**Mixed Blood makes bold statement**

By Don Huizinga

Every once in a long while you attend a production that you know, with a kind of premonition, that you will enjoy. You not only know you will enjoy it, but you know exactly how much you will enjoy it, and why. And this not only is a comfortable premonition, it is also a frightening one.

Such was the case with the productions of "Paul Robeson" and "Dr. King's Dream" presented at Te Paske on February 20. Produced by Mixed Blood Theatre Company and sponsored by Arts Midwest and Dordt Theatre and Art Department, the shows autobiographically traced parts of the lives of both Dr. Martin Luther King, civil rights leader, and Paul Robeson, black American football player, attorney, Broadway and film star.

When you are dealing with one-man shows, so much of the production's effect rests on the believability of the one actor. Warren C. Bowles exhibited a powerful command over the audience, creating the roles of Robeson and King with equal authority, never straying from concentration, fully appearing to be two separate individuals in both productions.

When a shot rang out, signifying the death of Dr. King at the end of "Dr. King's Dream," many in the audience jumped in their seats. In King, Bowles created more than a black man with a dream, he portrayed a human being with fear for his life, love for his friends, and faith in non-violent resistance.

In Robeson, he developed a man so intense in principles that to stand by those principles meant more than a life-long personal career. It is easy to fall into a mindset that states that what Robeson and King encountered were merely difficulties. It is hard to imagine what being black actually means, or meant for men like Robeson and King. It is a topic that has not healed itself, as can be seen by the horrors of South Africa, and no amount of "comfortableness" will make the situation case itself away.

It is the dream of companies like Mixed Blood to carry out the spirit of Dr. Martin Luther King's Dream, by building their world to be a better place for not only blacks, but all other groups in society. It is this kind of dream that Mixed Blood decided to do, and do it with the perfect director for the task, Warren C. Bowles.

Mixed Blood, founded in 1976, is committed to making bold statements, both in its choice of plays and casting. Its commitment to colorblind casting has promoted it as the nation's leading employer of minority actors. Mixed Blood is theatre in action, theatre willing to go beyond what is merely playful and amusing, leading to more serious implications. There is no room in these implications for being either fearful or comfortable.

**Local businesses react to Wal-Mart opening**

by Galen Sinkey

Shopping in Sioux Center won't be the same after March 8. With the opening of Wal-mart on Highway 75, area shoppers will have a large discount store with a wide variety of products and low prices. Although this will provide many advantages to customers, Sioux Center businesspersons are reacting to the new store with mixed feelings. While some store owners are anxious about the effect the store will have on their businesses, other store owners have strong negative feelings toward Wal-mart. They say Wal-mart's strong buying power and lower prices will hurt the small downtown stores and eventually put a few of them out of business.

Mrs. Darlene Moerman, co-owner of Coast-to-Coast, says, "Right now, we have mixed feelings, not knowing what is going to happen. There are areas in which we can't compete... Their prices may equal our cost. We will have to come up in areas that we are stronger in."

Another Sioux Center hardware store owner has stronger feelings about Wal-mart's effect on his store. He estimates that his business will decrease 20-30% in the first year because of Wal-mart's lower prices and because customers will be curious about the new store. He also thinks the new business may eventually close up three or four downtown stores.

These small businesspersons agree that they have one big strength that Wal-mart doesn't have: personal service. "We will have to compensate in service level," says Moerman. "We can do this by offering personal advice, mixing paint, and carrying a complete range of hardware, like plumbing supplies. We can sell bulk items they can't."

Other store owners agree that they can compensate by offering higher quality items, gift wrapping, larger assortments of hardware needs, and by talking to customers personally.

Sioux Center Chamber of Commerce president Dennis De Young says, "We're all going to feel a pinch, a leakage [in business] from downtown."

Yet De Young remains optimistic about Wal-mart's arrival in Sioux Center. "There was a lot of retail leakage already," says De Young. "I think a lot of people went to Target, Shop-Ko, and K-Mart for their household needs and beauty aids. When people went to the malls to shop for these supplies, they would often pick up other items, such as a shirt. Now they don't have to go to Target to get inexpensive items, and the small businesses can capitalize on other trade. That person who would have bought that shirt in the mall can go downtown and get one since they'll be staying in Sioux Center to do that kind of shopping. Many Wal-mart customers won't be customers Sioux Center had in the first place."

De Young feels that Sioux Center businesspersons are more anxious than negative towards Wal-mart. "Wal-mart is offering the basic items and is completely self-service. They greet you when you come in and say 'bye' when you leave, but that's about it. Downtown offers the high quality goods and personal service," he says.

