



Diamond

January 28, 1999

SAC puts on Homecoming Festivities

by **Tricia Van Ee**
Staff Reporter

Homecoming week 1999 was kicked off on Monday, January 18th with the traditional Cannon of Dordt hunt and rounded off with a concert Saturday night by Canadian singer-songwriter Steve Bell. Activities throughout the week were planned by the Student Activities Committee, headed by student leaders Emily Buys and Sarah Walsh.

The SAC-planned events began Monday evening with a giant game of Twister in the SUB. Prizes were awarded to the winners of this activity which has become a tradition in the past

few years. Snow sculpting was scheduled for Tuesday's activity, but was canceled because of unfavorable snow conditions.

Wednesday night was Gutter Sundae night in the Commons. A few hundred students turned out to eat ice cream and toppings out of gutters lined with trash bags. The Cannon of Dordt was also found Wednesday

evening by roommates Ryan De Koekkoek, Jeremy Geels, Sam Guttierrez, Evan Jasper, Curt Kuiper, Mike Schippers, and Joel Visker. The seven East Campus residents discovered the cannon underneath a stocking cap or 'toque', as the clue put it, in the display case in the Rec Center. They were awarded \$50 and four tickets to the All Star United concert in March.



Janna Leusink, Kyle Sorensen and Donielle Bielby take a break to enjoy a gutter sundae. [Photo by Joe Trosen]

Thursday was scheduled for Nerd Bowling in the SUB game room. Students were supposed to dress like nerds and then sign up to bowl in teams, but the activity was canceled due to lack of interest.

Distinctly contrasting to the lack of enthusiasm on Thursday night, over 1000 people, about

800 of them students, attended Friday night's activity, "The Price is Right," in the BJ Haan Auditorium. The Dordt version of the popular game show was coordinated by junior Liam Starkenburg, who had been planning the event since the SAC planning retreat in October. Local businesses donated and loaned prizes and items on which to bid. Many SAC members were essential to the production of the game, including Rhonda Hubers, who wrote the script, and leaders Buys and Walsh. Starkenburg and the SAC hope to see "The Price is Right" become a new tradition at Dordt.

The week came to a close with the Saturday activities. Both the Dordt men's and women's basketball teams beat Huron University in the Homecoming games, and the JV men's basketball team challenged the alumni team afterwards. Canadian Christian singer-songwriter Bell gave a concert Saturday evening to bring an end to Homecoming week.

DC come on down, you're the next contestants on *The Price is Right!*

by **Jen Hoogeveen**
Staff Reporter

There was a full hour of fun and games with great prizes at the BJ Haan last Friday night. "The Price is Right" came to Sioux Center, Iowa, with lights, cameras and action. It was estimated that 1,050 people came to Dordt's Student Activities event

that night, about 800 of them being Dordt students and about 200 were alumni, staff, and community members. The game show was the biggest event that the Student Activities Committee planned besides the annual Talent Extravaganza.

"It is the Student Activities Committee's focus to provide quality entertainment for Dordt's

students since there isn't much of a selection in this rural setting," said Liam Starkenburg. Each year, the group plans over sixty events for students to participate in and plans to make this an annual event.

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Students place well at ACTF

by **Grant Elgersma**
Opinion Editor

This year's Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (ACTF) included the acting and set design contributions of eight Dordt College students. The five day festival at Iowa State University in Ames displayed the work of many talented undergraduate and graduate students as well as theatrical productions from several colleges and universities in the Midwest.

The highlight of the festival for Dordt students this year was watching junior theater arts major Jason Vande Brake advance to the final round of the acting competition. For the acting competition, students were required to prepare a five minute piece consisting of a scene and a monologue. Vande Brake, working with scene partner Adam Smit, was chosen by judges to be among the final 16 competitors out of an initial group of 230 hopeful students.

Senior James Addink took second place in the regional exposition and exhibition in set design. Addink's design was for the play "The Honorable Urashima Taro." Following the acting competition, ACTF presented workshops offering instruction and sharing ideas

about techniques and possibilities for college and post-college theater.

Several plays which had been nominated to be performed at the festival were presented in the afternoons and evenings, giving students an opportunity to see what other theater programs were doing in the Midwest.

An opportunity was also given for aspiring playwrights to present their works at ACTF in a festival of original ten-minute plays. This particular event encouraged many Dordt students in their own abilities to write plays. Most of the nominated works were poorly written and snoringly conventional.

Such experiences with both well-performed and poorly executed productions of plays inspired and encouraged students in the pursuit of excellence in theater. The work of others was greatly appreciated by the festival-goers. This was evident during the performance. Applause and congratulations were abundantly offered to students and departments who put so much time, energy and thought into set design, blocking, lighting and acting decisions. This year's ACTF offered Dordt College students an adequate representation of what's going on in the Midwest college theater community.

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Cruz urges racial reconciliation

by Lieschen Hoeksema
News Editor

Monday, January 18 seemed to be a typical day of classes, work and team practices on Dordt's campus. Few students probably remembered that the day was also a holiday to remember Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Guest lecturer, Dr. Virgil Cruz, reminded students and faculty of the seriousness of the issues of racism and diversity, the same issues that King advocated four decades ago.

Cruz is a retired professor of the New Testament at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary. He also taught at the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary and currently works closely with a race relations committee at Calvin College. Though retired in the Netherlands, Cruz still travels and speaks all over the globe, visiting the United States at least four times a year. He hopes to break down barriers between races, and strongly believes that Christians are able to reconcile

racial problems that have been ingrained in our North American society for centuries.

Cruz spoke several times on Dordt's campus, including in various classes and Tuesday morning's chapel. Monday and Tuesday evenings Cruz presented lectures on the theme "Tending the Dream." He also preached at Covenant and First churches the preceding Sunday. Cruz preached from the book of Revelation, which is his area of expertise as he earned his doctorate in Ecclesiastical studies. When lecturing on campus, Cruz focused his talks on cross-cultural and ethnic issues celebrating the accomplishments of King. Cruz used Scripture as a tool to confront racism. He emphasized that the world God created is rich in diversity and all of creation glorifies God. Sin causes man to see diversity in the human race as detrimental and causes people of different races to greet each other with hostility. Cruz used the biblical motif of creation, fall and redemption to explain racism in Scripture, its



Dr. Cruz speaks in chapel during his recent visit to campus. [photo by Travis Bonnema]

cause, and God's plan for reconciliation. Cruz asserted that the church is God's vehicle for bringing about his new creation. As Christian we are called to continually strive for justice and battle the powers of evil.

Cruz's lectures caused students to realize the importance of

racial issues that exist today, and that we cannot be ignorant of these issues as Christians. Whether we stay in rural Iowa or live in a metropolitan city, racial reconciliation should be a matter of concern for every student. As Christians we are called to live and work in the hope that one

day the reconciliation of all things will be fully realized. Cruz concluded the lecture series Tuesday night by asking the audience to "make a covenant to do this ministry of reconciliation and strive to be a real nation dedicated to serving God."

**PLIA
Soup
Supper
4:30 - 7:00
Feb. 6
W. Commons**

PLIA preparations under way

by Danielle Kamps
Features Editor

Although spring break is still over a month away, PLIA is wasting no time getting organized for their annual week service project. For months, the PLIA planning committee has been organizing possible sites, planning fund raisers, and mobilizing people in all areas involved. Now, all these plans

are coming together.

At the end of last semester, 29 leaders were chosen for the 13 sites PLIA will be visiting during spring break. Besides the sites visited in previous years in places such as Mississippi, Tennessee, and New Mexico, this year PLIA added two new sites going to Atlanta, GA, and Washington DC. Last week, nearly 200 interested students listened to the description of each site and

were encouraged to decide where they hoped to serve. Tonight, interested students will turn in the list of sites where they would most like to go. Within two weeks, the lists of site groups will be posted.

PLIA still has several activities in the works. On Saturday, February 6, the annual PLIA soup supper will be held. The community generously provides the needed soup, sandwiches, and desserts to help PLIA raise

the necessary money for the trip. The free-will donation supper is a time for students, faculty, and community members to come out and support PLIA while they have a great meal.

