Members of the Northwest Iowa Symphony Orchestra rehearse for their fall concerts.

**NISO concert to feature senior**

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**Kim Lucier**  
*Staff Writer*

The Northwest Iowa Symphony Orchestra will appear at Dordt College’s B.J. Haan Auditorium on Tuesday, November 13 to present an afternoon Concert for Children and a full concert at 7:30 p.m. The theme of this first of four concerts scheduled for the season is Rivers, Horses and Other Surprises.

Featured soloists are pianist Grace Kim and violinist Erika Van Den Hul. Kim attends The Juilliard School in New York, while Van Den Hul is a senior at Dordt. They both performed solos with NISO in past 16 seasons.

The 90-member orchestra is comprised of some of the most superb musicians throughout northwest Iowa and southeast South Dakota. Adults and gifted students from area junior high schools, high schools and colleges are part of the orchestra. Dordt Professor of Music Henry Duitman has directed the orchestra for the past 16 seasons.

“I think it is a wonderful opportunity for our [Dordt] students to play in a full-size symphony orchestra, especially at a small college,” says Duitman. “It is also one of the only opportunities for talent attending the Concert for Children will participate in an art contest. The students will draw or paint scenes that will accompany the music of The Moldau by Smetana. The scenes of the music reflect the natural beauty of this Czechoslovakian river.

Dordt students will judge the art contest, organized by Professor Joanne Alberda. Tickets valued at up to $105 will be distributed to the winning schools. The top entries will be shown as slides during the afternoon and evening concerts.

Season tickets are obtainable for all four concerts. Tickets may be ordered online at http://niso.dordt.edu, through e-mail at niso@dordt.edu or by calling 712-722-6230. If available, they may also be purchased at the door.

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**Steve Kloosterman**  
*Staff Writer*

The committee has deliberated and the verdict is in. Dordt College has been approved for further accreditation for ten more years by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.

Accreditation is evidence that a college has met the standards of quality set by the accreditation agency. Without accreditation, Dordt students would not have access to Federal financial aid and might not be accepted into graduate schools. The North Central Association of Colleges and Schools requires that an institution must re-apply for accreditation every ten years. A college is accredited based on the following:

- clear and publicly stated purposes consistent with its mission and appropriate to an institution of higher education;
- effectively organized human, financial, and physical resources necessary to accomplish its purposes;
- accomplishment of its educational task and other purposes;
- continued accomplishment of its purposes and strengthen its educational effectiveness;
- integrity demonstrated in its practices and relationships.

To apply for accreditation, Dordt first conducted a self-study of how it met the above criteria and submitted a report to the NCA. A team of evaluators visited Dordt on Monday, Oct. 22, through September 9, 2001. The team, made up of full-time faculty members of other colleges, gathered information from Dordt and will identify areas of potential improvement for Dordt. A formal report and the evaluation team report will be considered by the reader’s panel, which will meet with Dordt representatives to discuss issues brought up by the evaluators and to give Dordt an opportunity to correct or contest the evaluator’s findings.

Last, the self-study report of the institution, the recommendations of the evaluators and the reader’s committee are considered by the NCA Commission.

The NCA team that visited campus will be making an extensive report that will outline areas of potential improvement for Dordt. A formal confirmation is still months away.

“We’re excited we’re getting this done; we’ve been planning it since February 1999,” said Taylor.
Mitch Beaumont
Editor

Computer Services officials are expressing dismay over the extent of file sharing on campus. Director of Computer Services Brian Van Donseelaar recently made a presentation to the Student Forum about the number of students who are using file-sharing services on their individual computers.

At the meeting, Van Donseelaar said that 6 percent of Dordt's available bandwidth was used by students taking advantage of these services. "When I say file sharing programs, I'm talking about what's referred to in the industry as peer-to-peer file sharing programs," says Van Donseelaar. "Basically, what that means is the exchange of information between two computers. There are a number of file sharing services available. Last academic year, we had about 1,500 people using Napster. Since then, programs such as Morpheus have taken the place of Napster. These file sharing programs distribute copyrighted music files, like Napster did before it was shut down, as well as videos, pictures, and even pirated software. I've heard of a couple of cases on Dordt's campus, Windows XP, the newest version of Windows," says Van Donseelaar. "It was just released [October 25], but there were students on Dordt's campus who had pirated that software and installed it on their computers before October 25, and they used programs like Morpheus to do it."

After his meeting with Student Forum, Van Donseelaar has been gathering some preliminary numbers as to the extent of this problem on campus. After calculating the data, Van Donseelaar says that 252 students regularly use these file sharing services, which adds up to about 15 percent of the student body.

