Middle East studies program begins in Egypt

by Juli Kelderman

Beginning next fall, Dordt students have yet another studies program to choose from. The Middle East Studies program, a program intended to heighten student understanding of Muslim nations, will be rehearsed next Tuesday evening at 8 P.M. in S-160.

For thirteen weeks, students will live in Cairo, taking courses such as "Introduction to Arab Culture," and "Islam in the Modern World," and participate in a local service project. They will then travel to Israel for two final weeks.

The program has yet to be approved by Dordt's Inter-cultural Affairs and the Curriculum committees, but they do hope to have it available by next year. The Middle East Studies program was handled a bit differently by the Coalition than previous programs. Member institutions were asked for a commitment to "sponsor," that is, to pay the cost of one student's participation to guarantee a minimal number of participants in the program. Dordt decided not to be a sponsor; however, students still have the opportunity to participate.

"The Christian community in the Middle East is delighted that we have identified their city as the site for this program and they hope that many MESP alumni will be able to participate." said Dr. Karen Longman, vice president of the Coalition.

The program's objectives are to "create an awareness in the variety of peoples and cultures in the Middle East," as well as expose them to the Islamic faith and the Middle East struggle for peace.

Requirements for the program include at least junior status, a 2.5 G.P.A., and two recommendations. Those interested may contact Dr. Krygsman (x6352), who will be directing the program at Dordt.

Dordt students will have a chance to study in Egypt

by George VanderBeek

Twenty-two individuals and groups signed up to perform for the Homecoming Talent Extravaganza, but since only twenty acts are needed for the event, this week's auditions were cancelled. Professor Dave Schelhaas, Homecoming coordinator, said all twenty-two acts will be rehearsed next Tuesday night and a few acts might be cut then.

Master and Mistress of Ceremonies have also been chosen for the Talent Extravaganza. Kent Rynders and Sharon VanderKruk will announce the music, comedy, drama and dance for the annual event, which will be more formal than in previous years.

Meanwhile, a series of other exciting events are planned for the week of Homecoming, which begins February 14. Movies, feasts of knowledge, sports activities, distinguished speakers and dancing will characterize the special week of activities.

Homecoming set to excite

by George VanderBeek

Sharon VanderKruk and Kent Rynders will be the MCs for this year's Talent Extravaganza.

A unique cinema entitled Chariots of Fire, the story of two Olympic athletes with diverse motives, will lead off the festivities on Sunday night in C-160 at 8:45 P.M. Student, faculty and alumni teams will test the extent of their knowledge in the fourth annual Quiz Bowl on Wednesday evening at 8:30, also in C-160.

On Thursday, the IHR, the Distinguished Alumni Series will feature Valerie McWilliams as speaker in their second annual installment. McWilliams, a 1979 Dordt graduate, will lead chapel in the morning and present a public lecture at 8 P.M. in S-101. Drawing on her experience as director of the Land of Lincoln Legal Aid Foundation, McWilliams will address the issue of Christian responsibility concerning poverty and Welfare reform.

On Friday, the Lady Defenders basketball team will be in action against Central College starting at 7 P.M. in the gym while the Dordt Blades Hockey club will face-off versus Carleton College in Worthington at 8 o'clock.

A variety of activities will transform the classroom building into an entertainment center for Homecoming Eve beginning that same night at 8:30. Planned functions include the showcasing of Peter Sellers comedic talents in the film Return of the Pink Panther, a dance in the New World Theatre as well as refreshments offered by the SUB Club in one of the classrooms.

Homecoming Day will feature two more basketball games. The first one, at 1 o'clock, will be between the men's junior varsity team and an alumni team including several players from Dordt's 1988 District Championship team. This will be followed by the men's varsity team closing out its regular season with a game against Dana College.

On Saturday evening, there are alumni activities in the SUB.
Alarms installed for safety

by Jennifer Kopaska

Alarms have been installed on the end doors in North, East, and West halls to secure student safety, to better enforce curfew, and to insure that the side doors remain locked past curfew to keep outsiders from entering.

"Campus safety is the main reason for installing the alarms on the doors," said Curtis Taylor, Dordt Director of Resident Life. Upgrading the safety of Dordt's campus has been an issue of top priority this school year.

Theft has become a prevalent problem. Although some of the theft is done by those living in the dorms, Taylor believes outsiders are stealing as well. Taylor said alarms are also there to reduce the chances of physical violence and rape, which haven't been problems yet. Students using the doors to sneak in or out of the dorms past curfew made it difficult to keep the doors locked. To prevent any further problems, the alarms have been programmed to go off when the doors are opened from inside the building. Security will be alerted immediately and must use a key to shut off the alarm.

So far the alarms have been working well and students are responding positively to them.

"The only complaint," says Taylor, "is from students who are awakened when the alarm is set off late at night."

Another change for students in North and East Halls is the end of a rule that used to require them to sign out. Taylor said that R.D.'s and students have been pushing for the no-signing-out rule because freshmen may have unlimited late leaves second semester anyway. President Hulsit approved the proposal. There have been no problems with the new system. In fact, Taylor said he thinks the students are more receptive to the new policy.

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Hug-a-Linguist Days bring diversity

by Sara VandenBosch

Dordt College's Hug-a-Linguist Days, held Feb. 2 and 3, brought diversity and cultural awareness to the college. Hug-a-Linguist Days, begun nineteen years ago, are two days of seminars led by missionaries working with Wycliffe Bible Translators. These seminars cover various aspects of learning languages, cultural differences, Bible translation and other related topics.

Hug-a-Linguist Days were the idea of Dr. Kornelius Boot, professor of Dutch and Linguistics at Dordt. Boot came up with this idea while studying linguistics at the Summer Institute of Linguistics sponsored by the Wycliffe Bible Institute. His main goal then was to bring more cultural diversity and information about different places and languages to students who had not seen much more than the Midwestern United States.

