The Dordt College Diamond

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Talent Extravaganza auditions complete

by Heather Kuipers

Staff Reporter

Auditions for student acts were held yesterday and Tuesday for Dordt's 18th annual Talent Extravaganza, planned for Friday, February 20 at 7:30 p.m. Approximately 22 individuals or groups tried out for the show, of which 19 or 20 were selected.

Dordt's Student Activities Committee coordinated most of its members, Emily Buys, to coordinate the extravaganza. Buys, along with an eight member sub-committee, are organizing the whole event.

Buys says this year's Talent Extravaganza will contain more original acts than shows of past years. There will be "more non-talent activities to occupy some," she says, which means that instead of students performing mostly non-talent acts like piano, band and hand pieces as in past years, Dordt students are creating, for example, more original skits this year.

Four masters and mistresses of ceremonies were chosen.

Travis Bonnema

Acts such as this will have to be related to this year's Talent Extravaganza theme, "Ruh Roh Raggy."

two weeks ago-Glenn Vander Woude, E.J. De Jong, Kelli Vink and Sarah Ribbens. Aside from their job on stage on the big night, the four Juniors helped judge the recent student auditions and are now deciding characters, costumes to wear and writing introductions for each act.

They also must find a way to incorporate this year's 'Ruh Roh Raggy' theme into the extravaganza. If the theme doesn't ring a bell remember back to those childhood days of watching Scooby Doo. Scooby used to have a friend of his named Shaggy. The bottom line is this; the talent show will contain a cartoon theme throughout.

Ribbens says she's "kind of nervous" about her job as a mistress of ceremonies, but thinks the experience will be good for her because it'll make her step outside of her comfort zone.

A follow-up talent show is planned, for Saturday night, February 21, in which the three or four winning acts from the night before will perform, along with several Dordt alumni groups. The second show is happening mainly because in past years, some alumni haven't been able to make it to the Friday night show. Dordt students are welcome to attend the Saturday night show.

Tickets for the event go on sale on Tuesday evening, February 20 at the Commons. The exact time that they go on sale has not yet been decided, but will be announced soon. But talent lovers beware-if past years' ticket line-ups have been any indication of the show's popularity, get in line early again this year!

Hacker attack raises questions of computer security

by Brady Fopma

Staff Reporter

December 25 bore no gifts for Northwestern's Computing Services in 1997. Over Christmas break, a hacker known as 'Blood' broke into the school's LINUX system, a computer system set up primarily as a computer science project. After breaking in, the intruder installed software to catch users' login names and passwords, and then managed to gain access to Northwestern's academic and administrative servers. After receiving various error messages, Northwestern's Computing Services staff disconnected LINUX and were forced to shut down all Internet access until administration passwords were changed and problems resolved.

Internet security issues are generally far from the top of a student's daily concerns. With tests, homework, and extra-curricular activities to occupy one's time, worrying about the safety of Dordt's server seems unimportant. Unfortunately, the Internet's security issues currently present security risks—risks that Northwestern encountered firsthand. Fortunately, Northwestern discovered the problem before it was too late. However, the question still remains, how safe is Dordt's system? Recently, I contacted Jim Bos, head of Computer Services, and asked about his views of the Northwestern crisis, as well as the possibility of a similar problem occurring on our campus. Here's what he had to say:

"Let me begin by saying that system security is a complex issue, and the situation at Northwestern is an example of exactly how complex it is. Rob Robinson, the director of computer services at Northwestern, contacted me shortly after they discovered the hacker had invaded their system. He told me what he looked for; we tested our systems for the same hacker could not use the same methods to get into Dordt's system. However, our system is not fool-proof. Burglars can pick locks, and sophisticated hackers can bypass router-level filtering. The next step in Internet security is a stand-alone firewall product. These cost around $10,000, and provide additional security measures as well as the ability to filter out specific Web sites. Compared to the home security options, a stand-alone firewall would be like an infrared home security detection system. The Northwestern incident has given us sufficient reason to examine our security measures to see if it is time to implement this next step.

So, where does all of this lead? Because of the security measures Dordt has implemented, and the type of systems we have, we can be reasonably sure that this same hacker could not use the same methods to get into Dordt's system. However, our system is not fool-proof. Burglars can pick locks, and sophisticated hackers can bypass router-level filtering. The next step in Internet security is a stand-alone firewall product. These cost around $10,000, and provide additional security measures as well as the ability to filter out specific Web sites. Compared to the home security options, a stand-alone firewall would be like an infrared home security detection system. The Northwestern incident has given us sufficient reason to examine our security measures to see if it is time to implement this next step. Should we, as students, be concerned about Dordt's system security? Thankfully, trickles of Blood didn't seep into Dordt's system over break, but the issue of Internet security still remains an important topic among educational institutions around the country, whether they be far away...or closer to home.
East coast trip well worth the drive

by Martin Dam
Staff Reporter

Last semester, those of you who read this paper may remember an article encouraging you to attend something called the Overseas Missionary Studies Conference (OMSC), in Madison, Connecticut. Seven students made the trip, along with Dr. Kobes, who was a featured speaker. The whole experience was a great combination of fun, learning and dialogue.

Former Dordt theology professor Mike Geheen brought along five Redeemer students, but other than that, everyone there was either a seminary student or a missionary with international experience. Both Curt Kuiper and Brian Bolma had roommates from St. Vincent's Catholic seminary.

My roommate was an Anglican priest from Nigeria studying at Virginia Theological Seminary. That's just a small example of the diversity present.

All in all, there were 17 different denominations at the conference, from the Moravian Brethren and Catholics, to Pentecostals and Anglicans. The difference in nationality was also large, including countries such as Sudan, India, Burma, Liberia and Tunisia.

The speakers included Dr. Harvey Cox from Harvard and Dr. Dana Roberts from Boston University, but the real learning came from dialogue between students at the conference. I had a great conversation with a group of black Southern Baptists from Virginia about what our role is when dialoguing with different members of faiths like Islam. I had a long talk with a man from Burma about how Christianity is different there than it is here. These talks really gave me a sense of how broad the true body of Christ really is, and how there are few things you can assume in dialogue.

