

DORDT DIAMOND

Student Publication of Dordt College, Sioux Center, Iowa

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The Diamond Welcomes The New Students

As we all know, January 27 was the date that started second semester here at Dordt College. Since last year at this same time we have increased our enrollment by eighty-eight students.

2nd Sem. '64-'65	2nd Sem. '65-'66
Men 229	Men 284
Women 203	Women 233
432	517

The new students whom we would like to welcome to our student body are:

- Harriet Baak, Sioux Center, Iowa
 - Brenda Carlson, Hamill, S. Dak.
 - John De Vries, N. Haledon, N. J.
 - Lyle Grooters, Sheldon, Iowa
 - Susan Hertel, Grand Rapids, Mich.
 - David Kobes, Sioux Center, Iowa
 - Mrs. Judy Mellema, Harrison, S.D.
 - Henry Miedema, Hospers, Iowa
 - Peter Passchier, Grand Rapids, Michigan
 - Mrs. Esther Plantage, Sioux Center
 - John Strikwerda, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada
 - Dale Van Donselaar, Oskaloosa, Iowa
- B.N.

EMBRYO OF A CHRISTIAN PARTY

Much talk is exchanged by "dining hall" students concerning the role of a Christian in politics. In fact, I suspect that each budding scholar entertains his own pet theory! Of late a certain columnist voiced the urgent necessity of fathering Christian politicians. Recently Rev. Louis M. Tamminga, in an address to the Political Science Club, revealed the embryonic stages of a group known as the **Christian Action Foundation**. This organization is seeking to present a united, articulate Christian testimony to political legislation and other matters in the political realm.

Many of the college Canadians can testify of a similar organization effectively working in our Northern neighbor. There is much anticipation of long-range outcomes. Could there ever be a Christian political party in the U.S.A.? This and other stimulating questions will be discussed at the organizational meeting, February 18, at 8:00 p.m. in the Christian school auditorium. As responsible college students and dedicated Calvinists, we ought to attend this venture of integration of the Bible and culture.

—J.A.B.

Lecture Week March 22-24

Dordt College will sponsor its Second Annual Lecture Week during the last week in March. Dr. W. Stanford Reid has accepted the invitation to be guest lecturer. Dr. Reid will be on campus from March 22 through March 24 and will speak at various functions and gatherings.

Dr. Reid was born in Montreal, Canada. He received his B.A. and M.A. from McGill University and his B.Th. and M.Th. from Westminster Seminary. He was graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 1941 with a Ph.D. in history. He is now Professor and Chairman of the History Department at the University of Guelph, Ontario, Canada. He has his ministerial credentials in the Presbyterian Church in Canada. He is also a member of the Board of Trustees of Westminster Seminary.



Dr. W. Stanford Reid

PHI KAPPA SIGMA

Wednesday, February 16, Phi Kappa Sigma will sponsor a guest speaker, Mr. Jack Dye. Mr. Dye is a school psychologist who works with school children of a four-county area. The topic of the evening will be "Identification of Children With Problems." Mr. Dye requested that the club members come with questions on the topic since he will allow a good deal of time for questions.

Second semester sophomores planning to enroll in the Teacher Education program are invited to attend this meeting. The meeting will begin at 7:30 P.M. in Room 201.

—DVZ

He is widely known and in demand as guest speaker and lecturer, a strong supporter of the Reformed faith, and an inspiring speaker. He is the author of "The Church of Scotland in Lower Canada," and "An Economic History of Great Britain." Recently, he gave a lecture entitled "Absolute Truth and the Relativism of History" at the 1960 Summer Study Conference of the Association for Reformed Scientific Studies in Unionville, Canada.

During Lecture Week at Dordt, Dr. Reid will deliver the following lectures: March 22, chapel: "The Problem of History in Contemporary Thought;" March 23, faculty seminar: "The Christian Historian and his Vocation;" a popular lecture: "History, the Christian Inheritance;" and on March 24, chapel: "Calvin as a Historian."

—B.P.

