Storm floods East Campus apartments

Cheryl Korthuis
Staff Writer

Instead of the usual blaring music or cooking smells in most East Campus apartments, a fan blowing in your face greets you on the canyon side of Apartment C. Due to the stormy rains on September 15 and 16, water flooded the bottom part of the building. The water came through the cleaning closet under the stairs, into the hallway and into the two bottom rooms.

There was about a five foot radius of standing water, a half inch deep, flooding apartment C3, the residence of Jennifer Alkema, Alanna Dake, Rachel Hondred, Sherri Dick and Jena Schemmerhorn.

"It was a good adventure," laughs Alkema. After watching a movie in the living room around 1 a.m. Saturday morning, Tymona Van Houten was about to walk out the door when she noticed the water. After they opened the door, a stream flowed into the kitchen of C3.

"We tried to sop it up with towels," says Alkema, "but that didn't work." After their futile attempts to clean the mess, the girls called campus security and maintenance.

After assessing the situation, maintenance brought in a machine to vacuum up the water. The first vacuum filled up in two minutes and they needed a bigger machine to finish the job - which took until 2:30 a.m.

Stormy rains came a few weeks before classes started and flooded Apartment C during that storm as well.

Alkema said, "Why wasn't something fixed then? Our biggest worry is what will happen next time?"

East Campus residents attempt to mop up the flood which resulted from heavy rains on September 15 and 16.
Lives jeopardized in Darfur

Bridget Smith
Staff Writer

Over 200,000 dead, over 2 million displaced, and at least 3 million people reliant on humanitarian aid. This is the result of a three-year conflict in Darfur. The conflict began in 2003 when rebel groups attacked various government targets. BBC news reports on the cause of the attacks, "Opposition groups in Darfur say the government neglects their province and discriminates against black Africans."

Many Sudanese in Darfur are now fleeing over the border of their region to Chad. Jonath Fisher, BBC News, reports, "As the fighting escalates, May's Darfur Peace Agreement, or DPA, now looks much more like a military alliance than a comprehensive peace agreement."

With the level of violence and the death toll rising, the need for peacekeeping aid is imminent. The central government in Khartoum "claims it inhabits the moral high-ground, fighting in the name of peace" (BBC News). "Evidence shows that peace is drifting farther out of reach. According to the U.N. News Service, "In the past two months, 12 aid workers have been murdered — more than in the entire previous two years."

Tension rises as the United Nations pushes for the Sudanese government to allow UN peacekeepers to enter the country. Pointing to genocide in Sudan, the U.S. and France are calling for aid to be granted to the Sudanese. "The African Union agreed last week to extend its mandate through the end of the year. The mandate was supposed to end in two weeks. In spite of the hope found in the extension, the African Union's budget is dwindling and resources are becoming scarce."

Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir still refuses the entrance of the United Nation's 17,000 peacekeeping troops into the country. Brit Hume of Fox News reports "Omar Hassan al-Bashir says the move to get U.N. peacekeepers into Darfur is actually a plan to redraw the region's borders to Israel's advantage. And Bashir said last Sunday's Darfur peace rallies in several countries were "inaugurally organized by Zionist Jewish organizations."

While the people of Sudan continue to starve and die, the United Nations continues to hope to persuade the Sudanese government to accept aid. While the use of force has been discussed, many questions of the effectiveness of such a move. The Sudanese government has assured the U.N. that the implementation of troops in Sudan would be met by armed forces. People around the world continue to rally to show support for entrance of U.N. troops into Sudan.

Dordt's Justice Matters club is also rallying in prayer. Posters and announcements were made last week to gather Dordt students for community prayer.

An international opinion

Lynette Andre
Staff Writer

As an academic institution, Dordt is not large or well-known outside of Reformed circles. What draws students from around the world to Dordt College? Is it what they expected? What are their opinions as international students attending Dordt?

From interviewing students from South Korea, Honduras and Columbia I was able to formulate a general idea of international students' perspectives on Dordt as an institution, including the faculty and students.

