Students produce "Charlie Brown"

by Kristi Mulder
Staff Writer

Dordt College is going comic. "You're a Good Man Charlie Brown," a musical directed by Kim De Groot and Lani Van Someren, is coming to New World Theater December 7, 8 and 9. "It's a comic strip come to life," said Kim De Groot. "It's a musical about Schultz's characters. We thought it's nice a way of remembering Shultz since he just passed away." Lani said that although the cast is small, there's a lot of excitement and everyone feeds off of each other's energy. The cast includes Charlie Brown played by James Kim. "I'm just loving this show and everyone feeds off of each other's energy. The cast includes Charlie Brown played by James Kim, Snoopy by Laura Groen, Lucy by Rochelle Van Ry, Linus by Kevin Schenk, Peppermint Patty by Beth Vander Ziel, and Schroeder by Seth Postma. "I think the cast fits itself well," said Lani. "Don't be alarmed if you see Kevin Schenk walking around with a blanket: it's because he's Linus. We've also noticed that James is starting to say 'good grief!' all the time."

In addition to the cast, there will be a small orchestra. Eric Van Wyk, set designer for the show, said the orchestra will be onstage with the actors to make a kind of nightclub-like atmosphere where the music, actors, and audience can all interact. "I think the audience will enjoy coming to New World Theater is in charge of the music for Individual Studies, but both are enjoying the challenge. "It's definitely a learning experience," said Lani. "I love the show because Charlie Schultz (material) has little specks of wisdom in it, and who can't relate to Charlie Brown at some point in their life?"

"I still have a hard time choosing a favorite scene or song," said Kim. "I'm just loving this show more and more as we work on it! I think it shows that childhood memories come to life," said Kim De Groot, who was slated to open for Joel, will still perform. His younger sister, Ann Du Mez will also be performing a free concert in the BJ Haan on Saturday at 8 pm.

Phil Joel concert canceled

by Rose Ann Vander Wal
Staff Writer

The Phil Joel concert, scheduled for Saturday November 18, has been canceled. Dordt was unable to provide the technical support needed for the performance, according to resident life director, Sandi Altena. SAC was working on acquiring some of the technology but ran out of time. Altena said there is the possibility of bringing Joel to campus sometime during second semester, maybe in April, if there is enough student interest. In the meantime, students who have already purchased Phil Joel tickets can get their money back by stopping by Altena's office in the SUB.

Phil Joel, and looks forward to appearing at local high schools and in area churches. Ann Du Mez also said there is meaning in each of her brother's songs. "Sometimes the meanings are hidden," she said, "but they are always there." Du Mez has released two albums already and has made a name for himself performing in clubs and coffee shops. Sandi Altena has listened to his CDs and has said, "He is on the brink of going big."

In addition to Du Mez's performance, SAC is working on getting several current Dordt musical groups to support the performance, but those have yet to be confirmed. SAC is also working on the possibility of having Comedy Club make their debut at the performance, but that also has to be confirmed.

SAC promises that this will be an exciting and entertaining event, even without an appearance by Phil Joel, and looks forward to supporting Dordt talent of the past and of the present. Sandi Altena says that SAC is excited about the event and encourages all to come.
Psychology students conduct experiments

by Jen Hoogeveen

Several Dordt students will be volunteering in a number of different experiments taking place around campus. Experimental Psychology, taught by Professor Sherri Lantinga, requires members of the class to complete a research project on the subject of their choice.

The purposes of this assignment are to teach the students how to perform original experimental research, how to apply statistics to the data, how to review others' projects and, when completed, how to present the material professionally.

Students were asked to pick a topic that they were interested in or had heard of before, research the topic and narrow down the possible possibilities. It was also required that they study something that had never been done before.

Steve Runner, along with his partner Cynthia Sneller, did a project on personal space. "We wanted to check where a person would sit at a table if there was another person already there. It was found that most would sit about a diagonal rather than across or next to the confederate (an accomplice of the experiment)."

However, when one comfortable chair, placed next to the confederate—the rest uncomfortable—were added, people preferred the comfortable chair, especially if they were going to be waiting for awhile. This was a surprise to the experimenters who predicted people would rather sit in an uncomfortable chair than feel uncomfortable sitting next to someone they don't know well.

