Staley lecturers address women's issues

by Sharon Pruim

Is Dordt ready for feminism? Dr. Joyce Erickson, professor at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan, addressed the issue of the place of feminism in society, especially on the campus of Dordt. The three lectures sponsored by the Staley Foundation were focused on the contributions, development, and well-being of women.

The term feminist often has negative connotations and is often synonymous with such terms as "bra-burner" or "man-hater." According to the definition given by Dr. Erickson, however, this is not the case. A feminist is "one who believes women are entitled to the same benefits as men." In Erickson's presentation, "Contributions of Women's Studies and Feminist Scholarship," she stated that society treats women as an aberration. In other words, women have not been given a proper place in history and culture; they have been seen as objects, not agents of knowledge. The male perspective is dominant. Dr. Erickson believes women's studies are important for the enhancement of a community because of the knowledge that is made available through this different perspective. "There is no innocent or objective viewer of knowledge," she states. Instead, "truthful knowing vedes the knower and the known." Since all members of the human race carry the divine image, a woman's contribution can help to give a more complete view of the world, and thus, should be respected academically.

In Dr. Erickson's evening lecture, "Growing Up Female in Today's World," she suggested that the intellectual and emotional be brought together. The "stage of identity role formation" is determined within the family in the years before college. During college "social role formation" takes place, giving the woman a chance to develop competence and primary relationships which serve as a support to the development of her identity as a woman. According to Dr. Erickson, this support must be strengthened by a nurturing of the concerns that women face in society. Women must also be placed in positions of authority to serve as positive role models for younger developing women. Through a continuous discussion (by means of lectures, support groups, counselors, and interaction of women with other women) they can discover their roles and flourish in them.

In the final lecture, "Promoting the Well-Being and Enrichment of Women at Dordt College," presented by both women, many of the same ideas were repeated. Dr. Vander Goot said she sensed at Dordt both an ambivalence toward intelligent women and a pressure for women to marry. According to Dr. Erickson, leadership development should be encouraged through self-definition and social relationships on campus. How does this relate to the "movement" of feminism as the media portrays it? Dr. Vander Goot believes in the development of the self-consciousness of the woman as woman, not as an "-ism" that often looks on men as the "bad guys." Dr. Erickson, on the other hand, believes that the feminist movement spurred women to develop ideas and granted the possibility of expressing them.

Conference confronts family issues

by Alicia Nugteren

Welfare, Media, Child care, Education. A Christian response to these subjects related to "The Family and Public Policy" will be discussed at a regional conference sponsored by the Siouxland Chapter for the Association of Public Justice (APJ) on Saturday, January 30, at Dordt College.

The keynote speaker is executive director of APJ, Dr. James Skillen. Skillen, who formerly taught political science at Dordt, will address the question, "Where Should We Go in the Post-Reagan Era?" He will also lead a seminar with Lee Plassier, Sixth District Representative to the Iowa House of Representatives, on welfare reform.

Seminars on other topics will also be presented to conference participants. Dr. Quentin Schell, communications professor at Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Michigan, will survey the impact of mass media on the family. Discussing the abortion controversy will be James Haveman. Haveman is the executive director of Bethany Christian Services, a national organization that offers adoption and pregnancy counseling. Karla Vander Giff, director of Citizens for Public Justice (CPJ), based in Edmonton, Alberta, will examine how public policies affect child care options. CPJ is the Canadian version of APJ.

Two sectional of the conference will deal with education. Dr. Rockne McCarthy, dean of the social science division at Dordt College and coordinator of the Dordt Studies Institute, will elaborate on "The Federal Courts and Education: Unresolved Conflicts and Controversies." Educational vouchers will be examined by Dr. Carol Veldman Rutie, chairperson of the board of Minnesota Citizens for Educational Freedom and member of the Non-Public Education Council of the Minnesota Education Department.

According to APJ board member Professor Donald King, the conference will stimulate Christians to investigate their responsibilities as citizens. Participants will be given the opportunity to share ideas and discuss opinions. King added that organizers strategically scheduled the conference before the Iowa caucuses so that Christian citizens will carefully consider the issues and evaluate the views of presidential candidates.

King said that the Siouxland APJ is hoping for 100 participants, primarily from Iowa, Minnesota, and South Dakota. Dordt students are also welcome to attend all or part of the conference. Student registration fees have been covered by Dordt's Co-Curricular Committee.

