We have Jubilee!

Next year marks Dordt's 50th birthday

Andrea Vander Witt
Staff Writer

The 2004-2005 academic year will bring the year of jubilee for Dordt College, as it celebrates its 50th year as a reformed institution of higher learning. The theme for the year will be remembering, celebrating, and sharing the vision. The year of jubilee will be a time of reflecting on the many achievements and blessings that the college has received. Certain events and people will be remembered and recognized.

Special events are being planned for the '04-'05 academic year, including a multimedia production featuring a video of 8 Dordt alumni that are working in many different areas all throughout North America. The movie is being produced and directed by Dordt Professor Dr. James Schaap. The video will show people how Dordt College has affected and shaped the lives of many people to the present day.

Along with the video there will be theatre and music to create the multimedia event. The theatre pieces that will be done along with the video will feature major historical points that characterized the institution. Eight students will be acting the pieces from a student's perspective, giving a flavor of what life at Dordt has been like over the past 50 years.

The music that will be included throughout the production will be written by professional sound designer Barry Funderburg. The production will be lighthearted and entertaining, with the theatre portion being directed by Jeri Schelhaus and technical support by Jim Van Ry.

A theatre full length play competition will also take place. Scripts can be written and submitted by anyone in close connections with Dordt, including alumni, students, parents, and other constituents. The scripts will have the theme of jubilee based on Leviticus 25.

Scripts will be reviewed by a committee with the winner receiving $1500 as well as having their play done as the spring main stage production at Dordt. There will be a second place prize of $750 and third place prize of $250. The winning play will be directed by April Hubbard, with the script writer present on campus for the debut of the play.

In order to continue its tradition of strong reformed leadership, the college must continue with its vision of excellence they have kept for the past 50 years.

Social Work Club encourages awareness and fun

Bethany Fopma
Staff Writer

The junior social work students have been doing some extra planning to promote March as social work month. The students, who are all enrolled in Social Work 311: Practice Methods are being evaluated on their ability to work together as they cultivate awareness about the social work profession in Dordt and the community.

The class is planning on using a variety of methods to raise awareness about the major to freshmen, students who are undecided on a major, and people in the community. A panel of senior social work majors and social work professors will be talking about their experiences in the field, and Beth Harm, a representative of National Association of Social Workers (NASW), is scheduled to come to Dordt on March 23 at 1:35 in CL 169 to talk about her experiences. Students are encouraged to attend both events. Social work facts will also be posted in the Today throughout the month of March. Students from the practice methods course will also be visiting area high schools and speaking to classes about the social work profession.

"I'm looking forward to raising awareness about social work throughout the month of March," says Dawn Kooiman, a junior social work major. "I'm excited about the opportunity to get involved both on campus and the broader community."

While the students realize the importance of raising awareness of the social work profession, they also want to demonstrate through certain activities the caring spirit and concern for others that is the foundation of social work. Students will be going to the Franken Manor in Sioux Center to spend time with residents, visiting and playing games with them. The class has also arranged for the Justice For All truck to be in the parking lot of the DeWitt gym through March 12. Students, faculty and members of the community are encouraged to drop off any unwanted or unused articles of clothing. A Dad's Belgium Waffle breakfast will also be held sometime during March, with the proceeds being donated to a charitable cause.

Social work majors also want to show their sense of fun, so a social work month movie is being planned for the last weekend in March. While the movie has yet to be selected, students can count on cotton candy and popcorn to be provided, along with some quality social work fellowship.

Choral Concert Scheduled for Tuesday

The Dordt College Choral, Kantorei and Women's Chorus will sing in a choral concert on Tuesday, March 9 at 7:30 PM in the BJ Haan. Directed by Dr. Ben Komelis, the choir will present a tour through music history, beginning with the Medieval era: "Summer Is Cumen In", Handel's "Awake the Trumpet's Lofly Sound", as well as pieces from Mozart and Weber. There is no cost to attend, but a free-will donation will be received to benefit music scholarships.

St. Olaf's Orchestra sounds off Saturday

The Northwest Iowa Symphony Orchestra will present the St. Olaf Orchestra in concert on Saturday, March 6 at 7:30 PM in the BJ Haan.

The 92-member orchestra is internationally renown, touring in Austria, Hungary, the Czech Republic and Slovakia, and has been under the direction of Steven Amburson since 1981.

