

Siouxland Novelist, Frederick Manfred, Is Guest Of Dordt Literary Club

One afternoon in January a husky stranger swung his nearly seven-foot frame into the Sioux Center News office. He had stopped in to clarify a misconstrued rumor, begun by a chance acquaintance, that he was the anonymous author of "Perkins Pete," a homey column run in the weekly *News*. The stranger identified himself then, as the native Siouxlandian, now professional author that he is, and he talked awhile with the *News* editor.

On Friday evening, December 1, this rugged individual again made his appearance in Sioux Center. Frederick Manfred casually met and conversed with the Literary Club at the home of instructor Peter De Boer. Additional guests at the meeting were President and Mrs. Haan, Dr. and Mrs. Garrett Rozeboom, and Manfred's wife Maryanna.

Getting the discussion off to a rolling start was chairman Huisken's question, "What is the basic theme underlying your works?" The author, in answering, discussed at length his desires to "say something special." He recalled a variety of experiences which served to broaden, heighten, and prompt the flow of his ideas. **The Golden Bowl** first began to congeal as a novel at a journalists' meet. Here Manfred related a story of South Dakota's dust bowl, and found his audience startlingly attentive. Within such regional settings, Manfred discovered, are universal themes.

When asked if his versatile experiences and occupations were "made," the author replied, "Hardly so." At the time, in fact, he had thought of his America-wide wanderings as a hindrance, a "waste of time." But he went on to term them valuable components of his life and consequently of his work as well.

Every instance of life, both experienced and observed, he has found immeasurably significant. He described the author's task in terms of the "grand necessity of capturing America realistically." Homer, said Manfred, saw this necessity of capturing his "America" and has passed down through the ages an indelible, sweeping print of Greece.

Mentioned as several of many obstacles in Manfred's writing career were his farm background (at which his city-boy school companions looked askance) and his Frisian descent (at which the Dutch of his community looked askance, even terming the Frisians "Dutch In-

DORDT



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Annual Christmas Party Caps Yuletide Activities



Frederick Manfred

dians"). In a private conversation Manfred discovered, however, a new and surprising concept of his Frisian descent. He saw it as a blessing rather than a bane—a blessing in its provision of linguistic and cultural insights.

Concerning his methods of naming the characters in his novels, Manfred was nothing short of revealing. Quite abruptly and freely he conceded, "I made a big mess of it." (Some names he has changed in revised editions of his novels.)

Manfred went on to define a good moral as one necessarily "incidental." A non-incidental moral, he said, inevitably leads to propaganda which defeats the author's original purpose. Manfred then told of his concerted efforts to avoid, among other purpose-defeating errors, such propagandizing and "sociological preaching." He spoke of letting himself "blunder along" then re-writing his manuscript, each time from scratch. **Lord Grizzly** he re-wrote six times before its publication in 1954.

Encouragement to potential authors lay in his emphasis on local

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Tonight, December 19, beginning at 7:30, the gymnasium-auditorium of Dordt College will be the scene of the annual Christmas Party. Each year the sophomore class representatives are charged with making all arrangements. The decorations, refreshments, and program committees have concluded their planning, and the report from the various committees is that "this year's party will be better than ever."

The program will include the following: group singing, scripture and prayer, a solo by Katie Haan, a double quartet, a reading by Peter De Boer instructor in English; a girls' sextet, the male chorus, and closing prayer.

The class representatives report that the party this year will be "more informal." The students will not be eating from tables, and the program will not be presented from the platform.

As usual, several of the College alumni will serve.

The committees are as follows: refreshments — Betty Beekhuizen, Linda Tebben, Thelma Statema, and Trina Stouwie; program — Gloria Meyer and Carol Krediet; Decorations — Vi Boorsma, Darlene Ahr- enholz, and Fred Groen.

Christmas Cheer

Dean Ribbens announces the following:

Christmas vacation will begin at 2:00 P.M. on Thursday, December 21. Classes will resume on Wednesday, January 3, at 7:45 A.M.

