

THE DIAMOND



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DORDT COLLEGE, SIOUX CENTER, IOWA

THURSDAY, March 16, 1995

Students shine in "Chosen Daughter"

One viewer gives his perspective of the performance and performers

by Jonathan DeHaan

"The Chosen Daughter", put on the past two weekends, was an excellent display of what Dordt students are capable of producing. The actors, set and production crew did a fantastic job of converting an unwieldy script into a first-rate show.

I thought the playwright tried to include too many themes in the play. The characters were made to try to resolve too many conflicts within themselves during the two hours. Although parent-child relationships, identity crises, the nature of music, the way the past influences the present and chaos theory are all subjects worthy of theatrical interpretation, it's almost impossible to bring all these universals onto the same stage and be able to unravel all their mysteries. Even though I thought a complete resolution wasn't reached, the play left a good impression with

most of the audience. "Thought-provoking", "deep", and "intense" were just a few of the comments I heard as I left the New World Theatre.

Doug Hausken, a junior, said "the play gave me a lot to think about." The point I'm trying to make is that the play didn't give us any concrete thoughts to leave with, very little was resolved—what we got was a barrage of ideas and questions left unanswered.

I have nothing but praise for those who had to interpret the script. The

actor's development of their characters, the mammoth set, the fabulous light and sound aspect and the costumes and makeup impressed everyone who saw the production. The acting was incredible and gave us a

taste of the talent we have here at Dordt. Lora Byker ("Dawn") did an excellent job of showing us the complex life of a talented teen-age musician, trapped by both her living and long-dead relatives. I hope to avoid

putting Byker on a pedestal, but I cannot hope to mention every actor by name and glorify the specific roles they played. Everyone did an incredible job. The parents were true to life—they could be part of any American family. The costumes of the ancestors were impressive, adding to the effect of the cosmic scope of the production. Simon duToit showed his superb directing skills once again. The set crew, supervised by Tim Bootsma and Sean Voogt, worked long, hard hours to put together John Hofland's set which created setting and reinforced the tension between actors. Everyone shone and should be proud of the work they did.

Although disappointed by the content of the play, the production of "The Chosen Daughter" showed Dordt students at their finest.



by Dirk Zwart

As sisters Dawn and Marlene, Lora Byker and Melinda Conklin vie for their mother's attention.

Dordt selects students for Ukraine trip

by Cathy Branderhorst

On May 17, six Dordt faculty and students will leave the United States for approximately one month. Their destination - Kharkov, Ukraine. Kharkov is located on the far eastern edge of Ukraine, 17 hours south of Moscow.

Lorna Van Gilst, Ken Bussema, and John Struyk will represent the Dordt faculty, while Rebecca Gerritsma, Carol Vaandrager and Mike Schiebout are the privileged students chosen to accompany them. These three students were selected from a

field of ten candidates. A lengthy application was completed, as well as an essay concerning how each student could "serve" through this experience.

1995 marks the third year Dordt has been invited to teach at the Kharkov International Pedagogical Institute. For Ken Bussema and Lorna Van Gilst, this will be their second year travelling to the Ukraine. "They want to know about American culture and English," says Van Gilst.

The group plans on teaching in Kharkov for three full weeks. This will

include lecturing, role-playing, group demonstrations, and student participation. They also plan on team teaching in groups of two. Usage of the English language is the main focus of their teaching, but literature and psychology are among some of the other areas they plan to cover.

Most of the Ukrainian students have already had one to three years of English when they come to Kharkov Institute. "The students are delightful," says Van Gilst. "Most of them [students] want to either be teachers of English or translators."

The Dordt students will be able to experience firsthand what it's like to live in Ukraine because they will stay with Ukrainian students. Struyk and Bussema will stay in their own apartment, though Van Gilst's living arrangements are unknown as of yet.

"I'm very eager to go back, but it's hard to say a year ahead of time if I will go next year," says Van Gilst. The students are extremely excited, yet at the same time nervous. "The whole thing is such an adventure," says Vaandrager.

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ACAPPELLA thrills audience with vocals

by Kristi Kooiker

Wed., Mar. 8, more than 1,100 people swarmed into the B.J. Haan Auditorium to hear the world-famous music quartet, Acappella. As one sophomore said, "They were truly inspirational."

Acappella's performance was preceded by a group of three men who are interns. They could possibly join Acappella when other members decide to retire.

After Acappella made a grand entrance amidst the smoke and lights, they entertained the audience with a variety of music. As music industry magazine *Release* put it, their music is "part jazz, part street-corner do-wop, part praise and worship, and completely captivating."

In between their songs, the singers presented a small slide show, gave some Christian insight, and shared some personal testimonies. The slide show promoted Acappella Ministries, a Christian organization headquartered in Paris, Tennessee which supports Acappella and AVB (another singing group



by Neil Graves

Acappella are big sellers across the country

which works hand in hand with Acappella) in their work to spread the gospel through music.

Acappella is comprised of four men with many talents and abilities: Bass singer Robert Guy, (Odessa, TX), First Tenor Gary Moyers, (Lubbock, TX), Baritone Duane Adams, (Houston, TX), and lead singer Steve Reischl, (Dunlap, IA).

Acappella and company

travel around in two buses; one is for all the sound and lighting equipment, and one is for everyone to relax in. The families of the band and crew travel with the singers and the sound and light crews.

Acappella has produced 24 albums out, including their series albums.

Dordt addresses drinking during alcohol awareness week

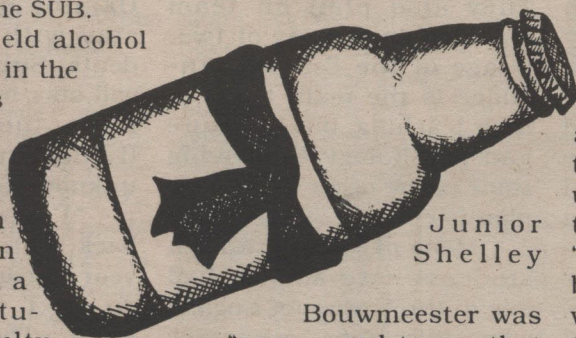
by Heather Gregg

Red ribbons and the smashed car parked in front of the SUB from February 27 to March 3 were just part of this year's alcohol awareness week. Throughout the week, students picked up ribbons and information about alcohol at a table in the SUB.

Dordt has held alcohol awareness weeks in the past, but this year's was a little different. According to Newton Trowbridge, an East Campus RA, a committee of students and faculty usually organizes the week. This year East Campus RAs did the job, said

Trowbridge, since they wanted to address the problem.

A Thursday evening discussion led by students was included in the week's activities. Trowbridge says this was a move toward the goal of "opening a dialogue among students about this topic."



Junior Shelley

Bouwmeester was "encouraged to see that Dordt is taking stronger action toward alcohol use," but says it is "unfortunate

that we have to have alcohol awareness week—that it can't be an issue that is daily emphasized at Dordt."

Sophomore Scott Postma was also glad to see the problem of alcohol abuse being addressed, but he thinks that "we need to do more than just hand out red ribbons—we need to take more action."

Trowbridge believes that a difference can be made through more action. Alcohol use is "something that's not talked about much," he said. "It's assumed that it's always been there and that it just won't go away." He counters that assumption, though, and hopes that in coming years Dordt will have fewer students abusing alcohol.



by Heather Gregg

Violist to present master class and concert

Roberto Diaz, principal violist of the National Symphony Orchestra, will present a master class for all interested string players on Friday, March 17 at 3:00 in the B.J. Haan Auditorium.

Diaz will also appear in concert Friday at 8:00 pm in the B.J. Haan Auditorium as part of the Sioux County Concert Series. A limited number of tickets is available through the music office.

Bauers to perform organ recital

Michael and Maria Rubis Bauer will perform a multi-media organ recital in the B.J. Haan Auditorium tonight at 8:00. The recital, titled "Lenten Images: the Reality of Alienation and Hope," will include a slide presentation on the book of Job as Michael Bauer performs Peter Eben's "Job" on the organ. Maria Rubis Bauer will play selections by Mendelssohn during the second half of the performance.

