close group, Boon has appreciated the diversity in the group. The "great mix" ranges from home states, denominations and ethnicities, but Boon said, "Amore telling category of diversity would be political persuasions, and nearly everyone here is Republican/conservative." He gave the example of the stem cell unit where they presented their own policy recommendation, and "of the 41 of us, I think only six or seven favored any kind of federal funding of embryonic stem cell research. I was one of them."

Boon anticipated using his weekends to see all the tourist

attractions in DC, especially the Smithsonian museums. Instead, he has attended "cool events," many of which relate to different students' internships. He has volunteered at the Republican Governor's Association fund-raiser where he "mingled at a really posh reception and got to shake hands with Vice President Cheney." He has also attended a five-hour play at the Kennedy Center as well as the following cast party, gone to a book festival where he met George Will, participated in an Eco-conference at GWU, and taken in several concerts.

Evaluating all the different aspects of the ASP, Boon calls it "Work that is good preparation for grad school. Not easy, for sure. But worth doing."



A look at Different

Rose Vander Wal
Guest Writer

Their fans sport t-shirts all around campus. They may be in one of your classes. They are Different, a talented up and coming band right out of northwest Iowa, some of whom are Dordt students.

Luc Ver Mulm, a Northwestern student and bass player, came up with the name. His brother Bart, a Dordt junior and guitar player, claims that his brother can't remember where he came up with the name but is sure that they will eventually have a good story, "Which may or may not be entirely true," Ver Mulm quipped.

In addition to the Ver Mulm brothers, Different is powered by Dordt sophomore Dan De Boer who takes care of the band's lead vocals as well as playing some guitar. He says, "[Lead vocals] are a challenge, especially considering that I really don't know what notes I am singing, but I sing what I think sounds good."

Construction worker Jason Baartman takes care of percussion while cabinetmaker Bandy Langton plays lead guitar. Ver Mulm explained that while these are the main tasks of band members, they all work together in various ways.

In order to help the band run smoothly they are aided by Charity Klein of Rock Valley. Her job description includes selling t-shirts, helping tune guitars, and setting up for concerts. According to Ver Mulm, Klein's official title is "Roadie."

On January 1, 2001 the band was officially formed by the five

northwest Iowa natives, and by May 5 they played their first show in the Pizza Ranch Battle of the Bands in the Sioux Center Community Center. They didn't win but the performance gave them a taste for more.

Since their debut the band has performed over a dozen times at various locations including Sibley, Hartley and Inspiration Hills. They even took their show on the road this summer and traveled to Michigan to record a CD and to play with AG Silver, a Michigan group close to breaking out. Different's latest performance was outside of West Hall where they played with several other Dordt groups.

The group's CD entitled "Refrigerator Magnet" is currently in production and will contain five songs which are a mix between alternative rock and rock. Tracks on the CD include: "Glitter," "Ogre" and "If Tomorrow was Today." The band has a unique sound that is hard to compare to anyone. They cover a broad range both lyrically and musically.

De Boer says that the band writes songs about their experiences: "The songs we write are about life." They are presently working on a punk song to add to their play list. Ver Mulm describes their sound as "quality music with an alternative message." They prefer not to refer to themselves as a Christian band but instead as "Christians in a band." The band hopes to make their CD available at upcoming shows.

The members of Different encourage people to buy their t-shirts. The shirts are available in



Photo Submitted

Different is comprised of Dordt students and people from the surrounding communities : Brandy Langton, Bart Ver Mulm, Luc Ver Mulm, Dan De Boer and Jason Baartman (front).

several colors and cost \$10-12. The shirts are made by the Ver Mulm brothers' parents at their family business, D & L Design in Rock Valley.

Different is tentatively planning shows and hopes to someday get a record deal. The band takes their music very seriously, practicing every week as well as holding down jobs and attending school. "Working and school are secondary jobs for us," said Ver Mulm when expressing how important the band

is to its members. De Boer adds to his sentiments: "Being in a band and creating music takes a lot of patience, a lot of faith, a whole lot of God."

Fans of the band can email them for information at the_band_different@hotmail.com. A website is currently in the making as well.

