“Would your roommate prefer a romantic walk on the beach or a tandem bike ride?” This question was the first among many to be asked of thirty during contestants participating in Dordt’s annual “Roommate Game” put on by Res Life staff.

Signing up with their most-familiar roommate of choice, fifteen pairs of Dordt’s own juniors and seniors took to center stage on Monday night and braved questions ranging from “How many times does your roommate shave?” to “How long ago did your roommate wash his/her bed sheets?” (One response to this question was “NEVER.” This person will however remain nameless).

To the question “What’s the craziest thing your roommate has ever done?” Sheri Van Boom replied, “I played in the mud.” Her partner, Joline Dykstra, thought differently, responding with: “She got engaged.”

The question “Would your roommate rather do a belly-flip from the high dive or be stung in the face by a bee?” was met by mixed responses, as was the spin-off question from the traditional scratch or fold: “How many squares of toilet paper does your roommate use?” (The most common answer of the night was 10 squares “per sitting.”)

After a four-stage tie early in the game, the game proceeded swiftly leaving four pairs to fight for the title of champion. Of the four remaining pairs, Vicki Bylsma and Eileen Wierink took third place, Hope Franken and Cindy Scholten placed second, and coming out on top were Ryan de Lange and Colin Wielenga, winning a $15 gift certificate to Sioux Center’s Mexican restaurant.

Second place took home $10 of Bean Bucks for the Humble Bean, and the third place contestants walked away with a lovely 12-pack of TP.

Revealing such activities as toplease dinners by females, waist measurements of 32”, and dreams of dancing with Sean Convery were among the highlights of the night for this quasi-newlywed game show.

Assistant News Editor
Lindsey DeJong

Lindsey De Jong
Assistant News Editor

A two part retreat was organized this past weekend for the Dordt students who will be going on PLIA during the upcoming spring break. The retreat took place on Friday, February 28 from 6 to 9 pm and Saturday, March 1, from 8 a.m.-12 p.m. at Faith CRC in Sioux Center.

The purpose of the retreat was to help the students get to know the people they will be traveling and working with for a ten-day mission trip.

Kelly Vander Pol from the PLIA planning committee says that the retreat is also to “set the mood for the mission trip.” Vander Pol says, “I think having a retreat before and during is a super idea that talk to us about going and serving in different cultures and situations really sets the tone.”

Vander Pol was excited about the turn out. “I was impressed at how many people were actually there. There were not as many on Friday but Saturday we had a lot,” she said. Vander Pol commented that the lower Friday night numbers were probably due to the Dordt-Northwestern basketball game which overlapped the retreat. “We actually talked about moving the date,” she said.
Students travel to educate youth

Rosie Grantham
Staff Writer

On the morning of Monday, February the 23rd, students sleepy-eyed crawled off to their classes, only to find that some of their classmates...were MISSING! Reid Rozeboom, Sarah Vanderva, Julie Vanden Heuvel, Wilbert Talen, Denise VerBeek, Karlyn Geleyzen, Chris Kuperus, Ian Ross, Dan De Boer, Stephen De Witt, Everett Baker, Josh Vermeer, and Mike Elders were all absent from their classes that fateful Monday.

What could have ever happened to keep them from their education? Only the painstaking plotting of Pastor Don Draayer, who gave them an education, of a different sort.

The thirteen Dordt students and Draayer had actually applied for the John Templeton Foundation grant to lead a spiritual retreat at Central Waupun Christian School. The members of this fourteen-man mission drove up to the Parker's home state on Saturday, and let the spiritual retreat take in workshops. Discussion and religion. Participants will also present their research at the workshops during these seminars. Some of the research topics include the origins of science and religion.

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Sikkema Selected for Oxford Seminars

Kimberly Lucier
Staff Writer

Assistant Professor of Physics, Arnold Sikkema, has the privilege to participate in the John Templeton Oxford Seminars on Science and Christianity.

The seminars are organized by the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities, and take place at Oxford, U.K., one month during each of the next three summers. The seminars enable the participants to research different areas within the field of science and religion.