A listening experiment, conducted by Karen Langelaar and Rachel Kroll, compares listening to a speech in three conditions—classical, pop, or no music in the background—and is determined with a questionnaire. "We're looking for efficiency, how much of the speech is processed and how fast it's processed. So far we have found that the quiet condition results in higher efficiency. This has real life applications, since we often do two things at one time and many students listen to music while studying."

Kristin Zomerman and her partner, Sarah Juhl, are also students in the experimental psychology class. Their experiment is determining whether performance is affected either positively or negatively by people looking at sports psychology as a future career, is curious how sports athletes in reaction to certain situations, if fans increase or decrease players' performance, and technology balance the difference out.

Zomerman expresses the feelings of others in her class. "It takes a lot of time and we've been spending the entire semester until now running research. The best part is doing the experiment. This is what psychology is about."

Van Ee, Van Vliet to give recitals

by Allison Schaap

Several students will be participating in two upcoming junior and senior recitals. The students have been concentrating on putting their heart into what they are singing and are looking forward to their upcoming recitals.

Tricia Van Ee, a junior at Dordt, will be using her vocal talents at her recital on Friday, November 17 at 3:00 p.m. in the B.J. Haan Auditorium. She is performing a vocal music performance major, sings in both Kantorei and Concert Choir. She has been anticipating this recital since last spring and is looking forward to this performance. Van Ee mentions that as a vocal performance major, she is required to present two recitals: a half-recital during her junior year and a full recital during her senior year.

For this performance, most of her pieces will be from the 19th and early 20th century. Van Ee will be singing a set of German songs, in which she will be performing one song by Schubert and two by Mahler. Van Ee says that she has chosen some short Italian songs from the late romantic period. She will also be performing an aria from the opera Madame Butterfly by Puccini. Zach Veenman, a junior, will be joining Van Ee on a few humorous songs by Richard Strauss. Kim Philipson will accompany Van Ee on the piano.

Jocelyn Van Vliet, a senior, will also be presenting a recital and is looking forward to singing on December 2 at 7:30 p.m. in the B.J. Haan Auditorium. She will give a half-recital, in which she has prepared a range of music to sing. Laura Vander Stee will be accompanying her in this vocal performance. Van Vliet sings mezzo-soprano in both Concert Choir and in Kantorei.

Van Vliet, a mathematics major, mentions that many people have asked her why she is not a music major, to which she replies, "To me, music is a stress relief; it is something that I don’t want to make work because then there is a possibility that music may become stressful." She mentions that she will be singing a variety of music, and the last three pieces that she is doing are from the Four-Note Opera. Van Vliet liked these last pieces because they are upbeat and unexpected.

"I really enjoy these pieces because the words are only relative to the music and not to what is really going on," says Van Vliet.

Van Vliet has been preparing for her recital since last semester, and she is looking forward to performing. "I am really excited. There is so much you can put into [the music]. You can create an effect and pour your soul into it," Van Vliet says.

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Laser tag among upcoming events

By Josh Christoffels

The Student Activities Committee (SAC) is bringing laser tag to campus on Saturday, December 3. Laser tag has been coming to Dordt for a number of years now, and has been a popular evening for the student body. Between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and midnight, teams of five will compete in fifteen minute games in the gym that will be full of special lighting, music and obstacles.

Lori Van Driessen, co-chair of SAC says that "Sioux Falls no longer has laser tag so the best place to play is right here on campus, and best of all, it's free." Anyone is welcome to come just to watch if they don’t want to play. Sign-ups start next Tuesday in the SUB.

Also that night, there will be an open-mic night at 9:00 p.m. in the SUB, where anyone who wants to share their talents publicly is welcomed. Students are encouraged to come and have a good time, sip a warm mug of coffee and let the soothing music of fellow students relax them.

SAC works hard to define what Christian entertainment is, keeping in mind that Christians must glorify God in everything they do. Van Driessen talks about the focus of the weekend activities. "Dordt life is more than just academics; it is the whole person needs to be educated. It’s all about students relaxing together and having fun in a Christian context."
PLIA challenges students to grow as servants

Rachelle Vander Werff
Staff Writer

"To challenge one another to grow as servants through cross-cultural communities in which we are encouraged to put love into action." This is PLIA's mission statement. PLIA stands for "Putting Love Into Action," and the PLIA planning committee is working hard to ensure that this happens.