"Student President Andy Vroom says that they have formed a subcommittee to determine the best way to address the issue, but no action has been taken yet. Van Donseelaar says he became concerned when he began reading about law enforcement organizations that have raided a number of institutions, instituted fines and even confiscated equipment. He says these organizations, should they suspect that Dordt students were illegally using these file sharing programs, would go to court with search warrants, and the students using these programs would stand the chance of being prosecuted. He says that students could even face jail time for giving pirated data to other students.

Student Forum has proposed several ways of addressing this problem, but President Andy Vroom says they are waiting for Van Donseelaar's preliminary data to decide whether or not to act. They have suggested putting up posters, creating focus groups, and asking the Residence Life staff to periodically speak with their residents about this issue.

Van Donseelaar says the main goal right now is to raise awareness. "There's a lot of legitimate music that's shared via these services, so there's no question there are good uses for these services," says Van Donseelaar. "It can be an appropriate use of technology, but I'm concerned that it's not being used for innocent sharing of non-copyrighted material."

What if you're caught with pirated material?
You could receive a fine. Your computer could be confiscated. You could go to jail.

Positive Airwaves sponsors music discussion

Corrections are necessary for the following:

- The word "Derdth College" should be corrected to "Dordt College".
- The name of the music director at KDCR, at a recent campus discussion, needs to be corrected. The name is Kornelis, Associate Professor of Music, Howard Gorter, president and co-founder of Positive Airwaves, and Jim Bolkema, Music Director at KDCR, at a recent campus discussion. The discussion began with a definition from each panel member of both Christian and secular music. Bolkema called the issue a dilemma because one cannot draw a distinctive line. He said listeners have to think about the music as being a good or a bad thing, and what God's call is to the artist. Obedient music, he said, includes a broad spectrum from every genre, and we should be concerned with music that is unfaithful to the Bible and God's standards.

Kornelis said that from a genre perspective, Christian music is defined by students as music that has Christian lyrics, music by bands that lead a godly lifestyle, or music by groups that are produced under Christian labels. But Kornelis says that Christian music is not the music, but the lyrics. He says if you extract the lyrics, there is nothing musically Christian or unChristian about any music.

Gorter encouraged the audience to look for bands under record labels that have biblical standards, but also said that just because it is Christian music does not make it good music.

"If you extract the lyrics, there is nothing musically Christian or unChristian about any music."

- Dr. Ben Kornelis

Kornelis said, "the burden is on each of us to put up filters and decide what is appropriate for me in this time in my life." He referred to Romans 14:11-12, "Every knee will bow before me, every tongue will confess to God." Romans 14:13 says that we may not cause our neighbor to stumble. Therefore, he said, if students are blaring music in their dorm rooms that may cause their neighbors to stumble; they need to exercise better restraint. Music has power and it can influence, but music cannot be blamed for causing people to sin. He said music can be "used as a nutrient for seeds already growing."

Bolkema said that at KDCR they reject as much music as they accept. They avoid "music that is lyrically trite, or music that refers to God in the same way as a boyfriend or girlfriend. These kinds of lyrics, he says, appeal to a broad audience, but please nobody at the same time. About songs that proclaim, "God is waiting for you," Bolkema said that they imply that God is trapped until we make a decision, which is a trite view of how our salvation happens. He is looking for music that speaks to real and important issues that face the listeners, even if they do not use the name of God. Bolkema said that music is entertainment media, and it is market driven. Artists are told by the record companies what they must sound like, and are thus limited. But, Bolkema said, some bands are definitely better than others, and some good songs appear on the same album as those that are not so appealing. He said we need to learn how to throw out the groups or songs that do not stand out.

Kornelis said popular music is meant to wear out to sell the next one. He said this is not a bad thing, but popular music cannot hold as high standards as classical music. He gave the example that we do not sit around waiting for Mozart's newest, but that his music is timeless. He also gave an analogy saying that popular music is similar to classical as the Happy Meal is to a gourmet dinner, but then decided that was not a very good analogy. Even if a group is not Christian, the group is still under common grace, and God can do something amazing through them.

- Dr. Ben Kornelis

One student said that Christian music "brings him down." He said he knows that there is Christian music that fits his style, but the performers sing like they are always happy. He said they are not dealing with real life issues. Secular music tells what is going on, he said. Christian music does not give any perspective.

Kornelis said that even if a group is not Christian, that group is still under common grace, and God can do something amazing through them. The question was asked if supporting a secular band means supporting a secular lifestyle. Kornelis then asked if we buy literature by authors such as Hemingway even though it is secular literature. He said that the listener needs to revel in the creative structure. "It may not be to glorify God, but we can praise God for their giftedness."

