Firecrackers disturb GIFT service

Staff Writer

In the midst of a GIFT service, as hundreds of students were bowled in prayer, a loud pop resounded through the BJ Haan auditorium. Startled and bewildered, Andrew Abele continued the prayer he was leading—until the fire alarm went off.

“At first I thought something fell, and thought we could keep going, no big deal,” said Andrea Sennek, co-coordinator of GIFT. “Then the fire alarm went off, and then I started getting freaked out.”

When confused students evacuated the auditorium and trudged over to the Campus Center to await the next step by the GIFT team, campus security was on its way to the BJ Haan.

Tyler Lyon, who was on duty for campus security that night, said he arrived just as the Sioux Center Police Department also arrived at the BJ Haan. Lyon and the police officer proceeded to the back hall of the music building in order to open doors and prepare the way for the fire department.

“We went to the back hall. It was a little hazy and smelled like smoke pretty strongly,” Lyon said. When the Sioux Center Fire Department arrived, they began their search in the basement, checking the circuit breaker and then searching other rooms.

Shortly following the arrival of the fire department, Provost Erik Hoekstra, Associate Provost Bethany Schuttinga, and Director of Maintenance Stan Oordt arrived at the BJ Haan.

Schuttinga soon found matches in a trash can, went up the stairs leading to the organ loft, found two firecrackers in the trash can, and burn marks on the floor, Lyon said.

Maintenance soon realized someone had also pulled the alarm down in the music building, he said. When the Sioux Center Fire Department arrived, they began their search in the basement, checking the circuit breaker and then searching other rooms.

Iowa Supreme Court overturns gay marriage ban

Staff Writer

Iowa’s Supreme Court has overturned a decade-long ban on gay marriage within the state. The decision has drawn special attention due to the fact that Iowa is considered part of the nation’s heartland where traditional views toward marriage are more common.

In an April 3 decision, the Court stated: “We are firmly convinced that the exclusion of gay and lesbian people from the institution of civil marriage does not substantially further any important governmental objective. The legislature has excluded a historically disfavored class of persons from a supremely important civil institution with a constitutionally sufficient justification.”

The decision was brought on by a 2005 lawsuit by six gay and lesbian couples who were denied marriage licenses by the Polk County Recorder’s Office. The State Supreme Court decision upheld a lower-court ruling that stated that Iowa’s ban on same-sex marriages treated gay and lesbian couples unequally under the law.

Professor Donald King, associate professor of Political Studies at Dordt College, offered some thoughts and perspective on the subject: “The debate that has ensued [from the ruling] is a result of competing religious beliefs held by many faiths that are all protected by the free exercise clause of the state and federal constitutions. The Court does not see that it should get in the middle of any debates between faith communities. I think that is a proper position and support it as it will not affect the views of my church, the beliefs of my family, or the values I teach my children.”

On April 3, the Iowa Supreme Court overturned a decade-long ban on gay marriage in the state. Iowa is the fourth state in the US and the first state in the heartland to allow gay marriage.
news.

Volkers shooting slum documentary

Kristina De Graaf
Staff Writer

Approximately one-sixth of the world’s population now lives in slums. And that number is growing.

Professor Mark Volkers, instructor of Digital/Media Production at Dordt, has begun an initiative to put a face to these staggering statistics. Dubbed the “Slum Documentary Film Project,” the film spans three continents – Africa, Asia and Latin America. In each, the film will concentrate on just one family, hoping to persuade the masses to see people and faces instead of numbers and statistics.

This past Christmas break, Volkers traveled with 10 Dordt students to spend a week in the Philippines in the slums of Manila. This summer, he and Dordt senior Less Brauning will be heading to Guatemala City to study a family there. And next Christmas, the plan is to take another group of students to Nairobi, Kenya to finish up the three-continent perspective in some of the largest slums in Africa.

The statistics are incredible. In 1999, the average family in Guatemala lived on less than $227 per month. Almost 70% of those living in Guatemala City live on less than two dollars per day. “I in 6 of us now lives in a slum,” Volkers said. “And there’s no difference between us and them but that they’re living in abject poverty.”

The documentary, while filmed and produced by Christians, will not be an explicitly religious film. Instead, it will focus on exposing the truth while avoiding distinctly Christian language.

