Defenders make a defense in D.C.

by Juli Kelderman

Once again, the Supreme Court's landmark ruling in Roe vs. Wade celebrated an anniversary—and twenty-one Dordt Defenders of Life were in the nation's capital to take part. They spent three days there, January 24-26, attending conferences, a protest march, and various other activities.

"It was neat to see pro-life groups from other campuses," commented Shonda Collison about the weekend. Dordt's students gathered in Washington D.C. with approximately 250 other college students from around the country. On Saturday they attended a variety of conferences on topics ranging from adoption to abortion in the third world. Erik Benthem attended one called "Breaking Stereotypes," which supported the fact that "everybody, not just 'dumb hicks,'" are against abortion, as some people think.

Sunday, the entire group protested during a march at the George Washington State University Hospital, led by Joseph Scheidler of "Operation Rescue." That evening, they attended a banquet where Dr. Jack Wilke, President of the International Right to Life Federation, spoke.

For Lisa Van Denend, her favorite part of the trip was "the feeling of so many people united there for life." Van Denend was Dordt's delegate to the American Collegiate of Life, a federation of college pro-life groups—most of which are Catholic.

For Collison, being "right in the middle of the politics" was the best part of the trip. Other highlights included getting to see some of the sights of D.C. and being on the evening news after the march. And although Chuck De Groat may regret getting a speeding ticket, everyone else seems to have had a great time.
Letters

Dear Editor,
It seems once again big brother Dordt has tried to justify tampering the laws established by the government. Recently we have both had experiences in which our mail has seemingly been tampered with.

In the first incident two ladies' wear catalogs that I had been receiving since my freshman year (one of which I have ordered several Sunday dresses from) were withheld. I was called down to Dr. Kroeze's office for a morality check and learned that it was common practice to interrupt the delivery of the mail for the students' own well being. Even though I wasn't suffering from second rate scruples, Dr. Kroeze strongly suggested that I discontinue my subscriptions, because, he reasoned, the ladies in the mailroom have a tendency to talk over coffee.

I advised Dr. Kroeze that tampering with the mail was a federal offense, but he stood by Dordt's policy and denied any knowledge of illegality. He then called me to say that the Sioux City postmaster had confirmed my claim and that Dordt would discontinue the policy. However, that same week Dr. Kroeze called again to tell me that he once again had my catalogs and if I wanted them I would have to come down to Student Services and pick them up from the secretary.

Recently one of us received an overcoat from a mail order company. This time the package was partially cut open with a scissors and the contents rumpled through. Although we cannot prove that Dordt was the culprit, the package was obviously tampered with.

We were under the impression that Romans 13:1-5, which reminds us of our obligation to the government that God ordained, still holds even for Dordt. Interfering with the delivery of the mail in any manner could merit a hefty fine and even a jail term, yet Dordt sees fit to do so to "protect us." It's just another way of trying to limit our freedom as responsible adults, except this time there can be no excuse.

The U.S. post office has a slogan that states that neither rain, nor sleet, nor snow, nor the dead of night can keep them from their appointed rounds—is Dordt College more powerful than the forces of nature?

Tricia Kooker

Mail delivery questioned

by David Mahaffy

The other day, as I was scanning the Sioux City Journal, I came across an article concerning public reaction to the trade deficit "problem" with Japan. The article concerned a town that was purchasing a fairly expensive tractor-type machine for dredging their creek.

The problem was that the town council had settled on a machine made by a Japanese company. In the wake of some derogatory (but not necessarily false) comments about American workers made by a Japanese government official, the council's decision to buy the Japanese machine was not popular.

The council canceled that order. Instead, they decided to order a machine from the well-known American company, John Deere. Although the machine cost something like $17,000 more, the council figured they would be supporting American jobs and workers. The issue wasn't quite that simple.

The council soon discovered that the machine from the Japanese company was actually made in America. And the John Deere machine for which they were going to pay a premium was mostly made in Japan. Now which machine should they buy?

As a member of the council said, I'm not sure there is such a thing as an "American" machine. So true. In a global marketplace using today's communication and travel technology, economic distinctions between countries are becoming blurred.

I am from Oregon. When I buy some corn, I don't worry as to whether it came from Oregon or another state, such as Iowa. Likewise, an Iowan looking for lumber will probably not insist on lumber from trees grown in Iowa instead of Oregon. We have no problem with letting each state specialize in what it does best. How often have you heard people worrying about Iowa running a trade deficit with Nebraska?

In the meantime, we sit here worrying about a trade deficit with Japan. Why? If a consumer can save $1,000 through buying a Japanese car instead of its American equivalent, he then not only has the car, he also has $1,000 to spend somewhere else to help the economy. The result: the consumer benefits by having a new car plus whatever he used the $1,000 for, and the economy doesn't lose anything as the same amount is still spent.

Besides, if Japan gets say, 10,000 U.S. dollars from the sale of the new car, what are they likely to do with that money? In the end, it is likely to come back to the U.S. in one form or another, such as the Japanese purchasing things in the U.S.

As a matter of fact, the United States has been running an overall trade deficit with the rest of the world for some time. What does this mean? We've been consuming more than we've been producing.

In other words, if it weren't for these extra imports (from companies such as Japan), our standard of living would be lower. If these additional imports were stopped, we would be without many of our consumer goods that come from those extra imports. So instead of bashing the Japanese, perhaps we should be thanking them.

Thank Japan

by David Mahaffy

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One night last week, I got up, scanned the fridge, and sat down to read The Reformed Witness that lay on our kitchen table. The magazine is printed by a group of CRC men who believe that the Christian Reformed Church is currently in a crisis. Side-hits have been taken and lines have been drawn in cold sand. Wanna know something? I tend to agree. Ignorance is a wonderful thing---especially if you're ugly---but if you're CRC and ignorant that trouble times have befallen this denomination, you seriously need your education.

