



Volume XLIV  
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# Dordt College Diamond

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## Inside your Dordt Diamond

News	1,2,3
Opinion	4
Features	5
Arts &	
Entertainment	6
Sports	7
World	8

• Dordt does well  
at the Model  
Arab League

page 3

• SAC plans end  
of the year  
events--find out  
what they are

page 3

• Check out the  
history and the  
future of the All  
Seasons Center

page 5

• Lacrosse team  
tops University of  
South Dakota

page 7



John Hansen

Northwestern students Chris Anderson, Sarah Kennedy, Steve Hydine and Leah Elder act out the life of AIDS victim Scott Zylstra.

## "When Scott Comes Home"

by Laura Apol  
Features Page Editor

The controversial play, "When Scott Comes Home" was presented in the B.J. Haan Auditorium on Sunday, April 1.

On the Thursday before the play was shown, protestors handed

*Scott says he wants to find a church, but "nary a word on repenting and wanting to get right with God."*

out pamphlets full of information criticizing the play. There was also an insert asking students to contact

President Zylstra to have the play canceled. Zylstra had one request from a student to have the play canceled and two requests asking that it not be canceled. Zylstra said he appreciated all responses.

Paul Dorr, director of Rescue the Perishing ministry, handed out the pamphlets on the previous Thursday morning. The pamphlet stated that the play "ridicules church officers, implicitly denies the doctrine of sanctification, makes Christians out to be hypocrites, makes victims out of unrepentant homosexuals," and many other statements.

The pamphlet did raise the issue of Scott not asking forgiveness for his sins. Scott says he

wants to find a church, but "nary a word on repenting and wanting to get right with God."

*The overall message of the play was compassion towards our brothers and sisters in Christ, no matter their sin.*

However, there were some questionable points brought up in the pamphlet. The pamphlet criticized Mignon Zylstra for asking Scott if he had been on any dates lately. The pamphlet says: "This is a sad presumption especially when the Christian community around North America is more and more

rejecting Rousseauian, autonomous, recreational, one-on-one dating and is re-discovering the Biblical covenantal model of such relationships with their view toward marriage, which includes direct parental involvement, proper chaperoning, etc. . . ."

The overall message of the play was compassion towards our brothers and sisters in Christ, no matter their sin. It tells us that we cannot turn our backs on them, because we are no better than they. The play raises many issues that need to be discussed among ourselves so that when we are challenged to defend our views, we know where we stand.

## Dordt hosts leadership forum

by Rose Ann Vander Wal  
Staff Writer

Dordt will soon host its first leadership forum. The forum is being planned by Dordt's director of student life, Sandi Altena, and student Rochelle Van Ry. The speaker for the initial forum is Justin Vande Water from Colorado, who Van Ry says "really has a heart for training college-aged stu-

dent leaders."

This initial meeting of the leadership forum will also include a time of worship and will be open to anyone who is involved in leadership or would like to know how to be a better leader. Van Ry and Altena hope the mass meeting will encourage all those who are leaders on campus and refresh them for the rest of the year and inspire them for next year.

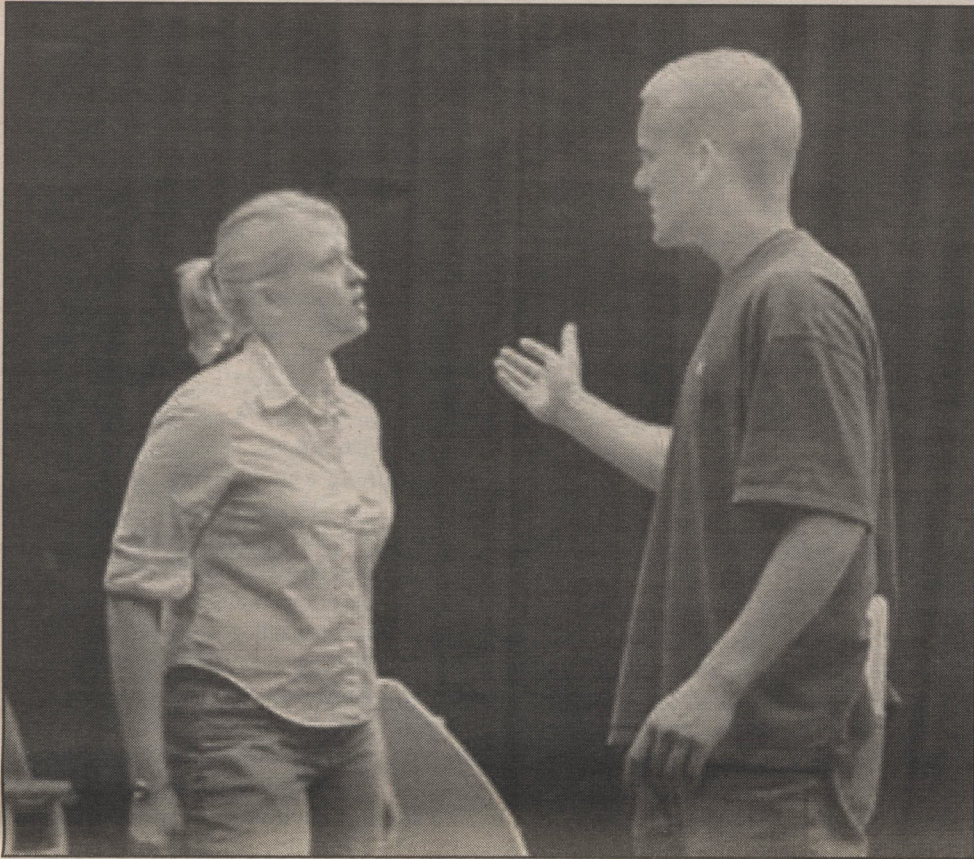
Another purpose of this forum will be to introduce a plan for future forums. The plan for next year is for each group or organization to send delegates to the meetings. The purpose of these meetings will be fourfold according to Van Ry: first, they will train students to be stronger, more godly leaders; second, they will give the groups a chance to be better informed about what is going on

across campus; third, the meetings will provide students an opportunity to learn from each other; and last they will be used to raise issues about the campus that could be addressed by the larger body of organizations.

The initial meeting will be held from 7:30 to 9:30 on April 25. Anyone with questions should contact Rochelle Van Ry.



## Students perform Shakespeare on tour



Kate Ver Velde and Mark Buteyn play Theseus and Hippolyta in "A Midsummer Night's Dream."

by Mikala Poll  
Staff Writer

As the end of the semester approaches, a group of about 20 theater students from the Repertory Theatre class is preparing to tour Colorado and Alberta with Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream."

The class is intended to prepare students for touring theater and to help them master this particular classical style of theater. The two-week tour in May will bring the play into high schools and will offer workshops for interested students and teachers at the schools.

Touring theater is different in many ways from a typical staged play, because sets, costumes and stages are limited and change at every location. "I think it is important for any one who is interested in acting to take a show on the road. Each performance is a totally different experience," said junior Emily Deutschman.

