Budget cuts into education

"We'd be losing some students"
by Angela Struyk

Guaranteed student loans, work-study jobs, grants-in-aid and perhaps private colleges may be a thing of the past after the 1985-86 school year.

In early February, one of President Reagan’s budget cuts fell heavily on education. His plan is to deny guaranteed student loans to families with adjusted gross incomes above $32,500. He also plans to eliminate grants and other aid for those with incomes above $25,000 and limit to $4,000 a year the maximum federal aid to any one student.

With the average cost of attending Iowa’s private colleges at $9,000, state universities at $4,500 next year, there will be many students who will not be able to pay for their college education. In fact, this new budget cut will likely eliminate aid to more than one million students.

Secretary of Education, William Bennett has suggested that students have to give up their stereos, cars and beach vacations to pay for college. Bennett admitted that giving up luxuries won’t be the solution for all students and said, “but it will, like the rain, fall on the just and unjust alike.” Bennett suggested that perhaps too many people are going to college who may not even need the education. He also said some aren’t getting their money’s worth at a private college and may need to think about going elsewhere. Bennett stated that nowhere is it written that any American kid has the right to go to college with the taxpayers footing the bill. At a news conference he cited a new report from the Association of American Colleges that concludes the bachelor’s degree has lost much of its value.

What could these cuts mean for Dordt College faces now and possibly more severely in the future.

Theoretical lectures needed
by Wayne Sprank

Education is the element linking three lectures given on Dordt’s campus this past Monday and Tuesday. This was the second year of the B.J. Haan Lecture Series which are designed to keep alive educational theories, according to Mrs. Haan. She noted that the money for the lectures was set aside by the Board of Trustees upon Reverend Haan’s retirement from the presidency of Dordt College. After several years of these lectures, she explained, the lectures may be published in a book form.

The lectures themselves were not simplistic. Many of the students who attended (and maybe a few profs) felt as if they had not comprehended everything said. Some described the lectures as “Whoosh! Right over my head.” The level of discussion was, in Professor of Education Dr. Gloria Stronks’s words, “more theoretical than normal.”

These lectures were intended to promote faculty discussions between the Dordt Studies Institute and the Education Department, according to Stronks. In the
Editorial

Where should one begin to learn; with the answer or the question? Life is the question and death is not the answer, merely the prelude to it. What does it mean to live life, where life is the question? I think yesterday's weather gives us a good everyday sample of living life. There is something very real and passionate about the spring that cannot be crystalized into words. In the spring is life.

How do Dordt students live life when they are given the answers but have not themselves understood the questions? All the students on campus are Christians, right? So let's assume they all have the answers about God. And of course, they all know their reformed theology, and if they don't, it'll get polished up in theology 101. And well, they have chapels and they have...

Wait a minute. How do Dordt students live life when they have not understood the questions? Who's there to question them? Are you a Christian? Now, that's not a question to ask, is it? Well maybe it is. What does it mean to give up everything you have to follow Jesus? I mean its just not kosher to go around talking about commitment and self-sacrifice and love (except maybe what you did last spring is life). There is something very real and passionate about the spring that is life. There is something very real and passionate about the spring that cannot be crystalized into words. In the spring is life.

If it is possible to go through four years of college at Dordt without ever having to defend or even explain what you believe! This is a question, and I hope the answer is no. At the save time, it almost seems that people are more willing to stand up and scream about republicanism or political issues of which they know almost nothing, before they are willing to say "Jesus is Lord." Besides you better watch out for those Democrats because they're all trying to undermine the system. Maybe so. And why not? That's another question.

Another joy of living life, besides the springtime, was the minister's conference on "Fundamentalism in the CRC" and the B.J. Haan Lectureship Series on "Anthropology and Education." Such events provide an excellent opportunity to raise questions. Unfortunately, not too many students attended either. But fortunately most pre-sems, along with a couple of stray philosophy majors, took advantage of the conference. One of the speakers, Gordon Spykman, is a man who seems to love life, communicating it with humor, insight, and authority. It seemed that both events were successful and many answers were provided for those who struggled with the questions.

