Public giving at chapel

by Stephanie Brown
Staff Writer

Last Thursday, Intervarsity hosted Dordt's first sacrificial chapel. It was a simulation of the Old Testament wave offering. Traditionally, the wave offering was the breast portion of the sacrificed animal, brought to the altar by an individual, rather than the priest. The person would wave it toward and away from the altar to signify that it was being given to God. The purpose of the offering was to thank God for His goodness.

In Dordt's wave offering, students gathered in the same spirit of thanksgiving. While we voiced our praise in song, an usher stood at the front and slowly walked down the center aisle. As the usher passed each row, students rose and walked to the front bringing canned food, blankets, and clothing items to the altar.

Roughly 10 students also shared their personal praises, making use of the two public microphones at the front of the chapel.

The idea was that these words of thanks were being infused into the praises which were being sung by the people and lifted up to God. All the donated items were given to Mid-Sioux and Sioux Falls Gospel Mission.

Musical about orphan is good family fare

by Paula Teirk
Staff Writer

Dordt students and members of the community alike gathered in Te Paske Theatre last weekend to see Opal, a musical by Robert Nassif Lindsey. Opal takes place in a logging camp in Oregon at the turn of the century. The struggles and perils of logging life are well-portrayed on the set designed by John Hofland.

The main character, Françoise (portrayed by fifth-grader Libby Noteboom), is abandoned at the camp when her parents are killed in a shipwreck. Taken in by "The Mamma" (Lisa Barry), Françoise acquires the name Opal and makes friends with the people in the camp, such as Sadie McKibben (Gena Koning), "The Man with Grey Neckties" (John Conlanti), "The Girl that Has No Seeing" (Annette Groen), and "The Thought Girl" (Alison Troup).

But Opal's best friend is a pig she names Peter Paul Rubens (represented by a spotlight, courtesy of fellow spot operator Sarah Bliss, and by squeals, courtesy of Mark Memmelaar). Led by a chorus of six narrators, the story is told through young Opal's diary entries, in which she writes about missing her parents and about her strange new life.

One theme that comes back through song and Opal's diary is a charge to Opal to "make earth glad: Only then will she be reunited with her angel father and mother. Opal makes friends with the community and brings people together.

The story is not without its tragic twists, however. Peter Paul Rubens is slaughtered, and "The Girl that Has No Seeing" is killed in a forest fire. The lumber community must relocate after the fire, so Opal leaves with "The Mamma" and ends her diary.

Despite technical difficulties, Opal pleased a large audience, including many families. Tickets can still be purchased at the box office or the door. Opal is running until March 9.

Education conference asks ‘How do we improve our schools?’

by Jon Postma
Staff Writer

Last night the 14th Annual B.J. Haan Educational Conference began with a public lecture featuring Dr. Gloria Stronks, Professor of Education at Calvin College, and Mr. Robert Koole, Coordinator of the Society of Christian Schools in B.C., Canada.

Lecture Hall C-160 was filled to capacity with Dordt students and professors, as well as principals and teachers from the extended area.

In previous years, the B.J. Haan Educational Conference has focused on issues facing education such as “What is teaching?” and “What does it mean to teach as a Christian?” Marking a turning point in the focus of the conference, this year Stronks and Koole’s presentation was titled, “Improving our Schools: How do we go about it?”

Stronks’ part of the lecture dealt mainly with improvement of the middle school. Ideas presented by Stronks included student-led parent-teacher conferences, student career exploration as early as seventh and eighth grade, and required student service projects.

Taking the stage with a host of overhead transparencies, Koole hit on the idea that our society does not place a high value on learning. He stated that the value of learning was not just to get a well-paying job.

During his presentation, Koole commented, "Renewal of the Christian school has to be focused on God and others." In this spirit, teachers from 16 schools will begin a two-day work session today, March 7, with Stronks and Koole.
Computer shutdown causes campus crash

by Henry Vander Stelt
Staff Writer

Zap! Bang! Zot? Crash! A flashback to the Batman and Robin episodes of the '60s, or the sound that Dordt College's computer system has been making lately? You be the judge.

Last Monday we all had to make a few adjustments in our lives because of the lack of certain computer facilities. Many lamented the fact that they could not access their e-mail or write their Gen 300 papers, while others were trying to remember how the Dewey Decimal system works.

Most people on campus were probably affected in some way by this computer shutdown, but very few probably understand why the computer system has been shutting down so often lately. To find an answer, I went to one of our resident computer experts, Nick Breems.

Breems informed me that Dordt purchased several hard drives for the Unix computer system that have turned out to be defective. Because of this, every once in a while over the past few months, a hard drive has made its final revolution.

Because of Dordt's especially sophisticated computer system, this would not normally be a problem. All of the vital information stored on the computer is spread out evenly over several disk drives. When any one of the hard drives fails, the computer will still have enough information for the others to continue running. However, when two drives fail, it turns into a problem.

