P.S. Did you get it?

The Diamond investigates student mail delivery practices at Dordt College

by Brenda J. Van Hal and Ailsa Siebenga

Mail—it's the highlight of many students' day. But in the past few months, the treatment of mail has become a big item on this small campus.

The Diamond has received letters from various students accusing Dordt of censoring their mail. Students who received third-class mail catalogs such as Frederick's of Hollywood and Victoria's Secret said they were called down to the Dean of Students' office and asked to cancel their subscriptions.

Dean Kroeze originally concerned himself with the mail issue because he had reason to believe that someone had submitted several students' names to mailing lists. He saw the potential for harassment by mail and wanted to protect the students from such occurrences. He said, "We have had incidents in the past that started out with seemingly 'innocent' material that was followed by material of a much more explicit and offensive nature."

Written Policy

According to the Dordt Defender, page 10, "... students should only display videos, materials, posters, magazines, calendars, etc., which support our Christian confession and encourage a God-glorifying view of men, women, and creation." However, this policy does not mention mail; nowhere in the Defender is mail mentioned. In fact, Dordt College has no written policy regarding student mail delivery.

Kroeze became aware that there was no written policy concerning mail out of the mailing list investigation. In an effort to correct the lack of policy, Dordt has requested an investigation by a Federal Postal Service Inspector.

This investigation will be made with the cooperation of the United States Postal Service. According to Sioux Center Postmaster, Moe Troll, "There will be a postal inspector in. I can't tell you when that will be because they are all over the country. He will notify me one day before he comes."

At the time of printing, the Federal Postal Service Inspector had not yet arrived on campus. Kroeze did say that "the investigator should be here within the month and the policy will be established." He continued, "Dordt is committed to assuring a policy is in place that will regulate postal services at the institution."

Kroeze said that no policy regarding the mail had ever been written because of the nature of the Christian community, and the relationship between the Post Office and the
What's the difference?

Making the grade

by Julie DeBoer

Frank Schippers mentioned two methods of grading which he would like to see Dordt employ in order to make our grading system better. I would like to relate his argument.

It can hardly be debated that a twelve point grading scale allows for a more statistically accurate reflection of a student's actual test scores. However, there are a few points I would like to make in favor of the current four point grading system at Dordt.

Take into consideration Mr. Schippers' two hypothetical students, Nick and Cornelius. If you will recall, Nick is the untalented, class-ditching, bar-hopping young man who ends up receiving no brownie points at all and thus gets the short end of the bias spectrum used by his professor. Meanwhile, Cornelius is the good two-shoos who picks the front-row, center seat, seating arrangement or no. Cornelius, though he is no smarter than Nick, receives a better grade due to the same professor's bias system which works in his favor due to his good grooming, his kiss-up nature and his status as pastor's kid.

While Schippers has a valid point concerning the occasional effect of bias, I would like to mention that, in my opinion, those students who are good stewards of their hard-earned tuition which has bought those hours of class deserve a small boost in their favor. I'm not talking about prejudiced grading, I mean those little perks some professors throw into their syllabi, like Miller's final exam substitution, and Nauta's final exam exemption. Just like some great executive-type jobs, being good at being a student has its perks.

I'm sure not everyone will agree with me on that point, but my second and final point can hardly be denied. A student's performance on a test should not be the sole rating for their intelligence, or a fair scale on which to weigh someone's knowledge and understanding of a subject. We all, at this point in the semester, have experienced the difficult wording of multiple choice questions if not the tortuous trick questions. Is this fair? It is doubtful at best that pro's will stop using tricks such as this with a twelve point system. In fact in all likelihood the practice will become incredibly wide-spread.

Related to this is the fact that many students have a disease that no doctor can cure. They freeze up in test situations. I'm sure at one point following our SAT's or ACT's we have all heard complaints regarding the fairness of tests like these. In fact, there have been several studies conducted which have concluded that there is a cultural bias involved in such situations.

In conclusion, I would like to respond to the letter captioned "Mail Delivery Questioned." While I sympathize with Tricia's complaint about what she sees as an invasion of privacy, I would like to look at this issue from another point of view. At Dordt we are a Christian community. What each one of us does and says has an impact on every other person in the community. At Dordt we believe that all of what we do should be God glorifying. The movies we watch, the books we read, and the catalogs we receive should in some way enhance our neighbor's as well as our own Christian walk.

As you look through a Frederick's of Hollywood catalog, what spirit seems to be driving this type of publication? Are the women whose photographs appear treated with the dignity an image beaer of God deserves? Does such a catalog contribute to developing the self-esteem of women? Or does this catalog continue the Playboy philosophy of treating women as playthings? Does the distribution of this catalog help us in understanding how men and women should relate?

You might have been able to buy some Sunday dresses in this catalog but aren't we called to look carefully at what we do and not patronize companies that so clearly distort the Lord's good creation?
Like many of you, I learned that alcohol has inherent value in the eyes of the authorities that be. However, I believe the issue would be better dealt with in terms of alcohol responsibility.

Alcohol use is responsibly. I presuppose that the Bible clearly indicates that alcohol is a recreationally valued blessing when it is not abused. Alcohol abuse is not only un-biblical, but stupid. I pity those on Dordt’s campus who enjoy the undignified, self-degrading effects of drunkenness. But responsible drinking is something wonderful.

It is affirmed by the Word of God, as Jesus turned water into wine at the wedding in Cana. Jesus recognized its inherent value as a part of creation. When Dordt places its focus on abstinence rather than responsibility, they are violating creation-order. If we affirm creation as we do, and believe this world belongs to God, how can we justly bend the rules at Dordt? Our college should be a lighthouse, in the words of Dr. Huist, providing the vision for the rest of the kingdom. But the light switch seems to be controlled by the “Suits” (a la Dirk Schouten). They switch it on when Skillet and McCarthy write a book that will blow away the political world, but they switch it off when they suppress our worldview with this “abstinence” policy for everyone, including 21 year old students. This “switching off of the light” always occurs at Dordt when students’ responsibility becomes involved. We have become an outhouse rather than a lighthouse, a place where the “Suits” can watch us do our duty and then flush the toilet when we’re done.

