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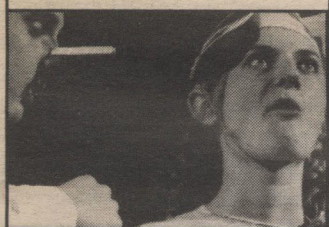


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Beka Schreur

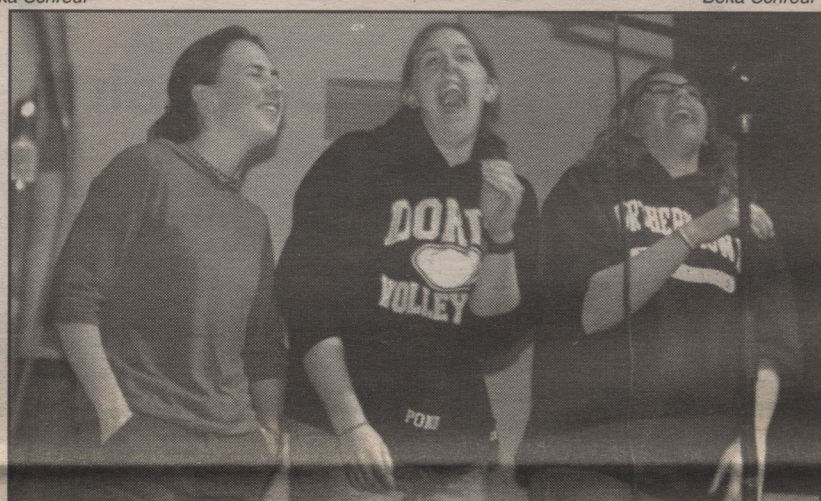
ABOVE: Mike Kramer, David Prins, Phil Van Groningen, and John Schutter walk the catwalk at the annual bachelor auction. ABOVE RIGHT: Brian Van Eps proposes a Valentine's date to his top bidder, Sarah Vanderaa (who bid \$130). RIGHT: Carolyn Sybesma challenges Sara Vanderaa to win a date. FAR RIGHT: Diana Hoogerhyde, Rachel Pontier, and Erika Hydeen crack up when their date reveals himself.



Beka Schreur



Beka Schreur



Beka Schreur

Students represent Dordt at America's capital

Andrea Dykshoorn
Staff Writer

On January 26, Gloria Ayee, Diana Hoogerhyde, Derek Imig, Amy Nugteren and I, accompanied by Dr. Kok, departed from Dordt. Our destination: Washington, D.C., the site of this year's National Association of Evangelical (NAE) Christian Leadership Conference. The gathering included over 100 students from seven different colleges and universities across the United States. Our trip was made possible through a 'Programs In Christian Vocation' grant from the Lilly Foundation.

Metal detectors became routine as we attended numerous on-site sessions throughout the city. Notable speakers included Senator Sam Brownback (KS), Rep. Marilyn Musgrave (CO) and Secretary of Education Rod Paige.

Conference attendees heard a variety of lectures. One of the recurring themes involved whether it is possible for Christians to separate

religion from politics. Different speakers promoted various opposing viewpoints.

I have a list of noteworthy points that I learned during the trip:

1. Culture shock does not require travel to a foreign country. Sioux Center has just over 6,000 people, excluding college students. Washington, D.C., on the other hand, has significantly more than half a million residents.

2. Seeing all of D.C. in three days is impossible. We visited the Library of Congress, Capitol Building, Supreme Court and Department of State, but much of the city was unexplored.

3. Valuable sermons are not always given at Sunday morning church. Michael Horowitz, a practicing Jew, gave the NAE conference attendees an idea of how Christians look to 'outsiders' of the faith.

Inspiring and challenging, the 2004 NAE Christian Student Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C. was a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Alumni Weekend in full swing

Lynette Andree
Staff Writer

Homecoming!? What!? At Dordt!? Yes, Dordt does have a homecoming, more commonly known as the Alumni Weekend. This weekend is from February 19th to the 21st with something going on every day.

The theme for the weekend is "Firmly planted . . . bearing fruit." This is a very appropriate theme as this weekend is a gathering of the graduates of Dordt College who are "bearing fruit."

Preparations for this weekend are well on their way. The alumni artists have already brought their art in and it is on display in the Campus Center Art Gallery. Karen Aker, an art professor at Northwestern, chose the pieces that are being displayed. This exhibit is free and open for the public.

The Alumni Weekend is not purely for the alumni—students

can be involved as well. Dordt students can show their support for their fellow students in the annual alumni basketball game. This basketball game between the junior varsity team and the alumni will take place in the De Witt gymnasium.

What would an Alumni Weekend be if there was no hockey? There will be an ongoing round robin hockey tournament that will start off with a game on Friday evening. When the alumni team winner is determined, they will take on the Blades in a game that is sure to be exciting.

The Alumni Weekend is not just a time for the alumni to get together once more. On Saturday, from 1-4, there will be a carnival to which all the children are invited. Last year's carnival had events such as face painting and hair braiding. The proceeds from this event will benefit the PLIA service projects.

**Fast
Forward**
----->>>>

Career Symposium offered Friday

On Friday, February 20 the Placement Office is hosting a Career Symposium. Former Dordt students return to share their personal stories of how their college experience equipped them for their life after Dordt.

The symposium will take place in the Campus Center, beginning at 1:30 and going

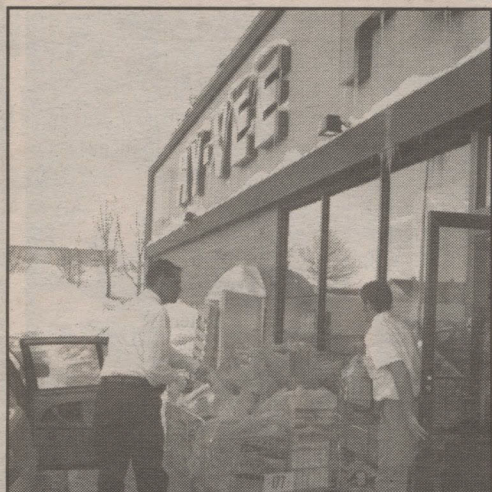
until about 4:30. Take advantage of this opportunity to hear directly from alumni how a comprehensive, Christian education can equip them for a wide array of career opportunities.

Homecoming Schedule

Dordt's Homecoming Week is February 23-28. During these days, keep an eye

peeled for the Canon of Dordt hidden around campus. See the TODAY daily for more information and clues.