All the interviewed students agreed that generally Dordt was not open-minded outside of the Reformed perspective. They also realized, that that was to be expected. Some students wished that professors would value their opinion more because they believe there is no absolute truth when it comes to theology and doctrine. They felt they were able to critically analyze Reformed theology more so than students who were Reformed because they had grown up in a different culture and denomination.

When asked if cultural diversity was valued on campus, Andres Acosta Rozo said that in looking at the numbers, the majority of students come from various places throughout the United States, then from Canada, and finally a very small percentage of students that represent the flags hanging in the Campus Center. But those are just numbers. If we truly value cultural diversity, then people need to realize that it is not just the international students who come to Dordt from a different culture, but everyone.

Every individual comes to Dordt with different experiences and backgrounds—and that is the diversity we should value.

Do international students feel that they are valued by other students on campus? There was a wide variety of answers to this question. Harrah Sun wished that more people would come to Students Without Borders—a club where cultural diversity is celebrated and valued, but not exclusively to international students only. Like any institution, especially in its lack of diversity, Dordt can be frustrating, but it is a blessing to see more international students and the new perspectives and vision they can offer.

Out & About

Jill Hiemstra
Staff Writer

PETA put off cockroach crunching

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals wants Six Flags Great America to get rid of its cockroach-eating promotion. A spokesman for the animal rights organization says the contest at the amusement park's Fright Fest is "gratuitously cruel."

The park in Gurnee, Ill., is joining other Six Flags parks in offering unlimited line-jumping privileges to anyone who eats a live Madagascar hissing cockroach. The bugs are up to three inches long. But amusement park officials are defending their menu choice. Great America spokesman Jim Taylor says the bugs are nutritious, high in protein and fat free.

Chicken drops along two extra feet

A Pennsylvania farm discovered a four-legged chicken among 36,000 other birds. "It's as healthy as the rest," said the farm's owner. The bird has two normal front legs and behind those, two more feet. They are of a similar size to her front legs but don't function. The chicken drags her extra feet behind her. "There's no definitive reason why such deformities happen," said Cliff Thompson, a retired professor of genetics at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown. He said it could be an accident of development, akin to a sixth toe on a cat.

Thief tangled in Reagan costume

A man suspected of bumbling an August bank robbery while outfitted in a Ronald Reagan mask and a cape was arrested: During the Aug. 29 robbery at a Bank of America, the masked robber stumbled to the ground after his gun got tangled up in his cape, and his getaway vehicle got boxed in by delivery trucks, forcing him to inch backward and forward to bash his way out. After he finally fled, a dye bomb went off in the car, staining the money. The robber abandoned his SUV, and police found it with the mask, the gun and a $50 bill inside. Police said DNA they took from the discarded Reagan mask linked him to the robbery and evidence found in his car linked him to other robberies.

MOVIEWING

An Inconvenient Truth

Panel discussion to follow
Art professor responds to Diamond article

David Versluis
Guest Writer

As a member of the art department faculty and a member of the art committee last semester, I felt it necessary to respond to (and hopefully clarify) certain aspects of the article by Jessica Braunschweig in the previous issue of the Diamond regarding the vandalism of the student sculptures installed behind the B.J. Haan auditorium. While in general the article presented the facts and issues surrounding the incident fairly, a couple of clarifications need to be made. First of all, the article quoted a student forum representative on the art committee, saying that "[Professor Van Wyk] seemed ready to set up the display no matter what...The proposal he gave to the art committee was written in a 'no-would-not-be-taken-as-an-answer kind of way.' " I think the quote misstated Professor Van Wyk's intent. What the proposal implied was this: if some of the sculptures could not be displayed (for whatever reason) then none of the pieces would be installed. Van Wyk felt it important that the grouping be inclusive rather than exclusive for the sake of his students' efforts.