The other major event before spring break is the PLIA retreat on February 19-20. And everything comes together on Thursday, March 11, when 13 vans will pull away from Dordt for PLIA 1999.

<p>Staff</p> <p>The <i>Diamond</i> is published by students of Dordt College to present and discuss events on campus and beyond. Any letters, comments, or opinions are welcome. Contributions must be signed and received before 4:00 pm the Monday before publication to be printed in that issue. Send contributions to:</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Diamond</i> Dordt College Sioux Center, IA 51250</p> <p>Opinions expressed are not necessarily the view of the <i>Diamond</i> or of Dordt College, but represent the views of individual writers. The <i>Diamond</i> reserves the right to edit or refuse publication of any contribution.</p>	<p>Co-editors-in-chief: Sean Gregg Cheryl Wierda</p> <p>Page editors: Grant Elgersma Jesse Groen Lieschen Hoeksema Danielle Kamps Kirstin Vander Giessen</p> <p>Layout: Patrick Bakker</p>	<p>Elizabeth Boerema John Den Boer Sam Gutierrez Richard Hoekstra Jon Postma Stephen Van Wyk</p> <p>Photo editors: Travis Bonnema Joe Trosen</p> <p>Copy editors: Mitch Beaumont Allison De Jong Carissa De</p>	<p>Koekkoek Danielle Kamps Heidi Kooiman Jocelyn Van Beek Tricia Van Ee</p> <p>Advertising Manager: Ryan Breems</p> <p>Staff: Craig Broek Brady Fopma Suzi Goudzwaard Franklin</p>	<p>Guillaume Jen Hoogeveen Emily Hutten Matthew McNatt Maygann McCarthy Leanne Prins Rob Reitsma Ryan Vande Kraats Susan Vandermeer Andrea Voogt Sarah Walsh Justin Westerhof Anna Young</p>
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Steve Bell performs at Dordt

by Susan Vandermeer
Staff Reporter

Dordt College's Homecoming festivities came to a close on Saturday January 23, 1999 with a concert in the BJ Haan Auditorium featuring Steve Bell. This Winnipeg singer/songwriter performed a solo concert with vocals and acoustic guitar, which was entertaining and showed a genuine love for music

and commitment to the musical ministry.

The concert commenced with an enticing piano piece, "Fantasy in F Sharp," played by alumnus Barbara Viss from Ripon, California. She had hoped to be part of the Alumni Talent Show, but was asked by Dordt to play at this time because the talent show was cancelled.

Following that wonderful opening, Steve Bell walked on stage and immediately caught

the attention of his audience with his soulful voice and guitar.

Most of the songs performed during the evening were from his album "Romantics and Mystics," which was given the first ever JUNO Award for "Best Gospel Album" in March of 1998. Bell said the album's songs explore the relationships between ourselves, others, and God.

Through clever and witty stories and jokes, Bell made his

audience feel comfortable and relaxed as he told stories of growing up as a prison chaplain's son, his career in the bars of Western Canada, and his renewal of faith which led him into Christian-oriented music.

"Romantics and Mystics" is Bell's fifth album and, in addition to the previous recordings, he has sold over 90,000 copies internationally.

Bell's music was full of variety, including rock, folk and

country. He allowed opportunities for audience involvement through singing and action songs. He passed his laughter on to his audience and his meaningful songs touched those present as well.

Bell has built a reputation as being one of Canada's most successful independent musicians and this was evident to all through the good time experienced at his concert.



Contestant Kevin Mesman playing Three Strikes on "The Price Is Right." [Photo by Travis Bonnema]

PRICE: Students win big

Continued from page 1

This whole idea of a game show had its beginning in October at a Student Activities Committee retreat. At the retreat, the committee brainstormed for event ideas. Starckenburg, along with other committee members, have been planning and organizing with the help of a very receptive community for a great turn-out. The stage set-up began five days before the event and people were still running around right up until the excited crowds were let in.

Setting up the stage involved a lot of work. Three cameras were running along with live casts, lighting, sound effects, and music between games. Sets had to be constructed prior to stage set up. The How

To Store helped in making "Plinko" and Paul Kroeze prepared "The Big Wheel."

More than 30 businesses from Sioux Center and the surrounding area contributed prizes to the event.

Actors did a great job in taking on their rolls of Bob Barker, Rod Roddy and Barker's Beauties. Jeff Memmelaar played the part of Bob Barker, Jesse Groen was Rod Roddy and the five Barker's Beauties were Lisa De Jong, Sandra Faber, Jolynn VanderWal, Matt Fikkert, and Brian Kelder.

In the end, Eric Haveman outbid all the other contestants to be the winner of the show. You too can be on stage and win prizes. SAC intends to make "The Price is Right" an annual event at Dordt.

West Hall to be renovated

by Matthew McNatt
Staff Reporter

Monday night in West Hall lobby, Curtis Taylor presented possible plans for renovations of West Hall to about thirty students. Students then offered feedback and discussion on some of the proposals.

Taylor, Vice President for Student Services, showed possible furniture arrangements using (a) only modular furniture similar to that in Covenant Hall, (b) a combination of such modular furniture and two two-person

lofts and (c) a combination of such modular furniture and one two-person loft. The student consensus favored the latter plan, which Taylor will soon discuss with Stan Oordt, Director of the Physical Plant; Sandi Altena, Director of Residence Life; and Bernie De Wit, Vice President for Business Affairs.

Also discussed in the Monday night meeting were various uses of closet space and different ways to remodel the closets. Duane Mulder from the Dordt Maintenance and Physical Plant staff was also present.

Mulder will likely play a major role in the construction changes made to West Hall.

The plan which most students favored will likely include construction of a two-person loft on alternating interior walls of West Hall with a modular bunk/loft bed made available on the other side. The bunk/loft bed could also be moved under the two-person loft to accommodate four people on one side of a West Hall room, leaving space for an entertainment area on the opposite side of the room.

Distinguished alumnus speaks at Dordt

by Andrea Voogt
Staff Reporter

Dr. Brian Fikkert, an Economics professor at Covenant College, was recently named the Dordt College Distinguished Alumnus for 1999. This title is awarded to an alumnus who is an example of Dordt's commitment to service and who remains faithful to Christ's call and claim in their everyday life and work.

Fikkert was a mathematics major at Dordt from 1982 until 1986. He was described by Judy Hagey, Director of Alumni Affairs, as a "very bright, scholarly student." After graduating from Dordt, Fikkert went on to

receive his masters and Ph.D. with distinction in Economics at Yale University. He then taught at the University of Maryland. In 1997, Fikkert took a position at Covenant College teaching economics. At Covenant College, Fikkert is involved in the Chalmers Center for Economic Development, which seeks to aid church development.

Fikkert was involved in several campus events at Dordt during Homecoming Week. On Thursday, January 21, he gave a chapel address entitled "Sodom, Gomorrah, and You," taken from Isaiah 58. In this passage, God rebukes His people because they seem eager to obey Him, but fail to take care

of the poor, hungry, and naked people among them. Fikkert drew a parallel between Israel and the modern church, which has isolated itself from the poor by centering in United States suburbs rather than in the urban centers and in the third world countries. Fikkert left the audience with two choices: to become self-absorbed, self-indulgent Generation Xers, or to serve Christ by reaching out to those who don't have as much as we do.

An alumni banquet was also held on January 21st in Fikkert's honor, and afterward he presented a lecture entitled "The Church's Response to Poverty."



What Would Jesus Do?

by Mitch Beaumont
Staff Reporter

It can be seen on any T-shirt or bumper sticker and it is plastered on just about every wall of every Christian bookstore in this country. Any Christian that is up to date on the latest in the Christian community would know that I am talking about the ever popular slogan WWJD which stands for What Would Jesus Do?

The slogan is based on the book "In His Steps" by Charles Sheldon, which was originally written in the late 1800s. It is a story of a pastor and his congregation as they pondered What Would Jesus Do? and applied that question to their everyday life. However, in the past few months, I have been saddened and amazed at how often it appears on T-shirts, bumper stickers, Bibles and keychains. A phrase that has been around for so long, that has such deep meaning has been diluted by the

Christian community and has become a cliché to all who see it. Let me explain.

