Students called to share, but scared

by Lydia Boer
Staff Reporter

Being a Christian college you wouldn't expect the Christian students to have serious difficulties with sharing their faith. However, this assumption is not quite true. Many students here at Dordt College, are scared to go out into the world and witness. Fear of rejection and misunderstanding are the most common reason why Christian students are scared to share their faith with non-Christians around them.

Surely, in this world that seems to be rushing away from God, ears that are willing to hear are fewer and the barriers to effective witnessing certainly seem greater. But we are living in a world of the spiritually lost. Only the good news of God's love in Jesus Christ can offer what they are seeking. We are called to be the instruments of the Holy Spirit by sharing our faith with others.

Sharing your faith is one of the hardest things to do as a Christian, yet God has given us clear orders to go out into the world and preach the gospel. Christians are called to witness their faith in Christ. In 1 Peter 3, it says: "Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have; but do this with gentleness and respect."

Many students are reluctant to respond to the call to faith sharing. Some think faith sharing is the job of pastors or only a few gifted people. Some think faith is a private matter and do not want to push their views on others. Others assume that most people already have faith and so faith sharing is not necessary, but one of the most important reasons why students don't go out into the world to witness is the fear.

When asking different Dordt students, they all answered that the strongest fear is the fear of being rejected or laughed at. "Sharing your faith is a deeply personal action that makes you very vulnerable to personal attack or rejection," said junior Russ Smies.

Another common fear among the students is that they are afraid that they are not where they should be in their faith life and they don't want to share their faith because that would expose their weaknesses. Students feel unqualified to do the sharing. Maybe we really are not that qualified, but God's power works in us and through us anyway.

Faith sharing, what is that actually? It is not a call to be a "crusader, a religious fanatic," but it is the telling of our faith story, it is to tell the good news of what God has done for us. In fact it's simply telling the truth; the story of Jesus Christ.

Many students learned about faith sharing while at Dordt. Sharing with roommates and close friends is fortunately pretty common. But here it is still a very big step to share faith in the "real" world, with people who have never heard of God, and to ask them towards what you have to say and people who do not share the same belief as you do.

Dordt teaches about sharing faith in many courses. For example about how to incorporate your faith into the job you might have after you graduate. On the other hand, students are told they need to share, but teaching about how to share is often missing.

No blame can be placed on the parents either. All students I talked to agree that they learned a lot about sharing faith just from watching their parents. Most parents didn't really talk about sharing faith or witnessing, but students saw their parents living their faith which was for them even more powerful than anything they could have told their children in words.

But still there is the problem that students are scared to witness. An important cause is that most students have grown up in a safe, Christian environment. Leading a very sheltered life without ever experiencing the hard and real world. Many of them don't even have non-Christian friends. So there was never the challenge or chance to witness. Should Dordt provide more opportunities to really witness, for example by having outreach programs going to prisons?

On Tuesday night, March 31, there was a panel discussing about Sharing Faith at Dordt. The panel, consisting of Sandi Altena, Prof. Tom Soerens and Covenant CRC Pastor Dag Groot, gave the students some advice about how to share their faith.

Professor Soerens, now teaching Theology, worked for over 15 years as a missionary in Honduras. He said we should have eyes of compassion. We need to notice people who are not in Him or people who only have a very weak faith. We need to have a sense of how people are living and place ourselves in their situation and talk about real issues in their life, without compromising the truth of the Gospel though.

Another thing that became very clear from the panel meeting was that we as Christian students need to be standing stones so

Continued on page 3

SCARED

Pro Life rally asks: How bad does it have to get?

by Sean Gregg
Opinion Editor

The fourteenth annual Northwest Iowa Pro Life rally, sponsored by several organizations including the Dordt Defenders of Life (DDL), was held on Monday, April 6, in the B J Haan Auditorium. Several events led up to the keynote speech by Virginia Hamm, the director of the Alpha Center in Sioux City.

The MOC/Floyd Valley Elementary strings played several songs prelude to the program. After an opening prayer and welcome by members of the DDL, there was a memorial to 25 years of abortion. Twenty-five people, each representing the year they were born, stood for each of the twenty five years since the legalization of abortion.

After a testimony by a woman introduced as Kim, Virginia Hamm spoke, asking those in attendance "How bad does it have to get, anyway?" Hamm thanked those in attendance for their efforts in the battle against abortion, saying that those in positions like hers could not do what they do without the help of so many others.

Hamm hammered the inconsistencies of the pro choice movement, citing several instances where people have been tried for murder after killing their unborn or newborn babies. She contrasted this to the different types of abortion that are performed in America today.

The theme question of Hamm, "How bad does it have to get," was echoed by those who attended the rally who may be that most students have grown up in a very safe, Christian environment. Leading a very sheltered life without ever experiencing the hard and real world. Many of them don't even have non-Christian friends. So there was never the challenge or chance to witness. Should Dordt provide more opportunities to really witness, for example by having outreach programs going to prisons?

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Continued on page 3

SCARED
This Week in Music at Dordt

by Kevin Maas
"High-art" music critic

This past weekend, the BJHaan Auditorium hosted two excellent musical performances. The Concert Band and the Chamber Orchestra finished off their year with their spring concert on Friday night, titled "The Flavor of France." Despite a smaller-than-normal crowd, the musicians started off with a stately but subdued piece called "Homage to Machaut." Inspired by a French Medieval composer, this stately piece concluded with a hauntingly beautiful combination of effects from chimes, voices, and muted trumpets. The band then played a suite based on French provincial folk tunes and conclude the first half with an entertaining piece inspired by the city of Paris.

After the stage was reset during intermission, a septet drawn from the Chamber Orchestra played a lively selection by Saint-Saëns. The rest of the Chamber Orchestra joined them to play three more pieces, each featuring talented soloists. Jennifer Van Den Hul and Jennifer Duitman showed their skill on the violin along with Jeremy Jongsmans on the cello in a Vivaldi concerto. The audience enjoyed more high quality Baroque music as Kate Oppelgier and Melanie Elgersma played flawless oboe and bassoon on another Vivaldi concerto. Jamey Clapp, Dordt College’s eminent trombonist, complemented the strings on the final number of the soloist showcase.

