Two thumbs up for the TX

Rosie Grantham
Staff Writer

"T'was the night of the TX and all through the Haan, five old men were dancing, as they sauntered along. A shakin' their hips and as they jump and they jive, they wafted down the aisle to "Stayin' Alive."

If the roars of the audience were any indication of their popularity, the "old folk" of the Talent Extravaganza 2003 were a hit. The five emcees: Dan Oldenkamp, Reid Rozeeboom, Rick Roza, Todd De Rooy, and Seth Shannon took the stage by storm on Saturday night. Through the magic of wigs, plaid, and hair shaved off from a few key areas of the head, the fantastic five appeared before the crowd as quintuplet of unruly members of a retirement community. Keeping the audience's attention between acts, the five geriatrics proceeded through a number of routine activities, including bingo night, medicine time, and the ever-popular sponge baths (not actually shown). Overdeveloped transvestite nurses Brian Van Eps and Jeremy Kruper aided in these day-to-day activities, lending their skills in suppository placement, and sponge bathing, to help these feeble five perform their everyday activities.

As well as taking the audience on "journey through the 'nomicities' of the elderly lifestyle, the elderly friends also embarked on some adventures not indicative of their usual pace of life. These activities included wheelchair jousting in the First CRC parking lot, desperately trying to stay upright at the Sheldon roller rink, and harassing a young lady at the Centre Mall, blocking her escape from Maurice's with their wheelchairs. Some antics of these aged masters of ceremonies leaned a little to the sketchy side of appropriate. The students can agree that the "mooning" of the audience by Depend-eencased-positors and Dan Oldenkamp walking around in his adult diaper was exposing a bit more skin than most students are used to seeing.

Nevertheless, the emcees did an admirable job of officiating at the talent show and in performing the skits.

Serving Our Country

Josh Van Schouwen
Secondary Education: Art.

"My boredom is everyone else's happiness," said Van Schouwen, who hopes our troops will never be called to use their expertise in dealing with things such as nerve agents. Van Schouwen was notified that he will be serving six months, but that may be extended to a full year.

Van Schouwen was a computer science and systems administration major at Dordt College with junior status and is planning on returning after his term is finished. Matt Behrens, Rock Rapids, received three calls, the first over Christmas break, asking him for his services. The last call was received Tuesday evening, February 4. It was up to him whether he wanted to go or not, he decided to go and was on his way at 8:00 am, February 7. When he left he held junior status, majoring in Graphic Design and Secondary Education: Art.

His girlfriend, Rachel Dyk, reports Behrens' reasoning: "Matt wanted to volunteer so he could help those men and women in the service that have families, in order to slow down the process for them. That way they could stay with their families as long as possible."

Behrens has been enlisted in the National Guard for four and a half years, with a year and a half to go. Dyk explains Behrens' main job is transporting ammunition. At least that's what his main job was before. She says she doesn't know much about what he's doing now because Behrens isn't at liberty to tell her.

Dyk talked to him February 14 and he said: "The process is slow right now. Everyone's kind of waiting to see what's going to happen."
KDRCR expands air time

KDCR expanded its broadcast hours on September 21 as a result of a grant awarded by Dordt College. The grant will allow the station to continue its focus on Christian radio programming.

Previously, KDCR had broadcast from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. weekdays and 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturdays. The new hours will run from 5 a.m. to 10 p.m. weekdays and 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturdays.

KDCR Manager Dave Waard said, "The expanded hours will allow us to reach more people with our Christian radio programming."

The station's format will continue to feature Christian music and talk shows, with a focus on local and national news and information.

KDCR also receives support from the National Association of Christian College Radio, which provides financial assistance to college radio stations.

The station's broadcast hours will be split into two segments, with the morning hours dedicated to news and information, and the afternoon and evening hours featuring music and talk shows.

KDCR is located on the campus of Dordt College in Sioux Center, Iowa, and is owned by Dordt College, Inc. The station's license is held by the College.

The station's broadcast hours are now 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

KDCR began broadcast- ing August 16, 1998, from the campus of Dordt College at 91.3 FM. KDCR was then and is now owned by Dordt College, Inc., and governed by the Dordt College Board of Trustees. KDCR began broad- casting at 48,000 watts and to a radius of 50-60 miles.

Today the station broad- casts at 100,000 watts and to a radius of 80-90 miles. KDCR also operates translator stations, retransmitting KDCR's signal even farther in specific areas. Since 1981 KDCR has broadcast at 88.5 FM.