While the Computer Services department was busy replacing a faulty hard drive, the unimaginable happened. A second hard drive died, and with it, the entire Unix system.

There was nothing left to do but go back to a tape backup that had been made only hours before. This process would take almost the rest of the day.

Some asked why we don't just replace all of the bad disk drives now so we don't have to worry about this ever happening again. The problem is, as Jim Bos, director of Computer Services states, "We don't know that the drives are defective until they fail." So expect a few more short shutdowns over the next few weeks as the last defective drives are replaced with new disk drives.

Technology can be a very wonderful thing, but this recent computer failure shows us one of the downsides of this technology. If we come to rely on it, what are we going to do at times when we don't have it?

Justin Luth replaces yet another faulty hard drive.

C.O.P. volunteers serve community

by John Emshoff
Staff Reporter

Since the early '80s, an organization on campus has been helping people in the Sioux Center community. The program works in conjunction with different volunteer organizations in the community, such as PALS, the Domestic Violence Aid Center, Hope Haven, and the Drug and Alcohol Abuse Center. This campus organization is called the Community Outreach Program. Today, roughly 15 years after its start, it is still providing much needed help to many people.

Since the C.O.P. was started, the number of participants in the program has usually stayed about the same, but this year it has gone down a bit. There are between 50 and 70 volunteers, and more would definitely be welcome. Some of the programs have plenty of people, such as PALS, but there are other programs for which very few people, if any, have volunteered. These programs include Pleasant Acres Nursing Home, Mid-Sioux Nursing Home, and the Domestic Violence Aid Center.

"There are so many people who have special needs, and we need to give of ourselves..."
Students’ spring break plans include service and relaxation

by Sarah Nieuwama
Staff Reporter

It’s March, and spring is in the air—sometimes. People have begun their countdown before more than a week of freedom and fun, which will officially begin March 14. Dordt students are making big plans for spring break this year.

Willem Van Nieuwenhuyzen is flying with over 15 other Dordt students to spend spring break in the San Francisco area. He plans on keeping pretty busy. He said, “I hope to go to the beach, and I want to go snow skiing, and I want to go water skiing. . . . I just want to see all that I can see!”

Another group, including around 12 students, is planning to drive to Panama City. Josh Van Dyke is part of this group. “I just want to have fun, make new friends, play some volleyball and relax!” he said.

There are around 135 PLIA members that will be going to a total of 10 sites this year—including places in Denver, Colo., Pasadena, Calif., Inez, Ky., Chicago, Ill. and Jackson, Miss., Kansas, the baseball and track teams are going to Kansas and Texas, and the tennis team is going to Arizona.

Concert Choir will be going on tour through Montana, Washington and British Columbia. They will be taking a charter bus, and are planning to spend a little time sightseeing in Seattle. “I’d like to see the waterfront—and the aquarium,” singer Danac Dekkers said. “Hopefully it won’t rain. . . . It should be a lot of fun!”

Money may be more of a factor than most people care to admit this time of year, but one way or another, people seem to be having fun planning the break from schoolwork.

Cheri Bakker, who will be heading for California on March 14, summed up what’s so great about spring break. “You get to be in the sun and have fun!”

Pseudo-Hawaiians take over Commons

by Sarah Bilsa
Staff Writer

Several people were trampled to death in the Commons on March 5 by surging masses racing to be first in line for the annual Hawaiian luau. (Not really, but there were a lot of people there.)

For those of you who missed it or were smart enough to wait for the line to die down, you missed out on the not-so-funny people who thought they could make time go much faster if they shoved everyone in front of them into a big seething heap. It didn’t work.

Once inside, we were greeted and decorated with fluorescent colored plastic leis by Mr. and Mrs. Ron Rynders.

After receiving my ticket for the free drink provided by SUB Club, I proceeded to the fruit line, where there was real, fresh fruit—pineapple, kiwi and watermelon.

After piling my tray with several plates of fruit, I picked up a glass and headed toward the food. There was the traditional salad, along with corn on the cob, shish-kabobs and pork, which leads me to the topic of the pig’s head sitting right beside the food. Personally, I do not want to see the face of what I’m eating; it tends to be traumatic. But there were those who enjoyed seeing the pig, such as Jeff Gesch, who said, “I got myself some decapitated pig.”

The grand finale of the evening was being searched by Yodi Drost, fruit patrol, who wanted to make sure no one ran off with the whole fruit that had been sitting in a canoe. So, if you missed it, you’re out of luck because the Hawaiian luau only comes around once a year. Better be on your toes next year.

