Burgess steals the show at NISO

by Kim Lambright
Staff Reporter

The Northwest Iowa Symphony Orchestra, directed by Professor Duitman, delivered a stunning performance to an enthusiastic audience at the BJ Haan last Tuesday night. The orchestra showcased music of Spain and Latin America, and featured David Burgess on the guitar. The 100-member orchestra is comprised of adult musicians from northwest Iowa, as well as 30 Dordt students and 16 high school students. The variety of ages contributes to the orchestra’s success because “the young learn from the experience of the adults, and the adults are inspired by the quick learning of the youth,” said director Duitman.

In the first half, David Burgess stole the show with his solo work on the concert by Rodrigo. His style, impassioned yet soft, captured the audience’s attention, who responded with a standing ovation. “I like the passion he plays with,” said freshman Anastasha Kamps, “I felt a sense of triumph and yet disappointment.” Gabriel Florit, who was equally impressed, said, “He plays differently than most people. His right hand is tense but when you hear it, it sounds fluid.”

The second half opened with a light off and a call for unity in music. Suddenly four performers offstage on each side opened the concert by lighting up a flash of light in the balcony, burst forth with Cecal Grand’s Fantasia for the Common Man, building and chilling the audience. “It’s an awesome song,” commented sophomore Zach Vreeman, “Copland’s an amazing composer.”

The last piece, Danzon No. 2 by Marquez, displayed the orchestra’s intense unification and evidence of practice. Under Duitman’s competent and controlled direction, the vibrant rhythm of the familiar Spanish pieces became alive with enough energy to fill every heart in the audience. The mood was undeniable, enhanced by the crescendos which stretched every emotion, from sympathy to control, beautifully.

The orchestra received another standing ovation at the close of the concert. “Judging by audience response, it was the best concert we have had,” said Duitman, who hopes each person took away with them “a better love for music of Spain and Latin America.”

ECHO conference results in hunger alternatives

by Marty Christians
Guest Writer

“Somos pobres. Estamos pobres.” To English speakers such as myself, the difference between these two Spanish sentences is not a big one, but upon further investigation, one should note the fundamental misconception which one sentence implies and which the other does not. “Somos pobres” means that the recipients are poor and that their condition will not change. “Estamos pobres” means that the recipients are poor but their condition can change.

At the Educational Concerns for Hunger Organization (ECHO) Ag Missions conference, a network of 250-300 delegates from around the world, met to offer themselves as instruments of God in search of a way to break down the walls of the “somos” mentality. These delegates (from as far away as China and Indonesia) met under one roof in Fort Myers, Florida from November 8-November 12 to discuss how they could find and use some tools with which they could break down these walls. The focus of this conference was one which fought against world hunger through the use of stewardly agricultural practices and techniques.

From within the conference schedule of 3 morning sessions, 3 afternoon sessions, and 2 evening sessions, a plethora of ideas and practices emerged. Considering that 90 percent of the world’s food is supplied by fifteen plant species (two-thirds of which come from only three species: rice, corn, and wheat), delegates were encouraged to investigate other, alternative food sources in a world of great complexity and diversity. One emergence from the conference schedule was the utilization of several species (two-thirds of which come from only one genus: Moringa), delegates were encouraged to investigate other, alternative food sources in a world of great complexity and diversity. One emergence from the conference schedule was the utilization of several species, namely, the Moringa tree (native to Arabia, India, and possibly Africa and the East Indies), the Banana tree, the Mango tree, and Tropical Palm trees for their fruits, seeds, roots, leaves, and wood. When produced under sustainable agricultural practices and techniques (such as good management through environmental stewardship), these trees can provide the world’s hungry with a source of nutrition without degrading the land on which the trees are produced. Through this model of sustainability, these trees have the potential to be powerful tools, a blessing for indigenous peoples in various places around the globe.

The missionaries, scientists, and nationals working in their own countries also presented and witnessed several other ideas, devices, and practices at this conference. These included the use of filters for clean drinking water, raised bed gardening, rooftop gardening in urban settings, a mushroom project in Zimbabwe, peanut processing machines (which could be brought into homes), sawdust cooking stoves, and solar pans. Finding funds for such projects is difficult, however, God will always provide for His people. “We must, therefore, seek to do His will and seek to do His justice. Only then will the wall of the “somos” mentality crumble and indigenous peoples will be a blessing to the Earth.”

Help us to develop relationships to help serve the Earth and the poor!


**Student Forum addresses many issues**

by Allison Schap

Student Forum has brought many issues to the attention of the campus either through the suggestion box or by word of mouth. The proposal to hold no classes on Good Friday is one of the larger items on their agenda. Currently, students are hearing about the possibility of good Friday, but Student Forum has come up with a proposal that says if classes are held on Good Friday, then students will be treated the day just as any other Friday, going through the normal routine of classes, taking tests, and handing in papers. When the purpose for is students and faculty to take this day to focus on Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. The reason why this proposal is taking so long to get approved is due to student response which showed that many may use this Friday either to drive home or to have an extra day to do homework; so the board is hesitant in cancelling a day of classes.