Struggling with the questions is exactly the issue with which I am dealing. If we look at the preacher in Ecclesiastes, he asked almost every question, weighing in wrestling with each. His answer: "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments; for this is the whole duty of man." Even so, we cannot assume that it ends here. At the same time, we can be content. Coming to the same conclusion as the preacher requires us to listen to his instructions. That is, everything is meaningless; all man can do is to be content with and abide in his labor. Part of that labor is struggling with the questions, and struggling is living life. Isn't it?

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editors:

I was angered by Wayne Kroon's article "Dance proclaims itself as a God-given art form." The article was practically useless—indeed, much more harmful than beneficial to the work Dordt College is doing in the area of dance. I am sick of attitudes like those of Mr. Kroon. Anyone reading his article would think that Dordt hired some hippie-type who was "into" body language. Kroon quoted me as saying "dance is an area of communication opening up." Even so, we cannot assume that it ends here. At the same time, we can be content. Coming to the same conclusion as the preacher requires us to listen to his instructions. That is, everything is meaningless; all man can do is to be content with and abide in his labor. Part of that labor is struggling with the questions, and struggling is living life. Isn't it? m-pw

Lynn Otto
Letters to the Editor

An open letter to the Dordt Student Body

Greetings from Washington D.C.

I was asked by the editors of the Diamond to write down a few of my impressions and reactions of my semester away from Dordt. Although some of my comments may be quite general, my hope is that you will all begin to understand what it means to be away from the classrooms of Dordt for a semester.

To begin, I must say that I am very grateful for the overall perspective which Dordt presents. To say right out, all of life is redeemed, is not only a unique perspective, but it is also a tremendously exciting challenge for all those who take seriously their calling. My reasons for making these comments at this outset will become clearer but first I must say a few words about the program itself.

The program which I am on is the American Studies Program (ASP). 70 Christian Colleges are actively involved in what is known as the Christian College Coalition and the ASP is primarily the academic branch of this coalition.

Each week I spend a total of 15 hours in the classroom. The entire semester is divided up into four main units. Thus far we have had the opportunity to study the 1985 Federal budget, the 1985 Farm Bill, and presently we are engaged in studying the economic situation of five African nations: Ethiopia, Somalia, Uganda, Zimbabwe, and South Africa. (I have been assigned to the South African taskforce). In each of these units we have turned to scripture to see what it says about economics, defense, conservation, feeding the poor, and helping the oppressed.

In each unit we have several speakers come into our classroom or we go out to meet them. For example, Friday we were at the Old Office Building of the White House for a briefing on the African situation.

Overall, the classes are both challenging and stimulating. To be able to study the African situation and literally be on the footsteps of the nations capital is obviously something I could not do back in a classroom at Dordt.

Unable to see classroom hours, I spend 25 hours every week at my internship. Presently I'm interning at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS). CSIS is basically a think-tank for U.S. strategic policy. I work in the Conference office and I help set up all CSIS-related meetings. So far, I have met Henry Kissinger, Casper Weinberger, Alexander Haig, James Schlesinger, and several high ranking military officials from the Pentagon.

There are a total of 29 students on the ASP this semester and roughly 18 colleges are represented. Some of these schools being represented are Oral Roberts University, Gordon Bible College, Biola University, Calvin College, and Wheaton College to name a few.

These 18 colleges represent a broad range of denominations. This is one of the most unique aspects of my experience on the ASP. The students who become your friends are from Baptist, Methodist, First Assembly of God, and Nazarene denominational backgrounds. Each denomination has its own creeds and confessions but we all have one thing in common—namely Christ is our Lord.

I mentioned earlier about my appreciation for Dordt's perspective and I'd like to add that the ASP this semester and roughly 18

Science fair to be held

by Jim Struyk

This Saturday, April 13, Dordt will be holding its Science Fair. The science fair will be held throughout the Science Building. It will start at noon and end at 5:30 p.m.

The science fair will include exhibits from all the different science departments and also some exhibits from the psychology department. Not only Dordt students are participating in this science fair, but also students from Unity and possibly other high schools in this area.