Another piece by the Chamber orchestra and a return by the Band for a final march completed the evening.

The following night, the Sioux County Oratorio Chorus (SCOC) performed Haydn’s epic work “The Creation.” The group is open to anyone from the area— a number of Dordt professors and staff have taken advantage of this singing opportunity and have taken on many choral masterworks. "The Creation" is an oratorio dominated by recitatives, or portions of Scripture sung by soloists. Dordt professors Benjamin Kornelis and Debra Vogel were featured respectively as tenor and soprano soloists. An orchestra including several Dordt musicians joined the SCOC for several powerful and beloved choruses.

Even after these two programs, there is no need to worry that the musical year is over. In the next weeks, two more worthy musical events are scheduled at the BJHaan. On Wednesday the fifteenth of April, Jamey Clapp will be giving his senior trombone recital. This beautiful and varied performance, the product of four years of instrumental study here at Dordt, should not be missed. Then, on Tuesday the twenty-first of April, the Northwest Iowa Symphony Orchestra will be putting on its third and final show of the season. This too is a performance that should not be missed. For those who appreciate the high art form of “classical” music, this has been This Week in Music at Dordt.
Assessments:
What’s the point?
by Cheryl Wlerda
News Editor

Every year across Dordt’s campus students can be heard complaining about taking assessments. Whether it is taking the Academic Profile and writing the Social Challenges essay at the beginning of freshmen year, or writing the Profile again as a junior and the social challenges essay as a senior, like many did a week and a half ago, or any of the other surveys given to us to fill out, questions remain about this ritual. Why exactly do we have to do this anyway, and what does Dordt do with the pages of information it collects about us?

The main reason we have to do this is so that Dordt can remain an accredited school under the North Central Association. Legislators in the past wanted some way to know that we, as students, are actually learning something at the college we attend. A bonus to these assessments though, is that the U.S. government pays for it. The Department of Education gives Dordt a grant to pay for it, so it does not come out of our tuition.

Another reason Dordt assesses its students is to see how they are doing in comparison to other schools in the Coalition of Christian Colleges and Universities. “The whole goal is to improve what we do. To find where the weak spots are, where we can do better,” says Dr. Paul Moes, director of student assessment.

So, how well are we doing as students, and in which areas does Dordt need to improve our education?

What these assessments have found is that we are good critical thinkers, but we do not always back up what we say. We know what we believe, but we do not always prove it.

Another interesting thing is the gender differences between Dordt students. Women are typically better at expressing their beliefs through written expression, and men are better doing this in standardized tests. But a high percentage of women, as seniors, do not always know what they believe and why, in comparison with the men.

During their time at Dordt, students have become more socially aware in comparison with their freshman year, and other Christian colleges that participate in the surveys. Students have become more concerned about the environment, and do more volunteer work than as freshmen.

Dordt is working to improve some of the weak areas it has found in the assessments. The college is attempting to hire more minorities and women, although Dordt is having a difficult time recruiting qualified people for the job, in comparison with other colleges. But it is seen as a necessary step to provide role models for many students here at Dordt.

Another proposal is to improve our social problem solving by creating a general education social science course that would include economics, psychology and sociology.

These proposals may not be the whole answer, but they are a step by the assessment committee in the right direction. The assessments we take are an important part of making Dordt an even better place to be!

SCARED
Continued from page 1

people will recognize you as an unique person since God is living inside of you.

Being yourself is the best ingredient you have to offer when it comes to witnessing. The fact that you are a caring, loving, serving kind of person who is known to be a Christian can often say more than any amount of words. Students agree with this, sometimes you can just see and feel a person is different. Randy Eilders, a 22-year-old student, said, “Jesus Christ is what revolves around my life and world view. If I didn’t have Christ in my heart I couldn’t be who I am today. I perseveres daily to have Christ be evident in my life.”

God won’t let you do the witness all by yourself. He has given us some principles that will enable us to effectively lead others to Christ. God will never ask us to do anything He will not give us the power to do. God will help us.

we are only the instruments of the Holy Spirit.

Christians are called to witness, let’s go out into the world and share the Good News.

Student leaders attend conference at Northwestern
by Lieschen Hoeksema
Staff Reporter

Though the start of next school year seems to be a long way off, many Dordt students have already begun to prepare for its arrival. RA’s and peer counselors attended the Leadership Conference at Northwestern College to train for their positions beginning in August.

The Leadership Conference is an annual event held the first weekend in April sponsored by Northwestern College. The theme of the conference was “The Art of Servant Leadership” and was emphasized through keynotes and workshops. Attendees of the conference represented Buena Vista University, the University of Sioux Falls, Northwestern and Dordt accepted a delegation of more than 80 students.

Ron Rynders felt that Dordt was able to bring quite a bit to the conference because of the faculty and the large amount of students that attended. Close to 200 students were present from all four schools.

The conference began Friday evening with a banquet and a keynote address given by Dr. Louis Lotz, senior pastor of the Morningside Reformed Church in Sioux City. The topic of Lotz’s address was, “Where’s Your Towel?” referring to John 13 when Christ humbled himself and washed the feet of his disciples. Lotz emphasized that the greatest leader that walked this earth lowered himself to the sta-

from a position of weakness, yet Christ was an example of this.

Students attended three workshops on Saturday and were able to choose from 17. Following lunch, all attended Interest Sessions which focused on Resident Life, Peer Counseling and Student Ministry. Workshops and Interest Sessions were led by staff and professors from Northwestern, USF and Dordt.

Rynders believes the Leadership Conference was beneficial for all who attended. Dordt students received valuable and applicable knowledge pertaining to their leadership positions. Students also had an opportunity to interact and gain insights from students with similar positions at other colleges.
Dear Editor:

In the last issue of the Diamond, Matt Nelson and Dan Oroog voiced their concerns regarding GIFT and students' attitude toward it. While I applaud them for opening conversation on an issue that is important, having the guts to print their dissent in the Diamond, and being willing to swallow any potential heat, I do not share their point of view. Though they raised some legitimate concerns regarding our motive for worship and attitudes toward the church, their critique of GIFT left out some important considerations.