Was Denken Sie?

by John Schuurman

Last year, if you will remember, there appeared in *The Diamond* several student polls. The writer of that feature asked questions of students pertaining to school activities. "Was Denken Sie?" the most recent of *The Diamond* columns is also in the student poll business.

This column will handle student activities, as last year, but will also handle controversial matters associated with school administration, campus matters, etc.

On Thursday night, February 8, in the library, your columnist contacted what he considered to be a cross-section of the student body. He asked questions concerning the proposed return to the old method of semester testing.

Theoretically, under the present system, the course is divided into three or four segments, a test is given over each and a test over the whole semester is not given. Under the former method an exam over the entire semester was given. This exam counted for approximately one third of the final grade.

Nineteen of the thirty students questioned stated that they were to a certain degree content with the present system. The remaining eleven stated that they were dissatisfied with the system used now. Only eight per cent, incidentally, had fewer cavities.

Juniors and Seniors seemed to be most strongly opposed to any change, while the Freshmen and Sophomores generally advocated going back to the old system.

The following are quotations of some of the students questioned:

I am positively in favor of the present way. There is no merit in cramming over extensive material. Cramming isn't learning. Learning must be slow. Studying segments at a time is more beneficial.

I think, in the long run, the semester exam system would be better, because even though it may be a bit harder that final week, the student will see the semester as a whole. The student forgets all that he has learned in the last segment because he doesn't have to remember it. For some courses, of course, such as languages, he has to remember it all anyway.

I feel that the present system is

by far the lesser of the two evils. I don't think that cramming for one big test at the end of the semester aids the learning process at all. No knowledge is retained. The one grave flaw in the present system is that some professors give tests covering all the material of the entire semester. If they do this, the whole objective of the segmented system is ruined. If the school policy is to test on segments of the semester, then by all means the entire faculty should abide by this. Another thing that I don't like about this system is that too many tests are given on one day, but I would like that better than having two semester exams on the same day.

There you have it! That's what the people think. Your writer sees good and bad points on both sides and he can't make up his mind. Therefore, he will not comment on this issue. If anyone else would like to comment on this issue, please do so in the form of a letter to the editor.

Thanx and a tip of the hat to all who made this presentation possible.

WEATHER STATION

The Dordt College Physics Department is in the process of receiving a gift of meteorology equipment. The donor is Peter Breukleman, a teacher at the Lebanon Christian School, who purchased and operated his own weather station.

The donation includes equipment needed to measure and record weather conditions in Sioux Center, and facsimile equipment. Facsimile equipment reproduces weather maps as they are broadcast by short-wave radio from those made in the Weather Bureau in Washington, D.C. This would enable Dordt's weather station to give local and national weather information.

For those who may be interested in meteorology, about twenty-five volumes on the subject have been ordered and will soon be added to the college library. —dj

RENEWAL OF GRANT

The Atomic Energy Commission has extended its grant to Dr. Maatman. The extension covers a period of one year and an amount of ten thousand dollars. Dr. Maatman has done research with the support of the Atomic Energy Commission for the past two years. —dj

A News Release From The Democratic National Committee Publicity Division

February 2, 1966—

Democratic National Chairman John M. Bailey issued the following statement today on the meeting of the Republican National Committee:

"We Democrats welcome the Republican Party's belated recognition that this is now largely an urban nation—but we do not believe that a political party can help meet this country's pressing urban problems by trying to tinker with its image through an ambitious public relations program.

"The Republican leaders talked at length of attracting the 'city vote'—and they also passed a resolution praising the Republican Congressional leadership that has stubbornly fought every Democratic program to attack blight, congestion, joblessness, inequality and deficiencies in education and medical care.

"This contradiction was typical of the Republican deliberations.

"They talked of getting good candidates, but a 24-page report by their Chairman devoted only 10 lines to the subject.

"They deplored dependence on large political contributions, but their Treasurer said he will expand the effort to bring in big donations.

"They talked of the problem of Vietnam, but seemed more concerned with public opinion polls on the war than with the war itself.