But more importantly, it reminds us of how much more we Christians have in common than we often think. Whether talking to Baptists, Anglicans, Pentecostals, Catholics or even the lone representative of the church of Swedenborgianism, the love of Christ truly shows through them.

Most of all, we learned from those who came to the United States to flee persecution. There was a man from Sudan who made us promise never to publish his name anywhere. His family is living in a tent because the Islamic government won't allow Christians to rent homes.

James Wilson from Liberia explained how the ethnic cleansing there has Christians killing Christians. Samsung Thangya from Northern India talked about how powerful spirits in that part of the world can distort Christianity. A missionary couple from Columbia described their near execution by drug lords.

These are real events, and when you hear the stories firsthand from real people, it hurts. I truly believe that we do not realize how lucky we are to have the right of religious freedom. We can be as informed as we want to be through the news, but nothing really hurts like having to listen to men like these tell their stories, and know that there is nothing we can do to comfort them. We must remember to thank God every day for how lucky we are to live where we do.

Our group also spent two days touring New York City, and some got to see Niagara Falls for the first time. But those were just side notes. It's the conference itself that makes this trip worth while. If you're a senior, I strongly encourage you to get there on your own sometime. If you're a junior, talk to Dr. Kobes to see if you can get funding for the 1999 conference.

If you're a sophomore or a freshman, get out one of those two-year planners and book the last week of that year's Christmas holidays off now. Dr. Kobes goes every other year, so you can go with him in 2000. It may drastically change the way you think about the world. Even if it doesn't, the people you meet are not people you get to meet every day, and that alone is worth the drive.

Nicaraguan experience

by Jessica Vanderwerff
Staff Reporter

This past Christmas Break, 18 Dordt students, and leaders Sean Voogt and Pastor Don Draaper went to Nicaragua for two weeks on AMOR (A Mission Out Reach).

AMOR started approximately ten years ago when a group of Dordt students wanted to experience mission work on a larger level—outside North America and for longer than just one week.

This year's group stayed and worked on a farm with advanced farming techniques near the town of Niquinohomo. At Ebenezer farm, a Christian-run farm, families commit to a training program, learning how to take better care of goats, chickens and rabbits and how to produce efficient coffee crops. These students stay in a dormitory on the farm. In fact, the foundation for the dormitory was built by the Dordt AMOR group from last year.

This year, AMOR began constructing the foundation of a classroom building for the farm workers. The group also assisted in tearing down the inside of an older goat barn, collecting firewood and planting coffee. Not only did the group learn and help on the farm and construction site, they also toured the capital city, Managua, took a couple of day trips to some scenic and cultural areas, visited two Christian churches of Nicaragua and interacted with many Nicaraguan people. Learning about Nicaragua's history and seeing the varying lifestyles of the people added the group's understanding of Nicaragua's culture.

"Being in Nicaragua made me see that you can praise the Lord under any circumstances. I took things for granted that I shouldn't be running water, toilets, showers," said junior Rachel De Jong.

Throughout the entire trip, an interpreter, Ben Meyer helped us overcome the language barrier. "The nearest part about being around the Meyers was that they were our age or just a little older," said senior Amos Doornbos. This helped erase some typical stereotypes about what kind of people are missionaries. Ben and his wife Amy graduated in 1996 from Calvin College. They will live in Nicaragua for two years while Ben works for World Mission.

Traveling anywhere opens a person's eyes to new cultures. Nicaragua taught the AMOR group to thank our God for hot showers, drinkable tap water and electricity, as well as making them re-evaluate which things we need and which things we merely want.

The group encourages those who have a desire to learn and serve in a new atmosphere to go on AMOR, and to pray for those who are far from their families and the familiarity of North America.
Responding to today's culture and media
by Grant Eigerma
Staff Reporter
Not long ago, in a galaxy not so far away, people condemned all films as pornographic. Today the motion picture industry is considered one of our culture's most powerful and influential art forms. Television's birth brought hopes of increased educational opportunities for children and families. Television programming of today, however, is used primarily to provide an escape from the monotony of the workday. Before the rise of the music industry, music was something typically shared in a group, performed and enjoyed on rare occasions. Now, thanks to compact discs and portable stereos, music plays an important role in almost every area of our lives.

These days are unique, and overwhelmingly different than those our grandparents and parents lived in. Even though we all realize how much the world is changing, understanding how to respond to such rapid changes presents a challenge. William D. Romanowski, author and professor, will present “Pop Culture Wars” (this lecture will focus on the popular arts and the religious community) and “Youth and Entertainment: Nothin' But a Good Time?” focusing on the relationship between young people and the popular culture industries). Video illustrations will be used at both lectures.

In Thursday’s chapel, Romanowski will present “American Heroes and the Cloud of Witnesses.” On Thursday afternoon, he will lead a panel discussion with four Dordt College professors on the topic “Post-modernism and Pop Culture.” Romanowski will end his visit at Dordt on Thursday evening after he hosts a student question and answer session.

The lectures will be held in C-160. All students and faculty are encouraged to attend.

Christian Contemporary Music

Join a discussion with William Romanowski and fellow Dordt students.

Time: 7:30
Place: C-160

Demand a higher standard from your culture
by David Schaap
Staff Reporter
Youth runs popular culture. Face it, fellow students. Society makes demands for entertainment, and we eat it up. Romanowski wrote an intriguing essay in his book Pop Culture Wars about how and why youth has changed popular American entertainment, beginning with the two decades following World War II. He gives several reasons for this, the main one being that the biggest demographic group during those times were the infamous baby boomers. The movie industry picked up on the fact that approximately three-fourths of the people watching movies were under 30 years old and the vast majority of this group were in their teens. Thus, Hollywood started making teen-centric movies. For example, “Jaws,” “Star Wars,” “Animal House,” “Ferris Bueller’s Day Off,” “Heathers,” say anything? I have to go on? You were there; you remember them.

I realize I missed the 90’s, but we don’t have a complete retrospective of that decade, so I’m leaving it alone. However, if you think about it, you’ll see that this trend continues on to the present day. But this isn’t just about movies. Oh no, this goes way beyond that. It is widely known that television panders to the 19 to 39 year old market. So, crude jokes, violence and beautiful women abound, just as they do on the big screen. What about the rock music industry? That’s a huge market.

