Glass Menagerie coming soon

A play with symbolism, well-crafted characters and beautiful prose will be hitting the New World Theater November 29 through December 1. “The Glass Menagerie,” written by Tennessee Williams, is being student-directed by seniors Adam Smit and Eric Van Wyk. Smit focuses on the direction of the play, while Van Wyk centers on the technical aspects. Smit says that any revisions made concerning the play are discussed between the two directors.

Smit says “The Glass Menagerie” is essentially about a lower class family and the struggles and situations that they face. A young man, Tom (Ethan Koerner) struggles against the overbearing presence of his mother, Amanda (Danielle Vriend), while trying to provide for his mom and his crippled sister, Laura (Laura Groen). A young gentleman named Jim (Paul Olsen) enters the picture, and the play’s climax is found in the relationship between Laura and Jim.

Sophomore Mark Jansen is composing the music for the play, which may be recorded by Dordt musicians.

“This play will definitely be an experience,” Smit said. “It’s a highly technical show...and very symbolic. It’s not like watching a movie on TV...it will be unlike any play or movie you have ever seen.”

Smit encourages students to come. He hopes the play will serve the Dordt audience well. “There are many things that the characters are going through that we can all relate to. And it engages the imagination in such a way that we are invited to try to understand what they are going through.” Smit said. “If we do that, we have witnessed something very human and very real, but also a mystery of how God has created us.”

Tickets for “The Glass Menagerie” will go on sale November 1st.

Page 4: Read a Diamond investigative story on the Board decision concerning CRC faculty membership.

Glass Menagerie coming soon

Honors Program a possibility

Steve Kloosterman
Dordt College is an institution of high standards, but even at Dordt there are students who find their classes too easy. For those students who thrive on challenge, Dordt is looking into starting an honors program. A study committee has been formed for this purpose.

The Honors Program Study Committee recently attended a three-day conference hosted by the National Collegiate Honors Council, where they were able to examine the programs of other colleges and look through honor student projects.

“It allowed us to see what other colleges were doing,” said committee member Professor Mary Dengler. “It was very helpful. I don’t think [an honors program] would be a large step for Dordt. I feel very positive about the whole project.”

Student Forum President Amy Vroom, a study committee member as well, says she also is pleased with the progress being made. “Student Forum had originally brainstormed this, as well as other things, as a way to enhance the academic atmosphere at Dordt,” she said.

The study committee will need to determine what style of honors program, if any, would best suit the college. Some colleges offer specific honors classes, while others offer special sections of classes. A few colleges require honors students to do advanced projects or write extra papers.

The study committee will submit a proposal for an honors program to Rockne McCarthy, the Vice President of Academic Affairs, by December 1. After being reviewed and modified by McCarthy and several other committees, the proposal will eventually be brought before the faculty for their approval.
November 15, 2001

Page 2

The faculty policy has been the center of discussion for almost as many years as it has been enforced. Because the board has been adamant about not reopening the issue, it has become a hot topic among the faculty. These are the voices of professors of Dordt College that have also graduated from Dort.

Ethan Brue, Associate Professor of Engineering, feels the policy is under scrutiny for several reasons. "But one that seems to surface both among faculty and students is that some feel the policy is in need of reconsideration because of the close-minded community with a reformed arrogance," Brue said. "Personally, however, I have a hard time believing that the policy is the problem. I'd suggest that it is a problem of pedagogy." Brue feels that the faculty needs to communicate more effectively. "What could be more open-minded than teaching from a reformed perspective? A reformational worldview frees one to drink, taste, chew and inhale all the richness of God's world in light of Scripture and to explore the boundless diversity of created reality?"

Paul Otto, Associate Professor of History, says, "Another concern that people have with the policy is that if it's designed to maintain the mission of the college, and supposedly it is, to maintain the college's identity as a reformed institution, then it may not succeed because there are questions about how reformed the Christian Reformed Church is." He used as a reference that fact said done by Calvin College and the members of the Christian Reformed Church. "I don't remember the figures, but there was a pretty sizable number of students that didn't even define themselves as reformed." Otto continued, "So if the college is saying that faculty need to be members of a Christian Reformed Church to make sure they are supporting the mission of the college, that doesn't necessarily follow."