Also, daily dress-up days for all students and faculty are: Monday-'comfy day'; Tuesday-favorite prof day; Wednesday-nerd/jock day; Thursday-superhero day; Friday-Dordt attire day.



Series by Sara Prins

Hy-Vee Cheap or Fareway-Free?

We'll compare. You decide.

Bethany Fopma
Staff Writer

Since grocery shopping is an integral part of a college student's life, it's important to find a store that satisfies one's need for low prices, friendliness, selection and efficiency. While the supermarket selection is fairly limited in Sioux Center, together Fareway and Hy-Vee are able to satisfy most grocery shopping needs, but they each do so in different environments and different ways.

For those of you who prefer a small-town grocery store atmosphere, Fareway may be a better fit for you. The people there are friendly and personable. When I needed help finding an item, the employee didn't just tell me what aisle I should go to, she personally led me to the item. When checking out, the prices are manually punched into the cash

register, and a teenager is usually there to push your cart of purchases to your car and unload them.

Fareway is also a good place to shop if you are watching your budget. Out of ten items of the same brand and size as those at Hy-Vee, nine were cheaper at Fareway. The largest price difference observed was on a half gallon of Blue Bunny ice cream that was \$2.00 cheaper at Fareway. Comparing my two grocery lists, I saved \$4.67 shopping at Fareway.

However, Fareway does not have a huge selection of items and does not accept all types of debit cards. Larissa Brown, a junior from Highland, Indiana, experienced this inconvenience during a recent stop at Fareway. "The cashier would not accept my debit card because it wasn't a specific kind.

It takes too long to write a check, as a manager has to come and approve ones from out-of-state, so I had to use the last of my cash."

While Hy-Vee may be a little more expensive than Fareway, it is a good place to stop if you are looking for variety. Hy-Vee offers a vast selection of grocery items, allowing you to check off every item on your shopping list in one stop. Hy-Vee also houses a pharmacy, a video department and a deli. In addition, Hy-Vee is open for certain hours on Sunday; Fareway is not. Hy-Vee also accepts a variety of debit cards, and items are scanned at the cash register, providing a more efficient environment.

However, this efficient environment may come at the cost of a less personal shopping experience. While the employees are friendly, they seem to be in a hurry most of

the time. When I asked an employee to help me find the exact same product as I did in Fareway, I was not led there like at Fareway. Instead, I was pointed to the specific aisle where the product was located.

Fareway and Hy-Vee offer different environments and have different advantages. If you prefer a more personal environment that offers low prices, and you don't mind a limited selection, Fareway may be the supermarket for you. However, if you don't mind paying a little more for the convenience of a wide selection of items, an efficient environment, and different departments, Hy-Vee might be your best bet. Either way, Sioux Center's two supermarkets together satisfy all of your shopping needs.

You just might have to make a stop at each to get all of those needs met.

More For Your Money

Fair Trade Coffee costs more but is a responsible attempt at helping farmers

Kim Lucier
Staff Writer

Since the Humble Bean first arrived on campus it has worked with Equal Exchange's coffee products.

Equal Exchange was founded in 1986 in order to create a new approach to trade. This approach includes informed consumers, honest and fair trade relationships and cooperative principles.

Equal Exchange is a worker-owned co-op that offers consumers fairly traded gourmet coffee direct from small-scale farmer co-ops in Latin America, Africa and Asia. It became the first U.S. company to officially adopt European fair trade standards as guiding principles. These standards are adopted from the international association of Fair Trade Labeling Organizations. "Free trade supports endeavors to produce coffee in a more substantial way," Eric Van Wyk said. Van Wyk is co-manager of the Humble Bean.

Coffee farmers in the developing

world never know how much money they will get for their crops, so they and their families often struggle to make ends meet. This outcome is due to the constant change of coffee prices and "coyotes" (processors, creditors, exporters, brokers and middlemen) paying the lowest price possible.

Equal Exchange takes pride in the fact that its flavorful coffees are organic. Farmers promote natural cycles and controls, rather than using chemical pesticides and fertilizers to develop the beans. The coffees are shade grown as well. A shade grown farm is usually composed of coffee trees grown with other food crops under a canopy of taller trees. The taller trees provide fruit, wood and other essential products to the farmer. These trees offer protection and nutrients to the coffee plants and prevent soil erosion.

Although purchasing coffee from the Equal Exchange is not a cheaper value than most large coffee brands, the money goes to support the values of fair trade. "If we want our coffee cheap, we are extorting farmers," says



Beka Schreier

The Equal Exchange co-op works to provide that the benefits of trade actually reach the farmers and their communities.

Van Wyk. "We can't rip these people off."

The concept of fair trade is growing throughout the U.S., especially among large companies. Starbucks, for instance, has created a fair trade line of coffee products. "Fair trade can make bigger companies change because consumers want farmers to have better treatment," Van Wyk said.

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February 20, 2004



LIBERTY & Justice

State's definition of marriage ought to be a moot point

Peter Anderson
Staff Writer

The government of San Francisco created needless controversy last Thursday when they began giving marriage licenses to gay couples. Since Thursday, courts have wed nearly 2000 couples even though future court rulings may void these marriage contracts. Not surprisingly, advocates of homosexuality hail this decision as a move towards greater equal rights. Equally unsurprising, traditional family organizations accused the San Francisco mayor of contravening the law. This situation, however, does not need to remain in an endless stalemate of push and pull between competing value systems. Marriage will only remain a controversial issue as long as the state defines the definition of marriage.

Consider today's world in which homosexuals fight for legal recognition of marriage. Their

relationships do not fall under the state's guidelines, and many have felt left out of the legal and social benefits bestowed on married couples. Hence the homosexuals who feel the state marginalizes them currently lobby the government for legal recognition of their status. To the contrary, those who feel that the government should not legalize immoral behavior like homosexuality pressure the state to avoid legally recognizing these associations. Herein lies the crux of the controversy.

Traditional family advocates and homosexuals both pay taxes and both want their agendas to prevail concerning marriage. Whichever agenda the state chooses in regards to marriage will anger one of these groups. When the government chooses to define marriage, they also choose to propagate antagonism between opposing tax paying value groups. Thus, as long as traditional family individuals and homosexual individuals contribute to the state through taxes,

but the government defines marriage in a way that goes against their beliefs, controversy will prevail.

