Canadians vote for free trade

"... one of the most confused and volatile elections Canada has witnessed since the Second World War."

--Hugh Winsor, The Globe and Mail's national political editor

by Karla Kamp

Two words distinguish Canada's topsy-turvy election campaign: emotion and commotion.

On October 1st, Prime Minister Mulroney called an election for November 21. During the 50 day campaign, emotions ran high, and daily polls varied greatly, but in the end, the Conservative Party lead by Prime Minister Mulroney was brought back to the House of Commons as a majority.

At first, it looked like the Conservatives, campaigning on the record of good government, would win a clear majority; however, it was unclear who the opposition party would be. The New Democrat Party (NDP) thrived on the hope that the party would replace the Liberals as the opposition party in the House. Edward Broadbent, NDP leader, actually suggested, "It would be healthy for Canada to evolve the way other countries have, with one party that's left of center... like us... and a conservative party." It did not look good for the Liberals.

The NDP campaigned on the basis of personality -- Broadbent would bring decency and honesty to the government.

Liberal leader, John Turner, had his work cut out for him. His campaign took on the theme "Crusade for Canada" by attacking the Free Trade Agreement and making it the central issue of the election. Appealing to the emotions and patriotism of the Canadians, Turner proclaimed that the trade agreement would be selling out the United States: it would fulfill the American dream, and, as Turner stated, "inevitably would make us the equivalent of a 51st state." In a patriotic speech Turner stated, "I will not let Brian Mulroney destroy a country "Canada" by attacking the Free Trade Agreement along with the Liberals. Mulroney appealed to national sentiment as well, stating to John Turner, "I today sit, as a Canadian, believing genuinely in what I am doing. I believe it is right for Canada. I believe that, in my own modest way, I am nation-building because I believe this (the Free Trade Agreement) benefits Canada and I love Canada."

Ads, for the first time in a Canadian election, were placed in newspapers by non-political groups. Those against free trade stressed the agreement would damage Canada. Liberals stressed: "What Mulroney did to Canada with one stroke of the pen, you can undo with one stroke at the ballot box."

Free trade supporters, on the other hand, expressed, "We are not fragile... There is no threat to our national identity anywhere in the Agreement."

By the time November 21, rolled around, it was not clear which Party the voters would favor. The Globe and Mail suggested the election had been "the nastiest, the most important, the most exciting..." In the final outcome, with an 80 percent voter turnout, the Conservatives won the majority of the 295 seats: Conservatives -- 171, Liberals -- 82, and NDP -- 42. For the third time in Canadian history, a party won a back to back majority.

A highlight of the election was the participation of the Christian Heritage Party (CHP). Although the party didn't win any seats, it did affect election results, and placed fourth in most ridings. As described by media, the CHP would especially have an impact "in ridings where the Christian Reformed Church -- formerly the Dutch Reformed Church -- is influential." The Party had a complete policy on issues, but the media typically proclaimed it as a one issue party supporting family values.

It seems as if the Free Trade Agreement between Canada and the United States is just around the corner. Perhaps this past election has shown how much Canada is affected by the U.S., even without the Agreement. The Canadian election was American style: the mudslinging and name-calling, the high emotions, the appeals to national sentiment, and the election's single issue focus. At any rate, the election was one which won't easily be forgotten by Canadians.

Alph/Omega theme

by Carolyn Vos

Every Tuesday night about ten students get together in the PUB room, busy with photos, writing, and layouts. No, it's not the Diamond staff, it's the Sigent staff.

Pat De Waard, this year's editor, tells a bit about this year's yearbook.

"The theme for this year is the Alpha and the Omega," she explains, "the beginning and the end." The yearbook reflects this through the layout, starting with the beginning of the year and following through to the end. "It has a focus of how Christ has been with us throughout this year," Pat says.

The yearbook, however, is a tremendous amount of work. "I try to put in about six hours a week," she continues. The staff of ten -- photographers, writers, and layout people -- are kept busy. "We're relatively inexperienced in that we're learning as we go," Pat smiles. "It was pretty slow at first, but it's fun. I'm enjoying it."

The staff starts working the first week of school and continues until the beginning of June. Deadlines occur throughout the year: December, February, April, and finally the end of May.

"We've made a lot of changes from last year. For example, we've reduced the number of faculty pages by using mug shots instead of the large photos," Pat says. "I think it's going to turn out well.

