Dordt Chapel Sparks New Interest

by William Meyerhoff

Last week Friday a minor fire in a chapel office caused quite a stir on campus and a crowd of eager firewatchers showed up to scope out the scenes.

Asked how he found out about the fire, freshman Galen Sinkey replied, "My roommate is a music major and came into our room all hysterical like, screaming about a fire at the chapel. So I got my camera and headed off to the chapel, hoping to get some pictures of the chapel going up in smoke. But when I arrived, there were no towering flames and everything was under control, so I decided to socialize with the others who had gathered to watch the fire."

A small fire at the Dordt Chapel caused more commotion and expediency from the Sioux Center Fire Department than it did damage.

The fire was started accidentally by maintenance workers who were repairing a section of pipe in an office. A metal pipe they had been working on overheated causing a plastic pipe to melt and smoke.

Firefighters arrived on the scene and the situation was quickly brought under control. Damage was minimal, and by Sunday the chapel was free of smoke.

Mrs. Karen De Mol was in the chapel when the fire broke out. "I was in the middle of class and all of a sudden someone came in and told us we had to leave. I was astonished. My first concern was for all the people to get out safely; and then I was concerned for the instruments, music books, and other personal items that could not be replaced. I was relieved to know that the fire was small and not that big a thing."

Hulst Slated for Seoul

by Brad De Wit

Dordt College’s President, Dr. J. B. Hulst, is planning to travel to Seoul, Korea, in late February to preach at Chong Shih College which is also known as the Presbyterian General Assembly Theological College and Seminary.

This visit will be Hulst’s first trip to Korea where the Presbyterian Church of Korea is the major reformed church.

Hulst was invited to Korea by the college’s president, Dr. S.K. Chung, whom he has met three times. The first time that they met was at the IARIA conference in Switzerland in the summer of...
Editorial

"And I don't want to classify you like an animal in the zoo, but it seems that to me you're a homo sapien too."
-Peach Jelly

by Wayne Spronk

The sphere of education is sovereign at Dordt. The way this sovereignty is often practiced, however, limits the humaness of students. By putting as much emphasis as it does on structure and policy, Dordt ignores that its primary purpose is to serve those who attend it. In many classes and policies, the Dordtian sphere philosophy appears to edge out scriptural emphasis.

The result of limiting student initiative was reflected in President Hulst's December 10 chapel speech. Instead of expecting students to be concerned with the quality of their education, Hulst was apparently surprised that some students in Italy were protesting slack courses, sloopy teaching, and shoddy homework assignments. Such is not the case at Dordt. Yet students should fight these problems—if they don't, who will? Most attempts to instigate change at Dordt by students are met with a "policy" response, resulting in no change.

It is true that when people register at Dordt, they agree to abide by those policies. But when changes are needed, too many constructive criticisms are lost somewhere in the system. Instead of these criticisms being seen as coming from concerned people, these critics are often seen only as students. "Students" begin feeling like rats in a Skinner box, adopting a "Live and Die in L.A." attitude.

It is illogical to expect graduates to exercise dominion in the world as a result of four years of conditioned nonchalance. Students are in a unique position to challenge what can be improved at Dordt, but they have no real voice in the administration procedures, despite the token representation by Student Forum on some committees.

Our goal is to improve, and, to paraphrase Andrew Kuyvenhoven, it's time to kick some spheres. This was also President Hulst's conclusion of his chapel address: the belief that Christians can reconstruct this world, "because it's Christmas."

To the editor:

I would like to express my disappointment with the Nov. 21 issue of the Diamond. This might be longer than 300 words, but then it'll make up for the "lack of letters" in the past.

I realize that you were disappointed with the results of your recent survey—and rightly so, but your reaction to it was in no way correct, natural, or professional. In fact, it was outright unchristian.

You write in your editorial about the need of a newspaper with rules and responsibility, about having been "professionalistic," and not wanting to entertain adolescent minds. What happened to your rules, responsibility, and professionalism? The "cute," "meaty," and "porn" dripping from your "faucet" certainly don't show it! The article by Mr. Meyerhoff doesn't quite meet up to these standards either. And since

In Response

"That which is ridiculous deserves ridicule." - Augustine

In the last issue, the Diamond failed to give credit to Prof. Mike Vanden Bosch for his review of the play, Major Barbara.