Each performance will require the involvement of a few high school students, who will take on specific roles within the play. "My goal is to go into the schools we visit and support their theater and literature programs by offering their students the opportunity to act with college age students in a production," said Professor Simon

duToit.

"This class is interesting because we have to try to remember what it was like to be in high school and then try to excite high schoolers with what excites us," said junior Adam Smit. "The nice thing about this production is how much it will crack you up if you give it a chance. If you just give a little extra effort to understand the 'heightened language,' it'll be extremely easy to catch the humor and appreciate what can be done with Shakespeare."

Junior Aaron Rietsma said, "I am really beginning to like Shakespearean theater."

So far, the class has spent a lot of time learning Shakespearean performance skills. "I have really been enjoying the process that we have been going through for this production," said Deutschman. "This production is different because we have been given a chance to work on an acting style rather than just focusing on our specific text."

Students are required to memorize text, watch videos on Shakespearean acting, and apply the lessons they learn to their part in the play. The academic content of the course has made this production much different to teach than a typical play, du Toit said.

The group is planning a performance at Dordt before the end of the year.

## SAC plans medieval Spring Banquet

by Rachelle Vander  
Werff  
Staff Writer

Coming to Dordt on April 21, 2001 is the annual Spring Fling, also known as the Spring Banquet. This year's banquet will be slightly different from previous years. It will include a number of new ideas, as well as some of the traditional events.

At this time, no one is certain what the title of the banquet is going to be, but it is definitely going to have a medieval theme and will resemble a masquerade ball. It will also include a scene with a king and queen as well as court jesters.

As far as the food is concerned, Student Activities is looking into roasting a pig. There will also be a fountain punch bowl and fruit in the middle of the tables.

For anyone interested in dressing in medieval costumes, there

will be a best costume award. However, for everyone who does not want to look medieval, dress is formal.

The banquet will be held in the gym and will begin with punch at 6:30 p.m. Specific entertainment has not determined at this time, but there will probably be some type of music for ballroom dancing.

As has been offered in previous years, there will be dance lessons available some time before the banquet for anyone who is interested, and there will also be an additional medieval activity. Anyone who plans to go to the Spring Fling will be invited to make medieval themed masks ahead of time.

Tickets for the banquet are \$6 and will be on sale in the SUB from April 18-20. Co-chair of SAC Lori Van Driessen said, "For a medieval atmosphere, good food, and great entertainment come to the spring banquet."

## Student Forum update

by Wade Halma  
Student Forum Press Secretary

During the last two meetings of Student Forum, the members discussed two main issues: accountability at Dordt and plans for the All Seasons Center.

The March 27th meeting was primarily centered on the level of accountability students hold at Dordt. Students are engulfed in community and part of this is

accountability. The Forum looked at Dordt's current forms of accountability and ways that growth in that area can be encouraged. The Forum also researched books available on accountability in a community setting for insight. Along the same lines, the Forum looked at re-wording policies in the Defender in order to take emphasis off rules and setting standards for behavior. The Forum learned that North Hall R.A. Brad Dykstra has also been researching accountability as well, and they look forward to discussing the issue with him as well.

"We want to promote holiness and raise the bar for ourselves," said Matt Nuiver.

The next meeting of the Forum, on April 3rd, was focused on the plans for the All Seasons Center as it pertains to Dordt Students and to Sioux Center.

Dave Ausmus, project consultant, and Willis Alberda, project council member, spoke to the Forum about the work that has been done and the fund-raising ventures in progress. The Sioux Center community will be voting on this project soon, and the leaders are calling for the awareness and financial support of Dordt students.

"The Sioux Center community is very supportive of Dordt; our contribution is an important token of our appreciation," said Brandie Ochsner.

### NORTHWEST IOWA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

closes its 2000-2001 Season with a

### Gala Concert

Tuesday, April 24, 2001 g 7:30 PM

BJ Haan Auditorium, Sioux Center

#### Featured Guests

Seo Kyoung-Suk, soprano,

Kwag Sung-Sup, tenor -from Korea

The entire orchestra will perform a tuneful masterwork

by Antonin Dvorak, his

Symphony No. 8 in G Major.

A 200 member chorus consisting of the

Northwestern Heritage Singers,

the Sioux County Oratorio Chorus,

Dordt College Concert Choir and Chorale

will be added for the

Final Chorus from ATurandot@by Puccini



Check out the Junior Art Show  
March 30 to April 13  
in the mezzanine gallery



## Dordt sweeps Model Arab League

by **Jacque Scoby**  
Staff Writer

Three more awards were recently added to the list of accomplishments of Dordt College students, only these awards came not in the area of sports or music but from the Model Arab League, which was held March 29-31 at Northwestern College in Orange City.

The Model Arab League, an annual event organized by the National Council for U.S.-Arab Relations, provides high school and college students a chance to play the part of diplomats from Arab countries in a mock council. The goal is to encourage students to think about different situations and issues that arise in the Arab world and also to develop leadership skills. Students also have to understand what the different

countries believe and why they hold those beliefs. The event is based on the 22 actual Arab States.

"Sometimes students have to separate their own personal beliefs from that of the country they are representing," said Adam Zylstra, a Dordt senior who served as the Secretary General for this year's event. "Dordt students are usually very well prepared to argue positions, even if they are not in agreement with those positions. There are a lot of Islamic issues also that the students must deal with."

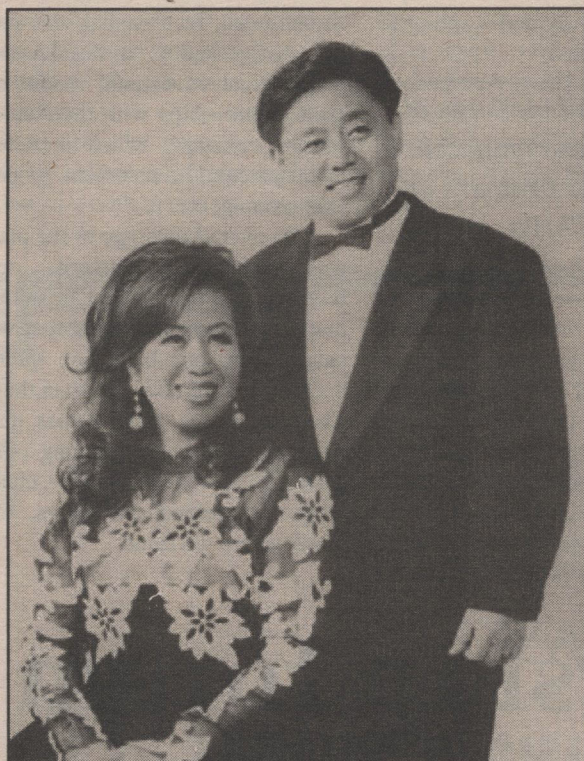
The Dordt students who participated earned all three of the outstanding delegation awards and the majority of the outstanding delegate awards. In addition, Mark Van Wingerdon was named as Secretary General for next year, and Amy Vroom was named as one of two assistants to the Secretary General.



Jenn Myers, Mark Van Wingerdon, and Amy Vroom deliberate in the ??? Committee?