Seeing GIFT as a Mickey Mouse imitation of a true "church" service reflects a narrow definition of worship, Sunday observance and church. The argument has been raised that people are using GIFT as a replacement for attending the evening church service. It is only on issues where we have created a quota of church attendance. "All good Christians go to church twice on Sundays." God calls us to worship, Jesus' command was NOT intended that students attend church sometimes. It was NOT intended that students attend GIFT sometimes. It was NOT intended that students attend church on Sundays. only attend GIFT services, or stop going to church at all. This may be and is the case for some students who attend the GIFT services and that is obviously a disappointing reality to face at a Christian college like Dordt. Yes, it is true that students do some dissenting students because of its "untraditional" nature. Consumerist culture prob-ably means that people will want to find a church, and into worship, they say. We bow to our own needs and wants and disregard how others are called. In that same respect, the words in John 4:24 call us to worship in spirit and truth. Can this be said of the worship that takes place at GIFT?

Yes, the institutional church, its doctrine, and its history are fundamentally important to our generation and the list of each believer. The body of Christ is bigger than our genera-
tion and college community. For these reasons and others, wor-
ship outside of GIFT is crucial to our walk with God. However, besides making our needs and wants into gods, we can also bow to the god of tradition. We do not need to be afraid of hearing a message from someone who is not ordained, wor-
shiping in a way that also min-
isters to our needs, and singing praise songs led by our peers. Yes, we need to expand our worship. Because the worship that goes on at GIFT is outside of a tradi-
tional CRC church setting, it is an unsanctioned worship? Worship can include, but is not bound to hymns, liturgy and organ accom-
pagnement. What happened to the Reformed principle that all of life is worship?

GIFT is not meant to be entertainment, something needed, a social bonding session. GIFT, intended for the purpose of wor-
shiping God and Growing in Faith Together, involves a legitimate com-
munity of believers. It is sometimes hard for us to address personal and communal spirituality collectively in our Dordt community. Our spiritual-ity often goes unsaid, even among friends. For this reason, GIFT is a step in the right direct-
ion. The purpose is to encour-
gest, honest, confession, accountability and community. It is an attempt to follow Paul's call in the epistles to confess our sins to each other, encourage one another, and share our suffering and joys.

Neither is GIFT some sort of ophite. The songs, dances, dra-
mas and speakers are not cho-
sen for their potential ability to purchase, therapy, worshiping with the greater body of believers; neither should we succumb to a consumerist mentality of worship nor with; draw from the world into the "Dordt bubble." But GIFT does not deserve the punishment for these human frailties.

The theatre department needs to be returned, let it be the orange lineoleum in our bathrooms or the slender that frequently escapes our mouths. Keep the GIFT, in fact, go ahead and throw out the receipt.

In Christ,
Janel Kragt

Mike Elenbaas

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Informed discussion promotes understanding

One of the wiser choices I made in my high school years was getting a job at the school paper, and as an editor I learned how difficult writing for one's peers can be. At first, GIFT, handwritten, was the only way I could find a way to express myself. After seeing GIFT, like everything else, is twice or else" mandate swallowed any potential heat, I do not agree with her opinions, yet I respect her for not being afraid to express herself publicly. She demonstrates that we have no reason to fear criticism from each other because we all seek to serve the same God.

The opinions of those outside the community should not intimidate us. Because we stand on a solid foundation of Truth, we are in a position to positively influence those around us. We are not fulfilling our Reformational calling if Dordt is closed to opposing views. How can we change anything if we don't understand what we're attempting to change?

Thanks to the Diamond staff. You have paved the way for intelligent discussion and spiritual growth. Further proof that learning isn't limited to the classroom.

Coram Deo,
Livija Shannon

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No freshman columnists?

I am responding to one of your writers, Robert Reitsma. I was wondering if you need to fill up space and that's why you are printing his article in the college newspaper. Is he able to do it? Is it about complaint about every little policy here at Dordt and have it printed in the Diamond? Is the Diamond a paper we can complain and gripe to about what we don't like about Dordt? I don't think there is place in a college newspaper for all of our complaints of what we think is wrong with this college. I, for one, think this is a very good college. Granted, there are some things the college does and some of the policies I don't agree with but that's just the way things are going to be. We just need to learn to deal with these things because they aren't going to change just for us. We can GIIT handle our problems and get them changed but com-

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Continued on page 12
The relationships come and go and finally you end up in the ONE. The wedding night comes and with a pounding heart and sweaty palms you offer your apple to the beloved who has been waiting for it and is so happy to see you picture? Okay, so what? Does what it matter what kind of rose do I give you as an apple? I want to have my fun and besides, it's not what you want for anything. A kiss won't hurt.

Here is one more perspective on this topic: As a beautiful rose, you have gotten our attention. The major petals, letting a few smaller kissing cones dropped from the third floor to the helpless property maintenance, from snow removal to tree trimming. I wasn't complaining because of the ungrateful for the work they do. We are both individually those other activities accentuate and of those supplies would not be a huge rose.

I Corinthians 6:18-20 - "Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body but he who practices sexual sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. So honor God with your body." Hebrews 13:4 and rejoice to be able to do to keep things from being unruly. While Dordt's policies probably shouldn't be placed on the same plane as the corrupt Roman Catholic Church since being at Dordt—how to successfully live with others, how to budget our spend- ings until the next paycheck how to get enough sleep, how to do our own laundry, have all helped us in our overall growth, but weren't the most important. One could learn these lessons anywhere, even without attending college. The smell from the articles This is very interesting to Justin and me, so your point about college life. You seem to forget, throughout your entire letter, that people are individuals with personal opinions that have shaped and formed their own "condition of the rose you semester, so we are fully cognizant of this article because he, too, was appalled by the law, be discriminated against because of age. Seeing who has been waiting for it abused, We really shouldn't make careless generalizations. "Well, Dietrich, you shouldn't be so angry with us." And the maintenance staff.

