Van Wyk puts on Lithography workshop

Matthew Kunnari
Staff Writer

Ask most students around campus when the weekend starts and they too quickly respond that it starts as soon as class is concluded on Friday. Then it's off to Sioux Falls, or to a concert, or to watch a movie—anything except school work.

Well, this past weekend a few brave students decided not to only do work, or rather create work, but they incorporated professors into the process as well.

On Friday and Saturday, Art Professor Jake Van Wyk led a lithography workshop in which several Dordt students, alumni and faculty along with professors and students from Morningside and Northwestern Colleges and local Iowa artists participated.

Litho what? Lithography is a method of drawing images onto stone or metal using grease, etching the images into the stone, rolling ink onto the stone and sending it through a press to make images on paper.

Basically, it's like making a giant stamp that one can then use over and over again to produce an image.

However, lithography is slightly more complicated than slapping a smiling face stamp into an ink pad and brandishing it in your roommate's face.

Lithography is a meticulous process. Art professor Susan Van Greest jokingly commented that "you have to be a little bit nuts to want to make lithos," due to the amount of detailed labor involved.

The workshop was a great community building activity. Van Wyk repeatedly asked if the participants needed help. He would explain a phase and then everyone would undertake the task aiding each other along the way. Van Wyk wryly commented, "I had to run a tight ship. At times it felt like I was herding cats." Luckily there weren't any spats.

What made this workshop extremely unique was that the process was done using rare limestone, which the art department recently purchased from Morningside College in Sioux City. Lithography at Dordt is typically taught using metal plates, so the chance to use stone was very unique. Most of the workshop attendees agreed that the stone surfaces were remarkable to work on. The degree of detail and texture that stone can hold is vastly superior to metal plates.

Lithography is just one of several types of printmaking that is available here at Dordt. If you are curious about it, don't hesitate to ask Prof. Van Wyk. He has been making litho prints for over thirty years. Van Wyk decided to offer this free workshop in exchange for a print from each participant. These prints will soon be on display in the Classroom Building Art Gallery.

Doreen's Jazz New Orleans makes students dance

Doreen's Jazz New Orleans filled the Campus Center Saturday evening.

Doreen Ketchens led the band with her clarinet, and her husband Lawrence played the tuba. The Ketchens and their three-year-old daughter escaped New Orleans with their lives, their musical instruments and a few other belongings. Everything else was destroyed. The Ketchens are currently living in a shelter.

"We came up here as a trio," Doreen Ketchens said. Doreen, Lawrence and drummer Dwayne joined with friends from northwest Iowa to complete the six-member band. These friends were introduced by Doreen by their first names only because, she said, "those last names escape me."

The night started off with the spiritual "We Shall Walk Through the Streets of the City." Doreen said the group likes to educate the audience and get the listeners to participate in the music. She explained the concept of a New Orleans jazz funeral. The jazz band plays a dirge of mourning and then switches to the "second line," a celebration of the person's going to what Doreen calls "a better place or what kind of person you were."

Early in the concert, people on the second level of the Campus Center near the railing were moving to the beat. When Doreen asked if anyone wanted to dance during the "second line" of the jazz funeral, a dozen people danced in front of the stage. "Loud is good! And it doesn't have to be on key," Doreen said.

During a short break in the middle of the concert, a freewill offering was taken for Dordt's Katrina fund. Many people used this break to purchase the band's CD's.

While she was taking questions from the audience, Doreen accused her drummer of setting up a question. Someone asked, "How old were you when you started playing?" She said she would answer that question, but not the question that usually followed it: "How long have you been playing?" Doreen has been playing since she was eleven years old.

For the last song of the day, everyone stood up, clapped and shouted, "When the Saints Come Marching In." You can't talk about New Orleans without at least mentioning the song "When the Saints Come Marching In." She said that when the doctor smack a newborn in New Orleans, it doesn't scream—it yells, "When the Saints Come Marching In." She called for her dancers to come back, and 20 people danced up to the front. While playing the clarinet, Doreen led the group around the room, where they picked up more dancers.

At the end of the concert, Doreen thanked the audience for coming. She said that they were a very warm audience, and that it took a special type of people to live in such a cold climate. "I actually felt it," she said of the cold weather. "I'm not just talkin' about something I heard about." She told of an occasion when her band came to Iowa in February. "You don't even acknowledge zero here," she said.

Music Professor Henry Duitman coordinated the group's visit to Dordt. The group performed at Morningside's Jazz Festival in 2004.
Paintball proves popular

Emily Junkin
Staff Writer

It's come a long way from its meager beginnings. From the first game of 12 players in 1981, paintball is now played by hundreds of thousands of people worldwide, and is now the fastest growing sport in the world.

