Fire befalls Dordt Ag Stewardship Center

by Wayne Spronk

A small water heater is being blamed for the fire which destroyed a calf hutch at the Dordt College’s Ag Stewardship Center, leaving six calves temporarily barnless. The fire began Saturday afternoon when the calves apparently pulled the portable electric water heater from the water tank and the device overheated in the straw. The heating units have no thermostat to shut them off when they are removed from the cold water and begin to overheat.

There were three of the approximately six-foot by 12 foot hutches on the dairy farm, and 30 smaller one-calf huts.

Dordt farm maintenance manager Les Schaap says, “we were thinking about building another hutch for more room, and now this one burns.” Schaap estimates the loss, which is covered by insurance, at around five hundred dollars.

The heaters in the water tank are kept away from the calves with a piece of plywood above one corner of the tank, but it wasn’t enough. As Schaap put it, “Calves are smart, but they’re dumb, you know? We need a piece of iron to hold those heaters in place.” The calves escaped, though not without some of the dairy farm losing part of its already short housing.”

Dordt examines fantasy games

Are fantasy role playing games unChristian?

by Angela Struyk

“Spin wheel, spin!” commands the dungeon master as four contestants in this ancient game of “Wheel of Fortune” look on. The setting is a wizard’s castle on a small island in the world of Grey Hawk. The contestants are an assortment of creatures such as dwarves, elves, humans and clerics wearing swords, armor, shields, and cloaks.

What are creatures doing in a castle, playing Wheel of Fortune in the land of Grey Hawk? This is just one episode in the fantasy role playing game (FRP) Dungeon and Dragons (better known as D and D by its players) which has been banned from being played on Dordt’s campus.

If the game sounds much like a chapter from a fantasy fiction book by an author such as J.R.R. Tolkien don’t be surprised. Bony B and D players picture their characters in a world much like Tolkien’s Middle Earth, where challenges with dragons, goblins, monsters, giants (no name a few of the many obstacles) are everyday adventures.

What is D and D? It is a very

Dance proclaims itself as a God-given art form

by Wayne Kroon

A new form of art called “dance” has recently been introduced at Dordt drawing the attention of many people. As part of Arts Core 200 and Theater Arts, dance has become an “added flavor” to the curriculum now present.

According to Dance in the Reformed Community, a position paper submitted and written by a committee formed at Dordt, dance can be defined as “...a physical movement. It is an activity based on one rhythmic pattern, as is all human activity.” It goes on to say that, “...God also created us with the ability to perform physical activity to a rhythmic pattern – dance – and that it is also a legitimate leisure time activity for His creatures.”

Dordt has recently employed Lynn Otto to teach dance as a sub-course of Arts Core 200. Otto is a 1984 graduate of Dordt who majored in Theater Arts, and who spent nine months at the Cornish Institute for the Performing and Visual Arts in Seattle, Washington. She studied dance and the various aspects surrounding it. Otto teaches close to 60 students per semester about dance and its attributes.

Formally called “Human Movement,” this dance class studies the communication power of the physicality of the human body. It deals with the communication of one’s body as well as that of others and is designed to enhance the view of dance performances in general.

According to Otto, “dance is a whole new area of communication opening up. Dance gives people a chance to move in ways they haven’t moved before and makes them able to see the beauty of dance on both their physical as well as mental health. It is a form of nonverbal communication that expresses meaning in whatever way the person wants it to.”

Otto goes on to say that people who take the class are quite taken aback at first when they start but are quite pleased with themselves by the time they get out of the class.

Basically an anaerobic exercise, dancing transmits different physical benefits depending mainly upon the type of dance you do. According to Professor Mark Schuit, Dordt’s Physical Education department, dancing is a good way of exercising and you can also get good benefits from dance. Muscle toning, limited cardiovascular improvement, and even some limited muscle build-up are among the benefits.

So what is the possible controversy surrounding the dance class at Dordt? The problem exists because not everyone sees dance as an art form. Some see it as a sexual enticer that leads to more than it should. Others see it as a form of communication that shouldn’t be a part of Dordt. Whatever the reason, Otto definitely had a rough time. She now has more understanding into her teaching.

As the position paper, Dance in the Reformed Community states, “families need to plan ways in which involvement in the arts can help open up members to their emotions and responsible expressions of their feelings in leisure activities such as dance. Schools should begin to build on this process through the adaptation of curriculum and instruction techniques. The church also through the proclamations of the Word needs to accept and support the place of dance in and for the Christian community.”
Diamond

Thursday, March 7, 1985

Donated by the Theater Arts Dept.

