Staley Lecture Series features Dr. Seerveld

by Kendra Van Duyn
Staff Reporter

The Staley Foundation Lectures were held during the past week, Jan. 29-Feb. 2. Guest speaker for this year’s series was Dr. Calvin Seerveld. According to Jim DeYoung, a member of the college’s Staley Committee, “Seerveld is a highly respected scholar, but his distinctive contribution has been the way he has worked to make arts more approachable to all Christians, calling us to recognize the everyday nature of aesthetic experience and our responsibility to be involved in culture.”

Seerveld’s visit is supported in part by the Thomas F. Staley Foundation which annually provides funding for visiting speakers at Christian colleges through its Staley Distinguished Christian Scholar Program.

The Staley Foundation Lectures have been held since 1967, and are based on the idea that it is crucial for colleges to have dedicated, conservative, biblically sound, scholarly speakers who speak on topics relevant to college students.

Before his retirement in 1995, Seerveld was the senior member in philosophical aesthetics at the Institute for Christian Studies in Toronto, Canada, where he served for 23 years. From 1959-1972, he was professor of philosophy at Trinity Christian College, Palos Heights, Ill. He is the author or contributor to 10 books, including Rainbows for the Fallen World and A Christian Critique of Arts and Literature.

“Seerveld is a master teacher from whom I have and continue to learn much, both from his biblically honed attitude and fortitude, as well as from his mastery of the material in all its depth and breadth,” said Dr. John Kok, a former student of Seerveld and current professor of philosophy at Dordt.

Dr. Seerveld has a long association with Dordt College, having lectured on campus a number of times before, since the 1960’s. All three of his children are Dordt College graduates.

Throughout his week long stay, Seerveld presented 13 lectures including four which were open to the public, addressing such topics as “The Halo of Human Imagination,” “A Christian Understanding of Play and Games,” “How to Read Proverbs” and “Literature among the Arts.”

Kok’s Philosophy of Aesthetics class spent many hours during the week attending the lectures. They had the opportunity to visit and discuss one on one with Seerveld and to get to know him a bit more personally.

Dr. Kok hoped that students would experience first hand a reformed Christian who has dedicated his professional life to the field of aesthetics, while never forgetting the light that Scripture sheds upon a creation that in the beginning was good. A second objective was that they would be existentially confronted with the challenge to think about one of God's many ordinances for creation: Be allusive! Be playful—to the glory of God!

Dordt aids city’s Internet expansion

by Henry Vander Stelt
Staff Writer

For many Dordt students, accessing the Internet has become an ordinary, everyday event. Whether writing e-mail or reading our newsgroups, access to the Internet is something that we often take for granted.

This has not, however, been the case for most of the rest of the people in Sioux Center. The only Internet access that has been available to them is through certain on-line networks or an Internet provider in Des Moines. The cost of the Internet services, as well as the hours of long distance charges, discouraged most people in the area from getting connected to the Net.

This is all about to change. An agreement reached between Dordt College and Mutual Telephone Company will make unlimited Internet access a reality for many in the Sioux Center community.

Mutual Telephone Company of Sioux Center had previously considered offering Internet service to the community. Because the company was a partial owner of Iowa Network Services, a large Internet hub in Des Moines, they had an opportunity to gain access to a fast Internet connection, but they lacked the resources and expertise required to service the computers and equipment. That is where Dordt College stepped in.

Jim Bos, director of computer services, approached Mutual Telephone Company with an idea of initiating a joint project between Dordt College and the phone company.

An agreement was reached late last fall where Mutual Telephone Company agreed to become an Internet provider to Dordt College and the Sioux Center community. In return, Dordt agreed to provide service and administration assistance for the new equipment. “It didn’t take much convincing on their part to get the ball rolling,” said Jim Bos, director of computer services.

Dordt stands to benefit very much from this joint venture. Mutual Telephone Company will be connecting to a Des Moines Internet hub using a T1 protocol on a fiber optics line. “The T1 line will allow faster access to the Internet,” said Bos. “The T1 line can transfer about 24 times as much information as our previous connection.”

What does this translate into for Dordt students? “Students at Dordt will have access to more newsgroups and campuswide access to the World Wide Web,” said Bos. “Right now, Netscape is being loaded on nearly every computer that can run the program.”

Probably the best part of the whole deal is the bottom line. Bos said that the new Internet service for Dordt College through Mutual Telephone Company is “basically as expensive as our old connection.”

The new connection is a win-win situation. Dordt gets a much faster connection, and the Sioux Center community gets a chance for affordable and unlimited access to the Internet. For the people of Sioux Center, the service through Mutual Telephone Company will begin the first week of February.

With the new connection up and running, the message to Dordt students is clear: Surf’s up!
Students teaching students

by Sarah Bliss
Staff Writer

This semester, 58 students are being put in charge of innocent young minds. No, this isn't a new psychology experiment—they're student teachers. Each year there are approximately 60 students who participate in student teaching from grade school to high school levels. Most of these students remain within a 50 mile radius, but there are those brave souls who venture off into the wilds of British Columbia, California, Washington, Michigan, and Illinois. Dordt also has an arrangement with Calvin Christian School in Minneapolis to send some students there.

Students spent last semester arranging their positions with the schools. About half the students teach at Christian schools and half at public schools. There is some competition with Northwesterners and Iowa State for jobs in the area.

Students spend the first few weeks observing and becoming familiar with the students and classroom. They start off with a few responsibilities and eventually work into full time teaching.

Sarah Elenbaas teaches fourth grade at Sheldon Community School. Right now, she's working on a science unit for the class. Her main responsibilities include reading aloud to the kids, helping them with their work, and helping out the teacher. Since it's a public school, she isn't able to openly express her faith, which she said was weird. She also wasn't used to the teacher's reasons for doing things, such as, "This will make you a better person." Another difference in the public school is that it is so much bigger than the average Christian school. She said that the teachers aren't as close because one doesn't always see the same teachers every day.