The Sigent staff encourages more people to help in the area of writing articles and captions. Anyone interested should show up in the PUB room Tuesday nights at 7:30. "There's plenty of work for everyone to do," Pat promises.
News Shorts

Campus—Let's go for drinks. Where? Yes, to the SUB. The Dordt College SUB Club gives students an opportunity to socialize over mixed drinks on campus. The catch is the drinks do not contain any alcohol. The club functions with the help of the Dean of Students office and Student Services. Its purpose is to give students an alternative.

According to a survey conducted every three years by Professor Angelo Gadaleta of West Chester University in Pennsylvania and Professor David S. Jenson of George Mason University in Virginia, colleges across the nation are facing more alcohol related problems now than in the past. The survey of administrators from 330 campuses showed 48% of those who participated are reporting more cases of students "drinking" in uncontrolled situations, and 38% see increases in "abusive drinking" on their campuses. The results also recorded that 58% of the administrators are having to deal with students who use fake identification to purchase alcohol.

The members of the SUB club are pleased with the results of the non-alcoholic evenings. Approximately 200 students pass through the SUB snack bar and an average of 500 drinks are served throughout an evening. The monthly events are organized around a theme which encourages students to participate in the fun. The recognition that the Dordt College SUB club is receiving for their alternative to alcohol is statewide. Both The Des Moines Register and the Sioux City Journal printed articles recently on the SUB club. Dordt students may have found a better way to drink socially.

Prison ministry

by Dan Menenga

For those of you who have always wanted to go to prison but never dared to commit the crime, here is your big chance: Dave Tiemersma, co-director of PLIA, is waiting to hear from Dordt students interested in an exciting way to share their faith and starting a Christian friendship.

The project, represented by Mr. Rick Gerritson of Rock Valley, is called the "Man 2" program. The program allows a student to start a one-to-one relationship with a prison inmate while being a Christian witness.

Gerritson informed Tiemersma that if enough interest is shown on the campus, he will make a presentation to all those interested before Christmas.

So far six students have expressed serious interest in the prison ministry. Tiemersma anticipates several carloads of students to drive to the South Dakota State Prison in Sioux Falls once every three weeks. The visits would last a couple of hours. A person doesn't have to be any sort of counselor or psych. major to become involved, says Tiemersma. "There is no prerequisite for this. It's most important to be willing to be a friend to the needy and those in prison, as Christ taught."

Does the thought of going to a prison scare you? Consider those who cannot leave, and then consider giving them some hope. Interested students should contact Tiemersma.

China wants—YOU!

by Gina Vos

A foreign government is inviting you to come to its country. In fact they need you. And they don't want just anybody—they want you.

The government of China has requested English teachers to come to China. But don't stop reading. Although they prefer either an Education major or an English major, it's not required.

The English Language Institute/China (ELIC) is an agency associated with the Christian Reformed World Missions (CRWM). Together they have been sending committed Christians to China to teach English.

That's the purpose: to teach. But while they're there they teach more than English. They show Christ's love.

Recently Gwen Vander Tuin, a representative for the Institute, spoke on campus. She says, "We're invited by Chinese to teach English but we're going there to share our lives." It's an opportunity at missions. It's an adventure. And it can be short term: either a summer or a year. ELIC means letting others see Christ in you.

During the 1987-88 school year, Vander Tuin taught in China. Her students watched her closely and asked, "Why do you smile all the time?" They saw the inner joy and wondered. Another time when she answered that, yes, she did believe in God, they laughed. But they were seeing God in her.

Eve Spykman (1987 Dordt graduate) is teaching in China now. And Dr. Helen Westra has also taught English through this program.

The world is becoming more and more global. The Chinese government realizes this and feels a strong need for their citizens to know the English language.

However, the ELIC also stresses that Christians should see the world globally too. It's now possible for Christians to teach in a communist country. It's an opportunity. The Chinese government has asked for Christians. They could be calling you.

Coming Events

December 2
DC Women's Basketball vs. Sioux Falls, Home, 5:30 p.m
DC Men's Basketball vs. Sioux Falls, Home, 7:30 p.m.
Madrigal Dinner, 7:00 p.m., West Commons

December 3
DC Women's Basketball vs. Dakota Wesleyan, Away, 5:30 p.m.
DC Men's Basketball vs. Dakota Wesleyan, Away, 7:30 p.m.
Madrigal Dinner, 7:00 p.m., West Commons

December 4
Christmas Choral Concert, 2:30 p.m., Chapel

December 5
Michelle Kilman's Senior Recital, 8:00 p.m., Chapel

December 8
DC Women's Basketball vs Dakota State, Away, 6:00 p.m.
DC Men's Basketball vs. Dakota State, Away, 7:30 p.m.