Today, many more Dordt students have seen other countries or been exposed to people of other nations and cultures. For example, Dordt now sponsors a mission trip to the Dominican Republic and Mexico through the student group AMOR. Also, Dordt now has many students from other nations, such as Japan, Australia, and Nigeria.

"I like hugging," Boot said, when asked about the reason for the seminar's name, and also, "Students should learn to love languages."

One of this year's Hug-a-Linguists was Lee Erickson, who works with the Nochi people on the island of New Ireland-New Guinea. Erickson gave four seminars: "Life in the Village and Culture Shock," "Making Disciples through Bible Translation," "Putting Linguistics to Work" and "The Team Approach to Translation."

Gary Persons has worked with the Bolianno language in the Philippines since 1977. Persons led a seminar called "Monolingual Demonstration: a Linguistic Delight," in which he demonstrated the difficulty of learning a new language. For thirty minutes, he listened to Ern Nakajima, a Dordt freshman from Japan, trying to learn her language and how she pronounced it. Dr. Dallas Apol, professor of Spanish and German at Dordt, said he thought this was one of the most interesting seminars.

Persons also spoke on "Superstition and Christianity," and joined with Erickson to speak to 30 students interested in making a career of missions or a related field. Persons and Erickson also gave a chapel on Feb. 2.

Students in language classes were required to come to three of the seminars. They also had to participate in two of the cultural activities, including games and traditional food. These seminars cover various aspects of learning languages, cultural differences, Bible translation and other related topics.

Lee Erickson (left) and Gary Persons (right) expose Dordt students to cultural diversity during Hug-a-Linguist Days

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Lee Erickson (left) and Gary Persons (right) expose Dordt students to cultural diversity during Hug-a-Linguist Days
Wayne State Choir and Madrigal Singers Perform at Dordt

by Michele Felkema

On Tuesday, February 9, The Wayne State College Choir and Madrigal Singers from Wayne Nebraska performed in the Dordt College chapel as part of a tour of the Midwest.

Under the direction of Dr. Cornell Runestad, the evening program consisted of spirituals, hymns, motets, and other light pieces. Brahms' "Op. 74, Warum Ist Das Licht Gegeben (Where has the Light Gone??)," one of the most significant a cappella works from the Romantic period, was a highlight of the event.

After the concert, the Dordt College Concert Choir sang a number to the visiting choir.

Wayne State's two-week performance tour consists of three concerts in Nebraska, two in Iowa, and four in Minnesota, climaxing with a performance at the Music Educators National Conference Regional Convention in Minneapolis.

Professor Runestad has directed the choral activities at Wayne State for the past twenty-three years. Having received his doctorate in choral conducting from the University of Illinois, he also obtained degrees from Concordia College and the University of Minnesota, with additional studies at Syracuse and Northwestern Universities.

Alive on Saturday Night

by Paula Van Breems

Alive on Saturday Night, an Intervarsity theater group from Wayne Nebraska, performed twice last semester in the First CRC of Sioux City for its youth group's Saturday Night Live format.

But Byker said non-Christians were reluctant to come to the church, so ASN is taking its ministry to the mall this semester to reach a bigger audience.

Most of the skits have been created by the ASN members, including one entitled "Surf Dudes" by Jack DuMez and Durk Botma.

Carter gives powerful performance

by Shawn Abba

Joe Carter, a world famous, multi-talented performer, gave an emotional performance of Negro spirituals here in the Dordt Chapel last Wednesday night as part of the Sioux County Concert Series.

The great grandson of slaves, Carter sang with great passion the music which expressed the pain, hope, and dreams of the slaves. Some of his songs included "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot," "Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen," "Oh Freedom," and "Amazing Grace." In addition to the music, Carter also told the audience a little bit about where and why each song was sung.

He often related a song to a particular event in the history of his family which experienced slavery in the South.

The audience reaction was very positive. Professor and Mrs. Goheen called the show "excellent." Mrs. Goheen said the concert was("He Carter) really fleshed out the Negro spirituals historically and personally," said Mrs. Goheen.

"I really enjoyed it," said Sara Blerling, a Junior education major.
From the Editor
Rushing Past the Right Priorities

A middle-aged mother stood by the Empire Mall directory with her husband, two small children, Grandma and Grandpa, a pile of packages, and a baby that obviously didn’t appreciate being carted around the mall all day. The baby screamed relentlessly until the mother thrust her black, bulging purse at her husband and stormed out to the car.

As Iunched on a bacon cheeseburger that noon, a businessman with a gray suit, red-striped tie, and furrowed brow hastily slurped down a strawberry shake and ran out of Hardees at top speed.

On my way home, a young hot rod driver roared past with blaring horn and arrogant gesture to let me know that he didn’t appreciate anyone driving the speed limit during the season of peace on earth, goodwill to men. I bumped into, squeezed past, and elbowed through so many hundreds of busy people that day, all of them intent on getting done what they had to do — as quickly as possible. For surely more busyness waited for them elsewhere.

Oh sure, I saw a few seemingly carefree people. A smiling couple looked in all directions for familiar faces before stopping to check out the glittering display in the window of Greenburg’s Jewelry. A group of noisy teenagers sat on a mall bench eating chocolate chip cookies. But mostly, I saw exhausted people who looked like they were hours behind schedule, like they couldn’t care less if the Christmas decorations came down, cars stopped playing and Santa packed up his costume and went home. I couldn’t help wondering if the world really would have come to an end if everyone in the mall would have just bought a chocolate chip cookie, pulled up a chair next to the teenagers and laughed the world away for a few minutes.

I know. Christmas is always an extremely busy time of year. But these days, what time of year isn’t busy? Our world has been set at a breakneck pace. Don’t we know! 1992 sped by like a cup on a chase. There was so much to do and so little time. And here we are, plowing full-speed into 1993. We have papers to write, exams to study for, meetings to attend, appointments to keep, social activities to enjoy, and when we finally rest from our breakneck pace, we flop down in front of the television because we need to be entertained in order to relax.

