Students discuss GIFT

by Mikala Poll
Staff Writer

Worship. What do most of the students on campus think of when this word is mentioned? A discussion held in Covenant basement on Monday night gave students a chance to talk about it.

An estimated 75 students attended the event organized by junior Luke Shannon. Junior Rochelle Van Ry, this year’s GIFT coordinator, began the discussion by telling the history of GIFT and sharing its purpose, which is “to provide a place to worship in a more contemporary way.” She said, “that was the intent of those who started it, and that is still its ministry.”

Students discussed the place of music in worship and the “emotional highs” that often come out of it. Intense music makes it easy to be on an emotional high, but senior Aron Zuidhof reminded everyone, “Emotion must not be stirred by music but by the depth of what God has done for us.”

“We have left out the tools we’ve been given which allow us to grow closer to God: prayer and the Word,” said Junior Chloe Hilden. “We can do amazing things through prayer—things we cannot do any other way. The Word is amazing—we don’t use it enough for what its meant to do.”

Van Ry said, “It’s a lot messier when we really start reading and digging into his Word, seeking his face. That’s a lot tougher than just coming to get peppe up.”

Students also discussed the place of church, church attendance and sacraments and what it means to live in a Christian community. They talked about what it means to live worship every day of the week, not just on Sunday nights, and about the place of small group accountability and prayer groups.

Ken Boersma, Vice President for Student Services, commended students on being able to come together to struggle with these issues.

Students continued talking long after the discussion ended, and many said they were challenged by the thoughts that were presented.

Sophomore Kraig Bleeker’s comment brought together many of those thoughts. “It’s not about the music, it’s not about GIFT, it’s not even about the worship,” he said. “It’s about how we make the Christian life real. It’s not a game anymore. We need to admit being messed up. GIFT shows the hunger of needing more of God.”

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Dordt continues through reaccreditation

by Blake Walburg
Staff Writer

One of the major tasks at hand for Dordt College is something of which the majority of the student body is probably unaware. Dordt is approaching the climax of a two-year process of applying for continuing accreditation as an educational institution. The process has included a great deal of planning, meeting, researching and evaluation on the part of faculty and staff members as well as a handful of students.

What is accreditation? For an institution such as Dordt, it is a professional affiliation that basically ensures that everything the institution has to offer meets certain quality and value standards. This includes not only the educational programs, but also the administration, finances, admissions processes, and relationships to outside communities and other aspects of the college.

The professional affiliation that grants Dordt its accreditation is the North Central Association Commission on Institutes of Higher Education (NCA-CIHE). Education institutions across the country are accredited by regional associations such as the NCA.

Dordt is accredited and recognized in the same group with just about any other major college or university.

Every ten years, educational institutions are reviewed and reaccredited, and Dordt is up for an evaluation in the fall of 2001. There are several criteria that an institution must meet in order to receive accreditation. The main order of business right now is to finish up a major document, called a self-study report, which will be a primary source of evaluation for Dordt’s accreditation. The NCA requires that an institution undergo a thorough self-study, which is part into the form of the self-study report.

Dordt’s report has been in the works since the process began in February of 1999, and it is headed up by a self-study steering committee that includes faculty, staff and students. The theme that the committee chose for the document is Cultivating Lives of Service, and the purpose of the report is to examine the different aspects of the college and how each aspect adheres to this theme.

CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO
Van Den Hul to give recital

by Rachelle Vander Werff
Staff Writer

Jennifer Van Den Hul plans to present her senior violin recital on April 6. She has not performed in a recital at this level for quite some time; however, she is confident that it will come together.

Van Den Hul began working with her violin pieces over a year ago, but another piece was chosen very recently. The original piece Van Den Hul plans to perform is "Duo Sonata," a piano and violin duet by Franz Schubert. In contrast to typical piano-violin duets, this particular piece requires the piano and violin to work together very much.

Van Den Hul’s other pieces include "Romance" by Antonín Dvořák, "Sonata for Violin and Harpsichord" by J.S. Bach and "Five Melodies for Violin and Piano" by Sergei Prokofiev. Van Den Hul chose these pieces under the guidance of her violin instructor. They were selected from different parts of her repertoire to demonstrate the different styles and techniques involved in playing the violin.

Van Den Hul has been playing the violin since age six. At age four she began to beg her mom for violin lessons, and when Van Den Hul was in first grade her mother complied. Since then Van Den Hul's abilities have continued to progress through lessons and diligent practice.

