Dordt College honored its 1997 Distinguished Alumnus, journalist Randy Palmer, during Homecoming week. Palmer graduated from Dordt in 1978 with degrees in history and social sciences. From there he moved on to Cambridge University where he earned a Master's Degree in Economics, then to the Columbia University School of Journalism where he received a Master's in journalism.

During the early 1980's, Palmer wrote for the Saudi Gazette in the Middle East. He worked in Beirut until the danger of being kidnapped became so great that he was forced to move to Bahrain.

While in the Middle East, Palmer covered major political and economic stories, including the 1984 explosion in Marine barracks in Beirut and the OPEC actions.

Palmer is presently Chief Canadian Political Correspondent for Reuter's, a British International News Service. Mostly off the record, sometimes controversial, Distinguished Alumnus Randall Palmer shares his views with the Dordt community.

Kok to replace Dr. K as Dean of Humanities

by Gena Koning
Staff Reporter

After a process of nominations, meetings and discussions, Dordt's Academic Council appointed Dr. John Kok to an initial three-year term as the Dean of Humanities. Kok takes on his new role June 1, following the retirement of current dean, Dr. James Koldenhoven.

As dean, Kok will play a leading administrative role among the eight departments within the humanities division. He will be instrumental in helping to develop curriculum, supporting faculty members and providing sound leadership. Kok will also stay in touch with students by continuing to teach a course in the philosophy department.

President Zylstra is pleased with the selection. He says that Kok is "a very perceptive man" and that he will "be able to carry [the job] out well." Zylstra also is pleased with the competent faculty at Dordt who are capable of filling such positions.

Kok obtained a bachelor's degree from Trinity Christian College in Palos Heights, Ill. He also holds a Ph.D. from the Free University of Amsterdam, where he also served as a research and faculty assistant until coming to Dordt in 1983.

He is the author of several books, including Vollenhoven: His Early Development, a study of the work of Dutch philosopher Dirk H.T. Vollenhoven, and Patterns of the Western Mind, which was recently published in South Africa by Potchefstroom University.

Kok lives in Sioux Center with his wife Suzanna, who is Dordt's academic coordinator for international and minority students. The couple has six children.
Homecoming centers around theme of "under construction"

The Defender basketball games last Saturday were the main events of homecoming. This year, homecoming week (Jan. 21-26) was also celebrated by several student activities during the week. Some of the events the Student Activities Committee planned for the week included Twister, gutter sundaes, a coffee house and other fun events.

A special scavenger hunt for the Dordt "cannon" also took place, with clues being given in the Today each morning. The prize for finding the cannon, which was located Tuesday, was $50.

The S.A.C. joined forces with the Alumni Office to produce other special events of the week including those involving the annual Distinguished Alumnus. New this year, a special Alumni variety show was held Saturday night, featuring the talents of many Dordt graduates.

A representative of the S. A. C. said that the student turnout to the events this year was great. Becky Starkenburg, who helped to organize the events, said, "The theme was a play on the construction that is going on around campus. It is important, however, for us to remember that we are a Christian community constantly being rebuilt, remodeled and renovated. Homecoming also provides an opportunity for fellowship and a chance to enjoy each other as a Christian community."

Alumni show there is life after Dordt

The atmosphere was nostalgic on Saturday night at the Alumni Variety Show. Old college roommates found that 15 or 20 years isn't so long ago, yet seems a lifetime away.

Present students looked into the eyes of those who had come before, those who had learned from the same teachers, slept in the same rooms, and fought the same stubborn closets.

The alumni had a chance to remember what it was like before. The students had a chance to glimpse what it might be like ahead.

Comedy League warmed up the audience bringing early laughs. Directly following this, Dordt's 1997 Distinguished Alumnus. Randall Palmer, was honored. He demonstrated flexibility, joking about being "on or off the record."

Next on the evening's agenda was the catchy barbershop quartet, Midwest Power and Light. Following these singers were a few tantalizing selections from this fall's Spectrum dance production.

Mark DuMez added more laughter and a bit of real life to the show with his "The Motley Intermezzo." The evening was capped off by the Alumni Choir, directed by theology professor and Dordt grad Syd Hielemo. The choir sang rousing renditions of Oliver! and a final chorus of the Dordt College Alma Mater.

Registrar Doug Eckardt led the evening as an emcee with his wonderful wit. His wit was enjoyable, but it was reminiscing and looking ahead that were key to the show's success.

Stealing the Spotlight

Mark the calendar for Saturday, Feb. 22, the date of Dordt's Talent Extravaganza '97. The theme for the evening is "Stealing the Spotlight," and things are really starting to come together for the most popular talent show of the year.

Auditions for the show will be held Feb. 4 and 5. The emcees chosen for this year's show are sophomores Amanda Haney and Aaron Lynch—not to mention "Buddy" the Dog.