There are quite a few different views on how and where paintball originated. The most common is that it began in New Hampshire, in 1981, and was started by three men: Bob Gurnsey, Hayes Noel, and Charles Gaines.

The three had been looking for an activity they could participate in that would give them the thrill and adrenaline rush of real combat, but not the physical harm.

It didn't take long for them to develop a game using paintball guns, which up until that point were used as tree and cattle markers.

They organized the first game by June of 1981. After advertising, they found 9 additional men with very different backgrounds all eager to play. Each player paid a fee of $175 each, which went to cover equipment costs (masks, paint, and a Nelspot 007's pistol), food, and beverages.

Richie White, a New Hampshire forester, managed to win the game without being seen, and never firing a shot. Old reports of the events says Richie "crawled through the woods from station to station, gathering flags as easily as a schoolgirl gathering flowers."

From that game, paintball has snowballed into something much bigger than anyone imagined. Aside from being loved in The United States and Canada, paintball is also enjoyed in Australia, Africa, Korea, Israel, Thailand, and numerous countries across all of Europe.

There are many different ways to play paintball; the most common being Capture the Flag, where the players are divided into teams and given matching colour arm bands. Each team starts at its own flag station and waits for the starting signal. The idea is to get the other team's flag from their flag station, and make it back to your station with their flag. Of course, all the while you have to make sure they aren't making away with your flag, and if you get tagged (shot with a paintball) you are out.

Of course this is only one way to play; it's good to go over rules and objectives every time you play with a different group of people so your expectations are accurate.

To play paintball there is, certain equipment you are going to want to have (in fact, in many cases you must have it to be allowed to play): a good mask, a working gun, paint, and appropriate clothes (you might want to leave that fluorescent orange vest at home for this one. The same can be said of your dad's good shirt).

Though considered a recreational activity by most, many people find paintball useful in their everyday lives as well. One such person is Matt Behrens, a senior Graphic Design major here at Dordt. Matt is also a sergeant in the Iowa National Guard, a position he has held there for roughly 2 of his 6 years there. While Matt certainly didn't choose paintball because of his involvement with the Guard, or vice versa, he does get a lot of enjoyment out of both. In his opinion, "paintball is as close as you're going to come to reality in a fire fight, at least without the actual risk of getting hurt.

One of the reasons paintball is so popular is because it's such a versatile sport, enjoyed by young and old, male and female alike. Whether you're interested in playing for bragging rights, thousands of dollars in prize money, or maybe something in between, you will be able to find it in paintball.

If you're interested in playing paintball while at Dordt, you're in luck. Dart Alumni Josh Vanderklugt, as well as senior student Bryan Dick, have provided students with just the opportunity to do so. Every Saturday, as well as the very occasional Sunday afternoon, students have the chance to meet in front of the Rec Center at 12:00 noon. From there, depending on the amount of people available students will drive to locations in either Alton, or a bigger area approximately 5 miles west of George. If you would like exact directions, or to make sure of the leaving time for the day you'd like to go painting you can contact Bryan Dick (ext. 6721) for details.

Don't have your own equipment? Don't sweat it. Just tell Bryan or Josh what you need and they will do their best to see if they can find some extras.

So why not try something new this weekend? You'll meet some new people, get the thrill of the chase, and best of all, you'll be having fun.

Dordt revises nursing program

Samantha Henderson
Staff Writer

Dordt College has received interim approval from the Iowa Board of Nursing to offer a B.S.N. (Bachelor of Science in Nursing) completion degree beginning next fall.

Dordt's program will continue as a 1-2-1 program, with freshman year and senior year of training offered entirely at Dordt, with sophomore year and junior year enhanced by hospital-based courses offered by St. Luke's College in Sioux City. Dordt and St. Luke's College have been offering this joint nursing training program since September of 2000.

The difference between old and new program is who will be teaching the nursing students in their sophomore and junior year. Dordt Professors teach the students and besides needing credits from Briar Cliff for a BSN degree, but you also needed enough credits from Dordt to graduate from their Health Science program. In the new program, seniors won't be taught by Professors from Briar Cliff but from Dordt faculty exclusively.

Senior Jody Van Zanten said the "new nursing program will help to bring students in, it was a great idea to keep St. Luke's a part of the program, too." St. Luke's has a 96% passing rate for students taking the RN boards. Jody says that the best part is that students in the following years won't have to take 20 credits like I am this year.