In the current case, the government can avoid the hostile feelings and events surrounding the definition of marriage if they stop defining marriage. Such a solution will not force traditional family advocates to contribute to the legal benefits of homosexual marriage nor will the legal system marginalize alternative unions. Marriage will once again fall under the realm of private consummation, potentially by churches or private legal authorities, and private recognition. The choice of recognition belongs to individuals, churches, hospitals, etc. The state will no longer force competing value groups to recognize relationships they find either immoral or unjust. In the end, the choice is not between legalizing or outlawing homosexual unions. The choice is between controversy and dispute or voluntary recognition and peace.

Dear J.J.,

The other morning, as I was eating a decent breakfast by the Grille, I almost lost my lunch. It was not due to the noise, the orange juice or even the paintings on the wall. It was due to a badly written criticism of nearly all the artwork in the Campus Center.

You said that of all the paintings and sculptures in the Campus Center, only "Creation and Fall" reflected a reformed Christian perspective. You told art majors to "start looking [for] how they can reflect God more in their work".

But Many artists on campus are discovering what it is to create truly God-honoring art. God made the world much deeper than a few well-known Bible stories, and He gave humans the ability to imagine things beyond the world they can see. Artists can bring glory to God in many ways, even through post-modern style art. But while many artists are taking the time to find ways to do this, you seemingly haven't taken the time to reasonably respond to their attempts.

Bring us more of the good-humored and informative conversation that you did so well with in the past!

- Nathan in Aesthetics class

First of all, I want everyone to understand that I do not turn a blind eye to criticism or consider it

INQUIRE within

by J.J. Reed

invalid. I am glad that Nathan wrote in because I have been curious as to what effect my article had on the Dordt campus community.

I received the idea for the article from my page editor: "What is with the ugly art in the Campus Center?" It was my task to write an informal yet informative advice column on the subject. I used my knowledge of art to critique the pieces of art adorning the Campus Center.

I have had no formal schooling on the subject except for GEN 200, however, I have a museum next door to my house. I have spent many Sunday afternoons there, trying to understand the meanings behind the paintings and sculptures. I am one of the few (or is it the many?) that "don't get abstract."

Part of the problem I have with art in the Campus Center is that it is almost always unlabeled. The average student has no idea who painted "Creation and Fall" or even what its real title is. It's hard to appreciate a piece of art with so little information.

When I hang around the Grille, it is an almost entirely different world than the Commons. The

paintings on the wall of the Grille have no theme unifying them, while at the Commons, they are grouped together as pictures of whales, dogs, cats, etc. Another brilliant idea that I wish had been copied in the Campus Center is the plaque behind the computer terminal in the front of the Commons. The plaque at least gives an explanation of the pottery by the artist and when it was created.

I really don't have anything against abstract or post-modern art, it's just I would like sit the artist down and ask, "What does this mean? What thoughts went into this? How are you glorifying God through this medium?" This would be excellent for us non-artists.

To all art majors and minors: *I understand that you consider your work an expression of yourself. Let us all share in that expression.* We want to be able to interpret your pieces, and you can help us in that. The art-artist-audience triangle needs a bit of help on the art-audience side.

God gave us creative minds, and I think we should use them. However, we should not focus so much on ourselves when we make art as we should focus on the Maker who gave us our talent. How is God glorified through the art in the Campus Center? Maybe the artists will tell us, maybe they won't.

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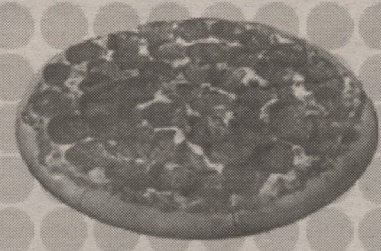
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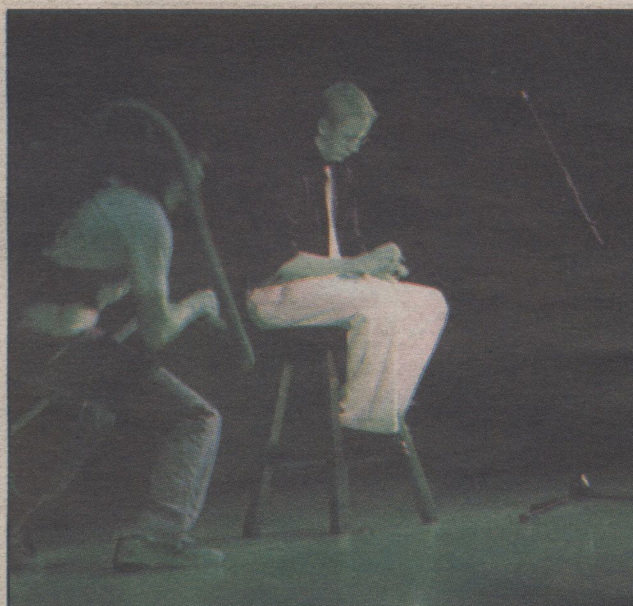


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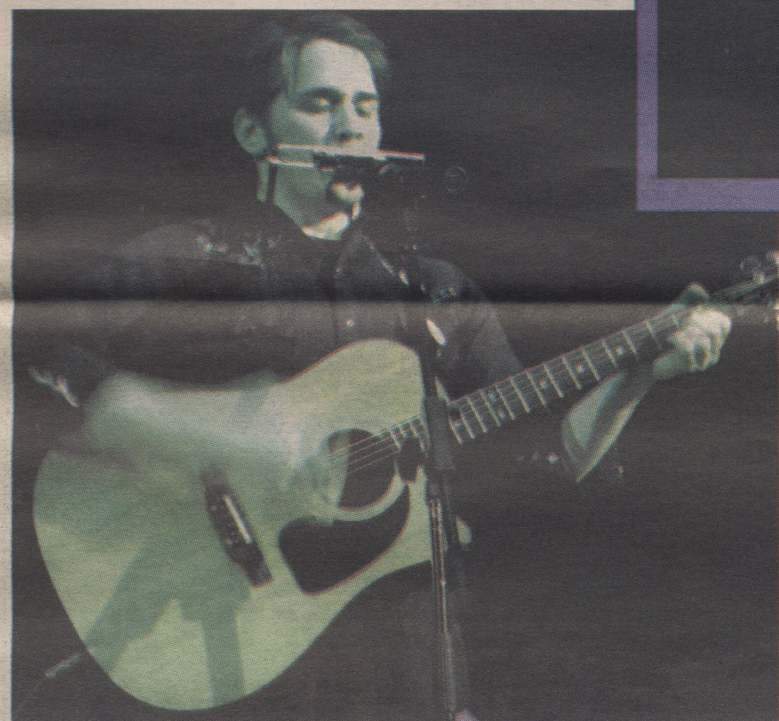