The Diamond reserves the right to edit or refuse publication.

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Survey Reveals Rampant Dishonesty

Submitted by the Student Personnel Committee

The Student Personnel Committee surveyed the students and faculty of Dordt College during the second semester of the 1984-85 academic year on the issue of academic dishonesty and found that this issue was a concern of many students and that a study should be undertaken. There were 439 responses to the survey which included 188 freshmen responses, 138 sophomore, 45 junior, 25 senior, and 42 faculty responses. All of the groups were asked to respond to the same questions.

The first question on the survey was, "Are you aware of any forms of academic dishonesty taking place at Dordt College?" Seventy-one percent of the total group indicated that they were of academic dishonesty. The highest percentage was 88% which came from the senior class.

The respondents were then asked to evaluate the extent of academic dishonesty on a scale of 1-5 with 1 being relatively no problem and the upper end of the scale indicating a severe problem. Approximately 60% marked the lower two areas of the scale indicating little or no problem, while 9% indicated they thought there was a severe problem.

The survey instrument then asked the question, "What kind of dishonesty occurs most frequently in your estimation?" The respondents were given six kinds of dishonesty that they could evaluate on the scale of no problem to a severe problem. These items were: 1. using another person's term paper, assignment, or computer program; 2. using a term paper for more than one class; 3. not giving the author proper credit; 4. looking at another's paper while taking a test; 5. using notes or other devices while taking a test; 6. receiving help from other students' take home tests. All of these forms of academic dishonesty were evaluated as being some kind of a problem. Forty percent of the juniors thought that using another person's term paper, assignment, or computer program was a major problem. Thirty-eight percent of the faculty indicated that there was a major problem of not giving the author proper credit.

Twenty-eight percent of the faculty didn't think that tests were monitored as well as they should be. Forty percent of the juniors and seniors didn't think that tests were monitored well and 28% percent of the freshmen and sophomores indicated the same feeling.

Several questions were asked relative to what students or faculty did when they became aware of someone cheating. Sixty-four percent of the seniors said they simply talked to friends about it, but that's all. Forty-four percent of the students said they ignored it, while 2.4% of the faculty said they ignored it. When asked if they notified the professor or the college officials if they became aware of someone cheating, 99% of the students said they did not and 90% of the faculty indicated that they did not notify college officials.

The survey then quoted the present policy on academic dishonesty as listed in the student handbook and asked the students and faculty to evaluate it. Ninety-two percent of the freshmen, sophomores, and juniors indicated that it was sufficient, while 80% of the seniors and 76% of the faculty felt that the policy was adequate. When asked if they felt it was too lenient or too severe, 70% of all the participants chose the middle of the scale while 23% of the faculty felt that it was too lenient and 8% of the faculty thought it was too severe.

The last item on the survey asks students and faculty to list suggestions for improving policy or for specific comments as to how students and faculty should be dealing with academic dishonesty. There were 238 individual comments made to this question. A high percentage of the seniors offered comments in this section. There were many repeat comments relative to dishonesty occurring during testing. There were 27 comments which said that "teachers should watch out more for cheating." Sixteen students said that faculty should move students further apart during testing. Several students suggested using different copies of tests, and others indicated that faculty should be doing more walking around the room while students are taking an exam.

There were 2 faculty and 5 students who suggested that students need to be taught proper ways to footnote in order to give credit to the author. Among the great variety of comments was this repeat comment, "change attitudes of the students toward cheating--confront student body with the problem."

Cont'd on page 8

by Alicia Nugteren

"Everybody has something to say," comments Lori Kuipers, editor of Dordt's fine arts publication, the Cannon.

The Cannon which will be published next spring, provides a medium in which students may express themselves in poetry, essays, short stories, photography, and art. Kuipers reveals that

although following a theme may be more convenient for layout of the issue, good material would then have to be omitted. Therefore, Kuipers says, the format will be determined by the content of the works submitted.

