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“The poor will always be with us, but that doesn’t give us an excuse to not do what we can.”

-- Barb Mellema

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American Celebrity

“
God has continued to surprise me with what I am called to do in life.
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Mideast correspondent Joel Veldkamp updates us on his semester abroad.
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Economy in Crisis? Expert analyst Bob Stein says ‘no’

Jurgen Boerema
Staff Writer



Economist Bob Stein
Photo by Jurgen Boerema

Americans have reason to be optimistic about the state of their economy, said Bob Stein, a professional economic analyst, in a speech to a nearly-packed crowd at Sioux Center High School. Stein used a large amount of economic data to stress the point that the foundations of the American economy remain strong and dire predictions of a large-scale catastrophe do not have a reasonable basis.

Stein began by looking at the recent housing crisis and its effect on the overall economy. Stein stated that crisis is not as large as portrayed and does not affect the lives of

everybody throughout the U.S. However, he says, it still needs attention. He declared that the housing market as a whole will continue to decline over a period of one to two years. Stein did indicate that there are areas of strength in the market and over a period of two to three years the market will find stability again. “That awful news you hear about a Great Depression is by and large a coastal phenomenon, and does not affect the lives of everyone”, said Stein.

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Sixty at Sixty: Schaap’s New Book

Robert Minto
Staff Writer

“If one of your grandparents has a birthday anytime soon, you might consider getting them this,” said Prof. Jim Schaap in one of his classes. He was referring to *Sixty at Sixty*, his newest book. *Sixty at Sixty: A Boomer Reflects on the Psalms* is a collection of meditations, tied together by the common theme of getting older. But, as Eugene Peterson

notes in the forward, “You don’t have to be sixty,” to enjoy them. Throughout his long history of publications, Schaap’s essays are fascinating because of the stories he tells. He teaches almost imperceptibly, expressing deep ideas through simple memories and vivid observations. Schaap wrestles with the human emotions expressed in the Psalms, whether through self-deprecating stories about
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the news.

Reach out before you judge, Haley urges

Bridget Smith
Staff Writer

Michael Haley was desperate for a relationship with Christ.

But the attitude of his own church, along with many others, was that there was a hotter place in hell for homosexuals, he said in a lecture at Dordt College last Thursday.

The truth, Haley said, is that “it often takes someone within the body of Christ to reach out, and not fear appearances.”

Haley experienced ridicule from his father as a small boy, was sexually abused by a family friend at 11 years old, embraced the homosexual lifestyle at 16 years old, and walked away from homosexuality in his late 20s.

In both a chapel speech and an evening lecture, Haley emphasized the need for churches and individuals to change inap-

propriate attitudes and misconceptions toward homosexuality.

“I have seen a tendency to go toward one extreme or the other,” said Pastor Rod Gorter, Dean of Chapel.

Historically, the church has either accepted homosexuality (as well as other errors such as common law marriage, adultery, etc.) or “thrown stones” and passed judgment, he said.

Gorter said he hopes the lecture will help people realize the need for a Christ-like balance of grace and truth, as well as motivate students to reach out to people with struggles.

Haley said when he read the passage in 1 Corinthians that says, “neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit

the kingdom of God,” he realized the playing field was even.

“We each have our own sin,” he said.

In his struggle with homosexuality, Haley said he realized that “the opposite of homosexuality is not heterosexuality – it’s holiness.”

Haley also wanted people to understand that homosexuality is not simply a sexual issue. Instead, homosexuality is primarily an emotional issue with a sexual outlet. In a breakfast meeting, Haley again emphasized the emotional shortfall many sins attempt to fill.

Daniel Davis, Community Development Assistant in East Campus, said, “I hope this understanding of homosexual sin being a derivative of emotional needs will make us, as a Christian community, more sensitive to our brothers and sisters, whom Christ loves and

died for, who are struggling with such temptations and sin.”

Davis said the goal of talking to people who are struggling with homosexuality, as well as other sins, should be a healing relationship.

“We must discern the balance of confrontation and mercy,” Davis said.