Over spring break, PLIA sends several groups of 12-14 Dordt students to various sites throughout the United States. This year there will be approximately 16-18 sites for people to choose from. The new sites include a camp for troubled teens in Colorado, a site in Guntersville, Tennessee and possibly one in Salt Lake City, Utah.

PLIA adopted a new Bible verse this year, 1 Peter 4:10-11, which says, "Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen."

Anthony Drost and Shara Griffin are the two main organizers of PLIA this year. Last year 212 people went on PLIA, and this year they are hoping for 250. They seem to be off to a good start with about 220 people signing up at the first mass meeting.

Drost said, "It's going great this year, and there are lots of competent people on the planning team." He hopes that PLIA will spread from being just a spring break thing to something year round. He says, "Putting love into action should be a part of everyday campus life."

Questions? Comments?
Contact the Diamond at x6431 or diamond@dordt.edu

OMSC conference to take place in January

Mikala Poll
Staff Writer

Care for an icy dip in the Atlantic in January? How about meeting and worshipping with Christians from around the world? Attending seminars about world missions from scholars who know what it's like to serve in different cultures?

A group of Dordt students took the challenge last January and many will be doing so again this coming year. The annual conference is sponsored by Overseas Ministries Study Center (OMSC) and seminaries around the country.

Attending students can choose either or both of two week-long sessions, which take place the first two weeks of January.

Each of the five days spent at the Connecticut base provide time for worship, seminars, discussions, and more. The seminar topics address critical mission issues related to evangelism, theology, ethics, strategy, and spirituality. Senior Doug Dirksen, who attended last year's conference, says, "The week at OMSC made me more aware of the challenges of fellow Christians and enabled me to pray for these Christians in their struggles."

Many students who have attended share how much they love the diversity present during the conference. Students and speakers come from Korea, Japan and many African countries. "The interaction with people from all over the world helped me begin to think differently on a variety of issues," says senior Brandie Ochsner. "OMSC was an eye-opening and horizon-expanding experience for me."

Senior Doug Dirksen agrees. "There were people from many different church backgrounds. It was inspiring to worship with people of different ethnic and denominational backgrounds." Gotter looks forward to attending the conference again this January.

Dordt students meet together nightly to discuss the sessions of the day and to worship together. Ochsner says of their meetings, "It was helpful to go with other Dordt students because we wrestled with the issues together and discussed so many life issues that continue to challenge us."

While students spend much time in seminars, discussions and worship, they also take time out to have fun. Last year's group went for a swim in the nearby Atlantic Ocean and even spent an evening under the stars praising God and discussing some of the issues brought up in the seminars.

Theology professor Wayne Kobes has been involved with OMSC for the past six years. He organizes the group of Dordt students who attend in addition to giving a seminar about presenting the gospel in Western culture. Dr. Kobes may be contacted for more information.

Worshiping and learning in this setting is an experience to remember. "It was a small taste of what the reunion in heaven will be like," says Gotter.

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Missing your bike?

Andrew Moody

A Schwinn bike is located in the tree to the right of the library behind the evergreen trees.

"When I started looking at engagement rings, I went to the big stores first. But it seemed like they were just trying to sell me a ring and weren't really trying to help me find the right one for me. But when I went to Pat's Jewelry, I found out that Pat's wanted me to get the best ring too. Their considerate staff made sure that the rings I looked at were the ones that were best for me. They were completely sincere and always gave me their honest personal opinion about the diamonds and didn't just try to sell me one. I heartily recommend Pat's to anyone who is looking for engagement and wedding rings."

- Eric Carlson and Nikki Daane

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Opinion

Election debacle yields some positive results

by Sarah Eekhoff

Editor on November 16, 2000, the day after the presidential election, the most powerful nation had not elected a new leader. In one of the closest presidential races in history, the United States hung, and still hung, in the balance between Democrat Al Gore and Republican George W. Bush. As the predictions for electoral votes rolled into news stations across the country on election night, it became obvious that this election would not be an easy one to call. Indeed, America woke to an abnormality that is occurring, but I will in no way degrade this beloved country where I have innumerable freedoms.