Kuipers believes that many Dordt students possess talent in literary areas. She encourages those who may not have taken time or are afraid to develop their abilities to submit their work. The Cannon, Kuipers states, is not just for "people who are supposed to" be writers or artists; anyone can contribute.
In the Belly of the Beast

by Phil Grotenhuis

"Among themselves, the prisoners are human. Yet between others and the prisoners, the relationship is not human. It is animal. Only in reflection-subjective reflection do they acknowledge sharing a common consciousness. What is that common consciousness? It is the consciousness that we belong to a common species of life. But this is not the consciousness of society. It is not humanistic; it is animalistic.

Does this mean then that I myself cannot adjust to society outside of prison? The government says "yes," but I remember society and it is not like prison. I feel that if I ever did adjust to prison, I would be back in prison within months.

Now, I care about myself and I cannot let it happen that I cannot adjust to freedom—because to me prison is nothing but mutiny and revolt."

Jack Henry Abbott - IN THE BELLY OF THE BEAST

For many convicts at the Sioux Falls Penitentiary, hope is a virtue found only on the "outside." The free can dream dreams and strive to obtain them. In prison, dreams remain dreams. Unless a prisoner receives parole, life can only be a missionless drudge consisting of mass boredom and a struggle to remain human in an animalistic environment.

Apart from the convicts, no one knows this more than the families of the convicts themselves. Yet, there are those within the Sioux Center community who unselfishly give their time every month in order to shed mental and spiritual light to the many prisoners who will willingly open their hearts and mouths. "This ministry" is part of the M-2 program, a program designed to allow civilians to meet with convicts in hopes of instilling a sense of hope where none may be found.

The following is an excerpt from just one of the many visits made by one M-2 participant Gene Westra, a Professor of Education at Dordt College. For the writer who observed and recorded the event, it was an encounter that furthered his initiation into experience. For Gene, it was just one more journey into the complex mind of a prisoner groping for hope and a will.

Jake is dead.

His heart pumps blood, his ears register the low hum of conversation around him, and the rest of his senses record in amazing detail all that transpires.

Yet, Jake is dead.

Since 1968, Jake has never felt the trust of a fellow man, the caress of a woman, or the intimacy of a family. For 17 years, Jake has never really known the foundation of all human joy: love. Sadly, he's been too busy working on day to day survival.

"Here," contends Jake, "the biggest fear is daily existence." He leans a bit forward in his chair and his eyes for the first time convey frustration. "I'm not exaggerating. Living day by day in prison is tough."

Jake felt the beauty of freedom found amidst the other prisoners talking to spouses, children, and other friends. Yet, during that night's visit, he also knew it was only superficial and temporary freedom. Before he was escorted back to his cell, Jake said, "You know, we (the prisoners) are treated with respect. But once we leave that door, we are completely different. All nice gestures are done away with; we become animals and our instincts take over."

There's something about Jake that forbids him to play "the game." It's not stubbornness or an attitude problem. It is the many years in prison that has taught Jake that distrust and instinct are the only guidelines for eventual freedom. "I have nothing against society, only against my peers," says Jake. "The people here cannot be trusted."

Jake's referral to "the people here" embodies all. "I can't even trust the guards," he says. Recently, Jake experienced the suicide of a nearby inmate. He has seen death before but this particular instance was especially sickening. "After the guards removed him from his cell, they stole his magazines which are coveted items here," he says. What Jake feels is that the suicide itself was not as gruesome as the pillaging that followed it. They stole off a dead man: it's something Jake will never forget nor ever forgive. It was also an experience that deepened his even increased fall from humanity.

Jake does not lie. His 17 year torture is too clearly displayed in the urgency of his expression. "Other prisoners may lie to you," Jake says emphatically, "but I won't." "There are a whole of ego's, role-playing, cliques, and gangs to contend with," says Jake. "These different entities all make up the hierarchy of the prison system." According to Jake, the prison system live and associate in groups. It's there where they find security. But there is even a degree of mistrust between the members of each respective gang. Says Jake, "When two opposing gangs face one another, often one gang, if it happens to be a bit weaker, will sell a member to an opposing group." There is no love in prison. As Jake puts it, "you're on your own."

