Lecture Series Presents Panoramic View of the Bible:
Living the Scriptures emphasizes three books of the Bible

By Matthew McNatt
Staff Reporter

Dr. Calvin Seerveld, Dr. Sylvia Keesmat, and Dr. Syd Hielema presented lectures last week during the "Living the Scriptures" lecture series on Dordt campus. Organized by Dr. Hielema, this series was designed to promote taking a panoramic look at the Scriptures. Each lecturer was asked to emphasize an entire book of the Bible.

Seerveld, senior member emeritus in aesthetics at the Institute for Christian Studies in Toronto, presented a lecture surveying the Psalms on February 22. He emphasized the foundation and framework that Psalms one and two provide for reading of the entire book.

Seerveld also emphasized the Psalms' arrangement; they were arranged in a particular-and significant-order after their writing. A reader who is studying any particular Psalm can, thus, gain insight by looking for connecting themes and ideas in the Psalms around the one he is studying.

On February 23, Keesmat, senior member in Biblical studies and hermeneutics at the Institute for Christian Studies, presented Biblical evidence that Paul did not hate the Law. She spoke of fruitfulness as a foundation in the Scriptures.

Fruitfulness, according to Keesmat, was first viewed as a result of obedience to the Torah. But when Israel disobeyed the Torah, the prophets foretold a curse on the nation. They also foretold a future in which fruitfulness would be a gift from God.

According to Keesmat, Paul highlighted that gift of fruitfulness in the ministry of Christ, setting Christ as the new center for fruitfulness. Keesmat also said that even though Christ became the new center for fruitfulness, law was not disdained. Overtones from earlier commands and promises were evident in Paul's talk of walking like Christ, forgiving, and inheriting, which are all tied to Torah obedience and to God's promises to the earth.

Hielema's lecture, also presented on February 23, focused on seven occasions in the book of Revelation in which John is confused. Hielema sees these as important because they helped to meet the needs of a confused and persecuted Church, and they enable readers across time to identify with John. According to Hielema, the first priority in reading Revelation is worship and praise for God's wonder, and majesty, not perfect understanding of all the prophecies.

When reflecting on the lectures which he helped organize, Hielema noted the fact that the lectures were not in a classroom context, in which students could have read a lot of background material. This made the presentations difficult. "All of the lectures were somewhat in the difficult range," he said. "The lecturer's goals were quite ambitious."

Hielema noted that because the lecturers were asked to cover an entire book of the Bible, it was difficult to pare down the lecture to an hour. Even Hielema, who is conscientious about keeping his class lectures within their time slot, went a little over time.

But most students seemed to appreciate the lectures. Even some of those whose attendance was required were taking notes. When asked to sum up his experiences of the lectures, sophomore Heath Verstraete noted that the lectures lacked some of the excitement of Tony Campolo, but he nevertheless appreciated the intelligeance and philosophical training of Seerveld, whose lecture he attended.

No housing crunch expected for next year

by Tricia Van Ee
Staff Reporter

As the housing application deadline looms near, Dordt students have begun to line up roommates for next fall. The spring buzz of excitement has also brought on speculation about housing availability.

According to Director of Residence Life, Sandi Altena, most of the housing arrangements will not change. Freshmen men will live in North Hall, and freshmen women will occupy East Hall and most likely a floor of West Hall. The other floor of West will hold a wing of sophomore men and a wing of sophomore women. Covenant Hall will house mostly sophomores and juniors and seniors will reside in the East Campus and Southview Apartments.

Dordt intends to continue off-campus intentional living, housing four groups of four students in the Dordt-owned duplex. There will not be any other off-campus housing because Dordt plans on having enough housing on-campus. There are no plans to build a new residence hall in the near future, as has been rumored.

Improvements to be made mostly consist of the major remodeling of West Hall. The building will be completely re-carpeted, the bathrooms will be completely re-modeled, the woodwork will be replaced, and there will be a new built-in loft system. The rooms, which will most likely still house four people, will also be furnished with stackable furniture.

The housing application process will not be significantly different than in previous years. Students must fill out housing sign-up forms and housing application cards to be turned in with their housing deposits. The forms should be dropped off at the table located outside the Business Office, not the Housing Office in the SUB as in previous years.

Duplex applications are due to Sandi Altena by March 10; all other housing materials are due at the Business Office March 26. Groups will be ranked according to points and lots. The point system will remain the same, with seniors receiving six points, juniors receiving five points, and sophomores receiving no points. Ties will be broken by drawing lots. Groups will be assigned a sign-up appointment, which will be March 31 for apartments and April 5 for residence halls.
Maintenance renovates campus

by Mitch Beaumont
Copy Editor

In the next several months, the maintenance department at Dordt will be as busy as ever. They are currently preparing for a summer full of improvements and additions that will make our campus look even better. The biggest project will be the complete renovation of West Hall. The project will consist of totally redesigning the furniture placement in the rooms, a complete facelift of the bathrooms, which will be the main priority. In addition, West Hall will receive new carpet, new paint, cable TV and network access from every room.

Among the improvements, there are a couple delays of other projects because of certain circumstances. The most prominent of delays is that of the art department's addition. This project was to be shared between Dordt's maintenance and a subcontractor. However, according to Stan Oordt, director of the physical plant of maintenance, there is a certain type of funding that is available to Dordt if the project is delayed for a year. Therefore, the art department addition will be delayed a year or so for that funding to take place.

The newest and most recent addition to Dordt happened on the 15th of February when the new kiln in the art department was fired for the first time. There was a lot of work involved in preparing the kiln room before it could even be installed. The maintenance department had to rewire the room and install a new ventilation system. "We are very happy with this new addition," Oordt said.

A guide to recycling

by Curtis Dykstra
Guest Writer

While visiting the recycling facility near Sheldon last semester, I was proud to hear the manager say that he appreciates how well the Sioux Center Community does with recycling. They have generally been accepting of and compliant with the idea of recycling. However, this doesn't mean that we do a perfect job of recycling at Dordt. I still notice numerous milk jugs and glass containers in the dumpster, laundry detergent and pop bottles in the garbage, and paper in trash cans right next to recycling bins. This seems to be the result of a couple of misunderstandings.

