Attempts Made To Keep Housing Low For Upcoming Year

by Phil Grotenhuis

The issue of Dordt housing is a simple one of supply and demand. This year, Dordt has over 100 beds vacant in its housing facilities. In order to fill those beds by next year, the Dordt housing committee has cut off-campus housing by about two-thirds.

Director of Resident Life, John De Jager attributes the new housing policy to a decline in Dordt's enrollment. "Dordt College is the one who has to pay for those rooms which are vacant during the year, especially in terms of energy costs," explains De Jager. "It's not that we don't want students living off campus; it's just that there is no other alternative."

De Jager adds that next year's housing policy will eventually profit each individual student. "We're attempting to keep housing costs as low as possible for the entire student body," says De Jager. "Without doing so, housing costs will be bound to rise."

He also notes that the problem is not unique to Dordt. "Northwestern College in Orange City had this problem a few years ago and pulled a lot of people from off-campus housing."

Only 27 students will live off campus next year, says De Jager. "Our first priority then is to accommodate seniors for whatever housing they want, including East Campus housing," says De Jager. "They will have first choice."

According to De Jager, some major differences will be seen concerning the residence hall situation. West Hall will consist primarily of upperclasspersons next year.

Visitation policy will be more relaxed, with visitation hours 4-11 pm Sunday through Thursday, and 4 pm to midnight Friday and Saturday. And juniors and seniors will be exempt from curfew policy.

West Hall residents will also be permitted to have a refrigerator unit in their room. This unit can be rented from Campus Equipment for $67 for the school year.

"We've made these changes," says De Jager, "to help lessen the change from East and off-campus housing to residence hall living."

The housing change isn't an easy one for Dordt, but for De Jager there is no other option. Sorry to say, there is no PIK housing program to bail out Dordt or any other college. Again, it's a problem of supply and demand. The way Dordt is dealing with the problem is, as De Jager says, "good stewardship on the part of Dordt's housing committee."

Faculty Divisions Reformed

by Wayne A. Kroon

There are many changes taking place this coming school year which involve the faculty of Dordt, one of which is a new faculty structure system. Starting in the fall of 1986 a new divisional core will be initiated.

The reorganization of faculty divisions is a permanent replacement of the present structure and will remain so until further notice. What it entails is a "honing down" of the faculty divisions from the present six divisions into a three division structure system. Instead of six divisions—Arts, Natural Sciences, Social Sciences, Language/Literature, Education, Perspectives—now only three will prevail—Humanities, Social Sciences, Natural Sciences.

In the past, an elected chairperson was in charge of a division on a quarter-time basis. This meant that one professor was to teach three courses and also to head his/her division. Also as was stated previously, each chairperson was elected.

Under the new divisional structure, containing only three divisions, the heads of the respective divisions were appointed, not elected, and are referred to as deans of their divisions, not chairpersons. These deans include Dr. Koldenhoven with the Humanities division, Dr. McCarthy with the Social Sciences division, and Dr. W. Alberda with the Natural Sciences division. These deans will teach only two courses in the coming years but will also be working on a half-time basis in their respective divisions which is contrasted to the quarter-time basis as before.

The whole idea of this new divisional concept came...
Editorial

Cultivating And Defending

by Wayne Spronk

In the Dordt Student Handbook and the occasional mail blasts of mid-summer, Dordt students are addressed as Defenders. It is invigorating, when you have been greasing the cultivator, hay mower and rake all morning, to come into the house at noon and open a letter which begins "Dear Defender." At other times, I think being called "defenders," even if no one really takes the nickname seriously, is misleading.

We are maintainers and supporters of our faith, our community and our school, but should we be more than that? "Defending" conveys an image of standing behind a barricade ready for an attack. There are many times when we need to seek refuge in our fortress as the psalmist did, but ignorance and arrogance increase when we don't let down the drawbridge and go beyond our own moats.

