

INSIDE



"I haven't seen a guy/girl in a week!"
Covenant Hall Closed
Hours Opinions. Page 5



Senior girls play new bod book game.
Page 5



NISO presents the planets.
Page 7

Professors must be CRC.
Page 3

Where do the campus cows live?
Page 4

Who is the voice behind the sports info on KDCR?
Page 8

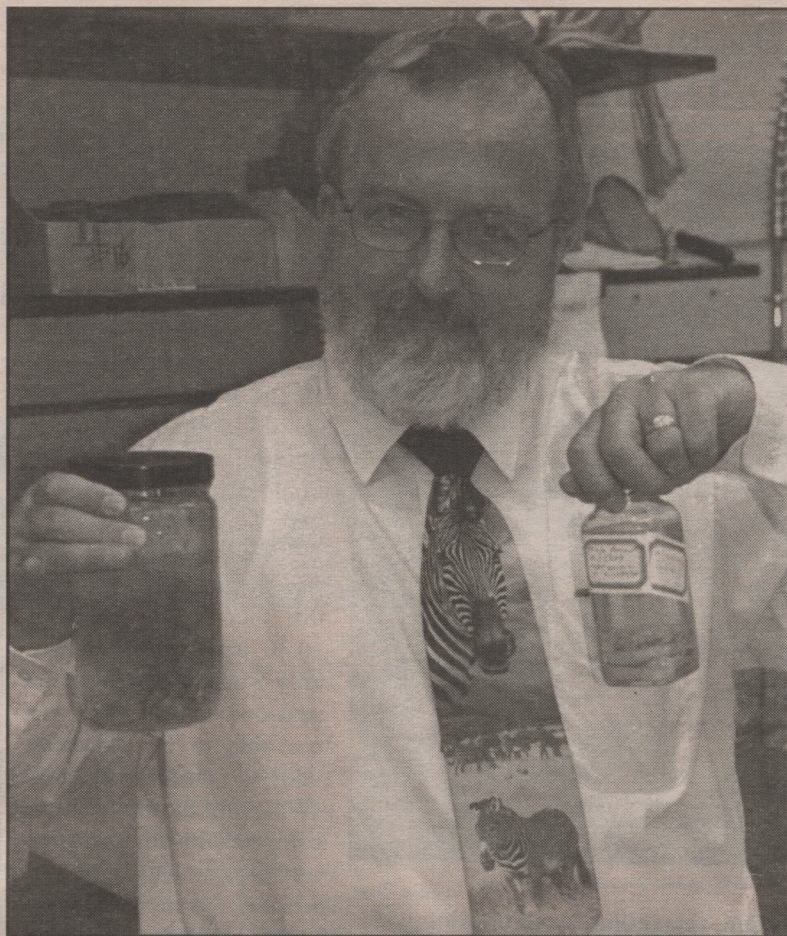
Puma shot near Ireton

Andrea Vander Wilt
Staff Writer

A mountain lion was shot on a farm located 9 miles south of Sioux Center, and 5 miles north of Ireton on September 23.

The lion, a 113 pound, young adult male, was hiding in a cornfield when killed by three Ireton farmers, Brian, Russell, and Warren Gradert. The farmers began to combine the field and waited for the lion to emerge from its hiding spot, and when it did, they killed it. The farmers felt it was the right thing to do to preserve the safety of their farms and families. Shooting a mountain lion is legal right now in Iowa because there is no protection against them.

Biology Professor James Mahaffy dissected the mountain lion and found that it had recently eaten a raccoon. A tooth analysis showed that the teeth were white and sharp, confirming that it was young. He believes that this lion ventured so far away because he was probably doing a little bit of hunting and used the cornfield for



Beka Schreur

Professor Mahaffy holds a jar with paw of mountain lion and a jar of tape worms from the local lion.

cover.

Mahaffy has been trying to keep track of mountain lion reports in this area since 1998. Most of his reports have been of sightings located along the Big Sioux and Rock Rivers. These lions are possibly coming from the Black Hills where there has been a strong population for years.

So far Mahaffy has about 13 possible sightings, and four confirmed sightings. One was found in the city limits of Omaha. One was

captured in Worthington in 1991. In 2001, a lady driving near Harlan in Shelby County hit a lion. The most recent lion is the one killed near Ireton.

"There are some hints that there might be another cat in Sioux County along the Rock River," said Mahaffy. "However, these have not been checked out yet."

There may be more in the area, but Mahaffy does not expect a reproducing population to arise in the area.

Four one-act plays debut in December

Jessica Braunschweig
Staff Writer

It's a different sort of role for students Paul Olsen, Jack Maatman, Jonathan Horlings, Jolene Dykstra, and Ethan Koerner – who find themselves in the seat of the director's chair as part of an assignment for their Directing Class. Each will present a short play for "One-Acts, which will take place Dec 5 and 6 at 7:30 p.m. in the New World Theatre.

"It makes you appreciate the art of acting even more," admits Jonathan, who chose the farce "Chinamen." "Its fast-paced, door slamming, costume-changing characters make for a marathon-type play."

Paul chose "Memorial Day" for its "humor and fair amount of depth" in the story of two over-protective parents who keep their son from going to war. "Memorial Day" presents aspects of war, parenting and marriage in a comical way that that will be enjoyable.

"Helpless Doorknobs" is an intriguing play that is both "funny, yet challenging, and is guaranteed ONE ACTS p. 2



Professor Plum, a Nun, a Bob Barker fan and a cheerleader reveal their bids.

Sara Prins



Sara Prins

"Ginger Spice" screams with delight as she spins a 100.

Fast Forward



Lynette Andree
Staff Writer

World Literature

If you are a student interested in World Literature—Moliere, Mann, Lorca and more—sign up for ENG-208. This class is a study of World Literature from the Enlightenment through the 20th Century. The next time this class is offered is in 2006, so if it interests you it is highly recommended you sign up.

Firehouse Art Show

Dordt students are holding an art show at the Firehouse Coffee Shop in Sioux Falls. The show, which will be up until November 22, features black and white drawing, series drawings and lithographs. The Firehouse is on Main Street in Sioux Falls.

Barker's beauties display products that contestants can win at Price is Trite.



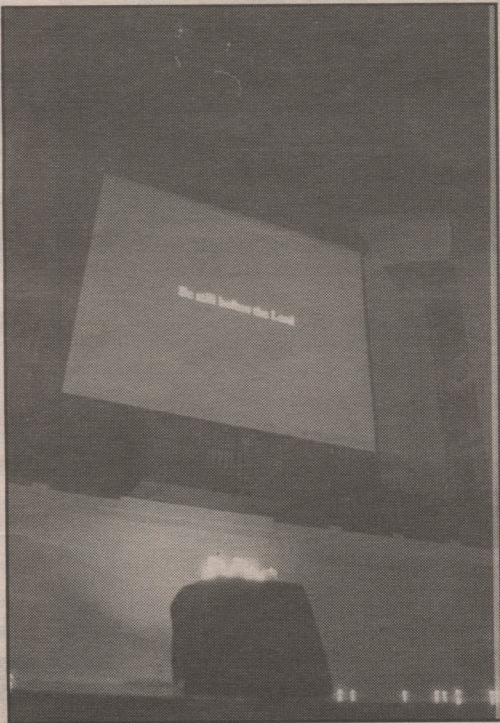
Sara Prins

"Wellspring" inspires students

Nathan Vander Wilt
Staff Writer

A new opportunity to seek God has sprung up on campus. Now Dordt students have four college-sponsored worship services they can take part in – chapel, praise and worship, GIFT, and now Wellspring. Each has a different emphasis. Wellspring is geared towards being a potential source of what is missing from the others. Those who find themselves distracted amidst what goes on in a typical service may grow in the environment offered by Wellspring. "The purpose of Wellspring is to come together primarily to listen," said Sam Gutierrez, who coordinates the service. "The need for silence and listening is not much cultivated in our culture."