"We are very excited about being able to offer a Dordt B.S.N. degree from start to finish," said Paul Hubersten. "Our program will assist nurses to function in multiple roles, giving them an advantage in the job market. Nurses today work in hospitals, community health centers, business, industrial and occupational health, health care administration and affiliated services. All require a solid educational background that incorporates analytic, as well as interpersonal skills, and a Dordt degree offers exactly that."

American Bandstand returns to the stage

Bree Wierenga
Staff Writer

Those who were fortunate enough to attend the annual Dordt College Pops Concert experienced a fantastic musical display of American culture. Music was combined with dancing and creative entertainment to produce a quality performance that left the audience more than satisfied.

The concert took place in B.J. Haan Auditorium on Friday, September 16, under the direction of Dr. Henry Duitman. Its theme was American Bandstand. To make the theme more evident, orchestra and band members were all in costume, some representing ballroom dancers, cowboys and even Sugar Plum Fairies. Duitman's costume of a simple technician with a red protoy tail was immensely enjoyed because his attire for the concert is always unpredictable yet highly anticipated. Dancers from Robin's School of Dance in Sioux Center contributed more excitement to the performance.

The night created a mutual respect for America's past development and culture through songs such as "Do Wadd Diddy Diddy," "Tequila" and "Lord of the Dance." All songs showed the wide range of music found in American history and the development of culture through music.

The event was a walk down memory lane for many, including members of the Sioux Center community who attended the event along with Dordt students and family members. The audience was actively involved with the concert. Hosts Brandon Wipf and Erica Vande Kamp even encouraged people to get up and dance, which sometimes resulted in the hosts selecting and playfully pulling members of the audience out of their seats! "Hokie Pokie," "Grease" and "Twist and Shout" were spectator favorites, causing people to clap, scream and dance on command.

"Old Time Rock 'N Roll" was also very audience-centered, driven mostly by Wipf's rousing electric guitar solo. "The audience was great," Wipf said. "To be honest, I didn't know what to expect from them, but they seemed to really be there to have a good time. I hope we gave them just that."

The night was not without its comedic moments. "This next song is from a country band in South Africa," Wipf mistakenly said as he announced the song "Brazil," much to the audience's amusement. A dance-off to the "Chicken Dance" song displayed the creative antics of one orchestra and two band members and left the audience in hysterics.

The costume contest winners were the elegant Waltz ball and cello section for the orchestra, and the Sugar Plum Fairies euphonium section for the band. The rather feminine male members of the euphonium section, donned in make-up, tights and dresses, drew grateful kisses to the audience.

"I thought it was really quality music," freshman Carol Baas, who attended the concert, commented. "It was done very well and organized very well. One of the best song lists and the speaking parts [of Wipf and Vande Kamp] in between the songs."
It's no secret that local dances are well-attended by a good number of the students at Dordt. And it's no secret that many of the professors, coaches and staff would rather they weren't. But why is dancing seen as such a terrible thing? Is it the dancing itself or the intentions at the dances?

After a long and stressful week, students can't wait for the chance to relax. And there's nothing like hanging out with friends and kicking back on the dance floor. But in order to really relax, many people need a little "liquid courage" to get their night started.

As a Christian college, should we be putting the emphasis on judging morality? Is anyone in a position to do that? Or should Dordt take stricter measures to prevent students from partying and dancing?

Perhaps not. But each person is certainly in a position to check their own motives and reasons for choosing what they do. And what they do not. Dancing in and of itself is one thing. But much more becomes the focus, when, what may have begun as good intentions are long forgotten in the midst of many other in-your-face-factors that are all too prevalent at dances.

Women, why are you wearing (or not wearing) what you do at dances? To get the attention of ogling males? Perhaps to merely seduce for the night? If you are looking like you want it, you might not like what you get.

Men, how are you viewing women on the dance floor? To get you aroused? Just another chance to hook up for the night?

As students at Dordt and more importantly, as Christians in this world, let's ask ourselves: do we want to stick in or stand out? What kind of person do we want to portray? Can dancing and drinking be "reformed," or have we already conformed to the craze of this world? Does how we dance ultimately convey our stance? So many questions, but it definitely makes you think...or at least it should.

Questions or comments about stories featured in the Diamond?
write: diamond@dordt.edu

Women in combat: Scriptural considerations and gender roles
Rachel Palmer
Guest Writer

Women in combat. It's a tough, yet relevant bi-partisan issue that needs to be addressed.

There are basically two camps concerning this issue. The liberal feminists insist that it is a woman's right to be on the front lines next to the men and that there is fundamentally no difference between men and women.

