Students call for revival

by Adele Koekkoek
Staff Writer

Sit back and think. That's what some students have been doing together on the topic of spirituality. Senior Ed Ludt says he and several other students have met to explore what Dordt is going to and can still do to promote godly living.

He says they agreed that a lot of Dordt students are headed for a life without Christ. "Not to be judgmental," he says, "but I've lived that life before, and I know what it can do."

Ludt says many practical ideas have come up and been put into action through these discussions.

A Ministry Chapel was held last week, partly to remind students of campus prayer groups, InterVarsity (a student-run ministry organization), Covenant groups, and accountability groups, all of which are open to everyone.

Seminars on prayer and on how to study Scripture will be held later in the year, as well as a candlelight service.

Ludt says the students organizing these activities need them just as much as anyone else—there's room for improvement in everyone.

Ludt's opinion seems to fit with the consensus of the 30 students that met Sunday night at the invitation of InterVarsity.

Like the discussions Ludt started, the meeting wasn't intended to get students to restructure their lives or make emotional testimonies, but InterVarsity co-chairman Calvin Horlings says that it was to get students talking about their spiritual lives and what can improve them.

Most students were positive about what's happening on Dordt's campus.

"No one really dwells on the bad things," he said. "No one thought Dordt was spiritually dead," as the posters advertising the discussion had asked.

Horlings says one issue that came from the discussion was humility. It was mentioned that because we don't happen to associate with certain people doesn't mean we can't still learn from them. He says God works through all of us.

He says everyone should realize that we all see things differently, but diversity is good. He says the key is using and working with these differences to the glory of God.
Calkhoven still serving with a smile

by Sonya Jongma
Features Editor

If you've ever complained about the Commons (and this is probably almost everyone who attends Dordt, myself included), chances are you haven't really taken the time to investigate whether your complaints are legitimate and if so, you probably haven't approached someone who can do something about them. It's more fun just to complain and let's face it, a lot less work.

The Man

But if you've ever met Carrie Foods manager Jim Calkhoven, you know he isn't a 'bad guy' and he doesn't deserve all the criticism often directed at his food service. In fact, he's a nice, friendly man who would be more than happy to sit down with you and discuss any of your comments or criticisms over a cup of hot chocolate.

"We really want to do the best job we can for students," he says. "We want them to feel at ease to come back and talk to us if they want to. We're here to do the best job we can for them."

Calkhoven started working for Carrie Foods in 1980, after while running a food service at a college in Yankton for four and a half years until the college went bankrupt. The college has since been replaced by a prison, but its former food service director has moved on to bigger and better things: Dordt College.

When Calkhoven and his wife worked together at Yankton, they fell in love with the college environment. Calkhoven says the school was 60 percent black, so it was a new experience for him. His family still has ties to a student in Omaha, who calls them her "vanilla parents." She's their 'chocolate daughter.'

After returning to Dordt College in 1985 to work at Carrie Foods and to eventually take over as manager, Calkhoven and his wife Jan settled down and started a family. Calkhoven now has five little girls, ages 3 to 10. "I love it," he says. "I can't even imagine what it would be like to have a boy. Daughters are great. I think there's a special bond between a father and a daughter."

Calkhoven spends most of his free time with his family, although he does golf occasionally. He and his family attend Faith CRC and enjoy boating and picnicking together. The rest of his time is occupied with running Carrie Foods, Dordt's food service.

The Job

His schedule is unpredictable, and he works anywhere from 8 to 12 hours a day. He says he begins each day with devotions, praying that he will show the joy of the Lord's salvation in his life and that he may be an instrumental part of the Dordt community and help meet students' needs.

For Calkhoven, a day can include activities such as training workers, planning menus, ordering food (which he does from eight different companies to try to purchase high quality food at good prices), working with the food service staff, helping prepare food, working on cleanup lines, organizing banquets, taking inventory, cooperating with students' projects (case studies, etc.) and drawing up proposals for improving the food service system.

He says the wide variety of activities is one of the things he likes about his job. "I guess I feel fortunate. Lots of people hate to get up in the morning and go to work. I don't! I like what I do, I like Dordt College," he says.

But his job isn't all fun. He says one of his most difficult responsibilities is making up menus. He says his dream is for all Carrie Foods' heighten out to be enjoyed by everyone. But he says that would be impossible to do and still keep costs low. Another disadvantage of managing the food service is that he sometimes has to work long hours and doesn't get to see his family as much as he would like to.

Calkhoven says it also saddens him to see the amount of food that is wasted. He says students probably don't realize how much they throw away. "I hope we would all understand that we're blessed, that we can go through a line and have such a variety of choices. I just think it's important to remember that if you can't eat it all, don't take it. Many people are starving and we can't take food for granted," he says. He says waste also runs up food costs, but for him, that's a secondary concern.

Misconceptions

Calkhoven enjoys talking to students about concerns they have about the Commons or the food system. He says he values student input. "We're a Christian company and that means we do our job differently because of that."

He says students have a few misconceptions about the food service and the meal plans. Many complaints he hears are about things that aren't even under his control—for example, long lunch lines on Tuesday and Thursday after chapel. He says he's hoping for some schedule changes so that next semester will be less busy for students trying to eat before class.

Another misconception many students have is that meal ticket prices pay only for food. He says the food service doesn't get all the meal ticket money. "I believe it's all for utilities, janitorial work, and equipment replacement and upkeep."

He also says Carrie Foods does not require a certain percentage of students to eat at the Commons. He says the company's contract with Dordt states that all students in non-cooking facilities must have meal plans, a requirement set by Dordt, not the food service.

The Future

Calkhoven is hoping to see a number of changes for the Commons over the next several years. He talks about a "3 year plan" and even some changes for next year. He is reluctant to give too many specifics, but he says it's possible that some structural changes will be in place next year to help the meal lines become more efficient. But changes always cost money, so cost and other factors must be considered by the college before any changes are made.