First of all, some people are not recycling because they think that the recycling goes to the landfill anyway. They see the same truck pick up the recycling on one day, and the garbage on the next. However, though the recycling and the garbage are picked up by the same truck, the company is strictly required to empty and wash its truck before picking up the recycling. The truck then takes the recycling to the recycling facility (which is located on the grounds of the landfill) where it is processed for recycling.

Second, many people do not realize what is recyclable and what is not. By bringing these misunderstandings to light, I hope the Dordt community will be better equipped to help maintain and improve the positive image the Sioux Center community has with recycling.

I encourage you, then, to make extra efforts to recycle, even when not convenient, in an effort to make this responsibility habit, and to honor our Creator and His Creation.
Making "Joyful Noise"

by Jen Hoogeveen
Staff Reporter

If asked what compositions George Frederick Handel composed, most of us would automatically say "Messiah...". Playwright Tim Slover, a professor of theatre in playwriting at Brigham Young University, who has written several other historical plays, found a story in the writing of Handel's masterpiece that interested him, so he went to the work of researching and writing this highly enjoyable and accurate play.

The background to this oratorio is just as interesting as the octaves of the "Hallelujah Chorus." Handel (played by Jason Vande Brake) was poor, his only income coming from writing and composing music. At the age of 55, the harsh tempered man sat down and wrote the 'Messiah' within about 20 days. Slover says this may not be as miraculous as everyone says because Handel always composed in haste. Handel only had a couple of months in the summer to compose because the rest of the year was spent finding solists, finding places to perform, and so on. With his goal of 2 compositions per year, that made him pressed for time.

The other main character in the play is Susanna Cibber, (played by Rochelle Van Ry) who was a regular singer for the 'Messiah.' What made her part so interesting was that she was tried and convicted of adultery, a position forced upon her by her debt-ridden husband. After having her baby taken away and everyone gossiping about her, she needed a job. When Handel hired her, she had problems with another famous singer, Kitty Clive (played by Kim De Groot), who was always ready to remind Susanna of her position. Slover saw this "enormously brave woman" and her background as good material for a play.

The oratorio itself brought a lot of opposition from the bishops of the Anglican church. They firmly felt that believers shouldn't listen to un-Christian music that holy scripture was added to, especially starring an adulterous woman as a soloist. It took a several years to catch on, but "Messiah" eventually became the favorite it is today. "Messiah" was never performed in a church while Handel was alive, like he had hoped it would.

Why then title this play "Joyful Noise?" Slover not only chose this title because of Psalm 66: "Make a joyful noise unto God, all ye lands," but also because he felt it represented Handel's and Susanna's stories of misery to redemption.

by Tim Slover

A traffic line of headlights made its way to the Sioux Center on Sunday night, its destination Orange City. This marked the first joint worship service that occurred between Northwestern and Dordt College on February 21, 1999. Although not a GIFT service, it followed a pattern similar to the worship services held in the Bu Haan Auditorium on alternate Sunday evenings.

Students from both colleges poured into the Christ Chapel at NWC, busy talking and meeting people from their "rival" campus. Students began singing and worshipping just the same. With a band and singers of the host college, Dordt students Ryan Verver, Ryan Gritters, Kim Van Wyhe, and Leslie Cowherd joined them on stage in praise and worship, leading students in song and prayer. Sandi Altena was the speaker for the night, leading attenders in a direct and powerful message.

The event was organized as a way to unite students from both colleges in a worship setting. The idea came to Sam Gutierrez, who plays a prominent role in organizing GIFT services on Dordt's campus, over Christmas break. "I think God initiated this joint worship service... The breaking down of the walls between Dordt and Northwestern originated in His mind and it doesn't surprise me, because He desires for people to be reconciled to each other, for walls to fall down."

That was the theme of the evening; breaking down the walls between the two colleges in a powerful way. Altena addressed the issue of competition and divisions between the colleges. She described the power that young people can have by joining in Jesus Christ and by keeping these insignificant issues exactly that insignificant. She reaffirmed that all present came to worship the same Lord, "You are now on holy ground-the ground between you is holy!" she said, and took this even further by having everyone remove their shoes on such ground and joining hands in prayer and praise: "I think it went great," said Gutierrez. "We came together that Sunday night to say to Northwestern that we love them and care about them, not to say we are better. We came to proclaim that God is powerful and to give Him thanks for all he has done for us."

Worshippers filled Northwestern's Christ Chapel. The service it was a powerful way to worship God in a new setting and with a greater body of believers. Stay tuned for details of another such event at the end of this academic year.
College life: as real as anything
by Brian Wisselink
Guest Writer

Somewhere along the lines, I’m not sure exactly where, but many college students seem to get the impression that their experiences in college are somehow separate from the “real world.” I would like to ask the question, What makes working in a salaried, full-time job any more “real” than going to college classes?

Maybe this is just a question of semantics, but if you start to diminish the value of your time spent here at Dordt as being somehow “less-real,” than any future experiences you might have in your future away from it. College is definitely a preparation for the future, especially here at Dordt and this community which is very unlike most of the rest of our society. However, it’s very important preparation that needs to be taken seriously.

By saying that we need to take college seriously, I’m not only talking about getting good grades and studying hard, although, yes, that is important. I’m saying that we need to take the experiences and knowledge that we have gained and view it as important, real material, not as somehow disconnected with our present and future lives.

While college is also a preparation for the future, it is also life. Now, I know that’s a pretty obvious statement, but one that I think needs to be made. Enjoy your time at college, talk to people, learn from them, what other time in your life will you be living in a community of over 1,000 people your own age who are struggling with the same problems, questions, and fears as you probably are?

I know I’m veering dangerously close to Ferris Bueller, “stop and smell the roses” philosophy here, but college is not somehow mysterious-ly separated from “life.” College is real life and I’m sure most of us will miss this part of our lives when it’s over. Enjoy your time at college, take advantage of it, there are all kinds of opportunities here that you’ll likely never have in the “real” world.