The coordinators of the Talent Extravaganza were reluctant to dish out much information about the show. So at this point, all that is known is that big surprises are in order for the evening of Feb. 22 in the B.J. Haan Auditorium.
Choir cites private performance as tour highlight
by Sean Gregg
Staff Reporter

The Dordt College Concert Choir toured the Midwest during the recent semester break. The choir left for the eight-day tour on Jan. 6, and enjoyed good weather for the first day before having to contend with the cold and snow of the Midwest winter. They performed concerts and sang in school assemblies and church services in Des Moines, Iowa; Grand Rapids, Muskegon, Lansing, and Holland, Mich.; and Lansing, Ill.

For many, the highlight of the trip came on the first night at a mini-concert given for senior choir member Nate Schreur's dad, who suffers from Lou Gehrig's disease. The choir crowded into his home and sang several of the songs that they had prepared for the tour.

The lousy weather kept some people from attending the concerts, but director Benjamin Kornelis said that this did not seem to bother the choir too much. In fact, he said, their "best performances were to small crowds." Those who did make it out responded very favorably both in person after concerts and through letters and cards.

Kornelis said that he likes to plan "lots of diversity" into the tours. This stems from the large range of audiences. The choir sang songs composed by several writers, including Bach and Beaudrot. Of the songs slated for this tour the Choir's Favorites were Ave Maria and Abide With Me. According to Kornelis, Abide With Me took on a deep significance when sung for Mr. Schreur.

According to Kornelis, one-choir member described the tour by saying, "I feel like I've been with my family all week." The tour ended with a concert here in the B. J. Haan Auditorium, which was marked by mixed emotions among the members. The semester turnover of twelve students, the highest Kornelis has had, meant that this was the final concert for many.

Choir tour means long hours on the bus. Playing cards and sleeping, as Mark Rip does here, help to pass the time.

Dordt students participate in theatre conference
by Nikki Thomas
Production Editor

Once a year a group of students and faculty skip out on classes to attend the American College Theatre Festival conference. This year a group of eight people from Dordt headed off to Cedar Falls for the conference.

The conference was held on the campus of UNI this year and each day the group would walk between buildings to get to the various workshops and plays. Several students spent time learning how to sword fight in stage combat while others improved their voices by learning how to scream properly.

"The stage combat workshops were fun but after four of them with the same instructor who was full of British humor, I was ready to use my combat on the very person who had taught me," said junior Kostya Kekhaev. Students saw plays ranging from the serious Endgame by Samuel Beckett to Carol Wright Krause's high spirited play for Stuart Ross's musical Forever Plaid.

Not all the highlights of the weekend, however, came at the conference. Some came after the day was done. The group became regulars at the Barmers across from the hotel, discussing the plays and workshops over coffee and pie. They also enjoyed eating at The Broom Factory and trying a meat you don't often find in Iowa, alligator. The weekend ended with the world premiere of Passage Through the Heart. The playwright Roxanne Dawson, of Star Trek: Voyager fame, was even there to see her play performed. On the whole the group enjoyed the conference. "This was the best ACTF that I have been to so far," said senior Dirk Zwart.

Students reach out, experience poverty in Nicaragua
by Kendra Van Duyn
Staff Reporter

The AMOR group, along with Pastor and Mrs. Draayer and group leader Dan Allena, spent Dec. 28 through Jan. 11 on a farm about two and a half miles from Ntctoncno, Nicaragua.

AMOR's main project involved building a dining hall with an attached kitchen on the farm where they stayed. The location is becoming a teaching farm, demonstrating ways to enhance crop production and nutrition.

The students worked with the Spanish-speaking locals. Since only a few Dordt students could speak Spanish, they could only communicate through hand gestures.

Keith Hendricks also commented that the locals' work was very labor-intensive. For example, when they needed more boards, they cut down a tree. They also pounded out all the nails so they could be reused again. "It's unfortunate because they just don't have the resources they need," sympathized Hendricks.

Pastor Draayer commented, "Knowing about poverty is one thing. Experiencing it and seeing it with one's own eyes is quite another. In a country with an 80 percent unemployment rate, it is difficult for many people to be long-term thinkers and planners."

This was Draayer's first AMOR trip. The best experience for him was getting to know a few people of the community and gaining an appreciation for the Christian commitment and dedication of Chire, the man managing the farm. Draayer said it was a marvelous opportunity to reflect upon much that we take for granted. Additionally, we have much that we can learn from people from "less developed" countries. "Although I understand virtually no Spanish, it is not difficult to interpret the meaning of a smile," he said.

Choosing a Distinguished Alumni

What criteria do you think Dordt should use to choose the Distinguished Alumni?

Dan Howerzyl
Junior
Sully, IA

"How he or she has continued to support Dordt."?

Lisa Pool
Senior
Wyoming, ON

"They should look at the success of that person once they have left. Also, it should be someone who represents and supports Dordt well after graduation."