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Marja-Lynn Beukema

Sunflower
Silkscreen

The best thing about art is being able to use so many colors. I love colors. Colors have the ability to make an artwork happy, somber, heavy or warm-looking. Color can do so much. I try to use a lot of color in my work.

I also like to keep my artwork simple-looking: straight-to-the-point, without a whole lot of frills. That way the viewers can focus all their attention on the “center-piece” without being distracted by the things around it.

Jesus Loves the Little Children of the World
Acrylic Painting

As a Christian artist, I feel it is wrong to make offensive art for the sake of being offensive. Yet, some art can offend someone in a way that the artist did not intend, so I believe it is important to keep in mind the viewer’s relationship when making art, while at the same time keeping one’s integrity as an artist.

Amy Lynn Wielinga

Final Applause
Photography

As an artist, I like to portray nature and my love for it. I have grown up surrounded by the serenity of trees, lakes, rivers, and wildlife. I feel this has helped shape my personality. Through my art, I want to take the things I see around me everyday and help people realize what a beautiful and intricate creation we live in.

I also like to add symbolism to some of my art pieces. There is not only a surface appearance to all art, there is often a deeper thought or emotion. Art often acts as a window that opens up new meaning to objects.

Seth Koerner

Going, Going, Gone
Acrylic Painting

Opinions about art are many and varied. What some would say is high quality others would say is not art at all. In my work, I have tried to be mindful of the relationship that the viewer has to the piece so that he/she may find pleasure in looking at it. As a Christian artist, I feel it is wrong to make offensive art for the sake of being offensive. Yet, some art can offend someone in a way that the artist did not intend, so I believe it is important to keep in mind the viewer’s relationship when making art, while at the same time keeping one’s integrity as an artist.

I have learned a great deal throughout my three years at Dordt. I was introduced to new media in my printmaking class, which proved to be at the same time tedious and enjoyable. Two of my pieces exhibited here are from that class. Another of my pieces, "Melt," is from a class on Graphic Design, where we incorporate a more commercialized form of art. Doing painting and sculpture were not new experiences for me, but I have learned new techniques which have improved my skill level in these areas also.

Nagana Yah
Woodcut

Journey’s End
Photography

As an artist, I like to portray nature and my love for it. I have grown up surrounded by the serenity of trees, lakes, rivers, and wildlife. I feel this has helped shape my personality. Through my art, I want to take the things I see around me everyday and help people realize what a beautiful and intricate creation we live in.

I also like to add symbolism to some of my art pieces. There is not only a surface appearance to all art, there is often a deeper thought or emotion. Art often acts as a window that opens up new meaning to objects.

God has expressed Himself to mankind through two revelations—general and special. I believe my calling as an artist is to bring general revelation to focus. Special revelation seems to be pretty straightforward; there are words. It’s easy to read words. I like to show general revelation in a tangible way.

I strongly believe that God’s creation holds the ultimate beauty and thought. Psalm 89 is a psalm that truly relates to what I have been trying to do in some of my art works.
Elizabeth Boerema

There are two things I especially like about art. Painting and drawing with pastels are the mediums that I like most because with them I can work with bright colors and am able to manipulate the texture. I also really like to draw or paint portraits and the human figure.

I usually work intuitively. I seldom know at the beginning what my work will look like, so I am delighted and surprised when I finish and see my idea on a piece of paper. With experience, I am beginning to understand what it is that makes a piece of work and how to achieve it.

At the age of eight I was very interested in art and decided that I wanted to be an artist. I also wanted to teach. Now, thirteen years later, I am still pursuing my dreams to be an artist and a teacher.

As a Christian I feel I have an extra-special challenge. I want to serve my Lord not only in my art, but in all that I do. I have a responsibility to use and develop the talents He has given me.

I have been involved in a variety of mediums: oil, acrylic and watercolor painting, chalk, oil pastel and pencil drawings, wheel based and hand-built ceramic and sculptural work, metal sculptures, photography, collagraphs, etchings, woodcuts, silk-screen and computer and hand generated graphic design work. This broad base of experience has been full of challenges. I have developed a special affinity to clay and photography. These two media are totally different from each other in their methodologies; however, each has its own character which has drawn out my artistic passion in a unique way.

As a Christian community, we are lacking in our ability to respond to and appreciate art. This appreciation is something that is learned. It is my hope that as an artist and a teacher I will be able to encourage and help my students develop an appreciation for art, a discerning appreciation.

In all that I do, Christ is the potter, and I am the clay. As I am molded by Him, I hope and pray that others may see that I am filled with Christ, that I seek to honor and glorify Him in all that I do, including my artwork.

Christina Talstra

"You can pass in imagination among them, wonder what mysteries lie in their quiet fastness, what creeping living things, what God-filled spaces totally untrod, what voices in an unknown tongue."

—Emily Carr, on trees

Upon looking over all of my selections for this art show, I realized that over half of my pieces portrayed trees in a variety of ways using different mediums. I am continuously being impressed and amazed at the wonder and beauty of trees, a wonder that Emily Carr was able to put into words better than I ever could. I have tried to record, transcribe and share the lines and feel of trees in my artwork. The rest of my pieces deal with other aspects of nature and people. There are different degrees of intent behind them: some carry meaning behind the lines and others were done "just because." "Why?" is often a difficult question to answer.

Carmen Zonnefeld

"Living Tree, Amstelven

Oil Pastel

Falls Park I

Photography

Floral Expressions

Raku

David Dykshoorn

Combining technology, art, and business is the underlying idea that influences my art work. As a double major in business and management information systems for three years, I found that I didn't enjoy programming or accounting as much as working on Dordt's homepage in the summer of 1996. In my spare time I began working with Photoshop to create headers and artwork for the MTCNet.

During the summer of 96, I had the privilege of working with Jim De Young, director of public relations. At the end of the summer he suggested pursuing a graphic arts major. So in the fall I began my third major.

