D.D.L. hosts pancake supper and rally

by Matthew McNatt
Staff Reporter

Pro-life students, staff, and people from surrounding communities gathered for an annual pro-life rally yesterday evening in the BJ Haan Auditorium. Featuring a message from former state Senator Wilmer Rensink, the rally was sponsored by Dordt Defenders of Life (DDL). It followed DDL's annual pancake supper in the West Commons.

DDL sponsors the pro-life rally every year to ensure the Bj Haan Auditorium is reserved for whatever group is organizing the yearly pro-life rally. On the same night, DDL hosts a pancake supper to raise funds for their off-campus pro-life excursions.

The pancake supper featured Ron Rynders, faculty sponsor for DDL, flipping the pancakes, while DDL members attended the supper that DDL ran out of sausages.

For the rally, DDL provided special music, ushers, and publicity. Members hung posters and worked with the print shop to publish the rally bulletins. The remainder of the rally, including the choice of the speaker, was organized by Northwest Iowa Right to Life Committee, who alternates organizational duties every other year with Siouxland Christian Action Coalition.

The speaker, former Sen. Rensink, highlighted his legislative experiences in the state Senate. He spoke of his arrival in a Senate with a Republican majority, who he thought made it difficult to pass pro-life actions.

Rensink mentioned the failure of letter-writing campaigns, which he claimed rarely sway a senator's vote on a moral issue. Rensink also spoke highly of the Iowa Senate's recent ban on partial-birth abortions, shared his forebodings of widespread euthanasia, and concluded by taking audience questions.

Student response to the rally was mixed. Most enjoyed it, but some wished a few aspects had been different. It could have used "a little more Scripture," according to sophomore Sara Trick.

Sophomore Marlin Vise said, "It was definitely partisan—kind of expected, though. Maybe if I was a Democrat, I would have been offended.

Junior Lisa Ochsner, co-leader of DDL, said, however, that DDL is not a Republican organization—"pro-life, and that's it."

Scott Chrisman, secretary for the Northwest Iowa Right to Life Committee, also disavowed political connections, stating that Northwest Iowa Right to Life Committee has a "more informational function" and has never taken a poll of the political leanings or ideological stances of its members. He added, however, that because his group is in Northwest Iowa, most members are likely to be Republican.

Students voice concern about disciplinary actions

by Cheryl Wierda and Sean Gregg
Co-Editors

Dordt students have shown concern about the consistency of Dordt's disciplinary actions after the dismissal of two freshmen last week.

The two men were dismissed for their second offense of underage drinking last Thursday after a failed appeal. During the appeal, students held a demonstration in front of the SUB to show their support for the two students under review and to protest against disciplinary actions.

Senior Josh Buys believes "there is a double standard that has been set by the discipline committee."

Sophomore Erin Kooger says that Dordt's disciplinary actions are inconsistent because she believes drug offenses are have been punished less harshly than drinking offenses.

Several students have cited cases which they think Dordt shows inconsistency. Students claim that in two incidents this year, three Dordt students have been caught for drug offenses and were all given several weeks probation and the option to return to campus.

To protect the privacy of those involved, members of disciplinary committees cannot comment on these specific cases. The Defender classifies all controlled substances offenses as a level four, which results in immediate dismissal. Underage drinking is a level three, and two of these levels result in dismissal.

Curtis Taylor, Vice President of Student Affairs, says, "The Defender provides room that says the administrator and the student life committee can make a decision other than what's listed."

Taylor continues, "The student life committee takes their role very seriously. They hear all the evidence that is presented to them on every case and then they make a decision based on that particular situation. That also includes looking at similar situations that have taken place, looking at the individual involved and the impact on the campus community. They make their decision based on all that information." These two committees are made up of students, faculty and administration.

Freshman Josh De Groot is concerned about the dismissals. He says, "Dordt has been inconsistent in the ways students are dealt with. The dismissal material for one student has not been considered dismissal material for another student."

Taylor says that he understands the concern students have, but they don't have all the information involved in the case.

Buys says, "I understand they [the student life and appeals committee] need to go by the book, but then they need to go by the book."

Taylor also says, "My challenge to some students has been if you are concerned about the policies...you can use the means that the college has to look at the various policies."
Good Friday and Easter
Sunrise services at BJ Haan auditorium

by Brady Fopma
Staff Reporter

More than 1,000 students, faculty, and community members attended the Good Friday chapel service in the BJ. Haan Friday on April 2. The 75-minute service focused on "God for us, God with us, God in us," and included several songs, scripture readings, and a message from Pastor Draayer.

Two days later, approximately 500-600 individuals from the Sioux Center community attended the Good Friday service. Beginning at 7:00 a.m., hundreds of people gathered to participate in the annual Easter Sunrise Service. Beginning at 7:00 a.m., daylight savings time, and organized by the youth groups of Middleburg Reformed and Bethel Christian Reformed churches, all facets of the service (except sermon) were covered by the youth groups. The service featured traditional and contemporary musical pieces, including a special number from Ryan Wynia. Greg Alderman, associate pastor of First Reformed Church in Sioux Center, delivered the Easter morning message, preaching on the magnitude of "Christ's anoint:" "He is risen!" Alderman noted three facts regarding Jesus' resurrection that point to the validity of Christ overcoming death, as well as the necessity of spreading the message of Easter Sunday to those who do not believe.

Both of these services allowed young and old from many different denominations to celebrate together the one truth we all hold in common—Christ's death and glorious resurrection that saves us from our sins.

Why Dordt students get assessed

by Mitch Beaumont
Staff Reporter

As long as I can remember I have taken assessment tests toward the end of each school year. This year at Dordt proved no different. Many students were happy to have the day off of classes just to take a short assessment test. I was among those throngs of Dordt students who were excited to have a day off, but not until now did I realize how important this one day is for the college as a whole.