On the other hand, there is the more commonly accepted and less radical group, arguing that women are equal to men, but that of course, they're different. And who in their right mind would actually place a woman on the front lines of battle, in the heart of the combat? They aren't supposed to be in harm's way—they're just supposed to be able to help defend our country like the men.

All this is well and good, but what is the Christian's response to this issue? Typically, the so-called "Christian Right" has endorsed the military and has enthusiastically supported and praised soldiers like Jessica Lynch and other women in combat.

They rave about their patriotism and devotion to their country, but people are overlooking a very serious issue here. What the heck was an 18-year-old girl—just out of high school, three months off prom and bagged lunches—doing fighting in defense of able-bodied men? How many husbands make their wives up and check out the scary noise at 3 in the morning? Most guys would balk at such a suggestion, for their masculinity would be called into question. So why is it then okay to send women into battle to defend the men that are supposed to be protecting them?

Scripture clearly defines the differences in roles of men and women—they have distinct roles laid out in the Bible from the beginning, before the fall. Men are to be the spiritual and physical leaders of the homes, providing for and protecting those under their care.

Women are the caregivers, the nurturers of the home and the helper-mate for the husband. Only in the last hundred years has it been deemed politically incorrect to assert that women should not be able to do the same things as men. Were the societies of the last 1900 years misinterpreting Scripture all this time?

I think not. I would instead argue that liberalism and feminism has been so ingrained in our culture that we don't even recognize its stranglehold on Scripture. I would suggest, then, that the church should be far less accepting of this role reversal and should actually speak out against it. Let the men step up and take care of the women in their care like they were commanded to do from the start of Scripture.

I know what I've written is sure to elicit a number of forceful opinions from both sides of the fence. So I would encourage you to contact me if you have any thoughts about this. I would love to dialogue with you about this topic.

Josh Dykstra
Guest Writer

You may have taken a glance at the title and thought, "What's he talking about?" I admit the title sounds confusing, but please bear with me.

The Christian Reformed Church is in the midst of a great debate that has lasted the better part of a decade and has widened from the issue of women in ecclesiastical office (which means to have women in the offices of elder, deacon and minister) to include the roles of elder, deacon and minister in the CRC because of these issues. In my own position for you. But, is the Bible absolute truth or is it an

that passage refers to salvation, not women in ecclesiastical office. Another judgment some use against women in office is avocation that Paul was a male chauvinist. Even if he was, Scripture could not prove it, for "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness" (2 Timothy 3:16). "All Scripture" means not just the parts we want, but all of the Scriptures.

Therefore, if "All Scripture is God-breathed," then why are we telling others that God's divine inspired Word doesn't apply today? And why are we putting conditions on His word, culturally confining it (or "conditioning it") and molding it to what we want it to say? If humans are the creatures, then we must bow before our creator and humbly say, "Lord, I do not know you, for your ways are perfect and I am a sinner. Help me, for I can't comprehend your infinity!"

We want to know what the will of God is, but does that mean we take His word and condition it, or restrict its meaning to the time period it was written in, or is it universal truth, where it applies to all times, places and situations in our lives? I certainly can't make this decision for you. But, is the Bible absolute truth or is it an outline where we must fill in the details?
A Kenyan journey to Dordt College

Matthew Kunnari
Staff Writer

How much are you willing to spend on your education?

Let's see, four years times an estimated $22,000 equals about $88,000. Right? But, doesn't a college education include more than that? There are travel expenses, books, being separated from friends and finding a new church here in Sioux Center, which can be difficult.

For Raymond Mutava, a two-year agriculture student from Kajiado, Kenya, the price is even more. Raymond is married and has two daughters ages 4 and 14, who still reside in Kenya. Before coming to Dordt, Raymond said he wanted to do both farming and church work, but he felt that they were in conflict. Church on the weekends and agriculture on the weekdays split his life in two, and he did not like that. Raymond said, "I started to realize that they could maybe go together."

After visiting King's College in Edmonton, Alberta, Raymond decided to look for a Christian college where he could focus on both God and farming. By providence, Raymond heard Dr. Ron Vos, an agriculture professor here at Dordt, speak at a conference in Kenya where he learned about Dordt.

Coming to Dordt wasn't an easy decision. Raymond said it has been extremely hard at times for his wife to teach full-time, manage a house and raise two daughters. When asked if he ever gets lonely, he quickly responded, "Oh yeah-you bet. During the week I sometimes get home sick, so I go get a calling card and talk to them." He said, "One thing I've learned is the importance of the other person (his wife). Being with her we could help one another, but now it's just me. It has helped me and her growth.

