Students at ACTF

Nathan Nykamp
Staff writer

At the recent American College Theater Festival, Dordt students received a number of awards: Ethan Koerner won for Directing of "Deathsong," Joe Hoksbergen for Design of "Festival," Dordt students received a number of scholarships and the final approval for Gorter, due to the fact that Gorter is currently residing in Ukraine.

Gorter hired as next Dean of Chapel

Cheryl Korthuis
Staff writer

Putting on an art exhibit can be a daunting task, and the 15 junior art majors here at Dordt are quickly learning the reality of this duty. Every year the art department hosts student art shows for juniors and seniors. This year's Junior Art Show will take place Feb. 8-27.

Each artist will be displaying three to five works of art. Picking the works to display is challenging. Fortunately, all juniors were subject to a review of their works thus far by the art department faculty. The review process helped the artists see their progress, weaknesses, and strengths. The professors provided valuable feedback on the students' work and encouraged them to pursue specific media further.

The junior art majors are also responsible for the hanging of the show, advertising and marketing of the event and preparing food for the opening reception which will be held Feb. 17 from 5:00-6:30 p.m. during Alumni Weekend.

The show looks promising, featuring a wide variety of media: painting, drawing, ceramics, photography, graphic design, prints and sculpture. The show is strong in non-objective painting, color and black and white photography, realistic and abstract prints and drawings and sculpture.

Student Forum presents update 2005-06

Manuela A.A. Ayee
Guest writer

The Dordt College Student Forum represents the student body in order to help all students fulfill their office. We speak on behalf of the students, trying to accurately articulate the expressed or perceived needs, concerns and criticisms. As representatives of the student body, we take an active participatory role in setting direction and policies that seek to promote a harmonious Christian college community in accordance with the educational task of Dordt College.

Our major goal for the 2005-2006 academic year is to create a greater awareness of the role and availability of Forum to the Dordt community. To that end, we have set in motion various projects that will enable students, faculty and staff to get to know their representatives and the issues we discuss better.

The Student Forum website has been revamped and a picture and short description of each Forum member can be found on the website, as well as on our notice board outside the Student Services offices. We also held an open forum last semester with President Zylstra in the Eckardt Lounge, and we hope to hold a similar open forum this semester. We would like to stress that the Forum meetings are open to the campus community and take place at 9:30 p.m. in the Campus Center Board Room (behind the Registrar's office). You may also give suggestions or comments to any representative or drop a note in the suggestion box outside Student Services.

This past semester, among other things, the Student Forum took part in organizing the Sioux County Blood Drives and Hurricane Katrina relief efforts, as well as discussing the state of the tennis courts and Dordt's alcohol policy. We also moved to put a "New Book" icon on the student book list for the first time about their artwork, creative process and whatever else may be on their minds. Seeing shows in the Campus Center Gallery can be a little overwhelming when no one is present to elaborate upon the work, so do not miss this opportunity to hear from fellow peers about their artwork being featured.
The Coffee Crisis

Ann Renee Andree
Editor

After oil and illegal drugs, coffee is the most traded commodity in the world (in terms of total value). Injustice occurring in the coffee industry is thus occurring on a massive scale, affecting 20 million farmers, which in turn affects the farmer's entire community. This article zooms in on two issues: (1) an explanation of 'The Coffee Crisis' and (2) practical changes in our lifestyle which support justice in the coffee industry.

Farmers are receiving the lowest prices for their coffee in decades. This low price is in part because of their lack of capital; if crops fail or are not sold at a fair price, the farmer easily goes bankrupt. Also, on a larger scale, because of Western trade rules, which slap huge import tariffs on processed goods, thereby leaving the farmer with as little as 2% of the profit from each package of coffee—the rest ending up in the pockets of retailers and packagers.

The result: poverty. Farmers are forced to take their children out of school, forego medical treatment, and accumulate debt. Many farmers find themselves forced to produce illegal drugs, simply for the sake of survival. In Nicaragua, for example, thousands of children are starving as a result of the coffee industry's impact.

Injustice occurring in the coffee industry is thus occurring on a massive scale, affecting 20 million farmers, which in turn affects the issues: (1) an explanation of 'The Coffee Crisis' and (2) practical changes in our lifestyle which support justice in the coffee industry.