Journal entry
March, 1999
by Sarah Walsh
Columnist

I thought I knew everything about anything. I’ve taken Gen 200, Philosophy, Theology, Environmental Studies, Television and Society, Biology, English and Communication. So now, I figure, I’m an expert on all there is to know about God’s call to be engaged with every part of creation.

I feel like I’ve heard how we should be the salt and light in everything we do a million times. But how we do it, the way we do it, that is what makes the difference. But even though I realize how I must not ignore any part of the redeemable creation, I still am really confused about a biblical perspective on our faith-lives.

I attended the Jubilee Conference this past weekend. We talked about what it means to be a Christian in the sciences, in popular culture and as we discuss gender issues. Again and again, people made the point that it isn’t what we do, but how we do it. As Christians, that makes the difference.

Overheard

“I’ve only ever been hated by small numbers of people. I want to teach Gen 300 so that I can be hated by large numbers of people.”

-Prof. Dave Schelhaas

“I’m really tired, but I’m not right now.”

-Jason Koelewyn

“I won’t know what to say for the evening... which won’t be all bad”

-Prof. Hubert Krygsman
Is Dordt a Christian institution?

by Emily Hutten
Staff Writer

Is our college a Christian institution? To some this may be begging the question—of course Dordt is a Christian institution. In classes, chapel, guest lectures, and seminars we all hear a declaration of God's sovereignty over all things. Soli Deo Gloria rings out into our hallways. At times it seems that being biblical is something we breathe in the air. How could Dordt not be a Christian institution?

I am writing on behalf of several students involved in many different majors and activities at Dordt. We feel it is important for us to express the concern we have for our college. Many institutions become dependent on strict structure and processes, so much so that its members become alienated from their initial reasons for joining together as an institution.

Dordt must relate and interact with other institutions. It needs to be current and relevant within our society, but it also needs to be Christian. Does the institution of Dordt College look any different than an institution that does not claim to be biblical?

If we do not look distinctly different we are in danger. Conformity to our society's ways of working within institutions will make it impossible for Dordt to offer an education that lets us step into a larger world. We will be kingdom citizens limited by a fish-bowl view.

We are faced with a challenge. As students, faculty, administration, and staff at Dordt, we need to ask how to be biblical in the way we are an institution. We need to challenge the tendency to follow the patterns of our society. We must not be a place where structure and policy do not become our strongholds. Our college needs to grow in an awareness of the Spirit's kingdom work. We need to be communicating with each other. Students with faculty, faculty with administration, administration with students. Open dialogue will challenge all of us to continue reforming. We are not to be reformed, but reforming members of God's kingdom.

Don't be ashamed of being single

by Melissa Phaneuf
Guest Writer

"You complete me." When I heard these words uttered from Tom Cruise's mouth a few years ago in the film Jerry Maguire, I thought nothing of it. In fact, I probably thought, "Yeah, that's the way it should be." But now my thoughts and attitudes towards this seemingly innocent "You complete me" phrase have changed from naive acceptance to more of an awareness and possibly, somewhat of an annoyance. My question is this: do men and women believe they need to be with somebody in order to be complete?

Some may scoff at this question and say I am taking this issue a bit too seriously. But stop and take a look around Dordt's campus and you may see that this issue needs to be addressed. The changes were subtle at first—our daily talks turned into once-a-week five-minute chats. Soon she never spent time with us on the weekends, and, slowly, what had been a special friendship became nothing more than an acquaintance. The relationship was like the ever popular Dordt fish-bowl view.

If we do not look distinctly different we are in danger. Conformity to our society’s ways of working within institutions will make it impossible for Dordt to offer an education that lets us step into a larger world. We will be kingdom citizens limited by a fish-bowl view.

Please don't get me wrong—alone time is a critical ingredient for the recipe of a good relationship. But when a person's entire life revolves around one other individual, a relationship becomes unhealthy. Each of us should be able to freely maintain and nurture our own individual talents, friendships, and other interests whether single, dating, engaged, or married. If not, it's time to get out of the rut you're in and re-evaluate who you are, not what your relationship is making you become.

This next section is primarily written for those who are single at Dordt. Although you may feel you are the minority on campus a campus, let us not forget, where it's rumored that many come to obtain the honorable MRS degree! I still encourage you to take a step back and look at the big picture. First, look at the college you chose to come to, the area of the country you chose to come to, and be aware of the sub-conscious pressures you may not even know exist but you are nevertheless feeling. Again, please don't misunderstand me. Dordt College is a wonderful place to go to—if we put effort into our work, we can leave here with a reputable education, friendships from all over the world, and countless other qualities about this place that you probably won't find at other larger-scale, highly populated universities. But the one thing you often won't find at Dordt are single people who are truly happy being single. At other schools and in other environments, you will. But here, there seems to be an ever prevailing standard about dating and marriage—and it's not really even told to us—we just know it. For example, how many of you have been the victim of this: "Oh, my Gosh! I saw you on a walk with Bobby last night! Are you going out?" Or this: "You and Bobby have gone on two dates now. Has he brought up marriage yet?" What's I'd like to be seen on this campus are unattached people who see their "situation" as an advantage, not as an excuse to find a shoulder to cry on. If this were the case I think there would be many more peaceful, un-obsessed faces at Dordt.

For those of you who are in relationships where you are finding that your individuality is actually being enhanced by your significant other, I applaud you. When it comes to marriage, that's how I see it. We should know our base self before diving into a romantic companionship. When we consideringly know who we are and what we want, that's when I think a relationship has the potential to cultivate our lives, not deprive us of who we already are.
A closer look at Dordt’s recruiting

Dordt Web site brings home a bronze

By Kristin Vander Giessen
Arts and Entertainment Editor

After receiving several awards in past years for calendars and promotional materials, Dordt snagged a bronze award this year for its new web site in the annual competition sponsored by the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE).

“I didn’t enter it expecting to win,” said Jim De Young, director of public relations. De Young mainly wanted to get some expert opinions on how successful the current design was in comparison to other college and university sites in the region. Dordt belongs to region six, which includes eight states and 250 institutions, all of whom are eligible for the competition.