Professor of Communication, Charles Veestra says, "There are some good reasons why the college, I think, has this policy. And that is to make sure that we have the same creedal or same confessions, that we hold up the same confessions." He also says, "If I say I believe in the Heidelberg Catechism and I accept the Belgic Confession, and so on, the Canons of Dort, that gives a pretty clear view of where my theology is and what is the perspective or belief system certainly influences the rest of what I do."

There are professors that feel the policy is affecting the amount of people filling out applications to work at Dort. Syd Hielem, Assistant Professor of Theology, is one of those professors. "I know the college believes that central to keeping its vision is who it hires to teach at Dort. And so they are very careful with that," he says. "And a concern I have is that a policy may place limits on who can be hired. For example, that someone may turn down a position here because of the requirement. I'm a little worried about that, that the college may be limiting its pool of potential candidates by having that policy."

"A reformational worldview frees one to drink, taste, chew and inhale all the richness of God's world in light of Scripture..." -Ethan Brue

Associate Professor of Agriculture, Robb De Han, brought up the factor of God's calling. "I'm not sure it's wise because what you're doing is, from a philosophically point of view, people are called to teach at Dort. They are simultaneously called to be a member of a Christian Reformed Church in this community. They aren't called to be a member of any other denomination or church in the community?" he asked. "I think that, philosophically, in terms of calling, you have a very difficult time making that connection and saying it has to be that way. I don't think it does." He also asks, "Or they also really felt called to be a part of the Evangelical Free church in town. They thought they could use their gifts there. There was a need for them, so there's a dilemma, right?" he asked. "So what you're doing is saying, 'Well, if you're called to Dort, you're not called to a whole bunch of other possible church memberships in the area. So they're kind of exclusive in that way.'

Brue puts it this way, "Clearly, one's membership in the CRC does not ensure that a person will teach in harmony with the educational task and framework of Dort. However, let me suggest that if one is 'thoroughly reformed' two things will be true. First, the 'thoroughly reformed' person will maintain a Kuyperian vision (reformation in every corner of the cosmos), a vision that will take precedence over denominational differences. Such a person will recognize that 'reformational living' crosses denominational boundaries. The second point is, 'the thoroughly reformed' person will embrace the dynamic motif of the reformational worldview; to be reformed is to be always reforming.' He then says, "I feel that those who are reformed in this sense will have no problem joining the CRC, even if they are from a different church background. We need divergent viewpoints in our pew's. Within the context of a loving dialogue, it is an essential ingredient for a healthy church body."

"...it's possible to be reformed without being part of the CRC." -Ken Petersen

There are more and more faculty coming to this institution, not just faculty, but probably administrative staff too that don't necessarily have a history in the CRC, but which do have a commitment to what we call a reformed perspective," says Professor of Environmental Studies Ken Petersen. "In other words, it's possible to be reformed without being part of the CRC. And I think we're seeing that a lot of people view the policy that represents membership in the CRC as too narrow and restrictive and confining for the college and feel that the college would be better served by saying that we are reformed." Petersen continues, "We have a rich history in the CRC, which we are proud of and want to celebrate. But we also recognize that we can be godly, committed people here that are and can be thoroughly reformed but don't necessarily belong to the CRC. I think that would be healthy for the institution."

Even though the board decided not to reopen the policy for discussion, some professors feel that is the appropriate course of action. Petersen says, "I don't think any rash decisions ought to be made to change it. But I think there ought to be a very free and frank discussion within the Dort community, staff, faculty, board, about the policy. To evaluate its pros and cons and how it has developed, whether it is doing what it should do today, maybe even deciding what it should do. I really think if nothing else there ought to be a discussion."

Policy Timeline
1955-Dordt College is founded with strong support from the Christian Reformed Church.
1969-The board of trustees passes a policy on church membership for faculty.
The policy-The board of trustees has determined that all full-time tenured faculty members are expected to demonstrate their commitment to the mission of the college by affiliating with one of the Christian Reformed congregations which actively supports the mission of Dordt College.

Faculty Stats - unavailable
Board of Trustees Stats (2001)
-30 members

-3 members non-CRC from the Reformed Church of the United States, the Orthodox Presbyterian Church and the United Reformed Church.