Brochures containing specific scheduling information are posted on the main bulletin board in the classroom building.
Pursuing a costly discipleship

It's a beautiful night outside, cold and clear, the moon hanging full in the eastern sky, our house smelling of a hickory fire burning in the fireplace. The flames leap for the joy of life, or rules follow. Go to church, Don't clear, the moon hanging full in the what this distance is between us that my myself from her whom I love. I lift then uninformedly support foreign my myself so I can move on to other status quo and keep their money cost. grace to obedience. Cheap grace for Pursuing a costly discipleship

by David Van Heemst

My name is Joan. I'm single and a nineteen year old freshman at an all women's college in Massachusetts. I'm a Christian and my family attends the First Presbyterian Church in Ridgewood. I'm also pro-choice. At least I always thought I was pro-choice. I just got back from the doctor, and he confirmed what I had hoped was not true—I'm pregnant.

I don't know how I'm going to tell John. I've been going with him for nearly two and a half years, and we made love four times during that time. I love him, and I want to keep the child. Our finances are stretched, and I'm not sure about John either.

I couldn't have an abortion after the first trimester. I mean, I love little children. But so many children today are born into a world where they will be a burden of hurt, and oppression. But I don't want to do that happen to my child? I love children too much. I don't want that to happen to my kid.

I know I have rights. Here in New Jersey I can remove this glob of cells during the first trimester if I so desire. After all, my rights are protected by the Constitution. And you know, it's kind of funny. At church they always preach about the sanctity of life—even unborn babies. Yet, I wonder. I really wonder about the pro-life leaders in my church. I think they're naïve. Everything is too simple for them. It's a black and white issue. Abortion is murder and always wrong, they say. But do they understand?

Do they understand what I'm going through right now? Can they understand the tremendous pressure I'm under? They sure talk a lot about the sin it is to have an abortion, but where are they when something like this happen to their close friends?

Do they understand the great financial burden that will be placed upon them if all young women like myself have babies and the Christian community will have to take care of all the babies? Are they really ready to give up their Cadillacs for Chevys? And the burdens of little baby clothes and diapers?

Are they ready to go into the inner city and pull the coat hangers out of young girls' hands to prevent them from having abortions? Do they understand what they're saying when they say that my friend Dawn couldn't have an abortion after she was raped by some sleaze in the town park? Don't they understand how traumatic that was for her?

Do they think they can impose their morals on us? Isn't there supposed to be separation of church and state? And, after all, if they want to make a real change in the world, why do they merely attack the issue of abortion? They should not seek to change the underlying values in American society which allow abortion to be permissible in the first place?

Last Friday, my church sent two buses full of people down to Washington, D.C., to protest Roe vs. Wade. Yet, I'm afraid that they don't understand the complexity of the issue or the legitimacy of ever having an abortion. How can they expect to fully fight this evil if they don't properly understand the complexities involved?

Why are so many Christians naive and closed-minded about abortion? Will they ever open their eyes up and try to understand the legitimacy of the other side—at least to fulfill their Christian responsibility by learning about the argument made by those believing in the pro-choice position?

Is there anyone who will help me? Does anyone care? Oh, God, please, come to my rescue!

My name is Joan

by David Van Heemst
U.S. foreign policy in '88: give peace a chance

by David Van Heemst

On August 7, 1987, Costa Rican president and Nobel Prize winner, Oscar Arias, announced the signing of the Central American peace plan stating, "Give peace a chance." The Reagan administration is in a good position to give peace a chance in many regions of the world in 1988.

Elected to the presidency in 1980, Ronald Reagan began his first term by promising to return America to its proper place in world leadership. America's high moral values, and its desire to free Soviet money for economic reforms (perestroika) in the Soviet Union.

In the U.S., President Reagan hopes to improve his legacy which was tainted by the Iran-Contra-gate scandal, the Bork loss, and the stock market collapse.

In Afghanistan, the Reagan administration is in a good position to pressure the Soviets into a cease-fire during the Soviet evacuation as well as to work with the Soviet Union in helping to construct a representative and just government after the Soviet troops are gone.

Perhaps the most urgent concern for the Reagan administration is to move toward an international conference to help bring an end to the Arab-Israeli conflict in Israel and give peace a chance in the country that has known nothing but strife since its formation in the 19th century.