This is Bob. He is a turtle who lives in the Dordt greenhouse. He is a reptile who enjoys eating bugs and sitting on the rocks. Go and visit him sometime. Tell him his friends at the Diamond sent you. He’d like that. He gets lonely.
Letter to the Editor
Put on some clothes, please!

To the Diamond,
Here's a thought that has kept coming up in the past couple of weeks. Finally I just had to write it down.

I have often wondered why women on this campus think that they must try to reveal as much as possible while still rationally arguing decency. Every day I see females wearing mini-shirts revealing abundant portions of their legs. Why is it so important to show so much leg? I also see low-cut shirts, tight t-shirts, leggings and jeans, some leaving little to the imagination but the color of the skin. This is a challenge to everyone to re-evaluate why they wear what they wear.

An artist's goal is to create a focal point that people want to look at: Exposure of provocative flesh is a focal point. Since flesh is a focal point, why do we expose it? Do the females on this campus want to draw attention to themselves? Or do they not realize what they are doing?

So what do we do? Firstly, we need to present ourselves in a modest manner, not drawing attention to ourselves. Here's the problem: we like it when people compliment us on what we are wearing or how we look. We even like it when people give us an extra glance as we walk through the SUB. When we draw attention to ourselves by wearing the clothes we do, who are we really trying to glorify? "So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it to the glory of God." (1 Corinthians 10:31, NIV) Whatever you do includes how you dress in the morning.

Secondly, we are not to lead anyone into sin or temptation. If we are causing someone to sin, it is our job to shun from that activity. Even if there is nothing wrong with that activity. We often blame others for problems we can help avoid. "Well guys shouldn't be looking at me like that." Since we have admitted that guys are looking at us like that we shouldn't dress that way that encourages such action. "Do not cause anyone to stumble..." I am not seeking my own good but the good of many." (1 Corinthians 10:32-33, NIV.)

Lastly, if we are to bear witness to Christ, how can the world see Christ shining through us if they are too busy looking at our legs or cleavage? I'm not calling everyone to go back to wearing long, black dresses (you may if you like) but I challenge everyone to re-evaluate their wardrobe. There are better ways to glorify God than to show the world the flesh he created. The people wearing these clothes are slaves or exhibitionists, just disoriented in their fashion sense. Why do you dress as you do? Is it to gain approval and boost your self-confidence? Or is it to glorify God as part of the body of believers? If we dress to turn people's eyes toward us, how can we be glorifying the Father in heaven?

Please take this letter to heart. Before you decide that it's not for you, take a long look at your own wardrobe to make sure that you are glorifying God. Anonomous

Dear Editor,
The Student Activities Committee would like to thank everyone who contributed to this year's Talent Extravaganza. This is a unique event where what it was, and to the light and sound and stage crews, who patiently worked with the performers throughout the rehearsals to provide the best possible setting for their acts. Also, thanks to the ushers, ice cream scoopers and those who helped clean up afterwards for making this all possible, and to the students, alumni and friends of Dordt who came to support the performers and to be entertained.

There were many high points in the evening which reflected the time and commitment invested in the Talent Extravaganza, but we would also like to take this opportunity to address some concerns that we as a committee have once again caught in an arms race.

One of the most advanced and wealthiest countries in the world, more so than were killed in the Vietnam War. Why has the government not built a memorial yet? Are we all just immune to what I call a public health problem of epidemic proportions?

I suppose one could be optimistic and say that guns are good for the economy because they keep people working at hospitals and handgun manufacturing facilities. But can the United States afford to lose 13,220 people a year to handguns in the name of capitalism? Advertisers flaunt handguns not only in Hollywood productions like James Bond movies, "Terminator, Die Hard and An Eye for an Eye", but beer companies entice customers by symbols of weaponry in "The Silver Bullet" and "Colt 45."

Handgun manufacturers cannot ask for more—free advertising for their products. It does not take a genius to get at the root of the problem. The current rate of handgun deaths is not one for 50 dollars. In Florida, a first grader took a loaded handgun to school and threatened his teacher with it. In Roseland, a southern community of Chicago, 11-year old "Yummy" Sanders used a handgun to kill an innocent 14-year old girl. He was then killed just two days later by his fellow gang members to cover up the evidence. The leading cause of death for black and white teenage boys in the United States is gunshot wounds. Everyday, 100,000 students carry handguns to school, and 40 people are injured or killed.

Increased risk of suicide and a 1.9-fold increased risk of homicide among the adults in the home. Citizens claim use of handguns for target practice, but ultimately, you and I will be the targets. It seems that handgun manufacturers are pursuing guns only to end up on the street where gang members and children can buy one for 50 dollars.