Calkhoven appreciates student feedback about the changes that have been put in place this year, and is anxious to continue to make improvements. He is considering changing breakfast time from 7:15 to 8:15 (instead of 7:30 to 8:30) next year if students prefer that time frame to help accommodate those who are having trouble getting to their 8:00 classes. He says the best way for him to know if students want such a change is to contact either him or the Student Forum. He says several changes that have been implemented this year have come as a result of Student Forum suggestions.

As he looks ahead to the future, Calkhoven says he hopes to keep students happy with both the food that he serves and the price that he charges. But it's a difficult balance to maintain. "I know we're not the worst food system around," he says, "but we try to do our best to keep the costs down."

Keeping costs low is one area in which Calkhoven has definitely been successful. Although it may not seem that way to students who pay hard earned money for their meal plans, Dordt's room and board, which includes meal ticket prices, is the best deal around. Dordt charges $2,650, whereas the average cost for independent Iowa colleges is $3,741, 41 percent higher than the average students pay at Dordt. Dordt does, in fact, have the lowest cost of any independent college in Iowa.

Calkhoven says if Dordt students paid the state average for their room and board, the food service would make $654,672 more per year—to be used to buy more products, hire more workers, or whatever. But he says he doesn't think it's right to charge students more. He says he feels his work as manager of Carrie Foods is an important calling, and he takes his responsibility seriously—meaning working with and for students, and helping to meet their needs in whatever way he can.
The hunting trip: A day in nature

by Jeremy Van Nieuwenhuyzen
Nature Columnist

It was still dark outside, but the hint of sunlight meant we'd have to move quickly. The day I'd been waiting for all year had finally arrived. Dad told me to go and get Sundance and said he would put everything in the truck. Mom woke up at 6 like the rest of us and made our breakfast.

Shaking with anticipation at the sight of the clothes I was wearing, Sundance could not stay calm. He was running around smelling and peeing on every blade of grass that was more than two inches tall. Finally we told him to get into the kennel in the back of the pickup. With everything packed, we left.

We arrived just as dawn was breaking and were finished setting the decoys half an hour before the season opened. We sat on our coolers—mine was the cute little one with a Vikings sticker on it—with everything packed. We left.

We arrived just as dawn was breaking and were finished setting the decoys half an hour before the season opened. We sat on our coolers—mine was the cute little one with a Vikings sticker on it—looking shed out behind the science building. For breakfast we had a fried egg sandwich and some hot chocolate to warm our insides, which were already tingling with anticipation.

This was going to be an excellent bonding experience, I could tell by the look on my dad's face when he patted Sundance on the head. But Sundance didn't notice anything. He was already looking up in the air at the geese that were flying overhead and honking a trilling song, as if to say, "Ha-ha, the season's open."

Eventually the season did open, and we went home with two geese. I can still remember when the flock flew over, and my dad, like every good coach, reminded me of all the things that he had taught me about shooting trap. "Now, it's going to be easy to try to hit the entire flock, but you have to pick one out," he said.

It was so much fun watching Sundance retrieve the goose after I had (pardon the pun) downed it. His ears flopped up and down as he ran back to us, tail wagging. We ate my goose, the first I had ever gotten, for Thanksgiving dinner. I still think about that first day of goose hunting and many of the other days that I spent with my father in nature.

Hunting is actually a large part of many people's lives. Kyle Van Zee remembers opening day of hunting season as the day he looked forward to more than anything else—more than birthdays, more than Christmases. So what is it about hunting that attracts people? And it's not just men; the number of women in the nation who hunt is growing quickly.

"Well, most hunters would probably agree that part of it is being in nature. But how can you enjoy nature and kill things at the same time?" Vince Hursh, as well as most hunters, puts the killing low on the list of the enjoyable things about hunting. The actual death of the animal is usually just the completion of the hunting process. For the most part, the meat is used wisely and in a stewardly way. In hunting, as in other sports, there are inconsiderate participants who give all hunters a bad name.

Another positive factor is the bonding experience and the possibility of sharing hunting stories with one's hunting partners. Many lessons about responsibility and safety are passed on from father to son on a hunting outing. Wayne Fleeus and his friends agree that hunting with people who are responsible and safe is much more enjoyable than with people whose priorities in the field are questionable.

Also appealing about hunting is the challenge of finding and flushing birds or tracking a deer. Another enjoyable aspect, especially for bird hunters, is the partnership between a hunter and his or her dog.

The most popular local game animals are pheasants, ducks, geese, deer, and prairie chickens. The weapon of choice in this area is a 12 gauge or smaller shotgun, not an AK-47 assault rifle. No matter what the quarry or means, there are many ways in which to enjoy nature: for many of us, hunting is the most appealing.

Observatory's fate up in air

by Sarah Bliss
Staff Writer

Anyone notice the big shed out behind the science building? The object blocking your path is the Dordt Observatory. Previously located a block away on a plot of land owned by Professor Richard Hodgson, the Dordt Observatory now hangs in limbo. Hodgson needed to sell the lot, so plans were made this summer to move the observatory onto Dordt's campus. At the end of the summer, it was to be moved east of the "prairie." Then, it was to be south of the "prairie." Then it took up too much room, so the most recent site was to be the roof of the science building.

In order to place it there, the building had to be modified to make it smaller. The building had already been damaged a bit during the move onto campus, so the original carpenters had to change it from 12 x 20 feet to 12 x 12 feet, which left it just big enough for the big telescope. The smaller telescopes will be used outside of it.

The observatory was ready to be put on top of the science building when the crane became stuck in the mud. After a struggle, it was finally recovered. A few days were needed till the ground froze and the crane could continue.

Instead, the Vice President of Business Affairs, Bernie DeWit, decided that a formal approval was needed. It was sent to the long-range planning committee, and as implied by the term "long-range," the science department despaired of ever getting the observatory anywhere. Yet, up to last Thursday when I talked to Hodgson, he had written up a rough draft of a rationale for Dordt's planetary and astronomy program, and its place in a Christian college.