December 9
Film: The Princess Bride, 6:30 & 9:00 p.m., C160
One Act plays, 8:00 p.m., New World Theater

December 10
DC Women's Basketball vs. Dana, Home, 2:00 p.m.
Madrigal Dinner, 7:00 p.m., West Commons
One Acts, 8:00 p.m., New World Theater

December 12
DC Men's Basketball vs. Buena Vista, Away, 7:30 p.m.

December 13
Chamber Orchestra Christmas Concert, 8:00 p.m., Chapel

Holidays with the Haitians

by Dan Menenga

The Dominican Republic contains some of the world's poorest people—Haitian refugees. Fortunately, Dordt College contains some of the world's most concerned people—the hearty group of students going to the Dominican Republic during Christmas break. The group, coordinated by PLIA (Putting Love Into Action) is going to help the Haitian refugees as they flee famine and political unrest in their own country. The trip will last about two weeks, from January 2 to January 16.

Dr. Neal Hageman presented the need to Dean of Students Marion Van Soelen, who is working very closely with the project.

Twelve students have committed themselves to the trip. Spanish majors are in demand to run a Bible school for children, and the ag majors will be able to aid the local farmers in getting the "Eggs-A-All" project off the ground.

According to Dave Tiemersma, co-director of PLIA, there is plenty of need in building and cleaning, so anyone can be involved.

The cost of the trip must be covered by the students who are going, but help from home churches, local churches, and donations will cut the expenses. "It's a matter of faith," says Tiemersma. "We're very confident."

The Dominican Republic trip will become an annual winter break project, according to Tiemersma. In the future, Van Soelen hopes to arrange academic credit for those who are involved.

Dr. Hageman, a missionary and professor at Santi Domingo National University, will teach a missionology course to the participating students.

Interested students should contact Tiemersma or Van Soelen for more information.
Pre-sem club tackles tough issues

by Melanie Woldhuis

Dordt College's pre-sem club is not only for pre-seminary students. In fact, 12 of the 28 members are not working on a pre-sem program, but instead have joined the club because of their interests in the concerns of the church. Four women participate in the club, which opens its arms to anyone who is concerned about missions, evangelism, teaching, pastoral care, or any of many other issues in today's church.

The club meets at least once a month, and sometimes more often, when more activities are available. They often bring in speakers such as Rev. Nelson Kloofterman from Mid-America Reformed Seminary (MARS) who will speak to the group this Sunday night on the topic of Pastoral Brutality.

Already this year the club has sponsored dinners with representatives from Calvin Theological Seminary and with Dr. Paul Schrotenboer, Dordt's Reformation Day speaker. They also sponsored the Witnessing Where You Are seminar which drew 40 participants from the college and community.

Next semester the group plans to host dinners with the representatives from Westminster West Seminary and Mid-America Reformed Seminary. They also hope to show a video about Mid-America Reformed Seminary.

With their varied backgrounds and interests, club members discuss many issues pertinent to today's church. Some discussions center around which seminary to attend—Calvin, MARS and Westminster West head the list of possibilities. Other issues include minister burnout, missions, and the role of the pastor.

The pastor's role in the church is an important issue right now because it has been undergoing many changes in the past several years. In the past, the pastor has concentrated almost entirely on his sermons, whereas now he is responsible for a great deal of counseling and organizing activities around the church. The minister takes on so many roles that preaching receives less emphasis.

Steve Zwart, club president, says "with the headstart we get on knowing about all these issues, we'll be better off in the long run."

Other issues, such as the recent creation/evolution debate addressed in Dordt's Fall Lecture Series and the issue of women in office, are not discussed as often. According to Ken Altena, club vice-president, the lack of discussion about these and other deep theological issues comes partly from the fact that they have been discussed so much in the past, and partly because there is "so much attached. We cannot adequately discuss these issues at this level."

Mathews pays tribute through painting.

Exhibit features retiring art professor

by Janelle Hofland

You are invited to view the latest and last exhibit of the semester in the Dordt College Art Gallery. Works of Professor Norm Matheis are featured in his last exhibit as a full faculty member. In addition, works of George Daniel Meijer, Mathieus' grandfather, are being displayed.

