THE CANNON: PURPOSE STATEMENT

The purpose of Canon is to awaken and nurture an interest in issues that concern the Dordt College academic community. This will be accomplished by providing a forum from which writers, particularly students, faculty, and alumni of Dordt, can express their views openly.

The end result of this interest in relevant issues should be a more clear awareness of the living Christ and His part in the life of every Christian.

Cannon will encourage the production of Christian poetry, and will print suitable poems.

Cannon will also contain material contributed by the editorial staff. The purpose of the editorial comments will be to offer a Christian analysis of a particular situation which can serve as a springboard for further Christian thought and action. Such thought and action should necessarily be in accordance with Scripture and the articles of the Reformed faith.

This publication is a student production, funded mainly by the student council, and subject to approval of the faculty advisor, the Student Council, and the Dean of Students. Members of the editorial staff will solicit, review, edit, and (if necessary) withhold articles and creative writing intended for publication. Canon is to be distributed free to Dordt students and faculty, and it will also be sent to members of the Alumni Association and various Christian educational institutions.

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Towards Happy Womanhood

Why Women Should Leave the Faculty
by David Cummings (Dave is a Senior at Dordt)

I had originally thought of writing out of some satiric parody about the women-professors here at Dordt, but because such a style has a tendency to imply insincerity I will be very simple and honest—almost boring.

Yes, I am very serious when stating that the faculty at Dordt is mostly female. Upon first glance, one might get the impression that Dordt seems quite dead. However, upon a closer look, you will find that Dordt is nice. The classrooms are clean, the campus is beautiful, and the student body is open and friendly. This is not to say that there is no counter-culture on campus such as the KDCR radio staff or the student council. However, the majority of students feel that there was need for a student-run magazine.

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Today's Rock Music

Rev. Stacey Hebden Taylor

TODAY'S ROCK MUSIC

(Rev. Taylor will be doing a series of programs on KOCR concerning Rock Music next month. He is a member of the Sociology Dept.)

If older people are to make any sense of what motivates young people to think, act, behave, and dance the way they now do and have been doing throughout the "Swinging Sixties" it is first of all imperative that they realize that we are living for the first time in history in which millions of people are living as if God is really dead. For all practical purposes God is dead for most adults in America today even for those who still attend church. God has been dead as far as their political, economic, and educational affairs have been concerned since the end of the First World War.

For the first time in Western history the younger generation has become aware of the hypocrisy of the adult generation largely as a result of the Viet Nam War. They are rightly in revolt against adult society by the youth culture which so offends many adults. As examples of what we mean listen to P.F. Sloan's "Eve of Destruction", The Rolling Stones, "I can't get no satisfaction," "Satanic Majesties Request," "Get Off My Cloud" and the LP "Chicago," The Woodstock Volunteers and Bob Dylan's "Blowin' in the Wind" and "The Times They Are A Changin'", Ed Ames' "Who Will Answer?").

The rejection of the hypocrisies of the adult society by the youth culture of America is apparent in the use of the words "pop" and "op" art and music and literature which so offends many adults. The best approach to an understanding of the Youth Counter Culture is to analyze its "new music", which is performed, written, and produced by the young for the young. This music has become the means of expressing youth's rejection and protest against the institutions of the American civic religion and of the American Corporate State based as both are upon Consciousness II (Reich) and a faith in "objective consciousness" (Roszak, a consciousness which has resulted not only in the death of God but also in the death of man. In the early 1960's the "protest song (a song which attacks a social situation which is perceived as being unjust) became popular largely through the influence of the folk music tradition on popular music. Since that time, pop-music has often been critical of the larger society, and it is useful to Ginzberg in describing the youth culture into two types. (1) A rejection of certain specific aspects of society, for example racism and poverty, with a corresponding desire to correct these injustices. (2) A rejection of middle-class American life, which has been referred to as "unprogamatic alienation".

The "protest" folk song is illustrative of "specific rejection" and is related to the radical tradition, where as the bohemian tradition (as exemplified by the "hippie") and much of acid rock" exemplify the stance of "general rejection". Although any song or individual may display a mixture of the radical and the bohemian characteristics, the chart below is a generalized representation of these two types of social rejection.

The hippies and the "drop-outs" stay on the periphery of political activity and they prefer not to become deeply involved. Their criticism of American society goes beyond issues of racism and poverty to the very essence of an industrial society. The mass technological society, its large, cumbersome bureaucracies, its gross materialism and worship of the Almighty Dollar, and its impersonal and exploitative and manipulative relationships, they feel, are increasingly superficial. Not only has God died in such a society but also man is dead or if not already dead, becoming one of T.S. Eliot's Hollow Men, no longer capable of "authenticity" and sincerity.

"Acid rock", for example, often emphasizes expressive creativity, spontaneity, creativity, unconventionality in art and personal experience and the problem of meaningful communication. It attempts to "tell it like it is", to "just be yourself," that is, to become a real person instead of a robot reflecting the values of the advertisers and the manipulators of the mass media; to "blow you mind." It asks the listener to "make love, not war," and to "do your own thing."