The purpose of assessment day at Dordt is to update Dordt's progress on the academic goals that have previously been set. According to Paul Moes, Professor of Psychology, Dordt sets academic goals that have previously been set. According to Paul Moes, Professor of Psychology, Dordt sets

aside this one day every year for assessment mainly because "Dordt's accrediting agency - the North Central Association of Colleges and Universities - REQUIRES that we demonstrate both high levels of competency AND value-added education." The best way to test how our institution is progressing toward these goals is to have an assessment day.

Many may be wondering why Dordt doesn't just administer the assessment tests during regular class time. I asked Moes why an entire day was necessary. "We use an assessment day format - as opposed to doing the assessment in a course -for several reasons. First, the tests often take longer than a typical classroom period. Second, the tests cut across courses and are not really appropriate to give within a typical course (and try to assign some grade or credit to it for the course). Third, students may feel that they need to write or respond in a way that pleases the instructor of that particular course. We want students to respond in a way that is not biased by any particular professor or person."

"An enormous amount of work and preparation is put into assessment day activities," said Moes. Numerous times before assessment day I overheard students telling their peers they would probably just blow off their test and fill in random answers. Is it really that hard to take a standardized test for an hour that you are not being graded on and that the college views as highly important? Certainly, assessment tests aren't all that enjoyable, but they sure are beat sitting in class all day!
Board probes for new names for residence halls

by Danielle Kamps
Features Editor

Heading back to your room in Maranatha Hall? Got a great meal cooking in the Geneva apartments? Have any idea what I'm talking about?

The Dordt College Board of Trustees is looking into the possibility of renaming the residence halls on campus to reflect more of Dordt's heritage. Names like Maranatha, Geneva, Heidelberg, and Shalom are proposed to complement Covenant Hall and to exhibit what Dordt really stands for. "The college has matured, and we were looking for names that reflected that," says Ron Schaap, the board member from Worthington, MN, who is the chairperson of the committee looking into the proposed name changes. "I think it is a significant step to give more meaningful names that all do testimony to what we believe."

The proposal to change the names came from a mandate from the board to look at the building's names, especially the new buildings. The most obvious reason for changing the names is that the "directional" names become less applicable with every building built. East Campus is no longer the farthest east and now includes more than buildings A - F. In addition, resident hall names are the ones usually heard around the country when Dordt is spoken of, and the board thought that the directional names were devoid of meaning and were not "saying a statement for the college."

Brandie Ochsner is the student liaison for the committee and has been gathering input from students on possible names. She believes students do not want the building names changed, especially North, East, West, and Southview. Students do not like the names proposed by the committee and have suggested other names such as Old Testament places (Shiloh, Zion, etc.), the Old Testament cities of refuge, or native prairie grasses (with each grass planted outside its building). On a lighter note, students have also suggested heritage names such as "Total Depravity" (North Hall), "Irresistible Grace" (East Hall), and "Perseverance of the Saints" (West Hall). Or, they thought it would be fun to change East Hall to "Near East," East Campus to "Middle East," and Covenant to "Far East." Ochsner wants students to know that she is still open to more suggestions. "They can sure talk to me. I am one student with all these faculty and board members on the committee. I want their input."

If any changes were to be implemented, the names would change after the fall meeting of the board in October, probably during the second semester of next year or the beginning of the 2000-01 school year.

What do you think of the idea to change the residence hall names?

I think that right now we should leave them as they are because people have grown accustomed to them as is. -Teresa Van Den Broek, Junior

I like the directional names because that is the only way I can find my way around town. -Jill Bos, Freshman

I think for the most part it's interesting to raise up new ideas with student input. It depends on what names they come up. What are the reasons behind it? Like the idea of names which are more Reformation, cultural, or part of our heritage. -Dennis Schlithuis, Sophomore

I like the way they are now. If I come back in 10 years, I will know which halls are which. -Jeff Krosschell, Senior

New VP of business affairs appointed

by Tricia S. Van Ee
Staff Reporter

Dordt College recently appointed a new vice president of business affairs. Mr. Arlan Nederhoff of Sioux Falls, South Dakota will assume his new position June 7.

Nederhoff, a 1980 Dordt graduate and native of Wellsburg, Iowa, achieved his master's degree in business administration at the University of South Dakota. He is currently the assistant director of finance and operations at Southeast Technical Institute in Sioux Falls.

The current vice president of business affairs, Mr. Bernard De Wit, will become the senior vice-president when Nederhoff takes the position in June. De Wit has been at Dordt for 33 years, seven as assistant to the vice president and 26 as the vice president of business affairs. De Wit will remain at Dordt for one year working with the campus development plan and then plans to announce his retirement next year when the project is completed, most likely in May of 2000.

Nederhoff, who is married and has three children ages 15, 11, and 6, says that he looks forward to working at Dordt because it is a Christian institution as well as his alma mater. Nederhoff says the position will be an "interesting challenge."

Activities planned for spring fling

by Susan Vandermeer
Staff Reporter

The Students Activities Committee has once again been busy in their preparations for this year’s Spring Fling Week, running from April 12-17. Many great activities are being planned that all students can participate in.

The week's activities include Gotcha Wet, which will run from Monday until Friday. Sign-ups occurred this past Tuesday and Wednesday in the SUB. The cost was one dollar, which provided students with a water gun and a target - another Dordt student. This promises to be a lot of fun and will keep the Dordt student body on their toes, hiding from the chance of getting wet and plotting creative ways of getting their next victim.

In addition, there will also be Penny Wars in the SUB, in which each class, as well as the faculty and staff, will have a jug set out to collect pennies. Any other coins will take away from the total amount of pennies collected. The jug with the greatest amount of money will receive special recognition. All the money raised in this event will go to the Eckardt family again this year. So, prepare yourself to empty out your pockets of extra change for this battle between the classes which also goes to a good cause.