Meanwhile what should matter most is often put on hold, short-changed or forgotten. And arrogant gesture to let me know that he didn’t appreciate anyone driving the speed limit during the season of peace on earth, goodwill to men. I bumped into, squeezed past, and elbowed through so many hundreds of busy people that day, all of them intent on getting done what they had to do — as quickly as possible. For surely more busyness waited for them elsewhere.

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So am I preaching from a self-righteous platform somehow above the fray? Hardly. I just finished one of the busiest, jam-packed years of my life. Much of that, I hate to admit, was my own fault. I guess the very fact that I am writing about busy-ness — an editorial topic I dreamed up over Christmas break to avoid some of the busyness of the semester — is ironic.

Of course, God calls us to use our abilities and to work diligently at what he has given us to do — for his glory. The Bible says God detests laziness and no one can deny the satisfaction of a job well done. But overcommitted schedules, exhausting lifestyles, and mixed-up priorities can easily overshadow other things that bring meaning to life like friends, family, and most importantly our relationship to God. That could not be God’s will for our lives.

We’re beginning not only another year, but really the rest of our lives. While we are in college, we are making lifestyle choices that may be carried out through the rest of our lives. Let’s make an effort to slow the pace of living, to set the right priorities, and foremost to make time for God before the busyness of second semester drives us to the brink of physical, mental and spiritual exhaustion. It won’t be easy. College is busy and our culture begs us to be exhausted human beings. But it is possible.

The Bible tells us to quiet ourselves so we can hear God’s voice. Now would be a opportune time to cancel some of the things that clutter our lives, to disengage from things that keep us from maintaining and developing our relationship with Jesus Christ which will really matter the most anyway after our busy days on this earth are done.

-PVH

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Overheard...

compiled by staff

"I'm not married to Calvin. I'm married to my wife."—Dr. John Vander Stelt

"What am I — a man or a woman? I can never remember."—Sarah Duff in HPER 24 (square dancing class)

"I don't care what kind of personality he has as long as he's not a dork!"—Lorinda Van Maanen filling out her computer dating survey

"Virtual storage is when you think you stored it, but you didn't."—Justin Luth, giving an explanation for the hot classroom

"I was a reptile in my former life."—Jim Bos offering an explanation for Julie Kelderman's work habits

"Guess what? When you put the brights on, they go brighter."—Erik Oostenink's profound discovery regarding his headlights after nine hours of driving

Dear Student Body,

It seems to me that some of us lately have been forgetting what our mothers have told us: Be nice. Play fair. Don't call people names.

Maybe we think these little creeds don't apply in the grownup world of bashing, political humor, negative campaigns, etc.

Case in point: this rampant Bill Clinton bashinng that has become ubiquitous among Republicans, comedians, and even students:

"I hate Hillary. Hillary? You would change your opinion about the man and his work because of his wife? Yes, she is a powerful woman, and she probably will have some say in executive decisions. I say, it's about time.

"Let's blow up a big picture of Clinton and put it on a dart board! Wouldn't that be cool?"—Jim Bos, explaining the relationship between the fields of computer science and plumbing

"O.K. everybody, line your learners."—Simon DuToit, giving the actors new instructions at play rehearsal

"Sometimes Kelly, I'd just like to put you over my knee and spank you!"—Prof. Dekkinga, threatening Kelly Haaksma with corporal punishment

"Julie, you're just like the Energizer bunny. You just keep going, and going, and going...."

—Someone commenting on Julie Kelderman's work habits.

Dear Mr. Eckardt:

What is the current general requirement in History, Philosophy and Theology?

—Hope from Arkansas

Dear Hope:

Thank you for your question. I get more questions about this requirement than any other single general education requirement.

As specified in the Dordt College catalog (see p. 34 of the current catalog), the History, Philosophy and Theology requirement is as follows:

History 100
Philosophy 201
Theology 101

One course from History 212, 213, 214, Philosophy 320, 350, Theology 201, 204

This is the part of the requirement that students do not always read and follow carefully. While students, of course, may take other courses in history, philosophy and theology as free electives, if they do not take one of the courses listed under this part of the requirement, they have not completed the requirement.

This question also gives me an opportunity to remind students that while the graduation requirement checklist is given to them every Spring, this and other requirements is the student's responsibility to read and follow the catalog as to what such abbreviations mean.

Sincerely,

Doug Eckardt

Your Registrar

A hearty thank you to all students who have submitted quotes to the Overheard column.

Keep those quotes coming in!

Send quotes to:

Diamond Overheard

DC 595

The Diamond reserves the right to choose which quotes are suitable for publication.
Eastern Europe opening to Dordt Students

By Paula Van Hill and Julia Kelderman

The newly capitalist republics of Eastern Europe are becoming the land of opportunity for Dordt students and faculty. Several students and professors will be spending time in Ukraine and Russia shortly after graduation. Their contact, Father John, a Russian Orthodox priest, was on campus this week to explore opportunities for Dordt in Eastern Europe.

Father John visits Dordt

"Farmers here [in the U.S.] are two heads taller than our professors," said Father John, referring to the Eastern European professors' lack of practical experience. He said they read about agriculture from textbooks but have not actually practiced farming themselves. Farmers, too, have little management experience or technological knowledge to help them make their own decisions. "Fifty percent of the crops are ruined by ignorance," said Father John. "We are a rich country, but we don't know what to do with our richness."

Trust is also lacking in many business interactions. Farmers and business people have difficulties finding trustworthy people with whom they can buy and sell. Many of the key economists during the communist regime are still very influential today.

Father John said the church is beginning to play a greater role in Eastern Europe but teaching people about God is very difficult. The communist government forbade children from going to church; therefore, parents today are still reluctant to teach their children to trust God. But Father John said he won’t give up. "We have a Father, and his name is God. We want to be his children."

Work opportunities for students in Eastern Europe

Until Father John's visit, three senior ag majors had been planning to spend nearly five weeks working with farmers in Russia. However, Father John has insisted that longer-term commitments are necessary to benefit the developing nations, that is, from spring planting until fall harvest.

