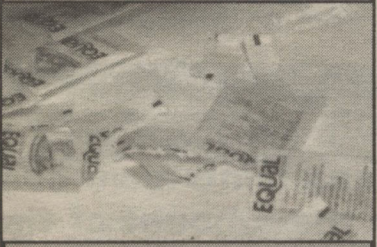


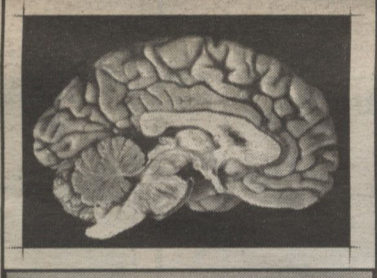
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Sugar a good thing;  
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FUNNY STUFF, HUMOR,  
SOCIAL COMMENTARY: THE  
**ZIRCON!!!**  
PULL-OUT INSIDE

# Big 'moove' takes place at ASC

**Andrea Dykshoorn**  
Staff Writer

If the old saying, "Party 'til the cows come home" is true, Dordt students will be doing a lot of partying—because the cows are not coming home. The Dordt College Agriculture Stewardship Center (ASC), previously home to a 60-cow dairy, now stands vacant of animals.

According to Dr. Wes Jamison, Agriculture department professor and Director of the ASC, the combination of high costs and low returns prevented the Dordt College ASC from utilizing funding in a stewardly manner. As a result, from January through February 2004 the 60-cow dairy herd was eliminated, the majority of the animals being sold to a local farmer.

The Dordt College Agriculture Stewardship Center dates back nearly twenty-five years, after the Agriculture program was started in 1977. In the words of former Dordt College president Rev. B.J. Haan,

"Teaching agriculture without a farm is like teaching music without instruments." Discussion and planning began for a farm where students could obtain hands-on experience relating to agriculture. In the early months of 1981 the "Dordt College Agriculture Stewardship Center, Inc." was created. The ASC possessed both cropland and a working dairy farm that was soon milking over 160 cows.

In recent years, however, the cash cow has gone dry. The objectives for the Dordt farm include "being the best stewards possible of the resources the college has given us," cites Dr. Jamison. "But

the ASC was not as stewardly as it could be." With the high fixed costs and labor rates, as well as the nominal income return from a small



Cows that might once have belonged to Dordt look on through a fence. See the cartoon by the author on page 4 of the Diamond!

herd of 60 cows, administration decided that major changes needed to take place. These major changes culminated with the sale of the cows this past winter.

Many students around Dordt are now asking what the future

holds for the ASC. Numerous options are being considered, including renting the former dairy facilities to an advanced biotechnology company, where students would have the opportunity to be involved in cutting-edge research. Another possibility is the prospect of a small dairy and food processing plant where specialty foods such as ice cream and Gouda cheese could be sold to a niche market.

The question remains whether or not the sale of the cows will have a significant impact on enrollment in Dordt's agriculture program. However, Dr. Jamison foresees that the engagement in exciting developments—whether in the field of biotechnology, food processing, or another current field—will be beneficial to Dordt College. In the immediate future, however, Dordt students can only hope that changes that have taken place recently mean that Dordt is 'mooving' forward in the world of agriculture.

## Blades take on a new image

**Leslie Larson**  
Staff Writer

This year the Dordt Blades tremendously improved their image. The Blades have become more interactive with the community and the campus. Junior defenseman Bryan Woudstra said, "After the first game of the season, Coach Herm Van Niejenhuis challenged us to step up and play hockey how it was meant to be played. The biggest factor that helped our image was when people started to get to know us, and we

had a chance to start breaking down past Blade images."

The Blades certainly took their coach's challenge, and it led to more opportunities for the campus and community. The Blades have fun helping with the youth hockey programs in Sioux Center, signing autographs and getting to know the community and campus through events. Senior goalie Matt Tinsley said, "I think one improvement, from the beginning to the end of the year was how we carried ourselves on the ice. We cut down on fights and unsportsmanlike plays throughout the season, and we ended the year with some of the cleanest, but still physical, hockey all year."

The Blades finished their season with 11 wins and 9 losses. The season started slowly because the Blades had to fill many of the graduated senior's roles. By the end of the season they were playing their best team hockey. Also, passing, power play and penalty killing improved greatly because players had opportunities to practice and play games five times a week in the new All Seasons Center.

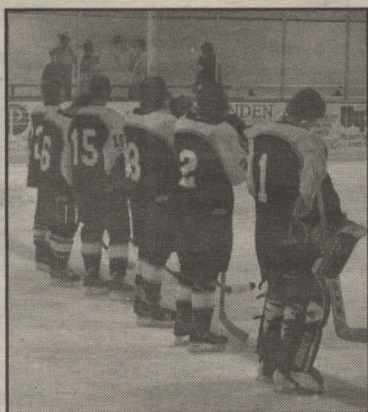
Great improvements led the Blades to the



A pair of Dordt Blades sign autographs for young fans.

hockey tournament. The team far exceeded its own expectations and made it to the championship. "The highlight of the year was Russ Van Boom's overtime goal against Iowa State, which sent us deep into the playoffs," said Bryan Woudstra. The fans were great in each game's overtime.

The great changes in the Blades image has definitely strengthened the team. Senior Aaron Terpstra says, "Continuous improvement is what the Blades are going to strive for next season. This means that our captain and leaders need to step up and govern the newcomers."



Picture courtesy of Bryan Woudstra

**Netminder Matt Tinsley, Bryan Woudstra, Ian Gesink, and others stand proudly during the American and Canadian anthems.**

## Diamond creates new forum

**Andrea Vander Wilt**  
Staff Writer

The Dordt Diamond has a new addition to their website to help students, faculty, staff and interested community members respond to the Diamond—a forum.

The forum is a discussion board that allows users to respond to different stories, enabling those interested to voice opinions as well as read what others think.

Several articles that may have ruffled some feathers already have a

thread for people to respond. If there are other topics floating around campus that could spawn interesting discussion, these can be posted as well by emailing them to the Diamond or Webmaster Kirk Struik.

There is a link for the forum on the Diamond's webpage or it can be accessed by going to <http://diamond.dordt.edu/forum>. If a user wants to read one of the articles being discussed they can access the Diamond issues on the webpage. The Diamond does reserve the right to block any user names if anything derogatory is printed.

"This could be a powerful tool," says Kirk Struik, Diamond Webmaster. "Students, staff, anyone can use this and discuss what is in the paper or anything worth discussing."

# You are what you re

**Steve Kloosterman**  
Editor

IT'S A NORMAL DAY FOR JOE EGGBEEN, a Dordt Junior majoring in chemistry and communication. Joe watches "Extreme Dating" on the FX channel while eating breakfast, and pages through "Necropolis," published by Black Library, before class. After class, he boots up the computer and sets to work destroying the evil hordes playing Diablo by Blizzard. Before dinner, the set gets switched on and Joe begins the daily roll through "The Simpsons" and "That '70s Show." It's a normal day, but he's made a lot of decisions, and absorbed a lot of information.

Academics and historians have described our day as an "information age," one in which the individual is overwhelmed by the flux of information from many different sources over many different channels. Time was, a person didn't need to make many decisions about what to read, what to listen to, what to watch. They generally read whatever they could get ahold of, had access to one or two radio stations, and depended on the old guys at the barbershop for the rest of their informational needs. Today, people have less time for absorbing more information and as a result attention spans are short. As one of the first generations to attain adulthood in the information age, college students must come up with creative and wise ways of sifting through the over-flux of information.