Sarah Eekhoff

## Kwags join NISO for final concert



Seo Kyoung-Suk and Kwag Sung-sup

by **Tricia Van Ee**  
News Page Editor

The Northwest Iowa Symphony Orchestra will close its concert season with "An International Connection to Korea" on Tuesday, April 24. They will be joined by two opera singers from Korea

as well as a huge chorus made up of local singers.

NISO will open the evening with the beautiful Symphony No. 8 by Dvorak. Dr. Henry Duitman, conductor of NISO, says that the work is very upbeat and cheerful, and also very tuneful. "It is perfect for our

orchestra," he said.

Guest artists Seo Kyoung-Suk, soprano, and her husband Kwag Sung-Sup, tenor, will be the featured guests for the second half of this final concert of the 2000-2001 season. Trained in Italy, the Kwags have both sung leading roles for many opera companies in Europe and now teach vocal music at universities in Korea. Kwag Sung-Sup also received acclaim as a finalist in the 1995 Luciano Pavarotti competition.

The Kwags will sing arias and duets from "The Marriage of Figaro" by Mozart, "La Traviata" and "Il Trovatore" by Verdi, and "La Boheme", "Tosca", and "Turandot" by Puccini.

In addition to NISO, the Kwags will be joined by a more than 200 member chorus consisting of the Northwestern Heritage Singers, the Sioux County Oratorio Chorus and the Dordt College Concert Choir and Chorale.

The Kwags will also

give a recital at Dordt on Thursday, April 26, at 7:30 in the B.J. Haan Auditorium. This recital and the performance with NISO are part of a short tour in North America which also includes performances in New York City and a few stops in Canada.

The Kwags connection to Dordt and northwest Iowa goes back several years. Dr. Kim, a professor at Dordt a few years ago, is now the academic dean of Dordt's sister school, Kosin University, in Pusan, Korea. Kosin University and Dordt have participated in a few professor exchanges in the past few years, most recently being a trip to the University by Dordt music chair Karen De Mol, who spoke at the school's convocation. While in Korea, De Mol heard the Kwags sing and talked to Dr. Kim, who arranged the Kwags' present tour.

The NISO concert will take place at 7:30 in the B.J. Haan Auditorium on the 24th.

## SAC presents Coffeehouses and Cornstock

by **Allison Schaap**  
News Assistant Page Editor

After a stressful week of studies, many students look forward to the weekend. Now students have the opportunity to relax, grab a cup of coffee and a slice of cheesecake and possibly listen to a band or to people reading poetry, right here on campus.

Heidi Kooiman, co-chairperson of the Student Activities Committee (SAC), said the coffeehouses have been "revived" in the last couple of months. The coffeehouses are no longer held in the Student Union Building (SUB). They are now held in the New World Theatre. SAC added candles, lights, some tables, chairs and a stage.

The idea was born at the Talent Extravaganza, according to Kooiman. After witnessing the talent that many Dordt students possess, Kooiman and other SAC members felt that it would be great to bring some of that talent into the coffeehouses. The first coffeehouse held in the new location they offered free cheesecake, which helped bring in some of the students and showed SAC how students would react to such a new atmosphere for the coffeehouses.

To Kooiman's surprise, many of the students loved it. "I was totally pumped. Coffeehouses used to be big, and then somehow they lost it, and I am so glad that [the coffeehouse] is working out. I think that it is something that the Dordt community needs and wants," Kooiman said.

SAC has been busy, not only with the Coffeehouse, but also with other events coming up on the calendar. They will be holding a Disco Dance on April 20th and Cornstock on May 4th.

Cornstock is going to be one of the biggest events at Dordt this year. According to Kooiman, "This event will be held outside, hosting a variety of bands and singers. SAC plans on getting Sioux Center businesses to have booths to sell some of their products, which is kind of similar to the Taste of Sioux Center, and they will also be having booths for tie-dying t-shirts, holding games and handing out big prizes."

SAC will be charging \$3.00 per person. Bracelets will be given to those who pay the entrance fee, and then people will be free to come and go as they like so people do not have to stay all ten hours. SAC encourages those with musical talent to talk to them about participating in Cornstock.



## A generation without a cause

by Sarah Eekhoff

Editor



In the April issue of Atlantic Monthly, David Brooks makes an observation about

today's youth. "The young men and women of America's future elite work their laptops to the bone, rarely question authority, and happily accept their positions at the top of the heap as part of the natural order of life," he says.

Brooks spent some time at Princeton University, and observed there that the elite of our generation are generally busy and happy but have a lack of depth. They can't comprehend virtue, evil, or sin. The problem with this, says Brooks, "is that this idea [sin] is at the heart of understanding what it means to be virtuous. They [our generation] are responsible. They are generous. They are bright. They are good-natured. But they

live in a country that has lost, in its frantic seeking after happiness and success, the language of sin and character-building through combat with sin. Evil is seen as something that can be cured with better education, or therapy, or Prozac. Instead of virtue we talk about accomplishment."

We have lost our character to ambition, Brooks claims. The schedule of our busy generation includes schoolwork, exercise, tutoring, joining clubs and organizations. But somewhere between the gym and the classroom we have lost our cause.

College students today do not have a cause higher than themselves, according to Brooks. We have grown up in relative peace, cushioned with economic stability and unfamiliar with hunger or military drafts. Nothing has forced us to make decisions larger than what to major in or where to go to school. Brooks suggests that college students today look "for new tests to ace, new clubs to be president of, new services to perform, but find that none of these challenges is the ultimate challenge,

and none of the rewards is the ultimate reward."

Brooks has a point, and I agree with him that the age group I belong to has never really faced

*We have not sacrificed much. And maybe, as a result, we don't really know who we are.*

trauma, at least together as a generation. We have had, on the whole, a peaceful and prosperous existence. We have not sacrificed much. And maybe, as a result, we don't really know who we are.

Brooks noticed a fairly consistent trend in the Princeton students he talked to: their words stumbled when the subject of character was brought up. One professor, when telling students not to cheat, said they understood they shouldn't break the honor code, and recognized they might get caught, but were uncomfortable when he told them that God could see them and it was a sin to cheat.

Our generation knows how to act. They know how to serve

cheerfully, how to help others actively, how to care for their bodies and their minds. But what do they know about their soul?

Unlike Brooks, I do not see this as a generational problem, but as a universal one. Men and women of all ages, in all statuses of society, can be uncomfortable with the thought of sin, of evil. In our comfortable, wealthy country, the line between right and wrong has blurred. The passionate commitment to a cause that drew straight black lines against the evil of Hitler's concentration camps, or between the support and opposition of Vietnam, has aged and faded. Our generation has nothing to fight for.

But I do. And you do. We are champions of the cause of Christ, aren't we? We have the purest, truest cause in the entire world, and we are ready to lay down everything for that, be it money, or success, or the chance for a diamond ring, right? We would give up our lives, wouldn't we? Even if it included giving away a year to work in the inner city? Even if it included choosing singleness?