Dordt, for example, or the Christian Reformed denomination, is only a small part of creation, a part in which it is easy to hide. It's not humbling a name change to Crusaders or Dordt Inquisitors, or that northwest Iowa is necessarily a bad place for a distinctly reforming college. Too much offense is done in the name of Christ, and everyday renewing is as uniquely needed here as elsewhere; but "defending" does not mean "keeping what we have" while a sizable part of the world (ourselves, quite often) continues under hellish influence.

One World

Recently, there has been a flurry of plaung events world-wide. Military action in Libya, possible Iowa National Guard involvement (Iowa?) in Honduras (Nicaragua), continued turmoil in the Philippines, Haiti, South Africa, Angola, and Lebanon, as well the Mexican airline crash and Rome's air terrorism—all these events affect people who believe in an answer to our world's problems, an answer beyond denominational, individual or national elitism.

The richness of this world to a large extent is directly related to its diversity of climates, geography, plants, animals, and the creative spirit of men and women and their various ways of living. The result of monoculture is described in Genesis 11 as pride in man and their various ways of living. The result of the psalmist did, but ignorance and arrogance increase when we don't let down the drawbridge and go beyond our own moats.

Dordt, for example, or the Christian Reformed denomination, is only a small part of creation, a part in which it is easy to hide. It's not humbling a name change to Crusaders or Dordt Inquisitors, or that northwest Iowa is necessarily a bad place for a distinctly reforming college. Too much offense is done in the name of Christ, and everyday renewing is as uniquely needed here as elsewhere; but "defending" does not mean "keeping what we have" while a sizable part of the world (ourselves, quite often) continues under hellish influence.

To Maturity

Occasionally, Christians castigate other believers for slowness in that proper direction: practicing careful farming methods, deciding about "women in office," influencing the business world, eating and drinking for their Holy Spirit-inhabited bodies, or being humanly faithful sexual beings. Groaning for accomplishment is often appropriate, but we who must love our enemies should especially not trample on fellow-strugglers.

Christians are called to be peacemakers, not peacekeepers. Peaceful cultivating is needed everywhere. We serve as planters and waterers, and we need to be aware of our varied terrain; else we will become stuck in the first change of ground or inject nitrogen where prash should be spread.

Bringing fruition to agriculture, sports, language and science requires the season of maturation; individually and as a cultural progression. By trusting that the only worthwhile kingdom is rooted and maturing in the unfathomable richness of Father. Son and Holy Spirit, we can grow and not grow weary.
Taking Another Look: Education Stays In Spotlight

by Galen Sinkey

Historically, teacher education had been a predominant focus of Dordt College. In fact, Dordt was started as a result of a World War II shortage of teachers for the area's Christian schools. As the college has grown larger, the Education Department has remained in the spotlight.

In the mid-1980's the nation is again suffering from a growing need for Christian teachers. Education professor, Mr. Gene Westra comments, "There is a critical shortage of elementary teachers right now, due to the baby boom of the late seventies and early eighties. High school teachers will soon be in demand as well, as these children start to move up into the higher grades."

Dordt students seeking to meet the challenge will find a rigorous and up to date curriculum in the Education Department. According to Professor Westra, students need to prepare for entrance into the Teacher Education Program. "Students must know how to be distinctly Christian in the classroom. Students need to read and reread the recommended vision books. Those who have polished off these vision books as freshmen will be well on their way to a successful career."

Dr. Marian Vander Ark, Chairman of the Education Department, says, "Students going into teaching must be able to feel and articulate a Christian perspective in their work. As Reformed Christians, we believe that all of life is under God. We must remember this as we choose our avenues of service."

Dr. Vander Ark also recommends several ways students can prepare for an education curriculum. Students should place high importance on their general requirements. They should also become involved in the school, taking advantage of the extra-curricular activities offered. Finally, students should use their access to the department to ask questions when they need to. According to Professor Westra, the Education Department is one of the strengths of the college. "This is a very unified department. We support each other and care about each other. There is a unity that makes volunteering both easier and a lot of fun."

