

Diamond

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Dordt examines fantasy games

Are fantasy role playing games unChristian?

by Angela Struyk

"Spin wheel, spin!" commands the dungeon master as four contestants in this ancient game of "Wheel of Fortune" look on. The setting is a wizard's castle on a small island in the world of Grey Hawk. The contestants are an assortment of creatures such as dwarves, elves, humans and clerics wearing swords, armor, shields, and cloaks.

What are creatures doing in a castle, playing Wheel of Fortune in the land of Grey Hawk? This is just one episode in the fantasy role playing game (FRP) Dungeons and Dragons (better known as D and D by its players) which has been banned from being played on Dordt's campus.

If the game sounds much like a chapter from a fantasy fiction book by an author such as J.R.Tolkien don't be surprised. Many D and D players picture their characters in a world much like Tolkien's Middle Earth, where challenges with dragons, goblins, monsters, giants (to name a few of the many obstacles) are everyday adventures.

What is D and D? It is a very



by Arlin DeGroot

From left to right, Bob Wiersma, Jim Struyd, and Henry Korf plan strategies to carry them through the world of Grey Hawk.

filled with monsters and treasures, or he uses one of the many modules which can be purchased.

please turn to page 3

Dance proclaims itself as a God-given art form

by Wayne Kroon

A new form of art called "dance" has recently been introduced at Dordt drawing the attention of many people. As part of Arts Core 200 and Theater Arts, dance has become an "added flavor" to the curriculum now present.

According to *Dance in the Reformed Community*, a position paper submitted and written by a committee formed at Dordt, dance can be defined as a "...a physical movement. It is an activity based on a rhythmic pattern, as is all human activity." It goes on to say that, "...God also created us with the ability to perform physical activity to a rhythmic pattern--dance--and that it is also a legitimate leisure time activity for His creatures."

Dordt has recently employed Lynn Otto to teach dance as a sub-course of Arts Core 200. Otto is a 1984 graduate of Dordt who majored in Theater Arts, and who spent nine months at the Cornish Institute for the Performing and Visual Arts in Seattle, Washington. She studied dance and the various aspects surrounding it. Otto teaches close to 60 students per semester about dance and its attributes.

Formally called "Human Movement," this dance class studies the communication power of the physicality of the human body. It deals with the communication of one's body as well as that of others and is designed to enhance the view of dance performances in general.

According to Otto, "dance is a whole new area of communication opening up. Dance gives people a chance to move in ways they haven't moved before and makes them able to see the beauty of dance on both their physical as well as

mental healths. It is a form of nonverbal communication that expresses meaning in whatever way the person wants it to."

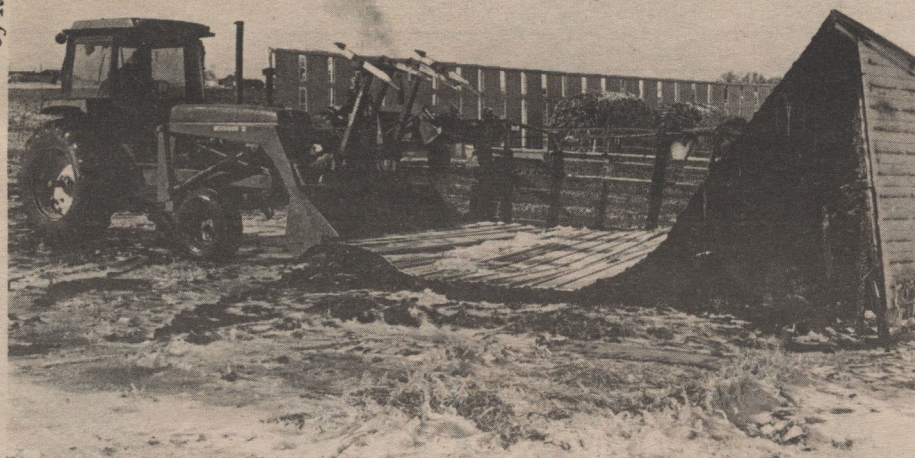
Otto goes on to say that people who take the class are quite taken aback at first when they start but are quite pleased with themselves by the time they get out of the class.

Basically an anaerobic exercise, dancing transmits different physical benefits depending mainly upon the type of dance you do. According to Professor Mary Schutton of Dordt's Physical Education department, dancing is a good way of exercising and you can also get good benefits from dance. Muscle toning, limited cardiovascular improvement, and even some limited muscle build-up are among the benefits.

So what is the possible controversy surrounding the dance class at Dordt? The problem exists because not everyone sees dance as an art form. Some see it as a sexual enticer that leads to more than it should. Others see it as a form of communication that shouldn't be a part of Dordt. Whatever the reason, Otto definitely had a rough time. She now has more understanding into her teaching.

As the position paper, *Dance in the Reformed Community* states, "families need to plan ways in which involvement in the arts can help open up members to their emotions and responsible expressions of their feelings in leisure activities such as dance. Schools should begin to build on this process through the adaptation of curriculum and instruction techniques. The church also through the proclamations of the Word needs to accept and support the place of dance in and for the Christian community."

by Rick Faber



A tractor clears what remains of a destroyed calf hutch that went up in

flames Saturday at the Dordt College Ag Stewardship center.

Fire befalls Dordt Ag Stewardship Center

by Wayne Spronk

A small water heater is being blamed for the fire which destroyed a calf hutch at the Dordt College's Ag Stewardship Center, leaving six calves temporarily barnless. The fire began Saturday afternoon when the calves apparently pulled the portable electric water heater from the water tank and the device overheated in the straw. The heating units have no thermostat to shut them off when they are removed from the cold water and begin to overheat.

There were three of the approximately six-foot by 12 foot hutches on the dairy farm, and 30 smaller one-calf hutches.

Dordt farm maintenance manger Les

Schaap says, "we were thinking about building another hutch for more room, and now this one burns." Schaap estimates the loss, which is covered by insurance, at around five hundred dollars.

The heaters in the water tank are kept away from the calves with a piece of plywood above one corner of the tank, but it wasn't enough. As Schaap put it, "Calves are smart, but they're dumb, you know? We need a piece of iron to hold those heaters in place." The calves escaped, though not without some of them being quite badly singed, and the dairy farm losing part of its already short "housing."

Donated by the Theater Arts Dept.

by Luke Seerveld

WELCOME TO GENERIC COLLEGE by Ronald Thomas Nelson

It happens every Tuesday--Double Green Stamp Day at Hy Vee. Roommate Norman and I are standing in front of the dairy case when I pick up a gallon of black and white label generic milk. "Hey, Norman! Let's get this milk. It must come from Holsteins." Norman sighs (again) and shuffles off. I find him later standing in front of the meat counter lusting at the roast beef.

Any Dordt student faced with feeding himself has, no doubt, discovered the pleasures of these un-named, un-branded budget-saving foodstuffs. Although the unpretentious black and white labels are somewhat refreshing in this world of otherwise over-hyped NEW AND IMPROVED FABULOUS FANTASTIC euphemistic world of mass marketing, this is not an object lesson for a college.