Anyway, the twenty page paper was the magazine's first issue. It included editorials, an introductory Statement Of Purpose about "writing the truth in love," and some thoughtfully written feature articles.

One feature was entitled "The Ordination of Women: Does It Really Matter?" The article addressed the implications which accompany accepting women in office. Another article denounced Dr. Howard Van Til and his book The Fourth Day. And then I read "A Call for Responsible Believers" which I rather enjoyed. For the most part, I just read. Like that Sidney Spoon poem goes, "I just read while the just world slept."

Now, I'm not writing about The Reformed Witness because of these feature articles or their obvious---and perhaps righteous---leaning towards strict, traditional doctrine. As a reader, you don't know if I share the same sensitivities as these men. Perhaps I do, perhaps I don't. But considering the simple point I'm going to make, my preference is absolutely irrelevant.

What bothered me about the issue---and the reason I write---was the self-justified, poor argumentation, and cheap-shot innuendos which sit between the lines of a certain editors' work. No, not every article reflected this. The feature articles certainly didn't. But what this certain editor wrote made me cautious as to how sincere he was towards "speaking the truth in love" as his own statement of purpose read.

On page 19 sat an editorial about the other conservative CRC publications, Outlook and the Christian Renewal. This editor made it clear as to what he thought of The Banner, the apparent "liberal" publication of the CRC. That was no big deal. But the editorial included a line that read, "The Dutch Reformed tradition has always been inclined towards publication; the result is that the conservative wing of the CRC has been blessed with not one but two conservative periodicals." Now, stop reading, and go back to that quote. Read it again. Can you see some sort of self-righteousness here, a very subtle innuendo which says "We're really better than you because you gave us two publications"? And what is meant by the line about the Dutch Reformed tradition and its inclination towards publication? What use does this ambiguous jargon have when dealing with a very sensitive issue: the relationship between "liberal" and "conservative" wings of the CRC?

Earlier in the issue, the same editor reported on the latest happenings in the CRC churches in the Michigan area. With limited explanation and a style that reeked of bias, he briefly reported on wording changes in the Psalter Hymnal, a Calvin students' publication concerning gender use of God's name, a woman preacher in Grand Rapids, and a ministerial candidate who had trouble answering the question "Who Is God?" Again my response was paradoxical: while I admit that these events are serious, I was upset that he addressed stories of such magnitude and intensity in such a brief and shallow manner. I wondered how much due process he was giving these stories since I had heard two of them from a slightly different perspective. And whatever happened to fly-on-the-wall reporting or critical thinking? When I finished reading the paper, I was quite upset. You see, for what little it's worth, I don't favor women in church office or theistic evolution or any reference to God as a "her." But considering my conservative preference, why wasn't I refreshed after finishing reading the magazine? Rather than refreshed, I felt my intelligence had been insulted. Why would this editor claim he "writes in love" while anyone's pet cat could see his primary intentions were to downgrade The Banner, CRC Publications, and everything else he reported on. And why would the editorial board allow such one-sided and incomplete newswriting? And how can these gentlemen think this publication will do any real "good" since it hardly appeals to so-called liberals. If it does anything, the publication will only lead to more confusion and hurt since it can only be appreciated by ultra-conservative members. (By the way, there's a place reserved in hell for those two ambiguous terms: liberal and conservative.)

The only answer I had was a sad one: the disintegration of communication. Many people in the CRC don't know how to communicate correctly. People can try with honorable intentions. But too often our attempts are mixed with vengeance, and the attempts themselves often have little concern for the reader or listener.

We write and we speak with little understanding of what an incredible thing we are doing, because all speech and all writing, from a Robert Frost poem to a request for the salt shaker across the table, says one thing: Change your mind. Think like me. In the beginning was God. The universe did not come next. Communication did. God didn't think the universe into being. Before the light broke across the great void, four words were spoken. Communication occurred.

Consider the mess the CRC is in now, I have only one warning: tradition can fade away and doctrine can become twisted. But if proper, skillful communication breaks down, it's game over because communication, with the Holy Spirit's help, is the only key to any possible solution to this crisis. Without the integration of proper form, style, and clarity in our speech and writing, as well as proper choice of words, sentences, and attitudes (for example, real love rather than a blanketed cover-up), there is little hope for a group of Dutch Calvinists who argue over something as intense as the interpretation of the Bible.

I don't know exactly what reforming speech and journalism demands---it appears to be a tough job. Not every newspaper has writers with the intellect, power, clarity, and diction command of Galen Meyer. The Reformed Witness certainly doesn't. Still, any Christian publication must at least reflect the discretion and hope characteristic of love.

I agree with The Reformed Witness that we live in a Christendom of relevance and absurd tolerance. But I'll only support a paper that gives a honest attempt at addressing problems in Reformed circles in a wholistic way, that is, with integrity of complete news reporting and without useless jargon.

Ultimately, this Reformed Witness does only a bit of good. And that "good" does not give bread to the poor, compassion to the lonely, or leadership to a lost church. It roams wild in the imaginations of its writers and readers who argue the same way they do.

Dirk Schouten

DIAMOND STAFF

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How should we vote?

by Julie DeBoer

This past Monday evening, James Skellen of the Association for Public Justice (APJ) spoke in the West Commons concerning some important issues and questions for the upcoming presidential election. His address, entitled "How then shall we vote?" was eagerly received by members of the Siouxland APJ and some interested Dordt students.

What is APJ?

First of all, an understanding of how APJ functions is necessary. APJ is an organization that is less than a political party but more than simply a religious lobby. APJ is instrumental in researching issues and questions elemental to the political system. For example, APJ has recently been awarded grants to research such questions as: "What's wrong with our legal system?" and "Where do we go from here with the social welfare system?" The APJ has also conducted a very successful conference on law and religion dealing with the relationship between Christianity and democracy. Thus, APJ is mainly interested in turning out an appropriate agenda of issues for the nation.