The amount to which a couple will feel that you don’t know every part of that person. When you ever give away you can never see yourself married to--you can become friends with someone even if you don’t like them, but how many have ever looked at the video of those dates in the BLJ. When I saw the signs advertising the videos, I started to wonder about the worth and purpose of sponsoring a campus event such as Blind Date. What kind of values is the college supporting by approving such an event; good or bad? I would like to sort through the various reasons why the Blind Date is a good idea and why it’s a bad idea for a Christian campus.

I do think that sponsoring a version of Blind Date is a good idea, in a way. By taking part, and attending the Blind Date, students have the opportunity to get together with their friends in a social setting and get to know people who don’t know by volunteering to be a contestaint. Quite possibly two students who meet while being contestants might show could become very good friends. Also, anyone who wishes to attend the viewing of the videos of those dates could be merely looking for a "getaway" from the stress of studying and an opportunity to get together with friends.

Second, the concept that Gore might win the popular vote but not the electoral vote has raised issues that have come to light. Issues that were never brought to the media’s attention, the most of which state—a risky call—finally caught the news media off guard. With the early predictions of a Gore-supported Florida, Republicans claim their support of a vote, they reacted strongly. So while our nation waits impatiently for the votes to be counted and recounted and then counted again, we want you to see through the chaos that the election has spurred and start to encourage you. Regardless of whether or not the Florida recount calls the election positive values, I think that the time is occurring, but I will in no way degrade this beloved country where I have innumerable freedoms.

Fourth, American citizens seem to have found the voice that was previously buried in apathy. In the chaos I watched on CNN SPAN last week, while voters held signs and yelled to be heard, I saw a positive citizen. Citizens, average men and women who are normally relatively apathetic about their government, wanted to be heard. They may not always use their voting voices, but when it seemed they were denied a vote, they reacted strongly. So while our nation waits impatiently for the votes to be counted and recounted and then counted again, we want you to see through the chaos that the election has spurred and start to encourage you. Regardless of whether or not the Florida recount calls the election positive values, I think that the time is occurring, but I will in no way degrade this beloved country where I have innumerable freedoms.

Careless dating contrary to Christian values

Mitchell Beaumont Assistant Editor

About a month ago, the Diamond published a front page article on the Blind Date event sponsored by Covenant Hall, and last week we featured the video of those dates in the BLJ. We, the students, have the opportunity to get together with our friends in a social setting and get to know people who don’t know by volunteering to be a contestaint. Quite possibly two students who meet while being contestants might show could become very good friends. Also, anyone who wishes to attend the viewing of the videos of those dates could be merely looking for a "getaway" from the stress of studying and an opportunity to get together with friends.

Open Thread

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Maintenance keeps busy during winter

Jacque Scoby
Staff Writer

The snow is falling, the wind is blowing and you have to walk to class. Thanks to the maintenance staff, the path from your room to the classroom is clear.

Now that winter has set in, maintenance often starts the day clearing the snow from the parking lots and sidewalks before classes begin and then tackling their other duties. "Winter time is tough," says Brian Van der Stoep, "things start to get busier." Clearing the snow from the parking lots and sidewalks before classes start is just one of the myriad of duties that maintenance takes on. They also deal with all plumbing and electrical problems that arise on campus.

Van der Stoep says that plumbing issues are also common, along with snow. It is not unusual to pull a variety of items from the sewer system, including paper towels, boxed shorts or even the occasional pink rubber duck.

One of Van der Stoep's main duties is to service all of Dordt's vehicles. "That takes a big part of my day right now," he said. He, along with three work-study students, makes sure all 40 vehicles are in working condition. They will also look at students' cars in an emergency.

Maintenance personnel are on duty twenty-four hours a day. Each person takes a turn being "on call" once every seven or eight weeks, and responds to all after-hours calls during that week.