Haley emphasized the role of strong Christians in his own life. During a visit home, Haley wanted to escape the constant Christian messages in his home. He went to a gay and lesbian gym to work out and was headed toward an illicit relationship with another man. As they walked toward the car, the man told Haley he was a Christian and was trying to walk away from his own homosexual temptations.

The man from the gym led Haley to counselor Jeff Konrad, who relentlessly endeavored to show Haley love

and truth. Konrad challenged Haley to delve into his preconceived notion that he was “born this way.”

Haley investigated studies that supposedly proved homosexuality was established at birth. Though he had often reverted to those studies as his reason for being gay, he said none of them proved homosexuality was biological.

“When someone reads a lie often enough and loud enough,” Haley said, “it becomes someone’s own truth.”

Haley said he had finally looked beyond the surface, “and I came to the end of myself.”

When people come to the end of themselves, he said, they don’t believe they have a place to return. But Konrad had led Haley to hope he could find healing with God. Haley thought that if Konrad could be this faithful to him as a counselor, then his God must be amaz-

ingly faithful.

Haley said people should not be comfortable about any particular sin, but comfortable to approach people who are struggling with the sin. But people must be careful, he said, because common statements such as “love the sinner; hate the sin,” alienate the person.

The initial interaction needed is to show people who are struggling that they are cared for and that reconciliation with God is possible. Christ was willing to risk his reputation for those people, Haley said.

Haley noted that the church spends billions of dollars on work in missions – studying language, culture and methods to integrate. But he said the question is, “How much money are we putting into reaching into the ‘unwanted harvest’ – gay and lesbian men and women?”

Sixty at Sixty: Schaap’s New Book



Continued from page 1
the weakening and sedating effects of time, or through humorous depictions of the antics of his students and family. A short but meaningful prayer follows each chapter.

Professor Schaap remains a good story-teller whatever his subject.

No matter your age, *Sixty at Sixty* is a good read. Dordt College may be proud of the newest effort from its most prolific teacher.

Stein: We’re not in for a recession

Continued from page 1

Stein also noted problems in the economy in regards to lending, but not in the production of goods and services. Stein looked at business cycles in the early 1990s and noted similar trends in today’s economy. He pointed out that massive growth in the 1990s contributed to a natural trend of downward growth later on. “You only invent the Internet once; we are not going to make the same mistake again with massive overinvestment in certain areas of business.”

Stein pointed the Federal Reserve’s current policy on interest rates will forestall the possibility of an upcoming recession. “We don’t believe the U.S. is in recession today,

we don’t believe it was in recession earlier this year, and we don’t believe it is going into recession later in 2009. The primary reason is that tax rates are still relatively low.”

Based on key economic indicators, Stein said, the U.S. economy is not drifting toward recession. He declared that the Federal Reserve’s policies have contributed in part to the weakened dollar and a pattern of inflation. Stein stated that noticeable changes in the economy are a reflection of decisions made 18 to 24 months before. Therefore, it takes a long time to see results. He indicated that the upcoming year will yield gradual shifts in policy and that this will affect inflation de-

velopments.

Stein closed his speech with a look at the opportunities Americans have to benefit from cheap stocks. “You are never going to get the better message that the future returns are going to be very generous,” said Stein. He went back to his examination of earlier economic cycles to make this point. “It is the mirror image of where we were in 2000, when everybody was invested in stock. If Y2K couldn’t bring us down, nothing can.”

Stein devoted time after his speech to answering a variety of questions on current and related economic issues. In regards to either candidate in the presidential election making a decision

regarding taxes, he declared that neither would make this significant step. “Democrats will be reluctant to give Senator McCain significant support and Senator Obama will not want to repeat the mistakes that President Clinton made in 1993.” He voiced support for the decision to nationalize mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddy Mac because it limited future economic fallout. It will also bring them back to their original purpose which they were not following. “They should not have been running an investment portfolio when their primary mission is to secure mortgages”. He noted positive aspects of foreign investment and that the United States is in good standing economically

in regards to Europe and China in later questions.

Professor Gary Vander Plaats voiced support for Stein’s speech. “I think his analysis was very good. I think the U.S. economy is quite strong with the exception of the housing sector. I do think we are looking at some inflation in the future. I agreed with what he had to say.”

