"All My Sons" returns optimistic

Jessica Braunschweig
Staff Writer

Ordinarily, January weather in Denver does one and all in every type of winter get-up imaginable. Ordinarily, you won't find mountain-view housing for $5 a week.

Yet, as the rest of us were suffering through the "great frigid flatland's temperatures," Dordt's theatre group was "tolerating" the delightful soaring scenery, basking not only in the sun, but also in the lights, the cameras and the action. But for such an un-ordinary group, who's already set the standard for success, what did we expect? Reports confirm that it wasn't all vacation and relaxation, however, as they did arrive in Colorado on a mission. But would they be able to do it?

The first step was setting up the stage, which took from 6 Tuesday evening until 1 the following morning. The first Wednesday performance began at 3 p.m. Difficulties were faced, as the new stage presented several space challenges and alterations that differed from the original set, but "They did well in spite of the differences," as Jeri Schellhaas confidently reported.

Apparantly, though, the unruly crowd was a bit more than they could handle, as the audience jumped out of their seats to give them a standing ovation. They ended the evening with another first-rate performance at 8. On Thursday morning, the cast met with the judges who responded to their set and overall presentation. The group was given complements, new perspectives and encouragement.

Meanwhile, the excitement was mounting. Time was passing waiting the competition and attending the many available workshops. The suspense would continue until Friday night, when the National Selection Committee finally announced which of the seven plays would be held for a chance to perform at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. And the great news was: Dordt's "All My Sons" was one of the three to be selected. The final results won't be released until the much-awaited date of March 1, 2004.

Student Forum recommends internet supervision

D. James Zylistra
for Student Forum

On Tuesday, January 27, 2004, after several months of research and committee work, Student Forum approved a proposal recommending the implementation of Covenant Eyes (a computer program designed to curtail consumption of Internet pornography) here at Dordt College.

The proposal was approved by a super-majority of Forum and will be given to Student Services to determine if the program's installation is feasible.

In mid-November a Dordt student addressed Forum regarding spiritual dangers located on the World Wide Web. In particular, the student expressed concerns about the massive growth of the internet porn industry and its effect on the Christian community. The student also suggested a possible aid in rectifying the abuse of internet porn through the installation of a computer program called Covenant Eyes.

Statistics from the Justice Department indicate that between the years 1998 and 2001, the number of XXX-rated websites grew from 28,000 to 280,000, generating revenue in excess of $10 billion dollars. A study conducted by Christianity Today (Dec. 2001) revealed that 53% of pastors say that internet pornography is a possible temptation, and 37% of pastors say it is a current struggle. Here at Dordt, with few detailed internet records kept and over six hundred personal computers on campus, it was difficult to identify an internet pornography problem through any concrete statistics. But after interviewing both the former and current Director of Computer Services, Forum was able to conclude that internet pornography usage is prevalent here on Dordt's campus.

Student Forum then began to consider Covenant Eyes as a means of sanctifying Dordt's internet traffic. Eliminating the internet completely or installing a filter would put constraints on the internet traveler and would conflict with Dordt's philosophy of discernment. Covenant Eyes in no way inhibits the paths of Internet users; instead it watches all Internet travel, recording how long someone viewed each site and making special note of questionable web addresses. A record of each student's Internet travel would then be sent weekly, bi-weekly or monthly via e-mail to a designated accountability partner.

The questionable URLs would appear in red and would also be rated as to their severity; thus, a medical site containing a few buzzwords would register a low rating, but a low description of degenerate deeds would register much higher. In addition, the e-mail would include the duration of website's viewing, so if a student entered a porn site unintentionally the program would bear witness to that student's prompt exit.

For a copy of the Covenant Eyes' proposal e-mail dzylistra@dordt.edu or read the copy on the Student Forum bulletin board in the Campus Center. For more information about Covenant Eyes, go to www.covenanteyes.com.
Dordt students playing in the snow in 2004. Even though we have accumulated piles of snow during the last couple of weeks, it has not been sufficient enough to cancel school. There has only been one snowday in the history of Dordt.