Stan Oordt heads maintenance

Laura Apol
Features Page Editor

Stan Oordt, head of maintenance, is working to make the maintenance staff not so behind-the-scenes. His personal goal is "to make us more in touch with the college and to make them more in touch with us." Recently, the administration has been helpful in achieving that goal. Administrative meetings now include administration, faculty and staff. This has made these two groups "more of a unit, more a team effort," said Stan.

"The other side of the street" is what Stan calls the residence halls. This is where all the living, studying and student interaction takes place. Usually, the faculty is not very informed on what goes on in the residence halls as far as study-halls are quiet enough to study in. Residence halls are not fun," he said, "but it's a commitment toward possibly saving someone's life.

Another remodeling project that Stan was heavily involved in was the installation of the fire alarm dialers, which dial 911 with every residence hall alarm. The dialers are also wired to call five maintenance staff members, including Stan. "The false alarms are not fun," he said, "but it's a commitment toward possibly saving someone's life.

"I love coming to work 99 out of 100 mornings," Stan said. "I work with quality people with a strong work ethic and a Christian commitment." The maintenance crew consists of 19 regular staff, 55 student employees, and 100 plus student workers during the winter. Stan really enjoys working with the summer student employees. "They have an energy that revitalizes us," he said. He says this comes from working with their hands after studying so hard during the semester.

Besides the maintenance Stan does for Dordt, he also enjoys working in the mission field. Recently, he and his family have become involved in helping North Lighthouse, a new CRC church plant in Lincoln, Nebraska.

As the slogan for the maintenance newsletter says, the maintenance crew is "At your service in His service."

Canadian federal elections approach

Roxanne Houweling
Guest Writer

With the American election behind us, it is time for the Canadians on campus to consider the federal election going on at home.

Deciding who to vote for is the biggest decision. One of the people running in the election is Jean Chretien for the Liberals, whose platform includes making Canada a stronger country with a more successful economy and a better society.

Another is Stockwell Day of the Progressive Conservatives, whose platform includes tax relief for Canadians, providing government funding for health care, and putting into effect a concrete plan that focuses on national debt reduction.

Alexa McDonough is leading the New Democratic Party, with a platform that focuses on the environment, increased government spending in health care, starting a job training fund and a fund for preschool and early childhood education.

The Bloc Quebecois is being led by Gilles Duceppe. To read their platform, you will need to be fluent in French.

The Right Honourable Joe Clark has returned to lead the Conservative with a platform that includes securing the future of health care and the environment, cutting taxes, and restoring integrity to the government.

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The Right Honourable Joe Clark has returned to lead the Conservative with a platform that includes securing the future of health care and the environment, cutting taxes, and restoring integrity to the government.

Added to this list are a host of smaller, less popular parties that may interest you and they can be found at www.cbc.ca/election2000/links. A visit to this page will also lead you to the home pages of the five major political parties where a more in-depth version of their party platforms can be read. Another source for the issues and information is Maclean's magazine which can be read in the library or at www.macleans.ca.

As a resident alien, you will need to send for an absentee ballot in order to vote in the upcoming election. To apply for a ballot you will need to go to www.elections.ca and click on the heading "Voting While Away," then find the sub-heading "Registration form" and print this form. Fax the completed form with a photocopy of your drivers license, or pages two and three of your passport, to (613) 998-8393 (the cost is one dollar per page in the library or business office) or 1-800-363-4796 (toll-free in Canada and the United States).
A Newsboy on his own: Phil Joel goes solo

Phil Joel
Staff Writer

Imagine this: you are a 19-year-old living in a relatively small town and you are in a garage band with a few friends. One day there is a call by another local band for guitar players, so you go to the tryouts. You are hired, and suddenly you are the guitarist and co-vocalist for one of the biggest bands of its type in the world. Sound familiar? That's what happened to Phil Joel when he joined Newsboys, a Christian rock band out of Australia.

After spending five years and four albums with the band, Phil Joel felt it was time for a solo project. He is still with Newsboys, but took this opportunity to spread his artistic wings with his album entitled "God Is Watching Over You." All the music and lyrics are written by Joel himself.

The album was released on Inpop records. When Newsboys bandmate Peter Furler first created this recording company, Joel saw it as an opportunity to take the step toward a solo release. They proceeded to record ten songs for this first project. All the songs are produced by Furler.