I feel that graphic art is a natural extension to MIS and business majors because a knowledge of all three is needed to work with internet development and website design.
**Young Lady Defenders learning the racquet**

*by James De Boer*

Sports Editor

Dordt's tennis women weathered a rocky start to their season. After three lop-sided losses, the Lady Defenders came together Monday to top Martin Luther on the road for their first win.

The women opened their year with a tough assignment in NCAA Div. II Morningside. After three lop-sided losses, the Lady Defenders were ready to claim a win on the court. They travelled to New Ulm, Minnesota, to take on Martin Luther College and took home a 7-2 win.

"We had a strong doubles effort for our first win of the year," said Coach Joel Visker.

Dordt swept the three doubles matches. Melissa Granstra and Rachel Horlings battled through a three-set win.

Faber took the #1 match 6-0 and 6-1. Lisa Lubbers won #3 singles 6-1 and 7-6 while De Jong grabbed #4, 6-4 and 6-1. Horlings also had a singles victory in #6, winning 6-4, 1-6 and 6-1. Katie Haak was slipped with a three-set loss. Ann Dykstra also took a loss in the #2 singles.

The Lady Defenders take their 1-3 record on the road for the remainder of the year with no more home meets scheduled. Monday's win was the women's first win at the College of St. Mary in Omaha, Nebraska.

The closest Dordt will play to Sioux Center this season will be Thursday, April 23, meeting against Northwestern in Orange City.

(right) Rachel Horlings fires back this shot in tennis action against Northwestern's Red Raiders last Thursday. The women lost the match, 2-7, and are 1-3 so far this season. On the men's courts, the Defenders are 3-0.

**Women gathering steam on softball field**

*by James De Boer*

Sports Editor

Dordt started out slowly on the softball diamond this year, but the women have been picking up the pace since the spring break trip. The Lady Defenders have gone 6-4 since the break, including a 4-2 record last week.

The Lady Defenders opened Saturday with Iowa Wesleyan, and the women struggled to get their offense on track. Iowa Wesleyan opened the scoring in the fourth with four runs and added one in the fifth.

The Lady Defenders finally cracked through in the sixth. Angie Oostenink ripped a two-out double and Faith Baas followed with a single. That was it for the women, as Iowa Wesleyan took the 5-1 win.

Wendy Poppema took the pitching loss. Dordt had only three hits—one each from Oostenink, Baas and Renee Van Kooten.

Dordt turned around to face the host team, Hastings. After three innings, the teams were locked at 2-2. The Lady Defenders scored once in the fourth, but the Broncos scored three in their half of the fourth.

The fifth inning was the turning point for Dordt, as the women scored five runs to grab an 8-5 lead. Oostenink had a bases loaded triple in the attack. Hastings tacked in single runs in the bottom of the fifth and sixth innings, but the Lady Defenders held on for the win, 8-7.

Karla Vander Leest went the distance for the pitching win. She and Baas each had three hits to pace the 14-hit attack.

Next on tap was William Woods, a team that entered the game with a 23-4 record. The Lady Defenders went to bat in the fifth, splitting the game with 4-2 record last week.

The women found out why the opponent had such a good record, as Dordt was limited to just two hits and suffered an 8-0 loss.

Oostenink allowed five earned runs in the loss. The freshmen teamed with Vander Leest for the only hits.

The offense was in full swing when Dordt hooked up with Doane. After watching Doane skip to a 7-1 lead after 1-1/2 innings, the Lady Defenders blew home four runs in the second. Baas had a two-run single.

In the third, Dordt sent 15 batters to plate with nine of them scoring. Oostenink had three RBIs on a pair of singles. Carla Geleynse scored twice in the inning. The game was called after three innings, so the women grabbed the 14-7 win.

Poppema allowed just two runs in innings, as she took the win on the mound. Baas finished with three hits with four RBIs. Geleynse was 3-3 from the plate with three runs. The Lady

Dordt came home with a 3-6 record to face rival Northwestern in Sioux Center last Thursday. After three innings of the first game, the two teams were tied at 2-2.

The Raiders scored twice in the fourth and added one more in the sixth to sneak a 5-2 win.

Poppema was miffed with the loss. Oostenink was the lone Lady Defender with two hits. Vander Leest and Kris Huinink both scored.

The nightcap looked to be similar to the early game with a quick-moving 1-1 tie after three innings. The Raiders tappered one home in the fourth, but Dordt answered with two in the bottom of the frame.

In the fifth, Northwestern scored once to re-tie the game at 3-3. Oostenink led off the bottom of the fifth with a double, and that triggered Dordt to score three runs. Oostenink scored again in the sixth, as the Lady Defenders went up 7-3.

The Raiders came back with two runs in the seventh, but the rally fell short as Dordt won 7-5.

Vander Leest was the winning pitcher. Oostenink and Marlene Van Wingerden each had three hits and Geleynse charted a pair of RBIs.

**SOFTBALL cont. on page 9**
Tennis men scorch to 3-0 start

by James De Boer
Sports Editor

Dordt's tennis men haven't had too many chances to get out on the tennis courts since the season started, but when they have, the Defenders have done well. Very well.

The men opened the season March 30 with a singles meet at home against rival Northwestern. Most Defender/RAider matchups are close, but Dordt ran away with a 5-1 win.

Last Saturday, the men hosted Sioux Falls and met up with their toughest competition of the year. Dordt came away with a 6-3 win, but the match scores were much closer. The total game scores of the top six singles were only 72-68 in favor of the Defenders.

Pablo Capizzi, Mike van der Wol, Andrew Brand and Mark Van Klompenburg took singles wins, with Van der Wolf and Brand's coming in three sets. Dordt also got wins out of Capizzi and Brad Veenstra in #1 doubles and van der Wolf and Van Klompenburg in #3 doubles.

"The scores indicate this was a close team match," said Coach Rhoda.

Dordt was at Martin Luther College in New Ulm, Minn., Monday. The men got a strong start in doubles and won 7-2, pushing their winning streak to three.

"We started the match by winning all three doubles," said Coach Rhoda. "And we had good balance in singles.