Realizing that bilateral talks are not possible due to PLO leader Yasser Arafat's refusal to recognize Israel as a nation, the Reagan administration should push for an international peace conference as proposed by Shimon Peres against the wishes of Israel's prime minister Shamir, to help bring an end to the twenty years of fighting and the intensified conflict of the last twenty years which has led to the death of thirty-eight Palestinians.

The Reagan administration must continue to deplore the disproportionate violence employed by the Israeli soldiers as well as to seek work for an improvement in the socio-economic conditions and political rights of the Palestinian refugees.

The U.S. can also pressure Israel into accepting the land-for-peace proposal into coming to agree to the bargaining table without any preconditions.

The U.S. can work for a limited autonomy for the Palestinians (although both sides apparently reject this option) in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank in the pursuit of ending the killing as well as preventing an all-out Arab-Israeli war.

In Central America, Reagan has been seeking militarily to overthrow the Sandinista government since day one of his administration, his symbol of the global fight against communism.

In Central America, Reagan has been seeking militarily to overthrow the Sandinista government since day one of his administration, his symbol of the global fight against communism.

In comparing the contras (Spanish for counter-revolutionary) to our Founding Fathers, Reagan became the founding father of the contras in 1981. He has pledged his unending support of the contras and will request between 50 and 100 million dollars of humanitarian (non-lethal) aid to the contras. The House will vote on this Feb. 3, and if it passes the Senate will vote on Feb. 4. This is President Reagan's fourteenth request for aid to the contras.

The U.S. must realize the Catch-22 in its Nicaraguan policy (supporting the contras to ensure that the Sandinistas will carry out the reforms of the Aug. 7 peace treaty, but in so doing providing the excuse for Sandinista oppression) and let the Sandinistas make good on their promises or condemn themselves. The Reagan administration must stop its gross manipulation of the peace process, focusing exclusively on Nicaragua, and it must begin to pressure Honduras to stop aiding the contras as well as to condemn the actions of the El Salvadoran military which is on trial in the Inter-American court for running death squads.

Ronald Reagan should step back and see if Nicaragua President Daniel Ortega and his nine member junta will carry out their promises of amnesty for political prisoners, free local and municipal elections, give direct talks with the contras (which are scheduled to begin this week in San Jose, Costa Rica), and of the lifting of the state of emergency, which should foster an improvement in human rights. (Although it is unlikely that Reagan will step back, he may be forced to if Congress rejects his latest request for aid to the contras.)

This author remains cautiously hopeful that there will be a reduction in worldwide conflict, tension, and murder in 1988. The time is right for Ronald Reagan to carry through on his pledge to seek peace through strength in U.S. foreign policy. It is time for the Reagan administration to work hard for peace and to give peace a chance.

Twenty years later: the dream lives on

by Chuck Adams

Still weaving

You may not have realized it, but two weeks ago America celebrated the birthday of civil rights leader Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Before he was assassinated on April 4, 1968, King left America a legacy of non-violent protest against an unjust system. He became the leader of a movement that started in a little town in Alabama and spread throughout the country.

When Rosa Parks sat down in a "whites only" bus seat in Selma, Alabama, she didn't know her actions would start a movement that changed the image of America to the injustice and inhumanity of prejudice, nor did she think that the man who came to Selma to help her would become the founding father of America's greatest hero--the only 20th century figure to have a national holiday designated in his honor.

Arguably, King is America's greatest hero. Of course a few people would disagree with that assessment, but then not everyone is in the world. At least Lincoln a full-blown hero twenty years after his death. In time, however, Martin Luther King will be remembered as the man who had a dream--in many ways the dream that George Washington and Abraham Lincoln had, yet a dream that went a step further.

America's founding fathers dreamed of an America where everyone could think freely and live an "enlightened" life separate from the bonds of European tradition. 19th century philosophers and political thinkers dreamed of an America of boundless opportunity for all. Later reformers sought to bring women into that dream. Gradually the doors became less and less white Anglo-Saxon Protestant and included Irishmen, Italians, and Ukrainians. Yet, the dream had reached nearly 200 years in duration, blacks were left out, and Native Americans were excluded. Asian-Americans were ignored, and Native Americans were pushed out. Martin Luther King's dream included all those who had been promised a life of opportunity only to have their hopes shoved back in their faces. Martin Luther King's dream was to see the words of the founding fathers extended to all people, to see real action where before there had been nothing but talk.

King's detractors still try to label him a communist, a troublemaker, and a philosopher, but the same things can be said about George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and Samuel Adams. In due course King will be recognized as the great American hero that he is.

