Defenders Battle Clock

by LAURA LEE VAN VELZEN

The Westmar Eagles flew off with a slim victory Wednesday, February 8 in a hard-fought match against the Dordt Defenders. Seconds before the half-time buzzer, Don Vanden Top hooped a top-of-the-key shot allowing the Defenders a 40-38 lead. Returning to the second half, a tense atmosphere filled Dordt's gym as the score teeter-tottered. With the final six seconds flashing on the clock and the score tied at 66-66, the Eagles claimed possession of the ball. Westmar's Jay Prescott bucketed the deciding two points allowing Gary Kreykes and his Eagles a return to Le Mars with the 68-66 victory.

Vanden Top swished 17 points to lead his black-and-white in scoring. Brad Boer followed with 15 points and Mark Christians hooped 9. The Defenders bucketed 47% of their attempts as compared to Westmar's 42%. Prescott claimed 22 points as the top-shooter for the Eagles.

Under the basket, Boer leaped for 11 rebounds along with Jon Broek snatching 7.

Rick Vanden Berg's team has three scheduled games remaining in the season. Prior to the Westmar match, Dordt held a 12-9 record for a seventh place in the NAIA District 15 rating. The top six District 15 teams qualify for the NAIA tournament. The Defender's performance in the remaining games will determine their chance for tournament action.
Blank eyes trained onto the T.V. screen, the old bachelor tuned into the conversation enough to know when his chance came to talk. So when my SWIM seminarian, plodding through the Congregational Evangelism Training (CET) outline for salvation, asked him, 'What do you think 'grace' is?' he pounced onto the open silence.

"Some guy came here once and tried to give me a Bible but he was so dumb pushy I told that son-of-a-gun to leave...

The seminarian, struggling to steer the conversation, bravely leaped back in, "Grace," he said brightly, "is 'God's riches at Christ's expense.'"

After several more irrelevant interruptions where the old guy discussed everything from his bicycle to his gambling trip to Las Vegas, we knew CET was built strictly for the rational mind. Maybe he would have benefitted more from our nursing home approach—smile until the jaws ache and sing a few hymns hoping the music would somehow penetrate the hearing aids.

I have never actually had a part in anyone’s conversion. I did get all the way through CET with a frowsy, child weary mother. I even struck up a conversation with a boy standing next to me at an outdoor rock concert; we talked about religion a bit, I said how much Christ meant to me, and he said, "That's good—do whatever makes you feel happy, I always say."

These experiences probably had more impact on my spiritual life than they did on the scrappy bachelor, the weary old people, the frazzled woman, or the pagan boy. I couldn't talk to those people with top-of-the-head catechism questions and answers (So! What's your onlycomfortinglifeanddeath?): I had to scrape away my shyness, loose my locked tongue, and put those pat formulas into my own words.

Often in Bible studies, or in talking to friends, we are leery of expressing—in our own words—Christ’s role in our lives. We hide our faith behind silent prayers in the commons, behind stereotyped answers to religious questions (perhaps because we have been raised with the Heidelberg Catechism), and behind a general attitude that one shouldn’t talk about religious "feelings."

For our own growth, we must talk about Christ both to strangers and to friends. Then, suddenly, Christianity will become as real to us as the heart spoken word.

I guess this is really a letter to the whole campus. And it's an appeal for help, or a call to duty, from a different perspective.

What am I talking about? A lot of things really. In broader terms, it's called Christian stewardship. In the narrower sense, it's called recycling. And that covers a lot of ground in between.

This past Monday night, the film Third Pollution was to have been shown. Thankfully, a few people (other than those usually at a Natural Science Club meeting) showed up, but the film, unfortunately, did not. The night was to have been a "kick-off" or whatever you want to call it, for a recycling group which will be based on campus, but extended to the whole Sioux Center community.

Well, now there is a second chance. The film has been reordered, and will be shown on Monday night, Feb. 13 at 6:30 p.m. (tentatively) in S-4. The film depicts the solid waste problem in America and how this relates to air and water pollution. It also offers suggestions for community action and procedures for obtaining financial assistance.