Van Den Hul is a church music major, and she is actively involved with the orchestra at First Christian Reformed Church of Sioux Center. Van Den Hul feels this experience has been a blessing to her as it has given her the opportunity to use her talents for the benefit of the children who attend the church.

Van Den Hul is not sure of what the future holds for her. She is confident that her education in church music will not be a waste. She says that church music is something that will be a part of her life no matter where she ends up. Right now she plans to patiently follow the Lord’s leading. This may mean directing church music or even working with music at a school, but she believes that whatever she does will be a joyous experience.

She says, "Music is what I love, and if I love it, it’s not a job!" Van Den Hul feels she is both known by and has come to know many people through her music. "It has become such a part of who I am," she says.

Opinions? Ideas for news stories? Contact the Diamond at X6431 or diamond@dordt.edu

Dordt reaccreditation process

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

Dordt students have been involved in the reaccreditation process since the beginning. Jennifer Groen, Annette Elgersma, Aaron Koning and Gerbrich are members of the NCA steering committee. Andrea Visser and Ivstvan Veszi are members of the Student Services sub-committee, a branch of the steering committee, and have both written portions of the self-study document.

More recently, about 60 students were selected to read portions of the document and then discuss it at meetings last week. Curtis Taylor, assistant to the president and the self-study coordinator, said that he "asked the faculty and staff to nominate people whom they thought would take seriously the task of reading 50-100 pages of the document and then coming to a meeting to talk about it."

The students not only discussed what should be changed about the document, but they also discussed all aspects of Dordt, such as Student Services, academics and clubs. All comments were documented so they would continue to be helpful in the future. Through this process, students had an effect on future policy at Dordt.

Eventually, all Dordt students will have a chance to give their input on Dordt's self-study. Taylor says that "once the document is nearly finished, we're going to open it up to the entire student body."

There is much more involved in this process than can be summarized in one article. Students are encouraged to visit www.dordt.edu/selfstudy/ for more information on the self-study. The website contains an overview of the accreditation process as well as links to NCA's website, a list of the committee members, the accreditation criteria, and even the currently completed portions of the document.

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Friday, March 30. A number of these books are the basis for the spring lectures. The title of the spring lectures "The Global God: Implications for Northwest Iowa," and Dr. Beeson Spencer's public lecture are based on their book, "The Global God: Multicultural Evangelical views of God."

Dr. William Spencer’s chapel presentation will be based on his book "Dread Jesus," which includes a close analysis of the lyrics of many reggae songs.
Upperclassmen adopt freshmen

by Tricia Van Ee
News Page Editor

The Dordt College Concert Band and Chamber Orchestra will travel through Nebraska, Colorado, California, Arizona and New Mexico on its semi-annual spring break tour. The band will present eight concerts and five school assemblies while on tour. They will also participate in several worship services.

This tour is similar to other spring break tours insofar as it is part of Dordt’s public relations and recruiting efforts. Touring also contributes positively to the musical ensembles as they work on and refine music and also grow in camaraderie with other members of the ensembles.

Both the 30-member orchestra and the 56-member band will perform a variety of works, ranging from pieces from the Baroque period to very modern works. The orchestra will feature senior Jennifer Van Den Hul on violin in Dvorak’s “Romance for Violin and Orchestra.” Conductor Dr. Henry Duitman hopes to continue featuring seniors on future tours.

The orchestra will also feature a string quartet made up of Van Den Hul, her sister Erikka, Megan Van Den Berg and Coralin Den Hoed on Haydn’s “String Quartet in G.” Flutists Jennifer Groolings and Kim Obbink and oboists Jill Starkenburg and Kenneth Elgerson will be featured on “Sheep May Safely Graze” by J.S. Bach.

The orchestra will also premiere senior Sara Bierma’s arrangement of the “Dordt College Alma Mater.” Bierma arranged the piece for strings for an assignment for Orchestration, a music class. Dr. Duitman is the professor of the class and conductor of both Chamber Orchestra and Concert Band. “It’s exciting to have orchestra play the first piece I’ve ever arranged,” Bierma said. While orchestra plays this arrangement, the band will sing along with the alumni.