Melanie Koolhaas, an 11th and 12th grade student teacher, gives tests and grades papers at the moment. She said that the regular teacher sits in for the first and second periods and drops in and out during the last one. She said that the kids are more respectful than in her high school. She also likes teaching high school because the discussions are more serious.

A student teaching at Sioux Center Christian, Kevin Vos teaches grades two and four. Volunteering the past two years for the teacher he is currently working with has given him some insight into the classroom. His main responsibilities are teaching Bible and math, taking attendance, and making lesson plans. Teaching the primary grades is fun because they're "so innocent they make you smile." Although he would have to adjust to very different teaching styles, he would not mind teaching at either a public or a private school.

Even with all the hard work involved, these students have found their calling to be rewarding. As Vos mentioned, Jesus said, "Let the little children come unto me."
Caucuses count

by Kevin Maas
Staff Writer

All those who are really tired of midterm Iowa, this story is for you. Before believing that you go to school here just to
harden yourself to cold weather, read on about the best reason to be in Iowa in February. Every four years, locals scrape the ice
off their tractors, head into town, and shape the presidential campaign by holding caucuses. No, these are not prickly, desert-loving
plants that thrive far from the Canadian border. Rather, they are gatherings in every community in Iowa where people vote for who they believe should run for president.

This year, the Republicans have to decide who they are going to send against Bill Clinton. Iowa’s caucuses are the first
in the nation, and they will be the first real indicator of who the nation wants to run in the November elections. If you are not from Iowa, don’t stop reading yet. Since you spend more than
half the year in this great state, you are entitled to vote here.

Those of you who are concerned about politics to any extent should definitely stop by the 1996 Republican caucuses.
If you don’t care at all, here are several reasons why you should.

Since you attend Dordt, there is a good chance you are somewhat conservative. If you are, you will probably vote Republican in the next election.

If you want to support your views, your presence at this year’s caucus is pivotal.

If you do vote, you should want the person you vote for to win the election. Thus, it is in your best interests to vote at the caucuses and help choose a candidate that can beat Bill Clinton.

Do not doubt what your presence at the caucus can do. The candidates that do well in the Iowa caucuses will receive lots of media coverage. This translates into free publicity, better name recognition, and higher campaign contributions.

Only a small percentage of Iowans will vote in the caucuses, so your vote will be far more powerful than in a normal election (and that is still a gross understatement).

This election will greatly affect the course of the United States as it enters the next century. Do you want a brand new flat tax system waiting for you when you enter the workforce? Do you want the federal government to hand responsibility for social programs over to the states? If you want to support your views, your presence at this year’s caucus is pivotal.

This year, the caucuses are being conveniently held in the Te Paske Theatre at the high school. Since this is within shouting distance of Dordt, it shouldn’t be too tough for lots of people to get there (unless it’s 70 degrees below zero again). The historic event is Monday, Feb. 12, at 7:00 p.m. If for no other reason, go so you won’t have to tell your children you missed this monumental event, the 1996 caucuses.

 Russians visit Dordt

By Ryan VanderPlaats
Editor

The president of the Society for Open Christianity in Russia, Dr. Konstantin Ivanov, and his wife Inga visited Dordt’s campus Jan. 30 to rally support for the group’s educational programs.

The representatives of the St. Petersburg-based group met with Dordt professor John Vanderstelt to discuss the future of the SOC’s academic center, which includes a four-year teacher education program. The Ivanovs and Vanderstelt formed a tentative plan to affiliate the SOC’s academic center with Dordt College.

Although the plan was still strictly in the discussion stage, both sides were excited about the possibility of working together to better educate Russian teachers.

“This would help us understand how to organize,” said Inga Ivanov. “We do not understand the process of organizations because the government has controlled us for so long. Organizing is natural for you.” Vanderstelt saw the possible affiliation as an opportunity for students and professors to experience another culture as well as help out fellow Christians.

“The academic center would become a mini-college for training of Christian teachers,” Vanderstelt said. “It would be what Dordt was when it first began.”

The Ivanovs’ trip to Sioux Center was part of a hectic swing across the United States to solidify political and financial support for the SOC, which has met with legal and financial trouble. In 1995, the government stopped recognizing the diplomas of SOC graduates as valid. The rising cost of private education has become too high for most Russians to pay. The result was a drop in attendance from 200 students in 1994 to 80 students in 1995 in the SOC’s elementary and secondary schools. But the Ivanovs are optimistic that the school will survive because of the Russian people’s hunger for the gospel, as well as for education that has a moral basis.

“The situation is very dangerous because people are taking advantage of Russia’s new system, but they want their children to have some principles and morality. Others want their children to start with Christian instruction.

Picture Poll

Surfing the 'Net

How often do you use the Internet, and for what purposes?

Matt Vander Linden
Freshman
Seattle, Washington

"Every day for e-mail, and probably twice a week for homework, like looking up articles."

Steve Veenstra
Senior
Sioux Center, Iowa

"Not much. Just e-mail and to see what’s out there."

Melissa Homan
Freshman
Waupun, Wisconsin

"I just learned how to use it, and that was for Zoology class. We had to use it for an assignment, otherwise I never would have used it."

Ingrid Mulder
Dordt Librarian
Sioux Center, Iowa

"When I’m working, just to direct students to other resources than the ones that are available in the library. In my free time, I use it to catch up on the news and surf around."
Letter to the Editor:
The government and the hungry

She was sitting all alone behind a table in the Dordt College student union building, "Bread for the World" the little bumper on her name tag said. Tammy Walhof. Her dad, it turned out, was the Rev. Fred Walhof, who, though a few years older than I, had grown up in the same town and church as I had.