Stein’s speech was part of special event put on by American State Bank to commemorate the fifteenth anniversary of their Investment Branch. Senior members of the bank introduced Mr. Stein and closed the evening by thanking people for attending and for showing their support throughout the years.

new@dordt.

Miedema joins the music department



Emily Sajdak
Staff Writer

Brad Miedema, a '93 Dordt graduate and former music teacher at Sioux Center Christian, is the new band and orchestra director at Dordt College.

He was drawn to the idea of working with students who have a higher level of achievement and commitment and is encouraged by how the students are invested in what they do. Dordt students have a higher sense of responsibility and integrity, and are genuinely "real," Miedema said. "Having students on

campus is what this is all about. Students are the ones who get the college going."

He has a high level of expectation for the Dordt music program and hopes to continue

and furthering the kingdom."

After graduating from Dordt with a B.A. in K-12 Instrumental and Choral Music, Miedema got his M.A. in Music Education

Miedema and his wife, Lisa, have been married for 15 years and have three children in the lower grades at Sioux Center Christian. In his spare time, Miedema likes to read, travel and spend time with his family, but "music is a round-the-clock thing," he said.

"Students are the ones who get the college going."

-- Brad Miedema

building the program and maintaining the momentum that Duitman started. Miedema is excited to work with students at the college level and "make music in an excellent way by glorifying the Father...

with an emphasis in conducting at Western Washington University in Bellingham, WA. While attending graduate school, he played horn in the wind symphony and also had an assistantship.

Previous Teaching Experience:

- Lynden Christian High School
- Orange City Christian Elementary School

A New Tradition: Alumni Weekend Sept. 26-27

Friday:

5 -7 p.m. KDCR Soup Supper - \$7 for adults, \$4.50 for 10 and under, preschoolers free.

7:30 Travelogue: "Sea-to-Sea in a Model T," by Don Van Polen in the B.J. Haan Auditorium

Saturday:

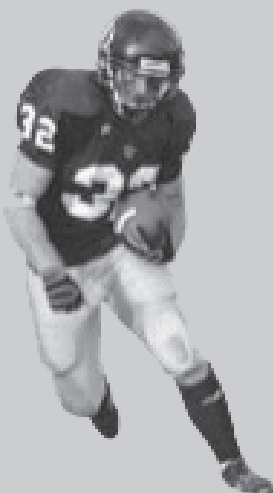
11 a.m. Alumni Tailgate, sponsored by First National Bank

1:00 Football vs. Nebraska Wesleyan

11 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Kid's Carnival at the outdoor tennis courts

4:00 Lacrosse: Dordt Sowers vs. Alumni; football field

7:30 p.m. Deuces Wild! Dueling Pianos, B.J. Haan Auditorium. Tickets are \$8 for adults, \$6 for alumni, \$5 for students.



Provost job a "joyful surprise" for new arrival Hoekstra

Adrian Hielema
Staff Writer

Being at the top of Academic Affairs might be a daunting task for most, but Erik Hoekstra, Dordt's first Provost, looks forward to the challenge.

And the challenges are many. The job of Provost not only requires looking at curriculum changes and developing academic offerings to students, but also working closely with Student Services to provide quality Christian education to everyone at Dordt.

"It's trying to make the connection between academic life and students' lives outside of class...[we] try to permeate all of students' lives with Christianity," Hoekstra said.

To accomplish this

goal, the provost works with the administration, faculty, and students. Hoekstra tries to maintain quality teaching amongst the staff and to help the teachers to enjoy their jobs

"When somebody really enjoys his job,

"God [surprises] me with what I am called to do in life."