It is also that "taking care of #1" perspective coupled with the prison "game" that leaves Jake estranged from God. The question is posed to Jake to whether such an entity as a sovereign God even exists. The pause by Jake is long and contemplative. "Sure," he states finally, "but more specifically.

Jake sensed there was more; he was right. Later admitting, Jake said, "Yes...I can accept Jesus, sure. But for me at this time, it's impossible to live the Christian life. I just can't turn my check in prison; the dangers are too great." Jake realizes the spectacles by which he views the Christian faith are fogged at best by "the game" that surrounds him daily.

Jake is not an animal. He is clearly human in appearance and character. But, sad to say, his sensitivities have become as deeply suppressed as his longing for freedom. The foundation on which his hope rests crumbles with each passing year.

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Jake is then back to playing "the game." It is a game that he has been fighting to win on his own terms for 17 years. It is also a game that Jake may have to confront for a long time to come.

At the moment, those of the M-2 program are part of the select tools of the Holy Spirit that may release prisoners from the bondage in which they exist. They may also be one of the few aids used to quell the indigestion of "the belly of the beast": an animal that has been plaguing prisoners such as Jake for what seems a lifetime of ill-found love.
Plan Early or Pay the Price

by Phil Grotenhuis

The bottom line is if you want a good, cheap flight you had better book early. That also goes for hotels and other accommodations.

According to Nancy Wynja, an agent at the Travel Center in downtown Sioux Center, students wanting to fly for the Christmas holiday should book approximately four months in advance. Booking early also applies to Spring Break. "There are always a few students who wait too long and have to pay a more expensive fare," says Wynja. "I'm not kidding. Those students who wait many times are forced to pay double the rate they could have gotten otherwise."

Another problem associated with booking late might mean leaving at a later date. Wynja says the best way to obtain a cheap but decent flight is to call a local travel agency and give them your name and phone number. The travel agency then keeps your name on file in case an inexpensive flight does come up.

According to Wynja, flights are less expensive this year than last year. "Deregulation, or in other words, less governmental control in the airline industry, have caused airline prices to drop," explains Wynja. "Now airlines are free to determine their own prices. This means a more frequent fluctuation in prices." She also says, "On the whole, flights out west are cheaper than flights heading east because of stiffer competition."

In regard to Canadian students, Wynja says that a majority of Canadian students drive, even if it means a long haul. "Concerning Canadian fares, we really don't have much control in negotiating prices," says Wynja, "the Canadian government takes care of that." Still, she says, the students from Toronto received quite a good deal on flight fares last year.

Spring Break is a different matter. The competition between airlines is less stringent during Spring Break, therefore leaving prices to fluctuate less frequently. "Spring Break is also harder to get kids to book early," says Wynja. "After Christmas, many college students wonder if they can even afford a break." In response, the Travel Center recommends a less expensive vacation involving skiing or cheaper flights to Arizona or Texas.

"Right now, there are very good deals on skiing in general," Wynja says. "But we do realize college students on the whole just don't have a lot of money, so we can simply book for hotels. What we do try to recommend is that students try to keep away from Florida. Flights, hotels, and business usually up their prices dramatically before the flood of students arrive."

The Travel Center admits as being part of a small town that they are quite dependent on Dordt. Says Wynja, "we really do a lot of arranging for Dordt students and consider ourselves fortunate to have their business. Students seeking travel accommodations or simply inquiring about what deals are available for either Christmas or Spring Breaks should contact either the Travel Center at 722-3727 or ABC Travel at 722-1400."

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On a cold Thursday night in what seemed like the artie, the Dordt fans jumped up and down, slapped their mittens together, to keep from freezing and screamed loudly as the Bladest ended their losing streak to Emory by dumping the Flying Dutchman 7-4.

Don Talstra and Ron DeBoer paced the Blades with two goals apiece while Jeff VanKetten and Ken and Ed Groot each scored singles.
The fans continued their enthusiastic banter throughout the second and third games, but the Blades could only come up with a pair of ties, 3-3 in both contests.

In Friday's game, Ken Groot scored two goals with Len VanderSchee finishing out the Dordt attack with one goal.