KDCR follows closely in the Reformed, Christian tradition that gave rise and shape to Dordt College. This tradition also gives shape to how KDCR understands the authority of God's Word for the mass media.

The station's broadcast hours are now 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
Faculty responds to last issue's bookstore article

Dear Editor,

As a faculty member who assigns certain books for courses I teach, I would like to make a few observations.

A major reason that book publishers generate new editions of texts every couple of years is to justify the price of the used book market. What this means is that there is a used book market in the first place, and that is the point from which I want to start.

The main reason there is a large used book market is that students sell their books at the end of a course. If students would not sell their books, then there would be few used books available. Book publishers could extend the time an edition is maintained, which would lower production costs and extend printing runs, and thus lower textbook prices (there are plenty of publishers to keep prices competitive).

This is certainly the case with advanced and graduate level texts, where new editions are infrequent despite the rapid advances in knowledge. Thus, the question that I have is why students would sell their books in the first place. I still own most of my college textbooks, and have found many of them useful well beyond college (not just the science ones).

If the instructor has done his or her job well, the textbook(s) selected for the course will be chosen for some combination of importance, quality, pedagogical features, or reference value. Adapting these textbook choices ideally fit all these criteria, but good ones rate highly on several of these.

It is not a trivial matter for an instructor to select a textbook. For example, there are close to two dozen different choices of General Chemistry textbooks, and I spent the better part of a month sifting through about half of these to select the one I currently use.

As a teaching tool, a new textbook is superior to a used one. In most cases, the best way to use a book is to mark it up. While you might like it that the previous owner did this for you, the educational benefit comes from the process of marking up a book, not by skimming a previous set of markings.

The cost of your textbooks is a fraction of the cost of your tuition, yet you own the textbook and can keep it forever, while your tuition only buys you a finite amount of a professor's time. Once you have used a textbook in a course, it is much easier to refer to it later. You are familiar with the organization, style, and language.

Knowing the content and organization of the book enables you to jump into the middle of a chapter, without having to read the entire chapter, and quickly review the material you need.

Editors note:

Selling your book implies you will never need it again, which is rarely true. Too often I tell students in upper level classes to refer to a topic from the prerequisite General Chemistry course only to learn that they sold their book. Graduates have told me that certain books were vital in their new jobs or in a graduate course.

While I hope this is not generally true, the impression left by selling a book is one of apathy towards learning. The semester is finished, the final exam is done, and so learning stops and the textbooks can be discarded to make a quick buck.

So keep the textbook, you will probably need it someday.

-Carl Fictorie

Has the Diamond lost its sparkle?

Dear Editor,

I write this in response to the Diamond putting a very serious article about rape in the same issue as the Zircon. I believe the execution of this was quite poor.

The Diamond has some amazing potential. The plans (to use the analogy) are laid out, they are bright, they have a little bit of sparkle. They are about to go for it.

It's like middle-school age children who decide they want to make a go-cart. They have all these sweet plans; they have some sort of idea as to how their go-cart is going to work. They plan the whole thing out. They scrounge one garage for wood; they scrounge another for wheels. They know they may have to buy something or two, but they aren't worried.

Then one of their fathers, the one who has the shop that they will be using, tells them that they can't use any power tools at all. All their ideas will still work, but to drill a hole, they have to use this hand drill, to screw and nail, it will all have to be done by hand. Eventually many of their plans are scrapped, the work is just too much; they just give up. Partly because they are middle school age and their attention span is very limited, but also because they really didn't want to put all that work into it.

The idea of the Diamond is good. I wonder, though, if the tools have been restricted. Is the Diamond creating a newspaper out of paper? Wouldn't it be possible to use higher quality paper? Are the tools not there?

Or do the "kids" using the 'power tools' when they really have nice tools? It is a mistake that no one is hurt or offended more often than they are when building the 'cart'-publishing a serious article about rape next to the Zircon. It is just like slipping a go-cart together, and taking off down a hill. It doesn't work. More than likely the cart comes apart and someone is injured. Is the conglomeration of newspapers that we see that sort of a mistake?

Is the Diamond a product of "kids" that don't really know how to use the "table saw," but are just good enough so that they have all their fingers? "Alright" you say, "I think I see your point, but now what are we to do?"

Well, we could do nothing. I mean who cares, really, it's just the 'Don't Diamond.' But part of me wants to see a sweet newspaper coming out of this college. I want it to be something I can say, hey, and this, I really like the content, and I really like the look, I'm proud that this is a product of those around me.

"So what can I do?"

