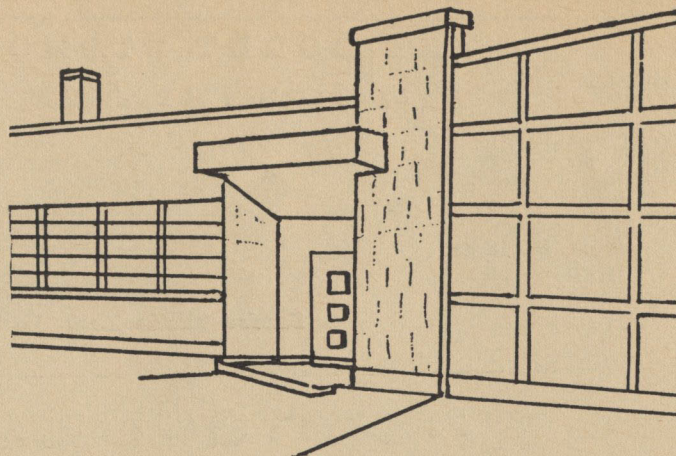


The Dordt Diamond

Student Publication of Dordt College,
Sioux Center, Iowa



Volume II

Friday, November 21, 1958

Number 6

BB Season Starts Tomorrow

Dordt Basketball Team—1958-59



Back Row, Left to Right: Harlan Vanden Einde, Harris Dunning, Glenn De Stigter, Jim Verbrugge, Harvey Blankespoor, Syne Altena, Harlon Boer, Ron Tolisma—Manager.

Front Row, Left to Right: Mr. Sjoerdsma—Coach, John Bolt, Erv Walhof, Kenny Draayer.

BOOSTING SCHOOL SPIRIT

With the opening of the basketball season for 1958-59, a pep band and a pep club have been formed. These organizations are active only during the athletic season.

Some fifty students showed their interest in another pep club as the first meeting was held Monday, Professor Ribbens presiding. The following officers were chosen:

Mary Timmer, President

Helena Wiersma, Vice-president
Darlene Sybesma, Sec'y-Treas.

No formal action has yet been taken, but this club sponsors a pep meeting today in the auditorium immediately after choir.

Tuesday, Dordt's pep band was organized. Versatile (Professor) Van Til is again the director as some twenty members now form the nucleus of a musical organization designed to increase your listening pleasure.

Dordt Faces Northwestern As Its First Opponent

The first tip-off of the season will find the Dordt Defenders invading the camp of the Northwestern Raiders. According to some reports, the Raiders are shaking in their sweat socks, and according to other reports, the Raiders just can't wait to sink their claws into our supposedly quaking quintet. However, whatever Northwestern doesn't know about will just make them worry, so we certainly won't enlighten them. In any event, tomorrow night promises to be a most interesting evening.

Since this is the first game of the current season, everyone will naturally be most eager to see how all this hard training is going to pay off, and also, of course, to be present to out-yell the Northwestern cheering section and to lend moral support to our boys in the unlikely event that they should drop one or two points behind. The pep meeting this afternoon will just be a prelude to what will be expected tomorrow night.

Even though Dordt is a small college and therefore doesn't have a team which represents a great multitude of students (half of whom probably wouldn't even know the players' names) doesn't mean that Dordt lacks the necessary spirit or talent to make a great team, but if the students don't support the team, the team won't succeed no matter how much talent it has. So, come on, everyone, let's get out tomorrow night and help our Defenders put on a great offensive.

The probable starting line-up for tomorrow night will be:

Syne Altena 6'
Harvey Blankespoor 6' 1"
Harris Duinick 6' 2"

(Continued on page 4)

THE DORDT DIAMOND

Published fortnightly by the Students of Dordt College, Sioux Center, Ia.