"I think the Republicans will discover in the end that public relations is no substitute for a positive program. Then their leaders may start to catch up with the American people instead of always straggling along in the rear guard."

NEW PRAYER GROUPS TO BE FORMED

During the first semester the formation of prayer groups on campus was a new aspect of student spiritual life. Students meet once a week to pray for school, church, and civic needs and to express adoration and gratitude to God. The groups are tentatively planning to sponsor a spiritual retreat to be held this spring.

Presently the members are attempting to form two new prayer groups to meet at 11:30 on Wednesday and 8:30 on Thursday. Anyone interested in meeting at these times should contact Stan De Vries. For other meeting times and places see the schedule posted on the bulletin board. —S.D.V.

BLY ME! IT'S PYGMALION!

The crucial preliminaries of try-outs and casting are over, and George Bernard Shaw's *Pygmalion* steps up as the next Thalian adventure. Heading a cast of fifteen are Lynda Cooney as Eliza Doolittle and Dave Bloemendaal as Henry Higgins. Others on the cast are Garneth Hengeveld, Lorna Van Gilst, Judy Wykstra, Jeri Brower, Evie Dykstra, Joyce Van Leeuwen, John Schuurman, Duane Nieusma, Stu Williams, Bill Ludwig, Jim Vanden Bosch, Ken Verbrugge and John Strikwerda. Alan Huisman is student director.

In contrast to the despair and tragedy of *Macbeth*, *Pygmalion* is comic, its characters refreshing, and its after-effects much less gloomy. For a review of the play see *Touchstone* in this issue. The Thaliens again anticipate not only concentrated work, (rehearsals having already begun) but also the pleasure of delving into and interpreting an undisputed work of art.

On January 29 several Thaliens and Mr. Koldenhoven attended an Invitational Interpretation Festival at Northwestern College. David W. Thompson, Professor of Oral Interpretation at the University of Minnesota critiqued each presentation and was seemingly very impressed with the performances of Dordt students. Other colleges represented were Iowa State University, Concordia College, Morningside College, and Northwestern. After each performance the audience participated in a discussion of the presentation and examined such common problems as the place of the narrator in the reading of fiction. The Thaliens feel that, although enjoyable, the festival was primary valuable for further work in oral interpretation. After an evening banquet the Thaliens attended a program by the Northwestern Choral Readers. —J.B.

PRE-SEM CLUB REPORT

The pre-seminarians of Westmar College in Le Mars invited the Dordt Pre-Sem Club to a banquet and lecture by Robert L. Short on February 3.

About 30 students represented Dordt at the banquet. Pre-seminarians from Buena Vista, Morningside, Northwestern, and, of course, Westmar College were also present. After the banquet Mr. Short, the author of *The Gospel According to Peanuts*, illustrated a reading of Ecclesiastes with a series of photographs from *The Family of Man*. In the discus-

IN BONDAGE

I know a man who grew up in a stuffy atmosphere of Victorian piety, and who rebelled at an early age. He is now 50 years old and still rebelling.

His old family home was cluttered; so his own home is starkly simple. His parents were fanatically devout; so he is fanatically irreligious. His relatives were dogmatically conservative; so he is dogmatically radical.

This man thinks himself a "free soul." He thinks he has burst the bonds of his enslavement to the past. But he is wrong—for he is over-reacting to the past, and is still chained to it by his hostility.

To do exactly the opposite is a form of bondage. The young man who rebels from Babbitry to Bohemianism because it is exactly the opposite of what his father tried to cram down his throat is allowing his decisions to be made by somebody else.

To be free, in the fullest sense, does not mean to reject what our fathers believed; it means to discriminate, to select, to take on the difficult task of separating our principles from our passions.

Each generation, in some measure, rebels against the last. It is normal and natural and healthy. But it is necessary to know that the aim of rebellion is peace within the soul, and not perpetual revolt.