Will you join the Diamond staff. You could help lay out the pages. But you may not have time. You may be swamped with a whole load of courses. So I would ask you who can't help directly to do the following: Let those who do work on the Diamond know what you think. Don't just complain, tell them when it's good too. Again, you may not have time, but just maybe a note or two. It doesn't have to be a book. Lastly, care. Read the Diamond. Put forth effort into building the community on this campus.

Jack Muatman

Editor's note:

Obviously, the Diamond is a student newspaper, and there are times when things are rushed or errors are left in because of time constraints. We welcome all suggestions, and all persons willing to volunteer their time.

We purposely set "Laura's story" apart from the Zircon with a page of news. The Zircon is printed on a different sheet of paper than the Diamond; it's meant to be a pull-out "extra." We regret any hurt that we have caused in this matter.

"How do you feel about the possible U.S. war against Iraq?"

Beka Schreur
Photographer

Eric Pilon
Major: Comm. 
Class: Adv. Fresh.

"The government knows more than the people, and therefore can make more informed decisions. If Iraq is connected to Al Qaeda we should pursue domestic safety. If this means war, then it means war."

Arlo Bakker
Major: Graphic Class: Senior

"By engaging in war with Iraq, the U.S. is putting itself in the position of a global police officer. The U.S. cannot label itself as an ion of evil without addressing itself first."

Chris Schreur
Major: Psychology 
Class: Junior

Chris feels that the money the US would spend on a war in Iraq could be better spent on other ways. It could be used to promote peace and healing, to feed hungry or educate people.

If you put a bad guy with weapons with terrorist groups it is ample evidence to go in. However, I am not familiar enough with the evidence to say we should go in.

Professor Chris Rehn
Professor of Business Administration

The Canadian economy is tied up with that of the US; so the US going to war would involve Canada in a war they would rather not get involved in."

Brenda Henderson
Major: Accounting
Class: Sophomore

I wish I was more informed about the subject. From what I know I can say it is maybe a little to late to try and pursue negotiations.

Gabriel Florit
Major: Computer Science
Class: Senior

"What the U.S. is doing right now hasn't worked, therefore something else has to be done and maybe that something is war."

Melissa Drake
Major: English/Lang Arts 
Class: Sophomore

"The Canadian economy is tied up with that of the US; so the US going to war would involve Canada in a war they would rather not get involved in."

DIRK BY MACTOPLEAG

This week, Dirk takes advantage of your post-Valentine's Day ennui with hopes that you may relate to our tale.

Observation 1: Rooms are shared. Marital Status is not.

Observation 2: PDA not carried about in public is often shared in the easy privacy of the Dorm Room.

Single roommates a coming home cause the cohabit couple to recall violently.

Conclusion: Being single is medically superior since you don't need to worry about splitting your lips.

Illustrations are withheld from this panel for obvious reasons.

Chris Schreur
Major: Psychology
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"By engaging in war with Iraq, the U.S. is putting itself in the position of a global police officer. The U.S. cannot label itself as an ion of evil without addressing itself first.”
Above: Leather-legged Lee Christians lets loose on the strings and performs “Praeludium et Fuga” with his bandmates.

Below: Torray Wilson and Luke Starkenburg do a balancing act. The Juggling Club won 1st place in the talent show with their original act “15 Clubs, No One Beaten.”

Left: The Dordt Dynamics Dance Lines up on stage for their 3rd prize.

Right: Jer Van Engen plays some punk with his bandmates. Short Passengers played “Go Ahead” “One Last Chance.”

Below: (from left) David Kreykes, Torray Wilson, Luke Starkenburg, and Duane Einfeld perform one of their complicated club passing routines.
Above: Travis Haveman gets Nathan Sakuma to warm up to a little craziness in their performing act, "Bulbous Bouffant."

Below: Eric Van Wyl, Ethan Koerner, and the rest of the comedy league provide some comic distraction for the Talent Extravaganza audience while the judges deliberate.

Micah Vogel, and Mike Zwart give us some lessons in their drumming performance "The Art of Pi."
Ain't nothing but a hound dog on a Hot Tin roof

Chris Maust
Staff Writer

This week, I'm interested in readers, as two films are featured in this column. The first is an ancient film that positively reeks of quality. The second is a modern film, generated amid the beautiful scenery of the desert. Worthy descriptions of them follow.

Cat On A Hot Tin Roof

This film was released in 1958 during the days when color in film was still a novelty. The film's plot is based on the play written by Tennessee Williams and is cast with the best and brightest actors of the day. If this list doesn't make you start to drool, it ought to. Paul Newman. Elizabeth Taylor. Burl Ives. What would you do with a drunken sailor? The backstory of "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof" is badly summarized here: Big Daddy, the master of a ten-acre cotton plantation has been given a colonoscopy. Diagnosed with a "spastic colon," he returns to his annual birthday celebration where his children lie waiting to fight for their inheritance. Some of his children, however, are tired of life and rather drunk besides.