Raymond plans to graduate this spring from Dordt, but he won't be heading home anytime soon. He's currently looking into graduate work in agriculture. If he is accepted, Raymond plans to then bring his family over. After finishing graduate work Raymond desires to return home. "Time invested in studies will help me change people, transforming them physically and spiritually. If I can do this for one person my time here will be worth it. I want to empower people back home to use their resources and thus strengthen the church to better address poverty and injustice."

Raymond has really enjoyed his time here at Dordt. He is very surprised by the amount of support and interest he has received from students and especially professors. He said, "I challenge students here to get to know how other systems work worldwide. Go on PLIA or AMOR or other opportunities. Life is always changing, and seeing outside views will better prepare you for where God will lead you. There is a whole other world out there. Get to know it."

Featured Opinion: Tennis tiff

Samantha Henderson
Staff Writer

So, you would think that a Varsity sponsored sport team-who almost went to nationals- would not only have banners and T-shirts made for them, but that they would at least get the recognition they deserve, right?

They would have good playing courts, get into the year book and sport, along with the other Dordt sponsored sports teams, would have their game time and location posted on Deits. The Dordt community would at least acknowledge the very existence of our Men's and Women's Tennis Teams, wouldn't they?

From having a badly maintained court-like the crack sophomore Emily Wierenga calls, "the Grand Canyon,"-to being excluded from the Signet, the teams are not recognized in the slightest.

Signet producer Fred Haan told the women's tennis team's captain, Sarah Matherly, "There are limits as to how many pages can get printed, which means some activities are not included."

Wait! Stop! Are you telling me that the whole tennis team-which is among the best in the way-is not included in the yearbook because there aren't enough pages? Wierenga was also a little miffed, but still very understanding. She said, "I realize the Signet staff put a lot of time into this year's book and that it's impossible to please everyone. But the tennis team is just asking to be acknowledged."

These teams have put in hours every day at practice, they get up at 6 a.m. to go to early morning meets, and as Dan Heckmann put it, "We play tennis because we enjoy doing it. Yet we are still acting as representatives of Dordt every time we play a match."

"The teams did not even have their picture taken by the photographer. According to Megan Moore, Signet staff member, "Two pages each were given to men's and women's soccer, hockey and volleyball, with the other sports each getting one page per sport. Lacrosse and hockey, two sports that are club teams at Dordt, were given pages in the yearbook where tennis could have had a spot."

"Pages upon pages were given to community pictures, but that is no reason why tennis could not have been pictured in the yearbook.

Team member Betsy Borr said, "I am not asking for hundreds of fans to accompany us to our every match, but I do not think that it is too much to ask to at least get a little recognition. But we rely simply on word of mouth to tell people about our varsity conference meets."

I think a grave error has occurred here. But there is hope, and error does not become a mistake until there has been no effort to correct it. We as the student body are the ones that can do the correcting.

Come out and support Dordt's Tennis Teams and not only will you be able to see a group of trained, energetic athletes who love the game, but at the same time you can support fellow students who have experienced the absence of a proper public representation.
Tuesdays in Africa

Dena Nicolai
Staff Writer

"Can you use the word ‘family’ in a sentence?" I asked. He looked at me, and then looked down at the table. "What can I say about family?" His voice, rasping, his English, lilting, his hands, black as charcoal, fidgeting on the table. "Well, I have no family. It is very sad. My mother - she died. My father and brother - they died..."

I pulled a chair, sat down, and said, "I am alone in Cairo." Then he looked over at his friend. "Ali - it's your turn." And our English lesson continued - one more Tuesday, one more afternoon, one more voice of Africa.

"He" was Abdelaziz, a 17 year old orphan, a boy lost in an unknown country, and one of the many faces I came to know while studying for 4 months in Egypt. As part of our semester, the 24 North American students studying with the Middle East Studies Program in Cairo were required to become actively engaged in the culture around us and participate in a weekly service project. Every Tuesday, along with three other American students, volunteered at St. Andrew's Refugee Ministry, set in the heart of the city. St. Andrew's was founded in 1979 and today, it offers programs such as educational classes for African children and adults who are denied access to Egyptian schools, as well as assistance with daily living. There are no refugee camps in Egypt and the Egyptian culture is often extremely hostile to those with darker skin. For many, St. Andrew's offers the only oasis and hope.

The situation is particularly bad for those who are from Sudan, where an ongoing civil war has killed millions. Many of those I met were from Darfur, a western province of Sudan, where the government and the local militia have allied against civilians in what the United Nations has called "the worst humanitarian crisis in the world today." Because Egypt and Sudan have an open border and therefore the Sudanese are not legally recognized as refugees, St. Andrew's provides assistance while the United Nations High Commissions for Refugees (UNHCR) considers their claims. Every week when I arrived, there would be a line of children who would face wind blowing down the stairs, peering at a newly posted hope; they request, as one of the teachers said when I asked what the West could do, is this: that we not forget them and our Tuesdays in Africa.

