Students who are committed to serving God with their time and talents on Spring Break. Students choose to serve God because they believe that 'living faith is a win-win' situation, they are very enthusiastic! Many Dordt faculty and staff come, as well as Sioux Center and surrounding community members who have given support to PLIA financially and all of us are very grateful for your blessings. PLIA is fully run and organized by students, is the largest it has ever been, so we all want to give support to PLIA to help defray the costs of the trips.

PLIA fund-raiser feeds 467 people

by Lydia Boerema
Staff Reporter

Friday, February 13, PLIA's annual soup supper was held for the eighth time to raise money to make it possible for students to participate in serve projects during Spring Break. People stood in line in the West Commons on Friday between 4 and 7 p.m. to receive homemade pie and soup, while at the same time supporting this year's PLIA projects. This year's theme will be "Shoulder to Shoulder" The organization hopes that through the PLIA experience, each participant will come together to form a community that truly defines "the church.

PLIA provides students an opportunity to live and learn about others who have similar beliefs. PLIA's goals are to share Christ's love and to serve others in a concrete way. To make this happen, a large amount of money is needed. Although PLIA is an organization completely led by and run by students, it is supported by many other sources. For 17 years as long as it has existed PLIA has been blessed with supportive churches and enthusiastic people. Fifteen area churches helped sponsor this PLIA project by donating soup, pie, chicken and tamales. People are asked to give a free will donation when they come in; last year's soup supper brought in donations of over $1700.

The home churches of the students are asked to donate $250, which is PLIA's main fund-raiser, but according to Kyle Sorensen, junior co-leader of this year's project, the soup supper is also a major way for PLIA to get support and it brings in more than other fund-raisers. "People are very enthusiastic! Many Dordt faculty and staff come, as well Sioux Center and surrounding community members," Sorensen said. With 467 people this year, there were "80 more people than last year, which was wonderful.

Other fund-raisers for PLIA include collecting empty pop cans, selling necklaces and organizing a country dance. They also receive individual donations. "The Lord has blessed PLIA financially and all of us involved with PLIA pray that He will continue to do so," the PLIA organization writes in their bulletin.

The soup supper rally's support from area churches for Dordt College and its students who are committed to serving God with their time and talents on Spring Break. Students choose to serve God instead of going home, but they don't see it as giving up their free time because they always have a lot of fun and feel they have been growing in their faith too. One PLIA 1997 participant wrote, "I feared that I might be giving something up when I decided to go on PLIA, but by the time I returned I realized that rather than giving up something, I received a great gift.

Record number pick PLIA instead of San Padre

by Elizabeth Boerema
Staff Reporter

PLIA's turnout this year, a total of 184 students, is the largest it has ever been; so large that the addition of another site was required. For fifteen years, PLIA (Putting Love Into Action), a student-run organization has been involved with supporting PLIA financially and all of us are very grateful for your blessings. PLIA is fully run and organized by students, is the largest it has ever been, so we all want to give support to PLIA to help defray the costs of the trips.

The sites that are included in the twelve projects are: Mountain T.O.P: in Altamont, Tennessee, Appalachian Beach Out Ministries in Ironton, Kentucky, Voice of Calvary Ministries in Jackson, Mississippi, Urban Promises in Camden, New Jersey, Mendenhall Ministries in Vicksburg, Mississippi, Roseland Christian Ministries Center in Chicago, Illinois, Brothers Redevelopment in Denver, Colorado, Harambee Christian Family Center in Pasadena, California and Shiprock Ministries in Shiprock, New Mexico.

Students going on PLIA over spring break serve soup and sandwiches to the community to help defray the costs of the trips.
Students love to hate Valentine’s Day

by Cheryl Wierda
News Editor

If you aren’t into that mushy Valentine’s Day love stuff, the SUB was the place to be last Friday night. The third annual Anti-Valentine’s Day party took place, with lots of things to do, including the extremely popular karaoke.

The night started with the announcement of the winners of the T.W.I.R.P. contest. In this contest, several women asked out several guys—not necessarily having the same amount of men and women, and take them on a date. There were about 5-6 groups that participated in an effort to win the $75 dollar prize, and were really creative doing so.

One group piled into a car and went to the Falls Park in Sioux Falls, went on a hike, and visited the talking women, and take them into a car and went to the airport and super glued a quarter to the floor, and watched people try to pick it up. After watching the sunset, they headed back to Dordt.

The winning group, made up of Brian Ahlers, Steve Gerritsma, Lanae Juergens, Jon Pelster, Amy Reitsma, Jeff Summerhays, Lois Theune, Lori Theune, Kim Vander Mey, Mark Vander Pol and a friend from Northwestern, started their date out with a scavenger hunt.

The men were given clues all over campus about where their dates were, which was in the McDonald’s in Le Mars. A table was set with candles and wine glasses, and Jon Pelster, who was the waiter, served them their Value Meals.

After the announcement of the T.W.I.R.P. contest winners, karaoke started, although the songs occasionally got a little mushy for an Anti-Valentine’s day party. However, the hate cards made up for that. While listening to karaoke and talking with friends, those present could get creative and make cards to tell those around them how much they despised them.

The club extended an offer of their services to area pastors and ministries. “As a result of ‘getting our name out’ to them, the club has been offered the use and administration of the old post office building located next to Covenant CRC. The building has couches, ping pong, pool tables and so on,” reported club secretary Janel Kragt. After much consideration, the club came up with several ideas on how to use these facilities. A committee, headed by sophomore Dustin Prins, is working on contacting high school students in order to hold regular meetings and Bible studies. Babysitting services will be offered every Saturday morning in the building. Club members hope to serve low-income and single parent families, but anyone is welcome to bring their children. Also, every second Saturday night, a praise and worship with a coffeehouse atmosphere will be held, targeted primarily to the high school students.