What are you saying Nelson? You are undoubtedly saying.

I always assumed Dordt's colors, black and white, blatantly symbolized "the great antithesis." But is this really a subtle allusion to generic products.

Well, the building names at Dordt College remind me of the bottom shelf at Hy Vee. *East Hall*, *Chapel Music Building* and *The Commons* are all evidences of the early unimaginative, unthoughtful and I believe disobedient days of Dordt College.

I suppose it is possible that a disoriented freshman from Manitoba, lost and confused in his first few hours on campus, could, in desperation, turn towards the great Dominion, and, alas eventually return to his room in North Hall. But is this reason enough to name it *North Hall*?

God commands name-giving. Adam's task of assigning names to Eden creatures was not mere busy work while he was waiting for the more dramatic rib transformation that rendered Eve. Rather, it was an image bearer being obedient to a Creator God's call to be a good garden keeper. Even after the fruit fiasco, and after killer Cain left home to carry out an ungodly cultural mandate in the world (music and cities, says Genesis) god's children are still, regardless of sin, commanded to serve as astronomers and actors name-giving their way from Broadway to the Milky Way.

Meanwhile, Cain and his kin have been giving names to everything from the cookie Lornadoon, to the West African country of Camaroon while we, students of Dordt College, inheritors of four hundred and fifty years of a more Biblical understanding of creation, live in places like *East Campus Apartments*, take notes in *The Classroom Building*, and do research in *The Library*.

Although it is obvious that Dordt College should not take precedence for name-calling from generic products, it should nevertheless not look to a certain large denominational college (the one located in the pinkie finger of the Michigan mitt) either. After touring that campus, one might realize that the administration will probably place a plaque beside a doorknob honoring some fat-cat Calvinist if indeed he had donated the cash for it. I hope that wouldn't happen here. Besides, we have lots of heroes of the faith whose achievements go well beyond the big bucks.

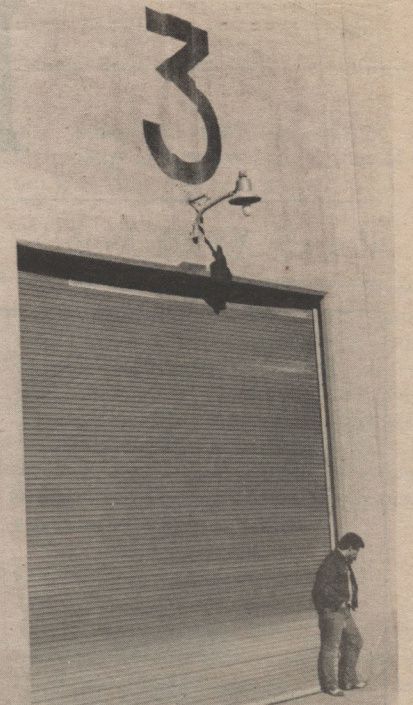
The H.R., Rookmaker Art Building

As a prisoner to the Nazis, Rookmaker was called by Christ into a covenant relationship and then became an art historian, giving groundwork to a Christian aesthetic.

The Abraham Kuyper Library

Perhaps the entire college should have been named in the memory of this prophetic theologian/armchair philosopher/politician/newspaper editor.

These are the only two of which I feel certain enough to suggest renaming. Other Dordt people, perhaps students and faculty within a given discipline, could combine thoughts and rename their otherwise generic-sounding facilities.



Ron Nelson: columnist at bay.

Diamond

The *Diamond* encourages and appreciates letters to the editors. In considered of space limitations and fairness, we ask letter writers to confine their contributions to 300 words or less. The *Diamond* reserves the right to edit or refuse the publication letters. Letters must be turned in to the editors by the Saturday before publication. All letters must be signed.

Those outside the Dordt Community who would like to write to the *Diamond* Editors, or who would like to subscribe, may address correspondence to: The Editors, *Diamond*, Dordt College, Sioux Center, Iowa 51250.

The *Diamond* thanks the *Sioux Center News* for the use of their equipment and technical advice.

The *Diamond* is a bi-weekly publication produced with thought and concern by students of Dordt College. The views presented here are the product of Christian love and are an attempt to promote serious thinking and radical action. Issues and problems face the aching and fallen hearts of all humanity. These demand the full attention and spiritual struggle of Christians and call for an articulated and concrete response. In this context, the *Diamond* strives to provide an opportunity for Christian journalism to plat itself out in an open verbal arena. But our prayer does not end in the confused babbling of mere verbiage, rather, its hope is to open the minds and hearts of the community to which it is directed.



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Letters to the Editors

In response to Mr. Henry De Groot's letter in the January 31 issue of *the Diamond*, I'm presenting my views and response to his statements.

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) sees alcoholism as a two part disease. The alcoholic is physically different in being addicted (an allergy) and has a mental obsession manifested by a craving for alcohol. This doesn't blame anyone for the disease. It does partially explain why alcoholics continue drinking despite the consequences for themselves.

AA doesn't cure alcoholism. But it is the most affective program for arresting this disease. This is shown by continued abstinence. All AA requires of the person is a desire to stop drinking.

The alcoholic doesn't take credit for staying dry. I give credit where it belongs--to my higher power whom I choose to call God. Recovery is more than staying dry. The concept of *sobriety* implies a way of life that doesn't include drinking. The guide for this spiritual life-style is found in the suggestions of AA's 12 Steps and 12 Traditions.

Looking at alcoholism as "self-imposed,"

I see several things. First, I chose to drink so I set up a necessary condition for becoming alcoholic. But I did not choose to become an alcoholic. I'd like to look at the more "acceptable" diseases of diabetes and hypoglycemia. Both of these diseases can result from improper eating habits and are therefore "self-imposed." Why is the alcoholic picked out to be judged and condemned for his/her self-imposed disease and not others?

Prevention is a worthy goal. But all we can do is support the non-drinker and work to inform those who choose to drink of the possible results. The most recent statistics I've seen show one out of five people who drink will at some time become alcoholics. Of those about 75 percent will recover; the rest have one of three ends-insanity, institutionalization, and death.

I am not signing my name because AA's 11th and 12th traditions stress personal anonymity at the level of press, radio and films as well as putting principles before personalities.

A grateful recovering alcohol/drug addict and Dordt student

Dear Editor:

While attending the Jubilee Conference in Pittsburgh I was challenged by the speeches I heard. Therefore I felt it necessary to give a brief summary of the weekend's speeches to all those Dordt students who did not attend.

One speech that hit me the most was given by Dr. Os Guinness, Sociologist of Theology at Oxford University. Through this speech, I was reminded that as Christians living in American society, we have the responsibility to do more than witness. Our calling is to change the United States into a nation that has Christian instead of Humanist ideals.