THE MESSAGE OF THE NEW MUSIC

Man has found that when he lives as if God is dead then man is dead. He finds himself robbed of his humanity as he robs Christ of His divinity. Money, power, ruthless violence. Modern war demands more and more sacrifices in his service. This is the Moloch that Ginsberg denounced in words reminiscent of the prophets of ancient Israel, the result of man's worship of his scientific and technocracy. The Beatles put it different in their record "Sergeant Pepper Lonely Hearts Club Band."

"We were talking about the love that's gone so cold, about people who gained the world and lost their souls. Since the Church refused to proclaim the full Gospel of the Risen Christ it almost seems to me as if the living God of the Bible has chosen to speak through the composers of these pop songs.

Look at the challenge the Church could have met had she been truly filled with the Spirit of God. Man's unbelief had led to revolution, which itself only led more and more to slavery under the domination of the technocracy, to depersonalization of the workers, and the break down of true community. Lonely, anxious people, but were left alone, desperately searching for a meaning to their lives, for a reason to live and a reason to die were the result. It is in this futile, questioning environment that the church should be best suited to proclaim the Answer in Christ. But the Church has not. For the most part it has moulded the platitudes of secular liberalism or remained silent, the first position adopted by the social gospelers and the second by the Armenian Pietists. A few years back the Beatle's sang in "Eleanor Rigby" about the minister who sat darning his socks and did not care about "all those lonely people".....where do they all come from, all the lonely people? "Eleanor Rigby" was buried in the church, the minister cleared his hands as he walked from the grave, and "NO ONE WAS SAVED," no one from all those lonely people. (Eleanor Rigby, LP record Revolver, 1965).

The world has been collapsing around our own young Christian people. They can understand it enough to ask why sermons have so long ceased to have any relevance to reality, and commandments become little more than threadbare traditions; truths that through continual repetition seem ready to fade into empty slogans. No one could want more than the younger generation does—an inspired preaching that speaks to modern man's condition and is backed up by Christian living not by Christians saying, Don't do as I do, do as I say. But unfortunately this is lacking. Here is Bob Dylan, the prophet of the new music who first united the poetry of protest with the music of protest, giving us his feelings as he sings: "The good Samaritan is dressing getting ready for the show. For there's a carnival tonight on Desolation Row. (LP record Highway 61 Revisited)

Yes, this Desolation Row is the church—the middle class American British and Canadian WASPS, and of course there are millions of them outside the congregations of God's frozen people. These are the ones who strive for a peaceful and respectable existence, who steer clear of difficult questions in life, who want to enjoy life to the full; these are the people T.S. Eliot described as "decent godless people". The younger generation is revolting against the emptiness, mediocrity, meaninglessness and above all the hypocrisy of their parents, teachers, editors, TV script writers and federal bureaucrats. Many of the long hair styles, the unconventional clothes, the offhand manners, the loose sexual behavior, can only be understood as a protest against the middle class quest for security at the expense of sincerity, for dull conformity with the status quo, at the expense of diversity and difference, against the death of God and of man. With the inspiration of the Beatles and Dylan there is now more poetry and song being composed and more poets being made than ever before in the history of the world.

Mythical and Irrational Aspects of Modern Pop Music

Amongst the effects of "what's going on" is the relinquishing of belief in the sacredness of love and of faith in scientific method, "I was a prisoner of logic and still am," Lahvina Reynolds admits, and then goes on to praise the new music. And the prisoners of logic and of "objective consciousness" as Roszak calls it are the ones who are suffering most.

(Continued Next page)
TOWARDS HAPPY WOMANHOOD . . .

(Continued from page 1)

The reasons that Paul himself gives concerning the place of the woman seem to reinforce this interpretation. He does not refer to some church rule or some regulation of the Greek culture to support his statement, but he goes back to the created nature of man and woman in Genesis 2. We find there (Gen. 2:25) that man was incomplete by himself, and seeing no other creature capable of complementing Adam, God immediately brought a creature suitable for him. So first of all, says Paul, it is because of the very man way man and woman were made that woman may not “teach or exercise authority over man.”

Secondly, Paul mentions the order in which they fell into sin as a reason. Although Adam is no less guilty, it was initially the woman, not the man, who yielded to the serpent’s temptation. It is important to note, however, that God did not just this fact of yielding to the serpent which necessitates submissiveness, but even before the fall (as verse 13 indicates) it was woman’s created nature to be in subjection. Because of sin, however, John Calvin states that the subjection became “less voluntary and agreeable than it had formerly been.” It is the very CREATED NATURE of a woman then, as Paul says, which makes it unlawful for her to teach or have authority over a man.

But before all the men say “goody, goody!” remember that this subjection of women does not imply her inferiority before the face of God and mankind, nor on the other hand does it imply the superiority of the male race. Instead it speaks of different and unequal roles which both are of vital importance to God. It would be very easy to spend as much space, if not more, on the failure of men to act as men, but that is not the purpose of this article. Just as important as what being men are more than anything else is what God created them! And Paul clearly states that it is not part of woman’s created nature to teach or have authority over men.