The Diamond is published by students of Dordt College to present and discuss events on campus and beyond. Any letters, comments, or opinions are welcome. Contributions must be received before 5:00 p.m. Monday before the publication to be printed in that issue. Send contributions to The Diamond, Dordt College, Sioux Center, IA 51250.

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**Hug-a-Linguist coming**

**Bethany Fopma**

**Staff Writer**

Dordt students will have a special opportunity to learn about the work of the Wycliffe Bible translators during Hug-A-Linguist Days, November 5-7. Wycliffe sends trained workers out to all areas of the world to learn an unknown language and then translate the Bible into that tongue. There are currently 3,000 languages that have not been translated, and Wycliffe hopes to reach these people with God’s Word. However, many people in these countries are illiterate, so representatives from Wycliffe must first teach native basic literacy skills. “There’s no use in giving these people a Bible if they can’t read it,” says Corrine Huisman, Assistant Professor of Foreign Language.

Representatives from Wycliffe will be sharing their experiences with Dordt students and will be focusing on the importance of literacy and the use of computers in the mission field. Jim Leamer, an expert in computer science in mission work, will be leading a session. Dave and Cindy Lux, who spent time in Cameroon, Africa, doing Bible translation work, will also be speaking. Of special interest will be a presentation by Jonathan Vander Waal, a Dordt graduate who will be speaking on his preparation to do Wycliffe translation.

“We hope these days will help students get a better understanding of other languages and cultures by witnessing to people with first-hand experience,” says Huisman.

In addition to the speakers, the film “The Harvest” will be shown Monday evening, November 5, in C160. Posters will be placed around campus with more specific details regarding time and place of the sessions. All foreign-language students are required to attend Hug-A-Linguist Days, but all Dordt students are welcome to attend.

**Seerveld lectures on ugly art**

**Ben Groenewold**

**Staff Writer**

Calvin Seerveld opened the wonders of the ugly in the world of art for the Dordt community on Tuesday. Seerveld opened with the question, “What would it mean [in contrast to seeing beauty as art’s keystone] to say that being allusive is the norm for art?”

Allusivity (or playfulness and lucidity), he said, was the essence of the aesthetic. Art is not content to lob us easy pitches, but throws us curveballs, making us gap with surprise at its unexpected twists.

In his presentation, Seerveld showed the exciting range of twists of allusivity using the concept of the ugly.

Through a slide presentation, Seerveld sought to show how we must replace the old western notion of beauty with a new sense of playfulness. Beauty, he said, showing a Raphaelite painting of a saint with every line perfect, absolutizes the characteristics of proportion and harmony. In such pure-cold symmetry there really is no room for free laughter, for mercy, for the jazz of life. What we often think of as “ugly” however, say, the wrinkled face of an ape, or a South African mask can do much to “deepen the features of our imagination… far beyond the harmony of beauty,” Seerveld said.

There can be a sense of “delightful horror” here, of “awé” and of the “sublime” which transcends the traditional notions of beauty.

Seerveld also pointed out some possible mirrors of the notion of allusivity. Art could become blandly playful and absurd, as was the case with Dada art, or become kitschy, Precious Moments type art (Andy Warhol’s problem), or it could become art that renders art meaningless, as was the case with Marcel Duchamp’s urinal art.

After the slide presentation, there was a discussion time. Questions about Seerveld’s condemnation of Dada art were raised and Seerveld acknowledged that Duchamp had helped to restore playfulness to art. Seerveld also agreed with a comment that Duchamp’s art had worth as irony, but also said that he was leery of the marked tendency of such irony to go overboard and eventually wind up with nothing serious to say.

Instead, Seerveld wants his aesthetics to “help develop a gift of refined tastes and contagious joy worldwide.”

**Seerveld gave a lecture on the aesthetics of ugly art on Tuesday afternoon.**

**Dinner builds mystery**

**Allison Schaan**

**Assistant News Page Editor**

Students on the east side of campus will soon be immersed in mystery as part of their supper. The Residence Life Staff shaped the idea of the Mystery Dinner. According to Southview R.A. Danielle Vander Linden, the purpose of this activity is to help build community among students living in East Campus, Southview and off-campus.

The process of the Mystery Dinner is not complicated to carry out. Vander Linden has the names of those who wanted to be involved, and she will randomly select certain people to be hosts and guests of the Mystery Dinner. The hosts will not know who the guests are, and the guests will not know who the hosts are. The only information that Vander Linden will give to the host will be the number of people coming to supper. Likewise, the only information that she will give the guests will be the room is that they to visit; they will be told this only two hours before the dinner. The guests are required to bring a dessert, which emphasizes “giving and receiving.”