Julie Van Gemert

Julie Van Gemert, a sophomore from Parchment, Michigan, knew from a young age that she would challenge her in different ways than most students.

Julie says, "A lot of students look at me like I am some kind of a weirdo because of the way I dress. Although Julie chooses to wear clothes more formal than that which the average student would wear, she contends that it is more of her choice, than the will of the church, how she dresses.

"I was asked if I felt pressure from her friends over her different beliefs," Julie said, "with the exception of different traditions the N.R.C. is not that radically different from the C.O.C., so I don't feel that much pressure." Julie did say that when it came down to her friends attending movies and dances, she would usually stay home and "catch up on her studies."

If there was anything that Julie had to get used to at Dordt, it was the stereotype of her peers had of the N.R.C. "People tend to think that in being in the Netherlands Reformed Church means walking around feeling miserable and anti-social."

She adds, "If that were the case, I would be in trouble because anybody who knows me knows that I like to talk."

"Talking is not the only thing Julie likes to do; Julie spends much of her time working for the Volunteer Club coordinators. "I really enjoy working with people," Julie says. Eva Hansum, co-director of the Volunteer Club, feels Julie is one of the best coordinators she has ever had. Says Hansum, "Julie is an extremely hard worker with a likeable personality that makes volunteering both easier and a lot of fun."

Julie intends to graduate from Dordt, majoring in elementary education. She plans on teaching for a while before possibly pursuing mission work. Says Julie, "All my life I have thought about working in the mission field or some related job that would bring the Word of God to others."

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Zambian Christians Remain Culturally Distinct

by Phil Grotenhuis

It appears the United States is maintaining a steady love/hate relationship with the rest of the world. Officials of most countries are welcoming U.S. technology while simultaneously rejecting American culture.

The African country of Zambia is no different. Dr. Ackson H. Kanduza, Instructor of African History at the University of Zambia, spoke at Dordt April 3 and 4 on the topics of African Nationalism and Christian Discipleship.

Says Dr. Kanduza, "We need American scholars in education, medicine, business, and theology. But most of all we need strong leaders who can work within the Christian community."

However, Dr. Kanduza is quick to point out, "We ask that Americans try not to force their culture on ours."

It was only 22 years ago that Zambia gained independence from British rule. Zambian palates still suffer from the bitter aftertaste of British colonialism, and western culture as a whole. According to Kanduza, most Zambians still associate Christianity with the negative effects of colonialism. "Christian" Zambians are seeking to separate Christianity's relation to colonialism and are now asking, 'How can we apply Christianity to our own culture?"

Zambia first encountered the Reformed faith in 1896 with the establishment of the Dutch Reformed Church. With the independence from England in 1964, the Dutch Reformed Church changed to

Kanduza maintains that the Reformed Church of Zambia's goal is to remain true both to scripture and to its young people during the cultural "change of hands." Currently, 52 percent of Zambia's population are under 19. Reformed Church membership in Zambia exceeds 500,000.

Kanduza sees both a positive and a negative aspect to the age imbalance. "Christianity in general is becoming very popular among the young people, but, as in America, peer pressures are very great." Says Kanduza, "We must see the church as a whole, as a community. Zambian Christians must ask themselves, 'How can we all supply Christian community?'"

To build that community, Kanduza sees the West, particularly the U.S. and Canada, as instrumental in Zambia's goal for Reformed cultural implementation. "The Christian Reformed Church in Zambia must have strong leadership," says Kanduza. "Ninety-nine percent of all CR pastors in Zambia are natives and they need more education. We pray that the U.S. and Canada might supply qualified leaders and pastors to train our native leaders more proficiently in the faith."

According to Kanduza few Zambians can attend school due to the lack of government support. Kanduza says Zambia needs people such as Dordt students who could contribute to leadership development, esp- cially in the areas of education, medicine, agriculture and administration.