As we move closer to April 4, 1988, we in Doitl College's campus should think about Martin Luther King's dream. Are we a predominantly white, Anglo-Saxon, Protestant college, furthering the dream of equality, or are we in our ivory towers talking in class about all men and women being created in God's image? Whether or not you believe that Martin Luther King is America's greatest hero, you should at least consider his dream and the考查ractepons people of America had to edit
Ribeiro joins engineering staff

by Angela Struyk

After waiting a year for immigration papers to be approved, Paulo Fernando Ribeiro has arrived from Brazil to join the engineering department at Dordt. In January Ribeiro began teaching the electrical engineering courses Control Systems and Linear Circuit Analysis.

Ribeiro, his wife, Adriana Schalkwijk Ribeiro, and their four young daughters came from the city of Recife, located along the northeastern coast of Brazil in the state of Pernambuco. Recife is the capital city of Pernambuco with a population of nearly 2 million.

Ribeiro first heard about Dordt College in 1984 when he attended the International Association for Reformed Faith and Action Conference held in Switzerland. The theme of the conference was higher education with a Christian emphasis. Dordt College President J. B. Hulst was one of the speakers at the conference.

At the time of the conference, Ribeiro was working on his doctorate at the Manchester University of Science and Technology, in England. He was on a leave of absence from his employment at a hydro-electric company in Brazil. After returning to Brazil with his doctorate, Ribeiro began considering a change in his career. “When I came back to Brazil, after a few months I started to become very disappointed. For some years before, I was trying to relate my engineering more with my Christian perspective, and I became disappointed with the politics behind engineering,” he began looking for a teaching job where he could influence students with his Christian perspective. Ribeiro taught at the Federal University of Pernambuco for a short time.

“In the middle of my despair—if I can put it that way—I came across an opportunity,” Ribeiro said. He saw an ad in a Presbyterian magazine, asking for applicants to the engineering department at Dordt. “I wrote a letter to Dr. Ribbens describing my desire to integrate my work with my faith, and to see if there was any chance of me going to Dordt.” After a letter in response and a phone interview, Ribeiro was accepted.

Ribeiro has set several goals for himself for the year. “My first objective here would be to settle down and to adapt to the way things develop here. I’d like very much to encourage students to be proficient and capable. At the same time I’d like to see the students really enthusiastic about their profession in terms of doing things for the Lord and exercising their faith,” Ribeiro stated as another goal.

Since he has not lived in North America before, Ribeiro and his family must deal with cultural and climatic differences. Ribeiro emphasized that in Recife, the temperature “never goes below twenty degrees Celsius,” (about 68 degrees Fahrenheit). Ribeiro is also accustomed to a very racially mixed culture, and a culture “rich in music and folklore. It is a very friendly people.” He thinks because of the pleasant climate people “get together more easily” than he has experienced here. Ribeiro sees a difference in certain goals people have as well. “One characteristic of Brazilian people that I really like is the fact that we are a people that does not seek security. Life is so difficult in a sense that people become more detached with material things. In bad conditions they enjoy life. In some ways it’s a good characteristic—it has something to do with a Christian way of doing things. We are pilgrims.”

Ribeiro explained that in the area of Brazil where he grew up, the northeastern part, there is a large number of very poor people living in “shanty towns.” He explained that the infant mortality rate near Recife was one of the highest in the world.

“I hope to adapt to the country,” Ribeiro said. “Not assimilate, but adapt—particularly to the Christian community of which cultural background shouldn’t be a difference.”

Church Cards to be modified

by Alan Bandstra

Staff Writer

Various complaints have been expressed regarding the Spiritual Growth cards that students complete every year. As a result, the Spiritual Activities committee has set out to make some changes in the cards format.

Spiritual Growth cards—or “Church Cards”—are filled out by students at the beginning and end of every year. Student Services collects these cards and sends them to the respective home churches. The cards provide information about the students’ temporary church membership and each student’s evaluation of his or her personal growth while at school. Many home churches have expressed gratitude to Dordt College for this service.

Most of the complaints brought to the committee had to do with the objectiveness of the cards. Questions like, “How often do you attend church?” or “Rate your growth on a scale of one to ten,” seem to call for very pat answers. People tend not to put a lot of time into their responses, students have argued, so sincere spiritual reflection is often missing. Those who do take time to think about their answers seldom write in the “further comments” section on the back.