The show is open through December 9th in the Chapel mezzanine, which is open 9:00 to 3:00, Monday through Friday. It is also open during all evening events in the Chapel.

Pucci's Family Restaurant

Evening Buffets

Every Monday Night is all the Spaghetti and Garlic Bread you can eat.

5:30-7:30 P.M. .................. Only $2.00

Every Tuesday Night is Pizza Buffet Night!

5:30 -7:30 P.M. - ALL YOU CARE TO EAT:
Pizza, Taco Bar and Salad Bar. ............. Only $3.79

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

Every Wednesday Night is Fish Night!

5:30-7:30 P.M. - ALL YOU CARE TO EAT:
Fish, Cole Slaw, Fries and Garlic Bread. ......... Only $3.79

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

Every Thursday Night is Mexican Night!

5:30 -7:30 P.M. - ALL YOU CARE TO EAT:
Mexican Buffet Night Includes: Enchiladas, Nachos, Tacos, Refried Beans, Taco Pizza and Crispitas. .......... Only $3.79

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

204 N. Main
Sioux Center
What Is Dordt Doing on KG 95?

by Galen Sinkey

During a recent afternoon study break in my apartment, I turned on my stereo and listened to a few songs on KG 95, a popular Sioux City rock station. After one of the songs was over, a commercial advertising Dordt College came on. That particular commercial was written and produced by a broadcasting student. The commercial was great! In fact, the commercial even made me want to attend Dordt, and it was the best advertisement the station had ever aired.

I thought about Dordt College and KG 95, and I decided to write this letter to the editor. During the year, I have been following the activities of the station that are directed against God and his kingdom. KG 95 does support by listening to KG 95, we are actively supporting the station by giving it a listening market. The station attracts advertisers, and ultimately earns its income from the listening audience. But as Christians, we can discern our support by listening to songs that are God-glorifying and then turning it off when the station plays music that is clearly not glorifying to God. KG 95 does play some songs that promote a responsible view of man, and they even play an occasional Christian contemporary song; by groups such as Shypry, Petra, Michael W. Smith, and Amy Grant. But when Dordt College sends a check to KG 95 to pay for commercial time, they cannot discriminate their financial support only toward the God glorifying things the station does. By supporting KG 95, Dordt is also supporting the activities of the station that are directed against God and his kingdom.

I also have a problem with the commercials themselves. The commercials do not seem to be consistent with their products. In other words, the commercials do not give a wholly accurate view of Dordt College. The focus of Dordt is to provide students with a Christian view of the world, and their responsibility in it. The college teaches us how to be servants for Christ in all areas of our lives. The commercials, however, appeal to the listener's own self-centered desires: what Dordt College can do for me. Instead, the commercials should focus on what Dordt College is; what the college is trying to accomplish in today's culture and why the listener needs to be a part of this.

Finally, advertising on KG 95 is a waste of money in terms of the potential effectiveness of the commercials. I assume that the purpose of the commercials is to try to encourage high school students to consider attending Dordt College. But considering the Sioux City listening audience, very few Sioux City high school students ever come to Dordt, or would be in the market to attend a Reformed college like Dordt. If this is not true, why don't we advertise in other metropolitan radio audiences, like Omaha, or Denver or Kansas City? Although many Christian high school students may be in KG 95's listening audience, such as students of Unity and Western Christian High Schools, these students already have a high degree of awareness of Dordt through Dordt's influence in the immediate community, through the students' friends who attend Dordt, and through the Admissions department's recruiting activities at these schools. In other words, Western and Unity students aren't going to be swayed to Dordt by a commercial on KG 95.

In a sense, this issue seems to be a part of a larger problem. If Dordt is to be successful in reforming our culture and our society, the entire college must be committed to this, including the Office of Development, the Business Office, and the Admissions department. The statement of purpose that Dordt upholds does not only apply to the classroom and to the professors and students, but also to all the people working in support of the college in its various departments. Yet, in this situation, I see a significant lack of commitment to what the college stands for, and a lack of unity in what the college says it believes and what it's doing.

letters to the editor

Business Office
To the Editor:

I feel the Business Office has stretched the limits! I have been very discouraged lately concerning its policies. Oh, don't think this is another letter about the interest that everyone has been complaining about; rather, I am talking about picking up your work study checks this past time. The Business Office says that if students have not filled out the 1-9 form they will not be able to receive their checks. Every time the Business Office has held the meeting I have had to work or have had other prior commitments. I have made several visits to the Business Office to fill out the form that takes only two minutes, yet I must wait until they have another meeting. I'm confused. When Dordt needs their money, they want it now or interest is charged. When students want their money they have worked for, they have to wait and wait without receiving interest. It isn't the students' fault that the Business Office neglected its responsibility, yet they take it out on the students.