Once again, thank you to everyone who helped with this year's show! Looking forward to next year, we want to encourage acts of all types to audition. to continue in the tradition of the Dordt Talent Extravaganza.
QuickCam™ Scam: The Real Story Behind Dordt’s Electronic Eyes

by Jack Michael Du Mez
Columnist

Inconspicuous, they sit on top of two Macintosh computers in C106, Dordt's multimedia lab. They look suspiciously like eyeballs, off-white and attached to cords that connect them to the PCs' mother boards. These seemingly innocuous technological introductions to campus have the capability to relay pictures from Sioux Center to anywhere in the world. They are the Connectix QuickCams™.

To date, the Computer Services department has installed the QuickCams™ in only two laboratory PCs. According to sources within the Computer Services department, the cameras were installed to test teleconferencing opportunities which, with advanced technology, could include Star Trek-esque communication among PC users of the world over. Currently the QuickCams™ lack the technological sophistication to make them much more than a "toy," according to computer monitor John Eerkes. From a PC, students can take and print still photos of themselves and even jerky, moving photographs. However, the relative secrecy with which the QuickCams™ were installed, and their continued presence, leads this reporter to believe that there is more to their installation than meets the electronic eye.

Eerkes admitted he has been given limited information regarding the new technology and that he has had to search for details concerning the QuickCams™ independently, even though he has been an employee with Dordt Computer Services for over two years. In a shocking interview, Eerkes observed that the Computer department has never had a staff meeting regarding the QuickCams™ and in fact, "higher ups" have only said that the QuickCams™ "didn’t work out."

Eerkes himself has not been directly contacted concerning the continued placement of the QuickCams™, but commented, "I have often thought that the Defense Department has had an interest in Dordt." Eerkes is Canadian, but he has been independently recognized for his astute political savvy.

Computer Services assistant Nick Breems, who asked for anonymity and wishes to use the pseudonym "Ted", confirms the possibility that the QuickCams™ could be involved in either governmental or interpersonal mismanagement. When asked if a hacker might be able to remotely access the QuickCams™ and spy on the Dordt multimedia laboratory, Ted commented, "My best technological guess is that remote access is not possible." However, upon further questioning, Ted admitted, "It is within the realm of possibility that someone could be watching without the user’s knowledge."

Ted says that in order for hackers to remotely access the QuickCams™, they would have to penetrate a sophisticated system of telecommunication equipment, using the Mutual Telephone hook-up to Dordt College’s 'T1' line. They would then connect with the digital modem and the Wellfleet router which acts something like a telephone switchboard. After manipulating the router, the hackers would have to access the Minimac multimedia center, the Macintosh server and finally get into the PC supporting the QuickCam™, where they could then steal pictures from the unsuspecting student, beaming them through a complex web of fiber optics to anywhere in the world. Ted admitted that it is highly improbable that the government could be conspiring to use the QuickCam™ as a spy-cam, but adds that regarding computers’ misuse, "There are things we [just] don’t know."

Even Network Administrator Curtis Koole regards the QuickCam™ installation comprehensively, suggesting that he was only allowed limited input concerning the decision, which sources say was stealthily implemented by department heads. When asked who decided to install the QuickCams™, Ted answered, "Someone from above. I don’t know. I have not been part of the decision making process."

Sources within the Dordt College president’s office continue to deny allegations that president Hulst has been contacted by any U.S. or international government officials regarding conspiracies involving the QuickCams™. Sources deny that president Hulst is in cahoots with Fidel Castro and add that president Hulst has never traveled to Cuba.

Currently, the QuickCams™ remain available for student use in case Dordt experiences what Eerkes calls, "a sudden need for teleconferencing." However, neither the president’s office, nor Computer Services have denied an international conspiracy involving the QuickCams™. As Eerkes comments, regarding computer power, "There are just not that many limits."
Like, gag me with a spoon

The Eighties was a decade of consumerism: from really horrible popular music to really cool action figures, it was all really about the money.

And you thought the Sixties were bad...

by Charity Lopez
Staff Reporter

Fashion throughout the '80s was dictated by popular rock stars and hit movies. Madonna's Material Girl look was mimicked among the "in" crowd and Michael Jackson's distinctive red jacket, glove and sunglasses were the accessories to own.

Mini skirts, parachute pants, side ponytails, neon colors, bracelets, plastic charm necklaces, jeans with purposely-cut holes and leg warmers flood my mind as I recall my junior high days.

The happiest day of my life was the day my friends showed me how to peg my pants. You all remember the technique, right? Grab the bottom cuff of your tight jeans, fold it over and roll it up a couple times.

Back then, plain white Reeboks like I had just weren't good enough. I can remember seeing girls with yellow, red and even blue high tops. I tried so hard to get my mom to buy me a pair, but she just wouldn't give in. Looking back, she was smarter than I thought.

Just one wasn't good enough in the '80s. I made it a point to wear two t-shirts at once with two pairs of matching socks. For example, a fuchsia t-shirt with a turquoise one underneath and matching socks was so cool. Just one bracelet was never enough, either. I can remember seeing guys and girls with 15-20 of those different colored plastic bracelets running up their arms.