De Young was pleasantly surprised, however, when the site received the bronze award, coming in even with Iowa State’s Student Answer Center web site and just behind Iowa State’s College of Design and I-State sites and Wichita State University. “I don’t think ours is as glitzy as some,” said De Young. “But I think ours is strong in two areas. First, we have a nice clean design. From a visual standpoint, it’s a pretty attractive, clean page. Second, it’s pretty comprehensive. There’s a lot there.” De Young also noted that, unlike other college and university sites, everything on Dordt’s site works. Links and menus take viewers where they need to go with few if any technical glitches. “We have been fortunate to find very good students to allow us to build a good web site without an intensive investment of resources,” said De Young.

Sophomore Jeremy Jongsmma is responsible for the design. Jongsmma worked on the site full-time last summer and maintains a part-time position with computer services currently. “I hadn’t done much with web design before,” said Jongsmma. “I experimented with some design and had Jim De Young and others look at it and suggest changes.” After coming up with an initial design last summer, the site went through a rigorous process of criticism and modification. “When we first put it on line, we selected about fifty to sixty people to give us their response to the site,” said Jongsmma. These people included incoming and current students, alumni, and a few design professionals. “I think in terms of simplicity and navigation, Dordt’s ranks above many sites I’ve seen,” said Jongsmma. “It’s simple, it’s easy to navigate, and it still has a lot of information. That was one of the primary concerns for the site, along with making sure all of the information is current.”

In addition to this year’s web site award, Dordt has also won CASE awards in the past for calendars and promotional materials, including the ever-popular “Step into a larger world” design.

Student Callers Play Active Role in Admissions Process

Student caller Daryl Huinink answers questions for admissions. [Photos by Travis Bonnema]

by Danielle Kamps
Features Editor

How many times did Dordt call before you arrived on campus as a student? Chances are that a student admissions caller contacted you several times prior to your coming to Dordt. Student callers play an integral part of the admissions process.

Rhea De Stigter has worked as a student caller for three years and this year as a caller supervisor. She explains that most high school students in CSI schools (Christian Schools International) and those who attend college fairs who fill out cards for Dordt receive a minimum of two calls, once as a junior and once as a senior. If they express further interest, callers follow up with more calls. A student may be called six to eight times before they decided to come to Dordt. Callers ask prospective students about their interests, possible majors, extracurricular participation, and follow up about campus visit days. In turn, students often ask about the spiritual life at Dordt, the local churches, clubs, academics and professors, and general questions about Dordt (like where it is).

About fifteen student callers work a minimum of six hours a week, Monday through Thursday from 6 to 10 p.m. and on Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. In a two-hour time, a caller may make up to thirty calls and may make up to a hundred calls a week. De Stigter believes the job is a great one. “We have a lot of fun. It is really rewarding when you have students who want to come to Dordt.” She knows that what she does is valuable to the Dordt admissions process. “It is fun if you play some part in their coming here.”
Personal Contact Draws Students

By Brady Fopma
Staff Reporter

Tucked inside a small brick building on the northwest side of campus lies a part of Dordt College that often goes unnoticed—the admissions department. Whether it be a campus visit, phone call, or school visitation, this critical component of Dordt, which is made up of eight counselors and three office-support staff, helps bring hundreds of new faces to Sioux Center each August.

Think your schedule is busy? Try juggling 100 Dordt applicants at a time—the monumental task that each admissions recruiter faces this time of year. Each counselor is responsible for visiting schools and churches within his or her assigned "territory." (a certain segment of the United States or Canada) and keeping tabs on the students that each comes into contact with.

Last year, admissions counselors logged 150,000 miles, traveling throughout North America to 366 schools, 50 churches, 59 college fairs, and 200 homes. Admissions counselor Larissa Lighthiser schedules trips twice a year throughout the country, there are plenty of schools, Lighthiser has noticed a growing trend toward applicants coming into contact with come

"It's surprising how many alumni are out there, and how well known Dordt is." Although nearly 75% of the students she comes into contact with come from Christian Reformed churches or Christian high schools, Lighthiser has noticed a growing trend toward applicants from public high schools as Dordt continues to grow and serve a more diverse population. As counselors speak in various cities with different students, their goal is to develop recruiting strategies for each school visited, and ultimately obtain a strategy for each student they speak with. This daunting task requires a very personal element in a recruiter's work, as he or she attempts to get to know potential students better and help serve their individual needs.

When recruiters aren't spending time traveling across the country, there are plenty of other activities on campus for them to coordinate. Among these activities are the many campus visit days scheduled throughout the year. Counselors Steve Mouw and Garry Zonnefeld, along with five workstudy students, help potential students feel at home by acclimating them with Dordt's campus. According to executive admissions director Quentin Van Essen, "Very few students that attend Dordt do not visit." This critical aspect of the admissions department was fully exercised last year more than 1,000 registered visitors attended the visit days.

The admissions department not only depends on its own staff to meet recruitment needs, but also employs eighteen students to participate in a telemarketing program. Two to three students work under each counselor, calling prospective students in a specified territory on evenings and Saturdays. Last year, out of 16,681 attempted phone calls, personal contact with potential students was made 8,358 times. "Our goal is to have a personal contact with a prospective student every twenty-eight days," notes Van Essen. "Student callers are a tremendous support to the program."

As school years pass by and new classes of freshmen roll in during the fall, Van Essen sees some definite changes in the recruiting process. "The process with working with prospective students starts earlier," Van Essen states. "There is a tremendous amount of contact through the admissions department."

Although it has not yet been implemented, Van Essen envisions an online enrollment application sometime in the future, as the tool of the Internet becomes used more effectively.

As you can see, there's a lot happening in that little brick building that houses the admissions department. Through their hard work and dedication, this eleven-member team is helping new students "step into a larger world."

Picture Poll: What persuaded you to come to Dordt?

Dylan Haak, sophomore
"Family, friends, church. I wanted to come to a small Christian college where I could still play basketball."

Andrea Visser, freshman
"I had a brother who went here so I was familiar with Dordt. But scholarships helped, and it was a Christian college with a good education program."

Nate Te Winkel, senior
"I came because of the people here. I fit in better here than in any other Christian college."