Kanduza concludes that now is the time for Christian leadership to spread both in the Reformed and secular arenas. As an instructor at the University of Zambia, Kanduza says he can incorporate his Reformed perspective at every level of his teaching. In America, it's a different matter.

"I can't understand how the U.S. can survive as a free and democratic society. The U.S. is built on individualism and freedom—and yet it is not free," says Kanduza. Religious beliefs cannot be incorporated into U.S., state-run classrooms. However, in Zambian culture freedom of expression takes on a whole new meaning much to the advantage of Reformed Christianity.
Noteboom Encourages Cross-cultural Experience

by Wayne Spronk

For most students, the idea of working outside Canada or the United States might seem impractical, if not impossible. Pete Noteboom, a 1984 Dordt graduate who went on to teach English in China, disagrees.

"I had one English course, an individual studies in English as a second language," says Pete, "and that was all. What they wanted was to learn how the language is spoken. They had textbooks, they knew grammar, but the only way to really learn a language is to speak it."

Sharing his experience and motivating others are the reasons he was back visiting Dordt last week. Pete believes "any chance that you have to get out of this culture--whether it means not getting a car, not getting married, or taking another year of school--when not taken, is an opportunity missed."

When he says "the more students that get off this campus, the better," he is not trying to close down the college. Rather, he says immersion in other cultures "forces you to reexamine your views--what's biblical or unbiblical about our own culture."

Working on foreign soil may not be for everyone, but Mr. Noteboom, who majored in business administration and philosophy when at Dordt, shows that you don't necessarily have to "specialize" to find a job. "One thing I appreciate," he says, "is that a Reformed worldview allows you to get deeper into life. The concept of reforming means a struggle. You'll have peace and comfort from the Spirit, but the road is not easy. I think that contrasts with a lot of evangelical teaching--that life is easy. The Spirit leads, but it also pushes."

Pete first taught English in a "town" of 300,000 at an Institute of Automotive Technology. After a little more than a year of that, he applied for and received a position at IBM China Corporation, working in administration in Beiging (formerly Peking).

Currently, Pete plans to go back and continue working at IBM for a while, eventually travel to Europe or Africa and also study either history, politics or international relations.

Although Western culture coexists in Beiging, Pete's first experience was distinctly Chinese. Approximately 80% of the population lives in an agricultural setting. "I learned from them," he states. "Their concept of spirit is so much deeper than ours...."

Asked about opportunities to witness for Christ, Pete responds that the only way is in living. "Some Western evangelists were handing out literature on a street corner in Beiging. They knew nothing about Chinese ways of life--they [the Chinese] just ignored them. We talk about community--they have it. You see guys walking down the street arm in arm. They think nothing of it. It takes a while to get used to.... The foreigners are the strange ones, but the Chinese are an accepting people. They make you feel at home."

University of Iowa graduate student (and Dordt grad) would like a roommate to share a two bedroom apartment for 1986-1987. Quiet, large apartment ½ block from campus (east side) and 15-20 minute walk to Law and Med School. Rent is $200 per month, utilities low. Call or write: Dan Zinkand, 425 E. Jefferson, No. 3, Iowa City, IA 52240. (319) 338-4574.
Vietnamese Seek Educational Challenge

by Alicia Nugteren

Many Vietnamese, fleeing their native country and coming to America, desire an education to better their lives. A recent newsletter from Rev. Nguyen Xuan Bao, pastor of the Orange County Vietnamese Christian Reformed Church in Garden Grove, California, states twenty-five students from that church attended Christian schools this year.

This number includes the nine students at Dordt, but Rev. Bao has even bigger numbers in mind for the future. According to Dr. Kornelius Boot, who is an advisor for the Vietnamese students here, Rev. Bao would like to send at least fifty more young people to school next fall.

A Vietnamese aptitude test has been helpful, Boot said, in determining their academic placement. Also, before they enroll, the prospective students must take the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). The score received on this test helps to indicate the amount of difficulty a student might have because of the language barrier. Classes in English as a Second Language (ESL) are usually necessary.

