



Dordt Diamond

January 21, 2000

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Shirley Matheis shows off one of her many colorful creations.

Travis Bonnema

The "Boss" retires after 22 years

by Allison De Jong
Staff Writer

Shirley Matheis has been an invaluable part of the Theatre Arts Department since it was first established in 1977. It was then that she was asked to help out with costuming, but she was not at all interested. She became involved only when an emergency situation came up, a situation which required her sewing skills. After this, she agreed to work part time as a costume designer.

As the years passed and the department grew, Matheis took on an increasing number of tasks: bookkeeping, supervising the students, and finally becoming "boss" of the department—a full-time job. "When I started, I only knew how to sew; that's it," Matheis said. "I knew nothing

about costuming, the people to contact, the students, or theatre; I was jumping in blind."

Initially, the costumes were rented, but as people began to donate costumes and other props, Matheis designed and sewed many costumes herself. In fact, in the past twenty-two years she has created over 700 costumes. She has never thrown anything out, and the upstairs room of the department is bursting with more than 3,000 costumes, as well as hats, shoes, and a plethora of other props. She has designed costumes for hundreds of students in over 40 main-stage productions, a

variety of one-acts, and repertory theatre shows.

Matheis's favorite shows to costume are period plays, such as those of Shakespeare. She loves the colorful and unusual shapes, patterns, and styles of the clothing from this period.



Travis Bonnema

To design accurate costumes from the various periods, Matheis had to do a great deal of research. "I learned a lot of things I hadn't known before; about history, philosophy, geography. I was basically paid to get an education," she said. The in-depth research (from the Thirty Years' War to existentialism) was one of the most fasci-

nating parts of her job. But she also enjoyed interacting with the students and getting to know the people with whom she worked.

When asked if she would have changed anything, Matheis said, "I wish I could have had a computer from day one; it's so much easier to keep track of everything. I wish I could have known how much I'd have to organize."

Matheis retired on December 31, though she may stay on part-time during the period of transition. Esther Van Eek is taking over the tasks related to costuming, while Matheis is taking care of office-related details. She will have much more free time however.

"I'm looking forward to reading, knitting, crocheting; I'm going to enjoy the leisure time, the more relaxed pace," she says with a smile.

Shamar book sale a success

by Marty Christians
Staff Writer

On behalf of Shamar, we, the ministers of Shamar, would like to thank those students who participated in the book sale. We would like to thank those who offered their books on the sale, those who purchased their books at the sale, and those who helped us organize it.

The intention behind the Shamar book sale is to use the gifts that the Lord has given to us. We are called according to Micah 6:8 to "do justice and love mercy and walk humbly with our God" and we at Shamar feel that we are,

in fact, doing justice by actively encouraging such things as economic and, particularly, environmental stewardship. Our main contention is that these books will switch hands and, in doing so, be reused by those who need them. It is through this perspective of reusing and redistributing that we recognize our duties as Christian caretakers.

The Shamar book sale was particularly more successful than past Shamar book sales in that we were able to be much more efficient and organized. Dordt College allowed us to use the upper room in the DeWitt Gymnasium so that we could

store our collected books for the proper maintenance and organization of our inventory to ensure that the students' books were not stolen or lost. Instead of storing them in Pastor Draayer's office, we were able to operate much more smoothly and with less hassle in a room that Dordt was kind enough to offer to us. Shamar has not reported any lost or stolen books as a result.

Shamar would still like to improve on the functioning of the book sale through still better management and efficiency. According to Matt Hilden, the minister of finance, we want to "continue refining it and making

it more efficient for the students' in the hope that it will serve as a useful tool for many more years. Through continuing success (we made \$4340, 10% of which goes to Shamar), we look forward to serving Dordt students by providing them with opportunities for being faithful stewards of God's creation."

Pick-up dates for unsold books and money will be on Thursday, Jan. 20 from 1:30 to 4:00 pm and on Friday, Jan. 21 from 2:00 to 5:00 pm in the Upper DeWitt gymnasium. Shamar will notify all of those students of whom this concerns.



West Hall finishes improvements

by Rose Ann Vander Wal
Staff Writer

When West Hall residents opened their doors last Tuesday morning, they didn't have to run on tip toes over the ice-cold tile hallway floors to go downstairs to check their e-mail. No more freezing cold and noisy hallway floors for West Hall occupants because over Christmas maintenance finally completed the last step of West Hall's renovations by laying carpet in all the tile halls.

The renovations began last year when maintenance met with students to discover what type of change was needed in Dordt's oldest dormitory. Over the summer, maintenance worked in conjunction with a local contractor to refurbish the rooms as well as to build a new lobby-the atomic lounge-on the second floor at the head of the stairs. The changes included new furniture in all of the rooms, built in lofts, remodeled bathrooms, better ventilation, as well as network and cable connections in every room.

Maintenance was not able to complete all of the planned alterations before classes began in August, so during the nearly month long Christmas break they laid new carpet on both floors. West Hall residents received an added bonus as well-coat hooks in ever closet and an additional towel rack in each bathroom.

Not only did maintenance perform a West Hall make over, but the resident life staff of the building also did a little face lifting of their own. Last semester the staff, headed by C.A. Mark Brink, met with the residents to get input on what changes could be made to improve the dorm.

Then the staff went to work. After a brainstorming session they came up with several feasible improvement plans. The upstairs lounge received its very own refrigerator as well as a toaster to



R.A. Jenn Hazeu tests the new carpet on 1st floor.

replace the one that was previously stolen. The large Orbit Room obtained coffee tables and lamps to enhance the usability of the room. Instead of randomly scattered couches and chairs, the room was arranged with groupings of chairs around tables. R.A. Joel Weaver, explained that this breaks up the room allowing more groups to use the room at once.

John Hansen

The previously unused south lobby was also changed. The old, dingy benches were ripped out and replaced with comfortable couches. The walls were also repainted. Downstairs, in the newly dubbed Bearington room, two new tables were added for studying purposes.

Throughout the year, Brink and his staff have worked very hard to promote what they call, "West Hall community." All of the changes that they implemented were a result of their quest toward a safe, caring and friendly community. Brink said, "We as the West Hall staff are really excited about the changes. It's great to see maintenance sending the time to listen to our requests and then doing something about it. It's very encouraging to know that we can make changes."