De Young says that the advantage of having Wal-mart here is that it will contribute $240,000 of retail sales tax to Sioux County and hopes to make $6 million worth of sales annually. Wal-mart has also added 80 new jobs to Sioux Center and will distribute $360,000 in paychecks this year.
editorials

Saving no thanks to the "real" world

The summer I worked as a church day camp counselor, I had to go through an orientation week of roughing it in a Pennsylvania forest. When I and the other counselors returned home, we met as a group and were asked by our director how we felt about the trip, especially about having to spend a day alone when it rained, 23 out of the 24 hours we were separated.

After the director said that the trip didn't have much to do with the real world, he asked me how I felt about it nonetheless. I said, "I don't base my life on feelings." The laughter having died down, I was asked to elaborate on my comment. I said that my feelings were always with me, that I didn't want to base my life on memories with their ever changing nature.

That's what I said. And in so doing I showed that I was out of touch with my feelings. But what I said reflected something deeper. I was uneasy over talk of a real world, especially one in terms of how I felt. There was more to my experience out in those woods than my feelings.

Most of us have probably encountered this problem. We aren't getting any younger, and so for the last few years people close to us have probably been telling us that somehow we have to live in the real world. We might have always thought that we had been living in the real world, so now we are naturally confused as to what this real world we have to live in is.

Usually, this discussion about needing to live in the real world tries to distinguish between the real world and the non-real world. Using my experience, the real world was to be a church day camp counselor, while the non-real world was spending a week in a forest. I've often heard that college isn't the real world and that the business world is. These dogmatic statements are elegantly suitable for quotation, but what do they mean? We must first know what a person means by the real world.

There are many who speak of the real world as a synonym for failure and for the discrepancy between what one hopes to do in the real world and what one actually is doing in the real world. The problem with this use of the real world is that it makes a non-entity out of it.

There are others who go to the other end of the spectrum and say that necessities, instead of pleasures, make up the real world. The more banal and tedious the needs, the more the real world is. Laboring in a factory, cleaning up fouled sheets as a maid in a cheap hotel, living in abject poverty, and mopping up overflowed toilets are part of this real world in all its harshness.

Intelectuals tend to define the real world as one that can be achieved only through prolonged attempts at understanding the mind and soul. Only those conclusions that can be gained from reason qualify as useful. If you choose, you may exist in the real world—your've heard the argument or variations on it.

Scientists, including those in the social sciences, define the real world as one that can be understood as a set of objective facts. Collect enough facts and the real world will be revealed. Any fact—that a cat will be electrocuted if it is tossed in a tub of water that has a live wire in it—makes up part of the larger picture of knowledge. The scientists don't bother to ask if we should be electrocuting cats, they just do it and go on with their merry way. I exaggerate for effect, but the basic premise remains that we can't collect facts without exposing our values and presuppositions in the process. What we'll do to get a fact often tells more about us than what is revealed by the discovering of the fact itself.

The view of the real world isn't limited to these few examples. Other persons might define the real world in terms of the pragmatic, the material, the visual, or any other single, limited variable that one might choose to live by. What is fairly clear is that people tend to define the real world as the world they live in, the one that best represents their understanding of the purpose of humanity.

If we are to talk of a real world, then, we must talk of the real world as the world in its completeness. All of life contains reality. We can't split one part of life off and say that it's the essence of the real world, nor can we throw away parts of the world that we don't like. We don't have to agree with the bad in life, but we can try to change it. Some day evil will pass away from this world, and we will once again be able to live in true community with one another. When that day comes, we will live in the real world as it was in the beginning.

Until that day, I'll attempt to conquer the tendency to try to create my own divided ideas about the real world. As it stands now, I sometimes wonder what I'm doing at Dordt because I feel like I'm doing little of significance. At these times, I wish I were living in a real world of power and prestige where my writing would have a far-reaching impact. But those times pass, and I take it one day at a time, realizing that I'm living in a part of the real world already, some day to be even a better real world.

letters to the editor

Reply to "My name is Joan"

Dear Joan,

First, let me say that I do care. My heart goes out to you. After all, I'm also a woman, and I can remember how it feels to be a teenager in love. I know how right it can seem to go all the way in expressing your passion. Especially so, since everyone knew that premarital sex could produce a baby; I'm sure with all the TV shows, how-to books, and sex-education classes around today, you knew that, too.

But it still comes as a complete shock when it happens to you, or your sister, or your daughter. It's scary, humiliating, and it seems so unfair. When a person is trapped in such an unpleasant situation, it's often difficult to express your passion. But the tiny embryo, and you and I, are much more than that.