The Spiritual Activities committee has reported that many students would prefer to write some sort of statement about their spiritual growth. The committee believes that students can say a lot more about themselves in a few sentences than by recording the number of chapel exercises they attend.

Some students would like to have the Spiritual Growth cards discontinued altogether. They feel that their spiritual life is “none of Dordt’s business.” Dean Van Soelen said that the cards are not collected for the benefit of the college. “We are not evaluating information, we are simply forwarding information to the students’ home churches,” he said. “As of yet, it is not known what specific changes are being made. If you are unhappy with the present system, look for some improvements in the future.

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Homecoming planned

Dordt College will hold its annual homecoming celebration on Saturday, February 6. In keeping with this year’s theme of “Unity Within Diversity,” a diverse slate of activities has been planned.

Highlights of the week leading up to homecoming day include an organ recital by Laura Vander Windt, Dordt Music, Rochester, New York. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Vander Windt of LeMars, Iowa. Vander Windt will perform on the Dordt Casavant organ in the chapel at 6:00 and 9:00 p.m. Admission is $2.00.

Saturday’s festivities will begin with an alumni benefit luncheon in the SUB from 11:00 a.m. until noon. Donations will go to the scholarship fund from which awards are made to outstanding junior students annually.

The homecoming basketball games will begin in the gym at 12:00. In the first game, a team of recent Dordt graduates will play Dordt’s junior varsity team. The men’s varsity team, boasting a 14-3 record, will play Mt. Marty at 2:00 p.m. The second annual homecoming slam dunk contest will be held between the games.

The “Unity Within Diversity” theme will be carried through in the homecoming dinner, an international smorgasbord. Alumni and friends of the college are invited to join students and faculty for a meal that will include sweet and sour chicken with rice, burritos, roulade, Norwegian potatoes, pasta salad, and more. Tickets will be sold in the SUB and gym lobby on homecoming day, but advance tickets may be purchased by calling the alumni office, 722-6020.

Homecoming day will conclude with the annual Talent Extravaganza and Ice Cream Social. The show begins at 7:30 in the chapel and will feature a wide variety of student acts. Included in the price of the ticket is the ice cream social in the Commons.

No, you didn’t grow over Christmas

by Gina Vos
Staff Writer

At least you didn’t grow taller. Five drinking fountains on campus were lowered: one each in the Gym, East Hall, the SUB, the Science Building, and the Library.

A federal office in Kansas City suggested that the fountains be lowered, after a routine inspection. This civil rights office surveys institutions to make sure the water fountains had been readjusted, the entire process of lowering the five fountains required only 12 hours of work. Lou Kuiper said the process was “not that terribly involved.” Because the campus was deserted, the water could be turned off in those buildings and the adjustments could be made quickly.

In the future, the drinking fountains in North and West Halls will also be lowered. And the restrooms in the Science Building and the SUB will be remodeled to accommodate the handicapped.

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He, She is my favorite sweetheart because

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Nominated by

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Winner will receive a Sweetheart Ice Cream Cake from Bresler’s and a Valentine Flower Bouquet from Judy’s Florals.

These will be delivered to the winner on Saturday, February 13.

Drop entries off at either location by Thursday, February 11.

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Every Tuesday Night is Pizza Buffet Night!

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Kids 12 & Under - 25c Per Yr. of Age

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Every Wednesday Night is Fish Night!

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He, She is my favorite sweetheart because

Sweetheart’s Name

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NEW

Apple Delight Sundae

Warm apple filling, vanilla ice cream and a crunchy topping.... Only 99c

Pucci’s Seafood Salad and Seafood Enchilada
Blades tour southern Ontario

by Edgar Veldman
Sports Writer

While most Dordt students were busy at home with their families, the Dordt College Blades were hard at work in southern Ontario on their annual Christmas hockey tour. A small number of the Blades left Dordt on New Year's Eve, joining the rest of their teammates in Kitchener, Ontario. This marked the start of a grueling tour of 10 games in 11 days.

Dordt first took to the ice on Jan. 2 when they visited an undefeated church team from Cambridge in a non-contact hockey game. The Blades came up short in this initial quest, losing 4-1. Kevin DeWolde notched the lone marker for the Blades.

Hoping to shake off their opening loss, the Blades moved on to play another church team from Guelph. Although the Blades were leading most of the game, a lapse in defense cost the Blades a 6-5 loss. A potential game-winning goal by Dordt at the buzzer was not allowed since time had expired.