On Saturday night, April 17, students can board the S.S. Dordt in the De Witt gymnasium for the Spring Banquet. With a cruise ship theme, the banquet this year promises to be full of fun with a fine meal, a drink table, dancing, a slide show featuring all of Dordt's finest sights, and a presentation of Romeo and Juliet by Dordt students involved in the Rep. theatre. Senior Rhonda Hubers, who also planned the Christmas Banquet, is in charge of the Spring Banquet this year and is busy making plans for this activity. Concerning the banquet, SAC member Emily Buys said, ‘I promise you will be impressed - you will enjoy the evening and the food and your six dollars will be well spent.’ Tickets go on sale starting on the 7th of April.

Buys also encourages the student body to get involved in this exciting week. The Penny Wars and Gotcha Wet are both great activities for the student body. The more people involved, the more exciting it is! If you've never been to a Dordt banquet, you are missing out - this one will be great!"
Man versus nature: who is winning?

By Grant Elgersma
Opinion Editor

Sometimes I pretend to be in a world where nature can't touch me. When scrolling the cement streets of cities or speeding past trees at 70 mph, I fantasize that I am immortal. When television's remote control allows me to zoom in on a battle-scene in the Balkans from my living room lazy-boy or, by the same flick of a wrist, click to the clatter of a comedian's pre-recorded nightly skit. I can't help but feel defiled and unfettered to move about freely in space and time.

The rise of human technological ability fills us with the hope that some day ultimate autonomy will be achieved, that humanity will finally transcend the confining burden of nature. With technology, we hope to eliminate the difficulties of life. Technology has become the key to a fantastic future world we can't wait to call our own.

Film studios know how we obsess about techno-gadgetry and future civilizations. Hollywood cashes in on our infatuation with galaxies far, far away by cloning movies with plots and themes that movie-goers can relate to. Science-fiction, for example, being a popular genre of film with benefits to both movie executives and audience-members, sets a stage where societal values for the future are upheaval and appraised.

Within these cinematic fantasies, one may behold a speedy and efficient world of the future where all aspects of life are controlled and managed by human beings and their complex technological wonders. Such an environment seems far from the earthly world of dust, dirt, fields and forests.

But some films have powerfully shown the dark side of such human achievement.

The most compelling of these nay-saying motion pictures was created by the colossal science-fiction genius, George Lucas. But it wasn't Star Wars. This movie appeared before Star Wars, even before the prequel to Star Wars. Lucas brings Aldous Huxley's Brave New World and George Orwell's 1984 together in his first feature film, THX 1138.

This truly innovative film presents a world (as it might exist in the 25th century) existing inside a humanly constructed shell. The entire place is colorless. All inhabitants (male and female) are cleanly shaven from head to toe. Not a speck of dust or dirt can be seen. No unauthorized life forms are allowed to exist within the city. Every aspect of the colony is controlled by human beings using television monitors, narcojets and phone-booth priests who are the very definition of "organized religion."

Despite warnings from the pseudo-sociable robot police force ("This is your last chance to return with us. You have nowhere to go. You cannot survive outside the city shell. We only want to help you"), the restless hero, THX, exits the stark (inhumanly controlled world to discover a planet of color where birds soar across the horizon and where a gigantic ball of fire, the setting sun, dwarfs the emerging hero's silhouette.

The final scene is not entirely hopeful. Our escaping hero, born into an unfamiliar world, is a bewildered individual finding his feet in an expansive space that leaves him vulnerable to elements beyond human control, is reduced to a shadow against the bright sun. The enormous sun introduces THX to the organic planet he has been protected from his entire life.

The conclusion to Lucas' THX 1138 supports an age-old conflict: the unceasing battle between man and nature. According to societal reactions to technological breakthroughs, environmentalist petitions and science-fiction fare so far, man is winning.

The way in which technological breakthroughs are perceived points to how human beings view themselves in a battle against nature. Society's perception that an ability to clone sheep brings us closer to nature-altering capabilities that belong to God conveys a belief that mankind, by the act of reconstructing animals, can actually achieve the breadth of God's power.

Thinking that the invention of an atomic bomb signifies our ability to annihilate all of creation proves that human beings possess a power to make or break Earth. By pleading in defense of an environment that cannot defend itself against the mighty powers of humankind, environmentalists promote a human assumption that man can win in a battle against nature.

Even the guilt that we are made to feel because of our perceived separation from the earth promotes a false assumption that human beings can in fact detach themselves from the natural environment. In a reaction against the possibility of human withdrawal from nature, every attempt is made to bring humankind back to the simplicity of nature, back to the uncultivated fields and forests where man can reconcile himself with the Earth.

The echoing green may give humanity a healthy dose of humility, but reverting back to the wilderness will not cure the ills of a society that cannot reconcile its assumed supernatural technologies with a natural world. We will not go back to the primitive ways of old after all that has been seen, done and made.

People cannot be expected to willingly return to the side-walkless societies where hunting and gathering was done without remote control. Somehow, technology and the environment it comes out of must be used together toward the furthering of the natural world.

My friends, brothers and sisters in the Lord!

This letter goes to most of my friends abroad, because we need your help. Maybe you have heard that there is a big flood in the north part of our country (Hungary), and also in Ukraine. Maybe you also know that there are several Hungarians live in certain places of Ukraine. These places are also flooded. At the Theology where I study, there are some students from these places. Most of them are victims of the disaster. Some of them lost their homes for a while, but some of them forever. Those whose houses still stand, don't really have their belongings, because the water took it. I have heard several things like this before, but now I see what this really means to a person, to a friend. The people who live in the flooded area usually don't have insurance for their home, because of poverty, or if the company does not pay for problems caused by nature. The government doesn't have the money to help (especially not because they are Hungarians.)

At the Theology we organized a collection to help them. I also want to ask your help, if you are able to. Every small donation is a big help, and needed. If you are in a community (e.g. a congregation, church, school, hostel) please try to organize a collection for these people, but if it is hard, your personal donation is also a big help. We are very grateful for your help, and please pray for these people.

God bless you in all your things!

Respectfully Yours: Andras Racsok

Please send your donations to:
BUILD UKRAINE
c/o Worldwide Christian Schools,
1009 44th Street, SW, Suite A
Grand Rapids, MI 49509-4417.
**Does Reformed Stop at the Classroom Door?**

By Matthew T. Nelson  
Guest Writer

Dr. Adams does not like the term "employees." He prefers the term "fellow-servants." Yet, Dordt has employees which it deals with through a human resource office. But the very term "human resources" raises some very interesting questions.