To anyone who thinks that WWJD has done wonders for many people, let me say that I agree with you. This slogan has impacted my life and helped me to grow closer to my Lord by applying it to my everyday life.

However, shortly before this past Thanksgiving, I took off my WWJD bracelet, maybe for good. It was becoming more and more apparent to me that it was becoming just a cliché and it doesn't have the same powerful punch that it did when it was introduced. Recently, when riding back from church, I heard a report on the radio about a secular music group who were wearing the WWJD bracelets to remind themselves to live good lives. There is nothing wrong with that, but I believe it defeats one of the purposes of the bracelets. Yes, they were created as a sort of accountability for Christians, but also as a witnessing tool. Numerous times this past sum-

mer, while wearing my bracelet at work, people would ask me what it meant and I would tell them, opening a door to a witnessing opportunity. However, if a non-Christian sees someone wearing a WWJD bracelet and the person wearing it is not a Christian and is asked about it, they may not give an accurate representation of the gospel. While there is not much we can do about this, it is necessary to bring to the reader's attention.

The last straw for me that drove me to take off my bracelet was when I was sitting in class one day and someone walked in with a WWJD shirt on. Naturally I looked at it and noticed that the shirt was not the typical design with What Would Jesus Do on it, but rather it had the words "When Will Jesus Descend?" Sure, it's a good idea for a T-shirt, but it waters down the message of the real WWJD slogan. I am greatly saddened when I think how this very important message has been diluted and watered down.

Perhaps what bugs me the most this is the dilution of this very powerful slogan. Dilution can happen in many ways, and in this case in two ways. First of all it can happen if the message is used too many times. It is like using the phrase "I'm sorry" too many times. When you really are sorry about something, whoever you are sorry to doesn't believe you because you say it too many times. The same is true of WWJD, it is used and applied to so many irrelevant situations that when something does come up that it could be used correctly, it doesn't mean anything because it has been used and abused. Dilution can also happen, in this case, by plastering it on everything imaginable. I have seen WWJD on gold bracelets, keychains, bumper stickers, T-shirts, and even CDs. In fact, when I was recently in a Bible bookstore back home, I saw a Bible with a theme of WWJD in it! Talk about dilution. I also wonder where the proceeds for all this merchandise goes.

Merchandisers have taken advantage of the phenomenal success of WWJD and made money off of it, which I see as an astronomical tragedy! Here is a message that has the potential of being one of the greatest evangelical tools ever and it's being watered down so a few merchandisers can get rich.

My challenge to the reader is to question how much money you spend on WWJD related merchandise and also question what this powerful message means to you. I believe that if the Christian community were to take a step back and redirect our priorities, the WWJD message would be more than a slogan, it would be a battle cry for millions of Christians around the globe. So, fellow brothers and sisters in Christ, take time to step back and re-examine what WWJD means to you and make something happen by not supporting the over merchandising and dilution of this powerful, life changing message.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION CLASSES

Self-Defense for Men & Women:

Jan. 30; 9AM-12; \$15/\$7.50 for past participants; Dordt Rec Center

Parliamentary Procedure: Feb. 2, 9, 16, 23; 7-9PM; \$14; Sioux Center High School

Investment Planning: Feb. 3, 10, 17; 7-8:30PM; \$13 single/\$24 Couple; Sioux Center High School

* Mention this ad and receive \$.50 off the class!

* For more information, or to register, contact Community Education at 722-3035.

Time flies

by Sean Gregg
Co-Editor-in-chief

A few weeks ago I began my last semester at Dordt. Like many other seniors I have begun to think about my time here, not believing that it was really four years ago that I first came here. The time has flown by and only now am I beginning to realize how little of it there really was.

For some reason senior-itis has not set in. In fact, I wish I had four more years to spend at Dordt. There are many things that I have not had time for, but there are many more things that I have not made time for. I wish that I had gone on PLIA one more time, gone on AMOR, even talked to more people on the sidewalk. I certainly could have learned more while I was here.

I must admit I have thoroughly enjoyed my time here. College turned out to be much more exciting than I ever

dreamed. Still, there is much more I could have accomplished. I know that we are called to be students and most of our energies should go into our studies, but there are many other opportunities to serve. The Community Outreach Program is always looking for volunteers. PLIA and AMOR are not in the habit of turning people away. I'm not saying that everyone who has not gone on PLIA should feel guilty, or that those who never volunteered through the COP program should be ashamed. I am simply saying that we need to take the opportunities we have, because they'll be gone before we know it.

I don't want to spend my senior year wishing that I had done this or that. Freshman to seniors, realize that our time here is short. We are here to serve God in everything we do. There is only so much time at Dordt, so be sure to spend it wisely.



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Downtown
Centre Mall



Super Bowl Spending Spree

by Ryan Vande Kraats
Staff Reporter

Super Bowl party they have gone to, or at least a memory of watching a game or two at some point.

Being a Canadian, I don't think that I have ever really had a true Super Bowl game watching experience; in Canada, we don't get all of the "good" commercials which have come to be associated with the game, and almost equally as popular. I decided to look into a few facts about this advertising, to check out what it was all about. I didn't find much, but I did find a little bit of info.

During the Super Bowl, there will be 54 commercials aired; I don't know who bought a time slot, but you know the regulars—Pepsi, Coke, Nike, beer... etc. Well, whomever did buy a

slot paid 1.6 million dollars for their thirty seconds of propaganda. And all the time slots were sold out over two months ago, so companies really want these spots. I guess I can understand why. Last year's Super Bowl was watched by over 133 million people around the world. One out of every two Americans, or about five times the population of Canada, watched the game. And since the advertising campaigns have become almost as popular as the game has, these companies know that the majority of the people watching the game are going to watch their commercials. They have a captive audience. And so they spend a lot of money trying to sell us cars and clothes and shoes and beer (or

Coke) and sex, and a host of other vices.

To try to bring this information together, to get to my point, I mean, too much money is spent trying to get us to buy things that really most of us have no need for. This happens everyday on television—so often that we don't even notice anymore. The Super Bowl, however, is like the advertiser's heaven; advertisers love it so much that they are willing to spend millions of dollars producing these famous Super Bowl commercials and then spend millions more on buying the time slots (a total of 87 million dollars for all the slots). It just seems to be a bit of a sad situation that our culture and society is so full of problems and injustices, and

that this same culture and society supports and justifies these ad campaigns and commercials, of which the main objective is to entertain and entice people to buy and spend, not on social restructuring, but at the GAP or on Nike shoes (which is a whole other opinion piece...).

I am not going to say that I am not going to watch the Super Bowl; I probably will see at least part of it. However, I do ask that you at least realize how much money is spent on those thirty second movies we see between third and fourth down. This is really a big issue, and we have grown so accustomed to advertising that we don't even realize it anymore.

Though we are still a few days from kick-off, we aren't all that far from this year's Super Bowl, one of the few Sunday nights out of the year when, as a kid, it was almost justifiable to miss the second church service. The Super Bowl seems to be one of the large and ominous cultural events which seems to be somewhat definitive of the American culture; it is one of the common threads that appears to hold the country together, at least for a few hours. This statement sounds a bit general and vague, but I bet most Americans, and Canadians as well, have some sort of memory about a

Why I'm a Vegetarian

by Sarah Walsh
Columnist

only that, but while it only takes one pound of grain to produce one pound of bread, it takes 8-16 pounds of grain to produce 1 pound of meat. Contrary to what many people believe, there is enough food on the planet to feed everyone, but the problem is the distribution of that food. In the U.S., livestock consumes 80% of our corn and 95% of our soybeans—enough to feed the entire human population of our country five times over. When most of our grain goes to feed livestock instead of people, it may be time to re-evaluate whether or not we need all this meat.