“The idea that documentaries are supposed to be neutral is a fallacy,” Volkers said. “Anytime you make a film, you have to think about your audience. And my audience is the masses. That doesn’t mean that I turn off the Christian part of me or my students – no, that doesn’t even get turned off – it means I just have to be a little bit more careful about wording.”

In addition to its future effect, the film is currently a project that fits well within Dordt’s perspective. Students are able to use their talents not only for entertainment and leisure but also in a much larger way. “It gives them the opportunity to use these [talents] in issues of justice – what we should be about as Christians,” Volkers said.

Filming in the slums is a large, work-intensive project. But it doesn’t stop once filming in Nairobi finishes. “The hiking around and shooting in the slums is the easy part,” Volkers said. “Marketing is where it gets really hard.”

Volkers is also part of a group working on similar project that meets weekly via conference call to discuss issues of marketing and distribution. “The marketing and distribution of an independent film is a whole science and world to itself. I’ve learned a lot,” Volkers said.

If all goes as planned, the documentary should be finished sometime in 2010. Until then, www.slumdoco.com has additional details, pictures, and progress updates.

Esry apologizes for firecracker prank

continued from page 1

Professor Volkers is working on a documentary on slums to be finished in 2010. Above are some of the slum-dwellers Volkers and digital media students filmed during Christmas Break in Manila, Philippines. Photo courtesy of Hani Yang.

If the festival receives funding, film makers from across the nation would be invited to submit their work for the festival. Film enthusiasts of all ages would then be invited to spend a weekend at Dordt viewing the films and taking workshops about film styles and other topics.

“We can take the values of this school and put them into a medium that will impact many,” said Taylor. “People are already excited about the film festivals.”

Another proposal for the $5000 donation was that Shane Claiborne, author of Irresistible Revolution and other widely-acclaimed books, come to speak on campus in November.

“He is an advocate for the simple life,” said representative Hani Yang, who has been working on the proposal to bring Claiborne to campus. “He wants Christians to live simple and holy lives for God.”

Yang described plans for Claiborne’s potential visit.

“We would have a lunch with Claiborne and then have a panel discussion,” said Yang. “We could invite community members to hear him speak, along with Northwestern students.”

Representative Staci Jessee is a fan of Claiborne.

“Reminds me a lot of Tony Campolo [who spoke on campus last year],” Jessee said. “I really like his material and think that he would be a good speaker on campus.”

Dordt students will have the opportunity to vote on which of these two proposals will be chosen. For more information, please email Symposium at symposium@dordt.edu.

continued from page 1

things in my head, the film was for there to be a few pops during GIFT, but people would jump and GIFT would go on. I had decided that if there was a problem or if people got upset I would just turn myself in the next day, get my level and life back on track. When everything happened the way it did I freaked and didn’t follow through with that plan,” Esry said.

Esry was suspended from school for the remainder of the semester, losing his 18 credits of work this semester, and had to resign as a Resident Assistant in North Hall, he said. Schuttinga declined to comment on the case, citing the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.

Robert Taylor, Director of Resident Life, also declined an interview.

Esry’s decision had additional consequences, he said.

“It hurt several of the relationships I had with people on and off campus and I learned a few life lessons…Of course I regret what I did, and even some of my actions afterwards. I made a horrible mistake without thinking...”

“I want to really make this clear,” he said, “I had/have nothing against GIFT. I love GIFT. When I visited Dordt, one of the things I loved about the school was how everybody was at the services because they wanted to be there, and they were really worshipping God. That is one of the things I regret the most, I ended a time of worship for students on campus – that was never my goal.”
Guest Writer

Helen van Beek

I’ve been trying to understand the logic behind implementing the plus/minus grading system but not requiring a uniform, standard grading scale that all professors use.

I understand the need to “save” the American grade inflation that’s been going on for so long now. But how is an un-unified grading scale going to do that?

Most professors seem to grade only on effort anyway, not the end result. What’s up with the “let’s have everybody feel good about themselves, even if their work really isn’t up to par!” That’s not life! You don’t go to school to feel better about yourself; school is about getting an education, becoming more knowledgeable, learning from your mistakes and growing as a person.

I hear stories around campus all the time about which professor to pick for a class, because with one, you will get an easy A; the other you actually learn something from. Why are we here? To pay big bucks for easy, low-level college classes that we can breeze through? I wish students (and in some cases, professors as well) would put more effort into their classes.