Vander Linden says that the Mystery Dinner will take place on four days: November 7, 11, 14 and 18. Each room signed up for this activity will have an opportunity to both be a guest and be a host for the Mystery Dinner. Currently, 30 rooms are involved in this activity, and Vander Linden believes a few more rooms will sign up yet. “I think that this is something that people will get excited about, and it will give students an opportunity to get to know other students that they may not normally get to know.”

**Discussion addresses spiritual warfare**

**Rachelle Vander Werf**

**Staff Writer**

“Satan cannot read your mind. Satan is a created being and so is not omniscient, omnipresent or omnipotent. However, he can read your words and actions just as people can,” said Alan Walquist, speaker at the spiritual warfare lecture sponsored by Covenant Hall Leaders of a ministry called “New Beginnings” from Lingrove, IA, were invited as guest speakers for this event. They presented their ideas and answered questions about spiritual warfare in our world.

The lecture about spiritual warfare included three main ideas. The first emphasis was on a relationship with Jesus and a relationship with the Holy Spirit. They stressed the idea that the only way a person can distinguish between God speaking to us and another power is by really knowing His voice.

Second, the speakers talked about the ways people allow various spiritual activities in their lives. They touched on the idea that horoscopes and Ouija Boards are not just toys. They are serious spiritual powers, and when people listen to things of the world long enough they will begin to believe what they are hearing.

Finally, they addressed the ways Christians can equip themselves to wage spiritual war. Christians should get so close to God that they force everything that is not from Him out of their lives. The lecture was based on II Corinthians 10:4, “The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of this world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.”
Dear Editor:

Dordt Talk: Step into a larger world. Jump out of the cracks and never managed to significantly "expand my mind" in my first three years at Dordt. Sure, I wrestled with issues of faith and a devotional life, and in the midst of doing so, I learned firsthand that not all Muslims are radicals or terrorists. Now that we have moved on to studying the Arab-Israeli conflict, I am getting to see both perspectives, and I am realizing even more clearly that the word "terrorism" does not apply to the majority of Palestinians. "Refugee" and "victim of injustice" are more accurate terms. Many people do not know many details of the conflict, and when they do, they don't even realize there are two valid sides. It's the first time to admit to 22 years of shameful, willful blindness. Even when I thought, "Hey, it might be a good idea to know what's going on the world," I did nothing about it. I had to come to the realization that my computer equipment conflicted with my sympathies. And the peace that I felt between the culture before I realized the importance of being informed about world events. But I hope that the events of September 11 and following have changed all that.

Is it possible for Americans not to be aware of the rest of the world now that America is at war with Afghanistan? Is it possible for Americans to be blinded to the logic of the situation: surely, surely there must be some reason for Arabs in the Middle East to be so angry with America and the West; what else would warrant such a blatant, violent act? Why are Americans so quick to fire up the patriotic spirit and so reluctant to examine their history and their treatment of the rest of the world? Why is it so easy to forget that terrorism is not the only problem that we face?

Why are Americans so quick to fire up the patriotic spirit and so reluctant to examine their history and their treatment of the rest of the world? Why is it so easy to forget that terrorism is not the only problem that we face?

Be responsible with technology

Mitch Beaumont
Editor

As a college student who's at least ten thousand dollars in debt, I value cheapness. When I go to the grocery store, I typically buy only what I need. If you read my last editorial you even know that I can be a miser with my money, rarely spending more than the barest amount on the barest item. As a campus of college students who are each in debt, some double or triple the amount I am, we all value cheapness, and we sometimes go to extremes to save money. It's one of those extremes, though, that has me concerned.

There's a news story in this issue of the Diamond that addresses the dishonest use of file sharing services among Dordt students. I'll let you read it first so you get the background of what I'm addressing in this column. I wrote that story, and in the midst of doing so I realized that there's something terribly out of place here in comparison to the values Dordt College stands for and represents out in the world.

My roommate asked me an interesting question the other day in the midst of a discussion on this topic. He asked me what the difference was between using these services and sharing something. On one hand, it may seem that the two have nothing in common, but in truth they share some ethical elements.

I merely ask that you think twice when downloading the next MP3 onto your computer. No one may know that you stopped yourself, but it's the job of the Christian to live by example.