The Bauers will present a workshop this Saturday morning from 9:00-12:00 in the B.J. Haan Auditorium. The seminar is titled "Faith, Creativity, and the Arts: Human Formation in a Technocratic Society."



by Neil Graves

This car in front of the SUB displayed one of the effects of drinking and driving.

Graphic by Jen Hillenga

BJ Haan Educational Conferences welcome experienced educators

by Kristen Westerhof

In the twelfth annual series of lectures on pedagogical issues named for late president B.J. Haan, the Center for Educational Services and the Education Department welcomed Dr. Gloria Goris Stronks and Dr. Harro Van Brummelen, both experienced educators and authors. Stronks noted in her opening remarks, Mon. March 13, that this series such as this one is unique to Dordt and that she was "delighted" to be here for the conferences.

Stronks

Stronks, a former professor at Dordt and Trinity and currently on staff at Calvin College, addressed "Vision and Myth in Christian Education." She described myths as certain basic but false assumptions with which people live. These myths contain enough truth to be believable, but ultimately distort our world and lives.

She outlined six basic myths to which those in educational circles, including students, parents and teachers, cling.

Myths

The first myth is that high school has no lasting effects. She noted that many parents send their children to Christian schools to keep them away from negative influences and view high school as a means through which to enter college and start "real life." However, it



by Dirk Zwart

Dr. Gloria Goris Stronks, who has taught at Dordt, Calvin, and Trinity, revealed commonly accepted myths about Christian education.

has been shown that many students choose their area of study based on their high school experiences and teachers.

Another myth is that Christian high schools don't have to change much, even though grade and middle schools have been changing. Few high school students are required to become actively involved with their own learning, although research consistently proves that students learn better when they become personally involved and responsible.

Some believe that Christian high schools could not change, since teachers and administrators are doing everything they can already. Stronks suggested that a core group of ten like-minded people around the country could meet, decide on specific reforms and implement them in their own schools.

One comfortable myth is that graduates of Christian college education programs are automatically good teachers. Teaching is too complicated for a non-

experienced person to master at the beginning.

Another myth is that all subjects in Christian high schools are taught from a Christian perspective. Many teachers honestly have no idea how to integrate faith and learning without maturity and having been overtly taught how.

A Christian school which runs smoothly may not necessarily be a good school; it may simply be avoiding change. All schools need to push for the development of higher reasoning skills in all its students, since not only the cream of schools go to college.

Van Brummelen

Van Brummelen, an assistant dean at Trinity Western University in B.C., Canada, spoke Tuesday evening, March 14. He addressed the issue of instilling and encouraging values through Christian education. He noted that often objectives and outcomes in education show little correlation. Schools give the impression that "Information equals knowledge, data itself is wisdom."

Those in Reformed education circles tend to shy away from values education because of a fear of moralism. They want to, Van Brummelen said, "avoid bumper-sticker shallowness." But Christian educators must still seek to stir the hearts and minds of students.

Values may be taught by design or by neglect. In West Edmonton Christian Christian Junior High, for example, the staff strives to stress "us" over "me," to heal brokenness, to emphasize servanthood. Schools initiate students into value structures.

Schools struggle to work against negative societal influences. It is hard to encourage stewardship and selflessness in a highly materialistic and individualistic society.

Instilling Values

Schools can do five main things to encourage development of positive values. Students must experience, discuss and implement positive social strategies. Teachers need to use discipline that fosters self control and commitment. Van Brummelen recommended using Dr. Jack Fennema's Confrontation, Confession and Commitment method. Teachers can also use literature deliberately to develop empathy for others and a principled way of life. Home programs should complement what schools teach. Choice of content, pedagogy and assessment must be designed to cultivate well-defined values.

Above all, Van Brummelen said, schools must stress love, justice and responsibility as the primary Biblical principles.

world news

by Sara VandenBosch

California: Flooding has caused at least 13 deaths, forced the evacuation of thousands of people and caused an estimated two billion in damage.

Canada: The European union threatened sanctions against Canada unless it releases a Spanish trawler and its crew. Canada's gov-

ernment claims to have evidence justifying the seizure.

London: Britain announced that it plans to withdraw 400 soldiers from Northern Ireland, bringing the total number of British troops there down to 18,000.

Alaska: Doug Swingley, a rancher from Montana became the first non-Alaskan resident to win the Iditarod

Trail Sled Dog Race.

England: James Herriot, country veterinarian and author of many books, including "All Things Bright and Beautiful" and "All Creatures Great and Small," died Feb. 23.

Sarajevo: Nine French peace keepers died Tuesday when their truck went over the edge of a mountain road

near Sarajevo. Since 1992, 148 peace keepers have been killed, 94 of them by accident.

American Statistics:

Amount of this year's defense budget that the General Accounting Office cites as not "adequately justified": \$6,800,000,000.

Number of years O.J. Simpson's trial would have to last before his legal fees

exceeded this year's federal budget: 348,985.

Percentage of all U.S. corporate sponsorship that goes to the arts: 6.

Percentage that goes to sports: 65.

Chances that a Swiss army knife produced that year will be bought by the Swiss Army: 1 in 400.

The Heart of the Matter

Turn up the heat



Brad Weidenaar, graduate of Dordt and frequent Free Press writer under the name of A.Z. Wanton, often had these little kernels of wisdom in his articles that we missed when he went on metaphorical binges. One thing really knocked me over last year. He said:

"There are too many Christians that live anonymously. Someone needs to stand up and be radical. Someone needs to stand up and yell, 'Why are we doing this?' Someone needs to stand up and take the knocks on the head that this question will get them. Get hot. Get cold. Or get out."

Anonymous Christians are

lukewarm. They go to church. They are probably in Bible study. They will send their kids to the Christian school, Vacation Bible School, etc. But they will not be the Christians after God's heart.

Why? They never DO anything. They are passive, perfectly content to stick their heads in the sand, with their Bible in one hand and Sandi Patti tapes in the other, and don't think they need to make any difference. Jesus Christ is their ticket to heaven and, sure, they're grateful, but His life and death only change their future, not their present.

But being there isn't good enough. We are the salt of the earth. How can salt do any good if it stays in the shaker? Salt causes a reaction—it stops corruption and decay. But it doesn't do much but take up space if it is not used.

We are the light of the world (not **supposed to be**—we **are**. And not just if we have the time or talent). How can the light shine before men if it's hidden in the church sanc-

tuary? What a feeble, lame light that would be.

I realize that we need the strength and community of church worship and that we need Christian schools to grow in our faith, but that shouldn't be the end of the story.

Lukewarm water is gross, plain and simple. It doesn't feel like anything except wet. The same is true for those of us who would rather follow a careful plan for Service and Devotion than try something exciting and valuable.

We have to live our lives with *Lust*—not the thing that some people are convinced happens at dances—the thing that in German means desire, fervor, excitement, **passion**. We need to DO things. Grab a placard and march. Write your congressperson. Don't let people around you get away with half-baked, half-Christian attitudes and opinions. Fight racism. Feed the poor. Say radical things that will get people to react, positively or negatively. Don't say things you don't mean or can't take

responsibility for—that is irresponsible and sinful. If you can't write it down and sign your name to it, don't bother saying it. Can you imagine how much more healing language would be if we all took responsibility for what we said?

You do know or should know how you feel about things and you should not be afraid to say it. It doesn't matter if you're wrong—if you say it, you can recognize the flaws and work them out.

My junior high choir teacher always said, "If you're going to make a mistake, make it big and loud." It's way better to have a choir who messed up big at the beginning and worked through it than a choir that is just mediocre, not really bad, but not great either.

Bottom line: lukewarm is gross. *Lust* is good. Get hot or get out.

—s.a.w.

—Diamond Staff—

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Editor-in-Chief: Shelley A. Westerhof

Assistant Editor: Sara Vanden Bosch

Features Editor: Katie Dekker

News Editor: Heather Gregg

Photo Editor: Neil Graves and Janeen Wassink

Sports Editor: Ryan Vander Plaats

Layout Editor: Derrick Vander Waal

Advertising: Joe'l Mayfield

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Free Press

Free Press
by Henry Bakker

As a young boy I always hated it when my parents would drag me out to the garden to pull weeds or pick stones. I thought I had better things to do, like watching TV or playing with my toys. Older now, and hopefully a little wiser, I've gained more of an appreciation for the value of working.

