
Pro Rege

Volume 11 | Number 2

Article 1

December 1982

Editorial

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Recommended Citation

Zinkand, John (1982) "Editorial," *Pro Rege*: Vol. 11: No. 2, 1.

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Editorial

Dordt College belongs to an endangered species: the private, Christian, liberal arts college. During the 1960's several small colleges in the Mid-West closed their doors, never to re-open. What grounds do the supporters of this college have for thinking that Dordt will escape that fate?

In his Inaugural address President John B. Hulst ponders the place for Dordt College. What is the *raison d'être* for this institution? Should the government and other academies permit Dordt to compete in the educational marketplace?

Hulst allays our fears in the leading article of this issue:

The realization of our purpose and the maintenance of a distinct place for Dordt College will require that we, with Spirit-wrought energy, unitedly pursue our academic calling taking heed to the Word of God, acknowledging His law to which every aspect of creation is subject, and bowing before the Kingship of Christ in all our scientific work. Only if we are willing to do this may we expect to recognize our place and the constituents to support us in our place.

In the second article John Van Dyk probes the nature of communal scholarship. Perhaps "communal scholarship" is not a phrase with which all our readers are familiar, but at Dordt College it is a "household term." Like many terms that are frequently used by a particular group it has become, for some, mere jargon. Van Dyk seeks to rescue this noble term from being consigned to the verbal junk pile. Philosopher Van Dyk suggests that different people understand "communal scholarship" differently. By pouring in one's own meaning, each scholar might feel content to live according to that connotation of communal scholarship. And that could vitiate what is really meant by *communal!*

Completing the triad of articles is a consideration of the Christian's attitude toward the arts. Lambert Zuidervaart, Dordt alumnus and currently professor at The King's College, presents the first of two articles based on lectures he presented in May 1982 at a seminar sponsored by Dordt's Fine Arts Division. (See the "Incidentally" report by Mike Stair.) We welcome a former Dordt student to our pages and look forward to the sequel, to be published in the March 1983 *Pro Rege*.

John M. Zinkand