Deciding what statistics to use in your Comm 110 speech, what sitcom to watch, what website to set as your homepage and what music to listen to all become very important decisions. Media conglomerates like Time Warner/AOL and Disney/Pixar, networks like ABC, NBC, and FOX, all compete for their little slice of your time like WWE wrestlers fighting over the last slice of pizza. So do you stand idly by, or do you make the wrestlers come to you on your own terms?

"Where do we start?" you ask. At the beginning, of course.

## Your Big Brothers

EVERY BIT OF NEWS HAS A BEGINNING. Most stories are born in cubicles owned by one of a few corporate superpowers.

On December 14, 2000, media superpowers America Online and Time Warner merged, creating a company worth \$350 billion. Time Warner was already a Media superpower, owning the cable channels CNN, TNT, Cartoon network and Home Box Office, as well as TIME and LIFE magazine. America Online was at the time the world's largest Internet provider, an on-the-rise corporation that had recently acquired Netscape in an anti-Microsoft move. The AOL/Time Warner merger was big, but it was only one of several big-business mergers occurring in the media industry: the \$115 billion takeover of the Sprint Corporation by MCI

WorldCom, Inc was another.

The questions raised by such mergers are as enormous as the companies they produce. Who is responsible for how these media conglomerates function? What happens if one or more of them fail to serve the public adequately?

Suppose a suicide bomber takes out Secretary of State Colin Powell. You see it on TV, on CNN. You read about the event later in Time Magazine, and get the full story in a book published by Little, Brown and Company. But do you have the whole story? CNN, Time Magazine, and Little, Brown and Company are all owned by Time Warner/AOL; if there's something in the Colin Powell story that Ted Turner, Time Warner/AOL executive, doesn't want you to know, chances are you won't know a thing about it.

When one multi-lateral news organization slips up, there are only a few other large networks to catch their mistake. When Newsweek's Michael Isikoff first got wind of the Monica Lewinsky story, Newsweek was his second job—he'd just left the Washington Post Newspaper because they simply refused to print his controversial stories. Newsweek, also owned by the Washington Post Company, for their part also refused to print the Lewinsky story. Perhaps the whole affair would have escaped unnoticed if an anonymous informant had not zipped an email to rogue e-journalist Matt Drudge detailing the story just killed at Newsweek.

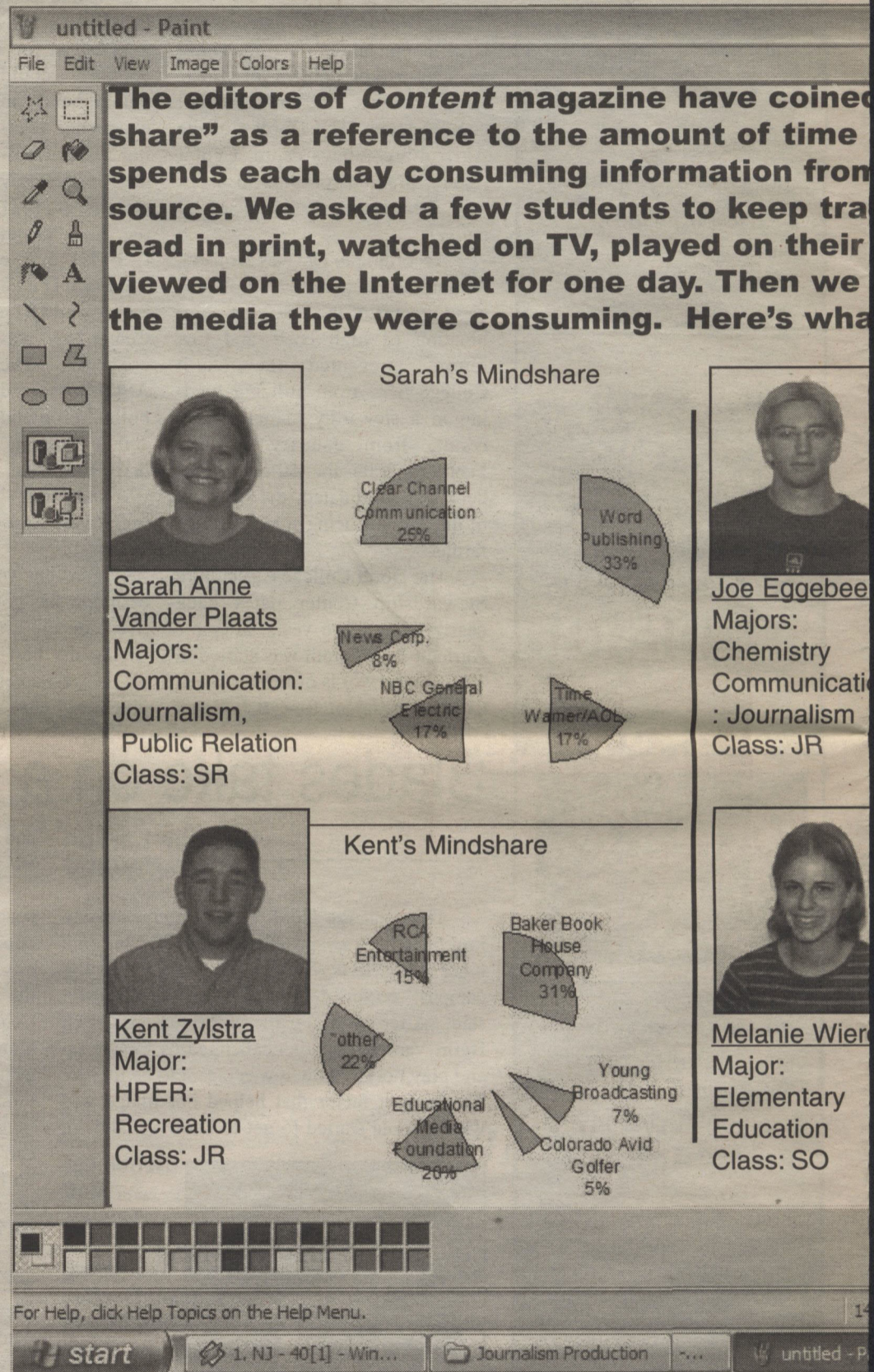
So the question is, whom do you trust? To whom do you listen to when you want a reliable idea of what is going on in Iraq? CBS, NBC, or ABC—all of them old-boy American news networks? Fox, a younger, independent American source? Or do you turn to Al-Jazeera News Service, for the Arab perspective? It becomes helpful, no matter what you are watching, reading or listening to, to consider the source. And yet, in the information age, even what seems to be a single, trustworthy source is not a sufficient strainer.

## The stuff they throw at you

GO AHEAD, OPEN UP THAT E-MAIL ACCOUNT. You didn't even ask for it, but there, in your mailbox:

"Cheap prescription drugs online!" "We have Viagra!" "All-natural male enhancement!" "You are our 8,927th customer; You've won a free shoe horn!"

Spam may be the least subtle marketing scheme directed at college students. But spam isn't the only trick businessmen have up their sleeves. Marketers have focus groups, Internet behavior reports and surveys to no end. They don't need to send brazen "Lose twenty or more pounds in only 3 weeks!" messages to millions of netizens to turn a buck; all they need to do is figure out what you are attracted to, be it sex, drugs, or rock 'n roll. Once they've got that figured out, it doesn't matter what you personally think about what they have to offer. They've



got reliable data that says X percent of people between the ages of 18-22 will buy it. Chances are that you will, too, once you see all your friends standing in line.