Since I have been a supporting member of BF&W for at least 15 years, I was curious about her success here at Dordt. Glancing at the sign-up list lying on her desk, I noticed that only two people had signed up to receive BF&W materials. "Looks like you haven't been doing so well," I said.

"No," she said. "I haven't. And I'm surprised. I mean, I might expect this sort of non-response at some colleges, but not Dordt. Isn't Dordt supposed to be there great emphasis on worldview, on being reformed? And doesn't reformed mean, in the sense of the word -- doesn't it mean responsive to the injustice in the world -- economic, political, educational? -- Dobson seems to say that there is a serious question as to whether the powers of government are capable of bringing economic justice to the world? Is that why so many of us come to love people and ushering the kingdom of God? Don't worry about the injustice in the larger structural areas of life -- economic, political, educational -- Dobson seems to say that just love your neighbor one person at a time, and that's the way we will usher in the kingdom of God.

This philosophy, perhaps, has so influenced the reformed mind that government policies to bring economic justice to the nation seem to us to be part of a chapter of Bread for the World? Is that why so many of us endorsed the radical cuts in ADC (basic economic aid) and food stamps, even though they account for only three percent of the federal budget? Fifty-three percent of the homeless people in Iowa are children. The highest percentage in the nation. Just this morning I heard a spot on KDCR that says there are 250,000 hungry people in Iowa. More than 13 million children under the age of 12 in the United States face hunger or poverty. And presumably the government should do something about that, but you might want to be part of a chapter of Bread for the World. Bread for the World members try to influence U.S. policy by writing, calling and visiting their members of Congress about issues of importance to hungry people. Call 722-9225 if you'd like to know more.

Calvin's time to the present, seeking to make governments responsive to the injustice in the world.

S. A. Muller, professor of Historical Theology and Calvin Seminary, has said that "the Reformed or Calvinist approach to society, from the very beginning, has included a very worldly program of social reform and transformation." This has always meant, from John Calvin's time to the present, seeking to make governments responsive to the injustice in the world.

In contrast that with this philosophy: "Leave the people alone; keep government in the business of governing and out of as many other aspects of life as you possibly can (including charity and philanthropy); limit its functions to those few things that government alone can do and leave the rest to the resourcefulness, good will, and common sense of the citizenry." This is a quote from a letter I received from the office of Dr. James Dobson, and it expresses his philosophy. In a personal letter written by one of his staff, I was told that there is a serious question as to whether the powers of government (a "worldly tool") are of any use to us at all, unless they comes to loving people and ushering the kingdom of God. Don't worry about the injustice in the larger structural areas of life — economic, political, educational — Dobson seems to say that just love your neighbor one person at a time, and that's the way we will usher in the kingdom of God.

This philosophy, perhaps, has so influenced the reformed mind that government policies to bring economic justice to the nation seem to us to be part of a chapter of Bread for the World? Is that why so many of us endorsed the radical cuts in ADC (basic economic aid) and food stamps, even though they account for only three percent of the federal budget? Fifty-three percent of the homeless people in Iowa are children. The highest percentage in the nation. Just this morning I heard a spot on KDCR that says there are 250,000 hungry people in Iowa. More than 13 million children under the age of 12 in the United States face hunger or poverty. And presumably the government should do something about that, but you might want to be part of a chapter of Bread for the World. Bread for the World members try to influence U.S. policy by writing, calling and visiting their members of Congress about issues of importance to hungry people. Call 722-9225 if you'd like to know more.

David Schelhaas
From the Editor

Producing tacky promotional tee shirts and John Deere green seedcorn caps for old farmers is valued more than the care of the elderly and the terminally ill, at least in terms of monetary compensation.

That is what I learned when I sat down with my father to file my income tax. One look at the bottom line of my tax statement and my parents’ joint statement made that clear.

You see, I worked at a local factory printing logos on hats and tee shirts this past summer. It wasn’t difficult work. It didn’t take any special skill. I just stood there and watched a machine put ink on clothing. And I received the minimum pay for a screenprinter at that factory.

My mother, on the other hand, traveled to homes around northwest Iowa caring for elderly and terminally ill patients. She took care of their physical needs, such as bathing and feeding. She comforted patients, taking time to get to know each person, even though she understood that the relationship could end at any time. She did the type of work most of us would never consider doing. And, after five years of service, she received virtually the same hourly wage as I got for my summer of service in the factory.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Diamond,

Dordt College, true to its Christian calling, states that it is committed to the stewardship of the environment and its resources. This is evident in work done at the Agricultural Stewardship Center, a recycling program and some other activities. I applaud these activities and others like them. Despite this, Dordt College has some areas in which it can improve, in my opinion.

One particular point I would like to bring to your attention is paper usage here at Dordt. Colleges inherently use a lot of paper, and the use of paper itself is not bad. However, I believe that Dordt could make some significant changes in the use of this resource.

The cost of paper, according to Jim Bos, has risen 75 percent in the last year. As a student concerned about tuition, I feel that some of the rising expenses could be lessened by the control of paper usage. I am primarily concerned with resource stewardship, but there is an economic side to this issue as well.

The event that sparked this letter was the chapel of Dec. 12, 1995. This chapel happened to be extremely similar to a concert held on the previous Sunday evening, during which a large number of nicely designed programs were handed out. I had no objections to the distribution of these programs. My complaint lies in the fact that entirely new bulletins were printed for this chapel.

My first question is, “Were these bulletins necessary?” This was only a 30 minute chapel service in which the program could have easily included verbal announcements to conduct the chapel. I admit, things might not flow as smoothly, but in my opinion, it would be a small sacrifice when compared to the gains that would be made in the stewardship of our resources. I felt my conscience cringe as I saw all of those green pamphlets get discarded at the door after a mere 30 minutes of uselessness.