I believe that we have not been untouched by the peace we have enjoyed. Peace is not wrong; it's wonderful. But we shouldn't get so comfortable that we fall asleep. Dordt has presented us with a strong, and I believe correct, worldview. But we shouldn't trust our professors so much that we never question what they tell us. Our parents are fantastic, supportive people. But we shouldn't base our decisions on their desires. Ambition and achievement are good. But don't use them as your plumb lines. Serving in soup kitchens, tutoring other students, is an amazing way to honor God and help others. But don't become so busy with the actions that you forget why you're doing them.

Are we a generation that works our laptops to the bone, rarely questions authority, and happily accepts our position at the top of the heap? My brothers and sisters, work hard, but don't lose yourself in your activities. Think critically, question authority, and know who you are--a servant of God in the unnatural order of an upside down Kingdom.

## Injustice

by Amy Gesch

Guest Writer

Garbage dump. Piles of bags breaking open, spewing out rotting food, reeking diapers. Cleaning supplies--long past their safe time. Bits of glass, aluminum. Home. Old rotting wood, vultures, maggots. A thin dirty face, bare feet scavenging through the horror. Hunger pangs. A piece of edible food. Cardboard--a find! Flies, food that is growing. Home--for kids, adults, grandmas--if they live that long.

Born, live, die in the dump. They call it home.

Walls on all sides, roof. Bathroom. Hot showers. Carpeted floors. Comfortable sofa. Central heat. Home. Refrigerator filled with food and drink. Pantry stocked with food.

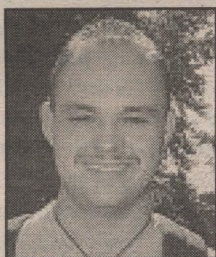
Hunger pangs. A snack--several cookies and an apple without worms. Clean face. Eight pairs of shoes in the closet. Born and live in wealth. I call it home.

Two opposite pictures of home--Guatemala City dump and college kid home/dorm. Each born into it. No choice of theirs. The child in the dump knows only empty stomachs, sickness, little sister dying. Dreams of food. Outside world is scary. College kid knows only full stomach, doctors near, big family of four generations. Injustice--that the child starves physically, mentally, emotionally, spiritually. Injustice--that I have so much.

## Speak up for the voiceless

by Mitch Beaumont

Assistant Editor



Off the coast of New York there lies a two-mile strip of land. On that "island" is a

strip of boardwalk that seems to be the border between a proverbial hell-on-earth and paradise.

On one side is one of the poorest cities in the country; on the other is an ever-extending stretch of rolling tides and sinking sand. On one side there are hundreds of thousands of people living in abject poverty while on the other side couples and individuals alike stroll along in a peaceful utopia.

Several hundred miles south of this "island," Coney Island, sits our nation's capital. It is there that all of our laws are made and implemented. It is there that our Senators and Representatives have their residence, despite the fact that they are perhaps as much as a thousand miles away from their constituents.

This past spring break I visited both places within a week of each other. In New York my PLIA team had the opportunity to minister to the homeless, to serve them coffee and to sit down and talk with

them. Some just wanted to talk, and some were really thirsting for hope in life. We were able to spread the hope of Jesus and prayerfully plant a few seeds. We also had the chance to tutor quite a few elementary school kids from the area. Every afternoon they would come in for an hour or so and we would sit down with them and help them with their homework.

In Washington D.C. I was part of a group of seven Dordt students who attended a lobbying conference. While there we learned how to lobby our Congressmen on two different issues: campaign finance reform and an initiative that President Clinton enacted before leaving office called the Roadless Conservation Initiative. We learned how to be a voice for the voiceless, to be an advocate for those who don't have a voice in politics because of their status in society.

On our last full day in Washington we sat through a session on Christian activism led by the editor of Sojourner's magazine, Jim Wallis. Sojourner's is a publication that promotes social justice on many contemporary issues. Wallis said that the Christian gospel without activism for the poor is nothing. The poor are the center, the function, of Christian ministry. As soon as he said that I made an incredible con-

nection between what my PLIA team had experienced in New York and what my classmates and I were learning in Washington.

I was in Washington, on behalf of those we had met and ministered to in New York, to be a voice for them. I was their representative. I was walking around Capitol

*You don't have to be politically savvy to be influential. All you have to do is be passionate about standing up for your issue...*

Hill meeting with my Senators as a way of speaking up for the poor in not only Coney Island but also in Denver and even Sioux Center.

I say all of that to merely prove the point that students have an incredible opportunity to have their voice heard by those who need to hear it most. This pertains to not only the needy and poor of our country, but also those who make the laws that govern our country. When I walked into a Senator's office, they literally sat up and took notice when I told them I was a Colorado constituent visiting Washington on a lobbying trip. They did so because it's very rare to hear from constituents, let alone for them to actually come to Washington.

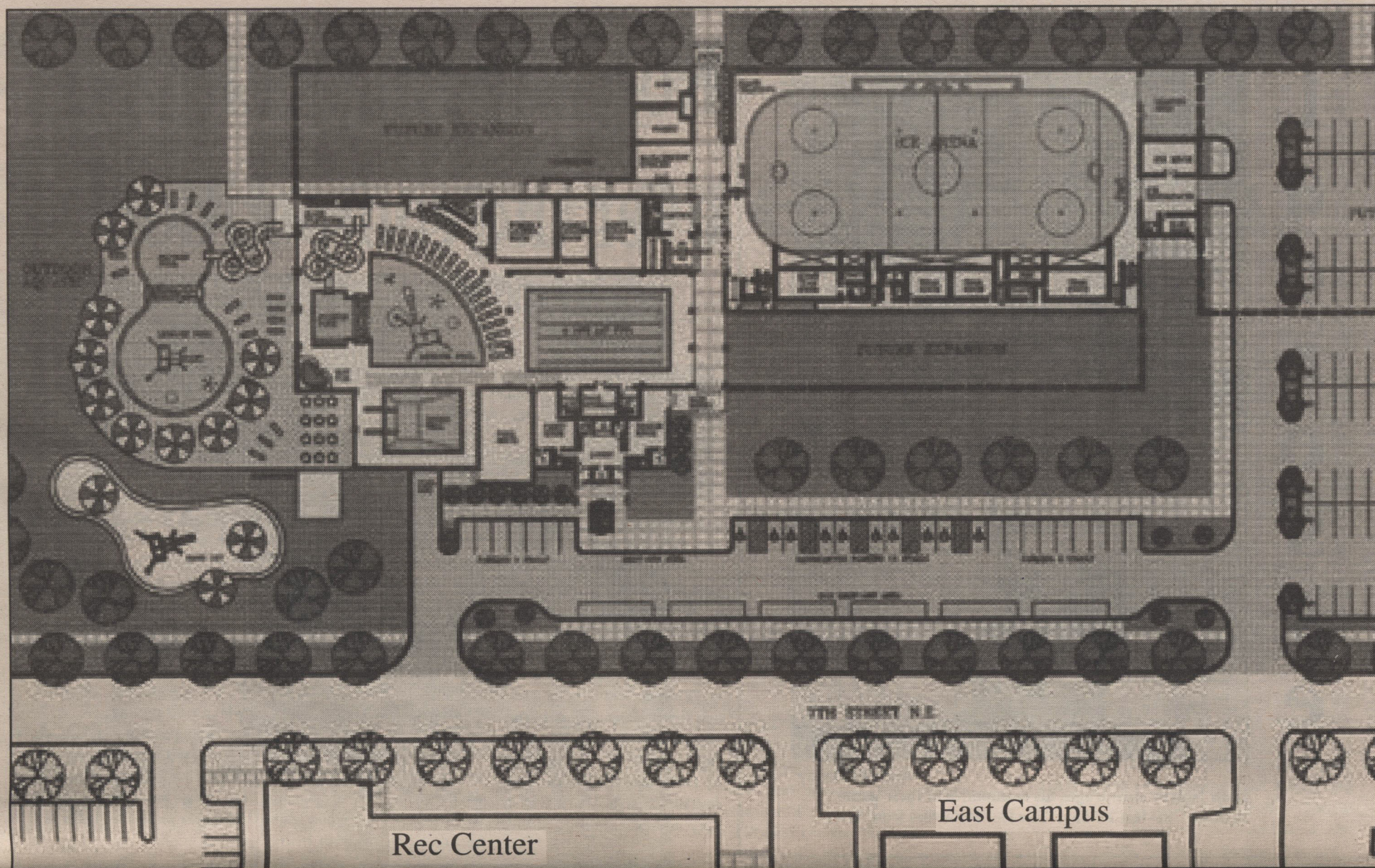
I want to push each Dordt student to get involved in Christian