Tickets may be obtained online at http://niso.dordt.edu, or at the door.

Gallery open to public

An array of artwork done by Dordt College juniors is on display in the art gallery March 1-27. Some artwork includes that of Andrea Van Wyk, Erika Hyden, Joel Holsker, Eric Hubers, and Sara Prinses.

The gallery is open every day from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Covenanting together

Lynette Andree
Staff Writer

Most everyone has heard of Covenant groups. What are they again? Groups that meet a couple times, like a Bible study? Wrong. The purpose of a Covenant group is for a group of people to come together and covenant. The Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary defines a covenant as "A written agreement or promise usually under seal between two or more parties especially for the performance of some act."

You and your group may choose to perform a Bible/book study, or, in some cases, a mini "SERVE"-type project. At the end of the semester they end the covenant. The purpose is to covenant for a semester but if the group wants to renew the covenant, they can—or start a new one next semester.

In the past people would sign up and get placed in a group and from there decided what the focus would be—a "potluck" method. Another way that Covenant groups were arranged was to have the students rate their top three choices, and then get placed accordingly with a leader who had similar top choices. This year there were some changes made to the Covenant groups. They started later on in the semester so that the freshmen could figure out their workload before they made commitment to a group. They also allowed people to sign up for the Covenant group and then let the Covenant group work out its own meeting times and places. This was done so that students could sign up for a group that was most relevant or interesting to them. Covenant groups can focus on almost anything. The topics that are being discussed this semester are very diverse. One group is emphasizing female sexuality, purity and becoming a woman of promise and influence. They are reading and discussing the book "Kissed the Girls and Made Them Cry" by Lisa Bevere. Another group is studying the book Ecclesiastes, another is discussing "Not Even a Hint" by Joshua Harris, and yet another is focusing on prayer and discerning God's will.

Although this is a very diverse selection of topics, they do not all apply nor appeal to everyone. If this is the case, and someone has a good idea, they can start their own Covenant group. The leaders of the groups are volunteers, and the position is open to anyone. Covenant groups are a great way to become closer with the Lord and members are often given challenges designed to help them grow in their faith. It also gives people a chance to get to know the people at Dordt and grow closer to them.

The Dining Room has not been strictly work for Persenaire, the performers, Amy Block (stage manager) and Ethan Koerner (scenic designer). Rumor says that some practices were spent running around trying to find their inner child and becoming little kids again. (But you will have to see the play to see these scenes!)

Katrina Kobes says, "I love the camaraderie we developed with such a small cast."

"The Dining Room" is being performed Thursday, Friday and Saturday (March 4, 5 and 6) at 8:30 pm in the New World Theatre.

Tickets are only $2 and can be reserved at the Box Office.

March 5, 2004

We need a good cutline here about Anna Kooi, Katrina Kobes and Kansas Calkhoven (from right to left) rehearsing a scene for "The Dining Room."

A dining room is not just for eating

Ann Andre
News Editor

Rachel Persenaire is student-directing "The Dining Room," by A.R. Gurney. The play's varying episodes are set in upper-middle-class to upper class homes in the Northeast, although the play is relevant, to homes everywhere.

In relation to the episodic nature of the play, Persenaire said, it appeals to every audience member because it's always changing characters and tones.

"It shows the demise of American society—particularly that of the WASP culture in New England," says Katrina Kobes, one of the six actors in the play.

Each performer—Jon Horlings, Katrina Kobes, Marcus Roskamp, Matt Bakker, Kansas Calkhoven and Anna Kooi—plays nine to 11 roles. No scene is longer than ten minutes, and each scene has different characters portrayed.

Marcus Roskamp said, "It is such a different play from any other play that I've performed in because we have to play so many different characters. It has been interesting trying to play out the characters in so many different ways."

Marcus' nine roles range from Billy, a four-year-old kid to Arthur a 40-year-old man.

This week, before the performances, those involved with The Dining Room will spend at least 18 hours rehearsing, estimates Jon Horlings. However, The Dining Room has not been a difficult work for Persenaire, the performers, Amy Block (stage manager) and Ethan Koerner (scenic designer). Rumor says that some practices were spent running around trying to find their inner child and becoming little kids again. (But you will have to see the play to see these scenes!)