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--EDITORIAL--

ON CULTIVATING EXCELLENCE

It is possible for a small college like Dordt to be uniquely excellent. Dordt since 1955 has heralded itself as a "small, happy-family college." This rubric can suggest a closeness or familiarity which too easily overlooks shortcomings; it can imply a "family" situation where harmony must be achieved at all costs, often at the cost of criticism. This observer finds our familiarity breeding carelessness, a carelessness impeding our mutual quest for a unique excellence. To counteract this carelessness, our familiarity should breed constructive criticism. But lest the reader find himself lost in the woods of tritely conceived "constructive criticism," permit us to point out a few trees.

We potential leaders must cultivate the precise and lucid vocal expression befitting the educated Christian. The helpful provision and gracious acceptance of criticism can do much to cultivate such expression. But our careless speech is often ignored, sometimes not even recognized as being careless. It is time for an expression of criticism, one running the gamut from the solecistic and the illogical to the profane and the obscene.

Careless action also demands criticism. To be specific, if we must, why not criticize behavior in the lounge? Surely we should criticize the notion that disarranged furniture, overturned ash trays, and sprawled bodies are desirable and typical features of a collegiate atmosphere.

We must criticize our academic excellence whenever we see it stifling curiosity. We students seem to be striving fairly conscientiously for academic excellence, i.e., a knowledge of that material which is demanded by our course instructors. On the other hand, we seem to discredit curiosity, i.e., a knowledge of that which we aren't necessarily expected to know. A college tends to develop distinctive and persistent climates of opinion having marked effects upon its students. If in any college a climate of curiosity should and could be developed, it is in one of such a size and with such a Calvinistic tradition as Dordt. We students, then, in our close and frequent associations, should be critical of those climates which do not stimulate a generally enriching curiosity. We, in our Christian liberal arts college, should be critical of those climates which do not broaden our general background. Our discrimination must be at work to select those climates which effect the glory of the Absolute Excellence.

Dordt can lay no serious claim to a distinctive quality of excellence if we students make no concerted efforts for its cultivation. Criticism of our careless speech, action, and thought can well scratch the surface of our barely cultivated excellence. Scratching the surface will uncover successive layers of excellence. This uncovering may pleasantly surprise those of us who are willing to attempt to cultivate excellence.

B.B.

MANFRED — cont. from page 1

experiences finding universal acceptance and in his belief that an author can "mean more than he knows." Advice lay in his "Don't tense up." "Have a real impulse to want to write, a real reason to write down past experiences," and "Write when you have something special to say."

Manfred, better known to this community as Feike Feikema, lived his boyhood years on a farm near Doon, Iowa. He attended Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan, four years, and is remembered there as a great sports enthusiast and participant.

Eleven novels later finds Manfred, his wife and three children occupants of a new home on Blue Mound, near Luverne, Minnesota.

From his home, built on the site of an old quarry, Manfred can overlook parts of Minnesota, Iowa, and South Dakota—a significant pith of Siouxland, a concise picture of that which he has wordfully employed as several novel moulds.

Frederick Manfred's life is "Siouxland," the word he presumably coined for this area in *This is the Year*. He has been judged in many different tones by residents of his "Siouxland," yet he remains bound to her.

Others of his works include the following: *The Golden Bowl*, which won him a thousand-dollar grant-in-aid from the American Academy of Arts and Letters; *Boy Almighty*; *The Chokecherry Tree*; *World's Wanderer*, a trilogy consisting of *The Primitive*, *The Brother*, and *The Giant*; *Lord Grizzly*; *Morning Red*; *Riders of Judgment*; and, more recently *Conquering Horse*. All have a Siouxland setting.

And this big man, big of mind and bulk, hasn't led a settled, undiversified life. His career has been bumpy but acquiring. In his repertoire of occupations are listed experiences as a harvest hand, a farmer's helper, a factory worker, filling station operator, weekly magazine editor, reporter for a metropolitan daily, medical magazine editor, and public opinion pollster. His phases of temporary employment are seen in his wanderings across America from New York to Los Angeles.

At present the author is doing research aimed toward further writing.

CN and BB

Science Club Organizes

An organizational meeting of the Dordt Science Club was held Tuesday, December 12. The following officers were elected: Howard Menninga, president; Gerald De Waard, vice-president, and Arlene Vander Berg, secretary-treasurer. Marvin De Young, instructor in chemistry, is sponsor of the new club. The name of the club is Delta Sigma Kappa.