Work obviously has value in monetary terms. What student doesn't look forward to the tenth of the month for a workstudy check, or jump at the chance for a few hours extra work off campus? Money is the result, or fruit, of work, but I'm talking about the value of doing work in and of itself.

We spend so much time in school reading, studying and discussing ideas we almost forget that there is physical matter in the world. Sometimes we feel like our brains can't possibly process any more information, our backs develop a slouch from sitting in chairs all the time, our eyes become glassy and red from staring at computer screens long into the night. This is when it is most refreshing to put the

books down and do some physical work.

Working reminds us that we are creatures of dust and it reminds us of our connection to the earth. It gives us a sense of accomplishment, of beginning a task and seeing it through to completion, whether it's shovelling snow, mowing a lawn or painting a house. Working gives the mind a rest from abstract ideas by focusing it on a specific task. It also allows the subconscious mind a chance to process information, perhaps form ideas for an upcoming paper.

Many great men have combined manual labor with intellectual pursuits. Wendell Berry, a respected essayist, is a farmer. Al Purdy, one of Canada's best poets, has worked a variety of jobs, from shoe and mattress factories to apple picking. Leo Tolstoy believed no one should depend on the labor of others and, even after considerable literary success, he worked in the fields alongside peasants and made his own boots. Henry David Thoreau gardened, built his own house and performed many chores which he took great pleasure in.

Harrison Ford says that his first ambition as a child was to be the guy that dumped coal into his parents' basement for the furnace. The guy would start with a big pile of coal in front of the house, fill up a wheelbarrow, take it around back and dump it down the chute. "When he was finished that big pile of coal would be gone. It appealed to me because it was a job you could see getting done." Ford eventually got work as a roofer and even after he was a successful actor he would still do roofing jobs for movie people around Hollywood.

It's easy for people who spend all their time dealing with ideas and concepts to lose touch with the fact that we must work to live or live by the work of others. It's like a friend of mine said about a lump of clay he was holding, "Look at this, Henry! It's solid. This is such a charge for me. I'm not dealing with concepts here. I'm not grabbing at something I can't hold." Work is a charge. I know no other feeling quite as fulfilling as going home tired and sore after a hard day's work, remembering all the things I've accomplished that day and planning how I'm going to use the money I've just made.

Overheard's

"I ran by Faith. . ."
—Lisa Koning,
describing a
heroic-sounding
jog past Faith
CRC

"O.K., so your dad
had a wig with
curly hair. Did he
have a front
appendage?"
—Mikal Laninga,
attempting to
better visualize
a wig belonging
to Erin
VanderSchaaf's
dad.

"Well, West Hall is
O.K., but I'd rather
live at East Hall."
—Mark Klompfen

"Boy, some of
those professors
with those long
exams—they ought
to be shot."
—Dr. Goedhart,
Mr. Long-Test
Man his-ownself

"For a second, I
thought I knew
what I was talking
about."
-Dr. Williams

A hearty thank you to all students who have submitted quotes to the Overheard column. Keep those quotes coming in!

Send quotes to:

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The Diamond reserves the right to choose which quotes are suitable for publication.

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Clubs call for 'a dre

by Karmen Kooistra

Underwater basket weaving club is starting here at Dordt. No, just joking, but that name may be on the list of the many clubs that have come and gone in the past 40 years of Dordt's existence. The latest Student Activities Committee report shows 46 clubs met in the past, but today only 16 clubs are registered, some of which are inactive.

"Everyone got too busy and people lost interest," said Jason Jonkman, head of the juggling club. The roping club had the same experience. "We don't have time," said Julie Scheffer, founder of the roping club. "We also don't have the place to do it or the money to buy things to rope."

Some clubs are inactive, but others are still going strong. "We set up a new way of organization this semester," said Tami Rowe, president of Dordt Defenders of Life. "We set up a task force which gets everyone involved in leadership." The new method seems to be working. More people became involved with DDL this semester.

The indoor soccer club meets twice a week on Tuesday nights and Saturday mornings. "There is a lot of planning and hard work behind it," said Steve Ling, one of the four board members for the soccer club. "People want to get involved, so they talk



by Janeen Wassink

Students practice "bartending" at SUB club activities

their friends into it too," Ling said. "It's just a matter of making sure everything is there at the right time."

Professor Jeri Schelhaas, English professor and graduate of Dordt College, believes clubs were a thing in the 50's and 60's. Everyone joined clubs. "Campus was the social life," said Schelhaas. "Most people did not have cars to go to Sioux Falls or Sioux City. They had to find things to do on campus," Schelhaas said. That's why so many people were involved in clubs. Today, more students own cars, which allow them the freedom to come and go.

Dordt College recognized the great interest in such things as drama, physics, and sociology. These programs became established in the curriculum, so these clubs died out. Women's athletics began in the 70's, eliminating the need for the women's athletic club, which dissolved in 1975. The great interest in sports led to the beginning of intramurals. Curriculum changes, intramural sports, and women's athletics eliminate the need for some of these types of clubs.

"Clubs go through cycles," said Gerry Ebbers, Director of

Development and a 1969 Dordt graduate. "It just depends on student interest." Sometimes students will be very interested for awhile and then it dies out because everyone is doing it.

"Things change," Schelhaas said. "One student may be very interested in something and gets others involved. When they leave, the interest leaves."

"Interests change," Ebbers said. Students come to college and want to get involved with every aspect of student life. They want to meet people, so they join clubs. When they get to be sophomores and juniors, they want to spend more time in the relationships they have developed, so they spend less time meeting others. As seniors, one starts focusing on their career and each other. Seniors want to spend more time together, knowing they will be leaving one another. "Seniors feel they can leave the other activities for those who will be here longer," said Ebbers.

The problem of so many inactive clubs may be loss of interest, busy schedules, increased student freedom, curriculum changes, women's athletics, intramurals, cycles, change of interest, or possibly others. But Tami Rowe said, "Making a club a success takes a dream and people who are dedicated to get there."

MEN VIE FOR VOLLEYBALL

by Scott Hazeu

Dordt has a long tradition of women's volleyball that includes NAIA All-Americans, successful seasons and many memorable games. This past season is no exception, and marks another highlight for the women's team as they finished the season with an appearance in the NAIA national tournament.

Women's volleyball has demanded a lot of attention on campus and now the men want to add to the action.

A few students on campus noted the absence of men's volleyball on campus and, wanting to add another aspect to Dordt's athletic program, arranged some try-outs to see if there was any interest on campus. Try-outs were held early in the fall and there were a lot of players who responded to the announcements in the Today and showed up to play. In

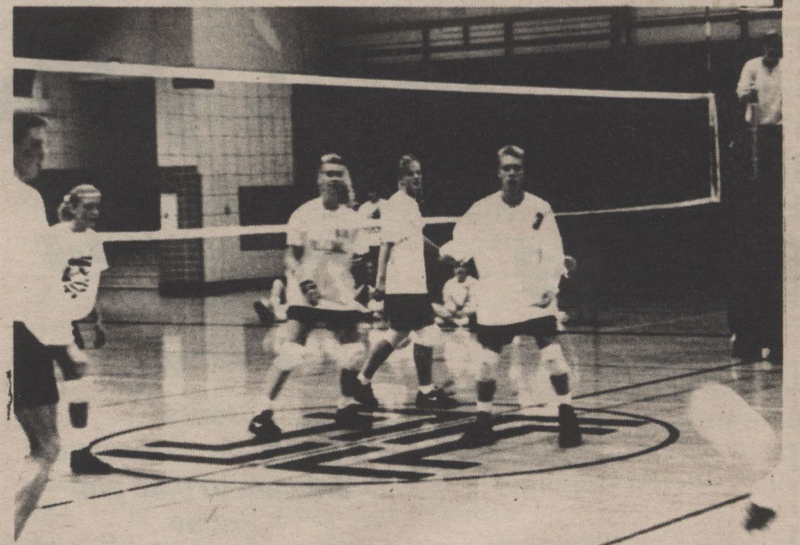
fact, so many guys showed up that they were able to make two squads for practice and competition.

In cooperation with the athletic department the team was able to enter a men's volleyball league and compete against other local colleges such as SDSU and Augustana. There are thirteen teams in the league that participate in regular and post season play.