At Dordt, an A- can range anywhere from 90-93 percent or 95-97 percent. This might not seem like a big deal, but when you have to keep your GPA high enough for certain scholarships, it is a big deal. And some CORE classes I’ve taken don’t use plus/minus at all. If you’re going to use it, everyone should use it and with the same scale, not a “proposed” grading scale: No, a definite, here’s-how-the-whole-college-is-gonna-do-it grading scale. Apparently, we can agree that A is 4.0 and C- is 1.67 points. Then how come we can’t agree on definite percentages? Having the grading system so flexible the way it is now, the plus/minus still doesn’t mean anything, since it depends on the class and what percentage it really is.

Apparenty some people in the administration believe that this system, with no uniform grading scale, is some sort of “academic freedom.” What kind of “freedom” would that be? Freedom for the professors to do whatever they want but not for the students? If you’re going to implement the plus/minus system in a school, shouldn’t everybody use the same system, if only to help beginning professors to get a handle on it?

Guest Writer

Helen van Beek

Weighing the scales

by Helen van beek

The following percentages represent an A- for each course I have taken:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EDUC 251</td>
<td>90-95.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUS 312</td>
<td>no A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CORE 150</td>
<td>no A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CORE 180</td>
<td>grading scale not on syllabus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 110</td>
<td>90-05%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUC 135</td>
<td>90-03%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUC 201</td>
<td>92.5-96%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The point? None of these are the same, except that some classes don’t use the plus/minus system.

Staff Writer

Ryan Campbell

Someone once told me “beware of the sound of one hand clapping.” When two hands clap, the sound creates a smacking noise but with one note is heard. So one can say with any action or position there is a counter argument.

For many years no one has questioned that Dordt is giving, that it is a fine educational institution, or that the college takes care of its communities — but I will place one right hand.

Does Dordt give enough to its community? Do students get a say in enough issues around campus?

Dordt feeds money into the community through giving and through students going out and purchasing, but not enough.

Students pay within a range of $25,000 a year to go to Dordt. Why has our community not developed to its full potential? Why must we eat on campus, and does that

Off-campus money and food issues: Schuttinga answers for Dordt

We choose to do things different because we choose to create our own community for the growth of each student instead of having the expanded community like many other colleges. We must also be reminded that the costs of living are not just simple bills; in community housing you are paying for many things – from experience, improvement of facilities, maintenance, snow plowing, etc.

Why must we eat at the school’s cafeterias, and why are we charged for meals we miss? If we were to do away with a permanent meal plan then would local restaurants see more activity, allowing other restaurants to notice an opportunity for franchising? Could we install a “Defender Buck” program which may allow us to have a currency from our meal plans credited to a school debit card in which we can use within the community for food?

The student body impact on bringing more restaurants into the community is misunderstood. Restaurants look at many credentials of communities before building in them – such as the town population, the average income of people in the town, and other factors. Why would a Burger King move to Sioux Center if it will be in contest with Culvers, Hardees, and McDonalds? There are many more issues than a small student body’s involvement.

Dordt also takes priority in providing full nutritious meals for students—something fast food restaurants cannot provide—so the overall health needs can be met. You must understand that if we were to make meal plans optional, students would be cooking in the dormitories more and those facilities are not exactly made for mass cooking. Mistakes could also cause a rise in Fire Department calls, which is already a problem. We do understand that students are concerned that they are being charged for meals when they choose not to eat, and we are looking into ways to fix this. We are also contemplating this “Defender Bucks” idea so that the students may have ways to dine in the community and so that they may have new ways to help the community grow.

I am aware that many worry that expansion of the community may have its negative effects, but we must never confuse keeping the community small as the will of God, because giving is not between us and man but us and God. God will take care of Sioux Center as long as Sioux Center stays faithful to God, which it will. We must look at it from the positive. Growth will cause more students, and a bigger name for Dordt. This community may provide a reference and guidance for those who are lost; is that not our goal and objective?

Let the applause begin.

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Let the applause begin.
Linda Seger speaks about Dordt's screenwriting class on April 14 to discuss her faith and her career. Photo by Kelly Cooke.

Linda Seger, a professional script consultant in Hollywood, visited James Schap’s screenwriting class on April 14 to discuss her faith and her career. Photo by Kelly Cooke.