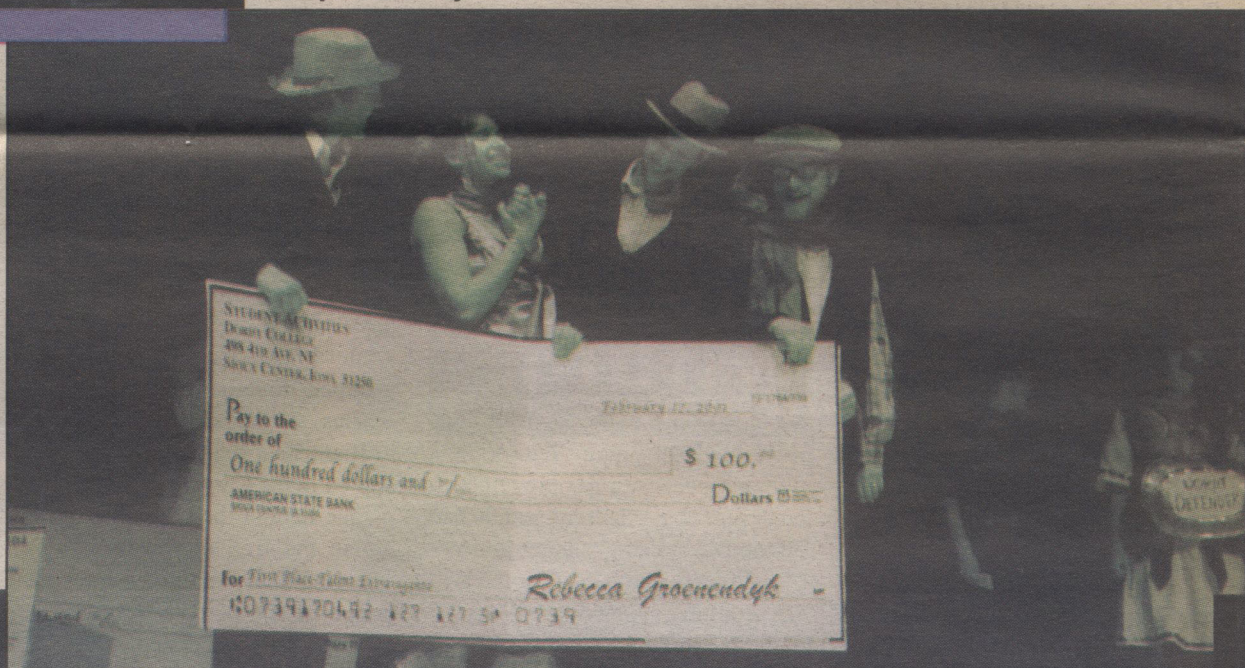
Above: Kaarlo Hinkkala solves his Rubics Cube while Seth Shannon looks on.

Right: Ashley De Wit performs a ballet to "Tocata and Fuge in D Minor"

Below: Ethan Koerner performs "Somewhere Someone"



All photos by Sara Prins and Beka Schreur

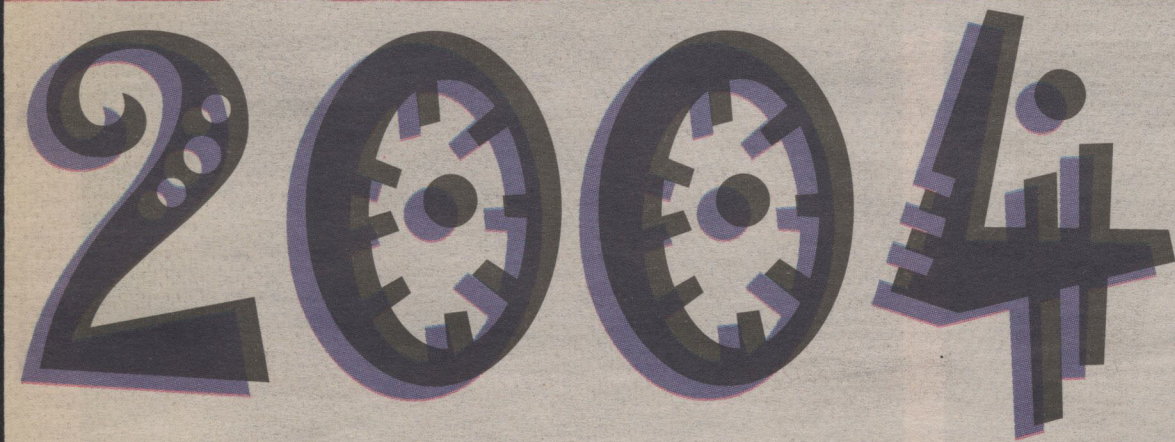


Above: The Twine (David Prins, Erika Hydeen, Josh DeGroot, Danny Klaver, and Bob Taylor) celebrate their 1st place prize after performing "Lady Gray." Right: Vaca Flaca (Micah Vogel, Travis Haveman, Mike Zwart, and Jesse Hagey) beats some rhythms in "You're an Eight, You're a Nine"



Download these TX photos plus many more at
<http://diamond.dordt.edu/>

February 20, 2004



Jessica Braunschweig Staff Writer

Where there's a long, winding line, you know it's talent show time! The Eckhardt Lounge was proof of that this past week, as groups of devoted Dordt students flocked to the Student Services Center to begin waiting in line for tickets to the Talent Extravaganza.

The first arrivals "set up camp" early Friday night in preparation for the Monday evening ticket sales. By Monday morning, a slumber party appeared to be in the making. The hallway was filled with people on all sides, curled up and propped up on blankets, couches, pillows, mattresses and chairs. The floors were littered with TV's, games, munchies, radios, laptops featuring movies and even the occasional sleeper. The "pre-game show" was a sight to see. Attempting to do any homework in such chaos

was a talent in itself.

Waiting for the tickets required patience, but preparing for the talent show required so much more. Auditions were held February 3rd and 4th, as the prospects were reviewed — let in or let down. The following week required an outstanding amount of effort by Media Center and B. J. Haan staff, setting up and perfecting all the technical work. Meanwhile, SAC members organized and readied the last details, and the contestants worked at putting on final touches to their acts.

The Valentine's Day Extravaganza began at 7:30 p.m. And though love was in the air, the suspense of the acts to come was undoubtedly the cause for all the beating hearts. The audience was immediately introduced to a "super hero" plot of crazy antics and strategy that continued between each act.