WELCOME TO GENERIC COLLEGE
by Ronald Thomas Nelson

It happens every Tuesday—Double Green Stamp Day at Hy Vee. Roommate Norman and I are standing in front of the dairy case when I pick up a gallon of black and white label generic milk. "Hey, Norman! Let's get this milk. It must come from Holsteins." Norman sighs (again) and shuffles off. I find him later standing in front of the meat counter lusting at the roast beef.

Any Dordt student faced with feeding himself has, no doubt, discovered the pleasures of these unnamed, un-branded budget-saving foodstuffs. Although the unpretentious black and white labels are somewhat refreshing in this world of otherwise over-hyped NEW AND IMPROVED FABULOUS FANTASTIC euphemistic world of mass marketing, this is not an object lesson for a college.

What are you saying Nelson? You are undoubtedly saying

I always assumed Dordt's colors, black and white, blatantly symbolized "the great antithesis." But this is really a subtle allusion to generic products.

Well, the building names at Dordt College remind me of the bottom shelf at Hy Vee. East Hall, Chapel Music Building and The Commons are all evidence of the early unimaginative, unthoughtful and I believe disobedient days of Dordt College.

I suppose it is possible that a disoriented freshman from Manitoba, lost and confused in his first few hours on campus, could, in desperation, turn towards the great Dominion, and, alas eventually return to his room in North Hall. But is this reason enough to name it North Hall?

God commands name-giving. Adam's task of assigning names to Eden creatures was not mere busy work while he was waiting for the more dramatic rib transformation that rendered Eve. Rather, it was an image bearer being obedient to a Creator God's call to be a good garden keeper. Even after the fruit fiasco, and after killer Cain left home to carry out an ungodly cultural mandate in the world (music and cities), says Genesis, God's children are still, regardless of sin, commanded to serve as astronomers and actors name-giving their way from Broadway to the Milky Way.

Meanwhiile, Cain and his kin have been giving names to everything from the cookie LornaDoodle, to the West African country of Cameroon while we, students of Dordt College, inheritors of four hundred and fifty years of a more Biblical understanding of creation, live in places like East Campus Apartments, take notes in The Classroom Building, and do research in The Library.

Although it is obvious that Dordt College should not take precedence for name-calling from generic products, it should nevertheless not look to a certain large denominational college (the one located in the pinkie finger of the Michigan mitten) either. After touring that campus, one might realize that the administration will probably place a plaque beside a door showing some fat-cat Calvinist if indeed he had donated the cash for it. I hope that wouldn't happen here. Besides, we have lots of heroes of the faith whose achievements could combine thoughts and rename their otherwise generic-sounding facilities.

Donated by the Theater Arts Dept.

The Diamond encourages and appreciates letters to the editors. In considered of space limitations and fairness, we ask letter writers to confine their contributions to 300 words or less. The Diamond reserves the right to edit or refuse the publication of letters. Letters must be turned in to the editors by the Saturday before publication. All letters must be signed.

Those outside the Dordt Community who would like to write to the Diamond Editors, or who would like to subscribe, may address correspondence to: The Diamond, Dordt College, Sioux Center, Iowa 51250.

The Diamond thanks the Sioux Center News for the use of their equipment and technical advice.

The Diamond is a bi-weekly publication produced with thought and concern by students of Dordt College. The views presented here are the product of Christian love and are an attempt to promote serious thinking and radical action. Issues and problems face the aching and torn hearts of all humanity. These demand the full attention and spiritual struggle of Christians and call for an articulated and concrete response. In this context, the Diamond strives to provide an opportunity for Christian journalism to play itself out in an open verbal arena. But our prayer does not end in the confused babbling of mere verbiage, rather, its hope is to open the minds and hearts of the community to which it is directed.
In response to Mr. Henry De Groot's letter in the January 31 issue of the Diamond, I'm presenting my views and response to his statement.

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) sees alcoholism as a two part disease. The alcoholic is physically different in being addicted (an ailment) and has a mental obsession manifested by a craving for alcohol. This is what I learned about the disease. It does partially explain why alcoholics continue drinking despite the consequences for themselves.

AA doesn't cure alcoholism. But it is the most effective program for arresting this disease. This is shown by continued abstinence. AA requires of the person a desire to stop drinking.

The alcoholic doesn't take credit for staying dry, dry. It belongs—to my higher power whom I choose to call God. Recovery is more than staying dry. The concept of sobriety implies a way of life that doesn't include drinking. The guide for this spiritual life-style is found in the suggestions of AA's 12 Steps and 12 Traditions. Looking at alcoholism as "self-imposed,"

Dear Editor:

While attending the Jubilee Conference in Pittsburgh I was challenged by the speeches I heard. Therefore I felt it necessary to give a brief summary of the weekend's speeches to all those Dordt students who did not attend.