Instead of giving 21 year olds the right to drink in a responsible fashion, they have decided that it would cause too many problems—abuse and drinking, especially by minors. But alcohol is recreationally valued. And when God creates something, he remains in control of it. In a sense, these restrictions demonstrate that the administration appears to be playing God. They can decide if he is powerful enough to restrain his flock from the potential dangers of alcohol. Unfortunately, they don’t have the option of contracting a creational given, and ignoring something so clearly affirmed in Scripture. The issue of responsibility is key. Abstinence is an individual decision, one that is made when a person evaluates his or her own situation. On a more practical level, a focus on responsibility would promote an increased trust between legal drinking students and administration, as well as an increased dialogue. At present-time, random spot checks are merely adding to the degree of rebellion by students, and causing them to question the validity of the administration that be.

The negative aspects of this policy extend beyond the theoretical contradiction. By holding to a policy that disallows drinking, the college is forcing (for lack of a better word) students to find other ways to sip the brew. Check out RG’s on a Thursday night, and the pit on warm autumn evenings. These are the places students go to drink. Perhaps though, the most extreme reaction to campus restriction is roadloading. Students simply drive off campus and cruise the dirt roads until the brew runs out. Legalizing alcohol use would not end these situations, but it would diminish the number of road-loaders, and give legal drinkers a weekend option to stay in, catch a movie, and drink in a God-glorying manner.

It’s time we start living out what we believe, and it’s time that we start being consistent. It seems odd to me that Dr. Huist’s home sits on campus, yet is subject to routine spot checks. We should be able to drink together in a social context as faculty, students, staff, and administration.

One last point to drive this home. If you’re reading this right now as a parent or a member of the community or any person associated with Dordt College, keep in mind that everything argued here in supported by the worldview of Dordt College. Analyze your own opinions and, if need be, take a closer look at what’s being said in the classroom. The day will come when the college will consider its own consistency with the worldview it adheres to, and will legalize alcohol, and you will have to decide whether or not to keep supporting the institution. That day will determine whether you’re ready to accept the radical nature of the gospel.
Male Chorus singing tomorrow

by Linda Visser

Valentine's Day is coming soon, and what better way to spend it than to be serenaded by sixty male voices crooning in perfect harmony? Tomorrow, February 14, at 8:00 p.m. Dordt College Homecoming Week 1992 begins February 17, with something each day leading to the highlights of Saturday, February 22.

Monday night is "Black and White Night" as the Dordt College basketball team takes on Nebraska Wesleyan at home. Fans can show their school spirit by wearing black, white, and yellow.

Tuesday Distinguished Alumni Series speaker Dr. Harvey Blankespoor will address the campus community in the chapel at 10:20 a.m. and will present a public address in S-101 at 7:30 p.m.

Dr. Blankespoor was awarded the 1991 CASE Professor of the Year award. Blankespoor is the Frederic Garret and Helen Floor Dekker Professor of Biology at Hope College in Holland, Michigan. He attended Dordt College in the early 1960's. He completed his B.A. at Westmar College in Le Mars. He received his M.S. and Ph.D. from Iowa State University. In addition to teaching at Hope College Blankespoor researches life-threatening parasites.

Wednesday, February 19, has the faculty playing against the students in a basketball game in the gym at 9:00 p.m.

Thursday, the Quiz Bowl tests the knowledge of Dordt faculty and students. This activity will take place in C-160 at 8:30 p.m.

Friday's activities include your choice of a Lady Defender basketball game at home against Huron College or a Dordt College Hockey game against Carleton College at 8:15 p.m. on the home ice in Worthington, Minnesota. A post-game dance will be held at Riley's in Sheldon at 10:30 p.m.

Saturday the fun begins at 7:00 p.m. in the Dordt College gym with alumni basketball players vs. the junior varsity team. A slam dunk contest follows before the 8:00 p.m. men's varsity basketball game against North Central. At 5:00 p.m. alumni may enjoy an informal dinner and The Talent Extravaganza hits the spotlight at 7:30 p.m. in the college chapel, followed by an ice cream social in the commons.

International T-shirt sales

Help promote cross-cultural awareness and understanding on campus and around the globe by purchasing an All Peoples Fit at Dordt T-shirt next week. Help promote cross-cultural awareness and understanding on campus and around the globe by purchasing an All Peoples Fit at Dordt T-shirt next week. Help promote cross-cultural awareness and understanding on campus and around the globe by purchasing an All Peoples Fit at Dordt T-shirt next week. Help promote cross-cultural awareness and understanding on campus and around the globe by purchasing an All Peoples Fit at Dordt T-shirt next week. Help promote cross-cultural awareness and understanding on campus and around the globe by purchasing an All Peoples Fit at Dordt T-shirt next week.
by Juli Kelderman

“What do hyperbole, parable, cartoon, sarcasm, parody, spoof and allegory have to do with the Kingdom of God?” asks Jeff Miller, director of The Refreshment Committee. In answer to his own question, Miller says, “Most have been used in the Bible quite dramatically as corrective weapons, verbal and visual object lessons...the weapons have been wielded by those who see the shortcomings but care deeply about that community just the same.”

The Refreshment Committee is a non-profit, Minneapolis-based theatre company who take a different look at Christians in a little different light than normal. The four actors, pianist and technician will be presenting Hot Under The Collar this Saturday, February 15, in C160. That’s what The Refreshment Committee does—points out various quirks about Christianity through music and theatre. According to Miller, its goal, however, is not to criticize, but rather “to bring our audiences to a greater, more personal realization of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.”

Hot Under The Collar is one of ten original scripts by The Refreshment Committee. It is described as “a musical, satirical, serio-comic religious revue (sort of) touching on singles, theology, aerobics, hymns, couples, nature foods, pastors, opometry, fish bumper stickers, heaven, Mazdas, sermons, Santa Claus, failure, forgiveness and Oprah.”

In addition to national and local tours and resident productions, The Refreshment Committee also has a weekly live radio show. “Sunday Night!” is broadcast nationally, and can be heard locally Sunday evenings at 9:00 on KNWC.

Dordt’s theatre department heartily recommends everyone see Hot Under The Collar. Admission is free—just be in the door by 8 p.m. After all, as Miller reminds us, “Jesus said He who has ears, let him hear.”

Linguists emphasize missions

by Jennifer Dyke

On February 4 and 5, students experienced the reality of linguistics throughout the world.