Some of the displays at the fair will include a demonstration of a robot that has just been completed here at Dordt, and also a demonstration with the electron microscope.
Ag Prof elated over $11,000 grant

by Shar Barendrecht

Dordt Agriculture professor Henry De Vries has been named a “sage fellow” by the faculty board of Cornell University, in Ithaca, New York. He originally applied for a teaching assistantship at Cornell in order to prepare for his doctorate degree in horticulture. Unfortunately, the department he applied to had no available assistantships (a job similar to that of a lab assistant here at Dordt). Rather than turn down a prospective student, however, De Vries’ advisor asked permission to submit De Vries’ name for a chance at one of the three prestigious fellowship awards offered each year by Cornell to outstanding graduate students. De Vries said yes, knowing that there was little chance of obtaining a fellowship due to the heavy competition: Any graduate student from any one of Cornell’s member colleges can apply for the fellowship through their department. De Vries was surprised to hear, several months later, that he had won the $11,000, one-year Sage Graduate Fellowship. It is the second highest award offered by Cornell, based on his G.R.E. scores, past performance records, and recommendations from his former professors at Dordt.

“I couldn’t do it without this grant,” says De Vries, “and Cornell is the only place I wanted to go.” De Vries did his work for his master’s degree at Cornell, after graduating from Calvin College.

Henry, his wife Jan, and their children plan to move to Ithaca in early June. They are especially excited about the move because it will bring them closer to their families, Jan and Ronnie’s, and Henry’s live in Massachusetts.

Trying to describe the excitement, Henry said, “It’s like having senioritis in a way. I’m looking forward to the Research, and when they speak, those in science at Dordt. He has been teaching at Dordt for seven years, making him eligible for a sabbatical. He has applied for an extended leave of absence, three years, which will go into effect as soon as a replacement is hired to fill his position in his absence.

Henry feels that getting his doctorate will benefit Dordt and should allow the college to offer more diverse courses in horticulture and agriculture, and possibly to allow for some crossover between the agriculture and biology departments. He also hopes to catch up on the latest developments in agriculture science and gain some fresh input for the department. Cornell provides an excellent opportunity for this, since it houses one of the largest concentrations of agricultural research scientists in the nation.

“It’s really funny says De Vries, “all that money, and three years of your life saved up behind your Geneva – we get a ‘3X5’ card with two boxes: I accept the award, I do not accept the award, please check one. My future is summarized on an 18 cent postcard.”

Skillet questions MX

James Skillet is an adjunct professor of political science at Dordt College. He has taken up the position as Executive Director of API’s through Congress, has passed the MX or politically termed “peacekeeper” missile, this letter from President Ronald Reagan is an appeal for its support in Congress and at Geneva, Switzerland. The subsequent letter is Skillet’s response.

Dear Mr. Reagan,

On March 12, the United States and the Soviet Union will once again face each other across the arms negotiating table. The United States and the Soviet adversaries will once again face each other across the arms negotiating table. The United States and the Soviet adversaries will once again face each other across the arms negotiating table. The United States and the Soviet adversaries will once again face each other across the arms negotiating table.

America’s defenses today are stronger than they were four years ago, and we are more ready to resist. In the years ahead our safety will continue to rest upon our ability to maintain that deterrent strength that has kept America and the West free, independent and at peace for three decades. By the mid ’70’s, the components of that capability — and especially the land-based missile leg of our strategic triad — had become increasingly out-of-date.

This problem has not burst upon us unexpectedly. Previously administrations had pointed out that our old systems were becoming outdated. But we treated it like an old bridge, the cracks and shudders that once time you drive a heavy truck over it; we knew it needed replacing, but dreaded the expense and hoped we’d stay lucky and the bridge would stay up.

I don’t think we should rely on luck anymore. I’d prefer to rely on steel. And that is the logic that led to the MX. The MX adds nothing to our strategic capabilities which conventional forces can provide, and don’t pretend that MX, a mere wish for future technological magic, can give us any defense now or for the next decade or two. If you want to push the U.S. up against the Soviet Union in this category of weapons and technology regardless of cost (including the cost to the federal budget), then tell the American people this is what you want.

Washington pay attention. If we are serious about negotiations to limit the nuclear offensive spiral, Mr. President, I urge you to approach the Geneva talks in a way I can understand. I believe that you are serious about negotiations. The Peacekeeper missile is our "bridge" to a safer future.

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Washington, D.C.