The participants will participate in workshops, discussion groups and research counseling led by recognized scholars of science and religion. Participants will also present their research at the workshops during the seminars. Some of the research topics include the origins of science in the late middle ages, the human genome project, a cognitive approach to Christian anthropology and physical immorality.

While the seminars are not in session, participants are expected to continue their research and reveal their findings. Research may be presented through giving lectures, attending conferences and publishing in scholarly or popular journals.

Participant selection was based on various factors relating to the amount of their commitment and understanding in the field of science and religion. A few of these factors related to the subject of their proposed project, the seminars' impact on the applicant's teaching and other activities and the scholar's support of his or her institution.

Around 100 individuals applied for the John Templeton Oxford Seminars, which started in 1999. Only 35 of the applicants were accepted into the program. "I thought that there would be far more than 100 applicants, so I wasn't assuming that I would be selected," Dr. Sikkema said.

Participants will gather together from all over the world, in love, in faith, and in purity. Dordt kids led the high-schoolers in discussions about what it means to set and example in this verse, talking with the students in small groups.

Although the venture was labeled as a "youth ministry" trip, students with other majors as well as members of the GIFT praise band also lent their skills to the group. Junior English major Reid Rozeboom went along initially as a drum player. "I didn't even know that we were going to lead the high schoolers in small groups until later. Then I got really pumped about it." Freshman GIFT base player Wilbert Talen, also went along to bless the group with his base-playing skills. "We led worship in Brookfield CRC on Sunday morning and in 1st CRC in Waupun in the evening, and it went pretty well." Draayer, who organized and went on the trip, says planning for this experience began first semester. Waupun Christian wanted to have a spiritual emphasis day, and contacted Draayer about possibly getting Dordt students to lead. "I thought this would be a great opportunity for students to get some service learning experience," said Draayer. After talking with the advancement office and various authors, Draayer agreed to foot the bill, and the youth ministry service learning road trip to Wisconsin became a reality.

The mystery was solved when 13 tired students and one weary campus pastor pulled into Sioux Center at around 12:30 am Monday night.

The students went on to attend classes the next morning, tired but happy that they had made that weekend pilgrimage to America's Dairyland, Wisconsin.
March 7, 2003

Diverse" within and without... Dordt

Steve Kloosterman
Editor

In one of these issues
I'll write a cutting edge position in the government's involvement in Iraq, or an extremely important and boring piece about the need for an honors program here at Dordt. But for now, let's consider diversity (one of the by-words of modern culture) and its application to our own beloved just-over-a-hundred acres of highly-developed prime-farmland (Dordt). Let's talk about diversity of ideas.

Diversity in Academia

When you cross the words "Dordt" and "diversity" in a discussion-friendly atmosphere, quite often the first thing that crops up is a sort of self-disparaging remark about how we, as a community, are too narrow-minded, restrictive, and homogeneous. One leaves such discussions with a sort of vague ache for a big state university, swarming with atheists, evolutionists, Marxists, and cow-dung-smearing "performance artists"—a place with a disparity of opinions as big as all outdoors, where we Christians could find some really challenging discussion and clashing of worldviews. The concept of seriously debating a marijuana-smoking Marxist over the government's role in economics may seem exciting or attractive (and rightly so!).

But at the same time, it might be well to remember that such heated interescholastic discussions would be far less heated without a few "Reformed Bible-believing, 'There is such a thing as right and wrong'" Calvinsists. Dordt is a bastion for a world-view under siege. If the reformed worldview becomes extinct, the academic community will just be that much poorer for the loss. Who will the Darwinists and Marxists argue with if we Christians disappear one day?

"Against the whole background, we are the diversity," says President Carl Zylstra. "We don't have a wide range of opinions ourselves, but outside of the mainstream, we are controversial."

Diversity at Dordt...

So, I, for one, find it somewhat frightening that some atheist academics could care less about discussion, even for its own sake, and refuse to acknowledge any scholarship that is fundamentally Christian. As President Zylstra noted in his Convocation speech last fall, "There is such a thing as right and wrong" (italics mine).