The club intends to go on tours, show films, and sponsor special science projects.

DIAGNOSIS

Cindy Nibbelink

PROFUNDITY OF THE COLLEGIATE INTELLECTUAL

By way of introduction it should be made quite plain to the reader's realization that the total embodiment of the college atmosphere greets the incognizant freshman with an air of uninhibited dignity. Immediately his faculties are introduced to the elevated astucious level of this higher body of learning. But he does not quiescently resolve to his eminent position without the originality and imaginative motivation of youth! He attacks all activity, primarily the academic, with the buoyancy and vitality initiated by invitational subjective desires.

But first, in order not to detract from the continuity of the intellectual and philosophical line of thought perpetuated in this essay, the author endorses the right to refer his reader to explanatory footnotes, since prominent phraseology employed may be relatively unfamiliar to the reader.

Secondly, the author must clarify in any mind nascently situated in relation to the involved collegiate material here delineated the fact that all terminology, though recondite to the reader's knowledge, is perfectly legitimate, is quite necessary to the English language, is perfectly fitting, and, need I further explain, is really hep! Furthermore, the use of the footnote definition seems to me to be the only accurate, really cool² method of explanation, as that very means constitutes over half of the explanatory lessons found in some twenty (per individual) freshman textbooks purchased.

The college student, in his perseverance for the metaphysical, finds that the man-like-a-real³ result is definitely the most terrific blast!⁴

The generally acute rationality of the college student in logical determination of language and word usage is the most real gone⁵ amazement, yesterday's college generation has the fortitude to dig-man-like-the-craziest.⁶

Quite naturally, since the conscientious and considerate college student alone has the full capacity for intrinsically understanding his original, fairly new mixture of logical language use, structure, and vocabulary, he does not expect the man-on-the-street to be, with him, an innovator of this creativity and sensual ability. But certainly any contemporary of his realizes the expediency of upholding this free thought and originality of purpose. For instance, any of all the generally intelligent students are firmly aware of the derogatory nil hep⁷ regard fastened to the label of a spoiled chick⁸ from Doomsville.⁹ And of course, any pad¹⁰ is consistently aware that failure of one of its members to capitalize upon the essence of knowledge must suffer from a mental block acquired in Squaresville.¹¹ Like get with it, Man!¹²

Most assuredly, the college freshman has the rhythm and the beat. Perhaps the syncopated "beat" displays some vital youthful inner urgency or sub-conscious conception of the existentialist.

But whatever the technical nomenclature of this collegiate really-

gone life is, it certainly is like-cooler than the showers, which coincidentally, are mechanisms often meaning fully employed as resultant consequences to the basic, natural, and to some extent original, sensitive commitments of young men.

The primary and incredible significance, however, of this entire discourse is the absolutely devastating¹³ fact that absolutely nothing whatsoever included in this native originality of the students, while they are upholding the heights of college standards, is at all enigmatic or inexplicable in its relativity to college standards.

1Really hep — a very collegiate phrase used as a definite description of class e.g.: "Real class, man!") of an object, individual, etc., also may be more exactly referred to as denoting intelligence, brilliant quality, nobility, or fame of a person, object, wording, or state of being.

2Really cool — "real" or "really" (see also above) has in essence the same meaning as "very" and is primarily used for beat or emphasis. "Real" or "really" preceding another abstract or descriptive word as "cool" in this case, forms a compound and may therefore be used, colloquially, as such. "Cool" here, pertains not to temperature, but has much the same coined meaning as "hep," though not as descriptively active.

3Man-like-a-real — "man-like-a" is used as a pre-emphasis phrase; "man" has no definite significance but may possibly be employed to emphasize stimulus and strength in the general emphatic tone. "Like a" is a convenient rhythm pattern which leads to the "real result," the gist of statement. Although certain colloquialisms as these may seem somewhat absurd, it is well to remember that future lexicographers of America make consistent use of these prop-

erly emphatic tones.