The highlights of Guinness' speech stated that America is in a period of transition. This transition can lead either to the danger of the American attitude becoming like that of our European friends or towards a Christian nation. For those of you who are not familiar with European thought today; it is very individualized.

Christians do not feel the church is important because their faith in God is personal and not community orientated. Most people do not even believe in God, but instead put their faith in the nation, money, and technology.

Guinness explained that America has never before had such a great number of Christians. The amount of money availa-

ble in politics, journalism, social work, medicine, business, etc. are also at their peak. Therefore, he says that Christians have a duty and a strong calling by God to help steer this change into a direction focusing on God instead of doom, which will otherwise occur.

How, may you ask, can I change the United States? You alone cannot. Guinness challenged us to stand together and work together in our different disciplines; constantly working to Christ's honor and glory and in this way direct our nation. If we do not demonstrate leadership our nation will fall apart at the seams and we will be to blame.

Personally, I do not think that some of us take our calling seriously enough since we do not realize how important it is for us to change America's structures. America is in big trouble according to speakers such as John Perkins (who you may recall was on Dordt's campus last fall), and Os Guinness. They expressed that "reformed Christians" have the perfect philosophy to make a transition in this world, yet we do not. We become too involved in secular ideals to realize that we are letting go of our Christian response.

I wish more of you could have gone to Jubilee. It is a very encouraging and challenging conference for struggling Christians in today's world.

Margaret Valkema

Dungeons and Dragons use creative minds continued from page one

The players assume the roles of specific characters such as dwarves, elves, magic-using clerics, wizards and practically anything else that can be imagined. Each player is then given a personality based on the role of the dice for amount of strength, intelligence, dexterity with weapons and ability to take punishment. These characters are also assigned a personality such as good or evil, lawful or chaotic, or neutral. As the group of characters enters the castle or dungeon or whatever situation, the DM gives clues to its size and content and the characters work together to go through the adventure unscathed. The game really has no winners or losers, but the object of the game is to have an adventure.

According to Clarke Huisman who has been playing in various games and worlds for nearly seven years, "some might term it as a form of (D and D) escapism." Others explain the game similarly, relating it to fiction. Player Bob Wiersma explained it as a complicated game of make-believe. "The way I look at it, its no different than reading literature but you're writing it as you go along," says Wiersma.

He believes that there has been alot of undue criticism of the game, and that its healthy for the imagination. Another player described D and D as "a game of good versus evil." He explained it as being able to do things that the book characters do except the player lives the story rather than reads it.

According to DM Preston Zwart, there is no limit to what can happen in a given game no matter how well the adventure has been planned beforehand.

Another way to play is in the players minds where all the characters are played out by the players themselves and they act their adventures out in imagined situations period.

Why has this game and most other fantasy role playing games been banned from Dordt's campus? According to Dean of Students Marion VanSoelen, "There is an understanding by some people that some of these games are related to the spirit world, and that's dangerous."

By talking with students who have played different types of FRP games, Van

Soelen realizes that not all of these games are dangerous or tamper with the demon world, but, according to VanSoelen, to be consistent, all of them have become banned. He has visited with individuals involved in D and D and other FRG and has discovered that they are all very different, but he says, "no-one has been able to promote it as good entertainment necessary on this campus." Students have argued that although all FRP games have been banned, the nuclear simulation game that was held several weeks ago was also a form of FRP.

One of the reasons why there is a negative feeling toward the game of D and D is because of a television movie entitled "Mazes and Monsters" which depicted the story of a college student who began to live his game character out in real life and eventually tried to kill himself as a fulfillment of his quest. The "PTL Club" has also criticized the game on one of its programs as being related to devils and demons.

Most of the students on Dordt's campus who are involved in D and D do not feel D and D is dangerous in terms of involvement with demonology. Many of these players do, however, see that the game can become very time-consuming to a point where it takes a higher priority to studies, sleep, and other "real life" activities.

Wiersma, who plays a ranger cleric in his D and D game (a ranger cleric has special powers to heal and raise from death) says he has never seen a dangerous game, but could see where someone overcommitted to the game could put himself into a potential danger.

Wiersma believes that this overcommitment should not be blamed on the game of D and D, but on the individual himself.

Some criticize the types of characters that are part of D and D such as evil spirits, sorcerers, witches, to list a few, and state that the players may begin to believe in these creatures. One player said, "I believe in the game about as much as Tolkien when I'm reading it." Wiersma feels that if D and D cannot be played, then books such as C.S. Lewis' Narnia Chronicles or Tolkien's books should also be banned.

Freshman, Bruce Polson, has been exposed to the game of D and D and has some very strong feelings against it. Several years ago Polson attended a computer camp where he encountered his first experience with D and D.

What seemed like an odd coincidence to Polson was that nearly one-third of those who attended the camp discovered that they played D and D and none of them had known each other before. He said that about ten of the approximately 30 people who met at the camp devoted most of their evenings to playing D and D.

The way they played was all in their minds, and according to Polson, they never broke character, and sometimes would speak in more than one voice--an eerie experience for those who observed. Polson's advice to anyone remotely interested in playing D and D would be not to start, because he has seen to many

people spend too much time at it.

Reverend Wayne Kobes has spent some time speaking with D and D players after a student fearful of the game talked to him. What Kobes discovered after speaking with several D and D players, was that D and D was a game which promoted creativity and camaraderie among its players. He commented, however, that he was concerned whether the game was a good use of time and whether it shaped the player at all into an attitude of materialism which D and D seems to promote. But at the same time Kobes questioned whether the game of hockey promoted aggression or whether the game of monopoly promoted greed and extreme capitalism.

Kobes believed that if a policy was made which banned the playing of D and D or other FRP games, that it should be one which is well thought out, specific, and researched.

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Peace Corps swells with African famine

The famine in Africa has inspired an unprecedented number of students to inquire about joining the Peace Corps in recent weeks.

More than 12,000 prospective recruits--as many as 800 of them college students--have called the agency since January 10th, when it launched an appeal for workers with agriculture-related skills to help combat the famine in Africa.

Nearly a month after the recruitment drive was launched, calls are still coming in at three times the normal rate.

The interest has been so strong that the agency may meet its recruitment goals

for the first time in 24 years, Peace Corps officials say.

"It's incredible what we've created," marvels press officer Ron De Fore. "We're breaking all records, both for quantity and quality."

DeFore acknowledges the unprecedented response is almost entirely attributable to widespread publicity in recent months of the extreme famine conditions across much of Africa.

"The most common reaction to our pitch used to be 'Gee, I didn't know the Peace Corps was still around,'" DeFore recalls.

Area organists attend workshop

Area organists as well as Dordt music students participated in the Church Music Workshop held February 22 and 23 at the Dordt Chapel. Sponsored by the Western Iowa Chapter of the Guild of Organists, the workshop included three topics: children's choirs, wedding music, and hymn accompanying. Each subject was handled by one of three guest church musicians.