Brink and the four resident assistants have done more to promote West Hall community than by simply adding new furniture. This staff lives what it advocates through being more than just authority figures. These people have become friends. Brink mentioned that the goal is to make West Hall more than just a building to live in. They want to make it a place that the residents can call their own. He wants to make it a living and growing community.

Students attend conference

by Laura Apol
News Page Editor

Eleven Dordt students and two professors went to New Haven, Connecticut to attend seminars at the Overseas Ministries' Study Center during the first week of January.

There were two seminars per day, each an hour long. A break followed in which there were discussions among individuals about what they felt about the seminar. After that break was a time of questions and discussion with the speaker.

Because there was a mix of experienced missionaries and inexperienced college students, "it was a hard job for speakers to talk to those with experience and still keep it on the level of students," said Jill Starkenburg. "Discussion and having questions helped most."

Dr. Soerens went along as an adult leader and Dr. Kobes attended as one of the speakers. Kobes' focus was on helping people recognize that there is a need for missions here in North America, as well as overseas.

As far as listening to and talking with people of different Christian traditions, Soerens said Dordt students were initially shocked at the differences. They began to realize "it was not a philosophical position, but

people actually thinking and dealing with these relativistic issues."

Joel Weaver found it humbling to be with people of other perspectives. He said, "Some of the people there represent nations where people are being persecuted for what they believe, yet are more passionate about their faith than many of us."

During mealtime devotions, Weaver read Romans 8:28-39 and was amazed at the response it generated. Verse 35 tells that nothing, including trouble, hardship, persecution, famine, nakedness, danger, or sword will separate us from the love of Christ. Many of those listening interjected his reading with ams, and Weaver realized "it is so real to them. They are living this!"

Melissa Wergin also sensed the excitement and passion for Christ. "Even through traumatic experiences, Christ is still their ultimate hope," she said.

The impact of the seminars on her made Starkenburg aware of the need for missions in America. She learned that if missionaries don't know a culture, they can't change the people of that culture. "Christians in North America know our culture," she said, "We are worthy of the cause to stay here and do ministry here."

Soerens particularly enjoyed a video focused on the rapid growth of independent African churches. There is a strong emphasis on deliverance ministry, or casting out spirits. Most people watching the video would think they were practicing evil deeds, but it is the "genuine power of the Spirit at work, not pagan," said Soerens.

Wergin found the whole experience to be "absolutely enlightening. It made me look at the world differently, from their eyes and also mine."

Dance supports PLIA

by Mitch Beaumont
Assistant Editor

Second semester is underway, and so are the fundraisers! The first of the semester is the PLIA dance, an annual event, which took place this past Saturday night in DeWitt Gymnasium.

Saturday's dance, a jazz/swing event, is a minor fundraiser for PLIA. According to Katie Monger, the club's treasurer, "The most important thing that they [the fundraisers] do for PLIA is to advertise and get the name out at Dordt and the surrounding community."

PLIA, which stands for Putting Love Into Action, is a service-oriented trip that students can participate in over spring break. The majority of the funds for the trips are allocated from fundraisers such as the dance. PLIA has several fundraisers scheduled for this semester, including a soup supper sometime in February.

It isn't too late to decide to take part in PLIA over spring break. The next mass meeting is this coming Monday, the 24th. Soon after that, students will have the opportunity to decide where they would like to serve.



Travis Bonnema

Leslie Cowherd and Jason Kuyper swing together at the PLIA dance.

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Students serve the homeless

by Jen Hoogeveen
Staff Writer

Dordt students many times find that even though they are learning about the world and how they should interact in it as a Christian, studying and extracurricular activities don't leave much free time.

Forty-four students, however, had the chance to live out what they are being taught and what they believe last Friday. Bread for the World Club sponsored a service project for the first time, spending over \$500 feeding the poor at The Banquet, a homeless shelter in Sioux Falls. Carrie Foods prepared the food for the banquet.

Professor David Schelhaas, who took his American Literature class, commented that the purpose for going was "to learn to see Christ when we see the hungry and to value the humanity of the poor." He noted that the people at

the shelter enjoyed eating and visiting with the Dordt students there.

Phil Postma participated in the serving line at the banquet, and he thought it was interesting that The Banquet booked so many volunteers and received so many donations. He talked to a man who had different views about Christianity and who was trying to clean up from a life of drugs and a jail sentence. Postma believes this service is important because it is our Christian duty to feed the poor.

Amy Gesch, a participant of Bread for the World Club, who worked in the dish room most of the time, didn't have an opportunity to talk to people. She appreciated the people who thanked her and others for their service as they brought their dishes back. Gesch sees this service as showing God's love to others by sharing what we have. Volunteering also increases one's knowledge about the world, coming to understanding that "my life isn't how everyone else's is," said Gesch.



photo submitted

Whitney Walstra, Joel Schreurs, Jean VandeVoort, and Liam Starkenburg serve a meal to homeless people in Sioux Falls on Friday, January 14. Their service was part of a project sponsored by the Bread for the World Club.

The Price is "Trite" invites students to "come on down!"

by Ryan Vande Kraats
Staff Writer

Once again the fun and excitement of The Price is Right will be visiting the B.J. Haan. The event, now being referred to as "The Price is Trite" to avoid any conflicts with the lawyers at CBS, will

take place on Friday, January 28, and will feature all of your favorite games, and some new ones as well.

Jeff Memmelaar, who many of you may know, will be playing the role of Bob Barker for the second year in a row. Sophomore Aaron Rietsma will be sitting in as Rod Roddy, the always excited side kick and announcer.

Last year was the first year that the Student Activities Committee had attempted to produce The Price is Right, and though it went well, there were some glitches and rough spots in the show. However, this year the committee is working hard to iron out those wrinkles, and the show should be great. The evening has been redesigned so that more contestants will get on

stage to play popular pricing games such as Plinko and Three Strikes, new games have been reproduced, and, as always, the prizes will be great.