The five Dordt students who plan to leave for Russia immediately following graduation include Dave Andringa, Dan Vander Stelt, Troy Greiss, and Harold and Andrea Wieringa. For four weeks, they will conduct a seed experiment with Russian students and farmers in Nizhni Novgorod, Russia. After this time, Andringa, Vander Stelt, and Greiss will return to the U.S. and the Wieringas will remain until the crops have matured. Harold Wieringa will continue to oversee the project, and Andrea plans to teach.

Under the communist system, "No one understood the project from beginning to end, nor were they taught to take responsibility and ownership," said Abe Bos, Associate Academic Dean. Father John was very concerned that students remain from planting until the harvest, because no one there could be trusted to oversee the entire project. For this reason, Wieringa will remain the entire growing season. Members of Dordt's agriculture staff also plan to return near harvest to see the project's end.

Faculty in Ukraine

Five Dordt professors also plan to spend four weeks in Khar'Kov, Ukraine, teaching Ukrainian professors, Pros. Boot, Bussema, Vanderkoot, Miller and Hofland will begin May 17, teaching their specialty subjects and Bible studies. Though these are English professors in the Ukraine, "they want to learn American English," said Bos.

Dordt's staff will conclude their stay by visiting Moscow, Nizhni Novgorod and St. Petersburg.

Long-term Progams?

"Our concern is that we are an educational institution . . . this may turn out to be something better suited for experts, such as CRWRC," said Bos regarding the possibility of a long-term commitment to Father John. Also, the situation in Eastern Europe is so uncertain, "It's a year-by-year guess." However, if students and faculty go again next summer, plans will be finalized by December 1993.

By Paula Van Hill and Julia Kelderman

Students and faculty heading overseas

Christian College Coalition approves study programs

If approved by Dordt's curriculum committee, selected juniors and seniors may have the opportunity to study in three prominent Russian cities, beginning in January 1994. Students will journey overseas to study Russian language, history, culture and current events in Moscow, Nizhni Novgorod and St. Petersburg. They will also interact with Russian students and families and worship with Russian Christians.

Unlike study programs in the former Soviet Union, this new program is not tied to one location. Students will spend the first two weeks of orientation in Moscow and then travel to Nizhni Novgorod in Russia's "heartland" for an additional ten weeks. Here, participants will live in dormitories with Russian college students and learn to speak, write and read the Russian language.

They will attend seminars on Russian history, culture, the Church and current economic and political issues, as well as visit historical sites.

The final three weeks will be spent in St. Petersburg, where students will live with local Christian families. Here, they will have the chance to use their new knowledge and language skills to complete internships in the community, church, businesses and schools.

The Russian studies program is just one of the programs available through the Christian College Coalition. The CCC is an association of 84 church-related colleges and universities in the U.S. and Canada, of which Dordt is a member. Students interested in participating in the Russian studies may contact the history department.

Russian Priest speaks with Dordt students about new opportunities

Andrew Patterson
What does Valentine's day mean to you?

by Jenn Dyke

Several people on Dordt’s campus were asked to express their opinions about Valentine’s Day and to elaborate on what their plans were, if they had any. These are their responses.

Will Alsum, Sr.—“I’m going home. If I get snowed in at a truck stop in Nebraska somewhere, I’ll buy my mom something.”

Pong Noginthurath, Sr.—“I would take her out for a special dinner and a movie, and of course I’d give her a red rose. But it’s impossible because the girls in London.”

Dan Stings, Jr.—“I’m weeping and crying incessantly over the absence of my girlfriend who is in Chicago.”

Cortina Vander Woude, So.—“Valentine’s Day is more for girls, because girls get the presents and attention more than guys.”

Ronda Dirkse, So.—“It doesn’t mean anything if you’re not a couple.”

Dave Klompjen, Sr.—“My parents send me packages, so it’s great.”

Tammy Den Besten, Fr.—“I’m going to Stouls Falls with my boyfriend to see a movie and eat dinner.”

Professor Kok—“My wife’s birthday is on the 14th, so we don’t celebrate Valentine’s. But this year, we’re spending Sunday dinner with the family before our daughter, Jennifer, leaves for the Netherlands.”

Scott Mawhinney, So.—“I’m sending five dollars to my friend back home to buy my girlfriend a rose.”

Beth Knierim, So.—“I’m getting my roommate a present. And I like getting and giving roses.”

Anna Steperda, So.—“I think it’s a lot of mush.”

Denise Spritk, Jr.—“It’s nice if you have a boyfriend.”

Rick Dykstra, Jr.—“No comment.”

St. Valentine’s Day. Who and What is it?

by Jenn Dyke

According to the American tradition, Valentine’s Day is a time for sweethearts to exchange tokens of their affection, usually gifts and messages, sometimes sent anonymously.

The original tradition on Valentine’s Day was to choose lovers by casting lots as part of a spring ritual, which was followed by orgiastic ceremonies. The occasion later developed into a sport. In some places, the first persons of the opposite sex to see each other would become valentines. Scholars have a theory that this selection process symbolizes the birds choosing mates in the spring, thus associating love birds with Valentine’s Day.

So, who was St. Valentine? Actually, it is thought that there were two men of this same name, who were martyred under Roman Emperor Claudius II, who had persecuted Christians. St. Valentine is known to be the patron saint of engaged couples in the Roman Catholic tradition.

Today, a particularly romantic mate can not only make use of the postal service, but can express his or her love and admiration on public television, radio, and in classified advertisements.

One doesn’t have to look too closely on the pages of their local paper to find out what day it is. On the 14th of February the Classifieds are measled with hearts. Rhymes swarm the pages, containing pet names ranging from Woopsie and Poopsie to Gerbil Face.

Valentine Schmalentine

by Jenn Dyke

For those of you who are fortunate enough to not have a significant other, you still have reasons to remember this day. You hate poorly hearted, warm-fuzzy cards. You are weary of the ceaseless playing of love songs on every radio station, announced by deejays who sound as if they’ve never had a problem in their lives. You would sooner break out the bell-bottoms than sport the ubiquitous red sweater of the day. Though you stand firm in your anti-celebration of Valentine’s Day, the hype overwhelms you. You want to scream, “It’s not Valentine’s Day! It’s...” but nothing comes to mind. You want to deny its existence, to wear homemade T-shirts that take place on Fjartende, the ancient ritual honoring the Greek god Dionysus.