Concert Band will also be performing several exciting pieces, such as Shostakovich’s “Folk Dances” and Del Borgo’s musical interpretation of Dylan Thomas’s poem “Do Not Go Gentle into That Good Night.” French horn players Carolyn Langley, Andy Van Rooke, Angela Koorene Visser and Meaghann Persenaire will be featured on Lowell E. Shaw’s “Fripperies No. 1 for French Horn Quartet.”

Dr. Duitman has asked recent alumni from the cities they are touring to join the band on a march by Henry Fillmore’s “Americans We March.” This may be the beginning of a new tour tradition for the instrumental ensembles.

The band and orchestra will play for the evening service at First CRC of Sioux Center on March 11 and give a mini pre-tour concert after the service. The full tour concert will be given at the B.J. Haan Auditorium after spring break on Friday, March 30.

English department presents writing contest

by Rose Ann Vander Wal
Staff Writer

Dordt’s annual Purple Martin Writing contest is underway. The contest is designed to encourage writing among Dordt students. There are six categories open to all students: fiction, poetry, personal writing, persuasion or argument, exposition, and analysis. Freshman students are invited to enter their own categories of personal writing, analysis, persuasion, and exposition.

The contest is named for the Purple Martin birds that retired grade school principal A.J. Boersma loved and even tried to attract to the campus by building birdhouses. The contest is also named for a former Dordt librarian, Martin Seven who donated the money for the contest. The contest has been around in some form or another since the 1970s.

A $100 first prize and a $50 second prize will be awarded in each of the at-large student categories. A $40 first prize will be awarded in each of the freshman categories. Students are urged to enter their original work in the contest as long as these pieces have never been entered into the contest before. Submissions must be typewritten with a cover sheet and submitted to an English professor in a 9”x12” envelope.

For more information, students should pick up an informational sheet in the English pod. The deadline for entering is tomorrow, March 9.

Visit the faculty art show

Art professors Jo Alberda, Jake Van Wyk, and Susan Van Geest are featured in the mezzanine art gallery until March 23.

Right: “Bridal Series” by Jake Van Wyk
Below: “Cityscape” by Susan Van Geest
Conserving your energy lower your tuition

by Mitch Beaumont
Assistant Editor

D and you know that Dordt College spent over $500,000 last year on utility costs? Did you know that in the four years you spend at Dordt, the college will spend over two million dollars on utility costs alone? Did you also know that the cost of utilities is directly reflected in your tuition bill each semester? I didn’t either until last week when I interviewed Stan Oordt, Director of Maintenance.

A couple of weeks ago a guest speaker came to my Environmental Policy class. He began with a question, “Do you mind if we turn off the lights?” It’s so sunny out, what’s the use of wasting energy for lights on a day like this?” That got me thinking about how we use energy on campus and how much we waste.

Measuring this depends on a lot of variables. For example, East Campus building D, Covenant Hall and Southview apartments are all air conditioned and so they use more energy than the other buildings on campus during the month of September.

By looking at the total energy output and total money spent on utilities in the past three years I can see that the amount of energy expended by students has been fairly consistent. I also see that the college continues to put out an enormous amount of money to keep our apartments and classroom rooms heated and cooled during the school year.

The trends also seem to point at an actual decline in some kinds of energy usage among the student buildings. For instance, the amount of electricity used per hour in building D for the month of September has fallen from 16 kilowatts in 1998 to about 11 kilowatts this year. That’s a significant drop in energy usage. However, as students we can do much more to conserve energy on campus.

The maintenance department has provisions in place to conserve energy wherever possible. They have a computer set up in the maintenance building that monitors the temperature in each building on campus, and in some instances, specific rooms/apartments. They have also installed a special meter which, when the temperature in an apartment reaches a certain degree, will shut off the heat or air conditioning until the temperature drops or rises back to an appropriate temperature. This meter successfully conserves energy—if only humans were capable of that kind of conservation.

Ah, but we are! Mr. Oordt told me that often he will be walking across campus on a warm fall day and see windows open in apartments that are in no doubt using their air conditioning. But it’s all going right out the window, thus wasting energy.

A simple resolution? Either shut your window and enjoy your air conditioning, or if you like fresh air instead, turn off the fan that is connected to your air conditioning unit and open your window.

Oordt also advises that the most efficient thing students can do right now is to keep their thermostats down. If you’re a little chilly, you’re not doing any damage on instead of turning up the heat.

Another thing that we have noticed, because I do it all the time, is to lower the ventenent to leave the lights on. After talking with Oordt I’ve realized that this isn’t stewardly. One way to save energy is to leave a window open for a half hour, shut off your lights.