However, APJ is also concerned with the proper responsibility of Christian citizens in our political system. Skellen raised the point that, as citizens of today's society we are often encouraged to be accepting of the system as it is. This is a simply reactionary approach which is inadequate. Rather, says Skellen, we should look to the distant future when discussing solutions to problems within the system as well as into our political history to discover why and how the system came to be what it is. We need substance, not slogans, says Skellen.

How then shall we vote?

Skellen says simply — "Vote for the best candidate."

Behind that is the recognition that we must have standards by which we determine the "best," or at least the lesser of the available evils. Those standards come from all around us — family, friends, our church community. Part of this process of evaluating which criteria best define candidate is to deepen the question of our civic responsibility. Once we understand our stance, we will find the "best" rather more apparent.

To accomplish this Skellen stresses a cooperative effort. We must pool our communal knowledge and expertise to gain wisdom and insight. We must hold a high view of our civic duty and of public justice, then ask the burden some, overwhelming questions good citizens must ask before they can find the most responsible candidate and vote conscientiously.

Skellen urges us to avoid taking our political system for granted. Voting thoughtfully and with preparation will only make the system better.

DDL: Action through education

by Val Ruter

During the 1989-90 school year, Cindy Van Whye (nee Kapteln) and Sheryl Schuring began making plans to attend a pro-life rally at the nation's capital. The trip became an annual event for Dordt's own pro-life group, the Dordt Defenders of Life (DDL).

"The group has grown to include more kids and now has a better organizational structure," said Mr. Ron Rynders, advisor of the recently purchased DDL. "The trip remains optimistic but what they may not know is that DDL does locally, Faber said he felt that the group's most exciting project was participating in Life Chain on a Sunday during first semester. "About one mile of people holding signs lined Highway 75 for an hour and a half," said Faber. The event was planned to promote awareness nationwide.

"We'd like to get involved as much as we can," said Collison. Some of the group's members are involved in volunteer work for organizations such as Bethany Christian Services. Others are more concerned with legal activity surrounding abortion.

The DDL often writes letters voicing their pro-life opinion to members of Congress. Some of those letters do get a response, although the feedback from Congress may not always be what the Defenders of Life had hoped for.

However, Faber remains optimistic about the value of the letter-writing campaign. "There are always going to be some senators and representatives that never even look at them (the letters), but some do," he said.

Ron Rynders, advisor of DDL, has nearly purchased the nearly purchased by non-members. Rynders said that they would like to set up an information table, do research about abortion," said Collison.

The Defenders of Life strive to educate not only college students but high school students as well. Rynders said that they would like to be instrumental in reestablishing virginity and that the club stresses monogamous marriage. The main point DDL hopes to drive home to teenagers is responsibility. "There is no such thing as 'safe' sex," said Rynders.

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Advancing toward a career in medicine

by Lynn Verhoef

Seniors Amir Andrawis and Sara Hook joined cancer research teams last summer, an experience which seasoned them for further work in their perspective fields.

Andrawis, a pre-med student from Brookings, South Dakota, took part in prostate cancer research at the University of South Dakota Medical School. He worked with Dr. Barry Timms, USD professor of anatomy, who has been researching prostate carcinoma and benign prostate hyperplasia. Andrawis took on work with prenatals and neonatal rat tissues using immunohistochemistry, a process in which proteins are labeled with colored antibodies. This allows the researcher to trace cell proteins through the development of the cancer.

One of the things that surprised Andrawis was the depth, significant research that goes on in small town settings. “I was proud to be a part of it,” he said.

Since USD offers no fellowship programs for undergraduate students, Andrawis decided to get in touch with Dr. Timms on his own. Dr. Timms offered him a research position, which USD approved and funded. According to Andrawis, his special request initiated measures for a future fellowship undergraduate program at USD.

Although Andrawis isn’t aiming for research as a career, he feels that his experience was beneficial as a background for a career in practicing medicine. After medical school, Andrawis intends to take part in overseas missionary work.

Sara Hook, biology major from Wellsburg, Iowa, also took on the role of cancer researcher this past summer. Her involvement was in pancreatic cancer research. Hook was chosen for a 10-week fellowship with the Eppley Cancer Institute at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, one of the National Cancer Institutes 15 sites pressed her was the complexity of legality obtained. Such methods lab procedures and apparatus. If it’s for the benefit of individuals, Hook was well-prepared for the work she would be doing. She did, however, have to adapt to new lab procedures and apparatus.

One thing in particular that surprised her was the complexity of the work involved in pinpointing a cure. “It was amazing to me how many factors are involved in prevention. Even though cancer research has come a long way, I think it’s going to be quite some time before cancer is eliminated as a leading cause of death because of the many factors that contribute to its onset and progression."

As far as her future, Hook would like to pursue work in a cell and molecular biology program rather than medical school. In particular, she would like to research some molecular aspect of disease and how the immune system combats or fails to combat it. She would also like to be a professor at some college or university.

Both Andrawis and Hook were forced to confront ethical issues of professional work. Both found that their Christian beliefs provided a basis for discussions with their co-workers on issues such as humane treatment of animals, genetic manipulation and evolutionary development of cells and tissues. “We talked a lot about prenatal experimentation in general,” said Andrawis, “and even the use of human tissues discarded from abortions or from stillbirths. That was rejected by all of our [research team], but many scientists wouldn’t question it. They might say that if it’s for the benefit of humankind and the tissues are legally obtained, such methods are ethically correct.”

The key for me was going beyond what Christians believe; knowing also from classes here at Dordt about others’ beliefs. Dr. John Vander Stelt talks in his classes about the double-think principle, in which we have to know where we stand but also know the contradicting beliefs so we can hold our own,” said Andrawis.