The Student Forum is also active in cleaning up the cigarette butts that have been thrown on the ground, by having the maintenance put new urns on campus. This is keeping the campus cleaner as well it allows smokers and non-smokers to live and work together easier.

Student Forum is also actively trying to help students with their assignments on the Student Forum’s attention, by the printouts in the library, particularly the Dot Matrix. Many people get frustrated when it runs slowly, and many students print out nine or ten pages off the Internet.

Student Forum suggests that if people want to just get a little information off the Internet, write it down or print one that does not point to the entire article. Otherwise, use the Laser Jet or the Ink Jet printers. Student Forum wants to research how faculty have been helping students choose next semester’s classes. If you have any suggestions, please turn them into the Suggestion Box in the foyer of the SUB.

The conference present reality of racism

by Allison De Jong

Staff Writer

Eight members of Dordt’s multicultural club, Spectrum, attended the National Christian Multicultural Student Leadership Conference at Messiah College in Grantham, Pennsylvania from November 4 to 6.

The conference dealt largely with the issue of racism. Speakers talked about integrated churches, what is happening on other Christian college campuses around the country, and how to make people more aware of this particular prejudice.

"The conference had a huge impact on me," says Eunice Schreurs. "Hearing about other people’s experiences in other colleges reminded me how big this problem is. It gave me a passion to keep doing whatever I can."

Owen Addink and John Schurts gained a new perspective on racism. "It gave me more of a feel for others’ points of view," said Addink.

“This conference opened my eyes to the complexity of racism. There is a lot of anger and hard feelings involved. It’s a difficult task to bring people together," said Schurts.

From all of the ideas brought up at the conference, Jackson Alang’s is struck by two in particular. First is that Christ has already reconciled us to himself, and now it is our calling to be reconciled to one another; and two, that the best way to raise awareness of racism is through dialogue-through conversations with others.

“What’s happening in our classes? Is our department doing? That’s where we can make a difference," Jackson recalls. "We have to believe in the uniqueness of every individual. It’s our calling to be reconciled to one another.”

Saida Mamadoyo, one of the club presidents, says she learned to appreciate Dordt more after hearing stories of occurrences on other campuses. She also set some new goals for Spectrum.

“We need to attract people’s attention by being passionate and dramatic. It’s hard to get the message across to people who are racist sometimes we may need to go to extremes.”

Marissa Moncur, Spectrum’s other president, was deeply affected by the conference. “It was spiritual. I found peace within myself.”

Marissa also came back with a renewed passion for working towards Spectrum’s goals. “Racism exists, and it hurts. We need to create an awareness about this,” said Moncur. “Dordt people don’t realize it’s a problem. If I could get the people I talk with to evaluate themselves, if I could get them thinking—good. It’s a start," said Moncur.

“Spectrum really needs to model what we want done on campus. We want to see diversity in friendships, in worship. We want people to be committed to modeling intercultural and interracial harmony.”

**Ag majors gain experience**

by Jen Hoogeveen

Staff Writer

Last Tuesday more than a dozen Dordt senior and junior Ag majors headed down to Ames, IA to participate in Iowa State University’s annual Ag Career Day. Around 154 companies were there who are related to agriculture. They had displays set up with representatives looking for students to fill full-time positions or summer internships.

Around 1500 students attended, the majority of them from ISU, and the rest from other colleges around the state. The Ag career day usually has a big turn out because students can find what kind of jobs are out there that include their major, they can talk to company representatives, and hand out their resumes. Senior Derek Bontrager said, “It’s a chance for the jobs to come to us instead of us asking around for jobs.”

Kent Hoksbergen, a junior, agreed, saying that there are “A lot of big companies that you can’t just call up and get a job from. [They were represented at ISU].” Other benefits Hoksbergen found were that students could see what is required of them to get an internship or job in their related area and could see how they measured up to others. Bontrager also noticed a few drawbacks because most of the companies were looking for interns, and many of the companies were holding interviews on ISU’s campus the following week.

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**ROC spreads God’s love with kindness and encouragement**

by Rose Ann Vander Wal

Staf Writer

Dordt’s campus has a club that practices random acts of kindness, it is called Reaching Others for Christ (ROC). Troy De Vlieger is the president of the organization and Professor Syd Heilema oversees the club.

At the beginning of the year several students approached Professor Heilema about several ideas that they had for reaching out to others and bringing them God’s good news. Heilema provided the students with advice and tips on how to present the good news to unbelievers; apart from dispensing ideas that they had for reaching out to others and bringing them God’s good news. Heilema provided the students with advice and tips on how to present the good news to unbelievers; apart from dispensing ideas that they had for reaching out to others and bringing them God’s good news.

Troy has many plans for the future as well. “We plan on doing some street evangelism in Sioux Falls and Sioux Center on ‘Cruise Night.’” On some Saturday, we want to gather the Hispanic children together and have a VBS type setting. We also plan on performing various random acts of kindness throughout the year. We talked about working with evangelism groups at a larger university (i.e. there’s too much space to learn more about evangelism in general, but also how to spread the Good News on a college campus. Finally, we plan on leading a youth evening for several of the local churches,” Mike Ribbens reported.

Ribbens also said that he enjoys ROC because it provides him with more opportunities to show Christ’s love to others. Member, Sita Ribeub responded by saying that ROC is “really fun.”