The term implies that human labor is not very different from other resources like water, coal, or a bushel of wheat. It is from other resources like water, coal, or a bushel of wheat.

Dr. Adams has one complaint, however. He believes that the management style of Dordt College is not as servant-like as it should be.

**Are Some Things Beyond Redemption?**

By Sarah Walsh  
Columnist

It is true that Dordt and marriage go together like a horse and carriage, but why does it seem like the courting and engagement rituals we participate in inadequately reflect our Christianity? There is no area of life where Christ and Satan aren't battling for Lordship, and the rings we wear to symbolize commitment aren't neutral territories. We may think that we are showing our commitment to Christianity. There is no area of life where Christ and Satan aren't battling for Lordship, and the rings we wear to symbolize commitment aren't neutral territories. We may think that we are showing our commitment to Christianity.

Over Spring Break, twelve other Dordt students and I went to Washington, D.C., on a program sponsored by Target Earth, to learn more about gold mining as well as how to lobby. We learned that cyanide heap leaching. Eighty percent of the gold mined this way is used for jewelry. 80 percent!!

Cyanide has leaked out of these mines, polluting up to 10,000 miles of streams and rivers in parts of Montana, South Dakota, Colorado and California. It doesn't seem consistent that the jewelry we buy to show our love toward another is also a symbol of one of the worst examples of degradation to God's earth.

Mountains are leveled and rivers are polluted, all because of our desire for jewelry. I wish this weren't true. I wish that there was a way to obtain gold without a negative impact on the earth. I'm quite sure that God never intended gold to be mined this way.

So, now what? What are we supposed to do? Stop wearing gold? Maybe.

To respond Christianly might very well include not wearing jewelry. Gold itself is not evil, but the way gold is mined very well could be. I'm not sure if there are any clean cut answers, but one thing we know—we can no longer continue to buy new gold once we know about the damage mining does to the earth, can we? Maybe it is time we wonder whether we should wear rings at all.
PLIA benefits many

By Jen Hoogeveen
Staff Reporter

Nearly 200 students returned from spring break with great stories and experiences of P.LIA. Sleeping in a cave, hearing reports of what you did on a police radio, and van ride experiences are a few stories milling around. But then people ask, "Did you work?" Of course, that's what a service project is for, but sometimes the work gets left in the background of all the fun and bonding experiences.

Missy Homan, a senior, and her group did many different things to help out in Pasadena, California. They did some outdoor painting, put up a wall, laid concrete, did outdoor concrete work, and general maintenance. Through all of this, Homan noted that her group grew close, matured spiritually, and became on fire for God. This trip was meaningful to her and her team because it was an "eye opening experience" seeing things that they don't usually see in north-west Iowa.

The Washington D.C. group worked mainly at the Gospel Rescue Mission, a five story homeless shelter. Evan Dengerink said that it meant a lot to the men to socialize with them. There are so many other experiences of learning and growth. Even though they get looked over, these are the experiences that are the most important because they shape and mold the people we become.

Students fight mining law

By Jennifer Myers
Guest Writer

While most of student body contemplated the quickly ending Spring Break, twelve Dordt students converged upon a small Lutheran church in the heart of downtown Washington D.C. to learn about the key issues related to Hard Rock Mining Reform. Three of the students, Dan Perkins, Karen Hamilton and myself, had spent the previous week a few blocks away at the Gospel Rescue Mission on PLIA. We soon met up with Matt Ver Steeg, Mick Vande Griend, Tim Jacobson, Marty Christians, John Schreus, Trude Nickels, Christina Brinks, Robb Keizer, Sarah Walsh and twenty other college students from across the United States to learn how to lobby against Hard Rock Mining.

The Lobby Training weekend was sponsored by Target Earth, a Christian environmental organization. Most of Saturday was spent in lectures discussing our responsibility as Christians in caring for the environment, as well as learning about the issues surrounding Hard Rock Mining Reform. Set up in 1872, the mining laws have changed very little in the past hundred years, and still allow for public land to be bought at $2.50 to $5.00 an acre. Gold mining is not very earth-friendly, and a lot of harm has been done to the environment due to failure in reform.

On Sunday we had the chance to worship in the National Cathedral and see the sights in Washington D.C. Monday we learned the nuts and bolts of how to lobby, what bills we were lobbying for, and how to make an impact on our legislators. Finally on Tuesday we were able to use what we had learned over the weekend to meet with our Congressmen to explain why Hard Rock Mining Reform was an issue that was important to us as Christians and as constituents. This weekend was very stimulating and challenged me to look at environmental issues in a way that I hadn't before. While we may not have made an immediate impact on the bills we were lobbying against, we presented a message from a Christian point of view that will not be soon forgotten.

At the Chicago site, Jillian Dengerink, a freshman, commented that her team painted at a homeless shelter as well. Other jobs included cooking breakfast for the men at the church, cleaning antiques out of an elderly lady's house, and helping out with an after-school program at a church. As a group, they decided that they should be more thankful with what they have after seeing the conditions of the people at the homeless shelter. They also felt like they made a difference in the lives of the homeless men that they talked to. Dengerink said that it meant a lot to the men to socialize with them.

There are so many other experiences of learning and growth. Even though they get looked over, these are the experiences that are the most important because they shape and mold the people we become.
Softball team grows together during trip to California

By Carla Geleynse
Guest Writer

The softball team this year has many new faces so our spring break trip was not only a chance for us to play some softball, but to get to know each other better and grow as a team. Also while in California, we participated in a few small service projects.

The first day we worked at a second-hand store in Bellflower. We tagged, sorted, and put the clothes on racks. While working we had a chance to help customers but also just talk with them.