Other clubs and groups are also using the building. For example, the Fall Retreat Committee is holding their retreat there this coming weekend. ROC has been blessed with diligent members and opportunities to serve. If you would like to become a part of ROC, the club can be reached at roc@dordt.edu.

The club has already participated in many activities, including a clothing drive last fall (remember that big horse in the SUB?), a Bible Challenge over Christmas and a visit to the prison in Sioux Falls. Members will visit the nursing home in Sioux Center every Tuesday and Wednesday. Various small groups get together in order to pray and hold Bible studies. A recent retreat, held at New Life Reformed Church on February 6 and 7, helped members to become contagious Christians in their immediate environment and in the broader community.

Summer Beach & Boardwalk Ministry

20 volunteer staff needed for the Summer of 1998
To witness on the boardwalk and beach.
To participate in the nightly programs through singing, testimony & skits.
To pass out tracts.

The Chapel provides scholarships for room and board to many of those who come. Jobs at area businesses are available for those who need summer employment (many Wildwood merchants appreciate honest employees).

E-Mail ChapelBwk@aol.com
Check us out at http://www.chapelopc.org

For more information or an application phone 814-228-6985
or write to:
Chapel Boardwalk Ministry
PO Box 615, Wildwood, NJ 08260
Sponsored by the Orthodox Presbyterian Church of New Jersey
Are professors going out of style?

by Grant Elgersma
Staff Reporter

Last week's Staley Lecture Series featuring Dr. Bill Romanowski revealed that threats to destroy communication between student and professor. Using anecdotes and video clips as evidence, Romanowski displayed a popular culture that rejects figures of authority and damns academicization of popular culture. Are professors becoming extinct?

As scenes from popular movies and MTV were flashed on the screen in C-160, it became obvious that sluggish class lectures could not compare with the appeal of film clips and teasers used in stylish popular media presentations. With an arsenal of word-laden lecture notes, how could we possibly expect professors to compete with the domination of several images per second mounting? When interviewed, Romanowski himself expressed the difficulty his generation has in communicating ideas to the younger crowd. When asked why he began to teach about popular culture and films, Dr. Romanowski commented, "I discovered that one way to get high school and college students to start to think as Christians about their culture was to use popular culture as an avenue into what is the worldwide behind a particular work." Has the gap between generations become so great that only popular entertainment can be our "bridge over troubled waters?"

Popular entertainment is now the dominant means of communication among people. The media is what brings popular culture together, unifying people under a blanket of commonality. When our elders (this includes parents, grandparents, church leaders, professors) are not familiar with the common language used among the younger generation, they appear irrelevant and are viewed as outsiders. If popular culture continues to dominate society, defining who is "with it" and who is not, then what use is there in listening to the older generation? I asked Dr. Romanowski if he thought academic pursuits will no longer have a place in society now that popular media has gained the seat of authority in culture. If so, wouldn't Christians have a stronger influence over culture using the popular media?

"There's a need for good, solid, scholarly work and there's a need for being able to translate that to a general audience," says Romanowski. "The fact that people are more influential because they get to media is not necessarily a good thing. Part of the problem is that people who are providing leadership may be good in front of a camera or clever with soundbytes but are sometimes uninformed or just bad at doing analysis."

Romanowski stated that there are many gifted and talented students coming out of Dordt College who "ought to be involved in a lot of different areas." He hopes that "God will give students the gifts they need to carry out their task in terms of serving the kingdom both in the production of popular culture as well as in more of an academic side of life."

So, professors may still manage to avoid extinction. Ian Malcolm was right it seems, when he said in Jurassic Park, "Life will find a way."

by Matthew McNatt
Copy Editor

Bill Romanowski, in three public lectures and a panel discussion delivered at Dordt on February 12 and 13, encouraged students to approach the entertainment industry critically. Romanowski, professor of communication arts and sciences at Calvin College, called Dordt students and staff to transform the arts.

Romanoowski stated his clarifying some of the material. Roger Smtt voiced, the personal stories and attention for the whole two sessions the entertainment industry on the morality and in need of God's redemption.

"Life as a Christian" is the primary criteria for judging films. Christians must also beware of using morality and spirituality as the primary criteria for judging films. They should also, said Romanowski, dismantle the false distinction between high arts and low arts. This separation, he said, has divorced high art from a meaningful interplay with daily life.

In his first public lecture in C-160, Romanowski traced this separation between the arts from colonial times through the present. Then he prescribed a Christian response that included recognizing the profit motives of the entertainment industry.

In his second lecture, Romanowski lectured on adolescents' "self-identifying culture. Pulpity marks adolescents' initiation into the youth culture, at which point, Romanowski said, they are institutionally segregated from the larger context of adults. Adolescents then seek to establish their identity and explore intimacy outside of the family. "But," Romanowski said, "when you're an adolescent, you're segregated from the adults who are in the best position to help you make these kind of decisions."

And what is the common reaction of adolescents when they recognize this? "Oh, shit," according to Romanowski, who mouthed the words.

A problem appears when one recognizes that 57% of youth learn principles about sex from the movies (compared to 76% who learn from their parents), according to a Josh McDowell survey cited by Romanowski. "Youth need to learn values from the media, he said, but there are other, better institutions such as the home and church, to provide road maps for reality. Yet, Romanowski acknowledged, the media does provide some positive direction.

When comes the media gives adolescents heroes worth emulating. But Romanowski noted in his chapel lecture, "Many American heroes are rugged." Biblical heroes, he said, were "regular people who live by a code of self-reliance." Christian heroes, according to Romanowski, should be different. Biblical heroes, he said, were "regular people, totally depraved, utterly unable to save themselves and in need of God's redemption."