"The main purpose of the observatory is to protect and store the equipment. It will be available to astronomy and physical science students. The observatory's purpose at a Christian college, as Hodgson states in his rationale, is to "give us a sense of proportion which we very much need in balancing the needs and demands of everyday life."
From the Editor: A One-Question Final Exam

What’s the answer?
Choice A: the basis for Dordt’s educational philosophy.
Choice B: the core of my belief system.
Choice C: worth exactly 15 points on a Gen. 300 paper.

Choice A is a partial truth and not the best possible answer.
Choice B is a half truth, like choice A. It is true in theory, but the practical application just isn’t there.
Choice C: worth exactly 15 points on a Gen. 300 paper. This is the best answer because it is the only answer that is absolutely true. And how do we know this? The Gen. 300 staff told the class that its first set of papers was void of reformational worldview, but lacks in the area of practical application. Choice A is a partial truth and not the best possible answer.

Choice B: the core of my personal belief system. Much like the first answer, this answer works in theory, but falters in practical application.

I believe that all belongs to God and all creation needs reforming, but if you look at my actions, you might not be able to tell.

In my years at Dordt, I often look at my own actions and know that my life needs reform. My beliefs need reform. But instead of asking God for the strength to reform and redeem myself, I depend on my own strength instead.

And the results? Devotions begin and then fail. Church attendance rises and wins and rises again. Chapel messages hit and miss.

Do I believe that all things need reform? Yes.
Do my actions reflect this belief? Hardly.

So, Choice B is a half truth, like choice A. It is true in theory, but the practical application just isn’t there.

Choice C: worth exactly 15 points on a Gen. 300 paper. This is the best answer because it is the only answer that is absolutely true. And how do we know this? The Gen. 300 staff told the class that its first set of papers was void of reformational worldview, but lacks in the area of practical application. Choice A is a partial truth and not the best possible answer.

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I don't like it, but I have to admit that I still do it all the time, just like everyone else. It's a reflex:

"Hi! How are you?"
"Fine. How are you?"
"Good."

And we go our separate ways.

It's automatic. I have this same conversation at least a dozen times a day. It's like a ritual that we don't even think about. We wait for our turn, and then we say our line. Like an overly-rehearsed play, we always know when to come in.

Unless someone ad-libs. That throws the whole recitation out of whack—the actors aren't sure what to do.

Anne: "Hi! How are you?"
Sara: "Really crappy."

Anne better hope she was paying attention, and doesn't automatically say, "Good," which, obviously, is no longer appropriate. But what does she say now? She's kind of stuck. Not that she's callous or anything, but when she saw Sara coming, she asked her how she was just to have something to say.

So now what?

Anne tries to be sympathetic. Sara probably can tell that she's faking it, and both of them go away with the feeling that something didn't go quite right.

Or take this scenario. Anne says, "How are you?"
Sara automatically says, "Fine," even though her dog just died, she failed a test, and she smacked her shin on the bike rack on her way in the door. Sara knows that neither she nor Anne has time to talk about anything important, and that Anne probably wouldn't really care anyway.

Or take this one, my favorite. Anne says, "Hi!" and Sara says, "How ya doing?" just as she passes Anne, so that if Anne wants to reply, she'll have to shout it over her shoulder at Sara's back. Sara doesn't even make the pretense of wanting to know how Anne feels. Not that someone can't ask someone else, "How are you?" and really mean it: it's just that "How are you?" seems to have gotten just as bad as when the clerk at the grocery store says, "Have a nice day," when her tone of voice is really saying, "I don't care if you drop dead. Just be sure to get out of the store first so I don't have to deal with it."

Mothers everywhere have been saying for years, "If you can't say anything nice, don't say anything at all." I think that we should follow a somewhat modified version of that—something like, "If you don't mean it, don't say it."

Just say hi, or tell them you like their shoes. Come up with something original. Otherwise, you might as well walk around saying, "Hi! How are you? Not that I care."
Dordt steps into the Computer Age

Internet in a nutshell: the beginner’s guide to the Net
by Henry Vander Stelt
Staff Reporter

The Internet can be a very intimidating thing to the first time user. Many people have become content with mastering only the electronic mail portion of this great world-wide network, leaving the other features of the Net to techie and hackers. Thanks to some innovations and programs, however, anyone can master the Internet and gain access to the almost unlimited amount of information and services available there.

The Internet is a global network of computers linked by high-speed data lines and wireless systems. Established in 1969 as a military communications system, it now allows individuals to link with corporations, educational institutions and other groups. Each computer on the Internet has an address: a short, one-line name that tells groups. Each computer on the Internet has an address: a short, one-line name that tells the type of organization it is. The address is in this form: somewhere.domain. The somewhere is the name of the computer or organization and the domain is the type of organization. Possible domains are edu (education), gov (government), com (commercial) or mil (military). We use these addresses every keystroke, you can Jump all over the Internet to find the information you need. This may include browsing the library, via Netscape. If you are more familiar with the Web and want a faster way to browse the WWW, you can use the Lynx program on the Unix system.

Because of the thousands of sites on the Internet and millions of files available at these sites, it is often difficult to find a file without spending a lot of time in FTP. Archie has been developed to search all of the sites of the Internet to find the file for you. All you have to do is type in the name of the file that you are looking for, and Archie will return the address and subdirectory where the file can be found.

One way that the Internet can bring people of common interest together is the Internet Newsreader (USENET). The Internet Newsreader is composed of a bunch of discussion groups. People can discuss issues with others from around the world. Such discussion groups can range from rec.music.country.western to our very own dordt.student-forum and dordt.crossfire.

And now, the grandest of them all: the World Wide Web (WWW). This part of the Internet has been growing faster than any other, and for good reason. The WWW has made information on the Internet easier than ever to access.

The WWW takes the complex nature of endless computer site addresses and massive amounts of data and simplifies it into menu systems in order to find the information sought. The different sites on the WWW are called home pages, and they are connected with a series of links which are just words or short text strings which can jump you from one home page to another.