A second question that I pose is this: “If these bulletins were actually necessary, for reasons such as copyright laws or other restraints beyond our control, could we not have re-used the old bulletins from Sunday, despite the obvious (yet comparatively minor) differences?” My guess is that the two services combined used thousands of sheets of paper. We can certainly improve on this.

Now, it is not a secret that those who give the most of themselves in their work often get paid the least. Nurses’ aides, teachers and social workers all do difficult work and receive little monetary compensation in return. The society we are a part of and participate in has gotten its priorities twisted. And that is what we, as college students, will all soon face when we go out into the work force.

I’ve always known that doing what the Lord calls us to do doesn’t necessarily pay well. But I was hoping maybe it would pay a little better. And the real temptation is to follow the dollar signs down another path that pays more.

My mother could have chosen another job that paid more. She could have chosen another career that wasn’t so mentally taxing (I still catch her crying in her room when she learns that she has lost another patient). But she is doing what God called her to do, and she does it willingly and joyfully.

I guess I want this editorial to serve as a reminder to myself and all the other students who will enter the work force this fall. Don’t go where the money leads. Don’t fall into a comfort zone. Follow where God leads. He will take care of your finances and peace of mind.

Freshmanity by Seth Koerner

“...I’m still waiting for the Greenhouse Effect to kick in.”

Chuvack by Laryn Bakker

“Open Sunday”

Concerned.

Jonathan Eerkes.

(jnahrke@cc.dordt.edu)
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Dordt College Theatre Arts comes of age

“Finding Center” goes to center stage

by John Emshoff
Staff Writer

This Friday, Feb. 9, Dordt students and members of the Sioux Center community will again get a chance to see Mark Du Mez perform his one-man show, “Finding Center,” at Te Paske Theatre. This show, since its first performance in the New World Theatre, has gained momentum and fame and now has a very good chance of being one of the shows to be performed in Washington D.C. in April. Du Mez, who is about to graduate with a theatre arts major this May, came to Dordt four years ago as a communications major. After taking a semester of classes in that realm, performing in the play Temptation, and taking TA 201: Intro to Theatre, he decided communications was a bit more scientific than he liked, and changed his major to theatre arts. It is now obvious that it was most likely a change for the better.

After his performance of this show in December, he was chosen as one of the eight to go to St. Louis, and was willingly paid to see. Du Mez said, “It is an honor, considering that over 300 plays were considered, not to mention that in his four years here at Dordt, none of the main stage plays have made it. When asked if he thought he would be chosen, he said that at first he thought that the kind of show he was doing didn’t fit anywhere, but he later realized that it actually fits just right. After spending a semester at Austin Peay State University in Tennessee, studying under Ronlin Foreman, an international recognized clown. He began by putting together characters, and then finding a common ground between several of them, and building a show around them. In an article recently printed in the Northwest Iowa Review, Du Mez is quoted as saying, “It is an abstract way to build a show with very concrete results, which is actually kind of satisfying for an artist—to know that you can come around from abstraction.”

Describing his own show, he stated, “This kind of clown allows you to go into a world that is very different from your own. You can get a handle on them. This is a child-like type of character. It’s a style and character choice.” As far as why he did choose this style he said, “I don’t want to be preachy, but I want people to see the depth beneath the surface of the piece. I want them to go away from my show in good humor and with an appreciation for the wisdom to be found in foolishness.”

This summer Du Mez will be interning at the Kentucky Shakespeare Festival in a Commedia production, and afterwards he hopes to achieve his dream of touring with a group of other actors that do Christian-based shows, perhaps even internationally. “Finding Center” may be doing a Midwest tour sometime soon.

Somewhere between divine inspiration and spontaneous combustion:
Creativity has no bounds

by John Emshoff
Staff Writer

Many Dordt students took advantage of the opportunity last semester to see a play entitled “The Bookworm,” written by Dordt student, Henry Bakker. This production of a student’s own written work has brought new attention to the play writing class of the Theatre Arts program here at Dordt.

The class has been taught for a number of years by professor Koldenbouren. In preparation for his retirement in the spring of 1997, his classload is being distributed to other members of the theatre arts faculty so that they can get a handle on them before he leaves. This particular class was transferred to Simon du Toit last fall. Du Toit has had some experience in this type of teaching before. At York University he taught a course in dramaturgy, which involves looking into a playwright’s background, comparing one of his plays against another, analyzing the time periods a given play is set in and researching the methods used in different productions of a given playwright’s work. Part of this class at York concentrated on new play dramaturgy, which fits rather well into du Toit’s current class, because the students are basically trying to create new plays and then critically analyze them.

Du Toit himself has also attempted to write plays. So far he has only written fragments, but he is now working on what he feels will be a full work, possibly completing it this summer. The class is very informal, with no tests and no strict deadlines, but many exercises at critiquing plays, as well as some dramaturgy. The curriculum includes a book called The Dramatist’s Toolkit, which du Toit found mentioned in quite a few Internet conversations about courses of this kind. Du Toit also gets many handouts off Internet listservs.

The students’ final project is to write their own, original short plays. That makes Henry Bakker’s play perhaps the only final exam that students ever get at Dordt, perhaps the only one that he will accept. He hopes to achieve his dream of touring with a group of other actors that do Christian-based plays, perhaps even internationally. du Toit called “the master of simplicity.”

