



Dordt Diamond

April 7, 2000

Volume XLIII, Number XI



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Students attend Calvin writer's conference

Inside
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News	1,2,3
Opinion	4
Features	5
Arts &	
Entertainment	6
Sports	7
World	8

Model Arab League underway page 2

Do students have a voice? Do they care? Find out! page 3

Baseball and Softball off to a fast start page 7

Victim Advocacy speaker visits campus page 8

By David Schaap
A&E Page Editor

From March 30 through April 1, several Dordt students choose to forego their college education for a few days to attend the largest literary conference in the United States, the Festival of Faith and Writing sponsored by Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The festival drew nearly 2000 literature and writing lovers from around the nation concerned about how their faith influences the world of fiction, poetry, criticism, film, song-writing, and essays.

The schedule included many readings, workshops, lectures, panel discussions, and interviews from a variety of writers including Virginia Stem Owens, Hugh Cook, Walt Wangerin, Jr., Clyde Edgerton, Donald Hall, Scott Cairns, James McBride, Paul Wills, Diane Glancy and Dordt College's own, James Schaap. Every night, the conference would feature speeches by big names like Chiam Potok (*The Promise, My Name is Asher Lev, The Chosen*), Maya Angelou ("I know why the Caged Bird Sings"), and the Stanely Wiersma Memorial Lecturer, Anne Lamott (*Traveling Mercies, Bird by Bird*). The conference also featured Calvin graduate writer/director Paul Schrader ("Taxi Driver", "American Gigolo", "Affliction"). Schrader gave an interview with Pulitzer Prize winner Garry Willis, and also gave commentary following the screening of *Last Temptation of Christ* and *Light Sleeper*.

Some of the highlights were the sessions of Anne Lamott, who told her story of radical conversion to



Walt Wangerin, Jr. delivers his speech 'Glory into Glory: Writing Not to Control but to Companion.'

Christianity from a life of drugs and alcohol, and her struggle to continue her new life. Her encouragement to the crowd to go out and write could light fires underneath anyone. Also, as a personal highlight, I got the opportunity to meet Paul Schrader, ask him some questions, and get a book signed. The conference also brought together recent alumni to Calvin and gave Dordt students the chance to mix it up with good friends and former acquaintances. But probably the most rewarding aspect of the Festival of Faith and Writing is the opportunity to meet and talk with other people around North America who love reading and writing and who continue to ask how their faith affects their love.



Anne Lamott discusses her faith and her process of writing.

Board interviews new VPSS candidate

by Laura Apol
News Page Editor

Ken Boersma is on campus today to Dordt College to be interviewed by the board to become the new Vice President for Student Services.

Boersma graduated from Calvin College and attended graduate school at Duke University. There he became involved in student life. He enjoyed his work. He made a slight "course adjustment" and continued his schooling down the path of administration.

He began his administrative

career at a college in Tennessee, then he moved on to Sterling College in Sterling, Kansas, where he is presently employed. He has been at Sterling for the past five years, working as the dean of students and the Associate Vice President for Student Life.

After receiving the call from Dordt to come back for an interview, Boersma said he was excited. He really enjoys working with students and believes that student services is important and also "rewarding and meaningful," he said.

Boersma said he was "positive-

ly impressed" with Dordt's campus and with the student interaction he had. He correctly stated that students have the desire for campus community and agreed that this is important.

In order to show students that he is interested in them, he plans to establish a "welcoming attitude," as he called it. He said that his job doesn't really involve sitting behind a desk because students won't come to him unless something is seriously wrong. Instead, he wants to "come to the door" of students to show them he wants to know what is going on.

While talking to Boersma, I could tell he was excited about his job and the prospect of becoming involved with the students here. But the most exciting part of student services, he said, was "seeing students develop the whole of their being" while at Dordt.

He is also excited about the residence life staff. Making the point that students spend 2/3 of their time outside of class, he said that the building of community had to begin in the residence halls with the staff leading the way.



Dordt represents Syria, Kuwait, and Palestine in Model Arab League

by Jill Vossen
Opinion Page Editor

Seventeen Dordt students have been gearing up to participate in the annual Great Plains Model Arab League, hosted by Northwestern in Orange City. The League is occurring April 6-8, having begun yesterday and continuing through to Saturday. Many delegations from different colleges in the Midwest come to participate in the League.

Dordt has traditionally participated in the Model Arab League, thanks mainly to the nudging and expert advice of Dr. Hubert Krygsman. However, this year Dr. Krygsman is on leave, and Dr. Charles Veenstra has stepped into the mentor role.

The Model Arab League is, in theory, like the Model UN. A five-person delegation is formed, representing a Middle Eastern

country, and each person on the delegation is responsible to learn about a particular area, be it economics, security, politics, Palestinian affairs or social issues, as it pertains to their country. The whole experience revolves around the idea of role-playing. In order to be effective, each delegate must "take on" Arab skin, ceasing to think like a Westerner and beginning to think like an Arab. Students lose their identities as Dordt students for several days and become Syrians, Kuwaitis and Palestinians.

The League is run according to parliamentary procedure. Delegates are expected to come to the League with a thorough understanding of both their country and a general sense of the intra-regional politics and relations. They bring resolutions to their respective committees which detail the position of their country on different issues and

suggest a course of action. These resolutions are debated, furiously at times, and a vote is taken to try to get it to the General Assembly floor on the final day of the League.

The General Assembly of the Model Arab League opened yesterday morning (Thursday), and the intense diplomacy of the committee meetings continues today (Friday) and tomorrow morning. The General Assembly convenes once again on Saturday after a traditional Arabic meal, catered by Northwestern, to discuss the resolutions passed by each committee and tries to pass them through the General Assembly.

Dordt is taking three delegations this year, representing Syria, Kuwait and Palestine, as well as having two students serve on the General Secretariat, of the main administrative body.

Dordt hosts British literature conference

Rose Ann Vander Wal
Staff Writer

Spenser, Chaucer, Shakespeare and Milton were some of the greatest writers of all time, and all of them were writers from a period commonly called Early British Literature. Their works will be discussed at the Eighth Annual Northern Plains Conference on Early British Literature. The conference will be held at Dordt on April 14 and 15 with most of the sessions taking place in the Covenant Hall classroom.

Dr. Robert De Smith, chair of Dordt's English department, said this was an event that he planned with English majors in mind. However, anyone else with an interest in Early British Literature is urged to attend. The conference will get under way on Friday morning with an introduction by Dr. De Smith and a welcome by Dr. John Kok, Dordt's dean of humanities.