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Out 'n' About

WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

Kim Lucier
Staff Writer

Education Requires Proof of Birth

In Mexico, principals and teachers regularly deny enrollment to students who do not have a birth certificate. The official education ministry policy allows children with no certificate to finish six years of primary school, yet students receive neither credit nor certificates of completion. Birth certificates are also required to obtain a voter-registration card or passport to or open a bank account.

President Killed in Crash

Bora Trajkovski, President of Macedonia, died last Thursday in a plane crash. The plane was on its way to an international conference in Bosnia before crashing near the village of Huvoskije. Police in a helicopter spotted the wreckage in the mountainous region, over 24 hours after the incident. Macedonian and ethnic Albanians mourned for three days, vowing to maintain the president's efforts to suppress tensions in the volatile Balkan country.

King Visits Quake Zone

Mohammed VI, King of Morocco, visited Al Hoceima on Saturday to examine the devastation of an earthquake that killed 572 people. Thousands lined the highway seeking the king's help, white authorities stepped up aid distribution after protests over the slow arrival of food, tents and blankets from abroad. Due to logistical problems, the King's trip had been postponed numerous times since last Tuesday's magnitude 6.5 quake.

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If you have the following symptoms, contact your local Pizza Ranch immediately; you may need immediate attention.

• Extreme Hungerness
• Low amount of cash
• Sick and tired of the same old meals
• Craving Pizza

Recommended Remedy—An all you can eat buffet for ONLY $5

Simply bring in your College ID, and get all you can eat for JUST $5.00
A Reformed Critique of The Passion of the Christ

Jason Mulder
Entertainment Editor

Millions of people have been flocking to witness the last 12 hours of Christ’s crucifixion and suffering, which have never been portrayed this graphically on screen before. Director Mel Gibson does a pretty good job of holding to the biblical account—with some of his Catholic beliefs thrown in of course. He should be commended for that.

Artistically speaking, the movie was excellent. The special effects and dramatization didn’t leave anything to the imagination. I think my own hands even felt a twinge of pain when the nails were driven through! But the special effects and talented actors are not the reason that audiences leave the theatre in a hushed silence, many even weeping—why churches bought up tickets by thousands, wholeheartedly agreeing to go against their conscience. A movie result from errors in the Bible—the Gospels were written by men who manipulated the facts to further their own agendas of anti-Judaism.

I find it interesting that the reason Christians hail the movie is the very same reason others criticize it. Both sides acknowledge that the movie holds to the Biblical account; the argument becomes whether or not the Bible is inerrant.

If we hold to the Bible’s infallibility, which I hope we all do, we also hold to its sufficiency. It is not only inerrant in detail; it is also complete. This is so ironic! When I listen to those who want to use this movie as an evangelistic tool, I cringe. For truly reformed people become this is a slippery slope. Some of the most pernicious violations of property rights have followed on that dark day in history as He endured an ignominious trial and hung on the cross.

But the endorsements of these and other evangelicals contrasts greatly with what the liberal news media is saying. Newsweek writer Jon Meacham blasts the movie as “void of religious redeeming power,” and “troubling.” He criticizes Gibson for promoting anti-Semitism and criticizes him for “a literal-minded rendering” of these passages in the four gospels, describing the Bible as “a problematic source.” Meacham says that the errors in the movie result from errors in the Bible—the Gospels were written by men who manipulated the facts to further their own agendas of anti-Judaism.

When the ruling doesn’t hold up, he goes on to say, “I will make them swing,” that is, he will get people to do what they would not otherwise choose, that government edicts constitute arbitrary edicts. No standard of keeping governments in check remains when the government suspends the fundamental sanctity of bodily and real property, hence the occurrence of a slippery slope in public policy. For example, the city of San Francisco has already used public funds to provide sex changes for its transsexual public employees.

In the end, the slippery slope that arises from property violations does not constitute the greatest problem, but rather the hypocrisy of some government agencies. The government rightfully prosecutes the deviant Catholic priests who had violated the bodily property of some young boys. However, the public now witnesses a branch of the California state government violating the property rights of the Roman Catholic Church. Who will prosecute the California Supreme Court for these property violations?