The doors will open on Friday night at 6:30 so that every one will have a chance to sign up to be a contestant, and the show will begin around 7:00.

Every one is welcome to

"come on down" and check out the fun (last year the B.J. Haan was packed to capacity), and I am encouraged to tell you all to dress up and have fun. You have a better chance of getting on stage if you are wearing a "costume," so get out your I LOVE BOB t-shirts, and cheer really loud. You could be the next contestant...

James Klaver returns to campus

by Laura Apol
News Page Editor

James Klaver has returned to Dordt after being diagnosed with AML leukemia in April of 1999. He received a transplant last fall, meaning that the leukemia is "no longer in me," said Klaver.

There was no specific time when Klaver decided he would return to Dordt. Spending time at home recovering started to get boring for him. "Hanging around can get a little depressing," he said. He wanted to get out and interact with people again. "I had no life, except for my par-

ents. I love my parents," he said, smiling.

His three classes aren't a full load, but it's enough. "But I'm not here for the classes," he said. "I just want to be out in life."

Overcoming his fear of death has been an obstacle in his recovery. "When you're sick, there's lots of time to think about dying," he said. While students were settling into their summer jobs, Klaver was thinking about his exist-



ence. "I think about death a lot," he said. "I'm not really scared of it anymore."

But Klaver's reflection about his illness is positive. "This

whole thing was the best thing to happen to me, but it was tragic," he said. Facing a life threatening disease helped him realize that he wasn't where he needed to be in his life with people and with God. Now, looking at where he is, he feels he has moved into a

better position with God and the people he interacts with. "In that sense, it wasn't a tragedy at all," he says.

Klaver wants to thank the students, professors and the college as a whole for the support he felt during and after his illness. All the prayers and support helped him realize that "a small, Christian college is the place to be when you run into something," he said, noting that if he was from a public university, the support would not have been there. In response to all the prayers and support, he has two words, "don't stop."

Note: keep James in your prayers as he is currently under observation at the Mayo Clinic.

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Greatest journey yet to come

by Jill Vossen
Opinion Page Editor



"We die containing the richness of lovers and tribes, tastes we have swallowed, bodies we have climbed in as if trees, fears we have hidden in as if caves. I wish for all this to be marked on my body when I am dead. I believe in such cartography—to be marked by nature, not just to label ourselves on a map like names of rich men and women on buildings. We are communal histories, communal books. We are not owned or monogamous in our taste or experience. All I desired was to walk upon such an earth that had no maps" (The English Patient).

The paths of our lives are strung in such a way as to draw us closer to God. We are marked by the people we encounter, the roads we have traveled, the lives we have touched, the hardships endured. Who is it that we chase each day, panting and running, just for a glimpse, our necks craning, eyes scanning. . . It is the ones whom we love, sometimes walking just ahead in oblivion. The mind grows weary, but the heart is never faint, beating in strong rhythm, waiting, waiting, waiting. Layers of skin are peeled back each day to reveal pink vulnerability, with each layer, a new nerve.

The snow is falling on my face, my eyes, to wash away myself; in it there is peace and hope. The cold grips my body, but my soul is warm, protected in a cocoon, made new in spring, stretching forth new wings to the sky in promise of a new future. Where does my soul fly? Why, toward the Maker of all things, drawn by love. The leaves fall in swirling patterns and surround me with colors. Red, orange, yellow, brown, gold. . . Chasing fairy dreams far into the woods, I want to run and follow, frolicking alongside.

I long for the coolness of wind upon my face, to be joined with the wind and fly away. Who holds the most deadly swords? Those we love the most. O great air! Whither fliest thou? What places have you seen, invaded? What crevices have you swept clean, memories erased, rivers seeped? Upon the wings of eagles I

have seen the sky and my heart set free amongst the clouds.

Men of action are not well in stasis. Forward movement! Onward to the mountains! Abandonment is total and the only way. This is what my heart longs for. I am seeing the world anew, the world of creation, through unveiled eyes—what a sight!

The greatest journey is yet to come, barely started. Where will the road go? The twists and turns in the road are the bends of life with God. The ease of life is never the reward. The thorns and stones in our toes teach us to live and be rewarded. Even as we limp along, crying for relief, there is God, waiting to carry us, if only we ask.

Blowing in a storm I see many things of no importance, for they are as grains of sand, washed away. My footsteps become shaky and my footprints less distinct. I am losing myself in the Divine Creator of all.

I am feeling my way through a tunnel, a tunnel well-traveled and made smooth by the passage of time. All have passed through this tunnel. Some have tried to chip out a niche in the entrance to the tunnel and curl up inside, afraid or unable to leave their hollow. Others have boldly stridden through it, barely conscious of the darkness of the tunnel and oblivious to its walls or history. All have access the flashlight; some hold it next to their hearts for every step of the journey, some hold it in front of them only when they are afraid, some ignore it all together. I come through on an uneven journey, sometimes boldly unaware, sometimes curled into a hollow with my head under my arms and other times barely crawling along, wondering why I am doing this and straining to see the light at the end, sometimes bright, others faint. I have encountered grooves and contours in the walls, giving me pause to wonder about how they got there and what they mean to my journey. Sometimes I am forced to stay my steps to understand what has gone on before, who has passed through before me.

Life must be approached with the eternal questions, seeking truth and understanding. Being a Christian means time with God, for if I am on the right page with God, all else will fall into place. It is when I pull away that things fall apart. The bond will always be there and be part of me and I know that I cannot fall away, for when I put my hand into God's, many years ago, His other hand took my wrist, so that though I may let go, I am always a finger's grasp away.

I live my life as a sojourner, traveling the path many have trod before me, carefully walking upon the landmarks left by those who have completed their journey and rest with God. Sometimes the stones we must pry from our feet were left by those wiser than us. I wish to leave my own grooves upon the walls of this tunnel, to mark my passage for those who will pass through after me. When I die, I wish for all this to be marked upon my life. A life spent hand-in-wrist with God, if not always hand-in-hand.

Develop your passion

by Sarah Eekhoff

Editor



"Develop a passion for _____." Professor Vos told us he didn't care what we had a passion for, as long as we had it.