Capizzi and Veenstra cruised in the #1 and #2 singles matches. In the #4 and #5 singles, van der Wolf and Brand took wins.

The Defenders are at 3-0 and open until a weekend tournament hosted by Central College next week. The men had a home meet Tuesday against Buena Vista rained out.

Baseball Defenders blame it on the rain

by James De Boer
Sports Editor

Sure, it's been raining the last few days, but we all know the sun will shine again. So goes the Dordt baseball team. They've weathered a tough slide to start the season and now hope things will clear up and turn around.

The Defenders went 0-4 against tough competition during a spring break trip to southern California. Coming home for the "regular season," Dordt was greeted by opponents that weren't any easier.

at Briar Cliff

Dordt scored two runs in the top of the first in the Defenders' first game back in the Midwest. But the Chargers came right back with ten runs in the next two innings.

The Defenders came back with a four-spot in the top of the third, but Briar Cliff belted in four more in the bottom of the frame to lead 14-6. Dordt's offense couldn't keep the pace, as the Chargers ran away with a 20-8 win.

Mick Vande Griet started for Dordt, but lasted only 2-1/3 innings and took the loss. Tom Roose and Tim De Jong each had homeruns for the Defenders.

The nightcap in Sioux City wasn't much better, as Briar Cliff opened the scoring with seven runs in the bottom of the first. Dordt returned fire with five tallies in the top of the second, but nine runs in the Chargers' half of the third iced the game.

Five runs in the second was it for the Defenders, as Briar Cliff won 21-5.

Mike Bruvoort started and took the loss. Dan Blom and Kevin Merritt also took turns on the mound. Craig Brook unleashed a two-run homer to highlight Dordt's offense. The Defenders were limited to four hits.

at Tiger Classic

Dordt played in Mitchell, South Dakota, at the Tiger Classic the last weekend in March. The men opened against Northwestern and battled early before pulling away with an 8-7 win.

The Defenders scored one in the top of the first, but the Raiders brought home two in the bottom of the frame. That ended up being Northwestern's only lead of the game, as Dordt tied the game in the second and added two in the third. A big five runs in the sixth gave the Defenders a comfortable win, 10-5.

Ryan Rietkerk pitched a complete game for Dordt's first win of the year. He scattered nine hits. Dordt defense had only one error.

Dave Dresensen led the offense with a 3-4 game. De Jong had three RBIs and two runs on a pair of hits. Seth Oostenink also picked up the loss.

The Champions scored one in the second, three in the third, and two in the bottom of the sixth. The game was called off after four innings, 6-1.

Oostenink also ended the summer with a 2-3 with two RBIs. Oostenink was 3-4 at the plate. Brent De Ruyter was 2-3 with two runs.

vs. Huron

Dordt played Huron in Sioux Center Friday, but since Huron's field was wet with snow, the Screaming Eagles played the home team. The teams traded runs in the first inning, but Huron pushed up to a 5-2 lead after three.

Broek cranked a lead-off homer in the fourth to make it 5-3, but that was as close as the Defenders would get. The Eagles attacked and dented the plate en route to a 13-3 win.

Vande Griet was on the mound for the loss. Roose was the lone Defender with two hits.

In the late game, Dordt again scored first with a single run in the first. But the Eagles worked back and led after four innings, 6-1. Van Ginkel singled home Blom in the fifth, but Huron cruised to an 11-2 win.

"We started the match by winning all three doubles," said Coach Rhoda. "And we had good balance in singles.

Capizzi and Veenstra cruised in the #1 and #2 singles matches. In the #4 and #5 singles, van der Wolf and Brand took wins.

The Defenders are at 3-0 and open until a weekend tournament hosted by Central College next week. The men had a home meet Tuesday against Buena Vista rained out.

The two teams met up again on Saturday, this time with Dordt as the home team. Huron continued the pattern of the visiting team scoring first, as the Eagles brought home six in the first. The Defenders struck with it, though, scoring twice in both their first and second frames.

In the fourth, Huron tacked on two runs to lead 6-4. But Dordt came back in the bottom of the sixth. Oostenink had a big two-out double that scored two runs, as the Defenders brought in three to get within one, 8-7.

The Eagles weren't in favor of a comeback, though, lacking on five scores in the seventh. Dordt managed a pair on the bottom of the inning, but lost 13-9.

Bruvoort took the loss for the men. The offense was a team effort, with Jason Dorhout being the Defender to score twice. Roose had three RBIs while Oostenink and Broek each had two.

In the nightcap of Saturday's doubleheader, Dordt again played catch-up, falling behind 6-1 after two innings. The men got within 6-4 and 9-7, but Huron prevailed with the 12-7 win.

Bloom started for the Defenders and suffered the loss. De Jong was 3-4 with a home run, two runs and two RBIs. Broek led the team with De Jong for back-to-back homers in the fifth and finished with two hits and a pair of RBIs.

Rainouts

The Defenders have already lost a doubleheader from their schedule when a March 31 game with Buena Vista was snowed out. Three were supposed to play Northwestern in Orange City in a twinbill this past Tuesday. Because of the possibility of rain, the two schools decided to play one game Monday afternoon. However, that game was rained out after just three innings, so it will have to be replayed on a different date.

Dordt's record stands at 1-11 with University of Sioux Falls on the slate. Today, the men were scheduled to play the Cougars in Sioux Center, but because of the weather, it will be played Friday starting at 4:00. Saturday's doubleheader is in Sioux Falls.
The junior and senior art shows differ in that seniors should have a higher number of personal works, and more advanced skills and imagery in their works. Pieces in the show will consist of larger and more technically demanding pieces, according to Van Wyk.

In contrast to the juniors, who must say something small to introduce and tie their work together, seniors are expected to have developed reasons for why they do their art and to state their goals for the future. Each senior majoring in art will go into an eight-page paper, which is an extended artist statement.

Senior art students will have to spend many hours and dollars preparing their pieces for the show, which will be in power matting and framing. The students cut their own matt board and purchase their own frames. One piece of matt board can cost from five to seven dollars, depending on colors. One piece is enough to matt four to eight photographs if they are carefully positioned. Frames cost seven dollars or more. Any photograph or print must be matted with plex-glass or glass in front of it and then framed. Paintings are framed, with or without a mat around them.