In 2001, PBS Frontline did a special on the marketing trends and techniques employed by media groups like MTV. The documentary, entitled "The Merchants of Cool," has become a widely acclaimed exposé into the tactics that media marketers use to sell their products. The groups survey students identified as leaders among their peers, to see what works and what doesn't. Morality is never the primary issue.

Take Marshall Mathers, now known to most of us as Eminem. As Frontline Correspondent Douglas Rushkoff observed, MTV pretty much gave Mathers "the platform" in 2000 and 2001. MTV did so with

some concern as to Eminem's "hate lyrics;" some were asserting it was the expressions of hate in Eminem's music that made it marketable. As media critic Mark Crispin Miller said in an interview with Rushkoff:

"So there's often a kind of official and systematic rebelliousness that's reflected in media products pitched at kids. It's part of the official rock video worldview. It's part of the official advertising worldview that your parents are creeps, teachers are nerds and idiots, authority figures are laughable, nobody can really understand kids except the corporate sponsor. But it's really just an enormous sales job... The corporate sponsors and the mass media now set the agenda."

MTV quieted their consciences with a 30-minute special on hate lyrics and contin-

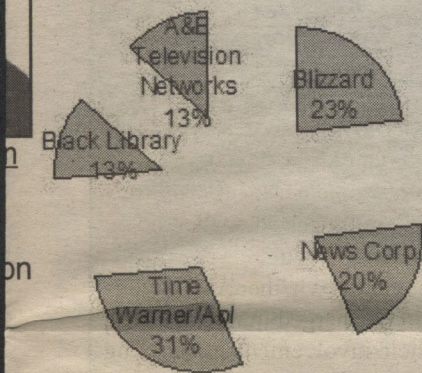
April 23, 2004

# Head

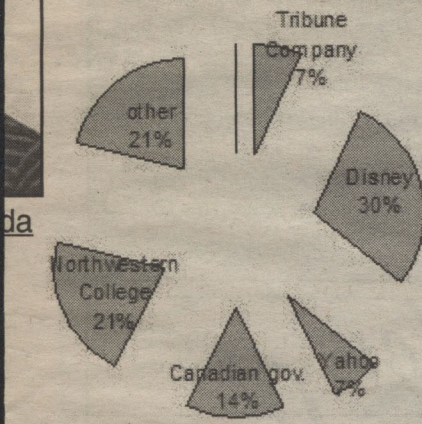
before plunging into programming, next time, think.

the term "mind share" given individual in a specific media market. We looked at who owned it and what we found.

## Joe's Mindshare



## Melanie's Mindshare



except that afforded by a thirteen-inch monitor and broadband Internet access, a twenty-inch TV and standard cable. Some find their accommodations depressing, but others are relatively satisfied with the situation, given the quality of the electronic hookups. After all, as early as 2001 Americans were spending \$105.6 billion on video and audio products, computer equipment and musical instruments, three times what they were spending on theatre, opera, spectator sports and the box office—out-of-house-entertainments—combined. For example, my five roommates and I have two Nintendo game cubes, two Nintendo 64's, and one Playstation 2, besides the four desktop computers and three laptops that we own (never mind the three TV's). Think of it this way: our small four-room, one-bathroom apartment averages 2.4 gaming devices per room, and that's counting the bathroom. Student attendance at Dordt athletics events continues to drop, but the current record for playing Madden NFL on a Nintendo game cube in our apartment is 10 hours straight.

Older, wiser folks don't understand the hypnosis of a screen—honestly don't want to. The Internet especially is a thing of our generation. According to research forum comScore Media Metrix, college students account for nine percent of the total US Internet population. TV viewing for young teenage males has actually gone down, because of the Internet. Students are becoming increasingly comfortable with buying things and planning trips over the Internet; 2.4 million students patronized Amazon.com alone during the month of October 2002. Unlike other forms of entertainment, the Internet is easily tracked.

"You know, nobody really goes outside to play anymore," said Miller in the Rushkoff interview. "College students (for example), tend now to be marvelously cocooned in their dorm rooms. They're online. They have state-of-the-art televisions, and so on. They all have great Walkmans and all the rest of it. *This material change, this sort of technological shift in the very structure of daily life has made it easier for those large interests to sort of keep track of what the young are up to.*" (italics mine)

Admittedly, it's easier not to make your own fun. It's easier just to stay indoors and consume some canned, ready-made fun in the form of the Internet, a DVD, some video games. You don't have to worry about building relationships with people, you don't have to give of yourself and you don't have to spend time brainstorming up new board games to play, pranks to pull, topics to discuss. All you have to do is flick on the screen and start 'er up.

But there's still something to be said for fun unplugged. No corporate news superpower can hoodwink you, no high-paid marketer can use lust, hate or greed as a selling point for their product, no conniving techie can track you. You're having fun on your own terms. If profit-hungry media execs want to cut into your leisure time, *they can come to you.*

## When death is sweet

Aspartame: poison's claim to fame

Jessica Braunschweig  
Staff Writer

The clock is ticking and your head is spinning. It's 3 a.m. and that paper isn't going anywhere fast. You reach for that ice-cold Diet Coke, and the fat-free bubbly caffeine is an answer to your sleepy syndrome. Yet the substance that's fought off your fatigue thus far begins to take its toll in dizziness, headaches and shakes.

Aspartame. It's found in over 5,000 products such as diet sodas, sugar-free gum, vitamins, yogurt, Jell-O, Crystal Light, and Kool Aid. Aspartame triggers over 1,000 pages of symptoms and diseases that include memory loss, seizures, deafness, comas and cancer. It worsens or mimics symptoms of diabetes, MS, ADD, Alzheimer's, fibromyalgia, chronic fatigue,

depression and lupus. It has made some healthy consumers drop dead.

Aspartame, commonly known as NutraSweet, is an artificial sweetener that is about 200 times sweeter than sugar, but its genuine threat to human health has created less-than-sweet-circumstances. This product has been falsely labeled "diet," but a once-ignorant society is beginning to realize the truth. Aspartame is a neurotoxic drug that actually causes consumers to crave carbohydrates.

The ingredients in aspartame are enough to make you cringe: Aspartic acid causes holes in the brains of mice; phenylalanine can lead to destabilized minds and rage when combined with a diet of carbohydrates; and methanol is classified as a severe metabolic poi-

son and narcotic. Aspartame breaks down into formaldehyde in the body, which is found in embalming fluid and ant sting poison. The Environmental Protection Agency recommends no more than an intake of 7.8 mg per day, yet one-liter aspartame-sweetened beverage contains about 56 mg of methanol!

Lives are continually being destroyed by the use of aspartame. Fortunately, there are safe and natural sugar substitutes you can find in local health food stores: Stevia, which is best for diabetics, and Agave.

Aspartame to effects in small doses, the size of what is present in a single piece of gum. You're free to keep chugging "formaldehyde cocktails," but the clock is ticking—the world keeps spinning—your decisions will catch up to you.

## KSP Presents Scholars Contract

Kim Lucier  
Staff Writer

The Kuyper Scholars Program (KSP) will begin accepting freshmen in the fall of 2005, allowing them to graduate with a KSP minor for 18 credits. Motivated and gifted students will be able to add more theoretical depth, interdisciplinary scope, independent work and public presentation to their undergraduate experience.