Tony Campolo told us that this age would not die from sin, but from a lack of passion. Satan's direct attacks are never more dangerous than his subtle ones, and one of the most prominent of these secret assaults is apathy. If we give up all emotion, all fervor, then what becomes of us? We begin to drift through life without ever diving in; we simply glide over the surface and wait for events to bump us into the stream of least resistance. And I don't know about you, but I want more out of life than to simply float along listlessly, always taking the way which requires the least amount of work, effort, and emotion.

One of my friends e-mailed me this past week, expressing the same thoughts. She attended

a four-year Christian college, not because that was her passion, but because her friends went there. She graduated with a degree and began working as a computer programmer, not because that was her passion, but because it was a secure job with a promising future. On the outside her life looks wonderful, but on the inside she wants more. She feels like the time she spends at her job is simply wasted hours, and her real living doesn't begin until she leaves the building. What went wrong? She didn't have a passion for anything, she simply went where the road looked the easiest. Now she is unchallenged and unfulfilled by her job. Unfortunately, she will have to go to this job every morning until she is 65, or until she decides to stop being carried along with the current and to start diving deeper into the emotions and the effort that real living takes.

So how do we get this passion that seems to make life worth living? The first step is always to lay it before God, to let him search our heart and be open to what he tells us. But we also need to search ourselves. Pay attention to what you care about, to what stirs your emotions and

makes you angry or excited. Once you know what you're interested in, become educated about it. The more I learn about something and the more time I put into studying it, the more fascinated I am. I didn't know for sure where the Dominican Republic was, much less care about it at all, until I went there on a service project last summer. Now I am passionate about it. I didn't know anything about domestic violence against women until I heard a story that touched my heart and consequently trained at the Family Crisis Center to work with them. Now I am passionate about it. I am convinced that the more you know about something the more passionate you will be.

My advice to you is to stop drifting in the river of apathy and begin caring. Set a goal. Find an interest and pursue it. Read your textbooks and go to class—not to get a grade but to learn. Don't choose a major because it is safe and easy but because you are challenged and intrigued by it. Be passionate about your career. If you do this, then your life will not begin at five o'clock in the evening when you finish your workday, but at the moment you wake up in the morning.

Get to know your technology

by Mitch Beaumont
Assistant Editor



The rate of technological changes in our day and age is so accelerated that it is hard to comprehend what will come next. I remember when my dad bought a laptop about five years ago. When I first saw it, I couldn't believe it was possible for a computer to fit in a lap. Now technological advancements such as these are run-of-the-mill and are much more complex and even more unthinkable.

You'll find evidence of these changes anywhere you go these days. I have found that the best place to catch up on technological changes is in the magazines that can be found in the seat-backs of most airlines. I was on a plane fairly recently and happened to flip through such a magazine for part of my flight. Just about everything imaginable was advertised; from super-thin laptops to a computer program that allows you to drag phone numbers from your computer to your cell phone.

It is so easy to get caught up in the trends of our culture, many of which include buying into the latest gizmo or gadget. I tend to be among those who are transfixed with new gadgets and often I want to buy them just to see how my life can be even more convenient. But is that really a stewardly use of my money? What about all of that time that I spend learning how to use these new technologies? Is that a waste of time as well? Not necessarily.

It is my opinion that as Christians in an ever-

growing technological age we have a responsibility to use technology with integrity and to learn all we can so that we can use it in the future to further the cause of Christ.

We are responsible for maintaining our credibility as Christians. While it is easy to enter a chat room on the Internet and become someone you are not, that is not using the technology with integrity. When anyone uses a form of technology, whatever it is, in a negative way, they are endangering their reputation as a person and as a Christian.

This responsibility also has to do with learning all we can about technology so that in the future we can use that knowledge to further the cause of Christ in some way. For instance, suppose you are in a Christian chat room of some kind and someone enters and starts to ask questions about Christianity. Not only do you have the responsibility to know how to answer the questions, but you also need to know how to communicate through the Internet, such as typing, and accurately writing your thoughts down. Most likely this person will want to have further contact with you via e-mail and it is vital that you know how and that you have access to that.

I am not saying that every person should go buy every technological gadget out there, but I am suggesting that you take every opportunity you have to learn any technology possible. Whether that be using a friend's computer to try out a new computer program or giving a presentation in class on the COW instead of a plain, oral presentation, these little opportunities could some day prove to play a crucial role in how you help someone to understand the gospel.



Features

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AMOR rings in the millennium in Mexico

by Allison Schaap
Staff Writer

AMOR (A Mission Outreach) spent the end of the millennium and the beginning of the new millennium in Mexico serving the less fortunate.

From December 30, 1999 to January 8, 2000 the group AMOR went to Tijuana, Mexico. Thirteen students participated, and they raised funds through Dordt to make this trip possible. They built two houses in four days, handed out flour in the dump and fish in the neighborhood for the hungry, and visited a few orphanages. The group stayed on a YWAM (Youth With A Mission) base, which was very much like a dorm-style living arrangement.

Pastor Don Draayer organized and arranged the whole trip. Draayer said, "AMOR's purpose is to provide ministry to those in a cross-cultural center and to open the eyes and hearts of those there."

Draayer also mentioned that this trip was also at a very opportune time for the seniors because the trip to Mexico would not have worked during spring break. AMOR was unable to go to Nicaragua during this break because of the uncertainties Y2K might bring. However Draayer did mention that this spring break AMOR has the opportunity to go to either Nicaragua or Haiti.

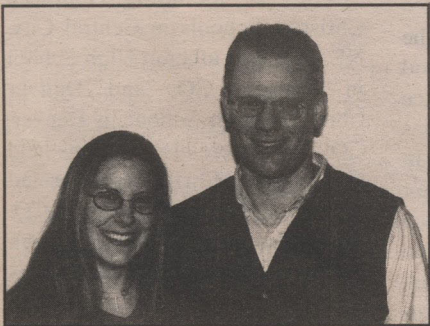
For Kristin Anderson, a junior political science major, it was her first time going on a trip with AMOR. She said the most memorable part of the trip was working with the families. "Many people wanted houses, but you have to be the poorest of the poor, and many live in one room shacks." Anderson continued, "There was one particular Christian woman who helped out everyday because she was so grateful to us."