One speech that hit me the most was given by Dr. Os Guiness, Sociologist of Theology at Oxford University. Through this speech, I was reminded that as Christians living in American society, we have the responsibility to do more than witness. Our calling is to change the United States into a nation that has Christian instead of Humanist ideals.

The highlights of Guiness' speech stated that America is in a period of transition. This transition can lead either to the danger of the American attitude becoming like that of our European friends or towards a Christian nation. For those of you who are not familiar with European thought today: it is very individualized.

Christians do not feel the church is important because their faith in God is personal and not community orientated. Most people do not even believe in God, but instead put their faith in the nation, money, and technology.

Guiness explained that America has never before had such a great number of Christians. The amount of money available in politics, journalism, social work, medicine, business, etc. are all at their peak. Therefore he said that Christians have a duty and a strong calling by God to help steer this change into a direction focusing on God instead of doom, which will otherwise occur.

How, may you ask, can I change the United States? You alone cannot. Guiness challenged us to stand together and work together in our different disciplines: constantly working to Christ's honor and glory and in this way direct our nation. If we do not demonstrate leadership our nation will fall apart at the seams and we will be blameless.

Personally, I do not think that some of us take our calling seriously enough since we do not realize how important it is for us to change America's structures. America is in big trouble according to speakers such as John Perkins (who you may recall was on Dordt's campus last fall), and Os Guiness. They expressed that "reformed Christians" have the perfect philosophy to make a transition in this world, yet we do not. We become too involved in secular ideals to realize that we are letting go of our Christian response.

I wish more of you could have gone to Jubilee. It is a very encouraging and challenging conference for struggling Christians in today's world.

Margaret Valkema

Dungeons and Dragons use creative minds

The players assume the roles of specific characters, such as dwarves, elves, magic-using clerics, wizards and practically anything else that can be imagined. Each player is then given a personality based on the role of the dice for amount of strength, intelligence, dexterity with weapons, and punishment. These characters are also assigned a personality such as good or evil, lawful or chaotic. As a group of characters enters the castle or dungeon or whatever situation, the DM gives clues to its size and content and the characters decide how to go through the adventure unscathed. The game really has no winners or losers, but the object of the game is to have an adventure.

According to Clarke Huisman who has been playing Dungeons and Dragons for nearly seven years, "some might term it as a form of (D and D) escapism. Others explain the game similarly, relating it to fiction. Piers All, Bob Wiersma explained it as a complicated game of make-believe. 'The way I look at it, its no different than reading literature but you're writing it as you go along.'

Wiersma.

He believes that there has been a slot of undue criticism of the game, and that it's healthy for the imagination. Another player described D and D as "a game of good versus evil." He explained it as being able to do things that the book characters do except the player lives the experience. Although all FRP games have been banned, the nuclear simulation game that was held several weeks ago was also a form of FRP.

One reason why there is a negative feeling toward the game of D and D is because of a television movie entitled "Mage and Monsters" which depicted the story of a college student who began to live his game character out in real life and eventually tried to kill himself as a fulfillment of his quest. The "P.T.L Club" has also criticized the game on one of its programs as being related to devils and demons.

Most of the students on Dordt's campus who are involved in D and D do not feel D and D is dangerous in terms of involvement with demonology. Many of these players do, however, see that the game can become too time-consuming to a point where it takes a higher priority to studies, sleep, and other "real life" activities.

Wiersma, who plays a ranger cleric in his D and D game (a ranger cleric has special powers to heal and raise from death) says he has never seen a dangerous game, but could see where someone overcommitted to the game could put himself into a potential danger.

Wiersma believes that this overcommitment should not be blamed on the game of D and D, but on the individual himself.

Some criticize the types of characters that are part of D and D. The cleric, spirits, sorcerers, witches, to list a few, and state that the players may begin to believe in these creatures. One player said, "I believe in the non-existent creatures such as Tolkien when I'm reading it." Wiersma feels that if D and D cannot be played, then books such as the "Lord of the Rings" Chronicles or Tolkien's books should also be banned.

Freshman, Bruce Polson, has been exposed to the game of D and D and has some very strong feelings against it. Several years ago Polson attended a computer camp where he encountered his first experience with D and D.

What seemed like an odd coincidence to Polson was that nearly one-third of those who attended the camp discovered that they played D and D and none of them had known each other before. He said that about ten of the approximately 30 people who met at the camp devoted a lot of their evenings to playing D and D.

The way they played was all in their minds, and according to Polson, they never talked about their characters. Instead, one would speak in more than one voice— an eerie experience for those who observed. Polson advises anyone remotely interested in playing D and D would be better to not start, because he has seen to many people spend too much time at it.