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Editor | Cliff Christians |
| Feature Editors | Peter Andringa, James Heynen |
| Book Review Editor | Jack Vanden Berg |
| National Events Editor | Myrtle Sinkey |
| Sports Editor | Donna Schutt |
| Business Manager | Howard Faber |
| News Reporters | Claire Jacobsma, John Addink, Irma Dykstra, Sylvia Vellema |
| Typists | Sandra Vande Berg, Harriet Van Otterloo, Annette Vugteveen |

Of Books and Men

by Jack Vanden Berg

"THE JOB THE PROTESTANTS SHIRK"

by Truman B. Douglass
Harper's, November 1958,
pp. 45-49.

"The typical attitude of most Protestant Churches toward cities can be summed up in this terse verse by Odgen Nash:

'The Bronx?
No Thonx'

In almost direct proportion to the increasing importance of the city in American culture has been the withdrawal—both physical and spiritual—of the Protestant Church."

With this challenging statement Dr. Truman B. Douglass presents an intriguing analysis of Protestantism's greatest failure. Dr. Douglas, executive vice-president of the Board of Home Missions of the Congregational Churches since 1943, is tremendously concerned about the failure of Protestantism to serve urban communities.

Although an increasing percentage of our total population is concentrated in cities, the number of Protestant Churches in urban areas are decreasing rapidly. Dr. Douglass offers several reasons for this unusual trend. He feels that an anti-urban bias has become increasingly evident in Protestant circles. In fact, so strong is this bias that many leading Protestants feel that village life is more acceptable to God than city ways; that there is a permanent and deadly hostility between urban man and the Christian faith.

This attitude of Protestant provincialism feels that a rural community is the only true Christian society, and stems from the prejudices of a middle class Christianity which looks with suspicion and hostility at later immigrants who largely shaped urban life. Later it was accented by the rural outlooks and origins of its ministry. Protestant ministers come largely from small cities, towns and rural communities and are generally trained in small town colleges. These ministers bring to their work in city churches a distaste for city life and ways. They distrust the culture of the cities, they are overwhelmed by the masses of people, the restless vitality and rush of the city. They lack rapport because of the unconscious prejudice they bring with them.

Protestantism has set up a double standard of morality. The sins of the city, drinking and "carelessness in the observance of sexual conventions," are considered more wicked than "small town snooping, gossip, philistinism and cruelty toward non-conformists." Because of this double standard of "meeching moralism" Christians fail to see the nature of city life and culture clearly.

(Continued on page 3)

--EDITORIAL--

Tomorrow night, the Dordt basketball team makes its debut with its archrival Northwestern. Rated as a team with exceptional possibilities, Dordt can boast only two returning lettermen. Optimism prevails, of course, as Coach Sjoerdsma conditions a team that could make Dordt famous.

It's well to remember, however, that winning is not the all important thing. Although this sentence has been overworked in our circles to the point of triteness, it bears repetition here. Many other things should command our attention as we again cross the threshold of a new athletic season.

Quality basketball is the thing for which Dordt should be renowned. A quality that produces distinction can be expressed in different ways:

The first responsibility in making such a team hinges upon the players themselves. Their skill and ability should not prompt them to act more professional than the coach, or the referee. A player, team, or even a school with the "universal knowledge" attitude never gets its feet off the ground. There must be confidence but only if accompanied by a certain amount of reservation and expression.

But there remains another responsibility. Students, friends, and supporters of Dordt's athletic program are also essential relative to our success in 1958-59. As morale boosters, the response, attitude, and support from this direction are tremendously important. The "Post Toasties", little bit better, attitude must never find expression on the basketball floor or on the sideline bleachers. An atmosphere of humility must prevail. We must recognize our status in the athletic world and not act superior to it. Never forget, it is possible to be known as a school and a team with principle and a sense of direction.

* * * * *

Another significant milestone, that of dramatic excellence, was reached last week as the Dordt Drama Club staged its first play of the year. This two-act drama depended entirely on superb acting for its success and it was a production of real college caliber.

My personal opinion rates this play as the finest I have ever seen. The acting was magnificent, the plot delightful. John Q. Public, the great determiner, was lavish in its praise. The crowds who filled the auditoriums at Sioux Center and Rock Valley adopted a new sense of appreciation for the talent within Dordt College.