The sessions will continue throughout the day with Dr. Heather Dubrow of the University of Wisconsin in Madison speaking about the drama of Shakespeare's non-dramatic modes. According to De Smith, Dubrow is a top-notch scholar who has written part of the introduction to the Riverside Shakespeare. He also said that she is a sensitive critic and an engaging person. It is definitely worth one's

time to hear her as well as the other off-campus presenter, Dr. Andrew Weiner also of the University of Wisconsin in Madison.

Seventeen papers of noted English scholars will be read by Dordt professors, and Drs. Weiner and Dubrow will both give keynote addresses.

On Friday evening, the conference will sponsor a showing of the film, "Shakespeare in Love," as well as a discussion immediately following the viewing. This event will be held in C-160 at 7:30 and is open to the public.

To enjoy learning about topics such as teaching early British Literature to high schoolers and using science to teach literature, Dordt students are heartily urged to attend the conference.

Students may attend any of the sessions they desire, but they are asked to stay for the complete session. If students wish to register to attend all or most of the conference they are urged to register with Dr. De Smith. The conference is free, but the Friday evening banquet does however require a five dollar donation.

De Smith is more than happy to answer any questions students might have or to register students. Also, more information can be found on Dordt's web site under 'links.' Check it out for a complete listing of topics as well as a schedule of events.

Zylstra gives reasons for the SLC

This building didn't start out to be a Student Union Building. In the overall Dordt 2000 master plan this building was envisioned as an administrative building. Put in its simplest form, Dordt has grown by 40% over the last decade. We have added student space, faculty space, and classroom space. We haven't added any administrative space. That is now the last step to be added.

When we started planning the administrative space, we discovered that we could redo the entire student union space at the same time and make everything work a lot better without really spending much more at all on the building.

About 10 years ago they estimated that the administrative center would cost about \$7 million. Figuring for inflation, we are getting quite a bit more this time for the same amount.

Design Rationales

1) Increase Student Union space because the student body has increased by roughly two times since the original building was built.

2) Relieve pressure on the library by connecting the Student Life Center and the library in order to alleviate the social conversations that can be distracting.

3) Relieve cramped office

space across campus so that offices are made available for more adequate administrative, faculty, and classroom space elsewhere on campus. Eventually the art department, information services, the business office, and computer services will get additional space as a result of this move. There may be other areas that benefit also but they haven't been finalized yet.

4) Provide a welcoming center in the heart of campus activity for prospective students and visitors to campus by placing the admissions office and central information center in a highly visible center of campus.

Source: Dr. Carl E. Zylstra

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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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Opinions expressed are not necessarily the view of the *Diamond* or of Dordt College, but represent the views of individual writers. The *Diamond* reserves the right to edit or refuse publication of any contribution.

FAST FACTS about the Student Life Center

what's inside

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Admissions office | <input type="checkbox"/> Library staff |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Financial Aid office | <input type="checkbox"/> Expanded Bookstore |
| <input type="checkbox"/> President's office | <input type="checkbox"/> Snack bar |
| <input type="checkbox"/> V.P. for Academic Affairs | <input type="checkbox"/> Coffee house |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Quiet time/devotional rooms |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Registrar | <input type="checkbox"/> Expanded student activities area |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Housing Office | <input type="checkbox"/> Security |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Campus Pastor's office | <input type="checkbox"/> Switchboard |

how it's funded

"This building will be funded primarily by gifts that would not come to Dordt College for any other purpose than a new building," says president Carl Zylstra. "The Advancement Office is only soliciting gifts from a limited number of donors whom we know are interested in helping build the campus and who would not be giving similar amounts for other purposes."

Approximately one-third of the \$13 million dollars needed for the building has been raised to date, says Bernie De Wit, project leader of the Student Life Center, and the administration is hoping that private donation will fund most of the project. Dordt is currently in a fundraising drive to help raise money.

"What isn't funded by donors will have to be borrowed," says De Wit.

If this happens, a portion of the room and board payments students make will help pay down the debt, says De Wit.

Paying the debt of the building through this method is a "standard college accounting procedure," says De Wit.

De Wit pointed out that some "auxiliary services," such as the bookstore, snack bar, and student services are included in the new building--services that are primarily for students.

Room and board payments go for a lot more than your dorm room. "You don't realize how many services you get with that money," says De Wit, who listed paying the director of housing, resident assistants and community advisors among some of the ways students' room and board payments are used.

Tuition funds are only used for direct education purposes.



Do students have a voice and do they care?

By Sarah Eekhoff, Mitch Beaumont and Cheryl Wierda
Editor, Assistant Editor,
World Editor

When it comes to major changes on Dordt's campus, such as the Student Life Center (SLC), students have less input than administrators or faculty either through committees or forums. But students don't seem to care about possible changes.

"I never see an opportunity to change things," says junior Brent Hartemink. "Changes happen behind closed doors and students are consulted second and we just have to accept that."

In a random sampling of Dordt students conducted last month, 33 percent felt they were very uninformed and 45 percent felt they were fairly uninformed about the planned SLC. Two hundred and eighty six students were randomly sent an email survey and 97 responded by deadline.

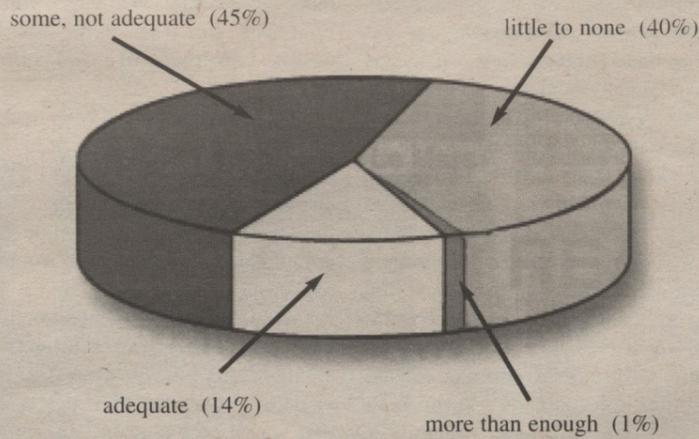
The survey also revealed that students felt that as a whole they had little input into the project. Forty percent felt there was little to no student input, and 45 percent felt there was some input, but not an adequate amount.

However, becoming involved in the structural changes of Dordt is not a high priority to students. When students ranked six things they would do on a weekday night, going to an informational meeting about changes on Dordt's campus ranked between 5th and 6th—with watching television being the only thing people would be less likely to do.

In mid-October a public meeting about the SLC was held for student input and eight students from the general student body attended, says college president Carl E. Zylstra.

Interim dean of students Mark Christians says that "there have

How much input do you feel students had on the new SLC?



been ample opportunities for students to be involved, but they haven't taken the opportunity."

Students were given a week and a half notice of the meeting through venues such as the Today, residence life announcements, and Student Forum minutes.