Reverend Wayne Kobes has spent some time speaking with D and D players after a student fearful of the game talked to him. What Kobes discovered after speaking with several D and D players, was that S and D was a game which promoted creativity and camaraderie among its players. He commented, however, that he was concerned whether the game was a good use of time and whether it shaped the player at all into an attitude of materialism which D and D seems to promote. But at the same time, Kobes questioned whether the game of hockey promoted aggression or whether the game of monopoly promoted greed among its players.

Kobes believed that if a policy was made which banned the playing of D and D or other FRP games, that it should be one which is well thought out, specific, and researched.
Peace Corps swells with African famine

The famine in Africa has inspired an unprecedented number of students to inquire about joining the Peace Corps in recent weeks. More than 12,000 prospective recruits--as many as 800 of them college students--have called the agency since January 10th, when it launched an appeal for workers with agriculture-related skills to help combat the famine in Africa. Nearly a year ago, a guerrilla drive was launched, calls are still coming in at three times the normal rate. The interest has been so strong that the agency may meet its recruitment goals for the first time in 24 years, Peace Corps officials say.

"It's an incredible what we've created," marvels press officer Ron De Fore. "We're breaking all records, both for quantity and quality." De Fore estimates that nearly 20 percent of the volunteers for the agriculture assistance programs are coming in.

"Now, it seems we've reawakened the American population as a whole to the fact that the Corps is still alive. This by-product in public awareness is going to benefit us for years to come. It may start a whole new trend," says DeFore. DeFore estimates that nearly 20 percent of the volunteers for the agriculture assistance programs are coming in.

"On the whole," DeFore notes, "more than 70 percent of the vacancies in its agriculture assistance programs are filled.

"This year, the agency is trying to fill 600 positions for the spring and summer programs in that division of Africa. "It's likely we'll fill them all," says DeFore.

Moreover, DeFore says the agency members are "very likely" to send more volunteers to its programs in South and Central America, and Asia, and the Pacific.

Area organizers attend workshop

Area organizers as well as Dordt music students participated in the Church Music Workshop held February 22 and 23 at the Dordt Chapel. Sponsored by the Western Iowa Chapter of the Guild of Organists, the workshop included three topic: children's music, music in the church, and hymn accompanying. Each subject was handled by one of three guest church musicians.

During the workshop, organists and choir directors were exposed to new literature by means of lectures and demonstrations, according to Dordt music professor Dr. Joan Ringerwolfe. The main intention of the workshop was to promote good church music, and inspire new ideas, said Ringerwolfe.

Ringerwolfe also indicated that it was a privilege for Dordt and the organizers guild to host three talented artists simultaneously for this purpose, William and Marjorie Ness, co-directors of music at the Ottumwa, Iowa, First Presbyterian Church, spoke on wedding music and children's choirs, respectively. Speaking on hymn accompanying was Davis Folkerts, minister of music at the Second Reformed Church in Polia, Iowa. These organists commented on the practicality of the workshop. Marjorie Ness pointed out that it dealt with common features of a church, children, and hymn accompanying. But we have only found folkerts felt that it combined so nicely the experience of doing with the experience of learning.

Dr. Ringerwolfe felt that the attendance indicated the interest of area organists in church music workshops. She was pleased with the turnout, which peaked at fifty-five people at one session. Total enrollment was sixty-five.

Peru violates basic human rights

Thousands of Peruvians "disappear"

Atrocities committed by Peruvian government forces in the country's remote highland provinces have reached unprecedented levels in the country's modern history, according to a report released by Amnesty International in January. Hundreds of Peruvians have been tortured and killed during the last two years by "military forces and police and the civil guard continue to violate citizens' basic human rights with impunity."

While condemning the killings and other abuses committed by the Shining Path, Amnesty International has called upon the government of President Belaunde to observe international standards for protection of individual citizens' fundamental human rights. Students and teachers in the Emergeny Zone have suffered brutal treatment, part because young people have been recruited into the guerrilla movement. Evidence compiled by Amnesty International suggests that military agents suspect young people, simply because of their age, of participating in guerrilla activity. Victims of government agents also include farmers, lawyers, journalists, and leaders of peasant organizations and trade unions. Security forces have dumped or buried thousands of bodies at several sites in the Emergency Zone. Bodies were found in open shallow graves at one site last summer. At other sites military authorities have obstructed exhumation or identification of corpses, which often bear clear marks of torture and a single gunshot wound to the head.