Respectfully submitted,
Grace DeVries

Countdown to January

By Sharon Pruim

Christmas vacation is on its way but not quite. First, students must complete all those papers they have been saving for a winter blizzard. Unfortunately that day never came because the blizzard wasn't bad enough to lock the students and their books in a quiet place. Second, those dreaded final exams are two weeks away. Everyone is running out of excuses to put all that homework aside. Six weeks of reading must be compressed into only a few days or, even worse, a few hours. Third, money is not as plentiful as it was at the beginning of the semester. Mom informs you she doesn't expect anything for Christmas; having you home will be enough. "By the way, did you see the new watches at Sears?" she asks. The semester has gone so fast, but somehow dead week seems to last a year.

The joyous holiday season is becoming so cluttered with exams, shopping, and activities that it will be a relief to return to school next January. Then the whole system of procrastination will begin again.

Don't let these last few weeks stress you out—it's not that important. One of these semesters you'll catch on to the system.
Sharpening Consciences

by Dan Van Dyke

A trend has been developing in Christian schools, especially in the areas of Theater and Literature, to teach literature and/or plays which use profanity. May Christians follow this trend? If so, to what extent?

Many Christian school teachers, including some of our professors here at Dordt, have become more lenient about the use of literature and plays which often include extreme profanity. We must take another look at what makes Christian education distinctive.

To avoid all literature which includes profanity is not the answer. If this were done, many great pieces of literature, including the very popular Huckleberry Finn, would be omitted from the curriculum. A certain amount of profanity can be read without it affecting the reader or subtracting from the story. We must be very careful, however, to guard against the dangers of excessive profanity.

We must remember that we can never merely overlook the taking of God's name in vain or the use of vulgar words. If we encounter them in the classroom, we must continually remind the student that we, as Christians, are different from the world and we have no excuse for using these words. We can never use the excuse that a certain word is not really a big deal. If it is contrary to God's law, no matter how common it is in the world around us, it is a big deal. If we find a story whose language is contrary to God's law, we must not teach it and merely ignore the bad language. The only other alternative to us as Christians is to teach the story while continually commenting on the vulgar language. This is dangerous, not only because the student will grow accustomed to hearing these words, but also because it is highly impractical, for continuously pointing out the profanity virtually destroys the teaching of the story.

We must realize that profanity is sin, even though many Christians have become callous to its use. We must always remember to glorify God in all aspects of our lives, including our language. We must reharmonize our consciences and guard against the misuse of God's most holy name.

Steinbeck’s masterpiece worthy of presentation

by Chuck Adams

Recently, an uproar arose about the play "Of Mice and Men," performed by the Dordt College Theater Arts Department during two consecutive weekends. The play, written by famed 20th century author John Steinbeck, revolves around the story of two migrant workers, one of whom is retarded, who live in a cycle of poverty that entraps them forever.

Steinbeck, whose leftward-leaning political stances were looked upon with disfavor during the Depression era by many Americans, writes in a distinctly naturalistic style -- a manner tending toward the vulgar.

The play is harsh, realistic, and little shocking. The language used in the play, which is the bone of contention among well-meaning but ignorant detractors of the Dordt administration, remains. Without the language, the performance is harsh, realistic, and insensitive to the easy and secure lifestyles may find a little shocking.

Many of what we see today on television and on movie screens is garbage, yet we put up with language, sex, and violence -- partially, I think, because we don't feel as offended when that kind of garbage is presented to us in Sioux City, Le Mars, or Minneapolis. But when a play of high quality and literary significance makes its way onto the Dordt College stage, then some people get hot and bothered. The showing of "Of Mice and Men" was probably the best show produced by Dordt in many years. The actors' performances were stunning, and the message of the play rang loud and clear in this day and age of economic violence against the lower class by the Reagan administration. The ravages of Reaganomics have caused more and more people to think the way Steinbeck thought, and act the way his characters do.
Why Would Anyone Go To Dordt?

by Leanne Meadows

This advertisement heading for Dordt in recent magazines sums up the many questions asked of students who have chosen Dordt for continuing their education. While the admissions office plays a major role in public relations for Dordt and helps to bring students here, their job is more than putting on Campus Visit Days and working with financial aid.