"Our professors would—at least I hope... write recommendations if a student had declared him or herself a Darwinian or an atheist," says President Zylstra.

statuted that Texas Tech Biology Professor Michael Dini was refusing to write recommendations for any of his students who cannot affirm what he calls "the central, unifying principle of biology... the theory of evolution, which includes both micro- and macro-evolution, and which extends to all species." Dini proclaims on his website that anyone who questions the evolution of the species has a questionable "understanding of science". He asks, "How can someone who denies the theory of evolution—the very pinnacle of modern biological science—ask to be recommended into a scientific profession by a professional scientist?" Texas Tech chancellor, David Smith, has supported Dini's decision.

"Is Dini's policy even professional, itself? Marvin Olasky, editor of World magazine and a professor at the University of Texas, wrote in his February 15 column ("Arrogance and ignorance") that, "At the University of Texas, I've often recommended students who have done good work goes against basic professional ethics" (italics mine).

"Our professors would—at least I hope, presume they would—write recommendations if a student had declared him or herself a Darwinian or an atheist," says President Zylstra. "We get challenged occasionally by funding agencies who ask if we teach evolution, and we do teach about it... but I would ask, do they ask other colleges if they teach creationism?"

Dear Editor:

I write this in response to your article of February 21, 2003, regarding the 'TX'. I would agree with you on giving the 'TX' two thumbs up for the creativity and talent that was on display by the various acts. However, I would give the 'TX' two huge thumbs down for the mockery and disrespect shown by stereotyping older or handicapped members of our community. It might be easy to excuse the emcee's theme and skits because of their own perspective on age and physical health. But really, what's next—looking some racial group being stereotyped and mocked? Or how about gender differences? That's always good for a laugh.

But also, and more importantly, where was the supervision by the Dordt College staff? We are told that by doing our jobs around campus we are to set a positive example and offer guidance and correction when we see wrong. Instead, we saw staff and faculty participating in trying to get a laugh at someone else's expense!

It was very discouraging for me personally to see Dordt College community members make sport of someone who, because of physical weakness, may need to use a cane to move safely around. That is reality in my life—one that I am having a hard time accepting and dealing with. What ever happened to the loving Christian community that was once called Dordt College?

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Fred Haan

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March 7, 2003
Swinging BIG

A story of overcoming adversity

Sarah Wisniowski

Sarah hit Seth again last night. But it’s not like you think. They’re not married, related or abusive. They’re just friends, and she generally hits him at least three times a night. Last night, she hit him because he stole her hat back.

Sarah has dreams. There are so many things that she can’t do that she has hoped to do. She can never teach school. She can probably never get a job in the private sector. As long as she is on social security payments, she can’t travel outside of the country. She can’t spontaneously go out on a Friday night because she never knows where she’s going.

Sarah Wisniewski

Seth laughs because Sarah is not capable of hurting him. Seth is 6'4", 250 pounds, and built like a football lineman. Sarah barely reaches five feet and one hundred pounds. She looks like a child standing next to him. When she glares at him, she has to tilt her head back seventy-five degrees. When she hits him, she bounces off.

But Sarah doesn’t mind swinging at things that are bigger than she is. She’s been doing it all her life. When a body has been brushed aside by her with pneumonia and a double brain had never developed properly. That night the doctors diagnosed her with pneumonia and a double hernia. They missed her five other disorders, and she nearly died six times.

After Sarah started school, her other five disorders made themselves known. She was diagnosed with mild dyslexia at the age of five. At the end of the fourth grade, she discovered her hypoglycemia, a disease resulting in imbalanced blood-sugar levels. After she turned fourteen, the doctors finally admitted that she had epilepsy and mild cerebral palsy. Going into high school, Sarah was dealing with a speech impairment resulting from her cerebral palsy, lapsed homework resulting from her epileptic seizures, and difficulty reading resulting from her dyslexia.

One would think she had three strikes against her. Sarah disagrees.