If that doesn’t appeal to you, there’s always the joyous festivities that you can partake in with your local church. This is the day when Danish school children exchange tokens and gifts. You always knew those Danish tokens would come in handy someday.

A more worthy cause would be to commemorate Liberia’s Literacy Day, a campaign to eliminate illiteracy among Liberian adults in that country. Oreganians and Arizonians already know that February 14th is the date that their beloved states were admitted to the U.S. in 1859 and in 1912, so these precious few Dordt students can have the limelight for once as we honor their native lands.

In Mexico, it is the Day of National Mourning, commemorating the death of Vincent Guerrero, one of the country’s revolutionary war heroes. Surely you can find a birthday to celebrate. Depending on your personal preferences, there is a wide variety of significant people born on this day, providing hours of topics to divert conversation away from flowers and candy. In 1819, Christopher Latham Sholes, inventor of the first practical typewriter, was born. Anna Howard Shaw was born in 1847, a U.S. suffrage leader, a physician, and the first female to be ordained in the Methodist Church. Jack Benny, one of America’s best loved comedians of radio and television, was born in 1894. In 1913, James Hoffa was born, without whom Jack Nicholson would be a few million dollars poorer. For those of you old enough to remember the Watergate incident, this is the birthday of Carl Bernstein. This is a journalist’s holiday, as he reported for the Washington Post and was a prime investigator of the incident.

For all you hard core George Gershwin fans, Susanne premiered in New York on this date in 1918. In 1949, Chaim Weitzmann was elected the first president of Israel, and depending on your personal views, this could be a day for celebration or mourning.

Finally, this is a day to remember the seven who died on this date in 1929. In Chicago, they are remembered as those who were killed during a Mafia shoot-out known as the St. Valentine’s Day Massacre. Now that all of you frustrated, lonely, individualistic or just plain defiant people have found something to do, you can stop complaining and allow all your lovestruck friends to bask in their short-lived bliss while you are satisfied in knowing that you have expanded your horizons.

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Note from the diary of a dying radical

Feb. 8, 1993

Today, much like the last.

Regarding my entry on Jan. 10, you must realize that cynicism is my last and best defense against dated traditions and daily fumblings. I want to comment on the political process that this country recently went through. I realize that this is not very exciting, but you must recognize that it is easier and more helpful to reflect upon where you've been than to survey the approaching landscape or your present surroundings.

Our country has peacefully transferred power from one political party to another. This in itself is a major accomplishment, considering the ways in which other countries in the world have transferred power. However, this transfer may not be a transfer at all. Actually, this process could and should be viewed as vacillating from one side of a pole to the other. It is a simple sliding maneuver from slightly left of the pole to slightly right of the pole. The pole is the center which is desperately clung to by political leaders to keep the public.

To venture too far from the center would be dangerous. Like the childish game of tag, if a person ventures too far from the goal (or the free zone) one finds it harder to get back and is an easier target for the person who is it. So it is with American politics for an elected official. To venture too far from the center would be to ask for little support, thus little money, thus little political power. One tends then to stand near the center by the goal in order to appease the majority of the public and assure position or sustained position within public office.

What does this all lead to? The elections, the transfer of power, as well as the political process and the daily business of politics has become a beast. It is a beast with two heads. The usual sense organ of the head on this beast has been distorted: the eyes have grown dim, the ears only perceive loud noises at close range, the nose has never even begun development, but the mouth covers the majority of the face. Both heads turn in on each other and yell at one another, this is what they seem to have been spawned for, and this is how they function.

The upper torso of the beast is muscular and hairy. And the arms are well defined with rippling muscles. The fists are clenched, holding what seems to be something dear to itself yet there is nothing in the tight fist. The fist serves only to beat the beast's chest in a display of unadulterated brute force. He is the king of all the surveys. It does not matter if it is the right hand controlled by the right head or the left hand controlled by the left head. It is used to beat the chest. The hand cares not for other uses beyond this one. And it is questionable if it knows or was even made for other purposes. One hand may be dominant for a time, and the dominance may switch, but the purpose is the same. Even though the hands do not change their activity, the heads argue about what is going on.

The legs of our self-made beast are thin and short, barely able to hold the beast upright. Indeed, for the most part the beast collapses on top of the legs and does something like a limp, although rather awkwardly, upon them. The legs are in a hopeless position, for they cannot do their job and yet are chastised when they fail.

We are the beast. Our politics focus on a compromise between two uncompromising positions. If we cannot compromise how can we even think of cooperation? We don't care about working together. We want power - we want to become a one party monarchy.

Recently, we have witnessed the cardiac arrest of another beast like us. We called it Marxism. Now we laugh at the center. That Marxist thought in Europe and America as they turn blue and fall over clutching their chest. But ask yourself how is the physical fitness of the beast we call American Democracy? How long will it live? How long before we stop talking about politics and start talking about survival?

-A.Z. Wanton

To place animal life above human life is the ultimate dichotomy.

by Jeremy Yos

As I watched the evening news last Friday I saw members of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) protesting the use of baboon livers for transplant to save human lives. Needless to say, I was a little upset. What an insult to the entire human race! Putting the life of a baboon ahead of the life of a human being.

Now, I realize that the majority of the readership of the Diamond does not subscribe to the far left animal rights movement. But according to a K D C R Flumblong by Dianne Bajema, literature is being offered in schools which gives credence to these extremist movements.