Removal of clothing, severing of fingers, and the mutilation of facial features render identification difficult. A Peruvian woman testified that she and her daughter had searched for her missing son "at the place where the dead body appeared. But we have only found the collar of his shirt, which the marines used as a blindfold on another person..."

Thousands of Peruvians "disappear". At one site last summer, are among those last seen at the barracks.

Solidarity" sought in campus groups

A new group has emerged on campus this year, taking on the name of "Student Solidarity Committee." Members of the group come from such groups as Student Forum, Peer Counselors, and R.A.'s. This group, according to Brian Kruis, who attended the conference, was formed to assist individual and group leadership.

The group has set out to accomplish its purposes through the following activities: 1) to increase communication between campus groups and organizations; and 2) to develop each student's talents in being disciples and making them aware of their potential.

Presently, most of the members of Student Solidarity are in established leadership positions on campus. However, according to Brian Kruis, should not suggest that only individuals who presently have leadership positions are welcome to join. Says Kruis, "we want to help bring the Dordt community together through a CMA (Colleges for Mid-America) Conference last spring pointed out the need to increase opportunities for campus groups. In response to this need, students who attended the conference formed a new committee sensitive to leadership potential and stimulating individual and group leadership.

Recently, the committee outlined three purposes to guide their actions: 1) increase communication between campus groups and organizations; 2) Develop each student's talents in being disciples and making them aware of their potential. 3) Feed and serve others.

Future plans of the committee include developing a pamphlet with brief descriptions of all clubs and organized groups on campus to be distributed to incoming freshmen. After Spring Break, the committee plans to conduct a seminar focusing on being disciples.

At the beginning of each semester, an informal mixer for all group leaders will be held so they can share goals, aspirations, and ideas for enhancing student life. The Student Solidarity Committee is growing rapidly and encourages any interested students to contact a present member if they are interested in joining. Says Val Haarsma, "We are optimistic about the enthusiasm and support of our new members and we anticipate positive feedback from the campus as a whole."
U-2:

Band of the 80's

by mark-philip venema

When Rolling Stone runs a cover story, "Keeping..." as many people if not more.

Get your friends together and come for an exciting evening Saturday, March 9 at 8:00 p.m.

U2:

In addition to the sound track for the New World, which I heard religion as well as politics are more. They leave no area untouched by their passion.

Their most recent album, which debuted already in the fall, is a further demonstration of the band's commitment. "The Unforgettable Fire" is named after a group of stark and impressive paintings drawn by me. The album's dimension of authenticity.

In terms of the album's lyrical content, U2 sings of Martin Luther King Jr. in their biggest hit "Pride (in the name of love)" and in their mystifying and airy tune "MLK." While it is used as part of the sound track for the New Skins production Two, Too, To.

Yet it would be unfair to say that this is still the album deals with. The lyrics of lead singer Bono Vox (alias Paul Hewson) are spontaneous as they jump from one theme to the next, like a series of allusive classes. The eventual production involved many long and articulate steps which only patience could accomplish. "I talked with many people who have taken hard work courses," says De Groot.

De Groot received the quarter-inch steel for his swords from the shop of the Theater Arts Department. After marking out length and width markings, he took the metal to Kosters Manufacturing and had it cut with special equipment. With the cut portions, it was then up to De Groot to transform the metal. According to De Groot, much of the material aiding in the transformation of the steel was makeshift. "The anvil was produced from a portion of an I-beam," says De Groot, "and instead of having the metal heated with a cutting torch."

After heating the steel to a red glow, he proceeded to shape the steel known in technical terms as "annealing." The process of annealing compresses the sword's metal molecules.

Following the annealing procedure, he then lowered the sword into a slag-drop, a barrel which during medieval times included such ingredients as blood, goat's urine, and horseradish juice. "These elements were thought by medieval blacksmiths to be the best ingredients for strengthening the sword after the annealing process," explains De Groot. "The slag-drop forces the carbon molecules of the steel to the surface. This produces a hard surface and a soft flexible core enabling the sword to hold an edge longer."

For practical purposes, De Groot chose used car oil for the slag-drop after finding its ingredients proved far more effective than medieval ingredients. Each sword for Romeo and Juliet was annealed and slag-dropped approximately 10-12 times. After the annealing and slag-dropping process, he added the sword's handles and other parts.

"I would have liked to have spent more time on the swords, but I had a time element to deal with," says De Groot.

Despite his time limitations, De Groot was able to produce 13 rapier swords, three daggers, and three broadswords. "I only took the swords through the rough stages," states De Groot. "It was then up to the shop employees to finish the work and tend to the finer details."

Pride, attention to detail, and patience is the elixir of any craft, especially De Groot's. For the directors and cast of Romeo and Juliet, a new dimension has been added from the duel of Mercutio and Tybalt to the fatal finale of Juliet—the dimension of authenticity.