Dordt's admissions counselors spend most of their time visiting schools and prospective students throughout the United States and Canada. The admissions counselors have their own territory in which they travel and promote Dordt. In between trips, each counselor returns to Dordt to keep in contact with students who are responding through the mail, set up visits to other high schools, keep in contact with prospective students who have been called by student admissions assistants, and working on Campus Visit Days.

Every year Dordt's admissions counselors visit over 250 high schools. While a large percentage of Dordt students come from private schools, more public schools are visited. So what determines which schools are visited? Every high school within a 100-mile radius of the college is visited. Also visited are schools which annually have a large number of students who choose Dordt, and high schools that have students who have shown some interest in Dordt. Even one student who has shown an interest is worth the visit; through just one student choosing Dordt other students in that area become aware of Dordt.

Prospective students are determined by over 12,000 names given to the admissions offices by churches, pastors, and school counselors.

Through direct mail, Dordt contacts these prospects. If a response is shown to Dordt by the student returning an interest card, they are then contacted by admissions assistants. These work-study students perform an important job in introducing students to Dordt, its various programs, and what they as students enjoy about going here. They also find out valuable information for the admissions counselors. Through these phone calls, the admissions office knows what the prospective student desires from a college and what factors determine their decision on what college to attend.

Only students who have already shown an interest in Dordt are called. This helps make the job a bit easier. It is still difficult, though, because these calls may be the only information that reaches these people about what life at Dordt is really like.

Students earn big bucks

by Teri Nikkel

As Christmas draws near, everyone scrambles to find the perfect gifts. But soon the holidays will end, bank accounts will be starving, and it will be time for Dordt students to make another tuition payment. Many students are already thinking ahead and are making some extra money now.

Dan Koole and SteveThuene are trying to survive the money crunch by restoring a car that has been in a crash. The two of them bought a 1987 Plymouth Horizon in the beginning of November, and it had been in an accident. They hope to have it repaired, repainted, and sold before Christmas. "It's been a good learning experience and we'll be happy as long as we don't lose money on it," says Thuene.

The majority of Dordt students are going through a variety of job experiences. Dordt employs approximately 714 students who work-study jobs. The most popular jobs are running the switchboard and the game room. Some less popular jobs include cleaning the library at 6 a.m. every day and milking at the Dordt farm. "One of the most unique work-study jobs is feeding Mr. Mahafy's toads, frogs, and spiders in the science building," says Mike Epema, associate director of financial aid.

Other students who aren't given work-study jobs or those who want to make more money than allowed on work-study have been working off campus. There are lists of students who want to babysit, houseclean, or provide farm help. Epema often receives calls from community businesses who are hiring. But the unemployment rate is only 1.6 percent in Sioux County, and there are only about four Dordt students that want jobs and don't have them. "The job situation is as good as it's ever been," says Epema.
Carols Cater in Christmas

by Steve Mulder

You hear it on the radio; it pervades every shopping mall and gift shop; people hum choruses and whistle happy tunes as they walk to class. It's December -- time for snow flake, Christmas lights, and mistletoe. It's time for nativity scenes and sleigh rides. It's time for Christmas music!

The Dordt College Madrigal Dinners sponsored by the Concert Choir. Tickets for the Sixteenth Century Elizabethan feast are still available for December 2, 3, and 10 by contacting the Box Office.

An event that is gaining popularity each year is the Christmas Chamber Music Concert. The Dordt College Chamber Orchestra is assisted by a woodwind quintet from the concert band and organist Martin Tel. They will provide a program that includes many arrangements of familiar Christmas carols. The Christmas Chamber Music concert is Tuesday, December 13, at 8:00 p.m. in the Chapel.

Each year, many people claim that the Choral Christmas concert is the highlight of the Christmas season.

One act of education

by Floyd Reitsma

The three student one-act plays to be presented December 9 and 10 in the New World Theater are not just entertaining but also educational for those in the production. The one-acts are directed by students for a final theater direction class project. The students involved are allowed to do almost anything with the production of the selected plays. The costumes, setting, and acting styles are all determined by the student director according to how they interpret the writer's meaning of the play. Vern Meyer, professor of the class, helps with the productions and makes sure they get off the ground.

Besides being educational for the directors, actors and actresses, they also get experience that may lead to bigger parts in major productions. The one-acts offer a chance to those who haven't acted much but would like to get experience to help their acting abilities.