activism. You don't have to be passionate about campaign finance reform, although it's an important issue. You can influence your Senators on partial birth abortions or environmental issues or anything else that interests you. There are clubs on campus that assist students in being Christian activists. Dordt Defenders of Life (DDL) advocate for the unborn; Shamar advocates for social justice and environmental issues.

You don't have to be politically savvy to be influential. All you have to do is be passionate about standing up for your issue, and to proclaim to your Senator or Representative that you are a God-fearing Christian who believes in speaking up for those who can't speak up for themselves.

Being a Christian in today's society means more than just believing that Jesus is the Lord of all, which I don't want to downplay. We have to do more than that. We have to be a voice for the voiceless. We have to speak up on behalf of those who can't. Pick an issue that you feel strongly about, become knowledgeable about that issue and then write letters to your Senators and Representatives in Washington. Write to your state representatives too. Make sure that our law-makers know that the Christian college students of this country care about what goes on in Washington.





## Sioux Center to build All Seasons Center

by Blake Walburg  
Staff Writer

In the midst of all the activity and anticipation surrounding the construction of the new Student Life Center at Dordt, there is another major project making its way down the road toward completion. In a joint effort between Dordt, community schools, and the city of Sioux Center, plans are being made for the All Seasons Center, a \$9.8 million recreation complex, to be built across 7th Street from Dordt, where the community swimming pool is currently located. The center would serve as a place for community gatherings and activities by offering a variety of recreational opportunities.

### History

The idea for the project has been in the works for a long time. It really began in earnest about five years ago when it was realized that the current indoor pool was in dire need of either renovation or replacement. Professor Willis Alberda, a member of both the city council and the recreation and arts council, says that the need is so bad that the pool keepers are using "bubble gum and poker chips" to plug up corrosion leaks in the pool.

Originally the plan was just to take care of this need and possibly also add an outdoor swimming pool. However, as time progressed, it became clear through consultants and community surveys that it would be desirable to have both indoor and outdoor swimming facilities. Alberda says that through further "postcard and phone interviews," it was found that the community and the college also had a significant interest in including an ice rink.

### Purposes

What will be included in the proposed All Seasons Center? First of all, there will be both an indoor and outdoor aquatic center that will have a total of more than 8000 square feet of water surface. This will be divided up into several different pools. There will be both indoor and outdoor general recreation pools, each of which will have its own 140 foot water slide. In the indoor facility, there will also be a diving well with two diving boards, a 6 lane lap pool, and a therapy pool.

Another major function of the new activities center will be to house an indoor multipurpose arena. The new arena would be used as an ice rink during the winter months for activities such as

open skating, community hockey and figure skating programs, and Dordt Blades hockey team practices and games. During the rest of the year, the arena could be converted to also serve as a gathering place for community events like concerts, trade shows, livestock shows, revivals and other special occasions.

Finally, the All Seasons Center would be the home of a senior center, a two-level facility that would help serve as a hub of activity for the senior citizens in the community. Alberda stresses that the name "All Seasons" means more than just an activity center for all seasons of the year but also a place for people from all "seasons of life." Here, older members of the community would have a place to socialize, play games, be with other family members and participate in educational programs.

In the long run, there may be opportunity for even more interesting additions to the complex. As seen on the site plan, there are areas set aside for possible future expansion. An additional indoor ice sheet may eventually be built to meet the expected demands for ice time. Also, there has been talk of the possibility of an eventual skyway that would connect Dordt's current rec center to the new facility.

### Cost and Timeline

Funding for the project is divided up into three categories. \$3.5 million is to be generated by the city, community schools, and Dordt. Another \$3.3 million is to be brought in by means of a state grant. The remaining \$3 million will be raised through the private contributions of individuals and businesses in the city. So far, the funding is coming along quite nicely. The state of Iowa has committed to contributing about \$3 million as a grant and another \$250,000 in the form of a loan. Private donations are already approaching the \$2.5 million mark. The last big hurdle to completing a school bond election will be held on May 1st, from which an additional \$2.3 million could be raised.

The fund-raising period of the All Seasons Center is almost complete. Next, the project will move into the design and construction documentation stages, scheduled to be completed by November of 2001. Then the city will request bids at the beginning of 2002, and construction will be started as soon as possible thereafter. As of yet, there is no completion date set, but it is estimated that the complex will take about 18 months to complete once construction begins.

### How does this affect students?

by Laura Apol

Features Page Editor

Dordt has a part to pay in the All Seasons Center. The local cost of \$3.5 million is being split three ways: between the city, the public school and Dordt College. Arlan Nederhoff says a similar arrangement allows Dordt's use of the pool, Tepaske Theater and Open Space Park.

Dordt students will have to cover some of this cost. It is undecided whether there will be an impact on tuition or on the activity fee. The final dollar amount has not been determined, but Nederhoff says the estimates are in the range of \$75 to \$100 per year.

It has not been decided how Dordt students will have access to the building. "I would like to see a system similar to the Rec Center, but I doubt Dordt would have that much access to the facility," Nederhoff said.

But with all the new facilities to use, it will be an asset to Dordt students. Professor Scott Quatro says, "I think that the benefits to students are significant - chief among them increased recreational activities and truly 'home' hockey games!"