At stake here, it seems to me, is our integrity. When you're driving down Highway 75 toward Sioux Falls, do you go exactly 55 miles per hour (mph)? Do you go 5 mph over the speed limit? Do you go 15 mph over the speed limit? It's very rare to hear of Internet pirates being caught down on those illegally using file-sharing services. Brian Van Domselaar said in an interview with online organizations cracking down on those for computer center directors, not something the rest of us read. So, if you are using these file-sharing services for the free music, or videos, or whatever? Are you using these services to get around the system? Are you using them because you don't think you'll get caught?

The ethical questions for speeding and piracy are similar: if the consequences differ a little. Unless you go way over the speed limit, all you'll get is a ticket (a big one) and some points on your license. However, if you are caught with pirated material on your computer, you can be fined and have your computer equipment confiscated. In addition to that, if you distribute any pirated material to anyone else, you can go to jail! That's enough to make me think twice about installing one of these services on my computer.

So what exactly is my point? As Christians, shouldn't we all do we in accordance with Scripture? Our actions, when it comes to ethics, should be in accordance with God's Word and His proclamations to us. Did not Christ say that we should love our neighbors as ourselves? This is an issue of obeying government because it's against the law to distribute copyrighted material without the sharing are similar of the artist. That would seem straightforward enough.

Then we get into the issue of money. College students can't exactly afford to buy a new CD all the time and some would argue with me that using these services is a stewardly use of their money. So, why do we have to buy a new CD or movie, or whatever, all the time? Why can't it be an occasional thing when we actually have the money? I realize that I may be offending some people that I know by my stance on this issue, but that's a chance I'm going to have to take. If it's not enforced, then what's the problem with doing it? If penalties for murder weren't enforced, would you just kill anyone who upset you? While murder and file sharing aren't in the same realm, the ethical concepts are the same. I don't wish that any of us get fined or arrested, rather I want our campus to be one of integrity and honesty. No one would know it, but that's the point. I merely ask that you think twice when downloading the next MP3, or whatever else you may want to do.

Yet perhaps what angers me the most are the self-centered, ignorant attitudes of so many people of so many Christians. As body of Christ, we have an enormous responsibility to be aware of what's going on in the world. And more than simply being aware, we have a responsibility to act against injustice: not simply responding to the results of injustice, but striking at its roots in order to bring a real and lasting peace to the world. When will our attitudes change? When will we evaluate our worldview, our beliefs and our actions? When will we open our minds to other perspectives, our eyes to injustice, and our ears to the cries of suffering people? When will we step into a larger world? You tell me.

Allison De Jong

November 1, 2001
The mischievous twins, Masha and Dasha.

A typical monument left from the Soviet days. This one was near Sarah's family's apartment.

Russia: raw and rich

Sarah Den Boer
World and Features Co-Editor

I turn my head to the window, blising my lip to smother my grin. Outside it's snowing, and inside the taxi the heater is melting us as Russian polka music hops in the background. My friend, sitting in the passenger seat, turns around and gives me the thumbs up, not even trying to hide his grin as we hurdle down the street—backwards.

That late night in early February two friends and I got on the wrong bus and ended up on the other side of the city of two million people. After getting on the wrong bus three times, we went for a taxi. Russian cab drivers, eager to carry Americans in the hope of ripping them off, flocked to us. Surrounding by four different cab drivers who argued about who would get us, we ducked from the escalating shouting match and jumped in a fifth car.

A car with tall tires, it turned out. On a snowy evening, coupled with Russians' ingrained disregard for traffic laws, this is not good. As expected, once at a red light, we couldn't get off. Again. The wheels spun, the driver cursed, and suddenly we shot backward down the street before we flew forward again and took the widest corner I've ever experienced in my life.

Several people have said to me, "Russia. I've never even had a desire to go there." After spending last semester on the Russian Studies Program (RSP) and falling in love with the huge country, I try not to take those comments personally.

I'm baffled why people wouldn't leap at the chance to go to Russia. The shiver of excitement when standing in Red Square and reflecting on the history that transpired on those cobblestones is indescribable. The intricacy of St. Basil's Cathedral, the majesty of Russian Orthodox churches, the grimness of Lenin in his mausoleum and observing slight blackness of decay on his fingertips, the thrill of watching "Swan Lake" in the Bolshoi Theatre, the amazing life-size puppet shows, the orientation of the czar's palaces, the breathtaking moment of finally seeing Rembrandt's "Prodigal Son" in the Hermitage.

The RSP immerses students in Russian life. We studied the Russian language and had seminars in history, Orthodoxy, literature, contemporary issues and more. Our main house was in Nizhni Novgorod, Russia's third largest city. We stayed in university dormitories, and then with our own family for the second half. I grew to love Ura, Ira, Katya and Alyosha Terekhina, my family, despite their vigilant protective-ness.