I would like to encourage the prof to consider teaching with the lights off whenever possible. If you teach in poorly lit classrooms, turn on the lights; but if you teach in classrooms with plenty of windows and plenty of exposure to sunlight, try conducting your classes by sunlight instead. As long as the prof can see their notes and you can see them, it shouldn’t matter whether or not you use the lights. Essentially I’m asking that as a campus community we work toward true stewardship of the resources we have been given by God.

By simply monitoring your consumption patterns of heating gas and electricity, you can make a small difference in the utility bill Dordt has to pay each month. As a community we can put a large dent in our tuition by reducing high utility costs. Think about it. Do it.

However, I believe this is an unnecessary complication and a specific rule that was put in place for a reason. The decision to block MSN was made last year and all of the students on campus were sent an email notifying us of the change. Computer Services is not randomly taking away our ability to communicate with those we love. They are rectifying a situation, enforcing a rule that was made long ago. If we are desperate to chat, then we should either buy a computer or find a friend who owns one. Otherwise we should be content to talk to people face to face or by doing so, we may have been doing for years—on the phone or write them an email. This is a novel idea—write them a letter.

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"When Scott comes home"

by Laura Apol
Features Page Editor

It is a difficult thing to confront an issue that causes people to squirm. It is a difficult thing to keep on addressing the issue despite others' frowning. And it is a difficult thing to present the issue in such a way as to change those others' minds.

The Northwestern College Drama Ministries Ensemble is addressing the issue of homosexuality in an original play entitled "When Scott Comes Home," written by Jeff Barker. This play will be presented to Dordt students on April 1.

This is the true story of a woman named Mignon Zylstra of Oak Harbor, Washington, based on her book, When AIDS Comes Home. Her story deals with her son's homosexuality and his battle with AIDS. Scott died of AIDS in 1989.

"When Scott Comes Home" was first produced in the spring of 1998. That year, the Northwestern Drama Ministries Ensemble took the play to Florida. The next year they went to Seattle, then to Michigan and then a national tour. They will also tour nationally this summer. It has been performed more than 100 times to more than 10,000 people.

The play hasn't gone without protest. When the play toured to Scott Zylstra's hometown, the church board didn't allow the performance in their facility. But on the Sunday that the play was scheduled at the local community theater, the pastor invited the congregation to the play.

The play was also protested by a group of picketers led by Paul Door of the Rescue the Perishing ministry. Tamara Fynaardt of Northwestern College's Public Relations says, "After reading the script on-line, Door claimed the play promotes a homosexual lifestyle and that it offers salvation without repentance."

Northwestern's response was, "Door clearly misinterprets the message of 'When Scott Comes Home.' The play does not promote homosexuality but encourages Christians to reach out in compassion to individuals with AIDS."

Many people have responded well to the play and the message it presents. "Hundreds of committed and highly-respected Christians have seen the play, been moved by it, and spoken very positively about the message of Christ's love it portrays," says Fynaardt.

After one showing, an audience member was so moved by the play that a grant of $35,000 was given to fund a national tour. A retired businessman who saw the play's first tour in Florida gave the first million to the fundraising for Northwestern's new theater.

The chair of the Kennedy Center/American College Theater Festival Region 5 called Barker to talk about the play. Barker told him it is "just a little church play." The selection team for the festival read the script and invited the play to the festival. After the performance, it received an immediate standing ovation. "One of my students says that the national artistic director of the KC/ACTF said it was one of the most painfully beautiful plays he's ever seen," says Barker.

Putting on a play with such controversial issues requires a mature team that can deal with the personal struggles of playing the parts. "I can safely say that all the company members have grown by having to struggle with the issues in the play and by studying Mignon Zylstra's fine book, 'When AIDS Comes Home,'" Barker says.

The play gives the team real life applications. "Some of the actors have met their first person living with AIDS while working on the show," says Barker.

Sarah Kennedy is the actress playing Mignon Zylstra. She says the greatest and most difficult thing about the production is "going through Mignon's journey every time I do the play. This is a role that has given me an understanding of what it is to struggle and suffer with a loved one."

The production crew has handled the play with great Christian compassion. "I have treasured the humility with which the actors have approached their task. I attribute this in part to the fact that we have always invested a lot of prayer in the tours of this show," says Barker.