So why this letter? Wasn't it just an ad? No, this letter is meant to urge everyone on campus to not only think about stewardship responsibilities, but to do something about it. I guess my complaint is that I see too many people around here that could care less. There are quite a few who are very willing to talk and discuss and agree that something should be done. But where are all those who are willing to get involved and do something? Will I see you there Monday night?

Some of the groundwork has been laid—the rest of the "something" will be discussed and dealt with Monday night.

Sincerely,

Pam Veltkamp

Call To Action

Dear Editor,

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Building Up Courage

by SUE VAN ARRAGON

Brecht was a German playwright who was anti-Nazi, anti-fascist, and anti-war. His play Mother Courage is a chronicle of the Thirty Years War. The theme is of the devastating effects of war and the blindness of anyone who wants to profit by it, which is exactly what the title character aims to do.

Under the direction of James Koldenhoven, the Dordt Theatre Arts department is preparing the show Mother Courage by Bertolt Brecht to be opened in Te Paske Theatre on March 2, 1984. By the decision of the director, the show will be played out in true Brechtian manner.

In his works of art, Brecht aimed to alienate his audience and have them remember that when they viewed theatre, they were seeing only a piece of art. He used his plays to attack his audiences with his points of view and used every theatrical technique to remind them that they were seeing theatre, and to keep them from getting emotionally involved with the story.

Mother Courage is the story of a woman who makes her living from the bad luck of others in war. She is a tragic figure who loses three children to the war and yet unfailingly trudges ahead with her wagon, which is her only source of income and her sustenance of life.

In this play Brecht designed interruptions which would purposely destroy illusion. The cast is working on doing the same by use of songs, poetry, narration, and speeches directed specifically to the audience. "We are Dordt students telling a story to a Dordt audience," Mr. Koldenhoven told the cast. Brecht had a message to get across and the cast and director are working on re[

Philosophy Deemed Essential

by JACK VONK

"Philosophy is an articulated view of life... not to establish a world view is irresponsible for the Christian." Henry Vene-

ma, a 1982 graduate of Dordt College, has come as a re-

presentative of the Institute for Christian Studies in Toronto. Students at the Institute learn to integrate Christianity with the ir respective fields, which vary from biology to theology.

Venema would like to dispel the stereotype of philosophy as an abstraction. He emphasizes that although a person's philosophy or perspective of life is intricately interwoven, it is concretized daily as a lifestyle. In this sense, philosophy becomes a "common denominator with broad implications."

As students of a Christian college, it is all too easy to study without considering the implications of our Christian professions. With the ultrastructure of a formulated philosophy, Dordt students will be ready to express their beliefs after graduation.

Third Pollution' Still To Show

by SUE KONYEDEL

Several students with an interest in saving natural resources were disappointed Monday night at the Natural Science Club meeting. Although fifteen people showed up for the meeting, the scheduled film on recycling, "Third Pollution", didn't. The film showing has been rescheduled for next week Monday night at 6:30 p.m. in S-4. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

The Natural Science Club will be busy in the coming months. Besides keeping up with its successful paper recycling project, the club is already organizing its annual Science Fair.

Scheduled for April 14, the fair will include exhibits from the departments of astronomy, biology, chemistry, computer science, engineering, physics, and psychology. Students from Christian Schools in the area have been invited to participate. Additional plans for the Science Fair will be made at next week's meeting.

Students 'Discover' ICS

by LAURA LEE VAN VELZEN

The afternoon was cloudy and cold as the three packed into the compact Plymouth "Champ" anticipating a 21 hour trip; but Enno Meijers, Peter Noteboom, and Kathy Smit agreed the drive was worth it.

On February 3, 4, and 5, these three Dordt students attended the "Discovery '84" conference in Toronto, Ontario. The Institute for Christian Studies hosted the conference which reflected a theme of "Thinking Biblically." Meijers, Noteboom, and Smit participated in discussions and listened to lectures.

"The topics were relevant to the things I had studied and the questions I had," stated Noteboom. "I had the information before, but the ideas were really knocked home. They became clear in my head... and it was good to meet kids from all over."