But forget the sights and the learning. The best part of Russia is the Russians themselves. From our Russian language teacher who called us "my babies," to the university students eager to welcome us, to the friend who approached us on the bus and whose job is selling essays to people around the world, to the rambunctious kids in the orphanage I worked at (Masha and Dasha—8 year old twins with mischievous grins on their faces—were my favorites), to the babushkas everywhere—Russia's strength is her people. Cold and solemn in public, Russians are sincere, genuine and warm once you know them.

Russia is for the adventurous, flexible, patient person. It calls for a humble attitude and a willingness to learn. One needs to adapt to infrequent showers, toilets that just never flush, invasion of personal space, buses so squishy the term "sardines" takes on a completely new meaning, unspoken rules such as never sitting on cement (because it causes infertility!).

Russia is raw. The people are blunt and honest. They embrace suffering. Their lifestyles are simple. Conditions are deplorable. I never felt more alive than I did during my four months there.

Suddenly comfortable and extras in life seemed frivolous, and I dug into the rawness of Russian life and felt more real, more raw, and more alive than ever before. I wanted to hold on to that way of living and bring it back to the U.S., but it died soon after I got home, that rawness of life was strangled once it encountered surface-skimming Western society.

Russia is rich: the mind-boggling history, the distinct art, the masterful literature and music. Their knowledge of the arts is deep, and knowledge of the arts constantly put us to shame. The painful realization of Western Christianity's individualism was hard to accept, but participating in the Orthodox church gave me a beautiful understanding of community. Russians are a reflective people who talk and share and remember and think deeply. I wanted to soak it all up.

My world view, my personality, my whole life changed. I dream about returning to my home in Russia to live some day.

I am saddened that participation in the RSP continually declines. Under the fine leadership of Harley Wagler, students inevitably transform as they glean from his wise, Reformed view of Russia. I wish more students would grab this opportunity.

I welcome anyone who has the slightest interest in the RSP to contact me. You can come over for chai, I'll show you stacks of photos and Russian artifacts, we'll listen to classic Russian rock, I'll tell you a story after story, and we can admire the wall-size Soviet flag discovered in a corner of a St. Petersburg antique shop. I guarantee by the end of our visit you'll be in love with the spirit and soul of Russia.

Near the end of my semester, we were traveling from St. Petersburg to Moscow. We took the early train and the moon outside was glooming off the fields of snow and several of us were in a coupe together. Vadim was playing guitar, Dave harmonica, Anna singing. The Russian landscape flew by, the train clattered over the tracks, warm chai rested in my hands. Russian folk music filled the room, and I looked out the window and thought, "This is life."
A Look at Different

Rose Vander Wal

Their fans sport t-shirts all around campus. They may be in one of your classes. They are Different, a talented band coming right out of northwest Iowa, some of whom are Dordt students. Luc Ver Mulm, a Northwestern student and bass player, came up with the name. His brother Bart, a Dordt junior and guitar player, claims that his brother can't remember where he came up with the name but is sure that they will eventually have a good story. "Which may or may not be entirely true," Ver Mulm quipped.

In addition to the Ver Mulm brothers, Different is powered by Dordt sophomore Dan De Boer who takes care of the band's lead vocals as well as playing some guitar. He says, "[Lead vocals] are a challenge, especially considering that I really don't know what notes I am singing, but I sing what I think sounds good!"

Construction worker Jason Baartman takes care of percussion while cabinetmaker Bandy Iams takes lead guitar. Ver Mulm explained that while these are the main tasks of band members, they all work together in various ways.

In order to help the band run smoothly they are aided by Charity Klein of Rock Valley. Her job description includes selling t-shirts, helping tune guitars, and setting up for concerts. According to Ver Mulm, Klein's official title is "Ronnie." On January 1, 2001 the band was officially formed by the five northwest Iowa natives, and by May 5 they played their first show in the Pizza Ranch Battle of the Bands in the Sioux Center Community Center. They didn't win but the performance gave them a taste for more.

Since their debut the band has been working on a dozen tracks at various locations including Sibley, Harley and Inspiration Hills. They even took their show on the road this summer and traveled to Michigan to record a CD and to play with AG Silver, a Michigan group close to breaking out. Different's latest performance was outside of West Hall where they played with several other Dordt groups.

The group's CD entitled "Refrigerator Magnet" is currently in production and will contain five songs which are a mix between alternative rock and rock. Tracks on the CD include: "Glitter," "Oyere" and "If Tomorrow Was Today." The band has a unique sound that is hard to compare to anyone. They cover a broad range both lyrically and musically.