PETA is an international group with 400.000 members, and all those people can't be radicals. But PETA has been aligned with some radical groups. Take for instance the ALF (Animal Liberation Front). The ALF has been responsible for over 100 laborary break-ins since 1981. Many of those destroyed years of medical research, and involved arson and animal theft. PETA has acted as a spokesperson for the ALF in the past, showing videos of mistreated animals and holding press conferences for the ALF. (US News & World Report S 21 '92)

The implications of this PETA protest are remarkable. Personifying the animal as being equal to if not superior to the human, rebels against God's creation. If PETA activists can stretch the truth so far as to personify animals, why can't we use their lies loud enough to squander Jean's prexy (with the truth loud enough to squander Jean's prexy). To squander God's creation too. To squander animal life above human life is the ultimate dichotomy. I would honestly like to see one of those protesters forced to make the decision of whether or not to sacrifice the life of a baboon for their own. I think the tide would turn.

Speaking of implications, as one of his first executive orders Bill Clinton lifted the ban on the use of fetal tissue for medical testing. Assuming that the laws about animal research remain the same, Clinton's work puts human tissue on the same level as animal tissue. If PETA activists can stretch the truth so far as to personify animals, why can't we admit the truth loud enough to personify an unborn child?

I don't believe that any ill-use of animals has been responsible for over 100 laboratory break-ins. I don't believe that any ill-use of animals is good. We must protect God's creation as a socially acceptable, politically correct, and internationally accepted research. In an attempt to expand science, a gift of God. We strive to match.
On the fence

Militance in the Military

by Julie DeBoer

Our armed forces have been busily engaged in battles recently—first the Persian Gulf, then Somalia, now the White House. It seems that each time I tune in to the news there are more gay bashings and more gridlock on negotiations for gay rights.

Last week, President Clinton and the Joint Chiefs of Staff clashed over homosexuals in the military. Clinton asserts that sexucal preference should not be a question posed to servicemen. The Joint Chiefs fear unrest in the ranks and outbreaks of all types of troubles, be it promiscuity, rape, or gay bashings.

Recently in Colorado, citizens voted in an amendment to the state constitution which overturns the governor’s previous executive order prohibiting discrimination based on sexual preference. The amendment is not condoning discrimination. Rather it disallows “protected status” or “special legal protection” based on sexual orientation, including “protected minority status or quotas” for the homosexual community. Although it won in the polls, the amendment awaits a number of trials concerning constitutionality. For the time being proceedings are at a standstill, though many testimonials have been brought forward by gays and lesbians who have experienced loss of employment, inability to secure housing and the like.

Those who are in favor of the amendment say homosexual individuals are entitled to protection already, so they don’t need minority rights. Further, homosexuals, though undoubtedly on the receiving end of some unsavory actions, do not meet the qualifications of minority groups, who have historically been at an economic disadvantage and possess distinguishing characteristics (such as ethnic or racial origins). Homosexuality, on the other hand, reaches all types of people across many racial and economic backgrounds.

Opponents of the amendment put forth the argument that no population group should be discriminated against, and that such an amendment is unconstitutional at its very premise.

I find it easy to count myself as one of the Coloradans in favor of this amendment (though I wouldn’t be surprised if it didn’t pass the constitutionality test). The reason lies in the fact that I feel the gay community goes too far trying to protect itself. Instead of trying to promote their cause to a privileged position, they should focus on the rights they already have—that is, their civil rights.

"...our Savior set us an example in his own life to be of service to even the least desirable people in existence"

In our democratic, my-lifestyle-as-good-as-yours society, the government has already provided a way for those who have been treated unjustly to seek recourse and compensation—I think they ought to use it. Just as gays do not deserve protected status, neither do they deserve to be downtrodden. If gays desire to serve in the military they should have the freedom to do so. Not that I don’t understand or sympathize with the military’s alarm at the prospect of homosexual involvement in the armed forces, but as Clinton has said, we should punish the problems as they arise, not the entire group for hypothetical misconduct.

Besides, the issue of how to deal with homosexuality goes a lot deeper than all of this. Homosexuality is a sin (among other references, see 1 Corinthians 6:9-11), and here in our reformed niche we know that all people are sinners, none greater than the other (remember that little episode about trying to remove your brother’s log while you have the splinter in your own eye?). Add to that the fact that our Savior set us an example in his own life to be of service to even the least desirable people in existence (in his time lepers, today AIDS patients?).

In conclusion, homosexuals should not be judged by us, their peers, but by the only just judge, Christ himself. Neither should gays receive a privileged position for the tribulations they are presently suffering. In the recent conflicts between the homo- and heterosexual communities, we as Christians must uphold a moral lifestyle without consequently excluding any group of sinners from our work of redeeming and reclaiming the creation.

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Winsome, lose some, tie some
by Henry Bakker

The Blades have to be feeling pumped after a strong weekend against Drake. The Blades beat, yes beat, Drake 8-4 on Friday night on their home ice in Worthington and tied 9-9 on Saturday.

It was a good enough show to make us almost forget the losses to number 1 ranked ISU last weekend. The Blades played ISU in Worthington and lost 12-1 on Friday, January 29. The enthusiastic fans were encouraged when the Blades opened the scoring 1:15 into the first period. Ted Kaemingh scored from an assist by Doug Vander Velde. Things went downhill from there as ISU proceeded to score twelve unanswered goals. Six in the first period, four in the second period and two in the third period. Jeremy Huygen and an ISU player were ejected from the game and given a one-game suspension for fighting.

The next day the Blades stepped up their offense to give ISU a more challenging game. ISU opened the scoring with two goals in the first period, Dordt answering as Joel Mlnderhoud scored with 2:25 on the clock off assists by the Wildeboers. ISU and Dordt each scored once more to go into the second period with Dordt down 3-2.

ISU outscored Dordt 4-2 in the second period, Mike Sandwich, Mike Wildeboer and Joel Krtkke scoring for the Blades. The Blades played tough in the third, keeping pace with ISU, each team scoring three goals but despite the efforts of Vander Velde, Mlnderhoud and Mike Wildeboer, the scorers, Dordt was unable to catch up and suffered another loss.