"Christian heroes, according to Romanowski, should be different. Biblical heroes, he said, were "regular people, totally depraved, utterly unable to save themselves and in need of God's redemption."

In the panel discussion, Romanowski again stressed the need to get away from the economic model for interacting with cultural phenomenon, as well as the need to erase the distinction between high art and low art.

Dr. James Schaap was one of the audience members to question Romanowski. When faced with the entertaining nature of Romanowski's lecture, as well as the content of his talks, Schaap wondered if students still care about what has been labeled high culture. Romanowski assured Schaap that students still care, but Dr. Mike Vanden Bosch, another panel member, acknowledged that there is a greater need today to tailor knowledge to students' lives by looking for related themes.

Schaap, however, left worried. He wondered, "are ideas themselves something that people can get excited about, or do they have to be packaged?" Was Romanowski appealing because of the video clips and comedy he packaged with his lectures, or would students have been intrigued just as much by ideas delivered in a more mundane style?

Lisa Koning, a senior mathematics major, had nothing but praise. "It was really well-done," she said. "The format really held our interest."

Students react to Bill Romanowski's lectures

by Brady Fopma
Staff Reporter

As this year's Staley Lectures came to a close last week, I had the opportunity to catch up with a few students and listen to their views regarding guest speaker William Romanowski.

Most individuals had some very positive statements about the lecture series, as well as Dr. Romanowski's presentation: of the material. Roger Smit voted, "I thought William Romanowski was interesting. He held my attention for the whole two sessions that I attended. His comment on popular culture was reformed, and quite clear."

Senior Terry Bultje agreed, stating, "I really appreciated his high level of excitement and interest in pop culture at large. I thought he offered some very helpful insights pertaining to the role in which entertainment can play on our lives and how it influences us—adolescents especially."

Throughout the series, Romanowski's excitement remained as well as his dedication. During the use of personal stories and movie clips, he tackled topics of pop culture and the power of the entertainment industry on society. At the same time, Dr. Romanowski also managed to keep the audience's attention by throwing in a joke or two and keeping the mood light-hearted. One student commented that Romanowski was a well-researched individual with good insight into our culture, as well as a gifted speaker who could reach various types of audiences.

Although most students felt that Romanowski presented the material well, a fair share of individuals felt unclear about the correct Christian response to pop culture. Joanne Kim stated, "He had some good insights and I appreciated his clarifying some of the trends in our society, but I would have liked to hear a lot more of what he wants to do about it. I heard little bits here and there about how he would like to change the film industry, but it was mainly about the problem itself rather than its solution."

Smit added, "He could have gotten a bit more specific on where to draw the lines when listening to music or watching movies. It's not that hard to find a movie with at least one or two redeeming qualities but does that therefore make it good to listen to or to watch?"

Other students felt uncertain about where Dr. Romanowski stands on certain issues. One individual remarked, "He presented theories, but never directly stated what he thinks."

Although Dr. Romanowski did face some constructive criticism by students, the overall outcome was a successful and enjoyable series of lectures. Bultje voiced, "I admire him for his radical stance on the issue and appreciate his studies, lectures and literature on the topic. I hope he can continue to challenge evangelical Christians to view media in a more utter- mative manner, and at the same time caution us about the dangers present."
**Editorials**

**February 19, 1998**

**Spiel from the editor**

Last semester I wrote an editorial which never was published because of lack of space. The other day I ran across this long-forgotten work and read it over a few times. I wrote about how over Thanksgiving break I was able to talk with an elder in my home church about college life. This elder told me that it was so encouraging for him to see the college students come home with smiles on their faces. I guess I was able to hide the late nights and last-minute assignments fairly well.

My elder was making a valid point and I had to agree with him. There is just something about a genuine smile that puts our hearts and minds at ease. He ended generally concluding that nothing made him happier than seeing others smiling. However, I found that I could not leave it at that.

There are many things that make me smile at various times. I will be happy to be reacquainted with my bed once this issue of the Diamond is finished. I will be smiling once I make it through another busy week of studies. However, I think that there is something that surpasses all of these. What truly makes me happy is helping to put a smile on someone else’s face.

Try lending an ear that listens without judgement. Be willing to cry with those that hurt. Encourage the people that you run into during busy, everyday routine. It usually doesn’t take a lot of time.

But there is another side of this. A smile can be found in talking with those you know are willing to listen without judgement, crying with a friend when you are hurting and accepting encouragement from those around you. Even these can put a smile on someone else’s face.

Why? Because it’s about listening in community. When I lay down my life and daily concerns for someone and cease to be afraid of letting my guard down, that is when you can see a smile on my face stretching from one ear to the other. That’s when I am truly happy.

All to the Glory of God.

Jon Postma

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**Prison witness opportunities**

Hi, I understand that my request may seem unusual, yet I believe it to be a positive effort. I am seeking individuals who would be willing to correspond with a prisoner. I am a white male, open to all correspondence. Will respond to each letter received. There are no restrictions. Thank you for your time, effort, and for your understanding.

Jersey Gaglione
C-42641 13-K-36
PO Box 4000 Fac-3
Jessecville, CA
95696-4000

I am a male prisoner on death row at the Arizona State Prison. I would like mail from anyone that would like to write. I am without family or ask whatever you are curious about, those who do write. Please feel free to talk about or ask whatever you are curious about.

Being a condemned prisoner, I am kept strictly isolated and locked in my cell. I am not allowed to work to get money for stamps, so if you could send some it would be a big help to me.