Based on their experiences, both Andrawis and Hook strongly recommend some type of concrete experience as a background for further study. Hook said, “Anybody going into medical or graduate school should do this.”

January 30, 1992

DORDT COLLEGE DIAMOND

NEWS 5

High school festival to be held at Dordt

On January 23, at 7:30 p.m., the Northwest Iowa Association of Choral Directors will host the 32nd annual high school festival at Dordt College. Approximately 265 students from 35 northwest Iowa high schools will be involved.

The guest choir is from Dana College in Blair, Nebraska, and Professor Dale Grotenhuis of Dordt College will be the guest conductor.

Admission for the performance is $2.00 for adults and $1.00 for students.

PLIA sponsors Sweetheart Dinner

On February 14, at 5:30 p.m., Putting Love Into Action (PLIA) will be holding a fundraising Sweetheart Dinner in the West Commons.

An entertaining slide show will outline the PLIA work that has been a successful spring break ministry in many poverty stricken areas of the United States.

Tickets are $20.00 with the estimated cost for each participating student in PLIA is $200. Last year 68 students took part in this service ministry, and this year’s roster should be similar.

Tickets for the Sweetheart Dinner are a minimum donation of $15.00 for adults and $12.50 for students and can be reserved by calling 722-6073 during business hours.

Is there some pressing topic on your mind? Write about it in the Diamond.

We will review opinion/column articles for publication. If you're interested, contact our editor at the number below.

Dirk Schouten 722-3002
Students give Kabba a merry Christmas
by Shelley Westerhof

As a result of the contributions of Dordt students and faculty, Kabba Jalili's sister Alice will be able to visit her brother soon. The total amount raised, according to Student Services, was $2,064.23. This means that each student, assuming that there are approximately 1,000 students attending, contributed a little over $2 each.

Alice will be coming to the United States from Africa as soon as her passport and visa are certified, which should be within the next couple weeks. If Kabba is healthy enough to travel, Dean Kroeze said, the administration is thinking about bringing Kabba and his sister to Dordt for Homecoming week.

Over Christmas break Kabba's recovery from the disease which causes muscle deterioration, was slowed by the onset of pneumonia, which is now clearing up. He is not being mouth-fed because his throat muscles are too weak to swallow, said Professor John Kok, Kabba’s host parent.

Otherwise, Kabba is able to do some active therapy instead of the passive therapy which is what he had been doing. The disease seems to be moving slowly into remission because of intensive chemotherapy sessions.

Still, “he can't reach for the phone, he can't lift anything, he can't walk,” Kok said. “If he wants anything, he has to call for the nurse.”

Kabba appreciated all the students who came to visit on their way to and from home over the break, and he is generally in good spirits, Kok commented.

Amor reaches out
by Jeann Dyke

Over the past Christmas break, sixteen Dordt students and their advisors sacrificed part of their vacation to serve with A Mission Out Reach/AMOR. AMOR is an international branch of PLIA which goes to different countries to help the needy. There were two groups sent out this year, one to Mexico and the other to the Dominican Republic. The Mexico group was led by Jennifer Gesch and sponsor Dr. Dallas Apol.

Students who served in Mexico were Gesch, Tony Crawford, Scott Veenstra, Beth Boender, Jennifer Van Weelden and Carol Kanabach. On the third of January, the students loaded up a Dordt van and traveled to Reynosa, Mexico, just over the Texas border. They stayed until January 13. They worked for a week at a local orphanage as well as painting one of the six houses there.

The team that served in the Dominican Republic consisted of Steve Veenstra, with sponsor Prof. Phil DeVries and wife Kristen. The other students were Trudy Hoekstra, Michelle Menninga, Rich Boomstoppel, Steve Alama, Daren Dykstra, Dave Blauw, Andrew Patterson, Jeff Kooiman and John Kroeze.

This team met in Miami and flew to Santo Domingo to work in the town of Sabana Grande de Baya. This group's accomplishment was to finish building a church begun by another AMOR group. They also plastered and painted an entire farm house.

Veenstra commented that “seeing how these people [in the village] can be happy with what they have," was a memorable experience.

A new kind of recycling
by Beth Treick

Christian Sports Outreach International is an organization that sends out sports teams, including basketball, volleyball, baseball, soccer and music and drama groups to Caribbean and European countries during Christmas break and throughout the summer.

This has been going on for the past eight years, and the team members range from all over the United States and Canada from different church denominations.

Eric Eekhoff began his journey to the Caribbean on Dec. 26. He met up with the other team members in Miami and they flew to Montigo Bay in Jamaica on the 27th. In all there were 66 team members—men and women's volleyball, soccer, and the entire Indiana Wesleyan track team. A music and drama group consisting of five people also made the trip.

Eric played five volleyball games (in the starting lineup) against resort sponsored teams, a mining company team, and a church volleyball team. Although the outdoor courts were rough (sand, grass, and gravel) the team won all five games and were pronounced the best team ever sent out by CSOI.

Even greater than their triumph on the courts was their victory on the streets of Montigo Bay and Mandeville, Jamaica. The music and drama groups performed in the market places. After gathering large crowds the team members started their “street witnessing.” The group handed out over 3,000 religious tracts in
need for it near the apartments. The bin has been placed on the south side of the apartment buildings, next to the parking lot.

Last semester ten boxes of computer paper were filled in the computer center. The paper is currently being sent to Siouxland Recycling in Sioux City, where it is sold at the market price.

We have just begun to put a dent in breaking our wasteful habits. Let's continue to clean up our world and make a resolution for 1992 to use and reuse our recycling resources.

Ertc recalled an encouraging aspect of his trip. It was "a thrill" to defend and share his faith!

Ertc found the Jamaicans to be laid back, easy-going people and very receptive to their witnessing. He found the joy he saw in the people's acceptance of Christ to be the most exciting part of his trip. It was "a thrill" to defend and share his faith!