I do realize that we go to school in the middle of cattle country, and I think it is appropriate for me to mention that I am in no way suggesting that meat is bad. God created all living things and God created them good. After the flood, God gave "everything that lives and moves" to be food for us. It is not meat in and of itself that is bad, but what it represents in terms of injustice to the poor and starving (the majority of

which are women and children), that is tragic. For instance, Guatemala exports 40 million pounds of cheap meat to the US fast food industry every year, while 75% of their children under the age of five are malnourished.

The 60 million people who will die this year of starvation could be fed if Americans reduced their meat consumption by only 10%. Such a small change would free up enough grain to feed everyone. We are called to spend ourselves on behalf of the poor (Isaiah 58), to make our decisions based on the best interests of the poor. Is it possible that part of what it means to be a Christian right now is to make cutbacks in how much meat we consume?

If our high meat consumption is sucking the life out of the world's poor and starving, maybe we could eat less meat. The purpose of this article is not to make people feel guilty about meat consumption, but to challenge this community to think about eating less meat so that others can simply eat.

WHADDA YA LOOKIN' AT?

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<p>Big New Yorker 1 topping \$9.99</p>	<p>Buy one order of breadsticks get the next order free</p>

Well, I'm mostly a vegetarian. I'm not necessarily a good vegetarian as I choose to eat meat on occasion, but there is still a need to write this article about why people might be interested in making such a significant change in diet. So, read and ponder.

In recent years, I have become a little disturbed about what I feel to be the over-consumption of meat in our culture, as compared to the rest of the world. Outside of North America, meat calories make up 10% of the total food calories per person. In North America, meat calories make up 30% of our total food calories. I've been questioning why it is that we feel we need to eat so much meat in order to be healthy in North America.

The demands of such a high percentage of meat consumption can be seen in a variety of ways. Producing a pound of meat demands 100 times more water than producing a pound of wheat. Not



Students show Dominican Republic AMOR

Makeshift scaffolding was used to make work on school walls possible. [photo submitted]



A break from building provides an opportunity to play basketball and get to know the local youth. [photo submitted]

Two groups work in the Dominican

**by Brady Fopma
Staff Reporter**

"The past 35 years have been marred by political opportunism, electoral fraud, government corruption, economic decline, high unemployment, extreme poverty, wayward infrastructure projects and occasional civic violence." This descriptive paragraph, noted at Yahoo.com, is a portrayal of the Dominican Republic, one of the sites sponsored by AMOR (A Mission Outreach) this year.

On Thursday, December 31, a group of twenty-six Dordt students and community members flew down to this Caribbean country to demonstrate God's love in service to others. Upon arrival, the group split into two teams—one heading to Los Alcarizzos, and the other to Los Angeles. Directed by Rick and Lori Faber, the Los Alcarizzos group spent the majority of its time working with Youth for Christ at a school located near the camp where the team was residing. Work consisted of clean-up, painting, and an

opportunity for the group to involve itself directly with the community through singing, games, and a puppet ministry with the children in the area. Junior Allison Van Wyk noted, "The two weeks we were there were an incredibly eye-opening experience. Coming into a very different culture, lifestyle and language opened us up to a whole new world. God taught us that he has been working in the Dominican Republic for a long time, through ministries like Youth for Christ and the people who work with them. We saw his work being done in so many different ways. As we visited one of the churches, the mother of the little girl I was holding pointed to me and said "tu hermana en christo," which means "your sister in Christ." I was really struck by this statement as I realized that although we are from very different parts of the world and even worship in a different language, we are all a part of the body of Christ around the world. This impacted us greatly as we worshiped together and interacted with the community of Los Alcarizzos."

While fourteen members of the AMOR group were serving God in Los Alcarizzos, the remaining twelve volunteers spent the two-week time period working in Los Angeles. Led by Dave Ruter, the group worked in close connection with Max Van Til, the coordinator of construction on churches and Christian schools in the area. Assisted by a different group from Canada, the team members spent their eight-hour workdays tearing down a local Christian school, and rebuilding it. Tim Jacobsen, a junior at Dordt, stated, "It was great helping out and being involved in another culture. The churches were very different from ours, but it was still fun to go—to see another culture so far away worshipping the same God."

The two teams merged and returned to Sioux Center just as classes resumed at Dordt. Through this incredible experience, God used these twenty-six volunteers to demonstrate His amor to others.

Dordt students help ease pain

**by Anna Young
Staff Reporter**

It's 2:30 am on December 31, six days after Christmas. Close to thirty people stand in a corner of an airport waiting to board a plane that will take them to the unknown. They are about to leave the shelter of their small, northwestern Iowa lives and embark on a thirteen-day adventure into the unknown - the unknown of the Dominican Republic (D.R.).

They are part of a Christmas break tradition at Dordt - AMOR - which sends off college students with willing chaperones to participate in work projects, aiding those in need, and learning from other cultures about the far-reaching power of God's grace. This year there were two groups sent, one to Nicaragua and one to the Dominican Republic. The D.R. group was then split up further into two more groups, one which would work to build a new school with World Wide Christian Schools and the other which would paint a school at a Youth for Christ camp. The members of this group contained students as well as some of their relatives and one member of the Dordt faculty.

After hours of traveling and plenty of neck pains, screaming children, airplane bags of peanuts, and moments of nausea from those peanuts, the D.R. AMOR team stepped off the plane in the port city of Santo Domingo. Their eyes were met with a vast, sweeping landscape of green upon more green. Past the city they could see the forested mountains and the rolling Vega Real (Royal Plain) where 40% of D.R.'s inhabitants carve out their living from the land. Within this breathtaking beauty there were also signs of the reason why the AMOR

team was sent there in the first place - the signs of a great disaster. Ancient trees were ripped up by the roots. Buildings and homes were demolished. What used to be a sugar cane field, someone's livelihood, now looked like a junk yard, with scraps of metal littering its rows. Hanging over the country like a cloud was the memory of that awful storm, of the infamous Hurricane George and his terrible wrath still lingering in the mind of the people who sometimes catch themselves glancing to the sky in wary trepidation. Worse yet is the thought that, further west, places were hit even harder.

Faced with all of this in one shocking moment, what does a group of Dordt college students and Sioux Center community members do? Rick Faber, the co-leader of one of the AMOR groups said simply, "I realized it was out of my hands. I was in a strange situation- we all were - and we were completely dependent on God, and on each other. There was suddenly this trust - there had to be." They didn't know the culture. They didn't understand the language. But, they were there to help and to learn. Soon, with God's grace and guidance, they did just that. They walked through barrios (or neighborhoods) and mingled with the people of the Dominican, learned from them, and shared with them their love of this created life and for the Creator of this life. They rebuilt and painted those two schools and on their last day they were able to once again stand at the airport, gaze across the green upon green and know that they had at least done something to ease the pain - maybe only a small something, as small as giving a thirsty man a drink of water.



Students show God's love to Nicaragua

Work varied for Nicaragua AMOR group

by Amanda Haney
Guest Writer

Our AMOR group left December 28th from Omaha, Nebraska and arrived in Managua, Nicaragua, around six that night. That first night we stayed at a Mennonite house in Managua. The next morning we drove to Rancho Ebenezer in Niquinohmo where we would spend the majority of our time working.