Student Forum also had the opportunity to have input in the project. It met with the architect, Tom Bertrum, who also designed other recent buildings on Dordt's campus, to discuss the floor plans, and with Bernie De Wit, senior vice president and project leader of the SLC.

Zylstra says, "Student input on this project has been a lot more than on projects in the past. The administration believes that students should only have input in the appropriate places." He says this means that students will only have input on the student activities area of the SLC and not on the outside appearance or other parts of the building.

Dordt administrators have struggled in the past with the issue of student input. The educational task of Dordt College sets the

framework for whatever the college does. Included in this "constitution" of the college is the rationale for the amount of student input. It states, "Students exercise a more limited, yet meaningful authority." The educational task gives students that limited authority in both the teaching material at Dordt College and student affairs.

In an attempt to give students the opportunity for more input on Dordt committees, a Task Force on Committees was appointed in December 1996. In the report, published in July 1997, several recommendations were made regarding the extent of student involvement. It was recommended that "students should be represented on all committees unless the Administrative Cabinet makes an exception based on factors such as: the sensitivity of committee discussion, expertise required and meeting schedule."

Jasper Lesage, chair of this committee, says it is difficult to draw the lines of student involvement. Students still need to be included, he says. "We thought hard about where it will work. Where student involvement is appropriate is not always clear."

Lesage says that two students should be involved in each program committee. Despite an attempt to rectify the problem of committees without student input, students have less representation now than they have in the past. According to the Task Force on Committees report, students made

up 19.93 percent of committees—57 of 286 members in 1997. Today, according to committee members and membership lists on DENIS, the percentage is 17.96—with only 37 of the 206 Dordt committee members being students. (However, there were previously two additional students on the committees; they are on off-campus programs and have not been replaced.)

The 1990 Task Force on Organization for Decision-Making report says the key bodies in the decision making process include the Administrative Cabinet, the main Administrative units, the Academic Council, the College Assembly, the Faculty Assembly, the Board of Trustees and the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees. Students do serve on these committees, or on the Long Range or Institutional Planning Committee. This committee annually formulates a vision for Dordt and develops major goals for implementing it, including reviewing significant changes in curriculum and adding, revising or deleting programs.

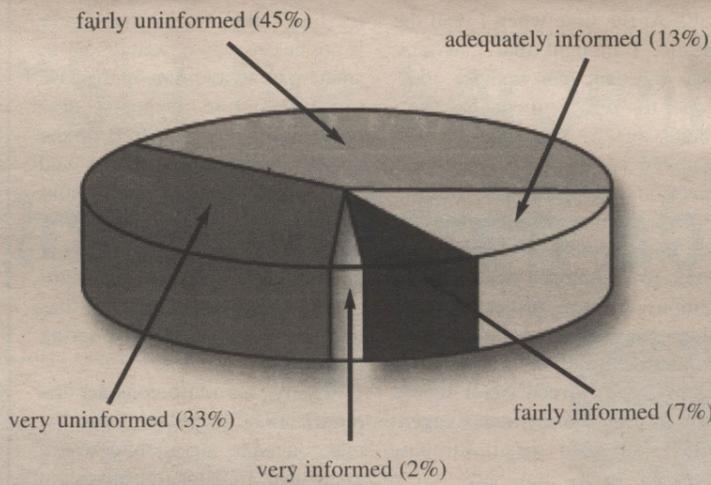
No students were present, then, when this committee decided which new programs or emphases should be considered. In a memo sent out only to staff and faculty, the committee asked, "Will the new programs strengthen the general education of Dordt students?"

The memo was recently sent out to faculty and administration after initial recommendations about new programs were made, and apparently no direct surveying or questioning of students was done before beginning the recommendations. When referring to the possible addition of paralegal studies, the report confirmed the need to "assess whether or students will be interested in this field."

"We want a voice," says freshman Kristi Mulder. "But lots of students just don't care."

How Informed

do you feel about the new SLC?



How to get involved

by Mitch Beaumont
Assistant Editor

Avenues available to students

□ Talk with Student Forum members—students can email the student forum email account at sforum@dordt.edu or they can voice their views by speaking with a member of student forum. This is probably the best and most effective way for students at this time.

□ Attend an informational meeting— one of these meetings on the Student Life Center (SLC) was held this past fall in mid-October to inform students of what was going on and what was to come. Student Forum leaders attended one forum while members of the general student body attended another. By attending these meetings, especially on issues such as new buildings, students can interact with faculty and staff that are involved on the project and often voice suggestions or concerns to the architect or project

manager, president Zylstra and any other appropriate faculty members.

□ Contact person in authority by— 1) contacting the Student Services office and Mr. Mark Christians, the Dean of Students.

2) On the topic of the Student Life Center, contact Mr. Bernie De Wit the Vice President for Business Affairs.

3) Contact the college president who can either answer the student's questions or direct the questions to

another administrative staff member.

□ Get selected to a committee— Students can be elected to a committee by one of two ways:

1) Typically, a message is sent out to faculty and staff to solicit names of students for committee membership. That list is given to student services, which makes selections for non-student forum positions on committees for students.

2) Students can also submit their name to Student Services if they

want to be considered for membership on a committee.

□ Get elected to Student Forum— every fall SF elections are held for any students who are interested in joining. Any students who feel strongly about an issue or issues, or even one, are encouraged to run. The elections occur every fall, but often replacements are needed in the spring because students leave campus for off-campus programs. Officers are elected by the student body.



Learning continues after college

by Sarah Eekhoff

Editor



"I'm so sick of school!" my friend yelled as he threw his books across the table. "I have been studying for the last 20 years of my life.

When can I stop learning and start living?"

"Stop learning and start living?" I wondered. I thought the two of them were inseparable. Isn't life in itself a lesson?

My opinion of learning is the opposite of my friend's. For the past year I have been struggling with the decision of whether or not to pursue graduate school. Maybe it's a habit: I've been in school for

as long as I can remember. Maybe I am just apprehensive about moving into a new stage of my life where formal education is no longer a major player.

But I think there is more to it than that. In the past two weeks I have realized the only substantial reason I want to continue buying books and paying for classes: I am scared to stop studying.

I don't want to graduate from college because I'm afraid that I'll stop learning. I enjoy the classes and professors that challenge my mind. I don't want to lose that—I want to continue to think about issues beyond the classroom. After school, I need to be able to continue defining and defending my ideas and beliefs, and the way to do that is to learn all I can.

Many issues that I will face after I graduate will not have a

direct impact on my life. I don't want to grow apathetic to those. Belonging to a community involves grappling with topics even if they don't immediately impact me. It means stepping into the shoes of other people and seeing their point of view. It means wrestling with ideas out of the simple desire to learn about views other than my own.