The '80s were full of crazy fashion trends, things my mind has allowed me to block out. I know that fashion generally moves in a circle, but I have done my time in the '80s and if it would be all right with everyone else, I would like to skip the pants pegging '80s the second time around.

Eighties: a decade of songs about nothing

by Kate Dekker
Assistant Editor

Michael Jackson told us Billie Jean was not his lover. Duran Duran was Hungry Like the Wolf. The Bangles taught us how to Walk Like an Egyptian.

This was the music of the '80s: synthesizers, dance beats and crazy songs about nothing in particular. Tears for Fears knew that Everybody Wants to Rule the World. Boys Don't Cry said, "I wanna be a cowboy, and you can...be my cowgirl." The Boss, Bruce Springsteen, let us know without a doubt that he was Born in the USA.

We were brought up on these songs. They got us through the avarice and rampant consumerism of the yuppie years. Much of the time, they reflected those yuppie ideals. After all, Madonna was the Material Girl. All Bow Wow Wow wanted was Candy.

Sunglasses were also all the rage. Cory Hart wore his Sunglasses at Night, and Timbuk 3 knew that The Future's So Bright, they Gotta Wear Shades.

But love was also important. The Human League wondered, "Don't You Want Me, Baby?" Cutting Crew lamented, "I Just Died in Your Arms Tonight," and Bananarama complained that it was a Cruel Summer.

But it wasn't all sadness and gloom. Katrina and the Waves were so excited that they were Walking on Sunshine, and Toni Basil exclaimed, "Hey, Mickey, you're so fine, you're so fine you blow my mind!"
The Eighties are back
on TNN

TNN puts up its
Dukes

by Laryn Bakker
Design Editor

Ever since Feb. 5, people have been congregating around televisions across campus—cultish gatherings that usually begin at 6:00 p.m. and break up an hour later. The thing that joins them is affectionately referred to as “the Dukes,” reruns of old Dukes of Hazzard episodes on The Nashville Network (TNN).

The first episode of the Dukes aired Jan. 26, 1979, and the show ran for about six years. During this time, many children were nourished every week on a fresh episode with the requisite number of car chases, jumps and wrecks.

Yolanda Drost recalls how all the kids in her family would watch the show together, which helps explain why she hosts a fairly regular viewing of the Dukes in her apartment. “I like to watch it because I like having everyone over. It reminds me of childhood memories,” she says.

Elicia Bot confesses that she doesn’t particularly enjoy the show, but watches because her friends do. “It’s one of those peer pressure things—everyone’s over and they’re watching it, so you do.” Not everyone has good motives though. Hans Van der Hoek admits it isn’t fond memories or friends that he is looking for, saying, “Daisy keeps me coming back for more.” Brad Vos agrees. “When you’re a kid, you know, those car chases are pretty cool, but now you have the added attraction of Daisy Duke.” Josh Van Dyke tells how his childhood heroes Rosco P. Coltrane and Boss Hogg have been replaced by Daisy. (He says he also likes “that crazy Cooter.”)

But Van Dyke concedes that the show is not perfect. “I didn’t realize how unrealistic the show was when I was a kid,” he says. “And there are so many little inconsistencies, like when Luke hops in the driver’s seat and then in the next clip Bo is driving.” Sarah Nieuwsma goes even further. “The show has no plot and Daisy never wears any clothes,” she says harshly.

Some people have been untouched by the Dukes. Jack Du Mez never watched the show as a child and doesn’t watch it now. “I wasn’t allowed to, because my parents didn’t want authority figures presented in that derogatory way,” he explains.

‘80s Pop Culture

- Scooby Doo
- Legos
- Cabbage Patch Kids
- He-Man and She-Ra
- Star Wars
- Michael Jackson
- Knight Rider
- G.I. Joe
- The Cosby Show
- Atari
- Friendship bracelets
- The Dukes of Hazzard
- The Smurfs
- Layered socks
- Debbie Gibson
- Jean jackets
- ALF
- Side ponytails
- Transformers
- E.T.
- Pacman
- Tiffany
- Michael J. Fox
- Ronald Reagan
Musical rendition of Dylan Thomas poem highlights band concert

by Sarah Bouma
Staff Reporter

Dordt's Concert Band treated an audience of about 150 people to a feast of the ears on Sunday afternoon in the B.J. Haan Auditorium. Along with the Concert Band, the percussion and woodwind ensembles offered some diversity in the musical styles.

Dr. Henry Duitman's selections ranged from a powerful fanfare taken from the opera "Libuse," featuring an antiphonal brass opening, to a percussion piece with an Arabian flair.