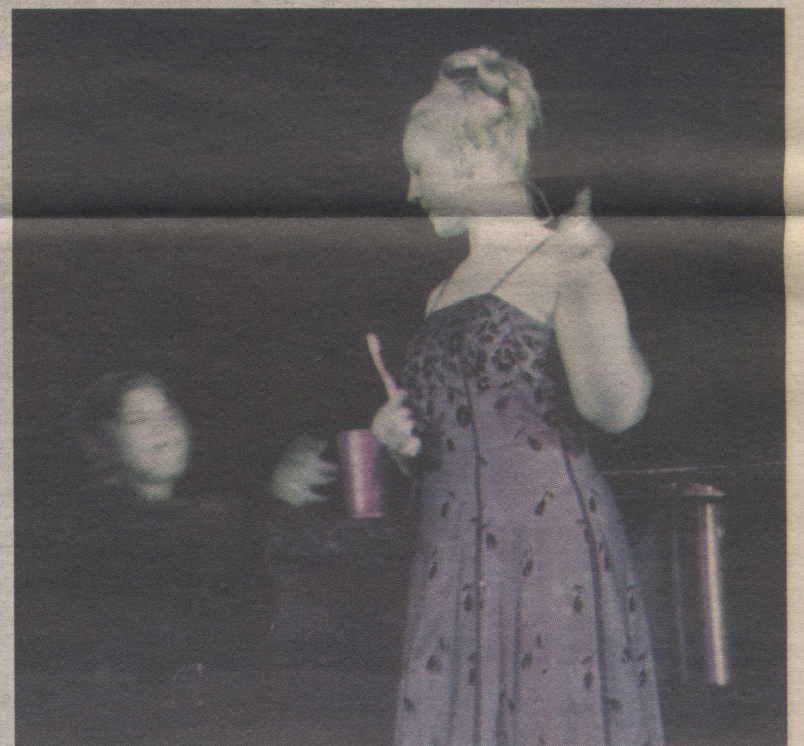
Searching for the lost medallion (bump-bum BUM) proved to be a trying feat, especially for an unsuspecting cow who is rightfully "crabby" after a scissors-happy man added a surprise of his own.

The display of talent took on a wide variety of creativity, and spectators were never bored. Ranging from "boisterous bag-pipers" and a "punch-bowl plot" to "mystical music" and "dynamite dance," the successful show kept people laughing and clapping.

Prizes were awarded to the winners, but the medallion (bump-bum BUM) goes to all who took part in another spectacular presentation. While thoughts and talk of next year's show have already begun, the real question is: who will be the first in line?

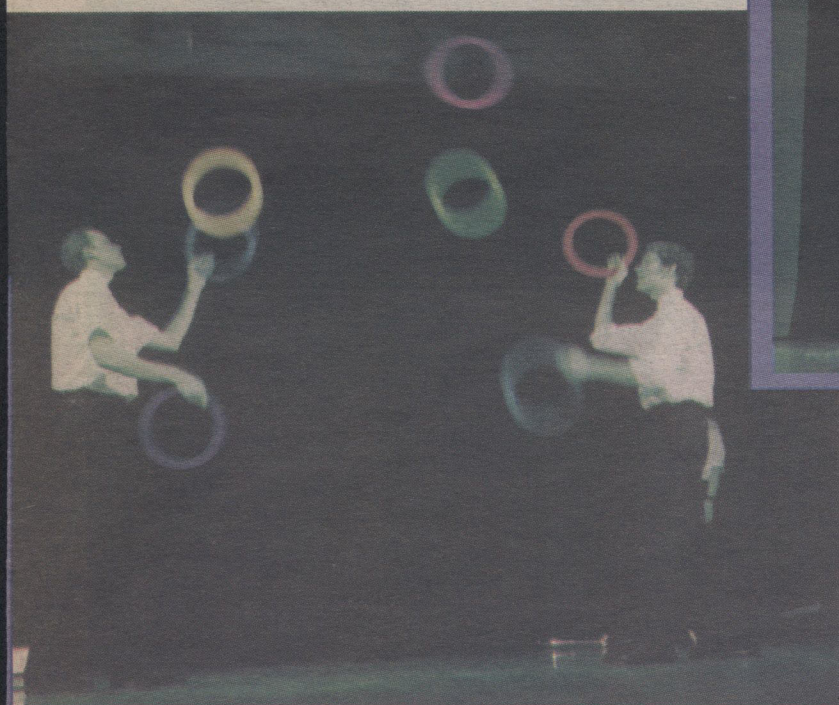


Above: Wilbert Talen and Aaron Shupe demonstrate their musical proficiency while teaching "A Bagpipe Lesson"
Below: Linsay Carlson and Brenda Janssen perform "Ode de Toilette" with the help of a few bathroom accessories.



Left: Laurel Alons and Kevin Zonnefeld get quite a soaking during their skit, "Suicide by Punchbowl." The duo won second place for their endeavors.