Liz Hebers, freshman
"God laid it on my heart to be at Dordt. He wanted me to trust in him and 'fear not' [Is. 43], so I came to Dordt."
Dordt men drop last five, miss play-offs
by Craig Broek
Sports Reporter

With Dordt on the outside looking in on the SDIC playoff picture, the Defenders needed to win at least three of their last four conference games to slide into the final playoff spot. It was not to be this year as the Dordt men fell a little short.

Briar Cliff 87, Dordt 72

Dordt played its final non-conference opponent of the season in Sioux City against Briar Cliff. Both teams lit up the scoreboard in the first half, as they raced to a 48-43 BC halftime advantage. The second half slowed down a bit and BC took control taking the 15 point victory. Dordt was led in scoring by Mike Fransman with 16. Eric Maas with 12 and and Adam Van Meeteren with 11. Neal Brenneman took down nine boards in a losing effort.

Dakota Wesleyan 75, Dordt 63

The Tigers of DWU came to Sioux Center looking to sweep Dordt in the season series after defeating the Defenders at the Corn Palace a couple of weeks earlier. Dordt took the early advantage, but DWU overcame the early deficit to take a 30-27 halftime lead. The second half carried on the same style as the first, with DWU extending their lead to 20 at one point. Needing the victory, Dordt clawed back in and got as close as four but could get no closer and dropped this one by the score of 75-63. Fransman led the team with 13, followed by Brenneman with 11. Brenneman and Adam Van Meeteren each grabbed nine boards in the contest. The loss left Dordt needing three of its final four games in order to have a chance at making the play-offs.

Mt. Marty 86, Dordt 77

The Defenders showed a lot of character making a strong run on the road at one of the best teams in the conference, but came up just a bit short and seriously injured their hopes of reaching the playoffs. After trailing by five at halftime, Dordt made a run early in the second half, but came up a little short dropping to 4-7 in the conference. Fransman led the team in scoring for his third game in a row with 20, followed by Eric Maas with 18 and Brenneman with 14. Brenneman also pulled down 10 rebounds. The loss meant that either another Dordt loss or a Huron victory would put Dordt out of contention for the final spot.

Dakota State 91, Dordt 86, O.T.

Dordt lost its shot at the playoffs by dropping a heartbreaker at home to Dakota State in overtime. Dordt played well in the first half and took a 42-36 halftime lead but could not hold on as messy play and inexperience in tight situations took over. DSU tied it up in regulation and held on for the five point overtime victory. Dordt put five players in double figures, led by Van Meeteren with 20. Eric Maas with 17, Fransman with 15, Brenneman with 14 and Randy Oostra with 10. Maas led the team with eight rebounds.

Huron 67, Dordt 56

With nothing but pride to play for, Dordt went on the road to Huron to take on the Screamin' Eagles. Dordt played well in the first half taking a seven point advantage into the locker room. However, a fired up Huron team outscored the Defenders by 18 in the second half and cruised to an 11 point victory. Eric Maas was the only Defender in double figures, finishing with 10 points. Maas and Brenneman each pulled down seven boards in the game.

Sioux Falls 83, Dordt 75

Dordt dropped its final game of the year on its home court to the Cougars of University of Sioux Falls. USF jumped out to a 40-31 lead at half time and played even basketball throughout the second half to take the eight point victory. Dordt was led in scoring by Fransman with 17, followed by Brenneman with 16 and Van Meeteren with 10. Van Meeteren also led with seven rebounds. The loss ended Dordt's season with an 8-18 overall record and a 4-10 conference mark.

FINAL SEASON STATS

Over the season, Dordt averaged 70.6 points per game while giving up 74.9 per game. As a team they shot 51.9 percent from the field and 28.2 percent from beyond the three point arc. They also shot 60.2 percent from the free throw line. The Defenders were led in scoring by Neal Brenneman who averaged 14.6 per game, followed by Van Meeteren with 10.7, and Fransman with 10.2. Brenneman also averaged 7.4 rebounds per game followed by Oostra and Van Meeteren each with 5 per game. Oostra and Brenneman led the team in blocked shots with 21 a piece, and Fransman led the team with 32 steals and 72 assists. Fransman also led the team with 72 fouls on the season.

Indoor track finishes strong
by Jocelyn Van Beek
Sports Reporter

On Saturday, February 20, Dordt's indoor track team headed to Spearfish, South Dakota, for their final meet of the season: the SDIC Indoor Track Conference meet.

At this meet, the Dordt men broke a school record in the 4x400 meter relay with a time of 3:23.57. This was also a Conference record. The relay team included Troy Ten Napel, Jon Dekkers, Steve Holwerda and Ron Kingma. Another conference record broken was the 4x800 meter relay run by Jeff Summerhays, Jon Dekkers, Jim Dekkers and Ron Kingma with a finishing time of 7:55.

The women broke a conference record in the 4x800 meter relay, and placed first in a few other events. Runners in the 4x800 meter relay were Lisa Cannegieger, Tabitha Vander Wilt, Angie Nibbelink and Cathy Palmer. Erica Ton placed first in both long jump and triple jump.

Both teams did very well with a number of placings. For those who did not compete at Nationals, this was a very good end to the season.

The National NAIA Indoor track meet was held on Saturday, February 27 in Lincoln, Nebraska. Three relay teams and three individuals qualified for this meet.

The Dordt men's team qualified for the 4x800 meter relay and the 4x400 meter relay. Both the 4x800 meter relay team and the 4x400 relay team finished in 12th place, breaking school records.

The women's relay that participated in Nationals was the 4x800 relay, which finished 13th overall. Three individual events also qualified. Erica Ton qualified in the triple jump, placing 11th. Ton also qualified in the long jump in which she took 21st place.

Jill Starkenburg also qualified for nationals in the pole vault. She broke a school record and became an All-American pole vaulter with her sixth place finish.
Women suffer tough loss in playoffs

by Leanne Prins
Sports Reporter

Dordt 65, Sioux Falls 58

Tied for fourth, Dordt had to win to hold their chance of going to the SDIC Conference playoffs, and the Lady Defenders closed with a bang as the DeWitt gymnasium hosted its last home basketball game of the season. Allison Vis and Carla Geleynse led the scoring with 14 points apiece, and Lisa Roos kept adding to her record numbers of rebounds, leading the game with 15. The halftime score was 37-30, and our Ladies held tight-ly to their seven point lead for the remainder of the game, advancing them to the playoffs that weekend.