-68.1% (95%) of students are from the Christian Reformed Church.
-17.5% (244) of students are from a reformed background
-14.5% (202) of students are from a non-reformed background

Board Review of the Policy
Information taken from a letter written by Ronald Schap to the faculty and staff of Dordt College.

Ronald Schap, chair of the board, appointed an Ad Hoc committee. He gave the committee a mandate to discern whether sufficient reasons exist to reexamine Dordt College's policy regarding whether it would be appropriate to reopen the discussion regarding church membership for faculty and staff.

Input was solicited from the entire college community. Written responses were received from seven trustees and 25 college employees. Interviews were also held with the faculty officers and selected administrators.

A majority of all written responses and interviews and a summary of both pros and cons of the issue was completed.

The committee reviewed information on church membership standards of other Christian colleges.

The committee reviewed articles and books which addressed the question of the relationship between a college and a church and the long-term importance of these relationships.

The Ad Hoc committee recommended to the board that they not reexamine the policy.

After a lengthy discussion, which included both sides of the issue, the board voted to go along with the recommendation of the Ad Hoc committee to not reexamine the policy. It was felt that the current policy has served and continues to serve Dordt College well in its educational mission and its relationship with its supporting faith community.
PHIL POSTMA

NATS a learning experience

Twelve Dordt vocalists, six accompanists and two vocal instructors traveled to Cedar Rapids, Iowa on the first weekend in November to participate in the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) competition. The trip was a beneficial experience for all the participants, especially seniors Tricia Van Ee and Rochelle (Van Ry) Senti, who received second place and an honorable mention in their division, respectively.

The yearly competition was different this year for two reasons. First, it was a regional competition, which includes students from surrounding states in addition to students from Iowa.

Second, the NATS association brought in an expert vocal coach to conduct a master class at which students could learn some unique, insightful tips on technique and interpretation. This demonstration enhanced the learning atmosphere of the event.

Mrs. Deb Vogel, who teaches voice at Dordt, says this year, as always, the trip was a valuable experience for the students. “The beneficial thing is that [the students] see what is going on in the entire state,” she said. The exposure provided them with a “quick indoctrination into the world of singing.”

In the competition, all participants sing in the first round of their division, which is determined by gender and academic year. About half those students advance to a second round, and only three students in each division sing in the final round, after which first, second and third places are announced.

Van Ee had the opportunity to sing before hundreds of musicians and instructors, a task that made her nervous but did not overwhelm her. “I’d gotten where I wanted to be,” she said, “Making finals was my goal for my senior year.” However, that confidence did not get the best of her. “At the same time, I realized there were going to be a lot of great singers there,” she said.

Senti’s experience was much the same, according to Van Ee. “We both felt good about our second round,” Van Ee said.

Vogel said that this year’s successes at NATS were a booster for the opera “Martha” by Frederick von Flotow. A set of French songs and an aria, duet, and recitative from “Bastien and Bastienne,” an operetta Mozart composed when he was 12 years old, Senior Rochelle Senti, a soprano, joins Postma on this lighthearted, humorous scene about two shepherds who fall in love.

Postma says he is nervous as the day creeps nearer, but he feels more confident with Mrs. De Haan’s support and advice, as well as the other performers’ talent. “In my experience, being nervous is an indicator that there is a good performance on the way,” said Postma.

Jennifer Berkomage
Staff Writer

The PLIA club will be holding its first mass meeting on Monday, November 19, at 10 p.m. in C160. Anyone who is interested in doing or leading a spring break service project should attend.

For the past 20 years, Dordt students involved with PLIA have used their spring breaks to travel to different areas of the United States and serve their Christian brothers and sisters. The first mission team went to Cary, Mississippi in 1982. Now, PLIA takes Dordt students all over the United States. There are PLIA service sites in California, Colorado, Mississippi, New York, Georgia, Alabama, New Mexico, Tennessee, Kentucky, New Jersey, Ohio and Illinois. The culture that PLIA teams work with include inner city, Southern African-American, Native American and Latino. Teams usually perform minor construction, plumbing, painting and house repair besides tutoring underprivileged kids and serving people in homeless shelters.