More than anything I want to have an open mind to new ideas. I want to be challenged in a variety of subjects, and I want to struggle through issues, both practical and theoretical. I want to see the world through educated eyes but not in the sense where educated means formal schooling. I want to have eyes that are open, searching, observing, not taking anything for granted but testing each idea and noticing new ones.

How does one go about doing this? When we leave the classroom for the summer or to graduate, we need to continue to train our minds.

Read books, but not just anything—books that challenge you. Find books that work on the weaknesses you recognize in yourselves.

Along with reading, keep track of how we spend our time. It is so easy to waste time if we don't pay attention to where it's going. We must recognize where our time is going and evaluate how we would like to spend it.

We also need to pay attention to who we're hanging out with. While having fun with your friends is definitely essential, make sure that you also have deep talks with them. Don't hesitate to ask questions and to challenge them, and ask them to challenge you.

No matter where you are, whether having deep chats with your friends or doing the most mundane job at work, remember to listen. Keep your eyes and ears open.

We learn by listening but also by doing. Stepping out of our comfort zones is always scary, but don't let that fear stop you from experiencing life. Continue to expand your mind. Try different activities. Travel to different places. Don't stick with the same safe route—turn a different corner and see where it takes you.

Sometimes when we leave our safety zones, we get hurt. We make mistakes. We stumble a little and maybe even fall. That's okay. The best way to learn, remember, is through mistakes. Take the lesson you discovered and remember it. Apply it. And learn.

Cat houses, priorities and the proposed student life center

by Nicholas Davelaar

Letter to the Editor



One fine day, years ago, I came up with a completely brilliant idea: I was going to build a cathouse for the new cats that we recently

received from our neighbors. It was a novel plan in my mind, a simply marvelous scheme. Dogs had a doghouse, so why should my cats not have one of their own?

However, not everybody had such great praise for my concocted idea as deep and positive as I did. My mom thought it was dumb. My dad thought that it was dumb. They tried to reason with me: how many times does anybody hear of such a thing as a cathouse? Why would a cat even use a cathouse? Yet, I was undaunted and spent most of a day constructing my glorious cathouse.

I was not going to have any old cathouse; I was going to have a cathouse to put to shame all other cathouses. I was the master carpenter for cats; I was the genius about to make headway into the future of caring for pets.

Yet, for some odd reason, none of the cats found my masterpiece. I tried in vain to point out to them the advantages of my cathouse over their primitive existence of wandering. Regardless of my attempts to grab them and push them through the entryway of my cathouse, they did not care. I ended up burning my cathouse.

I went to my class this morn-

ing and heard about the complexity and cost of a new student life center, a subject I had only seen in the pages of a Voice article last fall. At the time when I read the article, I thought that maybe it was a decent idea, a little additional room for students to use to "hang out." Yet, today I was appalled by the price tag that I heard, a whopping 13+ million dollars. I am not against the gradual improvement of facilities in order to maintain a neat, vibrant campus, but this project is a bit more than routine upgrading. I do not know if all the facts that I heard were correct, but I would still like to make some suggestions that hold in all circumstances.

First, we need to ask ourselves as a college community what we are aiming to do. If we are in the world to become the biggest, best, most heavily built campus on earth, then I suggest not stopping at 13 million dollars. However, the Dordt College framework principles state some other, seemingly contradictory ideas: stewardship and education of Christian children in the wisdom that God has given to us. I admit that I do use the SUB periodically, but I consider my most significant part of being a student to be learning from my professor alongside other students.

Secondly, we have to consider the quality of the proposed solution. Sometimes new and bigger is not necessarily better, and we can see that in many places. New buildings often require large uses of resources, while the old functions just fine and has a kind of nostalgic and homey feel. In the

case of bigger, we can look to schools that limit their class sizes, accepting a set amount of students in order to maintain quality of teaching—they realize that bigger is not necessarily advantageous to education. In addition, in the case of construction projects, new often means more concrete on the ground, fewer natural places, and an overall less human, more machine-oriented feel. Dordt has never been known, as far as I know, as an advanced and high-class college more than it has been known as a friendly, caring place.

Lastly, we must consider the ramifications of our solutions. At one time, the automobile was a great idea, making transportation easier and much quicker. Now I wonder if that solution has not created even larger problems, including pollution, greater materialism, and the decay of downtown areas. Likewise, we need to discern whether this proposed center will truly build lasting community or if it will only propel the college toward the level of other colleges: too big, too cold, too ritzy, and too expensive.

I learned years ago that sometimes it is best to feed the cats better than to try to impress them with great buildings. I can pet a cat and the creature will love me for a while, but it, by itself, will take care of where it roams and stays. I can play with the cat and feed it well, and I will have no better friend, but I cannot make up its mind for it. If I did, I would simply play the fool once again and end up wasting more time and energy just for a bigger fire in the end.

Everyone has a journey, what's yours?

by Mitch Beaumont

Assistant Editor



Everyone of us is on some kind of a journey in life. Some people's journeys seem much more exciting than yours, and

maybe they are, but there is one journey in all of life that can't compare to any others, and that is your walk with God. My relationship with God is most likely very different from yours, but in the end that doesn't matter. All that matters is that you take part in this journey that is available to you, so in this last column of the school year I would like to share part of my journey with you.

When I enrolled at Dordt as a freshman, I had never heard of the Christian Reformed Church. Although, in the past two years my knowledge of the CRC denomination has expanded more than I ever thought it would. I must confess that when I heard the words "Heidelberg Catechism" for the first time, I had no idea what it was, but now whenever it's used in a sermon or referred to in another context I find it more than helpful. I have struggled and wrestled with many of the traditions of the CRC and with some of the doctrines that I view as nitpicky.

Let me first explain what I mean by nitpicky doctrines. Nitpicky doctrines are those that are not essential to salvation. An example of a very nonessential doctrine in the CRC is predestination. I know full well that this could rile up some people, but I do believe that this issue is really just splitting hairs and has no significant value to our

salvation. By saying this I'm not denying that predestination shouldn't be studied; rather, it is important to give some attention to this topic. But I believe that spending months and years debating this issue is a waste of time when you could be impacting others for Christ instead.

My journey the last two years has also involved letting God have full control of my life and trusting that He will take care of me once I relinquish that control. My PLIA trip to Cincinnati this year was a great opportunity for me to learn this very important lesson. As I climbed onto a piece of scaffolding 15 feet above the ground, I had to trust that God would keep me on that two foot-wide plank for an entire day. When I walked up to a shopper in the mall and handed them a carnation and asked if I could pray for him, I had to trust that God would use me in his life in such a way that he will remember many years down the road. When I was playing with some children in the after-school program at an inner-city elementary school, I had to trust that God would protect them in the time that they aren't in school.