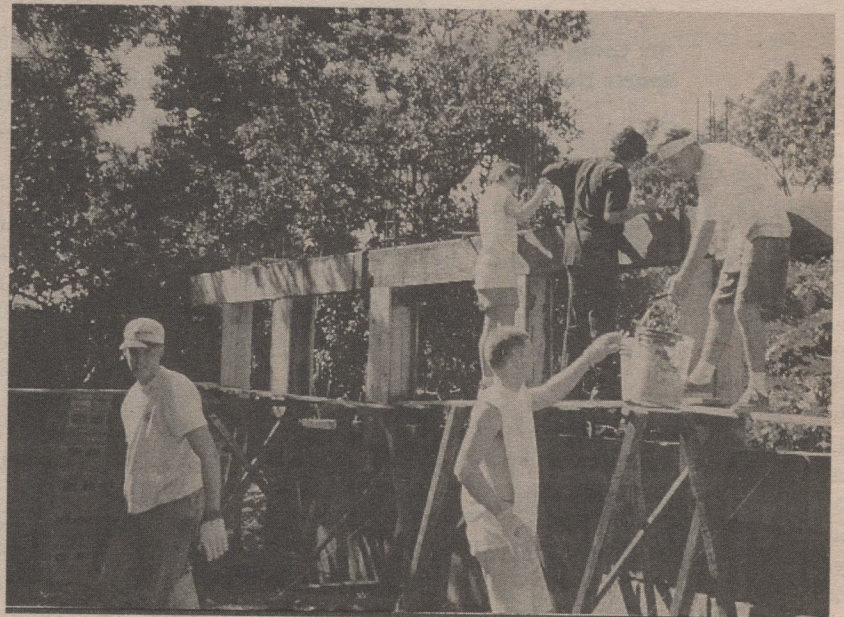
Our work consisted of construction on a classroom building, mixing and pouring concrete and putting rebar together. In addition, we terraced the fields to prevent erosion and to

bring back the natural vegetation of the land. Terracing is done by hand with picks and shovels. For several days, we picked coffee and dug holes (we were hoping they would put in water lines for running water). For another day, the education majors went to visit Nicaragua Christian Academy (NCA), an American, Baptist missionary run school. We observed and helped out in classrooms, and got a feel for what teaching in a school in Nicaragua would be like.

Besides working, we had some fun too. On New Year's Day, we went to the beach and hung out all day in the sand

and shores of the Pacific. We also had a chance to visit the capital of Nicaragua, historical memorials, the Masaya volcano (still active), and get a cultural glimpse of Nicaragua by visiting the markets and tasting all of the many kinds of Nicaraguan food . . . other than beans, rice, and bananas.

There were many things we were not quite accustomed to. We had a good time experiencing the unusual bathroom facilities: the toilets consisted of a cement block with a whole in the center in a tin hut. The showers were five gallon buck-



Muscles replace cement trucks as the walls of a school take shape. [photo submitted]

ets of cold water . . . mmmm, that's always fun after a long day of work! We never knew if we were clean or not after we got out of the showers. I saw my first tarantula and scorpion, so that was cool.

My involvement with the Nicaraguan people was a great adventure in itself. At first, it was hard to talk with them

because they only knew Spanish and I only knew English. But, within a few days, we had taught them enough English to get by and they had taught us enough Spanish so we got by.

The Nicaragua AMOR trip was a really great experience. If possible, everyone should go next year. You will not regret it.



The Nicaragua's AMOR group takes time out for a group picture. [photo submitted]



Dordt men even SDIC tally

by Craig Broek
Sports Reporter

The Dordt College Men's basketball team suffered a disappointing Christmas break by dropping two of three contests in a trip to Eastern Iowa and Wisconsin. The Defenders had a wake up call early, losing the first game by the count of 103-67 to Mount St. Claire. Dordt was led in scoring by Neal Brenneman with 22, followed by Adam Van Meeteren with 10. Mike Elenbaas pulled down seven rebounds in a losing effort. The loss dropped Dordt to 2-6 overall with two games remaining on the trip.

Next, Dordt took on Trinity of Chicago in their second game of the trip. After trailing by 15 at halftime, Dordt put on a furious second half and came away with an 11 point victory, 81-70. Randy Oostra led the way with 28 points, 23 in the second half followed by Brenneman with 18 and Van Meeteren with 17. Oostra also pulled down 12 cars on in the game.

In the final contest of the trip, Dordt fell behind early and couldn't recover, going down to a 72-59 defeat at the hands of Benedictine College. Dordt was led by Mike Fransman with 13 and Eric Maas with 12.

Brenneman was the leading rebounder with 6. The loss put Dordt at 3-7 heading into conference play.

Black Hills State 77, Dordt 69

In a hard fought contest that saw Dordt playing from behind most of the game, the Defenders dropped their first SDIC contest of the season to one of the conference favorites. Dordt climbed to within three points with about two minutes to play, when, with the shot clock at one, BHSU banked in a three to put them back up by six and put Dordt away. The Defenders were led by Fransman with 17, Oostra with 15 and Brenneman with 14. Brenneman added seven rebounds in the contest.

Dordt 60,

South Dakota Tech 59

The Defenders evened their conference mark at 1-1 with a tough one point victory which came down to the wire. The Dordt men led by one point and Tech had the ball when a three-point shot was no good and Brenneman pulled down a rebound and was fouled. He missed the front end of the one and one and Tech came down the floor with the chance to win with time running out. However, Brian Wassenaar cut off a baseline move and drew the charge

to seal the victory for Dordt. Leading scorers for Dordt were Wassenaar with 13, Van Meeteren with 12 and Fransman with 11. Brenneman pulled down a total of 11 rebounds in the victory.

Dakota Wesleyan 77, Dordt 64

In their first road contest of the SDIC season, Dordt didn't have enough to get the job done and lost their second conference game to Wesleyan at the Corn Palace in Mitchell, South Dakota. Dordt hung around for most of the game, but DWU proved to be too much down the stretch and handed Dordt the loss. Brenneman once again led Dordt in scoring and rebounding with 16 points and 11 rebounds. Fransman was also in double figures with 14 points.

Mount Marty 79, Dordt 63

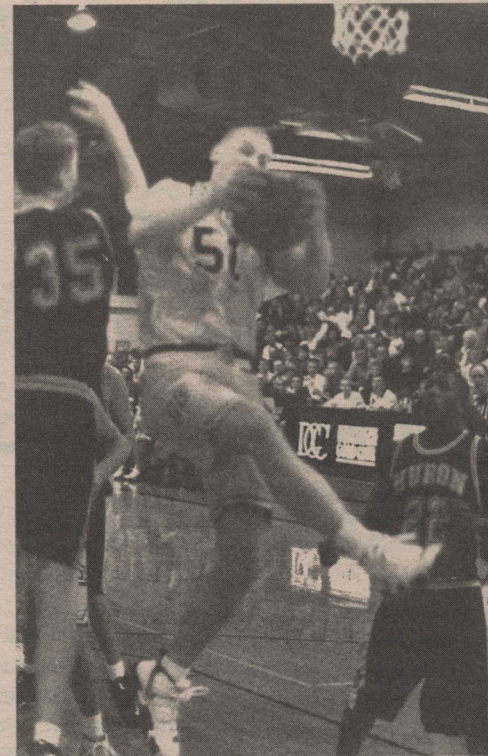
The zone defense of conference favorite Mount Marty proved too much for Dordt and the Defenders dropped their second in a row, third in the conference. Dordt shot just two for 17 from behind the three point line for 11.7 percent. Dordt had three players in double figures led by Van Meeteren with 21, Brenneman with 14 and Fransman with 11. Brenneman also pulled down eight rebounds.

Dordt 83, Dakota State 60

The Dordt men regained their winning ways in a conference road game by defeating Dakota State of Madison, South Dakota. The Defenders put four players in double figures with a very balanced attack. They were led by Oostra with 18, Brenneman with 13, Fransman with 12 and Eric Maas with 10. Maas also led the rebounders with 6. Dordt shot 73% from the free throw line, connecting on 27 of 37 attempts.

Dordt 95, Huron 93, O.T.

The Defenders put on a show for the packed Homecoming crowd and evened their conference record at 3-3 midway through the conference season. Neal Brenneman had a career day, torching the nets for a career high of 32 points to lead all scorers. He also pulled down 9 boards to lead Dordt. Van Meeteren added 18, two to tie the game in regulation and the final two to give Dordt the win in overtime. Mike Fransman also went into double figures with 14 for the winners. Dordt as a team



Brenneman puts up another two points toward his career high of 32 points Saturday.

[Photo by Travis Bonnema]

shot a whopping 74% from the field, as they were allowed to get the ball inside all day long. The victory moved Dordt into fourth place after playing each conference team once. Dordt has a tough road ahead if they are to make the play-offs again this year. They still have road games at both of the Black Hills schools as well as Huron and Mount Marty while Dakota State and Dakota Wesleyan will come to Sioux Center before the season comes to a close.