Mignon Zylstra and her husband Bob have found in themselves a great compassion for those struggling with the same disease that killed their son. In 1991, they founded a ministry called Support the Journey. Support the Journey promotes people to "walk alongside people living with AIDS and their loved ones, offering physical, emotional and spiritual support."

The Zylstras are actively involved in this ministry. They have brought hope and support to many people afflicted with AIDS through monthly newsletters, phone calls, cards and personal visits.

This play will be presented here on Dordt's campus on April 1. The entire production lasts only 45 minutes, but the effect of the play will last much longer.

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Student teaches younger sisters

by Laura Apol
Features Page Editor

At eight and ten years old, Misty and Annette Karges are the youngest students on Dordt's campus. They are staying in East Campus with their older sister, Heidi. Their parents took an opportunity to go to Kenya on a three week mission trip, so Heidi offered to take her sisters. Because Misty and Annette are home schooled, Heidi has had to take on the role of teacher. Misty and Annette do most of the work on their own while Heidi is in class, and then Heidi checks up on them at lunchtime.

Misty and Annette are going home on Monday, March 12. "They are already getting sad about leaving, and missing me and my roommates. But they also said they wouldn't want to live like this forever, and they miss Mom and Dad," Heidi said.

Matt Deppe

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Books, Vessels and Seeds: Art faculty exhibits new work

by Eric Van Wyk

A new show containing recent work by Art faculty Jo Alberda, Susan Van Geest and Jake Van Wyk has opened in the mezzanine gallery. The show is compiled of artwork created in the last year and is composed of a mixture of different styles, techniques and mediums. This new work demonstrates a wide range of exploratory artistic endeavors and is not bound to a single theme or subject matter.

Alberda

Jo Alberda is exhibiting a group of photographs and a number of quilted wall pieces. The photographs are a series devoted to the concept of the seed, having potential and growth. Alberda says that this series stemmed from the biblical concept of the mustard seed and of limitless growth and fulfillment. The color photos are of maple and oak acorn seeds, assembled as still lifes and presented in a formal and unified whole.

Alberda’s wall hangings represent two styles with repeating motifs; one group belongs to a traditional, balanced approach, while the other style is more improvisational. One wall hanging Alberda is displaying is batik, a technique of coloring cloth through a process of dyes and waxes. This project stemmed partly from a Non-Western Art History class in which the students had been studying this fiber technique, often used by Asian and Middle Eastern artists.

Van Geest

Susan Van Geest is displaying a few paintings and various collages. For Van Geest, both the collages and paintings represent a mixture of different concepts and techniques explored over the past year. The paintings and the collages are similar in their exploration of materials and turning physical items of paint and objects into a conceptual or metaphorical vehicle. Van Geest states that materials have a life of their own, a sense of history and age, and are transformed in art. For example, the box assemblages being shown contain various objects, from bird’s wings and bits of metal to butterfly wings. The concept of the wing is important to Van Geest, as it represents the yearning to fly and also demonstrates the human fragility and temporal nature.

Also by Van Geest are books that display covers of a wide range of materials. These materials challenge what a book is: its history and time or place. Each of the materials gives the books a different emotional sense.

Van Wyk

Jake Van Wyk is displaying a number of works, ranging from ceramic vessels to prints demonstrating various printmaking techniques. The ceramic vessels, created in numerous shapes and sizes, are made from three different types of clay: porcelain, raku and stoneware.

Van Wyk’s prints demonstrate the printmaking techniques of mono-printing, water-crayon transfer and multi-color ink transfer. Each of the techniques gives different effects and image possibilities. The print images continue in Van Wyk’s investigation of the landscape and his angel-eye series.

This faculty show at Dordt is a mosaic of techniques, styles and engaging images. The show will be displayed until March 23 and the opening will be on Friday, March 9 at 5 p.m.

We're like Marilyn Manson

by Mark Brink

If you think Christian music is the only music worth listening to, then you should not read this article. Or maybe you should. Christian music is great; in fact, I consider several Christian musicians to be among my favorites. For me the problem comes at drawing a line between “Christian” and “secular” music and claiming that one is good while the other is bad. This has been a frustrating discussion that flows throughout all the arts. There are many who believe that we cannot participate in something unless it is blatantly labeled as Christian. If an artist shows nudity or a singer swears, we go running through the streets boycotting and censoring.