This coming Sunday morning a portion of my spiritual journey is coming to an end, yet another journey is just beginning. I will be making public profession of faith at Covenant CRC. For the first time I will be becoming a member of a church. For the first time I will have a real sense of ownership of where I worship and a sense of belonging in the body of believers of which I am now a part. The last two years have been a searching and challenging time for me, and as my walk with God moves to another level, I pray that God will use me in new and fresh ways so that I may be the bright spot in someone's life.



Seniors exhibit art



John Den Boer

Steve Van Wyk and Richard Hoekstra, senior art majors, display their work through Saturday in the Mezzanine Art Gallery in the B.J. Haan.

by Allison Schaap
Staff Writer

Some of the most accomplished seniors will be showing their creative ability through their creations of art.

Professor Jacob Van Wyk said that Dordt started the senior art show twelve years ago, and he is pleased that this is one of the largest groups they have ever had. The senior show is an extension of the class Art 370, and it is for all graduating seniors.

According to Van Wyk, these art exhibits are a full range of media including painting, photography, print-making, mixed media, fibers, ceramics, sculpture, graphic design work, class projects, and commercial production work. He is excited about seeing the art exhibit assembled so that he can see the connection in the work.

"The main purposes [of this art exhibit] is to highlight the range of experience at

Dordt, to illustrate the wide range of media, to make a professional production, and to talk publicly about their work," Van Wyk mentioned.

All senior shows will be in the Mezzanine Art Gallery in the B.J. Haan. The shows will be held on April 3-8 with Steve Van Wyk, Kari Niewenhuis, Heidi Hilbelink, and Rich Hoekstra; on April 10-15 with Sam Gutierrez, Rebecca Bonnema, Tim Kramer, Jessica Meendering, and Marty Christians; on April 17-22 with Teresa Kuiper, John Den Boer, Kimberly Hoogveen, and Bryan Huisken.

Van Wyk remarked, "The most pleasing thing about this group of students is their independent thinking and self motivated hard work." Van Wyk said he has helped these students expand their work and horizons, and it has been gratifying to see their work through artistic decisions.

Wielenga and De Haan present faculty recital

by Tricia Van Ee
Features Page Editor

Dordt music faculty members Pam De Haan and Mary Lou Wielenga presented a recital Tuesday, April 4, in the B.J. Haan Auditorium. De Haan, a voice and saxophone instructor, and Wielenga, piano and organ instructor, were assisted by adjunct music faculty Berta Graham (English horn and oboe) and Deb Vogel (alto).

The recital opened with Wielenga on the organ with Festival Fanfare by Kenneth Leighton. De Haan joined Wielenga for three pieces from Bach cantatas, "O Fill Now Ye Flames," "Lord, God, Father my Champion Strong," and "Sighing, Crying, Sorrow, Need." Graham and Vogel assisted on the second of these selections.

Wielenga continued on the organ with two movements

from Marcel Dupre's Symphonie-Passion Op. 23, "Crucifixion" and "Resurrection." Dordt art instructor Joanne Alberda compiled a slide presentation of art by Matthias Grunewald and William Blake to accompany the music. De Haan also assisted in singing the chant on which "Resurrection" was based.

De Haan, accompanied on piano by Wielenga, opened the second half of the recital with "Je dis que rien ne m'epouvante," an aria from the famous Bizet opera, Carmen. They concluded the recital with Sonata for E-flat Alto Saxophone and Piano Op. 19 by Paul Creston.

De Haan and Wielenga both received their masters degrees from the University of South Dakota, De Haan in music and Wielenga in piano performance and literature and organ performance and literature.

"Sid the Serpent" teaches local children about opera

by Tricia Van Ee
Features Page Editor

Children from 12 area elementary schools received a musical treat in the form of the Des Moines Metro Opera's performance of "Sid the Serpent, Who Wanted to Sing" last Wednesday, March 29, in the B.J. Haan Auditorium.

The presentation was sponsored by Dordt College and the Music Department. Dordt voice instructor Deb Vogel coordinated the event. She said the purpose of the performance was to give children good vocal role models and show them that singing can be fun.

"Sid the Serpent" is a children's opera about a serpent who leaves the circus to learn how to sing. He isn't very successful and tries opera, barber-shop, and even rock before sadly returning to the circus. He then discovers with the help of fellow circus performers that he has been able to sing all along. The performers opened the session with a brief introduction telling the children what they should listen for during the opera and ended with a question and answer period. The children were also involved in helping the performers sing the chorus of several songs during the opera.

The eight members of the traveling opera troupe presented a Master Class for Dordt voice students after the performance. They critiqued students' performances, talked about singing, performed for the students, and answered questions.

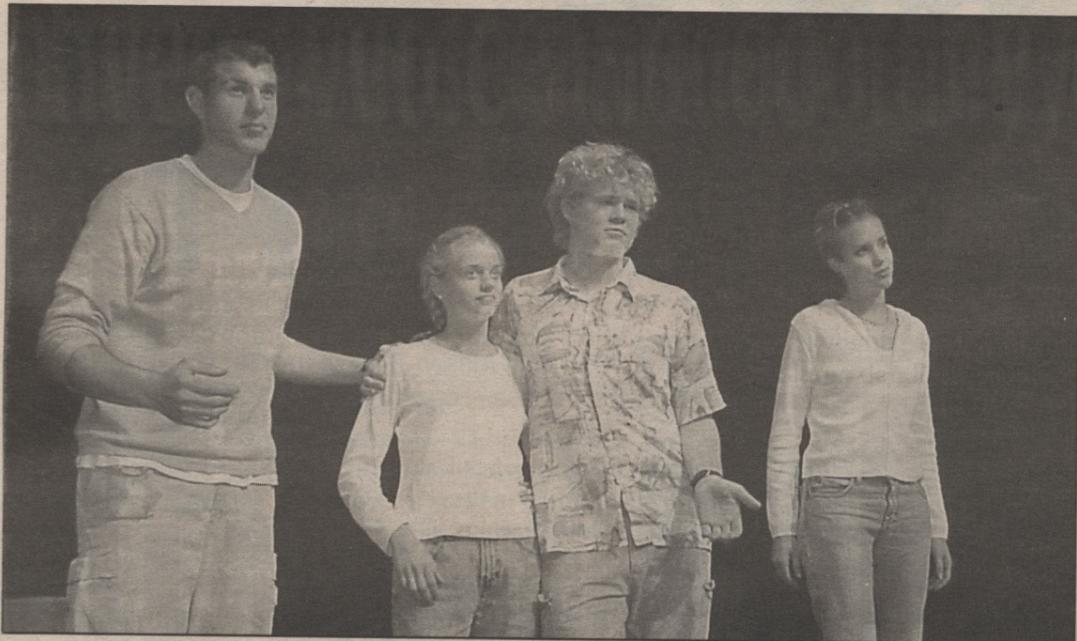
"I thought that the members of the troupe were very down to earth and creative, and they had



Travis Bonnema

"Sid the Serpent" searches for the ability to sing in the Des Moines Metro Opera's performance last Wednesday.

some great suggestions for stage presence and expression," said voice student Rochelle Van Ry. "They also had great senses of humor." Music student Meghann Persenaire said, "It was cool because these people weren't so concerned with producing this huge opera sound, but they conveyed what the opera was all about in an excellent way."