Dan De Boer says that the band writes songs about their experiences: "The songs we write are about life." They are presently working on a punk song to add to their playlist. Ver Mulm describes their sound as "quality music with an alternative message." They prefer not to refer to themselves as a Christian band but instead as "Christians in a band." The band hopes to make their CD available at upcoming shows.

The members of Different encourage people to buy their t-shirts. The shirts are available in several colors and cost $10-12. The shirts are made by the Ver Mulm brothers' parents at their family business, D & L Design in Rock Valley.

Different is tentatively planning shows and hopes to someday get a record deal. The band takes their music very seriously, practicing every week as well as holding down jobs and attending school. "Working and school are secondary jobs for us," said Ver Mulm when expressing how important the band is to its members. De Boer adds to his sentiments: "Being in a band and creating music takes a lot of patience, a lot of faith, a whole lot of God."

Fans of the band can email them for information at theband_different@hotmail.com. A website is currently in the making as well.

This summer and traveled to Michigan to record a CD and to play with AG Silver, a Michigan group close to breaking out. Different's latest performance was outside of West Hall where they played with several other Dordt groups.

The group's CD entitled "Refrigerator Magnet" is currently in production and will contain five songs which are a mix between alternative rock and rock. Tracks on the CD include: "Glitter," "Oyere" and "If Tomorrow Was Today." The band has a unique sound that is hard to compare to anyone. They cover a broad range both lyrically and musically.

Dan De Boer says that the band writes songs about their experiences: "The songs we write are about life." They are presently working on a punk song to add to their playlist. Ver Mulm describes their sound as "quality music with an alternative message." They prefer not to refer to themselves as a Christian band but instead as "Christians in a band." The band hopes to make their CD available at upcoming shows.

The members of Different encourage people to buy their t-shirts. The shirts are available in several colors and cost $10-12. The shirts are made by the Ver Mulm brothers' parents at their family business, D & L Design in Rock Valley.

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The band is very excited about their warm reception at Dordt and would like to thank the West Hall Residence Life staff for putting on the October Concert event. They would also like to thank fellow Dordt band, Scatterglass, for sharing the stage with them, and the many students who braved the cold weather to come hear them.

Watch for appearances by Different in the weeks to come. They are currently looking at appearing at coffee shops in Orange City as well as in Sioux City. Playing at a Northwestern Sunday night praise and worship service is also a possibility.

Train gives instrumental variety

John Hansen
Staff Writer

Train is one of those bands that nearly everybody has heard of; but not that many people have listened to. We can all sing along with the title track of their newest CD, "Drops of Jupiter." It's worth taking a listen to the rest of it.

Train is definitely defining their style, and this is evident in their sophomore effort, "Meet Virginia," you'll be disappointed. However, if you're a fan of train, you'll like it. "Let It Roll!" is another one of my favorite tracks that falls into the mellow category. It almost sounds a bit country, but not enough to make me bust out in square dance. This Southern influence is found in lesser extremes throughout the rest of the album. It's not a Garth Brooks kind of country, though; it's more John Mellencamp or Allman Brothers western rock influenced. However you define it, they make it work.

The primary lyrical focus of this album is love and relationships. Train goes into this subject a little deeper than most bands have seemed to be doing lately. Their songs delve into those little niches and facets of personal experiences that we can all relate to. It's these quick references to real life that make you stop paying attention and sit back and think only until the two seconds of silence at the end of the song break your concentration, and you have to play the track again to see what you missed.

If you do decide to pick up Drops, be sure to get it from an independent record store. Train included two bonus tracks on all the CDs that were shipped to the "mom & pop" shops to give us a little extra incentive to support the local stores.

Train

Drops Of Jupiter

Photo Submitted
Lacrosse opens with three wins

Jocelyn Van Beek

Sports Editor

The Dordt Sowers Lacrosse team opened their season this year with an 8-1 victory over University of Nebraska-Lincoln and 5-3 and 9-2 victories over University of South Dakota.

In addition to regular funds, the Sowers have a group of sponsors that aid them in supplying equipment necessary for playing. The team is sporting new jerseys, as you can see his hand on the stick, twenty-one players who can play competitively with any team we want to bring more opponents to our dreams. As juniors and seniors they won back-to-back state volleyball championship titles. That aid them in supplying equipment necessary for playing. The state volleyball champion titles. support in all they do.

The returning members are also a great addition. "It's a big help in training the rookies this year. They're all very excited about the game. People are quick to step up and say what's wrong to help the team," says Slomp.