For the fall of 2004, upperclassmen have the option of signing up for the Scholars Contract during the current pre-registration period or soon thereafter. Students of any major may contract for one to three credits in an existing course.

"Getting this aspect of the program up and running this

year will help us figure out what works and what needs to be adjusted," says Dr. Arnold Sikkema, Associate Professor of Physics. "There are a number of students who have been asking for opportunities like this for some time, and we're excited about the possibilities that this opens up for both students and faculty."

Sikkema is a co-director of the KSP along with Dr. Mary Dengler, Assistant Professor of English. Both were appointed in early March by the Academic Council.

In order to be accepted into the program's Scholars Contract, students must get a mentoring professor's agreement to do a contract with them. Students must have a GPA of at least 3.25 and ask their advisor

to submit a recommendation to the mentoring professor and the KSP office. Then, along with the mentoring professor, students write and sign the contract before the semester begins. After approval by the KSP co-directors and the registrar, students must complete the program's requirements within one semester.

Students must attend at least two conferences outside of class to discuss the KSP project. Reading and research is conducted in addition to reading class textbooks and completing assignments. A researched presentation, must also be made to students and faculty.

The recommendation form and additional information may be found at <http://homepages.dordt.edu/~sikkema/ksp/>.

## Plans for Rohl property come under discussion

Matt Bakker  
Guest Writer

Although a new soccer field has already been established on the Kuhl farmland (which spans the distance between the South View Apartments and E 1st St), the properties are disjointed and uncoordinated; a public area along 1st Street may be established in collaboration with the city of Sioux Center.

A storm-water retention pond may be created to bring the school into compliance with runoff regulations. A restored prairie natural area could serve as an effective pedagogical tool while bringing a new and distinctive aspect to campus.

According to President

Zylstra, the college will assemble a comprehensive plan for future campus developments over the next five months. It has been 15 years since the last master campus plan was drawn up, and there is a need to reestablish unity and coherence among the assortment of visions that have arisen within the community.

A consulting firm will be hired to draw together the ideas and goals that are important to the community, as well as to provide suggestions based on their own experience and expertise. The consulting work and sketching of potential designs will be done over the summer and in the early part of the fall semester, although stu-

dent participation in the process will clearly be limited as a result. Students may share their thoughts by submitting letters, and those remaining on campus over the summer are encouraged to attend meetings.

The campus planning firm will submit a number of scenarios for comment and critique. The best ideas from each plan will then be integrated into a single comprehensive vision. President Zylstra emphasizes that this final draft should be viewed as a "living document," rather than an inflexible blueprint. It will finally be up to the Board of Trustees to initiate any specific actions or to adopt any particular plans.

## ... and College Life

COLLEGE STUDENTS ARE HAVING THE TIME of their lives. They've just hit the "real world," a term that evidently means unfettered freedom within the 12-by-20-foot floor area of a cell-like dorm room. The rooms themselves don't offer much of a view

April 23, 2004

# Reflections on Jonathan Edwards

Jill Erffmeyer  
Guest Writer

THERE ARE FEW NON-FICTION NOVELS that possess the capacity to impact a life at the level that George M. Marsden's *Jonathan Edwards: A Life* has impacted mine. For most of my college level non-fiction reading, I end up trying harder to keep my eyes open than I do to understand the words on the page. This was not the case with Marsden's book. Though it retained its original purpose, to give a full critical biography of Jonathan Edwards, it appealed to my strong interest in faith and theology as well, and I often found myself praying over its pages that God would bless me with the faith and dedication displayed in Edwards.

This book is still, first and foremost, a biography. For one new to the Puritan way of life, as I was when I began reading, this book gives an excellent glimpse into their lifestyles, choices, ideologies, and societal norms. It is almost unbelievable to compare the United States of today with the United States our forefathers knew. I cannot imagine a time when ministers publicly denounce inter-sexual mingling after dark! Perhaps it is because we come from a culture that tries to ignore the prevalence of sin. Church today has become too much of a crowd-pleaser. Ministers don't talk about sin, they don't get angry about sin, they don't warn people that they are hanging over hell in the hands of an angry God, because that is not what the people want to hear. People would rather hear about how much God loves them, no matter what they do. Jonathan Edwards knew that it wasn't simply about love and forgiveness. We need repentance first. He was passionately involved in the lives of his students, and his church members. He sincerely desired that they live lives of piety and reverence before God.

EDWARDS DIDN'T JUST TALK THE TALK from the pulpit; he lived it every day. He passionately wanted his life to be a reflection of his faith. He stood by his principles, and strove intensely to follow them at all times. His lifestyle gave him credibility with his people; he acted as an example and a role model. His intensity was almost too much for him at times. His rigorous daily schedule, his constant self-denial of pleasures such as food and sleep, and the constant stress he placed on himself made him deathly ill several times. He knew that his ministry, and the time period in which he lived, were important for history. He knew his place in the redemptive continuum of God's work in the world. His dedication and the heart that he put into working towards a closer relationship with God for him and his people is so remarkable to me, and so rare in modern times.

Perhaps the most unusual aspect of Edwards, as presented by Marsden, is his unique combination of head knowledge and heart. It seems to me that he is able to successfully combine doctrine and passion. As I said before, too many churches today rely on the "feel-good" aspect of worship. How does this church make me feel? What can this church do for me? Everyone is looking for that spiritual high, something to make religion fun and easy. We don't really care for doctrine, because first of all it is boring, and second of all no one besides ministers really needs to know about it. On the other hand, the churches my parents grew up in went in the opposite direction. There was no passion, no desire to worship God with the soul. It was all about the letter of the law, and the doctrines of the church. Perhaps that is what led to the passion movement of today—once people got a taste of the pleasure that can be found in worship, they never wanted to return to doctrine.

A believer cannot have one without the other. Edwards seemed to know and live this, and he strove to instill it in his congregations and students. Passion without knowledge is empty. It is like the seeds that shoot up but have no roots to hold them firm. Marsden is constantly quoting from Edwards' notebooks, and these notebooks are more than just an ongoing diary. Edwards had countless categories which he intended to study and write about. He never would have had enough time to cover them all. But he desired to know about them, and sought after a constantly expanding fount of knowledge. It was like he just couldn't get enough of learning about the Lord. He spent hours in devotion every day, completely closed off from everyone else, even his family. But he didn't just stop there, for it

was his passion that drove him. He knew the joy that comes with Christ, and he discovered it through worship and study. Once he found it, he didn't want to let it go. He saw the beauty of God everywhere: "After this, my sense of divine things gradually increased, and became more and more lively, and had more of the inward sweetness. The appearance of everything was altered [...] God's excellency, his wisdom, his purity and love, seemed to appear in everything" (44). He is always describing "the overwhelming joys of the heart whose affections are fully turned to God" (45). He knew how to combine the cerebral and the passionate.

AT THIS POINT, however, I must come to the main reason why this book impacted my life. It is not because Edwards is painted up as an amazing saint who lived happily ever after following his committal to Christ at age two. That is not the case at all. In fact, quite the contrary, Marsden waves Edwards' faults and failures just as highly as his successes and convictions. He was anti-social, he was a brittle perfectionist, he wasn't always an accurate judge of human behavior and character, and he struggled daily with his faith. It is the last one, the faith struggles, which impacted my life in such a way. It is not everyday that we think about the great theologians or ministers questioning their own salvation. But Edwards did—all the time. Death was always at hand, and he was always urging others to consider salvation to be their top priority. Perhaps one of the greatest things lacking from the church is a sense of community strong enough for honest struggles to be revealed. People don't share these struggles with each other, probably due to concern that their faith isn't strong enough. But Marsden proves the strength of Edwards' faith, and the strength of the intensity that drove him repeatedly into the arms of Christ. Even when he went years doubting the sincerity of his conversion, years feeling so separated from God, he remained faithful and diligent, and the Lord drew him back.