Director Van Til spearheaded the performance. This is his second year as director of the Drama Club. His tireless efforts have rewarded Dordt College handsomely.

The players themselves must be commended. It seems almost impossible that such a large cast was filled so adequately. Satisfaction can be the only result from a job so well done.

Dordt College is progressing. The signs are in the air.

* * * * *

Voltaire once said: "I disagree with what you say but I will defend to the death your right to say it." Mark Twain later supplemented this thought when he wrote: "The freedom of the press is a tremendous power. It can make or mar any man's reputation. It has perfect freedom to call the best man in the land a fraud and a thief, and he is destroyed beyond help. On the other hand, it can also serve to elevate a crook to royalty."

Public opinion is the only force that can temper such power. Readers are at freedom to defend any wretched and injurious dogma that is printed; but readers are also able to pressure those into extinction.

A "Letters to the Editor" column is maintained by this paper as a medium through which any objector or defender can express his views; this has often been called the "life blood" of all newspapers.

Realizing this, it may also be fitting to emphasize the fact that the views expressed in the columns of the Dordt DIAMOND are those of the editor of that column, and do not necessarily reflect the consensus of the entire staff or the editor-in-chief. Attacks should be staged accordingly, and generalizations made in conformity to that fact.

(continued on page 4)

Of Books and Men - - -

(Continued from page 2)

Many Protestant leaders object to the anonymity of city life, the feeling of insignificance. They call cities "monuments to materialism, manifestations of human pride." Dr. Douglass answers these objections and criticisms skillfully.

He goes on to state that there are some pioneer movements in the right direction by ministers who understand and try to penetrate city culture. These ministers live in the community they serve, they are available at all times and are sympathetic to all that affects their parishioners. "They have learned to ask the right questions."

I would like to discuss and criticize a short story which appeared in the August 1958 issue of **The Atlantic**. It is entitled "The Son-in-Law" and it is written by Glenn Meeter. Mr. Meeter received his A.B. in English from Calvin College in 1955 and on a Ford fellowship went to Vanderbilt University to take his master's degree.

The action of the story takes place on a Dakota farm. As it opens, Harm, an old farmer, is waiting for his cityfied son-in-law who has been there only twice before and both times death came with him. First, Harm's father had died. The second time it had been Harm's brother.

When Marv, the son-in-law, gets to the farm, Harm doesn't know what to say. They eat supper and then Harm goes out to fix the tractor. Mary comes out to help Harm and notices that the new collie pup is sick.

The next day is Sunday. Everyone except Harm goes to church. He reads the Bible at home and decides that he, just like Jacob, is wrestling with God. He decides that God is his opponent as well as his strength.

On Monday, the collie dies. At first Harm is angry. Then Marv buries the dog. For some reason this changes Harm's opinion of his son-in-law. He takes Marv's arm in his and together they walk to the house. Apparently they live happily ever after.

And now, for some criticism. Most of the story is written in beautiful, realistic prose. The story loses its realism only in the end. The last sentence, especially, seems almost like the last sentence of a romantic novel. "Arm in arm they walk toward the house." It takes little imagination to add: "And they all lived happily ever after."

The theology expressed by Harm is also rather doubtful. As mentioned before, Harm comes to the conclusion that God is his opponent as well as his strength. Yet, if he calls God his opponent, he is actually blaming Him for all his troubles. Of course we know that man brought troubles on himself by the fall of Adam and Eve.

The story in general, however, is

a very good one. As a matter of fact, one reviewer stated it was the best short story he had ever read. I expect that in the future we shall hear a good deal more from Mr. Meeter. P.A.

The Temper of the Times
by Myrtle Sinkey

The wear and tear, the harassments and worries, the name-calling and hairpulling of the elections are over. The army of Democrats and the battalion of Republicans have marched to the White House. The noise of political speeches is over, both parties have retired to their corners, and comparative quiet and calm has settled over the White House. Sen. Lyndon Johnson has begun to plan the coming legislative program, which is "progressive" but not "radical", and as David Brinkley, noted NBC news commentator has said, "It is apparent the Republic will survive."