Record companies pick up on the whims of youth and then market it to death. I feel sorry for new bands because they’re picked up, overplayed to the point that we begin to hate them, and then they are discarded for another hit wonder. They don’t have any time to develop because they’re killed off within a few months.

Even simple fads are immediately catered to. Has anyone else noticed an explosion of alien merchandise and the like? That happened overnight. It’s already heading out of popularity, and by the time this gets printed, no people will even remember it. Things like that get snatched up instantly and shoved in our faces by an economy that is waiting for the next whim in our capricious nature. This is a vicious cycle. The more we want something, the more they give, and the more we want and demand. The only way they can stop is if the youth of this generation shows them the fads and stop caring about what is cool. I carry no claims of innocence when it comes to this. But if I definitely try not to...
A Closer Look at the room
by Robert Reitsma
Columnist

meal a day.

So, in essence, I am paying $400 a month to live on Dordt's campus. I am quite positive I could live somewhere off campus if it was a much smaller price. In a matter of fact, I was skimming the Sioux Center Shopper the other day, and I saw a three-bedroom house renting for $450 a month. If I rented that house with five other people, two people per bedroom as is done here on campus, I would end up paying $75 a month for rent, saving $125 per month. That adds up to $875 per school year that I could be saving on rent alone. I could probably save a little on the cost of food, too, but I won't bother getting into that now.

I, as an 18-year-old citizen, am legally entitled by United States law to rent housing, but Dordt policy doesn't allow for off campus. We are each paying about 30 rooms per floor in North Hall. We are each paying $200 a month for a room whose Dordt's part for having this policy

The main argument on Dordt's part for having this policy seems a bit ridiculous. This says something about our college community. The college community is a community which promotes learning, they say. As a resident of North Hall, I tend to see Mother Theresa 's kitchen. 

We don't really know what God says is true.

If I were 22, married or living with your parents. I can understand the reasoning behind not allowing freshman or even sophomores to live off campus, but to prohibit juniors and seniors from living off campus seems a bit ridiculous.

The main argument on Dordt's part for having this policy seems to be the importance of community. The college community is a community which promotes learning, they say. At a recent meeting of North Hall residents, we were told to have a few qualitative meals. The men on my floor are yelling, playing music loudly or engaging in bar games, and that approximately 20 hours a day. While nothing is inherently wrong with these activities, they are certainly not conducive to learning. So I don't think the community ideal is the strongest argument in this case. But, if Dordt still thinks it is such an important concept, consider this: if I were living with five other students off campus, I would still be living in a college community.

So, I want to know why I'm forced to live on this campus until I'm 22 or married when I could save a lot of money by living elsewhere. I think I should be given the option to save a little money on my college expenses. I want to know where all of my money is going.

Global Observatory: What did the Pope say?
by dirk zwart
Columnist

Looking at the news in the last few weeks, I noticed that it seems all the outrageous media attention on the presidential sex scandal has once again washed over some history-making events in that island country only 90 miles south of Florida. Maybe too many people still remember those October days in 1969 when the world held its breath and even if it was the Pope, they did not want to hear about Cuba. It seemed something more important than a religious happening took precedence.

I felt the same was true when Mother Teresa died.

The capitalism around Princess Diana is still everywhere. There are even commemorative postcards by the cash registers in Hy-Vee. I would not expect to see Mother Teresa 's "kitchen," but, as she lived her life so free of worldly things, but I thought people would remember her more.

Maybe it was the anner-

sary of Roe vs. Wade, but I remember standing in the rain on Parliament Hill at a pro-life rally and seeing the small frail nun from Calcutta. She slowly moved to the podium and with a strong voice simply said, "God is your government is evil, they kill babies." That lady was Mother Teresa, but her words fell on deaf ears and we still ignore them after she spent a lifetime helping the sick, dying, and unborn.

This says something about the feelings the secular media wants to leave us with. So let's take a look at the current tabloid pages that are being re-printed on the front of the nation's leading papers.

Bill Clinton is being investigated for various sexual encounters with some of his previous female staff members. I've heard people get all excited that he will be found guilty of adultery and then they'll wait to see what the First Lady's reaction is. Hold on a minute here, I'm sure other presidents have committed adultery, but the charges technically focus on whether or not he lied about having extramarital relations.
The real effects of El Nino
by Justin Westerhof
Staff Writer

Everyday on the news, weather forecasters are ecstatically telling people about the effects of El Nino. It’s getting towards the point of absurdity. El Nino has become the scapegoat for most modern ills.

Granted, this giant tropical storm is responsible for excoriating erratic weather all over the United States and Mexico (and thanks to NAFTA, Canada too), but the big El has been blown up bigger than it is.

Take Everyday Joe, for example. He goes to work everyday at the same time. Now, one day he wakes up a bit too late. So, when he gets to work, he says to his boss, “I was driving to work and all of a sudden, the weather picked up right around me. You never know what that crazy El Nino will do.”

In addition, Nike is having problems森林公园 Mexican sweatshops amidst the rigamorole of El Nino. The kids can hardly make it to work the days they can’t hold down their shoes for the life of them (no pun intended).

What does this all mean? Well, for people who like their extreme weather opportunities knocked, here’s how. “Uh, Professor (Jones), I didn’t do this paper; you know, that crazy El Nino, again.”

“I understand. That El Nino’s throwing the whole faculty off a bit,” replies Professor (Jones). So, here’s your warning. It’s out there. Take advantage of it.

Theological debate in North Hall
by Lieschen Hoeksema
Staff Writer

Monday, February 2nd, wasn’t a typical Monday night in North Hall. There were no ping pong games taking place or guys watching ESPN for a study break. Instead, there was a debate about baptism and its role in four different denominations: Southern Baptist, Roman Catholic, Lutheran, and Christian Reformed.