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Women's basketball increases wins

by Leanne Prins
Sports Reporter

Dordt 67, Northwestern 75

The rivals from Orange City came to challenge our ladies on their own turf and Dordt took them for a ride. The half-time score was a nail-biting 33-32, in favor of Northwestern who went on to win it. Carla Geleynse led the scoring in this battle with 19 points.

Dordt 69, Black Hills State 74

The DeWitt gymnasium hosted Dordt's first game after the break, with BHSU challenging. Lisa Roos came out strong (fueled by the holiday feasts we

assume), netting 24 points and snagging 20 rebounds. Despite this effort and the halftime lead, BHSU managed to take the game.

Dordt 63,

South Dakota Tech 74

Our ladies fell behind in the first half, 31-42. The second half was a different story though, as a rounded team effort held Tech point for point. Their overall record was pulled to 7-4 with this loss.

Dordt 77,

Dakota Wesleyan 62

The Lady Defenders took to the road, and came out with a well-deserved win to break a 3-game losing streak. The first

half resulted in a 39-35 gap favoring Dordt, but they pulled ahead in the second half with their solid effort. Once again, Lisa Roos led in both scoring and rebounding.

Dordt 61, Mount Marty 42

With the confidence of a win behind them, the Lady Defenders were able to entertain their home crowd with another. At halftime, Mount Marty was trailing by one, but in the second, Dordt pulled ahead. They shot 93% at the line, a definite boost for the team.

Dordt 52, Dakota State 63

Dordt made the trip to Madison, South Dakota to take

on the Lady T's. The halftime score was 41-25, and though Dordt started to pull it closer in the second, Carla Geleynse's 19 point effort wasn't enough to recover the lead.

Dordt 65, Huron 56

The homecoming crowd was treated to a win when Huron came out to Sioux Center. Huron led by one at the end of the first, but the Ladies decided to turn up the heat and pulled ahead in the second half. Allison Vis and Lisa Roos shared the lead in points with 12 each. Roos also pulled in 16 rebounds. The overall record now stands at 9-6.



Blades tradition takes team through Alberta

by Franklin Guillaume
Sports Reporter

Fun, frustration, and frozen equipment defined the annual hockey tour for the Dordt College Blades. The Blades enjoyed a week-long tour, from January four to 11, of Alberta, along with a stop in Winnipeg. The tour, which has always been organized solely by the players, is a tradition that dates back to the late 70s.

"I still miss the smell of the locker room," said Dordt professor Case Boot in reminiscing about his involvement with the annual tour in previous years. For several years Dr. Boot went along with the Blades as the Dordt representative for the tour, making him an excellent source for stories from tours past. Many former Blades, some of whom were played against on the 1999 tour, have fond memories of Dr. Boot and the annual trek through the Canadian provinces. Boot described the atmosphere of the tours as "very loose" and "a lot of fun."

This year's atmosphere was no exception. Ron Rynders went along as the Dordt rep this time around and had a great time

being introduced to the game of hockey. What impressed Rynders the most about this year's tour was the Canadian hospitality and "the willingness of the team to keep plugging away despite being defeated."

Ask any of the guys what they thought about the tour and they'll respond with, "It was great," or "I had a lot of fun," or, "Except for the constantly cold equipment and frozen underwear, I really enjoyed it." Even after coming out of every arena with a loss, everyone stayed loose and positive and had a great time playing the game. Highlights of the trip included skiing at Lake Louise in Banff National Park, playing a game in the Centrium - the home of the 1995 World Junior Hockey Championships and a visit to West Edmonton Mall. For the guys from Alberta, it was especially fun playing against former Blades players from the area. In the game against the Edmonton alumni, Nathan Van Niejenhuis got the opportunity to play against his dad, Cecil, who played for Dordt in the 70s. Less than two minutes into the game, Van Niejenhuis senior scored to make the game 1-0. Less than a

minute later, Van Niejenhuis junior tied the game. Other Alberta players who got the opportunity to play in front of friends and family included Tim and Kurt Hoogland, James Bekkering, Kevin Schenk, Adam Jenninga, Kevin Tuininga, Josh VandeKraats and Scott Langelaar. Even I got into the act in my home territory.

The tournament was mostly organized by Tim Hoogland and Nathan Van Niejenhuis. These two guys each spent up to 40 or 50 hours organizing the tournament by contacting billets, finding teams to play, figuring out transportation, taking care of the costs and a whole lot more. The tour could not have happened without the hospitality of the host families either. Mrs. Hoogland and Mrs. VandeKraats both put together meals for the entire hockey team. Many Dordt alumni and parents of Dordt students volunteered to put up a few players for the night which made the tour run a lot smoother.

Even though the Blades came close in several of the tour games, the team still remains winless heading into the final 10 games of the season. Playing

seven games in seven days with treacherous driving conditions and having stiff and frozen equipment may not seem like the best environment for bringing out the best in the players. However, it did. Everyone had a good time with each other in a relaxing and fun mood. Sure, some of the losses were hard to handle, (including a 6-3 loss to rival Christian Reformed college, The King's University College of Edmonton) and some of the other defeats were pretty lopsided, but no one really got down on anyone else. They just kept playing hockey as best they could. The tour was hockey the way it was meant to be played. Hockey tour '99 was a successful promotion of both Dordt College and the Blades hockey program.

Blades Travel to Play Carleton

The Blades started the second semester with a pair of games in Northfield, Minnesota against Carleton College. Friday night the Blades struck first but it was all downhill from there. Carleton took leads of 2-1 and 6-2 into the intermissions before scoring six in the third period to take the win 12-2. Carleton's accurate shooting caused the

biggest problems for the Blades' defense. On the offensive side of the ice, James Bentum and James Bekkering scored a goal a piece for the Blades.

The Blades were able to closely check Carleton's shooters Saturday night. The Blades' effort was strong and they were rewarded with a good chance to win. The Blades were down 4-2 in the third before VandeKraats and Nagtegaal (shorthanded) tied the game. Carleton scored on the powerplay just over a minute later and then finished the game off with a goal with less than two minutes to play to make the final 6-4. Guy Ratcliff scored a goal on a powerplay his first since returning to the line-up this semester. Nagtegaal added another. VandeKraats had a goal and two assists. The Blades were outshot 40-26 and were supported by strong goaltending from Scott Langelaar.

Blades fans will get the opportunity to see the Blades for the first time in almost two months this weekend as the Blades take on SDSU on their home ice in Luverne. The following weekend the Blades will again play at home in a pair of exhibition games.

Indoor track team off and running

by Jocelyn Van Beek
Sports Reporter

The indoor track season has begun, and it has begun rather well. On Friday, January 15, Dordt ran at the Sioux City CSD Championship Meet in the Dakotadome in Vermillion, South Dakota. This was Dordt's first meet, and served to warm up the team and get them going for the rest of the season.

Erica Ton started off the season beautifully for the women by qualifying for Nationals in the triple jump. Julie Huizenga also succeeded in taking sixth in the high jump, while the 4x800 team placed fourth. The men had a few placings as well with the 4x800 team coming in third, Troy Ten Napel placing eighth in the 400 Meter Dash, and the distance medley team taking ninth place.

Dordt hosted their Invitational

on Saturday, Jan. 23 as part of the Homecoming Weekend activities. Since this was only the second time Dordt has held this meet, there were 11 records broken this year. Erica Ton broke the record in the triple jump and bettered her jump from the previous week before which qualified her for the national meet. There were two other first place finishes: Jill Starkenburg in the pole vault and Jackie Eekhoff in the 200M hurdles. Numerous other women did very well as Dordt placed in every event except the 3000M and 55M Runs.

The men also ran very well at this meet placing in 9 different events. There were no points kept, but the meet gave the team experience in running against six other conference teams. So far, both the men's and women's indoor track teams have gotten off to a fairly good start.