During the workshop, organists and choir directors were exposed to more literature by means of lectures and demonstrations, according to Dordt music professor Dr. Joan Ringerwale. The

main intention of the workshop was to promote good church music, and inspire new ideas, said Ringerwale.

Ringerwale also indicated that it was a privilege for Dordt and the organists guild to host three talented artists simultaneously for this purpose. William and Marjorie Ness, co-directors of music at the Ottumwa, Iowa, First Presbyterian Church, spoke on wedding music and children's choirs, respectively. Speaking on hymn accompanying was Davis Folkerts, minister of music at the Second Reformed Church in Pella, Iowa.

These organists commented on the

"Now, it seems we've reawakened the American population as a whole to the fact that the Corps is still alive. This by-product in public awareness is going to benefit us for years to come. It may start a whole new trend," says DeFore.

DeFore estimates that nearly 70 percent of the volunteers for the agriculture assistance programs are college seniors.

Normally, the Corps fills only about 60 percent of the vacancies in its agriculture assistance programs.

This year, the agency is trying to fill 600 positions for the spring and summer programs in that division of Africa.

"It's most likely we'll fill them all," says DeFore.

Moreover, DeFore says the agency may even be able to send more volunteers to its programs in South and Central America, and Asia, and the Pacific.

"Solidarity" sought in campus groups

A new group has emerged on campus this year taking on the name of "Student Solidarity Committee". Members of the group come from groups such as Student Forum, Peer Counselors, and R.A.'s. This group of campus leaders and potential leaders seeks to complement each other's efforts of leadership and those of their respective groups. The name "Solidarity" which means "the intensification of unity" was chosen because this is exactly what the committee is seeking for campus groups--Solidarity.

According to Student Solidarity member, Val Haarsma, the committee formed after a CMA (Colleges for Mid-America) Conference last spring pointed out the need to increase unity on Christian campuses. In response to this need, students who attended the conference formed a new committee sensitive to leadership potential and stimulating individual and group leadership.

Recently, the committee outlined three purposes to guide their actions.

- 1) Increase communication between campus groups and organizations.
- 2) Develop each student's talents in being disciples and making them aware of their potential.
- 3) Feed and serve others.

Presently, most of the members of Solidarity are in established leadership positions on campus. This, however, according to Brian Kruis, should not suggest that only individuals who presently have leadership positions are welcome to join. Says Kruis, "we want to help bring the Dordt community together through our efforts and include in our membership all those who are interested in serving others".

The group has set out to accomplish its purposes through the following activities. It plans to organize one student development seminar per semester. Last semester, Lou Agnese of Briar Cliff spoke with Dordt students about leadership and service.

The committee also wishes to coordinate on student exchange per year with an area college. It facilitated one such exchange with Briar Cliff this semester.

Future plans of the committee include developing a pamphlet with brief descriptions of all clubs and organized groups on campus to be distributed to incoming freshmen. After Spring Break, the committee is planning a seminar focusing on being disciples.

At the beginning of each semester, an informal mixer for all group leaders will be held so they can share goals, aspirations, and ideas for enhancing student life.

The Student Solidarity Committee is growing rapidly and encourages any interested students to contact a present member if they are interested in joining. Says Val Haarsma, "We are optimistic about the enthusiasm and support of our new members and we anticipate positive feedback from the campus as a whole".

Peru violates basic human rights Thousands of Peruvians "disappear"

Atrocities committed by Peruvian government forces in the country's remote highland provinces have reached unprecedented levels in the country's modern history, according to a report released by Amnesty International in January.

Hundreds of Peruvians have been tortured and killed during the last two years, and more than 1,000 have "disappeared" after government agents seized them without warrant from their homes. Many of the victims are students and teachers, killed because of their alleged association with the Shining Path armed opposition group.

An army patrol abducted Pedro Gomez, a university student, when he returned from Lima to his parents' rural home 18 months ago. He has not been seen since the abduction. Argumedes Ascarza, an 18 year old student from the Ayacucho highlands, also remains among the "disappeared." Hooded men dressed in army uniforms abducted him from his home in July, 1983.

Massive human rights violations began to occur in Peru in December, 1982, when the government of President Fernando

Belaunde Terry placed nine western provinces under military rule. Shining Path guerillas have been especially active in these provinces, targeting government security personnel and local community leaders for execution-style killings. Last summer the government extended the Emergency Zone to 13 provinces.

Despite domestic and international protest against the "dirty wars" waged by government authorities, military forces, Peruvian police, and the civil guard continue to violate citizens' basic human rights with virtual impunity.

While condemning the killings and other abuses committed by the Shining Path, Amnesty International has called upon the government of President Belaunde to observe international standards for protection of individual citizens' fundamental human rights.

Students and teachers in the Emergency Zone have suffered brutal treatment, in part because young people have been recruited into the guerrilla movement. Evidence compiled by Amnesty International suggests that military agents suspect young people, simply because of their age, of participating in guerrilla

activity.

Victims of government agents also include farmers, lawyers, journalists, and leaders of peasant organizations and trade unions. Security forces have dumped or buried thousands of bodies at several sites in the Emergency Zone.

Fifty bodies were found in seven shallow graves at one site last summer. At other sites military authorities have obstructed exhumation or identification of corpses, which often bear clear marks of torture and a single gunshot wound to the head.

Removal of clothing, severing of fingers, and the mutilation of facial features render identification difficult. A Peruvian woman testified that she and her daughter had searched for her missing son "at the place where the dead bodies appear. But we have only found the collar of his shirt, which the marines used as a blindfold on another person."

Numerous victims of "disappearance" were last seen alive at one of two government detention centers. The Huanta Stadium, a concrete structure built in 1974 for sporting events, serves as a provincial naval command headquarters. Authorities have denied detaining many of the prisoners held under the grandstand and in open areas of the stadium.

Los Cabitos Barracks, a regional army headquarters, reportedly serves as the Emergency Zone's main interrogation and detention center. Prisoners released from the barracks have testified that they saw people there whom authorities denied detaining. These testimonies support evidence that guards in the barracks systematically torture detainees. Norma Cordero Matraza, a 12 year old school girl taken from her home at midnight last year, is among those last seen at the barracks.

You can help in the work to end human rights abuses in Peru by joining Amnesty International's worldwide campaign. Please write a courteous letter to President Belaunde.

Expressing your concern about the increasing numbers of disappearances and extrajudicial executions in Peru, and urging the government to adopt measures for halting these practices. You can also call for the full inquiries into cases of "disappearances."

Letters may be sent to: President Fernando Belaunde Terry

Presidente de la Republica del Peru
Palacio de Gobierno
752 Av. Canaval Moreya
Pescaderia
Lima, Peru.

Salutation is Dear President Belaunde
You can increase the effect of your letter by sending a copy to:
His Excellency Luis Marchand
Ambassador of the Republic of Peru
1700 Massachusetts Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20036.

Letters should be sent no later than March 31, 1985.