The first gathering was this past Sunday, November 9th in the BJ Haan. Listening was encouraged by candles and colored lighting. There was some prayerful singing, times of stillness and times of reflection.



Sara Prins

Reflection, relaxation, a relationship with God-- Wellspring is an hour of introspect and searching.

There was no message, although a short scripture passage was read meditatively. Participants said that it wasn't showy, but focused on Christ. The atmosphere allowed students to quietly deepen their realization of the things they knew. "It was a really nice change from GIFT," one student said.

Wellspring will eventually be held each Sunday that there is no GIFT, at 10:30 pm. Because it was only started recently, the next one this semester was not able to be scheduled until December 7. Wellspring is not meant to compete with other worship services, or with group or personal devotions. It is a unique opportunity for a structured, yet not complex, personal time with God, experienced in the presence

of other believers. Anyone who has struggled to find this elsewhere is encouraged to see how God will work in their lives through Wellspring.

Illegal file-sharing network shut down

Brian Veurink
Staff Writer

The time of free music and movies for Dordt students appears to have come to an end. File sharing network illuvatar.resnet is no longer in commission, much to the dismay of the students. Illuvatar came to an end because copyrighted material was being swapped there.

Computer Services did not shut down Illuvatar, according to Brian Van Donselaar, the Director of Computer Services. "By the time we found the site the operator had already voluntarily shut it down," Van Donselaar said. After a conversation with the site's operator, the operator agreed not to run Illuvatar any longer.

Copyright infringements were

the issue in Illuvatar's demise. "The site the operator was running was certainly not illegal," said Van Donselaar. "However the site encouraged copyright violation—something that is illegal and something we do not approve of."

Computer Services saw a larger issue than just students listening to each other's music. "We encourage students to think critically about file sharing and make decisions that are God glorifying," Van Donselaar said.

The reaction of the students was typical. "I was mad," was the common response when students were asked to reflect on the closing of Illuvatar. "I thought it was not bad, since I was still buying CDs from the music I liked on Illuvatar," said one anonymous student. This student did admit that

he knew he was breaking a law, yet said he would still be using Illuvatar if it was up.

File sharing has become a hot issue in the last couple of years. Record labels and different bands became upset that their work was being traded for free, and have pursued the programs that offer this service. In the spring of 2001 the government shut down Napster, the original leading file-sharing program. Napster is now back, but it comes with a fee.

Individual users are also being pursued. This fall a 13-year-old Los Angeles girl was fined \$2000 for trading music online. At Dordt, students have reported having difficulties downloading music with various Napster clones, and a firewall is suspected.

Out 'n' About WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

Child warriors anger UN

Regardless of international efforts made to protect children from the hostilities of war, a report issued by the UN names more than 20 groups in Columbia, parts of Africa and the Middle East who have issued weapons to young

kids. There are more than 7,000 children in Colombian combatant groups alone, and an additional 7,000 involved in urban militias.

McDonald's proclaims beef with Webster's

McDonald's is outraged at the

way the new Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary depicts its job opportunities. The term "McJob," was defined as "low paying or dead-end work." A McDonald's CEO has issued a letter to Merriam-Webster saying that the definition is "an inaccurate description of restaurant employment" and "a slap in the face to the 12 million men and women" who work in the restaurant industry.

ONE ACTS

cont. from p. 1

to make the audience rethink ONEACTwhat theatre really is," Ethan says. Ethan's succinct tone matches that of his play, which uses minimum dialogue, relying on the imaginations of the audience.

Jack also chose a non-traditional play. "Stage Directions" emphasize family life, focusing on "those who are left after people die."

"Gift of the Magi" was Jolene's mom's favorite short story. This "feel-good" play offers a Christmas theme.

Renae's
251 N. Main St.

Stylists

~Carmen Mulder ~Alissa Roetman
~Paula Oostenink ~Missy Driesen
~Ashley Baer ~Gwen Van Roekel
~Allison Blom ~Renae Visscher, Owner

Hours: Mon.-Thurs.: 9 a.m.-9 p.m.

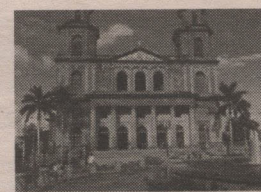
Fri-Sat.: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

(712) 722-0008

~Located near the northwest entrance of the Centre Mall

Gen 254*

Culture, Missions and Community Development In Nicaragua



- Learn about the history, culture, politics and mission outreach in Nicaragua
- Visit various agencies and community development working at the grass roots level and participate in their work
- Experience daily life in Nicaragua
- Witness the social and economic needs of Central America
- Enjoy the natural beauty



See Dr. Duane Bajema for more information

*Gen 234 is open to all majors; Spanish language is not required

November 14, 2003

Faculty CRC membership requirement should be broadened

Jason Mulder
Staff Writer

In their last meeting, the Board of Trustees set an April deadline to decide on the Christian Reformed Church (CRC) membership requirement for full-time faculty and staff. They are not going to "discuss whether or not they will discuss" the requirement, as was done last time, but will discuss and decide whether or not to change it. They may decide to maintain the current requirement, but if not, they will outline what changes will be made.

Many students, faculty, staff and supporters feel very strongly about this issue, in various degrees and from various perspectives. Letters have been written to the Diamond, there has been e-mail discussion amongst faculty, and the issue has been brought up in Student Forum every year.

I believe that the current requirement is focused on what is best for Dordt, though it has become outdated and needs to be adapted to better suit the college.

The current requirement

The faculty and staff handbook states that all full-time salaried faculty and staff members are expected to demonstrate their commitment to the mission of the college by:

1. Enrolling their children, when appropriate, in Christian day schools

2. Affiliating with one of the Christian Reformed congregations which actively supports the mission of Dordt College

Full-time salaried faculty members are also required to give assent to the three forms of Reformed Christian unity, namely, the Belgic Confession, the Heidelberg Catechism, and the Canons of Dordt.

Only the confessional requirement applies to the Board of Trustees. Three members are not members of the CRC; one each representing the Orthodox Presbyterian Church (OPC), United Reformed Church (URC), and the Reformed Church in the United States (RCUS).

The policy's history

How has the current requirement served Dordt in the past? Dordt's website states, "Dordt College had its beginning in 1937 with the circulation among midwestern Christian Reformed Churches of proposals and recommendations regarding the establishment of a Christian college." It goes on, "Associated with the Christian Reformed Church, Dordt College was founded in 1955 and today welcomes all students who are interested in a biblical, Christ-centered education." President Zylstra said he thought

the requirement was formalized in 1966 but essentially had been the practice from the beginning. He acknowledged that no formal rationale was ever given, but said, "the common understanding is that the policy covers a confessional Reformed church that supports Christian education in general and Dordt College in particular. Through history, that has generally been, in our area, the CRC."

Dordt Diversity on the rise

The CRC has historically been the predominant supporter of Dordt College as well as the predominant reflection of its ideas and goals. However, new denominations have formed and grown since the CRC was founded in 1857. The Orthodox Presbyterian Church (OPC) and RCUS entered the scene in the early to mid '30s as well as the URC in 1996. These denominations, along with a few others, confessionally reflect the goals of Dordt College just as much as the CRC. They also have become an ever-increasing supporter, providing both monetary funding and students. Institutional statistics report that the percentage of students affiliated with non-CRC reformed denominations has grown from 11% to almost 20% during the past 10 years while CRC students have declined from 81% to less than 66% during the same time period. In addition, the current

draft of the Strategic Plan reports that the CRC "is more theologically diverse than in the past" and that "direct denominational support for Dordt College has declined."