Erin Groen
Junior
Sioux Center, IA

"I don't think it necessarily has to be someone that is so prestigious, but it should be someone who lives out their Christian values in their vocation, so we can learn from their example."

Kurt Vos
Senior
Poulsbo, WA

"Someone who is making advances in their field from a reformed perspective."
I wasn't able to attend Chapel last Thursday, but apparently that doesn't matter much, because the whole speech was off the record and I'm not allowed to write about it anyway.

But I was in the Gen 300 class that met right after that, and we listened to the same guest speaker from that Chapel. That speech was also off the record, so I don't know exactly what I'm allowed to say about it. It is not my goal to get anyone in trouble.

I suppose my reactions are allowed, though. We were encouraged in class that day by our guest speaker to consider becoming journalists. This country is in desperate need of more Christians in the media—I'll agree with that. I'm a comm-journalism major myself. However, by the example of this speaker, I got the impression that we are not to really let people know, in our future journalistic endeavours, that we are Christians. Don't deny being one, but don't volunteer that you are, either.

I got the impression through this discussion with the speaker, and through others' reactions to him, that we are almost supposed to be Clark Kent Christians: doing good and helping to better the planet without revealing our secret Christian identity. We could get ourselves in big trouble—maybe even fired—if our bosses found out that we were being deliberately Christian.

I know that those who think they can do better the planet because the whole speech was off the record and I'm not allowed to write about it anyway.

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Free Press: What have we become?
by Doug Hausken
Columnist

The church today, as through the ages, needs to stress compassion rather than violence. But compassion does not often seem to be high on the church's list of priorities. Instead, the church, or at least most of the people in it, is too concerned with being safe, secure, and prosperous.

These Christians, including myself and probably you, choose actions that promote their own welfare and self-interests instead of promoting the Kingdom of God, which is the advancement of the Gospel.

One way the people in the church have not been compassionate is in their short-sightedness and reluctance to deal with issues such as the still-prevalent discrimination against people of different races, women, homosexuals, and the poor.

It is not in many Christians' self-interest to speak out against discrimination, because they only stand to lose the power they have if they stop oppressing fellow image-bearers that are different from them.

This example is especially evident in the political arena, where the Christian Coalition has much clout within the Republican party.

As those in the Coalition see it, if they began to empower the poor in the inner cities, these poor people and their secularism would be able to creep into politics and further poison our culture with ungodliness.

“Compassion does not often seem to be high on the church's list of priorities. Instead, the church, or at least most of the people in it, is too concerned with being safe, secure, and prosperous.”

Still others are afraid to oppose discrimination because of the way they would be thought of and treated by many in the church. They may be looked down upon or shunned because of their willingness to embrace and speak the truth.

Scripture seems to testify clearly that we must respect and love other people because they are all made in the image of God. The parable of the Good Samaritan is an example of how we are to treat others who are different from us. We could simply point to the fact that the Samaritan himself was compassionate enough to stop and help a Jew, who was considered an enemy, because Jesus says that he did the right thing. But Jesus does not stop there. He goes on to tell the Jews that this enemy of theirs, this Samaritan, is their neighbor and that they must love him!

I do not have time to look at a whole list here, but to find more examples, one should examine how the poor are treated in Scripture. Do they not receive preferential treatment from God and his righteous servants? (Look at James 1:27, Deuteronomy 15:4, Job 5:16, Amos 5:11. It is a long list.) Another example is the way Jesus broke social rules by talking with the woman at the well.

It is necessary for the people in the church to get up off of their lazy butts and start to take a leadership role in confronting the reality of discrimination!

I am talking about repentance and reconciliation. We, together as the Body of Christ, need to repent of our active participation in discrimination and our passive allowance of it. And then we need to seek reconciliation with those we have wronged in the past and in the present.

One simple way to be active is to speak up to friends and others who speak discriminatingly. You should not be arrogant or harsh, but should approach them about it in love.

We must also seek relationships with those who are discriminated against, especially those who make us uncomfortable, such as homosexuals. Some of this work is being done by Christian brothers and sisters in Promise Keepers and individual churches, but this is not enough. We must actively do more—even from here in Northwest Iowa.

I am sure that some of you disagree with what I have said, believing that I am a liberal and that I am not in line with Scripture. But I ask you to go to Scripture yourselves; consider the Old Testament prophets and the loving spirit of Jesus himself, and find how they differ from what I have said.

I am not promoting reverse discrimination or justifying homosexuality, but we need to actively promote justice and compassion for all people, since all have been made in the image of God.
It Came Upon a Fog and floods

by Paula Treick
Features Editor

Students planning to arrive at Sacramento Airport on December 19 didn’t land in Sacramento at all because of a dense layer of fog. Incoming flights were re-routed to San Francisco or San Jose. Once the fog lifted, students were unpleasantly surprised to find not sunny skies but endless rain.