This club is open to anyone who wishes to join and they can always use more people who are dedicated to reaching out to others. Meetings are usually held every other Monday at 8 p.m. If students are interested in joining or have questions about meeting times they can contact Troy De Vlieger.

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**Conference presents the reality of racism**

November 19, 1999 - Page 2
Why is Tyler mad? A response to our consumeristic society

by David Schaa

Opinion Page Editor

To quote a friend of mine who wrote a film review for the Northwestern student paper: “Fight Club asks the right questions.” So what is it asking? The issue I want to address specifically here is the film’s critique of an all-consuming consumer culture. Fight Club has joined the ranks of legions of rebels preaching the dangers and fallacies of PopMart America and the numbing lifestyle of passivity and apathy it has led to. We no longer know what is like to really live because all our resources and time concentrate on attaining material goods and mindless entertainment. The media has lied to us; we actually can’t find happiness in shopping malls, J. Crew catalogues or on prime-time television. The culture told us that we need the car, the kitchen appliance, the Gap, designer furniture. Buy, eat, out, spend, spend! Fulfillment will come at the bottom of your wallet?

We’ve been brainwashed. So, with an ironic twist, we now serve our service centered market-place. And here is Tyler Dern, out to free the slaves.

Fulfillment will come at the bottom of Corporate America’s shackles that we all are centered market-place. And here is Tyler Dern, out to free the slaves.

Fulfillment will come at the bottom of Corporate America’s shackles that we have grown up to be millionaires and movie stars and rock stars. But we won’t. And we’re just learning this fact.

Tyler’s methods and goals are extreme. “Only when you truly hit bottom, will you be free.” He embraces chaos and he pushes himself towards self-destruction, so he knows that he is alive, beyond the grasp of any cultural restraint. This means letting go of everything, breaking all dependencies of culture and society, and truly knowing that your life means nothing in the long run. Pain is not in the equation, fear is not possible. Any societal power which asks or demands your cooperation or submission must be destroyed.

Although the film doesn’t support Tyler Dern’s pop-Nichelle thought pattern, the movie doesn’t want us to go back to McDonald’s and Wal-Mart either. So there’s the big question the film asks: what are we going to do about a consumer society? Could there be truth in what Tyler Dern is preaching?

ing? Who is angry that they’ve been lied to? Is anybody else out there sick and tired of being treated like a cog, what to like, what to eat, and what to think by mass media and advertising? So why are they accused?

Exactly who this film speaks to, is arguable. I happen to think its ideas are appealing to almost exclusively white middle class youth, which says something about the film and its limitations. Almost all of pop culture media directly fights against who the film is. Why should this be any different? The irony here is wonderful: this movie preaches against something it is thoroughly engrossed in.

Why are angry with consumerism? Why are you justifying companies, fashion designers, and advertisements are all just giving people what individual. Should Tyler be angry? No, because who on earth actually believes that material goods will give you true happiness? You didn’t know it was all a lie? Well, it is. What we have a right to be mad at is that people remain believing that fulfillment can be found when you empty your bank account.

No one is making you watch television, or rule over you. You don’t have to buy Tommy Hilfiger. You’re giving them your money, they’re not taking it from you. Billions of people throughout the world go to bed hungry everyday, and you’re crying because all your wealth isn’t making you a happy? How twisted is that? How can you be angry that you’re not going to be a rock star or a millionaire? Of course you haven’t found fulfillment in your Mercedes Benz. But don’t complain about wealth when so many other people still don’t have the necessities to live.

True passion comes exclusively from God

by Mitch Beaumont

Assistant Editor

Have you ever taken one of those personality tests that measure your strength as a person and what careers you should avoid? Among the results there are numerous characteristics that are supposed to be a good representation of your personality. Did you know that passion does not even appear in that list of character
istic traits? Those tests do not tell you if you are passionate or not; do you know why? Because passion must be measured in your lifestyle and in your actions. These are areas of your life that cannot be meas-
ured by a test.

So if a test cannot tell you if you are passionate, how do you know? What does it mean to be passionate? In the last issue I wrote about true joy and finding it by resting in God. I would like to propose that true passion can be found through true joy which can be found by resting in God. Do you see a paradox here? Sure, passion, like Joy, is obtainable without rest-
ing in God, but when you get it you still feel that little chasm inside your soul that is yearning for more of some-
thing, yet you can’t put your finger on that “something”? The chasm is the ever-present sin in your life that is saying that you can’t put your finger on it is the incredible salvation through Christ. Now let us move one step further.

Let’s examine the word passion’s root. What does it look like in real life? Passion normally shows up in the activities in life that you love to do, the things that you would rather do than some of the more mundane things in life. For me it is writing and expressing myself through that. It is dif-
ferent for you, and for the person next to you, and for the per-
son across the room from you. To be passionate about some-
thing means to care enough about it to pour your whole-self into it. Can you honestly say that you are passionate about God? Do you pour your whole self into Him and into wor-
shiping Him at all times? I can honestly say that I am not passionate about God all the time, but as I have concentrated on being joyful in all things, I have found that passion for God comes quite easily. I have also noticed that as I develop a joyful attitude about life and a passion for God, my passion for life itself is so much greater. Also, as you develop an overwhelming passion for life, your passion for God will increase all the more.