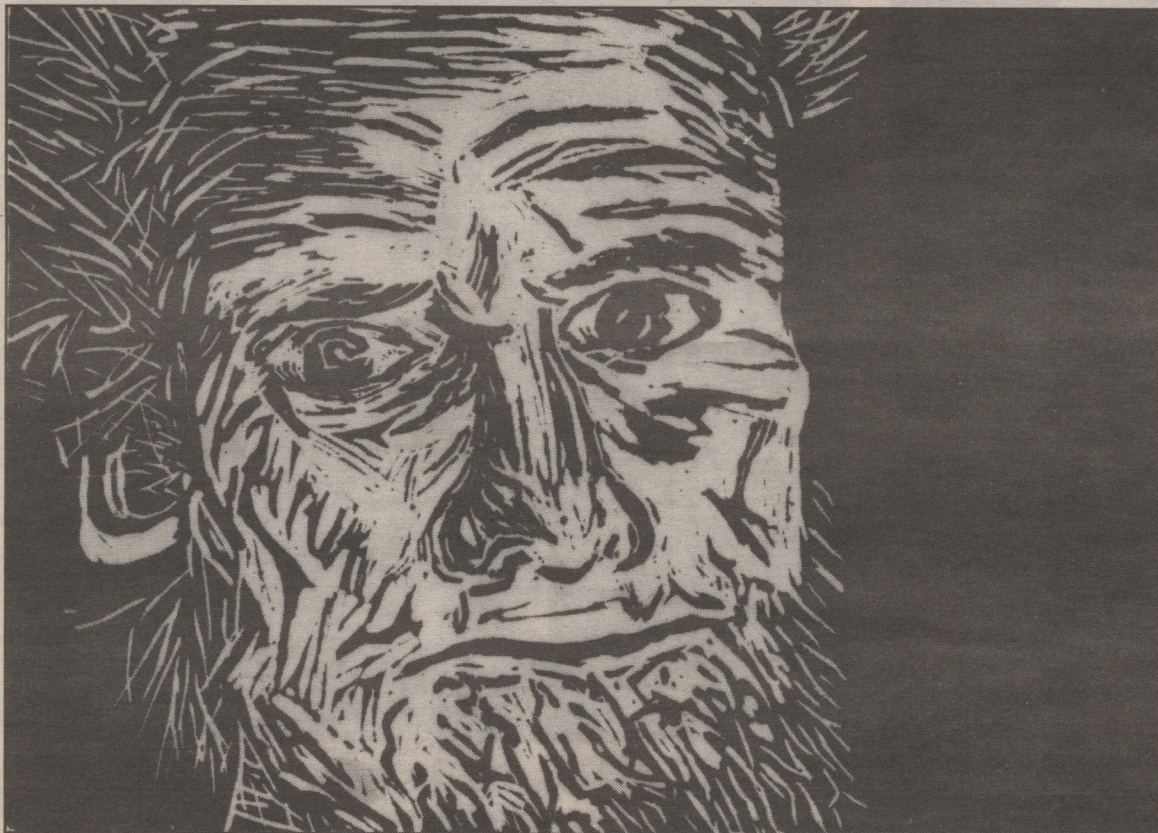
Below: The Dordt Dynamics Dance Team dances to "Saturday Night Crush"



Above: David Kreykes and Torray Wilson play with kinetics in the Juggling Club's routine, "Kinetic Variations."

Left: Katie Kroese, Sara McReynolds, Bobbie Schouten, and Ruth Van Essen entertain the Talent Extravaganza crowd with some all too true reminices of "Dordt in 15 Phrases."





E. Pand: Gaze of a Writer, linocut, 2004, Matthew Kunnari

Untitled, acrylic on canvas, 2003, Erika Hydeen



Blackness

for Pam this awful October

it covers me again
no one sees it
it tortures me once more
without reason
I try to hide it
but I'm certain others see
the blackness
that envelopes me
Yet so distorted in their vision
that they think the horror
emanates from me
they will not see
it covers me
I see them so clearly
all around us
they prowl stalkingly
seeking
devouring
what purpose lies behind the visibility
with which they come
and haunt my hours
why must I understand their presence
for the knowledge is the reason
they attack me
in their darkness
they attack me
the night is long and dark
please bring morning
although the light brings peace
I am weakened
I wish that I could tell the world
of all the dangers
that befall them
hold them down
but I cannot express
how blackness
is now present
for I am desperate
maddened
bound
I am silenced
by the torture
what is this suffering
is it sifting
will it bring me new strength
can you tell me
I stand and cry to you
not knowing if I wish to
know the answer
if it comes
I fix my eyes on you
and pray that you will
stop the madness
as it closes in
Yahweh
save me
by your mercy
you are my shining light
dispel the darkness
I find a glimpse of hope
one ray of sunshine
help me to see
that I am not alone
in blackness
you are with me
even know
the nails that pierce your hands
have pierced the darkness
your love
your light
are shining through
light my way
Lord
let me see you

--CT Bloemendaal

February 20, 2004

Merry-go-round: TX 2004 Superheros

save the day!

Courtney Love abandons "The Hole" for solo career

Mike Van Beek
Staff Writer

For years, Courtney Love has been the surrogate godmother of grunge. Taking a cue from leading riot-grrrl/grunge pioneers, Babes In Toyland and L7, Love began her rise to fame when her band, Hole, hit the airwaves in '91 with *Pretty on the Inside*. She then rose to prominence in '94 with the release of Hole's feminist-grunge masterpiece, *Live Through This*, and of course the subsequent, well-publicized romance with grunge godfather Kurt Cobain (including drug addictions, separations, poor lil' Frances Bean, and eventually, Cobain's suicide). Much to the world's dismay, Cobain committed suicide in '94, leaving us with a semi-realistic sculpture of a drug-addicted circus clown, or in humanistic terms, "Courtney Love". Somehow, she has managed to amass some respect, and apparently she even has some die-hard fans (some angry 15 and 16 year olds who still hate their parents and want to cut their wrists or swallow entire bottles of Tylenol as a last-ditch effort for some much-needed attention). Whether or not that respect came from her status as the symbol of teenage angst and riot-grrrl feminism; her marginal acting skills seen in films such as *The People vs. Larry Flynt*; or her flamboyant, drug-addict-meets-drag-queen lifestyle is an entirely different issue, and a moot point, as the anti-Courtney sentiments ride much higher. Any mention of the words "Courtney Love" tends to start an exponential mudslide of debate ranging from her guttural lifestyle to her questionable musicianship to whether or not she actually killed Cobain.

Admittedly, Love has managed to stumble her way into some good music: *Live Through This* and *Celebrity Skin* were both outstanding musical achievements. But, dig a little deeper, and the obvious influences and inspirations are not difficult to unmask. Eric Erlanderson was the biggest driving force behind Hole. Cobain was married to Love around the time of *Live Through This* (contributing heavily to her songwriting and musical prowess). Billy Corgan co-wrote many of the songs on *Celebrity Skin*; and *Pretty on the Inside* is somewhat derivative of seminal grunge-queen pioneers, Babes in Toyland and L7.

For some unknown reason, Love is trying to jumpstart her sagging, somewhat pathetic circus of a career by splitting from her Hole bandmates and going at it solo (Hey Courtney, couldn't you get a Super Bowl appearance with Timberlake?). Her solo album, sarcastically titled *America's Sweetheart*, paints a picture of a washed-up star trying everything to regain her fame. Apparently, Love hooked up with Linda Perry (Perry has worked with such infamous personalities as Pink and X-tina) for co-production and co-writing credits on several of the tracks. However, Perry's unabashed Hollywood touch is nearly invisible, the album relying instead on the sad mutilation of a dying grunge-queen seeking desperately to revive herself and her career. This album feels empty, feels bland, feels like a dying breath. The angst that fueled 'Pretty on the Inside'; the sadness of 'Live Through This'; the eloquence of 'Celebrity Skin'; none of that is to be found. The mid-90s are long gone, and so is Courtney Love.