We don’t need to go to the theatre to know what it was like to have been there. I Peter 1:8—“though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexorable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.” If we listen to the Word preached we will hear and see Christ crucified before our very eyes. Galatians 3:1 (Paul is speaking to those who were not at Jesus’ actual crucifixion here)—“You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you?” Before your very eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed as crucified.” That’s what preaching does! Society had lavish plays and theatrical performances already at that time, but God did not choose to use those means. He chose the foolishness of the Word preached! This is only accepted by faith. “You live by faith, not by sight”—if Corinthians 5:7.
Bush 3-year amnesty plan

Steve Kloosterman
Editor

You might have seen them before, in Hy-Vee or Wal-Mart. Rarely do you see individuals; they're usually with their friends or their families. They work at Siouxpreme Egg, Sioux Preme Packing, and Casey's Bakery. They're honest and cheerful and social; the kind of people you like: They're Latino, and most of them are immigrants.

Unless our area is different from the rest of the nation, you can only assume that a few of them aren't legal immigrants. Not that you care whether they have green cards or not: they work hard, harder than you ever could, at jobs you'd never take in the first place, probably for lower wages than you would be willing to work.

The condition of immigrants, both legal and illegal, in Sioux Center and all over the lower 48, has come under the lens once again with President Bush's proposed three-year offer of amnesty for illegal immigrants.

The plan that the president laid out on Wednesday, January 7, was a compromise between extremes, a belated delivery on an old 2000 campaign promise, a move pundits are labeling a strategic bid for the Hispanic swing vote.

Although relaxing the nation's immigration laws ceased to become an option shortly after the terror of 9/11/2001, immigration reform was a major plugging of Bush's stump speech in the 2000 campaign. Still believing in the issue's importance, the president introduced his new proposal last month saying, "Our laws should allow willing workers to enter the country and fill jobs that Americans are not filling. We must make our immigration laws more rational and more humane." If Bush's desire to help the hardworking illegal immigrants was sincere, however, his plan still drew fire from all sides.

Bush's plan would allow illegal immigrants with jobs to apply for 3-year work visas, during which time they would be free to apply for government green cards. Once the 3-year visa runs out, however, immigrants without legal residence would be forced to leave the country.

The plan is lukewarm. Latino advocates say the plan is too little, too late; national security gurus and economic conservatives say it is too generous.

Economists are split on the issue. While it is certain that the U.S. would be brought to its knees if all the illegal immigrants were shipped home tomorrow, some speculate that the cheap labor provided by illegal immigrants has stopped the minimum wage from rising.

"You can't open the floodgates; we would have millions and millions of people coming in very quickly," says Dordt professor of economics John Visser. "To keep our country secure we need to better account for those who are in our country... The President's plan, although sketchy with respect to details, is a step in the right direction. Properly documented workers can more easily be protected by labor laws, with the right to change jobs, earn fair wages, and enjoy the same working conditions that the law requires for American workers. We should get behind the President's plan and encourage our legislators to work out the details as soon as possible."

On one hand, making legal residence the reward of illegal immigration encourages law-breaking and would in effect punish those immigrants who have been, and still are, spending extra time and effort trying to immigrate legally.

Security concerns are also significant. Some officials, already afraid of border-jumping terrorists, fear the results of providing across-the-board amnesty, since a terrorist with legal residence is more of a threat than an illegal one. A legal resident doesn't have to sneak around for fear of being stopped. A legal resident is able to travel, study, take flight lessons... you finish the sentence.

But Latino advocacy groups say the plan does not do enough for illegal immigrants. Most illegal immigrants want to stay in the U.S. as long as possible, and some have children that have been born and raised in America. A three-year amnesty deal has little appeal to them, since once the three years are up they have no way of knowing whether or not they will be able to get citizenship and whether or not they will be forced to return to Mexico.

I wanted the best life for the kids, for my children," says Roberto Garcia (not his real name), an illegal immigrant working in Sioux Center who has already been in the country for five years. "My son was born in Mexico; my daughter was born in the United States. I moved because the life in our country was difficult, bad. This life was expensive; there was no place for a job." Garcia said the few jobs that were available paid about $25 American a week, barely enough to cover rent.

According to Garcia, education does not necessarily equal success, in Mexico. He tells the story of a friend, a fully qualified doctor, roaming the country, looking for work. Grossly overqualified people with training as engineers, doctors and veterinarians teach at vocational schools because there is simply nothing else to do.