The information I've given you so far makes this sound like a Graham novel, but this film is no such thing. Had I room to write a vocabulary to do it justice, I would give a good six to seven hundred words of unadulterated praise to this film about an Empire of the Old South. Be warned, however.

This is an older movie, which often appears to be shot in a theatre rather than a sound stage. Patience is required to appreciate how the film looks. During the film, my philosophy meter spikes unusually high. If you look for a deliciously angst-ridden night of entertainment that thinks and thinks alike, then I highly recommend rushing out to rent this movie before someone else does.

Lilo and Stitch

Films like this one are why melodrama was invented. In my humble opinion, every single cell of this film is laid in solid gold. Over the last several weeks, I've watched it fifteen times, and I'm only just starting to grow tired of it. Here's a quick overview of the plot: Stitch is an illegal genetic experiment made by the quasi-evil Dr. Jumba. Stitch's primal instinct is to create chaos and destroy order, so the superior alien civilization banishes him to a distant planet. Dr. Jumba is arrested and jailed for his crimes while Stitch steals a police spaceship and makes a random hyperspace jump to Earth. Once landed, he's run over by four Mack trucks and adopted by the beautifully eccentric Lilo. Lilo and her older sister/legal guardian Nani are in trouble with their social worker, Cobra Bubbles. Yes, I said Cobra Bubbles. One of the best moments in the film is when Lilo attempts to reform Stitch by teaching him to dance, woo, and sing like Elvis. If you dig animation or if you're into hyperactive Simpsonic humor then I highly highly recommend this movie unto you.

Please pass on my thanks...

I picked up a copy of the latest Diamond issue (Feb 7/03) and was pleased to read Chris Maust's review Wake Up To "Restless Slumber".

I truly had a memorable "homecoming" weekend at Dordt - savoring a good cup of brew with Eric at the gallery reception on Friday evening.

I also want to encourage students to visit my website www.geraldfolkerts.com and possibly share their reflections and thoughts on the Restless Slumber exhibition on the "conversation" page.

Thanking you in advance and wishing you well,

Gerald Folkerts

Twelfth Night Coming Soon

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Twelfth Night

If you've ever had problems with love, you're not alone. In fact, after seeing this play, you might just feel quite bad.

Considered by many to be one of Shakespeare's greatest comedies, Twelfth Night was written near the middle of his career, most likely around 1601. Like most Shakespearean works, the plot is about mistaken identity, illusion, deception, disguises, and the great lengths people will go to for love.

Originally set in Illyria (modern day Bosnia/Serbia), the play leaves much open for interpretation. There's no original sheet music to go along with the songs so each director is left with the task of coming up with his or her own. Ethan Koerner composed original music to go along with his songs, adding a personal element to the play. This production also takes place in 19th century Victorian era California, contrasting with Shakespeare's original Illyria.

The play begins with Sebastian (Paul Olsen) and Sir Toby (Eric Pilon), I also want to encourage students to visit my website www.geraldfolkerts.com and possibly share their reflections and thoughts on the Restless Slumber exhibition on the "conversation" page.

Thanking you in advance and wishing you well,

Gerald Folkerts
Players reflect on careers

Rachel Volkers
Assistant Sports Editor

Position: Forward
Hometown: Sioux Center, Iowa
Major: Business Administration
Info Systems
Position: Forward

I have been playing basketball and why did you start playing? I've been playing since 4th grade because Shawn De Stiger wanted me to play in a 3-on-3 Gus Mackter tournament with him. Why have you continued to play basketball over the years? It's fun. What is your most memorable moment in your basketball career? I don't have one. What is your favorite aspect of basketball? I would probably say dunking, but since I am not jumping I would have to say passing. What do you hope to accomplish in your final season? I hope to continue playing at a lower level in my spare time. Comments about this year's team: We are hard workers and we never give up. Coach's comment: Shawn has been a 4-year varsity performer. He has been our leader on the floor throughout his career. Shawn has a broken knee injuries to be one of Dordt's best point guards! He will finish his career as Dordt's all time steal leader as well as top 5 in assists.