The Gurus of Coffee

Oh dear. You will not be pleased to hear that Nestle, Kraft (Maxwell House), Sara Lee (Douwe Egberts) and Proctor & Gamble are making their money through buying coffee from the cheapest seller (thereby maximizing shareholder value), processing and reselling the coffee. In the process, the rich get richer, and the poor get poorer.

What do I do?

We are the consumers. Therefore, we, the customers, have the buying power and the responsibility to use our power for justice. One way to ensure justice is to buy Fair-trade coffee, which is coffee sourced directly from the grower and is founded on ethical trading principles, guaranteeing a fair price for the farmer.

It is only marginally more expensive—perhaps only 20 cents extra at Starbucks—and also ensures that your coffee is being ethically produced. On top of that, it is often better quality coffee, as the farmers are able to pride in their crops, not needing to produce mass quantities at low quality.

Where can I find it?

If looking for Fair-trade coffee around Sioux Center, the Humble Bean sells fresh beans (and is able to grind it for you as well). [Aside: Valentine's Day: Fair-trade chocolate @ The Humble Bean...]

Buying fair-trade coffee is a simple, inexpensive change in lifestyle (that college students can actually afford) which has potential to have massive implications on the structure of entire communities, if enough people begin supporting justice through fair-trade.


Responding to religion

The Diamond asked Professor Henderson, "What is the fundamental reason why you believe Christianity is the right religion?" This is his response:

As human beings we try to make sense of the world. That could seem simple, but why is there harmony, beauty and brokenness? How can good and evil both be everywhere? How can we Christians—given the Holy Spirit—be so wrong in our self-righteous, self-centered lives?

There is a song that goes like this: "what's been done in the name of Jesus, what's been done in the name of Buddha, what's been done in the name of Islam, why have we done in the name of Man..." Anything can be misused, anything! There are no guarantees in life. If you want something to be right, put yourself into it, search diligently, be open and be persistent.

Coming back to the original question, I could be wrong—that's part of being human. I want to be honest with myself. If my religion is wrong, perhaps I can change. I say this with confidence that God—who Jesus called "good" alone—will guide us if we seek and listen to him. (Why pretend I have no assumptions?)

It is too simple just to say "I’m right." The best we humans can do is to have beliefs "in accordance with the truth." I believe Jesus Christ is the way the truth and the life—but my understanding is not identical with that truth. I want to be like John, to point and say: "behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world."

Do I have a "fundamental reason..." for believing this? Simply noticing that there are different religions, different accounts of reality, tells me that some beliefs are wrong! Must confront this and learn from it. I want to try to discern which one of the descriptions is most in accordance with the way things happen; which explanation fits best with the way things are; which gives the most honest appraisal of the human situation. In reading Scripture I am convinced that its account fits and in particular that Jesus is the Messiah, the Savior of the world.
Dissecting the TNIV controversy

Jamin Hubner
Page Layout

I think it's safe to say the majority of evangelical Christians are one way or another about the latest English Bible translation known as Today's New International Version (TNIV). But, after the release of the New Testament TNIV by the International Bible Society (IBS) in 2002 and the entire TNIV Bible by Zondervan in 2005, there has been an increase in discussion about the translation going beyond what it was intended to. The controversy of the TNIV has essentially been its use of gender-neutral terms. The scholars of the TNIV, the Committee of Bible Translation (CBT), dynamically translated the original Greek text of the canon into the English language using some inclusive-language. The TNIV answers the foundational translation question, "How are we supposed to translate gender-related terms?" with "we will make the words inclusive." For instance, Proverbs 28:7 in the NIV is rendered "He who keeps the law..." as the translation in the TNIV uses gender-neutral terms. There are obviously two questions that need to be asked at this point: 1) Is it really necessary/beneficial to translate the Bible using gender-neutral terms? 2) Where is the line drawn for gender-neutral translation and have they gone too far with the TNIV?" There are obviously two questions that need to be asked at this point: 1) Is it really necessary/beneficial to translate the Bible using gender-neutral terms? 2) Where is the line drawn for gender-neutral translation and have they gone too far with the TNIV?"