In a state where rainfall is usually measured in terms of an ongoing drought, where the existing water is stored in reservoirs and canals, and where farmland depends on irrigation, an abundance of water is not a blessing.

The combination of a vast amount of rain and warm weather (which melted the snow from the Sierra Nevada mountain range) swelled rivers and burst levees, leaving thousands without enough time to pack their belongings and leave. Local television stations showed heroic helicopter rescues as many families had to be airlifted from the roofs of their homes to safety. Entire cities were evacuated. In many cases, animals were left behind, including dogs, cats, and herds of cattle.

Evacuees of Modesto, California returned to find a stench—the Modesto sewage system was flooded too. Those who returned found not just water, but dirt, tree branches, garbage and other debris littering their homes. The Red Cross and other relief organizations have been busy collecting food and donations of time and money. Presently 48 of California’s 56 counties have been declared disaster areas. In much of California, the Shoot, I was really looking forward to checking the reserve shelf.

Winter wipes out Washington

by Kevin Maas
Washington Correspondent

When winter arrived a month early in Iowa this year, I was not happy. It’s not as though I hate Iowa all the time. I only hate Iowa when it is really hot or really cold. The reason I like my home state of Washington so much is because the Northwest never gets really hot or really cold. Anyway, when the temperature hovered around -6 degrees during the last two weeks before Christmas, I was really ready to go home. I loudly exclaimed to my equally infuriated roommates, “I can’t wait until I go home, where I can put on a sweatshirt, walk out into the rain, get in my car, and drive anywhere I want without having to worry about ice, snow, and wind chills.”

Heh, heh, heh. Did the weather dieters ever have a surprise in store for me.

I arrived home late on a Wednesday evening. Within 68 hours, the sadistic Iowan weather god had found out where I had gone. Several hours later, snow began to fall in the Northwest. Now, snow is not an overly rare happening in Washington. It does snow a couple times each year, but the white stuff usually melts by the next morning. However, this past Christmas things were different. Sunday morning, the residents of my perpetually green home state woke up to six inches of crippling snow. And it didn’t go away.

For the second time in my life, my family had the dubious blessing of a white Christmas. By the closing days of 1996, the snow base had risen to 22 inches. It could have been worse. I had access to a backhoe, so when the weather got really bad, I charged exorbitant sums to scrape neighbors’ driveways and cruised the unplowed streets to friends’ houses while less lucky people stared enviously at my transportation. My one piece of advice for people who get lots of snow (I suppose this applies to most Midwesterners): get a tractor.

Every night during Christmas
Midnight Fierce...

Thoughts from a frozen chosen

by Brady Fopma
Staff Writer

"I'm dreaming of a white Christmas..." you know how the song goes. Unfortunately, whoever happened to write this Christmas tune either was a complete moron or never happened to visit Iowa during the winter months (hey, I sure wouldn't if I lived in Florida! Ok, I wouldn't visit Iowa even if I lived in Minnesota). Unless you've been hibernating in your dorm/apartment over the last three months you probably have noticed the white, fluffy stuff blanketing Sioux Center (and most of the Midwest, for that matter).

The first winter snowfall, I must admit, seemed to place me in a peaceful, serene mood. But after two weeks of snowflakes drifting about, I became indifferent about the weather... after two months of nothing but snow, snow, snow, it started to get just a tad annoying. "Perhaps I can escape this dreadful weather over Christmas break," I reasoned. That thought lasted a whole .15494 seconds before I remembered that I live in South Dakota (which just happened to have about twice the amount of snow as northern Iowa).

After our warm, inviting weather caused my car's battery to die and its speedometer to take a permanent resting place on zero, I figured the weather couldn't possibly get worse. Yes, I was just a little wrong. Upon sliding into Sioux Falls, I found out we would be traveling back to Iowa over Christmas...central Iowa. Central Iowa didn't have snow! I could finally escape the madness...what a Christmas present!

After loading up the car and throwing our white snow-colored Maltese in the back seat, we headed back to Iowa. Not five miles out of town I noticed something hovering overhead...it seemed to be some kind of cloud...and it was following us! I told my dad to floor it, but that did no good. We took side roads, shortcuts, long cuts, but the darn cloud was just too smart. As soon as we pulled into our Grandma's snowless driveway, a torrent of snow and ice rained down upon us. Clicking my heels didn't help either; I couldn't escape the nightmare. Now, two weeks later, I sit here with numb fingers, spraying endless bottles of aerosol products heavenward just trying to get a few radiating rays to melt up this snowy prison. Whoever wished for a white Christmas sure got it...[a $50.00 reward for any information leading me to this individual]! The winter weather of 96/97 will remain frozen in my mind forever.
Heat: a James and Jon Vid Review

by Jon de Haan
Art Critic

Heat has been out for almost two years and we know that movie watchers with any sense have seen it, but that's no reason for us not to give it more praise. We hope that those of you who haven't will rent it.