Response

Dear Mr. President,

Thank you for your letter of March 7. As U.S. and Soviet negotiators sit down to talk this spring, I join with you in the prayer that they might eventually, by God’s grace, reach a fair and just agreement that can help to lead toward a safer world.

With regard to the main purpose of your letter, however, Mr. President, I think you must realize that God’s grace, reach a fair and just agreement that can help to lead toward a safer world.

The purpose of nuclear deterrence is to keep the Soviet Union from launching a first strike out of fear that we can retaliate, then we certainly don’t need MX to ante up. Our submarine and bomber fleets are capable of launching retaliatory strikes sufficient to keep the Soviet Union from thinking seriously about a first strike. The MX adds nothing to a second strike capability.

Your letter suggests that an imbalance in the land-based missile leg of our strategic triad requires that we move to the MX. But if each of the three legs stands independently and must keep up with Soviet advances in each area for defense to work. If that is the case, then I fear that what of our advances in the land-based missile category will spark by way of Soviet responses in the other two legs where they are certainly weaker than the U.S. A push for the MX now is nothing less than a push for the nuclear weapons race, it seems to me.

What we need now is a new look at the missile that is "out of date", and if most modern, reliable, thoroughly impressive strategic weapons America has ever produced. During the past ten years the United States did not deploy a single one of the MX missiles. However, in this same period, the Soviet Union has tested four new systems, and has stationed in its land-based missiles more than 5,000 warheads targeted on the American deterrent. This gross imbalance must not continue. We must replace the bridge.

I have asked the Congress to support our defense modernization, including the Peacekeeper missile, and to send a signal to the Soviet Union that America is united behind its negotiators at Geneva. The vote will be taken within two weeks. The outcome of the vote is far from certain. But it is certain that a negative vote, by either House, would set back our strategic modernization, undercut our negotiating position, diminish the chances for a fair and equitable treaty, and present our NATO allies and our Soviet adversaries with a portrait of an irresponsible and divided America.

Your voices must be heard. In American, the people are the government, and when they speak, those in

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With best wishes,

Sincerely,

Ronald Reagan
President Ronald Reagan

The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

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Washington, D.C.

You urged us to make our voices bear. I am responding. But while the members of our Association for Public Justice are participants of the urgency of making their voices heard, we do not accept your strange statement that "in America, the people govern, and we believe that your guiding purpose at peace for three decades. By the mid ’70’s, the components of that capability — and especially the land-based missile leg of our strategic triad — had become increasingly out-of-date.

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With best wishes,

Sincerely,

Ronald Reagan
President Ronald Reagan

The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500
Einfeld's math scores place him 37th nationwide

by Phil Grotenhuis

Problem A-3

Let $n$ be a positive integer. Let $a, b, c$ be real numbers, with $a \neq 1$, and let $M_n$ denote the $2n \times 2n$ matrix whose $(i, j)$ entry $m_{ij}$ is given by

$$m_{ij} = \begin{cases} a & \text{if } i = j \\ b & \text{if } i = j+1 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Thus, for example, $M_2 = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ b & a \end{pmatrix}$.

Express $\lim_{x \to 0} \det M_{nx}$ as a polynomial in $a, b,$ and $n$, where $\det M_n$ denotes the determinant of $M_n$.

A majority would look at this test problem, shrug, and wonder why anyone would want to put their students through such mental abuse. Duane Einfeld, a Dordt senior, deems it a challenge. "You have the problem. They have the solution," says Einfeld matter of factly. "It's up to you to match wits."

"The 'They' Einfeld refers to are the originators of the William Lowell Putnam Mathematical Competition which Einfeld and other Dordt students competed in recently. Out of 2,149 students that entered the competition nationwide, Einfeld placed 37th—a feat that ascended all prior Dordt scores and brought him honorable mention. It was also an achievement that Einfeld wasn't quite expecting. "I was somewhat wary of it," says Einfeld. "On the other hand, I haven't ruled out teaching either..."

Einfeld's undertaking of a challenge has not only brought him a high score, but also acceptance into the graduate math program at the University of Washington in Seattle. Although not quite certain of his plans after graduating school, Einfeld sees the world of numbers as a vast field of opportunity. "I really enjoy physics and the research that is involved in it," says Einfeld. "On the other hand, I haven't ruled out teaching either... Other than enjoyment, I feel mathematics offers immense job security."