Although, when asked him who he considered the best playwright he said without a moment’s hesitation, “Shakespeare.” If any of the students taking the class should reach that stature, you had better get their autographs (and a manuscript or two if you can) right away. After all, Shakespeare was born in 1564. If you miss out on the one great playwright at Dordt, you may have to wait until 2564 until another such playwright is born.
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Actors and playwrights step into the limelight

Florida sun shines brightly on Dordt student’s theatre

by Sarah Bouma
Staff Writer

Henry Bakker is on his way to fame and money, or a really exciting writing career (whatever comes first). Over the Christmas holidays, Henry had the amazing experience of participating in a play writing workshop in Florida. He was one of seven students selected for this workshop, held at Eckerd College in Florida. Henry found out about the Wordbridge Playwriting Laboratory from a pamphlet in the theatre department here at Dordt. He submitted two of his one-act plays to the contest, one of which was produced at Dordt last fall, and was chosen to join the esteemed ranks of students whose works were deemed not only creative, but showed a lot of fresh talent.

After all the plays were worked on individually, Henry’s play, “Free Meal,” was assigned a cast, as well as a professional director and dramaturge. During each rehearsal Henry had the chance to have professional actors work on his play, exploring things about his characters that he may not have seen previously. He spent a fair amount of time doing re-writes of scenes from his play as well as writing new scenes. Some of these new scenes were written not with the intention of adding them into the play, but for the purpose of allowing the actors to further explore their characters. The actors did many improvisational exercises which revealed even more things to the aspiring playwrights.

Not only was Henry able to learn from the intense work done on his script, he was also able to glean knowledge from the professionals involved in this workshop. These actors and directors were involved in the workshop on a voluntary basis. Henry described their involvement as being committed to the purpose of the workshop “without the egos you can find with professionals.”

So, after hanging out with and talking to professionals in the field of play writing, Henry returned to Dordt. He says that he feels better prepared to make decisions about his future now. Henry Bakker is on his way.

Theatre Department makes good showing at American College Theatre Festival

by Dick Zwart
Theatre Correspondent

The Dordt College Theatre Arts program has been participating in the American College Theatre Festival for many years. This year was no exception.

All Dordt’s theatrical performances are adjudicated by the Festival. Plays are critiqued for acting ability, set design, music content, lighting design and the overall effect of the production. Plays that excel move on to regional competition.

Region Three of the Kennedy Center/ American College Theatre Festival held its 28th annual meeting in St. Louis, Mo. this year and a combination of 16 students and three faculty were there to experience it to its fullest.

Among the highlights this year were the performances of five Dordt theatre arts students. Sarah Modderman and Colleen Kuiper both participated in the Irene Ryan auditions, while Mark Du Mez performed his clown study, “Finding Center.”

Nominations for the Irene Ryan auditions are given to students who the adjudicators feel have strong acting ability. The scholarship or prize is not that large, but the exposure and prestige of participation is vital for an actor. This year the festival boasted 360 auditionees. Modderman and her scene partner Chris Nonhof participated in the opening round of auditions, while Kuiper and her scene partner Chris Ornee became one of the final 16 competitors.

Du Mez performed “Finding Center” at the festival, after being nominated to do so after last semester’s performance. Du Mez’s performance at the festival was stunning. The adjudicators, during the critique, had nothing but praise for Du Mez’s play. They were impressed with his concentration and dedication to the study of body movement, and called the whole piece, “a celebration of life.”

The following Monday, Du Mez received notice that his play was nominated to advance to the national competition at the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C.

The convention was not only for participants, but other people interested in theatre. There were a variety of workshops offered during the day, from Articulation and Stage Combat to Computer Design. Each evening there were performances of various plays that were involved in the competition.

There was also some time to go and see St. Louis, I, along with others, went to the St. Louis Center, University City, and the Kiel Center to try and catch a St. Louis Blues game. During this free time we got a chance to mix with other participants, swapping stories and ideas on almost anything.

Finally, at the final awards ceremony, Kuiper won an award for her achievement in the Irene Ryan auditions and Du Mez won an award for his set design of Henry Bakker’s one-act, “Bookworm,” and for his directing of “Finding Center.” Congratulations to both!

I would say the trip was well worth it and went almost hassle free, but I expected more quality in many of the plays that were performed. I felt that the plays were either poorly acted or had a poor script. One play, “The Adding Machine,” was technically a sight to be seen, 3-D glasses and all, but somewhere the acting and script were lost.

If you did not get a chance to see “Finding Center” last semester, come and see it this Friday night at Te Paske Theatre and find out why this incredible piece won the nomination it deserved.
“Monty” skit highlights Coffee House

by Stephanie Brown

Staff Writer

At the first coffee house of the semester, the New World Theatre was packed with instrument carrying, journal toting students of assorted caffeine levels. What was the binding tie? Live entertainment and real espresso.

Last weekend’s coffee house sprung to life with lots of volume and creativity. What the house lacked in atmosphere (no candles, no tables) was made up for in excellent entertainment.

Music by Simon & Garfunkel, the Indigo Girls, Tori Amos, Gerard McCue, Jars of Clay, and Neil Young was greatly appreciated.

The Mobstalkers were there (in part) with new stuff, and some cool friends of Doug Hausken’s turned out more quality music. Although some had more stage time than others (one group pushed a half hour of pure run-on jam) it was always to the audience’s pleasure.

Aside from music, there were original poetry readings by Paula Treck, Sarah Blas, Sarah Walsh (assisted by Joss Boys), and Henry Bakker. Commented Walsh, “At first it felt like I was totally naked, but then I got used to it.”

Among coffee house firsts were a monologue performed by Chris Nonhof, a Monty Python skit by Nonhof and Jeff Gesch, and animated poetry by Robb Vanderstoel. Said Vanderstoel, “It’s a pretty poem with pretty actions.” And that it was. Laughter was unrelenting.

There were plenty of other acts that deserve recognition. Thanks to Sean Covington, Bob Taylor, and Heidi Peterson for organizing everything. All are invited back to the next coffee house. Consult sean for exact time and location.