Larry Allen and Ralph Hill, two Wycliffe translators, spent two days giving lectures and various seminars on campus that dealt with the need for Bible translators in the field of missions. This has been a Dordt tradition for the past eighteen years and has been dubbed “Hug-a-Linguist Day.” The purpose is to give a study break to students who are in linguistics or taking a foreign language, and to fill that break with a meaningful experience with practical linguistics. The purpose is also, according to Dr. Case Boot, “to get people to share their culture and show the need for missions.” The Bible has been translated into only about 3,000 languages, while there are over 6,000 languages known in the world.

Allen and Hill were able to come to Dordt since they were both on furlough from the Philippines and the Ivory Coast. These are people who “dig deeply into the meaning of scripture,” said Boot. “We can appreciate their perspective since they’ve had so much experience.”

Allen and Hill made it clear to the students through their lectures that there are various needs in missions. They not only emphasized Wycliffe, but also made clear the need for other workers in the mission field, such as teachers, artists, pilots. As for the students’ reaction, freshman Christina Bulsma commented, “I liked the monolingual demonstration the best. It showed how hard it is to translate a language that has never been written down.”

Where there is an enthusiastic response to missions, Dr. Boot added, “anything is possible.”

Confronting computer culture

Dr. Allen Emerson, teacher of developmental mathematics at Calvin College, was on campus Monday and Tuesday to speak to students and faculty. He addressed the topics “Confronting the Computer Culture,” “Adjusting to the Age of the Computer,” and “Preserving our Humanity in an Age of Technology.”

Dr. Emerson and his wife, Cheryl Forbes, are co-authors of the book The Invasion of the Computer Culture: What You Need To Know About The New World We Live In. From this book springs the ideas Emerson addressed at this Lecture Series.

According to Emerson, “Computers are not just tools, not simply machines. They create a whole new environment.” The issue surrounding computers is what they may mean about us, about ourselves. “They make us reveal what we think of rationalism, and as Christians, we must not simply huddle with the humanists in accepting common approaches.”

Emerson said Christians are noticeably silent in discussions of the broader effects of computers on people of all ages, especially children. The lectures called students, parents, and, on a broader scale, academia in general, to consider the many roles of computer technology in their lives. “Thoughtful Christians are not seeking to meet these many challenges.” Emerson said, “Intellectually responsible Christians should enter this milieu and have some input as to how we can deal with these effects and where we should turn in the future.”

Emerson also spoke about the effects computers have on people of all ages. He looked at several case studies of people who were obsessed with computers to the point where they would describe themselves and their relationships in computer-type language and would prefer spending time with computers to anything else—even spending time with their families. This sickness, called “techno-stress,” is different from people with the more familiar obsessive-compulsive disorder, as people with techno-stress would not spend excessive amounts of time at work if it didn’t involve computers.

Emerson went on to trace the effects computers have on people from childhood. Since the computer can seem so smart and work interactively, many children confuse it with a life form. In a survey done on children from 8 to 11 years old, 90% thought that the biggest difference between humans and computers was that humans have feelings. Emerson also pointed out that attitudes children take toward computers influence their relationships with computers as adults.
The Hockey Controversy

Authorities sideline team after fans display "People grew up with wrestling and basketball, and they see all the pads in hockey and figure it's a bad game."

by Alida Van Dijk

Friday, January 31, UNI visited Worthington, MN, to play the Dordt College Blades. Although UNI won by a score of 7-2, the highlights of the game do not occur only on the ice. For many Blades supporters, the game will be remembered not only for the performance of the team but also for what has been labelled as irresponsible and uncontrolled behavior of many fans. Aided by the effects of alcohol, the Dordt's fans chanted obscenities and called UNI opponents rude names.

Though the fans involved may shrug their behavior off as one of boisterous fun, they may not realize or do not stop to think at the time that their actions had further implications and consequences. Because of the fans' behavior, the Blades were prohibited from making their annual road trip to UNI and, consequently, forced to forfeit the two scheduled games.

Letters, phone calls and outside pressure from angry patrons, students and faculty after the Friday night game led to the administration's decision last Wednesday to cancel the Blades' weekend series. Coach Theo Polet argued that some fans were saying that the team was banned so that it would hopefully have an effect on the fans' behavior at games and take responsibility for their actions.

At a team meeting last Thursday, the Blades acknowledged the responsibility of the college to address concerns raised by the college's supporters, even though they were disappointed with the decision. At the meeting, Polet recognized that Kroeze has to do his job, but he questions how effective the decision will be in deterring the offenders. Questions were raised by team members as to how punishing the team by canceling two games that were in UNI would affect the fans who caused the problem in the first place. Goalie Chris Hull said, "What's been learned? All we did was stay home with our friends. Who was hurt for the fans' actions? We were." Two-year veteran Ron Veerbeek suggested that "maybe we should ban the fans for a game to see how they feel about not being able to attend."

Polet said, "Once the puck drops we have a hockey game to play. We cannot control the fans. We cannot hold the team responsible for something we have little control of."

Tuesday evening on the phone, Kroeze told sports editor Matt Bejmers, "Dordt College cannot support a sport which harbors excesses of violence and foster rude behavior."

Coach Polet said, "The Blades want to discourage people from drinking at the games or from arriving at the games drunk. The Blades do not want to see drunk fans. We will do what is in our power to stop that aspect of the hockey game." Polet continued, "We want our fans to have fun, but if they are going to break the law by drinking under age or misbehaving because they are drunk, then they should stay home."

Many of the Blades feel frustrated with the situation. They feel that the bad reputation of Dordt's hockey team from as long as 10 years ago has created a stereotype of violent games and wild hockey players. Defenseman Doug VanderVeld said, "A lot of people do not understand that hockey is a contact sport."

Chris Hull said, "Many of the players grew up with hockey, and hitting is part of the sport. It has as much contact as other sports. People grew up here with wrestling and basketball, and they see all the pads in hockey and figure it is a bad game."

Many of the freshmen and sophomores on the team have expressed concern over what the team's standing will be in the league for next year.

Freshman Hendrik Wildeboer asked, "What will this mean for the guys that want to play next year?" Though the league commissioner has made a verbal commitment to Dordt's administration that the Blades will still be in league next year, captain Ed Minderhoud suggested at the team meeting that Kroeze should get that commitment in writing due to the number of teams who want to enter the league. A major concern is the future of the team and that if the league decides that Dordt's participation is too unreliable, their spot may be given to a different team.