The debate was moderated by Keith Starkenburg, Resident Life Director in North Hall. Taking place in the discussion was Rev. Orville Kool, representing the Southern Baptist Church. Father John McGuir, representing the Roman Catholic Church, Rev. Clous Raab, representing the Lutheran Church, and Rev. John Witvliet, representing the Christian Reformed Church. Each panel member was given five minutes to speak about baptism from the perspective of their church. Afterwards, the floor was open to discussion and questions from other than the panel members.

Each speaker was polite to the others whether he agreed with them or held a contrasting viewpoint. All demonstrated maturity that proves we may believe separate things, but be able to discuss differences within the church.

The evening proved to be quite informative, as each speaker discussed the views of his own particular church.

Letters to the community

I. A special word of thanks to those Dordt students who gave our family gifts this Christmas. You could not have chosen better gifts. All of us were shocked and thrilled by your generosity. Rev. Witvliet has truly blessed us by giving us you!

THANKS again, love Greta, Rachel, Zachary and Abby Eckardt.

II. A group of students on campus would like to set up a fund to help the Eckardts’ children go to college. There is currently a trust fund established at a local bank in town, but this fund would be different in that the money would be used exclusively for college, while not limited to Dordt. The fund would be specifically for students by students. It would seem unfair to jump into this idea without an idea of the number of students interested in doing this, so please respond to fund@erdordt.edu and just share whether or not you would be interested in contributing.

Thank you
DDL Joins 25th Anniversary March for Life

by Kevin Mass
Staff Writer

On January 22, 1998, sixteen students from Dordt College's pro-life club, the Defenders of Life, participated in the annual March for Life in Washington, DC. The date of the march was especially significant this year, as it had been exactly 25 years since the Supreme Court's watershed Roe v. Wade decision.

The morning of the 22nd was cold and damp, but the crowd, estimated at between 50,000 and 100,000 people, filled the Ellipse behind the White House for a pre-demonstration rally. After listening to a number of pro-life leaders and members of Congress, the marchers lined up along Constitution Avenue for the March to the Capitol and Supreme Court building. Nearly every pro-lifer brandished a sign; many were provided by the event organizers, but pro-lifers also brought their own.

The demonstration, the actual march along the mile-long route between ornate Smithsonian museums and massive government buildings was quite calm. By early evening, the handful of protesters disappeared, the marchers dispersed, the police went home, and only a few pro-lifers remained meditating and praying in front of Supreme Court.

To complete the experience of visiting the nation's capital for this demonstration, the DDL group made sure to tour several landmarks. The terrifying exhibits of genocide at the US Holocaust Memorial Museum, every white headstones at Arlington National Cemetery held special meaning in the context of our trip. The marchers were given by an older man on the side of the road.

The demonstration was largely a political event, but the students tried to remember that the real battle was spiritual. This idea is one of DDL's core beliefs: the support abortion most strongly have been spiritually hardened to its horrors. Many from the group returned from the march more convinced than ever that political strength is not enough. Scientific evidence, and humanitarian arguments will never reverse the tragic result of abortion. Rather, prayer must be the weapon of choice in the struggle to restore the sanctity of life.

The Rose

Early Thursday morning excited-anxious to start We proceeded to the Pro-Life Rally to make an impact, by simply taking part.

Walking down Constitution Avenue with thousands of other people from different backgrounds, and lots of other people.

We joined together to remind our nation that contrary to peoples' thinking, each and every person is part of God's creation. God gives us life to raise and to defend.

Our dear Lord Jesus loves us all.

Each child conceived is part of His plan (Pre-marital sex? Don't take that chance!) No matter what the circumstance Abortion is wrong! there must be a ban!

We have fallen, we have sinned. We give in to the evil that becomes weak. He controls our tongues, we cannot speak.

But God is our Rock. The Lord is our song. Together we must bond because to Him we belong.

We are fearfully and wonderfully made, it is God who grants us life. How can people terminate another's breath with scissors and knife?

God's light shines down in the darkness and light lets us praise Him alone with every bit of our might! Our God, our Creator, our Savior, our Friend, and He who heals our wounds. He is He who will mend.

by Marline Kers

*Note: The title refers to the red roses some marchers were given by an older man on the side of the road.

The Dorrit Defenders of Life consist of those involved in saving the lives of unborn babies innocent life which God gave to us. It is our mission to promote the lives of the unborn children in our world. That is what led us to the National March for Life.

The trip was a positive experience for me. I am not an official member of DDL, although I am much more likely to become now than before. I have always been "pro-life," but it was situation I lost sight of. The trip really opened my eyes to the single and that was very important. I spent a few minutes arguing a Pro-Choice, one of the most frustrating conversations I've ever had. I drove 50 hours to be at the march because I already believed, so their paper was really wasted. There was a huge traffic jam from the start of the march to the end of it that seemed unanswerable. I also got the impression that most of the people would not even dialogue with the other side. I think that is too bad.

Overall, I definitely recommend the trip, not so much because it will change your life, but the issue is worth the sacrifice.

Martin Dam
America: Land of the free?

by Lieschen Hoeksema
Staff Writer

"Justice For All:" these three words are visibly and clearly inscribed on the front of the United States Supreme Court building. Yet how can we as a nation make that claim? Since January 22, 1973, 35 million children have been aborted. This killing is justified by our nation's highest court and upheld as a legal procedure.

While our government and millions of others support abortion, not all of our country's citizens think it is okay. For that reason, DDL, the capital of our nation to be a witness--to take a stand for the life we have been given. That Thursday, 25 years after the Roe v. Wade decision, is a day I will never forget.

Early Thursday morning, our DDL group walked through Arlington National Cemetery. While seeing the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, all of us were silent with respect. As I looked over the fields of graves, lined up in perfect rows, it was almost incomprehensible to think about all the people who gave their lives so that we and our descendants may live in a land of freedom. How much freedom do we have today?

More children have been killed by abortion in the past 25 years than all the Americans who gave their lives in the wars beginning with the Revolutionary War to the Persian Gulf War. Where are the graves sites for those 35 million citizens?

We live in a hypocritical nation today. We can no longer say that everyone has equal rights, for that no longer holds true. When abortion became legal in 1973, we took away the rights of the unborn. Pro-abortion supporters advocate women's rights and women's choice. What about the choice and the rights of the little boy or girl developing in her womb?