John Den Boer

Jason Vande Brake, Laura Groen, Eric Van Wyk, and Lindsey De Witt practice "Things we make fun of."

"Nobody Move and Nobody Gets Hurt"

by Ryan Vande Kraats
Staff Writer

Most students have seen the posters on campus that bear slogans such as "Everything you know is wrong" or "You are a statistic." And I am sure that many of you are curious about what these posters are all about. Well, perhaps I can help you out. These posters are the preliminary advertisements for a theatrical event that is being created by Jason Vande Brake and his cast of six actors. This production, which is known as "Nobody Move and Nobody Gets Hurt," is a radical departure from any other play or production that has ever been seen on campus.

It should be made clear that this

production is not just one play, but is really about 35 short plays that will be performed in a random order selected by the audience. Each of the plays has been assigned a number and as the program progresses the audience will choose numbers and the coinciding play will be performed. Part of the purpose of this production is to break down the barrier between the audience and the actors. All of this interaction should make for a dynamic and entertaining show.

This production is entirely student produced. All of the short plays that will be performed have been written by Dordt students, all of the actors are students, and Jason is directing and acting in the per-

formances that are to be held in the New World Theater on April 14 and 15, as well as the 22nd and 23rd. Ticket prices are still being determined.

I have witnessed much of the evolution of this project, which started at the beginning of last semester and I must tell you that this will be a very cool show. Those who attend should be prepared for fast-moving action, challenging plays, and, ultimately, a lot of fun. This show is all about spontaneity and, just like the posters that are all around campus, will keep you guessing.

Students are encouraged to come out and support this ambitious theatrical venture.

Concert tour culminates in home concert

by Andrea Voogt
Staff Writer

The members of the Concert Choir and Kantorei toured Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, Montana, and South Dakota from March 9 to 20, performing the music they have worked on this semester.

The tour actually began on March 4, with a pre-tour concert held at St. John's Lutheran Church in LeMars, IA. The group left Sioux Center on March 9, heading first to Winnipeg, Manitoba. They continued their tour to Brandon, Manitoba; Regina, Saskatchewan; Lethbridge, Alberta; Lacombe, Alberta; Edmonton, Alberta; Calgary, Alberta; Manhattan, Montana; Rapid City, South Dakota; Platte, South Dakota; and New Holland, South Dakota. On Friday, March 24, they completed their tour with a home concert in the BJ Haan Auditorium. The group also had a free day in Banff during the tour.

Both the Concert Choir and Kantorei performed a number of pieces. The Concert Choir performed Heleluyan, arranged by Ulrich and featuring Matt Nuiver as soloist; Non Nobis Domine by Doyle with Zach Vreeman as soloist; Crucifixus (from Mass in B minor) by Bach; Let Nothing Ever Grieve Thee by Brahms; Hallelujah (from Mount of Olives) by Beethoven; Cantus Missae (Op. 109) by Rheinberger; Magnificat

by Pärt with soloists Leah Vander Kooi, Tricia Van Ee, and Lani Van Someren; Mary Speaks by Gawthrop; Rise, Heart, Thy Lord Is Risen by Burton; Musick's Empire (from Triptych) by Pfautsch; and This Is My Father's World by Shepherd. The Kantorei sang a selection from the following: I Will Arise, arranged by Parker and Shaw; O Jesus, Grant Me Hope and Comfort by Franck; Children of the Heavenly Father, arranged by Myrvik; Thou Wilt Keep Him in Perfect Peace by Matthews; Chili Con Carne by Edenroth; and MLK by U2, arranged by Chilcott, featuring Zach Vreeman as soloist.

According to Dr. Ben Kornelis, conductor, there wasn't a distinct theme to the tour, but rather a variety of pieces, several of which reflected on creation, prayer, and expressions of Mary. "It was a really positive choir all the way through. We really worked on building a sense of ensemble," said Dr. Kornelis. He also commented that the school assemblies were especially fun because of the immediate feedback given to the performances. Junior Jennifer Van Den Hul stated, "I felt as though we all really meshed together. The more we molded together, the better we sang. Both during concerts and traveling, we all really tried to include one another. There was no one with whom I felt uncomfortable."

"I wanted to keep the proposal a secret."



Gina Bonnema and Joe Poppema
Wedding: September 8, 2000

Joe: "I wanted to keep the proposal a secret from Gina, so I made an appointment for Pat's 'Secret Room.' I was able to sit and look for the perfect ring without worrying about who might see me."

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Elgersma resigns as soccer coach

by Jocelyn Van Beek
Sports Page Editor

Bill Elgersma, coach of the Dordt men's soccer team, has announced that he will be resigning as head coach. He is currently teaching English at Unity Christian High School in Orange City, Iowa, and has decided to accept a teaching position at Ripon Christian High School in Ripon, CA, for next school year. One of his major reasons for transferring is so that he can further his education by attending graduate school.

Elgersma believes that it will be a new challenge to be in a new school system, for him his wife and their children. He feels that it

will provide his children with a broader cultural experience, as it is very important for them to have a variety of experiences in their lives.

Elgersma is a 1981 Dordt graduate. While attending Dordt, he played soccer. He served as an assistant coach under Quentin Van Essen from 1990-1992, after which he became the head coach. Coach Elgersma has been the men's soccer coach at Dordt since 1993 and has earned a record of 82-40-9 (.625). In the seven years that he has been here, the Defenders have played six 10 win seasons. According to Elgersma, "One of the biggest losses in leaving will be losing my guys." He

stated that next year's team will be really strong, and he will miss not being able to coach them.

Most college coaches do not remain for more than 2 or 3 years, so Coach Elgersma's contribution as soccer coach for the last 7 years has done a lot to aid in the development of the soccer programs in the area. Rick Vander Berg stated on behalf of the college that, "Coach Elgersma has done a great job coaching and recruiting at Dordt. We have been fortunate to have him as coach for seven years. His leaving will be a real loss for the program." Coach Elgersma has been a great asset for the soccer program and will be greatly missed.

Tennis teams look competitive

by Jocelyn Van Beek
Sports Page Editor

Men's tennis coach Dr. Len Rhoda believes that "the men will be very competitive in every match this year." One downfall is that Joel Visker does not play during the week because of student teaching. That will hurt the team somewhat because all the other players have to go up one notch in the matches. Despite this, coach Rhoda is pleased with how strong they have played so far. He hopes to get some guys picking up more wins as they get into the season. He also stated that the team is picking up right where they left off last year, so they will only get better as the season progresses.