It's also important to note that this was a student project and that the sculptures class' proposal was not "power trip," nor was the subject matter of the sculptures ever intended to shock viewers; rather the students wanted to offer their work to the community of Christ in a humble, God-glorying way. Neither Van Wyk nor his students ever tried to circumvent the proper administrative procedure. Instead, they sent their proposal to art committee chair Sally Jongema for project consideration, approval and implementation by the committee, which is the appropriate procedure. The Dordt College Art Committee is charged with the responsibility of on-campus display and curatorial care of the permanent collection of artworks that the committee continues to build from a specific budget each year. On occasion the committee may get a request for a special student project such as this one to consider. Student members of the art committee, including a member representing Student Forum, were present to express their views. They had insights and were indeed part of the proposal and decision-making process. The article's implication that Student Forum was somehow by-passed in the process is not really accurate. Student Forum does not normally vote on the decisions of all committees on campus.

While the art committee in general saw the value of the project, the members also discussed several concerns, which included everything from content to site to documentation. At the end of the discussion the committee could not vote "no" on the project, but on the other hand, it could not come to a full consensus either. As a result, the proposal went on to the Administrative Cabinet for a final decision. Along the way compromises were made to the proposal such as duration of time the sculptures could be displayed (since this exhibition was never intended to be a permanent installation) and an agreement to post a statement explaining the sculptures and their context. The Administrative Cabinet ultimately gave the project its approval.

Surviving a Dordt workstudy

Kristina De Graaf
Staff Writer

While workstudy jobs are adequate at helping students earn a few extra bucks, it's no secret that yours other people. "Just have an open mind," Ooms says, as the rest nod in agreement. "Even if you don't totally like it, you can still have fun."
Tambov tower of truth provides a memorable message

Jessica Braunschweig
Editor

A group of six of us from the Christian Reformed World Missions Summer Missions Program (SMP) recently had the privilege of being welcomed into the loving arms of the (Baptist) Tambov Church family/community in Russia. Taking part in the ten-day church camp there, we were unprepared for the many ways our world and views would be changed. Stepping out of our bus, we stepped into a world of love, laughter and lessons learned, both temporarily and excitedly leaving our American/Canadian cultures behind. And we were certainly excited about what stood before us, dwarfing our shadows in the brightness of the sun. We looked up at the four-towered church in awe, its snow-white presence of peace an understandable stronghold within the chaotic center of the city. The ten-plus years of hard work that have gone into the restoration of and additions to the structure are a testament of Pastor Ruben’s vision—how God has moved, used and continues to do both within the Tambov Church and through the many amazing servants who lead within it. Eugene Peterson’s ‘Introduction to Haggai’ from The Message echoes the hearts of the countless people invested in the task of finishing the Tambov church: "Material—bricks and mortar, boards and nails—keeps us grounded and connected with the ordinary world in which we necessarily live out our extraordinary beliefs. Haggai keeps us in touch with those times in our lives when repairing the building where we worship is an act of obedience every bit as important as praying in that place of worship” (1726). Though the building itself is far from complete, its message of completion in Christ continues to flourish, helping to put the pieces of people’s lives together in Him along with the building still in progress. Some of those people who have recently been a part of seeing/hearing about God’s love were the approximately 65 Russian children who attended the Tambov church camp. The kids’ array of ages from five to 17 made for entertainment in itself. Each day began with worship songs, prayer and breakfast at the church, followed by a daily, ever-eventful 1.5-hour bus ride to and from the wilderness camp. This ride was the scene of much singing, smiling and starts of unforgettable friendships that crossed the aisles along with the often, hilariously-obvious language barriers. And still ever-present was the universal language of love.

Once at the wilderness camp, located near the town of Koltovsk, kids raced to their different activities throughout the day, which included Bible study, sports (volleyball, basketball, soccer/football), crafts, swimming, team games and the evening program which featured creative skills that left the kids with a challenge about the day’s Bible lesson/theme. Meal times and snacks never failed to be much-appreciated—“ochen fakusna,” (very tasty) as we foreigners quickly learned to say. Each of the children’s groups loved shouting out their creative thank-you jingles to the hard-working cooks. Grandma (“Babooshka”), a beloved elderly widow who became a Christian two years ago, rolled endless batches of her homemade rolls—the favorite treat of the week—melting in mouths across the entire dining room.