In the final game of the series, VanderSchee fired a pair of goals with Jeff Plantinga scoring a single marker.

The Blades are now preparing for their annual Christmas tour in Canada. This year, they will travel through Alberta, playing in numerous cities including Red Deer, Edmonton, and Calgary.

Due to extra space, the editor (the happy one) decided to run this photo of the "hard-core, late-night faithful." "Diamonds last forever"--especially on layout night.

### Spanish Program Seen as Anything But Siesta

by Melanie Ten Pas

Connie Weeda, a junior Spanish major, tasted sweet, peach-flavored mangos, spicy chilli relleno (green peppers stuffed with cheese and baked in egg batter), and the traditional beans and tortillas in Durango, Mexico.

Leaving her home in Turlock, CA with some prejudice towards Mexicans, Connie returned "with a whole different cultural knowledge." She didn't win the trip to Mexico or go with her family. Instead, she participated in Dordt's Spanish Abroad Program for three and one half weeks in August 1984.

Although students know about Dordt's Netherlands's Abroad Program, "people really don't know much about the Spanish Program," says Connie. But, she says, "I would encourage anyone to go, even non-majors, because you can learn so much about other people and learn to communicate with people who speak an entirely different language." She admitted that it was somewhat costly, but insists the experience of living in a different country is worth the price.

Her expenses included $210 for tuition, plus air fare, and spending money. "Many things cost less in Mexico than in the U.S.," she says. A pair of sandals cost her 900 pesos, or about $3.00. Connie was able to live with a family who was well off according to Mexican standards. However, they spoke no English.

After a cereal and fruit (mango or papaya) breakfast, each day, Connie walked seven blocks to the school where she filled Dordt's three credit requirements by taking four courses from 8:00 - 12:00 a.m. daily. Those four courses were Pronunciation, Idioms and Proverbs, Spanish Grammar, and Mexican Folklore. Optional classes were available in the afternoon. For example, there was Mexican singing, dancing, or cooking, etc.

A huge meal, which always included soup as an appetizer, was eaten at 2:00 p.m. A favorite pastime for Connie was to walk around town with the Mexican tutor for two hours each afternoon. Speaking only Spanish, the tutor would explain various parts of Durango.

Until supper at nine, she usually stayed at school. "I had a great time in Mexico. I could have stayed two or three more months. It really made me more excited about my major, and I would encourage anyone to go," commented Connie. Dr. Apol, Mrs. Huisman, and three Dordt students went to Durango last year. This educational and exciting experience may cost you a bit, but according to Connie, it truly is worth it for this once-in-a-lifetime adventure.
The Sioux City Auditorium provided ample entertainment as the Blades defeated the Sioux City All-Stars 8-4.

cont'd from page 1

1984. The second meeting was at a conference in the Netherlands during the same summer. This past summer they met again on Dordt's campus.

Hulst will be preaching in English which the Koreans at the college understand. Hulst's sermons will develop the Biblical theme of God's Kingdom. The theme of his lectures will be "The Christian Perspective on Life and Learning." Hulst's trip also coincides with an effort to promote the internationalizing of Dordt's curriculum: developing more international study courses and bringing in more international students.

Hulst accepted Chung's invitation because he believes that it is "important to establish contact with other reformed Christian institutions and to support one another in the cause of Christian higher education."

by Ron DeBoer

The Dordt Blades ended the 1985 portion of this season's schedule with an 8-4 win over the Sioux City All-Stars last Saturday night, extending their unbeaten streak to 6 games and improving their record to 6-2-2.

Dordt was led in scoring by Leendert Van Der Schee who notched 4 goals. Ron DeBoer added 2 goals while Tony Bosch and Jeff VanNetten fired single markers. Ken Groot chipped in with 4 assists.

The game was the Blade's first back at the Sioux City Auditorium after travelling to Emo, Ontario, for the traditional three-game series against the Emo Flying Dutchman during Thanksgiving break.