U-2: Band of the 80's

by mark-philip venema

When *Rolling Stone* runs a cover story, "Keeping the Faith," in which it nominates a band for "Our choice band of the 80's" and *Newsweek* runs a full page story that starts, "It's not often that one of the world's most popular and exciting young rock bands is attacked in the press for promoting 'the hocus-pocus of Christian enlightenment,' it would be a foregone conclusion to say that the world—which I hope includes the "Reformed" community—better sit up.

The band of four is U2, three of whom are Christians who make no attempt to hide their convictions; at least for those who simp look. The band's outlook seeks to address religion as well as politics and more. They leave no area untouched by their passion.

Their most recent album, which debuted already in the fall, is a further demonstration of the band's commitment. "The Unforgettable Fire" is named after a group of stark and impressive paintings drawn by survivors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. While the album is named after this, the band says they also see them in relation with the holy baptism of fire.

In terms of the album's lyrical content, U2 sings of Martin Luther King Jr. in their biggest 'hit' "Pride (in the name of love)" and in their mystifying and airy tune "MLK" (which incidently was used as part of the sound track for the New Skins production *Two, Too, To*).

Yet it would be unfair to say that this is all the album deals with. The lyrics of lead singer Bono Vox (alias Paul Hewson) are spontaneous as they jump from one theme to the next, like a series of allusive yet tenable truths. In fact, the lyrics on one of the tracks were written totally impromptu as the band was recording.

While much praise can be given to the album's thematic and spiritual direction, this would be useless if U2 had sacrificed its aesthetic integrity. Fortunately, this has not been so. The band level of quality is such that it taps the energy of rock without reducing it to sonic smear and cacophony. Their instrumental pieces are refined yet one can easily allow himself to become drunk with its rhythm.

The entire album was recorded in an old castle in the Isles. With experimental producer Brian Eno of Talking Heads and Roxy Music fame, the band hoped to achieve a unique shift in the development of its style while at the same time bringing out the bands characteristic anxious inner struggle. In this way the crying and earnest voice of Bono is the gem set in the matrix of Celtic rhythms.

In several of the songs one can hear a quality of sound that I can only describe via a primordial sensation of rising mist off an echoing lake. In addition the sound of the bands distinctive guitarist the Edge (David Evans) is somewhat subdued in this album, only adding to what Bono calls 'going back into the grey area.'

Sword production adds additional touch of authenticity

by Phil Grotenhuis

Arlin De Groot is a man born 500 years too late. While trillions are being spent on the mass production of modern conventional weaponry, De Groot calmly takes pride in something only arduous craftsmanship can acquire—the production of the common sword.

The lost art of patience, production and attention to detail spurred DeGroot to fashion swords for the upcoming production of *Romeo and Juliet*. After discovering that swords from past plays would be used in the production, De Groot began to question the credibility of director Verne Meyer's decision.

"The swords intended for *Romeo and Juliet* were the wrong type, country, and era," explains De Groot. According to De Groot, the director was prepared to use the English broadsword, a two-edged weapon built for chopping and hacking against armor. Realizing the fault, he suggested producing rapier swords, a shorter and more accurate weapon used extensively in Italy during the time of Shakespeare. De Groot approached Verne Meyer and discussed the probability of producing new swords—ones that could further the production's credibility.

After discussion with set designer John Hofland, De Groot's proposal was approved. It was then his task to further research his project concerning design costs, materials, and techniques in manufacturing the arms.

The eventual production involved many long and articulate steps which only patience could accomplish. "I talked with many people who have taken metal work courses," says De Groot. "Sandy Vander Mey's metal courses also helped me in production techniques."

De Groot received the quarter-inch steel for his swords from the shop of the Theater Arts Department. After marking out length and width markings, he took the metal to Kesters Manufacturing and had it cut with special equipment. With the cut portions, it was then up to De Groot to transform the metal.

According to De Groot, much of the material aiding in the transformation of the steel was makeshift. "The anvil was produced from a portion of an I-beam," says De Groot, "and instead of a billows furnace, I heated the metal with a cutting torch."

After heating the steel to a red glow, he proceeded to shape the steel known in technical terms as "akneeling." The process of akneeling compresses the sword's metal molecules.

Following the akneeling procedure, he then lowered the sword into a slag-drop, a barrel which during medieval times included such ingredients as blood, goats urine, and horseradish juice. "These elements were thought by medieval blacksmiths to be the best ingredients for strengthening the sword after the akneeling process," explains De Groot. "The slag-drop forces the carbon molecules of the steel to the surface. This produces a



by Phil Grotenhuis

Arlin DeGroot displays techniques on the manufacturing of a total of 16 swords

and three daggers for next weeks production of "Romeo and Juliet".

hard surface and a soft flexible core enabling the sword to hold an edge longer." For practical purposes, De Groot chose used car oil for the slag-drop after finding its ingredients proved far more effective than medieval ingredients.

Each sword for *Romeo and Juliet* was akneeled and slag-dropped approximately 10-12 times. After the akneeling and slag-dropping process, he added the sword's handles and other parts.

"I would have liked to have spent more time on the swords, but I had a time element to deal with," says De Groot.

Despite his time limitations, De Groot was able to produce 13 rapier swords, three daggers, and three broadswords. "I only took the swords through the rough stages," states De Groot, "it was then up to the shop employees to finish the work and tend to the finer details."

Pride, attention to detail, and patience is the elixir of any craft, especially De Groot's. For the directors and cast of *Romeo and Juliet*, a new dimension has been added from the duel of Mercutio and Tybalt to the fatal finale of Juliet—the dimension of authenticity.

Talent Extravaganza features top talent

Dordt's Fifth Annual Talent Extravaganza will be held this Saturday. "Star Search 1985" will feature John Teeuwssen and Kel Blom as the hosts for the evening. This year it will include 12 acts planned with students from all four classes.

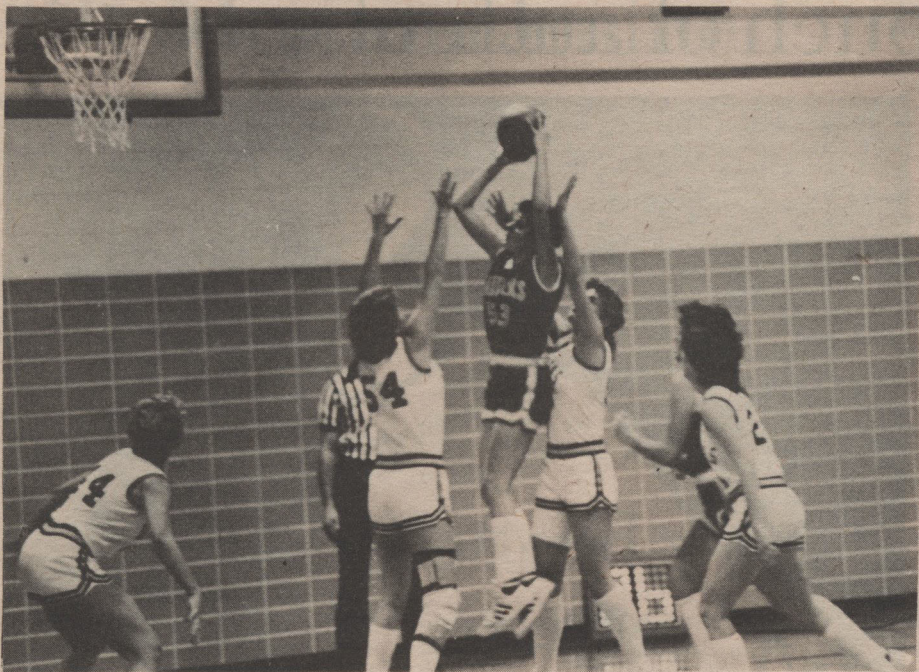
The show should last about two hours and will be followed by a delicious ice cream social in the Commons. Tickets are one dollar at the door which includes the ice cream and the most thrilling and comical student entertainment ever seen.