The band is very excited about their warm reception at Dordt and would like to thank the West Hall Residence Life staff for putting on

the October Concert event. They would also like to thank fellow Dordt band, Scatterglass, for sharing the stage with them, and the many students who braved the cold weather to come hear them.

Watch for appearances by Different in the weeks to come. They are currently looking at appearing at coffee shops in Orange City as well as in Sioux City. Playing at a Northwestern Sunday night praise and worship service is also a possibility.

Train gives instrumental variety

John Hansen
Staff Writer

Train is one of those bands that nearly everybody has heard of, but not that many people have listened to. We can all sing along with the title track of their newest CD, "Drops of Jupiter," when it comes on the radio, but how many of us have heard anything else off of the album?

Train is definitely defining their style, and this is evident in their sophomore effort, *Drops of Jupiter*. It's worth taking a listen to the rest of it.

If what you are expecting to get from Train is more of the catchy numbers like "Drops of Jupiter" or "Meet Virginia," you'll be disappointed. However, if you're a fan of either one of the Crows (Counting or Black) then you'll probably find Drops to be a fulfilling purchase.

There is a great instrumental

variety throughout the CD that really helps to keep each track somewhat fresh, new and interesting. Guitars vary from electric to acoustic and from slide to steel. You'll also find the harmonica, mandolin, violin, piano and a mix of horns all expertly blended into a smooth, flowing harmony.

I bought this CD for the title track, and I haven't got sick of it yet. But, I haven't left my CD player on repeat either. Upon exploring the CD I've found quite a few songs that I'm particularly fond of.

"Mississippi" is one of them. It's a bit more mellow and subdued than most of the other songs and is full of visual references that paint a picture in your mind. The collaboration of horns and muted female vocals create an interesting allusive effect.

"Let It Roll" is another one of my favorite tracks that falls into the mellow category. It almost sounds a bit country, but not enough to

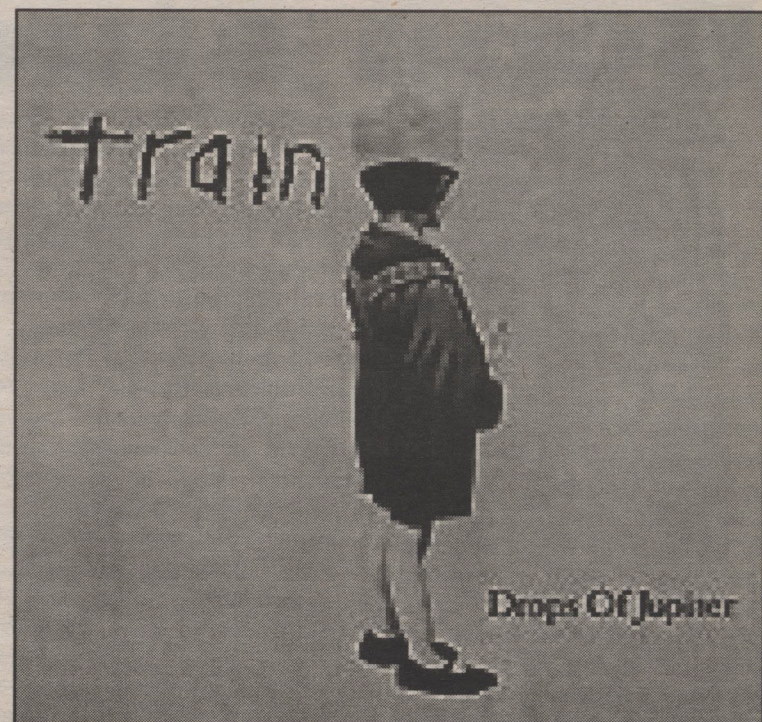
make me bust out in square dance.

This Southern influence is found in lesser extremes throughout the rest of the album. It's not a Garth Brooks kind of country, though; it's more John Mellencamp or Allman Brothers southern rock influenced. However you define it, they make it work.

The primary lyrical focus of this album is love and relationships. Train goes into this subject a little deeper than most bands have seemed to be doing lately.

Their songs delve into those little niches and facets of personal experiences that we can all relate to. It's these quick references to real life that make you stop paying attention and sit back and think only until the two seconds of silence at the end of the song break your concentration, and you have to play the track again to see what you missed.