"I'm thinking of going there [Institute for Christian Studies] next year," claimed Smit, a senior in philosophy and theology. "I wanted to check out the place and see what impressions I got... The conference stressed things I worked with in philosophy class here. I was able to gain more insight in my area as well as my academic work." "It was evident how Biblical faith should function in an intellectual system," noted Meijers. "Dordt should've started a conference like this 20 years ago."
Early last week two discussions were held at Dordt concerning the issue and practice of Christian witnessing. On Sunday night, January 29, Rev. Gil Kamps of the Sioux Center Covenant CRC met with some fifty students in the SUB lounge to address the topic: "Witnessing on a Christian Campus." The following night Professor Wayne Kobes lectured on the theme: "A Reformed View of Witnessing." Pastor Gil Kamps, in talking about witnessing on a Christian campus, focused on the practice which would best be called "evangelism." The discussion stemmed from a basic question of how to present a challenge to students at Dordt who apparently do not live in a Christ-committed and directed way.

Pastor Kamps began by stressing that Christians must be the same people at Dordt as they would be, for example, on a major university campus. The witness of a Christian may be different at Dordt, but the person needs to strive for an honest, integral identity that doesn't so easily fluctuate with the environment around him/her.

With that as a base, Kamps pointed out that witnessing (in the sense of evangelism) must always be person-centered. This leads naturally to the idea that evangelism takes time. People do not easily change instantly, and it takes time for people to understand and accept a new way of looking at life. Kamps compared this process with sanctification, saying that just as sanctification is a long process in Christians, so evangelism should involve treating people as if you were going on a long journey with them. Kamps urged a patient attitude in witnessing.

On Monday night, Professor Wayne Kobes broadened the topic in an attempt to explain witnessing as something which also includes far more than what we might normally call evangelism. Kobes explained that witnessing or making disciples, a practice Jesus commanded in Matthew 28, includes teaching people to obey God in all areas of life. Kobes shared his feeling that an evangelical approach like Evangelism Explosion Training is somehow not the whole story because it seems to leave people hanging after conversion. Kobes did concede to the baffling reality that Reformed people often have difficulty with witnessing and that Christians need to strive for an honest, integral identity that doesn't so easily fluctuate with the environment.

Kamps and Professor Kobes both stressed that witnessing means conveying the presence of this force and the possibilities for exploring infinite joys that are in our mind because we don't have an adequate "follow-up" so that this new Christian can grow as part of the body of believers. This is done either through physical deeds or verbal communication.

"Evangelism" is conveying to others, with the help of the Holy Spirit, the joy that Christ is the salvation of believers. This is done either through physical deeds or verbal communication. To be an effective witness, we must be consistent in our own actions—whatever we are, everyday of the week, or in whatever circumstances we face.

When a person has accepted Christ as his personal Savior and has repented of his sins, a new Christian is not immediately filled with the Holy Spirit. In recognizing the presence of this force and the possibilities for exploring the person's environment and his existence within it, a Christian theatre artist needs to fully understand his field—where it has been, and where it is going. We cannot simply shy away from the plays we don't agree with and write them off as "unwholesome." We must understand their form, their content, and what it is about them that appeals to the world. Only when an understanding of this kind is gained, can the Christian make any moves to make changes in the area. Simply being a shining example is not enough. Like Christ, we all have to know and understand the people where they are, and then offer them suggestions of a different way. I feel the theatre artist who struggles within this framework is making a strong witness to others and to his God.
Lectures To Broaden Global Horizons

What in the world is "global awareness?" This question will be the topic of three lectures sponsored by the Dordt College Foreign Language Department on February 13 and 14. Dr. Dick L. Van Halsema, President of Reformed Bible College in Grand Rapids, Michigan, will present the lecture "Global Awareness from a Christian Perspective." This lecture will be delivered in Room C160 on February 13 at 3 p.m.

At 7 p.m., James Graham, professor of English and Chairman of the Division of Cross-Cultural Studies at Central College in Pella, Iowa, will speak. He will discuss "How to Internationalize the College: Global Studies or Cross-Cultural Perspectives?"

Dr. Dick L. Van Halsema has done a lot of mission work and traveling, and is very much aware of the Christian perspective. Prof. Graham and Dr. Webber have worked with cross-cultural studies. We hope to promote students' questions...Everyone is encouraged to attend.