The students in the senior art show, not only need to choose the best possible presentation of their own works, but they also need to figure out how to present each of their diverse styles in one cohesive show.

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Anita Christie
Anita Christie is majoring in Elementary Education and has a minor in Art. All of Christie's entries to the senior art show are ceramics: a combination of sculpture and wheel-thrown pieces. She is excited about her pieces, particularly a hexagonal wall display made of tile and ceramics. This piece can be arranged in different ways to use negative space in ways unique from each other. "I really enjoy working in this medium, because it gives me a chance to make three dimensional pieces," Christie also likes to experiment with different stains and glazes, using dipping and spraying techniques.

Jon Moss
Jon Moss is a Graphic Design major. Moss is pleased with the work that he selected for the senior art show. In the past, the selection of fine art pieces in his junior show, his senior show will include a combination of graphic design pieces and fine art pieces. Moss is currently working on web designs and layout. He is helping other senior art majors establish their own home pages.

Jamie Mouw
Jamie Mouw is a Communication major. This year, Mouw has been taking courses at Augustana College in Sioux Falls. Mouw says that Augustana emphasizes the Abstract Expressionism style of painting. "I try to play with colors that fight against each other, but still work together," Mouw sees a contrast between the style of teaching art between Dordt and Augustana. "Dordt has taught me how to create art 'Christianly.' This is more important to me than any other element of art and I believe that this is an incredible challenge for me to be a witness in God's world," said Mouw. "I am glad that I have gotten to experience new teachers and different viewpoints and ideas, because I have been able to learn an important element from each one of them." In her painting courses at Augustana, Mouw generally paints still lifes instead of painting from photographs.

Jamey Schiebout
Jamey Schiebout has been interested in art his whole life. Schiebout started out as a Communications major, but changed his major to Graphic Design his sophomore year. Schiebout feels positively about Dordt's art program. "Every year the graphic design aspect is coming along further; and fine arts are strong and getting stronger every year."

Sara Statema
Sara Statema is a Graphic Design major, although her selections for the art show are primarily fine arts. Statema says, "It's nice to have the opportunity to express myself in fine arts before I go onto a job of art for the purpose of advertising." Statema came out of high school planning to major in Art and says that Dordt has provided a strong art program, with a wide range of mediums and a lot of freedom of expression.

Josh Visser
Josh Visser is majoring in Graphic Design. His selections for the show include painting, photography, and pencil drawing. Visser is involved with doing graphic design for a local plastic agriculture business called Plastics Processors, a company which produces plastic hog gates. Visser designed both a company logo and product logos for them.

History of President Clinton's 1992 Presidential Campaign, which the film definitely played up. John Travolta plays the presidential hopeful Jack Stanton and speaks with an accent that bears an eerie likeness to our present president. This obvious Clinton-based character moves his way up the political ladder with the help of a few of his odd friends, including Libby, a crusty lesbian damage control specialist with a overbearing but good nature. Richard Dreyfuss plays a redneck political strategist who bears a recognizable resemblance to his real-life counterpart, George Carville. We watch Jack Stanton's rise to the top from the point of view of his young campaign manager, Henry Burton, who, along with the audience, begins to understand more and more about what makes this presidential hopeful tick. Indeed live a wild life, lie about some things, and chase after women, but he is also a man who cares who takes the time to listen to the average person, a man who wants to be president to actually do good.

One loses some faith in the election process, but the film shows that politicians are not just rats sniffing out power and money. They make bad decisions, take advantage of others, do bad things, but they can also genuinely care, and feel pain. That is what makes the film worth seeing: it's about humans and about humans in politics. So I am recommending this film because of its story, not because of its cinematography. Also, I felt that the script itself had a few bugs in it, but the story and the characters make up for that. It deserves Academy Awards, but it's good and worth seeing.
Serious project culminates in beautiful show

by Kirstin Vander Giessen
Art Critic

Although it’s labeled as a children’s show, The Honorable Urashima Taro, written by Coleman A. Jennings and directed by senior Sarah Bliss, promises to visually entertain and present a subtle moral theme to “big kids” as well.

The play is the result of Bliss’ individual study in theatre directing, which also included extensive puppetry work. “My sophomore year, I toured with repertory theatre class and we worked with puppets,” said Bliss. “It was a lot of fun, and I thought I would like to do some more with puppetry.”

The opportunity presented itself when Bliss had to modify her individual study because she was planning on working with didn’t return to Dordt.

In addition to being a play that’s conducive to puppetry, Bliss chose to do The Honorable Urashima Taro because she liked the story, which is a combination of two Japanese folk tales. “I ended up picking this play because it was one of the few that I found that didn’t talk down to children or have a huge obvious moral at the end,” said Bliss.

She has found that the theme of valuing family has relevance to her own life right now. “It would be nice if people could realize the value of those they love. It’s fitting since it’s the end of the year. Promoting the subtle theme of the value of family, the story follows the adventures of Urashima Taro as he travels to the underwater world of the sea. While in this foreign world he finds himself battling a giant Sea Scorpion alongside an old Turtle, the Sea Princess and other sea creatures. After an unexpected twist at the end, Taro finds himself faced with a serious decision: should he spend the rest of his life growing older on land or enjoy eternal youth and beauty in the sea?

Bliss uses puppets for every character except Taro in the underwater scenes “so that we can show the difference between this fantastical underwater world and the plainness of everyday life.”

The puppets, built by John Holland and the scene shop crew, are made with such things as foam, lace, glitter, paper, cardboard and wood. The stage is built to resemble a Japanese house and in the background are waves that come from an Asian drawing.

“I think it will be a beautiful show and a lot of fun to watch. It’s a good story,” said Bliss, adding, “The more I work with it, the more I like it.”

The play will be performed April 17 and 18 at 7:30 p.m. and a Saturday matinee at 2 p.m. Tickets are $1.00 for adults and $0.50 for students.