Contact, Not Violence

Although most of the letters and phone calls of the fans were expressed about the fan support, a few people pointed out that they saw the Blades' on-ice activities as exhibitions of poor sportsmanship. The Blades see such comments as examples of the lack of knowledge that some fans have about the game of hockey. Polet points out that when the team captain talks to the referee after the whistle, it is not poor sportsmanship, but, rather, the leader of the team just doing his job. The captain is not disputing with the referee but simply trying to find out why a penalty was given.

The Blades also feel that fans may misinterpret the checking that occurs during games as violence because they do not understand the rules of contact hockey. Coach Polet says, "We play the game with respect and the way we know how. The way we play is the strongest statement we can make; we just have to transcend the problem."

However, Blades members feel that forbidding the Blades to participate in two games at UNI takes away the Blades' opportunity to prove their sportsmanship on ice in an environment where few fans would be present. It is clear that Dordt College must deal with the problem and complaints about the presence of alcohol among the fans at hockey games, but first year defensemen Betmers and Viski said, "The biggest thing is your [the Blades'] on-ice behavior, and also that if there is supervision, then you need someone who is in charge. Someone who is not afraid to deal with unruly fans."

Though many fans conduct themselves in courteous, sportsmanlike ways, there are always the few who cannot. If certain fans cannot behave responsibly and maturely on their own, then the Blades suggest that perhaps extra security and extra staff are needed to help them in dealing with what will be a growing problem if not dealt with immediately.

The next big test for the Blades—and fans—will be this weekend when they face longtime rival Drake Bulldogs. Face off will be at 8:15 on Friday evening and Saturday afternoon at 2:00. The Blades have been permitted to complete their season this year without missing any more games due to fan behavior.

-Sincerely, Theo C. Polet
(Volunteer Coach)
Dear Editor,

Last Saturday, February 1, I went to Worthington to watch the Dordt Blades' game against UNI. Knowing UNI to be the toughest team in the division, I expected the Blades to be defeated. But so what? After all, defeat is no big deal. Nevertheless, the kind of defeat I met in Worthington was unlike anything I was prepared for.

Since the team had bus trouble on the way, I arrived at the ice arena about 20 minutes before game time. Not wanting to sit in the cold stands any longer than I had to, I stayed outside by the concession stand. Two local gentlemens were talking about Dordt's game the night before. "I didn't know you could fit that many penalties into one game," exclaimed the one. "It was terrible."

"Is it true the refs refused to ref the game?"

"Well, they're going to ref today's game yet, but that's all. I can't blame them. Last night, there had been so much fighting they called the game. Just sent 'em home. Can't blame 'em. I've never seen such a bunch of hoodlums."

As the talk continued, I edged closer to the two men. Finally, I was standing close enough to ask them what the problem had been—and had it been the fans or the players who had caused all the trouble? It was a few of the players, but the fans mostly," said the man who had seen the game. He continued, "You know how it is, here you got a bunch of kids from this religious college. They're supposed to be goody-goodies, but when they get twenty miles out of town, and nobody's watching them, they can't control themselves."

The truth is we have a bunch of good kids who come to the games hop- ing to see a fight instead of a regulation game? Our hockey program seems to have dug itself a hole and has no idea how to get out of it. That's why the fans seem as though they might be just as happy if the Dordt Blades helped with the construction of the facilities.

And yes, the UNI team was rough. Andrew Dykstra came home Saturday with a very sore shoulder. But how should we expect our opponents to play when one of our own player's claim to fame seems to be his regular temper tantrums, or when fans come to games hoping to see a rough game? The game began—not a game of wholesome competition, but a mean, rough game. UNI players and Dordt players alike slammed each other against the walls. Fans quickly found a name for the biggest of the UNI players—"Porkchop"—and they used the term whenever he was on the ice.

A Dordt player lost his temper, seemingly to win approval by the fans. Some responded as he had hoped. "Rah, rah roe tum—kick 'em in the knee."

The UNI fans glared at the group, offended.

"Rah, rah, rass-kick 'em in the other knee."

"It's easy to egg 'em on."

"You fans or the players who had suffered the bigger loss: The college lost its fans and its reputation. The Blades helped with the construction of the facilities.

Finally, the game ended. One of the UNI fans, a woman whose face was white with anger, walked a few steps over to the "rah, rah" section and said to them, "You people are animals and don't deserve any respect." I didn't know whether to hide in embarrassment, or to go over to shake her hand. A second later she disappeared into the crowd, so I didn't have to make the decision.

Now I expect there must be some who would say my assessment is unfair. I have tried, however, to report things as accurately as possible, without coloring the events in any way.

Some say the refs have been unfair and deserve to be heckled. But should we expect the refs to react kindly to our team when its fans come to the game drunk, loud, and rude? At this point the Worthington arena staff seem as though they might be just as happy if the Dordt Blades helped with the construction of the facilities.

And yes, the UNI team was rough. Andrew Dykstra came home Saturday with a very sore shoulder. But how should we expect our opponents to play when one of our own player's claim to fame seems to be his regular temper tantrums, or when fans come to games hoping to see a fight instead of a skillfully played game?

Dordt lost the game Saturday, 14-5, a whopping loss. But the loss was nothing compared to the bigger loss. The college lost more than a game. They lost more than a couple of referees for their upcoming games. If the assessment of the two gentlemen by the concession stand was correct (Dordt students are only "good" when they are on campus), then our very reason for existence is in serious jeopardy.
"NOTICE FROM THEM BUSINESS OFFICE—
Friday, January 24 will be the last day
to change your meal plan. Please
Double check the meal charge on your
registration from
if it is not the
plan you want call the
Business Office at 722-6018. NO
EXCEPTIONS WILL BE
MADE AFTER FRI-
DAY."

Quote taken from the
TODAY. Makes you won-
der how many excep-
tions they made
before Friday...

"Go to the left, but
not too far or you’ll
get the finger."
David Mahaffy teach-
ing Tanja Yarboro how
to use the Macintosh
computers.

"Lou Ann, you really
know how to score,
don’t you?"
Remark to Lou Ann
Bolkema from Dr.
Vander Stelt referring
to her position on the
basketball team.

"She makes funny
noises when you
squeeze her."
Arno Van Zoeren
talking about a girl
from Northwestern.

"Now, let me show
you the sounds that
they make when you
squeeze them."
Arno Van Zoeren,
demonstrating.