SPCO wows Dordt music fanatics

by Jodie Zwart

Staff Writer

On Jan. 22, the B.J. Haan auditorium was full of people awaiting, with great eagerness, the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, directed by Bobby McFerrin. Soon after 8:00 p.m., McFerrin, complete with long dread locks and jeans, waltzed onto the stage. With the wave of his baton, the auditorium became alive with Prokofiev’s Symphony No. 1. The talent of the 33 member orchestra captivated the audience as the evening continued with different pieces from Bizet, Tchaikovsky and Vivaldi, along with a vocal interlude by McFerrin.

The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra is one of the leading ensembles in America. The orchestra has performed in prestigious concert halls in Europe and the United States. The concert they played on Jan. 22 was part of their mainland two-week upper Midwest tour.

The presentation of the concert was not typical of most chamber orchestras. Bobby McFerrin, popular for his hit, “Don’t Worry, Be Happy,” added a new flair to the different symphonies performed. McFerrin has been trained in the classical style by great musicians such as Leonard Bernstein, but he is well known for his talent in pop and jazz music. McFerrin combined these two styles in the performance. It gave the traditional pieces a new and refreshing style.

Between the two sections of classical composition, McFerrin entertained with his vocal talent. Although renditions from The Wizard of Oz seemed a little out of place after great pieces by Prokofiev, his extraordinary talent lead to many crowd pleasing acts.
Campus Calendar

by Kate Dekker
Assistant Editor

Feb. 8: Career Workshop meets at 6:30 p.m. in the Southview Community Room.

Feb. 8: Candelight Service takes place in the B.J. Haan Auditorium at 8 p.m. Candles will be provided at the door.

Feb. 8: Sub Club serves non-alcoholic beverages in the snack bar. Theme: Jungle Love. Wear red and get 25 cents off your first drink.

Feb. 9: Mark Du Mez presents his one-man production, "Finding Center," in the Te Paske Theatre at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are: K-12: $1, all others: $2.

Feb. 16: The St. Olaf Choir directed by Anton Armstrong performs in the B.J. Haan Auditorium. Tickets, available from the music department office, are $4 for students.

Feb. 17: Northwest Iowa Symphony Orchestra presents "Winter Pops: Broadway Classics" in the B.J. Haan Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are adults: $7.50, students: $3, or family: $16.

Feb. 23: Travelogue: "Nepal—In the Shadow of Everest" takes place in the B.J. Haan Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are adults: $3, senior adults: $2.50, and students: $2. Contact KDCR for more information.

Feb. 24: The Talent Extravaganza will be performed in the B.J. Haan Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. Watch the Today for further information.

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Comic Relief:

Chris Lopez got creative with a garbage can lid at the last Comedy League. "Sauve and Debonair," a novice team of freshmen guys, had a great debut, but could not defeat "Stanley," an old favorite. The Comedy League stays novel and funny with new games as well as new teams. The frantic re-arranging in "Stand, Sit, Kneel, and Lie Down," is sure to provide midnight mirth for many future Comedy League nights.
Women fall to nationally ranked SDIC foes

by James De Boer
Sports Writer

The Lady Defenders are starting to feel the hurt of stepping into a new conference that has three teams nationally ranked. After evening their record up at 8-8, the women have dropped four straight, as their South Dakota-Iowa Conference record slipped to 3-8.

Dordt hosted Dakota State Jan. 18, and came away with an impressive victory. The visitors opened up a 17-3 lead before Dordt came back. At halftime, Dakota State still held a 34-30 lead.

But with Dordt up 41-40 and 12 minutes remaining in the second half, freshman Lisa Roos took the floor and took the game over.

"They couldn't stop Lisa," said Coach Len Rhoda. Roos sparked the Lady Defenders, as they cruised out to a 73-60 win. The center dumped in 24 points and took the game over.

The Lady Defenders turned around to take on Westmar on the road. Dordt took control right away, building a 36-24 advantage by halftime. The women kept on cruising in the second half, as they ran on to a 78-50 win.

Five Lady Defenders scored in the double digits, led by Jill Van Essen who hit for 16. Roos poured in 15 counters, adding nine rebounds and five blocks. As a team, Dordt shot 70 percent in the second half, but could only stay even with Westmar.

Mount Marty hosted the Lady Defenders two days later, Despite Dordt shooting 52 percent and Mount Marty only 39 percent, the Lady Defenders were down by three at the break. The home team turned around and shot 56 percent in the second stanza, holding on for a 76-71 win over the Lady Defenders.

Alissa Beckering and Van Essen paced Dordt with 14 points a piece. Jeanette Nydam followed up with 13 counters. Anita Tinklenberg had an awesome game, finishing with 11 points, 13 rebounds and four assists.

Last week Tuesday, the Lady Defenders hosted Sioux Falls. The women clung to a 41-38 lead at halftime. Dordt extended their lead in the second half to 55-45.

But the Cougars slowly trimmed away at the lead, closing to within 69-64 with two minutes remaining. The Lady Defenders then went cold as they couldn't buy a bucket. Sioux Falls took advantage by hitting a bucket and cashing seven straight free throws, building up a 74-69 lead with time running out. Dordt hit a basket as time expired, losing a tough 74-71 decision.

Nydam led the Lady Defenders with 16 points, 10 rebounds and five steals. Van Essen added 15 tallies and four assists.

Although both teams shot 48 percent from the floor, the Cougars made 22 of 37 free throws compared to only 10 of 13 for Dordt.

"I was pleased with our effort," said Coach Rhoda.

On Friday, the Lady Defenders hosted Black Hills State. The two teams battled through the first half, with the visitors holding a 33-27 lead at the break.