Conference 98 fills big shoes, whets appetites for 2000

by Paula Trelck
Freelance Editor

Last Wednesday, ten Dordt students and three professors packed their bags for an overnight trip to Grand Rapids, Michigan, for Calvin College’s third Festival of Faith and Writing. The festival, dubbed “Conference ‘98”, attracted around 1,400 participants from the U.S. and foreign countries.

A prerequisite for the conference was the love of reading and writing, and the belief that faith is integral to both. Many of the attendees expressed delight to be in the company of fellow bookworms. Sarah Vriend, a sophomore from Guelph, Ontario, remarked, “I loved being surrounded by hundreds of avid readers and writers who shared a common love of language and words.”

Conference ’98 had big shoes to fill—Conference ’96 boasted big names such as Annie Dillard, Lee Smith, and Madeleine L’Engle. But Conference ’98 was not to be outdone; it included such notable authors as Elie Wiesel, Katherine Paterson, and John Updike.

During the days, attendees went to workshops, academic sessions, and interviews. Conference ’98 dealt with many aspects of writing, from fiction to songwriting. Representatives from publishing firms such as Doubleday, Balantine, Eerdmans, and many more were also on hand.

Poets included Jim Heynen, Irina Ratushinskaya, and the beloved Luci Shaw. Ratushinskaya, imprisoned in her native Russia for being a poet, had perhaps the most inspiring story. In labor camp, she scratched poems into bars of soap with matches, memorized the words, and then washed the evidence down the drain. Ratushinskaya said, “We were taught not to believe in God. But all the adults kept talking about Him, so I was suspicious.”

Junior English major Melissa Phaneuf especially enjoyed Luci Shaw’s poetry workshop. Shaw, a ceaseless promoter of journaling, mirrored the statement of British poet and playwright, Oscar Wilde, when he said, “I never travel without my diary. One should always have something sensational to read on the train.” Shaw also supported the saying, “If I should die before I wake, please throw my journal in the lake.”

Journalist Philip Yancey, who has won, among other awards, the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Critics’ Circle Award, began her speech with the humble words, “Take a piece of paper and write your name on it. Above it, write Elie Wiesel. Below it, write John Updike. Now that I have your complete sympathy...”

Paterson, a children’s literature author, wrote such favorites as Bridge to Terabithia and Jacob Have I Loved. Paterson is the winner of the National Book Award, two Newberry Medals, and recently, the Hans Christian Anderson Award. Despite her expressed inferiority at being compared to Wiesel and Updike, many felt Paterson’s presentation was the best of the three.

Saturday’s grand finale was John Updike, who has won, among other awards, the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Critics’ Circle Award. Despite Updike’s protests that most of his books didn’t “count,” he is the author of more than sixty titles. Updike’s interview and presentation, following David James Duncan, hung in the air as a sort of anticlimax.

Readers and writers alike are hereby strongly encouraged to look into Calvin’s Conference 2000. Rumors abound that the next Festival of Faith and Writing will include such notables as Toni Morrison, Chaim Potok, and Maya Angelou.
Debaters impress Model Arab League

by Martin Dam
Saudi Arabian Foreign Correspondent

I know what you’re thinking already. What the heck is Model Arab League? The Great Plains Model Arab League is when college teams from all over the area come together to pretend they’re Arabs and debate Arab issues. Each delegation is supposed to take up the position of their country and argue for what is in their best interests.

So the Syrians are progressive, the Saudis are conservative, the Libyans are just plain crazy and Egyptians abstain on almost all votes. All discussions run under the guidelines of parliamentary procedure.

The purpose of the conference is to give westerners an idea of the complexity of Arab issues, and give them a chance to hone their debating skills while trying to argue from a perspective that is totally foreign to them.

Each school is assigned countries to represent, so the delegations can do the research necessary to take up the proper positions. Dordt, for example, represented Syria, Saudi Arabia and tiny Bahrain. USD had Egypt, Kuwait and Libya.

Northwesterners had Oman, Jordan and Iraq. People also came from places like the University of Kansas and Augustana College in Indiana. The conference took place at Northwestern.

Students were divided up into committees with representatives from each delegation. Committees dealt with things like political, economic, social, Palestinian and security affairs. Resolutions were written by delegates at their own time, and debated and voted on in committee, then voted on again in mass meetings.

After all the voting was done, awards were handed out. There were honorable mentions. I know what you’re thinking already. What the heck is a honorable mention? I was a senior to go. Now that I know what is about, I would love to go again. It is a great chance to learn about Arab issues, discovering insights from other colleges and evaluating what kind of students Dordt puts out. It is a good exercise for anyone interested in Arab affairs.

If someone would rent a place to him? Think about it. Someone who is 18 years old, just out of high school, and away from the parents. Do you really think someone would want to rent a house to someone like that? I know I wouldn’t unless I wanted the place trashed. If I would rent a place out to someone like that, I would probably charge them a huge damage deposit.

In conclusion to all I have said, I don’t think the Diamond should have freshmen as columnists. Speaking as a senior, this is because I have been here for four years and have experienced college enough to understand the motions. You have to be columnists for the newspaper. If I have said, I don’t think the Diamond should have freshmen as columnists, that during this time, they don’t know all of the things the way they do. Most freshmen have a lot of maturing to do this first year. I did a lot of maturing myself. I, too, did a lot of complaining about things at Dordt my freshman year. There seems to be a lot of complaining as freshmen because we want things our way and don’t understand some things and think they are stupid. This is why I feel freshmen shouldn’t be allowed to be columnists for the Diamond.

In regards to Mr. Reitsma and his article, he can quit his complaining to all of campus and complain to his friends instead and go talk to someone who knows why things are done the way they are. Don’t complain to all of campus because we’ve been through it too and don’t feel like listening to it in the newspaper. There are a lot of people sick of Mr. Reitsma’s articles in the paper. Please keep the gripes and complaints out of the paper. The paper is for articles, not complaints. If you are desperate for an article and not a gripe session or complaint, I’d rent a place out to some-