The PLIA planning committee has 18 sites from last year. “We are hoping to have enough support this year to bring the total number of sites up to 10 or 20,” says committee co-chair Anthony Drost.

Students who go on PLIA service projects go to serve other people, but they often come back feeling that they have been served. The challenge, according to PLIA’s mission statement, is to grow as servants through cross-cultural communities while they are being encouraged to put love into action.

“Do something with your Spring Break that can make a difference,” said Pastor Drayer. “You have an opportunity to use 10 days to get to know some other people, to see a different culture perhaps. You have a chance to grow. If you’re not ready for that, don’t go. If you want a challenge, I dare you!”

For more information, visit PLIA’s website at http://homepages.dordt.edu/PLIA or email PLIA at plia@dordt.edu.

The Diamond is on the web!
Check out our brand new website at:
http://homepages.dordt.edu/diamond
You will find staff biographies, a link to our Blackboard discussion board, and a welcome from the editor.
Are Dordt Profs Failing Us?

Dear Editor,

Right now I am in the final stages of my "preparatory period." After college, I will be making my own life decisions; I will be out in a work-world living my Christian calling. The really frightening thing is how little my college career right now is preparing me to do that. A collective gasp goes through the Dordt crowd. Believe it; Dordt College is only 8 days, 8 out of 10 credit hours.

Dordt's mission statement includes showing us how to live as Christians in every aspect of life. I hear connections made every day--"This subject can model Christianity this way..." talk your calling captive to your faith..." Excuse me, but blah, blah, blah. Talk is cheap. Come find me when you know what's real.

The professors simply don't care enough to show me what it means to be an active Christian. Do our professors want to be teaching? Because if they don't, it's time they quit. I want to tell them every day, "You need to quit telling me that 'students don't want to learn or be challenged.' Quit telling me that you're trying to guard against half-hearted study. Quit telling me that you've set up your grading system with those variables in mind and that's just the way it is." I am not most students. I'm not afraid to be challenged. I am not half-hearted, and I AM NOT LEARNING FROM YOU.

Of course, that would put me in the minority. And if I were, I would be disrespectful, right? But they are being disrespectful to me as an image-bearer and a student every day. What protection do I have against that?

"Every student deserves to feel like every faculty member at Dordt cares very deeply for their growth as an image-bearer and a student."

Almost every prof tells me that he/she wants me to evaluate what I know and expand my horizons, but what they really mean is that they intend to present me with a lot of information that I may not agree with, and I need to be able to spit back on poorly written exams because they don't want to put the time in to evaluate or rewrite the testing apparatus. Honestly, if you (professors) don't intend to give me an opportunity to evaluate my learning and growth, don't put it on your syllabus.

If you don't love teaching, if you don't love me, quit now because you will not teach anything, and you will probably never change the way they deal with me; I want more.

Every student deserves to feel like every faculty member at Dordt cares very deeply for their growth as an image-bearer and a student.

Take a break from technology

Mich Beaumont

Every morning when I wake up, I stumble out of bed and turn off my alarm clock. Then I wander through the kitchen of my apartment and walk to the bathroom to put my contacts in. After being able to see again, I go back to the kitchen to make a pot of coffee to start my day. As the coffee is brewing, I start going through the clothes I put in my bag and pack my bag for the day so I am not sitting in class or on the couch looking at my backpack I sling over my shoulder. I'm going to graduate from college in six months. As the coffee is already being brewed, I start thinking about what I need to do in order to get ready to graduate.

Almost every professor tells me that they want me to evaluate what I know and expand my horizons, but I know that they really mean that they intend to present me with a lot of information that I may not agree with, and I need to be able to spit back on poorly written exams because they don't want to put the time in to evaluate or rewrite the testing apparatus. Honestly, if you (professors) don't intend to give me an opportunity to evaluate my learning and growth, don't put it on your syllabus.

If you don't love teaching, if you don't love me, quit now because you will not teach anything, and you will probably never change the way they deal with me; I want more.

Granted, the relationships between TV and lack of family disease and the Internet and lack of face-to-face communication are not necessarily causal, but any communication expert can tell that each technological development has played a part in the change from one communication climate to the next.