To help prepare the new students, special training will be offered to them this summer. Boot indicated that he and his wife plan to volunteer for three weeks in California, teaching ESL. Dr. Dallas Apol may also assist for a couple of weeks. The ESL classes will be coordinated with instruction in areas such as Bible and American history, given by Mr. Al Bandstra, a teacher from Pella, Iowa, Boot noted.

In his newsletter, Rev. Bao revealed the long-term goal of beginning a Christian university in Vietnam. Boot commented that although Americans may think this is not possible, we often "don't realize the power of prayer." Rev. Bao, he said, is "strong, enthusiastic," and possesses a "kingdom vision." These are characteristics which "give drive to students" in Boot's opinion, for they are the "future leaders and teachers of the university."

Boot believes that we have an "obligation to help and learn from" our Vietnamese students. In his own dealings with the Vietnamese at Dordt, he feels that he is "learning more than helping." His challenge to all students is that they begin to "communicate with other cultures."

Reorganization cont

According to Dr. Hulst, the main purpose in reorganizing the faculty divisions is "to be more effective in the performance of our academic task." He said there were two main areas of improvement that needed work: faculty development and faculty personnel management.

Through this new plan of divisions, the hopes are to help the faculty evaluate themselves and others, develop a correct course of action, and manage the faculty efficiently. The key factor is efficiency--it is hoped that efficiency will be the key to a better system of coordination.

But, what will this mean to students? In a nutshell, nothing major. From Dr. Hulst's view the change will mean nothing directly, however indirectly and over a period of time, the members of the faculty should be able to function more efficiently in their teaching roles. Mr. Bos feels the same way. He stated that the change, "won't have much effect on students" either visibly or invisibly.

So is the reorganization a good thing or not? According to Dr. Hulst and Abraham Bos, it is. This program has some "fine possibilities," says Bos. He states that the change seven years ago, similar in some respects to this new one, was an improvement and hopefully this will too. Dr. Hulst agrees. "This is a good move," says Hulst.

"The present structure is good but the new structure will be an improvement. By means of this structure, the result will be that we will be able to work together as a faculty more effectively. We can better perform our academic task."

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Dordt Choir Tours

by Jill Brue

The 1986 concert choir tour has left the choir members with warm memories and thankful hearts for many successful and meaningful performances. The choir toured the Pacific Northwest where they sang in churches in Washington, Oregon, British Columbia, and Montana. After spending a night in Idaho, the choir gave its first concert in Monroe, Washington. The next day they appeared in Mt. Vernon and Abbotsford, British Columbia, where they were met by an overwhelming crowd. Victoria in British Columbia, Seattle, Lynden, Salem, Sunnyvale, and Manhattan were the locations of the following concerts. Although the drives were often long and tedious, the performances made up for it. Each concert seemed to improve on the last. And except for two member fainting during the Lynden performance, the concerts went without mishap. Besides being enriched by giving successful concerts, the choir enjoyed the beautiful scenery of the Pacific Northwest: magnificent mountains, waterfalls, and lush green valleys and hills. Sightseeing trips included a ferry ride from mainland B.C. to Victoria on Vancouver Island. In Vancouver the choir enjoyed seeing the Parliament Building, Expo, and the Empress Hotel. In Seattle they enjoyed walking along the wharf, and seeing the Space Needle. The choir also became quite creative in entertaining themselves on the long bus rides. Members performed ridiculous radio broadcasts complete with farm reports, news, commercials and the exercises of "Richard Simmons." They also gave awards to those who made noteworthy slips—one poor member was recognized for her difficulty in distinguishing between Mt. Vernon and Mt. Rushmore. A week after returning, the choir performed its home concert in the Dordt Chapel to a large and appreciative audience.