This past season the team played eleven regular season games to finish with a 9-3 record. The play-off format is a round-robin, double elimination tournament. Their coach, Dordt alum Michelle Menninga, led the team to the third round of the tournament before being eliminated, ending a respectable and successful season.

The team was hoping to showcase their skills by hosting a tournament here at Dordt but due to

scheduling problems the tournament had to be canceled. Volleyball season is finished for the year so if you didn't catch the men in action you'll have to wait until next year to enjoy volleyball from both the women and the men.



by Janeen Wassink

Men's volleyball club practice drills with the women's volleyball team

Team and dedication'

Theatre Sports: Not your average game

by Dirk Zwart

How many times have you seen a football player fall down laughing at the 40 yard line or an Irish soccer player give a Scottish opponent a helping hand? Team-sport players tend to be ultra-competitive and do not interact with anyone else while they play. It is intense stuff. How is the Comedy League at Dordt any different when they play their Theatre Sports? The answer lies in the game they play.

Theatre Sports is a term given to games that rely on the participants' ability to improvise. Each game has a guiding set of rules, but it is the input from the audience that makes it unique. Even if the same game is repeated the content will be totally different. The audience is often asked for an occupation, place, and object. From this information the team members must construct a running dialogue and use actions directing themselves to completing the task of the game using the variables given to them from the audience.

The audience supplied portion of each game requires the team to be cre-

ative and jump on any idea that they can use. The reality is that many of the predicaments the a team will find itself in leads to comic actions and therefore is entertaining.

For those who attended the match between the Dordt Mugs and The Sonic Plungers saw what teams can do with things the audience gives them. It will be hard to forget Jeff Gesch's Kool-Aid addiction and Chris Lopez's fishy existence. Likewise Melinda Conklin and Mark duMez's attempting to enjoy a day on the beach was far from a quiet time between grandson and grandpa-pa.

The history of the Comedy League is quite young. It was only in the end of last semester that Rebekah Sanford advertised for interested persons to come out and see what Comedy League is like. Of the three teams currently in exist-

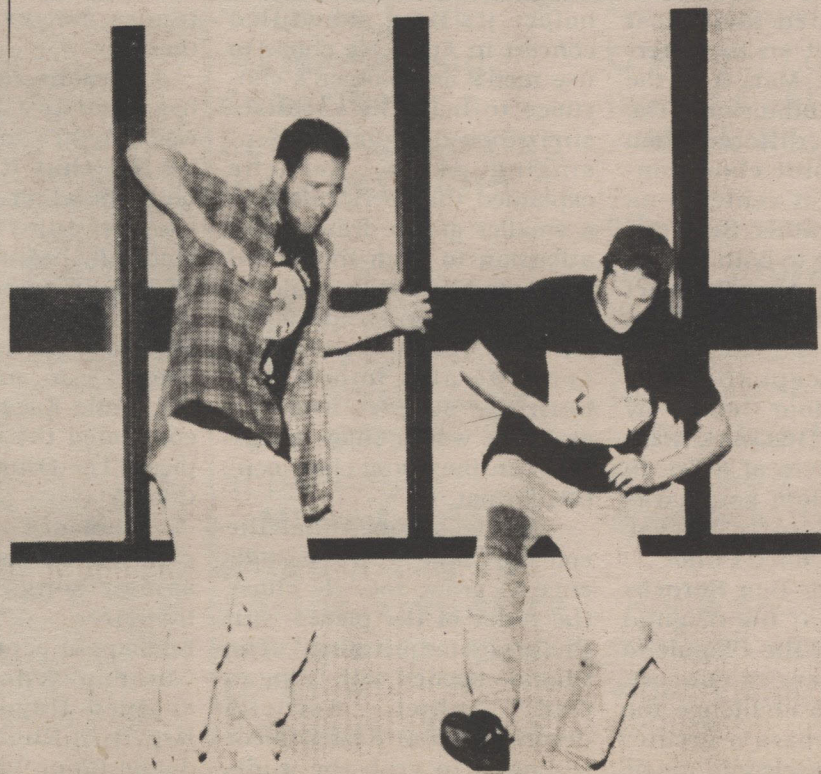
tence, one or two members of each team were at the founding meeting. From there three teams have formed and have been actively involved. "The Artists Formerly Known as PRI" performed three games at the Talent Show while the judges deliberated.

Preparation for the Theatre Sports is not all clowning around. The teams practice the rules of the games and quiz each other on how far they can use their imaginations. Sanford Rebekah says that now they have over twenty games. Each evening consists of eight games so therefore there will be more variety in the Comedy Nights to come.

The judges are also trained to look out for things too. Each judge uses a number from one to five, rating the level of achievement for the last game. The judges know what games the teams are playing and know the rules for each. Although a team might get a lot of laughs during a game, they may receive a low score for meeting their objectives and goals. One prevailing rule that all teams adhere to is that they do not receive credit for "cheap laughs" or "low blows."

Lately there has been more enthusiasm in the comedy league and a possible two new teams in the making. When asked about the audience attendance and team interest, Rebekah says she's "ecstatic" about the success. Mugs member Henry Bakker says he would rather have a good competition and lose than have an easy win without much comedy happening. The teams are not pitted against each other like European soccer teams. They can joke around after the game.

If you have not taken the time on Friday night to come and see a Theatre Sports, I would urge you to go. It takes place in the SUB at 11:00pm. If you think you could compete on a team, talk to Rebekah and try it out during a team practice.



by Dirk Zwart

Henry Baker and Mark duMez attempt to make the audience laugh.

Preparation
for Theatre
Sports is not
all clowning
around

Republican Club starts up at Dordt

by Marie VanderStelt

Dordt College Republicans Club met for the first time last Tuesday. Hopes ran high as students discussed over pizza what this club could mean for Dordt.

Forty students attended the kickoff meeting held in C111. An ice-breaker activity of sharing names, majors and political parties brought smiles to many faces. Mark Memmelaar and Henry Vander Stelt presided at the meeting. The two sophomores are working together to make this club possible for Dordt students.

"We are working towards one main goal," says Memmelaar. "We want to get involved in Republican politics while maintaining our Christian perspective."

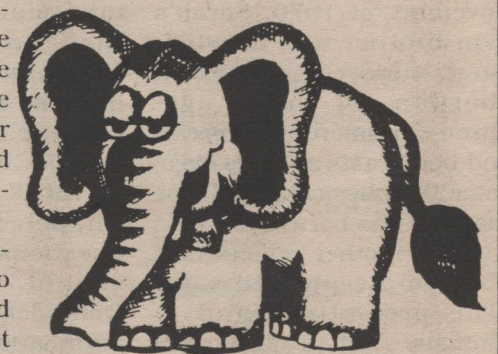
The club has two other objectives it hopes to accomplish in the near future. "We would like to see voter registration become available on campus to students, and our other objective is to become involved in local Republican political campaigns," says Vander Stelt.

The possibility of hosting political speakers is also appealing. Two weeks ago Vander Stelt and Memmelaar traveled to Sergeant Bluff, Iowa to hear Republican presi-

dential candidate Lamar Alexander speak at a local farm. "It was great! We want to see some of these politicians come to our area," says Vander Stelt.

Northwestern College in Orange City has an active College Republicans Club. Dordt has had some contact with this group. The possibility of the two clubs occasionally working together in the future seems likely. This is an excellent opportunity to combine efforts for the students at both colleges.

Any other students who would like to become involved in College Republicans are invited to attend the next meeting on Tuesday, March 21. Those having questions should contact Mark Memmelaar or Henry Vander Stelt at 722-6904.



Chorale performs Spring Concert

by Leah Schreurs-Zuidema

The Chorale and Concert Choir presented their most recent concert on the afternoon of Sun., Mar. 5 in the B. J. Haan Auditorium. The performance differed from the usual Dordt choir concert because it centered on the Chorale rather than giving equal time to both choirs. In addition, the Concert Choir split into men's and women's choruses for all numbers except the final piece, "Freedom Come," by Ben Allaway. This work, written in the style of a South African freedom song, was performed jointly by the Chorale and Concert Choir.