Each Tuesday I worked with the youngest class, a group of about twenty-one eight to ten year olds from countries such as Ethiopia, Eritrea, the Congo, and Sudan. Although they spoke little English, and I spoke little Arabic, there was much laughter as I taught them songs such as "Row, row, row your boat" and "The more we get together" and worked with them on their English and their math. I spent afternoons helping Abdelaziz and Ali, both 17 year olds from Burundi, as they struggled with reading a novel.

Through working with the children and talking with the teachers, most of whom are refugees themselves, I learned the harsh truth that the people of St. Andrew's are lost between two equally brutal realities: Cairo, where the color of their skin makes them a target, or their native countries, shattered in the midst of war. Many of them dream of what they call "traveling" a traveling where they immigrate to the "promised land" of the West. However, even immigration isn't as perfect as it seems. Once in western countries, most refugees discover that life is anything but flowing with milk and honey.

Every week as part of their English practice, my class would sing a song about going to Nairobi - the Kenyan capital where many Sudanese and other African peoples have fled as refugees. However, my last Tuesday at St. Andrew's they changed the words, and sang to me as a sea of bright voices:

"Tell my mother, I'm going to leave you now. I'm going to America, don't weep for me again." The West is their dream and yet, they hang onto hope. Though of different tribes, different languages, different religions, and different shades of skin, they stick together. Every Tuesday, I walked from the streets of Cairo into the arms of Africa. I met beautiful children who loved me just because I was there, and I developed relationships that ended much too soon. It always seems unfair that I have a passport that lets me go almost anywhere, while they are condemned to wander a hostile culture, always waiting for something better. Yet, they have an outstretched hand to any visitor and all they request, as one of the teachers did when I asked what the West could do, is this: that we not forget them and our Tuesdays in Africa.

The "Bigger and Better" winner had not yet been decided when this went to print, but the two teams had a great time. "Fall Fest" was not a complete failure. Besides the many students who enjoyed themselves this weekend, many others are looking forward to the continuation this coming Saturday night, at the Free Movie Night. Be sure to come down to Cinema 5 early to enjoy guarantee a seat for the midnight showing.
Glee Club begins a new semester

Jessica Assink
Staff Writer

Those who attended the Troika Concert last spring witnessed the first on-campus performance of the newest Dordt choral group, the men's Glee Club. Officially formed last January, the Glee Club is back this fall for its second semester of music-making.

The director and co-founder of the group, Wilbert Talen, is a senior music major at Dordt. Talen and Dan Zylstra, a member of the class of 2004 and also a music major, established the Glee Club last year after realizing what Talen calls the "overwhelming" desire of the men of Dordt to sing in a men's chorus.

The Glee Club performs a wide variety of music, from barbershop-style music to hymn arrangements. The chorus's repertoire from last semester included "Coney Island Baby," a favorite among singers and listeners alike, as well as "Gaudemus," an 18th century German melody. Talen says the chorus may perform during Parents' Weekend in October, and the group will also be singing at Immanuel Christian Reformed Church in Orange City in November.

Talen is thankful for the opportunity to lead the Glee Club. "It gives men a chance to sing praises to God through the gift of song," he says, "and it provides fun, fellowship and a chance to hang out with a bunch of guys that enjoy singing."

The advantages of joining the Glee Club range far beyond the opportunity to sing regularly, according to Talen. "A lot of the guys enjoy wooing women through lush harmony," he says, noting another benefit of becoming a member of the Glee Club.

The Glee Club is in need of more singers, especially tenors. The chorus rehearses every Monday night at 9 p.m. in the choir room of the Music Building. Interested singers can e-mail gleeclub@dordt.edu and visit the group's website, http://homepages.dordt.edu/~gleeclub/.

Ha-Ha, made you laugh

Nathan Terrell
Guest Writer

Have you ever been to Comedy League? You haven't? Too much homework, you say? You were on a Dordt Walk at the time? (Ask an older student what this means.) Well, friends, you are missing out on one of the most acclaimed shows this side of Highway 75! Comedy League is a knee-slapping improvisation show featuring some of the funniest students at Dordt.

Ethan Koerner, the manager of Comedy League this year, has great plans for the show. "We're mostly just trying to take over the world," he says, "but we want you (the audience) to have fun and laugh while we do it."