These facts naturally lead to the question, should the current requirement be changed to better reflect this new environment, and if so, how?

Foundation for a new requirement

First, Dordt College has a Statement of Purpose (Educational Task) and a more operational framework document (Educational Framework) that works out the college's educational philosophy and attempts to spell out its implications. These should be the foundation of any requirement for faculty and staff. Flowing from these standards, however, is how to define "reformed," such as when the Educational Framework states, "Our understanding of the implications of Scripture for the scope and meaning of our task as Christian community stands within the Reformed tradition of John Calvin, Abraham Kuyper, and their followers."

Written statements of faith

Each faculty or staff member should be required to provide a written statement

Please "Faculty Membership" on page 4 for rest of story

Diamond Staff

Editor	Jessica Walker
Steve Kloosterman	Kim Haburn
Design/Assistant	Karissa Stel
Editor	Kendra Triemstra
Beka Schreur	Layout Editors
News Editor	Luke Haan
Ann Renee Andree	Manuela Ayee
Assistant News	Staff Writers
Editor	Peter Anderson
Joe Eggebeen	Kim Lucier
Opinion Editor	Bethany Popma
Josh Bowar	Andrea Vander Wilt
Features Editor	Leslie Larson
Lindsey De Jong	Brian Veurink
Assistant Features	Sarah Meyers
Editor	Rosie Grantham
Carl Van Stryland	Lynette Andree
Arts Editor	Jill Hiemstra
Beka Schreur	Andrea Dykshoorn
Entertainment	Jessica
Editor	Braunschweig
Jason Mulder	and others
Sports Editor	Photographers
Jacque Scoby	Lois Garrett
Assistant Sports	Sara Prins
Editor	Computer Graphics
Rachel Volkers	Consultant
Copy Editors	Mark Haan
Nathan Vander Wilt	Webmaster
Sarah Vander Plaats	Kirk Struik
Gloria Ayee	

--The Diamond is published by students of Dordt College to present and discuss events on campus and beyond.

--Opinions expressed are not necessarily the view of The Diamond or of Dordt College, but represent the views of individual writers.

--Any signed letters, comments, or opinions are welcome. Contributions must be received at least one week in advance. The Diamond reserves the right to edit or refuse publication of any contribution. Send contributions to: Diamond

Dordt College
Sioux Center, IA
51250 or diamond@dordt.edu

Also, log on to our new web page at <http://diamond.dordt.edu>



LIBERTY & JUSTICE

Free Trade ought to be the rule

Peter Anderson
Staff Writer

Shoes must awe advocates of central planning. The fact that even poor people own a couple of pairs of shoes must mystify those who think justice in production only occurs in a state of centralized planning. However, private entrepreneurs own both the means and ends of shoe production. From cattle owners to plastic and rubber producers, there is no command production associated with shoes. People do not go barefoot when anarchy – lack of coercive central control – reigns in the production, exchange and consumption of shoes. However, beneficiaries of freedom in the market have neglected its achievements. The recent ruling of the WTO has evidenced this fact.

The World Trade Organization is an international entity that is entrusted with maximizing global free trade. A recent ruling illustrates this task. On November 10, 2003, the WTO issued a report that the Bush administration's steel tariffs violate international free trade agreements. If the tariffs are not revoked the U.S. will have to pay \$2.2 billion in sanction. For some reason, it took the WTO nearly two years to reach this startling conclusion. Hopefully the people who

worked on this report are paid a great deal for realizing tariffs are a violation of free trade.

Obviously this is ludicrous and anyone should realize that tariffs violate free trade principles. Such restrictions only occur with the approval of those who have a monopoly on the force of law. Governments implement the quotas or tariffs that restrict the flow of goods from one individual to another. Therefore it is shameful that people believe we need a worldwide organization (WTO) to ensure "free trade" or "free trade" agreements (NAFTA) that number in the thousands of pages. A true free trade agreement need only contain these words: "all individuals are free to move and sell their goods where they please."

Any limits on exchange are due to central planning, not the absence of central planning. To believe the centralized officiating of the WTO will undue what centralized officiating has done on a smaller level is a contradiction. Lack of government does not decrease freedom of exchange. The anarchist forces of the market govern the production of shoes and we are not barefoot. An organization that takes nearly two years to determine that tariffs counteract free trade is inferior to the anarchy that supplies us with shoes and numerous other goods.

INQUIRE within

by J.J. Reed

Dear J.J.,

Why is it so cold? I'm freezing in my bed at night, while my roommate from Orange City insists that this weather is normal. Is she crazy or what?

-Frigid in West

First of all, I hate to break it to you, but she's right. The coldest temperature recorded in Sioux City was -26 degrees, and that's south of here. Any Iowan can tell you that every winter you can be sure that it will get well below 0 degrees F. What's a Californian to do?

Easy—follow your mom's advice. Not the part where she told you to make sure your boyfriend's got brains (although that was a good tip). I'm talking about when she packed that huge, ugly coat into your luggage and said in that know-it-all voice, "Dear, it's going to be cold out there. Trust me, you'll be glad I put this in here."

So listen to you momma. If you weren't fortunate enough to have a mother that stuffed winter gear into your suitcase, go to Wal-Mart. Get a big, warm coat with a hood, thick mittens, and a fur-lined hat. Make mom proud.

College and Marriage

Calvin Kuiper
Guest Writer

"My wife and I knew we loved each other. We had our families' blessing and didn't want to wait any longer to be married, so we set a date and got married. I have been married four months and 13 days (how's that for accuracy). I have been at Dordt since fall 2002."

~Sophomore Kirk Struik

We decided to get married for a number of reasons, but mainly because we felt it was God's will, and Nicole is my best friend. Who wouldn't want to marry someone they loved spending time with?

We are in our third year of marriage, and this is our third year at Dordt.

~Senior Ryan Lane

On November 23rd of this year, I will have been married for two years and counting. It has been one of the best growing experiences for me. Most people would answer your question (as to why I got married when I did) with a simple response along the lines of "because I fell in love." For me, I married because I feel strongly that that's what God wanted for me at that point in my life. Yes, I fell in love and have continued growing in love ever since.

I have been attending Dordt since the fall of 2002, and because I am married, I feel slightly out of the loop of college life. Sometimes I feel like I'm missing out. However, I will NEVER have to go through each day wondering if the guy sitting next to me in class is interested in me or if I'll ever meet that special someone who will stand beside me for the rest of my life because, I have already found my soul-mate; I have Ryan. So do I ever regret getting married at age 19? Never.

~Sophomore Tiffany Postma

I have been at Dordt now for four and a half years (finishing my fifth year now). I chose to get married because my husband and I had become best friends, began a "deeper relationship" and decided that to begin our married life together now was wiser than waiting until we graduate.

As we've already been asked, no, we didn't get tuition and that wasn't even a thought when we decided to get married.

~Senior Anastasha Anderson

Agriculture Stewardship Center serves Dordt students, faculty and community

Manuela Ayee
Layout Editor

The Agriculture Stewardship Center (ASC) is a learning resource for students, faculty, and community members. Located on a 162-acre site two miles north of the main Dordt College campus, the ASC is made up of 60 acres of cropland, a 58-acre grazing system, 12 acres of wetland and natural areas, a 60-cow dairy, and several research and demonstration projects. Primarily, Agriculture, Biology, and Environmental studies majors at Dordt use the center. More than 15

courses offered by the Agriculture department make use of the ASC.

About 12 work-study students are employed there each year. They are involved in the day-to-day operation of the dairy, including milking and feeding. They also rear animals and participate in field crop production. The staff of the ASC is made up of Wesley Jamison (ASC Director), Mike Schouten, (ASC Steward), and Dan De Vries (ASC intern). Wesley Jamison is also a faculty member in the Agriculture department at Dordt. A small number of students serve in supervisory roles as well.