"It’s Jimmy Carter!"
Tricia Kooiker
exclaimed this upon
opening the Diamond
to Brad Weidenaar’s
"Free Press".

"They found a mum-
mified hot dog with
a bun around it."
Dr. Ed Geels in
organic chemistry
explaining why land-
fills don’t always work
well. This hot dog of
which he speaks is
from the 1950s.

"For all we know,
Mr. Tumnus could
have been at Wal-
Mart... of course,
ot in Narnia."
Professor Joan
McCarthy talking in
children’s literature
about The Lion, the
Witch, and The
Warrobe.

"I can pee faster
than you can move."
Lynn Veurink yelling
at one of his room-
mates on his way off
campus for weekend
activities.

"I’ve had so many
sex changes this
week I don’t even
know what I am
anymore."
Sandra De Jong
referring to how she
has to be both female
and male in square
dance class.

"Alisa, you sound
like you’re having a
child."
Matt Beimers making
fun of Alisa Siebenga’s
laugh.

"This is the only
place quiet that I
could find to study."
Sandy Byl studying in
the bathtub.

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FAUX PAS FOR THE WEEK

The faux pas for the
week goes to organist
Dr. Joan Ringerwole who
played Be Thou My
Vision during an offering
for Braille Bibles.

In this
Diamond issue,
you will find an
interesting
guest editorial
from Dordt’s worldview
and the legalization of
alcohol on
campus. I don’t use the word
interesting
discreetly, as if
the editorial is a cute piece
which didn’t quite fit the bill for the
issue. This is a serious edito-
rial. If a lack of consistency
between Dordt’s world-
view has ever manifested itself,
I have been in the form of our
abstinence policy regarding alco-
hol.

Chuck and I had a number of
conversations over the writing
and publication of the editorial.
At no point did we ever consider
not writing on the subject. It was
designed to be: That are being
contradicted in our absti-
nence policy is something which
needs to be written and discussed. I’ll
go to my grave believing that.

Except for my occasional
profane language, our conversa-
tions were not aggressive or
rebellious in any form. We con-
sidered the various aspects of
this topic, including alcohol’s
positive part on exten-

d. Dordt’s statement of purpose
claiming a so-called “consistent”
workview, and the contradiction
we are living with these absti-
nence rules applied to all stu-
dents. It became apparent to
both Chuck and myself that by
allowing these abstinence poli-
cies to continue (even if they
lead to the greatest degree of
control and order), we are simply
repressing a portion of creation.
Repressing creation? Doesn’t
sound nice, does it? I wonder
how many times John Calvin
would roll over in his grave if he
heard these tidings of comfort.

Yes, we are repressing creation
in allowing these rules to con-
tinue, and you can read Chuck’s
editorial and the Word of God for
more information. However,
for the sake of being holistic and
fair, I’m going to address another
type of repression, that is,
student’s repression of a creati-
ional norm: responsibility.

Now, pardon me for sounding
too pious, but I’m not going to
risk my integrity over this alcohol
issue without honestly address-
ing the other systemic problem
problem concerning alcohol use
at Dordt. Talking straight, dozens
of students at Dordt aren’t
responsible drinkers, and alcohol
abuse is a festering, sick problem
on (and usually off) campus. A
great tragedy which arises from
this abuse is the drinking regulat-
ions which result. Inevitably,
these restrictions are put on all
students and, horribly, they
repress creation in the working.

So you see, a conflict of inter-
est is at hand. While Dordt is
repressing creation with its strin-
gent regulations regarding absti-
nence, students repress biblical
noms of responsible, Christ-like
behavior. Some would argue
that students react to that same
rules while others say the rules
are because of student’s obvious
immature behavior. Whitewash the case, the cases of Lite
are bought and students continually fade off into
the twilight zone we call intoxica-
tion. No matter what we argue,
it’s true that many students
drink heavily. Chuck and I can
walk around as slick exegetes
and bask in the glory of our sup-
posedly profound insights on
alcohol’s place in creation. But
we both hear the weekend sto-
rises, tales of pit party adventures
where the booze becomes the
electricity for laughter and the
offering of warm Bodies for tem-
porary, ice-coated affection.

If Dordt leaders admit that our
claim of being “consistent” and
biblical is actually somewhat
inconsistent and misleading, we
will be on the road to a new
understanding of the difficult
position we are in. We can’t sit
around, content to let this in-
sistency sit because everyone
else does. Alcohol is as potential-
y God-glorifying as a walk in the
park, an evening worship service,
or Sex. And we are repressing it.

Currently we are sitting some-
where between a rock and a
hard place, the rock being the
college’s strict rules repressing
alcohol, and the hard place being
nothing other than a plethora of students who abuse
alcohol and couldn’t care less
about doing so.

That’s the scoop. Like it or not,
that’s as biblical a look as you
can give or take. How to resolve
the two problems is a question the
college will inevitably have to
answer itself. Definitely, student
responsibility and discipline
towards each other will have to
increase (increase what a pitfall
understatement). And, of course,
we must develop a new under-
standing of alcohol and its God-
given place in creation. The cre-
ation should continue to
regain, not repress.
On Grading Students, Not Eggs

I have insisted that if we are to develop a Christian approach to education we should have a Christian way of evaluating or grading students. The present system grades students the same way we grade eggs—that cold, numerical, neutral way. Sometime ago a student who was very upset with the grade I assigned him "accused" me of grading students on the basis of their attitude, not the academic performance. I should have assigned him a higher grade just for recognizing it and making, probably, his first contribution to the educational experience of that class. Christian education is a communal experience. Professors are nothing else than facilitators for the educational process. We are learning together. The moment that I have nothing to learn in the courses I am "teaching," I will quit my job. The learning experience involves a complex process of gathering basic information in a dynamic environment. The dualistic view that defines teaching and research as two totally separate activities, is perhaps one of the causes of failure of our scientific educational system.

There seems to exist a discontinuity of the approaches used between grade school and grade school. In grade school one learns by playing. In grad school one uses research (an adult designation for the word playing). Alternatively, in high school and college one seems to think that one is too old to learn by playing and too young to learn by doing research. We continue to use inadequate techniques, the spoon-fed approach. And the worst part about this is that the students seem to enjoy it. I encourage you to discuss this topic. For now, I just want to share with you the following quotation from Tina Juarez, about the grading systems.