When Ertc got back, the Jamaicans were hitting home runs with a team compiled of his classmates.

Ertc, with the help of Sharon VanderKruk, is planning a schedule for a mission group that will be traveling to five different areas to help people in need.

The group usually resides in homeless centers or centers for abused wives and children. They will go into the community to do their assigned jobs which vary from patching leaky roofs to fixing plumbing systems, to replacing broken windows.

The fundraisers for PLIA consist of two major events: selling carnations, which will take place on February 4, and a Banquet on February 14. The funds raised go towards housing, food, and construction supplies needed.

For those still interested in going to Europe this coming July, Troy Molen will be hitting home runs with a team compiled of his classmates.

The spring break week is centered around a main theme, and daily devotionals are prepared to be shared each day.

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This year the five locations are Inez, Kentucky; Chicago, Illinois; Jackson, Cary, and Mendenhall, all found in Mississippi. Similar to last year, approximately 90 Dordt students will be divided among the five locations. The locations are the same as last year except they will not be going to Washington D.C. but to Mendenhall in Mississippi, where it is felt more help is needed.

Each group is assigned different jobs by local churches. The group usually resides in homeless centers or centers for abused wives and children. They will go into the community to do their assigned jobs which vary from patching leaky roofs, to fixing plumbing systems, to replacing broken windows.

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Overheard...
compiled by Alida van Dijk

"You know it's exam time when people start listening to their teakettles." ♦ Pam Pierik, observing the actions of a stressed roommate before Christmas break.

"There are all kinds of people in college and they don't even know who they are."
♦ Alisa Siebenga, trying to explain her church's lack of involvement with the young people.

"My name is Dirk Schouten. I come from the moon."
♦ A certain Diamond staffer after explaining to Dirk how to put together a newspaper.

"Put my picture in the Diamond this time. You always put photos of Zylstra and Driesen in the paper."
♦ Galen Van Roekel venting his frustration over his lack of photogenicity.
[see page 10]

I understood the question and knew the answer, but when the professor asked me, I woke up and couldn't remember.
♦ Andrea Norg

"Here, Dirk, let me run after you!"
♦ Erica Winter

"It wasn't that long."
♦ Michael Patridge, describing a full frontal nudity scene in a play.

"Chuck who?!?" ♦ a Diamond staffer mocking Chuck De Groat.

"She's a Canadian; she doesn't have the fifth [amendment]."
♦ Erica Winter commenting on Alisa Siebenga's silence.

A hearty thank you to all students who have submitted quotes to the Overheard column.
Keep those quotes coming in!
Send quotes to:

Diamond Overheard
DC 595

The Diamond reserves the right to choose which quotes are suitable for publication.

Practically Reformed
by Chuck DeGroat

I've recently developed the opinion that our lives closely resemble those of Wayne and Garth, the insane stars in Saturday Night Live's Wayne's World. If you watch closely, you'll notice they bask in utter simplicity and nonsense until, when least expected, one of them blurts out the most profound and erudite statements you've ever heard.

Here at Dordt, we often enjoy the simple and enjoyable things but also when we have the opportunity to make a meaningful impact.

I was proud to be a part of the Defenders of Life annual trip to Washington D.C. two weeks ago, not because I'm some lunatic who wants to point an accusing finger at the "baby killers", but because I think our students proved that they are prepared to evaluate and critique views that seem questionable, and articulate distinctly Biblical ones that they believe are right.

As we reflected on the issues and ideas presented, we found that we were able to respond with confidence and maturity, sometimes something we didn't realize we had! This is not to say that we took over the conference, standing up like Martin Luther against the whole Roman Catholic Church. But, we were able to talk among ourselves, and a few new friends, about the ins and outs of politics, doctrinal issues, and the reformed perspective, without giving into the overly emotional and mean-spirited attacks we've seen from the area of pro-choice.

We found ourselves disagreeing with the argument that feminism is an integral part of the pro-life movement. We all agreed that the female has a distinct importance and plays a key role in the cause. But we remembered the endless nagging of Dordt profs who claimed ISMs were dangerous, and thought systems within themselves. Feminism then became a dangerous term that carried a lot of philosophical baggage we didn't like.

Other questionable issues arose as the conference progressed. Many of the members were Catholics and believed birth control to be wrong. One member ran into a dispute about euthanasia and was openly confronted by members of the American Collegians for Life. While she told them she supported removing life-sustaining systems from a dying relative. Some of us ran into problems with Catholic theology and were called on to defend our faith specifically in the area of how we are saved. At times, we listened to a close ear, and very few students emerged from the speeches with nothing to say.

I think this reflects well on the mission and purpose of Dordt College. As students, we were able to rejoice with the positive aspects of the conference, the fight to save the unborn, the unity of believers, and the realization that Roe v. Wade will soon fall. But we also felt prepared to question things. That's what Dordt is all about.

We can go on and perform our tasks and at the same time evaluate the culture in which we live and the ideas we are presented with. Courses we learned to ridicule here at Dordt, Theology 101, Philosophy 201, Gen 300, and Political Science 201, suddenly came to life and were unbelievably practical in real situations. Communications 101 proved to be essential as we dialogued with each other and those around us.

For a few days, I felt a warm feeling towards everything at Dordt, including that librarian that keeps nagging me. Although this inner warmth may have resulted from the excessive amount of time Kent Rynders, Wilf Wikkerink, and I spent in the library, chances are it is a genuine love for this institution and the professors who I've learned from.

We came back to the simplicity and enjoyment of what Dordt has to offer with the feeling that Sioux Center is not some complacent community of ignoramuses, but a center of learning that is focusing students on their talents, callings, and worldviews.