Still looking for a victory, the Blades traveled to Kitchener where they dominated a local church team and struck the win column. Joel Kamp's deflected shot proved to be the winner from Stratford.

Facing a third loss with a 4-2 setback despite the Blades' best effort of the tour, A combination of tough defense, hard back-checking, and efficient penalty killing gave the Blades an easy 6-1 win. Albert Visscher turned in a strong performance in front of his hometown crowd along with goaltender James Koetsier, who narrowly missed his first shutout.

After a day off to visit Toronto, the Blades headed to the Redeemer College Invitational Hockey Tournament. Five games in seven days was beginning to take its toll on the fatigued and injured Dordt team. This was evident in the tournament as the Blades lost all three of its games. An empty goal net with 49 seconds remaining sent the Blades down to defeat at the hands of Redeemer College. The tournament winner, Calvin Alumni turned back the Blades 5-1. In a battle mostly for pride, an exhausted and lackluster Dordt team lost to the Dordt Alumni 5-2 to end the tournament.

A much needed day off seemed to rejuvenate the Blades as they turned in a strong defensive effort to beat Team from Lucknow 5-3. Finally, to cap off their Christmas tour, the Blades journeyed to Calvin College only to find a strong and well-practiced Knight hockey team. The bruised and battered Blades had no chance as they were outmatched and held scoreless in an 11-0 Calvin victory. A bewildered James Koetsier faced a barrage of 60 to 70 shots in the loss.

Co-captain Koetsier said that he was generally pleased with the team's conduct on and off the ice. Koetsier explained that 'the Blades play a great deal better ... control hockey games as the player. ... more aggressive and the defensemen can take the man out with the body. The Blades returned to action this past weekend when they travelled to Des Moines to take on the Drake Bulldogs. Ken Groot, a new addition to the team, had an immediate impact as he blasted home five of the team's six goals. However, this was not enough as the Blades were stopped 7-4 on Friday and 8-4 on Saturday. The Blades' record now currently stands at six wins and ten losses.

Senior social workers prepare for world

by Melanie Ten Pas
Staff Writer

Student teachers, MIS majors, and Chicago Metro participants are not the only Dordt students involved in practicums. Social Work majors are also busily preparing for the post-college world. At present, Kathy Brandstetter, a senior, observes patients and procedures at St. Luke's Medical Center in Sioux City. Last week she visited the intensive care unit and the geriatrics division, but eventually Brandstetter will also be working in pediatrics, oncology, obstetrics, and the burn unit.

Her day typically begins with a trip to the coffee shop to visit with certified social workers. Daily routine includes carrying out orders from doctors and nurses which the main computer compiles. With this information, the social worker must assess the needs of the patient. Does he need a new place to stay? What type of insurance plan will pay for the patient's care? Brandstetter is training to care for her patients in this way as well as to counsel them.

One of the most difficult things Brandstetter has encountered is dealing with jokes about the clients' problems. She explained that when a man died unexpectedly the other social workers cracked jokes. Noticing her shock, a woman told her that if she didn't laugh, she would cry. "You have to adjust. It's a conflict because social work is such a caring field, but you have to be so hard core," commented Brandstetter. Fellow workers "have been very helpful" especially considering that "a student is a lot of work for them." She is looking forward to helping her clients on her own. "You have to feel for the clients, but we have to help them do something for themselves.

Lisa Pluegers works as a resident counselor in a group home. Ten to twelve hour shifts at the Boys and Girls Home and Family Services in Sioux City leave her exhausted, but she insists that she wants to discover more. Pluegers deals with court-ordered kids from all backgrounds. Three teens between the ages of 12 and 17 are in her group home. She speaks with students one-on-one and participates in group meetings with other counselors. Pluegers states that she finds the group home very challenging because the teens are rebellious and yet she has to establish a trusting relationship while maintaining discipline and authority. When out of the group home, Pluegers visits the main agency so that she can learn of the happenings there too.

Both Pluegers and Brandstetter live in the dorms of St. Luke's Nursing Wing along with Kris Van Zee who works at Marian Health Center, Lora Vis who is at Lutheran Social Services, and Greg Kuipers who works at Siouxland Mental Health Center. Renae Eekhoff works at Plymouth County Department of Human Services in Le Mars, Dawn Ledeboer at the Sioux Center Community Hospital and Lisa Anema at Hope Haven. All of these students return to Dordt on Fridays for an integrative seminar ethics and values class. Here they are able to discuss their experiences and findings.