The offer is only for three years, but Bush does not think of the people who have been many years here, who have families here.
may affect local workers

whose children were born here. "I have been here since my family arrived in the 1980s," says Garcia, who plans on retiring in Mexico some day, but who won't be ready to go back anytime soon. "This proposal does not consider point. It only gains cheap labor. I think the proposal is political. It is not aimed at helping the families."

Garcia says he does, however, support the immigration bill offered by Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle (D-SD) and Senator Chuck Hagel, (R-Neb). The bi-partisan bill would give illegal immigrants who meet certain requirements permanent legal status. In order to qualify, candidates would have to have lived in the United States for at least five years and worked for at least one year. The individual would have to log four years of work total before gaining permanent legal status, know English and U.S. history, and pay a $1,000 fine. The bill also would also increase spending on border security and work to bring together families separated by the southern border.

Dallas Apol, who teaches several community education English classes, also seems to support the Daschle-Hagel bill to some extent. "There are those who suggest that we should give amnesty to the people here, who are working, and have their families here, but then seal off the border so tightly that no one else can enter without papers. In many ways that looks like the best approach," Apol says, noting that out of Mexico's 110 million residents, probably 100 million would like to immigrate to the U.S. if they could. Apol also doubts Latino responsiveness to the three-year amnesty plan. "The earlier intention of everybody here was to come here, and then go back home and live in Mexico. That has logically changed; it has to change. I know families where the kids have lived here for eight years. Sioux Center is the only home they know. They do not have a desire to go back to Mexico," he says. "For them to go at this time would probably be foolish. A young 20-year-old fellow would probably be better off with the Bush plan. He could declare himself so that he could work at better jobs for a short time. Employers who hire people without papers usually do not pay as well as those who hire people who do have their green cards."

Apol, who is a member of Amistad Cristiana and the Center for Assistance, Service, and Advocacy (CASA), says that illegal immigrants live in a constant state of fear. He gives an example of a man who would like to bring his family to Okoboji, but halfway down the road, turns the car around because there are too many cops. Illegal immigrants may want to stay here for the rest of their lives, but can they bear up under the stress of being illegal for years on end? They all know that a man might have a family, a house, and two cars in America one day, but if he gets caught with bad papers, he'll be on a bus headed south the next day.

The unwritten police rule, according to Apol, is that they don't prosecute people who have been in the country for more than ten years. There are a few individual cops, however, who arrest as many as they can.

"As Christians, we always realize that deception and lying are not only bad for a country, they're bad for an individual," says Visser, considering the stress and fearfulness borne by illegal immigrants. "It is difficult to imagine the cumulative impact on people's health, family stability, children's education, finances and worldviews from the all-but-impossible task of piecing and holding together a false identity. No one should have to live this kind of lie for the sake of improving their lives and the lives of their loved ones."

The social question surrounding the issue of immigration reform is one of trust. Americans trusting people who entered their country illegally enough to offer them amnesty in a way that can be merciful and just. Latinos trusting Americans enough to accept peace on their terms. Here's hoping we'll meet somewhere in the middle.
Bends and Breaks to Build (Trust)

the cement of the path, it dies in the sun
cracks come from use, cracks come from drought

the gift that grows, the gift that bowes
it needs itself, to give itself

vulnerability the foe, the foe that must show
take the chances of life, be caught up in strife

let barriers fall down, together build them again
dual satisfaction, on a journey for completion

we're still squinting at the Sun, our perfection's not done
we know love that needs pain, so give up your shame

to trust is to love, in striving to obtain
you last to receive, a sacrifice from me

—Don De Boer 2/24/04
PASSION cont'd. from p. 3. desire to see the movie used for worldwide evangelism. The movie's main goal is to visibly teach us about Scripture. We are supposed to participate in the crucifixion of Christ, offering Him up as a sacrifice. This is a Catholic mass. Catholics themselves say so! (Visit http://www.zenit.org/english/visuализа.png?aid=49259 and read the article.) Protestant reformers replaced the Eucharist with preaching and now many Christians are blindly using this very means to evangelize. To endorse this movie as a means of evangelism comes close to endorsing the Catholic faith.