Dordt College is preparing us to "do our stuff." While life may seem rather meaningless at times, the times when we do make a difference mean a lot. Needless to say, try PLIA, AMOR, Community Service, or a group like Defenders of Life if you feel unused by God.

Even if the times are few and far between when you can make a profound and meaningful impact, remember that the time is coming when we are going to be asked to use the gifts and insights we've gained at Dordt to further the kingdom.

Treasure the things you're learning now, even if they seem simple and nonsensical as a Wayne and Garth dialogue, because DDL will tell you that these Dordt ideas will flow from your mouth uncontrollably in the midst of those who have not seen the truth. You might even think you know a little something.
Always Reforming or Already Reformed: This is the Question

Much has been said, often with insight, in the last issue of the Diamond concerning the articulation of our Christian (or Reformed) worldview. The description of the shaping of the whole redeemed person to fit the infinite contours of the divine substance as we fulfill His eternal and temporal call.

In regard to that, I want to make a humble contribution by calling our attention to a common danger in any academic institution: the intellectualization of truth, that dualistic view between theory and practice that prevails in scholarly circles. By the way, let us fight the false dichotomies: knowledge and experience, facts and truth, worldview and mission.

On the other hand remember that these dualities are not ultimate, but only aspects of our fallen world, and that our task is to gently introduce a third truth which contains the half-truth of the faulty extremes, and not through bashing the single-minded. Our understanding of reality should come out of a total and integrated experience.

Faith, intellectual understanding and action, should happen concomitantly. Anything short of that will generate a distorted, unrealistic, non-genuine picture of reality. Besides, the fallen, dynamic, evolving and corporeal nature of the Church of all times and all tribes requires a humble submission of our best work unto the Lord, rather than the temporal exaltation and prominence of our approach as being the best one (remember we are reforming - and not yet done).

Alternatively, don't be afraid of the multi-cultural, multi-dimensional aspects of our calling, and please don't confuse a mind open to fully participating in God's work with a relativistic approach. In connection with all of that I would like to share with you a quotation by my good friend and mentor Professor Hooykaas, a Dutch Reformed scientist: The Inner liberation brought about by the biblical and reformed message tells us that good Christians may be bad scientists, poor exegetes and silly people. The 'saints' in the biblical sense, and the main negotiators in Japan.

by Brenda J. Van Ha

I've been amused by the news coverage lately. Take a look at what has covered at the top of the news hour.

George Bush puked and nearly fainted white making his statement in Japan. Bill Clinton has been accused of infidelity and the main source of reference is a tabloid magazine. The State of the Union Address delivered by President Bush received more hype than it deserved. These things really make me wonder what in the world is happening in the realm of journalism and who are the top brass making the decisions.

What happened to reporting the truth, the news that people need to know? It seems to me that people are more interested in the facts and less in the trivia. For example, people need to know more about the reasons why the Japanese drove so many American made cars. The Japanese drive on the left side of the road; thus the steering wheel is on the right side of the car. American car manufacturers do not produce cars that have the steering wheel on the right side, claiming that it is too expensive to do.

I don't know about you, but I wouldn't buy a car with a steering wheel on the wrong side — unless I was used to driving on the left. Why care if Bush got the flu? He's just as susceptible to illness as you and I — put it on the radar screen.

Who cares if Bush got the flu? He's just as susceptible to illness as you and I — put it on the radar screen.

For the Clinton story, I'd like to know why the so-called professional national news syndicate printed a story that appeared in a well-known tabloid (with all of the connotations of "tabloid" intact). It seems to me that most people realize the quality of the journalism produced by these tabloids. I recognize that these publications have very high readerships, but I always thought that it was because people wanted to see what the tabloids would come up with next;

Why all of the hype about the State of the Union address? Knowing that 1992 is an election year, most people almost expect a lot of political double-talk.

The politicians are gearing up for another election. As usual the Republicans are only considering the issues and the Democrats have a strong candidate to challenge Bush. The election of '92 is looking as healthy as Bush did in Japan. It will be interesting to see if the political race and the Republicans are up to their usual campaign. Bill Clinton's head is reeling from all the negative press he has received.

The Republican party, as a whole, has just stuck it to Clinton because of his views on pertinent political issues. The resounding answer is a big "NOT! There seems to be a group within the Republican party that thrives on negative press. They live off garbage campaigning. They enjoy digging through people's garbage, files, pants, and dirty laundry to find what they need to put their candidate ahead. Don't worry so much about winning an election on issues. Just make sure your past doesn't haunt you.

Negative campaigning is worthless, unless you want to get into office. So why use it? The first and most important reason for using negative campaigning is because there is nothing else to talk about that will sell your candidate. Who wants to talk of recession, trade deficit, homelessness, unemployment, AIDS or any other issue pertinent to our nation when you can talk about Bill Clinton or what he's doing. Garbage tabloid news is always more fun to talk about - isn't that why people buy the Enquirer, and gossip about Chuck De Groat's speeding ticket.

The question is what good does it do? Does it bring the U.S. closer to solving its problems? No, it leaves us where we are pointing our fingers at each other like brats on the schoolgrounds.

The second reason is that negative campaigning makes your candidate look really good, almost as if the guy had never done anything bad in his life. Take a look at the Republican candidate. How's the education system going? (Didn't he deem himself the Ed. Pres.) How about any other domestic issues? What about that war that we won (didn't we?) in the Gulf? The point is that everyone screws up and is expected to be held accountable.

If the Republicans can be accused of garbage politics, then the Democrats can be accused of bozo candidates. The average American can go down the line and tell you why this candidate should not be elected. The reasons range from not looking like a president (i.e., Kerrey), whose head is too big for his body and Thongas, who is just plain goofy looking. Another reason could be that the candidate is just not and never could be popular (i.e., Harkin and Brown). The reasons go on and on. Some are very good (like I haven't shown above), and some are not so good.