Though our team didn’t leave the camp with fluent Russian skills, we departed with so much more. For, each child we met and each story shared, spoke volumes to our hearts that we are sure to take with us wherever we’ve yet to go in life. We’ll never forget the brother and sister we met, whom, at five and 12 years old, already endured the loss of their mother; their father having murdered her in a drunken rage one year ago. Such truths of alcohol abuse and violence in Russia become more than mere statistics when those who pay the price stare back at you in helplessness. How can Christians bring answers to so many life’s questions?

Through the Tambov camp, we were able to see another side of Russia—breaking past stereotypes, even breaking bread with the believers there. We received a much-needed reminder—despite all differences, the Church is truly one Body united in Christ. The presence of the church of Tambov stands as a testament that each of us is under construction in Christ, daily being renewed and changed. The Tambov Church Camp encouraged us to keep living for Christ and shining our lights...in Russia, America, Canada and all over the world.

Student goes to Vietman to teach English

Nate Nykamp
Staff Writer

This past summer, Ginelle Bakker had the opportunity to spend a month teaching English to children in North Vietnam. She said that the experience was a wonderful one, and wishes that more Dordt students would take advantage of such opportunities.

Through a division of the organization ELIC (English Language Institute in China) Ginelle was placed in the capital city of Hanoi with a team of about ten other teachers. Before the team went to Hanoi, they spent some time in California being trained and working on learning a very basic knowledge of Vietnamese. Learning any part of Vietnamese is very difficult, since it, like most Oriental languages, is tonal based, making accurate pronunciation vital and also very difficult.

Ginelle said that every day the teachers taught the students about a different country, using various activities and games to teach the students. By doing the lessons in English, the students learned about the world, as well as improving their English. Ginelle said the students were “very motivated” and “very eager to learn” and that the course that she worked in was a summer camp type course that the students volunteered for.

In Vietnam, learning English is a vital skill for anyone who wants to get a good job, especially in the business world. Ginelle said that many of the student’s parents knew English and wanted their children to be able to speak English well. This parental desire makes the children very driven to succeed and Ginelle said that because of this the students were attentive and very eager to get to know her. Ginelle said that at first, it was a bit awkward being one of the only people who wasn’t Vietnamese, and that when she got home, it felt odd to be able to blend in.

One of the many reasons Ginelle went on this trip was that she has an interest in missions, and although outright ministry is somewhat limited there, many opportunities to build relationships with the children were available. Her team leader said that they should “celebrate the seed, not the blossom,” meaning that they should be proud to work, even if they never see the results.

Ginelle also said that she simply felt called to go this trip, and that it was the last time that she would have this opportunity to take part in what she has always dreamed of doing. Ginelle said that the entire trip was an “awesome” experience and that she wished more students would stop thinking about doing something like it. Anyone interested in teaching English in Vietnam should visit www.elic.org.рисунок
New Chapel Dean has Dordt roots

Joel Veldkamp
Staff Writer

As I sit in the balcony of the B.J. Haan, a picture of a dingy old Volkswagen appears on the projector screen. The next slide shows the same Volkswagen, now brilliantly restored — new paint, new hubcaps, new everything. Down on the stage, a man with a warm smile tells us how we are like the Volkswagen. "When Christ saves us, we become a new creation. Every part of us gets renewed."

The man is Rod Gorter, the new Chapel Dean at Dordt College, who is giving his first chapel sermon.

Gorter is not entirely new to Dordt. In fact, he's a Dordt alum. It was at Dordt that he found his calling.