After the elections there is always the question—why? Why did the Democrats win by a landslide and the Republicans suffer so disastrous a defeat? Why, do the Democrats have a host of candidates for 1960 and the Republicans only two of prominence, Nixon and Rockefeller?

Mr. Eisenhower, in his news conference the day following election, said he thought the people elected the "spenders" in opposition to the conservative policies of his administration; yet, although he promised to reduce the budget to sixty billion, he has increased it to eighty billion, more than any Democrat has ever spent. Mr. Nixon seems to think his party's defeat is due to the fact that the Republicans didn't campaign hard enough, yet in the sections where he himself campaigned so vigorously, the Democrats won by a sizeable majority. Paul Harvey, a prominent news analyst, says that the Democrats didn't win because they campaigned harder, but because they had labor backing. Mr. Harvey

says that the reason is that the Republicans did not have a firm political platform of their own, but because of consistent Democratic gains in 1954 and 1956, they have made their party a carbon copy of the Democratic party; and carbon copy is never as good as the original for the words become blurred and the meaning is lost. As soon as the Republicans get back on their own side of the fence they will no longer have to "cry in their milk."

In view of the Democratic landslide received in the past election, I would like to say just a few words about our relationship as Calvinists to the Democrats. A prevalent opinion among Reformed circles seems to be that in order to be a Christian in politics, you must be a Republican. To be a Democrat in Reformed circles practically means complete ostracism from society, with which experience I am somewhat familiar.

But I have been reassured that I can be a Calvinist and still adhere to the general principle of the Democratic party, by an article which appeared in the October **Reformed Journal** entitled, "Calvinists and Democrats" by Lester De Koster. I encourage you to read it.

This article is written in reply to the question, "How can you as a Christian be a Democrat?" In the article Mr. De Koster explains that the "selective and controlled intervention of the state in social and economic life of the nation, not to transform or destroy capitalism, but rather to discipline and develop it . . . has been the overall program of the Democratic party . . . and is quite clearly in the spirit of Calvin's Geneva" and that in general its principles agree with basic Calvinist ideas of social and economic life. Mr. De Koster hastens to add that he does not therefore conclude that "non-Democrats are non-Calvinists, or that Republicans are fuzzy in their Calvinism or disloyal to their faith."

In conclusion, I would like to quote the author who says that when people ask, "How can you as a Christian, be a Democrat?" he is tempted to reply, "How can you as a Calvinist, be anything else?" I concur.

—CHAPEL SPEAKERS—

| | | | | |
|----------|-------|-------------|-------|--------------------------|
| Monday | ----- | November 24 | ----- | Rev. Haan |
| Tuesday | ----- | November 25 | ----- | Ellen Kemink |
| Tuesday | ----- | December 2 | ----- | Rev. C. Van Schouwen |
| Thursday | ----- | December 4 | ----- | Janice Jouwstra |
| Friday | ----- | December 5 | ----- | Rev. B. Mulder |
| Monday | ----- | December 8 | ----- | Dr. P. Van Beek |
| Tuesday | ----- | December 9 | ----- | Claire Jacobsma |
| Thursday | ----- | December 11 | ----- | Cornelius Hoogland |
| Friday | ----- | December 12 | ----- | Rev. Andrew Van Schouwen |

The Alumni Mail Bag

(The following lines are extracted from a recent letter sent to one of the faculty. The author has consented to permit the *Diamond* to print parts of it. With this letter we begin what we hope will be one of the better features of our student publication.)

Dear Friends,

"... I have made my debut into the teaching profession. I must confess that I do not like it as well as I had hoped but that may improve. Because our school is not yet completed, we are having classes in the basement of the church. The expected enrollment of 35-40 students was greatly overshadowed by the enrollment of 63 at the present. There were to be about 5 to 6 students in the upper grades (7-8) but there are

16 in the two grades now. My sister, Mrs. J. Tiemeyer, was going to teach those grades part time but two part-time teachers, or one full-time, were needed. The wife of one of the ministers in town (Wesleyan Methodist) is now teaching part time, also. The teacher of the middle grades is a girl from New York. She taught last year in a public school in New York State. She has given up over \$1000.00 salary just to teach in a Christian school. She is really a remarkable girl.