Talent Extravaganza features top talent

Dordt's Fifth Annual Talent Extravaganza will be held this Saturday, March 9. The event will feature John Teunissen and Rei Biim as the hosts for the evening. This year it will include 12 acts planned with students from all four classes.

Arlin De Groot displays techniques on the manufacturing of a total of 16 swords.
Sports

Marycrest edges Dordt by slim margin

by Rhonda Doss

The Defenders then went on to host Marycrest on February 23, which Coach VanderBerg refers to as "a great spectator game."

Despite the enthusiasm of the crowd and the home court advantage, however, Marycrest went on to edge the Defenders 105-99 in their last regular season game. The Defenders kept in contention throughout, outrebounding Marycrest by 11, and sinking 25 out of a possible 28 opportunities at the free throw line. However, Dordt committed 20 turnovers and ran into foul trouble, which seemed to have put the game out of reach for them. Dordt shot 50 percent in field goals against Marycrest’s 65 percent.

Freshman Greg Van Soelen assisted the Defenders with 25 points and 13 rebounds, followed by senior Brad Boer with 20 points, nine rebounds and senior Don Vanden Top with 20 points and seven rebounds.

VanderBerg’s concluding comment that it was a great team effort sums up what may have been the best game of the year.

Bench aids Defenders to victory

On March 2, Dordt hosted Grandview College in District NAIA play and went on to win 72-65. Although the Defenders ran into foul trouble, they were able to out-rebound Grandview 28-27. They also hit 95 percent of 12 free throws and 49 percent of their field goals.

Dordt never lost their lead, though they were only one point ahead with three minutes remaining in regulation time. Brian Vos displayed his best game of the year. Vos scored 21 points and hit key pressure to lead the Defenders offensively. Greg Van Soelen contributed 16 points and Dave Brenneman added ten points.

Coach VanderBerg was obviously very pleased with the performance and complimented the bench with doing an outstanding job.

The Defenders will now travel to Davenport, Iowa to play Marycrest tonight. Should they win, they’ll advance to National play in Kansas City the following week.

Dordt’s men lose and women win versus Briar Cliff

by Rhonda Doss

On February 20, the Dordt Defenders were hosted by Briar Cliff in Sioux City, Iowa. Although Dordt outscored Briar Cliff in the second period (46-43), they were unable to win the game. The final score was Briar Cliff 89, Dordt 80.

Coach VanderBerg attributes the loss to a very slow start on the part of the Defenders. In a addition, Dordt committed eight turnovers in the first ten minutes of the game. Dordt was outscored in the first period 46-34.

As a team, the Defenders connected only 44 percent of their field goals but they had a favorable 86 percent from the free throw line. Their opponents had a 50 percent field goal make, and they were able to sink 80 percent of their field throws. Brad Boer led the Defenders with 20 points, followed by Dave Brenneman with 15 and Kevin Geestink contributing 12 points.

VanderBerg maintains that the Defenders came back well and comments that it was very valuable to have excellent help off the bench.

Famine in Africa spurs “letter drive”

The World Awareness Hunger Club at Dordt has sponsored a “Call for Action” concerning the famine in Africa. This call contains two parts. These parts are politically and financially motivated.

The political part of the call deals with getting people to send letters to their congressmen in order to help pass certain legislation to help needy nations in Africa. Randy Klynsma, a Dordt senior, said that he received a letter from “Bread of the World,” an organization that tries to help those that need help. Within this letter, it asked to organize a letter drive on this campus.

Klynsma decided to do more than organize a letter drive at Dordt. He also extended the drive to the churches in Sioux Center. He estimates that out of the 400 letters distributed, 25 were actually sent.

The other aspect of the call dealt with finances. Junior Mary Den Herder was in charge of this area. Den Herder said that she had approximately 20 people collecting donations for the needy in Africa. These donations would then be sent to Canada where the Canadian government would match the amount that was collected at Dordt.

Both Klynsma and Den Herder thought that the “Call-for-Action” was a good program for students at Dordt. Although the need was great, Den Herder and Klynsma were unhappy with the response and attributed it to lack of publicity. Den Herder did say that there will be another drive in April and hopes that the student body will be more aware of the need for relief in Africa.

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DORDT COLLEGE CLASS RINGS available from VAN’S JEWELRY SIOUX CENTER
Farm crisis seen from APIJ perspective

APJ Release
"Yes, the American farmer must compete on world markets, and part of what will be required for that to happen is less wasteful federal spending on commodity and loan programs," says James Skillen, the Executive Director of the Association for Public Justice.