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A.J. Lefever and Darci Wassenaar have a long history together as seniors. Their junior year, with hopes to play in a third. Some of Lefever's best memories are getting to know the girls on a personal basis. "It's not just about playing well together it's about being friends," Lefever said.

When asked about their goals and hopes for the team, Wassenaar answered, "We want to be united as a team, to play better and to get to know one another better."

Wassenaar and Lefever want to make it apparent to all that they are not only volleyball players, but players for Christ, and they want to serve Him above all. Their key to success is to enjoy every day in serving Him in all they do.

Their advice for an upcoming player is based on Proverbs 19:21, "Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails." Wassenaar said, "Surround yourself with Christian friends!"

Both ladies are looking forward to graduation. They will miss volleyball, but they are excited to see what the Lord has in store for them.

But volleyball will always be a part of them.

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Nigeria—There has been strong reaction from human rights groups within Nigeria to a statement issued by authorities regarding attacks by soldiers last week in which more than 200 civilians were killed. In the statement, Nigeria’s President did not criticize the actions of the army, but forcefully condemned the deaths of 19 soldiers three weeks ago at the hands of a local militia group—the incident that apparently sparked the army reprisals.

Switzerland—Forensic experts have begun examining the wrecked Gotthard road tunnel in the Swiss Alps, but officials say they do not expect to find any more victims of last week’s blaze. Eleven people were killed and many others injured after a head-on fiery crash last Wednesday ignited a fire deep inside the tunnel. The blaze started by the accident burned for more than 48 hours causing extensive structural damage. The tunnel is not expected to re-open for several months.

Israel—Israel’s defense minister, Binyamin Ben Eliezer, promised to withdraw from four more occupied towns, "the moment anyone gets up on the Palestinian side and says they take responsibility for security," Eliezer spoke after Israeli troops completed a withdrawal from Palestinian-ruled Bethlehem and nearby Beit Jala although parts of Bethlehem were left looking like a war zone. The Israeli withdrawal came despite two shooting attacks by Palestinian militants on Sunday that killed five people in northern Israel.

Philippines—Authorities in the Philippines have banned a Muslim-separatist group for a bomb attack in a crowded shopping mall at which at least 11 people were killed. Hospital officials in the city said about 30 people were also being treated for injuries. The Muslim group says it is fighting for a Muslim homeland in the southern islands of the Philippines. It has also carried out a campaign of kidnappings and currently is thought to hold an American couple and about 10 Filipino hostages. Police said a second bomb planted close by failed to go off.

Japan—The Japanese parliament has given visible support to the US by approving a controversial bill that will allow the country’s armed forces to support US-led war against terrorism in Afghanistan. The law allows Japanese navy and air force to deliver fuel and other supplies to the American-led fleet. Search and rescue operations and humanitarian missions will also be permitted. This is the first time Japan is allowing its military to support armed conflict since World War II.

Pakistan—Several thousand mourners attended a funeral service for 16 Christians who were killed on Sunday when gunmen burst into a church and opened fire on worshippers. Crying and denouncing violence, a huge crowd of Christians and Muslims crowded into the church compound where the killings took place. Many blame pro-Taliban hardliners for the attack. The Pakistan Government has announced a thorough investigation and security has been stepped up at Christian churches across the country.

With Canadian Thanksgiving come and gone and the American festivities just around the corner, I reflect on what we’ve been given and how I am responding as a caretaker here on God’s wondrous earth. Instead of dirtying the disposable eating platter of their choice) their own (or any other creative option, this event will be taking place again soon, but in the meantime, what else can we do?

We all know the 3 R’s of saving the planet, so let’s start there. With the recent time change making nightfall come that much sooner, how about reducing the energy use in our dorms or apartments by only turning on the light where we’re actually present? Getting into the habit of flicking the switch when not actually present? Getting into the habit of flicking the switch when coming and going is an easy way to conserve energy. How about the issue of reuse in our lives? Try replacing those boring and wasteful napkins with a colorful clean cloth for those unexpected spills and slip-ups! You’ll save on trash and will have a creative “mopper-upper” on hand. Better yet—why not crochet a creative "mopper-upper" on hand. Better yet—why not crochet a colorful clean cloth for those unexpected spills and slip-ups! You’ll save on trash and will have a creative "mopper-upper" on hand.

And finally, recycling. Those PLIA bins are longing for our expected spills and slip-ups! You’ll save on trash and will have a creative "mopper-upper" on hand.

With the festive air around us and much to be thankful for, let’s make it a point to make the most of what we have; it’s living simple gratitude, you could say.