Anyone interested, please write:

Michael Correll
#51493
Arizona State Prison
PO Box 3400
Florence, Arizona
85232

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**In Response: A closer look at what you get**


Just a few questions: Does your rent include furniture, a friendly “Good Morning,” a daily maid service to clean your bathroom including supplies to clean, paper, unlimited water and electric (a bargain at $150 a month), insurance, lawn care and snow removal before you are out of bed? And then there is the telephone, e-mail, internet and cable TV. Some of your rent goes for large repairs such as windows replaced, showers repaired, carpets replaced, roof repair and the stackable furniture.

As for the food: Do you have a cook to have all the food you can eat, large variety, three meals ready on time every day and a dishwasher to clean up for you?

Do you have a car, gas, to get to campus?

We are not arguing the cost as much as all the services that you are not including.

Thanks for listening.

Campus Cleaning Staff

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**Blind Contours**

This machine surrounds hate and forces it to surrender.

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**Overseen**

by Jon Moss

“A Valentine’s Day Kiss”

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**Renae’s**

Renae Visscher, Owner/Stylist
Missy Driesen, Stylist
Janelle Meendering, Stylist
Gwen Van Roekel, Stylist
Alissa Roetman, Stylist
Greta Van Zee, Stylist
Julie Ten Napel, Stylist

Hours:
Mon.-Thur: 9-9 722-0008
Fri.-Sat: 9-5

Located near the northwest entrance of the Center Mall
251 N. Main St. 208
Talking to God

by Jamie Stoy
Columnist

Romans 8:15 - "For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father."

Galatians 4:6-7 - "And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out "Abba, Father!" Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ."

Prayer. That word means different things to different people. It could mean something stiff and formal, filled with poetic phrases, more like a ritual than anything. Prayer could also mean groaning and crying, being bare before the Lord, and also mean groaning and crying, bringing our requests to God without ceasing. We talk to God, and He wants to talk to us. Prayer isn't something that is done only when there is a problem. We talk to our friends and our parents and significant others. It builds relationship and brings us closer to each other. The Lord wants a relationship with us too, and invites us to talk to Him and listen to Him. That draws us closer to Him, in a love relationship between Father and child, Savior and sinner and between friends. So, let us pray. Let us talk to the Lord, our Savior and Abba-Daddy.

1 Thessalonians 5:17 - "Pray without ceasing."

Philippians 4:6 - "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God."

A Closer Look: Love thy neighbor

Talking to God

by Rob Rietema
Columnist

Place your hand over your heart, look reverently at the flag, sing the national anthem and as soon as you're done singing, scream insults at everyone who doesn't have a United States flag on their Olympic uniform.

The Olympics are here again, and it seems as if America is going to war because all of a sudden everyone in the States loves their country. I'm not trying to say that nationalism is a good thing or a bad thing, but it seems that when Americans start waving flags all over the place, they start disliking other countries. As a matter of fact we get quite pompous. We're back to the Gulf War, the days when America could whip out a few missiles, kill a few thousand people and be proud about it back home. We think we're better than everyone else because we parade around in red white and blue jackets.

Here's a wonderfully practical example: when the Americans played the Canadians in hockey the other night, the entire North Hall lounge was filled with Americans screaming about how stupid referees made awful calls after awful calls. There were only three Canadians on hand to witness the entire event, but after every Canadian goal scored. A group of Canadians ran from a room into the lounge to tell the Americans how much better the Canadians are at hockey. No, really. As an American, I kept thinking, "Yeah, how 'bout you play us in basketball?"

Now I was thinking about how the Bible tells us we're to love our neighbors and how that passage relates to the Olympics. I think Americans and Canadians should give up the whole we're-better-than-you-so-there mentality. We should celebrate our differences and realize that nationalism isn't always such a great thing.

So, this is my point, made in a roundabout way: Why can't we all just get along?

Diamond Interactive TalkPAD

What do you say?

- Does nationalism or patriotism take away from our God-given calling to love our neighbor(s)?
- Why do Americans (Canadians) think they are better than everyone else?
- Are the Olympics evil? Are sports evil?
- What other situations prevent us from loving those around us?

E-mail us with your thoughts--diamond@dordt.edu

Free Press: An often forgotten aspect of standing up for justice

by Sarah Walsh
Columnist

When one of my friends graduated from high school, her eighth grade teacher told her class that if they go out into the world and are rejected, then he will know she did a good job. Christians in the past have been noted for their willingness to stand up against injustices in society.

We continue to stand up for justice as some students involved with DDL went to Washington DC to protest the Roe vs. Wade decision made 25 years ago. Many students have proven their integrity and stamina at Dordt in other ways as well.

However, there is one crucial area that, as busy students, we tend to forget about in our fight for justice. We sin every day when we forget our call to be caretakers of the earth. We are all unintentionally, and sometimes intentionally, guilty of it.

When we fellowship after worship, it culminates in the use of cheap, un-recyclable styrofoam cups. When we eat at the snack bar, we are served with disposable plates and silverware. When we get the old cinnamon rolls from the bakery, it is packaged on styrofoam Further, when we raise money for things like PLIA, we are served at the soup kitchen with styrofoam bowls and plastic tableware.

We love the Lord, but as a community, we are sinning by not taking care of the resources that he has put under our control. Styrofoam was mentioned because of its many negative qualities that most of us are not aware of. Styrofoam is not biodegradable. It will never decompose and only adds to the limited landfill space. When it is burned, it releases toxic smoke and formaldehyde which enters our underground water supply. The CFC's that are used to make styrofoam escape during manufacturing and also when it is destroyed. These CFC's continue to destroy the ozone layer and contribute to the "greenhouse effect." Styrofoam is made from a non-renewable natural resource-petroleum.