This is only one of many concerns that the movie should raise for Christians. Anyone seeing the movie must also deal with whether or not it violates the second commandment. Read Lord's Day 35 of the Heidelberg Catechism if you're wondering what I'm talking about. I don't have time to discuss it here so that we will have to be on your own.

In conclusion, I ask that you pray with me that God will raise up Godly men who will preach the true Christ as revealed in His Word so that the world will no longer feel the need for other means by which to proclaim God's grace.

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DIAMOND • ENTERTAINMENT

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DIAMOND • ENTERTAINMENT

Check this out! Jason Mulder Entertainment Editor

St. Olaf Orchestra Concert Sat, Mar. 6, 7:30 pm BJH
Jewel Thur, Mar. 18, 8:00 pm Adler Theatre, Davenport, IA
ZOEgirl w/ Superchick, Joy Williams, and Susie Shellenberger Sun, Mar. 21, 7:00 pm Elmen Events Center; Sioux Falls, SD
Kelly Clarkson & Clay Aiken Wed, Mar. 24, 7:00 pm Center Omaha, Omaha, NE
Avalon w/ Mark Shultz and Across the Sky Wed, Mar. 24, 7:00 pm BJH
Barenaked Ladies (the band) Thur, Mar. 25, 7:30 pm Tyson Event Center; Sioux City, IA
See Spot Rock Tour featuring 12 Stones, Skillet, Pillar, GRITS, and Big Dimal Sat, Mar. 27 Northwestern College, Orange City, IA
Adoration: The Tour featuring Newsboys, Rebecca St. James, and Jeremy Camp Sat, Mar. 27 Xcel Energy Center; Minneapolis, MN
Ken Davis Sat, Apr. 3, 7:00 pm BJH
Switchfoot Wed, Apr. 7, 7:00 pm Memorial Union - University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA

For awhile I injected myself with bird DNA in a hope that I could grow feathers and fly. I didn't grow any feathers and I can't fly, but I do lay some delicious eggs.

Jeremy's Corner

All Dordt Students to receive a 20% Discount on all Merchandise! Financing Available.

Center Stone Jewelers 736 North Main Sioux Center (Just South of Ashley Furniture) Monday thru Friday, 9:30-5:30
Saturday 9:00 to 5:00 *Evenings By appointment 712-722-1601

Mike Van Beek Staff Writer

Merry-go-round

B irds are chirping, snow is melting, the world is warming. More importantly, Modest Mice is releasing a new album. "Good News For People Who Love Bad News" (a line taken from the chaotic, grandiose new track, 'Buy Me With It') will be released in nearly fourteen years since Moon & Antarctica, their last offering of new material. Modest Mice have long been considered indie rock's saviors. They borrowed the inventive soft-loud soft song structure and erratic lyrics of Black Francis and the Pixies and sprouted to fame with several stellar albums. Frontman Isaac Brock's unique blend of lyrical cynicism and caustic observations of lower-class suburbs has raised his band to cult status among indie rock fans. Brock's abrasive, sneering vocals often bring comparisons to legendary Pixies frontman, Black Francis, but Brock's' singing is reminiscent of the nervous tones and tropical references. Good News is far and away the most brutal album of the band's career. It is a brilliant masterpiece which will be referenced by future generations of rock bands.

Center Stone Jewelers invites

For a while I injected myself with bird DNA in a hope that I could grow feathers and fly. I didn't grow any feathers and I can't fly, but I do lay some delicious eggs.

I've been sitting at the computer too long.

You're going to have to find another way to make a living. Make fun of me if you want, but it's not like I'm the first person to do it.

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**LIFE ON THE OUTSIDE**

Leslie Larson
Staff Writer

**Freshman Eligibility**

At the NCAA, the idea of freshman ineligibility reigns. Up until 1968, no student-athlete was eligible to compete at the varsity level as a freshman. Things have drastically changed since then. Currently at the University of Kansas, 100 true freshmen are listed on athletic rosters. Leading the opposition for freshmen eligibility includes the Knight Commission for Investigation of Intercollegiate Athletics, which consists of former North Carolina basketball coach, Dean Smith and Virginia basketball coach, Terry Holland. They claim athletes need more time to develop physically and mentally before representing their college athletically. Low graduation rates are also a factor. The commission intends to determine an optimal solution and report to the NCAA.