At a luncheon for National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League, Vice President Al Gore told the crowd, "The simplest way to reduce abortion is to decrease unwanted pregnancies." Gore makes a strong point: all children should be welcomed by two loving parents who will responsibly raise their child to love and serve God. Yet we live in a sinful world.

Children born out of wedlock, children and children conceived at the 'wrong' time are still part of God's awesome and perfect plan. No child is an accident in His eyes.

For 25 years our country has ignored one of God's commandments given to Moses so many years ago. Many have justified killing the unborn to satisfy their own selfish motives. Yet the struggle is not over. God has more power than any American president or the Supreme Court. He is in control and He mourns our sinful ways. The leaders of our nation can no longer turn away, but we are called to stand firm, to keep proclaiming that He is the only truth both now and until He comes again. I plead with you--don't sit idly by and use the excuse, "It's the law and I can't change it." You can do something: vote for pro-life leaders to represent our nation; pray for those who are in our government today. The fight against abortion will not be over until no more of God's children die from abortion.

The proliferation of backwards thought

by Janel Kragt
Staff Writer

"Ban Christianity, not abortion." "My body, my choice." We won't leave; we won't submit. We won't take your backwards shit."

The malicious words echo from a protester's megaphone positioned front and center on the steps of the Supreme Court of the United States on the day of our March. On these steps, where the Roe v. Wade decision was announced 25 years ago, the Right to Life March culminated.

And on these steps, under the American way, under the words "Equal Justice Under the Law" engraved in the ledge of the Supreme Court building, I often look to the walls that reflect our nation's motto: "We the people of these United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, ensure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America: Land of the free, home of the brave." This is one of the many inherent principles that run against your st convictions begin to win the day, battle is your calling, and peace become sin; you must, at the price nearest peace, lay your convictions before friend and enemy, with all the fire of your faith. -Abraham Kuyper
Blades near crunch time to make playoffs  

by Martin Dam  

Hockey Guy

It's 1998, and the boys of winter have been busy. Since returning from their Christmas break tour, the team has played six games. And as always, the Hockey Guy is here to keep you informed.

This year's squad features a slightly different look from the fall team. First off, everybody's favorite Alaskan defense-man, Guy Ratcliff, is back with the team. Guy spent the fall semester throwing habs around in a concerted effort to bulk up. His return has given the team more flexibility on defense, allowing either Brent Smeenk or Jeff Vandermeer to switch to forward.

The other major change occurred behind the bench, where Rob Joked.

The team opened with back-to-back weekends against Carleton University. That Friday night was a barn-burner. The Blades trailed 4-3 in the dying seconds of the third when Ben Saarloos tipped in a Guy Ratcliff slapshot for the tie. There was 01 second left on the clock. Because Carleton has lousy timing, there was no overtime.

Saturday, things went smoother, and Dordt won convincingly, 4-0. Hendrick deGier went on the beginnings of a tear by putting in two of those goals. On a sadder note, Kevin Tuininga broke his wrist and is out for the season. But he'll be back. After all, he's a hockey player.

The next weekend Carleton made the trip to Worthington for another pair of games. The Friday night curse continued as the Blades dropped the opener, 4-3. deGier chipped in two more points. On a happier note, Rob Hoogland, who has been especially sharp all, his line-mates. Izzy Huygen and Greg Vanleeuwen.

Saturday, the Blades rebounded again with a 5-3 win. Huygen had two goals in this one, and deGier chipped in two more points.

This brings us to last weekend's match-up with Northern State. The Blades put in the effort, but they came up a little short. Friday's game was close all the way through. But NSU just had too many weapons and came away with a 6-5 win.

A combination of bad bounces and untimely penalties spelled doom in this one. Saturday's game looked like it would be more of the same, as NSU jumped out to an early 2-0 lead in the opening minutes of the first. Things could have been much worse, but for the spectacular play of goalie Tim Hogland, who has been especially sharp since the Christmas tour.

The Blades once again proved their resiliency by coming back and playing an even game for the rest of the night. Eventually, the bounces started going their way. Down 3-0 going into the third, our boys started clicking.

Jeff Vandermeer took a great pass for a break-away and made good on the opportunity to get the rally going. Vandermeer also got credit for making it 3-2, and VanLeeuwen put in an Izzy Huygen rebound to tie things up at 3-3.

The Blades had many chances to win this one, but as overtime progressed, NSU regrouped and put together an intense flurry. Hogland made a number of big saves to keep his team alive, and it took a nearly perfect shot to beat him. So the Blades dropped a pair of close ones, making the play-off picture much-crowded.

Next week, the team is in Des Moines. They're in Brookings, South Dakota, the following week. The last chance to see the team at home will be homecoming weekend, as former Blade Jeremy Hendrickson brings Mankato State down for an exhibition matchup. This has been the hockey guy.
Defenders hit mid-season slide, lose five straight

by Craig Broek
Sports Reporter

The Dordt men’s basketball team started 1998 with the South Dakota-Iowa Conference schedule. The loop teams landed a few blows on the Defenders, including a five-game losing skid. After nine conference games, the men are 3-6.

Dordt 91, Sioux Falls 87

Dordt opened the new year on the right foot with a 91-87 victory over the University of Sioux Falls in the first conference game of the season. Dordt traveled to Sioux Falls on Jan. 2 where they were led by Neil Brenneman with 22 points and eight rebounds.

Huron 108, Dordt 91

The Defenders were again on the road the next week in Huron, but couldn’t stay perfect in the new year, losing 108-91 to the Screaming Eagles. Dordt fell behind by 21 at the break, and couldn’t overcome that huge deficit.

Dordt 94, Dakota State 70

The following night the Defenders returned home for their final game before second semester began to host Dakota State. Dordt had its way in this one, taking a 94-70 victory. Brenneman and Brad Veenstra each tallied 17 points.

Black Hills trip

Dordt then began a long stretch of road games, in which they would play three of their next five games on the road. During this stretch, Dordt traveled out to South Dakota Tech and Black Hills State in consecutive nights. Each game went down to the wire, with Dordt having a chance to win each one but coming up just short in the final minutes. The weekend resulted in a 65-62 loss to Tech, and an 82-72 loss to Black Hills St.