Heat is another good guys vs. bad guys movie. But it's by no means simple or half-hearted in its attempt at the determination of good guys vs. bad guys. Al Pacino plays the head of LAPD detectives trying to shut down Robert DeNiro's crew, which includes Val Kilmer.

Every character shows an incredible amount of drive, but their determination is complicated by the people they care about, and the ones who care about them. DeNiro plays the most straight forward, no nonsense character who maintains that he has "nothing in his life that he wouldn't walk away from in 30 seconds if he sees the heat coming around the corner."

After one successful heist and one near bust, the two sides collide, leaving a path of destruction across Los Angeles.

We loved seeing the movie again. The story is realistic and gripping, and the characters are also realistic—it's invigorating and frightening to see DeNiro's passion for his work. Even Henry Rollins wasn't disappointting. There's plenty of action to keep you interested. The 15 minute stand-off in downtown L.A. has to be seen to be believed.

The only things we didn't like were the butt-rock soundtrack, the sucky musical score, and the ending. Although the last 15 minutes of the movie are super tense, we didn't like the outcome—we thought they should have shot each other, or at least the protagonist should have walked away. But you'll have to judge for yourself—rent Heat soon.

Counting Crows-- Recovering the Satellites

by Sean Van鸩
Art Critic

Midsummer 1992. Picture a summer morning on the West Coast. The sun is coming up in my rearview mirror as I put the long drive ahead of me. Suddenly, as I begin the 18-point turn I must execute in order to maneuver out of the gas station parking lot, I had just filled up my tank at this farntown gas station, hopped in the car and turned the radio on.

This is a very memorable experience simply because as I was about halfway through the 18 turns, I heard a terrible wailing coming from the distant back of the wagon. I thought I had just backed over a cow.

Have you ever backed over a cow? No, you say? Well, take the Counting Crows first album, August and Everything After, and get yourself a station wagon and put it in reverse, and you will know what it sounds like to back over a cow.

Boy did that cow wail. As the summer progressed, I realized that it wasn't a cow. It was Adam Duritz, lead singer of the Counting Crows. I felt bad for him. He has a God-given talent, like all of us, but it sure isn't singing. Anywho—enough incessant chatter, let us discuss the album at hand.

Recovering the Satellites is a 14 song collection of pretty much all the same music. Some of the tunes are similar to the first album, but the rest are similar to themselves.

Vocally, this album has not progressed too much and it would be safe to say that it ticks. Duritz's voice is whiny at best—he is a true brooder. He kind of sounds like the waiter of the Parisian restaurant where you go because it is 'the place to be' but you don't care about the food. It is fun to see how he has grown as a lyricist. He has learned to understand, and even embrace Corgan thanked himself a station wagon and put it in reverse, and you will know what it sounds like to back over a cow.

The fourth Pumpkins album, Mellon Collie and the Infinite Sadness, reveals a band that has learned to match the perfection of the creative process. Corgan now appears to recognize the importance of music to life. When he whines, but I think she is better. I will give him the fact that he throws in some nice jumpy piano once in a while, but not enough to save anything.

The lead-off single, "A Long December," would not be my first choice off the album, but there is not a lick of a lot else to choose from. But that pounding chorus redeems the song with me. "NA NA NA NA NA NA NA" just really hits you in the gut. And says, "This guy is really wrestling with life and love, and well, lyrics." Nice try Adam, it's been a long time since.

Attempting a harder edge on a few songs such as "Children In Bloom" and "Angels of the Silences" just does not work. Duritz's voice doesn't gel with the music, it gets covered up. Counting Crows = One Hit Wonder. They need to stick with the basic, as good as those of their first album. Take "Omaha," for example, "Omaha, somewhere in a middle America/Get yourself a station wagon and put it in reverse and you will know the meaning of the matter—it's the heart that matters."

Yeesh. Give me Korn anyday. Or Jars of Clay. Doh Bart!

by Grant Egersma
Art Critic

In the past, indie rock heroes Smashing Pumpkins have been placed in the category "bands that sound better in the studio." Lead singer/songwriter Billy Corgan was definitely more comfortable there. Outside this musical haven, Corgan often exerts suicidal tendencies. He commonly expressed suicidal tendencies as a result of a constant battle with critics and fans. Corgan and his band seemed uncomfortable with rock's牵ramdom and somewhat disenchanted with the fan base they had acquired.

The fourth Pumpkins album, Mellon Collie and the Infinite Sadness, reveals a band that has learned to cope with these struggles, a band that has accepted the fate of popularity and is willing to perseverence despite hardships. Corgan now appears to recognize the audience, understand, and even embrace his role as a rock star.