We can all be more intentional in our caretaking of God's creation. We could bring our own plate, Dordt mug and silverware along with us when we eat at the snack bar. We could decide not to buy food that is packaged on styrofoam. We are called to make a stand against injustice, injustice to all of God's creation. We will attract people's attention when we decide to do these things, and when they ask why we care so much, we can tell them that it is because we love the Lord.

It is a sin to use styrofoam, to throw your litter on the ground instead of in the trashcan. We can all be more observant of these issues, and as caretakers in God's Kingdom, we are called to be. Ignorance doesn't set us free from our duty as stewards. "Go now and leave your life of sin." (John 8:11, taken slightly out of context.)

Diamond Interactive TalkPAD

What do you think on this issue, or other issues related to it?

- Why do many people see the task of caring for God's creation as someone else's job?
- How far are we to go in our concern for the environment?
- Why are people who show concern for the environment quickly labelled as "crazy environmentalists?"
- Is it a sin to use paper plates?
- Do environmental issues affect your decisions to purchase items?
- Do you recycle?

E-mail us with your thoughts--diamond@dordt.edu

Talk back to us: diamond@dordt.edu
Heidi Bartholomew

Catch the Lady Defenders in action 12:30 Saturday Following the Women's game is the Men's Varsity Wesleyan at 2:30. The last game of the triple header Alumni at 4:30. Come cheer all three Dordt teams some good basketball.

Travis Bonnema

Beth Jansma and Sharon Reitsma showed up at 5:00 pm in the afternoon (four hours early) to wait in line for Talent Extravaganza tickets. Was it worth it? These two thought so. SAC member, Nate Te Winkel estimated that all but 80 balcony seats were sold Tuesday night.

Travis Bonnema

Students waited up to four hours to buy tickets for Friday night. Tickets were sold between 9:00-10:00 pm in East Commons. Sold by SAC, each ticket cost $2, and up to 8 were allowed to be purchased per person. After closing, the remaining tickets were made available Wednesday afternoon in the Box Office.

by Sarah Nieuwsma
Staff Writer

We're officially in the middle of homecoming week 1998, where the theme is "Through the Years."

Starting with the 50's and root beer floats in the Commons on Monday, each day represents a different decade. Various activities are planned for each day.

Tonight at 9:00, the East Campus Residents Life Staff is holding Dordt Game Show in S101. Hosts James Van Dyk and Brent Smeenk will ask the faculty contestants questions from a variety of categories all having to do with Dordt.

The hunt for the Cannon of Dordt began on Monday with the first clue in the “Today.” The first student to find this three inch metal cannon will take home $50. Junior Kelli Vink of the Students Activity Committee (SAC), is in charge of this week's activities, while SAC member Emily Buys is overseeing the Talent Extravaganza.

“I'm really looking forward to Friday night!” said Junior Amanda Haney. “The Talent Extravaganza is always the best!” Saturday night there will be the Talent Extravaganza Reprise (free admission), featuring the top four acts of Friday night's show and some alumni talent. On Saturday night there will also be basketball games, a dance, and a coffee bar/ice cream social.

"Homecoming is a good opportunity for the Dordt community to come together and for students to interact with faculty and alumni—especially on the weekend!" said SAC Director Becky Starkenburg. "This year has a good balance of tradition and new stuff, too."
Feature
February 19, 1998

Students convene in the Sub every Wednesday night for Praise and Worship. Though this is not a special event for Homecoming Week, it is a favorite tradition for many Dordt students.

Chris Groen
Students took a study break and anxiously waited in line for free root beer floats served by SAC. Floats were served between 9:00 and 10:30 Monday night in East Commons to kick off this year's Homecoming Week.

CAMPUS CALENDAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday, February 16</td>
<td>50's Day. Rootbeer Floats in the Commons at 9:00pm (BYOM)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, February 17</td>
<td>60's Day. Tickets for Talent Extravaganza go on sale for $2 (limit of 8 per person) in East Commons</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, February 18</td>
<td>Praise and Worship at 9:30 pm in SUB</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, February 19</td>
<td>The Dordt Game Show at 9:00pm in S101</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, February 20</td>
<td>Talent Extravaganza at 7:30 pm in the B.J. Haan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, February 21</td>
<td>Talent Extravaganza Reprise (Free Admission) at 7:30 pm in the B.J. Haan</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Homecoming Basketball Game in the Gym</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Coffee Bar and Ice Cream Social in the SUB</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Cannon of Dordt Hunt: all week. Follow the clues for a $50 prize!</td>
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Women near playoffs, neck and neck for final berth
by Janel Kragt
Sports Reporter

Currently ranked fifth in the South Dakota-Iowa Conference, the Lady Defenders must defeat Mount Marty, the fourth ranked team, tonight (Thursday) to maintain a possibility of securing a berth in post-season play. When the two teams met previously this season, Dordt snuck away with a win in overtime.

Coach Len Rhoda was optimistic about the game's outlook as well as his team's play this season. "We've had a good year," he commented. In addition to defensive improvement, consistent play and effective team work, the ladies are guaranteed to exceed their goal of a .500 season, currently with a record of 13-9.

In the last two weeks, the Lady Defenders have played only three games. Despite a win over Huron, Dordt dropped two games to top-ten teams to slip to 6-6 in the conference.

Dordt 66, Huron 59

The Dordt women powered up from inside against Huron to grab the win. Lori Roos put up 18 points and pulled down 12 rebounds. Carla Geleynse chalked up 15 points and eight boards. Lisa Roos added 12 points, seven rebounds and four steals.