The game against Drake on the 15th was a good remedy for the team's morale. Dordt opened the scoring with two goals in the first period. Ted Kaemingh scored from an assist by Doug Vander Velde. Things went downhill from there as ISU proceeded to score twelve unanswered goals. Six in the first period, four in the second period and two in the third period. Jeremy Huygen and an ISU player where ejected from the game and given a one-game suspension for fighting.

The next day the Blades stepped up their offense to give a balanced scoring attack. Anita Tinklenberg had nine rebounds.

Saturday, January 30, Dordt returned home to play the Lady Red Raiders from Orange City. That team from Orange City had posted a 50-52 win against the Lady Defenders on their home court in December. On the 30th the Lady Defenders trailed at half-time and saw the Red Raiders lead mount as high as 18 in the second half. Dordt made a furious comeback, cutting the gap to six, but lost 75-64.

Jill Anema led Dordt with 13 points. Joy Veenstra had 12 and Tawnya Vander Veen contributed 11 to the loss. Dordt made 24 of 37 free-throws and Anita Tinklenberg led the Lady Defenders with nine rebounds.

The Lady Defenders then lost to Mount Marty 69-60 on the road and beat Briar Cliff here at Dordt 72-56.

Now in the last four games Dordt faces Tekly Westmar at home on Saturday and Stoux Falls on the road next Tuesday. Coach Rhoda described these games as a loss-up.

"They could go either way, but we're playing very well and we've really improved this semester. We're playing, 500 ball now, we're 6-6 for our last 12."
Dordt upsets Northwestern

by Derrick Vander Waal

When the final buzzer sounded, the scoreboard read Dordt 106, Northwestern 103. The Dordt student body surged onto the court mobbing their players in appreciation for an amazing win as the Northwestern crowd watched in stunned disbelief. All of this was a culmination of four years of frustrations against arch-rival Northwestern. Dordt’s winless streak against Northwestern dated back to February of 1989. This victory comes as Dordt is playing its best basketball of the season. Dordt has won four of its last five games improving its season mark to 9-14 overall.

Dordt’s win at home against Northwestern on Jan. 30 was not only over their rival but also an excellent basketball team which was rated 15th among NAIA Div. 2 schools at that time. “It is always nice to beat a rival team, but it is just one game,” Coach Rick Vander Berg said. “You can’t base your season on that.” Dordt opened the game sliding behind early 3-9. Although Dordt stayed with them throughout the first half, Northwestern controlled and led at break, 42-48. Dordt outscored Northwestern 16-4 to start the second half which put Dordt up 58-52. Dave Van Essen took charge of the game at that point scoring Dordt’s next nine points to maintain a five point lead for Dordt.

As the game continued down the stretch the lead changed hands a several times. With 26 seconds left Dordt trailed 84-88 after Northwestern converted on a three pointer by John Tiggs and two free throws by Craig Douma. Dordt responded by getting the basketball into the low post to Dave Van Essen. He spun and powered the ball into the hoop and was fouled by Northwestern. Van Essen pulled Dordt within one with his free throw. Dordt intentionally fouled Douma who hit both free throws with 8 seconds left. Dordt called time-out and designed the game tying three pointer. Galen Van Roekel took the inbound pass and drove down court, faked a three pointer, and dish ed off to Craig Veurink who was sprung for a tough shot by a Doug Veenstra screen. Veurink turned and made the three pointer as time expired to tie the game at 90. In overtime Dordt went on a 6-0 run when down 95-97 to clinch the win. Dave Van Essen paced Dordt with 32 points and 12 rebounds. Veurink, Veenstra, and Van Roekel followed with 20, 17, and 15 point respectively.

Last Wednesday Dordt defeated a tough Dakota St. team at home 67-62. Dordt lost to Dakota St., 109-89, earlier in the season and since that game Dakota St. was 9-3 before losing to Dordt. Dordt played poorly in the first half shooting only 27 percent and trailed 21-26 at half-time. "Dakota St. is an excellent defensive ball club and they take a lot away from you," Vander Berg said. "At half-time we kind of woke up and ended up shooting 60 percent in the second half." Dordt more than doubled its first half scoring output, putting up 46 points in the second half as they pulled out a close game. Veurink led the way with 16 points and 10 rebounds. Van Roekel followed with 16 points.

At home last Saturday night Dordt took Briar Cliff down to the wire but lost 74-75. Briar Cliff is rated 11th in the nation among NAIA Div. 1 schools and increased its record to 20-3 with its win over Dordt. Briar Cliff opened the game quickly with a 5-13 lead. Dordt battled back and went into half-time down only 32-35. Both teams traded baskets during the second half as neither team went up by more than five points. Dordt was down by four points with ten seconds left when Jay Regnerus hit a three pointer to draw Dordt within one point. Dordt intentionally fouled Tom Stubb who hit both free throws with eight seconds left. Van Roekel drove down and pulled up his dribble in three point range. He found no one to open, so he forced up a three pointer with three seconds left. The basketball bounced off the rim and Briar Cliff rebounded to preserve the win. "We’re not satisfied with getting beat by Briar Cliff..." Vander Berg said, “but again the effort was there. We played hard and did the things we had to do to beat Briar Cliff.” Veurink scored 16 points and Van Roekel added 14.

Dordt currently is in second place in District 15 behind Northwestern and ahead of Iowa Wesleyan and Teikyo Westmar.

Dave Van Essen suffered a broken bone in his wrist during the Northwestern game and has been playing with his shooting hand tightly wrapped since then. Tim Brunsting’s knee injury has healed much quicker than expected, and he might see some playing time against Teikyo Westmar on Saturday.

Tracksters impressive in Orange City

by Henry Bakker

The Dordt track team participated in the track meet at that unmentionable place in Orange City last Saturday. Individual athletes performed well and are continually pushing the boundaries of their own personal bests.

Randy Van Genderen set a new Dordt record for the indoor 200m run at 24.38 seconds, taking it from freshman Chuck Van Drunen who held it for a whole week after breaking it the Saturday before in Vermillion’s Dakota Dome with a time of 24.40 seconds. That record will likely change hands a few more times this season as the record holder from last season, Junior Jeff Dekoter, is still on the team and keeping up with the younger runners.