Why? I wrestled with this question myself and ended up changing my mind. I used to listen only to full-blown Christian music and was on the verge of selling all my non-Christian music. I didn’t, though. Instead I did what any self-respecting Calvinist would do: I examined the issue and have been attempting to redeem it ever since. It would be great if we lived in a perfect world and could listen to idyllic songs and put on a happy face all the time. The only problem is that life sucks in this fallen world.

This is not something to ignore; it is not something to try and erase by thinking positive thoughts. By doing that we only further distance ourselves from being real and making a difference in each other’s and our own lives. Death is a part of life and so are depression, suicide, anger, despair, resentment, pride and ugliness. To deny these things is to deny our fallen state. Granted, we don’t have to revel in it, but we do need to examine it and accept it as the way life is in this fallen world.

But enough theology. What does this have to do with music? With music, as in life, we cannot ignore the bad. Christian music has a way of doing just that. It’s getting better, but the majority of what one will find are positive, substance-laced tunes of praise and hope. Sorry to be brutally honest, but sometimes I don’t feel that hope. Sometimes I want to sing a song about the pain and despair we all feel. I want to write a song to try and erase by thinking positive thoughts. By doing that we only further distance ourselves from being real and making a difference in each other’s and our own lives.

Unfortunately that is not something I can find in the Christian music scene. For real wrestling I look to those who feel that pain and can express what I am feeling through lyrics and music. Remember that whole doctrine of common grace—the notion that a non-Christian can make something that can glorify God? I find more conviction and accountability in a few despairing and questioning lines from Marilyn Manson than I could find on a whole album by Point of Grace. Perhaps I’m sick, perhaps I’m twisted, but I am more challenged to action more by shared struggles than by fuzzy goose bumps.

Don’t get the wrong idea. I don’t listen to “secular” music just to appease my darker side. There are many other reasons for supporting non-Christian music. Often the quality is vastly superior, and there is also a variation that Christian music cannot match. Another reason to stay in touch with popular music is to stay in touch with our world. Music plays a huge part in our culture (MTV, anyone?) and to ignore what’s on the radio can create a gap that may alienate us from being effective members of our culture as we strive to make a difference in the lives of our neighbors.

I feel that “secular” music should be enjoyed with discretion. I challenge each of you to struggle with this issue on your own. If you come to a different conclusion, then so be it. I just hope this will help explain why you may sometimes find me listening to Nine Inch Nails and smiling with reaffirmed hope.
Lady Defenders end basketball season

by Jacque Scoby
Staff Writer

After capping the 2000-01 season with a win over Martin Luther College, the Dordt College women's basketball team prepares for a change in leadership in the next season. Dr. Len Rhoda, who has coached the Lady Defenders for the last 21 years, announced his decision to retire last month. The position will be filled by Glenn Bouma next season. The Lady Defenders finished with an overall record of 4-22 and a record of 1-15 in the conference.

Bouma is looking forward to the opportunity to coach in the coming season. As coach, Bouma will be looking to do during the off-season. "We're losing a solid player in Heather," he said. "Obviously, we'll need to find someone to take her place." Bouma is looking forward to the opportunity to coach in the coming season. As coach, Bouma will be looking for some improvement. "Obviously, we want to improve, both in our ability and in our conference standing," he says. "But we are still playing to enjoy the game."

While Bouma feels it is too early to set any specific goals for the season, he does have a general mind, is with the personnel that we have to play up-tempo basketball with a variety of defenses," he said. "Last year's team was young, but they got some college experience and improved within the season. We'll take that and go."

Eight Dordt students named All-Americans

by Corey Westra
Sports Information Director

Dordt College has eight new NAIA All-Americans after the completion of the 2001 NAIA National Indoor Track and Field Championships in Johnson City, Tennessee. Dordt's women's and men's 4x800 meter relay teams earned NAIA All-American status with their finishes at meet on Friday and Saturday. The women's team of Lisa Cannegieter, Rebecca Demarest, Emily Kauk, and Jessica Rowenhorst ran a time of 9:32.12 and finished 6th. The men's team of Marcus Schotten, Jon Dekkers, Jeff Taylor, and Ron Kingma ran a time of 7:45.74 and finished 5th.

Ron Kingma was individually named All-American by placing 6th in the 800 meters with a time of 1:54.29 in the finals. Kingma was an All-American for the 2000 season in the NAIA indoor 800, and set a Dordt College record in the preliminaries with a time of 1:53.53.