To assign grades is to attach labels to students' learning abilities. In the normative grading system commonly used in public education, it is expected that a certain percentage of students will fail. Grading serves to identify those students; indeed, it often creates them.

On Pascal: Boldness and Balance

Have you ever read Blaise Pascal? Pascal (1623-1662) has a timeless relevance to any serious Christian thinker. Pascal's desire for balance, together with his boldness, is very rare today. I am tired of radicals. Pascal was always trying to strike a balance with boldness and substance. It was his fate always to be caught between the finite and the infinite, between misery and grandeur, between reason and heart, between reason and authority. After his conversion at the age of thirty-one, Pascal records how his mind blazed with the burning conviction of being overwhelmed with light. During this coming spring break, try to read the "Pensees" or the "Provincial letters." I hope and pray that you too will have the same conviction.

On Faraday Versus Calvin

The bicentennial anniversary of Michael Faraday's birth has been marked by a remarkable series of celebrations. You've never heard of Faraday? I am sorry, he was not Dutch, not CRC, but he was a Christian, a Calvinist, and perhaps one of the most important scientists of modern science. Physicists, chemists, and electrical engineers look back on Faraday as a worthy pioneer. He formulated the laws of electromagnetic induction and did the groundwork necessary to make electric motors and transformers. He was a committed Christian, and saw no conflict between his religious beliefs and his activity as a scientist and a philosopher. He viewed his discoveries of nature's laws as part of the continual process of reading the Bible to discover God's laws. Why then, do we always have to listen only to theologians? The Christian community will really contribute to the advance of the gospel in this world must serve the Christian education we should have.

Let Us Get Involved: I Am Tired Of Talking

"Indeed, the kingdom of heaven is not of this world. But it does demand that everything in this world must serve it. It is exclusive and jealous, and it will indulge no independent or neutral kingdom of the world alongside of itself. Naturally, it would be much easier to leave this age to its own ways, and seek our strength in a quiet withdrawal. No such rest, however, is permitted to us here. Our warfare may be conducted against sin alone. No matter how complicated the relationships may be, no matter how serious, the difficult and insurmountable the social, political, and especially the scientific problem may be, it were faithlessness and weakness in us proudly to withdraw from the struggle, and reject the culture of the age as demoniac." As for you who are watching me and wondering what is the next un-reformed idea of Mr. Vander Kreek, I want to mention to you that you have just read Herman Bavinck...once again.

The Powers That Be or A Fairy Tale for Dordt

Brad Weidenaar

Once upon a time not so long ago in a place not so far away there lived a young woman named Change. Change was a rather enterprising young maid who came from religious and upright parents. Because her parents were religious and upright, they followed the custom of sending their children to college when they reached the age of near maturity, off for education. It was the custom in the land to send young maids and gents off to the Center for Development of Religious Deeds and Thoughts (or CDORDT for short).

Change packed and headed out for the customary education. When she arrived on the campus of CDORDT, Change was impressed by the new-fangled buildings and concepts. She was more impressed by the endless flow of music that delighted her ear. This music seemed to emanate from the people, the buildings, the ideas and the concepts—not always in harmony. Entranced by the music, she followed it in hopes of finding the source. She possessed secret dreams of singing the song like everyone around her.

One warm spring day a man of grayshay pallor stood up before the students and announced that everyone should share in the singing of the song. All students nodded in agreement. Change looked around and noticed that some of the students weren't actually nodding in agreement, but in sleep. At a second glance she noted the ones that were nodding their heads vigorously, and it seemed that they were on the periphery of the crowd.

Change's insides shivered and her mind spun as she looked around. She had to do something. She must live up to her name. This music could not be left to fall on deaf ears. This music must play on.

Change approached the man of grayshay pallor to tell him of the problem, but he was busy with new visitors. The man of grayshay pallor was no longer singing the beautiful song, but speaking in long words that were structured so that little or no music could be heard. Change thought that she heard the music, but she wasn't quite sure. If it was behind these long words, it sounded worn and tired. Then Change saw that the new visitors gave the man of grayshay pallor coins and that there were little packages that they gave him.

Change sat down and patiently waited for the new visitors to leave. After they were gone she approached the man. Change asked the man, "Why do you stop singing when you talk to the money givers?"

"Because they must talk structure with money givers," replied the man.

"But don't they understand the music?"

"They understand the music, but only if it has its order," replied the man.

"Why does the music have to have their order? Our order reflects good thinking."

"They fear your order because it is new," replied the man.

"They will not give money unless the old way is used?"

"You understand. We call it complicated," said the man.

Change was appalled. She wanted all music. She began to write against CDORDT saying that they didn't have enough song and that the songs that were sung were of poor quality or old. Then Change realized that the sleeping nodders were still sleeping and that the man of grayshay pallor couldn't hear because he was busy collecting coins from the new visitors. Overcome by non-listeners Change sat down for the first time, put her head in her hands and cried.

Change hadn't been crying long when she realized that this was the way it had to be. The man of grayshay pallor could not sing a beautiful song because it would be new and that would scare the new visitors; if the new visitors heard a new song they would be scared; they would not give their coins. Without coins the education would stop.

Change wept at the situation she surveyed, for she now realized that in order to be the person she was, she would have to struggle with the powers that be.
Lady Defenders back on winning track

by Mike Byker

The Dordt College Lady Defenders took on teams headed in different directions to start the month of February.

Wireless Briar Cliff came to Sioux Center to face a Lady Defender team that had been having some troubles. The Lady Defenders opened the game with a 12-4 lead before the Chargers were able to cut the margin to 13-11. But the Black and White proceeded to stretch the lead to 23-11 and closed the half with a 2-2 run to put them well in control 33-19 at the break.

Not much changed in the second half as Dordt ran off another 10 points to stretch the lead to 43-19. Dordt never looked back in a 65-47 win. Beth Hollander threw in 21 points with Lou Ann Bolkema and Lisa Wubben getting a piece. Saturday, February 1, saw the Defenders head to Orange City to take on the Lady Red Raiders of Northwestern College. The Lady Raiders had beaten Dordt in overtime earlier in the year when the teams met in Sioux Center, so this was a chance for the Lady Defenders to get some revenge.

Both teams started the game sluggishly as the score stood 4-0 in Dordt’s favor with thirteen minutes left in the first half. From this point both teams proceeded to get their offenses going. The Raiders went on a 10-2 tear over two minutes to take a commanding 26-16 lead with 5:30 left in the half. The Lady Defenders were able to take three points off the lead to go into the locker rooms down by seven, 57-30.