SDIC Post-Season Semi-Final
Sioux Falls 90, Dordt 71

This game was the battle to see who would host Mount Marty in the Championship round as Dordt traveled to Rapid City to determine this advancement. The first half was close and the Ladies trailed only by seven at the buzzer. They lost ground in the second half despite the strong leadership of Lisa Roos as she once again led the team in scoring with 20 points. She also pulled in nine rebounds under the net. This loss closed the season with an overall record of 16-10.

When asked to comment on the season, Coach Len Rhoda repeatedly confirmed his pleasure with the overall outcome. He mentioned some specific memories that the team could reflect on with satisfaction. Recalling the 7-2 record the Ladies held before Christmas. A victory over sister school Calvin College to win the Central Tournament Championship in Pella, and the victory over Brainerd, ranked number two in the country, were also specified.

On a more general note, Rhoda told about the Ladies’ struggle in the first half of the conference season after coming back from the break, but winning six of their next eight games to bring them up to fourth place in the standings, giving them the chance to make the play-offs. Though there was expressed disappointment from players that they didn’t advance beyond the SDIC semi-final round. Rhoda was only positive, pointing out how they consistently improved as the season progressed. Their 16-10 record was a satisfying result.

Rhoda mentioned the strong confidence of the team, confirming how the talent was spread out from top to bottom. Lisa Roos, the senior center from Ripon, California, had a particularly outstanding season, first shattering Anita Tinklenberg’s rebounding record of 809 on January 27 against the University of Sioux Falls, and then destroying Jill (Bousema) Sipma’s scoring record of 1,318 on February 11 against Dakota Wesleyan. Her accomplishments were a strong point for the team as well.

The season goals of this year’s Lady Defenders are prominently displayed above Coach Rhoda’s desk. This list reflects the attitudes of the team toward the importance of teamwork and constant improvement, and heading the list in capital letters is “Glorify God.”

Lisa Roos goes up for two against the University of Sioux Falls.
[Photo by Travis Bonnema]

Blades save best for last

by Franklin Guillaume
Sports Reporter

University of Iowa 8, Blades 3

On the weekend of February 12 and 13, the Blades traveled to Iowa City to play the Hawkeyes’ club team inside the newly built Coral Ridge Mall. On Friday night, Vande Kraats opened the scoring early for the Blades but the Hawkeyes responded quickly and scored six straight goals before Nagtegaal notched a powerplay goal late in the second. Van Berkel scored his second goal in as many games half way through the third but the Hawkeyes put the game away with an extra pair of goals soon after.

University of Iowa 8, Blades 3

The Blades got off to a slow start as the teams played in front of hundreds of Iowa City shoppers. Vander Plaat finally got one for the Blades in the first as his shot went of a Hawkeye defender and into the net. The Blades were down 8-1 going into the final frame, and finished the weekend strong as Bekkering stuffed in a rebound on the powerplay and James Bentum took advantage of a goaltender mistake to slap home Dordt’s second shorthanded goal of the season.

Carleton College 11, Blades 3

The guys probably wanted this win more than any other as it was the last chance to win in front of a large crowd. For many, after attending Blades games for four or more years, this one would be their last. The team definitely came out flying. Less than two minutes in, Saarloos deflected in a point shot from Nagtegaal on the powerplay. Then just over two minutes later, Schenk stole the puck at the top of the face-off circle, broke out alone, and put home his first of the season. The team was buzzing and with not even four minutes of the game gone, Carleton called a time-out. The move obviously paid off as Carleton scored 11 straight before Bekkering finished off the scoring with his seventh goal of the year.

Blades 6, Carleton College 6

This game was a dandy from the opening face-off to the final buzzer. Neither team ever led by more than a goal. Carleton opened the scoring the third period in, but the Blades responded quickly as Van Niejenhuis tied the game three minutes later. Hartmink batted in his first of the year on his only shift of the game with eight minutes still remaining in the opening frame. Carleton responded again. Saarloos then scored to give the Blades a 3-2 lead going into the dressing room. Carleton tied it early in the second on the powerplay but the Blades responded with a powerplay goal of their own as James Bentum stuffed in a rebound. Carleton tied it up once again. Just over a minute later, Saarloos lit the lamp for the last time as a Blade with his second of the evening. Before the period was over, Carleton tied it at 5-5.

Both teams battled hard in the third, as neither wanted to finish the season on a sour note. Shots on net were hard to come by in the third period as people were sacrificing their bodies at both ends of the rink. Nagtegaal, who was also playing his last game as a Blade, broke the tie about halfway through the period on a beautiful feed from behind the net by Van Niejenhuis. It was Nags’ team-leading 13th goal and 19th point of the season. With seven minutes remaining, Carleton tied it one last time. The Blades kept fighting back however, and the result was another seven minutes, plus eight in overtime, of nail-bitng hockey. Both teams came close on several occasions but no one could break the knot and the game fittingly ended in a tie. Most impressive in overtime, was the Blades’ penalty kill with four minutes remaining. One could tell that the Blades were going to do whatever it took to avoid the loss. Further, in the final minute of overtime the Blades’ line of Saarloos, Nagtegaal, and Van Niejenhuis, caused heavy pressure in the Carleton zone as the Blades managed eight shots in the over-time period. It was the first time the Blades mustered more than 40 shots in one game. Saarloos and Nagtegaal probably of all with one of their best shifts as a Blade in that final minute.

Looking Back and Looking Ahead

This year was one of rebuilding for the Blades. The team had nine freshmen and five rookie sophomores dress for them this year. Kurt Hoogland, Nagtegaal, Saarloos, and Nathaniel Vanderwater were the only seniors on the team. Most of the rest of the guys hope to return to the Blades next fall.