Mount Marty 89, Dordt 88 (OT)

The men returned home with a 2-3 conference record and league leader Mount Marty on its way to Sioux Center. Another close game and a gutsy coaching call saw Dordt with a chance to win the game in regulation, but the shots wouldn’t fall and Mount Marty survived a scare.

The overtime period was back and forth and again Dordt had the chance to win, but fell just short and dropped a heartbreaker, 89-88. Ross Bouma led the Defenders with 21 points, while adding 10 rebounds. Randy Oostra also had a double double with 16 points and 10 rebounds.

Dakota Wesleyan 91, Dordt 80

Dordt then traveled to the Corn Palace in Mitchell, S.D., to take on Dakota Wesleyan—a game Dordt needed to win to keep pace in the SDIC. However, Wesleyan shot 47 percent from behind the three point arc, and Dordt couldn’t get over the hump, dropping a 91-80 contest. Oostra led with 17 points, including four treys.

Sioux Falls 94, Dordt 80

The Defenders came back the following Thursday to host Sioux Falls, the team Dordt beat in the conference opener. The Cougars came out ready to play taking early leads, but Dordt surged to tie the game at 21. Sioux Falls then ran off 14 straight points to take a 52-35 halftime advantage. Dordt played better in the second half, but not good enough, losing their fifth in a row, 94-80.

The Defenders were at a disadvantage, playing without Neil Brenneman who had surgery for his broken nose earlier in the week.

Dordt 72, Dakota State 70

The men traveled to Madison, S.D., Tuesday night to take on conference cellar-dweller Dakota State. After falling behind the Trojans 13-14, Dordt steamed back at tied the game at 13-13. The rest of the half remained close, with Dakota State up 36-34 at the half.

The Trojans built a 42-34 lead out of the gate, but Dordt fought back to go ahead 61-54 on an Oostra dunk. Dakota State scored the next ten points to go back in the lead.

With three minutes left to play, the Defenders were down 68-64. But Dordt closed the game on an 8-2 run, including the last three points on Veens free throws, to win 72-70. Bounda drilled 21 to lead the men.

The win put Dordt at 10-10 overall, and 3-6 in the conference. Mount Marty remains on top of the league with a 7-0 conference record, followed by Black Hills State at 7-2. Three teams are tied with 5-4 records: Huron, Sioux Falls, and Dakota Wesleyan. South Dakota Tech is next at 3-6, Dordt at 3-6, and Dakota State at 0-9.

With five conference games remaining, the men must make up two games in the standings in order to have a shot at the playoffs. Only the top four teams make the conference tournament.

SEASON LEADERS

Before Dordt’s game at Dakota State, the men had three players averaging double figures in scoring, with Bouma’s 13.9 per game average leading the way. Brenneman is next with an 11.8 average, followed closely by Oostra with 11.1. Oostra leads the Defenders in rebounding, averaging 7.1 per game. Brenneman pulls in 6.9 a contest. Fischer averages 3.7 assists per outing.

Lady Defenders fighting to pull in and playoff berth; 5-4 in conference

by Janell Kracht
Sports Reporter

It’s been a busy second semester for the Lady Defenders, who are well into the South Dakota-Iowa Conference season and are tied for fourth. The women now need to hold their position to make the playoffs.

Dordt 71, Sioux Falls 68

The Lady Defenders came back strong after Christmas break and raked up a crucial win against Sioux Falls.

“We needed that one,” said senior guard Lynette Roos. “Last year we lost five games in a row, when we came back from the break.”

Lori Roos put up 19 points and took down 10 rebounds. Marlene Van Wingerden chipped in 15 counters while Lisa Roos added 12.

Dordt 78, Huron 64

Back on the road, the Dordt women met up with Huron—a small, quick team who never quit picking at Dordt’s defense. However, they were no match for Dordt’s forwards. Lisa Roos came away with 27 points and 10 rebounds, while Lori added 12 points.

Outside, Angie Oostenink and Allison Vis nailed four and three treys, respectively.

Dakota State 61, Dordt 59

Though they played tough and stayed with conference rival Dakota State throughout the game, the Lady Defenders were unable to come away with the win. Dordt’s 3-point shot at the buzzer went in and out of the basket.

Lisa and Lori Roos contributed 14 and 12 points, and Carla Geleynse added five assists.

South Dakota Tech 82, Dordt 73 (OT)

The Lady Defenders came pumped up to meet nationally-ranked South Dakota Tech, and their enthusiasm showed in their play. Behind a break-away shot by Heather Brockhuis at the buzzer, the women battled Tech into overtime.

Despite the 17 points, 10 boards and five assists of Lisa Roos combined with 16 points from sister, Lori, the women were unable to chalk up the victory.

Black Hills State 80, Dordt 58

Emotionally drained from the previous day’s game and long car ride, the Defenders were a step behind against Black Hills State. Lori and Lisa Roos put up 14 and 12 points, while Angie Oostenink added 8 points and two steals.

Dordt 85, Mount Marty 84 (OT)

Van Wingerden’s quick hands were Dordt’s salvation against Mount Marty. After raining 7 of 8 free throws among her 12 points, Van Wingerden forced a jump ball which gave the believers the possession in which they tied the game in regulation.

In overtime, Van Wingerden tipped the ball loose with :06 left. Cheryllyn Dykstra scooped up the loose ball and held on for the one-point win.

Dordt’s high-scoring effort was led by Lori Roos with 21 and Geleynse with 15. Vis chipped in with nine points and five assists.

Dordt 72, Dakota Wesleyan 61

Despite the pressure attached with playing in the infamous Corn Palace, the Dordt women were once again able to soar to victory over Dakota Wesleyan. Because of a death in the family, Coach Len Rhoda was unable to offer his services and gave the opportunity to Assistant Coach Rick Vander Berg.

The team pooled for a balanced scoring attack. Geleynse went 8-8 from the line with 16 points and four steals, Lisa Roos put in 13 points, and Van Wingerden added 10 points.