“I like to prove people wrong,” Sarah says. She likes to talk about the English teacher who told her she would never make it to college. “She wouldn’t give me a book even though I was in her college prep English class. She told me, ‘I guess I have to let you in, but you’ll be out of here in a week anyway.’ I got an A. I got the highest grade in that class.”

Sarah laughs whenever she recounts this story. “Here I am, in college,” she says. “They told me not to bother.” She’s double majoring in history and theology, and although she had to take a semester off because of medical complications, she is determined to graduate with her degree.

“I don’t like people telling me what I can’t do,” she says. “Unless they tell me that I can’t drive a car, because that’s a good thing. I might have a seizure and kill someone.”

Like any college student, Sarah has dreams. There are so many things that she can’t do that she has hoped to do. She can never teach school. She can probably never get a job in the private sector. As long as she is on social security payments, she can’t travel outside of the country. She can’t spontaneously go out on a Friday night because she never knows where she’s going.

Sarah laughs when she talks about the hole in her head that doctors discovered three years ago. “It’s called chiroencephaly,” she says. “I couldn’t remember the name, but Katie called it—head disorder.” She laughs when she reminds us that the state of Michigan has declared her unemployed and when she numbers her neurologists, she’s got four of them in three states. She plots how she’s going to get a government job because of the latest Disability Act, get off social security payments, and travel in Europe. She slays one giant at a time.

The summer between our sophomore and junior years, we all got a cheerful email from Sarah saying that she was going to have a device implanted to control her seizures. “It’s sort of like a pacemaker for my brain,” she told us. Epilepsy is caused by an imbalance in the electrical currents in the brain. The Vagus Nerve Stimulator (VNS) device fires electrical pulses through her brain via a covered wire to regulate these electrical currents. When Sarah has a seizure, she can trigger the device with a magnet on her wrist, and the seizure will subside. The VNS also fires automatically every five minutes to maintain regular brain currents. The electrical current runs by her voice box and makes her voice go hoarse, but that’s better than having a seizure.

Sarah laughs when the device fires electricity through her and makes her sound like a petite Godfather, or when her magnet picks up her fork and drops it beneath the dinner table. She laughs when the device doesn’t work, and she sleeps through all of her classes because she had seizures the night before. Then she gets out of bed, apologizes to her professors, and starts catching up on her homework.

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Sarah will spend five years working on her four-year degree; a fact that saddens her. Staying in one place when all her friends are moving on will be hard, but Sarah understands that if she wants to take on the world, she has to be ready to give up a little more than most people. She has to be a little more determined and a little bolder than the rest of us. She has to be willing to swing at giants. So she swipes Seth’s hat, zips over to the couch, and sits there, her hands on her hips, her tongue sticking out, her neck craned at seventy-five degrees. And she laughs because she’s amazing. She’s David with a VNS device and half of a college degree, and Goliath is about to come tumbling down in front of her.

Above: Sarah directly after her surgery.

Below: Sarah keeps a positive attitude and demonstrates her love for life.
Theft, lack of respect and an unanswered question

Steve Kloosterman
Editor

"Please do not spit on the glass," reads the sign on the glass door in the back of Covenant Hall. The door is covered with mushy spots from head to toe where people have spit saliva and phlegm.

The lack of respect and general apathy for Dordt College facilities continues—and reached a new level of intensity last semester.

Last week saw the residence life staff locking up perennially messy floor kitchenettes in North Hall and removing the microwave from the main cooking facility (which had been replaced previously when it was found with the front door bashed in). Signs on kitchenette doors indicate they will be re-opened after spring break, "pending an investigation." Signs on the bathroom doorway reads, "Wear shoes. Broken glass."

"Really, this is a good dorm," says North Hall janitor Amola Wynia. "It's just a few kids that make it bad for everybody else." One irritated student spread leaflets around North Hall lobby condemning the lack of respect.

Last week also saw the Grille handing glasses to each customer with their order in a measure to discourage customers from taking glasses.

"We need to call this what it is, theft," says Director of Carrie Foods Jim Calkhoven.