Liz Dykstra passes the baton to Cathy Palmer in the 4X400 during last Saturday's indoor track meet held at Dordt. [Photo by Joe Trosen]



A lot of Deuschle's work consists of matte glazes on coil pieces. [photo by Joe Troson]

Jerry Deuschle; potter by night

by Allison DeJong
Staff Reporter

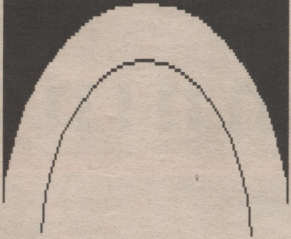
The artist behind the new exhibit in the B.J. Haan Auditorium's art gallery is from our neighboring state to the north, from the town of Luverne, Minnesota. Artist Jerry Deuschle's work consists of stoneware and Raku sculpture, thrown pots as well as ones formed by hand.

Raku pottery differs from the normal in that it spends less time in the kiln. After only an hour or so, it is taken out and left to cool quickly under normal temperatures. This causes the glaze to have an unusual effect—often it has an exceptional sparkle and iridescent quality.

Deuschle's sculpture displays a large variety of colors and styles. Some pots are small and squat, others, tall, shapely and elegant. Several of the Raku pieces are in the form of plates, mostly white but for the bright splashes of red or orange which depict a drummer, a crab, or a railroad crossing.

"Grecian Urn" is a dark pine green and delightfully bulgy, with a weatherworn look about it, convincing viewers that it could have come from times long gone. "Spiny," on the other hand, is large and brown, smooth but for the wormlike protrusions which slither from the edges. "Tall Bottle" is lovely and graceful, with the lines of minuscule cracks pulling the eye toward the broad band of brownish-pink fading to a dusky purple-gray.

On Wednesday, January 27, Deuschle gave a Gallery Talk and Reception for his exhibit, which will be in the art gallery of the mezzanine until February 13. Most of these unique and colorful pieces are for sale.



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THE GALLERY

by Kirstin Vander Giessen
Arts & Entertainment Editor

While hanging out with kids from a local public school when I was in high school, I learned that if a student there was called a "theater person," it was pretty much the same as being called a freak. If you were a theater person, you most likely had your hair dyed some outrageous color, wore Gothic-style clothing and, especially if you were a guy, painted your nails and wore heavy make-up. But that was just high school, right?

At the end of the second day of the American College Theater Festival (ACTF) last week, the announced winners of the acting competition made their way to the stage through a crowd of cheering competitors and observers. Aside from the obvious male/female difference, the two winners were similar in one notable way. Sure the girl, although still somewhat lanky, had grown out of her awkward stage and the guy, although somewhat stout, had lost most of his baby fat; however, I could still imagine both of them in grade school either fading into the background or being the constant target of their peers' ambitious cruelty. This made me realize that theater at every level is often the place where "outsiders" can find their quirks use-

ful and often comedic.

Also at ACTF, I had a couple of mini-discussions about homosexuality and the theater. The common sentiment expressed among our students and professors was one of regret that the theater should be stigmatized as being a forum for gay issues and a career field for homosexuals. Given the above examples, however, isn't it natural then that homosexuals, who are in many ways the "outsiders" of our society, claim theater as their triumph over the heterosexual world?

This claim on theater has led to a plethora of homosexual material for the theater as well as an apparent promotion of that material. Last year at ACTF, we witnessed many monologues, scenes and plays with homosexual themes. One play in particular, "Angels in America," presented the audience with the entangled stories of four homosexual males which included tasteless displays of rear nudity and two men having sex in a park. Although this year's material was far more conservative, we did see a ten-minute scene from a play in which a boy makes sexual advances toward his sister's fiancé. With the presentation and critical acclaim of such material comes the completion

of the cycle that stigmatizes theater as "homosexual."

So what? So we need to overcome the myth. Even if you're not involved in theater directly, you can mentally reject the homosexual stigma of theater. Homosexuality is not an integral part of theater and it is not a vital characteristic. As Christians, we all seek the truth. Christians in theater desire to put the truth on stage. But when such a powerful medium is unfairly generalized, the potential of that medium is severely damaged.

I was told on a Career Opportunities Program appointment in high school that if I were serious about pursuing an acting career, I would have to be ready to deal with issues of homosexuality. It's good advice for both actors and audience members. We can deal with those issues in the theater; we just have to be careful that the homosexual agenda doesn't take precedence over the mission of truth. When we see a play that involves homosexuality in some way, we can't just ignorantly chalk it up to theater's supposed pervasive liberalism. We need to ask whether or not the piece is presenting homosexuality in such a way that it makes sense in the truth of the Kingdom.

Dylan, folk or blues?

by Rob Reitsma
Staff Reporter

Bob Dylan was considered to be the premier folk artist of his time in 1965. His fans, mostly people who rejected mainstream culture and pop music, loved Dylan's acoustic folk renderings. They also loved the social and political stands he made in his lyrics. Many groups with varying agendas had already claimed him as their spokesperson.

In 1966, Dylan decided to follow his own vision for his music. He started writing songs with a band, using mostly electric instruments. He also began to write less politically charged

lyrics, concentrating on other subject matter.

When he went on tour in support of his new material, however, Dylan found that his audiences weren't exactly eager to accept his changes in style. As a matter of fact, some members in these audiences felt as if Dylan had betrayed the folk music cause, opting instead to meld into the pop culture mainstream with his electric guitar driven pop songs.

"Bob Dylan: Live 1966," a new double-disc release, chronicles Dylan's transition from acoustic folk to electric blues/pop. The first disc shows Dylan's older folk style, with him

performing solo using only an acoustic guitar and a harmonica. Then, Dylan roars into his second set backed by an entirely electric band. This is captured on the second disc of the set, which also gives proof of the mixed reactions to his new material. After some songs, the audience hardly claps at all. Before the last song, one audience member goes so far as to yell, "Judas!"

This release is a great example of an artist following inner vision instead of bowing to audience expectations. Dylan had already proven himself as a songwriter and performer, but he established himself as an artist during these concerts.



Prince of Egypt; best Movie of the Year

by Mitch Beaumont
Staff Reporter

In years past, animated films have been full of historical inaccuracies and sexual innuendos. These have mostly been the fault of Disney Inc. Finally though, a new production company has arrived on the scene of animation and its presence is welcomed by many. Dreamworks Inc. has recently released an animated motion picture based on the Biblical account of God's exodus of the Israelites out of Egypt.

Right from the start, it is apparent that Dreamworks spent an enormous amount of time, money and research in order to make the film as close to the Biblical account as possible. Before the film even starts, Dreamworks gives a sort of disclaimer stating that the story you are about to see is the basis of millions of people's faith and that it comes from the book of Exodus.

The movie begins with Moses' mother placing him in a basket and sending him down the river. The portrayal of his mother, in this sequence especially, is incredibly impressive. Dreamworks' animation is like nothing I've ever seen before. Every character in every scene is drawn to the minute detail and it makes the story even more believable. To tell you more than this would spoil the movie.

The film had an incredible amount of accurate information taken straight from the Bible. While there were a few instances where artistic license was taken, the scenes that contained accurate portrayal of the story outnumbered the scenes when the truth was stretched a bit. Even when the story took a twist that the Bible doesn't, the discrepancies were so minor that only a person very familiar with the Biblical account would catch them.

Dreamworks Inc. should be commended for their excellent, accurate portrayal of a Bible story, something that is unheard of in the movie industry. This film is for young and old alike, and could be used to that neighbor or friend of yours that is teetering on the edge. "Prince of Egypt" should be seen by anyone and everyone who has eyes to see and ears to hear. I would call this film the best of the year, and quite possibly the best movie I've ever seen.

Talk shows are funny things: The Ricki Lake Show

by Sarah Walsh
Staff Reporter

Last semester, the class, TV and Society was offered for the first time at Dordt. It was during a discussion in that class that the idea of having a TV commentary in the Diamond first arose. This article is the first of more articles to come in order to challenge the Dordt community to consider how we can view television from a Christian perspective.

Television talks shows supply us with what we want. They make us feel good about ourselves, they make us feel superior. The content of today's television talk shows have seemingly decreased in quality, which includes topics chosen for discussion. These topics range from, "Do you find yourself reminding your husband not to let gay men hit on him?" or "Is your mother a loser for a parent?"