Joy and passion go hand in hand. It is hard to have one without the other, and without one, the other is cancelled out no matter how hard you try to make it real. Our worship of God is to be heart-felt, true, and genuine. That means passion; that means that you have to passionately love God with all of your might. How passionately loves God is different for everyone, and that is not important. But passionately caring and loving and wanting your Savior is, and there is no better way to bring glory to our God than by joyfully accepting who I am, accepting and rejoicing in His salvation and then pas-

sionately going before Him to worship.

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Christians should encourage those in a haze

by Brian Wisselink

A&E Page Editor

It happens every week, a bunch of new movies come into local theaters, and a couple of old ones head down the road that leads to your local video stores. These movies come and go and it doesn’t really seem to matter too much. Hollywood continues to crank out movie after movie, filling the demand that their demographic research has discovered to be there. The audience is entertained, or not, and money is made.

However, once in a while a movie will come out that will actually challenge the viewer to think deeper about the world around them, something that rises above the business of mere entertain-

ment. Fight Club is one such film, to make statements about the world we live in. Recently, several such movies have come into theaters, making me a lit-

ttle more hopeful about the future of American cinema. “American Beauty” is an early front-runner for best picture, an honor it well deserves. “Three Kings” was a daring satire on United America not feeling affected by reli-

on at all, the only things the culture has left to offer is the consumer com-

extreme, “Only when you truly believe that material goods will give you true happiness? You didn’t know it was all a lie? Well, it is. What we have a right to be mad at is that people remain believing that fulfillment can be found when you empty your bank account.

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Survey: what people think about the pressures of marriage on Dordt College

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Total out of 716

Total of Males and Females who Responded

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Features Page Editor
Most Dordt students have an opinion on marriage and dating at Dordt, specifically whether or not pressure exists to find a spouse. A few local experts gave their professional opinions about pressure, marriage, and dating in the Dordt community.

Sociology professor David Helmstetter has taught a course on marriage and family for several semesters. He says that the majority of students in his classes feel that there is pressure to date or marry at Dordt. "Students want to find Christian soulmates," said Helmstetter, "and this is an area where that can happen." He said that because Dordt is a Christian community and most students come from Christian homes, they share many common values and beliefs.

Director of Personal Counseling Mark Christians says that because the "second generation" (children of alumni) are starting to come to Dordt, they may perceive pressure because their parents met each other here.

He also says that pressures depend on the individual. If there was a high tendency to date in high school, that will continue into college. The social group of a person is also a factor. A group decision not to date will keep the pressure to a minimum and will create solid friendships. However, "in a group, if one starts to date, it changes the whole dynamic of the group."

Lori Drayer, a campus pastor, says that much of the pressure to find a spouse is self-perceived. People see others dating and moving toward marriage and feel they should be doing the same thing. He also said that college students are at a time in their lives when they are concentrating on the future, which includes career and the possibility of a family. This may cause some to think about marriage who had not thought about it before.

"Students want to find Christian soulmates, and this is an area where that can happen." -- Professor Helmstetter

Local pastor Robert Drenton of Bethel CRC agreed, saying that he has not noticed so much pressure as a "very understandable anxiety about the future." Drenton says the questions he hears most frequently from students are, "Is it time for me, is this the one, and how do I know?" Students want to know how to discern God's will for their future.

Singleness is becoming more acceptable in the world outside of Dordt. "Marriage is shoved aside for career and goals, especially for women," said Helmstetter. People are postponing and delaying marriage in order to be sure that the single life has been lived to the fullest extent.

These professionals concurred that the marriage age here is lower than the national averages. Because of Dordt students' moral backgrounds, they know they should not consummate their relationships until marriage. Helmstetter said this goal was highly commendable, "but don't assume you need to get married early because of this goal."

Betel CRC agreed, saying that he this goal was highly commendable, "but don't assume you need to get married early because of this goal."

Drenton said that the age of college students planning to marry does not matter as much as if they are ready for marriage and have room in their lives for both marriage and school. Drenter said, saying that maturity and readiness to make a commitment is more important than age.

Helmstetter suggests that one way to ease the dating pressure is to create dialogue about what dating and courtship is all about. He also says that there needs to be ways for people to get together without being part of a couple. When it comes down to the basic pressure, he says, "part of it is the attitude thing; part of it is the opportunity thing."
Mentinks among many who found love at Dordt

by Laura Apol
Staff Writer and Tricia Van Ee
Features Page Editor

Trevor and Katy Mentink are just one of the many couples who met at Dordt and chose to spend their lives together. Trevor, a 1999 graduate, and Katy, a senior, were married in Sunnyvale, Washington, on June 26, 1999. Life has definitely changed for these two individuals in the last few months.

More than three years ago, at the Dordt Devotional, Life costume dance, a young couple took a picture of a beautiful, gap toothed, dressed up as a fairy, and a guy wearing a guy's costume. Both had recently ended previous relationships and weren't looking for anyone else at this time. They dated for a year and finally, in two or three weeks, friends began joking about them getting engaged yet. "That was just a joke," Trevor said, "but the following week, Trevor and Katy took time to get to know each other and develop an unbreakable bond."