The Day Dordt Closed

Lynette Andree
Staff Writer

How many times in your childhood have you gone to bed while it was snowing outside, or how many times in your childhood have you dreamt of the snowfall outside? - except once.

There has been a rumor circulating for as long as students can remember that there has, in fact, been one snowday in the history of Dordt. Since it was so long ago, there are few people on campus who remember this day. Dr. Geels says the so-called 'snow-day' occurred in the late 60's when Reverend Haan was the president, right around the time that KDCR started broadcasting.

It was a cold, snowy morning when KDCR received a phone call from someone claiming to be Rev. Haan telling them to broadcast the message that the day's classes had been cancelled. Rev. Haan had a very distinctive voice, not one that many people could imitate, but some how someone did manage to do it that morning. Although Rev. Haan did not intend to cancel classes that morning, nothing could be done after the broadcast was made. Many students who did not listen to KDCR went to their 7:30 classes (yes, classes used to start that early!).

This might have been one of the best pranks that anyone has pulled at Dordt, at least one of the most beneficial to students. Once Rev. Haan realized that someone could imitate him he immediately gave strict orders to KDCR to never, on any occasion, cancel classes due to a phone call by anyone claiming to be him. To think that the one snow day that I have based my hope on was a prank! The hope of ever having another one seems dismal unless some creative mind can come up with a cunning way to get classes cancelled!

Out 'n' About

Brian Veurink
Staff Writer

Persecution in 2004

French lawmakers are beginning to debate a bill that will ban religious symbols from their public schools. Large Christian crosses, Jewish stars and Muslim head scarves would not be allowed if the bill passes. Supporters of the bill feel that French's tradition of secularism is under attack if the ban is upheld.

Avian Influenza endangers all

A summit of the world's leading health officials has been called in Rome to discuss bird flu. 13 people have already died from bird flu, while hundreds more are being monitored. Bird flu has already spread to 10 nations, but only people in Vietnam and Thailand have died from it so far.

Officials fear the virus may mutate into one that is easily transmitted between humans and become a worldwide epidemic.

The beat goes on in Iraq

67 people died in the northern town of Erbil, Iraq, following virtually simultaneous suicide attacks on Kurdish political party headquarters. Among the dead were at least 5 senior Kurdish officials. Another 247 people were wounded in the attacks. Both buildings were filled with people celebrating the start of the Muslim calendar's largest holiday, Eid al-Adha.
Employing "illegal immigrants" should not be illegal

Peter Anderson
Staff Writer

Wal-Mart recently embarked on an advertisement campaign in an attempt to counteract recent lawsuits that may damage the company’s good reputation. One of these lawsuits charges Wal-Mart with hiring illegal aliens for low pay. This event will hopefully illuminate the possibility of a better solution to the matter of immigration than President Bush’s recent proposal that will only augment the possibility of a better solution to the matter of immigration than President Bush’s recent proposal.

Property rights should define the essence of who comes into this country and who does not. In Wal-Mart’s situation, nothing in the suit implies that the immigrants were forced to work for Wal-Mart. Instead, Wal-Mart voluntarily exchanged monetary wages for the workers’ voluntary exchange of their labor. Obviously both parties benefit from the transaction; otherwise they would not have agreed to these terms. These workers and others like them embody legitimate immigration because their residency in this country results from a voluntary association with a legitimate property owner.

To the contrary, illegal immigrants, as defined by property rights, are those that come to this country by trespassing on others’ property and lack the condition of property owner. For example, if person A comes and lives on person B’s property, without the latter’s permission, they are trespassing and not legitimately living there. If person B, however, employs person A for various gardening duties and lets them live on their property, how can one argue that either person A or B has acted illegally?

Critics of this interpretation should keep in mind that if voluntary associations between property owners do not form the basis for a legal system the alternative is force. In the latter case, a stronger individual or group of individuals may legitimately stop such critics in their tracks. In such a society, individuals are only “right” so long as no stronger individuals can make them “wrong.”

What could their purposes be, then? I see two options: either to declare such a scenario impossible, or to accept it as necessary. In the latter case, the government that Bush has greatly expanded in three plus years does not need further expansion to legalize already legitimate working relations.