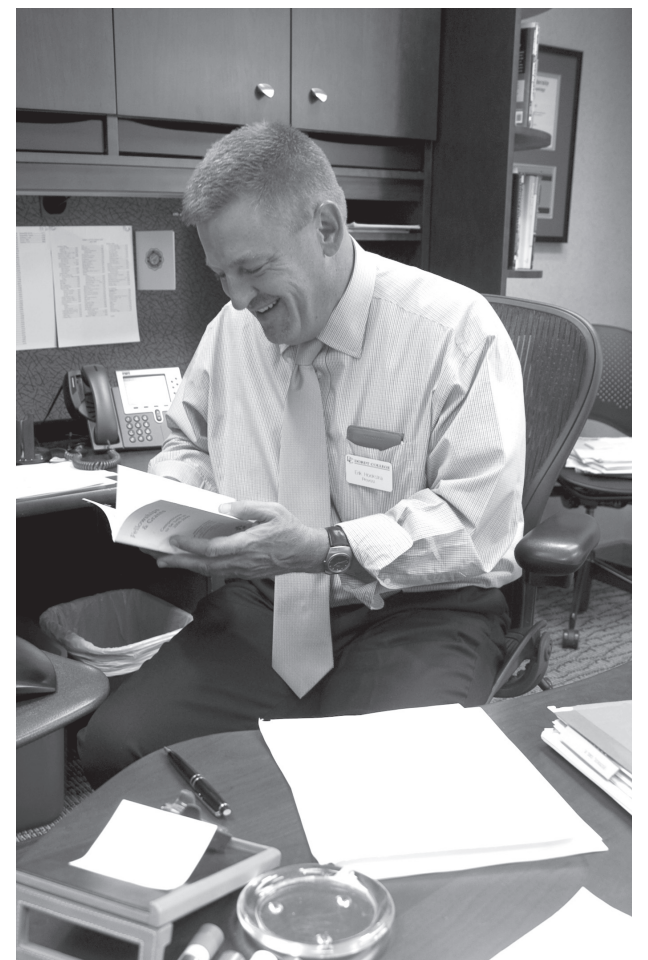
- Erik Hoekstra

he does a better job of it," said Hoekstra, "They say leading a faculty is like herding cats, but I don't really think so."

Among the other requirements, Hoekstra must also teach one class of Core 100 to ensure he remains close to the academic process.

"I would love to do more, but...there's a lot to do," Hoekstra said. Despite its many benefits, being a provost doesn't exactly make for great dinner-time conversation.

"When I go home and my kids ask me



Erik Hoekstra began his job as provost last spring, a position that serves as an intermediary between students and the administration. Photo by Alvin Shim

"How was work?" it's... it's a lot of meetings," Hoekstra said.

Having taught business for only three years here at Dordt, this father of four wasn't exactly expecting the job the

college offered him.

"God has continued to surprise me with what I am called to do in life," said Hoekstra, then adding with a smile, "It's a joyful surprise."

Questions or concerns can be directed to the Diamond editors at diamond@dordt.edu

features.

The Ride:

4 weeks

Seattle, WA
to
Denver, CO

3 weeks

Denver, CO
to
Grand
Rapids, MI

2 weeks

Grand
Rapids, MI
to
Jersey City,
NJ

Distance

4082.6 miles



Photos courtesy of Barb Mellema

Sea to Sea rides across America

Kristina De Graaf
Staff Writer

Every three seconds someone dies of poverty. For Barb Mellema this summer, it was every four pedal strokes.

Mellema, Director of Annual Giving at Dordt, was one of two Dordt staff members that participated in the Sea to Sea Bike Tour this summer. Sheryl Taylor, Director of

Library Services, rode the Midwest part of the tour.

The tour began in Seattle, WA and ended 62 days and 4082.6 miles later in Jersey City, NJ. Over 125 cyclists, the majority affiliated with the Christian Reformed Church, biked the entire route – making it the largest cross-continental bike tour ever. Nearly 100 cyclists biked one or two of the three seg-

ments.

The tour began June 30 and ended August 30. Its goal was to raise awareness about the problem of poverty and motivate people to get involved.

Mellema recalled that her decision to participate was easy. “I got a postcard in the mail saying ‘are you in?’ and I thought, yes - I am,” said Mellema. “I just knew I was going to do this.”

The tour was a combination of Mellema’s passions and experiences. She’s been biking for 18 years, and became especially passionate about the crisis of poverty after leading Dordt AMOR trips to Belize and the Dominican Republic.

“The poor will always be with us, but that doesn’t give us an excuse to not do what we can,” Mellema said.