The Yellowjackets built on their lead in the second half, but the Lady Defenders had the margin trimmed to eight points with four minutes left. But it was not meant to be, as Black Hills State's physical play wore Dordt down. The visitors took control of the remaining minutes, winning 78-61.

Van Essen hit four treys to lead the team with 12 points. The Lady Defenders hit 47 percent of their shots, but were plagued with 27 turnovers.

The next night the Lady Defenders were matched up against the Lady Hardrockers of South Dakota Tech. Dordt found the going tough in the first half, as the visitors worked out to a 31-23 advantage as the teams headed for the locker rooms.

The Lady Defenders were fired up for the second half, as they hit two baskets in the first 40 seconds. Dordt added to their run, building up a 38-33 lead. But that was the biggest lead the Lady Defenders could build, as South Dakota Tech played tough.

With the score tied at 51's, the Lady Hardrockers struck a run, jumping out to a 60-53 lead. The visitors expanded the margin to 68-57 with only two minutes left. Dordt tried to come back, but South Dakota Tech held on for a 72-64 victory.

Roos led the Lady Defenders with 14 counters, while Beckering added 13. Both Roos and Tinklenberg pulled down 13 rebounds.

The Lady Defenders will try to scratch the wins column tonight, Thursday, when they travel to Mitchell, S.D., to play Dakota Wesleyan. Next Thursday, Dakota State hosts Dordt.

The women round out their year with home games against Huron, Westmar and Mount Marty.

Dordt's freshman center, Lisa Roos, is among the nation's leaders in field goal percentage. After topping the NAIA Div. II scoring chart for a couple of weeks, Roos has slipped to the number two spot with a percentage of 62 percent.

Blades fight for play-off position

The Blades returned to the ice on Jan. 19 and 20 after a very successful road trip. They had exhibition games against Drake in Des Moines. They split the two games, losing 9-5 on Friday, and rebounding to win 7-5 on Saturday.

Dordt then had two home games against the division leading Northern State Wolves. The team seemed to have trouble adjusting to the loss of Mike Wildboer and Jeff Smeenk, who did not return for the spring season. The Blades got blown away 11-3 on Friday, with Jeff VanderMeer scoring two, and Mark Bekkering adding one in a losing cause. The Blades played better on Saturday, but still lost 6-2, with Vandermeer and Bekkering scoring again.

The Blades are in the middle of a play-off run. Because of the losses to NSU, they now needed to win their next five games to make the play-offs. Their first game against South Dakota State University was canceled because the Zamboni (ice cleaning machine) was broken. This meant that they had lost home ice advantage, and had to play a 4-point game last Friday in Brookings, S.D.

The Blades won that game 3-1, although the players were not satisfied with the way they played. Izzy Huygen and Bekkering continued their hot play, and Greg VanLeeuwen, back after a one-quarter-sabbatical, got his first of season.

The next day the Blades went back and did it all again, winning 4-1 and keeping their play-off hopes alive. Ted Kaemingh and newcomer Jeff Wubbs each scored, as did Huygen and Bekkering, giving him nine points in his last six games, compared to Huygen's seven.

Bekkering credits his newfound scoring touch to increased time on the power-play, as well as the hard work of his linemates, Ben Saarloos and Anthony Minderhoud.

So now that they've taken six points from SDSU, they are over halfway to their pre-sea son goal of making the play-offs. Their last obstacle will be this weekend against the University of South Dakota, and they need two wins to qualify for the post-season. This is the team that beat them twice on opening weekend back in October, and the Blades are out for revenge. Expect a hard-fighting contest, because both sides need a win for a play-off spot. So get out to Worthington Friday and cheer the guys on. They've given us a heck of a year, and now is when they need our support the most. So pull yourselves away from the basketball game and support the Blades. Game times are 7:00 p.m. Friday and 2:00 p.m. Saturday. Be there!
Conference wins keep Defenders in playoff hunt

by Dan Harmelink
Sports Editor

Heading down the homestretch in their inaugural season as a member of the South Dakota-Iowa Conference, the Dordt men's basketball team has a 7-4 conference record after going 2-1 in an exciting week of conference action.

Dordt 76, Sioux Falls 74

The Defenders welcomed the University of Sioux Falls to the Dordt College gymnasium last Tuesday night to tip off their three game conference homestand. Although the Cougars had defeated the Defenders twice earlier in the season, they were very close games, including a double overtime thriller in Sioux Falls.

The Dordt men started out very slow as poor defense and turnovers allowed Sioux Falls to race out to a 21-9 lead midway through the first half.

The Defenders offense then started to click as they outscored the Cougars 12-2 to cut the Sioux Falls lead to 23-21. The game remained close until the end of the half as the two teams traded baskets. The Defenders went into the locker rooms trailing 37-35.

Coach Van Soelen brought a fired-up squad onto the court to start the second half as the Defenders went on an impressive 21-6 run to secure a 56-43 lead. But the Cougars clawed their way back into it and took a 62-60 advantage.

As time ran down, the Defenders and Cougars swapped baskets until Tracy Winkle nailed a three-pointer from the top of the key to give Dordt the lead 76-74.

Sioux Falls came down with one last chance to send the game into overtime but the Dordt defense forced the Cougars final shot to fall short. The buzzer sounded and Dordt emerged with an important 76-74 victory.

Leading the Defenders in scoring was Winkle with 16, including a trio of three-pointers. Ross Bouma pumped in 12, while Kyle Van Zee scored 11 and led the team in rebounds with eight.

Black Hills State 74, Dordt 73

Next up for the Defenders were the Yellow Jackets of Black Hills State on Friday night.

Dordt came out sluggish, allowing Black Hills State to grab a 17-5 lead. For the remainder of the half, the Defenders chipped away at the Yellow Jackets' lead and went into the half trailing 37-32.