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NIV, NCV, TLW, the Message and CEV also translate using a gender-neutral approach. But, why do we need gender neutrality or even TNIV? The CBT, the board of people who oversaw the translation, have generally given two reasons: 1) Chairman of the CBT, Ronald Youngblood, said, "Developments in biblical scholarship... made a new translation necessary." 2) Before the TNIV was the NIVI (the "I" in "NIV" is for "Inclusive"), which was produced by the same board of scholars (CBT) in 1989. The purpose of the NIVI was to "mute the patriarchalism of the culture of the biblical writers through gender-inclusive language when this could be done without compromising the message of the Spirit." I honestly don't question the intentions of these Bible scholars and the people promoting the TNIV. And, in many cases I don't see a problem for the many changes in the translation where it is clear that a more inclusive meaning is being applied than the words may suggest. So, there are obviously two questions that need to be asked at this point: 1) Is it really necessary/beneficial to translate the Bible using gender-neutral terms? 2) Where is the line drawn for gender-neutral translation and have they gone too far with the TNIV?"

Breaking It Down

I'll be honest, I don't think the TNIV translation is necessary. I really don't see how another English translation can provide serious edification for God's people or His own glory. One of the goals of this new dynamic translation is to make the Bible more readable. Hence, the subtitle of the paperback Zondervan TNIV: "Timeless Truth In Today's Language." I think these and any other attempts to justify a translation by arguing for the sake of "readability" is quite simply unnecessary. In fact, I find the NASB, ESV, and NKJV just as readable and as easy to understand as the NTV or TNIV. And honestly, I have yet to come across a person that has gotten tripped up by gender words like "men" and whether it means "everyone" or "all males" or some other similar issue. Where is the line drawn? The line is drawn when the gender-neutral changes clearly and plainly alter foundational meanings with theological significance. For instance, Matthew 7:14 is an Messianic prediction, "he protects all his bones, not one of them will be broken." (NIV) fulfilled and cited in John 19:36. The TNIV has changed that so it now says, "he protects all their bones, not one of them will be broken." It has clearly and wrongly been changed from singular to plural. If the TNIV translation of Psalm 34:20 is indeed correct, the citation of the verse in John 19:36 makes absolutely no sense, voiding and destroying that specific prediction of Christ. In 1 Corinthians 15:21, "For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead also comes through a man," (NIV) has also been changed. The TNIV reads, "For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a human being." The first "man" is obviously Adam and the second "man" is obviously Christ (as it reads in the next verse). What in the world is wrong with saying "Jesus is a man"? Jesus Christ was "a man" not a man and a woman! This obviously creates more confusion than clarity. Another, and more serious line is drawn here: the TNIV not only makes translational changes to the text and in doing so erroneously changes the meaning, the TNIV actually removes text from the Greek text. In other words, no attempt is made at even translating certain words found in the source Greek text so they left the words out! Matthew 7:4, "How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye?" (NIV) The TNIV passage: "How can you say, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye?"

The TNIV completely removed the words "to your brother." The Greek word for "brother," "adelphos," (found in Gk. NA27 and Textus Receptus) is missing. So what? Those are words of God. How can I make such a claim? Well, upon what basis is this word removed? What higher authority exists than the word of God itself? Even if the removal of this word doesn't change the meaning or argument in the context, is it really OK? May it never be! Meaning of the words is not the point, value of the words is. "Adelphos" isn't meaningful because it makes sense in the text, it is valuable because it came from God's own mouth. I mean come on, was Christ wasting His breath when he said "to your brother"? That seems to be the position of the TNIV translators. I argue that one syllable out of Jesus' mouth is a waste of space or time, regardless of what some "scholars" insist and what our gender-confused culture demands of our faith. Are we really to think God thinks little of this blatant abuse of His "God-breathed" (II Tim. 3:15) Scriptures?

Don't just take my word for it, Christians. I went to the Library of Congress around the nation and came up against this new level of absurdity like James Dobson, Wayne Grudem, Charles Farvus, Joel Belz and many others. Leading Reformed scholars and teachers such as R.C. Sproul, John Piper, Allistair Begg and J.I. Packer also have also publicly announced that they will not support the TNIV translation. Thus, I cannot—in good conscience—give genuine recognition of the TNIV translation. The NIV was and is sufficient in providing an understandable English translation.