South Dakota Tech 77, Dordt 58

Unable to execute their offense and suffering the loss of Angie Oostenink to a stress fracture and Marlene Van Wingender to a head injury, the Lady Defenders met defeat against South Dakota Tech, the #7 team in the nation.

Cherilyn Dykstra topped the scoring for the Lady Defenders with 12 points. Lisa Roos followed with 11 points matched with 11 rebounds. Geleynse added 10 counters. Allison Vis and Heidi Broekhuis chipped in with four assists each.

Black Hills State 87, Dordt 73

The women gave it all they had against Black Hills State, which is ranked first in the conference and third in the nation, but the Lady Defenders were unable to come away with the win. Dordt held the game within seven or eight points until the 8:00 minute mark when Black Hills State widened the gap and began to secure the game.

The Defenders put up a disappointing showing from the free throw line, hitting only 17 of 34 free throws. The visiting Lady Yellow Jackets nailed 27 of 31.

Lisa Roos was Dordt's big scorer with 22 points and 10 rebounds. Lynette Roos put up 16 points for Dordt, while Carla Geleynse each added 14.

After tonight's match-up at Mount Marty in Yankton, South Dakota, the Lady Defenders wrap up their regular season Saturday as part of Homecoming festivities. Dordt will host Dakota Wesleyan with the women's game starting at 12:30.

Men's Basketball — 13-11

11/12 Believer — 95-67
11/11 Northwestern — 72-69
11/10 at Briar Cliff — 76-84
11/09 at Midland — 84-76
11/08 at Buena Vista — 65-98(OT)
11/06 Dordt Tourney vs. Sterling — 69-58
11/05 Dana — 72-49
10/28 at Concordia — 82-59
10/27 at Northeastern(MN) — 78-73
10/26 at Morningside — 71-69
10/23 at Northwestern — 83-87(OT)
10/21 at Sioux Falls — 91-87
10/20 at Huron — 91-108
10/18 Dakota State — 94-70
10/16 at S. Dak. Tech — 96-65
10/14 at Black Hills St. — 72-82
10/09 Mount Marty — 88-89(OT)
10/08 at Dak. Wesleyan — 101-91
10/06 Sioux Falls — 80-94
9/30 at Dakota State — 72-70
9/29 Huron — 82-74
9/23 Briar Cliff — 78-80
9/21 S. Dak. Tech — 74-66
9/20 Black Hills St. — 83-42(OT)
9/19 at Mount Marty — 91-53
9/17 Dak. Wesleyan — 67-45

Wesleyan Basketball — 13-9

11/16 at Northwestern — 85-57
11/16 Briar Cliff — 71-92
11/15 at Concordia — 63-47
11/14 at Southwest State — 79-79
11/13 at Concordia Tournament — 67-60
11/02 at Dordt — 94-59
11/02 at Martin Luther — 90-54
11/01 Northwest(OM) — 84-51
11/01 Northeastern(TN) — 57-57
11/01 at Briar Cliff — 43-87
11/01 at Sioux Falls — 71-58
11/01 at Huron — 78-64
11/01 Dakota State — 95-61
11/01 at S. Dak. Tech — 73-82(OT)
11/01 at Black Hills St. — 59-80
11/01 Mount Marty — 85-84(OT)
11/01 at Dak. Wesleyan — 72-61
11/01 Sioux Falls — 77-59
10/30 at Dakota State — 59-60
10/26 Huron — 66-59
10/23 S. Dak. Tech — 87-77
10/21 Black Hills St. — 73-87
10/19 at Mount Marty — 51-61
10/01 Dak. Wesleyan — 67-45

Blades lose close one, miss playoffs
by Martin Dam
Hockey Guy

Outplayed opposition, but lost game. That seems to be the story of the Blades' season. It happened to them again in Brookings, South Dakota, last weekend and it cost them their playoff chance.

Despite four goals by Ben Saarloos on Friday, the Blades dropped a 5-4 decision to South Dakota State that basically ended their season.

The game counted for four points instead of two because they needed all six points to qualify for the postseason. It's a sad ending for the many seniors who won't be back next year—too many times to miss the playoffs after coming so close last year. But that's the nature of club-level college hockey.

On Saturday, the Blades rebounded and won 4-2, proving that they could beat SDSU.

The Blades wrap up their season next weekend against Mankato State at home in Luverne. This will be your last chance to catch the likes of the Huygen boys, Jeff Vandermeer, Rich Vyn, Mark Bekkering, Jason Visser, Greg Van Leeuwen, Brent Smeenk and Hendrik de Gier.

I'll be doing a "retrospective" on their three to four years with the team next issue, if I get a chance. But come out and give them their due in their last weekend as official Blades.

On a separate note, the team would like to give a communal "thank you" to God for the work He did with Nate Gritter. For those of you who don't know, Nate is a former Blade who had to leave Dordt on more than one occasion because of a chemical imbalance in his brain. He has been in Grand Rapids, Michigan, since early last semester, receiving treatment and has been improving.

Last month Jeremy Huygen got an email from Nate explaining that he was feeling well for the first time in years and had transferred to Calvin College. He had hoped to return to Dordt but he needed to be near his doctors.

Although we all would have loved to see him back here, the team would like to wish him well in all he does. And if he ever decides to return here, his #10 will be waiting for him. Praise God.

Catch the basketball teams Saturday!!
Dordt hosts Dakota Wesleyan Saturday as both the men and women finish their seasons. Gametimes are 12:30 and 2:30.

BE THERE or be...
Dordt men in good position to make run at spot in playoffs

by Craig Broek
Sports Reporter

The Dordt men’s basketball team has won four conference games in a row and the Defenders now find themselves in the middle of the playoff hunt. With two games remaining, Dordt needs to win at least one, but winning both would be better according to Coach Greg Van Soelen.

