
Pro Rege

Volume 11 | Number 2

Article 9

December 1982

Arts Seminar

Mike Stair
Dordt College

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcollections.dordt.edu/pro_rege



Part of the [Christianity Commons](#), and the [Higher Education Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Stair, Mike (1982) "Arts Seminar," *Pro Rege*: Vol. 11: No. 2, 31 - 32.

Available at: https://digitalcollections.dordt.edu/pro_rege/vol11/iss2/9

This Incidentally is brought to you for free and open access by the University Publications at Dordt Digital Collections. It has been accepted for inclusion in Pro Rege by an authorized administrator of Dordt Digital Collections. For more information, please contact ingrid.mulder@dordt.edu.

"Brotherhood, Evangelism, and Palestine: The Jew in the American Protestant Press, 1933-1941." Nawyn examined eleven Protestant journals, representing a cross-section of denominations and theological positions, on the three stated issues.

While both liberal and conservative papers called for improved relations with Jews, the former seemed much more interested in such things as interrelations and brotherhood, while the latter much more frequently evinced interest in the Jews as objects of evangelism, an issue on which liberal journals were nearly silent. All were interested in the Zionist movement. Fun-

damentalists looked on it as the fulfillment of Biblical prophecy; the liberal press was more likely to remind readers of Arab rights and frequently attacked Zionism as a "pathetic and futile" expression of British imperialism.

Nawyn challenged the Christian community to re-think its attitudes toward Jews on all fronts, especially in the light of the existence of the state of Israel and its crucial position in the Middle East. Here, too, he suggested, there is much for Christians to do to promote justice for all.

Arnold Koekkoek

Arts Seminar

The arts faculty of Dordt College—Art, Music, Theatre Arts, and English Departments—held a two-week seminar in May. The invited resource person was Dr. Lambert Zuidervaart of King's College, Edmonton, Alberta. The mandate of the seminar was to "discover and implement the implications of the Statement of Purpose for the arts at Dordt College." The document which served to focus the work of the seminar was Dordt's *The Educational Task of Dordt College*.

Zuidervaart opened the seminar with a lecture entitled, "Soundings: Toward a Sound Understanding of the Arts." This lecture asked what minimum common understandings are necessary to discuss the nature of art. A follow-up lecture entitled "Sightings: Art, Insight, and Human Interest" dealt with the study of art and the contribution such a study makes towards "serviceable insight." "Serviceable insight" is a key phrase in Dordt's purpose statement concerning its educational task.

Zuidervaart provided two additional lectures which continued the title format of the first two: "Grounding: Academic Discipline and Artistic Discipline," and "Regarding the Arts: What is the College's Responsibility to Its Support Constituency?" These lectures

dealt with relationships, respectively: the relationship of the arts to other academic disciplines, and the relationship of art production at Dordt to its public constituents.

Each of the lectures was followed by a panel response which prompted questions and a good deal of discussion. The lectures and panel discussions were recorded and will be available on cassette tapes.

During the second week the departments involved in the seminar met separately to develop answers to prepared questions. The central question was this: "Using the philosophies of art, as defined in Zuidervaart's third lecture, what kinds of insights do the study of Art, Music, English, and Theatre Arts provide?" Each department was to demonstrate how the insights pertinent to its department were to be implemented or were already implemented. After two days of separate meetings, the departments reconvened in seminar to report on their work.

Besides exercises in group dynamics, conducted by Dr. Ken Bussema of the Psychology Department, the seminar exercised exploratory inquiries into interdepartmental relationships. The latter was directed by Dr. John Van Dyk of the

Philosophy Department and member of the Study Center. Van Dyk presented a lecture which attempted to answer an earlier question raised: "What kinds of relationships can the Arts Division and the English Department foster with the other academic disciplines?" This lecture, as well as the work of the entire seminar, reflected a cherished (but often neglected) aspect of academics at Dordt College: communal scholarship.

On the final day, then president-elect, Dr. John B. Hulst presented a lecture on the relationships that the arts can have with college supporters. The idea of the seminar was initiated by Hulst earlier in the year as the first in a series of six such seminars, one for each division. The Natural Sciences Division will hold a similar seminar in May

1983.

A number of resolutions were adopted by members of the seminar. Several resolutions affirm the importance of interaction between and among departments, and the importance to artists on campus to examine critically and to support each other in their work. Other resolutions seek to extend the work of the artists to their supporting public and to solicit the public's support in a mutual acknowledgement of the place of the arts in the human, Christian context.

This reporter found the seminar a very stimulating, exhausting, helpful experience directly applicable to his work in the arts and in arts education.

Mike Stair

Presidential Inaugural

On October 23, 1982, Dr. John B. Hulst was invested as the second president of Dordt College. His predecessor, now emeritus, was The Reverend Bernard J. Haan, who was instrumental in the founding of Dordt College in 1955.

Dr. Hulst came to the presidency by way of Instructor in Biblical Theology, Dean of Students, Vice-President of Student Affairs, and, most recently, as Director of the Studies Institute at Dordt College. Earlier, while pastor of local congregations, Hulst had also served as chairman of the Board of Trustees of Dordt College. Except for three years, 1965-1968, Hulst has been a resident of Sioux County since 1954 when he became pastor of the Ireton Christian Reformed Church. Dr. Hulst also came to the presidency by way of a lengthy presidential search process conducted during the past year and a half. His duties as president began in June of this year.

The Inaugural Ceremony included a procession of the Dordt faculty and administration, the Dordt Student Forum, the Board of Trustees, a contingency of

representatives from learned societies and educational associations, delegates of churches and related organizations, representatives of thirty-five colleges and universities, and representatives of government. Greetings were given by various spokespersons. Gregg Vande Kieft, speaking for the student body, cited Hulst's willingness to give the forum direction and asked that President Hulst continue to demonstrate his keen interest in the life of the student body. Mr. John Kooiman, an alumnus of 1970 and now guidance counselor at Unity Christian High School, praised Rev. Haan for his leadership in Christian education and invested Hulst with a similar dedication. The Vice-President of Academic Affairs, Dr. Douglas Ribbens, sounded the note of progression, that the new president did not mean a change in direction or the beginning of a new era, but a progressive extension of Dordt's stated purpose. Rev. Edward J. Knott invested Hulst with the responsibility of being "a bridge between the church and school." And speaking last, Dr. Friedhelm Radandt of Northwestern