Dordt's Jill Sturkenburg finished 13th in the pole vault with a jump of 10'3 3/4". Susan Schaap was 9th in the high jump with a leap of 5'3", and Erica Ton narrowly missed All-American status with an 8th place finish in the women's triple jump. Ton set a school record with a jump of 37'1 3/4".

The women's 4x400 meter relay team of Sarah Haan, Lisa Cannegieter, Jackie Eekhoff, and Julie Dooyema set a Dordt College record in the preliminaries with a time of 3:24.09. The men's 4x400 finished 13th with a time of 3:24.09. The men's 4x400 team consisted of Eric Carlson, Jeff Taylor, Jon Dekkers, and Mark Buwalda.

Statistics

Men's Basketball

February 20 Northwestern
- L (77-76)
- Leading Scorers: Evan Berieri (18)
- Dylan Haak (16)
- Ryan Dooyema (13)

Women's Track

February 24 GPAC Conference
- Placing: 5th of 11
- 400 Meter Dash 2nd - Ron Kingma 50.06
- 400 Meter Dash 1st - Ron Kingma 5:55.88
- 4x400 Meter Relay 2nd
- 8:01.80
- Eric Carlson, Mark Buwalda, Jon Dekkers, Ron Kingma
- Pole Vault 3rd - Nathan Kauk 13'

Women's Track

February 24 GPAC Conference
- Placing: 5th of 11
- 1000 Meter Dash 3rd - Rebecca Demarest 3:12
- 4x400 Meter Relay 2nd
- 4:06.02
- Sarah Haan, Lisa Cannegieter, Kristi Moenndering, Jackie Eekhoff
- 4x400 Meter Relay 1st
- 9:33.63
- Lisa Cannegieter, Emily Kauk, Rebecca Demarest, Jessica Rowenhorst
- High Jump 2nd - Susan Schaap 5'04
- Triple Jump 3rd - Erica Ton 30'02.25

Sports Page Editor

by Jocelyn Van Beek

For many on Dordt's campus, racquetball is a game for leisure time, to stay in shape and have some fun. For 25 people, however, it is a competition played week against an opponent at their skill level. At the beginning of the school year, Ben Slager decided a racquetball league was something he would like to be part of. Since this did not exist at Dordt, he started one. He has been an avid racquetball player since he came to Dordt. "Freshmen year I played three times a week" he says. He doesn't always play that much anymore, but he still plays at least a couple times a week.

Slager began his league by placing an announcement in the Today, the racquetball league was born. He stated, "Freshmen year some guys tried to start up a league, but nothing happened. I didn't sign up or think more of it until this year, then I thought it was a good idea."

Slager set up a tournament in the middle of last semester which he used for the base of the league. He used the tournament results to help with the skill placement of the players. "They rank themselves. It is set up in a ladder and every week everyone moves up or down, depending on whether they win or lose."

Participants in the league play others at their approximate skill level. They set up the game at their convenience and tell Slager the winner and loser each week. He adjusts the ladder accordingly. Even if every player does not move up or down on the ladder, some will. Slager schedules them to play the person above them one week and below the next, for more variety in opponents.

There is a variety of people in the league. Every grade from freshman to senior is represented, as well as four professors. Professor Calvin Jongsmans is currently ranked #1, and Ben is #2. Slager feels that "the racquetball league is a good way to meet people at your level and have fun playing racquetball."

More people are welcome to join at any time. Slager places them at the bottom of the ladder, and they have the opportunity to work their way up. Contact Ben Slager at 6645 if interested in the league.
NEWS BRIEFS
by Kristi Mulder
World Page Editor
KOSOVO-- US troops have shot and wounded two rebel fighters in Kosovo near the increasingly tense border of Macedonia. Macedonian sources say the gunmen were trying to reinforce rebel positions in a nearby village. The clash is a very serious development, and raises the possibility that NATO troops could be sucked into combating the ethnic Albanian insurgency in Macedonia.

LIBERIA-- The UN Security Council has imposed a series of tough measures against Liberia, accusing it of fomenting war in west Africa. In a unanimous vote, the council banned diamond exports by Liberia, which it said were sold to buy arms for anti-government rebels in neighboring Sierra Leone. The council also re-imposed an arms embargo which was first used during Liberia's civil war between 1989 and 1996.