Conductor Ben Kornelis explained that his original intent was for the Chorale to present the entire concert. He wanted to challenge the group to prepare a greater amount and variety of music than it had done in the past. He also wanted the Chorale to have the opportunity to work on a more extended piece. He chose Haydn's "Missa brevis 'Rorate doeli desuper,'" a lengthy Latin mass with instrumental accompaniment, as the Chorale's main piece.

Later, Kornelis decided to add the Concert Choir to

the program because he felt the group needed to perform before its next scheduled concert in April. He chose to use men's and women's choruses to help the vocalists strengthen their independent singing skills. Kornelis explained that performing in a smaller group draws more attention to each individual voice, and he felt it would be a good learning experience for the Concert Choir members. He also hoped that both the singers and the audience would enjoy a variation on the usual choir concert format.

Kornelis hoped that the concert would help the audience to grow, too. He chose the order of the pieces with the audience in mind. The Chorale opened with "Sing to God," which Kornelis described as a "flashy" piece intended to grab the audience's attention. He scheduled the "heavy stuff" such as Haydn's Latin mass early in the concert so that listeners would be alert and interested. Kornelis also tried to vary the pace of the music, inserting three lighter pieces by the American composer Aaron Copland. Kornelis also introduced program notes at this concert. He

hoped the short explanations of the pieces would help listeners better appreciate them.

Kornelis remarked that his favorite Chorale piece was Haydn's mass, because he felt that it challenged both the choir and himself. He also enjoyed the "harmonically beautiful" women's chorus number "Tantum Ergo" by Faure. Finally, he appreciated the chance to listen as an audience member while Kristen Van Vliet conducted the men's chorus piece "The Drummer and the Cook."

Audience members and performers chose some of the same songs as their favorites. Professor Koekkoek, a proud Concert Choir parent, especially enjoyed Haydn's "Missa Brevis." Chorale member Jamie Clapp also appreciated the Latin mass. He noted that he enjoyed the challenge of preparing the piece and the sense of accomplishment that came after giving a good performance. Sheri Kuiper, a student audience member chose "Freedom Come" as her favorite. She liked the flowing, free style of the music and felt that the piece was performed well.

Skiers hit the slopes

by Adele Koekkoek

"Dudel" was all junior Jon Zwart had to say about skiing in Mankato, Minn. last Saturday.

No one else put it quite that way, but most of the thirty people who rode the three-and-a-half hours agreed that it was definitely worth their money.

The conditions could have been better. Junior Paul Westendorp said the sunny side of the mountain had a lot of slush, which slowed people down. Skiers usually jerked to a stop at the bottom instead of slowly losing speed on the flat land. And Zwart said

occasional patches of dirt made some of the harder runs dangerous.

One black diamond (most difficult) slope had a lot of moguls, small hills that skiers have to jump quickly. They added challenge for the skiers who tried them, and Westendorp described them as "really intense."

As a result, many people said they skied mainly on

the shady side during the day. Ice formed on all the slopes after dark, making them faster.

The warm air did make skiing more comfortable. Hardly anyone wore the gloves they had brought. Some people dressed in t-shirts, and a few even wore in shorts, though their legs showed every scrape and burn afterwards.

No serious injuries occurred, but some people returned with more pain

than others. One person said she paid the price for trying a black diamond (the most difficult), having never skied before. She

laughed as she described the headache she got. Junior Sandy Bruxvoort fell, but decided "sliding halfway down the hill was a blast!"

Even those with no sore muscles are feeling, or at least seeing, the results of the day on their faces. But most skiers smile when they get teased about their sunburn—they say they know everyone is just jealous.

**"sliding
halfway
down the hill
was a blast"**

Abortion survivor coming to Dordt

by Marie VanderStelt

Abortion survivor Sarah Smith will be sharing her personal story with Dordt students and faculty on Apr. 5. Dordt Defenders of Life and other local pro-life groups are sponsoring the event.

Betty Smith tried to abort her daughter in November of 1970. Sarah's twin brother was aborted. Sarah survived that D & C abortion 24 years ago. Through numerous surgeries and body casts she has overcome the physical handicaps that she was born with.

Her mother regrets that abortion deeply and says, "The protective hand of Almighty God saved Sarah's life." Now Sarah travels around the country as a

national pro-life spokesperson, sharing her story in an effort to stop abortion.

"Please share my family's story so the tragedy of abortion stops hurting babies and families. Everyone needs to know the truth about abortion," Sarah said.

A pancake supper will take place from 5-7 p.m. that night in West Commons. Students will have the opportunity to meet with her at this time. Sarah will give her formal testimony at 7:30 p.m. in the Chapel. Anyone who has questions about this event should contact Dordt Defenders of Life for more information.

Tour features concerto contest winners

by Wendell Schaap

The Dordt College Band and Orchestra begin their spring tour Fri., Mar. 24 in Albuquerque, N. M. This will be their first stop on a tour to the nation's southwest, including well-known cities such as Phoenix, AZ and Escondido and Ripon, CA.

The tour's main feature is soloists. In the fall, Professor Duitman held a concerto contest in which soloists were selected to play in pieces for the spring tour. The winners of that contest were Eric Kooi (trombone), Sonja Brue (flute), and B.J. Sjoerdsma (clarinet).

Kooi, who will play the trombone solo in the concert band selection, "Andante et Allegro," said, "It's a fun piece and I'm looking forward to it...You know, music isn't music until it's played. Every

time it's going to be different. It's never stagnant."

Brue is also looking forward to playing her solo. She said, "It's fun to play and it's good experience for me. It's a big piece for flute repertoire." She will be soloing in the French piece "Concertino for Flute in D Major," a piece for orchestra from the Romantic period that contains several exciting tempo changes.

Also accompanied by the orchestra, B.J. Sjoerdsma will solo in "Concerto for Clarinet in A Major" by Mozart. Excited about playing, she said this is her favorite piece ever. "It's a really slow movement—almost mournful," she said, "When I play, I think about how sad Mozart's life ended."

Other features of the tour include liturgical music in a celebration of Easter and

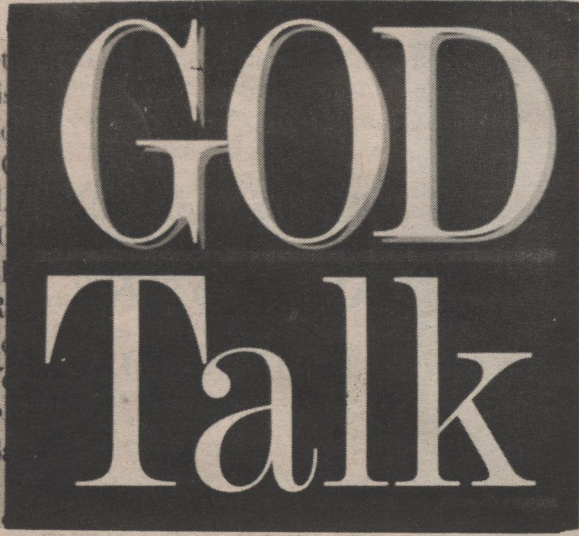
"Stars and Stripes Forever" by John Philip Sousa.

Some unusual events will also take place on tour. Marc Andreas will play a duet with Joel Bootsma in the piece "Concerto in G Major for Two Violas." Marc's mother, Kay Pech, arranged the piece and will be a guest conductor in California for "Brandenburg Concerto No. 3 in G Major."

In an assembly at Ripon Christian High, Tom Van Solen, a 1994 graduate of Dordt, will feature his band in a combined number with Dordt's.

The band and orchestra will complete their tour on Sunday, Apr. 9 with a home concert at 2:30 pm. in the B.J. Haan Auditorium.

God Talk: triteness and truth in Christian cliches



by Neil Graves

Randall Vander Mey

God Talk: Triteness and Truth in Christian Cliches. Downers Grove, IL: Intervarsity Press, 1993. 193 pages.

A review by Kristen Westerhof

In *God Talk*, Randall Vander Mey seeks to dissect and discern common Christian phrases, to drive a too-comfortable audience into the study of our everyday speech.