Anderson thought that the trip was a wonderful experience and said, "We spent the time serving God. It was just a cool way to bring in the new year."



Dordt and Trinity students at the work site.

photo submitted



John Hansen

Van Geest and VanRees engaged

by Tricia Van Ee
Features Page Editor

Dr. Fred Van Geest and Professor Susan VanRees can be added to the long list of couples who have met and gotten engaged at Dordt. The pair announced their engagement over Christmas break.

Van Geest, who has taught political science at Dordt since 1996, met VanRees, the new art instructor, on August 1, the day she moved into the old president's house. Art professor Jake Van Wyk asked Van Geest to help move in the new art professor. Van Geest agreed, and he said that he and VanRees "hit it off right away."

The wedding is set for May 20 in Sioux Center. They are both very happy at Dordt College and do not plan on leaving in the near future.

When Computers Go Wrong

by Jessica B. Clevering
Staff Writer

Meet Joe VanderDordt, your average college student. He stumbles back from his 8:00 class and lumbers up the stairs to his dorm room to print out his paper for his 10:00 class. That's when disaster strikes. When he least expects it, when all is seemingly well, the printer cartridge runs out. Joe stares befuddled at the blank paper. He rips open the printer cover and inspects the inside then he clicks his mouse on everything on the screen, all to no avail. Luckily for him, years of computer applications classes and techno talk have trained him to save everything onto floppy disk. He whips the disk out of his computer and rushes across the soggy grass of the campus towards the library with 15 minutes left before his next class. "Just enough time" he muses to himself as he heaves open the door, computer disk in hand. The wizened librarians recognize him immediately as one of THOSE. Computer victims: they are characterized by expressions of frustration, permanently furrowed brows, and the cries of exasperation emitting every few minutes.

Joe plunks himself down into a chair

which almost rolls away from him. He shoves his computer disk in the computer tower, goes to File, and then Open. To his horror he can not find the title of his essay in the list of saved papers. His pulse begins to quicken and his face pales. He looks like he's seen the ghost of Final Papers Past. In one last desperate attempt at recovering the precious essay he begins to talk to the computer. "Please!" he begs it, but it is too late, the minute hand is nearing the 12, and that spells certain doom for his midterm grades. He shuts down the computer and ejects his disk in resignation.

Later in the day Joe begins to seek solace by discussing his dilemma with friends over some crunchy lasagna at the Commons.

There have been many theories as to what happens to those missing files which seem to disappear on contact with a Dordt Library computer. Simple explanations, like having saved it incorrectly, are obviously wrong; the real answer must be much more intriguing. Some say that the computers harbor a secret grudge against particular people and particular types of essays. Others say there is a programming glitch which cause the computers to malfunction when it detects the letters V, A, and N in sequence. Still others hold to the

idea that the computer disk is damaged when it is exposed to extreme temperatures in the process of taking it from a dorm room to the library. One of the more prominent schools of thought on the subject is that the security gates at the library through which everyone must pass erase disks.

This last theory is based on the fact that magnetic forces can often have an adverse effect on everything from computer disks to VISA cards. However, the theory is flawed. The security gates do not contain magnets. They operate by simply detecting magnetism which the strips placed on all library material contain.

As for the other theories, few people are willing to subject their computer disks to a short rendezvous with the inside of a fridge to test the extreme temperatures hypothesis. It is also not yet discovered whether computers are capable of such a strong sentiment as hatred. And so, the mystery continues. What causes files to be lost and disks to be erased? What is to become of the victims of such circumstances? Will students be doomed to turn in late papers forever? Will our young hero be able to save his grades before midterms and prevent the computers from world domination? Tune in next time.

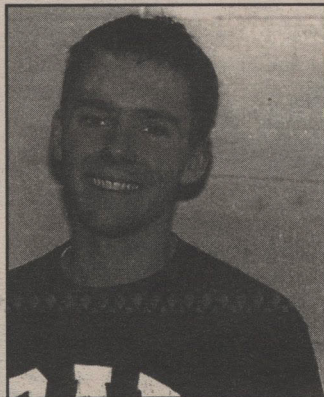
What political party do you belong to and why? Do you intend to vote?

Picture Poll



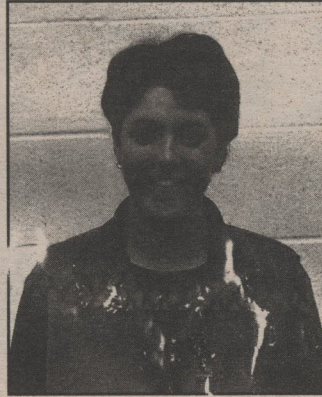
Republican Party — "Their party platform stands mostly for what I believe." — She will vote.

Valerie Maas — Freshman
Mt. Vernon, Washington



Republican Party — "That's how I was raised and the views of the republican party most coincide with my faith" — Will vote.

Ryan Gritters — Sophomore
Pella, Iowa



Republican Party — "I 'generally' agree with the issues that republicans stand for." — Not sure if she will vote.

Teresa Van Den Broek — Senior
Pella, Iowa



Democratic Party — "They're more into social welfare." — Will vote.

Dave Vander Plaats — Senior
North Haledon, New Jersey



Movie Review: Defending "Magnolia"

by David Schaap
A&E Page Editor

I like movies. And this is that: a Movie, with a capital M. Paul Thomas Anderson, the director of this sprawling collection of smaller stories, does not shy away from the fact that what you are watching is a movie.

Some people prefer that the camera simply record events, but not Anderson. He loves his tools, and with them he tells a wonderful, but also greatly misunderstood story.

First, a plot summary: "Magnolia" takes place in San Fernando Valley, following the lives of several interconnected characters in a period of 24 hours. A dying TV mogul, his trophy wife, a nurse, a chauvinist self-help



Jim Kurring plays John C. Reilly and Claudia Wilson is Melora Walters in P.T. Anderson's "Magnolia."

guru, a former and current whiz kid, a junkie, a cop, and a game show host all interact and cross paths throughout the movie.