Monday we had a chance to visit one of the local schools in Sun Valley. This school is in the bottom 10 percent of all L.A. schools. The majority of the students were Hispanic. It was fun to try to talk with the students in Spanish. Some spoke English very well, but there were some who struggled. Each softball player had the opportunity to be in a classroom for the day. Some got to read to the class while others had the students reading to them. Others had a chance to work one-on-one with the students; just giving them a little extra attention and individual help they needed. This was a very enjoyable experience; we hope that the students were encouraged from this and learned as much from us and we did from them.

Tuesday we ran a softball clinic for fourth and fifth grade boys and girls at the local youth center in Sun Valley. The students were put into groups and sent to different stations where three players from our team were there to help. They all got a chance to hit, throw, field, run, and catch fly balls. After the stations they had a chance to play a game which I think they enjoyed most of all. We were so amazed at how excited the kids got over playing this game and going to the stations; they were excited about everything they did. The teachers from this school were so appreciative of the positive reinforcement we gave to these students. They said that this clinic was probably the best field trip the fourth and fifth graders have experienced in the last two years.

This year on our trip it was nice not only to play softball, but include some service projects. As a team we learned a lot from each other. Being able to work together off the field has brought about a lot of cooperation, encouragement, and enthusiasm on the field. A side note, Angie Oostenink made it up on stage on "The Price is Right" so watch us at 10:00 a.m. on April 20, 1999.

The sun occasionally shines in Seattle and other tour experiences

By Joel Vos
Guest Writer

For the band and orchestra members who stayed healthy, tour was a great experience for band and orchestra members, at least for those who stayed healthy. However, in addition to challenging music, a rigorous schedule, and learning the strategy of Rook, participants of this year's tour were faced with an additional menace: stomach flu. For the dozen who got sick, tour was at least a very memorable occasion.

During Spring Break, the Concert Band and Chamber Orchestra traveled the Pacific Northwest, covering roughly 4,200 miles (6,700 km) between March 11-22. The traveling show made stops in South Dakota, Idaho, Washington, British Columbia, and Montana.

The Chamber Orchestra featured performances of the Van Den Hul sisters. Jennifer played an exquisite movement from a Concerto for Viola by Stamitz, and Erika awed audiences with her performance of "Winter" from Vivaldi's Four Seasons. The orchestra also performed the Brook Green Suite by Holst and Strauss's Emperor Waltz before closing with Gliere's exuberant Russian Sailors' Dance.

Smaller ensembles were featured in the next segment of the concert, with the percussion group successfully reprising their talent show performance of Stinkin' Garbage. The Concert Band opened with the fiery Festive Overture by Glazkovitch. Other memorable works performed included the "Final Chorus" from St. Matthew's Passion by J.S. Bach and Percy Grainger's Lincolnshire Posy.

But the most lasting memories are probably not directly related to concert performances. Sleeping on the bus on the way to Nampa, listening to Grant Elgersma explain the distinct feeling of brushing his teeth in Canada to the Abbotsford audience, discovering that North Vancouver is a nuclear weapons-free zone, viewing the beauty of Oak Harbor, White Rock, and Coeur D'Alene, and listening to Dr. Duttman trash talk to his Rook opponents are all things that coalesced to make this tour unforgettable.
Boys of Summer take the field

by Craig Broek
Sports Reporter

The Dordt men's baseball team opened the 1999 season with six games in Kansas over spring break during the month of March. After dropping a couple of heartbreakers to Tabor College by scores of 2-1 and 4-0, Dordt experienced a bit of a let down dropping a twin bill to Kansas Wesleyan by scores of 17-2 and 11-2. The final stop in Kansas was a double dip with Friends College, in which Dordt lost 16-0 and 13-9. Although they lost all six games, the team was encouraged by the defense played, especially after practicing outside for only a week. Tim Roose and freshman Scott Van Andel were the lone bright spots on the offensive side, each batting around .400 for the trip.

Dordt returned home and headed for Sioux City to take on Briar Cliff in a non-conference double header. In the first game, junior pitcher Mike Bruxvoort held the Chargers at bay for the first four and a half innings, and Dordt held close, trailing 4-2 going into the bottom of the fifth. However, the Cliff scored seven times in the bottom of the inning and once more in the sixth to take the game by the 10-run-rule, 12-2. The second game was more of the same, with Dordt trailing 2-1 in the bottom of the sixth. Briar Cliff then used a two out rally to score 5 runs, all with Dordt two outs to break open the game and take the two game sweep. Mike Moorlag pitched very well in the second game of the day but took the hard luck loss.

After struggling to score runs, thus far in the season, the Defenders hosted USD in their first home game of the season. After starting slow, Dordt found themselves trailing 6-3 after two innings. However, that was as close as they would get and dropped game one by the score of 9-5. Craig Broek took the loss on the mound. In the second game, Dordt played right with the Coyotes and found themselves in a deadlock after three innings, 5-5. However, USD scored six times in the top of the fourth and it looked as if Dordt might fold trailing 11-5. However, the Defenders pushed four runs in the bottom of the inning, and one more in the bottom of the sixth to make the score 11-10 going into the final frame. USD added one in the top of the seventh, and it was Dordt’s last chance in the bottom of the inning. Brent De Ruyter led off the inning with a double, and was moved to third on a ground out by Tim Roose. Broek followed with a double, and a pinch runner scored to tie the game on a single by Kevin Dekkers. Mike Bruxvoort pitched the final three and a third innings for the team by getting six hits on the day, followed by Broek who was 4-4 in the second game.

The following Thursday Dordt headed to Yankton, South Dakota to take on Mt. Marty College in the SDIC conference opener. Although Dordt got on top first in each game, Mt. Marty was too much and took both contests in five innings by the identical scores of 12-2. The Mt. Marty bats combined with some costly Dordt errors took the Defenders out of the games early.