How to help

To help those who need help you can:
- Join Justice Matters Club
- Get involved with the Community Outreach Program (COPS) on campus
- Take trips to the homeless shelters in Sioux Falls

Or visit:
- www.worldvision.org
  • Sponsor an impoverished child for $30 a month
- mmphilippines.org
  • A ministry for those in the Manila slums
- www.ctmnet.org
  • A mission organization for desperate areas
- www.sponsorenchild.org
  • Sponsor an impoverished child for $30 a month

After announcing at Praise and Worship that 80 percent of Dordt’s students will end up in Hell, Daniel Mahaffy sheds some light on his views. Photo by Nando De Boer.

Daniel Mahaffy explains his controversial views

Ryan Campbell
Staff Writer

Recently Daniel Mahaffy stood up at Praise and Worship and proclaimed that “80 percent of the students here will end up in Hell.” For those of you not familiar with Daniel, here is some insight into his views.

Daniel lives a simple life and focuses on others more than himself. He has turned his life into a mission to watch over the poor. He is disgusted with how “Christians” care for the poor and finds that we are so drowned in our greed and materialism that he fears we are losing our culture as a curable disease.

Linda Seger, a professional script consultant in Holly

wood, visited James Schap’s screenwriting class on April 14 to discuss her faith and her career. Photo by Kelly Cooke.

Linda Seger speaks at Dordt about screenwriting

Alyssa Hoogendoorn
Staff Writer

No red carpets, paparazzi or flashing lights welcomed Linda Seger, a professional script consultant, to Dordt’s campus on Tuesday night. The only carpet she walked on was the dingy brown carpet in C160 where less than 20 people sparsely filled the lecture hall under fluorescent lighting.

New to screenwriting, James Schap, English professor, sought counsel from Seger to help him teach the screenwriting course.

They have been in contact throughout this semester, and even though this isn’t Hollywood, Seger accepted the invitation to come speak at Dordt.

One issue Seger addressed was misconceptions about the inner workings of the film industry. She doesn’t see it as the dog-eat-dog world that some people make it out to be.

“What I found is that the film industry is actually an industry made up of people encouraging other people and supporting each other. Being a team player becomes very important,” Seger said.

However, she did acknowledge that there are a lot of upsetting things in the film industry, but as she became more involved in it, she looked for ways to find the good.

“I realized I could not really work within this industry if I was not very tolerant,” she said. “A decision I made was that I would not presume that the only people who are really good people are Christians.”

In her profession and in her life, she has tried to train her eyes to be aware of the good happening around her.

“I decided I was going to look for goodness from whoever those people were, and when I saw goodness, I was going to nurture it. I was going to support it. I was going to encourage it,” Seger said.

She took a leap of faith by choosing a profession in screenwriting, especially since the profession of script consultant was non-existent at the time, but it was the perfect fit for her and her talents.

Now she wants to instill in others the desire and courage to take a leap of faith as well.

“We all have the right to make a living, a right to use our talents,” Seger said. “I don’t want to take that right from anyone.”

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features.

Handala documentary at Dordt

Joel Veldkamp
Staff Writer

The ten-year-old boy stands silently, hands clasped behind his back. His stocky limbs and spiky hair might appear humorous, were it not for his lack of shoes and the perpetual dust covering his patched, ragged clothes. Almost always, his back is turned.

The boy’s name is Handala, and he is the creation of Palestinian cartoonist Naj al-Ali. From 1975 to 1987, Handala appeared in all of al-Ali’s cartoons, a silent witness to the sufferings of the Palestinian people.

Handala’s age represents al-Ali’s age when he and his family were forced from their home in the 1948 Arab-Israeli war. Al-Ali once explained, “Handala was born ten years old, and he will always be ten years old. At that age, I left my homeland, and when he returns, Handala will still be ten, and then he will start growing up.” (Al-Ali was assassinated in London in 1987.)

Handala is also the name of a documentary created by Peder Wiegner, Megan Tahquette and Adam Beach about the continued conflict in Israel-Palestine. The documentary will be screened at Dordt College on April 16 as part of Dordt’s Justice Week.

Beach, a Middle Eastern Studies and anthropology major at Eastern University in Philadelphia, will come to Dordt to present the documentary.