We may change, our culture may change, but the Bible does not change and it should not. Let's not forget the words in our canon of Scripture are no ordinary words, they are from the mouth of God, thecounsecors, God-breathed.
The Fakers: Provided pre-show entertainment as well as a smashing opening act.

Baroque and Blue: Flute, Bass, Piano and Drums came together in a smooth ensemble.

Surrounded: Rachel Eckhart stunned the audience with her expressive interpretation of “A Cloud of Witnesses” (see bottom right).

A Collection of Bass Doodles: Andrew Roozenboom put forth a tremendous display of skill in this bass compilation (see top left).

Elephant Love Medley: Jonathan Shafstall, Carolyn Sybesma and John Van Staalduinen performed an excellent rendition this song from “Moulin Rouge.”

This is Something, This is Nothing: Marcus Roskamp and Laurel Koerner won most Original Act, proving that “Red Light, Green Light” is serious business, and then held a conversation in conversational terms (see above).

Fade: Hearts and Rainbows: The Freshmen in pink provided the audience with an excellent second serving of punk.

The Flower Duet: First Overall, this classical display of musical beauty wooed judges and audience alike (see top right).

Beat Boxing ad Libitum: Tim Vande Griend entertained the audience with an astonishing display of rhythm and twists (see below left).

What is This Feeling?: Julie Ooms and Allison Fox put a delightful twist on this selection from the musical “Wicked.” (see top center).

Cosmic Castaway: The Dynamic Dance team turned out the lights and entertained the audience with a delightful glow in the dark display, earning best Non-Musical act.

Haiti: The Elegance Commission: This mixed ensemble covered The Arcade Fire’s original sound and left the audience wanting more (see right).
I stared at the paper before me, frozen in a sense of shock, disbelief and rising dread. What have I gotten myself into, was the only thought that passed through my head. It was a scorching Cairo morning, and I had arrived in the overcrowded capital of Egypt less than twenty-four hours earlier for a semester of study in the Middle East. Before me on the desk lay one paper in a growing stack that I was obligated to complete upon arrival, including visa extension applications, contact information verification and the like. Until that moment, the task had been tedious and exhaustive, but straight-forward. The question that lay before me, however, was not. With a few small words, the question was called to answer brought forth all of the worst-case scenarios that one could dream up about the instability in the Middle East: "In the event of unexpected death, do you wish to be cremated?"

Judging from my reaction, the form before me might as well have read, "When you are blown to bits by a suicide bomber and you are little more than mutilated flesh and detached joints (if you are even that lucky), do you really want to go with the body-bag option?" After several long seconds of incapacitation, I was thrust back into reality with only one thought: What the heck am I doing here?

When normal people compile their top-ten list of places to see before they die, most dream of soft Hawaii sand, not the dust clouds of Egypt. They envision the tropical waters of the Caribbean, not the stench of the Nile. After all, who would wish to get caught in a maelstrom of Mideast politics, perhaps on the beaten path of Israel/Palestine conflict, where Western-style democracy and diplomacy are replaced by so-called police officers strapped to AK-47 assault rifles? Well, I did, of course—so I thought as I dreamed of excitement from within the dull brick walls of an Iowa college compound.

But I was beginning to reconsider.

As it turned out, Egypt turned out to be a crowded chaos unlike anything I had ever experienced. As one American diplomat remarked, "There are seventeen million people in Cairo, all of whom seem to live directly between my house and the office!" During the first few days of the semester, the heat, the density, the pollution, and the oogling Arab men were overwhelming. Yet I soon realized that among the people of Agouza—a neighbourhood five minutes from the heart of downtown—the corner shopkeepers, donkey-cart drivers, roadside vegetable vendors, and even gun-wielding police did not fit the typical stereotype of a terrorist. Perhaps I was beginning to reconsider.