One can only look forward to next season now. It was pretty amazing that with three minutes to go in overtime of the final game of the year, four freshmen were on the ice killing a penalty. With all the new players this year, it was definitely a challenge to play well as a team. Next year, that should be less of a problem. Next season, you can bet that there will be a lot more games like this last one. I’m looking forward to it already—see you all next year, eh?
Sex, Television and the
"Process of Dumbening"

by Joel Zuidhof
Guest Writer

Over the last ten years or so, FOX's television program, "The Simpsons" has frequented millions of homes in 'North America and around the world. The show is based on a typical suburban American family and depicts their comical struggles, failures, and victories in life. Within this setting, the writers and producers of the show enable us laugh at ourselves and our present day suburbanite culture. "The Simpsons" main tool is satire and its subjects range from marriage to politics to television itself. The Simpson family living on the couch in front of the television in the theme is evidence enough for the show's ambitions toward social commentary. Perhaps the most intriguing thing about the show is that at the same time as it makes fun of television and the effects of television while it is making television. It is self-criticism.

The "Simpson's" episode that I viewed contrasts the "dumb" people who watch TV and the "intellectual" people who read books. The intellectuals, Lisa and her friends speak in a "high class" manner using large words and romantic flutuences about truth and beauty. On the other hand the "dumb" people, Bart and Homer, take on more animal like and idiotic characteristics and resort to banging their heads together with cooking pans. The most obvious representation of the contrast occurs when Lisa inadvertently says "Woo hoo!" and corrects herself. "I mean Stupendous."

The most prominent scene in this "Simpsons" episode depicted watching television as a horrific event. At this point in the story, Lisa decides she is doomed to be mediocre and leaves her room of books to join Bart and Homer at the television set. As she walks down the stairs from her room we can see the ominous glow of the television. When Lisa arrives in the living room she sees a dark room where Bart and Homer are ghost like and the television is framed by a window curtain that looks like something out of a haunted house. The television is huge in the foreground and the antennae ears are crooked and menacing. Homer puts the couch, making a loud and ominous noise, and summons Lisa to her grave next to him. Bart and Homer then proceed to watch a Fox special on "When Buildings Blow Up" and are amused at Lisa's suggestion that people may have gotten hurt.

Then comes the Sex issue. The episode concludes with a gathering of the extended Simpson family in which we find out that all the male side of the family has become dumb, animalistic, and even tribal while the force of stability and intellect is found on the female side of the family. The final scene depicts the "tribal" men in a circle around two pot head bangers and the "distinguished" women talking about architecture and the medical profession. This "Simpsons" episode enables us to look at three different issues from the writer's perspective. First of all, it has portrayed the difference between "Dumb" and "Intellectual" ways of carrying out human existence. Secondly the show has shown us the way we watch and are influenced by television. And finally, it has made a rather bold statement about the developing and changing roles of the sexes in our society.

So what is this world coming to anyway? Are we amusing ourselves by dumbness? Is television the catalyst for the dull reaction? Who and what will save our culture from idiocy and pointlessness? Watch "The Simpsons" and find out.

The Gallery

by Kirstin Vander Giessen
Arts and Entertainment
Editor

While Muslims still adhere to the ancient ideal that art is limited to non-objective design, the opposite extreme says that art is limited only to what the artist decides to call art. Many of us ask the impossible question, "What is art?" and, like most people who ask the question, I don't know. But I went to the gallery this evening with that unanswerable, but important question in mind.

What I realized was that basically, each individual artist answers that question through their work and, because there are millions of artists, there are millions of answers. In the gallery right now there are three very different answers to the same question. So I went with the intention of discovering what an outsider visiting the faculty art show without any knowledge of the college might come to understand through the work about our faculty artists' philosophies of art.

Joanne Alberda finds pleasure in pure aesthetic quality. Her work possesses a sense of play. In two photographs and one batik piece, she plays with fabric and patterns to suggest an image or object. And in two landscape photographs, she plays with time of day and season as they relate to natural scenes of trees, water, sky, and foliage.

Esther Van Eek's work is based more on ideas than objects. As the only artist in the show with a written statement about her general artistry, Van Eek gives her audience the advantage of knowing the pervasive thought pattern and theme behind her art. "I approach my work as I approach life," she says, "through the experience of being a woman in this time and this place. I seek to examine my life and journey through the eyes of one who is both faithful to God's calling and truthful in response to it." The theme of womanhood is obvious without the statement, as her work features a variety of images of the female body. This then seems to be broken down into two sub-themes, one of the intellectual, individual woman and one of the woman as a birth-giver and caretaker. "While I am distressed by the limitations I feel imposed on me because of my gender," she says, "I also see evidence of God's overwhelming grace in the gifts he gives to us-labor and delivery as a metaphor for redemption and renewal."

Jake Van Wyk's work seems to convey an awareness of the interconnectedness of memory, nature, and religion; themes which are all most poignantly presented in "The Mackerel Sky." His explanation for the piece relates his painful associations with the various images and the sense of loss he tried to achieve in the work as a whole. However, what stood out in the work for me, whether it was intended or not, was the single stalk of corn growing in the middle of this collage of death and abandonment.

What this says to me is that there is a pervasive hope for Van Wyk that cannot be avoided, even in a piece as loaded with dark imagery as "The Mackerel Sky." Two of Van Wyk's other works, "Stream of Life" and "Sabatine," seem to explore the combination of nature with divinity or mystery. Both drawings contain natural tree shapes that morph into elements of the human figure. These elements are pushed so far into a realm of beautiful movement that I sense more than humanism about them, but a kind of divinity that comes from their being connected with nature.

These three artists appear to have answered the question of art for themselves by not answering in words but by creating their thoughts, memories, and ideals in visual form. I think an outside visitor would come away from the show with a sense of satisfaction at being able to identify with recognizable images without knowing exactly the philosophy of life behind each one.
All Star United

by Ryan Vande Kraats, Justin Westerhof and Rob Reitsma
Staff Writers

We listened to the CDs of the three bands that are coming to Dowd this Saturday and wrote down some things we were saying. Below are the conversations we had while listening to the albums.

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Justin: These guys almost sound like hardcore punk mixed with Eric Champion.

Ryan: Their vocalist is kind of boring. There isn't anything really unique about them.

Justin: They are trying to look far too cool on the cover of this album.

Rob: The lyrics are kind of stupid. Check these out from International Anthem. "From down here below / In gratitude / From Coco to Moscow / We hope you're pleased / With these rhyme schemes / And musical score / Like never before."