"Take a break from technology. Develops or advances in any way, shape, or form, society changes too."

I encourage you to do this not because technology is inherently bad, but because it is not. Rather I want to see our campus become a communicatively competent campus in which the students, faculty and staff talk instead of e-mail each other and write notes of appreciation instead of sending an impersonal e-card.

What I'm proposing is simple and does not even have to happen all day or even more than a day at a time. Live without as many technological developments as you can. Except for the essentials, like an alarm clock, etc., walk to class instead of riding your bike, write a letter instead of an e-mail, even if it costs you 34 cents instead of nothing to send it.

Take the day off

Join the discussion board on Dordt's Campus at http://courses.dordt.edu

If you are not a current user, use the LOGIN: diamond PASSW: dordt_diamond

If you would like to become a current user, email Mich Beaumont at mitchbmnnt@dordt.edu
Schaap hosts book signings

November 15, 2001

Ben Groenewold
Staff Writer

James Schaap, Dordt's inveterate author, has just published two more books and has a third coming out shortly. On top of that, Schaap will be doing two book signings, one in the Sioux Center Mall at 7:30 pm on Nov. 17 and one right here in the SUB at 8:30 pm on Nov. 19 where he'll be reading from one of the new books.

"I write best about what is closest to home," Schaap said of Paternity. And so it is: while focusing on familiar, almost everyday situations, these works deal in subtle power with the quiet and not so quiet frictions of life in the family. Every Bit of Who I Am also comes from topics close to home. Several different circumstances, including a back surgery, tutoring a high school student on the Hiedelberg Catechism, and being cornered in an elevator by an enthusiastic fan, all came together to almost inspire him to write the devotional. There was a deeper motive as well, though. Especially after September 11, as we are seeing the tremendous power of emotional commitment can give, there is a growing tendency to neglect a serious thoughtfulness toward what we believe and simply focus on feeling God's presence. Schaap seeks to combat this trend by leading teens back to the deeply meaningful Heidelberg Catechism.

Schaap also deals with similar dangers an in upcoming book called Things Hoped For, Things Not Seen. It is a new sort of work for Schaap, and he is more than a little enthused about it. "I like to try different things," he reflects, and if a historical novel about the Ghost Dancers to be published serially (starting January) in the Banner doesn't fill that description, nothing will.

The Ghost Dance phenomenon swept much of the South Dakotan tribal population in the 1890s and brought about healings, trances, visions from God and, perhaps, a massacre. Despite the more exotic setting, the issues Schaap explores in the story still cut close to home. Do we allow the same sort of emotionalism to rule our own lives? And where do we draw the line between enough and too much? Schaap's stories and devotionals provoke us to once again question and explore what's closest to home of all: our own lives.

It is a new sort of work for Schaap, and he is more than a little enthused about it. "I like to try different things," he reflects, and if a historical novel about the Ghost Dancers to be published serially (starting January) in the Banner doesn't fill that description, nothing will.

Every Bit of Who I Am from one of the new books.

Dr. Lorna Van Gilst
E-mail: Igilst@dordt.edu
(712) 722-6252 or
Dr. Ken Bussema.
Dir. of Off-campus Program

East Hall visits nursing home

Jen Hoogerhyde
Staff Writer

Approximately twenty East Hall women visited residents of the Sioux Center Community Hospital and Health Center Nursing Facility on Saturday, November 2.

Andrea Pausma, Community Advisor of East Hall, says that the purpose of the service trip, "was to provide an opportunity for people on campus to get into the community." The women spent time playing checkers, talking and playing piano with the residents. Pausma said that most of the elderly people appreciated having youthful faces around and spending time with the group. But they weren't the only ones that were rewarded. "(The girls) all walked away with a different perspective on that generation. I think they enjoyed going," Pausma said.

Kerri Ovinge was among the group of students that went on the outing. Besides getting a break from campus, Ovinge decided to participate because she likes visiting with older people. She helped an elderly woman beginning to go blind make some phone calls and then played Rummikub with a group of elderly ladies. "It makes them so happy to talk with people," she says.