On March 29, 1999, on the park benches near New Homestead, Trevor asked Katy to marry him. The park benches weren't the ideal place, but Katy has said it was supposed to happen. The way it did is good enough for her.

Several months ago Katy returned to Dordt as a senior and married. The lifestyle is definitely different for Katy. "I was used to seeing everyone, now I only see those who I go to class," said Katy. "I feel kinda out of it; I don't know what's going on."

However, Katy's grades are improving. "One factor would be the fewer amount of people living together, which is means distraction. She has her own little place upstairs in their house where she can go to study."

Trevor and Katy have also become more active in the church now that they are married. They are sponsors for a Junior high youth group, they teach Sunday School, and also participate in a Bible study.

Features

November 19, 1999 - Page 5

Students share views on marriage at Dordt

by Laura Apol
Staff Writer and Tricia Van Ee
Features Page Editor

Fifteen engagements have been announced in the "Today" in the 12 weeks that school has been in session this semester. This may seem like a lot or not many, depending on whether or not one feels there is pressure to find a spouse at Dordt College.

More than 700 students responded to a Dordt-wide survey asking the question, "Do you think there is pressure to get married at Dordt?" Responses showed 29% said they felt this is a hot topic for students right now.

Kristen Schippers, an RA in East Halls said that the engagements may make the relationship moves too far, too fast, or may they lose their perspective on what they're here for. "It is so easy to forget who we are, our dreams and hopes for our lives, what God may be calling us to do at this point in our lives, when we let ourselves be distracted by the desire for a relationship or by an actual relationship," she said.

"There is the annoying assumption that comes whenever a guy and a girl are seen alone together that they are going to hook up or already have," said Schippers. "I think the pressure comes from the assumption that engagement can put ideas into people's heads and can even indirectly force them into relationships that were perfectly healthy and good as a friendship." Nathan Huiink, a transfer student in his first year at Dordt, said that he sees pressure to date, but he thinks it's "more of a girl thing than a guy thing." Huiink doesn't know where the pressure comes from, but said, "If there was more to do in Sioux Center, there would be a lot less people dating. What else is there to do besides date, homework, and work?"

Many students mentioned that the pressure comes from the tradition of meeting and marrying at Dordt. "Every student hears that one of the requirements to graduate is that you must leave marriage," said James Addink, a fifth year senior. "It's not a rule, but it does highlight a trend and a peer pressure type influence."

Junior Leslie Cowherd said that another reason that people might feel pressure is because this is the time of life when people get ready to settle down and are making decisions about the future. She says she can see the influence on her friends, but feels it is different for her because she is not from a CRC-background and wants to marry someone of her own background.

David Schaap, a senior, takes a different perspective. He says that students are feeling more fear than pressure. "It is not so much pressure, but when you realize that half your class is getting married, you wonder if you should have spent more time looking and once you graduate, it's too late."

To alleviate some of this pressure, Schippers advises, "Recognize that God is not limiting you to college." Just let God work the way He has planned for each of us, she said.

"I think everywhere we need to remind young people that being single is not a sin... Everything comes in its own time, and some people are chosen to remain single so they can focus their energies solely on the Lord."

-Marie Elgersma

"I feel sorry for those who spend too much time with their friends and girlfriends and then nothing comes of it. I think it is better to have a balance in life and not to date over one person too much. I think it shows the need to be dependent to a certain extent. Examine why you are dating and if it is to find security, then it is best to have a large group of friends and find fulfillment in God, academics, sports, something rewarding and fulfilling."

-Becca Van Ee

"Singleness is a special time in a person's life when he or she can focus more clearly on getting to know God and doing His will. It's our opportunity to explore the world before family responsibilities take up most of our time."

-Debra Tol

"We need to take everything easy and remember our age. There are still fish in the water after Dordt."

-Robin Greyduhn

"If there is any pressure, it comes from inside ourselves. This type of self-motivation is not without good reason. Where else will we be surrounded by people of similar world views, beliefs, and upbringing? Certainly not in 99% of the places we work. I think that the high percentage of married Dordt grads is a good thing that should be celebrated."-Anonymous

"My biggest pet peeve about this place is that if you have friends of the opposite gender, and you happen to be on one on with them at some point, people go all psycho and start thinking, "there's something going on there." Guys and girls can be completely good friends without there being any physical attraction or desire to date. Dordt has this unfortunate reputation that it's a place to go to get hitched. Vikes, that's too bad. I thought we were here for school."

-Laura Schippers

"Any time you put people of the opposite sex, the same age (especially marrying age), and the same beliefs, together, something is bound to happen. Your chances of meeting someone who holds the same views on moral and spiritual things and of meeting someone who holds the same goals as you is greatly increased here at Dordt since it is a Christian college.

We should thank God for the opportunity that He has given us to meet so many special people who are ready to serve God in the way that we are... whether this be as a married individual or a single adult."