With just a click of a mouse or a simple keystroke, you can jump all over the Internet to find the information you need. This may include browsing a virtual art gallery in Paris or checking up on the campaigns of your favorite political candidates (my personal favorite).

Several searching utilities can expedite the process of finding the page that you are interested in. If you want to see the graphics on all of the “pages” of the WWW, and you are familiar with the Windows operating system, you can access the WWW at several computer terminals on campus, including the ones in the library, via Netscape. If you are more familiar with the Web and want a faster way to browse the WWW, you can use the Lynx program on the Unix system.

With just a small investment of time, it is possible to master many of the wonderful aspects of the Internet. Information is power, and information is what the Internet is all about.
Alice laughed. "There's no use trying," she said. "One can't believe impossible things."

"I dare say you haven't had much practice," said the queen. "When I was your age I did it for half an hour a day. Why sometimes I've believed as many as six impossible things before breakfast."

-Lewis Carroll

If Alice thought Wonderland was absurd, she should try the Internet, a veritable wonderland of information—some of it beneficial, some of it detrimental. All of it accessible. Netting always begins simple, a note to a friend, the latest top ten lists, perhaps a subscription to any number of listserves. That's the hook. Of course there is nothing inherently hazardous about that—the danger lies in excess.

Having access to the Internet is certainly a privilege, but along with any privilege comes responsibility. The range of information is enormous. Get the music to your favorite song or download a recipe for making your own personal nuclear bomb to store in your closet.

"You can pretty much get a hold of anything. Censorship doesn't exist. Pornography does. Anything except for government files is at your fingertips. Of course, if you're a good hacker you can get those too," comments Dave Dykshoorn. "It's true that all of us benefit from this amazing informational resource. But some of us abuse it."

"It's possible to spend excessive time on the Internet. It's a safe way to communicate, but it's also an escape. This can lead to networking doom," warns Alex White.

Big deal. So what if we miss a class because we can't stop singing along with the Captain Kirk Sing-A-Long page? There are far worse dangers. Unfortunately, proclaiming the perils of the Internet is like telling people that using styrofoam depletes the ozone or that they can become alcoholics. You get a lot of sympathetic nods but no one is really convinced. Responsible users don't want to hear some Jeremiad about the destructive powers of net abuse.

Jane Manuel explains, "I wasn't concerned either until I noticed people dropping out of school because their on-line obsessions made them dysfunctional in a real society. They were Internet junkies."

The ease with which we can bare our souls to an anonymous person sitting at a terminal halfway across the world says something about our needs and our fears. We may end up trying to function in a society that has learned to communicate via the computer screen. Chat rooms are becoming the technological cure-all for our insecurities. "People think they're making friends. It's an addiction. At one time I was engaged in 16 net talk groups. You can't see them and they can't see you so there's no risk. It's safe. But it's not reality. Sure, people trust you, but there are no rules. It's trustworthy anarchy," says Dykshoorn.

Believing in impossible things. We do it more than we'd like to admit. Some people believe that the amount of e-mail they get is an accurate gauge of how much they are loved. Others are convinced that talking to a screen develops social skills or that making time for a Net chat is more important than an education. No kidding. At times it is easier to punch out a screenful of words than to talk to a person face to face. In some cases it is the only option. But when communication is reduced to the keyboard and screen, the senses are abandoned and we cheat ourselves of the richness of seeing, hearing, feeling, and touching a real person. A computer is about as good a substitute for talking as a supplementary vitamin pill is for dinner.

We, too, can become dysfunctional with enough practice, perhaps only a half hour a day. Technology is great, but it can become impersonal.

There is still something to be said for dusting off the ol' ink and paper and sweating out an old fashioned letter once in a while.
A Night of Many Talents: The One Acts

by Paula Tielck

Staff Writer

"Lightning" by Joe Pintauro. It is set in frontier times, and deals with a mother and daughter after the father leaves. Her second play is "Naomi in the Living Room" by Christopher Durang, involving a son, his wife, and his mother, and the insanity that plagues their relationships.

Scott Hazeuz is directing the comedy "Sure Thing" by Christopher Durang. This play is set in a cafe, where the two characters meet and mesh over a sequence of humorous exchanges.

"Red Carnations," by Glenn Hughes and his family, John Emshoff. This play deals with an apparent misunderstanding between two men named Smith, both with red carnations in their lapels, await the meeting of a woman they met at a costume party. A delightful twist at the end makes this a refreshing comedy.

Wendell Schaap is directing "Tone Clusters," a play by Joyce Carol Oates. In nine uneven segments, this play is a stylized TV interview of a husband and wife regarding the guilt or innocence of their son in the death of a girl. The tone of this play is completed through the use of audio and visual effects.

Lisa Barry directs "Tender Offer," a play by Wendy Wasserstein. In this play a father and his nine-year-old daughter are estranged by a lack of communication and too many other commitments. But they grow and learn in cute, quick dialogue and the use of some fancy footwork.

"The Basement," a play by Murray Schisgal, is being directed by student John Contant. This play deals with a scientist who has been working 19 years to revive a dead monkey. The scientist has to choose between his work and his family—his wife, his brother, and the death of his father—and he chooses his work time after time.

So all right, already, are you coming or not? Dec. 7 and 9 are two chances to see the talents of your fellow students, to share in some laughs, and to ponder the human experience. Hope to see you there.

If you haven't made any plans for Thursday, Dec. 7 and Saturday, Dec. 9, then plan on attending the student-directed One Act plays. If you've made plans, there's plenty of time to change them. This year, six students in Theatre 310 will be directing the One Acts, and it promises to be exciting.

Chris Orace is directing two shorter plays. The first is "The Scarlet Letter" by Nathaniel Hawthorne's novel. They weren't kidding. The only similarities the book and the movie share are (1) married Puritan Hester Prynne and her minister, Rev. Dimmesdale, fall in love and have a baby; (2) no one knows that Dimmesdale is the father; and (3) Prynne has to wear the letter "A" in scarlet on her dress.