The following are the objectives of the Agriculture Stewardship Center as they appear on the Agricultural Department's web page:

- Provide students and faculty with an opportunity to care for God's creation.
- Enable students to gain practical agricultural experience.
- Accommodate a diverse array of domestic and native plant and animal species.
- Operate plant and animal production systems in a sustainable manner.
- Support student and faculty

research projects.

· Share information with the public through field days and other means.

The ASC has a field day annually. The event provides a number of opportunities for students, local farmers, and members of the Sioux Center community to observe the ongoing ASC research projects and to admire the results of experiments conducted the previous year. Both Dordt College and the Practical Farmers of Iowa (PFI), a non-profit farmer-member organization, sponsor the field days.

CRC Membership: A realistic proposal (cont. from page 3)

outlining his or her personal beliefs regarding the Reformed Confessions, summarized in The Three Forms of Unity (Belgic Confession, Heidelberg Catechism, Canons of Dordt), and/or The Westminster Standards (The Westminster Confession of Faith, and the Westminster Larger and Shorter Catechisms). This statement should be updated on a 3-5 year basis, in conjunction with faculty review processes, to ensure a continued submission to these confessions.

List of Reformed Churches

Finally, Reformed churches should be identified that support the mission of the college as well as Christian education, as outlined by the previous two standards. Faculty should then be required to attend one of these churches. Exemptions should only be granted with regard to this third requirement, and then only by the Board on an individual basis (i.e. new churches forming in the area, faculty who wish to home-school their children).

A realistic proposal

I want to believe that Dordt would welcome back committed students, like myself, as faculty members later on in life, and as ardent supporters of its mission and philosophy, without our URC, OPC, RCUS, etc. denominational memberships becoming an issue. But this issue is bigger than us. This issue affects every student here, CRC students as well. It is important that Dordt not miss out on any more exceptional faculty like Dr. Scott Quatro. As a member of the Presbyterian Church of America (PCA), Dr. Quatro applied for an exemption to the CRC membership requirement a couple years ago. The board denied this request and he subsequently left Dordt College, citing the requirement as "the single biggest reason in [his] decision" (Oct. 20, 2003).

sequently left Dordt College, citing the requirement as "the single biggest reason in [his] decision" (Oct. 20, 2003).

The requirements I have outlined, in contrast to the current requirements, will better accomplish the goals and mission of Dordt College. However, my proposal must go hand-in-hand with a strong program to maintain our current perspective; including but not limited to, an extensive hiring procedure that screens potential candidates with respect to Christian perspective in all areas of life, a rigorous faculty orientation process (something that Prof. Calvin Jongsma is presently directing), and a meaningful review process of faculty by the Faculty Status Committee. These continued actions will protect the integrity of the institutional mission without discouraging or losing faculty that hold to this mission within Reformed non-CRC denominations.

Other Reformed Christian colleges use similar requirements to the one I am proposing, though they are not always as extensive. Trinity Christian College, Reformed Bible College, and Covenant Christian College evaluate faculty on a confessional basis, a statement of faith, or both. None of these require specific denominational membership.

A call to action

The Dordt College Board of Trustees should consider this as they look into changing the current requirements. You and I as students need to get involved and make our needs known to the Board and administration. Together, we can help make Dordt College a more faithful Reformed Christian institution—this year and for many years to come.

A CROSS-CULTURAL SUMMER COURSE IN HONDURAS

May 14 – 31, 2004

GEN 251 – Honduras: Language, Culture and Society

This course is designed for students who would like to go abroad to fulfill their cross-cultural requirement or their study-abroad credits for a Spanish minor. Knowledge of Spanish is not a requirement.

For more information see Dr. Socorro Woodbury – Room CL 113



The Pizza Ranch®

Your Mom Called.

She said you needed to eat better.

She thinks you need to Go to **Pizza Ranch this Thursday.**

They've got **mashed potatoes, gravy, chicken, corn, hot wings, and of course pizza.**

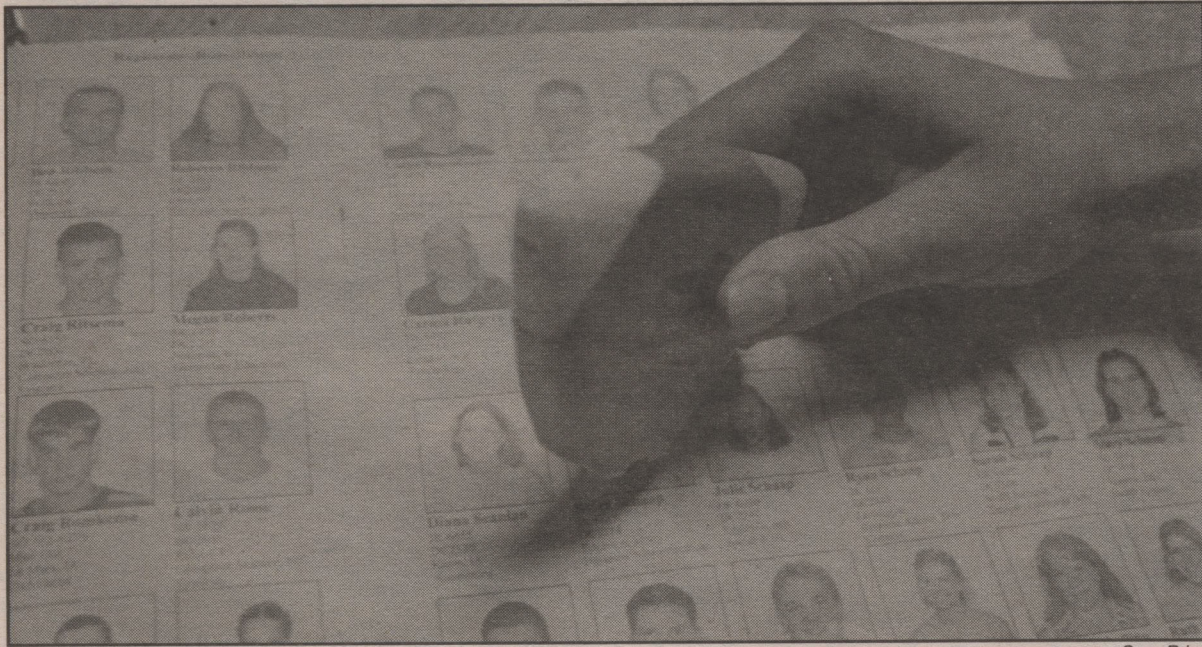
Oh yeah, and your dad told you to save money.

Good thing all that food is **only \$5.**

Thursday Night Chicken Fest.

Another Good Thing From The Pizza Ranch

November 14, 2003



A group of senior girls' keep busy highlighting students' names in their 'Bod Book.' The girls use different colors for different levels of relationships and make updates daily.

Sara Prins

Highlighting

Dordt's reputation as place of marriage

Unofficial 'Bod Book' statistics reveal that 31 percent of Dordt College undergraduates have a significant other

Carl Van Stryland
Staff Writer

For a group of girls in Southview, making changes to their "Bod Book" is an everyday occurrence.

When the "Bod Books" were distributed this year, the girls decided to highlight names throughout the entire book, using colors to represent different levels of relationships. Students were highlighted yellow if known to be in a dating relationship. Others were highlighted pink if they were engaged. Still others received a purple highlight if they were married. The "Bod Book" now resides on one of their two coffee tables and usually serves as a conversation starter. Sometimes fellow students stop by to look at the book or to update it with new information. The girls said the book often receives updates on a daily basis.