**Disciplined Official**

Michael Henderson, a second season NBA official, incorrectly whistled a shot clock violation at the Denver-Laker game. There were 3.2 seconds left when Denver's Andre Miller's shot brushed the rim and was rebounded by a teammate. The officials ruled an inadvertent whistle and a jump ball was called. The Lakers ended up winning the tip and made a game-winning shot. Henderson was punished by being taken off of three job assignments and summoned to the league office. On Friday, NBA referees protested by wearing inside-out uniforms with number 62 on their backs symbolizing Henderson who was disciplined. The league promises more punishment for the referees supporting Henderson.

**Woods beats Love**

On Sunday, in La Costa Resort and Spa, Carlsbad, California, Tiger Woods took home the $1.2 million dollar purse. Tiger defeated David Love III, 3 and 2, at the 34th hole. Woods made the finals seven times in five years that Woods made the finals.

**Mike Byker**

**Sports Information**

When Dordt College Lady Defenders softball team takes the field this spring the Lady Defenders will be trying to build on a 2003 season where they were 11-10 in the Great Plains Athletic Conference and were 17-20 overall.

The Lady Defenders and Coach Don Draayer will look to left-handed pitcher Ashley Schuller to provide stability and leadership as Dordt College embarks on the 2004 season. Schuller comes back after recording a 4-10 record with 91 innings pitched. Schuller had a 3.00 ERA and struck out 38 last season. The senior also registered a rare perfect game for the Lady Defenders last season.

"We look to Ashley along with Kandi Van Kooten for our leadership on the team," says Draayer. "Both are seniors.

Offensively the Lady Defenders return their top hitter Katie Blecker. The slick fielding shortstop held a .356 batting average with 13 doubles and 16 runs batted in. Tammy Kaepin spent most of her sophomore season stationed in centerfield and was good for a .299 batting average with 17 hits. "Katie is back after a very solid year last year and Tammi will provide leadership in the outfield," says Draayer.

Denise Noorman, who split time between first base and pitcher last season, is back after hitting .222 last season and Megan Groeneweg was moved to starting shortstop, earning the rightfield job and registering 16 hits in 2003. Van Kooten played in 34 games at the plate and batted .211. "Denise will be one of our pitchers this year along with playing first base," says Draayer. "Megan, Jill Gruppen, Cara Molder and Draweme Yppa will all play significant roles for this year's team."

Three freshmen could fill spots for the Lady Defenders. Mandy Visser can pitch and play on the right side of the infield. Elizabeth Sohre can play third base and the outfield while Kayla Faber will see time behind the plate for Dordt College. The Lady Defenders will travel to Southern California for eight games beginning March 13. Dordt College will play their first games locally on March 24 when they are scheduled to face Dakota Wesleyan University.

**Dordt returns old and new for 2004 season**

Dordt enters its senior year with confidence and stability after being a .500 team last year. The Lady Defenders return old and new ballplayers for 2004 season including seniors and freshmen.

"Midland should be the team to beat," says Draayer. "Katie is back after a very solid year last year and Tammi will provide leadership in the outfield," says Draayer.

College will play their first games locally on March 24 when they are scheduled to face Dakota Wesleyan in Mitchell, South Dakota in a Great Plains Athletic Conference doubleheader.

The Lady Defenders are picked fifth by the coaches in the pre-season Great Plains Athletic Conference poll. Midland Lutheran is picked first in the poll and Concordia second. "Midland is a very strong team along with Concordia and Northwestern," says Draayer.

This season will be Draayer's last at the helm of the program. Draayer, who as guided the Lady Defenders to a 2004-162-1 record in nine years in the dugout, has accepted a call to serve the Cornerstone Christian Reformed Church in North Dallas, Texas. Draayer and his wife, Joanne, will be relocating after the school year is complete.

**Rachel Volkers**

Assistant Sports Editor

With the sun shining, birds chirping and the melting snow trickling into the sewer drains, I'm starting to get antsy. I don't know about you, but I'm getting sick and tired of being cooped up in my apartment where energy can't be released and where air is stale—especially when the smell of spring is in the air (or as my sister and I would say, "It smells like show season out there"). I've got what doctors call spring fever. With the fresh breeze starting to blow, I'm reminded that spring sports will soon be in full swing. I have visions of javelin throwers dancing these Quick Hits.