I've hashed the Republicans and the Democrats to show the second state of American politics and to present this question: "How are we going to begin to get out of problems in the U.S. if we don't have quality and solid leadership?"

Respond please.

The Halls of Truth

Free Press
by Mike Byker
With the start of 1992 the Dordt College Men's basketball team faced a tough lineup of teams.

New Year's Day saw the Defenders facing an aggressive Colorado College team that was sporting an 8-1 record going into the match. The Colorado team proved to be too much as they rolled past the Defenders 90-59.

Dordt was led in scoring by Galen Van Roeckel with 13, and Jay Regnerus chipped in another 10.

Dordt's next opponent was the Denver University Pioneers. The Pioneers boasted a pair of former NCAA Division I players in their starting lineup, but Dordt refused to be intimidated by the much taller team and fought to a 46-39 halftime deficit.

The Defenders continued to put up a good fight as they battled to within one point with a little over six minutes left in the game. From that point the Pioneers proved to be too much as they posted a 85-80 victory in the hard fought game. Reserve guard Troy Vander Molen led the Dordt scoring with 17 points, one of which came in the first half.

Dordt closed out their Colorado road trip with a 89-68 win of the School of Mines. The Orediggers came into the contest with a 10-0 record and were no match for the visitors from the Black and White with 26 points.

Dordt refused to be intimidated by the much taller team and fought to a 46-39 halftime deficit. Guard Galen Van Roeckel added 14 and Troy Vander Molen added 10 in his initial varsity start.

Dordt traveled to Sioux Falls January 14 to take on the Sioux Falls College Cougars. Interestingly, the Cougars were coached by former Defender Kevin Vande Streek. The Cougars jumped out to a quick lead and forced the Defenders to play catch up. In a high scoring affair the Cougars held on for a 111-107 victory.

Post player Mark Van Gorp led the Black and White with 26 points while Dave Van Essen tossed in another 22. Four other players scored in double figures for the Defenders. The difference in the game came from the three-point line where Sioux Falls made six more throws than Dordt.

Highly-regarded Briar Cliff came to the Dordt gymnasium to face a fired up Defender team with a packed gym backing them up. Dordt played a nearly perfect first half to take a one point lead into the locker-room 43-42.

Briar Cliff came out ready to play in the second half by scoring four straight points, but the home team refused to fold. Behind the vocal support of the partisan crowd the Defenders clawed back to tie the game at 51. At this point Briar Cliff's physical tactics began to pay off as they pushed their lead to ten points with about 7:30 left to play.

The Defenders cut the gap to three points two minutes later, but that was as close as they would come as the Chargers stretched the lead to the final 94-81 margin.

Mark Van Gorp had a strong game with 20 points. Brian Driesen had 17, followed by Van Essen with 13, and Van Roeckel added 12.

Dordt remained in the friendly confines of the Dordt Gymnasium January 23 to take on the Mt. Marty Lancers.

Dordt was in control of the game from start to finish in posting a strong 86-61 win. Reserve Craig Veurink led the scoring with 23 points. Van Essen pluged in 17 and Driesen contributed 15. Brian Stampa pulled down 11 rebounds, an amazing 8 of which were on the offensive end.

For the third time in a week the Defenders took on an opponent at home. The foe last Saturday was the Tekyo-Westmar Eagles. The Defenders came out flat and trailed the visitors from Le Mars most of the half, taking a 40-33 deficit into the break.

Not much changed for the home team as they struggled for the first five minutes of the second half, falling behind by as many as 13 points.

At this point the Defenders' luck changed as they went on an 18-3 run over the next ten minutes to take the lead to 61-54. Dordt extended their lead to 61-74 as time expired.

Leading the scoring was forward Brian Stampa with 16, followed by Van Essen with 15. Van Gorp added 12 and Driesen had 10. Reserve Doug Veenstra sparked the Defenders with points off the bench.

The win moved the Defenders record to 7-6, with games at Dana tonight and Northwestern Saturday night.

At the end of the game, the Defenders were riding high since Christmas.
Women busy over break
by Pam De Boer

The Lady Defenders had a ball-filled Christmas break, getting in six games before school began in '92.

On January 3 and 4 Dordt participated in a tournament in Blair, Nebraska at Dana College. A Friday evening win over Graceland put Dordt in the championship versus Dana on Saturday. The quick, pressing Dana team stole the ball and scored too often, however, resulting in a 77-62 Dordt defeat. Beth Hollander and Jill Eoussema were named to the All-Tournament team.

After an overnight stay in Des Moines, the Lady Defenders continued on to Chicago, where they met the Trinity Trojans. In a game that seemed to have as many Dordt fans as Trinity fans, Dordt played well and ended with a 76-65 win.

Next on the trip was Grand Rapids for the first ever Dordt-Calvin match-up. This game pitched sister against sister (Dordt senior Lisa Wubben and Calvin sophomore Pam Wubben), and high school teammates against each other as well. Though the score was within one at half-time, the game and game weariness began to show for Dordt in the second half, and they dropped the game 64-51.

They rounded out the break ball with an avenging defeat of Dana. 77-77, and a heartbreaking overtime 73-67 loss to Northwestern. The break ended with an adequate 3-3 effort.

Last Saturday the Lady Defenders played in the brand new Telico-Williams gym but were not quite on top of their game. Dordt lost 63-51. On Tuesday they travelled to Storm Lake to take on the Lady Beavers. After a first half played with only a shot clock in working order, the Defenders picked up their second half play and ended on top 70-57. On Saturday Dordt met Mt. Marty's quick guards and stifling press, dropping the game 81-64. Lou Ann Bolkema scored 21 points in the effort. The Lady Defenders record now stands at 8-13 and 1-2 in the MIAA.

Soccer awards pour in
by Matthew Belmers

The Dordt College soccer teams most successful season came to an end a few months ago in Des Moines. The success of the team has continually been noticed through personal awards and statistics on the national level.