"But beyond that point of agreement," Skillen argues, "President Reagan's farm bill proposals and Time magazine's report on farm troubles are half truths at best and dangerous distortions at worst." The Reagan Administration is about to release its 1985 farm bill proposals, and Time magazine's February 18 cover story tries to capture the tension between those "free market" plans and the present financial crisis on the farm.

"According to Time and the President," Skillen says, "the credit crisis sweeping farm states is due to misguided investment and borrowed decisions by farmers who have grown too dependent on Washington. The Administration's answer is to cut back federal spending on farm programs, especially price supports and loans, to allow better competition on world markets and thus to increase sales. If tens of thousands of farmers go out of business in the meantime, that is just shaking out the inefficient."

"What is not said by administration officials or in Time's report is that past and current tax policies along with the credit and commodity policies have created such a distorted agricultural structure that a return to a supposedly healthy free-market is not possible simply by cutting federal expenditures."

"The Reagan Administration's recent disastrous PIK program, its investment tax credits and accelerated depreciation allowances, its monetary decisions which keep interest rates high—all of these have led to distortions that will require changes in agriculture far beyond the amount of the government's price supports," says Skillen.

Skillen adds, "For example, huge amounts of those increasing federal expenditures over the last four years have gone to only a few of the largest farmers. In some cases million-dollar returns have gone to a single farmer."

"Furthermore," explains Skillen, "little or nothing is said by the Administration (or Time) about soil and water degradation, loss of farmland, and the dangers of increased use of pesticides and fertilizers. Conservation and environmental protection will not arise automatically from market competition."

"No wonder," Skillen continues, "that healthy competition from the medium-sized family farmer is threatened; no wonder that five years ago the average farmer tried quickly to enlarge his acreage and buy new machinery when land prices skyrocketed; all the pressure, from Washington and the markets, was to get bigger."

"Clearly the policies of the past two decades have not brought us to a healthy position," Skillen agrees, "but the answer is not now to pull the rug out from farmers in general, leaving the spills to those few giant enterprises made fat by past government subsidies and paybacks."

Skillen says the answer must be found in returning agriculture to a healthy market situation for millions of, and not just a few thousand farmers. "That will require cut-backs in federal supports abruptly," says Skillen, "but it must include multiple structural changes beginning with lower ceilings on federal subsidies to any single farmer much less than the Administration is proposing."

"Healthy, competitive agriculture will also require changes in tax and conservation policies which target those fewer federal dollars to the efficient, soil-conserving, water conserving, energy-conserving farmer who is, in most cases, the medium-sized, full-time family farmer," says Skillen.

Cannon seeks to publish artists

by Jim Struyd

The Cannon is finally coming out. After a semester of dormancy, a group of students decided to publish it again. According to Randy Vander Mey, the faculty advisor of the Cannon, there wasn't enough student interest in it last semester.

But this semester is different. Mike Dykstra, editor of the Cannon, hopes to have a healthy issue. "According to 13th century poet Dante, art is a grandchild of time," says Dykstra. He and his staff are running into some problems. Don Huizinga, one of the members of the editorial staff, said that the material is coming in slow. "We have some people working on material but we can use works by any new writers or artists," says Huizinga.

The staff wants to publish various short stories, poetry, art, photography, and essays. Music and plays will not be published. He also says that all works that are submitted will be considered and those that are not selected for publishing will have a written evaluation when they are returned to their owner.

Dykstra says that he expects that the Cannon will come out in early to mid-April. He hopes to have a more professional look and better organization of material than past Cannon issues. He also hopes to follow a theme from T.S. Eliot's poem, "The Waste Land."

The Coalition for Christian Outreach is looking for people who have a desire to see meaningful ministry take place among college & university men and women. The interest and enthusiasm generated by being involved in campus ministry is contagious! Nowhere are major decisions affecting vocation, marriage, and style of life made in such open and informal a setting as the college campus. Ministry in many dimensions can happen there. We're looking for people who have a heart for God: individuals who are seeking to know God and who want to serve Him with all of their lives. Our search is motivated because we want the assurance that God would be using your talents to their fullest in this ministry.