"We made a few changes last night," said one of the senior girls, whose name appears in the "Bod Book" without any highlighting. "There was a guy we had over for dinner, and he started talking about his girlfriend, so we grabbed the 'Bod Book.'"

Practically ever since Dordt College began in 1955, the college has had a reputation for being a place to get married. After all, in addition to seemingly constant campus discussion of Dordt walks, "Bod Book" games, and the senior scramble, Dordt appropriately

named its newspaper the DIAMOND.

Despite the reputation, the number of married students on campus is not as high as some might expect. According to a recent "Bod Book" census, 85 of 1288 "Bod Book" students are married, totaling 6.6 percent. Official statistics from registrar Jim Bos on the percentage of married Dordt students was unavailable at press time. In addition, 5.3 percent of the student body is engaged.

"The numbers seem kind of low," said Hannah Groenenboom, a freshman from Oskaloosa, Iowa. "You hear all about the married people a lot. It seems that everyone who comes to Dordt ends up married or with someone at Dordt."

Unofficial "Bod Book" statistics also reveal that approximately 31 percent of the campus is committed to a dating relationship, a number many students might expect to rise due to "senior scrambling activities." However, some students aren't convinced the scramble truly exists.

"It's a definite laughing point for seniors," said Bobbie Schouten, a senior from Sioux Center. "There's probably enough attempts and enough talk to keep the reputation, but as far as actual hook-ups, I don't think there's enough to call it a scramble. I think it's just scary for seniors to think of going into the real world by themselves. They don't know if they can find quality

people somewhere else like they can here at Dordt."

Although senior relationships receive the most recognition, the search for a suitable partner often begins within the first couple weeks of students' freshman year.

"It was kind of crazy," Groenenboom said. "Everyone was just scrambling. I heard one story about a guy who had a relationship after two or three weeks. He kept going off on how happy he was. He was just so happy. Then, about two weeks later it was over, and she was going out with somebody else."

Both Schouten and Groenenboom reminded their fellow students to not feel pressured to enter a dating relationship, even with Dordt's reputation. They advised students to get involved in activities and spend time with friends.

"I think by not dating, I've had an excellent social life by meeting a lot of people," Schouten said. "I have a great relationship with my roommates that's not affected by boys, and I've had more opportunities for services and to become involved on campus."

"A lot of students are OK with not dating, but you're going to have a mix everywhere," Groenenboom added. "I just think if all you focus on is finding a guy, then you'll probably be so busy looking that you'll probably miss the person who's looking for you."

Students express their opinions on Covenant's loss of open hours

Beka Schreur
Design Editor



Beka Schreur

"The loss of open hours at first was an extreme controversy, and there were many girls upset about it. As the week wore on, I think people got used to it. It was still a pain, but it became more accepted. I think it did the intended purpose in that we did get people to be accountable to the community and to each other. I think it served its purpose, and I hope that we don't have to resort to it again."

~Sophomore RA Sara Gerritsma

"I agree that something had to be done about open hours, but I think maybe the people who were breaking them should have been punished to a greater degree before the whole building was punished because people were punished multiple times but nothing was ever done about it."

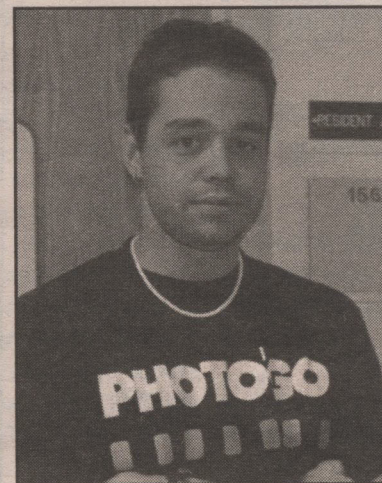
~Sophomore Kevin Zonnefeld



Beka Schreur

"It was a good experience, I think, for the building as a whole. It brought the community a lot closer together. Residents were holding each other accountable rather than us having to deal with the situation in a disciplinary manner. They took ownership of this building through that--by holding each other accountable."

~Senior RA Todd De Rooy



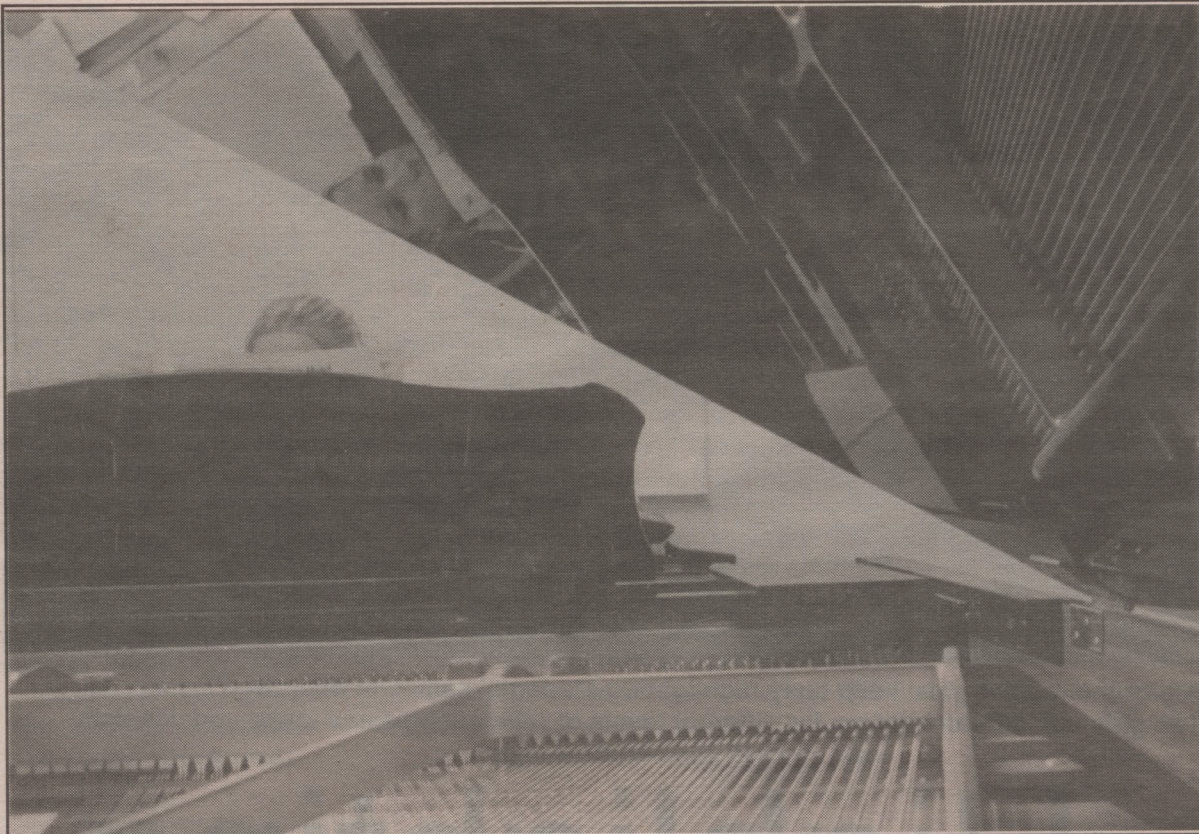
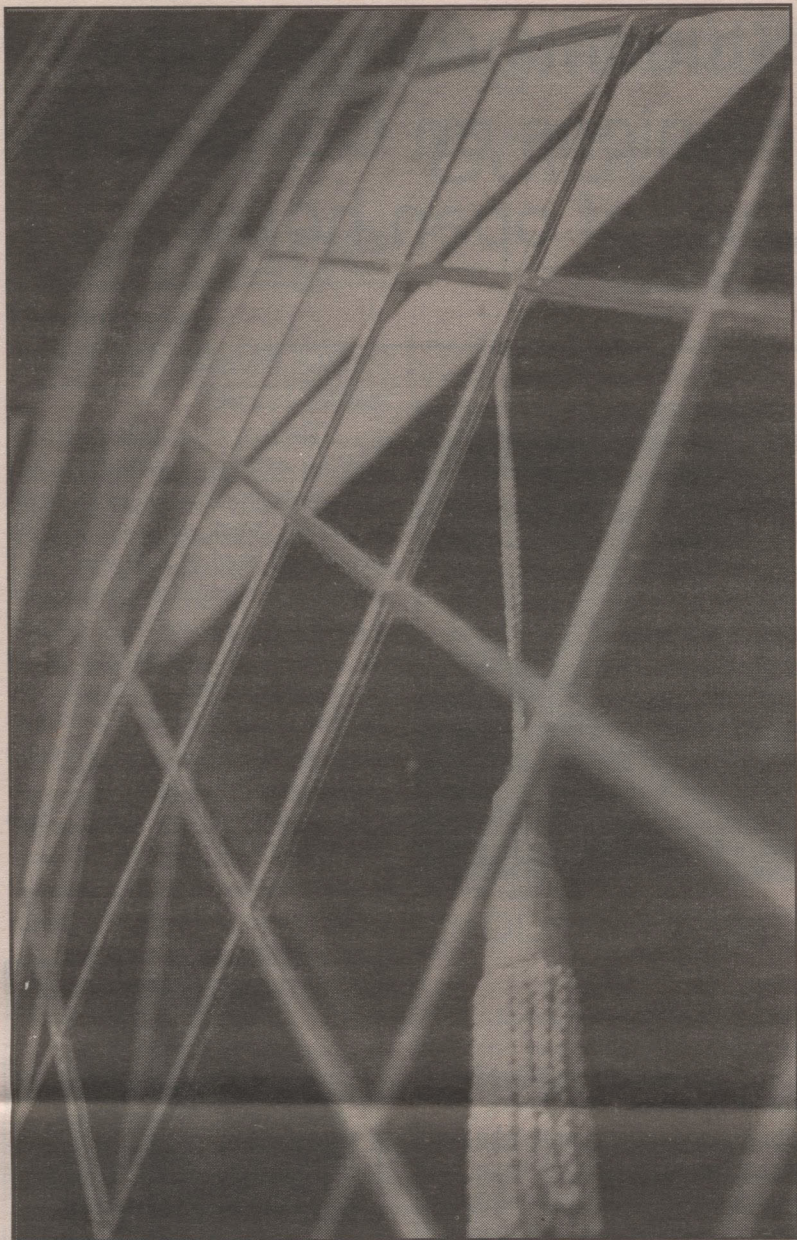
Beka Schreur