The highlight of the band's pieces was a piece written with Dylan Thomas' poem "Do Not Go Gentle Into That Good Night" in mind. Composer Elliot Del Borgo wrote this powerful piece to capture the essence of the poem.

The first of the four parts painted a dark and climactic image while introducing the main motif of the piece.

The final motif was played by a solo trumpet from off stage, representing the dying of the light.

The percussion ensemble treated the audience to three pieces showing the great variety in percussion instruments. The woodwind ensemble played a glassy, dance-like piece with wonderful harmony between the oboe and the flute.

The concert ended with a piece entitled "Variations on a Korean Folk Song." This piece featured a recurring theme put to different rhythmic patterns and carried by various instruments.

The ending was quite beautiful with an interesting percussion pattern introduced. This concert was certainly an outstanding demonstration of Dordt's musical talent.

Movie: The Princess Bride

by Kate Dekker
Art Critic

The Princess Bride is, as they say, "an oldie but a goodie." It contains many of the fairy tale standards: the good guys win, the bad guys lose, the maiden is rescued by her hero (several times), and everyone lives Happily Ever After (except for the bad guys, of course).

Buttercup is always beautiful, brave and faithful to Wesley, Wesley himself is courageous and dashing, willing to do anything for Buttercup—typical fairy tale hero material. The characters spout some of the best one-liners ever. As the Dread Pirate Roberts, Wesley states, "Life is pain. Anyone who says differently is selling something." Later, after he has shed his black mask, he says to the evil Count, "We are men of action. Lies do not become us."

In a cameo appearance as Miracle Max, Billy Crystal declares, "... and thank you so much for bringing up such a painful subject. While you're at it, why don't you give me a nice paper cut and pour lemon juice on it?"

The actors themselves have a great sense of timing—they play well off each other. The only problem is Andre the Giant's tendency to mumble. He has some really great lines, but they're often unintelligible.

The film seems to have a double moral: "True Love conquers all," and "Fairy tales can be pretty cool."
Country dance proves entertaining
by Dusty Vander Plaata
Staff Reporter

Whether you like country music or not, you were guaranteed a rip-roarin’ good time at the Country Dance at the Community Center last Saturday night.

With guys swinging their partners, and 30 people or more line-dancing to steps sometimes only they knew, it was a little confusing at first, but there were always people willing to help you learn how to dance as they were.

Sophomores Rich Heerema and Jason Kimm were in charge of the dance. “I thought it went over very well. A lot of people showed up, and I thought that was really cool,” Heerema said.

Freshman Julie Doelman was pleasantly surprised with the dance. “I didn’t know country could be so fun!” she said.

For those who couldn’t make it to this country dance, don’t worry. Heerema and others are hoping for another country dance to happen before the end of the year.

Whether you like country music or not, you were guaranteed a rip-roarin’ good time at the Country Dance at the Community Center last Saturday night.

Video Mania
The gameroom stepped into the video age by adding an arcade game. Now students can spend precious study-time playing video volleyball along with the other recreational activities offer in the Dordt rumpus room.

Photo by Neil Graves

Talent Extravaganza photocaption correction

It wasn’t Katie’s fault!

No, the picture to the left is not Matt Perkins grooving his way to third place in the Talent Show.

And the picture to the right is not Suzi Goudzwaard taking second place with The Surgeon.

The two photos were accidentally put in the wrong place when the issue was at the printer.

Sorry for the confusion.

Assistant Editor Katie Dekker is totally exonerated from any wrongdoing in the photo swapping scandal.
Indoor season ends with successful national meet

by Dave Huffman
Sports Writer

The Dordt College track team has hit the midway point in its season, and so a look back at the indoor season and a preview of the outdoor season is in order.

Indoor

The track team finished its indoor season in blazing fashion at the national meet last weekend in Lincoln, Neb. Freshman Sarah Pluim, an All-American in cross country, once again led the team as she finished in fourth place in the 800 meters with a time of 2:19.35. The finish was good for her second All-American honors of the year.

On the men's side, junior Matt Howery put on a show of his own as he finished the indoor season by breaking the school record in the hurdles. Howery set the new record in the semifinal race with a time of 7.81, breaking the old record of 7.89 by 8/10 of a second. Howery finished ninth in the finals with a time of 7.88.

Another group that shined brightly at the national meet was the 4x800 meter women's relay team. The team, made entirely of freshmen, consisted of Cathy Palmer, Heidi Vanden Hoek, Becky Van De Griend and Pluim. The team finished ninth in the relays with a time of 9:37.96.

Other notable record breakers during the indoor season were Palmer in the 500 meter dash with a time of 1:22.9, Jason De Weerd in the same event with a time of 1:08.4, and Peter Simons in the 2000 meter steeplechase with a time of 6:52.