The Coalition Christian Outreach is a ministry committed to working with students on campuses in northern West Virginia, eastern Ohio, and western Pennsylvania. Our unique approach is to integrally serve institutions as ministry to students is accomplished. Schedule an interview at the Career Placement Office.
NICARAGUA

President Reagan is toughening up his line against the Sandinista government in Nicaragua, apparently in an effort to pressure congress to "cough up" more aid. The Nicaraguan government, on the other hand, took the initiative and announced steps to put into effect certain terms of the stalled Contradora Peace Treaty, a treaty, incidentally, which the Reagan Administration insists is being obstructed by the Sandinistas. Nicaragua president Daniel Ortega did, in fact, announce that his government will send home 100 Cuban military advisors beginning in May and has been willing to sign regional-security agreements, including pledges to remove foreign military advisors and limit the size of the nation's forces. U.S. estimates place the total number of Cuban military advisors at 3,500. Also, a delegation of five U.S. Catholic bishops visited Ortega hoping to ease tense relations between church hierarchy and the Nicaraguan government.

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador

The delegation of five American Catholic bishops visited 300 children orphaned by five years of civil war. The U.S. State Department believes the government is making progress in human rights and in the war against leftist rebels. Its recent report commended President Duarte's government for maintaining its commitment to a peaceful settlement and in making efficient use of U.S. aid.

NEW ZEALAND U.S.

The prime minister of New Zealand met with State Department officials to discuss the country's ban against the docking of U.S. nuclear warships. The officials revealed that the U.S. is going to stop sharing military intelligence with New Zealand in response to the ban. The deadlock reached no solutions.

URUGUAY

After 12 years of military rule, Julio Sanguineti was sworn in as president. U.S. Secretary of State Shultz and Nicaraguan President Ortega were there to witness the inauguration. Montevideo, to discuss relations between their countries. Neither leader expected any significant steps toward better relations.

NORTHERN IRELAND

The Irish Republican Army claimed responsibility for killing nine police officers and injuring 32 other people. The attack presumably occurred when rebels fired a mortar tube from the back of a truck. It was the worst single I.R.A. attack on police in over 16 years of violence.

HAVANA, CUBA

Twenty-three out of 2,700 Cuban refugees returned to their homeland. Considered criminals and mental patients in the U.S., most have been convicted of crimes in Cuba.

GREAT BRITAIN

Britain's National Coal Board announced that more than half of the nation's miners have returned to work after a 50-week-old strike. Union leader Arthur Scargill, however, refused to accept defeat and claimed 61 percent of the men were still on strike.

MEXICO

Four men detained for questioning concerning last month's kidnapping of a U.S. narcotics agent were released for lack of evidence. Few details on the case were disclosed. U.S. officials have said the American agent was abducted on the orders of Mexico's top illegal drug peddlers.

CANADA

The U.S. tested its cruise missile in two separate free-flight tests over the Beaufort Sea. U.S. military officials: eager to test in the Arctic because the terrain closely resembles that of Soviet Siberia.

POLAND U.S.

Both nations issued orders for each other's military representatives to leave their respective countries. The U.S. expelled the Polish military attack in retaliation for the ouster of U.S. Colonel Frederick Myer and his wife, whom authorities claimed were spies. The U.S. program would not be taught from Dordt's perspective. This gave some reason to question whether the program should be included as part of a Christian curriculum. The Board of Directors ultimately decided that the program would be beneficial to the students, and therefore worthwhile. The program was withdrawn by the government two years ago because of government funding cutbacks and an attempt to centralize the program. There are presently no pains to re-institute the program.

The problem of Christian ideals' perceived conflict with military ideals has been discussed at Dordt. At the request of some students, Dordt began offering ROTC (Reserved Officer's Training Corps) program in July of 1986. Dordt required only to provide classroom training space while the U.S. government provided the instructors and materials. According to Dordt President Dr. John Halst, there was much discussion before the program was finally begun. The main concern, Halst said, was that the program would not be taught from Dordt's perspective. This gave some reason to question whether the program should be included as part of a Christian curriculum. The Board of Directors ultimately decided that the program would be beneficial to the students, and therefore worthwhile. The program was withdrawn by the government two years ago because of government funding cutbacks and an attempt to centralize the program. There are presently no pains to re-institute the program.

According to Bob Holles, a Staff Sergeant with the Iowa National Guard, the National Guard is an ideal opportunity for anyone seeking leadership skills, self-confidence, and financial aid. "The Guard is a group of men who work hard but also play hard." Dordt student/Guard member Henry Korf noted that the Guard's purpose is not solely military, as is that of the regular Army. The two missions of the Guard are: (1) to help local communities in any way necessary (during a natural disaster, for example) and, if absolutely necessary, (2) to defend the United States. Officials explained that the Guard's major defense role is to act as a deterrent. Guard members swear allegiance first to the governor of Iowa and secondly to the President of the U.S.

Korf summarized the Guard as "members of the community when the community needs it," referring to the Guard's primary mission as a peace-time reserve of man power. According to Korf, many people wrongly view the Guard as a primarily military and therefore somehow inherently un-Christian organization.

The problem of Christian ideals'