4Terrific blast — "Terrific" is emphatically used in nearly every circumstance if its use is possible. "Blast" bears no reference to nuclear or atomic sound or explosion. It corresponds to a former, now somewhat obsolete term, "ball," which itself had no affinity in that sense with the round thrown object, but implies a grand, joyous, jocosose occasion or instance relevant, presumably, to the Cinderelle-type thing.

5Real gone — For "real" see above. "Gone" has not the connotation of the familiar past participle translation although its appearance is similar. "Gone" in this sense means phenomenally fabulous or incredible to the third degree.

6Dig-man-like-the-craziest — "Dig" here implies understanding or grasp of an essential matter rather than denoting its place in the principal parts of that transitive verb. "Man-like-the-real" has been previously explained, and again, is used merely as an emphatic departure from the normally archaic. "Craziest" holds much the same meaning in context as "Gone" but may be used more recklessly as descriptive of something more wildly significant.

7Nil hep — "hep" meaning high quality as we have seen; "nil hep," therefore, means "completely lacking quality or class"—an intelligent and purposeful departure again from the archaic, the archaic being that which all college students purposefully avoid.

8Spoiled chick — might denote any female of disreputable character resulting from perhaps her own actions or disregarded responsibilities. Again, a more contemporary description than the archaic, "woman of base lewdness."

9Doomsville — The inevitable situation or classification of a sort of disowned member of fastidious society. A very comprehensive term immediately conveying a message of forlorn, forsaken, inevitable shame, disregard by others—and any other implications the intelligent mind can read into it.

10Pad — Simply, a relatively significant, already over used title, perhaps, though at least a departure from the canned obsolete term, "male boarding" or "rooming house."

11Squaresville — denotes the congregation or classification of "deep" characters having the insatiable desire not to understand, or perhaps failure to "dig," the accepted standards

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HUISKEN KENS SPORTS

Emmetsburg

Dordt's second basketball game and first home game was played against Emmetsburg on December 4. Starting the game for Dordt were Altena, Modderman, Vermeer, Schelhaas, and Groen.

Viewing the first half, one would conclude that Dordt was to turn in a typical Dordt game. Bad passes, cold shooting, few rebounds, in general sloppy playing resulted in a lead by the opposition at half-time.

Stoked, however, by Coach Blankespoor between halves, the Dordt Defenders returned to the game a new team. But they lacked the final punch. Emmetsburg was the victor by a 67-62 score.

Again the game was decided at the free-throw line. Dordt was able to connect on only 14 of 28 free throws while Emmetsburg hit 15 of 19.

High man for Dordt was Jerry Vermeer with 20 points. He was followed by Altena with 16, Modderman and Plasier with 7 each, Groen and Cole with 6 each. Norvall led Emmetsburg with 17 points and was followed by Easton and Larson with 13 each.

Estherville

The Dordt team traveled to Estherville, Iowa, on Thursday, December 7, to absorb their third straight loss. Coach Blankespoor, starting with Altena, Groen, Plasier, Vermeer and Cole, was not able to make the starting switch work. Dordt found themselves on the losing end by a sizeable 82-61 score.

Ralph Roos made his debut in this game and contributed 11 points. Redeker, Faber, Modderman, and Schelhas played substitute roles.

High scorer for Dordt was again Vermeer with 13 points. Altena and Plasier with 12 and Roos with 11 points were the other Dordt players to hit the double-figure scoring column.