Scott Hilbeinink was named to the Academic All-American team. To be recognized on this team a student must have a cumulative GPA and be a junior or senior and must be a consistent contributor on the field. Hilbeinink, along with David VanderPloeg and Chris Hull formed a lethal offense that finished second in the nation for across goals per game. Dordt rang in with a 4.89 goals per game average.

VanderPloeg smashed Dordt's individual assist record by dishing out 18 helpers this season in only 17 games. He was the only player in the NAIA to average more than one assist per game. His closest competitor had 17 fewer assists per game. In fact, VanderPloeg's average was almost twice that of the 20th place competitor.

Hull finished sixth overall and third among freshmen in the nation for goals scored. Hull smashed Dordt's record by counting 24 markers, an average of 1.41 goals per game. Hilbeinink was not far behind as his 18 goals (1.06/game) were good for twelfth place in NAIA Division I.

Hull and Hilbeinink also were recognized in the overall points category. Hull placed sixth in this category which gives 2 points for goals scored and 1 point for an assist. Hull had 54 points and Hilbeinink was good for fifteenth place with 43 points. A key to the soccer teams success was key goalkeeping from the tandem of Jon Vanderwal and Andrew Dykstra. These two, who will both be graduating, led Dordt to a twelfth place finish in the defensive statistics. By only allowing 18 goals on 100 shots against, their 64% save percentage and 0.94 goals against average were good for a 12th place finish in the league.

Blades search for right combination
by Matthew Belmers

Going into a nutshell? Ask the Dordt Blades hockey club.

This past weekend the Blades showed 340 screaming fans how to play hockey.

Playing long time rival Iowa State in front of one of the largest crowds in Blades history, the hockey club outplayed and out-muscled the Cyclones for 90% of the game.

After ISU opened the scoring on a power-play goal, Kevin Zandberg put the puck In the net. but he added that "the big crowd gave us fire in their eyes but Dying to night Iong-'Ib.e team controlled their play pretty well. A key to the Blades success was key goalkeeping from the tandem of Jon Vanderwal and Andrew Dykstra. These two, who will both be graduating, led Dordt to a twelfth place finish in the defensive statistics. By only allowing 18 goals on 100 shots against, their 64% save percentage and 0.94 goals against average were good for a 12th place finish in the league.

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Let's be Frank

Dordt's grading scale. Why does it stress us out so much? Are you one of those hundred students that becomes a bag of stress during the last two weeks of school, sweating about exams because of your 77 or 78% in a class you need a B in? Or have you ever talked to a classmate who has a 73 or 74 in the same situation, and feels no pressure because of his already determined fate? And so you study for two weeks before the exam. You become a social hermit praying for the arrival of the Senior Reg. Perhaps what we need is a grading system which is not only more fair, but also reflects the student's semester work more accurately.

I propose two systems. The first is a 12 point system similar to that used at Reedeemer College (the bastion of practical, Kuyperian-reformational thought). The second is a slight deviation of our current 4.0 system.

Studies Institute Encourages Faculty Development

by Sara VandenBosch

The Studies Institute, a program that supports various projects by faculty members, is one of the many faculty development programs at Dordt College.

Dordt's faculty development program also includes money to be used for conferences, professional journals and memberships, graduate leave of absence, graduate summer grants and summer seminars. Also included are individual study of a topic designated by the college, leave of absence for study, leave of absence for work or other goals, and individual projects which require time off.

Project grants are given to provide financial support that can be used for graduate study which is not towards a degree, workshops, seminars, library research, study tours, secretarial support, supplies or office space to support specific projects.

Dordt's grading scale. Why does it stress us out so much? Are you one of those hundred students that becomes a bag of stress during the last two weeks of school, sweating about exams because of your 77 or 78% in a class you need a B in? Or have you ever talked to a classmate who has a 73 or 74 in the same situation, and feels no pressure because of his already determined fate? And so you study for two weeks before the exam. You become a social hermit praying for the arrival of the Senior Reg. Perhaps what we need is a grading system which is not only more fair, but also reflects the student's semester work more accurately.

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Dordt also provides money to cover expenses for faculty members who are invited to present an academic paper at a professional meeting.

When the studies institute first began in 1979, it had a fixed number of endowments, but that was changed and now any faculty member is allowed to apply for a studies institute grant (also called a fellowship).

Presently, the studies institute has funded release time to professors Robert De Smith and Louis Van Dyke first and second semester for research and writing. Professor John Visser release time for first and second semester to participate in "development of a values based MBA program for Soviet universities."

Dordt college faculty who wish to become studies institute fellows put in applications to the academic council by Jan. 15 and receive notice of the award by Feb. 15.

Dordt welcomes new staff members

by Kristia McCarthy

The Dordt College community welcomed several new members in early January, and some staff have taken on teaching responsibilities as well.

Shirley Huismann Jerowski, an Orange City native and 1985 Dordt alumna, teaches in the social work department.

Jerowski will teach an introductory social work course and a course in practice methods for social work, and she supervises senior students in their practicum work with area social work agencies.

Dave VanVoorst, a 1987 Dordt graduate, has been a systems coordinator at Dordt College since last April. He now teaches the course "Data Communications," dealing with the interconnections of remote and local computer systems.

Jackie Williams, 1973 graduate of Maranatha Baptist College, who joined the college community last August, is teaching "Programming for Business" using the COBOL language.

Stanley Carlson-Thies has worked as an interlibrary loan coordinator for Dordt this past semester but has added a political science course to his responsibilities this term. Carlson-Thies is a political science graduate of the University of California at Davis. He studied two years at the Institute for Christian Studies in Toronto, Ontario, and is presently completing his doctoral thesis on religion and politics in The Netherlands through the University of Toronto.

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