After 12 games, Dordt is 1-11. The Defenders have struggled to score runs early in the season, and seem to be looking for a consistent lineup. However, improved defense from last year has enabled Dordt to keep games closer. The Freshmen combo of Scott Van Andel at shortstop and Beau Bosma at second base has increased the range and defensive stability up the middle. Tim Roose and Broek return to the corners and senior catcher Dan Blom will take care of most of the duties behind the plate. Van Otterloo, Moorlag, Tim De Stigter, Scott Den Hartog, and Dave Dreessen will all see considerable time in the outfield. Mike Bruxvoort, Moorlag, Van Otterloo, Brock, Blom, Ryan Lefeber, Den Hartog, and Ryan De Koekkoek will take care of the pitching duties.

Editor’s note: Tuesday’s scores were, Game 1 BV 7, Dordt 5 Game 2 BV 15, Dordt 4

Meet was held Thursday, April 1. Dordt also did very well at this meet. Troy Ten Napel set a record in the 400 M Dash with his fifth place finish of 49.87. Jill Starkenburgh also set a record in the pole vault with a second place jump of 10’. Other Dordt track members also performed very well. Jeff Summerhayes took first in the 1500 M Run, the Men’s 4x400 M Relay team of Troy Ten Napel, Jon Dekkers, Steve Holwerda, and Ron Kingma placed first in their race, and Jackie Eckhoff ran a first place finish in the 400 M Hurdles.

This Saturday, April 10, Dordt will be hosting their Invitational. The field events will start at 11:00 am for both men and women, and the running events will begin at 12:30. The schools that will be participating at this meet are Dordt, Sioux Falls, Northwestern (MN), Dana, Buena Vista, Wayne State, Northwestern (IA), Concordia St. Paul, Martin Luther, and Briar Cliff. It should be a very good meet to watch.
Softball off to good start

Carla Geleynse takes a swing during Tuesday's loss to Southwest State University [Photo by Travis Bonnema]

by Eric Vander Kooi
Sports Reporter

Like recent seasons of Dordt softball, the Lady Defenders are off to another good start. Since the beginning of spring break, Dordt is 8-5 overall and 3-1 in the SDIC-a great start considering the experience of the team. 8 out of the 14 women are freshman. The team also lost a key player to a knee injury, Angie Oostinenink.

The number one goal, and also the big question for this team, is how well they are going to jell together. With just six upperclassmen, the ladies will have to learn very quickly how to play with each other. Secondly, the team has its improve throughout the season. With all the talent that this freshman class has brought, Lady Defender fans can expect big things to happen.

The team took a trip to sunny Southern California to start the season. The women did not only have softball and a tan on their minds. They wanted to do something for the community. They put some love in to action by helping out a second hand store, completing some mini-teaching and holding a softball clinic for some kids from the school. Everyone appreciated this team's work and most of all, the joy they brought to all they encountered. Now back to softball. They also played four games while in California.

Biola University handed them two losses (4-0 and 8-0) with a combination of good hitting and pitching. It was then Concordia University's turn. Dordt decided to show these Californians how Iowa plays ball. They picked up two wins (8-1 and 4-0) behind some excellent pitching from Wendy Poppema and Michelle Gruppen. On the offensive end, Oostinenink was 3 for 4 with 3 RBI, Marlene Van Wingerden went 2 for 3, A.J. Poppema hit safely in three out of four trips and scored two runs, and Carla Geleynse added a clutch triple. All helped Dordt pick up its first two wins.

Hastings College Tourney

In the Tourney opener, Dordt faced Concordia (NE), which they beat by one run, 3-2. Wendy Poppema pitched a dandy and Oostinenink was 2 for 4 with a run for Dordt. The next game Dordt ran into some trouble when they faced Saint Mary (NE) and lost 1-7. The Defenders then bounced back and took it to Midland Lutheran. Dordt won this game 10-6 behind the big sticks of Darci Bouma (1 for 2, 2 runs, 2 RBI) and Faith Baas (3 for 3).

Then it was time to take on a familiar opponent, U. of Sioux Falls. Dordt wiped them out, 5-0. Dordt's standout were Wendy Poppema, who pitched a shutout, and Geleynse who went 2 for 4 on the afternoon.

In the final game, Dordt came out on the short end of the stick in a slug-fest, falling to Minot State (ND) 6-9. Also, Dordt lost more than just the game. Oostinenink was injured while running the bases, possibly ending her season. That leaves a large hole in the line-up that Coach Draayer will have to do some shuffling to fill. That may not be an easy task considering Oostinenink's ability to get on base and score runs, according to Draayer.

Conference Play

Dordt began the quest for a third straight SDIC championship on March 29 when they faced the Cougars of the University of Sioux Falls. The first game was not a mirror image of last season, as they were shut out 0-4. In the second game of the doubleheader, Dordt decided that they were not going to be pushed around, they won 2-1 in a pitching duel. Bouma and Wendy Poppema both had RBI doubles in the second game.

Tennis Players Rise to Challenge

by Livija Shannon
Sports Reporter

"Can't hack it? Grab a racket!" Cross country and track teams have taunted tennis players for years, but Dordt's tennis teams have risen to the challenge of building a program worthy of respect. With two young teams (two seniors and two juniors on the men's team, and three juniors playing for the women), the potential for growth is strong.

Men's tennis started off the season with two tough home meets. Facing Northwestern on March 25, the men came away with a 4-5 loss. Strong play from sophomore Mark Van Klompenberg and junior Joel Visker contributed the only Dordt doubles win at a score of 10-8. A few days later on the 29th, the Dordt men went to work on Martin Luther. Visker and junior Jeremy Van Beek played heads-up singles, but the team couldn't support them. The final meet score of 4-5 handed Dordt its second loss of the season.

The women opened their season at home on the 30th, facing Martin Luther indoors on a windy day. In spite of early leads, the Dordt women were unable to come out on top. Kudos to sophomore Lisa Lubbers whose singles match was the only Dordt win.