At six and a half months, the tiny embryo has distinct hands, eyes, and blood vessels. Even more interesting is the fact that scientists have recorded heartbeats and brainwaves in embryos destroyed even younger. So, I'm sorry, you're only feeling yourself. If you think the fetus within you hasn't taken human characteristics yet, I've often cried over the stories of beatings, abused, or homeless children we hear about so often. I'm glad you don't want to let that happen to your child. But then you have to face the facts of what an abortion does to an even more fragile, defenseless human being. If you are as loving as you appear to be and if you become a participant in destroying your own offspring, the reality will haunt you someday, somehow.

There are better, more loving solutions to your problem. Many people working in Bethany Christian Services, C.A.C. Crisis Pregnancy Centers, and other similar groups want to help you get through this without destroying anybody's life—yours or your baby's. If making love is a beautiful gift as you said, it shouldn't result in a grisly, violent, selfish end. Call me or someone else who will help you do what's right.

Sandra Hoyen

Are the Vietnamese created in God's Image?

Dear Editor,

"Those Nips are cooking that #*%$!@* stuff in my bedroom!"

"The whole hall smells like a #*%$!@* Chinese outfit!"

"Where's the #*%$!@* stuff in my S&@!?! bedroom?"

The smell of boiling noodles isn't all that exciting. That end room, north wing, West Hall, has some of the better-tanned people who tend to boil an awful lot of noodles or rice! Well, time goes on, and the smell impulse is to find excuses to justify herself. This reaction is followed by a desperate search for the escape route which will be least noticed by those who might judge her.

So the way you are reasoning (some would say, rationalizing) is very logical. But I'm afraid it's also very mixed up. And I'd like to help you sort things out a little better, if you'll let me.

Let's talk about that anatomy course you took last semester. Are you remembering it clearly? If your professor referred to the "M.D." he must have just returned from Bonnco—or he's just plain lying. (Of course, you and I are a glob of cells, too, technically speaking.) But the tiny embryo, and you and I, are much more than that.

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Milking your average cow

by Dan Van Dyke

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to milk a lovable, big-brown-eyed cow? First, you need a cow. I have never known anyone who could milk a cow without meeting this requirement.

Second, you need a milking machine. This is highly essential to milking, but in modern society it is highly preferable to the simpler method of using your hands. Buying a machine would be highly impractical if you plan on making this milking business a one-time affair.

For your convenience, I have listed a few places where you could use these materials on a trial basis, namely: a) your local dairy farmer; b) your not-so-local dairy farmer; c) or your way-far-away dairy farmer. If this is your first try at milking, any of these friendly folks will be more than happy to let you try. Farmers always need a few good laughs.

The final tool you will need is yourself. Hopefully, you already have a yourself in your possession. You should now ask yourself if you really want to go through with this. If yourself says, "No!" ignore yourself and go through with it anyway.

Now go to any of the farms where I have mentioned above. If you have trouble finding the way, here are a few helpful hints. Find the nearest gravel road and raise dust until you reach the "Road Impassable" sign. Now step across the gutter, put her nicely, and say, "That's a good cow, ya.' You won't have to wonder if she wants you there or not because if she doesn't, you will immediately see a blur in front of you, and you will find yourself in very intimate company with the gutter.

The important thing to remember is to remain calm, because if you blow your top, not only will the farmer laugh, but the cow will be delighted also. Also remember, don't kick the cow. She's just doing her job—that is, to injure and maim. If you need to kick something, kick the farmer. After all, he's the one that put you up here.

Now try again a little slower. When you finally get next to the cow, crouch down on your haunches and attach one leg of the slider to each teat. If "teat" sounds a little boorish, I apologize, but that is what they are. City folk call them faucets or spigots. Suit yourself.

When you stand, the cow will reposition herself to get more comfortable—or just to be nasty. As she does, she will invariably trod upon your outermost appendage, the toe. Don't panic—she weighs only fifteen-hundred pounds. The weight of the world on your shoulders is nothing compared to the weight of a cow on your toe. You will soon discover that simply pushing won't work. You must lift the cow's leg. She is now standing only on that one leg. The thought of one-hundred pound you lifting three-quarter ton her is ludicrous.

When you get out of there, it will feel like you've left your toe behind. For your own peace of mind, take off your boot and examine the artwork. Note the scroll-like rolls of skin, neatly peeled back. You may note how the perfusion of red blood nicely garnishes this widely accepted occupational hazard.

To get the milking machine off the cow, grab the hose in one hand, the slider in the other, and split. At this point, the cow always tries to help by offering you a friendly boost across the gutter. If you are foolish enough to accept it, you will simply find yourself off the back—if it's not too sore—you made it out alive. You came, you saw, you were made a fool of. Welcome to farming.
A look at college room decor

Photos and copy by Angela Eriksen

Oh, give me a home where the buffalo roam... Well, not quite. Going to college means leaving many of the comforts of home, but the majority of students do their best to get along without them. They convert their dorm rooms and apartments into what they can consider a home. To complete their new interior designs, students bring posters, stuffed animals, pictures, and anything else that seems to lend a hint of home.