Each cyclist’s goal was to raise \$10,000 (or \$4000 for just one leg of the route). Together they raised over \$2.1 million dollars to aid in poverty-reducing efforts.

Taylor reflected on her last day in her blog. “Our tour is just beginning – being the hands and feet and voice of those caught in the cycle of poverty,” she said.



features.

With a nudge and a wink, Fifth Wheel makes full-length film on relationships

Kyla Jameson
Staff Writer

Casting began last weekend for a full-length feature film being produced by three Dordt students, and the film-making process will continue through the rest of the school year.

Students Piper Kucera, Jess Brauning and Alvin Shim make up the production team Fifth Wheel Productions.

The team has formulated a plan to produce a film that is different than what most students at any college are producing: a full-length feature.

"I realized that I couldn't tell the kind of stories I wanted to tell in eight-to-fifteen minutes," Brauning said. "Only at Dordt do we have this kind of freedom – even at the graduate level, students at top level schools only produce shorts, so I feel pretty privileged."

"[Jess] said something about how every video student makes short films, but it's never that video stu-



Jess Brauning, Piper Kucera, and Alvin Shim prepare for auditions for their full-length film. Photo by Becky Love.

"Only at Dordt do we have this kind of freedom – even at the graduate level, students at top level schools only produce shorts, so I feel pretty privileged."

- Jess Brauning

dents make full-length films," Shim said. "I think I said, 'OK! Let's make a feature-length film!' And we got really excited and told Piper and she got really excited and we started do-

ing the paper work and planning out the independent study."

The opportunity to do an independent study allows the trio to receive credit as well as an experience to put on their

resume. The film is also going to be the first film shot in high definition on Dordt's campus.

The scriptwriting for the movie has begun. The story is not just to entertain the audience,

but will also be quite profound in the end.

"The basic idea is that when families break up, putting the pieces back together can look really different," Brauning said. "It's essentially a

movie about relationships. I think it's pretty deep."

Brauning added, "You see, I'm getting married next year, and so is Piper. Alvin, meanwhile, is an eligible bachelor. So it's definitely a nudge, nudge, wink, wink deal, if you know what I mean. We're having a lot of fun with it."

The team members are already getting themselves into the story, and becoming attached to the characters they have created.

"We created them, their lives, and their situations," Kucera said. "When something bad happens to them, we almost feel guilty for putting the characters through something so horrible. When something funny happens, we laugh along with them. It's a strange dynamic."

Students are encouraged to email either Jess Brauning, Alvin Shim, Piper Kucera or assistant Bree Brouwer if they are interested in being an extra in the film.

End of an era: demise of dances at Doc's

Alyssa Hoogendoorn
Staff Writer

Saturday night. The back room in the dimly lit bar is dark. The faded, checkerboard floor begs for attention, but no one will be dancing. Only tables and boxes clutter the back room at Doc's.

A new era has begun at Doc's in which no one under 21 is allowed after 10 p.m. The policy was made by Ali Kempema and Laura Gesink, the new owners of Doc's.

Kempema and Gesink bought Doc's from Larry and Margie Huygens who owned Doc's for the past 45 years. "We wanted to do it for ourselves," Kempema said.

Some touch-up work has been done at Doc's such as painting and cleaning. But plans have been made by Kempema and Gesink to eventually renovate the whole building.

The wall between the dining area and dance hall will be taken out, and the dance floor and bar area are going

to be relocated in the back.

"Doc's has so much potential," Kempema said. She said they are trying to get rid of fighting and bad crowds and clean up the place.

Kempema commented that they are going to be pretty strict on things, but they want people to have fun and have a good time.

New upcoming events at Doc's include: Wii Tournaments, Bucket Beer Special, Monday Night Football, Thirsty Thursdays, other drink specials, and

to top it all off, a shuttle service.

However, one event is missing -- Dordt dances.

Kempema reflected about when she went

Liability for underage drinking was a concern for Kempema and Gesink. They were torn about putting an end to Dordt dances because they "didn't want

"Doc's has so much potential"

- Ali Kempema

Dordt dances at Doc's. College students would get all dressed up according to the night's theme and go out and have a good time. The place would be packed full.

to upset anyone."