Carrie Foods opened the Grille last semester with 240 glasses, or what Calkhoven calls "tumblers." Carrie Foods was down to 95 at one point, before ordering more (they also lost 160 table-spoons, but that's another story), and were running short during meals.

The Grille uses china and silver instead of Styrofoam and plastic ware as a result of the lobby efforts of Shamar. Even if no one were stealing the Grille's stuff, it wouldn't be their first choice to have reusable materials. Calkhoven spoke with Student Forum president Matt Deppe to see what, if anything, could be done about the situation. Deppe says Ann Du Mez, Tracy Owings, Kristen Koning and Tracy Wimseck collected more than two dozen stolen tumblers from students around campus.

The Grille was forced to remove the candy bars, chips, and other snacks earlier this year, because of theft. The snacks, which stood out where students wait for their meals, were supposed to be "grab and go" items, says Calkhoven. "We thought kids would like them for their dorm. The problem was that kids did just that—'grab and go'!"

"My first concern is for the people [doing this]," says Calkhoven. "What we're seeing is an integrity issue. This could affect them for the rest of their lives."

Theир breaches that students will grow accustomed to living carelessly and dishonestly, and such behavior will carry over into the working world. Or have some students just been raised to act this way?

"We ladies talk about it; we wonder if it's just this generation that's coming up, or... we haven't figured it out yet," says Wynia. "If you come up with an answer to that one, you can let us know."

Parking: preparing for the future

Ann Renee Andree
Assistant Editor

Parking poses challenges for vehicle-owners on campus. However, Dordt is doing their best to remedy the situation.

Finding a solution is difficult because Dordt wants to keep the interests of the students and the community in mind. To balance and integrate the parking to suit everyone's needs as effectively as possible.

Parking issues have been a part of the college's planning process for a long time. During the last strategic plan, developed in 1989, suggestions were made regarding how to address parking and pedestrian traffic on campus.

This past summer the Performa Group, a parking consultant company, came to campus and made some recommendations regarding parking and circulation issues. One consistent goal has continued to come up: make a walking-mall through the center of campus with green space and sidewalks as opposed to roads.

The first step in moving forward with some of these recommendations came with the completion of the Campus Center. The Campus Center plaza eliminated the flow of traffic through the middle of campus. The plaza, however, reduced the availability, aesthetic appeal, and the number of staff, visitor and commuter parking spots.

The college responded by creating a parking plan for the 2002-2003 school year. Changes were made in student residential parking in the main lot between East Hall and the gym, between Southview and East Campus, and between East Campus and the Rec Center. An additional 160 student residential parking spaces were added behind Covenant.

During the summer of 2003 Dordt will address some issues for the long-term. The first project is to add a parking lot west of the Classroom Building and extend the current lot. Residents of East Hall, West Hall, and North Hall would be able to use this parking lot. It is difficult to create parking for the west end of campus because of limited space, whereas the east side of campus is more open.

With the addition of this new lot, parking between East Hall and the gym will most likely be made available for faculty and staff, commuters and campus visitors.

Dordt has thought very carefully about the well-being of both students and the community.

Ken Boersma says, "I would hope that the trade-off will be good for the students and the extended community."

Dordt believes that this is the most effective balance.

With the plans for the summer of 2003 have not yet been finalized. The Institutional Planning Committee will meet this week to consider these proposals and will need to give final approval.

Ken Boersma says, "One of the unique features of Dordt College is that we open our doors to the extended community." Dordt wants to show hospitality to the community, and part of hospitality is offering accessible parking. On the other hand, Dordt wants to provide appropriate parking to the students as well.

Left: Dordt had a parking study done by Performa. This is one of the proposed plans to develop parking on campus:

Enhance scenic campus drive
Remove all parking from access drives
Create cul-de-sac drop off at Campus Center
Develop centralized staff/event parking
Develop perimeter parking for students

(The Performa parking study is on DENIS at http://denis.dordt.edu/documents/ and under the heading -Parking study-).
Run, sprint, fly or carpool to...