Justin: It's like they are telling us that we need an international anthem, but they aren't good enough to write one themselves.

Ryan: This album seems very disjointed, like a casserole of songs. A bunch of songs thrown together and baked for 20 minutes at 400 degrees.

Justin: It sounds like they found a bunch of guitar effects and other noises they thought sounded really cool and threw them into their songs for no other reason.

CD Reviews: A Look at the Bands Coming to Campus

All Star United

Rob: I don't think they could decide on any kind of genre to fit into, so they tried them all. That kind of thing can be cool, but they really didn't make it work.

Ryan: So, in conclusion...

Rob: These guys seem to be nothing more than a reaction to popular music.

"Silage: Vegas Car Chasers"

Ryan: All these songs are sounding similar. They start with loud distortion, go into a softer verse and then into a loud chorus. They get boring really fast.

Justin: They sound like Third Eye Blind with one of the DC Talk guys doing vocals.

Rob: They're offering too many answers and not asking enough questions. These guys look like a little young to have life already figured out.

Justin: Halfway through this album, they're turning hip-hop.

Rob: If they weren't Christians, they probably wouldn't have been signed.

Ryan: Their lyrics aren't much better than All Star United. Here's a great song called Ketchup is Mustard. "Without the mustard / You got no flavor / Is that the bread? / Is there any taste to savor? / Put it in your mouth / Do you find much flavor? / Whose got the bread? / Whose got the mustard? / Whose got the fried chicken? / Whose got the hot dog? / Whose got the French fries? / Without the sauce / The food is cool / For some reason / It's like a family gathering / All the food is there / But there's nothing to eat."

Justin: Well, I'm done with them. I think they have some maturing to do.

"The Normals: Better Than This"

Ryan: This is refreshing. They sound pretty good.

Justin: This album has some good song writing, and the producing is well done. They have a Jars of Clay, Gin Blossoms sound.

Ryan: A somewhat folk, Bruce Cockburn sound. It's a lot more authentic than Silage and All Star United.

Rob: Their lyrics show some maturity, some thought even. Daddy's Girl, "6:00 on a Saturday night / No one else is home, and the lights are off / You're drunk again / and you stumble into the family room / You look up at the picture on the wall / You see daddy, his wife and his little girl."

Justin: They seem to handle real problems like normal people would.

Ryan: The album art is cool, too. Oh, and they're kind of cute, in a... normal kind of way.

Justin: Rob, stop throwing the Silage CD around!

Rob: Sorry, I really like this vocalist. He's very real, very authentic, very believable, very... normal.

Justin: The three joke limit is not used up. It's just not... normal.

Ryan: This album is very cohesive. It fits together really well. It's my favorite of the three.

Justin: Mine, too.

Rob: Me as well. I'd go to the concert just to see these guys. Though I'm sure the other bands will be good live, too.

Justin: Yes. It looks like All Star United puts on a pretty cool show.

Silage

The Normals

Grant Elgersma
Opinion Editor

"Smoke Signals" communicates Native American life simply, humorously, and without dwelling on typical clichés about noble savages, drunken Indians or warrior chieftains. Instead, the film succeeds in making light of the exaggerated images of Native American life on the reservations. The film's characters do not fit the stereotypes movie-going audiences are used to seeing. In fact, much of the humor comes from playing off typical notions about how American Indians are supposed to behave. One such scene shows Victor (the stoic son of an alcoholic father who seeks to uphold the Native American image of quiet, brave-faced warrior) trying to teach his goofy and out-going companion (Thomas) the proper way to "look like an Indian." The attempt to make Thomas fit the stereotypical image of Indian fails miserably and makes for a very funny scene.

The movie's plot-line follows these two young Indians on a journey to discover their past. Victor and Thomas leave the reservation for the first time in their lives, in search of Victor's runaway father. At the end, Victor and Thomas are faced with the realization that the things their fathers have done before them have made them who they are. The journey leaves the two wondering about forgiveness and the way time both separates and connects lives.

You won't see "Smoke Signals" represented so well in this year's Oscar Night. It lacks the Hollywood glitz and glamour that characterizes such a celebration. But this film has charmed audiences everywhere. Winning the Audience Award and the Film-maker's Trophy at the Sundance Film Festival, as well as being the official selection for opening night of the 1998 New Director/New Films, "Smoke Signals" is surely the most unique film this year.

The movie will be shown on campus March 26 and 27.

Movie Review: Smoke Signals
Conference reminds attendees of calling

by Dennis Schilthuis
Guest Writer

This past weekend, five representatives from Dordt College: Lindsay Carlson, Liam Starkenburg, Justin Te Brake, Sarah Walsh and myself traveled to Pittsburgh to attend the Jubilee 99 conference. This annual conference was sponsored by the Coalition for Christian Outreach (CCO). More than a thousand young people rallied at the Hilton Hotel to develop an understanding of Christianity in today's world.

Dordt representatives found the conference to be insightful and beneficial. The central thrust of the weekend focused on the idea that Christians should not dwell on what they do, but how they do it. Speaker Elaine Storky from Great Britain emphasized how they do things. Attending Dordt is a privilege and after our four or five years here we should be equipped to leave these familiar red brick buildings and prepared for radical engagement with the world.

Soli Deo Gloria!

Academic Global Living

by Suzi Goudswaard
Staff Writer

Living cross-culturally-it doesn't sound like a very debatable topic. Most would agree that learning from other cultures is beneficial. Dordt is encouraging learning from other cultures as they implement the off-campus semester requirement in the next few years. They should; the world is big and there's a lot to learn.

But living cross-culturally is more than it may initially sound. It is living in a place and among a people who aren't your own and don't do things the way you expect. I'm not just talking about a short-term mission trip where perhaps you "get to preach the Gospel to those who have never heard it before, or as they would tell me in India, "do the God's work."

Cross cultural living is not a service project or a trip, it's life lived globally. When we live like this we can't help but learn, and participate in academia as we are forced to pull things together which we've learned about, and discussed and debated on the institutional level. We can't help but make it academic as we live and struggle with real people in real situations who have real faces.