Outdoor

The first event of the outdoor season will take place in Pittsburg, Kan. during the track team's spring trip. During the trip, the outdoor team will compete in Pittsburg, Kan., Big Sandy, Texas and Emporia, Kan., The team of 28 members will leave the Friday of spring break and return a week later. In the spirit of PILA, the team hopes to get a service project in while on the trip.

During the outdoor season, the team hopes to take advantage of their strong middle distance runners in both the men's and women's events, the men's strong hurdlers and the women's long-distance jumpers. Whatever the event, this year's team will put up a good fight. Coach Syne Allen said, "My goal is to have the kids meet their own individual goals. If each individual goal is met, then the team will do well."

This year's track team is one of the largest Dordt has ever had, and if the indoor results are any indication, maybe one of the most successful.

Women close out season with win

by James De Boer
Sports Reporter

The Lady Defenders started out this year with a record of 5-3. After last year's dismal start to the season followed by a strong finish, hopes were high for Dordt. But this year the Lady Defenders felt the power of a new conference, the South Dakota-Iowa Conference. After fighting to 8-8 midway through the 95-96 season, the women dropped eight in a row—all conference matches put. Dordt regrouped to send the seniors off with style, winning their final game, 67-59.

The Lady Defenders took Westmar on at home in their second to last game of the year. Westmar was Dordt's last victim before the losing streak, so Dordt had hopes of ending the skid.

The women held the advantage at halftime, with a score of 24-22. But the visitors put the heat on in the second stanza.

Westmar gained small leads, but Dordt stayed close. With eleven seconds left to play, Alissa Beckerting hit a bucket to pull Dordt within two, 51-49. But Westmar answered by hitting both ends of a one and one to ice the game, hitting Dordt with a 53-49 loss.

"It was a disappointing loss," said Coach Len Rhoda.

Senior Anita Tinklenberg played a great game, scoring a double double. The power forward hit for 19 points, including a pair of three pointers, and grabbed 15 rebounds. Lisa Roos added eight points.

The Lady Defenders shot 51 percent for the night while Westmar hit 38 percent. Dordt held the slight advantage in rebounding, 32-29.

Dordt played Mount Marty to finish the year. The Lady Lancers were 8-7 in the conference and fighting for a fourth place tie. But the Lady Defenders had different ideas, as they worked to a 39-32 lead by halftime.

The Lady Defenders held Mount Marty from a comeback in the second half. Dordt stayed in control down the stretch, coming away with a 67-56 victory.

"It was good to end on a winning note for the seniors," Coach Rhoda said.

And, indeed, it was the seniors who led the team to its final victory. Jill Van Essen accounted for 13 points and handed out a couple of assists. Tinklenberg once again pulled in 15 rebounds to lead the team. Jeanette Nydam took down nine rebounds and Kurt Westra dished out three assists.

The younger players did their part as well, with Beckerting hitting for 10 counters. Chelsea Dyskstra added nine points and 10 rebounds.

Dordt held Mount Marty to 33 percent from the field. The Lady Defenders also worked for rebounds, holding a 43-28 advantage.

The women finished the year with a 9-16 record and a 4-12 conference mark.

Four seniors finished their basketball careers at Dordt, including Nydam and Westra. Van Essen hung up her jersey as the fifth leading scorer in Dordt's history with 1,050 points. Tinklenberg shattered the career mark in rebounds, as she finished up with 800 boards. The old career high was 727 by Paye Woudstra.

Jessen Wassink
Jill Van Essen drives around a Mount Marty defender in Dordt's Homecoming victory.

Women's BB Stats

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Men bow out with first round loss

by Dan Harmelink
Sports Editor

After a successful regular season, the Dordt College men's basketball team saw the year come to an end last Monday night with a first round playoff loss to Mount Marty College.

First year head coach Greg Van Soelen guided the Defenders to a 10-6 conference record and a fourth place finish in the Defenders' inaugural season as a member of the SDIC. This fourth place finish earned Dordt a berth in the post-season tournament, but the Defenders were ousted by playoff host and conference champion Mount Marty by the score of 89-77 to end the Defenders' bid for a trip to the NAA national tournament. Dordt and Mount Marty were far from strangers as they entered Monday night's playoff tilt. In fact, this game marked the second contest between these two teams within a brief three days.

The first of these two meetings resulted in a 76-69 Lancer victory during Dordt's homecoming activities, but the game was a rugged battle which could have gone either way. The game began with a rapid 9-3 run by Mount Marty before the Defenders settled down and battled back to cut the Lancers' early lead to 11-8. However, Mount Marty went on another scoring flurry and shot ahead 20-13. Scott Van Essen then led Dordt back with his stingy defense and offensive spark to trim Mount Marty's lead to 20-19.