"Many take pride in their ignorance of mathematics. After viewing problem A-3 of the William Lowell Putnam Exam, most would feel their ignorance justified. As for Einfeld, ignorance is obviously anything but bliss especially when it involves a place in Dordt's mathematical history.

Einfeld's math program at the University of Washington in Seattle. Although not quite certain of his plans after graduating school, Einfeld sees the world of numbers as a vast field of opportunity. "I really enjoy physics and the research that is involved in it," says Einfeld. "On the other hand, I haven't ruled out teaching either... Other than enjoyment, I feel mathematics offers immense job security."

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Although the Concert Choir has sung in the last concert, for the year, its duties have not been completed. The choir will rehearse and record Volume Eight of the Psalm series "Be Thou Exalted, Lord," during the remainder of the school year.
Recognition given to Art student

by Melanie Ten Pas

Consider how you chose your major. Did you randomly select a major from the Dordt Catalog because you were desperate? Did your parents lead you in a certain direction? Or did you stumble across your talent at an early age in your life, forget about it, and recently pick it up? Senior Becky Stair, and Art Education Major, jokingly states that her starting point in artwork could have been when she won the Smokey Bear Poster Contest in first grade. Since first grade she hasn’t entered any of her artwork in contests. This year, however, she got the urge and entered the Iowa Collegiate Salon which is held this year in the Brunner Gallery and Museum in Ames, Iowa from March 24 to May 5. “I knew this would be the last year for me to enter and I knew I needed to know if my work was any good outside of the Dordt community. I needed to know how my work ranked with other students.”

Out of the 400 entries, Stair had three: two photographs and a silkscreen piece. The entries were show-juried by a man who owns an art gallery in Lincoln, Nebraska. He picked 60 selections from various mediums to be displayed and one of those chosen was Stair’s photograph of a ceramic pot. Although three artwork pieces got small monetary rewards, Stair says the most exciting thing is getting your artwork exhibited. Becky is the first and only person in Dordt’s history to enter the Salon. “I think more students should enter. The professors really should encourage students to participate more in exhibits.”

Stair discussed the type of style she has in her artwork. “I’m more interested in the shape and form, and lightness and darkness of the piece of art than in the object itself.”

On April 21 in the Chapel Mezzanine, you will be able to see the styles of Becky’s work as well as others at the Senior Show. It is a display of some or all of the works of graduating Art Majors.

Whether Becky actually stumbled across her major or not will really never be known, but her desire to experiment should encourage students to participate more in exhibits. Becky is the first of those chosen was Stair’s photograph of a ceramic pot. Although three artwork pieces get small monetary rewards, Stair says the most exciting thing is getting your artwork exhibited. Beck is the first and only person in Dordt’s history to enter the Salon. “I think more students should enter. The professors really should encourage students to participate more in exhibits.”

Maria Norton’s “High Key Rhino” and Richard Hanson’s “In Soldier Creek” are just two of 20 watercolor paintings exhibited April 2-18 in the Dordt Chapel Mezzanine. The 20 watercolor paintings were selected from 70 paintings comprising the Seventh Annual Iowa Watercolor Society Exhibition at the Metropolitan Gallery in Cedar Falls.

The quality of the work is rated quite highly and reflects the growth of Iowa painters in the exacting transparent watercolor medium. The exhibit is made possible by a grant from the Iowa Arts Council.
Spring Break
Social Work

gathered at the "We Care Community Services Center" to get their assignments. They were mainly given painting jobs which consisted of eight houses and then proceeded to put the final touches to a variety store in Vicksburg.

Many of the responses from the poor people in these areas were the same. Typical responses from the poor people in these areas were "Why are you here?" or "Who is paying you to do this?" or "I don't know why you are doing this but thank you anyway." Many could not conceptualize the joy of giving without taking.

All of the Dordt students that went had nearly the same responses about their Spring Break. Joan Van Raalte said, "We were there to show them Christian love and through that, I learned a lot about myself." Vonda Isakson said, "It was a great program. You get to do and see so many new things. It's excellent!" It was highly recommended by most everyone who went.