The show features several skits and games, as well as opportunities for audience participation. "We usually play the old favorites," says Ethan, "like party quirks, hitchhiker, sit-stand-kneel, questions. But we're trying out some new games this year. We're always trying new stuff out."

This year, there are between eight and fifteen new members joining seven returning veterans. For an improv team, the group is quite large (there are only four actors on "Whose Line Is It Anyway?"). But to Ethan, size doesn't matter. "We have a really strong group this year," he says.

"Basically," says Laura Dykstra, a Comedy League member, "you just get to play games and laugh your bum off every 'practice' and then get to make other people laugh for shows." A 4-year veteran of Comedy League, Laura just loves to make people laugh. "It's just too addicting," she says. "Ever since I've stumbled into Comedy League I haven't left."

Jonathan Horlings, another 4-year veteran, does Comedy League for all the right reasons. He says, "Chicks dig you when you're up there spreadin' that improv love—yeah baby." Not that the show is naughty. "It's good clean fun," Jonathan adds.

According to Laura, improv requires certain people for it to work. She says: "They're the brave ones who can be funny in front of people on command, but can also take it if something they do flops. They've gotten over themselves enough to be willing to potentially look stupid in front of a whole bunch of people, and I think they've only been rewarded for it."

"It's amazing," says Jonathan, "how when you hang out with funny people—people think you're funny too."

Does making a fool out of yourself in front of large crowds appeal to you? Want to join Comedy League? Well, you can! "Contrary to popular belief," Laura says, "Comedy League is a very open group. Anybody can come to practice on Monday nights...and then whoever wants to be in a show can be in at least one." So shut those textbooks, grab your significant other (if you have one) and hurry to the Campus Center this Friday (Sept. 30). Watch the Today for following shows (about every two weeks). No money required. You don't want to miss it!
Facebook leads to face-off among campuses

Jessica Braunschweig
Samantha Henderson
Editor and Staff Writer

Facebook: you're excitedly using it, suspiciously talking about it or confusedly wondering what this craziness is all about.

Facebook is an online student catalogue that connects people through social networks at campus universities. Begun by Mark Zuckerberg, Facebook was launched to the public on Feb 4, 2004. "Nearly 6,000 Harvard students about it or confusedly wondering what this craziness is all about. Facebook is an online student catalogue that connects people through social networks at campus universities. Begun by Mark Zuckerberg, Facebook was launched to the public on Feb 4, 2004. "Nearly 6,000 Harvard students" remarked Christ Hughes, network spokesman.

Since then, it's become a multi-million dollar company and is making waves in campuses across the country.

Students sign up by going to the Facebook website, using their college email address to gain access. From there, they can post their profiles and search for friends from different colleges. They can also share photos, interests, personal information and really, whatever they wish, with intended users of Facebook. People can send you a message that only you can see, and your "wall" is for your friends to post comments about you. You can also "poke" those you're interested in and be poked, too.

But school officials have begun "poking" each other as well, urging collaborative efforts to raise awareness of the dangers that Facebook inevitably brings in, along with the fun. Brandeis University is among the colleges holding seminars on Facebook savvy-recommending safety tips, but also telling students to consider future employers, professors or family members who might read Facebook entries, reports Schweitzer of the Boston Globe.

While some college administrators are hesitant to overstep their boundaries by moving in on this student domain, it's quickly becoming a consensus among many colleges that education is needed to guide students about their actions on Facebook. For example, most students would be floored to realize that some professors at Brandeis University actually check students' Facebook entries before choosing whether to hire them for university jobs. And with the all the different opinions and blunt, often mischievous, comments that are abound on Facebook, students should be leery of what they are sharing. Though Facebook policy prohibits people from posting any "harmful, threatening, abusive, harassing, vulgar, obscene[∗]or objectionable behavior," that doesn't always seem to be the case.

"One student at Dordt voiced what many students feel about this issue: that "people shouldn't take what's written on Facebook so seriously." Yet, it's important to realize that students "are blindly filling out fields [that] suddenly everyone has access to," a Brandeis student says, which leads to the issues/dangers of stalking and harassment.

The issue of Facebook shouldn't be a face-off-rather, in acting responsibly and with integrity, students can have fun with other students across campuses, without having to face the dangerous consequences of letting the wrong information get into the wrong hands.

For more information go to http://tinyurl.com/cn694.

We're going on a bear hunt

Melanie Van Dorp
Staff Writer

Do you ever just sit around Dordt on weekends pondering what to do? Sure there's homework, but come on, it's the weekend, and something fun is supposed to happen. There you are sitting on your beautifully stained couch that is probably at least 10 years old, thinking what am I going to do this weekend. You might say to your friends a line from The Jungle book: "What d'you wanna do?" "I dunno what a you wanna do?" I have been in this situation many times over my past 3 years at Dordt and I have come to the conclusion that fun does not come to you, you need to find it or create it yourself.