What is your favorite aspect of basketball? I love competition and I have been playing basketball over the years because I love the game. Favorite moment in your basketball career? The most memorable moment in my basketball career was when my high school team won the state championship tournament. What major goals have you accomplished? I have continued to play basketball over the years because I love the competitive nature of the game. What is your most memorable moment in your basketball career? I was able to be on the 8th grade team when I was only in 5th grade. Shawn has been a 4-year varsity performer. He has been our leader on the floor throughout his career. Shawn has a broken knee injuries to be one of Dordt's best point guards! He will finish his career as Dordt's all time steal leader as well as top 5 in assists.

What is your most memorable moment in your basketball career? Winning the state championship my freshman year in high school.

Name: Shawn De Stiger
Hometown: Sioux Center, IA
Major: Exercise Science & Secondary Education (P.E.)
Position: Point Guard

How many years have you been playing basketball in your future? I have always wanted to get better at the game.

What major goals have you accomplished? I have been playing basketball since I was in 3rd grade. Since the grade school I went to was so small I was able to be on the 8th grade team when I was only in 5th grade. I started playing basketball because my brother and sister played. I started playing basketball because my brother and sister played. Why have you continued to play basketball over the years? I hope to continue playing basketball over the years because I love the competitive nature of the game. What is your favorite aspect of basketball? I love competition and I have been playing basketball over the years because I love the game. Favorite moment in your basketball career? The most memorable moment in my basketball career was when my high school team won the state championship tournament. What major goals have you accomplished? I have continued to play basketball over the years because I love the competitive nature of the game. What is your most memorable moment in your basketball career? The most memorable moment in my basketball career was when my high school team won the state championship tournament. What major goals have you accomplished? I have continued to play basketball over the years because I love the competitive nature of the game. What is your favorite aspect of basketball? I love competition and I have been playing basketball over the years because I love the game. Favorite moment in your basketball career? The most memorable moment in my basketball career was when my high school team won the state championship tournament. What major goals have you accomplished? I have continued to play basketball over the years because I love the competitive nature of the game. What is your most memorable moment in your basketball career? Winning the state championship my freshman year in high school.

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The debate continues: stewardship and property rights

Submitted by Stephanie Opengarten on behalf of Environmental Philosophy class

Will a property rights approach to the environment save all things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small? An article in the last Diamond argued that a new interpretation of these rights would yield greater environmental protection. Peter Anderson advocated "upholding property rights in defense against pollution" by encouraging lawsuits to be filed against landowners who engaged in harmful activities that polluted the property of others. This, rather than public ownership of land, would lead to "environmentally sound" property and therefore a decrease in tax revenues per day since September of 2002.

Debt that has been increasing at a rate of $1.29 billion escaped most of our political leaders for this past century while continuing down a path that because of aesthetic beauty to future "generations while continuing down a path that many people might want the land to be used in other ways. However, the role of public ownership in the protection of creation should not be ignored. Anderson seems to dismiss voter pressure as a motive for environmental protection initiatives. Why is this an invalid reasoning? First, it seems Anderson assumes the only harmful environmental degradation is pollution caused by a point source. He does not acknowledge the necessity of protecting whole ecosystems. For example, the property owner-Mrs. X. could do as she pleases with her land as long as it does not negatively affect her neighbor, Mrs. Y's land. Mrs. X could cut down every tree on her lot, but could not be sued even though her act would disrupt the health of wider ecosystems. Not to mention the fact that many people might want the government to preserve land because of aesthetic beauty or to encourage recreational enjoyment or even to protect the rights of nature. Not to mention the fact that the government actually does have an economic interest in ecological-responsible policy due, for example, to the benefits of alternative energy, ecotourism, and sustainable economies.

In addition, by saying "government needs commonsense spending" policies the government may entangle us in multiple foreign conflicts with a current loss in revenue if we do not reduce spending in proportion. For example, to the market benefits of sustainable economies. Government needs commonsense spending policy, which will increase spending at a rate we cannot presently pay. While pollution could and should be reduced by punishing owners who damage surrounding property, there are some questionable assumptions in Anderson's reasoning. First, it seems Anderson assumes the only harmful environmental degradation is pollution caused by a point source. He does not acknowledge the necessity of protecting whole ecosystems. For example, the property owner-Mrs. X. could do as she pleases with her land as long as it does not negatively affect her neighbor, Mrs. Y's land. Mrs. X could cut down every tree on her lot, but could not be sued even though her act would disrupt the health of wider ecosystems. Not to mention the fact that many people might want the government to preserve land because of aesthetic beauty or to encourage recreational enjoyment or even to protect the rights of nature. Not to mention the fact that the government actually does have an economic interest in ecological-responsible policy due, for example, to the benefits of alternative energy, ecotourism, and sustainable economies.

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