In his high school years, Gorter wanted to be a missionary. "I had a passion for the Soviet Union," he says. With that in mind, he took a course in the Russian language in high school. But at the time, the countries behind the Iron Curtain were almost completely inaccessible to Christianity. "When I told people about going there," he says, "they asked me if I was going to be smuggling Bibles."

When he entered Dordt College as a freshman, he chose business as his major. As a sophomore, however, he felt called to the seminary. Eventually, he became a pastor.

Gorter pastored two churches, the first in Manitoba and the second in Minnesota. But the world was changing. In 1989, communism's winter in Eastern Europe began to thaw. In 1991 the Soviet Union was dissolved; and freedom of religion came to millions of people. Four years later Gorter would finally get a chance to travel there.

In 1995, he leaped at an opportunity to teach for six weeks in Ukraine, one of the former Soviet republics. His church gave him a leave of absence and sent him as a missionary. He describes the experience he had there as "wonderful." In 1998 he took a full-time position training pastors in Ukraine and moved there with his wife and four sons.

"Ukraine is interesting," he says, "because they had people in space before we did," but are still severely lacking in basic necessities, like electricity and water. "Going to Ukraine is like going back in time fifty to sixty years," he says. "According to some people, there is a very small wealthy class in Ukraine but the rest of the population lives in third world conditions.

Gorter also spoke about the challenges of spreading the gospel in Ukraine. In the 1990s, after the fall of communism, people were very open to the message of the gospel. "But since then, resistance and pessimism about religion have been growing," he says. He attributes that trend partly to the large number of cults that sprang up in Ukraine in the '90s.

In 2004, when Ukraine's government tried to falsify the vote of the presidential election, half a million protesters gathered in Kiev demanding justice — an event that would come to be known as Ukraine's "Orange Revolution." Gorter says, "It was very exciting to be on the ground level when history was in the making." He says that only later did they find out that the protestors were called back at the last minute, narrowly avoiding a civil war. Gorter says that the Orange Revolution presented an unique opportunity for the churches there to encourage civic participation.

Eventually, the Gorters started looking for an opportunity to move back to North America. In April of 2005, Gorter's brother-in-law and father-in-law both sent him an ad from Dordt College for the Dean of Chapel position. The Gorters felt that it was an "affirmation" of their desire to move back to the States. Soon, Pastor Gorter found himself back where his ministry journey had begun — at Dordt College.

Pastor Gorter is preaching a series called "The Wonder of the New You" during chapels on Thursday this semester.
A peek behind the curtain

Becky Love
Staff Writer

The Dordt Theatre Department is hard at work as they prepare for their first performance of the fall semester. Actors are practicing "Arsenic and Old Lace," memorizing their lines and practicing their movements on stage. When the time comes for the seats to be filled on opening night, a hush will fall on The Paske Theater, and the show will begin.

What the audience will not see during the play, however, are all the hours of hard work behind the scenes. Jim Van Ry has been working as the Theatre Arts Technical Director for seven years. He is now overseeing the production of the set for Dordt's upcoming play.

According to Van Ry, production is going well and his team is one week ahead of schedule. At that rate, it should not be a problem for them to meet their completion deadline in three weeks. About a dozen students are working alongside Van Ry as he seeks to recreate a 1940's setting.

Compared to past productions, this is a large-scale show. Though Van Ry admits to having worked on much bigger projects in the past, the indoor sets of this play are impressive in their detail and accuracy. Alleen-Nyman, a freshman working as a set constructor, says that the backdrop will measure 40 feet across.

Van Ry hopes that the audience will see the set as "so real that they think they're in the house." So far, the work is going smoothly, despite the challenges of constructing a swinging door. "Doors are the worst," Van Ry says.

When all the work is done and those troublesome doors are hung, the team that worked so hard to create a realistic environment will join the spectators. The technical director himself confirms that he will be in the audience during the play.

As you watch and laugh at the antics on stage, stop and take a moment to appreciate the work of those men and women behind the curtain.

The play will run from October 25 to the 28. Visit Dordt's website for information on times and ticket prices.