The first one-act play is Flounder Complex, a story of an old woman in search of a companion to live with. The play has a total of 45 minutes in length and is directed by Joy Kadyk and Nancy Schiebout. Second is Eulogy, a play about a man and wife going to the man's brother's funeral. It is directed by Karen Huizinga and is approximately 25 minutes long. Last is Graceland, a story about two women at the gate of Elvis Presley's mansion trying to be the first in when it opens up for public viewing. It's directed by Brian Klausing and Kathy Powell and is about 30 minutes long.

The plays will be presented at 8 p.m. in the New World Theater on December 9 and 10. Tickets are on sale at the box office for $1.

Musical fun

by Diana Klungel

Laughing, smiles, a good time. Words similar to these don't usually describe an orchestra but for Dordt's Chamber Orchestra, laughter smilés and a good time provide an astute picture of the group. The orchestra, consisting of nine members, includes a mixture of majors, experience, and sense of humor. A rehearsal does not end without at least one joke being shared.

At a recent rehearsal, time was taken for everyone to share one of their favorite jokes. Joke-telling does not delay the totality of rehearsal time for the orchestra. The majority of rehearsal time is spent practicing; at present the group is preparing for their upcoming Christmas concert on December 13. Music for their program includes works by Haydn, Bartok, Beethoven, Kreisler, Reinecke and others. Some of their pieces are familiar Christmas tunes such as "Away in a Manger", "Silent Night."

Dordt Chamber Orchestra may be a small group but they aren't lacking in talent. The orchestra works hard with regular rehearsals on Monday and Thursday evenings. One reward for their work is a tour at the end of the second semester. Tour tests the orchestra's ability to play well together for a number of days, as well as the ability of the members to cooperate and learn to spend a lot of time together. Tour is a reward though. The group unifies and gets to know each other on a level not possible together. Tour is a reward though. The group unifies and gets to know each other on a level not possible through the regular two rehearsals a week.

Help share and enjoy the benefits of the Dordt orchestra's hard work by attending their Christmas concert on December 13 in the Chapel. It will be a musical evening you won't want to miss.

Prices Slashed!

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Defenders split Mt. Mercy Classic

by Eric Groen

The Dordt College men's basketball team is off to a slow start this season, with late last year's record breaking campaign. This year's team faces the task of replacing three long-time starters and will be relying heavily on a number of underclassmen. Kevin Veenstra, Jerry Boer, Larry Faber and Jeff Van Lingen are the only seniors on the squad, but several juniors have varsity experience and will be expected to contribute immediately. Joel Veenstra, a junior forward who was expected to join the starting lineup this year, fractured bones in his shooting hand during a practice session and is not expected back until after the Christmas break.

Dordt opened its season with a Saturday-afternoon game in Yankton, South Dakota, when they took on Mount Marty college. The game was close all the way with both teams having the lead at some point in the second half. The Defenders could not pull things together in the end, however, and when Gailen Veurink's seventeen-foot bank shot rimmed out at the buzzer, Dordt lost 77-75. Kevin Veenstra led Dordt's scorers with 21 points for the game, followed by junior Jay Schelhaas' 10.

The Defenders traveled to Lincoln, Nebraska, on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving to take on a very strong Nebraska Wesleyan team, ranked number one in the nation in pre-season NCAA Division III polls. Once again Dordt put up a good fight, staying close throughout the first half and heading into the locker room tied at 32. The Defenders stayed close early in the second half, but in one crucial three-minute stretch Nebraska Wesleyan opened up an eighteen point lead. Dordt cut into the lead but could come no closer than thirteen, losing 77-64. Kevin Veenstra was again Dordt's leading scorer with 24, followed by Jay Schelhaas with 12.

While most students headed home for the Thanksgiving Break, the Defenders were in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, playing in the Mount Mercy Classic. On Friday night the Defenders were paired against the host, Mount Mercy. Dordt played its best game of the season against a good ball club, and they came away with an 81-80 victory. Kevin Veenstra ran the way for Dordt with 22 points, followed by junior guard Derrick Altena's 20. Jay Schelhaas was the third player in double figures with 12 points as the Defenders shot 56 percent from the floor.

Rosary College was Dordt's opponent on Saturday night and once again the Defenders were in a tight game against a very good team. The teams left the floor at halftime tied at 34, and Dordt opened up a small lead in the second half. However, Rosary turned things around late in the game and handed the Defenders their third loss of the season, 69-66. Jerry Boer paced Dordt with eighteen points, Jay Schelhaas chipped in 13, and Kevin Veenstra added 12. Dordt shot only 43 percent from the field on the game.