Rain kept both the men and women from traveling to USD on April five. That match-up will have to be rescheduled when April showers bring May flowers. Until then, the ladies look to be on the road today, playing the always-tough Northwestern team. The men are in the middle of a busy week, playing Buena Vista away yesterday and taking the Martin Luther re-match on the road tomorrow.
Junior art students hold show

By Allison De Jong
Staff Reporter

The present display in the B.J. Haan Auditorium’s art gallery consists of the art work of twelve Dordt junior art majors: Rebecca Bonnema, Marty Christians, John Den Boer, Sam Gutierrez, Heidi Hilbelink, Richard Hoeckstra, Kimberly Hoogeveen, Bryan Huiskens, Leanne Klaver, Tim Kramer, Kari Niewenhuis, and Stephen Van Wyk. The pieces displayed are believed to be their best works-everything from ceramic pots to photographs, from intaglio to acrylic paintings. Along with their art work, the students have written out their artist statements explaining why they are artists, what they believe art to be, and what their pieces mean.

As with all art, the pieces displayed reflect something of their artists. As Sam Gutierrez commented, “It’s hard for us to have our work hung up for others to look at because we are really hanging up ourselves on the wall-this is me, right here! We’re opening ourselves up-becoming vulnerable.”

The various pieces reflect the likes and the dislikes of the artists. Their joys as well as their struggles. Their artwork also shows what they believe-about God, about themselves, about life.

While a large number of pieces are either photographs or acrylic paintings, there is much variety in both media and the subjects. There are several graphite drawings, mostly of people, a few linocut and intaglio prints, as well as silk screens, watercolors, and oil pastels. There is also a wide range of subjects, from light to wine glasses, snakes to shoes, and bowling pins to waterfalls.

A majority of the pieces are for sale, for those who want to add to their art collection. The juniors’ artwork will be displayed in the art gallery only until Friday, April 9: just one day left to admire the talents of these Dordt students!

Children of fire and ash

By Anna Young
Staff Reporter

Two weekends ago the movie “Smoke Signals” was played on Dordt’s campus. I’d seen it before. Ok, so it was my fifth viewing. I was still fascinated, though, with the snapshot of Native American life it portrayed. I still laughed out loud at a song about John Wayne’s teeth and still felt heat behind my eyes when a 20-something Indian threw his father’s ashes off a bridge. I also remembered back to the first time I had seen the film. I had just sat there at the end, staring blankly up at the screen. It had been so fun, so entertaining, so real, so well put together. It had been honest. And I realized that I didn’t even have the vocabulary to respond.

Last Friday night, as I looked around at my fellow Dordt students, I realized that none of us have the vocabulary to respond. When we view films, we often don’t even think about it and if we do, we have no idea how to process what’s been shown because, frankly, we just don’t do it and we’ve never been taught how to do it.

We simply swallow two more hours of leisure, two more hours of entertainment. For two more hours, we consume, like fire, we consume. And we are left with empty ash.

We are called to be salt and light to our culture, to our world. Consumption is at the heart of our culture. It is the gross, bloated, gorging creature that never stops eating, never stops indulging. It is like fire, burning, not caring or tasting what it burns, just furiously burning, eating, yet never full, never satisfied, empty. It leaves a trail of ash behind it. We, us, our culture, are its children, children of fire and ash. We, us, Christians are also the children of God and we must kill this creature that we worship.

To do so, however, is difficult. The nature of the beast could tempt us to not only kill consumption, but also to kill everything which it consumes. This is not the answer. We must, instead, taste what we eat, use what we buy, know what we burn, and respond to what we see. We must work through, talk through, as a community, all that we use. We must not consume for the sake of consumption, but consume, as in all things, for the glory of God-there includes entertainment and movies. To gulp down movie after movie, plot after plot and never learn anything from them, never think or consider what we are consuming is simply burning more, creating more ash, contributing to the creature.

In “Smoke Signals,” the two main characters are often referred to as children of fire and ash. The desire and need to finally walk away from that cycle, from the fire and the ash, is what drives the film and what drives us.

So, break the cycle. Walk away. Respond. Kill the creature.

Ringerwole performs Recital

by Andrea Voogt
Staff Reporter

On February 24, 1999, Dr. Joan Ringerwole and Dr. John Thomson performed in a Faculty Recital in the B. J. Haan Auditorium in commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the installation of the Casavant organ. Dr. Ringerwole performed seven pieces on the organ three of which featured Dr. Thomson as violin soloist. Dr. Thomson, a native of New Zealand, is an adjunct professor at Dordt and a professor at the University of South Dakota. A very accomplished violinst, he is known for his beautiful tone in the higher registers. In recognition of the Lenten season, Dr. Ringerwole performed a piece by Johann Sebastian Bach, with Ms. Debora Vogel singing the text of the piece. Dr. Ringerwole also performed “Fantasy on Psalm 150” by Gerhard Krapf, which was commissioned by Dordt for the dedication of the organ. She also played “Allegro from Symphonie VI, Op 42, Nr. 6” by Charles-Marie Widor, which she also performed twenty years ago in the dedication ceremony of the organ. There were many favorable reviews of the concert, including comments about the wonderful blend of organ and violin. Dr. Ringerwole says she believes that recitals of this nature are a good experience for students because they can be exposed to a wide variety of music. She also says that the experience was good for her because it gave her the chance to perform and learn new music.
Ryan Vande Kraats

will return, and these trees shall see leaves again from life into death, but the birds
like a silent last breath, sent into the sky

my cigarette whispers to wrinkled and withered, midnight sighs, as memories fly over evergreens, fall frostbitten into the evergreens, where there is no American longing to smooth grooves and mask imperfections with siding.

Kirstin Vander Giessen

This is one scene from the One Acts that can be seen in the New World Theater this Friday and Saturday. [Photo by Joe Trosen]

Hello Out There” directed by Allison Kersbergen

I found the play “Hello Out There” by William Saroyan as I frantically looked for something suitable for our community. I was happy to have found a piece that spoke openly about loneliness and society’s fear of the truth. There are so many plays about love now a days that I really did not want a play about love and all the silly little things that happen. True, my play does have a bit of a love story, which is kind of like “Titanic,” but it’s better. The young couple’s care for each other is more innocent and although it is a large part of the play there is far more to the story line than just a simple boy meets girl, girl and boy like each other cliche. “Hello Out There” speaks about what a true relationship is without having the characters go in a car somewhere and prove it lustfully. The play also speaks about ignorance and the lengths people will go to because they fear the truth.