Everything else is completely different. The book deals with the struggle Dimmesdale has with his secret sin. In the movie, Prynne and Dimmesdale aren’t even sure that they’ve sinned; the only struggle they face is the condemnation of their Puritan community. As their daughter Pearl says in her narration of the movie, "Who’s to say what’s sin in God’s eyes?"

Well, God is. It says right in the Bible, "Do not commit adultery." I think that's pretty clear. Hester Prynne is unhappily married, and God doesn't care. Well, if your husband is a jerk, then it's okay.

The ending is as drastically different from the book as the rest of the movie. There’s a big fight with the Indians right after Dimmesdale is about to be hanged (there were no Indians in the book). Does he survive the fight? Is he hanged? Well, I have to leave something out, in case any of you still think you might enjoy the movie. I hope you’re not wrong.

Alice in Chains

by Rob Van Belle

Staff Writer

"It was a transcendent experience," according to sophomore Jeff Geach. The Coffee House was the place to be in Sioux Center last Friday night. Various acts, overwhelming with talent, put together this event, giving a taste of the elusive student culture at Dordt College. The evening was filled with great coffee and complemented by a variety of performances. Poetry was recited, songs were played, and the blues rolled on.

Scheduled acts made up most of the program, and impromptu acts—a some of which we really weren't even filled up the rest of the evening. This format pleased both the people who wanted a set program, and those who thought it should be "open mike." This was what a Coffee House is supposed to be.

The crowd witnessed cover songs from the Rolling Stones, Bob Seger and Pearl Jam, among others. Local musicians The Mumbling Mobstalkers performed two original songs to complement the covers.

The musical acts were interspersed with random poetry readings and the premiere of two new Comedy League teams. There was no shortage of talent, and the program continued till the wee hours. Performer James Van Dyk said, "I was scared to go up there, but once I did actually get up on stage, I didn't want to come down, even if I did suck."

The venue was the Centre Mall, and it provided a little more room than that previously offered on the cramped North Hall lobby. The large crowd made up for the loss of ambience provided by the shopping mall backdrop.

This was also the first night customers were allowed to pay two dollars for cappuccino, and the general response was favorable. (Regular coffee was still free.)

Derk Botma, with the help of Rob Ryders, set up the event, and the majority of the crowd enjoyed the night of coffee, music and readings.
Original works pack the house

By Kevin Maa
Staff Writer

If you were one of the 950 Dordt students who didn’t get to the New World Theater this past weekend, you really missed out. What happened there, you ask? Well, if you read the last Diamond in its entirety, as everyone always should, you would have learned about and looked forward to An Evening of Original Works.

Last week, on Friday and Saturday night, scores of culture-seeking people packed the New World Theater, all excited to see the first exhibition of original Dordt theater in several years. They were confronted by the sight of a gloomy fallout shelter. This set the stage for the first presentation, “The Bookworm,” a play written by senior Henry Bakker.

In this work, an ignorant survivalist (Eugene Laarman) retreats to his fallout shelter during a nuclear attack, only to be joined by a young bookseller (Simon VanderWoude) with boxes of books. At first, the survivalist condemns the bookseller for his unpreparedness and scorns his “worthless” books. As the story progresses, however, the two learn from each other and the survivalist begins to wonder how prepared he actually is to live in a post-thermonuclear world.

The play effectively addressed an interesting question, specifically: what is art for? By setting the play in nuclear war, Bakker put the characters in a situation in which survival is their first concern, but they may be surviving to live in a world without culture. The play has

Survivalist Eugene Laarman realizes his bookish friend Simon Vander Woude is dead. Earned Bakker a trip to a playwriting workshop, where he will revise the story based on things he has learned from watching it performed.

After an intermission announced by a bumbling clown, the audience re-entered the theater to find a new stage. This one was designed for senior Mark DuMez for his own work, a collection of clown acts called “Finding Center.” Four different characters drew lots of laughter from the audience, but whoever built the poorly sloped seating arrangements kept many people from seeing what was happening when DuMez’s characters performed near the floor. “Finding Center” contained a lot of symbolism that arose from DuMez’s struggle with personal faith issues. Beyond just being funny, the work held a lot of meaning for people who looked beyond the clowns and tried to understand the symbols.

Overall, the night was thought-provoking and entertaining. An Evening of Original Works will hopefully become an annual Theater Department event, and more Dordt students will get the opportunity to see the writing talents of their peers.

Ken Medema: Not through the eyes, but from the heart

by John Emashoff Staff Writer

The blind singer Ken Medema came to Dordt’s campus for the first time in four years last Wednesday. Having heard him myself my freshman year, I had to return for a second time. He is a truly amazing man, with a talent he has used to the great glory of God.

The thing that was most striking about the concert was when, after the fifth or sixth song, Medema announced, “We’re supposed to have an intermission or something right about now, but I’m having too good a time to stop, so I’m just gonna keep on going. If you have to use the washroom, you’d better go quick.”

After a song about Mary telling Elizabeth about Jesus instead of Joseph, because Joseph is a man, and men don’t understand anything, Ken Medema sang a three verse song, after each verse stopping and explaining that he had recently read in the writings of John Calvin that in Christian rock concerts, everyone should shake 30 people’s hands after the first verse, rub 20 people’s shoulders after the second verse, and give 10 people hugs after the third verse. The audience, laughing, gladly complied to the “Calvinist” dogma.

Toward the end of the concert, he put a microphone in the aisle and had people come up to it and say what they had learned from a child recently. After each story, he made up a completely original song about that story with its own tune, words, and chorus.

The last song, about a child who learned that saying the name of Jesus would keep him safe from the ghosts in his room at night, left the audience in awe.

After the concert, I had an opportunity to talk to him one-on-one, and I asked him why he came to Dordt. He replied that despite being Baptist, he loves coming back to CR places, because he was raised CR, and has a greater appreciation than he did as a child.