"Praise the Lord" is an example of one such phrase. Vander Mey first shows the root of the phrase, related to "Hallelujah" or "Praise Yahweh." The phrase has become increasingly popular and, as many like it, has spiraled out of control and out of meaning. Vander Mey calls

for a return to reason and to control—to the simple and sincere "Praise the Lord," not the pulpit-pounding, brow-beating "PRAISE the LORD!" that echoes through the auditoriums of televangelist programming. He criticizes the ease with which we

say words that may sound good but not reflect our genuine feelings and mind.

Though I do agree with Vander Mey's thesis in this piece—that in an increasingly noisy and senseless world we need a quiet, sensible and sensitive voice—Vander Mey tends to attack the practitioners with the practice. As in other essays, such as "God's Country I" and "Unequally Yoked," he comes down too hard on well-meaning and sincere Christians for the purpose of making his white

whiter by comparison.

At times, he also makes some questionable and confusing comparisons. Though I think the choice to compare charismatic worship to sexual arousal was deliberate, I question his appropriateness. He gets carried away with trying to make vivid images and leaves me stuck on that image instead of his thesis. I was so distracted I had to stop to consider in what ways church services were like sex. Whether that's simply a reflection of my character (or attention span), I do see that as a weakness in the writing.

This essay in particular tends to be antagonistic, as if people who think have a natural advantage over people who feel. Again, he seems to take shots at those different from him, unfairly assuming that he can read hearts and theirs are full of nothing true or real.

On the other hand, Vander Mey does address a pertinent idea, getting at one of the main truths of our society, where so often disorder replaces order. Using a little phrase like "Praise the Lord," he attacks a religion based on sounding and looking enthusiastic, often lacking a foundation.

His tone has a touch of sarcasm, which is not always the best, but does work to a degree. He observes language in action and shows his love for language in witty ways.

"Praise the Lord" is typical of much of the book. Vander Mey is a master of words when he is fully in control of them, not letting personal feelings interfere. He is, at times, inaccurate, allowing his projected version of the truth cloud his aim, as in "God's Country I," in which he reflects on his own entry into the Sioux Center community and projects what may be his own discomfort onto well-meaning though perhaps over-eager and encouragement-needy residents. The chapter reads as disparaging and unpleasant.

At other times, however, he is right on target.

For example, "Spiritual Warfare" is a gem. Here Vander Mey exercises caution in dissecting and ultimately discrediting Frank Peretti's *This Present Darkness*. His writing is well-crafted and polished; the flow is rhythmical and fun to read. He was not overly harsh, nor does he attack Peretti or his legions of

Continued on page 12

Schaap receives prestigious invitation

by Katie Dekker

English professor Dr. James Schaap has been invited to join The Chrysostom Society (TCS), a group of well-known Christian writers. These writers gather once a year "to try to refresh themselves with the challenge of writing as a Christian in contemporary society," Schaap said.

TCS includes such authors as Madeleine L'Engle, Luci Shaw, Larry Woiwode and Calvin Miller. Schaap said, "To be included with this group is an honor because the members are reputed to be among the finest American writers who profess to be Christians."

Schaap was asked in early March to join the group. He said it was especially such an honor because "you don't apply to this group—you are asked to join."

The next meeting of the TCS, which Schaap plans on attending, is in Feb., 1996, at a retreat center in Colorado Springs, Colo.

"Things" and Eman travel

Local groups around the country have been making their own productions of Dr. James Schaap's *Things We Couldn't Say*. Illiana Christian High School in Lansing, Illinois and Toronto District Christian High School are among the high schools who have recently staged the reader's theatre. Groups in Prinsburg and Edgerton, MN and Pella, IA have also done similar productions. A Christian community theatre group with Dordt roots in Detroit, MI has presented its version.

In a related story, Diet Eman, Dutch resistance worker and co-author of the book, will visit Schaap's Holocaust literature class Monday, March 20, 1995. The public is welcome to visit the class in C160 at 8:00 pm.

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Thanks 1992-93 Signet staff!

Kari Vanden Hoek will be a key player for the Defenders in the 1995 season.

SOFTBALL

'95

THE DORDT SOFTBALL TEAM SPORTS A YOUNG PITCHING STAFF AND POTENTIALLY POTENT OFFENSE IN THEIR FIRST SEASON UNDER COACH

DON DRAAYER

By Ryan Vander Plaats

Last season, the Dordt softball team faced an unusual predicament. They had no pitcher. The Defenders made due by converting then freshmen Julie Reno and Libby Kragt into pitchers, but Dordt did not break .500 despite batting .325 as a team.

This season, Dordt faces a dilemma quite opposite from last year. With three freshman pitchers of near equal talent, head coach Don Draayer will be choosing a starting pitcher instead of trying to create one.

"All three I think will contribute a great deal," comments Draayer. "They have unique things they can do well and it's going to be fun to shift them around and mess teams up with them."

Freshmen Natalie Groninga, Kris Huenink, and Meredith Kos will platoon as the Defender pitching staff.

Draayer says each pitcher has been able to get in plenty of pitches during practice because Dordt has the luxury of three catchers.

Draayer credits much of the improvement of the young staff in the preseason to sophomore manager Denise Houtsma. Houtsma, who was an excellent high school pitcher, is unable to play because of joint problems. But Draayer says that hasn't prevented her from contributing to this year's team.

"Denise can't pitch her-

self, but she knows how to pitch and teaches it well," says Draayer.

The promising pitching staff still has not faced college level hitters in game situations. Their reaction to pressure situations will be key to the success of the team.

The Defenders have an expanded roster this season with 14 players. Last season, Dordt managed with only its starting ten seeing more than a dozen at bats. The increase

"ALL THREE (PITCHERS), I THINK WILL CONTRIBUTE A GREAT DEAL. IT'S GOING TO BE FUN TO SHIFT THEM AROUND AND MESS UP TEAMS WITH THEM."

COACH DRAAYER

in team size will allow Draayer to give opponents different looks and to rest players throughout the season.

Dordt should have no problem putting up numbers to back its young pitchers. The Defenders do lose Steph Vander Molen, who led the team with a .444 batting average, 32 stolen bases, and 26 runs scored. But they returned the other nine players from their 1994 batting order.

Seniors Denese Rowe (.380 BA, 26 R) and Trudy Molendyk (.926 fielding %) led Dordt into the 1995 season, while juniors Jill Van Essen (.293 BA), Kari Vanden Hoek (.303 BA) and Sara Bareman (.323 BA, 25 RBI) provide Dordt with solid offense and three years of experience apiece.

Sophomores Julie Reno and Libby Kragt return to their normal defensive positions this season but hope to maintain their offensive standing, as Reno batted .404 and Kragt batted .286. Becky Tingley and Tricia Feyer also return for their second seasons on the team. Freshmen Robyn Droog and Amy Feikema join the young pitching threesome of Huenink, Groninga and Kos to round out the roster.

Draayer expects the last year's offensive success to continue. He says the keys to the season will be young pitching and maintaining the team's potent offense.

"I think they'll be a fun team to watch, and they are a great group of young ladies with great potential," Draayer says. "It just remains to be seen how we'll function this year."

The Defenders open their season next Wednesday, March 22, against Briar Cliff. The Chargers will have the advantage of having already played several games this year and should provide Dordt with a stiff challenge.

Dordt will then hit the road for its spring break trip to the Kansas City area.