As they attempt to go through their day, they must confront the tremendous pain they have experi-

enced, and the horrific pain they've caused. The characters try to put the past, as well as their hurt and their

regret, behind them. But, as repeated in the movie several times, "And the book says we may be through with the past, but it ain't through with us."

While "Magnolia" certainly has its flaws, I definitely recommend it. But I must warn you, don't expect a normal movie. It goes out

on a long, long limb, and I feel it hasn't gotten enough praise for taking the risks it does.

For example, the movie begins and ends with a few examples of remarkable coincidences which seem completely unrelated to the main story. Most critics mistakenly say this exists solely to legitimize the characters' seemingly random interaction, but more importantly, the very literal act of God which brings the movie to its climax.

I don't want to give away the experience of discovering what this wondrous event is. Even if you know your Scripture and catch the prophetic Bible verse very discreetly hidden throughout the movie, you still won't be prepared for it. Many critics say that this climactic event is a desperate act on the part of the director to bring about a unifying resolution. While it does serve that function, this miracle is by no means desperate. Let's give Anderson a little credit here: an apocalyptic occurrence like this qualifies as the most unapologetic deus et Machanica I've ever witnessed. Anderson knows this. He's too smart and talented not to see it.

So why take the risk of telling a seemingly cheap ending to the story? As I said, the act of God does bring the characters to face their past and confront the ones they've hurt and been hurt by. In the end, as they face up to their pain, forgiveness and grace abound, which some critics have called an easy out. I happen to disagree. The miracle serves as a larger metaphor for the big questions that the movie asks—"Why on earth would anyone love a foolish and horrible person like me?" and "Why do I love this person who has hurt me so deeply?"

So, as we are left to marvel at the miraculous event, this thing that seems to defy nature, something so strange and incomprehensible, we also ponder those questions. And those questions are miracles in themselves, unbelievable and seemingly impossible. But as the whiz kid realizes, "This happens. This is something that happens." "This is not just a matter of chance. Strange things happen all the time," the narrator tells us. Why does this strange thing called grace happen? I don't know. But, it does, and it's wonderful, isn't it?

Orchestra travels to Colorado

by Andrea Voogt
Staff Writer

Members of the Chamber Orchestra returned to Dordt's campus in early January in order to participate in the Chamber Orchestra's Winter Tour. The tour was from January 5-11 and included performances in Nebraska and Colorado.

The Chamber Orchestra performed at a number of school assemblies, including Nebraska Christian Schools in Central City, NE, Denver Lutheran High School in Denver, CO, and Denver Christian High School in Denver, CO. There were also concerts held at Cragmor Christian Reformed Church in Colorado Springs, CO, Third Christian Reformed Church in Denver, CO, and at Fort Collins Christian Reformed Church in Fort Collins, CO. The orchestra also performed at the Christian Living Centers in Littleton and Denver, CO, as well as participating in a church service at Horizon Community Christian Reformed Church in Littleton, CO.

The Chamber Orchestra performed numerous pieces, including St. Paul's Suite by Gustav Holst, Let the Bright Seraphim (from 'Samson') by George Frideric Handel, Overture No. 2 by Johann Sebastian Bach, Trumpet Concerto in D Major by Leopold Mozart, Une Flûte Invisible by Camille Saint-Saëns, Christ, You are the Fullness of God arranged by Dale Grotenhuis, When Peace Like a River by Philip Bliss (and arranged by Dr. Duitman), Music of the Night from 'Phantom of the Opera' by Andrew Lloyd Webber, and Simple Symphony by Benjamin Britten. The orchestra was accompanied by the instrumental talents of Rachel Micheals on the flute and Andrew Compton on the trumpet, as well as by the vocal talent of Lani Van Someren, soprano.

On their free day, the Chamber Orchestra was privileged to attend a concert by the Colorado Symphony Orchestra featuring the music of Copland.

"Students played exceptionally well," said Dr. Duitman. He also said he was particularly pleased with the orchestra's reception at the two high schools in Denver. "The high school students paid attention and seemed to be impressed with the small Christian college orchestra that could play so well," Duitman stated.

The Chamber Orchestra performed in a chapel service at Dordt on January 13. As the grand finale to their tour, they also performed their tour music in a concert in the B.J. Haan Auditorium on January 16.

Compton gives recital

Andrew Compton held his senior recital last Saturday night in the B.J. Haan Auditorium. He was accompanied by Mary Lou Wielenga, an instructor of piano and organ. Andrew is an accomplished trumpet player who is majoring in Instrumental Education.



Travis Bonnema



Lady Defenders claim West Coast as their own

Leanne Prins
Staff Writer

The Lady Defenders basketball team headed out to the West Coast over Christmas break to challenge a few teams from Washington and British Columbia. They came, and they conquered, playing some quality basketball to end up 3-0 overall on the tour.

Their first stop was the Puget Sound Holiday Classic Tournament in Tacoma, Washington, on December 17 and 18. Their first challenger was Concordia College of Oregon in the semi-final. It resulted in a tie at 57 that had to be broken in over-

time; the Lady Defenders took command, netting 8 points, and not allowing Concordia any.

This advanced Dordt to the championship game against the host team, Puget Sound. The Lady Defenders controlled the entire game, ending up with a 64-47 victory to take the tournament championship. Carla Geleynse, Marlene Van Wingerden, and Serena Van Beek were all honored to be named to the all-tournament team.

The team then crossed the 49th parallel to play against Trinity Western University of Langley, British Columbia, on December 21. Playing in Canada meant that

they had to use FIFA rules, and so a number of changes were made for this game: for example, a mens' basketball (larger than womens') was used, and the three point line was 9 inches farther out than the Lady Defenders are used to. Despite these adjustments, Carla Geleynse and Kelli Holwerda led the team in a gutsy performance. In a neck-and-neck battle, Dordt pulled off the third win in a row with a score of 59-52.

Entering the road trip with a 3-4 record, the Ladies leave their conquered territory with a 6-4 record on the season. The Northwest Pacific has been claimed as their own!

National Qualifiers return to competition

Jocelyn Van Beek
Staff Writer

Dordt's indoor track season has begun, and Coach Altena has a pretty good outlook on the coming season.