-Jill Rouw

"Never again in our lives will we be immersed in a place where everyone is in our age group with the same beliefs and interests and background. There's gotta be someone here, right? And if they're not here, how can we ever expect to find them elsewhere? I find it difficult to trust God to 'hook me up' especially since everyone else seems to have found their answer to prayer. What's wrong with me? I know nothing is wrong, but it can sure feel like it when I'm in class and all the girls are blinding me with the magnificent rocks they're wearing or sharing wedding tips during a discussion."

-Karin Van Wijk

"You almost become scared to go on a date with someone for fear that rumors will start flying around. And when you do start dating, it's automatically assumed that you intend to get married to that person. People, get real here! You're not breaking any laws. Biblical or otherwise, by dating someone you would like to know better, even if you don't think you could marry them, and who knows, maybe someone you couldn't see yourself marrying turns out to be the perfect one for you once you really get to know them. Marriage has turned into a race, where the losers (figuratively speaking) just become bitter and desperate, and soon they forget how to have any fun like they used to because they're so focused on finding a partner. If that's your attitude, you're better off single. Marriage isn't an achievement to be put on your resume. It's about finding someone you want to spend your life with."

-Jeremy Jongma
Rage Against the Machine

Brian Wisselink
A&E Page Editor

In the early 1980's, Rolling Stone magazine dubbed punk supergroup The Clash to be "the only band that matters." The Clash's outspoken politics, inven-
tive musicianship, and business integrity made them icons as well as models for countless bands to imitate. Here in the late nineties, I don't know if there's any one band that could really be given The Clash's title, but if I had to vote, I'd definitely have to choose Rage Against the Machine.

In the current pop-music arena, the charts are dominated by either sugar-coated pop outfits like NSYNC, Brandy Spears, and Will Smith, or the hopelessly depressed and/or angry "new-metal" of Korn, Limp Bizkit, and Creed. While a lot of bands are willing and able to be very angry and depressed, Rage Against the Machine seems to be the only band that is willing to do something about it. While other groups complain about their ex-
girlfriends, their guitarist, and their drug habits, Rage uses the platform of pop music to attack what they perceive to be the evils of the modern age. Combining the heavier guitar work of Led Zeppelin with the rap-style and politics of Public Enemy, Rage Against the Machine has become one of the most popu-
lar and probably the most contro-
versial band of the nineties (ignoring the career-serving schtick of Marilyn Manson).

The politics of Rage Against the Machine are probably not everyone's cup of tea. They are extremely left-wing radicals by nearly any definition of those terms and uncompromisingly so. However, one can't help but admire them for standing up for what they believe in and it's hard to argue with their mission to attack corruption and expose repression, racism, and hypocrisy at ever corner.

Having put much invention into the now omnipresent rap-metal hybrid, Rage Against the Machine released their landmark self-titled debut in 1992, Rage Against the Machine returned to reclaim its place at the top of the hard rock jampile with its latest release "The Battle of Los Angeles."

"The Battle of Los Angeles" is a great step forward for the band, expanding their trademark sound into new, though not unrecognizable territory. The prerequisite fiery all-out anthems are present on the new album. The punishing mosh-pit churners "Guerrilla Radio," "Sleep Now in the Fire," and "New Millennium Homes," being prime examples. The album's biggest step forward is its increased hip-hop focus, on the funky "Clip Like a Bomb," and "Mic Check," which pushes the background to the background and exposes the excellent rhythm sec-
tion and Zack De La Rocha's well-
developed rapping skills. The gui-
tarwork on the album once again establishes Tom Morello as the most inventive, if not the very best, guitarist of our time. Morello alternately makes his guitar sound like a harmonica ("Guerrilla Radio"), a fax machine ("Ashes in the Fall"), a police siren ("New Millennium Homes"), and even a bagpipe ("Voice of the Voiceless"), while also delivering some of the best big-rock riffs since Jimmy Page was in his prime with Led Zeppelin.

The band is as tight as ever and the politics are still there. "Testify" takes on the power and over-
whelming influence of the big oil companies, "Born as Ghosts" attacks the culture that teaches us that we are consumers from birth, and "Voice of the Voiceless," takes up the case of one of Rage's favorite subjects, the trial of Mumia Abu-Jamal, a black jour-
nalist who was sentenced to death for killing a white cop by an all-
white jury. In "Ashes in the Fall," perhaps the best song on the album, makes the statement "Ain't it funny how the factory doors close?/Around the time that the doors of the jail cell/Open up to great you like the replay," an attack on the cycle of crime creat-
ed by inner-city poverty and the unavailability of a good education. Rage Against the Machine are not a subtle band, but their mission does not call for any subtleties, they protest and attack complacency in a world that has become increasingly polarized between rich and poor, the haves and the have nots. It's a mission that few other bands have taken up, and one can only hope that others will have the courage to try and be a band "that matters."

Eight people missed the X-files Sunday night...

by Ryan Vande Kraats
Staff Writer

Eight people came to this year's annual student poetry reading. Yes, eight whole people made a stand for the annual student poetry reading. Why? is especially unique and important. Some more people to come out next year, according to the poet. For some reason, the people who get up to read because the people who get up to read the poetry-Pam Vandermeer, Kim Lambright and Holly Meyer, all fresh-
man, Brian Wisselink, a senior, and, Ryan Vande Kraats, a junior.