Women's coach Rudy Folkerts feels much the same. He states that the women are very competitive. "They are working hard and enjoying it but would like to see their hard efforts at practice turn into some wins for Dordt."

Both coaches feel that the competition this year is excellent, and it will be a good challenge for the teams. The weather has been excellent so far, resulting in all practices and meets being held as scheduled.

Dordt's tennis team has three home meets this year. They are April 6 vs. Northwestern, April 18(Men) and 19(Women) vs. Sioux Falls, and April 25 vs. Northwestern(Men).

Defenders end basketball season

by Leanne Prins
Staff Writer

Women

The Lady Defenders were a young contingency this season. There were only three seniors and one junior returning to the team. Together Coach Len Rhoda and his team played towards a 13-12 overall record, and an SDIC record of 6-8.

The team was 6th place overall in the SDIC. They didn't make the playoffs, but this disappointment didn't come without highlights.

One of these highlights was the play of sophomore Serena Van Beek. She shattered almost every previous three-point field goals record in Dordt's history, including most field goals ever scored with 89 (and counting), most three pointers in a season with 68, and most three point shots made in one game with 7.

Van Beek and senior Carla Geleynse placed 3rd and 4th in the SDIC high scoring list. Van

Beek's average point total per game was 17.29, and Geleynse's was 16.64.

Three seniors received special year-end recognition. Marlene Van Wingerden and Allison Miedema were named NAIA Scholar All-Americans. Carla Geleynse was named an Honorable Mention NAIA All-American, and a 1st team All-SDIC member. Serena Van Beek also gained a position on the All-SDIC 3rd team.

Men

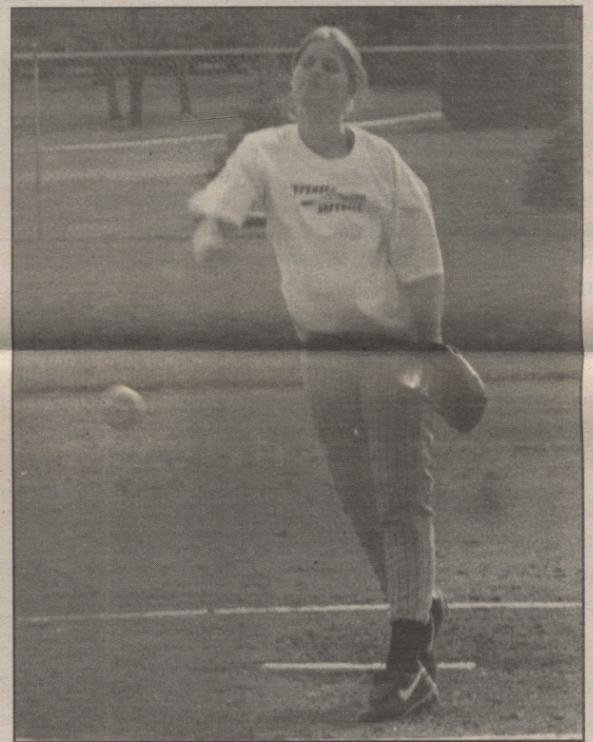
This year's Defenders' basketball team has recorded the 3rd best season record in its history and the best record in over ten years.

The men's team was not ranked in the NAIA top 25 in December of 1999, but they managed to hit a high of 18th place through the course of the year. They didn't quite make the top 25 NAIA ranking at the end of the year, either, but they finished 2nd overall in the SDIC with a 9-5 record.

With this ranking they made the playoffs as the number two seed. They went against the number three seed, Sioux Falls, in the first round but were defeated 83-92, so they didn't advance. However, the team had many accomplishments of which to boast.

On an individual basis, Neal Brenneman had an honorable mention vote for the NAIA All-American Team. Jason Maas, Michael Ribbens, and Matt Van Essen were each voted NAIA scholar All-Americans. Neal Brenneman made the All-SDIC 1st Team and Randy Oostra the 3rd team.

The team had four senior players: guard Jason Maas, forwards Adam Van Meeteren and Randy Oostra, and center Neal Brenneman. Their college careers ended strong, but coach Van Soelen can rest his hopes in some of the younger players to lead the team to another strong up-coming season.



Travis Bonnema

Freshman Melissa Verhoeven pitches for the Lady Defenders against Dakota Wesleyan on March 29.

Softball

Record 11-10

SDIC Record 2-0

Kansas Wesleyan Tournament

March 10-11

Friday

Kansas Wesleyan: Win 7-1

Doane: Loss 5-7

Friends: Loss 3-6

Saturday

Graceland: Win 6-5

Kansas Wesleyan: Loss 5-4

March 13

Sterling University (Kansas)

Loss: 2-5

March 14

Ottawa University (Kansas)

Win: 4-0, 10-0

March 22

Northwestern: Loss 0-7

March 24-25

Hastings Tournament

Friday

Northwestern (MN): Win 10-2

Sterling: Win 5-1

Peru St: Loss 3-5

Saturday

York: Loss 1-4

Minot St: Win 7-6

March 29

Dakota Wesleyan: Wins 3-1, 3-0

March 31-April 1

Central College Tournament

Grinnell: Loss 5-8

Central: Loss 1-11

Concordia (MN): Loss 5-10

William Jewell: Win 7-4

Outdoor track

March 11

San Marcos, TX

National Qualifiers:

Susan Schaap - High Jump: 5'6"

Erica Ton - Triple jump: 37' 1 3/4"

Jill Starckenburg - Pole vault: 11'

1st place: Ron Kingma - 800M

2nd place: Jeff Summerhays -

1500

Eric Vander Kooy - 3000 steeplechase

March 25

Briar Cliff

1st place:

Troy Ten Napel - 400M

Jeff Summerhays - 1500M

Susan Schaap - High Jump

Erica Ton - Triple Jump

Jackie Eekhoff - 400 Hurdles

April 1

Buena Vista

Men:

Buena Vista - 133

Dordt - 124

Martin Luther - 87

Simpson - 4

1st place:

Neal Brenneman - shot put

Darin Arkema - steeplechase

Jon Dekkers - 800M

Eric Carlson - 400M

Jeff Summerhays - 1500M,

3000M

4x400

Women:

Dordt - 171

Buena Vista - 82

Simpson - 41

Martin Luther - 33

1st place:

4x100

4x400

Emily Kauk - 1500M

Rebecca Demarest - 800M

Sarah Haan - 400M

Susan Schaap - High Jump

Erica Ton - Triple Jump, Long

Jump

Michelle Te Slaa - javelin

Baseball

Record: 5-10

SDIC Record: 0-4

Gene Cusic Collegiate Classic

March 13

Illinois Tech.: loss: 0-5, win 7-2

March 14

Transylvania (Kentucky): loss 0-5,

win 7-5

March 16

Mt. Vernon Nazarine: loss 3-13

March 17

Alderson-Broadus (West

Virginia): loss 4-12

Regular Season

March 23

Dana: win 10-5

March 25

Briar Cliff: win 8-4, loss 10-17Ma

March 29

Buena Vista: win 16-15, loss 8-11

March 30

Huron: loss 1-11, loss 3-11

April 1

Huron: loss 9-10, loss 2-10

Tennis

Men

March 29

New Ulm, Martin Luther College:

Loss 6-3

March 25

South Dakota State University

Loss: 7-2

Women

March 29

South Dakota State University

Loss 7-2



News Briefs

by Jen Hoogeveen
Staff Writer

Political Shuffle in Japan

Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi's stroke-induced coma Sunday caused the ruling Liberal Democratic Party to take action in replacing the leader, who isn't expected to be able to resume his duties. They are eager to fill the gap to prevent a delay in government business. Many problems in Japan, including a volcanic eruption on the northern island of Hokkaido which put 13,000 people in emergency shelters, require a strong leader.

The Japanese don't expect any big changes due to the control of Obuchi's party. However, the Cabinet resigned Tuesday in order to make room for the new leader. Secretary-General Yoshiro Mori, a former journalist and veteran politician, succeeded Obuchi on Wednesday the 5th.

Pressure for Moscow Investigations

Due to complaints of Russian troops' atrocities towards Chechen civilians, the United Nations is urging Russia to investigate the stories of execution, rape, looting, and other abuses. UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mary Robinson has traveled to Russia to gain information. However, when wanting to observe the Aldy area where many claim a mass killing of civilians occurred in February, she was denied access. Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov denied all allegations of crimes done by Russian military men and said that this foreign interest is just a means to meddle in Russian affairs. Russia also claims that there have been foreign observers allowed to the sites in question.

Even so, the atrocities haven't been one-sided. There has been word of rebel leaders kidnaping and killing civilians. Last Wednesday, March 29, there was an ambush on a soldiers' unit. Eleven have been reported missing.

New Evidence in the "Worst Cult Tragedy of Modern Times"

New evidence has been found that the chapel in Kanungu, Uganda, was soaked with gasoline and the doors and windows bolted from the outside before it erupted in flames March 17. At least 530 members of the doomsday cult, Movement for the Restoration of the Ten Commandments of God, were trapped inside. Officials believe that the attack came from inside and are still investigating whether the arsonists were consumed as well. The death tally is up to 924, with 388 of them found in pits.

First Executions in 40 Years on Hold

A Tennessee federal appeals court has put the executions of two inmates on hold. Robert Glen Coe, who raped and killed 8-year-old Cary Ann Medlin in 1979, was to die early Wednesday by lethal injection. He is claiming insanity. Philip Workman, who in 1981 killed Memphis police Lieutenant Ronald Oliver, says that the fatal bullet from "involuntary blind shots" was different from the one he shot. The court said they would review the claims.

Diamond Lookback

Historical headlines and quotes from past April issues

1960

- Choir Tour begins soon- "Tour to occupy most of Spring Vacation"
- Did You Know . . . "that President Haan traveled to Le Mars the other day to take the test for renewing his driver's license, and failed it . . . ?"

1961

- Teaching staff will have twelve members
- Dordt Choir cuts record

1962

- Commencement Set May 26
- Portrait of a President: B. J. Haan- "He envisions Dordt College as becoming 'a strong four-year liberal arts college drawing students primarily from west of the Mississippi River, but also from the entire denomination' . . . This is the projected future of Dordt College. The Music-Administration building is only a beginning. It marks the push forward."

1963

- Abuse of Meal Rights

1964

- Office space grows- "When Dordt College began in 1955, the office duties were performed by students. Today

there is a staff of four full-time persons."

- Band finishes first annual tour
- Credit card craze captures college- "cash purchases of snacks are being made obsolete by a new breed of currency at Dordt. The new breed is the personalized lunch-eon ticket."

- Appeal made for revised election of editors- "Position filling degenerated into popularity contest"

- Movie attendance- "Out of 107 polled, only two have never been to the theatre or even seen films at Dordt. More revealing was that 17% of 107 have seen Dordt films only"

1965

- Dordt plans first Commencement- "Friday evening, May 28, marks the highlight of Dordt's 10th anniversary-its first graduating class as a four-year college."

1966

- Bernard De Wit accepts position
- Library nearly ready for occupation

1968

- Dordt Choice 68 picks Nixon

-compiled by Brady Fopma

Tuition Increases

by Rachele Vander Werff
Staff Writer

Tuition is increasing \$700 dollars in the 2000-2001 school year, raising tuition from \$12,500 to \$13,200.

Approximately half of this increased is needed to support the financial aid program implemented last year.

The other half of the tuition increase will go toward salary increases for the current staff and hiring additional staff.

Additional staff include a full-time person for Web Design Services, a full-time maintenance staff member for the buildings being added to campus, a part-time director of off-campus programs to coordinate activities to meet the new cross cultural requirement and part-time help in the counseling office.

Aside from these additions, the extra money is needed to maintain a student/faculty ratio of 15 to one.

For more information about where your tuition money goes, read the next edition of the *Diamond*, published April 21.

Social workers informed about victim advocacy

by Laura Apol
News Page Editor

Kim Vrieze, of the Sioux County Attorney's Office in Orange City, came to Dordt to speak to students about victim advocacy. She works with Mark Schouten, a Sioux County attorney.

To open the seminar, Vrieze went over statistics about victims that are worked with each year within Sioux County. These people are victims of such crimes as domestic abuse and sexual assault. Most of these victims are contacted through personal meetings or over the phone.

Also, she talked about violent crimes that affect families, including drunk driving, vehicular accidents, theft, assault and disorderly conduct. Vrieze informed students about the number of victims, how she contacts them, the ages frequently involved, and how the court system addresses the

issues.

Sarah Frump, a junior social work major, was impressed with the dedication that Vrieze had to her job. Instead of just the basic care for the victims, Vrieze works to insure that every victim's needs have been met. She will usually send out letters, make phone calls, or set up meetings with the victims to follow up on their progress.

The statistic that surprised Frump dealt with the abuse in violent crimes. Vrieze reported that abuse in violent crimes happens to 76% of males and only 59% of females.

For the social work majors, Vrieze was very informative about what kind of victims she dealt with. She also was a good example of what a good social worker should be like in her ways of dealing with the victims on a very personable level. Vrieze also spoke about the court services and parole officers that are involved with these cases.

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Special thanks to Mark Buteyn,
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