—Sydney J. Harris, *Last Things First* (Houghton Mifflin)

sion period which followed, Mr. Short emphasized the use of art as a means of bringing the message of the church. Mr. Short felt that the traditional blunt approach of the church has hurt the spread of her message. Since art is subtler and more subjective, it provides an effective means of indirect communication. Instead of giving Christian answers, art asks Christian questions. The church cannot proffer assistance until man asks for help. Man does not need to confess his sins. He should be pointed to the God who has broken into humanity in order that our sickness might be overcome in Christ.

The students reported that they found the evening most interesting. A number appreciated Mr. Short's emphasis on the use of art as a means of communicating the Gospel. Many, however, expressed concern over the theology presented, especially the view of sin and the atonement.

WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY TOURNAMENT DAYS

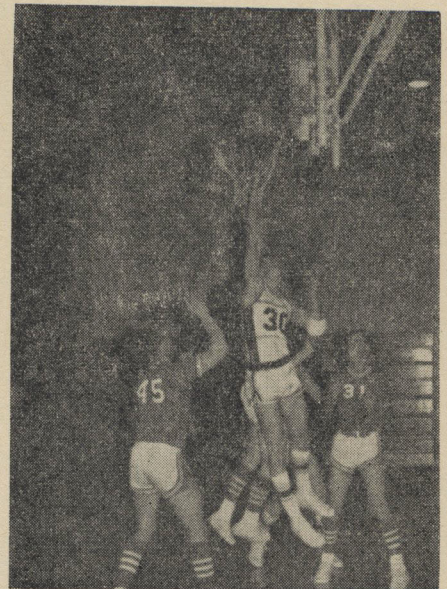
Tourney competition will swing into action, this Wednesday and Thursday. The four clubs jousting for court honors are Veltkamp's RING-A-DINGS, Echoff's BOUNCERS, and Vande Voort's SPARTANS, each completing season play with 9-2 records. The other squad making up the quality quartet is the THEOLOGIANs, under the guidance of junior, Eldon Dyk. According to locker room chatter, the Sophomore RING-A-DINGS are out to "draw blood." The jerseyed five suffered two late-season setbacks which plummeted them into a three-way tie for first place laurels.

As to the winner of the tournament, the writer foresees the SPARTANS as favorites for top honors. The other teams of the recently completed league finished the season as follows:

Spartans	9	2	.
Bouncers	9	2	.
Ring-A-Dings	9	2	.
Theologians	8	3	1
Wolverines	6	5	3
Pragmatists	5	6	4
Praetorians	5	6	4
Kamikazes	5	6	4
Blitzkriegs	4	7	5
Shrews	4	7	5
Reactions	3	8	6
Les Bon Hommes	0	11	9

We are hoping for many fans to help wind up the season.

—J.A.B.



Vermeer goes up for two!

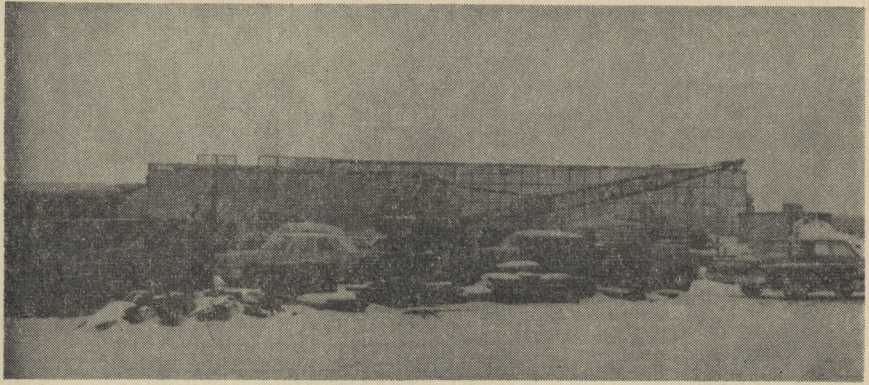
CUMULATIVE LIBRARY REPORT FOR THE FIRST SEMESTER

Since most large corporations across the country make annual semi-annual reports of their business gains and losses to their customers, it is appropriate that the library submit a report of their activities to the members of the Dordt campus body.