Navy Reserve member is one-of-a-kind on Dordt Campus

by Ryan Hoekstra
News Editor

One weekend a month, while other students are studying, watching television, working out, or cleaning their apartments or dorm rooms, a handful of Dordt students put in two eight-hour days at their part-time job with the Armed Forces.

At least 11 Dordt students belong to one of the four branches of military service. Two are members of Iowa’s Air National Guard and one is a member of the Navy Reserve. The rest are Army National Guardsmen or Reservists in Iowa, South Dakota, or Minnesota.

Anne Van Raalte, a freshman from Larchwood, South Dakota, attends monthly meetings or “drills” in Sioux Falls with other members of her Naval Reserve unit. Van Raalte is Dordt’s only female Armed Forces member. On drill weekends, Van Raalte spends her time taking classes and learning more about the Navy’s ship-to-shore and ship-to-ship communication system.

Van Raalte joined the Navy in December of 1986. For her basic training, she spent nine weeks in Orlando, Florida. Later, she spent 15 weeks at radioman “A” school, where she learned the special skills and knowledge required of her by the Navy.

Van Raalte sees the Armed Forces as a good opportunity for college students. The service, she said, “makes you more responsible and really helps financially.”

Van Raalte recommends that students join the service before they start college. “If you start now, all you miss is one summer and one semester” for training, she explained, and added that the confidence and maturity people gain in the service especially helps during their freshman year at college.

As the only female servicemember at Dordt, Van Raalte would like to see more female participation in the Armed Forces. In the Navy, she said, “everything we do is equal to the men, we just aren’t allowed in combat positions.” Many women don’t seriously consider the military, according to Van Raalte. She admits that “it is a challenge, but they can do it.”

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Is church attendance a problem on campus?

by Alan Bandstra
Staff Writer

A random sample of people was interviewed about church attendance last week. They were asked how often they went to church and whether they saw regular church attendance as a problem here at Dordt.

The answers varied somewhat. About three-quarters of the people interviewed worships at church twice every Sunday. The others make it at least once a week.

Most of the reasons for not going to church fell into five general categories. Some students feel that they get enough fulfillment from their personal devotions or from going to chapel. Another popular answer is that church is boring. "I can sleep here just as well as I can sleep there."

A lot of people stay home from church either to sleep or to study, because both of these activities have been put off all weekend. One person said, "After supper in the commons I go to bed." Homework that has been felt tired from Saturday night so I just go to bed." Homework that has been procrastinated must also be done before Monday morning.

Sunday and Saturday seem to be switching places in the week. "Sunday is the Football Sabbath," says sophomore Tim Ackerman, "You don't really do anything all day except rest and watch football."

Wildlife watching

by Neva Dehne
Staff Writer

Do you enjoy watching birds? Would you like to be able to identify mammals? If you do, "Birds and Mammals of Northwest Iowa" may be just the course for you. Dordt is sponsoring this course which is open to students and the community alike.

Mr. Eugene Westra of Sioux Center will be the instructor. Westra is a member of the Audubon Society. He has taken graduate courses in Environmental Studies at Michigan State University as well as having over ten years of experience directing wildlife studies for Holland Christian Schools in Michigan.

The course will be held on Saturday mornings beginning February 27. "Birds and Mammals" will include three lectures held in SI09 and three field trips to Oak Grove and DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge or Kutleson Hogback. According to James Mahaffy, these field trips will deal with "observation, identifying, and interpretation of local fauna and their tellsignes."

The course is designed to provide the community with material of local interest. Study skins will be used to identify mammals. Also, field notes or field journals will be required which can provide great job-related experience.

In the past, the course was attended by equal numbers of Dordt students and people from the community. The course is $25 for non-credit participants. Credit students will be required to take a test on birds and mammals, lectures, keep field notes, and make study skins. For those who are interested, this course promises to be both enjoyable and educational. The organizational meeting will be February 26 at 7:00 p.m. in S4.

Sunday you go to church and then do the studying that you didn't do on Friday and Saturday."

Students whose friends don't go to church tend to skip themselves. "I don't make it at night; neither do many other people. There is no pressure to go." This peer pressure can go the other way too. A freshman girl said that she goes twice on Sunday and that everyone on her wing also goes twice.