Every year after the poetry reading I find myself feeling the same way—sort of let down by the fact that so few people have been showing up at these events. I remember the first time I read at the event, there were maybe fifty people there including a good number of pros, and the event was a lot of fun. Maybe people just don't care about poetry anymore. That is very possible. Maybe people were just too busy, or didn't know about it. That too is understandable. I guess I am just disappointed because the people who get up to read and share their poems, who are often very personal and sincere, deserve to be heard. Poetry is meant to be heard, it is an art form that involves not only the eye when it is read, but also the ear. Poetry is an art of sounds, of images with words just as music is an art with a string of notes. The purpose of writing, the poet to the brain of the listener. And so, to have no one show up at a reading. The art is not fully appreciat-
ed.

Well, that is enough out of me. Let me just tell you all out there that you could have taped "X-Files," that you missed some really good poems, and it was your loss. And let me say to those who did show up and to those who shared their work: thank you, and keep writing. I hope we can convince some more people to come out next time. Writing is a powerful mode of communication in any form, and poet-
y is especially unique and important. That is beauty of all of our human senses compressed into written and spoken word. It is the concentrated truth spread out on a page.

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Lady Defenders open season

Teams finish season right

by Jocelyn Van Beek
Sports Page Editor

Dordt's cross country season ended at the SDIC Conference meet Sat., Nov. 5, in Spearfish, SD. The men had a chance at winning, while the women were just out to run and do their best. Despite their hard work, it just wasn't meant to be that day. The men placed fifth, 55 points behind the University of Sioux Falls in first place. The men's top five places went to Jon Vander Kooy in 14th, Greg Van Dyke with 16th, Jeff Summerhays in 18th, Matt Van Essen in 21st, and Tim Ives in 29th. Coach Goheen commented that despite the hard race, some of the men ran some of their best races. These guys were Greg Van Dyke, Eric Vander Kooy, Time Ives, Marcus Scholten, and Collin Attema. The women placed third, gaining on the two teams that beat them at previous meets. Their top five places went to Tabitha Vander Vilt in 10th, Rachel Baher in 14th, Becky Demarest with 16th, Julie Huizenga with 17th, and Carolyn Cramer in 18th. The women had a great year. They started out with a really young team, with 9 of the 13 runners being rookies. It was supposed to be a rebuilding year, but they ended up doing quite well. They had one senior, Julie Huizenga. Coach Goheen said that, "she showed great leadership and really brought the team together this year."
The men also ran really well. They had 4 seniors: Darin Arkema, Eric Vander Kooy, Jon Vander Kooy, and Jeff Summerhays. Jon and Jeff were the outstanding runners, but, according to Coach Goheen, "Darin and Eric contributed to the team in other ways. They were great examples and leaders. All the seniors will be greatly missed.
Next year will be a rebuilding year for the men, as they are losing their top two runners. Jeff had a 94% winning percentage in his career, meaning he beat 94% of the people he ran against. Jon had an 88%, which is also excellent. Overall, both teams had a great season. The men didn't end the season as well as they had hoped, but both teams did their best and can leave this year with the knowledge that they ran their hardest and glorified the Lord as they did.

Statistics

Hockey
Nov. 12 & 13
University of Nebraska - Lincoln
Friday, November 12: 1 - 0
Goals: Aarun Zuidhof - 1
Goaltender: Tim Hoogland
Saturday, Nov. 13: 4 - 2
Goals: Travis Woodstra - 3
Chris Veurink - 1
Goaltender: Tim Hoogland

Volleyball
Nov. 2
Dakota Wesleyan 3-0
Nov. 5
Sioux Falls 3-0

Nov. 12-13
Regional Tournament Overall 3-0
Dakota Wesleyan 3-0
Dakota State University 3-1
University of Sioux Falls 3-1

The Dordt volleyball team proved they are ready for the NAIA playoffs for a chance at Nationals. In the two games that Dordt lost, they were defeated by only two points. For the games won, Dordt kept the highest scoring game at 15-8, with the total amount of opponent’s points scored in 11 games to a mere 36 points. On the offensive for the tournament, A.J. Poppema led with 40-44 serving with 5 aces and Kim Van Dyken had 39-41 serves with 4-6-14 (43%). Assisting those kills was Van Dyken with 129 assists for the tournament. On the defensive, Laura Van Kley led with 21 digs and Poppema, Van Dyken, and Laura Vander Pol all having 13 digs. Dordt is now 30-7 overall with a conference record of 7-0.