Diana Hoogerhyde also participated. She was excited to get away from the self-centeredness that studies and college life can bring at times. "I felt I needed to concentrate on others' needs," Hoogerhyde also played Rummikub and talked with an elderly couple. She was glad she got a chance "to be able to brighten someone's day. It can be pretty monotonous in nursing homes. The people need a break from their normal routines."

Although there are Dordt students that sing at this nursing home on Sundays, this is the first time East Hall has visited a nursing home. Pausma hopes to do this again. She also noted that this activity is going to be open to any students on campus. If anyone is interested in visiting the nursing home call the activity coordinator of the Sioux Center Community Hospital and Health Center Nursing Facility at 722-1271.

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Shrek shines at the box office

Josh Bowar
Staff Writer

It has the ingredients for the classic love and adventure story: a princess, a villain, a hero and his trusty "steed." Mix them together, and you have an epic. But "Shrek" doesn't quite fit the mold of what you would expect an animated story to be. This one takes the cake. It has even been characterized as the greatest story never told.

The film starts by depicting the harsh and grass green monster named Shrek, who lives in a swamp all by himself. But when Lord Farquaad decides that all the fantasy creatures of the land must be captured and sent to Shrek's abode, he is no longer in solitude, and this angers the ogre.

He goes on a quest to Lord Farquaad's castle to reclaim his home and is joined by a hilarious, sharp-witted donkey aptly named Donkey. Upon his arrival, he finds himself in the middle of a competition of sorts. He succeeds against his competitors only to find that the event was held to see who would have the "privilege" of rescuing Princess Fiona from her dragon-protected holding place.

Shrek must go on the journey and rescue the princess in order to regain control of his swamp. With the help of Donkey, he sets out to fulfill the task. Hilarious happenings and sharp, witty dialogue are the hallmarks of this film.

During the movie, Shrek goes through a transformation, one in which he becomes a gentler, more kind and more considerate ogre. He finds someone he loves and almost changes his view on life. Even Donkey finds someone to love, a being that definitely "fuels his fire."

But will Shrek stay with his loved one? Will he rescue the princess and regain his swamp? I suggest watching the film to find out.

The film has an appropriate PG rating, and besides, much of the humor in the film is geared toward an older crowd.

Scatterglass rocks

Rose Vander Wal
Guest Writer

Joining a long list of Dordt musical talent is the band Scatterglass with members Matt Van Rys, Eric Haan, Josh Vander Plaats and the Krygsman brothers, Brian and Paul.

This talented local group started right here in Sioux Center about five years ago when the Krygsman brothers got drum and guitar sets. Before long Van Rys and Haan joined them and for several years the quartet taught themselves the basics in the Krygsman's basement. But they were missing one thing—a singer. Two years ago, the group invited Vander Plaats to sing with them.

The group has found that deciding on a name for their band has been one of the most difficult tasks. They have changed names several times and expect that they might change again in the future. Van Rys commented, "Try to remember the people in the band, not our names, because it may change again. Our search goes on to find a name with guts and meaning that we can all agree on."

Whatever their name, the five members will continue playing their music with Brian Krygsman on drums and Paul Krygsman and Haan on electric guitar. Vander Plaats takes care of vocals, and Van Rys plays bass. Paul Krygsman writes most of the group's songs, but the other band members contribute too.

Van Rys and Haan both agree that their music could be classified as rock, even heavy metal. The group loves what they do and do not attempt to put a particular message within their music. "I don't think that we have any overt message to portray. We just love to create and play music. If the fans like it, that's great too," said Van Rys.

According to Haan, the group's purpose is to offer rock music to the masses. "Rock has been given a really bad rap because of bands that take their lack of morals on stage. We are Christians who are in a band, but not a Christian band," Haan explained.

Some bands that have really influenced Scatterglass are Creed, Deftones, Metallica and Tool. Haan commented that he has been influenced by the now extinct group Reality Check.

The group has performed several times locally in the past few years. They appeared at their high school (Unity Christian in Orange City) as well as at Dordt's freshman talent show. Last year they participated in Pizza Ranch's first Battle of the Bands and in Dordt's Cornstalk.

This year they appeared with fellow Dordt band Different at the West Hall Mess Hall event. The members of the band would like to thank Different for appearing with them. "They are a great bunch of guys and a great band to play with," Van Rys said.