Witnessing, even on a Christian campus, must be a part of our daily lives. Very basic to this daily witness is that we are actively struggling to live consistent with our beliefs—that we are "working out our salvation with fear and trembling." If this struggle is there, then our daily witness will be genuine and credible. But if our lives don't show our Christianity, then our witness falls short. Who wants to place their certainty on something that won't affect their life anyway?

It is also important to be confident that God will use us and our witness. It is true that only the Holy Spirit changes lives, but he uses our witnessing to accomplish that purpose.
Estudiantes van al sur

By LAURA APOL OBINK

Mexico. It is not merely south of the border, it is a different world: a world of fast talk, narrow streets and dark faces; a country of color and contrast.

Every summer, students from Dordt College and various high schools become part of this world through participating in the Dordt College in Mexico program. Students spend three weeks studying at the Romance Language Institute of the State University of Durango. (Durango is located 700 miles south of El Paso, Texas, and has a population of about 350,000).

On a typical day, students attend classes at the University from 8:00-12:00, then spend 1 1/2 hours in the afternoon with a private tutor, often exploring the city. The rest of the afternoon may be spent in free/study time, with optional courses offered at Mexican cooking, dancing, singing, or guitar lessons. On Saturdays, a special excursion is planned, and Sunday days are always free days, with the Dordt group usually attending a morning worship service together in one of the Mexican Protestant Churches.

A teacher from California found these Mexican worship services particularly meaningful. She said, "Worshipping with the Mexican Christians was a blessing. The unity of the Spirit was strongly felt."

All students at the school live with Mexican families and are treated as members of the families. In addition, Dordt students may serve as chaperones for the high school students, helping them with the language, the culture, and their new families. According to many of the students who have participated in this program, actually living with a Mexican family is an excellent experience. One student stated, "It's one thing to study grammar from a textbook, but it's an entirely different experience to speak the language with native speakers. My family was fantastic and I love them dearly." Another student commented, "It's great to be able to practice your Spanish in the house, too. My family really helped me learn Spanish and took a special interest in my progress."

Dordt Spanish professor Dallas Apol made his first trip to Durango in 1977, when he took some courses at the University in order to improve his own Spanish. The following summer he took several students along. "I enjoyed the time I spent studying at the University in order to improve my own Spanish."

Dordt College in Mexico program is important for any Christian college. "It is our duty as Christians to be sensitive to other cultures," he said. "And there is no better way of developing an understanding of the people of another culture than to live in their homes as part of their families."

In Apol's opinion, the most outstanding feature of this particular program is the individual tutor/guide. "Spending time with his or her own guide forces the student to relate to a Mexican one-to-one. After the weeks spent with the guide, a close friendship often develops and the guide becomes someone who is willing to go places and to explain situations like no one else."

"Studying abroad is beneficial to anyone because it opens up a whole new world of ideas, challenges and possibilities," Apol concluded. And a high school student summed up his opinion of the program when he said, "There is just no comparison between sitting a year in a Spanish class and spending three weeks in Mexico making friends, learning and experiencing Spanish. You just couldn't get this total effect sitting in class back home in the States."

This year the Dordt College in Mexico program will be offered from July 30-August 17. The cost of the program is $435, but scholarship money is available, depending upon the number of high school and college students who participate. (Last year each Dordt student received $135). College students will also receive three semester hours of credit. Transportation can be arranged and more information may be obtained by contacting Dr. Apol. Applications should be made as soon as possible, and no later than April 15.

The Dordt Diamond is a bi-weekly publication produced by the students of Dordt College. The views presented are those of the editors and featured writers. The Dordt Diamond strives to provide a context for serious Christian Journalism in order to promote thought and response from the community to which it is directed.

Defenders Struggle

by D. DE RUITER

YWANTON

The Dordt College Defenders traveled to Yankton, S.D. Monday night to battle Yankton College. And a battle it turned out to be. In a very physical game Dordt opened up a 23-11 lead but went into the locker room tied 35-35 at the half. Dordt jumped out to a five point lead but could not hold on as they lost 70-60. Brad Boer scored 23 points while Don Vanden Top added 17 to lead the team.