Worthington

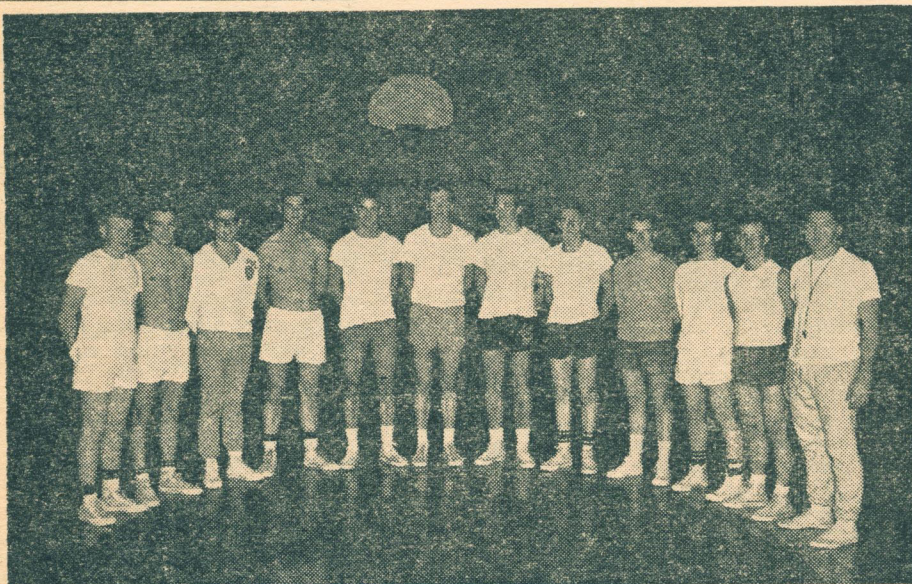
On Monday, December 11, Dordt traveled to Worthington, Minnesota. This game was transmitted to Dordt students by DSRS, the Dordt radio station, from the KWOA-FM station in Worthington, thus allowing many to cheer in their rooms while supposedly studying. Would that the cheers had reached the ears of the players in Worthington for Dordt was again soundly beaten by a 93-78 score.

Those who tuned in DSRS will remember the thrilling first half. Dordt, leading by 5 points with a few minutes remaining in the half, was unable to hold this lead and the half ended in a tied ball game, 37-37.

Worthington, however, settled down to controlled ball and eventually pulled away from the Dordt team and went on to cop an easy second half victory. Neither team played excellent ball.

Jerry Vermeer turned in a spectacular 20-point first half but was unable to keep the pace and finished with 28 points, the high for the evening. Altena turned in 15 points and Plasier 10 to account for the greater part of Dordt's score. High men for Worthington were W. Heinrichs with 25 points and Rowe with 20.

The only bright spot of the evening was when Dordt won a 20-minute preliminary game by a 34-24 score.



From left to right: John Vuerinck, Dave Schelhaas, Howard Cole, Sam Modderman, Fred Groen, Ralph Roos, Lee Plasier, Jerry Vermeer, Larry Redeker, Howard Faber, Stan Veltkamp, and Coach Harvey Blankespoor.

'61-'62 Cheerleaders Chosen

Members of the Student Activity Committee, the Student Representatives, and the faculty advisors elected Maxine Scholten, Pat Kobes, Kathleen Tinklenburg, and Martina Veldhuizen cheerleaders for the 1961-1962 basketball season.

Max is a sophomore from Edgerton, Minnesota. She was a cheerleader for one year at Southwestern Christian High School and served as a Dordt cheerleader last season. Pat, another sophomore, is from Sioux City, Iowa, where she graduated from East High School. This is her first experience as a cheerleader. Marti, also a "first time" cheerleader, is a freshman from Lynden, Washington. She is a graduate of Lynden Christian High School. Kathy, also a freshman, is from Edgerton, Minnesota. She had three years of cheerleading experience at Southwestern Christian High School.

Etter Narrates Audubon Film

"A Missouri Story", the next Audubon Screen Tour, will be presented on Thursday, January 5 in the Dordt College auditorium.

In this film Dr. Alfred Etter, a native Missourian, recorded life on a Missouri farm of bygone days. The color film seeks to portray the magic of a natural place and the activity of the wild creatures as they face their environment from day to day.

DIAGONAL — cont. from page 3

or set of variable relationships assumed by the average knowledgeable individual.

12 Like-get-with-it-man—"Like" here could perhaps be interpreted many ways; this author, however, assumes it to be merely a perfunctory starter for the phrase, "get-with-it-man," which essentially means, "cleanse your faculties of all vagueness and enjoy the enlightened spirit of things in this brilliant, almost scintillating world." This might be said to one who is on a slow departure either to "Doomsville" or "Squaresville"—see above.

13 Absolutely devastating — "Devastating" here means "overwhelming" rather than "destroying." Certainly, if the thought here relevant to this student-originality were considered devastating, or destroying, a severe misconception and untruth would result in the reader's mind.