If there is one group of Egyptians that tend to avoid exchanging common pleasantries, it would be the taxi cab drivers. Although more than willing to pick up a group of Western college students at exorbitant rates, they were often frustrated from hours of navigating the permanent polluted gridlock that is Cairo. These cab rides were frequently riddled with heated political discussions, straining our limited Arabic, their limited English, or both. Nevertheless, even these rough-around-the-edges men did not strike me as the terrorist type. One evening, a light-hearted discussion in Arabic turned to the topic of nationality. After being informed that there were three Americans and one Canadian in the cab, the bearded Egyptian gentleman behind the wheel turned to me and, with sparkling eyes, declared, "Canada kwayyis very good!" "Amrika," he continued, "mish kwayyis."—America not so good. This brought forth some hearty laughing... at least from my corner of the cab.

Despite the Egyptian attitude against the West, and particularly against the United States, the people have an uncanny ability to separate people from their governments. Perhaps this is because the Egyptian peoples themselves have virtually no control over their own political system. While staying with a Muslim family in Cairo for a week, I frequently found myself engaging in intensely political and religious discussions in an attempt to look beyond the common misconceptions on both sides. On several of such occasions, my host mother sat down beside me and, with tears in her eyes, told me she loved me and could not bear the thought that our disagreement might make me feel unwelcome. Throughout the semester, the ready smiles of the Egyptian people continued to me that these people are not terrorists.

I will not deny that there are Muslims who wish to see a more closed, conservative Egypt—and some are willing to go to drastic measures to achieve their version of an ideal society. Yet the Egypt that I experienced is one of gracious, welcoming people. Little did I know, as I sat behind a desk that first week contemplating my certain, gruesome end, that I'd be in for the time of my life. And three and a half months and several marriage proposals later, I arrived back in Canada in neither a body bag nor an urn.

Submit pictures for the yearbook now! Looking for pictures of exciting events on campus or Dordt-related. Submit to Signet by February 16.

When sent to Signet account, pictures will be used by the Signet staff and may be altered or changed in any fashion to their discretion.
Mirror, mirror on the wall... Do you see what I see?

Jessica Braunschweig
Editor

Our Lord is a loving creator and sustainer of life. He took a rib from Adam to create the life of a woman. But the fetish with protruding ribs and bony limbs are no longer life-giving—and how ironic that such an obsession has taken possession primarily of women—whom the Serpent continually sets out to deceive.

In many cases, the apple doesn’t fall far from the tree. So many little girls that grew up with weight-obsessing mothers continue in such aspirations to be perfect, one cut-calorie at a time. But eating disorders can stem from countless situations—family dysfunction, a means of control, depression, stress, friends with eating disorders, abuse, goals of perfection, etc. No matter what the cause, the patterns start to look the same—as women are falling further into this dreadful pit of pain.

Dying to be thin
The only way out seems to be by continuing to do what got us in here in the first place. But we’re only making the pit wider and deeper—clawing, scratching, longing to be free. And we’re burying ourselves alive trying to survive the aftermath of chasing after unrealistic expectations. But we’ve made miscalculations! In obtaining this image, we’ve gone past our limits—often times, sacrificing our whole life to get there. Our cravings to achieve idealistic dreams has lead to a nightmarish reality. Our individual longing to measure up in a culture that links the size of our thighs to the worth of our lives is killing the intrinsic beauty of women. And we continue in this craze; just a few more calories to burn, another few pounds to lose, three more miles to run, just another bag of chocolate to eat and then vomit—until you’ve vomited up your soul...an explanation of the bulimia addiction. Where will this stop and when will it end? Will you let it end your friend?

Still, this addiction controls us, yet we cannot let go or let anyone know. But it’s becoming obvious, even as we deny it. And what’s at the heart of this? We’re fully hungry, looking for a way to fill that God-sized hole that only He can. Everyone has a hunger for Christ. Some try to fill it with food, others through deprivation.

Hungry for Healing
The struggle with eating disorders is often viewed as easy to treat for those who don’t understand the daily struggle, as it’s so difficult to comprehend the idea of finding freedom in refusing to fuel your body. Yet, perhaps even more tragic is the response of so many Christians—flippantly throwing in a pointed prescription of God and His healing power, failing to realize that something so addicting and ironically attracting is difficult to treat on account of the everlasting. Difficult but not impossible. Healing ultimately begins in grabbing onto our sister’s hands, grabbing hold of the God who has come to give us life abundantly.