DANA

Last week Tuesday Dordt traveled to Blair, Neb. where they met with Dana College. The Defenders played fairly good basketball and led by ten at half. Dana was sent to the free throw line 44 times throughout the evening on very questionable calls while Dordt visited the charity stripe only 10 times. Mark Christians scored a season high 17 points in an 8 for 10 effort. The Defenders had four players in double figures. Vanden Top led with 18 points followed by Christians, Boer (14), and Paul Hamstra (10).

WESTMAR

The Defenders took on Westmar last week Saturday in Le Mars. The team had trouble establishing their running game and found themselves in foul trouble. Dordt was only able to hit 2 of 15 free throw attempts and ended up winning the game from the field 25 points and posting a solid win over 28 times. Jim Van Duyn pumped in 10 points.

U.S.D. SPRINGFIELD

Last Saturday night the Dordt College junior varsity basketball team showed the home crowd what they've been doing all season. Winning. They played host to U.S.D. Springfield and defeated them 89-60. The Defenders led at the half 50-45 but could not hold on as they lost 90-81 here at home. Again Vanden Top showed his talent by scoring 31 points and ripping down 16 rebounds. Brian Vos also played well shooting 9 for 12 from the field for 18 points.

MT. MARTY

Dordt lost their third game in a row last Wednesday to Mt. Marty College. Despite some early foul trouble, the Defenders led at the half 50-45 but could not hold on as they lost 90-81 here at home. Again Vanden Top showed his talent by scoring 31 points and posting a solid win over 28 times. Jim Van Duyn pumped in 10 points.

DORDT

Dordt put on a strong full court press which caused 23 turnovers by the Eagles. Kevin Smit shot 10 for 17 from the field for 25 points while Van Duyn pumped in 18 with an 8 for 11 performance.

JV Enjoying Great Season

by D. DE RUITER

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MT. MARTY

One of the team's four losses came last week Wednesday when Mt. Marty defeated Dordt 78-65. Dordt shot poorly from the free throw line and turned the ball over 28 times. Jim Richards did, however, have a good game. Richards scored 12 points and pulled down 12 rebounds. Van Duyn led the team in scoring with 19 points followed by Holander (12), Richards (11), and Vos (8).

DODT

The team visited Northwestern last week Tuesday and despite having three players in double figures, lost the contest 65-53. Lynn Postma led the trio with 14 points. Faye Woudstra added 11 and Lisa netted 10.

WESTMAR

The Lady Defenders returned home last Thursday to host Westmar. Dordt placed four players in double figures: Van Leeuwen (20), Mabie (19), Woudstra (18) and Ruisch (11). Postma rounded out the top scorers with 9. Final score of the game went to Dordt 84-72.

DAKOTA STATE

Dordt came out strong last Saturday night in Madison, S.D. as they met a talented Dakota State team. The Lady Defenders led at the half 36-29 but couldn't hang on to win Final score: Dakota St. 75; Dordt 66. Leading the team in scoring was Postma with 21 pts. and Mabie who netted 14 points.

The Lady Defenders have their final home game this Saturday afternoon at 2:00 against Briar Cliff College.

Women Remain At .500

by D. DE RUITER

The women's varsity basketball team has boosted its record to 8-8 with 2 wins and 3 losses in the last two weeks.

WESTMAR

The Lady Defenders traveled to Le Mars Jan. 24 to take on Westmar College.

Dordt took control of the game from the start and continued to dominate scoring 36 second half points en route to a 77-66 victory. Linda Mabie led the team with 28 points, followed by Jacque Van Leeuwen (14), Lynn Postma (13), and Lisa Ruisch (10).

MORNSIDE

Dordt had trouble two days later as they fell 82-59 to Morningside here in Sioux Center. The game saw 18 turnovers by the Lady Defenders while the Lady Chiefs capitalized with fine outside shooting. Jacque Van Leeuwen continued her excellent play scoring 18 points while Sandy Keck added 12.

NORTHWESTERN

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"Everything is permissible, but not everything is beneficial." What is your criteria for musical judgement? Do you listen for good musical craftsmanship or do you limit yourself to Top 40 trash? Are you aware of the message that the musicians are trying to convey?

Because we have a natural affinity to music and it is an integral part of our lives, we sing songs from the soul. Rock groups, therefore, reflect in their music their lifestyles and philosophies. Christians are challenged not just to listen, but also to spiritually discern whether this music is beneficial.