Ah, Martial Art films. Other satiric comedies may make fun of using subtitles, but Martial Art films are one of the few to use them sincerely. This is the play-ground of improper voice dubbing and superfluous feats of strength. In these films, reality is not allowed to even cast a shadow on the vision of the director.

O, for comedy. This genre is home for tales of silliness and candor. With themes ranging from naïve to raunch to philosophical wit, a comedy's ultimate purpose is to make us laugh.

Now that you have the two unrelated paragraphs above, mentally blend them together in a violent way and you may be able to visualize the film "Shaolin Soccer." Imported directly from Japan, "Shaolin Soccer" is a martial-art/comedy sports film about a family of dishonored brothers lost in the faceless toil of a downright Dickensian capitalist society. Each of them lives in his own personal shamed world of shame, occasionally allowing to even cast a shadow on the vision of the director.

Before I continue, I MUST talk about Shaolin Soccer's special effects. When the brothers use kung-fu to play soccer, this does not mean they kick the ball. No no no, this film is special because they use the best cinematic eye-candy I've seen since "The Matrix" to show the action. Imagine the goalie tossing the ball upfield to a midfielder who intercepts and passes it from fifty feet above center field. The ball is received by another teammate who handles the ball with movements similar to those seen on the pome- nel horse in Olympic gymnastics competition. He passes off to another midfielder who scores a goal with his head after completing a flawless full-forward somersault.

However, a little bit of explanation is needed for this movie. Like I said, this film is direct from Japan and dubbed with English subtitles. Much of the film's fun comes from humorous mistranslations in the text, but I would like to point out that this is not due to any fault of the Japanese translators. English is simply not capable of communicating the detail and intensely specific meanings that the Japanese language uses. Also, many of the film's clichés and assumptions are difficult to understand without a little knowledge of Japanese culture, but this film may still be enjoyed with out understanding everything.

If this film strikes your fancy, copies are available on eBay and through your network of Dordt College brethren. Do a little digging. You'll find a copy of it. also will include music by Kutless, a hard-rock high-energy band from Portland, Ore. and The Swift, a piano-based pop-rock group from North Carolina.

Tickets for the show are $20 in advance, $25 at the door, $18 for groups of ten or more and are available from the Northwestern College Student Activities Office and area Christian bookstores. If you don't have plans for break, you should definitely head to the Rowenhorst Student Center at Northwestern College for the March 22 show beginning at 7:30 p.m.

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Dance like no one is watching. Sing like no one is listening. Love like you've never been hurt and live like it's heaven on Earth.

--Mark Twain
Hockey seniors skate out in style

Leslie Larson
Staff writer

Name: Ryan de Lange
Hometown: Abbotsford, BC
Major: Bus HBR
Position: Center

How many years have you been playing hockey and how did you start?
I have been playing hockey since I was 5 years old. My parents took me out to skate and I hated it. My parents did not like that so they forced me to play and I fell in love with the game and played it ever since.

Why have you continued to play hockey over the years?
I would have to say was always the support I had received from my family. They always loved to watch me play, so I enjoyed it and kept on playing.

What is your most memorable moment in your hockey career?
There are many memorable moments but one of the most memorable was when I was in grade nine and our home hockey team faced off against a team from Sweden. It was a really fun experience, and it was interesting playing against a team that could barely speak any English.

Who inspired you to play hockey?
The person who inspired me most to play hockey would have to be my Dad. He always did it and I heard stories when I was younger so I wanted to do the same.

What is the best part of hockey?
The locker room.

What will you miss most about playing hockey at Dordt?
Like many things at Dordt, my answer is always the people and friends I have made over the years!

Name: Travis Woudstra
Hometown: Littleton, Colorado
Major: Psychology
Minor: Sociology
Position: Left Wing

Why have you continued to play hockey over the years?
I have continued to play hockey because of the people that I have met and friendships I have formed through the sport. Plus, I was good at it.

What is your most memorable moment in your hockey career?
One of the most memorable moments in my hockey career would be in my first ever Blades game I got to take a penalty shot. Although we didn't win that game or any other that year, when the 600 or 700 people there started screaming—I if I remember right that goal got us back in the game and made the score like 9-2 or something. We were awful.