"It's good that they are taking steps to discipline us, but I think that punishment might have been a little bit too harsh because it made a lot of people more angry and almost made people want to rebel."

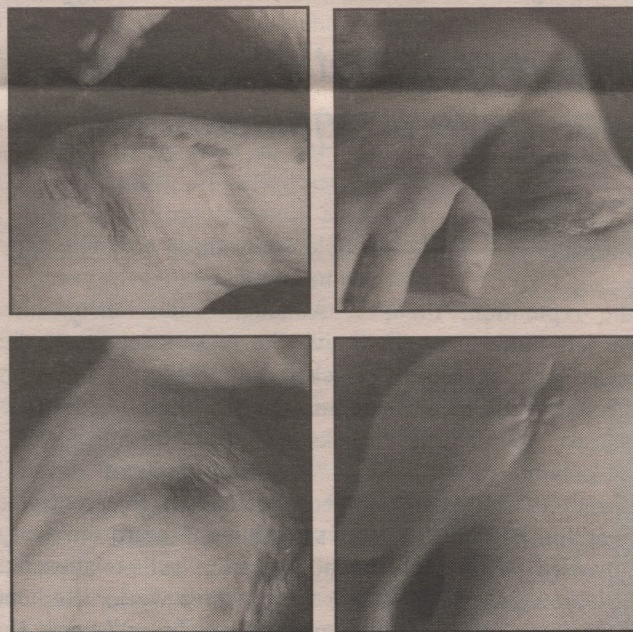
~Freshman Raelle Groeneweg



Beka Schreur



Left: Black and White Photograph, Frank Lloyd Wright Home and Studio, Chicago, Illinois, by Roxanne Volkers
Above: Piano: Reflections, by Matthew Kunnari



Above: Series on body scars, by Beka Schreur
Below: Photograph altered in photoshop, by Sarah Davelaar

This Time Around

by Andrew J. Hoeksema

You never know when words might come your way

You never know when night might turn to day

To black and white from shades of gray
Life comes out different than what they say

From photo to negative to life

From death to blood to knife

One day walking crawling birth

The next stars darkness earth

To black and white from shades of gray

Life comes out different than what they say

You never know when words might come your way

You never know when night might turn to day

9.12.03

November Cornfield

Golden phantoms waving in
silence.

Testimony of death.

Shadows contorting, twisted frailty.

Hollow and lifeless,

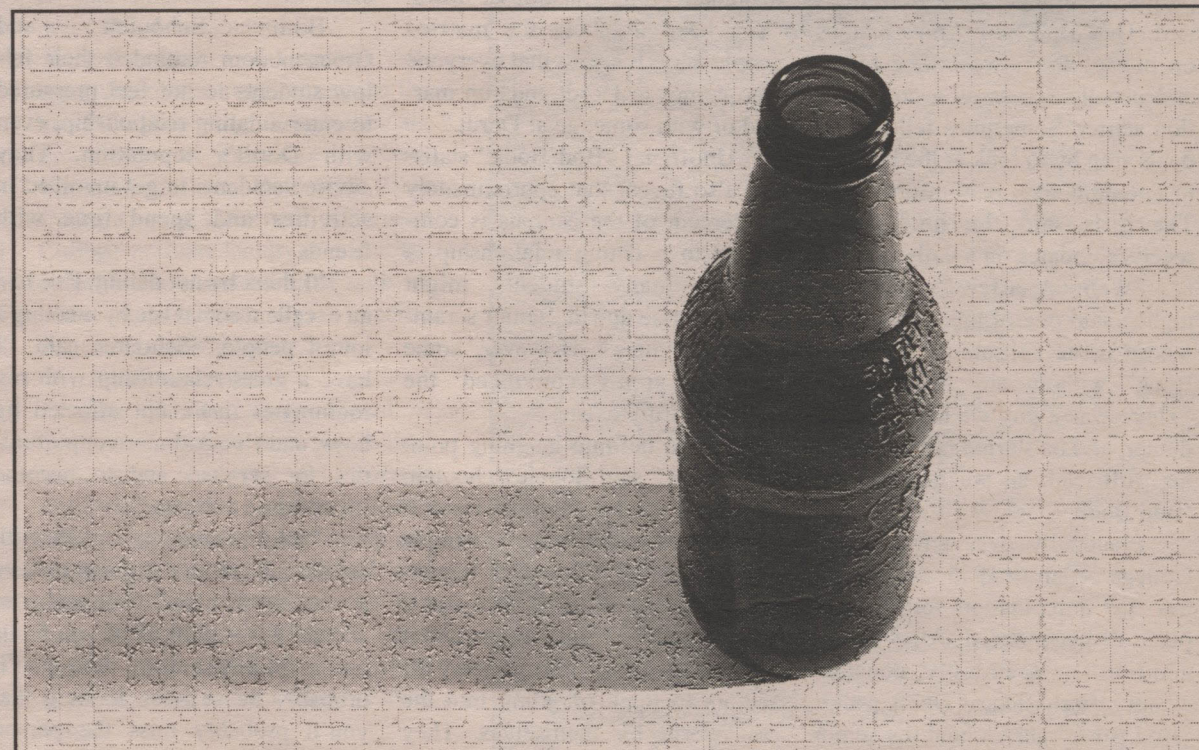
stiff silence of forsaken shells.