Judges for the show are Alice Veldhuizen, Karen Bleeker, Syne Altena,

and Howard Hall. Acts will be judged on quality of performance, stage presentation, and audience response. A special prize for the best original act will also be awarded.

In the past, the Talent Extravaganza has brought crowds of 800 people to the chapel for the show. This year we look forward to as many people if not more. Get your friends together and come for an exciting evening Saturday, March 9 at 8:00p.m.

Sports



The Dordt Lady Defenders, despite a tough defense performance, lost a disappointing home game against Mary

Crest 87-73 February 23. The Lady Defenders closed out their season at 11-11.

Marycrest edges Dordt by slim margin

by Rhonda Doss

The Defenders then went on to host Marycrest on February 23, which Coach VanderBerg refers to as a "great spectator game."

Despite the enthusiasm of the crowd and the home court advantage, however, Marycrest went on to edge the Defenders 105-99 in their last regular season game.

The Defenders kept in contention throughout, outrebounding Marycrest by 12, and sinking 25 out of a possible 28 opportunities at the free throw line. However, Dordt committed 20 turnovers and ran into foul trouble, which seemed to have put the game out of reach for them. Dordt shot 50 percent in field goals against Marycrest's 65 percent.

Freshman Greg Van Soelen assisted the Defenders with 25 points and 13 rebounds, followed by senior Brad Boer with 20 points, nine rebounds and senior Don Vanden Top with 20 points and seven rebounds.

VanderBerg's concluding comment that it was a great team effort sums up what may have been the best game of the year.

Bench aids Defenders to victory

On March 2, Dordt hosted Grandview College in District NAIA play and went on to win 72-65.

Although the Defenders ran into foul trouble, they were able to out-rebound Grandview 28-27. They also hit 95 percent of their free throws and 49 percent of their field goals.

Dordt never lost their lead, though they were only one point ahead with three minutes remaining in regulation time. Brian Vos displayed his best game of the year. Vos scored 21 points and hit key pressure to lead the Defenders offensively. Greg Van Soelen contributed 16 points and Dave Brenneman added ten points.

Coach VanderBerg was obviously very pleased with the performance and complimented the bench with doing an outstanding job.

The Defenders will now travel to Davenport, Iowa to play Marycrest tonight. Should they win, they'll advance to National play in Kansas City the following week.

Dordt's men lose and women win versus Briar Cliff

by Rhonda Doss

On February 20, the Dordt Defenders were hosted by Briar Cliff in Sioux City, Iowa. Although Dordt outscored Briar Cliff in the second period (46-43), they were unable to win the game. The final score was Briar Cliff 89, Dordt 80.

Coach VanderBerg attributes the loss to a very slow start on the part of the Defenders. In addition, Dordt committed eight turnovers in the first ten minutes of the game. Dordt was outscored in the first period 46-34.

As a team, the Defenders connected only 44 percent of their field goals but they had a favorable 86 percentage from the free throw line. Their opponents had a 50 percent field goal make, and they were able to sink 90 percent of their field throws. Brad Boer led the Defenders with 20 points, followed by Dave Brenneman with 15 and Kevin Gesink contributing 12 points.

VanderBerg maintains that the Defenders came back well and comments that it was very valuable to have excellent help off the bench.

On February 20, the Lady Defenders were hosted by Briar Cliff in Sioux City, Iowa, preceeding the men's game. Dordt outscored Briar Cliff 79-68. Coach Len Rhoda attributes the win to the ability the Defenders possessed in controlling their play. Their ability to make 29 free throws out of a possible 40 while limiting Briar Cliff's opportunities to just 12, was a crucial factor. Dordt also was able to take advantage of Briar Cliff's press to accumulate a number of easy baskets.

Jacque Van Leeuwen led the Lady Defenders with 27 points offensively, and 11 rebounds defensively. Vonda Broek added 25 points and 11 rebounds and Faye Woudstra contributed 12 points and 12 rebounds to help the Defenders to victory.

Coach Rhoda contends that a 44 percent positive field goal percentage coupled by a 71 percent free throw percentage is indicative of a good team effort where everyone thought and played well together.

Famine in Africa spurs "letter drive"

The World Awareness Hunger Club at Dordt has sponsored a "Call for Action" concerning the famine in Africa. This call contains two parts. These parts are politically and financially motivated.

The political part of the call deals with getting people to send letters to their congressmen in order to help pass certain legislation to help needy nations in Africa. Randy Klynsmas, a Dordt senior, said that he received a letter from "Bread of the World," an organization that tries to help those that need help. Within this letter, it asked to organize a letter drive on this campus.

Klynsmas decided to do more than organize a letter drive at Dordt. He also extended the drive to the churches in Sioux Center. He estimates that out of the 400 letters distributed, 25 were actually sent.

The other aspect of the call dealt with finances. Junior Mary Den Herder was in charge of this area. Den Herder said that she had approximately 20 people collecting donations for the needy in Africa. These donations would then be sent to Canada where the Canadian government would match the amount that was collected at Dordt.

Both Klynsmas and Den Herder thought that the "Call for Action" was a good program for students at Dordt. Although the need was great, Den Herder and Klynsmas were unhappy with the response and attributed it to a lack of publicity. Den Herder did say that there will be another drive in April and hopes that the student body will be more aware of the need for relief in Africa.



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Farm crisis seen from APJ perspective

APJ Release

"Yes, the American farmer must compete on world markets, and part of what will be required for that to happen is less wasteful federal spending on commodity and loan programs," says James Skillen, the Executive Director of the Association for Public Justice.

"But beyond that point of agreement," Skillen argues, "President Reagan's farm bill proposals and *Time* magazine's report on farm troubles are half truths at best and dangerous distortions at worst."

The Reagan Administration is about to release its 1985 farm bill proposals, and *Time* magazine's February 18 cover story tries to capture the tension between those "free market" plans and the present financial crisis on the farm.