When giving it a listen it becomes obvious that Joel comes from the band Newsboys and is reluctant to change his sound. While he does add his own little touches, it could easily be confused with a new album from the entire band. Newsboys have always had a quirky pop sound with lyrics to match. Newsboys' lyrics are written by Steve Taylor and deal with big issues of faith in very peculiar ways (anyone familiar with "Take me to your leader"). Taylor is one of the band's main writers.

When given a chance to give this album a try, Joel proved himself worthy of the depth he provides catchy original pop tunes and enhances them with honest and sincere. From the encouraging words of the title track to the broken realization of "fragile," most of the pop-driven tunes are a comment on where we are at, like the explanatory "My Generation," or a meditative prayer, like "Be Number One." Though the depth is a refreshing change, some of the awkward phrasings show that this is Joel's first time out alone.

The sounds and explorations in this album make it a good listen. Joel proves himself worthy of the success he received since joining Newsboys, and is certainly worthy of a chance to give it a try himself. He succeeds in ways his bandmates have been failing as of late: the music resonates, he provides catchy original pop tunes and enhances them with honesty and sincerity.

Artistic endeavor happens again: Dordt and NW combine talents

Concert band and Chamber Orchestra to perform

Andrea Voogt
Staff Writer

The Concert Band and Chamber Orchestra will perform their last concert of the semester on Friday, December 8. The concert will feature a wide variety of music, as well as several soloists. Also, the string quartet composed of Jennifer Van Den Hul, Erika Van Den Hul, Maegan Van Den Berg, and Coralin Den Boer will perform. The quartet recently performed live on KWIT radio in Sioux City.

As the semester comes to a close, the Chamber Orchestra will perform with Shostakovich's Finale from his 10th Symphony. After that, they will perform Concerto Grosso in F Major by Archangelo Corelli, featuring soloists Erika Van Den Hul, Heidi Sorensen, and Coralin Den Boer. They will also perform the second and fourth movements of Mendelssohn's Serenade by Dag Wiren. Next, the string quartet will perform Canzonetta by Felix Mendelssohn. The Chamber Orchestra will end their performance with Dances of Transylvania by Bela Bartok and Sleigh Ride by Leroy Anderson.

The Concert Band will finish off the concert with Shostakovich's Finale from Symphony No. 5. According to conductor Henry Duftman, this piece is "one of the greatest band transcriptions of the 20th century."

Murder Mystery Theater

Clockwise: Erin Dykstra, Tracey Wikk, Erin Van Wyhe, Luke Shannon, Kris Wynia, Lindsay Carlson, and Chris Postma enjoy the murder mystery dinner theater, held Thursday, November 9th, at Covenant Christian Reformed Church. The dinner theater was an interactive event that portrayed a gangster who owned a nightclub and ended up getting shot. The audience was asked who they thought killed the gangster and why.

Photo submitted
Volleyball team advances to regionals

The 9th ranked Dordt College volleyball team won the Inaugural Great Plains Athletic Conference volleyball championship with a 3-1 win over Doane last Saturday night. Dordt receives the automatic berth in the NAIA Region IV tournament November 16-18.

by Jocelyn Van Beek
Sports Page Editor

Dordt’s women’s soccer season has come to a close, as #82 ranked Dordt lost in a 3-0 decision in the second round of the GPAC Playoffs. The women received a bye in the first round, but could not manage a victory against #5 seeded Hastings to continue on. The loss finished Dordt’s season for the year with a 12-6 season record and a GPAC record of 6-2.

This year’s team will be losing six seniors at the end of the season. Kristi Zommeraad, Heide Brockhuis, Sarah Vriend, Heather Brockhuis, Kalie Gaskill, and Laura Van Hattem provided great leadership for the team and did a great job on the field. Theirs will be tough roles to fill next year.

The five freshmen, three sophomores, and five juniors on the team have excelled this year and helped the team. Coach Steve Westra says, “The freshmen have done a great job. They really stepped up and helped make the year a success.” He is excited for next year as he expects the underclassmen to step up even more to fill positions.