Jason Mulder
Entertainment Editor

TX 2004 brought together tried and true performers with some fresh new faces for a Valentine's Day production that made it worth standing a day or two in line for tickets.

The emcees were hilarious. JONATHAN HORLINGS' INFAMOUS "CLAW," KEVIN "SCISSOR-HANDS" ZONNEFELD, and ETHAN "VANDERBADPER-SON-SMA" KOERNER went up against the luckless "CASSANOVA" SETH SHANNON, TOM "SHMOOZELER" MULDER and JACK "MY MOMMY SAYS I'M COOL!" MAATMAN, an epic farce which provided an excellent contrast to the old men's bathroom humor of last year. SAC should have no reason to send out any apology letters this year.

KAARLO HINKKALA took all the seniors back to freshmen year and reminded us all of the "Rubics Cube kid" we've all come to know and debate. You gotta respect anyone who can do that in only a minute and a half! KARL VAN STRYLAND's beautiful rendition of "If I Stand" also helped kick off this year's extravaganza with some serious talent.

Then came WILBERT AND AARON who, as anyone who's been around them before knows, are always good for a laugh. They delivered on the laughs, although I'm not sure my bag-piping has improved at all.

THE DANCE TEAM did a wonderful job again this year but I must say, the best part of their whole routine was the stool. Accommodation for the vertically challenged!

JEWEL made a surprise appearance, performing her song "Foolish Games." Actually it was Kate Lesage (accompanied by Carrie Spronk), but who could tell? I, for one, was fooled.

ASHLEY DE WIT performed a wonderful ballet but I don't think there was anyone in the audience who wasn't holding their breath that she wouldn't slip in the eggs and other trash the

emcees had left on stage. I think I actually heard SAC let out a sigh of relief when the "unapproved" egging went off without incident.

LAUREL ALONS and KEVIN ZONNEFELD were hysterical in "Suicide by Punchbowl." Divorce? Suicide? Yeah, it was hilarious. You had to be there.

VACA FLACA (Italian, literally, "guys who beat things with sticks") once again reminded us that music can be found almost anywhere. I was a bit disappointed when the dragons, heroes, and sword fights never materialized.

After the intermission, THE TWINE introduced a fresh new sound that could have come straight from Mayberry with a touch of Cletus the Slack-jawed Yokel. Of course, that could just demonstrate my ignorance of music. Either way, I really enjoyed it.

THE JUGGLING CLUB threw some Scott Joplin rags into the mix, adding some live music to their routine, with BRENDA JANSSEN and LINSAY CARLSON following with a toothbrush melody of which Brenda seemed quite proud.

Ethan Koerner transformed himself from super-villain to musician, performing an original composition entitled, "Somewhere Someone." I hear there is a sequel in the works, to be entitled "Somehow Something."

JON BUSHNELL and FOUR SENIOR GIRLS reminded us of what Dordt is all about, at least from our perspective, with the surprise appearance of a bunch of 90-percent-naked senior guys running through the BJ on what could be their last buffalo run! The Glean Team followed with a pretty cool dance and light routine.

The Hard Rock Ensemble of TOM DYKSTRA, REUBEN SINNEMA, and JOSH VANDER PLAATS finished things off by lighting up the crown with an original piece. It was a fitting end to an all around great show. Even President Zylstra got his medallion back, thanks to our local Superheros!



Sara Prins/ Beka Schreur

Kevin Zonnefeld gives Beth Knight a taste of metal, a shenanigan not included in the original screenplay.

Check this out!

Jason Mulder
Entertainment Editor

Michael Card Fri, Feb. 20, 8:00 pm BJH

Shrine Circus Fri, Feb. 20, 8:00 pm Omaha Civic Auditorium Arena, Omaha, NE

Instrumental Ensembles Concert Sat, Feb. 28, 7:30 pm BJH

St. Olaf Orchestra Concert Sat, Mar. 6, 7:30 pm BJH

Jewel Thu, 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 Qwest Center Omaha, Omaha, NE

Avalon w/ Mark Shultz and Across the Sky Wed, Mar. 24, 7:00 pm BJH

Barenaked Ladies (the band) Thu, Mar. 25, 7:30 pm Tyson Event Center, Sioux City, IA

See Spot Rock Tour featuring 12 Stones, Skillet, Pillar, GRITS, and Big Dismal Sat, Mar. 27 Northwestern College, Orange City, IA

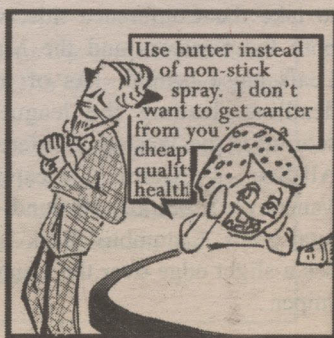
Adoration: The Tour featuring Newsboys, Rebecca St. James, and Jeremy Camp Sat, Mar. 27 Xcel Energy Center, Minneapolis, MN

Have an event that you would like posted?

Email jsnmldr@dordt.edu

Wish Fulfillment

by Mactoplac



LIFE ON THE OUTSIDE

Andrea Dykshoorn
Staff Writer

53rd Annual NBA All-Star Game

This past weekend, NBA greats from across the continent gathered at the Staples Centre in Los Angeles for the annual All-Star game. Always an entertaining event, the Slam Dunk contest was won by the Pacers' Fred Jones. In the 3-Point Challenge it was Voshon Lenord from the Denver Nuggets who edged out the Kings' Peja Stojavich for the title.