February 6, 2004
Cleanin’ by moonlight

Larry and Lyle serve Dordt long after everyone else has gone to sleep.

By Brian Veurink
Staff Writer

Long after the Late Night with Conan O’Brien final credits roll, these guys are still cleaning. While the hard-working bats and owls of America are out tracking down a meal, these guys are out fighting grime. They are Larry Van Gelder and Lyle Vandenberg, and they are your night shift Campus Center custodians.

Larry and Lyle’s week starts on Monday morning at midnight. Besides having Sunday off, they work every other night from 11 pm until 7 am. Everyday they take out the trash and sweep the main floor. The building is far too large to clean everything every night, so other activities such as the stairs, the windows and dusting are done on a rotation.

Nobody makes these two take the graveyard shift. On the contrary, it happens to be the one these guys like the best. Lyle has 4 kids and Larry has 5 kids, and each see the night shift as an opportunity to spend more time with their families. “I am home before they go to school, and am awake by the time they get back,” Lyle said.

Their busy late nights have not destroyed Lyle and Larry’s social lives. They still have the evenings and afternoons open to handle all their shopping needs. Their hours also allow them to make it to many of their children’s extracurricular activities.

Lyle and Larry are as knowledgeable as anyone when it comes to the Campus Center. Therefore, in conclusion, this is Larry and Lyle’s Campus Center Washroom Fact or Myth.

1) The Campus Center contains 36 stalls and 12 urinals. 2) The President’s personal bathroom includes gold trim and a Jacuzzi. Time’s up.

Larry and Lyle want to assure all students have taken advantage of this opportunity. Bakker hopes to keep the program available for students in the future.

Shamar’s Food Co-Op Offers Students Variety

By Kim Lucier
Staff Writer

The Shamar (Earthkeeping) Club has joined forces with the Sioux Center Food Club. Sally Jongsma founded the Sioux Center Food Club in 1982. Jongsma currently works on campus with the Advancement Office and with The Voice publication.

The food club works with a food supplier known as Blooming Prairie.

Shamar decided to work with the food club because of its various benefits. “People that have been involved with the Sioux Center Food Club find easy access for things that are difficult to get,” said Shamar President Matt Bakker. “People also participate for the healthy and organic foods, and the foods in bulk.”

Those interested in joining the Sioux Center Food Club are required to pay a fee. However, Shamar covers the fee for its club members. Since the fall semester, about 10 students have taken advantage of this opportunity. Bakker hopes to keep the program available for students in the future.

A collection of spices, flour and rice from the Co-op make for exotic eating.
Internet Piracy

Nathan Vander Witt
Staff Writer

Another barrage of lawsuits against file-sharers was unleashed two weeks ago by the Recording Industry Association of America. Over five hundred people are being sued on the grounds that they shared music illegally over the Internet. The RIAA is attempting to stop music piracy by making the public aware that illegal uses of file sharing software will be punished.

This tactic has received harsh criticism from Senator Norm Coleman from Minnesota, who claimed "the decision by the RIAA to rely primarily on the fear of the courts and litigation pummel [file sharing software] users is unfortunate and misdirected."

But Senator Coleman recognizes what too many companies and people have failed to see: unfair practices within the recording industry, its music is still its property. Whenever anyone creates something, it can be protected by either a copyright, a trademark or a patent. Most artistic works automatically fall under the protection of United States (or similar) copyright laws as soon as they are created. The original author can then sell his rights to a larger company, such as a publisher or a record label. Before high speed Internet was available, these companies were necessary to get products, like compact discs, from the artist to a wide audience. Industries were built up to help the money trickle down from the consumer to the creator.

The copyright commonly becomes a right to collect money. When people share music through means such as peer-to-peer file sharing, the record industry does not get the royalties they are legally entitled to.

That is why it is illegal to share or download music, and that is why the RIAA is suing so many people. The safest simple rule of thumb is that if you didn't pay for it, you don't own it. That means you aren't allowed to listen to it, or let others listen to copies of it. If you have copied your CD's onto your computer for your own personal use, make sure that the files are not in a shared folder. Computer Services should be able to help you make sure that this is not happening.