The second half saw little change for the women from Sioux Center as the Lady Raiders stretched the lead up to a dozen, 46-34. Dordt was able to get the lead under double digits on several occasions, but Northwestern would run the lead back up, denying the Lady Defenders a chance to get back into the game.

Finally, with 2:43 left in the game Dordt was able to put a 13-4 spurt together to cut the lead to 61-59. Dordt was unable to capitalize in the remaining two minutes as Northwestern held on for a 67-63 victory.

On rubber tires and metal skates

by Matthew Beimers

The last time I really got in trouble, I mean really got in problem was when I was in grade 12. Old Mr. De Groot gave me a $75 fine for letting all the air out of the school bus tires to the hopes of having a free day off. We got caught because when you’re in grade 12 and you pull off a move like that you have to tell everybody. Eventually word got around to our trusted vice-principal who made me and Jeff partner in crime to pay for the two air trucks it took to go around to get these buses off to school.

Sitting in his office he told him it was like Hitler's Germany where we had no control over. Not only me, but nearly twenty individuals.

When someone calls their mom and tells them that they feel guilty because they drank at a hockey game and says it was because of the hockey team, who would have thought that parent would call Dr. Hulst and yell “My daughter drank because of the hockey team”? No Mom, I am sorry but your child, like any other student who drinks, does so out of her will, not because there is a team on the ice. People have been driven to drink for many reasons, but because of a hockey team (Are they that bad?) Injustice bounces off the walls.

When Dr. Hulst then calls administration up and tells him that the school has to be seen as dealing with the alcohol on campus, you would think that something would be done in reaction to the fans “un-Dordt-like” behavior, maybe breachalizers or tightened security. To ban the team from playing because of their supporters seems tame and ignorant. Even more ignorant is when the administration gives out a statement which says “the school cannot condone a sport...which harbors violence.” Hmm...

Believe it or not, the hockey that the Blades play IS NOT violent. There is a line between hockey being a contact sport and a violent sport. Anyone who has even a simplified idea of what contact (Key word) hockey consists of knows that the Blades play a hard hitting type of game. Violent? If the Blades went around decapitating players like the fans wanted them to, then it would be violent, but to label a game “violent” because their players juking and harassing each other does not gel with how members of the Blades were taught to play. That means, in comparison, that every time Jim Dirkse gets slide tackled or Craig Veurink gets an elbow and than the crowd reacts, those players should be under the scrutiny of administration. Or, better yet (and you’ll think I’m joking) I challenge anyone to see seven or eight games of hockey that does not make fighting right and I’m not looking for justification for rough housing. All I hope is that is that the hockey game in Worthington was not out of hand (the on ice actions). Emotions were obviously high and that makes it easy to get out of hand, which makes me think that game had the potential to turn into a violent match. But it did not.

Any sporting team is responsible for the product they put on the field, the court, or the ice. All we can do is ask for that team to play like they have been taught how to play. Just remember what sport they are playing and the context in which it is being played. The Dordt Blades have been doing that all year long, just like the soccer and basketball teams have done. To suspend a team over something they have little control of seems to be taking the wrong approach.

So where does the problem lie? In the fans attitudes and the administrations logic. Hmmm...

(Views expressed here are solely that of the writer and do not necessarily represent the views of the Dordt Blades Hockey Club.)
Defenders face tough opposition

by Joel Faber

The Dordt Defenders record fell to 8-12 Tuesday evening as they lost their fourth game in five tries. Three out of the four losses came against squads which are ranked in the top twenty in NAIA Division II and III. Dordt was in tough against Briar Cliff (#11, Div III), Northwestern (#5), and Dakota Wesleyan (#11).

Their first loss came to Dana College in a game in which Brian Driesen hit 8 three pointers and tallied 32 points. Driesen’s effort fell short as the Defenders lost 94-90. Brian Sipma added 16 points in the contest.

Then the Defenders traveled to Orange City to face the Red Raiders of Northwestern. The tough black and gold stuck with the Raiders in the first half and went into the locker room four points down. The Defenders couldn’t hold on in the second half as they only shot 36% from the field.

The game ended with Dordt losing 93-74. Driesen led the Defenders with 14 points. Brian Sipma and Mark Van Gorp had 13 and 12 points respectively.

On Wednesday, the Defenders were in the confines of their own gym where they took on the Trojans from Dakota State. Driesen led the team with 23 points. Dave Van Essen threw in 22 points and pulled in 21 rebounds while Van Gorp added an impressive 18 boards. The Defenders held on to win 91-77.

On Saturday evening the Defenders took on the Briar Cliff Chargers trying to avenge an earlier loss by 13. The Defenders trailed by only 4 points at half but the strong Briar Cliff line up pulled away and won 88-60. Van Essen led the team in scoring with 18 and Van Gorp added 14.

Track team shatters records

by Matthew Beimers

It’s a new year, the snow is out and track and field is in. Dordt College’s 1992 track squad is bigger and better than last year and with the season a month old, records have already been broken.

Coach Goheen and his athletes have been working hard ever since school has been back in session. The team is training 3 times a week and usually has an indoor meet on Saturdays.

Last weekend the team travelled to participate in the Wayne State College Open where some impressive results were attained.

Freshmen shot putter Theresa Van Zee, who attended Pella Christian, placed second in the event but more impressively shattered Dordt’s indoor record. With a throw of 40.1, Van Zee is well on her way to a great career in Dordt track.

Fran Ton, who last year travelled to Texas for the outdoor national meet, finished third in the 800 meters with a time of 2:34. Younger sister Irene, a freshman, placed second in the 1000 meters, with an impressive time of 3:28. She was two seconds behind the front runner but an incredible 15 seconds separat-
ed her and the third place finisher.

Lisa Van Denend, who is spending some time training for a half-marathon, placed first overall in the 3000 metre run, running twenty seconds ahead of the next runner. Van Denend also placed third in the 1500m with a time of 5:29.

Another freshman, Ria Los, qualified third overall in the 55m with a time of 7.9, but was not able to compete in the final due to a nagging injury. She also placed third in the long jump, only four inches behind the first place competitor.