Roster

No.	Name	Yr.	Pos.	Hometown
5	Denese Rowe	SR	1st	Sully, Iowa
6	Robyn Droog	FR	Utility	Sioux Center, Iowa
7	Jill Van Essen	JR	LF	Sanborn, Iowa
8	Trudy Molendyk	SR	C	Miami, Flo.
9	Kris Huenink	FR	P/2nd	Appleton, Wis.
10	Amy Feikema	FR	C	Rockford, Mich.
11	Sara Bareman	JR	SS	Hudsonville Mich.
12	Natalie Groninga	FR	P	Wellsberg, Iowa
13	Libby Kragt	SO	RF	Bradenton, Flo.
14	Tricia Feyer	SO	C	Sheboygan, Wis.
15	Julie Reno	SO	CF	Sioux Rapids, Iowa
16	Becky Tingley	SO	2nd	North Easton, Mass.
17	Meredith Kos	FR	P/1st	Holland, Mich.
18	Kari Vanden Hoek	JR	3rd	Hull, Iowa

Schedule

Date	Opponent	Site
March 22	Briar Cliff	Sioux City
March 24	Friends	Kansas City area
	Benedictine	
	Missouri Baptist	
March 25	Park Tournament	Shawnee, Kan.
March 27	Hastings	Alvia
	Alvia	Alvia
March 28	Park	Shawnee, Kan.
April 5	Teikyo Westmar	Home
April 7	Briar Cliff	Orange City
	Midland Luth.	O.C.
April 8	Doane	O.C.
	Northwestern	O.C.
	Neb. Wesleyan	O.C.
	Concordia	O.C.
April 12	Northwestern	Home
April 15	Huron	Home
April 21-22	Teikyo Tournament	Le Mars
April 25	Briar Cliff	Home
April 29	Huron	Huron
May 1	Teikyo Westmar	Le Mars
May 5-6	District Tournament	

Baseball Preview:

FORGET ABOUT MAJOR LEAGUERS POUTING AND REPLACEMENTS PLAYING. DORDT HAS AN EXPERIENCED, EXPLOSIVE TEAM THAT DOESN'T NEED CONGRESSIONAL INTERVENTION TO TIE THEIR SHOES

Coach Tom Visker is trying to maintain a low profile for his 1995 Defender baseball team.

"We're not putting pressure on anybody, but I do think the guys are working hard," says Visker. "They have the ability. It just depends on whether we go out and do it in game situations."

But it seems hard not to be optimistic about the Defenders, who return nearly all the components of last year's District 15 qualifying squad.

Pitching

The Defenders have a void to fill, as they lose four-year ace Troy Vander Molen. But Dordt returns the rest of their starting rotation, including seniors Heath Oostenink (4-3, 4.37 ERA) and Chad Feikema (4-2, 7.44 ERA), and junior Jeff Schouten (3-5, 4.36 ERA). The three upperclassmen provide a sound base for Visker.

"Our pitchers are very close (in quality). I don't think it will make much difference who's pitching," Visker says of his top three pitchers. "They're all pretty even in my mind."

During spring tryouts, Dordt was searching for the final member of the four-man starting rotation. But a familiar face transferred back to

Dordt and filled the final slot. Left-handed senior Kevin Bailey switched schools after his sophomore year. Bailey returns to his starting slot and gives Dordt a quality left-handed starter.

Bailey's homecoming also allows coach Visker to have extra options in the bullpen. Last year's top reliever, sophomore Jason Nikkel (3-1, 4.34 ERA), would have likely jumped into a starting role. With the starting staff set, Nikkel will be free to work middle to late relief. Last season, Nikkel made ten relief appearances in Dordt's 35 game season.

Joining Nikkel in the bullpen is sophomore Matt Fynaardt, who pitched in seven games last season. Freshman Ross Bouma and junior Brian Altena should see several relief innings as the season wears on. Sophomore John Limberg may also grace the mound, giving the Defenders a south-paw in the pen.

Hitting

The Defenders have no problem hitting the ball. But the team can't seem to match hot-streaks at the plate.

While clean-up hitter Jeff Schouten was having a down year (.277 BA), junior Mike De Jong put up huge numbers, topping all hitters

except Vander Molen in batting average (.326), hits (31), RBIs (27), triples (5), home runs (4), and total bases (57). Just one season prior, Schouten was soaring while De Jong was slumping. In Schouten's freshman season, he led Dordt in virtually every offensive category and his mid-400's batting average was the best in Dordt history.

Seniors Dave Heinen, Tim Roetman and Heath Oostenink have all put up impressive numbers in various seasons over the past four years. Heinen had his best season last year (.299 BA, 27 R, 5 doubles) while Roetman and Oostenink have been mainstays for the past three years. If Dordt can combine premium seasons from their top five hitters, they should cruise to their fourth straight District tourney.

Dordt has plenty of punch to add to their batting order this season. Upperclassmen Troy Stahl and Rob Faber have been waiting for their day in the sun for the past two seasons. Both showed promise in limited at bats last season and should be a large piece of Dordt's offensive puzzle. Fynaardt, Nikkel and Limberg should all see more pitches in '95.

Newcomers

In addition to Bailey (who is not

really a newcomer anyway), Dordt adds sophomore transfer Mark Vander Giessen. Visker says Vander Giessen is an excellent hitter and should vie with freshman Randy Lamfers for the starting spot at third base. Vander Giessen caught in high school, but knee problems cause the Arizona product to move to third base.

Freshman Tim De Jong has settled in as starting catcher. Visker expects De Jong to carry most of the load behind the plate.

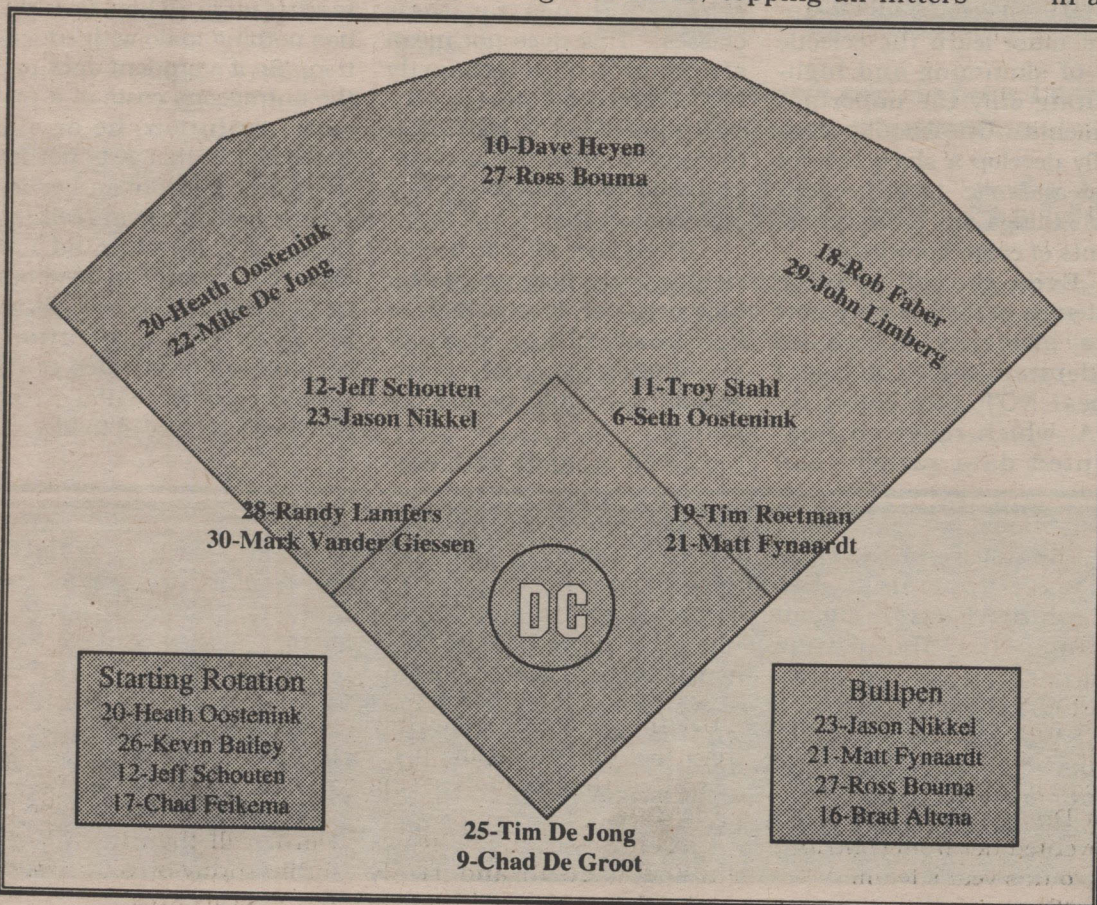
"He's very capable of handling catching duties, but he is taking a step up from high school," comments Visker. "He's worked very hard so far and I feel very confident with him behind the plate."

Backing De Jong will be freshman Chad De Groot.

Rounding out the Dordt roster are freshmen Ross Bouma and Seth Oostenink. A solid hitter and pitcher, Bouma should see time both on the mound and at the plate. S. Oostenink will back Stahl at second base.