There are many legal ways to buy and preview music over the Internet. Just a few examples are the new Napster, Internet radio (see ChristianTuner.com) and online music stores like the one at Walmart.com. Record labels often offer free downloads of select singles via band websites. The music industry is catching up to the Internet. There is no longer any good reason to ignore its rights.

A close knit community

Rosie Grantham
Staff Writer

At Dordt College, when the winter months start slowly nudging in, a seasonal phenomenon is observed. With the changing of the seasons and the approach of colder weather, comes an activity many college students participate in to pass the time they don't have. It's a simple process, requiring only a hooked needle; a skein of yarn, and knowledge of one or more stitches but can be used to create beautiful, cheap Christmas presents for the whole family. Of course, the activity I'm speaking of is crocheting.

Many students on Dordt's campus take up crocheting when they arrive, not because they have extra time, but because of the benefits and satisfactioncrocheting can offer. Avid crocheter Rachel Eckhart, says one reason to crochet is to encourage a general feeling of accomplishment. "When I crochet, I can watch TV and still be productive," says the creator of several scarves, potholders and a couple of baby blankets. Fellow East Hall crochetier Hannah Hoover also took up knitting over band tour, and has since then knitted herself a pair of mittens. "Half the fun is figuring the patterns out," said Hoover of the various knitting patterns she has found since tour. Hoover joked, "I'm sure that when I get it all figured out, I'll get bored, but that's not likely."

But crocheting and knitting is not an art form confined to a single gender. Avid crocheter and Chris Kuperus testify, the needle and skein are for everyone who is willing to learn. Tiersma says he likes crocheting because it's something that anyone can do. "I don't draw or do any thing like that," said Tiersma. "When I started crocheting, I thought, okay, here's something that I can do that's kind of artistic, and I went for it." Tiersma, as well as crocheting, also indulges occasionally in the two-needle stitch. "Chris Kuperus taught me how to knit first last year, and then I learned to crochet. "Kuperus, a die-hard fan of knitting, says as well as being a relaxing activity, the needle and skein also have potential health benefits. "Knitting was not only fun, but it also helped improve my hand-eye coordination for basketball," said Kuperus, of his high-school experience. "In my senior year in high school I even did an informational speech on the art of knitting in front of my peers." In college, Kuperus promoted knitting on campus by trying to start a knitting club on first floor covenant hall, but interest died out after a while. Joe Tiersma, senior student in southview, would like to get more guys started knitting. "It would be kind of nice to have some other guys to talk to— to change the stereotype."
Send visual art, short stories, poetry, etc. to bkschrr@dordt.edu

I Feel Sorry for Snow.

After two long days of torture,
Two longs days and nights
Of being dropped from unimagined heights,
Two long days of shivering naked,
Rushing around the corner of a building
And huddling in masses to escape the wind.
After all this, today the snow
Can finally relax and soak up the sun,
Like the white sands of Waikiki.
Their joy is blinding
As I look out the window.

-Laremy De Vries
Michael Card

Nevada De Lapp
Guest Writer

You've seen those purplish signs around campus featuring a balding man with a beard and a guitar, and you might be asking yourself: who is this Michael Card?

- Believe it or not you are probably more familiar with Michael Card than you realize. For instance, how many times have you sung or heard the song "El Shaddai" in church or at praise and worship? I'm guessing that the answer to that question is fairly obvious, and I'm sure you can see where I'm going with it - Michael Card wrote "El Shaddai."

Nor is this all that Card has accomplished over the past 23 years of his career. With 27 different albums bearing his name (including a few compilation albums), 19 number one songs, and an array of Dove Awards, Card could arguably be considered one of the most enduring and quietly popular Christian musicians of our time. His musical style tends toward a folk style including Irish melodies and a dash of gospel and bluegrass.

Michael Card's current tour celebrates his newest album A Taste of the Wild, which typical to his pattern of composing albums around Biblical characters or major themes surrounding the life of the impetuous fisherman. However, Card's influence extends far beyond music. He has spent a good deal of time in college. In 1979 he received his master's degree in biblical studies from the same WKU, and in 1980, Card received his ungraduate degree from Western Kentucky University. He also received an assistantship and the FM band. The new station will operate in a fifteen mile radius and will provide you with all your favorite Christian Rock, R&B, and Alternative Music.