But a trip to the police station and a warning that they would be held liable for underage drinking finalized their decision.

Since dancing and drinking seem to be synonymous to college students—regardless of age—Dordt dances at Doc's have met their end for now.

Kempema hopes to find a way to better control the underage drinking problem at dances. If a solution is found, Dordt dances could be back at Doc's.

Until then, Dordt dances will be held at The Dugout Lounge in Granville. It's certainly not Doc's, but it'll have to do.

opinion.

Celebrity status in Moqatta

Joel Veldkamp shares his experience with the children in Moqatta and “rejoicing and weeping” with fellow students on his semester in Egypt. *Part 2 of 3.*

Joel Veldkamp
M.E. Correspondent

Moqatta might be my favorite place so far. It didn't hurt that, after we ate lunch and I was walking towards one of the shops there, I got swarmed by a bunch of little kids who thought I was the bee's knees.

It started when one of them shouted, “What's your name?” in pretty good English. “Joel,” I said, pointing to myself. The fact that I could understand them got them really excited. Their older brother, Mishon, who's 19, knew some

more English, and I told them all about myself. “Where are you from?” one said. “Amreeka,” I said – Arabic for America. “Oh, America!” said one. “You are a good man.” Well, all right. “America is Christ-ee-an?” said another. “Yes, Christian!” I said, making the sign of the cross again. Take that, Barack Obama. Another said, “America is so beautiful. Egypt, no.” “No, la'!” I said. “Egypt is so beautiful, so gamel!” That made her happy. By the end, I knew most of their names, had introduced

them to all my friends, taken their picture, and signed a few autographs. “You're famous now,



Joel!” Mishon told me. By that point they were literally trapping us by the bookstore entrance, so I had to say goodbye and push through. They

followed us to the bus, and I waved goodbye and got on. They ran towards the back of the

“commitment service.” We met on the roof of the villa, sat in a circle, and tossed around a ball

By the end, I knew most of their names, had introduced them to all my friends, taken their picture, and signed a few autographs.

weep with them about (following the biblical injunction to “rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep”) and passed the yarn on. I asked everybody to rejoice with me in experiencing God's love through simple things, like sunrises and Egyptian fruit, and to weep with me when I become really stubborn in the political/religious debates ahead.

Afterwards, we had communion, and we sang worship song after worship song. It was a great way to officially kick off the semester.

bus so they could wave goodbye at me through the window. I've never felt so undeservedly loved.

Tonight, we had our

of yarn. Each person in turn caught the yarn, expressed one thing they wanted the group to rejoice with them about, and one thing to

Orchestra beats weather to play at Dordt College



Photo Courtesy of Univ. of Iowa webpage.

Hannah Gallo
Staff Writer

They came dressed in black, their weapons of choice ready and tuned, their leaders fearless and practiced. Each notespoke of talent. Each harmony rang out with excellence, and the University of Iowa Symphony Orchestra conquered blizzards and floods to play in the B.J. Haan Auditorium.

“Tonight,” said Brad Miedema, Music Director at Dordt, the Symphony would be “performing master works by masterful composers.”

Dr. William LaRue

Jones, conductor, introduced each piece with a short history including composer, the time period when written, and what the piece meant to the composer. Performing from Beethoven, Mozart and Brahms, Jones and the 72 instruments lit up the stage.

Many Dordt students remember last year when the orchestra was scheduled to perform but cancelled due to a blizzard. This year, the Orchestra faced another natural disaster – flooding in their music building. Because of this situation the Orchestra has been practicing in

17 different buildings, from churches to high schools. Watching the music resonate from the stage, the audience would not have guessed the trials Jones and his crew have faced this past year.

The first piece of the night was the Daily Overture, composed by Beethoven in 1805. The piece was about a heroine and hero who faced trials and persecution, but “true love won out after all,” Jones said with an added shrug. The audience could feel the passion of lovers, the hope and the sorrow and, eventually, the joy as the orchestra made Beethoven proud.

The Orchestra dazzled the crowd and took them through a heart-racing, adrenaline-thrilling, smooth-sounding journey of music and time.