In fact, he purposely did not attend Calvin or Dordt, and swore when he left Grand Rapids Christian High School that he would never go to a CR place again.

Now, with his offices in Grand Rapids, he feels that CR people “have a greater appreciation for art and music, and I can see that the whole denomination is opening up to biblical knowledge, oppressed people, and music. It also seems that CR parents seem to really care about their kids, and I like seeing that at Christian colleges like Dordt.” Ken also said that the students at Dordt “think and care about why they are at college.”

One other question that prompted an interesting answer was the question of whether or not he always wanted to do Christian music. He laughed out loud. He replied that since his childhood he wanted to be in music, but in high school his dream was to be a classical composer and director.

In college he dreamed of doing jazz, and after college he wanted to be the next Billy Joel. It wasn’t until 1973 that he started learning to people like Phil Keaggy and Larry Norman, as well as the band Second Chapter of Acts, and realized he could be cool and sing Christian music at the same time.

I’m rather sure that all the people at the auditorium on Wednesday were glad for that revelation. The concert was an experience not to be missed, and I hope he returns to Dordt before another four years go by.
Ladies roll into Regionals

by Dan Harmelin
Sports Editor

After coming within one game of advancing to the NAIA National Volleyball Tournament last season, Coach Patty Timmermans and the Dordt Lady Defenders have once again put themselves in a position to make their mark in Dordt College volleyball history.

After wrapping up SDIC play with a win over South Dakota Tech and Huron College, the Lady Defenders headed into the conference tournament with an unblemished conference record of 7-0. The 14th ranked Lady Defenders continued to demonstrate their dominance within the SDIC as they ran away with the conference tournament title with three convincing victories. With this win in the conference tournament the Lady Defenders earned a trip to Mitchell, S.D. to compete in the Great Plains Regional Tournament this coming Friday and Saturday.

Dordt opened the conference tournament with a three game sweep over Mt. Marty. The Lady Blazers were overwhelmed by the aggressive net play of Joy Veenstra and Kristi Hofland and were defeated by the Lady Defenders by the scores of 15-2, 15-10, and 15-9.

This win over Mt. Marty pitted the Lady Defenders against a very scrappy team from the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology. Dordt jumped out to an early lead and blasted South Dakota Tech, excavating a 15-5 victory in game one.

In game two South Dakota Tech stepped their play up a level. The Lady Blazers (yes, that is their real nickname) battled the Lady Defenders close throughout the game and had a chance to win game two as they led Dordt 15-14. But the Lady Defenders once again showcased their great ability to battle back by grabbing the next three points to win game two 17-15.

South Dakota Tech also came out strong in game three and took an 11-6 lead before the Lady Defenders rattled off nine consecutive points to close out the game with a sweep and advance to the conference championship game.

In the championship match the Lady Defenders faced Huron College. Although Dordt had beaten them earlier in the season, the Tribe from Huron knew it had to beat the Lady Defenders to earn a berth to the regional tournament and prolong its season. This was a sense of urgency that the Lady Defenders didn’t have because they knew that they would receive an at-large berth to the regional tournament, even if they lost.

Despite the fact that the Lady Defenders seemed to have much less at stake, Dordt jumped out to a 9-2 lead in game one and went on to a 15-7 victory.

Fighting for their volleyball lives, Huron played extremely well in game two and defeated Dordt by the score of 15-9.

But the Lady Defenders regained their composure and overcame an emotional Huron squad to take games three and four to complete the match and capture the conference championship. The scores of these games were 15-11 and 15-8.

Coach Timmermans was very pleased with Dordt’s performance throughout the tournament and commented, “South Dakota Tech and Huron definitely played a lot tougher this time we played them. They were basically fighting for their lives, but I thought we stepped it up at the right time and played extremely well.”

“I’m really glad that we were pushed this weekend,” added Timmermans, “I think it is helping us in the regional tournament when we are really pushed by some quality teams.”

Following the conference tournament, post-season honors began to descend upon the Lady Defenders. Coach Patty Timmermans was named SDIC Coach of the Year for her work in leading her team to an unbeaten conference record, the conference tournament championship, a berth in the regional tournament, and a 32-10 overall record.

Four Dordt players were named to the SDIC all-conference team, led by 1995 conference Player of the Year Kristi Hofland. Hofland, a junior middle hitter, exhibited superb all-around play throughout the entire year. Hofland’s value is evident on the court and in the statistics as she is among the team leaders in digs, kills, and blocks.

Along with Hofland on the first team is senior middle hitter Joy Veenstra, while freshman setter Kim Van Kley garnered second team honors. Also cited was freshman outside hitter Jenny Bonau while freshman setter Kim Van Kley, garnering second team honors. Also cited was freshman outside hitter Jenny Bonau, while freshman setter Kim Van Kley, garnering second team honors. Also cited was freshman outside hitter Jenny Bonau

The SDIC also selected an Academic All-Conference Team which recognizes juniors and seniors who display excellence in the classroom as well as on the court. Receiving these honors were Hofland, Veenstra, and senior Terri Harmelin.

The next step in the Lady Defenders quest to advance to the NAIA National Tournament in San Diego is the Great Plains Regional Tournament in Mitchell this weekend.

This tournament divides the eight teams into two pools with the top two finishers from each pool going on to semifinal matches on Saturday (refer to the table). The teams which finish first and second in this tournament will receive automatic berths to the National Tournament.

The Dordt Blades have been busy in the last two weeks, and if you missed it, it was your loss. The Blades went 3-0-1 in their homestand, and look like they are really starting to come together as a team.

The Dordt Blades have been busy in the last two weeks, and if you missed it, it was your loss. The Blades went 3-0-1 in their homestand, and look like they are really starting to come together as a team.

Two weeks ago the Blades took advantage of an inexperienced team from SouthWestern State University, winning both games 11-1. So many goals were scored in those two games that I’m not going to bother listing them.

Things really started to click that weekend, as linemates started to gel together and their offense started to flow. Especially hot were Mike Wildeboer, with nine points, Wayne Feelus with six, and Ben Saarloos with five.