Dordt travels to Yankton, South Dakota, to take on the top of the heap in Mount Marty tonight (Thursday), and then the men return home on Saturday for the homecoming game versus Dakota Wesleyan. After a win last night, Dakota Wesleyan now leads the Defenders by one game in the conference standings, and Dordt needs that win the most.

Dordt 82, Huron 74

The Defenders rode hot first half shooting and benefitted from four Screaming Eagle technical fouls en route to their second consecutive conference win in the charge toward the playoffs.

Randy Oostra and Ross Bouma each had an outstanding game. Oostra also owned the glass as he took down 14 boards, 13 on the defensive end.

The Defenders opened up a 13 point half time lead, and held on in the second half, outscoring Huron from the field, 54% to 49%.

Dordt also made more free throws than Huron attempted in a game where 57 fouls were committed.

Briar Cliff 86, Dordt 78

The Defenders couldn’t hold a four point half time advantage and dropped a no-conference thriller by eight points.

Mike Elenbaas pumped in 21 points for the Hawks, while Randy Oostra added 20 points and 11 boards along with Oostra.

Season Review

Dordt opened a big conference weekend on the right foot with an eight point win over South Dakota Tech. With the win, Dordt avenged an earlier one point loss to Tech last Saturday night as the Defenders scored a huge upset win and kept their playoff hopes alive here in Sioux Center.

Elenbaas scored 20 points, including two clutch free throws at the end of regulation to force an overtime period, giving Dordt the opportunity to win. Veensstra scored 16 and grabbed eight boards along with Oostra.

Poor free throw shooting hurt the opposition for a chance as the Yellow Jackets connected on only nine of 22 attempts from the charity stripe, compared to 21-28 for Dordt.

Dordt 83, Black Hills State 82 (OT)

Elenbaas continued his stellar play Saturday night as the Defenders scored a huge upset win and kept their playoff hopes alive here in Sioux Center.

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The win put Dordt at 5-6 in the conference, with Black Hills State coming to town the following night.

Dordt 74, South Dakota Tech 66

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Coach Van Soelen said the keys to this game as he scored 22 points for the Hawks, while Randy Oostra added 20 points and 11 boards along with Oostra.

Dordt 82, Huron 74

Mike Elenbaas was the big contributor this game as he scored 22 points including 11 of 14 from the free throw line. Dordt had four other players scoring in double figures. Oostra and Elenbaas controlled the glass with nine rebounds a piece.

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Men's distance medley going to Nationals

by Karen den Boer
Sports Reporter

Next week Saturday, February 28, the men's distance medley team will travel to Lincoln, Nebraska, for the National Indoor Track Meet. Team members are Steve Holwerda, Ron Kingma, Jason De Weerd and Jeff Summerhays, with Scott De Weerd as the alternate.

The medley relay consists of the first person running a quarter mile, the second running a half, the third running three-quarters and the fourth an entire mile. The team met the qualifying time of 10:33 with ten seconds to spare.

Last weekend the team travelled to Vermillion, South Dakota, for a meet hosted by the University of South Dakota.

Steve Holwerda, Troy Ten Napel, Scott De Weerd and Jason De Weerd broke a school record for the men's mile relay, clocking a 3:28.82.

Roger Smit excelled as well. He broke the 200m dash school record at

23.2, and tied the 55m dash at 06.5. Jeff Summerhays broke his own record for the 800m, finishing at 1:57.28.

The women also did well. Cathy Palmer, Jackie Eekhof, Rachelle Walhof and Val Kalvveyn won the 4x400m relay. Cathy Palmer flew past competitors as she took first in the 800m.

Katie Gaskill won the 200m event at 27.89, and Jackie Eekhof won the 55m hurdles at .99.14.

Coach Syne Altena said the times and distances this year are terrific. There are still some weak areas, but overall the team is pretty strong. He attributes the good results in part to the indoor track.

Altena hopes the team will finish in 3rd or 4th place in the South Dakota Diet Road Conference. There are eight colleges in this conference, and all will be represented at the Conference Meet, hosted by South Dakota State tomorrow in the Rec Center.

South Dakota-Iowa Conference basketball standings

(after Wednesday night's games) -- top four teams advance to playoffs

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<tr>
<td>Huron</td>
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Good Person of Setzuan raises ethical issues

by Kirstin Vander Giessen
Art Critic

With a highly theatrical atmosphere and an interesting story line, The Good Person of Setzuan, written by Bertolt Brecht, promises to be an entertaining and thought-provoking show.

Selected "because of the folk tale context and the variety of theatrical voices," according to director Simon du Toit, the play was inspired by Brecht's political views. "Good Person has been interpreted as socialist propaganda, . . . as well as a feminist piece," said Livija Shannon, who was involved in researching the historical context of the play and also appears in the production as the first god.

Despite previous interpretations, this production is promoting an interesting angle on the play. "We're coming at this production from a different angle, focusing on the moral aspect of the decisions made by the characters," said Shannon. "An interesting aspect of this choice is that the gods are not central to this focus," she explained. "Rather, they play a minimal role in the plot and development of the play. Included in this is special consideration for business ethics and social work practices."

Because of the ethical questions raised by Good Person, the theatre department is collaborating with the business and social work departments in a symposium that will address the issue of the necessity of comfort to virtue. Du Toit hopes that the audience is discussing this same issue after the play.