Students gather to discuss controversy

Naomi De Boer
Staff Writer

United by an interest in art as a concern of gathering of students and faculty met in CL 160 on September 18. When the works of last semester's sculpture class were knocked to the ground, Student Forum decided to provide an opportunity to discuss the events.

Professor Van Wyk began the forum by describing the project the class was about and how he came up with the idea. Over the years, he says that he "realized there was a power in the figure" and he wanted to develop the idea.

Van Wyk proposed the temporary sculpture garden project to the Administrative Cabinet last semester and it was approved. Students each put in 20 to 30 hours on their projects. They worked all summer to get them fired in the kiln and ready for display.

"The statues were trashed, the students were pretty devastated and I was disappointed," Van Wyk said. "You put yourself at risk, and then when you do your work publicly it's even more of a risk," he continued. Like many artists, the class wanted to make people think, but they were not expecting the sculptures to be damaged.

Some of the students questioned the sculpture class members about whether or not the nude sculptures were appropriate for a Christian college. One student said, "It wasn't like we were sitting around trying to cook up a controversy. It just felt like we should show it [our work] to people because we spent so much time and thought on it together." Also, in response to the biblical principle of not leading your brother into sin, the class answered "They're not erotic figures. We viewed it as the crown of creation, the human body made in God's image." A non-artist said she appreciated bringing the art into a public space because when seen through the right eyes, the art was powerful.

An art student viewed the statue garden as "doing an unbelievable project as well as giving back to the community." She continued, "Maybe someone will think about it. People can be amongst artwork that they can appreciate God breathing into the earth that created us.

Although many people pervert the images of the human body, the art class wanted to celebrate its created beauty. Van Wyk was glad that the discussion had been brought into the open and the class hopes that people will continue to discuss these issues.

Mission is accomplished at Dordt POPS concert

Cassandra Lokker
Staff Writer

The mission, for those who chose to accept it, was to attend the Pops Concert on Friday night of this past week and find out who kidnapped the football coach.

The concert included performances by the Dordt College Band and Chamber Orchestra, emceed by Donald Roth and Brenden Wipf, and the always popular costume contest.

Band members were dressed to represent a particular movie theme- everything from Mission Impossible to The Lion King. There were the cowgirls of the flute section reminiscent of Bonanza, Pirates of the Caribbean and the bakers who were "good lookin'". David Vos made an appearance as Queen Amalida and the French Horn section carried the majority vote for best costumes in the band.

For the orchestra, the violas led by Morgan Attema as Jack Sparrow and Dan Heckman as Will Turner came in first place with their portrayals of Pirates of the Caribbean.

The ensembles, directed by Dr. Henry Duitman, performed selections from the Beatles, Star Wars and songs such as "I Heard it through the Grapevine," "Under the Sea" and "Wipe Out." The concert also featured several highlights: Jamin Hulbun's drum solo accompanied by strob e lights, Josh Super's impromptu solo preceding "Hey Good Lookin'" and Jon Hjelle's "hjellefish."

Andrew Friend was "under the sea" blowing bubbles to pass the time while Lynnea Vis was simply trying to stay alive.

The climax of the entire evening was that the audience finally found out who 'dunnit.' Upon his arrest, Dr. Duitman admitted that he was the culprit, but he didn't want to do much band marching.

Overall, the Pops Concert was a mission accomplished and as for the future of the Dordt College marching band, that is yet to be seen.
A must see, Little Miss Sunshine shines

Alvin Shim
Staff Writer

You shouldn’t see this movie, but you already have. And that right there, that’s the problem with this film. To watch Little Miss Sunshine would be to observe every ubiquitous depravity and awkward stage in yours and your loved ones’ lives - the innocent little girl that wants to be a beauty queen, the angst-filled teenager who “hates everybody”, the loser “go-get-em!” dad that, emotionally and financially, sends his family down the drain, the suicidal uncle that is also gay, the tired mom that attacks an ice cream bar with such nervous tenacity that my teeth actually began to hurt and the old fogy-Grandpa that snorts heroine from his fanny pack and asks his grandson if he’s sexually active. “Are you getting any? Come on, you can tell me... no?!?!?”