Students Direct Upcoming Plays

News Release

Two student-directed plays will be performed at New World Theatre on April 18 and 19 at 8 p.m. The first is PURGATORY, by Bill Butler Yeats, directed by Jeffrey Alons. The second is ADVENT, an original script written and directed by Steven Wiersum. Alons has been working with the project PURGATORY for over a year now, and is eager to see how an audience will respond to the final results of this project. The set designer, Georgia Sjaardema, has played a vital role, as well, in the development of the production by creating a space which Alons feels has captured the essence of the play. Cast members include Brian Dykhuisen in the central role of the Old Man, Don Huizinga as the Boy, Karen Bruvoort as the Ghost of the Mother, and Paul Hamstra in his theatre debut as the Ghost of the Father. Yeats, best known as an Irish poet and playwright, was heavily influenced by mysticism and the Occult, Eastern religions and philosophy, Japanese Noh theatre, Irish politics, as well as the traditions and teachings of both Catholic and Protestant Christianity. His symbolistic style of theatre can be seen as a reaction against the positivism and empiricism of his time. Through symbol, Yeats wished to capture the spiritual dimension—a dimension which the secular positivist denied—in concrete objects, and through them to transform theatre into a deeply mystical, quasi-religious experience. An important theme for Yeats is the existence of sin and its effects on those individuals and cultures which willfully choose to act sinfully. This theme makes a play like PURGATORY especially appropriate for Christian audiences. We may not necessarily agree with Yeats as to what is sin; but we can agree with him as to what the results of sin must be. PURGATORY is an intensely compact and moving illustration of what those results entail, and of man's impotence, isolated from God, to remedy them. ADVENT is a comedy about two Dutch boys (Van and Scott) who live together in a Chicago apartment and celebrate Christmas with their non-Dutch landlady, Mrs. Slocum. Van will be performed by Arthur Atsma, Scott by Erick Alberts, and Mrs. Slocum by Sue van Scott. Beverly Atsma designed the set. "I wrote this play with the Dordt College audience in mind. We Dutch are extremely funny people, and we should be allowed to laugh at ourselves." Wiersum continued. "This play is not meant to be destructive but constructive. It's not an indictment. It's just fun." ADVENT will be given a staged reading immediately following PURGATORY. A staged reading," explained Wiersum, "only means that the actors will be holding the scripts onstage. All of the other elements will be there—lighting, costumes, and sets. I will be constantly rewriting the show and the actors will not have time to memorize the new additions. The show will be a lot of fun. It's been a while since a comedy was done here." Tickets for both shows can be purchased for one dollar at either the box office or the door.
Sports

Track Off To A Promising Start

by Jeff Burghgraef

Anne Veldman placed first in the triple jump at the Wayne State Invitational held Wednesday. Veldman jumped 35', breaking her previous Dordt record of 33'9" set last week.

In the women's division, Dordt placed 5th at the invitational, four points behind fourth place Northwestern College. Lisa Plugers who broke Dordt's 100 meter dash a week ago with a time of 12.57 seconds, was six tenths of a second slower this week. Despite windy conditions, Plugers captured third place in the 100m. out of fourteen teams at the meet.

In the men's division, Dordt placed ninth out of fourteen. Second place in the discus throw was snatched from Northwestern by about an inch, thanks to Arden Postma. With a throw of 145'2", Postma defeated Northwestern's De Zeeuw who threw 144'3.5". Last week, Postma received a first place for a throw of 143'9". Also placing for the team were Kevin Veenstra who both jumped 6'4" in the high jump to finish fourth. Kyle Beran took 6th place in the 400m with a time of 53.8 seconds. Dordt also placed 6th in the men's 4x400m relay.

When asked what his expectations are for this year's team, Coach Altena replied, "I think for the men...we have some potential...and the women...we have a small team that really does well." Altena explained that his goal for the men was to stay somewhere in the middle of meet standings. The women's team which only has nine members, is expected to be quite competitive though they probably won't win many meets due to the low number of members.

Dordt baseball team faced tough time on Spring Tour.