An ironic counterpart to such a weighted theme is the play's theatricality as seen in the fantastical setting, the acting style, and the music. Included in the show are four songs, using lyrics from the script and music written by Gary Haveman. "Gary began by researching the music written for previous productions," said du Toit. "He and I then discussed the setting and feel I wanted, which was exotic, Indonesian, gradually violated by western consumer conventions," explained du Toit. These ideas culminated in a score that's ironically humorous and appropriately theatrical.

To contribute to the theatrical atmosphere, Du Toit is working with the actors to cultivate the idea of conscious character choice. Also, the choices made by characters within the story, especially those made by Shen Te, (Joanne Kim) are important in contributing to the main theme. "The play challenges us with a question that should be close to every Christian's heart," said du Toit. "Is virtue possible without material comfort?"

To address this question, Brecht uses a variation on traditional Chinese folk tales. At the prompting of Wang, the water seller (Jason Vande Brake), the three gods (Shannon, Keith Hoekstra, and Lora Byker), who have come to Setzuan to help the poor people there, stay the night at the house of Shen Te, the prostitute. Realizing that Shen Te only sells herself in order to survive, the gods declare her a good person and give her 1,000 silver dollars to cover her rent. Shen Te then uses this money to buy a tobacco shop, out of which she feeds the hungry and houses the homeless. As a result of her consistent benevolence, she is abused to the point where she's in danger of losing her shop. Not wanting to turn anyone away, she transforms herself into her "cousin," Shui Ta, who confidently reorganizes the shop. However, as Shen Te again, she makes the same mistakes. In her attempt to recover a second time, with love and pregnancy complicating matters, Shen Te makes some important discoveries about goodness and human nature.

The polished production, which opens next weekend, will be more than just a night of quality night of entertainment. The Good Person of Setzuan shouldn't leave its audience lacking in post-show discussion topics. The cast of The Good Person of Setzuan works out the final production details in anticipation of next weekend's premiere performance.
Over the Rhine: a well kept secret is shared with Dordt

by Justin Westerhof
Art Critic

"Cincinnati's best-kept secret" unveiled itself to the student body, illuminated by candles and robed by the brown aura of the chapel stage.

On February 6, Over the Rhine shared their sweet but mellow sound to a "well-behaved" crowd, according to lead singer, Karen Bergquist. The audience was immediately sized, filling the lobby while the sound technicians worked out the final bugs which stalled the concert for half-an-hour.

Soon thereafter, the crowd anxiously awaited the performance of this high profile band, of which they had only heard whispers of gossip and seen seemingly nonsensical posters of bundled teenagers in the snow. Over the Rhine has played the Christian music festival in Illinois, Cornerstone, and the Greenbelt Festival in England, which has featured the likes of Bruce Cockburn, Moby, and U2. They were discovered and signed by Jay Boberg of IRS, who also discovered R.E.M. in the early 80s.

When Over the Rhine finally filled the stage, they presented a sound that was cerebral and emotional; unique, but marketable. The band refers to their sound as "deep and wide, playful and serious, sad and joyful- full of tiny experiments, rabbit trails and the wine-dark sparkle of inspired phrase." Musically, they fulfilled all expectations, and they exceeded them by a country mile.

However, as far as providing power in their stage presence, in lieu of their music (which is admittedly difficult), Over The Rhine, for the most part, seemed tied down by some magnetic force within a couple square feet of the stage per performer. This is perhaps their only flaw. The pianist, Linford Detweiler, interrupted the uncomfortable silence with an interesting letter written to himself, but also with nonsense and brain teasers. The (fretless) bassist, Mike Georgia, grooved in the background by himself next to his monitor. Brian Kelley, the very proficient drummer, hid behind his drum set, except for the rare occasion on which he sang. The violinist, Terri Templeton, stood, clasped her instrument, and subtly nodded her head, holding her eyes shut. Unfortunately, the lead guitarist was stuck in England because of immigration problems.

Overall, Over the Rhine played a great concert, displaying their talent and tightness as a band, worthy of being called "Cincinnati's best-kept secret" by an Ohio reviewer. The only problem was the fact that Dordt was just another name on a crowded tour list, another venue for the same show they've done, for this band that came from Chicago that morning. One can only presume continued success from a band-in-a-bottle that's ready to burst.
Commons improved, so what's with the waste?

by Martin Dam and Kevin Maas
Student Forum Liaisons

In the past, throwing food away in the Commons was a regular occurrence. Students would get some unidentified food from the line, try it, give up on it, and then go and get cereal or toast and throw the line food away. Now although we have never been a fan of that practice, we could always understand it. However, in our eighth semester at this fine institution, we have finally seen marked improvement in the quality and selection of the food. To us, selection is the biggest difference. It was understandable, when someone thought they were getting lasagna and instead got brown-bean caserole, for them to throw it away. But with the deli sandwich bar, the new cereal selections, the alternative lines, the bagels, the improved salad bar and all the other changes, students should have no problem finding food that they recognize and like.

So we thought that these improvements, beyond making students more satisfied with their Commons fare, would lead to a marked decrease in the amount of food thrown away. We hoped for a win-win situation where both the students and the Shamar people would be happy. But this has not happened. Unacceptably large quantities of the new and improved food is still wasted.

So your two enterprising authors went on another of our famous "fact-finding" missions. We entered the Commons, with the deli sandwich bar, the new cereal selections, the alternative lines, the bagels, the improved salad bar and all the other changes, students should have no problem finding food that they recognize and like.

These bowling pins were stolen and then later returned. Public telephones around campus were tampered with recently as well.

February Special

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Buy 1 PIZZA REGULAR PRICE, get the 2nd PIZZA

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Second Pizza must be of equal or lesser value. Good at all local participating Pizza Ranches.

On Strike:

These bowling pins were stolen and then later returned. Public telephones around campus were tampered with recently as well.