"According to *Time* and the President," Skillen says, "the credit crisis sweeping farm states is due to misguided investment and borrowed decisions by farmers who have grown too dependent on Washington. The Admini-

stration's answer is to cut back federal spending on farm programs, especially price supports and loans, to allow better competition on world markets and thus to increase sales. If tens of thousands of farmers go out of business in the meantime, that is just shaking out the inefficient.

"What is *not* said by administration officials or in *Time*'s report is that past and current tax policies along with the credit and commodity policies have created such a distorted agricultural structure that a return to a supposedly healthy free market is not possible simply by cutting federal expenditures.

"The Reagan Administration's recent disastrous PIK program, its investment tax credits and accelerated depreciation allowances, its monetary decisions which keep interest rates high—all of these have led to distortions that will require changes in more than the amount of the government's price supports," says Skillen.

Skillen adds, "For example, huge amounts of those increasing federal expenditures over the last four years have gone to only a few of the largest farmers. In some cases million-dollar returns have gone to a single farmer."

"Furthermore," explains Skillen, "little or nothing is said by the Administration (or *Time*) about soil and water depletion, loss of farmland, and the dangers of increased use of pesticides and fertilizers. Conservation and environmental protection will not arise automatically from market competition."

"No wonder," Skillen continues, "that healthy competition from the medium-sized family farmer is threatened; no wonder that five years ago the average farmer tried quickly to enlarge his acreage and buy new machinery when land prices skyrocketed: all the pressure, from Washington and the markets, was to get big or miss out."

"Clearly the policies of the past two decades have not brought us to a healthy

position," Skillen agrees, "but the answer is not now to pull the rug out from farmers in general, leaving the spoils to those few giant enterprises made fat by past government subsidies and pay-backs."

Skillen says the answer must be found in returning agriculture to a healthy market situation for millions of, and not just a few thousand farmers. "That will require cut-backs in federal supports alright," says Skillen, "but it must include multiple structural changes beginning with lower ceilings on federal subsidies to any single farmer much lower than the Administration is proposing. Healthy, competitive agriculture will also require changes in tax and conservation policies which target those fewer federal dollars to the efficient, soil-conserving, water conserving, energy-conserving farmer who is, in most cases, the medium-sized, full-time family farmer," says Skillen.

Cannon seeks to publish artists

by Jim Struyd

The Cannon is finally coming out. After a semester of dormancy, a group of students decided to publish it again. According to Randy Vander Mey, the faculty advisor of the Cannon, there wasn't enough student interest in it last semester.

But this semester is different. Mike Dykstra, editor of the Cannon, hopes to have a healthy issue. "According to 13th century poet Dante, art is a grandchild of God and with this perspective my staff and I hope to publish the Cannon," says Dykstra. He and his staff are running into some problems. Don Huizinga, one of the members of the editorial staff, said that thematerial is coming in slow. "We have some people working on material but we can use works by any new writers or artists," says Huizinga.

The staff wants to publish various short stories, poetry, art, photography, and essays. Music and plays will not be published. He also says that all works that are submitted will be considered and those that are not selected for publishing will have a written evaluation when they are returned to their owner.

Dykstra says that he expects that the Cannon will come out in early to mid April. He hopes to have a more professional look and better organization of material than past Cannon issues. He also hopes to follow a theme from T.S. Eliot's poem, "The Waste Land."



Photographer Tony Gardner's photo entitled "Eve" was just one of many of his photographs featured in the Chapel Mezzanine this past month.

The Art Department features exhibits throughout the entire school year. The exhibits display various artistic media: fabric, oil and pastels, photography, and pottery.



We're looking for people who have a heart for God and for college students

The Coalition for Christian Outreach is looking for people who have a desire to see meaningful ministry take place among college & university men and women. The interest and enthusiasm generated by being involved in campus ministry is contagious! Nowhere are major decisions affecting vocation, marriage, and style of life made in as open and informal a setting as the college campus. Ministry in many dimensions can happen there. We're looking for people who have a heart for God; individuals who are seeking to know God and who want to serve Him with all of their lives. Our search is careful because we want the assurance that God would be using your talents to their fullest in this ministry.

The Coalition Christian Outreach is a ministry committed to working with students on campuses in northern West Virginia, eastern Ohio, and western Pennsylvania. Our unique approach is to integrally serve institutions as ministry to students is accomplished. Schedule an interview at the Career Placement Office.



by Rick Faber

Right when those who thought winter had finally left our portion of the country, it came back in haunting form to remind us that nothing lasts forever, especially warm weather in March. Heavy ice devastated much of Northwest Iowa's trees and shrubs this past weekend simultaneously giving a new aspect of beauty rarely witnessed.

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International News

NICARAGUA

President Reagan is toughening up his line against the Sandinista government in Nicaragua, apparently in an effort to pressure congress to "cough up" more aid. The Nicaraguan government, on the other hand, took the initiative and announced steps to put into effect certain terms of the stalled Contradora Peace Treaty, a treaty, incidentally, which the Reagan Administration insists is being obstructed by the Sandinistas. Nicaraguan president Daniel Ortega did, in fact, announce that he will send home 100 Cuban military advisors beginning in May and has been willing to sign regional-security agreements, including pledges to remove foreign military advisors and limit the size of the nation's forces. U.S. estimates place the total number of Cuban military advisors at 3,500.

Also, a delegation of five U.S. Catholic bishops met with Ortega hoping to ease tense relations between church hierarchy and the Nicaraguan government.

SAN SALVADOR, EL SALVADOR

The delegation of five American Catholic bishops visited 300 children orphaned by five years of civil war. The U.S. State Department believes the government is making progress in human rights and in the war against leftist rebels. Its recent report commended President Duarte's government for maintaining its commitment to a peaceful settlement and in making efficient use of U.S. aid.

NEW ZEALAND U.S.

The prime minister of New Zealand met with State Department officials to discuss the country's ban against the docking of U.S. nuclear warships. The officials revealed that the U.S. is going to stop sharing military intelligence with New Zealand in response to the ban. The deadlock reached no solutions.

URUGUAY

After 12 years of military rule, Julio Sanguinetti was sworn in as president. U.S. Secretary of State Shultz and Nicaraguan President Ortega were there to witness the inauguration at Montevideo, and to discuss relations between their countries. Neither leader expected any significant steps toward better relations.

NORTHERN IRELAND

The Irish Republican Army claimed responsibility for killing nine police officers and injuring 32 other people. The attack presumably occurred when rebels fired a mortar tube from the back of a truck. It was the worst single I.R.A. attack on police in over 16 years of violence.

HAVANA, CUBA

Twenty-three out of 2,700 Cuban refugees returned to their homeland. Considered criminals and mental patients in the U.S., most have been convicted of crimes in Cuba.

GREAT BRITAIN

Britain's National Coal Board announced that more than half of the nation's miners have returned to work after a 50-week-old strike. Union leader Arthur Scargill, however, refused to accept defeat and claimed 61 percent of the men were still on strike.