I think we need to look deeper into what is wrong with the structure of talk shows that pervade our airways. Most will agree that these shows are "trash", but with little reason why besides their portrayal of profanity, sex and violence shown primarily in the topics chosen. I would be interested in asking questions such as: why are these topics chosen? Why are these shows doing so well? And, what is the message behind the programming?

What is almost more unfortunate in the confusion concerning these shows is the service these talk show hosts are convinced they are providing for the public. In an Intimate Portraits interview with Ricki Lake, she describes her audience as people who can't afford professional help. Her show is to provide healing for the guests on the show and for the viewers at home as they share their frustrations, pains and hurts with others who hopefully understand.

During the interview, Ricki talked about the changing point in the show's history. On one of the shows, a 15-year-old girl said she

wanted to get pregnant. The guest was given an assignment to take care of a doll for a few days. The intent was to get the girl to rethink her desire for a child. When she came back onto the show, she shared with Ricki and the audience that she did not wish to have a child. This episode, for Ricki, proved to her that the show is capable of being a positive attribute to society and can still get the ratings.

The percentage of minority guests on these shows is disproportionate to the number of minorities in North American society. Often, the stereotypes and generalities viewers leave with are directed towards these minority groups, especially the black community. Black culture in America ascribes to different values than the more dominant white culture. Deviation from that white culture is seen as abnormal. For some reason, minority groups are more attracted to being the center of attention on these shows. That is one thing about the black community that whites don't understand and consequently make value judgements about.

Mainstream American culture has a certain understanding of what is proper in terms of public portrayal of emotions. It is inappropriate to display strong emotions in public, unless of course, one is attending a sports event. These shows consistently show people revealing strong words and emotions in settings much less intimate than what is generally reserved for those emotions. As we view these programs, we are repeatedly turned off by the seemingly immature, irrational and out of place display of emotions. This, in turn, perpetuates our already warped rationalistic view that emotions are bad. Emotions are not bad, but very rarely are they shown in the right context or intensity on these talk shows.

The viewer almost always turns away from these shows with a false sense of superiority over the guests on the show. The viewer feels that he/she must be a better person for not getting themselves into those

kinds of messes and the viewer's perception of normal changes. It is understood as more normal, since being exposed to these talk shows, for a woman to have two lovers, etc.

I'm have serious doubts about the true healing nature of, not only Ricki Lake's talk show, but many of the others as well. If these shows are truly interested in healing for their guests and committed viewers, it would seem that more time would be spent on the show struggling together to discern the truth in the matter instead of full scale venting with a quick jump to the next commercial break.

There is no quick solution to the problems presented with these talk shows. We shouldn't turn off our television sets. We should probably watch more so that we can learn to discern and detect what is really being communicated. We need to understand that the problems of racism and consumerism are not limited to the scope of television, but have invaded many of our lives to such a point that we don't notice them anymore. We can continue to be committed to fighting racism, sexism and consumerism not only in our individual lives, but as a community.

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Stranded on the Rez...

by **Suzi Goudzwaard**
Staff Reporter

It's called checkerboard land—the place where little bits of Navajo reservation are scattered amongst New Mexico state land. Just a little further to the west lies the main reservation—largest in the country, about the size of West Virginia, but with a population of 226,754 making the population density only 6.9 persons per square mile.

The Navajo are not a pueblo people who all live together in a village; they are spread out throughout the whole reservation, sometimes miles from the nearest paved road and their

nearest neighbors. Forty-seven percent of the people live below the poverty line, bringing in only \$4,106 per year or less. Out of all the houses and hogans on the reservation, 80% don't have running water, telephones or electricity. They must drive their pick-ups carrying water barrels and containers to the nearest place where they can pay a quarter to receive the life-giving water.

Poverty on the reservation has individual faces. There is the old grandma who lives by herself at the end of a clay two-track in her tiny hogan. Every winter she becomes sick because her hogan has so many cracks and holes which let in all

the cold air. She has no plumbing, so she must drag herself outside to the outhouse, then back again to the freezing hogan. Her children have tried to convince her to come live with them in town, but she refuses to leave her hogan and her land. It has been her home since childhood. When the snow and rain comes with a vengeance, her children are kept out and she is kept in by the clay road that clogs up pick-up wheels and makes it impossible to travel. Several times she thought she would be left there to die because she ran out of food and water, but a helicopter drop saved her.

Now is not the first time the

Navajo have lived in poverty and despair. Just a little over 100 years ago they were marched out of their land across New Mexico and made to live in the squalor of a concentration camp. When they were finally released and allowed to go back, the majority of their land was taken from them and their children were forced into government boarding schools where their culture was stripped from them.

Post oppression—settlers and missionaries telling the Navajo their culture is not good enough and that they must change and conform coupled with little progress on the reservation today have led to few jobs and a 52% graduation rate

among young people, all of which assure them of poverty. Poverty is also the cause of a sharp increase in homicides, suicides and gang involvement. The lack of hope and the "unconscious racist attitudes toward's Native Americans," leave poverty-stricken Navajos stranded. They're stranded without water, electricity and telephones at the end of a clay two-track. They're stranded by the belief that they don't matter, that their culture is bad, that the U.S. government doesn't care about them and neither do a majority of it's residents. If we, too, choose to remain ignorant of these people and their situation, they have become stranded by us.

Learn from the past, prepare for the future

by **Emily Hutten**
Staff Reporter

While we spend today in class, half of the students in Afghanistan are forbidden to attend their classes. They are forced to stay in their homes and they are not allowed to leave. The windows are painted over, the doors are locked and the streets are guarded.

Students and professionals

were forced to leave their work when Taliban fundamentalists took control in parts of Afghanistan in 1996. Before this, all children attended school and all citizens had opportunity to earn professional degrees. Today half of the population of Afghanistan, mothers, daughters, and sisters, live in fear for their lives.

The Talibans have raged a powerful attack on women in Afghanistan by enforcing Sharia

law. All women are forced to withdraw from the public sphere. They must cover every inch of their bodies. Many are beaten and stoned for allowing an arm to show while driving or forgetting to cover their eyes while walking. No woman is permitted to leave her home without a male relative. No women may work or study. They have been beaten to silence and imprisoned.

Severe depression lies heavy on these women. Doctors, profes-

sors and artists who were once prominent figures in their society, now crouch in corners refusing to eat or speak. The medical and psychological clinics which would have been able to help these women have been shut down due to the Taliban control. The only practicing doctors in Afghanistan are men, and according to the fundamentalists, men cannot treat women. Men in Afghanistan have been given the power to decide life or

death for their wives, sisters and mothers.

Voices have been raised in outcry against the "human rights violations" that are taking place in Afghanistan, but they have been kept quiet. The political situation in the Middle East is unstable and those involved have much at stake.

Our stake is higher. For we serve a King who asks why we keep quiet as the gospel is beaten to silence.

The Taliban's War

by **Istvan Veszi**
Guest Writer

After several weeks of vacation even the Spectrum club members had to return to Dordt for another semester of studying. The first weekend was a good opportunity for the club officers to meet and discuss the club's future and the theme that Spectrum will try to promote throughout the spring semester.

After discussing several options, the club decided that awareness of racism and it's presence in American society and throughout the world needed to be pursued.

Having participated in a conference

at Wheaton College last semester which dealt with the issue of racism and prejudices in Christian communities, we feel that our fellow students need to be informed about the injustices that happen in the world. As we learned at the National Christian Multicultural Student Leadership Conference, racism, though not as open as in the past, is still out there. Day by day, people of languages or cultures are involuntarily mistreated by people who would never consider themselves racists.

As our world becomes more and more diverse and as we work and live with people from all parts of the world we have to stop maintaining our

stereotypes.

Spectrum's goal is to convince students that though there are people in the world who look, speak, dress or even think differently from the average Dordt student, they still have to be treated as children of God.

There will be a day when we will leave Dordt and we might have to work or live around people of other races. Because of this, we consider that it is important to know how to react to others' differences. We have to stop judging and comparing people by our stereotypical set of rules and instead start viewing them as our brothers and sisters in Christ.

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