According to Beach, “Handala is an Arabic word that roughly translates to bitterness in English. More importantly, Handala is the name of a famous Palestinian cartoon...which has become... an important symbol in the popular Palestinian nonviolent movement.”

Beach, Wiegner and Tahquette traveled to Israel/Palestine during the summer of 2007 to film the documentary. (Their stories can be read at http://yallahyallahyallah.blogspot.com/ “Yallah” is Arabic for, “Let’s go!” Adam calls Handala “a documentary about nonviolence and desolation in Palestine.”

The West Bank and the Gaza Strip, two small pieces of land that are home to millions of Palestinians, many displaced in the 1948 war, have been occupied by Israel since the Six-Day War in 1967.

Since 1993, the Israeli government and the often-fractured Palestinian leadership have been negotiating on-and-off to reach a peace settlement, which will most likely involve the creation of some kind of Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza.

The talks have broken down into violence multiple times, most recently in the three-week war between Hamas militants in Gaza and the Israeli Defense Forces last December.

Beach told Dordt College News that the documentary’s title was chosen “as if to say: We too turn our backs in bitterness on false peace that aims to separate Palestine into pieces and create a sham Palestinian state, sovereign in-name-only. Peace through separation has only compounded violence. Thus, we look toward creative forms of coexistence.”

Handala will be screened on Thursday, April 16, at 7 p.m. in C160. A panel discussion will follow.

Conflict on display for Justice Week

Alli Moerman
Editor

Students in Art 325, Painting II, tackled the theme of conflict in paintings on display for Justice Week. Instructor Matt Drissel gave students the subject and encouraged them to portray it in an expressive way on a life-size canvas.

Drissel said he thought about conflict in Palestine and the Congo and wanted to challenge students to bring the “load-ed subject” to campus.

“Most students chose to portray someone like themselves — white, a college-student,” said Drissel, so they “took what they [knew]” to portray the complicated subject.

“We get so jaded hearing about the conflict far away from us,” said Drissel. He hopes the paintings will encourage students on campus to think about themselves in the global conflict situations.

The paintings on display were done by Larrison Arkema, Cynthia Breyer, Sarah Hooyer, Joanne Kim, Becky Love, Miriam McAuley, Andrea Senneker, Emily Walters and Josh Wynia. The work can be viewed in the lower level of the campus center for this week only.
Prayer challenge participation dropped off this year

Sonja Doty
Guest Writer

Easter weekend at Dordt brings many spiritual activities and events, but none more ambitious than the 24/7 Prayer Challenge. Split into one-hour blocks, the challenge asks students to create a seven-day chain of prayer.

This semester, however, participation has fallen short with 93 out of 168 slots empty—only 55 percent of the slots filled.

Prayer Challenge was begun last year, at the hands of Tim Keep and Tim Boonstra. Under their management, most (if not all) of the spaces were filled. This year, management was taken over by two of the Southview CDA’s: Amanda Stout and Dan Davis.

The CDA’s have the responsibility to help students “take ownership of their faith and provide them opportunities to grow in community,” according to Stout. Among other things, Stout had hoped the 24/7 prayer would help reach out to all those in campus in a united effort.

E-mails were sent to both faculty and students on April 2 to alert them to the challenge, and both Stout and fellow CDA Matt Vander Ark sat in the Grille to advertise personally.

"Prayer for campus and on campus is really important. It shows an official sort of worship, a bare room barely bigger than my dorm room in North Hall."

The room used for 24/7 Prayer has been an official “Prayer Room” since the week before finals of last semester. Organized by Stout and Davis, it consists of several stations, designed for different types of devotion—Bible reading, confession, prayers, etc. The 2008 Prayer Challenge was held in a small room off of Student Services. Some features carried over, including a wall for any participant to write on, prayer requests and worship CDs.

"If I had known that there was an actual room that was dedicated to prayer, Zeller said, "and had all these amazing stations set up in it I probably would have signed up."

Stout added, “A lot of students went home for Easter, and it was just a big test week…then there’s just a lot of activities in area churches at Easter.”

“I was really busy,” said Zeller. “I had multiple final projects and lab reports due soon.” According to Stout, the future of 24/7 Prayer Challenge is shaky. “I think there was a lot of excitement the first time…maybe some of the novelty has worn off,” she said. “Maybe it’s time to change it up and do something different.”