# Spring Tour brings laughs, memories

by **Andrea Voogt**  
Staff Writer

The Band/Orchestra Spring Tour reminded me of why I love college life. Since I'm in my last semester at Dordt, I've developed the common case of senioritis. Looking forward to life after college and being busier than ever tends to make one forget how much she enjoys life as it is. Although I would have enjoyed using my Spring Break to go on PLIA or go home, Band/Orchestra Tour was a great opportunity to get to know a lot of different people and have a lot of fun and wacky experiences.

On Thursday, March 15, 71 students, one director, one official Dordt representative, and three bus drivers embarked on a 4,000-mile, 12-day journey which took us through Nebraska, Colorado, Utah, Nevada, California, Arizona, and New Mexico. We played for six school assemblies and seven concerts while on tour. The tour culminated in a home concert on March 30 in the B.J. Haan Auditorium and a professional recording session of our favorite pieces the next day.

Despite a number of vehicular "incidents," including a gas pump



photo submitted

**Tubas on the rocks: Terrence Visser and Karsten Finseth in Artesia, California.**

leak on one of the buses, a broken fan belt on one of the buses, a tire blowout on the trailer and an accident with the van, by God's grace everyone and all the instruments were kept safe. While in Escondido, CA, the Dordt van was in an accident that broke a tie rod and bent the frame. Although the

buses had to leave the next morning to get to Phoenix, AZ, on time for our concert, the van was not driveable. An act of providence made it possible for the van to be fixed and driven out to Phoenix the following day, and Mark Buteyn became the hero of the day for staying behind in Escondido, renting

a U-Haul and still getting to the Phoenix concert on time. We also experienced God's providence in the lack of illness while on tour. Usually, putting 75 people together on a bus for 12 days results in a lot of illness being passed around, but we were all kept quite healthy.

The sovereignty of God was

also seen as Karsten Finseth and Lani Van Someren saw God bringing them together; they realized that they share a few lifelong dreams and goals. Their "developing relationship" was a tour joke. Other "tour fun" was provided by the Bus Fun Committee, which consisted of Karsten Finseth, Mark Hoogwerf, Zach Vreeman, Steve Bruin, Josh Christoffels, and Carolyn Langley. This wacky group did a great job of helping the long bus rides to pass by organizing Rook tournaments, holding Trivial Pursuit contests, interviewing people, telling "instrument of the day" jokes, and constructing Mad Libs. The Bus Fun Committee also brought along "the golden plunger," which was our official tour mascot. Crocheting was the official fad of the Band/Orchestra Spring tour. Several crocheting masters determined to teach as many people as possible how to crochet. This pastime helped people pass bus time as well as make some nice scarfs, purses, and hats.

**Jump to "Spring Break tour"**  
page 8

## Semisonic disappoints

by **Mark Brink**  
Staff Writer

I don't know about you, but I tend to be artist loyal. Don't quite understand? Well, if I find a music group or artist that I like I usually follow them wherever they may go. Sometimes it feels like a relationship is formed: they tell me about themselves (through song), I get to know them and a bond is created. If I wish to continue the relationship I purchase their next artistic expression; if I wish to learn about their past I look for their older albums.

Sometimes a commitment like this can take me on a wild and unexpected ride (Radiohead) or it can dead-end (Smashing Pumpkins). Typically, if we became good friends, I am willing to follow them anywhere they go, but sometimes I am disappointed with where they have decided to go, and I decide I am not willing to follow. This is exactly what happened with some former friends of mine: Semisonic.

Semisonic first came to my attention about the same time as they may have come to yours: with the hit song "Closing Time." I liked that song and decided to pick up the album, *Feeling Strangely Fine*, and was quite impressed with the simplistic yet catchy guitar/drums/piano mix and captured by the witty and revealing lyrics. The sincerity and honest self-examination of the song themes and words was something that I was quickly drawn to. The thrill of "Secret Smile," the hope of "She's Got It All Worked Out," the accepted desperation of "Gone to the Movies;" all these elements make this album a must have for those who enjoy honest music.

I wanted to know more about this new friend, so I picked up their first album: *The Great Divide*. A good listen, but nowhere near the same depth as their second album. I saw this as a good sign: they have gained depth as they have experienced life. This left me very

encouraged and excited by the prospect of a new album, and I eagerly awaited the chance to see where my friends were now.

Then came Semisonic's third album: *All About Chemistry*. Wow, what a disappointment. The musicians I had placed in high esteem for their compassionate lyrics has degenerated to shallow garbage: "I know we could be the sweetest friends but if that's where it ends I've got to find someone else to bed." This album is filled with other thinly-veiled references to cheap sex, masturbation, intentional deceit, and other despicable subjects.

I don't know anything about the musicians personally, but I am disappointed with their latest artistic statement. The music is still of the utmost quality and certainly shows a maturation and growth in their sound as they attempt to incorporate keyboards and other electronic elements.

I am happy to see Semisonic able to push their sonic growth and to develop further in their artistic expression, but I am frustrated with where that change has taken them. Maybe I'll catch up with them again in a few years, but right now I feel like we have parted ways. It's always hard to lose a friend.

## Art is meaningless; go home

Eric Van Wyk  
Staff Writer

So I got these flashy red and blue shoes, real artsy and unique; I was thrilled with myself. These shoes were the epitome of my personal aesthetic; everyone's eye would be pleased. I laced them up and stepped out. (At this moment there would be someone in the commercial who came up and said, "Nice pants." If I had them on. Oops.)

Let's say an institution needs a building; there's an undisputed need and it would be a wonderful addition. This building needs X amount of square rooms, Y amount of large meeting-type rooms and Z amount of hallways. Mix and match, plug and chug, and the building is a square. The plan is figured out and the nitty-gritty is filed away. At that point, the question is asked, "Well, what should this building look like?"

"So, Artist X, what is he saying?" "Well," I said back to the questioner, "what do you think?" He replied, "I'm no art major and my opinion doesn't count. Besides," he said, "I'll never be able to afford art anyways, so it's not a big deal to me."

Someone walked next to me out of the hockey arena. "What did you think of the game?" I asked. "The way the players weaved in and out and the yellow and black shapes on the white ice are rather pleasing to the eye," she said.

On April 1st Northwestern College presented "When Scott Comes Home," a play

directly dealing with the issue of homosexuality in a Christian Reformed community. Rooted within the play were the issues of sin and grace, pain and struggle in the midst of faith. The play truthfully grappled with the issues Christians are facing today while also teaching about grace and faith in our own lives.

In our Reformed churches, visual icons and images are rarely used; the word of God is spoken and the presence of the saints is only talked about. The temple in the Old Testament and the catacombs of the New Testament were full of vivid imagery proclaiming the word of God. God made himself known through fire, Jesus, through parables and visual depictions. Have we lost something in dismissing the role of the visual in our churches?

The next couple of weeks senior art majors will be having their art shows. Right now there is also an Easter Art show up in the classroom gallery. This year at Dordt there has been a richness of art shows, poetry readings and theatre productions that have engaged our human lives and tackled issues while also showing us the beauty of what life is. These are needed and must be supported. Yet, these are not the only instances of the creative dimension that God has blessed us with.