Dordt students should fill the B.J. Haan to capacity at the next performance. Maybe then the intermission truffles will be free as well.

Dinner and a show

Alvin Shim
Staff Writer

Last night, I sat down with a small plate of chickpea salad, a piece of soft, buttered bread and a tall glass of water. It was a small break after a day of projects and a night of homework. It was past midnight and it was dinner. And it was delicious.

So I'm calmly resting and taking in some much-needed calories and hydration in the dim lighting of my apartment, and I'm in too much peace to even reach over to turn on any music.

I heard, from outside my door, two voices – a guy and a girl – violently cutting through the serenity of 12:45 AM.

When I opened the door, still chewing a piece of bread, I saw them combat-ready, seven other people watching languidly from the couches in the lobby.

“It's their anniversary,” one of them told me, playing referee and grinning. The couple



also grinned, momentarily, before proceeding to playfully slap each other and shout pseudo-obscenities for anyone to hear.

I wanted to hear. So I went for another piece of bread and returned to the doorway to watch the drama unfold.

Perhaps I've lived in a small town for too long. “Something's happening,” the Sioux Center resident in me said. “Bring some food and come watch.” What was that? Tractor pull? Speeding ticket? Library up in flames? Let's go watch with the neighbors!

No, it's not like that – I never got to see the library burn down. I

didn't take last night to mean I'm a small-town boy but, instead, that I'm an old man. Not old enough to drink, but old enough, apparently, to say to myself, “Oh, these young kids. I remember back when I was a young punk...” reminiscing and reflecting on youthful innocence.

Yes, I used to shout and tumble around and laugh out loud, but that was almost two hours ago! Oh how life flies by when you're not paying attention.

And even if you realize this and try to just be still for a moment, you're already off to the next moment.

You're off to sharing pixie stix with a friend before a test. You're off with the winds, blowing your hair about and sending the early falling leaves away. You're off to a story by Sinclair Ross, a song by Wilco and a film by Paul Thomas Anderson.

What, really, did you expect? Enjoy it and, as the performers last night, laugh out loud while you do.

fine arts.

“Oscar Night” stars dazzle at POPS concert

Cora Bonnema
Staff Writer

Friday night, the B.J. Haan Auditorium was less quiet than usual. The Pops Concert was being held. This year, the theme was: “A Night at the Oscars”.

The “award-winning” songs included themes from: The Lord of the Rings, Rocky, Pocahontas, Aladdin, Jaws, The Sound of Music and Chariots of Fire.

“The songs are fun and crazy,” said Katie Van Den Top, junior at Dordt. Each year,

the combined band and orchestra perform a themed collection of songs and top off the night by dressing up in costumes.

“It was actually kind of fun dressing up and participating,” said freshman Jessica Westelius.

This was director Brad Miedema’s first POPS concert at Dordt.

“I really enjoy working with the full orchestra,” said Miedema. He planned this concert with the help of a committee of students.

“Just knowing the energy that’s gone into

this - the students really worked hard to make this concert happen. I really appreciate that,” said Miedema.

The concert was well-attended with plenty of audience participation. The host and hostess were siblings Lee & Leah Radde.

“[They] did an excellent job getting audience involved and interested,” said sophomore Peter Hamstra.

“[The hosts] were very professional about their job and did it in a fun, entertaining way,” said Van Den Top.



Leah and Lee Radde, hosts of the POPS concert, amuse Orchestra Director Brad Miedema as they introduce the next performance. Photo by Naomi De Boer



Susan Le Mahieu grants the audience’s wishes by doing a “genie”-ous dance. Photo by Naomi De Boer



The cello section masquerades as the Sister Act choir. Pictured: Andrew Sybesma, Joseph Slegers, Dale Vande Griend and Jason Kornelis. Photo by Naomi De Boer.



sports.

For Dordt netters, 25 is the new 30



Dordt volleyball players jump to block a ball hit by Midland Lutheran. Photo by Kelly Cooke

Amanda Henke
Staff Writer

Dordt volleyball fans have been introduced to new freshman faces, new sleeveless uniforms and new game scores.

Imitating the decision of both Olympic and Division I college teams, the NAIA switched to 25-point games to keep matches shorter and more intense.