Yang, despite the lack of sign-ups, is eager for Prayer Challenge to continue. “Prayer for campus and on campus is really important. It shows another dimension to our faith and Christian life.”
Vander Berg says goodbye to Dordt

Rick Vander Berg, who has been on the Dordt College faculty since 1977, will retire at the end of the year. Photo by Kelly Cooke.

Ashlee Stallinga
Staff Writer

After spending 31 years—nearly half his life—working at Dordt College, Athletic Director Rick Vander Berg will be retiring at the end of the year. “It’s just time for a change,” Vander Berg said, “for the school and for myself.”

Vander Berg has seen a lot of change throughout his years here, starting out as HIPER faculty, head basketball coach and track coach. “We did more back then,” he said.

Four years later, he was made Athletic Director, and he gave up basketball in 1994. Vander Berg has seen the rise of women’s athletics, something that he appreciates. “It was just starting out when I got here—they didn’t have leagues or anything,” he said. “Now, the women have the same status as men.”

He took the men’s basketball team to Nationals for the first time, something he notes as one of his best memories. He has watched crowds for basketball games go from packed houses and line-ups in the 80’s to the less-robust crowds today. But not everything has changed.

“I’ve thoroughly enjoyed teaching classes every year I was here,” Vander Berg said. “I’ve had the privilege of working with the greatest student body in America. Because of them, I never have to think twice about what I’ll miss most.”

Vander Berg has special praise for the work study students, with whom he has worked closely over the years. “They make this job possible,” he said.

“I’ve been working for Mr. Vander Berg since freshman year,” said Ryan Johnson, who is the athletic events manager. “I’ve enjoyed working for him; he made my work-study pretty fun.”

Next year, Johnson and others will make the job possible for Glen Bouma, who will be taking over the athletic director position. “He’ll do a fine job,” Vander Berg said.

Vander Berg’s next year is wide open right now. “My wife and I have ideas of some things we’d like to do—service things. But first we’re just going to take a year off, relax, and enjoy time with the grandkids,” he said.

And he doesn’t hesitate to include Dordt sports in his year of relaxation. “Absolutely, [I’ll go to games]. I’d love to be a spectator without having to yell at unruly fans... and I’ll be laughing at Bouma when he has to take care of it,” Vander Berg said, with a smile.

By the numbers

Dordt sport scores and stats

Compiled by Ashlee Stallinga

7: Games in the softball team’s winning streak (as of April 14), which is the team’s longest winning streak since the 2002 season.

224: Jared Rempel’s combined GPAC-qualifying golf score, placing him one stroke behind the three-way tie for first with one round to go.

1, 1, 1: Places that Crystal VanderZee finished in the 100m dash, long jump, and triple jump at the Northwestern Invitational on April 9.

177: Runs scored by the baseball team so far this season.

48: Runs batted in by Dillon Peters (24) and Travis Dekkers (24), who combine for one third of the team’s RBI.

1-1: The Sowers’ current divisional record, after losing to Creighton 10-7 and beating University of Nebraska-Omaha 7-5 at the end of March.

April 16, 2009

Dordt Sport Report: Leah Applebee

Photo by Kelly Cooke.

Ashlee Stallinga
Staff Writer

Major:
Spanish Education and English Second Language Education

Hometown:
Mount Vernon, Iowa

When did you start playing tennis?
Well, this is my first year on Dordt’s team. I played in high school, but then when I came to Dordt, I was just too busy with education. I played for fun, but not on the team until this year. This is the lightest semester I’ve ever had, so I thought I’d go for it.

Do you watch professional tennis? Who’s your favorite player and why?
Yeah... I like [Rafael] Nadal. He’s really good. And he sports the man capsri... I like that.

Do you do any other sports or activities at Dordt?
Well, I play intramurals—softball and basketball, and I’m in band and jazz band. I used to do dance team, but that’s not here this year.

This is the last year that Dordt will have a tennis program. How do you feel about that?
It’s disappointing.

I wouldn’t be at Dordt without tennis. When I was looking for colleges, I only considered schools that had tennis, because I thought I’d be playing a lot more. So we might lose a few students [when we drop the program].

What are your plans for next year?
I’m going to Nicaragua in August to student-teach. I hope to get a job straight from that and work there.

Will you get a chance to continue playing tennis?
There are courts at some of the apartments there, so we’ll see.