Is the lack of regular church attendance a problem on campus? Practically everyone is involved, both "one-timers" and "two-timers" agreed that this is definitely a problem at Dordt. One person talked of a friend who did not have the habit of going at all. Before he could take his date to a banquet he had to make a five-hour trip home to get his Sunday clothes.

If one has been brought up with a family that traditionally attends church only once on Sunday, this individual would not be expected to go more than that at school. But Student Services is concerned with individuals who are showing patterns different from those of their parents. A member of the staff said students stop attending in order to work out in their minds why they have gone to church in the past. Are they going because their Mom and Dad want them to go, or because they, themselves, want to go?

The issue here is not a matter of judging or feeling guilt for "skipping out." Dean of Students, Marion Van Soelen says, "When we realize our salvation we should want to worship. True, we worship God all the time, but on Sunday, the day of the resurrection, we concentrate on our worship to God. When brothers and sisters do not have the desire to worship together, there is something amiss in our response back to God."

Van Soelen says that the deeper problem affecting all of us is the secular culture we are a part of. "The society of today is devoting less and less time to God; God is not the center of our lives anymore."

The Dutch Memorial Collection is another part of the scrapbook with the purpose of reflecting on our heritage. The collection includes Dutch Psalter Hymnals, books written by and about Abraham Kuyper, and much more. A Dutch Bible printed in the 1500's is one of the most interesting and valuable items in the collection.

Right now Dordt's history is short, but as our history grows, these records will become more important. Anyone may use the archives to find out about Dordt's past, our Dutch heritage, or simply to check up on their parents' past activities at Dordt. But an appointment must be made because that kind of information isn't disclosed to just anybody.
more opinion
From the age of greed to the age of need
by William Meyerhoff
Staff Writer
I would like to ask the seniors reading this article a question: How can you possibly be happy with your life knowing what is in store for your future? Now that may seem like a harsh question, but let me describe how I see the average person's life after graduation.

During the week, Monday through Friday, you awake at 6:30 a.m. to prepare for your job that you arrive at by 8:00 or 9:00 a.m. You then work eight hours doing something that is personally enriching as pushing a boulder up a steep hill and letting it roll back down.

After work you drive home in rush hour traffic (unless you move back to Pella, Ripon, or Lynden, where there is no rush hour) which takes up an hour. Upon arriving at home you have dinner which uses another hour or so.

It is now approximately 7:30 p.m. and you have three to four hours to pursue your own hobbies before you retire for the evening. (Not bad—out of an 18 hour day, you have three to four hours for your own enjoyment). If you work at work wasn't too draining, you might do something physically active for your health, but more than likely you watch television.

A similar routine is repeated until the weekend. When the weekend arrives you commence with housecleaning, yard work, or shopping when, if the day. And in the evening you may go out with your family or friends to see a film, dine and/or dance. Usually the variety is so "wide" that you could be when a film, dine and/or dance. Usually the variety is so "wide" that you could be one of these establishments but think you are in another.

This day to day process is repeated until the summer when, if you are fortunate, you can take a two to four week vacation. During the vacation you spend a lot of money, and more than likely it isn't very relaxing or personally constructive.

You then repeat this entire process, annually, until you retire at the age of 65 (unless you need to work longer to pay off your mortgage). You are now free to pursue interests that you didn't have time for in the past. But if you made it this far with all your family's intact, you probably have no idea where to begin. You spent most of your time working and now you just feel lost and useless. Maybe you will do something like buy a motorhome and travel the continent, stopping at every "point-of-interest" along the way until you come to a permanent "rest area."

Although this is a generalization and not all graduates will live this exact scenario, a lot of you might. So why not take some steps now to prevent this from happening to you in the future?

We happen to be living in a time that is ripe for change. After the activism of the Sixties, America once again entered the dark ages of individualism. Many of the societal and cultural gains of the Sixties were swept away in the "Me" decade and the Reagan-Yuppy years. The focus shifted from loving others and helping the needy to getting ahead and making money. It naturally followed that if you were primarily seeking your own gain and storing up plenty of material possessions (everything from a Cuisinart to a BMW to a Presto Hot Topper) that you needed a strong-armed state to protect your goods.

The Reagan years brought us the largest military buildup in history to protect the material wealth of paranoid America that was afraid that a small Latin-American nation might decide to take that two-day drive to Texas and attack us. And if it wasn't Nicaragua, maybe those big, bad Russkies would do it themselves. Of course, if you are spending more than a quarter of your nation's wealth on deposing new ways to kill people (SDI, neutron weapons, the Bradley Fighting Vehicle), you won't be able to do the things that God calls governments to do, which is to do justice.