The cast for “The Talking Dog” includes Janel Kragt, Rob Petersen, Yujia Shannon, and Adam Smith. In “The Loveliest Afternoon...” a comical storyteller bent on saving people from killer pigeons shapes a connection with a strange woman. It’s been a challenge working with the plays’ incredibly quirky characters, and wretched situations. These plays are a long way from traditional realism and I really think people will enjoy them!

The cast for “The Talking Dog” includes Janel Kragt, Rob Petersen, Yujia Shannon, and Adam Smith. In “The Loveliest Afternoon...” a comical storyteller bent on saving people from killer pigeons shapes a connection with a strange woman. It’s been a challenge working with the plays’ incredibly quirky characters, and wretched situations. These plays are a long way from traditional realism and I really think people will enjoy them!

The cast for “The Talking Dog” includes Janel Kragt, Rob Petersen, Yujia Shannon, and Adam Smith. In “The Loveliest Afternoon...” a comical storyteller bent on saving people from killer pigeons shapes a connection with a strange woman. It’s been a challenge working with the plays’ incredibly quirky characters, and wretched situations. These plays are a long way from traditional realism and I really think people will enjoy them!
Serbians fear Albania

by Emily Hutten
Staff Writer

The Serbians are afraid. They fear the Albanian presence in Kosovo will lead only to trouble and the land they believe to be the core of their medieval kingdoms, will be lost to their enemy. Ethnic cleansing to create a nationally clean state is their vice. They want to return the majority Albanian Kosovo to a Serb-dominated country.

The Albanians rally together in their own nationalism. They claim they are the original inhabitants of the fertile land of Kosovo. After the Serbians emigrated from Kosovo to Austria and other European countries, many Muslim Albanians moved onto the land. The Serbians wanted to reclaim the land they left. The Albanians have resisted for generations.

Their efforts have resulted in continued attack from the Serbs. In 1989, under the leadership of Milosevic, the leader of the communist party, the Serbians took away the autonomy of Kosovo—a year later they occupied the land.

These developments were not sudden. For decades, the Serbians had been planning and enforcing programs to control the population structure in Kosovo. Their monarchic dictatorship in 1929 called for a state without national minorities. The Yugoslav Kingdom enforced further measures to attain this.

To reach this goal the Serbians have used religious propaganda and state terror to cause the Albanians to flee. The lives of the Albanians have been made unbearable so that they will leave running.

State-organized invasions have brought punishment to villages and people. The land is ruined and the forests destroyed. Women and children are raped and abused. Tenants are evicted, imprisoned, and killed. People are broken.

The society, the everyday activities of the Albanians have been destroyed. Educational institutions, that have given the Albanians power as an educated national force, have taken destructive blows. Grade schools and high schools are closed and universities receive no funding. Teachers, professors, and students are evicted from their classrooms. In March of 1990, one source mentioned the poisoning of 7,000 Albanian school children. Cruelly cuts through classrooms, communities, and homes.

Health institutions are also closed. Qualified Albanian doctors and caregivers are forced out of their positions to be replaced by unskilled Serbians. The Albanians who are sick are left with no care.

The voices of the Albanians have been silenced. In an attempt to erase the strong presence of their hated enemies, Serbians have stopped all cultural influence of Albanian people. The presses are shut down. The Albanians are cut off.

The people who were once known for their surgical skill are now hide from the wihms of the power-hungry Serbs. Serbian gangs are aimed to cleanse, to kill. The Albanians are jobless, homeless, and hopeless. Many Albanians make the exodus to the borders of Kosovo and its Albanian residents have been relatively successful until two years ago, when the Kosovan Liberation Army was begun. The KLA heightened tensions between Serbs and Albanians. The Serbs, not wanting to go to drastic violent ends in order to regain control of Kosovo, eventually were given no choice but to defend their ancient homeland through war. Now, with NATO’s intervention, the violence, death and chaos have only escalated, causing the Albanians to lay down their arms.

The Albanians are afraid. Will Serbian vengeance win?

Without Him we can do nothing

By Livija Shannon
Staff Writer

There is a man in the building. He has a knife. He is looking for you. He will search floor by floor. He will question your friends. He will look in the closets. He will check the bathrooms. He will not stop at locked doors. He will find you. Maybe not this time. Maybe not today. But he will find you. He wants you dead.

The horror is unbelievable until you feel it for yourself. Allow yourself ten seconds of knowing the feeling of being hunted. You will feel the terror, the anxiety, the pain, the hopeless despair of knowing what comes next. Understand that people all over the world have felt this terror. They have been hunted for ethnically related reasons we can barely comprehend. I am not suggesting the racial discrimination, or even segregation, we have been warned against. I am referring to ethnic cleansing.

Rwanda. Congo. Sri Lanka. Yugoslavia. China. Turkey and Iraq. Do we know? We, the children of privilege, in our expensive schools, with our access to technology and our promise of everlasting peace in our hearts. Do we care?

Is this another excuse to be reminded of how much we have? Unless you feel that pain, you can do little more than be thankful in your closet, at least, there are ten good pairs of shoes. Your life, at least, is full of warm meals and dry clothes. You will not be put on a train bound for a refugee camp.

I cannot give you answers. I cannot provide you with a way to ease your conscience. I cannot tell you who is right and who is wrong, who will be alive tomorrow. I cannot tell you that life will become easier and the questions less harsh. I can warn you. I can remind you that you have a responsibility. I do not have a chain letter or a formula for happiness. I will not tell you that the single letter you send to a Congressman will make a difference. I will not tell you that a ‘care package’ will bring extra joy. I will tell you that we cannot do anything on our own. Not only do we need to act as one body, unified by a greater cause than ourselves, but we need to rely on the promise that He who is in us is greater than he is in the world.

The world can be a scary place.