But once again, Dordt came out strong to start the second half and forged a three point lead at 50-47. Black Hills State then returned to their first half form and appeared to have the game in hand as they manufactured a 70-62 lead with only two minutes left in the game.

Dordt responded with a 6-1 run cutting the Black Hills State lead to two with 41 seconds left to play.

After the Yellow Jackets missed a pair of free throws, Brad Veenstra sank a clutch three-pointer with 19 seconds left to knot the score at 71-71.

Dordt got the ball back on a Black Hills State turnover and Veenstra once again nailed a jump shot with only three seconds remaining in the game.

In one last desperate attempt, the Yellow Jackets dribbled to mid-court and launched a shot. The ball arched high into the air and bounded off the backboard and into the net with a sickening thud that silenced the crowd and sent the Black Hills State coaching staff into a tumbling routine.

Veenstra led the Defenders in scoring with 18 points, while Van Zee and Winkle added 15 and 12, respectively. Van Zee and Winkle also led Dordt in rebounding with seven apiece.

Dordt 87, South Dakota Tech 71

The Defenders didn't have long to dwell on the disappointment of Friday night as South Dakota Tech headed into Sioux Center on Saturday night.

Earning his first start of the season, Veenstra sparked the Dordt offense off the tip by scoring the first four points of the game. But the Hardrockers battled right back to grab a 16-12 advantage.

The first half continued to be a see-saw affair and Dordt took 41-37 lead into halftime.

In what is becoming a trade-mark of Dordt this season, the Defenders came out strong to start the second half. Dordt outscored the Hardrockers 16-6 to take a commanding 57-43 lead midway through the second half.

South Dakota Tech never recovered and Dordt cruised to an impressive 87-71 victory.

"Veenstra once again led Dordt in scoring with 18 points, while Scott Van Essen hit 14 and Van Zee tallied 11."

Following the game, Coach Van Soelen commented, "Coming off such a disappointing loss against Black Hills State, we were wondering how the team was going to respond. But we came out the gate pretty well tonight. I think that says something about the effort the kids gave out here tonight."

Van Soelen added, "I'm proud of these kids and the way they bounced back."

The Defenders are now 12-10 overall and 7-4 in the conference. This 7-4 record places Dordt in one of the top four spots needed to advance into post-season play.

"The Defenders travel to the Corn Palace in Mitchell, S.D. for an important conference clash with Dakota Wesleyan tonight (Thursday) before returning home to host Concordia, Minn. in a non-conference game on Saturday night."
Weather creates slippery situation
by Sarah Nieuwsma
Staff Writer

The slowly moving crowd of well-bundled chapel goers battled the brutal elements, faces against the fierce wind. The quiet crowd dispersed in front of the SUB in various directions. I knew the slightly inclined sidewalk leading to the library, every exhaled breath a mist of steam. I began making my wide left turn as I strategically approached the top. That is when I saw her—a girl three feet away from me on a steep, merging sidewalk. Her feet were moving, but she was staying in the same place, as she constantly slid back on the ice. She was holding tightly onto an ice-covered bush. Our eyes met. What could I do? If I stopped then, I would for sure never get started again, and while I wasn’t stranger to the ground. I had already met with it once that day. I had wrenchedearly and she smiled back.

I was thinking and began to question the Dordt playlist for dances again. As of late, many friends and people I don’t know ask me why I no longer play at dances. My first answer is I don’t have the time, but that should not matter if I love music as much as I do. Before I continue, I in no way hold grudges against anyone associated with this process.

I began playing the SUB dances my freshman year and was not aware of a playlist. I was told to use judgment. There were never complaints. Hence I played and people came.

Soon after, I was made aware of a playlist and being scared at how “archaic” it was, I scrambled to put together 50 odd songs to be approved for a dance I was scheduled to do in a week. I felt crushed, there was no area for me to be creative. I could have played what I wanted, but I have been brought up to follow the rules, try to understand them, and change them if need be. The playlist is one that needs changing.

I understand the concern that people may have about the content in music. On the same token, people have concerns about the content of movies. Believe it or not, within this half century, the CRC virtually banned its members from the theatre because, “that is where the devil lived.” On a psychologically valid level movies not only have sound impact, but the visual impact to go with them. Students on campus have the choice to attend a movie or not and so is with arranged activities or dances.

When I graduate from Dordt, am I going to be given the ability of Serviceable Insight? Does this happen the moment they give me my diploma? Not at all. My period of growth here should exemplify my maturity and use of this insight to make decisions.

I play music that I am very familiar with and know is not offensive. This should not be reduced to a plea that what I play is okay, but that students should be given the chance to use their judgment.

Dances take place on campus and therefore I believe that the college still has some jurisdiction over them. Maybe we could do the chaperone thing, if they get a bad or oppressive feeling, the music gets turned off. I believe music is spiritual as well as aural. I don’t hold grudges and do not want to cause others to stumble. It is better to stop something while it is happening then to let it go on.

The one technical problem I have with the dance list is that I have been told that it is for dances. If there is a party in the SUB or whenever and someone is playing music, do they need to follow the playlist?

The Banner ran an article lately, “Music Our Teens—Listen To.” In this article it does not give a “Good/Bad” list, which is good, because what is good to some is not for others and in turn the Banner receives flak. This article did stress discernment and I think that is what the college needs to do with the dances. They need to trust the discernment of its students, their Serviceable Insight if you will.

I am willing to talk about this. I know I’m not perfect and far from comprehensively cosmopolitan in my music library, but it is not an issue if I can please the largest percentage of the masses, it is whether the college is going to maintain a “Good/Bad” list of music or trust the discernment/Serviceable Insight of its members.

Thoughtfully,
Dirk Zwart.

Weather creates slippery situation
START