The track team this year is made up of about 30 men and 30 women. The men have 7 seniors, the most ever, while the women have 2 seniors and 13 new freshmen competing. This is the largest team that Dordt has ever had.

There are some national qualifiers back from last year: the 4x800 men's

team of Jim Dekkers, Jon Dekkers, Jeff Summerhays, and Ron Kingma; and Jill Starkenburg in the pole vault. The women have a well rounded team with enough people to cover all the events. This is the first year the team has had enough people to do so. Coach Altena is looking forward to the depth that the team is gaining.

The team goals for the year are to remain injury-free as much as possible and to do well in the conference. Last year the team placed second, so they hope to remain in the top 4 this year as well. They would also like to qualify for nationals in some events.

According to Coach Altena the team has potential of doing well because of the facilities available for practice and because of the depth and skill of the team. He is looking forward to a great season!

Men's basketball team spends week in California

Jocelyn Van Beek
Staff Writer

The Dordt men's basketball team boarded a plane headed for California on December 25. They stayed there for one week, playing basketball as well as seeing the local sights.

The first game the men played was on Monday, the 27th, against Vanguard University. Coach Van Soelen said that the team seemed rusty because they were just coming back from a couple weeks off. They didn't play as well as they were capable, so they lost 65-58. Neal Brenneman had 15 points to lead the team in scoring.

The second game they played was December 30 against

Christian Heritage. This team was a bit more competitive than Vanguard, as the game was more physical. Van Soelen said that Christian Heritage was the better team; Dordt lost 85-70. They came close in the second half to tying up the score by getting within five points, but they just couldn't pull it off. Eric Maas had 14 points and 11 rebounds along with Michael Ribbens' 13 points and Adam Van Meeteren's 11 points.

In addition to their basketball games, they went to Venice Beach, a church in Bellflower, a UCLA basketball game, a Wisconsin practice for the Rose Bowl, and downtown San Diego.

Dordt Blades face disappointing losses in B.C.

Janelle Saarloos
Staff Writer

Coming back to Dordt signified a return to normalcy for the Dordt Blades after spending six consecutive days in British Columbia playing hockey.

The Blades returned from the tour with a record of two wins and four losses. According to Aron Zuidhof, defense man and assistant captain of the Blades, the first game was a struggle and the team had a disappointing loss of 13-0 on January 3. However,

in the next two games they fared much better, winning 9-4 and 6-5 respectively. On January 6 & 7, the Blades suffered two more losses in which they were shut out 15-0 and 5-0. In their final game, the Blades also lost to Trinity Western University with a score of 15-4.

Despite the somewhat bleak figures, the team was not daunted. Each of the 16 Blades that went on the tour enjoyed a special camaraderie with his teammates, playing well together and especially improving their passing

skills. Although not every game ended in victory for the Blades, Zuidhof noted that the team did not go without its "points of brilliance" throughout the entire tour.

Generally, the hockey tour turned out to be a great experience. Many players were pleased to have more playing time to work on skills, and the overall attitude of the team was one of optimism. It is hoped that the Blades will carry on in this spirit as they continue the regular season here at home.

Defender and Blade Statistics

Basketball

Men

Record: 11-6 Conference: 2-2

Dec. 11

Northwestern College

Loss: 75-84

Scoring Leaders:

Brian Wassenaar - 16

Adam Van Meeteren - 15

Eric Maas - 14

Rebound Leaders:

Adam Van Meeteren - 6

Matt Van Essen - 6

Eric Maas - 6

January 7

Black Hills State University

Loss: 78-74 in Overtime

Dordt Scoring Leaders:

Neal Brenneman - 18

Randy Oostra - 14

Adam Van Meeteren - 11

Rebound Leaders:

Neal Brenneman - 9

Randy Oostra - 6

January 8

South Dakota Tech

Win: 83-74

Scoring Leaders:

Adam Van Meeteren - 13

Neal Brenneman - 12

Evan Beimers - 12

Eric Maas - 12

Rebound Leaders:

Matt Van Essen - 7

Neal Brenneman - 6

January 13

Dakota Wesleyan

Win: 83-60

Scoring Leaders:

Randy Oostra - 20

Neal Brenneman - 18

Evan Beimers - 10

Rebound Leaders:

Randy Oostra - 6

Neal Brenneman - 5

January 15

Mount Marty:

Loss: 76-81

Scoring Leaders:

Neal Brenneman - 23

Michael Ribbens - 11

Brian Wassenaar - 11

Rebound Leaders:

Randy Oostra - 7

Dylan Haak - 7

Eric Maas - 7

Women

December 21, 1999

vs. Trinity Western University

59-52

Langley, BC

Scoring Leaders:

Kelli Holwerda - 14

Carla Geleynse - 14

Serena Van Beek - 10

Rebound Leaders:

Kelli Holwerda - 10

January 7, 2000

vs. Black Hills State 55-68

Spearfish, SD

Scoring Leaders:

Krystal Smiens - 11

Kelli Holwerda - 10

Rebound Leaders:

Krystal Smiens - 6

Kelli Holwerda - 6

January 8, 2000

vs. South Dakota Tech 78-69

Rapid City, SD

Scoring Leaders:

Serena Van Beek - 24

Heather Broekhuis - 17

Kelli Holwerda - 13

Rebound Leaders:

Kelli Howerda - 16

January 13, 2000

vs. Dakota Wesleyan 66-57

Home Game

Scoring Leaders:

Serena Van Beek - 28 (all in second half!)

Carla Geleynse - 20

Rebound Leaders:

Carla Geleynse - 9

Heather Broekhuis - 9

January 15, 2000

vs. Mount Marty 60-67

Yankton, SD

Scoring Leaders:

Carla Geleynse - 29

Serena Van Beek - 12

Kelli Holwerda - 12

Rebound Leaders:

Kelli Holwerda - 9

Hockey

Luverne, MN.