If Corgan's feelings of faith, hope and love for the fans was apparent on the album, the live performance of the songs gives these feelings flesh. The Smashing Pumpkins' show at the Sioux Falls Arena Jan. 13 brought the songs of their latest record to life. The first song off Mellon Collie opened the show that night—"Tonight," played to the audience with Corgan singing the words "I'm your zero/I'm the face in your dreams of glass" during "Zero." In the midst of the cheering and chanting, the live version of "Black" sounded like Corgan's statement to those who hold in the confines of stadium as the rock star era collapses. If fear that I am ordinary, just like everyone. The song "Porcelain of the Vast Oceans" sounded like the thesis statement for the live show as Corgan reminded the crowd, "As far as you take me, that's where I believe," and "In my mind, I'm every one of you."

Recognizing his fans to be a necessary element to his own success, Corgan thanked the audience for coming to the show and even challenged his audience to tell him how they would feel if they were playing the Sioux Falls Arena on the same day that classes started this semester.

Shortly after finding the right setlist for the band The Propaganda, I got to see Jimmy Frog (long time friend of the Pumpkins and guitar player for the band The Propaganda) and frog's performance was a winner. His setlist was quite by the way. His music was his usual witty, charming self, friends of mine got one of Billy's picks and I think some of Billy's spit may have landed on my knee.
Van Wyk seeks to capture power and presence of nature in “Landscapes” exhibit

by Kristian Sybesma
Staff Reporter

Professor Jake Van Wyk’s art exhibit, “Landscapes,” opened in the chapel mezzanine Jan. 17. It provides a beautiful and unique example of the splendor of nature, particularly in Northwest Iowa.

The show features primarily works of lithography, a difficult process which forces the artist to draw in black what he or she can see in color—to virtually work blind. The finished product proves either a pleasant surprise or a disappointment.

Van Wyk bases his work on the technique of gesture: to recreate the experience blind. The finished product proves either a pleasant surprise or a disappointment.

Van Wyk enjoyed the research involved in creating this show, and is planning to continue to incorporate nature in his art—particularly cloud structures. He feels a great deal of respect for nature, and

sought to capture its power and presence in his exhibit. “Nature is infinite in variety.” Van Wyk said. “If someone thinks that he can recreate nature, he is a fool.”

Van Wyk seeks to capture power and presence of nature in “Landscapes” exhibit

Faculty present theatre recital

by Susan Vandermeer
Staff Reporter

Professors Simón du Toit and Jeri and Dave Schelhaas, took to the stage recently to perform two pieces of drama for two evenings of entertainment. The Theatre Faculty Recital, presented by the Dordt College Theatre Arts Department, took place on January 18 and 20. The previous January 10 show was postponed to the 20 due to illness.

The first scene was from 27 Wagons Full of Cotton by Tennessee Williams. The audience was captivated right in the middle of a conflict between Mississippi neighbors in 1935. Taking on the dominant gruff character of Mr. Vicarro, duToit played alongside Jeri Schelhaas, who enacted the role of Flora. She was left at home by her husband with a secret she was not to reveal. In the midst of talking and flirting, a shocking end was in store as her secret came out and his domination took over, leading to abuse.

The stage became an empty Russian Theatre of 1887 in Anton Chekhov’s “The Seagull.” Finding himself alone, du Toit, as an aging actor, must face the harsh reality that he has no one to go home to, no one who cares for him. He shares his despair and reminiscences about his days of popularity with his old theatre friends, played by Dave Schelhaas. Together they recite Shakespeare and capture a life they both loved. And together they part.

The evening closed with a short question and answer period, when audience members reacted to the plays and the characters presented. According to those who attended, it was an overall success in which controversial issues were raised. Stejnbeck performed both classical and contemporary piano

by Matthew McNatt
Staff Reporter

What do stopping, hitting, and plucking have in common? No, they’re not all things you do to a runaway goose (they may be, but that’s not important). Really, they’re all things Richard Steinbach did to a piano on January 24th in the B.J. Haan Auditorium.

He stopped and plucked the strings and hit the keys to produce with astounding skill both classical and contemporary piano music. In fact, Steinbach is so adept that he improvised a little.

Steinbach currently teaches at Briar Cliff College in Sioux City, but his skills were much appreciated at Dordt. As the French say, “C’est une manquée, d’èvène” (if you missed it, tough luck).

Steinbach performed both classical and contemporary piano

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**Women need some big wins to stay in playoff race**

by Jesse Groen
Sports Writer

The Lady Defenders, despite dropping nine straight games, are still in contention for post-season play. "We need to finish strong in the SDIC... and finish in the top four of the conference to make the playoffs," said coach Len Rhoda. "To do this, we need to really play well... and protect our homecourt... against Dakota Wesleyan and Dakota State." The team travels to the Black Hills this weekend to challenge top conference teams Black Hills State and South Dakota Tech, both of whom defeated the women in Christmas break matchups.

**Lady Defenders 49, Black Hills State 70**

Black Hills State was Dordt's first opponent after a three-and-a-half week hiatus. The Lady Defenders stuck with Black Hills in the first half, trailing by only six at the break. The Hills came out hot in the second half, however, outscoring the women 35-20 to produce a 70-49 win.