The group plans to continue playing locally at future Battle of the Bands and Cornstalk events, and they are looking into recording a CD in the future. Scatterglass continues to write and practice their music as well as search for the perfect name. They encourage people at Dordt to watch for them as they continue their journey.
Dordt's men's club volleyball team is climbing in popularity as senior Kevin Kingma is striving to life once again. The club has been in existence for many years, but has never been a presence... until this year.

Dordt's club team this year consists of up to eighteen men. The team even has its own uniforms this year—black T-shirts with each player's name and number, and "Dordt College Club Volleyball" around a volleyball on the front. There are seven or more seniors that play, depending on the night, with many more underclassmen, mostly juniors and sophomores.

The team usually practices once a week, and twice the week before a tournament. Twelve to eighteen men of various skills attend the practices.

The team played a few games last year, one at Northwestern and one on home turf, also against Northwestern. They won on Northwestern's home court, but lost to Northwestern in the final game.

Above: Brian Koelwyn of the club volleyball team spikes as teammate Nick Hoekman looks on.

Blades welcome new coach
Jacques Schooby
Assistant Sports Editor
The 2001-02 Dordt Blades are sporting several new faces this year, but one face really stands out. Herr Van Niejenhuis has joined the team as the head coach. "Well, they call me the coach," he said. "I just try and help out."

Van Niejenhuis, who is also pastor of Covenant Christian Reformed Church here in Sioux Center, took the position after a few members of the team approached him about it during the summer. Originally from Ontario, Canada, Van Niejenhuis feels he has a good grasp of the game. "I've been playing hockey all my life," he says. Before college, he played in church leagues, and while attending Dordt he played for the Blades. After school, Van Niejenhuis continued to play in pick-up games around his community.

Van Niejenhuis moved to Sioux Center from Toronto a year and a half ago to take the pastor's position at Covenant. "It was a big change," he said, "but I was attracted to a college town. I felt it was an opportunity to get a bigger world in a smaller town."

As for his duties as a coach, Van Niejenhuis loves them. "I enjoy the game, I know the game, and I love the free spirit of the players," he says. "I love haring out with the players. But ultimately I bring in the idea that it ought to be fun. It is still just a game."

The Blades opened the season 4-2 prior to last weekend's home games. Van Niejenhuis attributes this team's success mainly to improved defense, both in front of and around the goal. "We have a very good goal tender and solid defense, which frees up our forwards," he says. "It's a good balance." Van Niejenhuis also points to a high level of confidence as a helpful factor.

The Blades closed out the semester with two road series against SDSU and Iowa State sandwiched around one more home stand.

Braves send seasons with honor
Jason Mulder
Staff Writer
Dordt men's soccer finished the season with an overall record of 10-9-0 (GPAC: 3-5-0), improving from last year's 2-14 overall record.

Six players were accorded Great Plains Athletic Conference honors. John Hansen, a senior midfielder, was named to the first team after leading the Defenders with 15 assists. Junior Travis Burgers and senior Ben Bieri earned second team honors. Burgers, led in goals scored for the Defenders with 18, while Bieri scored 16 goals for the Defenders. Beau Bosma, Eric Segar and Nick Wissink all were given honorable mention honors.

Women's soccer finished 10-10-0 overall (GPAC: 6-3-0). Five ladies were accorded GPAC honors. Heading the honors was senior midfield, responsible for 6 goals and 5 assists. Sophomore Janna Brink, and seniors Liz Dykstra and Karen Veenema were all named to the second team. Brink was honored after scoring 9 goals and co-leading in assists with 11. Liz Dykstra contributed 12 goals and 6 assists while Karen Veenema, a defensive player, added 3 goals and 2 assists.

The Defenders were eliminated in the semifinal round of the GPAC post season tournament by eventual champion, Dana.

Men's and women's cross country concluded their season at the regional finals, with the men placing 7th and the women 8th out of 21 teams.