The best live band of 1983 is the title the critics have awarded U2. This powerful Irish band has recently released Under A Blood Red Sky, a live mini-LP that is packed with some of their best hits from past albums Boy, October and War. Growing up amidst fighting Catholics and Protestants in Ireland, U2 claims a non-denominational Christian faith. Fans whose likes range from hard rock to new wave appreciate U2's unique sound, raw energy and spiritual vitality that come through clearly on this LP.

Starting off the album is the blazing "Clown," a powerful, weighty song mixed with Latin. Lead singer Bono Vox said "I had to express in Latin what I couldn't express in English." Although the album is of such consistently good quality, songs that stand out are "I'll Follow," a non-didactic cry of confession; "Sunday Bloody Sunday," a song where the vocals of Bono Vox earnestly belt-out against a war torn world; and "New Year's Day," a song of renewed hope rising from the rubble. This album is beautifully wrapped up with the song "40" whose lyrics are largely a direct quote from Psalm 40 of the Bible. In "40" he asks the crowd to sing along with him [a crowd which is largely non-Christian] when the song fades out the crowd sings on: "How long to sing this song?"

Many heavy-metal rockers have long awaited the release of Van Halen's new album 1984. Prior to its arrival at the record stores, a single off the album entitled "Jump" was released, giving Van Halen fans a taste of what was to come.

In many ways, 1984 is like any other Van Halen album with Eddie Van Halen's incredible guitar licks and David Lee Roth's raspy vocals, but three cuts off the album have a sound unique to the traditional Van Halen style.

For the songs "1984", "Jump," and "I'll Wait," Eddie has put away his guitar and applied his musical magic to a synthesizer. Maybe he should have stuck with guitar, for while "Jump" has fared well, the keyboards lack traditional Van Halen quality. In fact, the keyboards unfortunately drag the song into the realm of top 40.

There are, however, two cuts which belong in the traditional Van Halen file. "Panama" and the album's best cut, "Hot for Teacher" have that unique touch that only David Lee Roth can add.

All in all, this album proves to be successful and Van Halen fans will not be disappointed. Be forewarned though, the messages portrayed definitely are not in keeping with Christian principles and can be offensive.

Appetizing... ...But No Seconds

Receiver of rave reviews and standing ovations, "My Dinner with Andre" had high expectations to live up to when I went to see it. I'd read that it is daringly innovative—two hours of dinner conversation—no one thought that could possibly make for an engaging film, but now it has been done successfully.

The film is the brain-child of Wallace Shawn, a playwright, and Andre Gregory, a theatre director, who are also its two principal actors. They play themselves, using a script which Shawn has condensed from many taped hours of conversation between the two of them.

As I said, I came to the film with high expectations, and for the most part, I was satisfied. The screenplay is exquisite in its subtlety. The beginning and end, Shawn's coming to and leaving from the elegant restaurant where the conversation takes place, is like a tasteful, complementary frame around a beautiful painting. The dinner and the conversation entwine like the harmony and melody of a beautiful song; the evening glides through movements like a symphony: appetizer, main dish, and after-dinner coffee. The most pleasing aspect has to be the acting. The characters are fascinating and invite the audience to savour them like fine wine. Anyone interested in acting and theater or anyone seriously interested in filmmaking shouldn't miss "My Dinner With Andre".

However, one maddening intrusive flaw marred my enjoyment of the film and breaks its chances of being truly great. The conversation itself did not live up to the rest of the film. Oh, it was wonderful at first when Andre was telling of his adventurous quest for the meaning of life in the forests of Poland, Tibet, and the Sahara. But when they began their philosophizing, I quickly became impatient. The discussion circles round and round, the occasional glimpses of truth only faint glimpses—half-ideas that lead nowhere.

From a Christian point of view, it was saddening to see two such obviously gifted men lost to the truth and hopelessly tangled in their own logic and emotions. But I felt that even a non-Christian would see the basic hollowness in these men and their discussion.

I'm glad I saw "My Dinner with Andre" it was worth seeing. But because its flaws are too large to allow unmarred enjoyment, I feel no real desire to see it again.

Dinner with Andre was wonderful at the theater. The dinner and conversation—no one thought that could possibly make for an engaging film, but now it has been done successfully.