What was the last good movie you saw?
Taken. Or Stuckup Millionaire. Both raise a lot of awareness about issues going on in other countries.

Ashlee Stallinga
Staff Writer

Year:
Senior

Sport:
Tennis

Position:
Plays both singles and doubles matches
Giving life to the monster: New sculpture takes form

Above: Prof. Van Wyk and art students David Lamers and Naomi De Boer work to finish the two-columned sculpture.

Photos courtesy of Jake Van Wyk and Naomi De Boer.

entry of the new art department. The columns will extend floor to ceiling, topping off by wing-like extensions perpendicular to the columns. Van Wyk said the project began as a proposal 10 years ago, but because of the size of the piece it would have been difficult to do alone. Last fall he opened the project up to five advanced ceramics students: Dan Slegers, Nic Padilla, Steven Oswald, Naomi De Boer and David Lamers. The sculpture project was planned to take about one-third of the students' work time, but now it's taking three-fourths of their work time. "It's been a lot of fun," said Van Wyk. "The students are extremely motivated, working nights and weekends and Assessment Day — which they all quickly agreed to do. The piece remains untitled, but the inspiration for the concept came from the book of Revelation and the images of apocalyptic end times. The columns begin flat at the floor, but grow progressively more detailed as they rise to the ceiling. The sculpture includes a seven-headed beast, and a horse and rider heralding the saved," said Van Wyk. Universal Christian symbols of the vine and branches also weave throughout the piece. The approximately 25 pieces including the column sections and extensions are being constructed and stored in the second level of the maintenance building. With construction in the art department, it’s been difficult to find space to create this project; but said Van Wyk, "Maintenence has been very accommodating allowing us to use part of their 2nd floor space as work space and storage areas." Once the pieces have been sculpted they each take about 3 weeks to fully dry before they can be fired, glazed, and fired again. Van Wyk said it will take most of the summer to finish the firing process, but the entire sculpture is expected to be assembled in August of 2009.

Non-English majors dominate Purple Martin contest

Sonja Doty
Guest Writer

The Humble Bean served as an awards hall the night of April 6, where entrants of the Purple Martin Writing Contest received their dues. Winners were announced for fiction, poetry, analysis, personal writing, persuasion and argumentation.

For the freshman categories, winners received $40, while all-category winners took $100; second places, $50. The English department served as the judges, and Professor Jim Schapen presented the awards to the winners, some of whom were called upon to read their winning pieces aloud to the waiting audience.

Robert Minto walked away placing first in three categories and an honorable mention in another. Though he is not the English major expected in some writing contests, but still considers himself primarily a writer.

"I've gone in my life from wanting to be a philosopher to a pastor to a teacher…but what I've always liked most about those things is how much writing they involved," Minto said.

Minto had entered the Purple Martin his freshman year, winning a first place and honorable mention.

It was the first writing contest he had entered since he won an Internet contest at twelve. "For a little fanfiction e-zine…but the magazine folded up and died before it could be published," Minto said.

A variety of participants produced a diverse collection, ranging from education to engineering majors. Winners from each category varied, including philosophy, Spanish, theology and political science.

"I didn’t really think I was much of a writer," said Kari Van Beek, winner of the freshman personal writing category and a recently-declared education major. "My professor wrote at the bottom of my paper 'Enter this in Purple Martin Writing Contest,' and I was like 'What is that?!'

Van Beek had never before entered a writing competition when she submitted her paper, titled "Ups and Downs," about babysitting two little boys in the summer.

"Some days were so good, we had so much fun," Van Beek said, "And the next day tensions were flaring and I had to make one sit in the timeout corner."

"We’re thrilled we’re getting more entries," Professor Dengler said. "We had just a few in each category—not sure what that’s all about."

According to Professor Dengler, very few freshmen entered anything, along with fewer upperclassmen.

Furthermore, analyses and argumentation entries are quickly outnumbering entering English majors.

"I don’t know if it’s that fewer people are taking CORE 120 or if they just not hearing about it, if they’re not being encouraged," Dengler said, "But the entries that we had were good. It’s good stuff."

The Monday night awards ceremony ended with applause and full stomachs from provided sandwiches, but the effects will be felt for more than one night: Van Beek is tentatively playing with the idea of an English major, while Minto is holding out to somehow sweep the awards.