Facing the Lady Defenders in scoring were Carla Geleynse and Cherilyn Dykstra with ten each. Lynette Roos led the team with eight rebounds. Lisa Roos grabbed six boards and also contributed four blocks.

**Lady Defenders 61, S.D. Tech 91**

In another Christmas break game, the Lady Defenders met South Dakota Tech. Once again the women stuck with their opponents in the first half but were outscored 40-24 in the second to fall 61 to the visitors.

Lisa Roos and Alissa Beckering scored 12 and 10 points, respectively. lynette Roos and Carla Geleynse also contributed four blocks.

**Lady Defenders 49, Sioux Falls 75**

The Defender Dome was the home of the final Christmas break game on January 7 when the Cougars of the University of Sioux Falls came to town. Dordt went into halftime with a two-point lead but struggled from the free throw line in the second half, resulting in a 10-point victory for the Sioux Falls.

**Indoor track into new season**

by Amy Ruter
Sports Writer

Dordt College indoor track is now underway. Head coach Syne Allena is optimistic about his Defenders, especially the "good core" of returning runners.

Making up a key part of that core are seniors Todd Schepner and Matt Howeryzal. Schepner specializes in the 800 meters while teammate Howeryzal runs the 55 meter hurdles and has represented Dordt twice at Nationals.

Matt's wife, Julie Howeryzal, is also a four-year athlete and the only returning senior for the Lady Defenders. She participates in the long jump and the triple jump.

Coach Allena looks forward to the upcoming season. "We have really promising young men in the mid-distances. This is potentially one of the strongest men's teams I've had," he said.

As for the women's team, Dordt took three events in Nationals in 1996: the 4 x 800 meter relay, the 800 meter run, and the 5500 meter hurdles. "Nationals were definitely the pinnacle of last year's season, and Nationals are certainly a goal for us again this year," Allena quotes. He anticipates a great effort from the 25 men and 16 women currently on the team.

The Defenders look to continue their indoor season February 1 and 15 in Vermillion, S.D.

**Volleyball head coach announces resignation**

by Kate Dekker
Editor-in-Chief

Patty Timmermans has stepped down from her position as head coach of women's volleyball. She cites personal reasons for her decision.

Timmermans, a 1991 Dordt graduate, has coached the Lady Defenders for the past three seasons, earning a win-loss record of 98-37. She also brought the team to two South Dakota Conference Championshipships, and led them to the NAIA National Tournament in 1995.

Athletic Director Rick Vander Berg says they will begin the search for a new coach immediately.
Defenders fall on hard times; 4-7 since 6-1 start

The Defenders had an exciting Christmas trip to say the least, but the three close games and the Washington weather took its toll on the men. After the 1-2 Washington trip, Dordt has gone 3-5 in its first eight conference games, bringing the team's season record to 10-8.

The men played three very good teams in Washington, as evidenced by their first game. Dordt took on Pacific Lutheran to open the three-game trip and dropped the triple overtime contest, 108-103. The Defenders turned around to beat St. Martins in a low-scoring contest the next night, 66-65. Western Washington then played Dordt in a game that had to be moved because of the weather. The men suffered a 78-75 loss.

The Defenders came home to Iowa and opened their South Dakota from Conference season January 3 by hosting Black Hills State. The Yellow Jackets grabbed an early lead, but Dordt worked to take a 42-36 lead at halftime. After watching their lead trimmed to two points, the Defenders finished the game on a 13-5 run to grab an 86-76 win.

Dordt hosted South Dakota Tech the next night. The Defenders stayed even with the Hardrockers until midway through the second half. With Dordt up 36-32 Tech was used 17 unanswered points to blow the game apart. The Defenders scored only nine more points the rest of the game as the visitors shocked Dordt, 84-45.

The men then hosted Sioux Falls and the Cougars' first year coach, Jay Schelhaas. Schechlaas, a 1990 Dordt grad and a former teammate of Dordt's head coach, Greg Van Soelen, coached his Cougars back to an 86-73 win after they had blown a 17 point lead.

The Defenders skied continued as they dropped road contests to Dakota Wesleyan and Dakota State. Wesleyan's Tigers came in the game ranked 14th in the NAIA Div. II, and the Trojans came in without a loop win. But Dordt won up short in both contests.

The Defenders fell to Wesleyan 85-89, and tumbled to Dakota State 100-87. Chris Huysen hit for 25 points against his former team, and 21 against Dakota Wesleyan.

Coach Van Soelen, disappointed that his team could score 89 and 87 points and still pick up a pair of losses, stressed defense and worked on it in practice before Huysen came to Sioux Center. When the Tribe came to town two days later, they met up with a different Defenders team than the one which had dropped four straight SDIC contests. Dordt turned up the defense against Huysen and scored the first five points of the game, building a lead the men would never relinquish.