One of the team’s greatest moments of excellence for the year, in Westra’s mind, is the 1-0 win over National American during Parent’s Weekend. “That was really exciting for us as a team, and we played very well,” states Westra. A personal highlight for Westra was the birth of his son Joshua during the season. The whole team met Joshua, as he was a fan at one of their games. That made this season more memorable than most for Westra.

The team has improved since the beginning of the season, as the women assumed new positions. It took a bit of time for the team to gel, but in the last couple of weeks, they played well together for a winning season.

by Jason Mulder
Staff Writer

Improvement and learning summarize the accomplishments of the men’s soccer team this season. Despite a disappointing 2-14 record, this year’s young team learned a lot about each other and their new coach. Captain Eric Segars is excited about next year and sees great potential. Only three players will be graduating, leaving a solid core of players for the future. Next year’s players will know each other and have the experience to improve.

New head coach Dan Oppeneer said it took awhile for him to get to know all the players and find where each fit on the team. They also had the job of adjusting to a new coaching style after Bill Elgersma left. Joining a new conference was difficult, but the experience gained will definitely help in the future. Oppeneer defended their disappointing record by saying that it did not always reflect how well they played. He said the team often played with their opponent but had trouble capitalizing on opportunities and filling the net. Injuries were also tough to overcome and young players were forced to fill places in which they were not accustomed to playing.

Many players expressed similar feelings of optimism for the future. Tom Draayer felt that the team improved by the end of the year. He noticed that as the team got to know each other, their quality of play improved. He feels that the team will be much better next year and looks forward to playing again.

If the members of the team are excited about next year and optimism of the future, then I, along with many other fans, am looking forward to next year and have higher hopes and greater expectations as our young team continues to improve.
Our brothers and sisters are suffering

by Blake Walburg
Staff Writer

Oftentimes it can be very difficult for us to see out of our own immediate circumstances. It seems as though we have more than enough to think about and pray about with-in our personal lives, families, circles of friends, and country. This is certainly true, but there is a very important matter that we often neglect or are not even aware of. Our own brothers and sisters in Christ around the world are being arrested, imprisoned, beaten, tortured, and killed—all because of the faith that we have in common with them.

You may have heard this before and dismissed it, but it is true. There have been more Christians martyred for their faith in this century than in all previous centuries combined. Open Doors USA, an organization for the service of the suffering church worldwide, reports that more than 200 million Christians currently deal with intense persecution, and more than 250 million face discrimination because of their faith. The U.S. State Department says there are at least 60 countries where persecution of Christians is a reality.

The most persecution worldwide takes place within what evangelists call the “10/40 Window” of the world—a rectangle that spans from Africa all the way across Asia, and is between the 10th and 40th parallels north of the equator. This area is where the gospel has least been heard, and it is where it is most suppressed. In this region, there are more than 1.6 billion Muslims, Hindus, and Buddhists, while the Christian population comprises less than two percent of all the people in the window. Many radical adherents of the other major religions, especially Islam, are the ones responsible for the persecution of the Church in these areas. Communist governments are also a large factor in the attempt to silence the church.

The countries where persecution is most intense right now are Saudi Arabia, Afghanistan, China, Russia, and Sudan, among others. As an example, consider some of the current events in Sudan: the entire country is engaged in a “holy war” in which the northern Islamic government is attempting to take over the south, where most of the Christian population is located. In one recent case, reported by the Bible League, a Sudanese man was the only one who escaped a church fire. He says, “I was praying in a church with 99 other believers. The Islamic government soldiers came and bolted the doors of our church shut. Then they began to burn the church down. We could not escape. The soldiers left us for dead. I was the only one who survived.”

What can we do, as North Americans greatly blessed with the freedom of religion? There are several things we can do, but the most powerful and effective is to simply get on our knees in prayer on behalf of these brothers and sisters of ours who are suffering. We can also become more informed about persecution and donate to groups dedicated to giving aid to the persecuted church. There are many organizations that provide both information and opportunities to become involved. Here are a few good places to start:

- www.openroad.org/Open Doors with Brother Andrew
- www.persecutedchurch.org—International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church
- www.persecuted.org—The Bible League
- www.persecution.org—Voice of the Martyrs

Looking beyond the surface...

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