Whispers of distant laughter
beyond Time's reach.

Stark, cold reality, forgone hopes.

Life is but a breath.

by Lindsay Cameron



November 14, 2003

Space Jam!

NISO presents "Planets" at Fall Concert

Steve Kloosterman
Editor

The Northwest Iowa Symphony Orchestra (NISO) will open the season with their Fall Concert "A Fantastical Music Journey" in the B. J. Haan Auditorium this Tuesday, November 18, at 7:30 PM. A special children's concert will be given at 1:30 PM.

The concert will start rolling with Haydn's 104th Symphony. Yes, it's true Haydn wrote 104 symphonies—but not a note more. The 104th, also known as "The London Symphony," was his last—some say his best.

Second we hear from the Englishman Fredrick Delius in his "The Walk to the Paradise Garden," a colorful piece featuring the English horn and muted strings. Then comes a real treat—a rendition of "Evening Prayer" by the German composer Humperdinck. Despite the inexplicable weirdness of the composer's name, "Evening Prayer" is an enchanting, mellow piece of work, one covered by classical singing sensation Charlotte Church in her debut album "Voice of an Angel." The talented sisters Jessica (13) and Marni (12) Shoemaker will perform this timeless melody, taken from the opera "Hansel and Gretel," with their father Vance, NISO's principal trombone.

"The Planets," by Gustav Holst will wrap things up for the night. All 100 players will be on stage for this song, including the 2 piccolos, alto flute, bass clarinet, 3 oboes and English horn, 3 bassoons and contrabassoon, 6 horns, 5 trumpets, euphonium and tuba, 6 timpani played by 2 players, 2 harps and the organ—not including most of the string section.



Beka Schreur

Erin Alsum compares notes with her fellow harpist during a NISO practice.

The three movements of "The Planets" are "Mars, bringer of Old Age," "Saturn, Bringer of Old Age," and "Jupiter, bringer of Jollity." The more than 950 area fifth and sixth graders attending the Children's concert will submit art and poetry depicting the three movements of the symphony. The art and poetry will be judged in a contest with prizes by Dordt College professors and students.

NISO is in its 18th season. NISO functions as a teaching orchestra as well as a recreational one. Out of 100-odd players, roughly 30 are Dordt Students; 30 are from Northwestern and area high school string sections, and 40 are adults. Professional musicians brought in from as far away as Omaha and Dordt College Music Department Faculty serve as teaching chairs for each section. NISO is a complex organization. "It's a semi-pro, community, college, youth orchestra," says director and Dordt professor Dr. Henry Duitman. "It's one of the largest community orchestras of its size in a city this size."

Merry-go-round

The Strokes – Room On Fire (RCA, 2003)

Mike Van Beek
Staff Writer

Over two years have passed since the Strokes unfurled their debut masterpiece, *Is This It?*, on the unsuspecting world of rap-rock, pop-punk, and diesel fueled breakbeats. Since then, the music industry has jumped aboard and cashed in on the retro garage rock resurgence for all it's worth. Fueled by The White Stripes, The Strokes, and a thousand other 'The' bands, the latest music phenomenon has managed to find its way into everything from iPod commercials to girly teen magazines.

The Strokes managed to snag Nigel Godrich (Radiohead, Travis) for their latest effort – yeah, yeah; apples & oranges, night & day and this & that. Thankfully, they realized midway through the sessions what the rest of the world already knew. The stylistic differences between them were more than enough to make a few irony-clad scenesters quiver in fear. *Is This It?* producer Gordon Raphael returned shortly thereafter and a collective sigh of relief could be heard around the world.

Admittedly, it's hard to take The Strokes for the poor, dirty, garage rockers they appear to be – face it, they may look like they haven't showered in weeks, but Drew Barrymore doesn't marry just any dirty, homeless coke addict (obvious Barrymore jokes intentionally avoided). However, the paradox of a major label funding a few dirty rockers with celebrity groupies doesn't negate Julian Casablancas and Co's uncanny sense for hooks, melody, and musical history.

Room On Fire draws on the mellow, lethargic tracks of *Is This It?* – taking its melancholic propensity and adding Casablancas's characteristic, subdued energy to form a cohesive mixture of seductive, slack-jawed vocals, angular riffs, and energetic choruses. "What Ever Happened" starts the album off in familiar territory, opening quickly with typical vocal fluxuations, breaking into vocal and melodic harmony as the chorus bursts into full gear. Songs like "12-51" and "The End Has No End" incorporate warm, bubbly synths into the mix, taking as much from Weezer and The Beach Boys as The Velvets and The

Stooges. "Under Control" sounds like a long forgotten Kinks track, solemn, subtle, and unobtrusive. "I Can't Win" starts off slowly as Casablancas's monotonous vocals take customary form, soon paying homage to Tom Petty and Bob Dylan with a perfectly executed 70s-esque guitar solo as it finishes. Meanwhile, tracks like "Between Love & Hate" and "Meet Me In The Bathroom" boast a pseudo-country tinge, the former's chorus bordering on rockabilly – not far from something that would be played at Maw and Paw's annual square dance or Buck's booze shack.

All in all, *Room On Fire* succeeds on a wholistic level, but the songs are not as individually solid or memorable as their debut. The Strokes are at their best when they are experimenting and toying with new ideas. They have proven that they have the capability to write a million *Is This It's* (while still moderately successful, songs like "Reptilia", "The Way It Is", and "Automatic Stop" come off as somewhat derivative), but the strengths of this album are the subtle surprises.

Check this out!

Jason Mulder
Staff Writer

Chevelle Thu, Nov. 13, The Quest Club, Minneapolis, MN

NISO Fall Concert Tue, Nov. 18, 7:30 pm BJH

Five Iron Frenzy w/ Bleach Tue, Nov. 18, 6:30 pm 7
Flags Event Center, Clive, IA

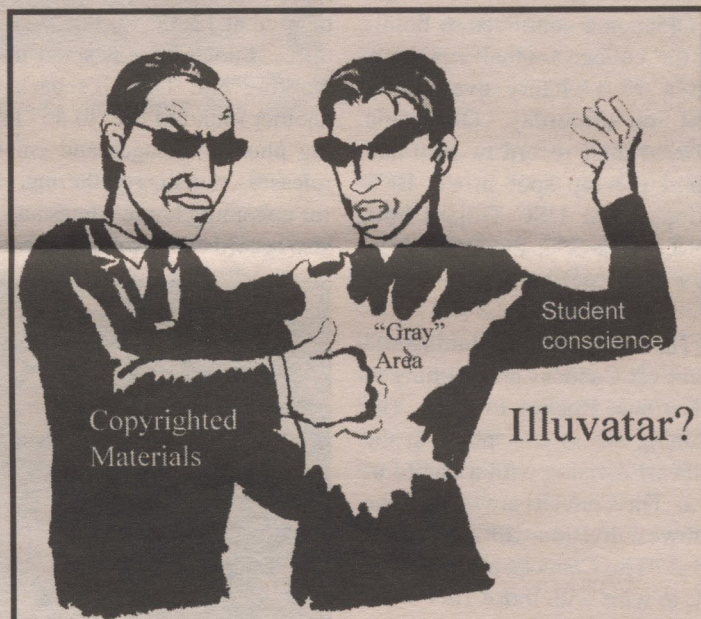
Trans-Siberian Orchestra Wed, Nov. 19, 7:30 pm
Omaha Music Hall, Omaha, NE