Things were tougher next Friday, when the University of Northern Iowa came to town. Dordt came out flat, and found themselves down 3-0 halfway through the second period.

Wayne Feelus started Dordt down the comeback trail with his first of three goals, and Jason Visser made it 3-2. Feelus scored late in the second to tie things up, and early in the third to give Dordt the lead, finishing off his hat-trick.

Jeff Vandermeer made it 5-3, and things looked under control, but a late surge by UNI got them two goals, and the game ended in a 5-5 tie.

Saturday, Dordt came out firing. Visser, Jeff Smeenk and Vandermeer scored in the first, giving Dordt a 5-1 lead at intermission. Captain Ted Kaemigh made it 4-1 five minutes into the second, and after a second UNI goal, Dordt ran away with it.

Smeenk started a hat-trick, and Wildeboer and Vandermeer had two each. The final score was 9-2.

The team is really coming together now, as their new players get used to full-contact hockey and the returning guys get used to the newcomers.

It seems to be going well, as leading rookie scorer Mark Bekkerink reveals: “The older guys are really making us feel welcome, and we’re learning a lot from them.”

Senior Joe Kikkert returned the compliment. “The younger guys are playing really well. I think the Blades have a good future ahead of them.”

New head coach Jeremy Huygen agrees. “We’ve got a great crop of young players. I think that we have a good chance to make the playoffs, and maybe even go beyond that.”

The team has a big mid-week game on Wednesday, Nov. 15, in Worthington against South Dakota State, and away games in Aberdeen on the 17th and 18th.

Aberdeen is generally considered the best team in the division, so it will give the team a good idea of how it stacks up.

Unless you’re willing to make the five-hour drive to Aberdeen, you’ll have to wait another week to see the Blades in action.

The following weekend Dordt plays Kansas State in Sioux City. Gametimes are 8:15 on Friday and 9:00 on Saturday.
Cross country women head to Nationals

by David Huffman
Sports Reporter

The Dordt College cross country team is going to Nationals! The women won the South Dakota-Iowa Conference championship in Mitchell, S.D., to qualify for the national meet this weekend in Reno, Wash.

Freshman Sarah Pluin won the individual title, posting a time of 19:32. Pluin defeated Amy Hanson of Dakota State to capture the crown. Hanson had been undefeated going into the meet and was the overwhelming favorite to win the title.

In the meet prior to the championship, Pluin lost to Hanson by a mere two-tenths of a second. This time around things were different, as Pluin got off to a fast start and never looked back. "The strategy was all hers," said coach Ross Goheen referring to the tactic of getting off to a fast start, "I can't take any credit."

The women overcame 20° weather and a couple of inches of snow to post an overall score of 44.

"I was surprised," said coach Goheen, who expected the women to finish third overall, behind the favored Dakota State and Sioux Falls. "I guess I just underestimated them."

The women were also sparked by the return of junior Sonya Jongsmza, who came back from injury to finish 17th overall with a time of 21:46. Jongsmza, the team's top runner before being sidelined by injury, came within three points of being named to the All-American team.

Other notable runners were freshman Becky Van De Oord, who finished fifth with an overall time of 20:47, and sophomore Mary Van Gameleon, whose time of 21:02 was good enough for an eighth place finish. Freshman Heidi Vanden Hoek put up a time of 21:37 which was good for a 15th place finish. Freshman Cathy Palmer just missed the top 20 with a time of 22:16 and 21st place overall. The Defenders put five women in the top 20—more than any other college.

Coach Goheen can be called both delighted and hopeful as his troops head to the national meet.

Coach Goheen said, "I'm just blessed to be able to work with kids like this." The women will be running this Saturday at the University of Wisconsin-Parkside for the National crown.

The Dordt College men finished their cross country season with a fifth place finish at the conference championship in Mitchell.

The top runner for the men was sophomore Matt Oostra who finished 13th overall with a time of 28:06.

Other finishers were sophomore Matt Simmons in 22nd place, sophomore Jason De Weerd in 26th place, junior Todd Schepman in 27th, sophomore Mike Aldrink in 28th, and freshman Micah Vardeman in 30th place. The Defenders finished the meet with 113 points overall.

Soccer stopped in Regionals

by James De Boer
Sports Reporter

Dordt’s soccer men made their way into the Great Plains Section finals after their 4-2 win over Mary. The Defenders were pitted against Westmar, an excellent team whom Dordt had tied 2-2 in a previous meeting. The Eagles hosted the game and turned the home-field advantage into a 4-1 win, ending Dordt’s year.

The game remained scoreless until Westmar broke through midway into the first half. After a breakdown in Dordt’s defense, a Westmar player crossed the ball from the corner. Another Eagle was right there to knock it in for the score. Only a minute later, Westmar stunned Dordt with another goal. With 10 minutes left in the half, the Eagles extended their lead. A long pass was headed over Dordt’s keeper, Kevin Caspersen, for a score. At the half, Westmar was in possession of a three to nil lead.

The Defenders made some noise in the early minutes of the second half, but the Eagle defense held firm. Westmar iced the game midway through the period. Caspersen deflected one shot, but the ball bounced right to a Westmar player who knocked it in.

Dordt found the net with just over a minute left, averting a shutout. Eric Vander Mey fired a free kick from just short of midfield. His shot slipped through traffic and past the keeper, giving Dordt a goal.

But Westmar held on for the victory, and Dordt came home the Great Plains Section runner-up. The Defenders were held to only six shots on goal by the Westmar defense. Caspersen scooped up five saves in his final game in a Dordt uniform.

Dordt ended the year with an excellent 13-5-4 record, including a run of 6-0-1 before the loss to Westmar. The Defenders’ keeper, Kevin Caspersen, set the school record for shutouts in a season. He finished with 12 shutouts in 22 games.

Only two players graduated from this year’s team. Caspersen will be missed next year, as will midfielder Brian Wilgenberg. But a solid core of talent gives Dordt the promise of another successful season next year.