MEXICO

Four men detained for questioning concerning last month's kidnapping of a U.S. narcotics agent were released for lack of evidence. Few details on the case were disclosed. U.S. officials have said the American agent was abducted on the orders of Mexico's top illegal drug peddlers.

CANADA

The U.S. tested its cruise missile in two separate free-flight tests over the Beaufort Sea. U.S. military officials are eager to test in the Arctic because the terrain closely resembles that of Soviet Siberia.

POLAND U.S.

Both nations issued orders for each other's military representatives to leave their respective countries. The U.S. expelled the Polish military attack in retaliation for the ouster of U.S. Colonel Frederick Myer and his wife, whom authorities claimed were spies. The U.S.

also postponed talks on science and technology and delayed the return of the top U.S. diplomat to Warsaw.

ITALY SPAIN U.S.S.R.

Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko sought the help of Italian and Spanish officials in a campaign against President Reagan's "Star Wars" missile defense project. Gromyko also met with the Pope. The Italian officials responded by stressing the need to end the arms race, but praised the "Star Wars" research. Spain's foreign minister stated his nation would not take sides publicly.

VIENNA, AUSTRIA

Two Syrians hijacked a Damascus-bound Lufthansa airliner to Vienna, and freed the 35 passengers unhurt. After their arrest, Austrian officials said they must appear in court and face charges of air piracy which convey a stiff sentence.

LEBANON

Three people were killed when hundreds of Israeli soldiers raided four villages in southern Lebanon and searched homes for weapons. The Israelis were backed by an ally, the Southern Lebanese Army. The Israelis are trying to flush guerillas to protect Israel's border as the army ends its occupation of southern Lebanon.

by Theo VanderWel

Guard seen as more than military

According to Bob Holles, a Staff Sergeant with the Iowa National Guard, the National Guard is an ideal opportunity for anyone seeking leadership skills, self-confidence, and financial aid. "The Guard," says Holles, "has improved."

Holles occasionally has to convince Christian parents that the Guard is no longer a dumping ground for undesirables who will teach their child nothing but "smoking, drinking, and playing cards," but he is vehement in defending the Guard. "It's not what it was several years ago...the Guard is Americans at their best. The Marines want a few good men. We want the best."

Holles spoke often and freely of "the Guard family," camaraderie, pride, and self-esteem. He also described the Guardsmen as a "group of men who work hard but also play hard."

Dordt student/Guard member Henry Korf noted that the Guard's purpose is not solely military, as is that of the regular Army. The two missions of the Guard are (1) to help local communities in any way necessary (during a natural disaster, for example) and, if absolutely necessary, (2) to defend the United States. Holles explained that the Guard's major defense role is to act as a deterrent. Guard members swear allegiance first to the governor of Iowa and secondly to the President of the U.S.

Korf summarized the Guard as "members of the community when the community needs it," referring to the Guard's primary mission as a peace-time reserve of man power. According to Korf, many people wrongly view the Guard as a primarily military and therefore somehow inherently un-Christian organization.

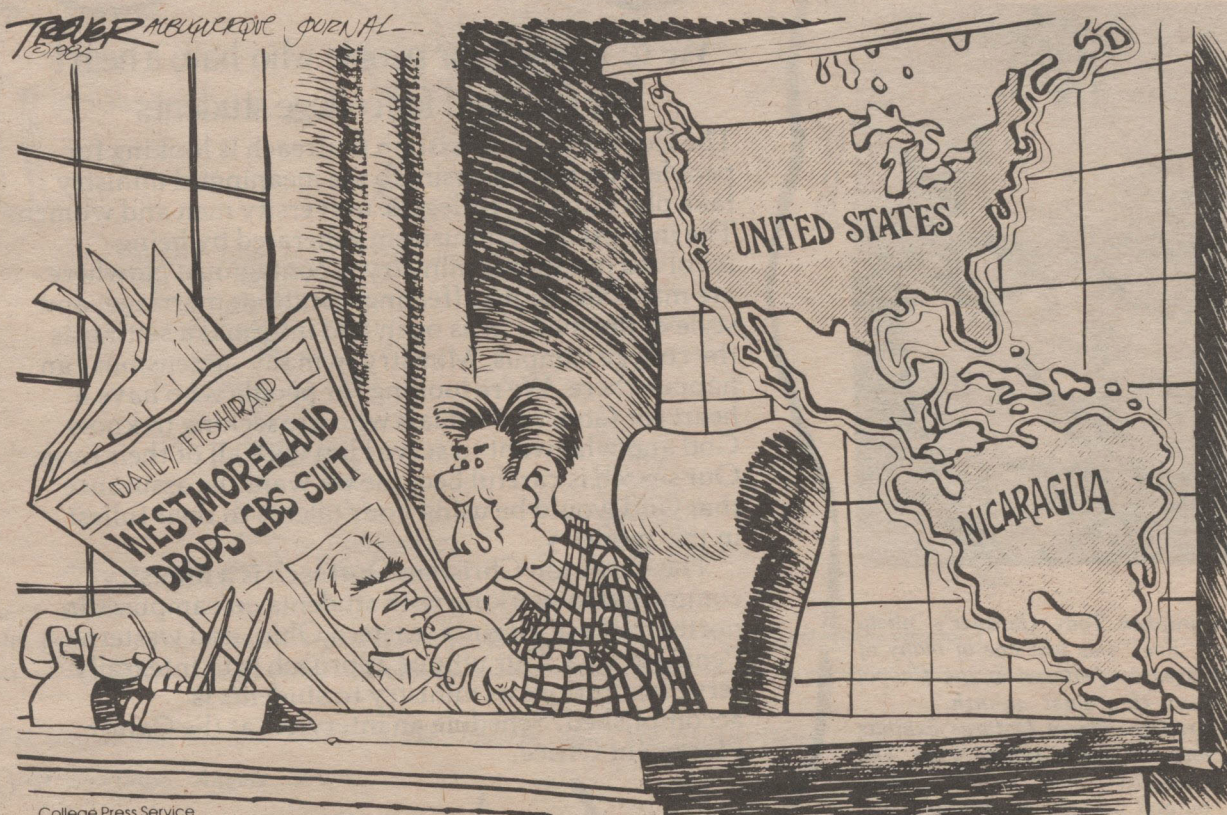
The problem of Christian ideals'

perceived conflict with military ideals has been discussed at Dordt. At the request of some students, Dordt began offering ROTC (Reserved Officer's Training Corps) program in July of 1980. Dordt required only to provide classroom

training space while the U.S. government provided the instructors and materials.

According to Dordt President Dr. John Hulst, there was much discussion before the program was finally begun. The main concern, Hulst said, was that the

program would not be taught from Dordt's perspective. This gave some reason to question whether the program should be included as part of a Christian curriculum. The Board of Directors ultimately decided that the program would be beneficial to the students, and therefore worthwhile. The program was withdrawn by the government two years ago because of government funding cutbacks and an attempt to centralize the program. There are presently no plans to re-institute the program.



College Press Service

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