Humans often form a dichotomy that separates art and life. Too often we ignore the creative side of life and fail to acknowledge the role art can play to benefit our human activities. We need to stop focusing so much on the red shoes and remember that art is an experience open to everyone.



## Lacrosse



Andrew Moody  
Matt Nuiver encourages his teammates in their game against USD last Friday. The Dordt Sowers won, 11-2.

## Ron Kingma: running over the competition

by Jason Mulder  
Staff Writer



When talking about men's track here at Dordt, the name Ron Kingma almost always comes up. Ron has played a key part in the success of the team for the past four years.

A graduate of Illiana Christian High School, he participated in cross-country in high school and two years at Dordt in addition to track and field. He qualified for the state meet all four years of high school but was recruited by Dordt as a discuss thrower. Initially, Coach Altena wasn't very interested in his abilities

as a runner.

This soon changed and Ron was an All-American in the 3200m Relay (outdoor) his freshman year. His sophomore year he did the same. Last year, Ron had his best race, finishing third in the nation in the 800m (indoor). This year, he is an All-American in the 800m (indoor) and led the All-American 3200m Relay (indoor) team as well. Coach Altena described Ron as "the most elite athlete in track and field Dordt has had for the past 18 years that I have been coaching. Ron makes his teammates All-Americans."

Ron was the Most Valuable Conference Athlete runner-up this year in indoor, winning the 800m, placing second in the 400m, and leading his team to fourth in the

1600m Relay at the conference meet.

Ron has not only led the team in awards the last few years but has also been the guy everyone looks up to. He communicates between the team and the coach, always trying to motivate his teammates and make it fun.

There is more that makes Ron such a great leader, however. As a Chemistry major hoping to go to Montana State University next year for his master's degree, Ron helps out in other areas. He is a teacher's aid for Professor Fictorie, helping students who are struggling.

He hopes to eventually get a job in industry, possibly as a technician, but doesn't care as long as he has a job he enjoys. Ron also plays the guitar and enjoys cooking.

## Baseball seniors look to the future

John Hansen  
Staff Writer

Ryan Lefever and Tim Covey are the two seniors on this year's baseball team. Lefever is majoring in Accounting and Business Administration. He is from Orange City, where he played baseball in little league and high school at Unity Christian. Lefever plays pitcher and first base and has been on the baseball team all four years at Dordt.

Tim Covey is a Psychology major from Hull, Iowa. He plays

center field, and this is his first year playing for Dordt because of transfer rules. Covey was team manager last year and had the privilege of travelling with the team to Florida over spring break. Both Lefever and Covey say this trip was one of their best memories of Dordt baseball.

Baseball has been an important part of Lefever's four years at Dordt. "Baseball has taught me to enjoy life and enjoy the time you have with your friends," he said. Head coach Tom Visker says that Lefever shows a lot of positive leadership and always encouraging

the team. "He is a good hitter and a pleasure to have on the team," said Visker.

Baseball has also taught Covey important lessons. "Baseball has definitely taught me what commitment and discipline involve," said Covey. "I've learned many things about teamwork and relationships through the many good friendships I've established with my teammates. Visker says Covey is a good defensive outfielder and has good speed.

Both of the guys have high hopes for the team and would like to see more people come out for

the games. "It would really be nice to see more people come out and support the baseball team," said Lefever. "The past couple of weeks we have played some very tight games with some of the best teams in the conference," said Covey.

Covey plans to attend graduate school at the University of Northern Iowa next year where he will pursue an Education Specialist degree which will allow him to be a licensed school psychologist. Covey is also getting his coaching endorsement here at Dordt. "I would love to coach at some level

after I graduate UNI," he said.

Lefever also plans to be involved in baseball after he graduates. Lefever says he would also enjoy coaching little league, and perhaps working his way up to college someday. He will begin working after he graduates this spring. This summer he will be getting married to Amanda Poppema, a junior here at Dordt.

"Both of these players have a great Christian character," said Visker. "They are a positive influence both on and off the diamond."

## Statistics

### Softball (10-11, 3-3 GPAC)

3/9/01	Sterling College	W (10-0)
3/9/01	Friends University	W (6-0)
3/9/01	Baker University	W (6-2)
3/10/01	Tabor College	W (14-0)
3/10/01	McPherson	W (10-0)
3/11/01	Evangel University	L (2-1); L (4-2)
3/21/01	Columbia College	L (4-1); L (5-2)
3/22/01	Central Methodist	L (2-1); L (1-0)
3/23/01	Lindenwood	L (10-0); W (7-4)
3/24/01	Westminster College	W (10-5)
3/24/01	Cornell College	L (3-1)
3/30/01	Nebraska Wesleyan	W (6-0); W (13-3)
4/3/01	Northwestern	L (3-1); L (6-4)
4/7/01	Doane	L (2-1); W (8-6)

### Men's Tennis (1-6, 1-4 GPAC)

3/21/01	Westminster	L (9-0)
3/22/01	Benedictine	L (8-1)
3/24/01	Doane	W (8-1)
3/24/01	Concordia	L (5-4)
3/31/01	Hastings	W (8-1)
3/31/01	Midland Luth.	L (9-0)
4/4/01	Neb. Wesleyan	L (9-0)

### Women's Tennis (0-4, 0-4 GPAC)

3/31/01	Hastings	L (9-0)
3/31/01	Midland Luth.	L (6-3)
4/4/01	Neb. Wesleyan	L (9-0)
4/7/01	Concordia	L (5-4)

### Baseball (1-11, 0-6 GPAC)

3/2/01	Bethel College	L (0-3); L (4-9)
3/16/01	Bethany College	L (0-7)
3/17/01	Central Christian	L (4-14)
3/19/01	Sterling College	L (2-8); W (7-3)
4/02/01	Dakota Wesleyan	L (5-6); L (0-2)
4/04/01	Northwestern	L (1-15); L (4-10)

### 4/07/01 Neb. Wesleyan L (5-15); L (12-7)

#### Track

4/7/01	Lincoln, NE
Final Team Scoring	
1. Doane	
2. Neb Wesleyan	
3. Dordt	
4. Northwestern	
National Qualifiers:	
Jacque Scoby - javelin	128'7"
Jill Starkenburg - pole vault	10'8"
Individual Results:	
Women:	
1st javelin - Jacque Scoby	
2nd pole vault - Jill Starkenburg	
2nd 400 Hurdles - Jackie Eekhoff	1:08.13
2nd triple jump - Erica Ton	36'8 1/4"
2nd 4x400 Meter Relay	4:09.6
3rd high jump - Susan Schaap	5'1"
3rd 3000 M Run - Rachel Baber	11:25.4
3rd 4x100 Meter Relay	52.83
Men:	
2nd 400 M Hurdles - Brian Wassenaar	56.66

### 3rd 4x400 Meter Relay 3:22.1

### 3rd 4x100 Meter Relay 44.84

#### Lacrosse

4/6/01	USD W (11-2)
Goals:	Matt Nuiver (7)
	Paul LeMahieu (2)
	Dave Slomp (1)
	Justin Elgersma (1)
Saves:	David Vander Tuin (13)
4/7/01	USD W (5-2)
Goals:	Matt Nuiver (3)
	Justin Elgersma (1)
	Paul LeMahieu (1)
Saves:	David Vander Tuin (8)
UNL W (8-0)	
Goals:	Matt Nuiver (3)
	Dave Slomp (2)
	Aaron Oberloh (1)
	Greg Le Mahieu (1)
	Paul Le Mahieu (1)
Saves:	David Vander Tuin (3)



## NEWS BRIEFS



**CHINA**--The United States air crew detained in China is to be released "promptly", following US expressions of regret for the loss of the Chinese fighter pilot involved in the accident that brought the plane down. On Wednesday, President Bush said the American people joined him in "sorrow for the loss of life of the Chinese pilot". Mr Bush did not apologize for the accident itself or admit US responsibility for it. The 24 crew members have been detained since their plane and a Chinese fighter jet collided 11 days ago.