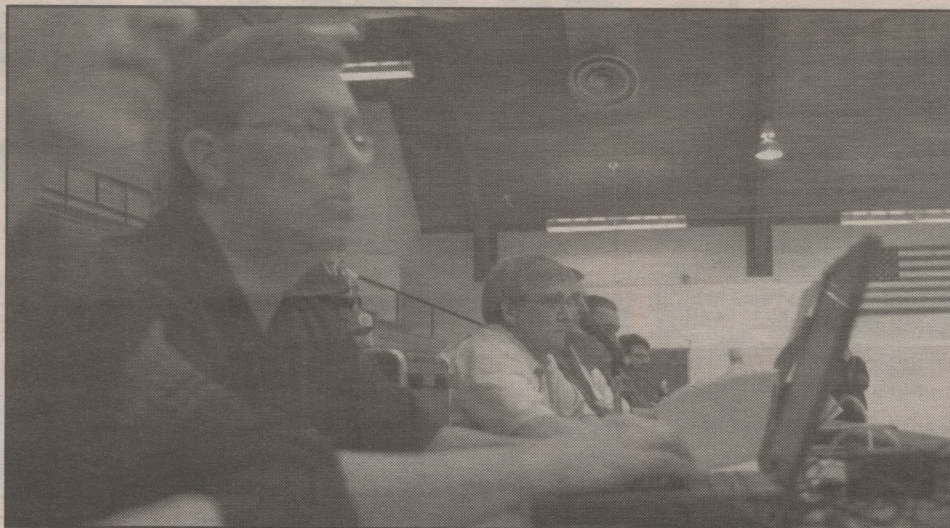
Though the much-anticipated Rookie Challenge featured the dynamic duo of LeBron James and Carmello Anthony, the sophomore team held on for a decisive 142-118 win. In the intense West vs. East 53rd annual All-Star Game, MVP Shaquille O'Neal and the West emerged victorious by a margin of 136-132.

A-Rod goes to New York

Apparently, the New York Yankees are making just a little bit too much money. This became apparent with the week's announcement of Alex Rodriguez' move to the Mecca of the baseball world. With a payroll potentially exceeding \$200 million this season, and four players on the roster with \$100 million contracts, there are high expectations for the Yankee club. Will they pull through?

For Some Real Hockey...

Tired of college games that bear more resemblance to WWF matches than hockey? Try the NHL, where teams are rallying for position in the last half of the season. The Colorado Avalanche and this year's NHL All-Star Game MVP Joe Sakic lead the league with 78 points in 57 games. In the East, Philadelphia has is in position to take the Conference title, with both the Senators and the Maple Leafs close behind. As of press deadline, leading the league in scoring is the Western Conference All-Star Game captain, Vancouver's Markus Naslund. In total goals, Columbus' Rick Nash has a slight edge over the Canucks sniper.



Sara Prins



Sara Prins

Announcers and statisticians look on as the Lady Defenders receive instructions during a recent home basketball game.

Only one game?

Leslie Larson
Staff Writer

"Ah it's only one game. You'll get them next time." This is the feeling of many fans. However, every home Dordt men's or women's home basketball game equals optimal work for over 60 people. The successful hosting of one game involves multiple departments, volunteers, and Dordt College students.

Rick Vander Berg, the athletic director, starts the multiple responsibilities are required before the game. If the game has been rescheduled (earlier or later) from the original time, he calls the opposing athletic director to confirm the time. The concession stand must be properly stocked with money, products, and popcorn bags. One work-study person is in charge of the concession stand and each varsity team takes a turn helping. Mr. Vander Berg admits, "We have three great adult volunteers (some Dordt graduates) to help run the score table. I don't know how we would make it without them." The adult volunteers set up and run the thirty-second clock, the main clock and do computer stats. The computer statistician also has a work-study spotter to accurately account for every play. There are two work-study ticket takers who come one hour before the game to sit at both doors. Two copies of the game are recorded by a work-study student, one for each team.

The maintenance department does many things for each game. Stan Haak, head recreation center

custodian, starts setting up the gym at noon on game day. First, Haak, and sometimes another staff member, pull-out all the bleachers, put up handrails, sweep, set up three score benches and the sound system. Everything is tested, including the clock's control lights. Next, outside the gym, the public bathrooms, teams and official locker rooms are cleaned and checked for adequate paper towels, hand soap, and toilet paper. Haak usually gets home by 5 pm, and returns at the start of the women's game at 6 pm. There is usually at least one maintenance staff member available for potential problem situations.

Casey, the head trainer, and a student trainer tape and treat athletes before each game and watch for injuries during the game.

The head coaches, Glenn Bouma and Greg Van Soelen, as well as the assistant coaches, start preparing for their next team game a week before game day by receiving tapes from other teams in the conference. The previous year's tape is also referred to so both teams are seen together in action. Internet stats are also a reference for general/individual team weaknesses and strengths. The coaches also have information on file for two years.

The athletes begin preparing for a specific team immediately after the previous game. The coach lays out particular parts of practice to work on opposing team tendencies. The game day starts with the pre-game meal at the Commons a couple of hours before the game. Coaches have a pre-game interview with Mike Biker, the radio broad-

caster. Then, at least an hour before the game, athletes come to get taped, dressed and begin shooting. Once inside the locker room, a team member or a coach reads devotions. The written scouting report is referred to again and individual tenancies are memorized. Once the game begins it's up to everyone to show what they have been working so everything will pay off.

After the game, coaches do a post-game interview. They also write down and file other specifics they witnessed during the game.

Many people often forget about responsibilities after the game. The facility must be cleaned, regrouped and ready for the next day's practice. After the game, Haak usually has three students who do a majority of the clean-up in the gym. First, they sweep all the

trash off the bleachers, and then the wheel tracks are swept. A 55 gallon barrel is usually full of trash from one game. All the sound equipment, score clocks, and score benches are wheeled on carts back to the storage room. All bathrooms are checked for major problems that can't wait until morning. Lastly, all lights are turned off and doors locked. Haak says, "Our goal is to be done and out of the building by 11:00 pm, and I'm back by 7 am." The next day he has students working on specified custodial areas.

The whole game entails multiple efforts from the athletic director, coaches, players, adult volunteers, work-study students, managers, maintenance, and announcers. True, there will be a next time, but for 60 people "it's not only one game."



Sara Prins

A Lady Defender
shares her advice.

Quick Hits

Jacque Scoby
Sports Editor

In two days, barring any unforeseen circumstances, my grandfather will be here for the last basketball game of my life. The fact that I may not even get to play is not a deterrent to him. He's coming anyway.

Why, you ask, should you care? Well, you might not care, and that's fine. I'll care for you. See, my grandpa has been one of the biggest supporters in my life. Basketball games, softball tournaments, track meets, piano recitals—he's been to one or many more of each. And he doesn't know it yet, but he's also the one who taught me how to shoot free throws. He's been there before, and he'll be there again, even after this weekend is over, even after athletics are part of my past, not my future.

Every one of us has people in our lives just like my grandpa. The ones who pour miles and hours and effort into our lives like there's no tomorrow. And they all deserve a very public thank you, if for no other reason than they're still paying our doctor bills. Or dentist, if you prefer that type of injury. My parents are paying for both right now. So Grandpa—and Grandma and the rest of my family—here's yours. Thanks.