Here’s the catch(es). Steve Carell plays the suicidal uncle that’s gay. That was good enough for a lot of us to go see the movie that received a standing ovation at the ’06 Sundance Film Festival and made more money, per theater, than any other film. Oh and also, they manage to make the tired, dysfunctional family-dynamic interesting again. There are so many solid aspects in this film—each being reason enough to make this movie the best of the summer. For example, the soundtrack is glorious, each actor brings enough to their character to write a book—ray, a series of books, the subtleties are artfully placed by the directors (the poster of the airplane in Dwayne’s room), the camera work gives goose bumps and Greg Kinnear uses the term, “sweet sweetness.”

The introductory sequence is not unlike that of Wes Anderson’s dark gem, The Royal Tenenbaums, where each family member is shown doing activities that exemplify their characters. The dark humorous clips are set to the magnificent score (music by Mychael Danna) which, like the entire film, beautifully twist the falsities of the family to bring forth their primal excellence. We find that mother, Sheryl Hoover (Toni Collette) is bringing Frank (Carell) home to stay with the family. They return home to the family when Frank learns that he is staying with a self-decided mute, teen Dwayne’s (Paul Breslin) to know that Frank tried to kill himself. They learn that Olive has a chance to win the “Little Miss Sunshine” pageant but they have to be in Los Angeles by Sunday, all the way from their home in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

From there, and even before, the conflicts—wacky, incredible and tragically realistic—begin. Not even for innocent Olive’s desire and only chance at being crowned “Little Miss Sunshine” can they get along and leave their demons behind. Like a Steinbeck novel, each character brims and pours over in life and detail, revealed steadily as more and more catastrophes occur on the trip. The cliché, yet believable disasters are hilarious and laced with scenes of tender connection and sympathy.

There aren’t really any concrete solutions to their problems, but each character develops and reaches their anti-thesis by the time they finally arrive at the pageant (well, most of them actually make it there). Los Angeles and the final scene, though it brought the movie in to a clear, yet cheese-free close, provided my least favorite dialogue in the film (between Frank and Dwayne about the necessity of life’s sufferings and doing what you love... ugh) and the creepiest sequence of images and sounds that I have ever seen in a movie (seven-year-olds in a beauty pageant... yeah).

I take back what I said; you should see this movie, laugh as loud as you want and then walk back into your life.

The Husband delivers edge of your seat reading

Joel Veldkamp
Staff Writer

“We have your wife. You can get her back for two million cash. You have sixty hours.”

Thus begins The Husband, the latest thriller novel from master-of-suspense Dean Koontz. Lead character Mitch Rafferty is a gardener/landscaper in his late twenties who has been happily married for several years. The book opens with Mitch planting impatiens in the bank - he has no idea. The book carries the reader along through the next sixty hours of Mitch’s life at literally a whirlwind pace. Along the way, he discovers the true depths of his love for Holly and gains new insight into the true nature of evil — “evil with a capital E.”

Dean Koontz is easily one of the foremost thriller novelists in America today. He writes two kinds of book — scary, weird, supernatural thrillers, and scary, weird thrillers without anything supernatural involved. The Husband is one of the latter. There are no undead spirits or parallel universes in the plot. As with all Koontz books though, there’s plenty of weirdness to accompany the plot twists. This is no mere kidnapping novel.

Another Koontzian theme present in the book is evil — pure evil. The book has villains that you love to hate, and also villains that are not only evil but really creepy. There are villains that you hope and pray won’t be in another scene, and then groan out loud when they walk back into the room.

Koontz isn’t silent on how to deal with this kind of evil either. Mitch’s parents, firm moral relativists, have raised their family to believe that evil is a psychological problem that can be solved with the proper techniques. In confronting evil personally, Mitch undergoes a transformation of worldview and learns to see both the evil and non-evil aspects of the world in a different light.