Dordt Blades vs. Carleton College

Friday, January 14

L5-7

Goaltender: Hoogland

Saturday, January 15

L7-11

Goaltender: Hoogland

USD Invitational

Vermillion, SD Jan. 14 & 15

National Qualifier:

Susan Schaap - High Jump 5'4"

Provisional Qualifier:

Men's Distance Medley: 10:36:62

Jon Dekkers

Troy Ten Napel

Ron Kingma

Jeff Summerhays

School Records:

Sarah Haan - 200 M Time:27.53

December 17-18, 1999

Puget Sound Holiday Classic Tournament

Tacoma, WA

Semi-Final:

vs. Concordia College 65-57

Championship:

vs. Puget Sound 64-47

Overall: Dordt takes the tournament championship with a 2-0 record.

Marlene Van Wingerden, Serena Van Beek, and Carla Geleynse are named to the Tacoma all-tournament team.



News Briefs

By Jen Hoogveen
Staff Writer

Elian Gonzalez's Next Move: Congress

After continuing media attention and feuding between the Gonzalez family members, Elian Gonzalez's family in Miami is now planning on heading to federal court to keep the Immigration and Naturalization Service from sending the young boy back to his father in Cuba. INS originally said that his father could decide Elian's fate when a Florida family court judge declared that he could not be sent back until his custody meeting March 6th. Attorney General Janet Reno sides with the INS on this subject and many believe Reno and the Justice Department will have the upper hand in this case.

Russian troops take Rebels' Center of Resistance

Russian troops broke through from two sides to central Grozny Tuesday. Grozny has been the main center of the Chechen rebel resistance since September, when they were blamed for burning several apartments and causing 300 deaths. Taking hold of this land from the approximately 2,000 militants gave the Russians a psychological boost.

Meanwhile, in the city of Ingushetia, an explosion rocked the Supreme Court building. No one yet knows what caused the explosion.

On the Russian side, plans are to control the rebel Chechen capital within a few days. The rebels, however, are planning more attacks in southern Chechnya.

Apology from Domsday Cult

The doomsday cult, Aum Shinri Kyo, which released nerve gas in Tokyo's subways in 1995 causing 12 fatalities and leaving thousands sick, came forward to apologize for their crimes as well as announce plans to compensate the victims and their families. They also admitted that the mastermind behind it was their charismatic leader, 44-year-old Shoko Asahara. Asahara was also being tried for the deaths of some cult members, his family and a lawyer who was investigating the cult. The cult plans on reorganizing, in part by changing its name to "Aleph," and putting a new leader, Tatsuko Muraoka, in charge.

Clinton Hits Guns Hard

After several school shootings last year, Clinton is going to work on the gun issue. He proposed \$280 million dollars in funding for the "largest firearms enforcement in U.S. history" this past Tuesday. He is asking for \$53 million to hire 500 new agents for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms who would target illegal gun traffickers. Clinton also plans to spend \$10 million dollars for research on "smart guns" that will only fire for the owner or persons authorized to operate the gun.

The fiscal year 2001 budget plan that's due next month includes three parts on gun control. The first is \$150 million dollars to hire 100 federal prosecutors for firearms cases and 1,000 state and local lawyers to deal with gun violators.

Second, \$30 million dollars will be used to create a National Integrated Ballistics Information Network clearinghouse.

And thirdly, \$10 million dollars will be used to support local campaigns that alert people to the dangers of gun violence and advocate for gun safety.

Included with all of this, Clinton is continuing work on getting Congress to pass laws to make child safety locks on handguns will be mandatory, and keep violent youth from owning guns.

Y2K: Glitches from around the world

By Rachelle Vander Werff
Staff Writer

Despite the great success in preventing Y2K problems, the following glitches were associated with Y2K:

- The computers in many video stores crashed showing the tapes 100 years late, and in one extreme case, a customer was charged with a \$91,250 late fee.
- On January 3, 2000, Al Gore's campaign web site was dated January 3, 1900.
- Courthouse computers in Italy mixed up prisoners dates by one hundred years, and according to the computers some prisoners were released 100 years too early while other prisoners needed to serve an additional 100 years.
- A chocolate company in New York was appar-

ently giving away free candy because their cash registers were broken due to a Y2K bug.

- Computers in some small airports had a mind of their own and began flashing the date "1900."
- Some hotmail sent before October 1999 was dated 2099.
- In South Korea, one hospital recorded a baby's birth as January 1, 1900.
- The web site for Nintendo's Pokemon was about 1900 years off.
- When moving graphic images onto this page Wednesday, the computer asked *Diamond* staff to subscribe to the data last received on January 1, 1904 at midnight.

Just another interesting fact:

- Born only minutes apart, several sets of twins are from different centuries.

Diamond lookback

Historical headlines and quotes from past January issues

1959

□ "Enrollment Down From First Semester"

1961

□ "Administration Announces Schedules" - "The first semester of school work will be concluded with semester exams January 16 through January 20."

1965

□ "Dordt College Student Association Proposed"

□ "Dordt Appreciation Week To Be Held In Early February" - "This event is a mutual attempt of the community and the college to express their appreciation for one another."

□ "Registration Procedures Shift" - "On an experimental basis, the registration of students is now a four-week process, instead of the traditional two-day registration."

1966

□ "Campus Expands Landholdings" - "The Board has purchased 10 acres of land directly east of the campus."

□ "Library Construction" - "Entering the library is no longer a cold experience. Since the last building report the heating system has been connected so that the workers can enjoy shirt-sleeve comfort."

1969

□ "Hulst-Students Present Facts On Chapel Change" - "Dordt College has been notified that chapel services are considered 'religious worship' and it is therefore advisable not to hold chapel services in the new auditorium."

1970

□ "Dordt College-Free or CRC"

□ "Campus Slacks Scheme Explained" - "When KDCR's 7:00 a.m. weather gives a current temperature of ten below zero or less, girls are encouraged to dress warmly. In other words, girls may then wear slacks to class, to the library, and to meals... In [Dr. Rozeboom's] words, 'we want our girls to look 'nice.'"

-compiled by Brady Fopma

Need some extra cash?

The *Diamond* will pay \$18 for you to drive the newspaper to our printer in LeMars every other Friday. Your own car is an asset; pay for driving the paper using a Dordt car is \$12.

If you don't have class until 11:00 on Friday morning we could use you. If interested email us at diamond@dordt.edu

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