"The opening of our school has succeeded in puzzling a great many people of the town. The school is generally referred to as the 'Dutch School.' It seems that the people have never heard of a Christian school other than Catholic. One woman was amazed that we teachers didn't speak Dutch.

"Our new school building is a far cry from the typical 2-3 room school of Iowa. It is brick, to match the church. The three rooms, with win-

dows covering one complete side, are joined by a hall across the back. The finishing had been delayed by the failure of the window frames to arrive. But now that they are here we should be able to move in within two weeks. My students, who are packed into my room like sardines in a can, won't know where to go with all the room and extra space that we'll have up on the hill.

"I have my doubts as to how any one will be able to concentrate long enough to get anything done up there, for the view is marvelous. It seems to be typical of the other scenes around here. I found that Christmas is no time to visit Sussex. I still can hardly believe that the scenes just around the corner are not reproductions of famous pictures, but are real.

"I have been hearing all sorts of reports from Sioux Center. Several have written of the wonderful gain in enrollment. Several... have written about the earlier start of classes also. I hope everything is going all right. At times I certainly wish that I were back among my cohorts.

"I must get to work but it has been swell chatting awhile."

Sincerely,

Anita Bouma

Basketball Season Starts Tomorrow

(continued from page 1)

Harlan Vanden Einde 6' 1"

Erwin Walhof 5' 11"

However, the bench this year is very strong and many other players will also see action tomorrow night.

According to Coach Sjoerdsma, scrimmage practice just doesn't work out too well because there are seldom enough people present to make two five-man teams. The main reason seems to be sickness and injuries, so maybe Northwestern will have the idea that Dordt is quite incapacitated. Well, we'll just fool them.

D.S.

Cheerleaders--1958-1959



Left to Right: Rosalie Engbers, Pat Ver Steeg, Donna Visser, Sandra Wieberdink.

DORDT COLLEGE BASKETBALL SCHEDULE 1958 - 1959

| | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| Saturday, November 22 | ----- Northwestern J.C. | ----- Away |
| Thursday, December 4 | ----- Estherville J. C. | ----- Home |
| Tuesday, December 9 | ----- Emmetsburg J.C. | ----- Away |
| Thursday, December 11 | ----- Waldorf J.C. | ----- Home |
| Monday, December 15 | ----- Westmar (Frosh) | ----- Home |
| Thursday, December 18 | ----- Worthington J.C. | ----- Home |
| Tuesday, January 6 | ----- Worthington J.C. | ----- Away |
| Friday, January 9 | ----- Freeman J.C. | ----- At Hull |
| Manday, January 12 | ----- Emmetsburg J.C. | ----- Home |
| Thursday, January 29 | ----- Northwestern J.C. | ----- Home |
| Tuesday, February 3 | ----- Estherville J.C. | ----- Away |
| Thursday, February 5 | ----- Waldorf J.C. | ----- Away |
| Saturday, February 21 | ----- Westmar (Frosh) | ----- Away |

An Away game with Freeman is yet to be scheduled.

The week of February 9-13 is Tournament week.

Editorial - - -

(Continued From Page 2)

Dordt was highly entertained and privileged as Sidney Youngsma, Development Secretary of Calvin College, visited its campus last week.

Since many Dordt sophomores have fond hopes of attending Calvin next year, and many Dordt freshmen have fonder hopes still of enrolling there a year later, it was with no small interest that Secretary Youngsma was received. Realizing the well-founded seniority rights of this College, Dordt students are cultivating a real appreciation for it and interest in it.

Relative to this visit, we can only hope that the thought of J. R. Lowell is apropos: "He met a stranger, there he left a friend." C.C.