Men’s Basketball
Nov. 10 vs. Northwestern
Score: 72-91
Scoring Leaders:
Randy Oostma - 23
Michael Ribbons - 10
Neal Brennemen - 10

Rebound Leaders:
Randy Oostma - 6
Neal Brennemen - 4
Brian Wassenaar - 4
Shooting Percentage:
Field goals: 34-61 (56%)
Three-point field goals:
6-14 (43%)
Free throws: 17-25 (68%)

Nov. 13 vs. Midland Lutheran
Score: 81-66
Scoring Leaders:
Randy Oostma - 23
Neal Brenneman - 21
Brian Wassenaar - 15
Eric Mass - 11

Rebound Leaders:
Randy Oostma - 9

Shooting Percentage:
Field goals: 27-54 (42%)
Three point field goals: 3-13

All-stars all of them

by Mitch Beaumont
Assistant Editor
The goal nets have been taken down and the crowds have been dismissed; the men’s soccer season for 1999 is officially over. The men ended their season with a hard fought loss against the University of Mary. The men’s team was exceptionally young this year with nine first year players on the roster. The year was filled with flashes of brilliance by this young team, so next season’s outlook is better than it has been in years. Although it took awhile for the team to start playing together like a team, they had three players named to the regional team. Travis Burgers, freshman, was named to the first team and DJ Drazey, senior and Paul Mortlock, junior were nominated for the second team. The team also played numerous opponents that were beyond their playing level. So their 8-10 record does not necessarily reflect the true nature of their season.
Dordt was ahead 2-0 by halftime, but University of Mary came back and tied the game at two a piece. The game eventually went to double overtime with the University of Mary coming out on top 3-2. All in all, the season ended pretty well for the Defenders. They finished the season ranked fifth in the region, and they learned throughout the season how to play as a team and to depend on each other.

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Education, race, and zero-tolerance policies

by Matthew McNatt
Staff Writer

Jesse Jackson’s Rainbow PUSH Coalition is suing the Decatur, Ill., school board over the school board’s decision to expel seven African-American students charged with felony mob action for a Sept. 17 fight in the stands during a football game.

The school board, acting in accordance with its zero-tolerance policy, initially expelled the students for two years without offering alternative schooling. Under pressure from Jackson, the school reduced the expulsion to one year and agreed to provide alternative schooling for the students, but Jackson was not satisfied. His Rainbow/PUSH Coalition has staged two marches, the first drawing over 1,500 and the second over 2,000, many of which were biased in from Chicago, Ill.; Springfield, Ill.; and Champaign, Ill.

Decatur Councilwoman Betty Stockard organized a local counter-rally which drew over 250 in support of the school board’s decision, which Stockard sees as ensuring the privilege of education for Decatur’s 3,000 other high school students.

Jackson, however, has countered that education is a right, and the school board’s decision is wrong. “It’s not about black and white, it’s wrong and right.” Jackson has said. But most of his supporters are black, frequent comparisons are drawn between current and 1960s protests, and during Jackson’s second march, the KKK organized a counter-assembly, which was attended by over 300.

Note: This article appears in place of the usual “News Briefs.” To encourage debate about education, race, and zero-tolerance policies, issues which impact both the Dordt college community and also the schools in which education majors will one day teach.

Diamond lookback

Historical headlines and quotes from past November issues

1957
- “Stolen Car Has Been Recovered” - “These last weeks Dordt has been buzzing with excitement. An automobile was stolen.”
- “First Fine Arts Concert Tuesday Night”
- “Decius Spin for Dordt Students” - “The new stereo listening room has now been put into operation.”

1963
- “Dorm Phones Connected”
- “Campus Enlarges” - “By then, the dining hall will have been completed, the boulevard lights put in, the road cemented, and the lounge of the dormitory finished.”
- “IBM Machine” - “The administration office now has an IBM processing machine at its disposal. It is needed to process class lists, semester grades, and office records.”
- “Introducing Our New Faculty Members” - “Dr. Alberda, Dr. Mennega, Mr. Koekkoek”
- “Goldwater Triumphs in Students’ Mock Election”
- “Have Gun, Will Form Club” - “To provide a proper outlet for trigger-happy youth, several students are thinking of forming a gun club.”
- “Volleyball to Begin”
- “Progress in Accreditation Accelerates”

1968
- “Poll confirms Nixon-AGnew”
- “H20 Flood” - “The lower floor of the new Science building was the scene of a November 11 flood.”
- “Diamond Poll on Dancing included responses such as “This thing should not exist in a Christian college. If it is to retain that name.”

1970
- “The Draft, a News Release”

1972
- “Women’s Liberation-People’s Liberation”
- “Dordt Prepares to Confront National Energy Crisis”

1974
- “Kuyper Collection Discovered” - “In the Dordt College Library he discovered 75 written works of Abraham Kuyper, a famous Dutch theologian.”

- compiled by Brady Fopma

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Quake hits Turkey

by Rachelle Vander Werff
Staff Writer

I went home this weekend to a heated house, food on the table, and a loving family. Although I had a very good weekend, other people were not quite so fortunate. On Friday, November 12, 1999, at 7:00 p.m., a massive earthquake hit Duzce, Turkey.

This was the second massive quake to hit Turkey in the past three months, and both quakes hit within a forty-five mile radius of each other. Fortunately, the second quake hit a less populated area than the first. Even so, 360 died and 1800 were injured. Many of those who survived found themselves homeless and are now building fires and pitching tents to keep themselves warm. To top that off, many of these people lost loved ones.

Pray for the families in Turkey that have lost not only homes but also family members. Keep them in mind, and remember to be thankful for what God has blessed us with.

Sometimes it’s easy to get down because commons food is bad, school work is hard, the dorms are too small, and knowing that the snow will pile up. However, remember the people in Turkey and look at just how good we have it. God has truly blessed us!