If you do decide to pick up Drops, be sure to get it from an



independent record store. Train included two bonus tracks on all the CDs that were shipped to the "mom & pop" shops to give us a little extra incentive to support the local stores.



Lacrosse opens with three wins

Jocelyn Van Beek
Sports Editor

The Dordt Sowers Lacrosse team opened their season this year with an 8-1 victory over University of Nebraska-Lincoln and 5-3 and 9-2 victories over University of South Dakota.

Its second year in action, the Sowers have grown from a team of mostly beginners to a team of experience. The team started practicing twice a week the second week of school.

There are twenty-one players this year with four seniors—David Slomp, Mark Van Donselaar, Brian Oschsner and Matt Haan—and a variety of underclassmen. Twelve players are returning and nine are rookies. The president of this year's team is sophomore David Vander Tuin, and the vice-president is David Slomp.

The team also has a member of the community assisting with the coaching this year. Art Zito moved to Sioux Center this year to work at the Foreign Candy Company in Hull. He played lacrosse in college, so when he saw the team practicing one day, he stopped and asked if he could help. "He knows his stuff and is a big help. As soon as you see his hand on the stick, you can see he's experienced," says Slomp.

The returning members are also a great addition. "It's a big help in training the rookies this year. They're all very excited about the game. People are quick to step up and say what's wrong to help the team," says Slomp.

In addition to regular funds, the Sowers have a group of sponsors that aid them in supplying equipment necessary for playing. The team is sporting new jerseys, as you may have noticed around campus. They also sell t-shirts to their fans as a fundraiser. This year's season consists of a short fall season of five games and a longer season in the spring with an undetermined number of games.

Slomp has great expectations for this year. "The rookies are strong and the team is starting to gel. I expect us to do well. I'm not sure if we'll be undefeated because other teams are developing, too, but we are full of potential."

Vander Tuin is also optimistic. "I hope we develop into a team that has 21 players who can play competitively with any team we encounter. We have strong team unity, and I think that will help us achieve any goals we set. I also want to bring more opponents to Sioux Center so the fans come out and watch us."

Leading by example

Brian Denglar
Staff Writer

"Being an athlete is one way students can use the physical talents God has given them" (Dordt College Athletic web page).

For the two senior ladies on Dordt's volleyball team, A.J. Lefever and Darci Wassenaar these talents have not gone to waste.

Wassenaar and Lefever eat, drink and breathe volleyball, but off the court they are busy college women trying to earn a degree. Lefever is working for her bachelor's in Social Work while Wassenaar is working on her bachelor's in secondary education with a minor in Bible.

Wassenaar and Lefever both attended Unity Christian High School in Orange City, which is where their legacy began. They have played volleyball together since 1994 and started playing Varsity in 1995 when they went to state, but lost in the first round. However, this did not put a damper on their dreams. As juniors and seniors they won back-to-back state volleyball champion titles. And that was just the beginning.

Since continuing their careers at Dordt, they have made two trips to the national tournament, one in their freshman year and the second



Lori Panchot

A.J. Lefever and Darci Wassenaar have a long history together as seniors.

their junior year, with hopes to play in a third. Some of Lefever's best memories are getting to know the girls on a personal basis. "It's not just about playing well together it's about being friends," Lefever said.

When asked about their goals and hopes for the team, Wassenaar answered, "We want to be united as a team, to play better and to get to know one another better."

Wassenaar and Lefever want to make it apparent to all that they are not only volleyball players, but players for Christ, and they want to serve Him above all. Their key to

success is to enjoy every day in serving Him in all they do.

Their advice for an upcoming player is based on Proverbs 19:21, "Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails." Wassenaar said, "Surround yourself with Christian friends!"

Both ladies are looking forward to graduation. They will miss volleyball, but they are excited to see what the Lord has in store for them. But volleyball will always be a part of them.



John Hansen

Howard Gorter plays during a semi-final game.

Intramural update

Jacque Scoby
Assistant Sports Editor

As the early fall intramural season winds down, a new program is set to take its place. The men's slow-pitch softball league and the co-ed sand volleyball program have completed their championship rounds. The D-Bombers took first place in men's softball,

and the Fireflies captured the sand volleyball title. Co-ed soccer play-offs start this week, and the champion will be determined tonight.