Though Edwards lived in a very different time and place that I do, his issues with faith and what it means to be a Christian in the world are the same. And, if nothing else, this book has reminded me that it is okay to struggle. Even one of the finest ministers I have ever read about struggled with the same concerns I face. But it, and he, has also reminded me that when you put God first, He will draw you back into Him. The struggles are tests, and as long as I am striving every day to place God first in my life, He will take care of the rest.



## Purple Martin Writing Contest

**Freshmen: 1st place \$40**  
(no cash awards for freshman  
Honorable Mention)

### Analysis

1st place: Nathan Terrell—*The Naturalism of Steinbeck in "The Winter of Our Discontent"*  
HM: Jon Bushnell—*Generation Gap*

### Argument/Persuasion

1st place: Jamie Bleeker—*Mutual Funds: Can They Really Be Trusted?*  
HM: Jennifer Tomlinson—*Bacteria Fights Back*

### Exposition

(1st place: no award)  
HM: Jason Elenbaas—*A Cadet Is*

### Personal Writing

1st place: Justin Edmonds—*No Heart*  
HM: Anna Hubers—*Former Hippie Teacher*

### All Students:

**1st place: \$100; 2nd place: \$50**

### Analysis

1st place: Diana Hoogerhyde—*Finding the "Open Day of Certainty": The Will of God in Jayne Eyre*

2nd place: Melissa Drake—*Casting Off the Nets: A Study on A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*

HM: Josh Bower—*Baraka's "Black Art": Murderous Message with a Hope for Harmony*

### Exposition

1st place: Matt Bakker—*What Is the Creation Good For?*

2nd place: Dena Nicolai—*Back to Our Roots: Hockey and the Canadian Consciousness*

### Fiction

(No awards)

### Persuasion



Beka Schreier

**Julie Perkins, 2nd place winner of the poetry section, reads two of the three poems she submitted.**

(1st place: no award)

2nd place: Brandon Karlsgodt—*Photovoltaic Power As One Possible Alternative for Dordt College*

### Personal Writing

1st place: Sharla Derksen—*The Prairies*

2nd place: Melissa Drake—*Daddy's Girl and Highway 92—Westbound*

HM: Kearsen Boman—*My Greyhound Trip: Torture or Blessing?*

HM: Jason Bultje—*Brothers*

HM: Sara Prins—*To Ring a Greek Bell*

HM: Julie Perkins—*Chicken*

### Poetry

1st place: Diana Hoogerhyde—*Softly God Unsheathed a Morning, On a Rose Trellis, Mist Scoops up the Night, and On the 3-11 Shift*

2nd place: Julie Perkins—*Silent, Relief, Ceiling Fans, Another One, and Shampoo, Cut, and Rinse*

HM: Valerie Westra—*Unexpected Metaphors, and Two poems: In Utero I See Christ's Inspiration*

*Center Stone*  
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ALL THAT GLITTERS IS NOT GOLD...