The people who deserve credit for such a program include: Larry Felton, Loren Van Middendorp, Vonda Isakson, Sharron Bandstra, Tim Wiersma and Rick Ebbers. Through these people and four other committees, 85 Dordt "missionaries" had a fantastic Spring Break and helped many who were and are in need.

Volunteer members of Dordt College's PLLA project are shown en route to Mississippi, but also South Chicago, Vicksburg, Mississippi during Spring Break. Various volunteers gave their time and effort aiding the poor not only in Mississippi, but also South Chicago, Illinois.

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The Spring Thaw is an indoors/outdoors students' fine arts performance and display festival open only to amateurs.

To submit entries or for more information call:

Dance/Mime/Literature - Sue van Arragon 722-2723
Graphic Art - Brian Dykhuizen 722-3171
Music - Bob Wiersma 722-4419
Theatre Arts - Ron Nelson 722-0125
Or sign up at the SUB Bulletin Board

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State considers education aid

Press Release

An Iowa College Work-Study Program (ICWSP) is currently under consideration in the Iowa state legislature. According to Howard Hall, the new program would enable Dordt to create more work study positions. This includes the possibility of off-campus positions in city government and volunteer agencies.

The adoption of ICWSP, however, requires a reallocation of funds from existing science and math grant programs. Although these programs are presently under-utilized and ineffective, many legislators oppose such a reallocation. In an attempt to increase legislative support for ICWSP, students of Iowa colleges have been asked to contact the legislators on the Educational Subcommittee of the Appropriations Committee. Student Forum encourages all students to write a letter to the local representatives, encouraging them to support ICWSP. This is not limited to Iowa residents, as all students will benefit from increased work-study funds. To give an idea of what should be included in the letters, a form letter will be available at the switchboard along with addresses.

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Continued from page 1 Education cuts

students coming to Dordt, or for the survival of Dordt as one of those—to quote Bennett—"expensive private institutions"?

Director of Admissions and Financial Aid, Howard Hall, has given President Reagan's cuts some thought. Hall figures roughly 300 Dordt students would lose out on guaranteed student loans, and probably 100-200 students would be seriously questioning the possibility of their return to Dordt for the 1986-87 school year. Nearly one-fourth of the Dordt students who are now receiving the Pell grant will not get it either, according to Hall's calculations.

"I'm sure we'd be losing some students," Hall commented, and he thinks that President Reagan's $4,000 student would be what will hurt the most students. He thinks nearly 50 percent of

the students going to Dordt College will be affected. Hall believes, however, that there are parents who can afford to help their college-aged children in paying for college.

Hall believes many parents don't remember that while their children were at home food and lodging was free, but once they go away to college, room and board is one of the highest expenses besides tuition that the student must pay for.

Hall does not feel that the outlook is totally bleak, however. He said he could see an education cut coming some time—once they go away to college, room and board and tuition for a year—costs $7,500 a Dordt student has to pay—which includes spending allowance, books, room, board and tuition for a year is not the $9,000 average cost of attending a private college in Iowa.

Hall does not think President Reagan's plan will be as severe as it now looks because as he put it, "too many people are screaming their disapproval." He thinks that President Reagan is shooting at a high cut so that when the real cut is put into action, people will believe they have received a good deal. Continued from page 1 Lectures

7:30 p.m. Monday night lecture, Re- deemer College's Professor of Psycholo- gy Harry Van Belle gave his theme of "Relational Anthropology and Educa- tion." He presented Duoyeveder's three philosophical terms of integration, disclo- sure and office as they apply to education. In applying "office" to education, he emphasized the dynamic character of the education in the learner, the teacher, culture, and history.

Maarten Vrieze, the multi-talented Professor of Philosophy at Trinity Col- lege, spoke Tuesday afternoon, despite his stated preference for naptime. His presentation was entitled "Learning: A Matter of Mandate, Solidarity, and Situation." He supported the idea that theories, like paintings of apples, are useful but cannot be eaten. As Gloria Stronks commented, "Vrieze focused on the importance of the teacher and child having a direct experience." In Strokes' words, Van Belle pointed out that "Much of education is symbolic."