Indoor volleyball also starts play this week. The program consists of women's, men's, and co-ed leagues.

Darryl De Ruiter, head coach of the men's soccer team, also heads the intramural programs at Dordt.

Statistics

CROSS COUNTRY

10/20/01 Mount Marty

Men:

15th - Dordt	414
Individual:	
75. Dan Van Engen	27:29.75
88. Stefan Petersen	27:54.12
92. Steve Dekkers	28:03.56
100. Richard Laninga	28:12.58
134. Greg Van Dyke	29:33.56

Women:

12th - Dordt	279
Individual:	
52. Kate Reinsma	20:01.95
64. Tanya Holtrop	20:27.99
71. Rachelle Kroll	20:34.94
74. Becky Demarest	20:41.92
76. Carolyn Cramer	20:42.51

10/27/01 GPAC Finals

Men:

8th - Dordt	174
Individual:	
29. Dan Van Engen	27:48
39. Jeff Taylor	28:11
41. Tim Ives	28:17
42. Stefan Petersen	28:22
44. Richard Laninga	28:25

Women:

7th - Dordt	215
Individual:	
40. Kate Reinsma	20:38
48. Rachelle Kroll	20:52
51. Tanya Holtrop	21:00
52. Becky Demarest	21:08
54. Carolyn Cramer	21:10

VOLLEYBALL

10/17/01 USF	W (3-2)
10/19/01 Dana	W (3-0)
10/20/01 Bethel	W (3-0)
10/24/01 Dak. Wes.	W (3-0)
10/26/01 Hanover	W (3-0)
10/26/01 Calvin	W (3-0)
10/27/01 DePauw	W (3-1)
10/27/01 Baldwin-Wall.	W (3-1)

BLADES HOCKEY

10/19/01 ISU	L (5-7)
Goals:	Aaron Terpstra
	Travis Woudstra
	Ryan De Lange
	Jordan Van Doesburg
	James Bentum
10/20/01 ISU	W (7-2)
Goals:	Ryan De Lange (2)
	Chris Veurink
	Nate Van Niejenhuis
	Jordan Heerema
	James Bentum
	Jordan Van Doesburg

10/26/01 SDSU W (4-3)

Goals:	Jordan Van Doesburg
	Travis Woudstra
	Jordan Heerema
	Aaron Terpstra

10/27/01 SDSU W (3-1)

Goals:	Chris Veurink (2)
	Nate Van Niejenhuis

SOCCER:

Men (10-8, 3-5 GPAC)

10/17	Huron	L(2-3)
	Ben Bieri (2)	
10/20	Doane	L(1-2)
	Kyle Van Andel	
10/23	Sioux Falls	L(0-1)
10/25	BellevueL	(3-4)
	Travis De Jong	
	Travis Burgers	
	Kyle Van Andel	
10/29	Concordia	W(2-1)
	Travis Burgers (2)	

Women (10-10, 6-3 GPAC)

10/16	Southwest State	L(1-3)
	Janna Brink	
10/17	USD	L(2-3)
	Janna Brink	
	Meghan Graham	
10/20	Doane	W(4-2)
	Julie Vander Kooi (2)	
	Janna Brink	
	Liz Dykstra	
10/23	Sioux Falls	L(1-2)
	Liz Dykstra	
10/27	Northwestern	W(4-3)
	Meghan Graham (2)	
	Jill Schreus	
	Janna Brink	
10/30	Dana	L(1-4)
	Meghan Graham	



NEWS BRIEFS



Kristi Mulder
Assistant Features and World Editor

Nigeria--There has been strong reaction from human rights groups within Nigeria to a statement issued by authorities responding to attacks by soldiers last week in which more than 200 civilians were killed. In the statement, Nigeria's President did not criticize the actions of the army, but forcefully condemned the deaths of 19 soldiers three weeks ago at the hands of a local militia group--the incident that apparently sparked the army reprisals.