During the Reagan years, the homeless, the widows and orphans, ethnic minorities, the elderly, the unemployed, the middle-class, and welfare recipients all fell victim to Reaganomics, or what the conservative Social Darwinism. What is most unfortunate these past years is the amount of support Reagan received from Christians who were willing to forget about the needy because Reagan is "pro-life" and would protect them from the evil empire of the Soviet Union. (What exactly has Reagan done to stop abortion? Wait for a Supreme Court justice to die or retire so that he could nominate a Bork? Sounds like a plan to me.)

But if you're depressed about the present situation, cheer up—there are only eleven more months of Reagan, and America is starting to turn away from individualism. As historian Arthur Schlesinger has pointed out, America, in the 20th century, has gone through thirty year cycles of times of conservatism followed by periods of activism. The Gay Nineties were followed by Teddy Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson, the Roaring Twenties were followed by the New Deal, the conservative Eisenhower years were replaced with the Peace Generation of the Sixties, which was in turn followed by a return to the individualism of the 70's and 80's. This brings us to the present...

Will the 1990's mark the end of individualism in America and bring in the revival of concern for others? Much will depend on how the youth of America respond to the challenges set before them. I am of the opinion that we will once again seek to help the needy and seek justice for the oppressed. The Yuppie purge/stock market crash last October helped shatter the illusions of millions of money hungry Americans.

The plight of the homeless, the needs of the elderly, and concern for the people of Central America are starting to get the attention they deserve and are being addressed by the presidential candidates. A generation of college students are beginning to call to action through bands like U2, REM, and the Dead Kennedys and are starting to act and show concern for others. Record crowds at the recent Iowa caucuses also showed that people are beginning to care about who will be elected and what they will do.

If you take a moment to think about the hundreds of thousands of homeless in this country, the hundreds of millions of people in the world who go to sleep each night without having eaten an adequate meal, the struggle of the oppressed in countries such as Afghanistan or South Africa, maybe you will see that you aren't the most important individual in the world. Maybe you will begin to show your gratitude for having the good fortune of living in a prosperous country by reaching out to help others less fortunate than yourself. Maybe you'll think about giving some of your time, energy, money, and prayers to help someone whose very life may depend on it. Maybe then you won't live the dull, monotonous life described at the beginning of this article. The time to act is now. As REM accurately stated: "By experience we are virgin, we are young despite the years, we have hopes despite the times." The world is waiting. God is waiting. Let's get to work.

I dare you to read this..."
Born To Be Bad towers over Skyscraper

by Preston Zwart
Staff Writer

The newest releases by two veteran rockers show just how varied rock music can be. David Lee Roth's third solo effort, Skyscraper, and the newest recording by George Thorogood and the Destroyers, Born To Be Bad, both have the "have fun and turn the music up loud" mentality at the basis of their musical effort—but each album is totally unlike the other.

Roth, after years of being a spokesman for the rock-and-roll lifestyle during his years as vocalist for the band Van Halen, found himself, after his departure from that band, with a much smaller audience than he had before. At the time of the breakup, members of Van Halen blamed Roth for the band's demise, and the negative image he generated left Roth struggling for the success and popularity he had once enjoyed. Previous solo albums (Crazy From The Heat and Eat 'Em And Smile) enjoyed only minimal success. Skyscraper, Roth's latest effort, is the album that he hopes will bring him back to the spotlight.

Propelled by the early success of the single, "Just Like Paradise," this new album is selling briskly, but the question of whether this popularity will last. The songs on Skyscraper are, for the most part, cashing in on Roth's image as a macho-party-animal-rock-star. Songs like "Knucklebones" and "The Bottom Line" feature crunching guitar chords and the ever-present guitar solos. Steve Vai, Roth's guitarist has the unenviable position of being compared to Roth's former partner, the magnificent guitarist Eddie Van Halen. Compared with Van Halen, Vai's guitar solos lack variety and imagination, but Vai makes up for this by the blinding speed with which he plays his instrument. Comparing Vai with one of the best rock guitarists of all times may be a bit unfair to Steve Vai, but the fact remains that Roth and Vai at their best still don't have the power that Roth and Van Halen had on their worst nights. For the most part, Skyscraper is a fast-paced, pummeling, disappointing journey into powerhouse rock-and-roll. This is too bad because Skyscraper's best song is a slow, bluesy ballad. The song "Damn Good," with its Led Zeppelin-like 12-string guitar and its melancholy sound is Roth and Vai working together at their best. David Lee Roth would be a phenomenon if he approached his songwriting with the same seriousness that he shows on this song. As it is, this album is a mediocre effort that could have been much better.