The Lancers built their lead back up to seven points, but Mount Marty was shot just before the half to cut Mount Marty's lead to 39-35. Mount Marty came out strong in the second half and mounted a 56-46 advantage. But seniors Troy Stahl and Van Essen ignited a Dordt rally that knotted the score at 68-68 with just over six minutes to play. Then, in the following three minutes, Mount Marty outscored the Defenders 13-3 and took control of the game for good. Dordt made a valiant effort to battle back, but a few questionable calls and accurate Lancer free throw shooting ended the Defenders' season and shattered their dream of advancing to the national tournament.

The Defenders were led in scoring by Van Essen, who had an excellent game on both ends of the court and ended with 23 points. Tracy Winkle added 12, while Stahl chipped in 11, including three three-pointers. Following the game, Coach Van Soelen remarked, "I'm proud of the kids and the way they came back. We were down early but we fought back and tied the ball game. I can't say enough good things about our guys' effort tonight."

Van Soelen also added a few words of praise for the four seniors who had played in their final game as Defenders. "Sheldon Droog, Troy Stahl, Kyle Van Zee and Scott Van Essen put a lot of time and sweat into this basketball program, and you've got to give these guys credit for sticking it out and doing well in their four years here."

The Dordt men ended their first season under Coach Van Soelen with an overall record of 16-13 and a 10-6 mark in the SDIC. Congratulations to the Defenders on a very successful and entertaining season.

Blades lose playoff heartbreaker

by Martin Dam
Hockey Guy

The Dordt Blades traveled to Aberdeen, S.D., two weeks ago for the league championships and came away with a third place finish, capping off their best season in recent memory. The players, however, will remember this tournament for what they didn't win more than for what they did.

Their first game was against Drake University, out of Des Moines, Iowa. The Blades were ahead 8-4 in the closing seconds of the game, with goals by Izzy Huygen, Nate Critters, Greg VanLeeuwen, Anthony Minderhoud and Jeff Wubbs. The die hard fans who had made the trip were counting down with the clock when Drake scored with one second left to tie the game.

The Blades went into shock, and 14 seconds into overtime Drake scored again to take the game and move on to the championship. The Blades went on to beat UNI 5-4 for a third place finish, behind a pair of goals by Jeff Vandermeer. Jon Mooy, Mark Bekkering and Huygen also scored.

Team coach Jeremy Huygen summed up the team's disappointment, "Losing the first game with a win so close was one of the biggest disappointments of the season. A chance for first place was in reach, but we just couldn't pull it through."

Despite the disappointing finish, it is hard not to be excited about the season. The Blades tied for first place in their division with an 8-4 record in division games. Over the entire season, including exhibition games, they finished 22-9-1 for a 70.3 winning percentage, a third place regular season record in the league and a rank among the top 50 teams in the country.

Coach Huygen wanted to thank his players for all their hard work. "With Erick Janssens playing phenomenal between the pipes and a hardworking core of players who were willing to play a defensive style of hockey, we had a very successful season."

This will be the last season for captain Theodore Karmingly, assistant Wayne Feelus and Joe Kikkert, the three seniors. They all worked hard during their time here, and their leadership will be missed on next year's squad. Four years ago when they got here, the team was a joke, and their hard work is one of the major reasons that we have a successful team now.

Speaking of next year, the team seems to be shaping up nicely. Although there won't be any seniors on the team, the players are confident that they can repeat the success of this season. But that's next year. For now let's just enjoy the success of this season. Great job guys!

1995-96 Defenders Team Statistics

Final Record: 16-13
SDIC Record: 10-6 (Fourth Place)

Men's Individual BB Stats

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Head Statistician: Mark De Kemp (Spam)
Lent: A time of spiritual renewal
by Sarah Dryfhout
Staff Writer

Over the last few days I've been asking people, “What is Lent?” I have received various answers, all closely related, such as “the time before Easter”; “fasting and prayer”; and “around Easter.” All this is correct, yet most failed to mention that we are presently in the Lent season.

Lent began Feb. 21, Ash Wednesday. The season excludes Sundays and will go until Easter, April 8—a total of 40 days. This number is significant of the 40 days Christ fasted in the wilderness. For Christians, it is meant to be a time of spiritual discipline and renewal in preparation for Easter. This can include fasting, prayer and special services. Contributions to charity have known to increase during this time as well. The last week of Lent is called the Holy Week. It is for special reflection on the “passion” or suffering of Christ.

I remember a Lent sermon I heard couple of years ago, in which the pastor had a chocolate bar and asked for someone who really wanted to come up and get it. A woman walked up to the front of the church. The pastor asked her to put it somewhere she would see everyday, but not to eat it until after Easter. Every time she was to see or think about that chocolate bar, it was to remind her of the suffering and death of Jesus. This may be something you want to try. Think of something you eat often and like a lot. Omit it from your diet until after Easter. Although this sacrifice is extremely insignificant compared to Christ’s death, it may increase the meaning of Easter for you.

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