Michael Card

Musically, the album relies heavily on Card's acoustic guitar and is reminiscent of albums like Soul Anchor. However, Card's influence extends far beyond music. He is also the author of 14 books including one of his more recent, Scribbling in the Sand, in which he draws upon the aesthetic theory of the Dutch theologian Hans Rookmaker and the Institute of Christian Studies' own Calvin Seerveld. Not surprisingly, Card himself has spent a good deal of time in college. In 1979 he received his undergraduate degree from Western Kentucky University. He also received an assistantship and taught physics and astronomy in a masters program at Western Kentucky University. He was able to broadcast on the FM band. The new station will operate in a fifteen mile radius and will provide you with all your favorite Christian Rock, R&B, and Alternative Music.

If you've been looking for a good Christian Radio Station, don't worry. Positive Airwaves is working on it. Eventually, Positive Airwaves hope to be able to broadcast on the FM band. The new station will operate in a fifteen mile radius and will provide you with all your favorite Christian Rock, R&B, and Alternative Music.
Indoor track: Up and running

Leslie Larson
Staff Writer

The indoor track season started off with a bang January 24 at the Buena Vista Invite in Storm Lake, IA. Provisional qualifications were made by Dan Van Engen in the 3,000 meter, Chris Franzen in the high jump and the women's 4x400 meter relay.

The strength for the women's team this year will be middle distance which includes the 200, 400 and 800 meter, and the 4x400 and 4x800 relays. The first meet, the women swept the first three places in the 200 meter. The men have great strength in distance, high jump and the 200 and 400 meter.

The women and men indoor track team will have great senior leadership this year from Kristi Meendering, Katie Van Arendonk, Jacque Scoby, Kate Reinsma, Dan Foreman, Nathan Kauk, Dan Oldenkamp and Mark Ten Haken.

A highlight in the 2002-2003 was placing fourth in the men's 4x800 relay thus becoming Indoor All Americans. Also, at the Dordt outdoor meet, the women received first place and the men second place.

Syne Altena has been the head track coach for twenty-one years. Coach Altena relates, "The best part about being involved with the track program is the camaraderie of the athletes within the team and with other schools. They are constantly making one another better." Two of Altena's assistant coaches are in their first year at Dordt. Coach Greg van Dyk does distance and Coach Aaron Klein helps with long and triple jumpers and sprinters. Coach Ross Goheen is on his tenth year as assistant coach helping with pole vault and hurdlers.

This spring break the team will head to Texas for two meets. The team also plans to do a service project for the San Antonio Salvation Army.

The indoor season will end with the NAJA Indoor Track Meet on February 27, 2004.

Quick Hits

Super Bowl Sunday: What did I miss?

Rachel Volkner
Assistant Sports Editor

Sunday has come and gone and so has a national holiday—Super Bowl XXXVIII. Most Americans turned on the tube to catch part of the game and for those that didn't enjoy the sport—catch the commercials.

Being an avid sports fan, can you believe I missed it? Yes, I'm serious, I missed one of the biggest sporting events in the world and it was even on network TV. So I need you to fill me in. What did I miss? Besides the no-score first quarter, which showed little to no yardage gains, besides the officials being good on one play and bad on the next. Besides penalties and crazy fans in the stands, besides coaches getting upset and running around. Besides dropped passes and fumbles. Besides blood and injuries. Besides more beer commercials that I'll see in the upcoming weeks. What did I miss?

I guess I missed the halftime show, but I hear that wasn't the greatest either. There was even a press statement about the halftime show (From NFL.com, "We were extremely disappointed by elements of the MTV-produced Halftime show. They were totally inconsistent with assurances our office was given about the show. It's unlikely that MTV will produce another Super Bowl halftime."—NFL Executive Vice President Joe Browne).

So, I guess the only thing I missed was seeing a native South Dakotan, Adam Vinatieri (born and raised as I was) save the New England Patriots yet again. But I'm sure Vinatieri will save the Patriots again next season.

(By the way, I was traveling back from the great state of South Dakota during the Super Bowl.)