The Tribe did pull within one point two minutes before halftime, but Dordt had some unexpected help from Mike Fischer. The sophomore took the floor and calmly fished in the final five points of the half as Dordt held a 30-24 advantage.

In the second half, Huron never got close than five points as Dordt coasted to its first victory in over two weeks, 69-62.

Dordt hosted Western last Thursday, as the men continued their quest to get back into the conference race. The Eagles flew to an early 7-2 lead, but Dordt exploded and ran to a 25-11 advantage. Western fell within seven points, until the Defenders expanded to a 34-24 lead at halftime. The second half was all coasting for Dordt, as the men inflated their lead to 48 and rolled to a 76-60 victory.

Last Saturday, the Defenders hosted Mount Marty as part of the Homecoming activities. The Lancers, who handed Dordt three losses last year including a year ending defeat in the playoffs, took a page from last year's book and beat the Defenders 77-60.

Dordt grabbed an early 4-2 lead, but Mount Marty turned around to explode to a 17-6 advantage. The Defenders battled to get back into the game with Mount Marty leading 42-33 at halftime. The Defenders worked to within nine points in the second half, as a pair of Ross Bouma free throws brought the score to 61-52. But Dordt went cold from there, scoring only eight more points, as Mount Marty held on for a 77-60 win. Traci Winklen finished with a solid line score of 16 points, five assists, four steals, two blocks and two three pointers.

The Defenders opened the second half of their SDIC season this weekend with games at Black Hills State and South Dakota Tech. In the two remaining home games of the year, Dordt hosts Dakota Wesleyan on February 6 and Dakota State on the 13th.
Students and profs training for Rat Race

Dr. Moes' Learning and Behavior Modification class has begun preparing their rats for Dordt's first rat olympics. About 15 rats will be competing in two of the three events: high jump, long jump, and hurdles.

The rats are stimulated in the training process, with the use of rat candy. "Before we began training, we had to get the rats down to 85% of their original body weight," said trainer John Fikkert. "That way they're not starving, but they're motivated." Fikkert is working with Pete De Boer and his wife, Debra.

"We are going to train a rat to beat them all," said Fikkert. "A ribbon," said De Boer. "And education!"

The rats are being trained with a variety of methods, including voice commands and a clicker. The trainers use positive reinforcement to encourage the rats to perform the desired actions.

Library gets new catalog system

Finding a particular book in the vast netherworld of Dordt's library has taken on a whole new dimension. The new catalog system is not only more user-friendly, but also more efficient. The staff at the library is required to use the new system, which is easier to navigate and more robust than the old one.

The new system uses the UNICORN Collection Management System from a company called SIRSI. With this setup, Dordt students will be able to search other libraries' holdings, while at the same time other colleges will be able to search Dordt's holdings.

Library staff will have access to the public catalog, namely, new books and magazines will show up on the public catalog and be available as soon as they are recorded.

Another improvement: if the book you desperately need is checked out, you can find out who has it and then make a few harassing phone calls. Just kidding. But a simple glance at the computer screen will tell you when the book is due back at the library. Also, you can see what books you've checked out (Remember that pesky English project? Did you ever return that book?) and the grand total of your library fines.

The ins and outs of Web-Cat

ACCESS

1) THROUGH NETSCAPE: from Dordt's home page, choose either "Web-based Library Catalog" or Information Services (then Library Information, then Web-cat).

2) FROM A UNIX TERMINAL: at the cc prompt, log in as catalog, then choose #1 Search Library Holdings (New SIRSI Interface). You'll be asked to select terminal type: if you're in Windows, choose VT100; on the library terminals, choose Wyse 30. SIRSI restricted rights will appear: press enter to continue. Hit enter or type B to begin: from there on, TAB will take you through the command choices at the top of your screen.

3) DO NOT attempt to access New SIRSI Interface through your own Unix account—the system is not yet set up to work that way.

SEARCH

The same options are available through Web-Cat and the on-line catalog—the catalog is simply a text version.

Library Catalog

Choose this feature for a variety of look-up options for finding books, videos, software and CD ROMS. Most of these options are self-explanatory, but here are a few tips.

periodical title: a list of journal titles containing the word(s) you enter will be displayed.

browsing: you'll be given an alphabetical list of the word(s) you enter by author, title, subject, series, or periodical title. Entering a call number will give you a shelf list of books.

term search: to search by subject, use term search. This will provide a list of related, broader and narrower terms and will prevent overlooking useful material.

For each item you find under any of the search options, you will see a display of the item, author, call number, book location, type of book, and year of publication. If you choose to view an item that you've found, more detailed information about the book will be displayed—including, if the book is checked out and the date it is due back.

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For each item you find under any of the search options, you will see a display of the item, author, call number, book location, type of book, and year of publication. If you choose to view an item that you've found, more detailed information about the book will be displayed—including, if the book is checked out and the date it is due back.

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