**TURKEY**--More than 200 people have been injured in clashes in Ankara between Turkish police and over 70,000 anti-government demonstrators angered by the country's two-month old economic crisis. The demonstrators - mainly shopkeepers and tradesmen - are protesting against the government's acceptance of an austere International Monetary Fund recovery program. In other protests on Wednesday, at least 40,000 people took to the street in the port of Izmir and 20,000 people marched against the government in the city of Konya.

**SOUTH AFRICA**--South Africa has become the first country in the world to approve a product which can be used as an alternative to human blood in transfusions, thus eliminating the risk of patients being treated with diseased blood. The product, Hemopure, was developed by a US-based biotechnology company, Biopure, and it is made from cow's hemoglobin. However, some researchers have raised fears that any medical product made from animals presents a risk of introducing new diseases to people.

**ISRAEL**@In the first such operation since conflicts began six months ago, Israeli tanks and bulldozers have entered a Palestinian refugee camp in the Gaza Strip and destroyed a number of buildings. This sparked fierce fighting in which two Palestinians have been killed and at least 50 wounded, and casts doubt on US efforts to convene a meeting of Israeli and Palestinian security officials. Palestinians responded to the attack by firing mortars on a Jewish settlement.

**SRI LANKA**@ To mark the Sinhala and Hindu new year, the Sri Lankan government has announced a four-day ceasefire and the release of 10 detainees it says are Tamil Tiger rebels. The release of rebel detainees comes as a surprise but the government wants to be seen as encouraging the peace process, despite apparent setbacks recently. A brief truce had been expected but there's no indication the government is responding to the rebel's declaration of a unilateral ceasefire four months ago.

## Contemporary Political Opinion

by Peter Anderson  
Staff Writer

When President Bush first took office, Democratic leaders were lobbying for bi-partisanship. They said the President must not be partisan in his politics, or there would be no compromise on legislation but gridlock instead. In other words, the Democrats wanted Bush to think and act more like them, which in the long run may turn out to be no large feat. However, this is beside the point. Instead the question that should be posed is if bi-partisanship and cooperation between Democrats and Republicans is such a good thing. Recent happenings should make us all rethink the purported value of significant political cooperation.

First is the passage of the McCain-Feingold campaign finance reform bill. This bill is supposed to exemplify bi-partisanship because it is sponsored by the Republican Senator McCain and the Democratic Senator Feingold. However, one main aspect of this bill happens to be un-Constitutional, because it limits free speech. This bill seeks to severely limit independent groups/political ads in the media a month or two before the election. This is such a blatant abridgement of free speech and the first Amendment, that it has made bedfellows of organizations ranging from the NRA to the ACLU.

The other event that exemplifies where bi-partisan-

ship can take us, is the recent outbreak of fighting in the former Yugoslavia. The people that American troops were sent to protect, ethnic Albanians and their military wing the KLA, have now started attacking neighboring Macedonia. The attacks come under the guise of independence fighting for the ethnic Albanians in Kosovo and Macedonia. However, the March 26, 2001 issue of Newsweek says that the fighting has erupted to promote instability in the region. If instability reigns, a profitable black market controlled by the ethnic Albanian guerrillas can flourish. Once stability comes back, an actual economy will be in order and there will no longer be a black market. So why does this situation reek of American political cooperation? Because the Republicans allowed it to. Former President Clinton sent American troops to this region with an executive order, thus bypassing the consent of Congress. However, Clinton still needed Congress' funding for this, which the Republican controlled House and Senate supplied. Thus American troops are now put in the ironic situation of having to protect people from those they were sent to protect.

If these two aforementioned events are where bi-partisanship takes us, we can be assured of less rights and more foreign entanglements. If President Bush is to prove his worth, it may very well be by his ability not to compromise. This is because by example we are left to feel that partisanship has not been the problem but rather the gradual amalgamation of the two parties.

## Spring Break Tour

continued from page six

Rook and Mafia were definitely the games of choice on tour. In addition to the Rook tournament, one group of people decided to play a game of Rook to 10,000. (They finished it, too - on the last day of tour!) Large games of Mafia were also popular. Some people, like Tanya Visser, really got into it ("I'm a townie!"). When Terence Visser was voted out, he coined a new phrase: "You're all fish!" Some of the students were hosted by a group of people in Ontario, CA, who played a huge, 30-person game of Mafia.

Host families were definitely one of the highlights of tour. Each morning on the bus we would swap stories about our host families of the night before. One group of girls had a host family that decided to "culture" them by taking them out to hear a live mariachi band.

Another group was taken to Hollywood. One girl got to see the Pacific Ocean for the first time. Ken Elgersma and James Grossmann were brought to the church in Artesia in a beautiful 1930 Model A. Hot tubs and pools were also highlights at many of the host family's homes.

Other tour highlights included a ride down the Las Vegas strip, a power failure in Ripon that threatened to cancel our concert, and the free day in Phoenix. Although all the meals prepared for us were excellent, we especially enjoyed the California delicacy known as tri-tip, which is a special, steamed cut of beef. Another highlight was the Mexican fiesta prepared for us in Escondido, which is very close to the US-Mexico border. The people of Escondido went south of the border and picked up a number of trinkets which we could win by answering questions about Mexico. Laura Vos and Carissa Neerhof each won a green foam lizard, which they named Pato and Pollo and used to torture Dr. Duitman.

In spite of all the fun we had, we still got a little wacky near the end of tour. Someone took the analogy of a music group being a team a little too far, and we began engaging in "pre-game huddles," chanting of a particular "word of the day," and calling Dr. Duitman "Coach D." Laura Vos developed a friendly rivalry with "Coach D." involving water fights and her lizard. Kate Reinsma stuck a gummi bear to her forehead, and Brandy Ochsner bet her a meal that she couldn't keep it there through the concert at Rehoboth. (Kate won.)

Although we enjoyed the warm weather, the wonderful food, the great music, and the fun we had together,

most of us were happy to get off the bus for good on March 26. We performed our music for a live audience for the last time on March 30 at the home concert, and on March 31 we had a few pieces professionally recorded. These pieces will be included on the next Dordt CD, which will probably come out this summer.

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