Instrumental Ensembles Concert Thu, Dec. 4, 7:30 pm
BJH

One Act Plays Dec 5-6, NWT

Evanesence Fri, Dec. 5, 7:00 pm Halenbeck Hall, St. Cloud, MN

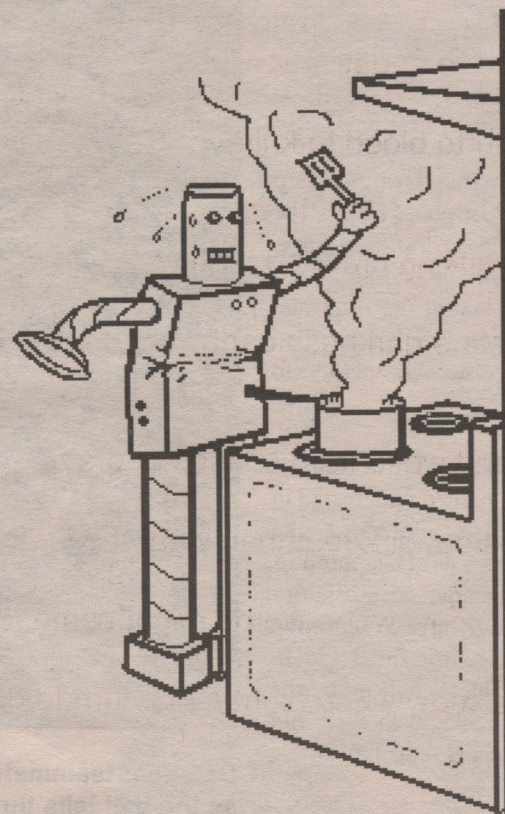
Have an event that you would like posted? Email
jsnmlr@dordt.edu



Mason Walsh

Jeremy's Corner

A mother is something that
can never be replaced.



Even by androids.

by Jeremy Winter Illustrations by Joe Hoksbergen or Ryan Steensma

LIFE
ON
THE
OUTSIDEMarcus Roskamp
Staff Writer

Matt Kenseth secured his first Winston Cup Points victory with a fourth place finish in last Sunday's Pop Secret 400. Kenseth took the lead in the points race in the fourth race of the season and never let it go. With one race remaining, there is still a battle for second place between Jimmie Johnson and Dale Earnhardt, Jr.

Oklahoma continues to dominate the college football rankings. With a 77-0 victory over Texas A&M on Saturday, Oklahoma improved their record to 10-0 and secured the top spot in the BCS rankings. The USC Trojans hold the second spot in the BCS rankings with a record of 7-1.

The Tampa Bay Lightning and Vancouver Canucks are reigning in the National Hockey League. The Lightning are in first place in the Southeast division with a record of 8-1-2. The Canucks are leading the Northwest division with a record of 10-3-2. The Canucks also lead the NHL in wins with those 10.

Vijay Singh won his first PGA money title. Tiger Woods finished second, breaking his streak of 4 consecutive money titles. There is still much debate over who will be named Player of the Year, an award voted on by their peers.

The San Jose Earthquakes will play the Kansas City Wizards in the Western Conference championship game of Major League Soccer. The Earthquakes came from 4 goals down to beat the defending champion L.A. Galaxy in the semifinal game. This game was being called the greatest comeback victory in MLS history.

Dante Hall and the Kansas City Chiefs remained undefeated in NFL action after defeating the Cleveland Browns last Sunday. Hall nearly made NFL history when he narrowly missed returning his fifth kick return for a touch-down. The Chiefs will play the Browns this weekend in their run for a return to post season play.

Source: ESPN.com

A Day in the Life...of Mike Byker

Jacque Scoby
Sports Page Editor

When most people think of Mike Byker, they automatically think, "Yeah, he's the guy who does games on the radio." But there's more to being Mike Byker than just being the "radio man."

Consider this. Byker, who doubles as the Sports Information Director at Dordt College and as the Sports Director for KDCR, is on the air every morning at 7:45 for the first sports broadcast of the day. This is broadcast from his home, which gives him a little more time with his family in the mornings.

Then it's off to his office in the rec center around 9:00 for an hour of the daily "to do" list. Anything from roster prep to updating the web page is included on this list. Next comes two hours of on-air time at KDCR followed by a recording session of another sports segment to be used at 12:45.

Lunch hour is spent in the weight room working out. Then it's back to the office for another round of the "to do" list—more answering phone messages and emails, writing press releases, statistics gathering, writing programs for upcoming home games and the works. Byker also records another sportscast for the radio sta-

tion to use at 2:45 and 5:45.

Oh, and today is game day, so Byker is also busy in the gym setting up his equipment for the game, or, if it's a road game, gathering up his equipment and traveling with the team. Game time means two hours or more on the air with the play-by-play followed by more traveling back to Dordt, stats work after the game, and filling out the next day's list of things to do.

It's midnight and the day is finally over. By now it's dark outside, his truck is cold, and there's still the drive home. Tomorrow, Mike Byker will be back on the airwaves at 7:45 and another day is off and running.

Byker somewhat likens his day-to-day experiences as an SID to those of an athlete. There is the daily "practice" routine, which follows a less rigid schedule. Although there is work that must get done, the time constraints are much more relaxed.

Game days are more intense. Just as an athlete prepares physically for games, Byker has to do the same thing mentally and emotionally. But, as Byker says, "the part on the radio is actually the easy part for me, simply because that's what I've done for the longest amount of time."

Although being on the air is the easy part for Byker, it's not always the perfect part. The

daily grind also contributes to fatigue, physically, mentally and emotionally. Some weeks have up to four game days in six days, particularly in November when the volleyball and both basketball teams have games.

That's where the summer comes in. After a full eight months of being in season, so to speak, Byker uses the summer months to recharge. He's still on the air at KDCR and he's still in his office updating programs and web pages, but it's mostly off-season training. August comes around again, and it's back to the airwaves, saying, "...from the DeWit Gymnasium, this is Mike Byker. Good night, everyone!"

Good Luck Defender Volleyball team in the GPAC championship match on Saturday!!

Good luck also to the women's soccer team in Region IV semifinals on Friday!!



Lois Garrett

Defender teammates Peter Anderson and Luke Ruter watch as the ball falls through the net at last week's game vs. Peru State. The Defenders won 89-71. Their record now stands at a 2-0, while the Lady Defenders are 1-0.

Quick Hits

Where did all the fans go?

Jacque Scoby
Sports Page Editor

I noticed something at the gym last week. Or rather, I noticed something missing.

Fans. And more specifically, student fans.

Dordt has a history of showing up for sporting events—at least some of them. Guys basketball games and volleyball games are the yearly favorites. Last week, I'd like to believe, was the exception.

At both the volleyball and basketball games last week, I saw only a fraction of the usual students filling the stands. Which begs the question, where did everyone go? The parent/community side of the gym was far more enthusiastic about what was going on than the student side.

Don't get me wrong here, I'm glad we have so many parents that come to cheer on our athletic teams. And the support this college receives from the community is nothing short of phenomenal. Both should get a standing ovation.

However, student support at the games is also important. It's the students that provide part of the atmosphere for the game. Last week, the lack of student support was definitely noticeable.

Granted, I realize some students just can't make themselves be sports enthusiasts, and I have nothing against them for that. And there are meetings or classes or other circumstances that prevent others from coming, and that's also understandable. But I know for a fact that even with meetings and classes and those who just don't get into the games that we can still fill the gym.

The Dordt College men's basketball team is off to a 2-0 start. The women are 1-0. They need you. The volleyball team is ranked seventh in the nation. They need you. It's only a couple of dollars to go watch. (Free if you go to the basketball games.) And if you can honestly convince me that \$2 will put you in debt, call me. I'll make sure you get in the stands.