Who inspired you to play hockey?
My dad inspired me to play hockey. He taught me to have fun and love the game.

What is the best part of hockey?
The locker room.

What will you miss most about playing hockey at Dordt?
The locker room and the fans.

James Bentum, Collin Wielinga and Chris Veurink are also senior hockey players that helped the Blades in their successes this season. Veurink graduated in December, and Bentum and Wielinga declined to respond to our questions.

Beka Schreur

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DIAMOND • WORLD
March 7, 2003

Nuclear Power - The Energy of the Future?

Don Stenburg
Guest Writer

Imagine a world where you can drive to work and the only carbon dioxide released is from your own breath; a world where acid rain and air pollution are only distant memories because fossil fuels simply aren’t used. Envision a world with low energy prices that never fluctuate; a world without reliance on unstable energy imports and fossil fuels, where oil spills aren’t even a possibility.

Contemplate a world that doesn’t need to worry about running out of energy for tens of thousands of years. It sounds surreal, but it doesn’t necessarily have to be. Nuclear power offers more than just environmental and economic stewardship.

Nuclear Power

Nuclear power could also give NASA the ability to develop new technologies and launch more ambitious missions, while still remaining (relatively) low-cost. It could be harnessed to extract fresh water from the ocean to alleviate the problem of insufficient water supplies, especially in some poorer nations. It could be utilized to separate water into hydrogen and oxygen, which could be used as pollution-free fuels. Nuclear power could provide a strong incentive to develop advanced robots and rudimentary AI, which could be expensive initially, but once they were developed they could be cheaply and effectively employed in a plethora of different industries.

Addressing the risks

But what about problems like radiation, accidents and nuclear wastes? First, an accident like Chernobyl could never happen in America. There are new reactor designs self-regulating, but we mandate the construction of a massive concrete shield around all plants that can withstand even the impact of a large commercial jet, and effectively contain virtually all radioactive wastes in the unlikely event of critical failure. Even at Three Mile Island no measurable negative health effects were ever found from the small amount of radiation that leaked out, and it isn’t surprising. You get far more radiation from a single medical x-ray than you get from living next to a nuclear power plant your whole life. You get significantly more radiation from the natural environment than you do from a medical x-ray.

What about the waste?

As for nuclear waste, reprocessing is an intelligent option that would drastically reduce waste by extracting useful elements from spent fuel and reusing them. Deep geologic storage is a viable option for the remainder, where it is likely to last the few hundred years required before it decays to the radiation levels of the original ore. Or, like France, we could mix it in cement and put it back in the mines where the originally radioactive ore was taken from. Nuclear waste isn’t a terrible burden for future generations.

Don’t see any objections that remain when the issue is studied thoroughly and understood well. But I do see an abundance of benefits that we would be depriving both ourselves and our children if we fail to embrace nuclear power with humility and caution.

Thanks to the Nuclear Energy Institute and the U.S. Department of Energy for additional information.

Kelly Kuiken
Staff Writer

As a Christian rock band belted out a set of love songs focusing on Jesus, nearly 100 men and women entered the sanctuary. They came carrying bibles, avoiding eye contact and hoping for liberation from the addictions crippling their lives.

Soon a woman took up a cordless microphone and began to preach a mix of scripture and self-help.

“The same God who delivered me can do the same for you,” said the woman, Tonja Myles, as she describing her victory years ago over addictions to drugs, alcohol and abusive men. “If you’re hurting tonight, we know the one who can make you whole, and that is Jesus.”

Appreciative anecdotes from participants in a newspaper article caught the president’s attention, but no one has studied the ministry’s impact on those who attend.

The money from the President’s drug treatment initiative would go toward vouchers that would be given to addicts to pay for treatment at any program that a state deemed effective—including religious programs.

The White House says the plan does not violate constitutional prohibitions on government support for religion because the money goes toward the addicts’ vouchers, not to the programs directly. Critics call it a strategy designed to dodge laws on separation of church and state.