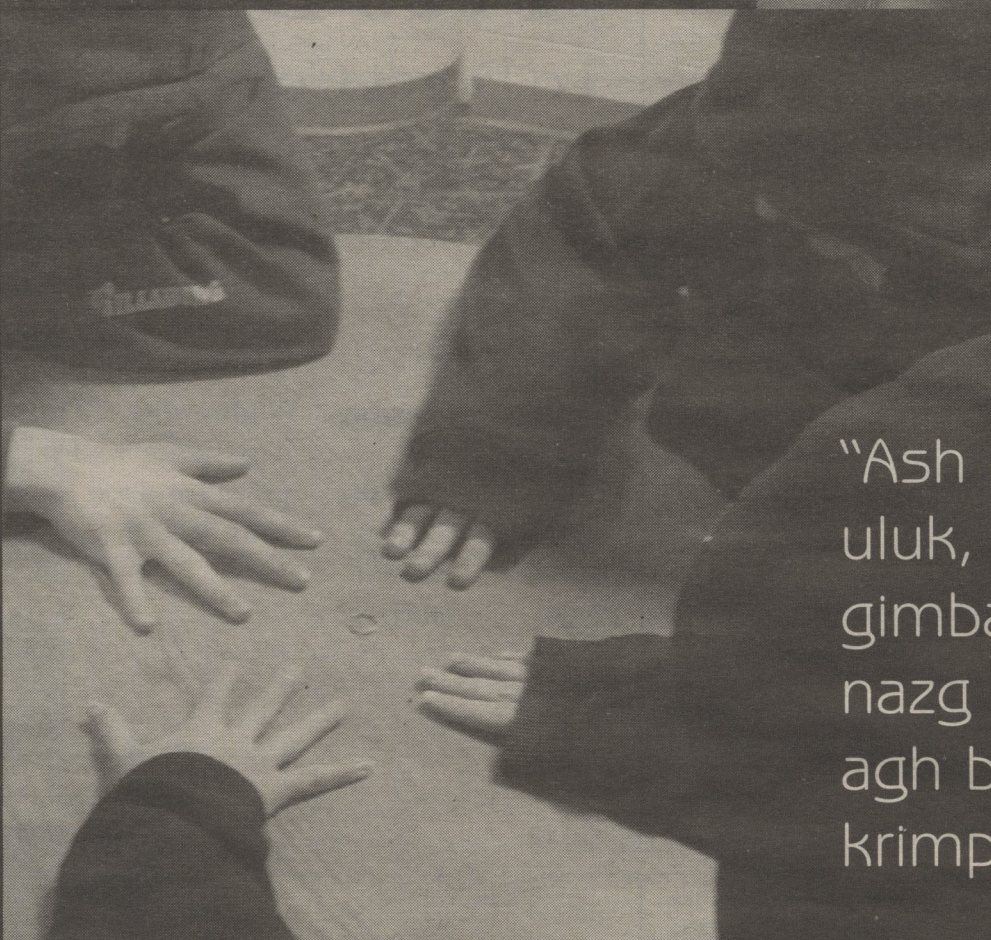
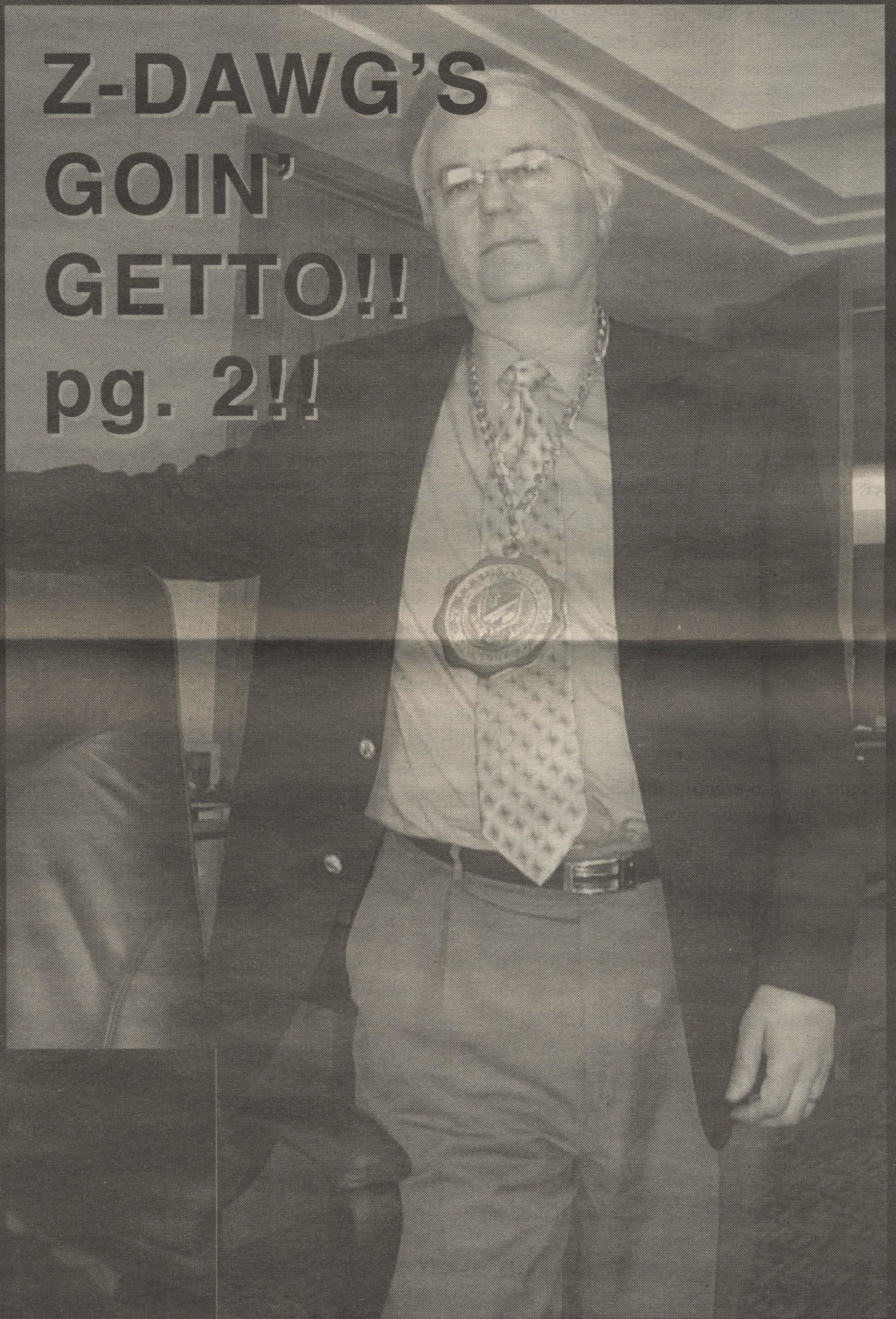
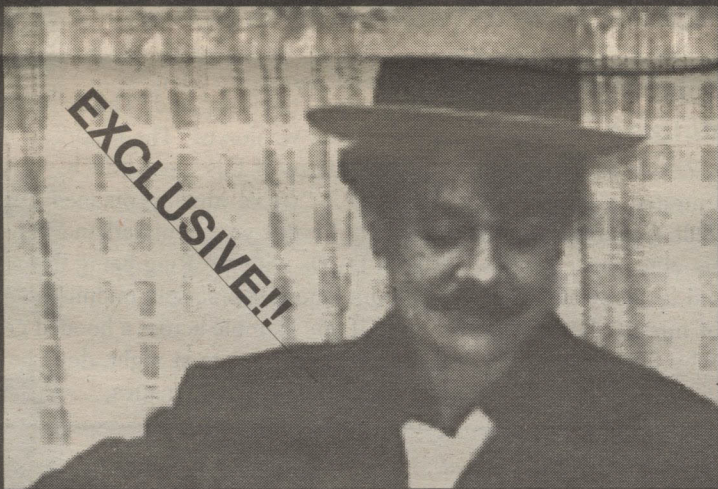
US \$1.50

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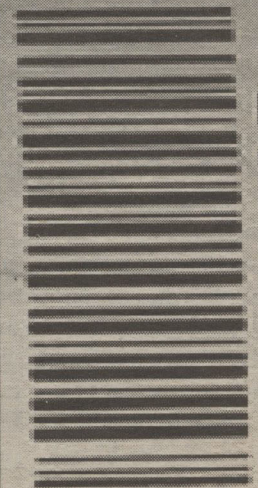
TOO HOT  
FOR THE  
DIAMOND!!!!!!

DENGLAR EMERGES  
FROM CRYOGENIC  
SLEEP TO FIND SELF  
RELATED TO LIND-  
BERGH! pg. 4!

Z-DAWG'S  
GOIN'  
GETTO!!  
pg. 2!!



"Ash nazg durbat-  
uluk, ash nazg  
gimbatul, ash  
nazg thrakatuluk  
agh burzum-ishi  
krimpatul..." pg. 2!



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# breaking news

## Finding Family Roots

**Boland James**  
**Staff meat-chopper**

Have you ever wondered why Steve Kloosterman is always surrounded by girls, how they always seem to gravitate toward him? Does the fact that he is the editor for such a prestigious piece of media, The Dordt Diamond, astound you? The answers to these musings are very simple. It is surprising that people hadn't picked up on this before. Steve Kloosterman is Hugh Hefner's long-lost nephew. Simple. Really.



Hugh Hefner, for all you confused people, is the founder and editor of the seemingly famous Playboy magazine. This specific magazine features members of the female gender—often in their most natural form.

So how does Steve fit into the family tree? For one, he is rarely seen without a woman (or two) swooning over him, wanting to be the center of his valuable attention—a famous trait of his uncle. Playboy magazine also features some excellent pieces of writing, or—if you will—literature. Looking at Steve's own success with The Diamond, the fact cannot be ignored that he and his uncle are cut from the same cloth. The Diamond, like Playboy, features some quality works of writing. And although the subjects for the

writing might be slightly different, it is the quality that matters, and he and his uncle are both editors of some exceptional writing.

After discovering this information, a DNA test was done. This test proves that Steve is unmistakably Hugh's nephew. The results came back saying that both Steve and Hugh have the XY chromosome. Proof like this cannot be

ignored. Another gene-related trait that both Hugh and Steve possess is their unmistakably devastatingly handsome good-looks. "It comes naturally," Steve said, "I can't help how I look, it's in the genes!"

When Steve was asked how this information would affect his life he said, "Well, I view my great uncle as just another limb on the family tree. Finding out about my roots has explained a lot of things, but just because I now know this information I am not going to change my lifestyle." Not only does Steve have great genes, but also a great sense of modesty.

Steve's only hope is that the hype over his new found family roots does not last longer than a decade. "It is hard to be famous when you are in school," Steve said. "I do not think that I could handle it for more than ten years." Steve looks good in publicity, but it is not something he thinks that he will pursue as a lifetime career—maybe a side hobby.

Despite outward animosity to porn, and two editorials to the contrary, Steve Kloosterman appears to be related to that nefarious connueser of the filth, Hugh Hefner.



"One ring to rule them all, one ring to find them. One ring to rule them all, and in the darkness, bind them."