Each year, the Dordt Hockey Team plays Emo in a series of competitive games that have become somewhat of a rivalry. Last year, the Blades fell to the Flying Dutchman in all three games. This year, the Blades and about sixteen fans boarded the Dordt school bus as soon as classes were recessed on Wednesday and arrived in Emo at about 1:00 A.M. Soon after arriving, everyone disbanded to go to the houses of their billets.

cont'd on page 6

photo by Chuck Muehler

by Rhonda Doss

Winners of Potentiality

If success is measured by winning percentages, the Lady Defenders at 1-4 are not considered successful. Coach Len Rhoda, however, sees winning as secondary. "Our main goals," says Rhoda, "are to work as a team and to develop our potential as individuals so that we can also help the other team to do that too."

Although the women have been beset by a large number of turnovers and have difficulty scoring the Lady Defenders are quick and experienced with seven out of their eleven members returning from last year.

Dordt lost its season opener at Dana, 54-48 in a very pressured game and lost to Buena Vista 78-62 in their second game. Though the Defenders were ahead 44-36 at half time, Buena Vista ran a tough press. Coach Rhoda attributes this win to the fact that the Defenders were able to score 26 points in the last ten minutes of the first half and then hold Buena Vista to four points during the first ten minutes of the second half. While they have recently lost games to Wartburg opener at Dana, 54-48 in a very pressured game and lost to Buena Vista 78-62 in their second game. Though the Defenders were ahead 44-36 at half time, Buena Vista ran a tough press.
World Injustice Continues

by David Hagedorn

As I meditated on the years gone past, it occurred to me that this year has been basically no different than those of the past. The Middle East political unrest, African famine, and the preposterous South African prejudice have been constant headlines of grief. Even on our own continent, tornados and floods have claimed far too many lives. Our present U.S. farm economy is just another example of unfair circumstances. It seems that the world will never experience complete peace and justice.

When these thorns in the rose bush of civilization draw blood, it is easy to envision life as a curse and not a blessing. Countless times, mothers of slaughtered children and children of murdered parents agonizingly cry out, "Why?", "What have I done to deserve this?", "Is there really a God who cares for his children?"

The same God whom we may blame for the world wide suffering tells us in Psalms 103:6 that he is righteous and just toward the oppressed. All things are under the control of God who created everything, and we are told not to worry about the necessities of life or the things of the future (Matthew 6:25-34).

In these times of world turmoil the Christian faith must become stronger in order that Satan cannot turn humanity toward him by way of cleverly presenting a seemingly "better" option. We must continue to work against the wrongs in our world through the name of Jesus Christ who has promised to be with us and strengthen us. I don't intend for this to sound "pie in the sky", because it is impossible by ourselves. With a constant awareness of Jesus Christ in our lives, the hard road to global equilibrium will become much softer.

The time is now and always to take a close look at our world and its many problems; then pray for the world leaders to make moral and ethical decisions while we do our best to live as Christ would have us live. If we give up on our world, all is lost. To quit is not to be the stewards of God's creation that we are to be.

In the coming of a New Year, Christians are again challenged to work within the legal political system wherever and whenever possible; bringing about a world where people can live peacefully. Sincere prayer and motivation are important key factors in bringing about the goal of international stability.

Calendar of Events

Dec. 13 WBB-Bethel Tourney, Away
Last day of classes
Student recital, 3:00 PM, CH

Dec. 14 MBB v. SDSU, 7:30 PM, Away
WBB-Bethel Tourney, Away

Dec. 15 Chorale Christmas Music Festival, 8:45 PM, CH

Dec. 16 Review day, AM

Dec. 16-19 Testing

Jan. 3 MBB-Northwestern Tourney, away
Band tour begins

Jan. 4 MBB-Northwestern Tourney, away

Jan. 8 MBB v. Buena Vista, away 7:30 PM
CRC Minister's Institute, West Commons, C160

Jan. 9 WBB v. Colorado College, away, 7:30
CRC Minister's Institute, West Commons, C160

Jan. 10 Faculty meeting, S4

Jan. 11 WBB v. Metro State, away 2:00 PM

Jan. 14 Registration-new transfer students
Band tour ends

Jan. 15 Second semester classes begin, 8:00 AM
MBB v. Westmar, home, 7:30 PM