Healing begins when we abandon our infatuation with self. Let’s step off the scale, our Baal, and realize the God we’ve been stepping on, in refusing to acknowledge and accept ourselves and the beauty He has uniquely bestowed upon each and every woman. The world cannot measure this treasure. Yes, the battle of acceptance is never-ending, but let’s refuse to give in to the perversion of the media’s maddening views of beauty by conformity.

Beauty Redeemed
Let’s spend time in the pit with our struggling sisters—sitting with, praying for, and striving to help them continue on through God’s grace, as we make space for Him to fill the empty place in each of our searching hearts. Our friends are in need of our presence, not our judgment; our hand, not our ridicule. But help begins by taking steps to talk with counselors, pastors, parents, professors (etc.) and make plans for intervention even if they fight at first.

Eating disorders are a living death. But God longs to “free us from this trap and free us from our suffering.” As Christians, we have the opportunity to be “wounded healers”—fearlessly laying down our fears and failures together as one community. Faith is “having the freedom to give up the anxious and impossible task of keeping oneself from falling.”

This pit is dark and dreary, but one of us may be the ladder our Lord uses to save another woman from this pit that is threatening to devour and destroy. But it is the Lord alone who uplifts us, and He provides the Bread of Life—feeding our worth and nourishing our starving soul.

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Wheels of the Week: The Smart Car Choice

Lynette Andree
Staff Writer

People often comment on the cuteness of the new Smart Cars, manufactured by Mercedes-Benz. These cars, however, are more than just "pretty faces." Driven in many European countries, these cars are coming onto the American scene rapidly.

People are not buying Smart Cars merely for looks; if they did, fewer guys would be interested. These cars are not only economically friendly, but they are also conducive to different driving environments.

Although they do not look like it, Smart Cars have excellent control in winter conditions. Because of acceleration skid control, they are able to go fast while still maintaining safety on the road. The car prevents slipping by breaking only the wheel that is losing traction—it fixes traction problems before the driver even realizes it. Another feature that lends to the cars' ability in winter conditions is what is referred to as the "Hill Holder." This feature gives the driver 0.7 seconds between the time he or she lets off the brake and starts accelerating again. This is especially helpful when on hills because it prevents the car from sliding backward in that split-second.

Because the Smart Car is a smaller car, it automatically uses less gas than a larger vehicle. The gas mileage is outstanding: approximately 60 miles to the gallon. Another economic benefit is that the emissions released in the atmosphere are much less than other vehicles.

We need to be concerned about our resources, especially our non-renewable ones. Many types of fuel are not going to be available forever, and fuel economy should be considered when buying a vehicle. Gas prices should not be the only reason to buy an economically friendly car. We should all be aware of what our world has to offer.

Information:
http://www.threepointmotors.com/smart/index

Crossword puzzle

ACROSS
1. European mountains
2. A fastener
3. Metal
4. A type of gambling card game
5. A fastener
9. Metal
10. Small
11. Foolish talk
12. Smell
13. French Sudan
14. A type of gambling card game
15. A fastener
16. Foolish talk
17. Cited from the same place
18. A fastener
19. Smell
20. Foolish talk
21. A fastener
22. French Sudan
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71. A fastener

DOWN
1. Ablaze
2. Tag
3. What something costs
4. Destroyed with enamal
5. Where the heart is
6. Hebrew month
7. Repeated a shoe
8. A group of lions
9. Taller
10. Conducts business
11. Acquire deservedly
12. A surgical "Near"
13. Not more
14. Ablaze
15. A fastener
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The Dordt Indoor Track teams are off to a quick start. Already into the new season records have fell, and new names have inked the archives of the greatest performances in Dordt indoor track history.

Dan De Jong skipped, hopped and jumped to a new record in the triple jump on January 28 at the Dordt College Invite with a jump of 46'01". The 10'11.8 he bested his own record just weeks after he broke the year old record held by Dan Gudmunson. Jen Kemper also snapped a record held for the past 22 years in the women's mile run. She ran the mile in 5:19.18, beating the previous record held by Shari Veurink in 1984, of 5:19.37. One record wasn't good enough for Kemper as she quickly shattered another record just a week later. At the Minnesota State Invite Kemper finished third in the 1000 meter run with a time of 3:02.87 clearing the 3:06 mark needed to qualify for nationals. This time also broke the previous Dordt record of 3:06.24 held by Becky DeMarest.