BOTSWANA-- Botswana's biggest diamond company, Debowa, said it will begin paying 90% of the cost of life-prolonging drugs for any of its employees, or their spouses, who carry the virus that causes AIDS. Botswana has one of the highest rates of HIV infection in the world, with one in 3% of its population HIV positive.

ARGENTINA-- An Argentinean judge revoked two amnesty laws which protected military officers accused of involvement in human rights abuses committed under the 1976-1983 military regime. Human rights campaigners in Argentina say they will now present a series of lawsuits against former military officials. As many as 30,000 people are thought to have been killed during the "dirty war" period of military rule in Argentina.

FRANCE-- More negative tests for foot-and-mouth disease have been returned from French laboratories, bringing a glimmer of hope that mainland Europe could yet escape the outbreak which has afflicted dozens of animals on UK farms. But French farm leaders have warned that there is no room for complacency, insisting that the risk continues. Around 50,000 animals are being slaughtered across France, after they were either imported from the UK or feared to have been contaminated.

March 1971-- The gymnastics team performed a sparkling demonstration in free exercise Friday morning. Starting off with simple techniques such as forward and backward rolls, the team worked up to the more complicated hand and neck springs. The highlight of the performance was the diving demonstration. The final dive of Jeff Boer over eleven people brought a standing ovation from the crowd. The team has been working three times a week for the past two months.

March 1972-- Dordt's yearbook, the Signet, is getting a facelift. The 1972-73 Signet will boast a larger size book and color photographs on several pages. Shaded and textured pictures will also be used to add to the attractiveness of the book. The changes will come at no greater cost to students. Editor Mary Jo Jansen said it was a matter of, "putting money in the right places," therefore, getting more for the same cost.

March 1983-- Because of the increasing use of computers in everyday life, Dordt has decided to add four new majors to its program and require freshmen to take a course which covers the use and misuse of computers. The Computer Science, Management Information Systems, and Engineering Science majors will be four year programs. The fourth major, Data Processing, will be a two year Associate of Arts degree. Add this all up and you have a computer boom on campus which is no less than incredible.

March 1990-- Dordt's Track Team of 11 women and 12 men are expected to have a strong showing in competition of the season. The women's team's strengths lie in middle distance running and the men's in individual events. While not at the low number of people on the team, Coach Altena says, "The athletes I have are very capable. ... You have to be optimistic and go with what you have."

Remember to recycle your Diamond when you are finished with it!

Sharon not likely to bring peace
by Jennifer Myers
Guest Writer

I would like to respond to Mr. Anderson's recent article. I agree with Mr. Anderson that there is a great need for peace in the Middle East. However, I do not think that we can find any "hope" for peace with Ariel Sharon.

Sharon's visit to the Temple mount accompanied by hundreds of armed guards set off the recent round of violence. Besides this blatant show of force, Sharon is known throughout the Palestinian community as a murderer. An Israeli investigation forced Sharon to resign as defense minister after finding him responsible for the massacre of nearly 2,000 Palestinian refugees.

I am not alone in my misgivings. The worldwide community voiced concern over Israel's recent 300-point tactical earlier this year through a UN Resolution condemning Israel's use of excessive force. The only country that abstained was the United States, and even the United States cited Israel for human rights violations in their 2000 State Department report.

On Monday, March 3, the Washington Post ran an article describing the suicide bombing that had recently occurred in the Israeli state. In the article, the author quoted Nahum Barnea, dean of Israel's columnists, in the Yedioth Aharonoth newspaper. "Sharon does not have a good answer to the security problems or the entire Palestinian issue. Very soon he will find that his future advisors don't have any magic solutions either." Apparently the American media are not the only ones who are pessimistic. Even Sharon's own people doubt his capacity to bring peace.

Finally, I would like to ask Mr. Anderson what he considers the "generous offers" that Barak had made to the Palestinians. Is having access to clean water considered a "generous offer"? What about granting the Palestinians the right to return to the land that they are entitled to under international law? Perhaps the magnanimous offer Mr. Anderson was referring to was stopping Israeli bulldozers from demolishing Palestinian houses or forcing Israeli soldiers to allow civilians in need of emergency care to pass their check points.

If we are to find any hope for peace in the Middle East conflict, the hope lies in Israel's ability to make concessions for basic rights. I am talking about rights such as freedom of movement, access to water, and access to basic emergency health care. The answer does not lie in Sharon's hard line approach. No amount of guns, anti-tank missiles or other security crackdowns are going to produce a lasting peace.