Dordt 77, Sioux Falls 59

The game against Sioux Falls was a great confidence-builder for Dordt. A well-balanced offensive attack was again featured. Geleynse led with 16 points and four steals, Van Wingerden went 6-7 from the free throw line with 14 points, Lori Roos put in 10 and Angie Oostenink added nine.

Dakota State 60, Dordt 59

Forfeiting security for postseason play, Dordt suffered a tough loss on the road to the Lady T’s. The game was close the entire way, with Dakota State’s 31-26 halftime lead the biggest of either team in the game.

Lori Roos hit a jumper with 4:01 left tie the game was 59-59. Vis nailed down a defensive rebound with :10 left but quickly had her pocket picked. The Lady T’s forced a last second shot and missed, but Lori Roos was whistled for a foul. The Lady T’s hit the first free throw attempt and won the hard-fought game, dropping Dordt to 5-4 in the loop.
Rhythm & Brass joins Northwest Iowa Symphony Orchestra

by Kevin Maas

"High Art" music critic

To most music lovers at Dordt, Rhythm & Brass was just another group brought in by the Sioux County Concert Series. However, by the morning before the concert last Saturday, the word was out on the visiting ensemble: they were incredible. Dozens of students attended a master class put on by the group shortly after their arrival on Friday afternoon. Those privileged to hear the first demonstration of the six musicians' talents came away in awe and could not keep quiet about what they had witnessed.

The B.J. Haan was packed by the time Dr. Henry Duitman walked on stage on Saturday evening. Duitman introduced Rhythm & Brass as "the most creative and versatile brass ensemble in the world." Any audience members who didn't believe him were soon convinced. The ensemble came on stage and played a beautiful Bach piece, sounding almost as if they were one instrument. After establishing their technical mastery and classical ability, the percussionist joined the ensemble and they played a few more selections—including three pieces by French composer Claude Debussy that featured styles ranging from jazz to romantic. A number of solos and tough parts highlighted the skills of different players.

By this time, it was quite obvious that the musicians were among the most talented in the world, but if anyone still had doubts, the tuba player dispelled them with Arban's "The Carnival of Venice." Charles Villarrubia took center stage, accompanied on the piano by French horn player Alex Shuhan, and proceeded to render the very entertaining piece without the aid of music. In a section towards the end of the song, Villarrubia seemed to simultaneously play in different octaves, sounding like two tubas. After thunderous applause from the 1500 awed concertgoers, Shuhan reminded everyone of something they surely already knew, that they would "not often hear tuba playing like that in your lifetime!"

For the final selection before the intermission, the ensemble played a "Beatles Medley" arranged by percussionist David Gluck. During this piece, trumpet players Rex Richardson and Wiff Radd as well as trombonist Thomas Brantley started using various mutes to create interesting effects. The arrangement included many familiar tunes and even a part that sounded like it was being played backwards. After this treat, the intermission came as a disappointment.

After the break, the Northwest Iowa Symphony Orchestra came on stage and continued the fantastic listening experience by playing Ravel's "Bolero." In this classical masterpiece, the strings built up very slowly as other instruments repeated a solo line. Woodwinds played the first few solos followed by trumpet, but the last highlight was played by Dordt College student Jamey Clapp, filling in on the trombone for his ill teacher. The whole piece was very well done and a great selection to complement Rhythm & Brass. Once again, Northwest Iowa's own orchestra proved that it was capable of the professional sound one would expect from more urban groups.

After "Bolero", the brass ensemble returned to the stage and performed a series of jazz pieces in a "Duke Ellington Tribute." The orchestra backed the performers on several numbers, but the Rhythm & Brass let loose on their own in passionate renditions of classic Duke Ellington hits. Rudd, Richardson, and Brantley produced plunger mutes—made from real toilet plungers—and used them to produce entertaining and unusual effects. This last section featured incredible solos, especially stratospheric trumpet performances by Rex Richardson. Rhythm & Brass had once again combined their rare and finely matched combination of musical artistry with their great ability to communicate with the audience to put on one spectacular show.

The concert was just the high point of the weekend where Rhythm & Brass spent a significant amount of time with the Dordt music department. Besides the master class on Friday afternoon, the ensemble members held a workshop with local brass groups on Saturday morning, put on a concert in Sioux Falls on Sunday afternoon, played along with Dr. Joan Ringerwole on the Dordt organ on Monday afternoon, and worked with the Concert Band that evening. In between all this activity, the musicians even managed to give a few private lessons to Dordt students seeking some extra training.

Hosting Rhythm & Brass was an experience that the Dordt community does not get too often, so hopefully you were able to enjoy their talents at some time. If not, you missed out. The college and the Sioux County Concert series surely spent a considerable sum to bring them to Northwest Iowa, but for anyone who saw them, it was worth it.
American College Theater Festival XXX: Theater at its best...or worst

by Gena Koning
Staff Reporter

On an early, drizzly, chilly January morning, ten of Dordt's theater students, along with faculty advisor Shirley Mathies, packed themselves and their luggage into one of those snazzy 15 passenger Dordt vans and set out for Kansas City. Their destination: ACTF XXX, which was held at Johnson County Community College in Overland Park, Kansas, on January 20-25.

On the way down, the group drove into an ice storm and, after sliding across two lanes of highway and an exit ramp, missing all traffic signs, trees, posts, and a barbed-wire fence, ended up doing a 180-degree turn somewhere along the way and wound up in the ditch. No one was hurt thanks to God's guiding hand and the skillful handling of the driver. "Well, I don't think we're going to Kansas anymore," was the initial thought of some of the group members. But instead of clicking their heels and wishing for home, the group waited patiently for a AAA wrecker to pull them back out onto the then very slick roads where they cautiously continued their journey south.

Once the group arrived and made their way through the long registration lines, they were able to enjoy the week's activities, one of them being the Irene Ryans acting competition. Each college production that is judged during the academic year is allowed to have up to two actors nominated for this competition. Nominees that participated in this year's festival included Melissa Phaneuf and Gena Koning for their performances in "The Little Foxes." Also recognized was the play "The Beauty of the Beast Generation" by Gena Koning for his copy of his next novel, The Drama Games, which won the "New Jersey" category. The group members came away from the festival with a sense of newness. Some of them were put out by Christians in a predominantly secular art form. The students viewed several productions and auditions dealt with strong moral issues such as homosexuality and the value of religion. Critique sessions with experienced educators offered an avenue for further understanding and evaluation of controversial works. Many of the group members came away from the festival with a more conscious view of what role music plays in a predominantly secular art form.