## One Ring Cult Uncovered

**Radagast the Brown**  
**staff spell-flinging wonder**

A moment of triumph for the Zircon occurred last week as one of its reporters infiltrated a previously unknown group: The One Ring Cult. Centered around the Lord of the Rings series, this elite cluster meets once every week in an undisclosed locale. Gatherings always occur at night, for fear of missing homework deadlines and misunderstandings by the general public.

"Last week, the Woodland elves stopped by," exclaimed the assembly's leader, who wishes to be called "Gandalf." He is the unit's highest-ranking member, although only the true members of The One Ring Cult know his title. "They were showing off their excellent archery skills to us on the soccer field. Unfortunately, they hit what we believed to be a student and had to leave immediately. President Zyslstra, naturally, has covered up this incident. We think he wants access to our group. Due to their quick departure, we couldn't get their addresses. Which, I suppose, would be useless because they have very little contact with the world of men anymore."

Just how does one join this fantastic collection of social rejects? One member, "Peregrin," confided that incoming associates must own the entire Ring trilogy (as well as The Hobbit and another book by Tolkien), have seen every movie of the Ring trilogy more than once, and have a general disregard for Peter Jackson's film interpretation of the books. Rumor has it that Gandalf, their organizer, sat through a December theater showing of the extended editions of "The

Fellowship of the Ring" and "The Two Towers" as well as the theater version of "The Return of the King."

The future of this close-knit band is bright, said "Samwise." "We've already planned our New Year's Eve party for this year: a marathon of all the extended edition DVDs with the Ring being thrown to the fires of Mount Doom at precisely midnight."

So if you stumble across a hooded group gathered on Dordt's campus late at night, don't be alarmed. It's just a bunch of Tolkien fanatics.

## Zylstra goes hip-hop

**'Cube-T**  
**staff head-banger**

The Daily hour-to-hour and tedium of College Administration has been, as it were, ripped out of the front seat, served in a sardine sandwich to King Kong and burned in effigy in Lady Liberty's touch. It's a whole new funky world out there, boyz and girlz: Slammin Carl "Z-baby" is in on the scene, and heez bustin' out the movez on a whole 'nother level.

Please forgive that temporary lapse into the American street vernacular dialect. I'm taking medication. I'll try to restrain myself, but

no promises. In perfect seriousness, I was most pleasantly suprized by the wardrobe switch in our most esteemed administrator, complete down to gold-plated medallion and platinum-colored combover. So how would I characterize the Zylstra look? How can I creationally redeem these bright colors and fabulous attire?

To be frank: He got game, he got da fabulous flavas and da bing-bling-kaching all up in dis hood. Ya dig? As Mickey Dee's would say: "I'm lovin' it." You go! Ain't nobody sayin' a white boy wid bifocals can't have the look happenin' every once in a while.

### Free Delivery

To Dordt College Campus!  
From the  
Sioux Center Pizza Ranch!

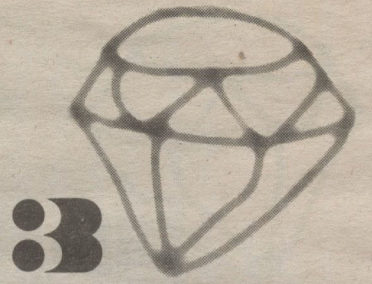
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Any 2 <sup>nd</sup> Large Pizza for Just \$2.99!	The amazing all you can eat Buffet!	Any Large pizza for only \$9.99!	Pizza Ranch's Chicken Buffet, With all the Extras! Still only \$5.00!



# coming soon...

...to a crystal ball, black market, or flea market near you!



## HOROSCOPES

Aries (March 21-April 19)

The stars spell social success. Ostentation is the key; you cannot be too ostentatious. On DENIS, post multiple pictures of yourself eating ice cream, doing dishes, standing in line for commons, and just sitting around the apartment with friends and/or acquaintances. People will love you and Profs will fear you. Humility was always overrated anyway.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You, my friend, could lose a few pounds. Blubberless skin is what all the fashionable souls are wearing this summer. Food is for losers. Who needs food? Everyone is eating Kinetic Antimatter these days, and so should you.



Gemini (May 21-June 21)

Something hairy your way comes on May 30. The Morass comes quickly and will not relent. Arm yourself with a Hairbrush, and carry a Super Soaker loaded with gel at all times.



Cancer (June 22-July 22)

Head for the hills! Oh, wait, this is Iowa. Head for the tunnels! Mad cow disease has stricken the Agriculture department, turning them into schizophrenic bovines with some sort of carbohydrate deficiency. The rumors have not been exaggerated. Run quickly and don't look back, unless you happen to find insanity liberating, and being milked twice a day, pleasurable.



Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)

Is somebody too comfortable? You, friend, need a lifestyle change. Dress like a flood victim, sleep on a bed of nails, study to be a starving artist, eat the mystery meat in the Commons, take two bottles of Pepto-Bismol and call me in the morning. Whining is disallowed.



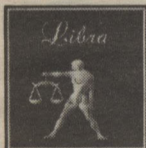
Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Now is the time to blither. Increasingly obtuse, diffuse and obscure vocalizations engender no pernicious after-effects, forsooth, such verbiage engenders a connotation that the first-person speaker is a most intelligencious primus inter pares, if you will, a sponce to be reckoned with.



Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)

Are people dissing you, like, all the time? Well, now that you know you are a cretin, maybe you should do something about, it huh? Like grow an extra brain? BURNED! Let's just say you'll meet a brunette with red shoes who will knock you off the pole. She knows this guy by the name of "Oz."



Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)

Death, Love, Marshmallows! LO! These three I see. Fate, it would seem, is not without a sense of irony. These are not things that will be, but only things that will happen if present conditions do not change. Clouded the future is. Think not that you shall escape. The force be with you my friend, and your little dog too.



Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Today is your day. Don't doubt your ability to impress people with all sorts of gross bodily humor. You know the saying: if you can burp a better alphabet, the world will beat a path to your door. Of course, don't forget that the principle also applies to bowel movements in other directions.



Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

This month, you will feel overworked, but don't worry, relief is in sight, unless, that is, you are an engineer. At any rate, I forsee a journey in the time ahead: those ill-prepared will suffer wrath. Finally, stay away from the opposite sex as most of them will work toward your demise.



Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Today is not worth getting up for. Trust me, it's going to be pretty crummy. My advice to you is: keep the pajamas on. Push all homework as far under your bed as it will go, fix yourself a cup of hot coco and some pop tarts, get The Essential Calvin 'N Hobbes off of the shelf, jump back into bed, and listen to the rain pour down.



Pices (Feb. 19-March 20)

Today you are irresistibly attractive. If you plan on proposing to anyone of the opposite gender sometime within the next four years, you'd better get it over with right now, like, within the next hour. What's that? No likely candidates leap to mind? Grab the bod, book, flip and pick. Don't worry if he/she doesn't know your name yet. Go get 'em.



## Custodians' album unveiled

Duo makes a "clean sweep" of the techno music market

I. C. Uguise  
Staff Spy

Campus Center custodians Larry and Lyle seem to have a pretty average job. However, when the last study addict has left the campus center, the real Larry and Lyle come to light. Due to stealthy, ninjasque spying, this reporter is ready to blow the cover on the secret lives of cleaning boys.

The first thing one realizes while secretly watching the dirty duo is that Larry and Lyle love techno music. Their love for funky fly techno dance moves is quite prevalent, whether is Lyles's near flawless robot, or Larry's patented broom dance that would make even the dopest b-boy say, "Homeboy got moves."