The team, according to Assistant Coach Wade De Vries, is young, especially in the sprints and field events. Even though they are young, the team is eager to learn and looks up to its seniors for experience. "We just need to put two halves together," said Ferrie. "We need each person to be positive when I'm struggling. He also is my biggest fan and support system."

Jared Van Wyk, sophomore Kara Karlsgodt and freshmen Kristin De Ronde and Erin Savery. Highlighting the women's season is the team's first-ever National Invite with a jump of 46'01", bettering his previous record set on January 19 of 46. Dan's brother Josh is nipping at Dan's heels. Tim Eizenga dominates the longer distances for the men and Jen Kemper for the women. The shorter distances are strong with Jared Van Wyk in the 55 meter dash and 400 meter dash for the men, and Laurel Ochsner and Jeannetta Grendenlyk in the 55 meter hurdles, with Sarah Sikkema in the 200 meter dash for the women.

The Dordt College women's 4 by 800 meter relay team is ranked number 1 in the conference and is looking to improve their time by leaps and bounds this season.

Basketball Update

Amanda Henke
Staff Writer

Regardless of the change in weather, lack of snow and runners filling the track, the winter sports season is still in full swing. Both the men's and women's basketball teams continue to spend time in the gym practicing and competing as they move through the second half of their respective seasons.

The women, 11-11 overall and 6-9 in conference play, look to build on their second-seesontart, facing tough GPAC opponents, including three teams ranked in the top ten in the nation, final weeks of the regular season and oaks. The Lady Defenders look to break out of a four-game losing streak, continuing to rely on the experience of the team's six seniors: Rachel Van Beek, Nicki DeBleay, Tara De Boer, Kathryn Ferrie, Shawna Flikkema and Jill Haan.

Other players making significant contributions are junior Lindsey Van Wyk, sophomore Kara Karlsedt and freshmen Kristin De Rinde and Erin Savy. Highlighting the women's season is the team's first-ever National Invite with a jump of 46'01", bettering his previous record set on January 19 of 46. Dan's brother Josh is nipping at Dan's heels. Tim Eizenga dominates the longer distances for the men and Jen Kemper for the women. The shorter distances are strong with Jared Van Wyk in the 55 meter dash and 400 meter dash for the men, and Laurel Ochsner and Jeannetta Grendenlyk in the 55 meter hurdles, with Sarah Sikkema in the 200 meter dash for the women. The Dordt College women's 4 by 800 meter relay team is ranked number 1 in the conference and is looking to improve their time by leaps and bounds this season.

Get To Know 'Em

Amanda Henke
Staff Writer

Full Name: Abbie Marie Soodsma
Age: 21
Grade: Junior
Major: Elementary Education and Physical Education
Nickname: Abs

Q: Do you have a pregame meal that you eat before you run, and if so, what? A: Well since we have to be sort of careful what we eat so we don't puke, I usually have peanut butter on toast or peanut butter on a bagel, and a banana with lots of water (at least two hours before the race).

Q: Do you have any superstitions? A: Not really, but I wear a "heart of a champion" band that I got from Jen Kemper on my leg every meet.

Q: Who would you say has had the biggest influence on you with your track career and why? A: My dad for sure! My dad practiced hurdles with me for hours and hours in high school. He also helped me to push myself and get mentally tough for races and keeps me positive when I'm struggling. He also is my biggest fan and support system.

Q: What is your favorite event to do and why? A: I love the 400 hurdles because so many people would never want to try it. It's basically a sprint around the track with obstacles.

Q: Do you drink Gatorade, water or something else? A: I don't really like sports drinks so I usually just drink lots and lots of water.

Q: What is your best sports memory? A: My best sports memory was either running the 4x800 at Indoor Nationals or winning the 400 hurdles at Conference with my dad there.

Q: What kind of job would you like to get after college? A: I hope to be a teacher of some sort and I also would like to coach.