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reviews

The end of an era?

by William Meyerhoff

The Smiths

"Strangeways, Here We Come"

A BUSH AND A BLOOM AND THE LAND IS OURS

Fred "Doom" Smith

I wonder how a band that...causes it to be finished late in the night, so too does a newspaper, despite the best intentions of an editor or her staff. I could be angry because that's how I feel inside.

"Strangeways, Here We Come" is the Smiths' latest and last album. This '80s band, which perhaps more than any other band captured the spirit of urban, existential angst, has finally broken up. Vocalist/lyricist Morrissey has said that guitarist Johnny Marr's commitment to other projects (with the Pretenders and David Byrne of the Talking Heads) led to Marr's decision to leave the band. The strength of "Strangeways," like the rest of the Smiths' albums, is in the lyrics and vocals of Morrissey set to Marr's music. Listening to "Strangeways" is like listening to Celine or Kafka set to Muzak, it has a haunting, sedative effect, yet at times it is so ironic and macabre that it is as funny as a Groening "Life in Hell" comic strip. "Death of a Disco Dancer." "Girlfriend in a Coma," "Unhappy Birthday," and "Last Night I Dreamt That Someone Loved Me" are the Smiths at their best. All of these songs reflect Morrissey's fatalistic Romanticism. Some may wonder how a band that puts out songs like "Girlfriend in a Coma" could ever be popular, which is a legitimate question. I think the Smiths are popular for the same reason that people enjoy reading Poe or Stephen King, or watching a Hitchcock thriller—they can vicariously experience the macabre. Some may argue that this type of art is not valid, but I would reply that the Smiths are trying to interpret the world around them, and for the Smiths that means the life of today's youth in the row houses of urban England. It is hard for me to think of any "happy" or "beautiful" art coming out of the inner city slums of England, but the fact that the Smiths' music isn't some form of degenerate, industrial punk is a positive sign.

If you haven't heard the Smith's before and enjoy reading Dostoevsky, watching Bergman films, or wearing black, then check this album out, you won't be disappointed.

Robbie Robertson returns

by Preston Zwart

Staff Writer

In the late 60's and early 70's Robbie Robertson and the other members of the rock group The Band were superstars. Now, ten years after the release of the final Band album, Robertson has released a solo album entitled Robbie Robertson. Three years in the making, Robertson's album combines stirring rock melodies with stories of people with broken dreams. Both Peter Gabriel and U2 appear with Robertson on this album, but their appearances only serve to obscure Robertson's abilities as a songwriter and singer. "Fallen Angel," a song Robertson wrote for an ex-Band member that recently committed suicide, features Peter Gabriel so prominently that this beautiful song sounds as if it should belong on Gabriel's 1986 album. So rather than being a Robertson composition. And when U2 adds its distinctive sounds to Robertson pieces, Robertson is sometimes lost under the Edge's skittering guitar and Bono's powerful vocals. Although these collaborative songs are quite good, Robertson shines his brightest when he doesn't have to share the stage with anyone else, like a "Showdown at Big Sky," the single currently in release, a pulsing, almost triumphant anti-war song. "American Roulette" is another highlight attributable to Robertson's abilities as a solo artist. "American Roulette" tells the stories of the tragedy that sometimes accompanies romance. The violent deaths of James Dean, Elvis Presley, and Marilyn Monroe are portrayed in song against a backdrop of violent, hard-driving music. Robertson's voice sounds gravely today after his past years of living the rock and roll party scene with its money, drugs, and women during and after the breakup of The Band, but he can temper his voice in more genteel notes for sorrowful love songs like "Broken Arrow" or make it ramble and growl in anger on the song "Hello Half Acre," a story about an American Indian's experiences in Vietnam. Older music critics (those who remember Robertson from his days with The Band) are calling this new album "brilliant" and a "triumphant return" for Robertson. Personally, I don't think it's brilliant, but I do think that Robbie Robertson is bound to generate quite a few new Robbie Robertson fans all by itself because of the quality of good music found on this album. Unfortunately, I don't think Robertson will find Top 40 success on this album—which is too bad. A radio playlist flooded with the likes of Tiffany and Stryper love songs could stand the injection of intelligence and good taste that Robbie Robertson would bring to the listening public.