It is fairly rational to assume that Larry and Lyle love cleaning. What boggles the mind is just how much they adore the products they clean with. "How you clean so well, Lysol?" I overheard Lyle mutter more than once. "How you do that? All those germs vanished, you rock."

The natural conversation that exists between two humans also goes down during late night hours at the Campus Center. "Who are the better MCs, the Wu Tang Clan or Cypress Hill?" Larry posed to Lyle. "If I have said it once, I've said it a thousand times," Lyle responded, "The Wu

Tang Clan isn't anything to mess with," I so happened to catch the cleanup crew on a very special night. It was sloppy, soapy, slide and slide night. After getting the floors nice and soapy, Larry and Lyle would take turns running, diving, sliding, and over-all just having a good old time. Slip and slide proved to be double fun, as they later had the pleasure of cleaning themselves up afterwards.

The rest of the evening proved to be uneventful, aside from Larry busting out a mean air guitar for his cover of the Billy Idol classic "Rebel Yell." Lyle provided the rebel yell of course. I came back to my dorm realizing I am wasting my time trying to become a businessman. When you are working with a buddy as the overnight custodian, the realm of good times is truly an endless one.



Lyle Vandenberg plays a rare variant of the modern acoustic guitar



Larry Van Gelder on the cover of the duo's next underground techno album

## CLASS-less-IFIEDS

Snapped, listless, lost your drive? Try Caffeine! Piles of homework in every direction, no time for sleep anyway?? Try Caffeine! Hate cooking, but need energy? Try Caffeine! Recommended by 7 out of 10 red-eyed truckers. In soft drinks everywhere. See your local gas station employee for details.

Wanted: Your used paper towels, for my Biology experiment. Will pay pennies on the dollar for raw bacteria counts. Towels must be freshly used. Serious inquiries only, please.

Marginally attractive male seeks good woman with Playstation 2 for gaming tournament next week and possible marriage immediately after exams. Must have picture of Playstation 2. Call "Tuba" at X6682 for details.

Decent woman seeks reasonably

hot man with serious gaming skills for Dynasty Warriors tournament next week and possible marriage immediately to follow Western Civ. Exam. Must fit a Men's medium tux—has been purchased already.

Found: Gold hubcap, attached to gold chain. May be some sort of necklace or medallion. Found in Topher's last Thursday around neck of woman of ill repute. Call now to describe inscription and claim.

Lost: My act, just when I'd gotten it all together.

For sale: Comm 110 textbook. Never used!

Lost: The Gift's coverings. Who ever took them off him-her-its naked body, please put them back on. For all our sakes.



# breaking news

## Lindbergh Baby Found... Alive!

**Fatt Sludge**  
**Staff dumpster-diving muckraker**

In a surprising twist of events over at the center for the Department of Justice and Forensic Evidence, the mysterious case of the Lindbergh baby kidnapping of 1932 was reopened thanks to shocking new forensic evidence that declared the Lindbergh minor was alive and well, currently residing in a small community of primarily Dutch descent in Northwest Iowa. That wasn't the only surprise; the Lindbergh baby is also apparently female, in the person of Mary Dengler, Ph.D. of Sioux Center, Iowa. The idea seemed presumptuous at first, but after numerous blood and DNA tests using state of the art technology, forensic scientists are certain. Professor of English Mary Dengler is the long-lost Lindbergh baby.

Dengler was the child of the famous aviator Charles Lindbergh and his wife Anne Morrow Lindbergh, born to the happy couple on June 22, 1930. A scant twenty months later, the Lindbergh's child was kidnapped and later found murdered about five miles from the Lindbergh residence. After a scandal involving ransom money, a man by the name of Bruno Richard Hauptmann was located and later executed for the kidnapping and death of the child. What few people actually know is that the child born to Ann and Charles was switched at birth with the son of an Irish immigrant. The real Lindbergh baby was raised by poor immigrant parents who already had nine children when Dengler arrived. Food was scarce in the Johnson household, and the depression hit the family hard. So hard that Johnson gave up little Mary to a trio of scientists conducting experiments on cryogenics in exchange for a sizeable monetary reimburse-



Sara Prins

No one is comfortable enough around the Lindbergh baby yet to inform her that her fem-stache is so 1938. You're living in the past Lindbergh baby, you're living in the past.

**"What few people know is that the child was switched at birth with the son of an Irish immigrant"**

ment. The scientist then put Dengler in a cryogenic containment facility in 1934 when Dengler was just four years of age. The child was kept in a state of suspended animation for several years

until the program was discovered, and Dengler was unfrozen in the spring of 1950. Dengler was placed in the foster care system as a ward of the state, and was soon adopted by Arthur

and Dante Lexington of Tallahassee, Florida. Dengler eventually attained a PhD in contemporary literature and currently teaches at a small Reformed college in Northwest Iowa.

Naturally, authorities were surprised that the Lindbergh baby was alive and well in the American Midwest. But advances in science and technology located evidence of cryogenic freezing on Dengler's liver and other internal organs. Authorities are uncertain what action to pursue at this point, but if the traffic heading toward the northwest corner of the Hawkeye state is any indication, Professor Mary Dengler may be in the spotlight for quite some time.

## DEA Busts AMOR

**Pelvis Pretzley**  
**Staff thumb-biting monkey**

Federal agents stormed Student Services Wednesday, arresting Pastor Don Draayer and holding other staff for interrogation. This sudden raid, which left Abbie Van Essen's afternoon replacement secretary in tears, came after a Drug Enforcement Agency investigation into Dordt's AMOR program. Working closely with Customs officials and the Nicaraguan government, the Agency uncovered a full-fledged narcotics operation headed by Draayer himself.

According to the Volunteer Services website, AMOR was started in the early nineties as an international extension of Putting Love Into Action. Originally, AMOR stood for A Mission Out Reach. Students would work in third world countries like Haiti and the Dominican Republic performing service work similar to what PLIA participants do. But AMOR was not receiving any of the pop-can profits that PLIA earned. The coordinators decided to make AMOR self-supporting. They moved the outreaches to Nicaraguan coffee ranches. After finding Dordt students to be handy on the farms, AMOR coordinators instructed ranch owners to plant a narcotics-grade hemp variety. Both student and local labor was used to maintain the fields. The product was smuggled to

Dordt, stored in a warehouse accessible only through the classroom building tunnels and then distributed throughout Sioux County. A lucrative profit was being made, and it seems Pastor Draayer was planning on moving to Texas to help facilitate higher-volume transport. The details surrounding his "pastoral call" cover were suspicious enough to speed up the FBI investigation that led to Wednesday's bust.

Until the raid, Sioux Center filled the casual user market, which was hardly hurt by Sheldon's methamphetamine monopoly. To insiders, AMOR became the Area Marijuana Obtainment Ring. Corinne Huisman used her new position as "Community-based learning coordinator" to improve local ties and push profits to over half a million dollars in just one year. It is believed that her appointment to the position was the tip-off that led county investigators to suspect her involvement in local drug trafficking. She was arrested in her home early Thursday morning.

It is not known whether AMOR participants will be charged in the case. The extent of their involvement in the drug operation is unknown. Although some have been taken in for questioning, the Zircon's FBI contact refused to comment on the possibility of future arrests. We did discover that at least seven known agents are still checked in at the Econolodge, so further developments seem likely.



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--Opinions expressed are not necessarily the view of The Diamond or of Dordt College, but represent the views of individual writers.

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