In the area of acquisitions and additions to the library holdings, 3800 volumes have been processed for circulation. Also, 1240 volumes are now in the library work room awaiting their final induction into the general collection. These two quantities have increased the total library holdings to 19,700 volumes. In addition to this approximately 300 volumes of periodicals and journals have been sent to the bindery which will raise the total to 20,000 volumes.

An interesting comparison can be made between the circulation figures of this past semester and the first semester of 1964-'65. The students checked out 5,946 pieces of material during the past semester compared with 4,863 pieces during the first semester of last year or an increase of 19.1 per cent. This is an average of approximately 11 volumes per student. The academically minded faculty checked out 683 pieces of material compared with 463 pieces last year. An astounding gain of 47 per cent can be gleaned from these figures in addition to an average of 21 volumes per faculty member. The total circulation was 6629 volumes or an over-all increase of 22.2 per cent. Thus, it can be seen that the library is moving toward the category of big even though the services of one of the staff members have been temporarily lost through natural causes.

To make a report such as this complete, the financial gains must also be cited. This is perhaps the most important part of any business report. If the success of an institution is based on its income, then the library has reached the ultimate heights of business progress. During the first semester of last year \$40 was collected while \$70 has already been gratefully received this semester. This is an increase of 75 per cent. All fines collected from the students are being placed in a fund designed for the purchase of necessary library equipment. —D.N.



Dordt Expands Living, Working Facilities

Work is progressing on the new girls dormitory in spite of alternating cold and wet weather conditions and other minor misfortunes.

As of now all the foundations are in and the basement is ready. Inside walls are being erected in the east wing and all the tunnel work is completed. A couple of weeks ago a dump truck filled with sand fell into the basement, but not much damage was caused by the accident.

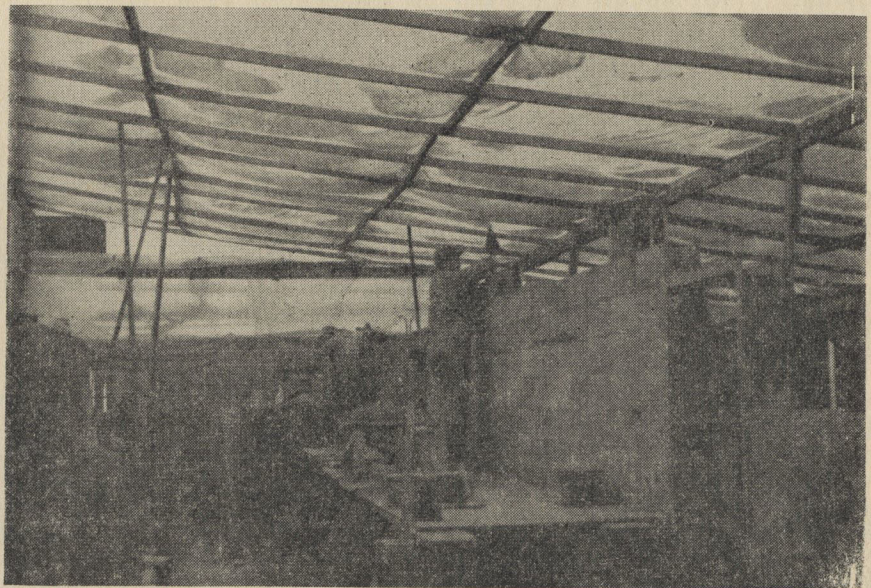
The dozen plus workmen expect to finish the first floor on the east wing this week and start on the opposite side immediately afterward. After the first story on the west side

is completed, the workmen will alternate back and forth between wings till the building stands three stories tall.

The dormitory which is expected to house 200 women students will be furnished with carpets throughout most of its interior. It is expected to be completed by the beginning of next school year. The other campus dorm will then be used for the men students.

This spring, planners foresee the probability of accepting bids for a new gymnasium to be built east of the dorms and a Science building to be located on the baseball diamond.

—D.V.



The Student Council Reports . . .
 . . . that a proposal favoring an exam week with comprehensive exams was drawn up and presented to the Faculty Academic Affairs Committee.