What happens when it's late at night

by Kurt Hoeksema

Editor

Would anyone believe me if I said I wrote an article at four in the morning? I see the proverbial light at 6 A.M. I wonder about what people say to themselves when they're under stress, because I see them doing it all the time. One more hour of this agony, and I must be done with this article. There's something reassuring in knowing that.

What people talk about when they're under stress also interests me. Do they start talking about their pet iguana that died because it wasn't fed in two weeks? Do they ramble on as if saying something is always better than saying nothing? Or can that person be relaxed and talk naturally?
Dordt fourth in NAIA

by Chuck Adams
Sports Editor

The Dordt Defender men's basketball team, the Iowa NAIA Conference and District 15 playoff points standings, is off to the best start in school history. The Defenders, led by second-year coach Greg Van Soelen and a deep crew of other players are scoring at a rate of nearly 100 points per game, sixth in the nation, and they are beating nearly all opponents by nearly 20 points—good for number four in the national NAIA rankings.

After a long break for Christmas, the Defenders got off to a good start against Sioux Falls. In a game that was expected to set the tone for the rest of the season, Dordt got off to a slow start, trailing by 10 at halftime, but ended up winning on a last-minute jumpshot by Derrick Altena, a sophomore guard. Altena's last shot and Van Soelen's game high 24 points let the Defenders win 79-77, in a game that Sioux Falls coach Orin Stuhr said may have been his team's worst effort for the season so far.

The Peacocks of Upper Iowa University were the next team to fall at the beginning of the season, and Greg Van Soelen's game high 24 points led the scoring and the other players chipping in their share. However one of the biggest games of the season occurred last night, when Dordt traveled to Brier Cliff to play the Chargers. Not since 1982 had the Defenders beaten the Cliff on their home floor, but this year was to be different. After falling behind 42-34 in a half that Sioux City sportscaster Gene Sherman called Brier Cliff's best effort of the season, the Defenders staged a massive comeback, and outclassed the home team, Van Soelen leading the scoring and the other players chipping in their share. The Defenders prevailed, 85-78, in a game that Sioux Falls coach Orin Stuhr said may have been his team's worst effort for the season so far.

The second game of the tournament was as successful as the first, with Dordt leading the Northwestern Red Raiders for the first time this season. Although the Defenders came out on the short end of a 103-83 score, the game was fairly evenly matched. Coming back from the disappointing loss to the Red Raiders, Dordt traveled to Yankton, South Dakota to take on the hapless Mount Marty Lancers. Mount Marty had won only one game coming in with only three wins in 13 tries. Despite another high scoring attack from Westmar's Zack Moore, the Defenders prevailed in a high scoring 111-98 affair.

Lady Defenders enjoy moderate success

by Steve Hoogland
Sports Writer

Fifteen games into the season and with a record of eight wins and seven losses, Coach Len Rhoda says his women's basketball team is "playing their best basketball of the season." Since Christmas break the Lady Defenders have won four of their last five games. After losing to the Sioux Falls College Cougars 66-56, the Defenders turned things around with an 82-57 victory over Iowa Wesleyan in Mt. Pleasant and a 62-52 win over Graceland in Lamoni. They started the second semester of the '88 school year with a close loss to Morningside, but rebounded with two strong Lo-Kota Conference victories. After whipping Westmar 80-56 a week ago, they beat Northwestern 71-57 at home on Saturday afternoon by fifteen at halftime. In the victory over the Raiders three Dordt players scored in double figures with Janet Zylstra leading Dordt scorers with 19 points, Sue Dokter tallying 18, and Kristin Hommes scoring 10.

Rhoda sees "good scoring balance among our starters and great depth as the key to our recent winning ways." In addition to Zylstra and Dokter, Dordt has been starting Vonda Brands, Kristin Hommes, and Rhonda Grieters. Coach Rhoda also cited the performance of several reserves as being instrumental in those games. Dordt has been seeing good senior leadership in Dokter as well as fine freshman play from Grieters, Denise Den Hoed and Lynn Van Heyst.

The Lady Defenders are currently fifth in District 15 and stand a good chance at the playoffs with their 8-7 record; however, the most important part of the schedule is yet to come. Tonight they play Mt. Marty at home. Mt. Marty's team is led by Renita Sluys, a transfer student from the Netherlands. Dordt can continue to win with their good pressing defense, according to Coach Rhoda. "When our press is effective, we play our best games."