Coach's Closing Comments

Says coach Visker, "We are not a young team really. The veterans are showing leadership by working hard and the guys are ready to go. It will be fun to play on Saturday."



Schedule

March 18	Huron	Home	1:00
March 21	Northwestern	Home	2:00
March 24	Concordia	Metrodome	11:00am
March 25	Marian	Metrodome	10:00pm
March 27	Wis.-Stout	Metrodome	11:45am
March 28	River Falls	Metrodome	11:00am
April 4	Buena Vista	Away	4:00
April 6	Mt. Marty	Away	1:30
April 8	Northwestern	Away	1:00
April 11	Southwest State	Away	1:00
April 13	Dakota State	Home	4:00
April 15	Dakota Wesleyan	Home	1:00
April 18	Briar Cliff	Away	1:30
April 19	Dana	Home	4:00
April 22	Teikyo-Westmar	Home	3:00
April 26	Buena Vista	Home	4:00
April 28	Huron	Away	2:00
April 29	Dakota Wesleyan	Away	4:00
May 2	Mt. Marty	Home	4:00
May 4	Teikyo-Westmar	Away	4:00
May 5	Dakota State	Away	2:00
May 6	Briar Cliff	Home	1:00

Putting Love Into Action

by Sarah Nieuwsma

Fourteen years ago, twelve Dordt students went on a serve project to Cary, Mississippi. Now, on March 23, 178 of Dordt's students are leaving for eleven different service sites, with what has come to be known as P.L.I.A.

P.L.I.A. is an ever-growing, student-lead project which gives college students the perfect opportunity to do volunteer work during spring break. Each service site is lead by two students whose responsibilities include driving, overseeing finances, and organizing the work that's done. Each group has a different project.

The group going to Altamont, TN will be lead by Tim Bootsma and Seth Bakker. They will be working with Mountain T.O.P. Ministries, by getting a summer camp ready for kids. The group may also spend a day working directly in the community.

Jeremy VanEssen and Elizabeth VanOord are leading their group to Jackson, MS, where they will be working with Voice of Calvary Ministries doing house renovations. This job includes some construction work, and painting.

John Contant and Dave Dieleman are heading a group to Vicksburg, MS. They will be doing basic repair work on housing while working with We Care Ministries.

The Nashville, TN group will be doing some indoor and outdoor painting, working with a kid's club, and interacting with teens and college/career age people. This group is lead by Mitch Menning and Kristin Kobes.

Pasadena, CA, lead by Kevin Vos and Mike Schiebout, is the only group that will be flying to their site. While working with Harambee Christian Family Center, their jobs will include a lot of general construction work around the center, and work with children through tutoring.

Shawn Bakker and Michael Langelaar's group is going to Mendenhall, MS,

where they will busy themselves by tearing down a huge, metal chicken coop. They will also be doing other clean-up work on the farm.

Heather Gregg and Peter Drost are going to Chicago, IL with some students where they will be doing some renovation and remodeling work on a house, gutting and painting). They will be working with Roseland Christian Ministries Center.

Co-chairperson of the planning committee, Kirk VanderPol, along with Tim Brandsma, is leading a group in Cary, MS. There they will be building screened-in porches onto two homes, as well as taking over an after school spiritual program for the week. The kids they will be working with range in age from four years to twelve grade; they will take a different age-group each day.

Christian Appalachian Homes, a shelter for battered women and children in Inez, KY, is isolated in the mountains. The group lead by Marco Boonstoppel and Jason Bootsma will help clear some land to make way for a chapel to be built.

Rehoboth, NM is a new site this year, headed by co-chairperson Val VandeVoort and Vince Hursh. The group will do three re-roofing jobs, help turn a garage into an office area, and run a week-long Bible camp.

Denver, CO is also a new site. Working with Brothers Redevelopment, the group, headed by Matt DeYoung and Kim Warren, will be doing general repairs (painting, light construction work etc.) for low-income families.

We are all called to missions, and we are all called to serve. P.L.I.A. is one way Dordt students have found to put this calling into action.

5 ways to raise your gpa so you can get ahead in life

by Charles Van Drunen III

1. DEVELOP SHORT-TERM MEMORY.

Today's college students must learn to develop their short-term memories in order to raise their GPA's. Short-term memory is vital for GPA because a majority of collegiate evaluation is done using data-specific tests. These tests would include such questions as: "What are the ten effects of communication in its linear mode?" or, "What are the fourteen steps of marketing according to Maslow's hierarchy of needs?"

In a world where education is a process of learning information that students will probably never use again, GPA could be significantly increased using the "Garbage In/Garbage Out" technique. This proven technique is simply cramming the required data before a test, then quickly regurgitating that information on the specified exam format—only to forget most of it the following day. This is an effective method since brain cells should not be cluttered with such useless data, unless, of course, one is a Trivial Pursuit fanatic.

2. SKIM READINGS.

Never read required materials in their entirety. Today's student must learn the eclectic art of skimming and highlighting only the important elements. One should especially develop a sharp eye for **bold** and *italic* print because such things are primary elements of exam knowledge.

Even though reading materials in their entirety may give students a holistic understanding, it is not, I repeat NOT, productive for GPA, which relies on fragmented data rather than

understanding.

3. ASK QUESTIONS... BUT DON'T QUESTION THE TEACHER.

GPA can surely be raised by simply asking or answering questions the teacher is hoping or asking for. This shows that you are active in the educational process.

But it is of vital importance to never question a teacher. To question a concept, idea, or methodology would be infringing on the professor's divine institutional authority, and would create a challenge which triggers defense mechanisms that, in the end, results in a negative attitude towards a student's GPA.

Therefore, a student's critical thinking must be non-existent in the classroom when one's GPA in considered. In addition, if a student is wasting time thinking critically, there is naturally less time to apply the "Garbage In/ Garbage Out" technique, which ultimately raises GPA.

4. KNOW THAT YOUR JOB IS TO BE A STUDENT.

A college student must learn, one way or another, that his or her job is to be a student. This means that students are to study and do all the required things for their classes. This does not mean students will necessarily learn anything, but a student's job is not to learn, it is to jump through the academic hoops of institutionalized education.

Therefore all extra-curricular activities, no matter how noble or educational, or how beneficial to a student's learning or personal understanding—should be discontinued.

Even if such activities

are encouraged by professors themselves, do not be deceived. A professor can praise and encourage participation in the play, work in the Community Outreach Program, energies on student publications, and effort in Praise & Worship, yet on that very same day he will lower that student's GPA for that paper handed in late or that day missed in class.

It is tough, but remember: your job is to be a student, and that means sacrificing some things for GPA, and those things are extra-curricular activities.

5. REALIZE THAT ALL EDUCATION IS THE SAME.

This rule is especially important for students who attend religious institutions that claim to be reformed. Students at such places might expect the educational process to be a shining light to the rest of the world. These students should realize that talk is cheap and institutions conform to worldly standards around them regardless of their dusty "Educational Task" statements.

Religious institutions can, however, often create a community that is more advantageous than secular institutions. This, frankly, has nothing to do with education. So if a student does pay the outrageous costs of a private institution, he or she must realize that it is not for the education, but rather for other benefits. So in realizing this, a student should not waste time complaining about such things in either written or oral communication, because such activities could ultimately lower GPA. . . so you won't get ahead in life.

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Christian devotees. He simply takes issue with the excesses of the book and shows its weaknesses.

Although I have problems with "God's Country I," Vander Mey's craft as a writer shines. In a list of Sioux Centerian activities and traits, he shows off his keen

observations.

The nature of the book is very appealing and refreshing. I found myself saying, "It's about time someone said this," especially in chapters like "Lord, I Just Want to Pray," where he questions the use of "just" in our appeals to God. He changes tone and form readily—"Yours in Christ" is a

letter to letters; "Temples of the Holy Spirit" shows the inner voice of a teenager whose father is giving him "the talk." He addresses the hypocrisy and self-delusion of well-meaning Christians who use and abuse words before considering their implications. What do "Now I Lay Me Down to Sleep" and "God Bless You" say about

us?

God Talk is a valuable tool to start discussion and thought among Christians, as long as they read critically. I wouldn't swallow Vander Mey whole, but that wouldn't stop me from tasting the book in the first place.