Before this season, match point meant 30, win by two. But fans were on their feet faster this year, and rapid, staccato claps started once “24” flashed up on the scoreboard.

“It forces you to play for every point,” said head coach Tom Vanden Bosch, in favor of the new scoring system.

Volleyball Facts

Roster:

Returning letter winners: senior Kristin De Ronde; juniors Cassie Huizenga, Betsy Van’t Hul, and Larissa Veldhuizen; and sophomores Steph Goslinga, Dorinda Hibma and Kendra Potgeter.

Freshmen: Jessica De Stigter, Amber Weingartner, Brandee Schaap, Brielle Moerman, Kelsey Van Dyke and April Solsma.

Team Leaders:

Kills per game: Kendra Potgeter (3.95); Kelsey Van Dyke (2.40); Kristin De Ronde (1.89)

Sets per game: Jessica De Stigter (5.06); Cassie Huizenga (4.47)

Digs per game: Dorinda Hibma (4.66)

Quicker games have meant quicker wins for Dordt, with last Saturday’s three-game sweep lasting one hour and 15 minutes.

The Dordt volleyball team is 16-2 overall and 2-0 in GPAC play. The Defenders have won nine in a row

since a non-conference loss to Concordia (CA) on Sept. 5. Dordt is currently ranked third in conference standings behind #1 Hastings and tied with Doane and Northwestern at 2-0.

Dordt has played almost the entire first half of their schedule on op-

ponents’ courts, putting together a respectable 14-2 record on the road and remaining undefeated at home. The Defenders’ home wins came on Sept. 9 and 20, defeating both Dakota Wesleyan and Midland Lutheran 3-0 in the De Witt Gymnasium.

The team will conclude September’s games with a three-match tournament in Bellevue, Neb., and a GPAC matchup at Morningside on the 30th.

The Defenders will then host two matches over Heartland break before facing Northwestern in Orange City on Oct. 7.

Next game: Sept. 26 vs. Kansas Wesleyan, 3:45 p.m., at Bellevue, Neb.

Dordt Sport Report: David Christensen

Ashlee Stallinga
Staff Writer

Name:
David Christensen

Sport:
Cross-country

Year:
Junior

What is your position on the team?

Co-captain, with “Extreme Stallion” [Mark] Eekhoff.

What is your motivation to run?

I really enjoy getting good and sweaty. It gives me the opportunity to “swug” [sweaty hug] everybody. Also, my motivation comes from my biking/running partner—and girlfriend—Sierra.

What is the most frustrating thing about running?

Well, I was born with three toes, so the push-off at the starting line is

difficult. Just kidding. Really, it’s hard to find time to sleep! And [it’s] hard to avoid getting sick.

Where is your favorite place to run?

I prefer running by the corn and soybean fields just east of campus. Actually, I like to run through them.

Do you have any personal pre-race traditions?

Before most races, I like to go off by myself and find a pine tree or a spruce tree—something coniferous—pull off some needles, rub them in my hands, and smell them while I pray for the team and the meet.

What are your goals for the season?

I would like to try playing bongos, Amazon-style, while running. Also, I’d like to catch one of those annoying dogs that barks at us while we run and cook

it on a spit.

How about your goals for the team?

Oh, I want the team to do well at conference. I’d like to see the guys’ [team] make top six, and for our top five [runners] to be under 28 [minutes].

What are your favorite team traditions?

We like to run down a deer, cook it that night, and attach a piece of its hide to our uniforms. Also, we do morning runs on Tuesday and Thursday.

What is your favorite work-out?

I like tempo runs. That’s when we run 20-25 minutes at a comfortably hard pace, generally a 5:45 mile pace.

If you had one, what would your team mascot be?

Josiah’s thighs. They are the definition of masculine beauty.



Photo courtesy of David Christensen

What are your favorite memories so far this season?

Living in C8 with four other cross-country guys, and getting to know the freshmen on a midnight run during WOW week.

Why should people come to cross-country meets?

To see the guys’ team’s sexy legs.

What is the best meet to go to, and why?

The Briar Cliff meet [in Sioux City]. My dad’s going to that one.

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