What can I say? I laughed, I cried, I gasped at scary parts, I yelled advice to the characters, I jumped up and down at the exciting moments — all while listening to the audiobook on my iPod at work. My co-workers were entertained, too.

If you’re looking for an incredibly entertaining book that makes you think at the same time, I would highly recommend The Husband.
Cross Country team strides ahead

Shiloh Vreeman
Staff Writer

With changes to the team and the coaching staff, this year's cross-country team has welcomed many new faces. Greg Van Dyke, the assistant coach for the team last year, has filled the head coaching position.

According to Joelle Van Driel, a senior and member of the cross country team, "Greg Van Dyke is doing an awesome job. It's his first year as head coach of cross country at Dordt, so the training is a bit different - more intense, more mileage, more challenging than last year. But he also gives individual guidance for each runner as well." Van Dyke, who works in the Admissions department, participated in cross-country and track at Dordt before graduating in 2002. Melissa Klein, also a recent Dordt grad, is serving as the assistant coach.

Along with new coaches, eight freshmen have joined the men's team, making up over half the team's roster. The team had a couple of front runners and a pack of runners during a recent practice.

Senior Joel De Haan hopes the new freshmen will help boost the team's performance. He said, "Last year's cross-country team has welcomed many new freshmen girls, but the returning team members have added to the women's roster this year. The cross-country team has participated in four meets so far this season. They started out strong in the Dordt College Invite earlier this month. De Haan finished second in the men's four-mile course, and Jen Kumpers, Chelsea Gerdes and Tami Wierenga nabbed the top three spots on the women's 2.4 mile course. The team has also participated in the Dana Open, Turkey Day 10k and Jackrabbit Open, with De Haan leading the men in race standings, and Kumpers and Wierenga in the women's.

The team still has five meets to go, but De Haan is looking forward to a successful season. "We have a lot of new faces on the team, but they are all contributing very much."

Closing the gap between the top few runners and the rest of the team is also the primary goal for the women's team. According to Van Driel, hopes are high for reaching that goal. "This year, the women's team is bigger and on average faster as well, not only because of the freshmen girls, but the returning team members have also improved. Only three freshmen girls have been added to the women's roster this year. The team still has five meets to go, but De Haan is looking forward to a successful season. "We have a lot of new faces on the team, but they are all contributing very much."

Blades face off

Amanda Henke
Staff Writer

The Blades opened their 2006 season in Fremont, Neb., September 15th and 16th, splitting games with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Huskers. Speaking for the team, player Kurtis Heerema said, "We're more optimistic about this year." The Blades' first game was played on Friday with a 9-3 victory over University of Nebraska-Lincoln. The Huskers then came back on Saturday in a 4-3 upset.

Overall, the weekend went well. "Special teams improved, and our power play was good," said Kevin Prins. Physical play also highlighted the season opener with the Blades holding their own in the penalty category, guaranteeing good home-game entertainment to come. Nate Woudstra led in goals with seven on the weekend. Kevin Prins scored two of his own goals for the Blades with Todd Bakker recording four assists overall.

The team adds seven rookies to the roster this year including Mark Veurink, Jake Esselink, Russ Dykhooorn, Andrew Vink, Todd Bakker, Mitch Dykstra and Nate Woudstra. The freshmen join experienced upperclassmen round out the Ladies this year, including Assistant Captain Joel Sikkema.

Flitting the ice very early, the guys look forward to 6:30 practice every morning led by returning coach Nate Van Niejenhuis. "Coach is a good guy, and he sacrifices a lot of time for us," said Jeremy Bakker (goalie).

The Blades' will face the University of Northern Iowa this weekend (September 29th and 30th) on the road.

Lady Defender Abbie Soosdms dodge a slide tackle from an opposing player during a recent game.

Lady Defender will be on the road for the next three games before playing Hastings at home on the 23rd.