While Roth's problems lie in his lack of serious songwriting, one of George Thorogood's strengths rests in his ability not to take himself too seriously. Where Roth seems pretentious and high-handed in his proclamation of his doctrine of "party all the time," Thorogood delivers the message with full force and a sense of humor. Thorogood's newest album, Born To Be Bad, is a crash course in good timin', hard rockin', beer drinkin', bar band party rock. Borrowing heavily from the musical styles of Chuck Berry and other 50's performers, Thorogood resurrects the snarling guitar licks and driving backbeat for the audience of the 80's. While Thorogood may never win a Pulitzer Prize for his poetry (the chorus for the song "I Really Like Girls" goes like this: "I really, really, really, really, really, really like girls"), Born To Be Bad deserves a prize for best all-out party record.

In the past I have been critical of bands whose lyrics are less than inspired, but in this case I have to recommend Born To Be Bad over Skyscraper simply because Thorogood knows he's no poet and doesn't try to be—he just plays his heart out while truly entertaining his audience.

From pop music to pipe organ

by Sharon Prum

Having the radio on for hours as it plays Foreigner's "Say You Will, Say You Won't" over and over is not uncommon for the average student. However, some of the same students wouldn't be caught dead at an organ recital. "They're too boring," one student said when asked if he had ever gone to an organ recital. Since many people fear the unknown, here are some suggestions for conquering the phobia of organ recitals.

Listening to music over and over is the secret to enjoyment. "You might not like it at first, but you can learn to like it," said Dr. Joan Ringerwole, music professor at Dordt. When a piece is played several times, the listeners have a chance to hear elements in the music that they weren't able to catch the first time.

Organ music offers the listener an extra challenge. Organ melodies are not always in the top voice—the main tune. The melodies are sometimes hidden in the pedal or intricately woven through other melodies, says Dr. Ringerwole. She describes the experience as "a very intellectual, mathematical way of listening to music." Another difficulty in organ music is the loudness of unfamiliar pieces, which are often Lutheran melodies.

The organ is one of the more difficult instruments to listen to, but it is also one of the finest, according to Dr. Ringerwole. It is unique because it can produce a wide variety of sounds.

There are two drawbacks, or seeming drawbacks, about an organ recital. First, of course, an organist at Dordt is hidden behind the pipes. The advantages to this pipe arrangement are that the acoustical blend is better and that the organist can hear the music more clearly. Second, in many performances the majority of the pieces are not familiar to a general audience.

Schaap's Final Words
Is it possible?
Come find out what Dr. James C. Schaap would say in a final 30 minute speech. He will speak for exactly 30 minutes in C160 at 9:00 on Sunday night. Time is running out...

Chanticleer to sing
by Alicia Nugteren
Staff Writer

One of America's top male ensembles will perform for ticket holders of the Sioux County Concert Series on February 29, at 8:00 p.m. in the Dordt Chapel.

Chanticleer is a group of eight men whose voices range from soprano to bass. Their musical program includes songs from the 15th and 16th centuries as well as popular tunes.

In its decade of existence, Chanticleer has earned a number of honors. The group was noted for outstanding performance at the 18th International Fortnight Music Festival in Bruges. Twice the men were featured on the American Public Radio program "St. Paul." They also were guests on "A Prairie Home Companion." During five years of touring, Chanticleer has given more than 700 concerts in the United States, Canada, and Europe.

Prior to the performance in Sioux Center on Monday, Chanticleer will perform on February 25 in Minneapolis, Minnesota, for the convention of the North Central Division of the American Choral Directors Association.
Defenders capture district, conference titles

by Steve Hoogland
Sports Writer

The Dordt men’s basketball team ended their regular season Saturday by capturing both the District 15 crown and a share of the conference title. The Defenders finished their schedule with a 21-4 record, good enough for a 3.83 point standing and outdistancing both Briar Cliff and Northwestern, who finished at 3.39 and 3.30 respectively.

The 21-4 mark set an all-time school record for Dordt. The 1985-86 club had been the previous mark with 20-6 record. Dordt’s conference record of 8-2 tied them for the conference crown with Grandview.

Dordt sewed up the home-court advantage February 13 with a victory over Briar Cliff at home. Dordt took an early lead against the Chargers with three-point field goals by Steve Vermeer. Dordt took a 40-36 lead to the first half after shooting a sizzling 67 percent from the field. Both teams were cold out of the gates quickly in the second half, and the Chargers forged a 50-50 tie at the 16:11 mark, but from there the Defenders took control for a 64-52 lead and held on for the 87-74 win. For the game, Dordt shot 61 percent from the field while the Eagles were outrebounded 40-26. Greg Van Soelen led Dordt with 37 points. Steve Vermeer added 15, and Kevin Veenastra scored 13.