Overall, Coach Rick Vanderberg is pleased with his team's effort this year. The first game was a disappointment as the team came out tight and couldn't seem to get on track. Vanderberg says the team played well in its two other losses, but were overcome by good ball clubs and short lapses of concentration. The coach is optimistic about the rest of the season, as he sees his team improving with each game.

Iowa State stops Blades

by Edgar Veldman

On Saturday November 19, the Dordt College Blades made a trip to Ames to take on the Iowa State Cyclones JV team. The Iowa State Varsity Hockey team is one of the top ten club teams in the United States.

The Blades soon realized Iowa State's power as the Cyclones scored two goals in the first two minutes of play and five goals total to take a commanding 5-0 lead after the first period of play. The Blades had come out a little slow and needed time to adjust to Iowa State's style of play. Co-captain James Koetsier believes it was the fastest paced game the Blades have played in his four years at college.

Dordt settled down in the second period as they killed several penalties, thanks to the hard work of Phil Minderhoud and Tim Veenstra. The Blades began to match up with the Cyclones hit for hit and were no longer intimidated by their quick, physical play. This hard work quickly paid off as Wayne Dykstra notched the Blades only goal of the game, with the assist credited to Greg Vander Top. The Cyclones, however, picked up two more goals to take a lengthy 7-1 lead after the second period.

The third period saw little change from the second. Unfortunately, the Blades could not capitalize on any of their scoring chances and were held scoreless in the third period. Dordt goal tender John DeHoog held the Cyclones to just one goal all period, and the final score in the game was 8-1 in favor of Iowa State.

Koetsier believes that the score of 8-1 does not indicate or do justice to the way the Blades played. "Iowa State simply capitalized on our mistakes while we were unable to score when they made a mistake." He felt the Blades need to work on their transition game, especially from offense to defense.

The Blades return to action this weekend with two away games Friday and Saturday in Brookings, South Dakota, against the SDSU Jackrabbits. This weekend will also feature the return of goalie James Koetsier who has been out with a knee injury. The next Blades home game is scheduled for December 9, with the opponent yet to be determined.

Lady Defenders capture two at home

by Steve Hoogland

"This year we must rely on our depth and inside game to be successful," says Len Rhoda, women's basketball coach. The Lady Defenders have five returning players from last year's playoff team. The rest of the players on the team are first-year players on a very young Dordt team.

The Lady Defenders opened their season with a loss to Dana College. It was an especially disappointing loss because Dordt led the entire game until the final minute. In the final minute a critical five-point play hurt the Lady Defenders as a Dana player hit a three-point field goal and was fouled after the shot. Freshmen led the way in scoring as Jill Boussena scored 26 points and Suzanne De Vries scored nine in the 64-61 loss.

Dordt's next test was the Lady Coygurs of Sioux Falls College. The Lady Defenders came up on the short end again but Rhoda said, "They were an excellent team and we felt we played better against them [Sioux Falls] than against Dana." Although Dordt didn't shoot well, Boussena once again led the way for Dordt scorers with 13 points. De Vries and sophomore Rhonda Gritters each scored 12 points. De Vries and Janet Zylstra were also in double figures with 11 and 10 points, respectively.

Dordt's tough man-to-man defense in their home opener earned them their first victory of the season against Dakota Wesleyan. Boussena scored 20 points and sophomore Rhonda Gritters scored 18 as the Lady Defenders led throughout.

During Thanksgiving break, the team traveled to Mount Mercy to play one of the strongest teams in the district. Coach Rhoda summed up the game: "They were an excellent team. They applied a lot of pressure and we shot poorly." De Vries scored 16 points and junior point guard Vonda Brands scored seven in the 71-46 defeat.

The Lady Beavers of Buena Vista College were unbeaten until they visited Dordt Tuesday night. Dordt blazed the nets early against the Buena Vista zone and the Lady Defenders' defense established a comfortable margin by halftime. The Lady Defenders had three players score in double figures as Boussena led with 21, De Vries had 20, and Brands scored 12.

Rhoda says "We have some experience coming back but we are relying on some of the younger players." The Lady Defenders will need to establish consistency in the weeks before Christmas to have a good chance in the playoffs. Friday evening they have a 5:30 rematch against Sioux Falls College before the men's game.