Switzerland--Forensic experts have begun examining the wrecked Gotthard road tunnel in the Swiss Alps, but officials say they do not expect to find any more victims of last week's blaze. Eleven people were killed and many others injured after a head-on lorry crash last Wednesday ignited a fire deep inside the tunnel. The blaze started by the accident burned for more than 48 hours causing extensive structural damage. The tunnel is not expected to re-open for several months.

Israel--Israel's defense minister, Binyamin Ben Eliezer, promised withdrawal from four more occupied towns, "the moment anyone gets up on the Palestinian side and says they take responsibility for security." Eliezer spoke after Israeli troops completed a withdrawal from Palestinian-ruled Bethlehem and nearby Beit Jala although parts of Bethlehem were left looking like a war zone. The Israeli withdrawal came despite two shooting attacks by Palestinian militants on Sunday that killed five people in northern Israel.

Philippines--Authorities in the Philippines have blamed a Muslim-separatist group for a bomb attack in a crowded shopping mall at which at least 11 people were killed. Hospital officials in the city said about 50 people were also being treated for injuries. The Muslim group says it is fighting for a Muslim homeland in the southern islands of the Philippines. It has also carried out a campaign of kidnappings and currently is thought to hold an American couple and about 10 Filipinos hostage. Police said a second bomb planted close by failed to go off.

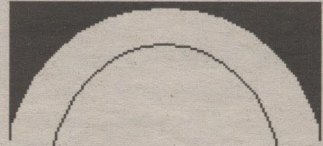
Japan--The Japanese parliament has given visible support to the US by approving a controversial bill that will allow the country's armed forces to support the US-led war against terrorism in Afghanistan. The new law allows the Japanese navy and air force to deliver fuel and other supplies to the American-led fleet. Search and rescue operations and humanitarian missions will also be permitted. This is the first time Japan is allowing its military to support armed conflict since World War II.

Pakistan--Several thousand mourners attended a funeral service for 16 Christians who were killed on Sunday when gunmen burst into a church and opened fire on worshippers. Crying and denouncing violence, a huge crowd of Christians and Muslims crowded into the church compound where the killings took place. Many blame pro-Taliban hardliners for the attack. The Pakistani Government has announced a thorough investigation and security has been stepped up at Christian churches across the country.



Recycle your diamond when you're done with it!

We hope you enjoyed reading. If you have thoughts, opinions, news ideas, or anything else to share with us, email the Diamond at: diamond@dordt.edu



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Lookbacks

Jen Hoogeveen

Staff Writer

November 1, 1968 -- Dordt's Namesake Celebrates 350th Anniversary

From 1618-1619, the Synod of Dordrecht met in the Netherlands. This was the reason for changing Midwest Christian Junior College to Dordt College in 1956. The Synod emphasized the purity of God's Word as a basis for a Christian college. Professor N. VanTil commented, "... we thought that if we chose 'Dordt' it would provide a good opportunity to furnish the inquisitive with some information on our Reformed background."

November 15, 1968 -- Students Vote for Nixon-Agnew

Students were given the opportunity to vote for the president on Election Day, November 5, 1968. Only 60% of the student body voted. Of those, 90% voted for Richard M. Nixon. Nationally, there was a record turnout with 73

million voting. Nixon led the competition by 25,552 popular votes with 7% of the remaining votes to be tallied. Humphrey and Nixon each had 43% of the vote and Wallace 13%.

November 21, 1974 -- Winter Bike Storage

The request by students for winter bike storage was met. There are no facilities on Dordt for storage so bikes will be brought to Ten Kredit Electrical Warehouse at the cost of \$4 for the season and \$1 for mid-season removal. Plans for a new maintenance building will include on campus storage for bikes next year.

November 6, 1975 -- Blades Begin with Two Wins

Approximately 100 Dordt students attended the Blades' first game of the season against the Sioux City Junior Musketeers on October 24. Although Sioux City dominated physically, hitting Dordt with numerous body checks, their goaltending lacked. Dordt won 13-4 on Friday and 11-5 on

Saturday.

November 6, 1980 -- Student Forum Issues

A proposal was brought to the Student Forum to eliminate Friday night curfew because the current rules on curfew weren't working. This would only apply to Friday night; Saturday through Thursday will maintain midnight curfew.