Young players revive women’s basketball

by James De Boer
Sports Reporter

The Lady Defenders basketball team started last year 0-8 before going 9-10 and finishing up 9-18. This year, with nine new players on the roster, the Lady Defenders hope to stop any early season woes and work their way into the playoffs.

"I think getting into the playoffs is a reachable goal," said Coach Len Rhoda. The Lady Defenders lost only four players from last year’s squad. Returning is a solid core of the offense that includes four seniors.

Heading up the returning letter winners is senior guard Jill Van Essen. She led last year’s team with 12 assists and 34 percent in three point shooting. The 5’7’’ Van Essen also scored 11 points a game and finished the year with 39 steals.

Senior guard Kari Vanden Hoek, 5’8”, brings back her seven points a game. She shot 42 percent from the field and was second on the team with 43 assists.

Jeanette Nydam, a 5’11” senior forward, also returns for the Lady Defenders. She scored over seven points a game and collected four rebounds a game.

The only other returning player was guard Wendy Weerd. The Lady Defenders will be in a rush of new players on the roster for the first game of the season. Coach Van Soelen inherits a varsity squad which made it to the regional finals and ended with a 14-13 record last year.

The Lady Defenders lost only two seniors from last year’s team which leaves Van Soelen with a nucleus of players that has a wealth of varsity experience.

Leading this group of returnees are four starters from last year’s squad. Junior point guard Jason Nikkel, who led the Lady Defenders in assists last season, returns to direct a Dordt offense that averaged nearly 85 points per game last year. Along with Nikkel in the backcourt is junior Nathan Schelhaas. Schelhaas led the team making 50 three point shots while connecting on 33.3 percent of his attempts.

Men tip off year with Van Soelen at helm

by Dan Harnelink
Sports Editor

When the Dordt men’s basketball team steps onto the court for its first game of the season, it will mark the beginning of a new era in the history of Dordt basketball. First year head coach Greg Van Soelen takes over for Rick Vander Berg who has coached the Defenders for the past 17 seasons.

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Male and female student-athletes signed to a national letter of intent for the upcoming season. Overall, Dordt has 11 new athletes on its roster.

1994-95 Defender Men’s Basketball Stats

(Returning Players)

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Dramatic duo shows ability in “Curiosity” by Sonya Jongama

Colleen Kuiper and Sara Modderman didn't know what they were getting into when they decided to organize “Curiosity,” an evening of shows in which each plays a variety of roles.

“I never realized how much you have to do to put a production like this together,” said Kuiper. The two singlehandedly organized their own posters and sound design, planned the lighting for their pieces and directed each other as they prepared for this weekend's production.

“Curiosity” is a collection of shows that allows Kuiper and Modderman to play a wide variety of women's roles. The nine shows have no common thread or theme, other than the fact that each features women as central characters.

Modderman says some of the shows are upbeat and fun, while others explore deep, emotional struggles.

“The show comes out of the idea of stretching ourselves beyond the characters we've been associated with so far. There are other characters out there we haven't tried before,” said Modderman. “Curiosity” offers both women a chance to explore their acting possibilities.

Kuiper says working on “Curiosity” has made her appreciate all the work that goes into putting on a show. She says even though it's hard work, it's nice to be able to have control of all the aspects of the show.

Modderman says it felt strange this week letting others take over the technical aspects of the show when they were able to have their first practice in New World Theatre on Monday.

“It's a unique show in what it does because it gives you such a variety. It takes the audience through a range of different experiences and emotions. And if you don't like one piece, there's another one in a few minutes,” says Kuiper.

The one-hour production will take place Friday and Saturday nights at 8 p.m. in the New World Theatre. Tickets are $1.

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Women's Basketball: Continued from page 11

The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra with Bobby McFerrin

The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra will present a concert in the B.J. Haan Auditorium on January 22, 1996. Internationally renowned recording artist Bobby McFerrin will act as conductor for performance.

Tickets go on sale at the Dordt Box Office on November 27, 1995.

Order your hilarious club t-shirt in the Sub.

S-XL $8, XXL $10, Long sleeve S-XL $11, Long sleeve XXL $13

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Men's Basketball: Continued from page 11

Continued from page 11

Men's Basketball: Continued from page 11

A couple of freshmen will add some height to Dordt's lineup. Lisa Roos, 6'9", is the tallest of the new-comers. Alissa Beckering, 5'11", will join the team when the volleyball season is finished.

Two more Lady Defenders will hook up with the team after the volleyball season. Freshman guards Angie Davelaar, 5'7", and Alyssa Howery, 5'8", will both be joining the basketball squad when the volleyball team closes out its post-season play.

Three other freshman guards will look for playing time on the basketball court, Heather Williams, 5'9", Angela Schlebout, 5'9", and Mary Oosterhouse, 5'7", are all adding their talents to the Lady Defenders.

Dordt was dealt one pre-season blow when 5'11" freshman forward Mary Lont injured her knee, putting her out for the season.

This is Dordt's first year in the South Dakota-Iowa Conference, as it just joined along with Mount Marty and Wayne. Huren looks to play the team to beat this year, as the Tribe won the conference last year and is ranked very high in the NAIA pre-season national polls.

A new scheduling difference in the conference is men's/women's doubleheaders.

At all conference games, both the women and the men will play, with the women playing the first game and the men hitting the court after the women.

“We hope to get off to a better start this year,” said Coach Rhoda. “With Krosschell and the freshmen coming out, we have a chance to be a good team. We hope to develop to our potential.”

After a few pre-season scrimmages, the Lady Defenders will get their first chance to develop as they travel to Kansas City this weekend. Friday night they play William Jewell, Saturday the Lady Defenders take on Ottawa, Kan.

Next weekend, the women will take part in a tournament hosted by Briar Cliff. Then on the Tuesday after Thanksgiving break, Dordt will travel to Northwestern.

The Lady Defenders will then play four home games before Christmas vacation.

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