Last weekend Dordt traveled to eastern Iowa. Friday night the Defenders challenged a tough Grandview club who at the time held the conference lead. Dordt went into the half trailing but pulled out another tough victory. Steve Vermeer hit a three-pointer to break a late 60-60 tie, and the Defenders claimed a tie for the conference lead. Kevin Veenastra had 22 points to lead Dordt, and Greg Van Soelen scored 21 in the 67-62 victory.

Saturday night, the Defenders played Marycrest in Davenport in the final regular season game. Dordt marched to an early 19 point lead and maintained a 15 point advantage throughout enroute to a 116-101 triumph. Jerry Boer scored 32 points, including 7 three-point field goals to give him game-high honors with Greg Van Soelen who also had 32 points. Steve Vermeer was good for 25 points, and Kevin Gesink got 10.

The Defenders finished the regular season with a scoring average of 94.3 points per game, ninth in the NAIA. They averaged a 17.5 margin, fifth in the NAIA, and Greg Van Soelen’s 28.6 points per game is sixth in the NAIA.

Now Dordt is preparing for the March 2 playoffs. They take on Briar Cliff, a winner last night over Northwestern 88-82. Playoff tickets are on sale today, tomorrow, and Monday. Student tickets cost $2; non-students must pay $4.

Lady Defenders sneak into playoffs

by Steve Hoogland
Sports Writer

The Lady Defenders concluded their regular season Saturday and for the first time in six years are headed for the District women’s basketball playoffs. They finished the year with a 24-4 record of ten wins and fourteen losses. In the conference, they ended play with a 4-6 mark.

Dordt started a string of six games in two weeks with a victory over Briar Cliff in overtime. The Lady Defenders next took on Mt. Marty. The Lady Lancers from Yankton are having an excellent season as evidenced by their 9-1 conference record and Jo-Kota Conference championship. Dordt was not intimidated and “played an excellent game and had an opportunity to win in regulation,” according to Coach Len Rhoda. Regulation ended in a 60-60 deadlock. In overtime, Dordt proved to be the South Dakota State Post’s winner of Northwestern and Briar Cliff, a winner last night over Marycrest 59-55. Janet Zylstra and Rhonda Gritters scored 12 and 10 respectively.

Saturday in the regular season finale Dordt played some “outstanding defense,” according to Rhoda, but lost 59-55. Janet Zylstra scored 25 points to lead the Lady Defenders.

The Lady Defenders did, however, qualify for the final playoff position and now will head to Sioux City to take on Morningside March 1. The winner earns the right to take on the winner of Northwestern and Briar Cliff.

Blades sweep pair from SDSU

by Edgar Veldman
Sports Writer

The Dordt College Blades are on a roll. After suffering two disappointing losses with 21 wins this semester, the Blades have bounced back with three straight wins. Their latest victim proved to be the South Dakota State Jackrabbits from Brookings.

The Blades began their home and away series with SDSU in Sioux Falls at the Minnehaha Ice Center on Friday night. About 170 Blade fans made the haul from Sioux Center to Sioux Falls, hoping to spur on a steadily-improving Dordt hockey team.

Dordt came out of the locker room flying in the start of the first period and opened the scoring with only one minute gone in the period. Phil Minderhoud banged a loose rebound past the SDSU goaltender, giving the Blades a 1-0 lead. The Blades continued with the win for the remainder of the period, but their quality and selection of shots were poor and directed straight at the SDSU goaltender. The Jackrabbits hit the scoreboard late in the period on a partial breakaway, but the score remained 1-0 after one period of play.

The second period was a total reversal of the first. Both teams were sloppy, making several mistakes at center ice. The game turned into a slow, close-checking affair, disappointing the partisan Dordt crowd. Ken Groot finally gave the Dordt followers something to cheer about with 1:45 left in the second period. Groot picked up a loose puck in the slot and spun to his backhand, flipping the puck over the SDSU goaltender’s shoulder. The second period ended with Dordt holding a 1-0 advantage.

Before a number of fans had returned to their seats for the start of the third period, SDSU had scored. Only one minute into the period SDSU captured a two-on-one break opportunity which goaltender James Koetsier had no chance at. The game was now deadlocked at 2-2. The score remained tied until the 5:45 mark when defenseman Joel Kamp moved in from the blue line and backhanded a loose puck into the open upper corner of the SDSU net. Dordt had regained the lead for good. With only 46 seconds remaining, Greg Groot sealed the victory when his hard wrist shot found the back of the SDSU net. Dordt had regained a 15 point advantage.

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Dordt returned to the ice the next day, but this time it was SDSU playing host in Brookings. Once again Dordt came out sizzling in the third period. Dordt scored three unanswered goals for a 3-0 lead in what coach Minderhoud described as Dordt’s best period of the season. The Blades added three more goals in the