Furthermore, to be consistent with what has already been stated, I believe that the women-professors at Dordt College, insofar as men are present in their classrooms, are violating the precept which Paul sets forth. This brings up a very simple question: when we see that the 2nd is inherent in the 1st, namely, the bearing of authority cannot be divorced from being a teacher; being a teacher is an authoritative position. Before I attempt to answer some of the most common questions, let me say one more thing. What God ordains is always good, and if God has ordained something, we’ll always be a lot happier if we do it. It is going to be a lot happier if we fit ourselves into roles which complement, not conflict with, our created natures. If you do that, women, you’ll truly be on your way TOWARDS HAPPY WOMANHOOD.

A. First of all, I didn’t say that women couldn’t teach at all, but I said that women cannot teach men—that is all the further the passage goes. Nor does Scripture condemn women teaching children or other women. I would repeat that I feel the context of Paul’s statement should be generally applied, especially since the apostle goes back to one of woman’s created nature for his own defense.

Q. WELL, WHEN DOES A BOY BECOME A MAN?

A. The answer to that is relative—never can any age upon manhood because people differ. Granted, there may still be some “boys” at Dordt, but there are enough men, I think, to make this mandate applicable.

Q. IF A WOMAN HAS THE ABILITY TO TEACH OR HAVE AUTHORITY, WHY SHOULDN’T SHE USE HER GOD-GIVEN ABILITY?

A. I think that this question is due to the misunderstanding of many Reformed Christians if you have a gift, or talent, you Must use it. Men have always played professional football, but do we break God’s Law concerning the Sabbath to fulfill that ability? Likewise, women may have the gift to teach, but if it requires the use of a salvation that is in the end self-annihilation. In the quest for self... the time will come when you... I’ll struggle with you as we seek answers to the problems.

(Readers are urged to reply in writing to the Cannon or Diamond. —Ed.)
RAIN
by Sue Maatman
Warm rain cries down my window panes,
Applauds the shingles of the roof, polka-dots
The sidewalk, late in summer's afternoon.
I wish the rain would wash America;
Drain dirt from ghettos, squeeze it into gutters,
Cool clogged freeways with drops sizzling on cement.
Roots would bubble ecstatically, lawns revive,
Until a river flows that cleanses, heals, restores
Each soul to sparkling life again.

TIME-TABLED
by Bill De Jager
"It's time for me and God now", he said
and so he retired
from the railroad at sixty six.
Gold watch in left vest pocket
and the occasional heart murmur,
he planned to spend his remaining time
in meditation
but a heart attack
the night of retirement
didn't give him the time
to hear the warning blast
of the train whistle
at a nearby junction
that faded into the clickety-clackety
of train wheels.

SOMETIMES
by Ileen Borduin
Sometimes
I see the leaves clinging to the trees,
And I see myself.
I hang on so hard
Using all the strength I've got.
Yet we're different
The leaves and I,
Leaves are smart (?)
They let go and fall for a rest
And let other take over and try to hold on.
Me (?)
I hold and hold.
Sometimes it seems I get so tired,
I want to fall,
Yet something keeps me hanging on.
But if I ever give up and let go
I'll deserve to be trampled underfoot.
Just like the leaves.

ATTENDING A SCIENTIFIC MEETING
by Dr. R. W. Maatman
Waiting for today's lecture to start,
Anticipating becoming smart,
I think on something scientific
And hope for ideas terrific.
Gathering are all the wise ones
Eager to hear the paper that stuns.
There they sit, each in his meeting chair
Some smoking, most of them lacking hair.
Chances to attend I never spurn.
You see, there are harder ways to learn.
One of the things which gives me pleasure
Is hearing researchers take measure
Of a colleague's fine, intense account
While each is on an expense account.

FADED
by John deBree
I was sauntering along the cobblestones
a narrow way.
A quiet, reposeful avenue
where apple blossoms grew.
Along that placid avenue
where walked so very few
rested a cathedral,
lying among flowers.

She was old,
within her bosom throbbed
a heart of gold.
In her hair, birds made their nests
faded were the engravings upon her breasts.
In her tranquility she looked forgotten.
Forgotten
for her foundation touched not the earth
nor her steeple the skies.
Her voice did not give birth
to counsel but to sighs,
for in her solitude she was reminiscing.
Embedded in the soil about her
were the former days,
the people who came to pray,
the children who came to play
upon her lap.
The best and the least
the nun and the priest.
Forgotten,
returned and returning
to dust.

THE PRACTICE OF THE PROMISE
by Bill De Jager
High up
through the breaking rain clouds,
a jet slowly slid
from one horizon to the other
leaving behind it
a curved colorless white streak.
As the silver supersonic
disappeared downward to its destination,
arainbow superimposed itself
on the evanescent exhaust
and filled the dome of the sky
with color.

RAIN
by Sue Maatman
Warm rain cries down my window panes,
Applauds the shingles of the roof, polka-dots
The sidewalk, late in summer's afternoon.
I wish the rain would wash America,
Drain dirt from ghettos, squeeze it into gutters,
Cool clogged freeways with drops sizzling on cement.
Roots would bubble ecstatically, lawns revive,
Until a river flows that cleanses, heals, restores
Each soul to sparkling life again.