Congratulations go out to Shirley Mathies and alumna Corey Kent for receiving special commendations for their costume and sound work for "The Little Foxes." Also recognized was the play "Being Filled," by alumna Luke Schelhaas, and the sound design for both "Hobson's Choice" and "Being Filled," crafted by Dordt senior Gary Haveman.

Review

Movie Review

Love a la Titanic

by Stephanie Brown
Staff Writer

Titanic—is it believable? The cinematography is a clear accomplishment, with the grandiose, near-scale reproduction of the original ship, built and destroyed just for the movie. No criticism there.

Then there's the romantic tragedy. High class Rose (Kate Winslet) meets street trash Jack (Leonardo DiCaprio) in the icy waters. After a few days of these, they're falling in love. At times it was cute, but hardly the stuff of serious love.

Perhaps if they had some previous knowledge of their pending fate, I could buy into their accelerated devotion. But come on, one day they're spitting loogies off the side of the ship, and the next they're having steamy sex on the cargo deck.

A couple of unruly kids—I couldn't take them seriously. The most heart-rending scenes were the quick snips below the water, as those in the ship's lifeboats.Write are torn past, and they're aching with pain. I couldn't wait for Titanic to be over so I could get on with my life.

For nothing else, see Titanic for the special effects—it's worth six bucks.

Book Review

On the Road by Jack Kerouac

by Paula Trelek
Free-lance Editor

Okay, so this isn't a "new" book, just one I finally got around to reading. On the Road is Kerouac's first novel, heralded as the "Bible of the Beat Generation." As an copy of his next novel, The Dharma Bums, Keronac is "the man who launched the hippie world, the daddy of the swinging psychedelic generation." Keronac said to his death that On the Road was an auto-biography, although it did mention some of his life's craziness. The novel's narrator is Sal Paradise, a would-be writer who is often lured away from his aunt's home in Paterson, New Jersey for cross-country adventures with his friend and as a student at Morrorey, fresh from reform school. Along the way Sal and Dean accrue an interesting ensemble of characters, including Carla Marx, the wife of a successful novelist. Keronac's writing flows with a befit of his own—a mad ramble and jumble of people, places, and events, laced with detail, unplanned as the jazz performer's.

The whole point of the Beat Generation was that it couldn't be nailed down, so attempting a summary is futile. On the Road takes Sal Paradise and his friends Coast and back, to Texas and back and to Mexico and back. It also marks Dean Moratay's journey to the American saint "to a weird flower" to "BEAT—the root, the soul of Beatitude." And it explains, without excuse, a entire generation of wanderers, searching for something more than the life they were handed—work, marriage, etc. Just as applicable now as it was to Keronac's original audience.
Student Forum investigates assessment

by Catherine Palmer
Guest Reporter

On January 20, the Student Forum met with Dr. Jasper Lesage to discuss the issue of student assessment. Assessment is focused on student outcomes, and is a measure of performance. Basically, it tests how much students have learned while they have been at college.

Every fall, all the freshmen at Dordt are asked to take a few "pre-tests." Half of the class is to write a social challenges essay and the rest take an academic profile test. Then all of the freshmen complete a CIRP/CSS, which is an attitude survey. In the spring, another day is set aside for assessment. This time it is the upperclassmen who participate. The juniors take the academic profile, and the seniors write the social challenges essay. Also, each department develops a plan to assess its majors, thus creating departmental assessment.

Dordt College is required to do student assessment by the North Central Association, the organization that accredits Dordt every ten years. Assessment is a national movement. Educators are being challenged to improve the quality of their teaching by measuring student growth.

One of Dordt's goals is to improve student learning. Assessment has positively impacted the college by providing initiative for writing across the curriculum and service learning. Also, increased personal contact between faculty and students has led to improved advising for graduate school. Professors have a raised consciousness about quality issues—how can the curriculum and pedagogy be altered to enhance student learning?

Assessment has resulted in some interesting findings about Dordt students. They are very good students, but tend to rate their abilities too low. Furthermore, the average "Dordt want" is conservative when it comes to politics, but liberal on social issues. Another interesting statistic shows that men perform better on the Academic Profile Test, but women write more outstanding social challenges essays!

Assessment is a long term process that appeals to the students' willingness to contribute to the institution for the sake of future students. Participation in student assessment at Dordt College is higher than the national average, and for the sake of "improving improvement," we need to keep it that way. Taking part in assessment is a graduation requirement here at Dordt, and faculty and work-study employers make every effort possible to give students the opportunity to take the tests or find a make-up time. Assessment is student-oriented; its purpose is so that we are served better while at college. As Dr. Paul Moes said, "Assessment makes education get better and better, and that's what it's all about."

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Midwest Career Expo on February 10 at the Sioux City Convention Center 12-4 p.m.

Meet representatives and learn more about our opportunities in networking, application development, research and development, and technical support.

Interviews for Interns and full time on February 11 at Morningside Career Development Office. Fax your resume to us at 515-247-5874/B1296mid.

We have the technology
if you have the drive.

Here are some of our stats.

423 Novell network file servers...12,500 personal computers...35,000 application programs...65,000 batch jobs per day...

12,000,000 on-line transactions per day...

40,000,000 lines of code...1,700,000,000 instructions per second...4,000,000,000,000 bytes of data stored.

Now show us some of yours...
at Dordt College.

Call for designs

The Dordt College Art Committee is inviting campus artists to propose a painted design for two areas in the new Recreation Center. The two areas are the wall on the northeast corner and the wall on the west in the large basketball and track area. The proposal would include a design, time-frame for execution and a cost estimate. The successful proposal will be awarded a stipend of $300. Contact the art committee chair Sally Jongisma (ext. 6026 or sally@dordt.edu) by February 15 if you would like to propose a design. Completed design proposals should be submitted by April 1.