Diane Schinkel had a good day, placing sixth on the Dordt all-time list with a long jump of 15’ 11” and third in the 200m all-time list.

Dordt had three athletes run the 55 meter dash in under 7.00 seconds, the first time that has ever happened in one season, let alone in one meet. Jeff Dekoter ran a 6.88. Ben Christoffels ran a 6.91 and Chuck Van Drunen ran a 6.99 in their heats. Those times place all of them in Dordt’s top six times for that event.

Freshman Brian Rulter has moved into the top ten Dordt times for both the 800m and 1500m events with times of 2:09.2 and 4:21.8 respectively. To crack the top four times, they are held by All-American athletes of past years.

Dordt’s resident marathoner, Lisa Van Denend ran the three mile event for a little speed work and finished with a time of 21 minutes and 15 seconds. That was the first time a woman has represented Dordt in that event.

Dordt’s men’s team placed fourth in the 4 x 240m with a time of 2:00.6 and the women placed second in the same event at 2:26.91.

Coach Goheen commented that comparing the Dordt team’s placings in the events was not really indicative of the talent on this team.

"It’s difficult for us to beat anyone because all these schools have athletes on scholarships and Dordt doesn’t offer athletic scholarships.”

The track team returns to the Dakota Dome in Vermillion for another indoor meet on February 20.
Committee discusses new requirement course
by Paula Van Hill

The General Education Committee is exploring the possibility of making a new freshman-level general education course. The semester or year-long course would include elements from Gen. 10, freshman orientation and communication education. For example, the course would require students to write about campus life issues like study habits, relationships or sexuality.

However, Cal Jongasma, committee chairperson said the proposal should still be considered a "dream project" because it is in the early developmental stages, and no final decisions have been made. Faculty will meet with the general education committee Monday night to discuss what should be included in the proposed general education course. Jongasma said the committee wants to keep the general education curriculum fresh.

The General Education Committee will use proposal to apply for the 1993 Asheville Institute of General Education Conference which will be held June 5 through 10. If accepted, five representatives from Dordt would attend. Representatives from other colleges will also attend the conference to discuss general education alternatives and evaluate various proposals. Jongasma said even if the proposal would be approved at the conference, the Dordt curriculum committee and faculty assembly would both have to agree to the new course before it was added.

The course would require freshmen to write about campus life issues to improve their general education curriculum by integrating values and better communication skills into the core courses.

The seminars, but other students and faculty also attended, filling the rooms. Heidi Huisken, sophomore Spanish major, said that these seminars showed her how much need there is for Bible translation.

Erickson, in one of his seminars, amused students from the Midwest by telling them of how a Nochil person reacted to snow. Erickson had received a picture of the Ice Palace in Minnesota, and showed it to this person, who had never seen ice or snow before. Erickson then tried to explain that in Minnesota they sometimes get stuff like ice, only softer, and it falls from the sky. After feeling an ice cube and some frost from the Erickson's refrigerator, the Nottl thought for a while, and said, "I think that we should send all of our criminals to Minnesota. If they had to live in a place like that they'd never want to be bad again."

Blades play Drake
(cont. from p. 10)

Drake opened scoring in the third with two goals before Dordt scored four unanswered goals to take the lead, 10-9. Ernie Termorsut, Kaemingh, Mike Wildeboer and Minderhoud scored for Dordt.

Drake opened scoring in the second period leading 4-2 but Dordt quickly tied the score with goals by Kaemingh and Voogt but Drake regained the lead with two more goals and Henk Wildeboer scored once more with 7:04 on the clock. The Blades ended the second trailing by one.

Drake opened scoring in the third with two goals before Dordt scored four unanswered goals to take the lead, 10-9. Ernie Termorsut, Kaemingh, Mike Wildeboer and Minderhoud scored for Dordt. Dordt was unable to hold on to their one point lead and Drake scored with 2 minutes left in the game to finish in a tie. This weekend the Blades travel to Waterloo to do battle with the University of Northern Iowa where several die hard hockey fans will be travelling to the games to cheer on our Blades as they will try to finish the season strong.

Resident life positions for next year now open
by Sharon R. VanderKruk

Dordt students can begin applying for resident life positions. Applications and job descriptions are now available in Nancy Hilbelink's office. Resident Director applications are due February 15, and Resident Assistant applications are due February 22.

The key responsibility of a R.A. or R.D. is to provide a healthy college atmosphere through leadership and guidance. Since these positions are directly connected to student life, selection processes are done carefully. The job is quite demanding because it holds many responsibilities and requires staff to interact with students. Most colleges and universities fill this position with hired full-time individuals. It is a job that involves many responsibilities and enables one to interact with many students. Students should seriously consider their reasons for wanting the job before applying.

Although the job comes with many responsibilities, those in position right now or previously have found that helping out with student life is a rewarding experience. Sophomore Wendy Kuperus, a R.A. of East Hall, finds that the biggest challenge of her job is trying to assist her "wingees" with their varying questions.

"When I deal with students one on one I'm never sure of what they'll come to me with. I just want to be there and be of some sort of help." The resident life staff members are not rigid authoritarian, holding a higher status than the rest of the student body, but they are there to provide a communal environment that is appropriate for Dordt College.

For Tom Van Soelen, a Senior and second year R.D. of North Hall, the hardest responsibility is dealing with students that have trouble fitting into this communal setting. Being an R.D. has had a lot of rewards for Van Soelen as well.

He said, "It's fun to see student's come from all over, with different backgrounds and cultures, and to watch how their attitudes and fears of college change as they adjust to student residence."

Brian and Melynda Van Zee, both West Hall R.D.s for the second year, find the hardest part of their job is making quick decisions and knowing when to talk and when to keep themselves out of a situation. They enjoy getting to know students, something which most married couples do not have the opportunity to do.

Curtis Taylor, Director of Resident Life, encourages enthusiastic individuals who feel they can assist in creating a healthy residence atmosphere.

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