On the men’s side, Jeff De Koter tore up the track in the 200m with a new Dordt indoor record of 24.75, good for a second place finish. De Koter also ran in the 55m, where he was also second with a time of 6.8.

Randy Van Genderen and Kyle Jansen placed third and fourth in the Long Jump. Van Genderen also placed fourth in triple jump. Freshman Scott Coleman placed fourth in the 1000 meters, with a time of 3:00.

Homecoming weekend, the team travels to Bethel College in the Twin Cities where they will be in for their toughest competition of the indoor season.

SCOREBOARD

Scores:

Men’s Basketball

Dordt 90 vs Dana 94
(Driesen 32; Sipma 16)
Dordt 74 vs Northwestern 93
(Driesen 14; Sipma 13; Van Gorp 12)
Dordt 91 vs Dakota State 77
(Driesen 23; Van Essen 22, 21 reb.)
Dordt 60 vs Briar Cliff 88
(Van Essen 18; Van Gorp 14)
Dordt 84 vs Dakota Wesleyan 88
(Van Roekel 20)

Women’s Basketball

Dordt 65 vs Briar Cliff 47
(Holland 21; Bokema, Wubben 12)
Dordt 63 vs Northwestern 67
(Wubben 22, 12 reb.; Holland 17)
Dordt 56 vs Teikyo Westmar 51
(Holland 14; Bousma 12)

Upcoming:

Men’s Basketball
Sat., Feb. 15, 7:30 p.m. at Teikyo Westmar
Mon., Feb. 17, 7:00 p.m. vs Nebraska Wesleyan
Wed., Feb. 19, 7:30 p.m. at Grandview
Sat., Feb. 22, 1:00 p.m. Alumni vs. J.V.
Sat., Feb. 22, 3:00 p.m. vs North Central

Women’s Basketball
Sat., Feb. 15, 2:00 p.m. at Briar Cliff
Tues., Feb. 18, 7:00 p.m. vs Sioux Falls
Fri., Feb. 21, 7:00 p.m. vs Huron
Mon., Feb. 24, 7:00 p.m. vs Dana
Sat., Feb. 29 at Districts

Track
Sat., Feb. 22, 5:00 p.m. Indoor at Bethel (Minneapolis)
Mail: other college systems
(cont. from pg. 1)

college never presented itself as a problem. Kroeze said Dordt College seeks to "clarify the relationship between the college and the Postmaster as far as mail."

Since student accusations came to the attention of the Diamond, two editors of the Diamond sent for Frederick's of Hollywood and Victoria's Secret catalogs and both have been delivered without a delay or a call to the Dean's Office. The Dean commented that "since Thanksgiving, no mail has been brought to my attention."

Packages and the Mail

Students have also suggested that Dordt has opened packages before they were delivered to the students. Kroeze maintains that Dordt never opens any packages that are sent to students. He suggests that if students find that their packages or letters are opened upon arrival, they should report it to Bernie De Wit, Vice President for Business Affairs.

"I will take the responsibility. The mail service is under my supervision. Students should first confront Fred Haan, but then they may come to me," De Wit said. He also commented, "I hope nothing like that [the opening of letters and packages] is occurring."

Students may also report such occurrences to the Post Office who will then conduct an investigation, if requested.

Implications

Because of the forthcoming establishment of mail policy, the present system will be changed. The Diamond looked into various other college policies. According to Catherine Ristola-Blass, of Calvin College, "a student employee delivers the mail and each dorm has its own set of boxes. There is one box per room or apartment." Calvin picks up and sorts all its own mail, the Post Office has minimal involvement. According to Elaine Holland, of Northwestern College, "The mail is delivered by an employee of the college and only married students share a box together." Bethel College of St. Paul, Minn., also has its mail handled by both student and college employees. Each student, married or unmarried, has a separate box.

Regardless of which system the Federal Postal Inspector, the Sioux Center Postmaster, and Dordt College put in place, the policies regarding student mail delivery are being changed. Changes will be reported in upcoming issues.

Red Raider Airlines—we'll get you off the ground—the rest is up to you!

Harold's Jewelry—now open in the Centre Mall, invites you to stop in and see our awesome selection of engagement rings and wedding bands.

20% discount for all Dordt students!

open every night Mon. - Fri. until 9:00
open Sat. night until 6:00

Let's be Frank

Tomorrow is Valentine's Day, a day when you and your partner engage in the simple pleasures of being in love. These blissful moments are treasured for weeks to come and, hopefully, strengthen the stability of the relationship between the two of you.

This scenario only applies to those with boyfriends or girlfriends who have each other to share the moments with. I am one of those unlucky (perhaps) individuals who is forced to spend time with other single friends when those lucky others get to go to the Sweetheart Banquet.

I have some ideas I would like to share with you as to what the women on campus would like to have done for them on Valentine's Day.

Guys, if you really want to impress your woman, take out a mortgage for your Valentine celebrations. You don't even want to consider picking her up unless you have at least two dozen long-stemmed red roses in one hand, a box of expensive, fattening chocolates in the other hand, a tuxedo hanging on your body and tickets for the Sweetheart Banquet in your pocket (this is where the mortgage comes in).

There are those of you who will undoubtedly attempt to engage your woman for the bonds of matrimony. Do not spend less than $2000 on a ring. This will yield favorable results in your quest for matrimony.

For those of you who are not yet so inclined as to attempt this Dordt College maneuver, try something a bit less expensive for your date. You may want to try taking her to Hardee's drive-through and waxing a candle on the dash. Order yourself a burger, fries and a drink, and order her a glass of water. Drive into the parking lot, eat, and take her home. This way you get a cheap dinner, low gas costs (you could walk or bike), and you don't have to fork out any money on her.

There are those males here at Dordt who have a spot in their heart for the more chivalrous approach. You can borrow your roommate's car (he tried one of the above techniques last year), and reserve a booth in the backroom of Sandora's (or somewhere equally or more exotic), and have candles, soft music, champagne (unless you are at the hockey game), and enjoy a nice quiet evening appreciating each other's company.

A few closing hints for those of you who are real rookies in this area: DO NOT forget to serenade the wrong room. DO NOT go to the hockey game. and enjoy a dinner, low gas costs (you could walk or bike), in a restaurant where equally or more exotic), and have candles, soft music, champagne (unless you are at the hockey game), and enjoy a nice quiet evening appreciating each other's company.

These hints may lead to favorable results in next year's quest for matrimony.

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