Statistics

BASKETBALL

MEN'S (2-1)
11/2/01 S. Dak. Tech. W (90-82)
Shawn De Stigter (20)
Evon Biemers (15)
Eric Mais (15)
Kyle Van Arendonk (13)

11/3/01 Black Hills St. L (73-81)
Kyle Van Arendonk (15)
Jeff Van Steeg (12)
Ryan Doyoma (11)

Women's (7-6)
11/6/01 Dakota St. L (75-63)
Kyle Van Arendonk (15)
Nick Thome (12)
Ryan Doyoma (11)

Goals: Ben Bieri
Kyle Van Andel
Travis Burgers

HOKEY
11/6/01 Northern State Univ.
W (6-3)

11/3/01 Northern State Univ.
L (2-6)

VOLLEYBALL
11/7/01 Dakota St.
L (90-50)

11/10/01 Hastings L (3-6)

11/10/01 Doane
GPAC Semifinals 11/10/01
W (3-1)

Northwestern GPAC Finals W (3-1)

CROSS COUNTRY
11/15/01 Regional Finals

MEN:
7th of 10 Dordt 127

10/31/01 Briar Cliff Univ.
W (3-0)

32. Dan Van Engen 28:35

35. Stefan Petersen 28:41
Earth Watch

Melissa West
Guest Writer

When you think of environmentalists, likely extremist "tree-huggers" come to mind—people who would urge a starving nation to become vegetarian so that the chickens might run free.

Give yourself over to the cause and you too may find yourself plastered with a banner that reads, "Human beings, as a species, have no more value than slugs." (quote from John Davis, editor of Earth First!

And yet both slugs and humans were created by God. I would argue that both have a value far exceeding that implied by our editor friend.

Each person is created in the image of God. We have worth because we are loved by God.

How do we know He loves us?

"God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8)

But what about the lowly slug? How do we know God cares about him?

"If we know that He died for us,...a day dedicated to world peace." America is now involved in yet another war. How quickly we forget.

There is an oft-repeated saying that those who don't remember the past are doomed to repeat it. This is readily evident in today's culture. Recently the History Channel interviewed people on the street for a show about Adolf Hitler. They asked people if the events of Nazi Germany would or could ever be repeated. An American, a Frenchman, and an Englishman said, "No," It was impossible in their respective countries. Could a repeat of the genocide that took place in Nazi Germany or Stalinist Russia be possible?

The answer is yes. Austrian economist Ludwig von Mises writes that the political program of Nazi Germany is not much different from the programs of socialism and nationalism which are prevalent in today's society. He writes that Nazism was the fusion of these two ideologies. Von Mises said the Nazis wanted to control the economy through socialism and forcibly expand their borders and way of life through nationalism.

Both of these ideologies are found in different aspects of American political thought. Socialism is alive and well in America. When Bill Clinton came to the Presidency he fought to nationalize healthcare. There have been calls to renationalize the airlines. Government controls retirement and unemployment in the forms of social security and welfare respectively. There has also been a rise in nationalism. When terrorists struck America, it wasn't good enough to just call for the capture of Osama bin Laden and bring him to justice; America was also to replace the Afghan government with one more to their liking. Former President Bush tried this same tactic in Somalia.

We can see that there are more roots of nationalism and socialism in America as well as many other countries. Ludwig von Mises warns, "as long as the ideology of socialism and nationalism is supreme in the world's public opinion, the Germans or other peoples will try again to succeed by aggression and conquest..." If the past is to be avoided it must begin with the individual's rejection of such destructive ideologies as socialism and nationalism.

Therefore we must never forget the lessons of our past. The war to end all wars, as World War I was referred too, didn't. Less than 20 years after the Armistice had been signed, Germany invaded Poland, marking the beginning of World War II. We must always remember where we came from and how we got to where we are. If we want to avoid the mistakes of the past we must know why the mistakes of the past happened. Veteran's Day and Memorial Day will mean nothing if we forget...

Contemporary political opinion

Peter Anderson
Staff Writer

This past Sunday was Veteran's Day. November 11, 1919 marked the end of World War I. Veteran's Day was originally called Armistice Day, commemorating the treaty that ended the war. When former President Eisenhower made Veteran's Day a national holiday in 1954, he set it aside as a day "to honor veterans, a day dedicated to world peace." America is now involved in yet another war. How quickly we forget.

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