Another suggestion brought to light was a need for devotional rooms. The current housing situation doesn't allow for quiet time and prayer. Student Forum will look for the space needed for this request.

November 17, 1983 -- Defenders Begin with a Win

In the first game of the season, the men's basketball team defeated the Dana College Vikings 68-66. Dordt was down by as many as 12 and left for half-time down by 8 points, 39-31. The first lead of the game, 58-51, came with 4:10 left in the game and the Defenders held on to the game until the end.

Earth Watch

Tracey Wikkerink

Guest Writer

With Canadian Thanksgiving come and gone and the American festivities just around the corner, I reflect on what we've been given and how I am responding as a caregiver here on God's wondrous earth.

In an effort to become stewards in all areas of life, Shamar has held a "Bring Your Own Plate Night" at the Snack Bar to reduce the use of disposable products here on campus. Students can bring a plate of their own (or any other creative eating platter of their choice) instead of dirtying the disposable

dishware that is usually the only option. This event will be taking place again soon, but in the meantime, what else can we do?

We all know the 3 R's of saving the planet, so let's start there. With the recent time change making nightfall come that much sooner, how about reducing the energy use in our dorms or apartments by only turning on the light where we're actually present? Getting into the habit of flicking the switch when coming and going is an easy way to conserve energy.

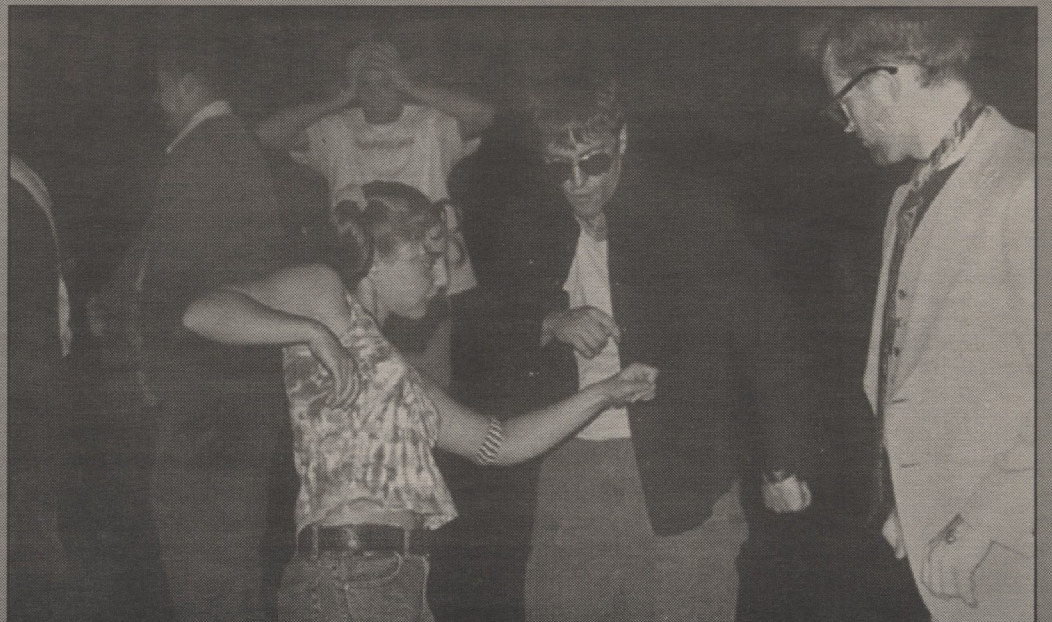
How about the issue of reuse in our lives? Try replacing those boring and wasteful napkins with a

colorful clean cloth for those unexpected spills and slip-ups! You'll save on trash and will always have a creative "mopper-upper" on hand. Better yet--why not crochet your own? You'll have cleanliness and a conversation-starter all in one.

And finally, recycling. Those PLIA bins are longing for our empty cans. It would be unthinkable to dump a can anywhere else.

With the festive air around us and much to be thankful for, let's make it a point to make the most of what we have; it's living simple gratitude, you could say.

DDL Dance features the Eighties



John Hansen

The proceeds of the DDL dance are going to organizations such as the Alpha Center and also to the AMOR teams. Nearly 50 students attended the event.