Last weekend a group of us piled into Mike Kramer's little red Echo (great on gas), and headed down to Omaha for the day. Just a short 2?-hour drive; destination...the zoo!

The zoo adventure began in the Dessert Dome. Some of the birds have free range and rebel Andy Schippers reached through a thorny tree to grab a peachy fluffy bird with crazy legs. We also saw cougars, exotic birds, lizards, snakes, and these freakishly large rabbits (one had a massive goiter). If you had long enough arms you could reach over some of the cages and touch things you are not supposed to (more on that in minute).

Another highlight was the Cat Complex where the tigers, jaguars, lions and cheetahs live. There was a plethora of tigers, and our curiosity to poke one got the better of us. We stalked back and forth by the cage we thought we would most be able to reach into, climbed up the little fence and reached in to jab the sleeping tiger. The adrenaline was pumping, but to our surprise our hands are still attached.

Later we checked out Gorilla Valley and Orangutan Forest. We anticipated monkey action and boy did we get some. With my video camera we enjoyed making Crocodile Hunter-like videos as Jason Shumate narrated. As we made a short stint about the 'bum hole' monkeys, we watched a lovely monkey proceed to poop and shovel it into his mouth, not leaving a trace. Yes, we have it on film and you are welcome to come check it out.

The zoo is huge, and I could virtually spend all day telling you about all of our exciting adventures. After 6 hours we saw an amazing selection of animals. Topping our list were the rhinos, giraffes, and penguins. Animals make great stories and lots of memories!

Wheels of the Week: Pocket Bikes?

Lynette Andre
Page Editor

Men, do you want a sure way to hook the ladies? Well, Jason Shumate has the answer—"Pocket Bikes". No, they aren't those little finger bikes that fit in your pocket that were a fad a few years ago. They are what look like motorbikes that aren't fully grown yet.

Giovanni bike is the actual name, and they are modeled after actual size motorcycles. They have a pull-start 49cc engine with a one gallon tank—which is very similar to those found in lawn mowers and they can get up to 40 mph, depending on the weight of the rider.

Shumate found out about Giovanni Bikes from a friend who found them on ebay, which is where he bought his. "I got one because it was the funnest thing I have ever seen, and I just wanted to try one out," says Shumate. When he got the package, he and his friend were surprised at how small it was. They fired up the bikes and off they went.

They have big plans for these little bikes. Shumate says, "my friend and I would like to start a gang up, because back home (Albuquerque, NM) we have a lot of motorcycle gangs or cliques. It would funny to see ten or twelve of us pull up in our pint-sized pocket bikes."

So, if you're driving along on your full-sized cycle, don't be surprised if you see one or two pocket bikes pull up beside and challenge you to a drag race.

An anonymous rider takes a spin on his pocket bike.
Dordt hot streak continues

The Dordt Lady Defenders Varsity Volleyball team won 3-0 against in-county rival Northwestern, Tuesday Sept 20th. The Lady Defenders were led by Tara De Boer's 18 kills while Rachel Van Beek and Jill Haan added 13 and 12 respectively. Emily Van Voorst put up 57 assists and Traci Kooima led the diggers with 19. Lindsay Van Wyk and Jill Haan each had 18 digs a piece.

Dordt killed Northwestern and won game one 30-18 and cruised in game 2 for a 30-11. In Game 3 Dordt added 13 and 12 respectively. Emily Van Voorst put up 57 assists and Traci Kooima led the diggers with 19.

The leaves are falling, farmers are harvesting, and the volleyball team is rolling towards another attempt at a national title. However, amid all the activities that students expect at Dordt, there is a new club forming a new women's lacrosse club.

The Dordt Lady Defenders (currently at 3-0-1 in conference) have only lost one set in conference play, coming off a win in Fremont Neb, 7:30 p.m.

The Lady Defenders (currently at 3-0-1 in conference play) scored the first goal of the game when Suzanne Clark led Nicki De Blaey behind the defense and De Blaey found Anna Hubers for a goal with 15 minutes gone in the game. Dana came back from the half with a goal fourteen minutes into the second and really livened things up with a goal ten minutes later. The Lady Defenders were able to hold the Vikings off for the last 20 minutes of the game to win 3-2.

Next time to see the teams play is Oct. 1st vs. Hastings in Sioux Center at 3:00 p.m. Come out and watch the teams, you won't be disappointed.