. . . that the bi-annual financial report was adopted.
 . . . that the film *The Cardinal* was sponsored Friday, Feb. 11.
 . . . that it sponsored a program by singer George Reese Friday, Feb. 4.

Editorial

The student representatives have recently submitted to the faculty a proposal that Dordt College return to the former method of semester testing, with slight alterations. The proposal is that there be three test periods in one day — one in the morning, one in the afternoon, and one in the evening.

Since word of this proposal has been out, we have heard several comments on the proposal itself and on the step taken by the student reps. This led us to take a hurried poll, the results of which appear in "Was Denken Sie," and to write this editorial.

As to the proposal, I must voice my dissent. I cannot see how comprehensive semester examinations are a benefit to a normal student's education. Students invariably postpone their studying for these exams until the last week. Whether they should or not is not the issue. We know they do and the situation will not change. Much material is accumulated and imbibed, but I do not believe it is retained for any length of time. It is meaningful to the student only as far as it concerns the improvement of his grade, which it usually does not. The material which the student does retain would undoubtedly have "stuck" anyway. I believe the test week is a waste of class time which would be much more valuable to the student.

But the cry is often heard that the present system allows for too many

tests in one day. However, this is not the fault of the system but of the faculty. Some of the faculty members still insist on giving comprehensive exams despite the theory of the segmented semester. But that does not indicate that the system should be changed. Rather, the faculty should be persuaded to limit their tests to the final segment. I believe the status quo is best and I believe the majority of the student body would agree with me.

I have also heard comments that the student reps. should not have submitted this proposal without the consent of the student body. This, however, I cannot agree with. When we elected our representatives, we entrusted to them the right to make decisions such as these. If you aren't happy with the way they are handling things, appear before them and state your case. They would very much enjoy hearing opinions from the student body. However, when they don't know how you feel, they have to use their own discretion and their own opinions as members of the student body. If you aren't satisfied, the elections are held every year. Possibly you should try to get your name on the ballot.

If you think your opinion of the testing system has not been heard, the "Letters to the Editor" column is always open. The student council and the editor will be happy to hear from you.

—Tj

Letters To The Editor . . .

I would like to make a few comments about your editorial in the January 27 issue of the *Diamond*.

Curfew regulations are only some of the many rules required to operate an institution such as Dordt, and as such are only part of the complex laws which ought to govern our behaviour. Dordt has some responsibility for properly guiding our behaviour patterns and has as much right to control our curfew as does the State in controlling vehicle speed, without being open to the charge of mistrust. Government by laws is necessary for any orderly society and is especially common for Christians. Dordt has entrusted to its students the right to freely choose to obey or disobey its regulations.

I believe Dordt's administration has respect for most of its students, but is also aware that perfection

is not found in this life. I know most students would realize their Christian limits and are aware of the proper values of moderation; however, some do not. Chapel attendance is not enforced (as yet) and what happens?

You say, "Then we all suffer for the wrongs which some commit!" This is true and not justified in this life, but let us remember that Peter enjoins us to suffer humbly under authority, especially if we think it unjust. (I Peter 2:11-25). And we really do not suffer much under our curfew rules for they are quite reasonable and adaptable to special circumstances. Curfew rules are much more designed as a guide for our behaviour; not as a "silly restriction" for want of trust.

Suffering reasonably,

Bert Polman

* * *

FIRST THEY STEAL
OUR MARCHES,
THEN OUR BEARDS!
WHAT NEXT!



REPLY

Dear Mr. Polman,

I thank you for your comments. Since I wrote that editorial, I have been convinced that a reasonable curfew should be retained. However, I cannot believe that the curfew here at Dordt is reasonable for college age people. I see no reason why college students should not be allowed to stay out until 12:00 on weekdays and 12:30 on week ends. As it is now, a student from the dorm cannot study late with a friend in a private home, and there is hardly time after a ball game or some such event to eat lunch and spend some time alone with a "friend." This too, you realize, is part of your "education."

Sincerely,
Tj, editor

Begota:

Columbia will send coffee to Japan soon.