Chromosomes And Human Clones

by SUE KONYNENBELT

On March 7 and 8, Dordt College was honored to have as its guest Dr. V. Elving Anderson, a Professor of Genetics at the University of Minnesota. He is presently the Acting Director of the University's Right Institute for Human Genetics. He gave three lectures which were sponsored by the Thomas F. Staley Foundation.

Dr. Anderson is a distinguished Christian scholar whose lecture series, "Genetic Engineering—The Splice of Life," gave Christian insight into the crucial issue of genetic engineering. The first lecture dealt with the relationship between objectivity and commitment in science and faith. His second presentation included several slides, and the structures and function of the brain were discussed. Dr. Anderson concluded his lecture series with a talk entitled "Genetic Control and Christian Values."

Dr. Anderson surprised his audience by quoting from Mother Goose to introduce his first lecture, entitled "Science, the Bible, and an Open Mind." The text he quoted was correlated to dogmatism. After describing science as "the province of the open mind," Dr. Anderson posed a startling question to the audience—"How is it possible to be a Christian scientist?"

From this question, Dr. Anderson portrayed the relationship between objectivity and commitment in science and faith. He believes that neither objectivity nor commitment can be denied. The pattern of commitment determines the nature of objectivity. He stated "The open mind is not an empty mind" and later, "Doubts need reasons." In science, all things are open to questions, but not all at the same time. As a Christian scientist, one should be willing to listen to any evidence presented to him. He then has the choice to either reject or accept this evidence.

Dr. Anderson, using the human number of chromosomes as an example, showed how science operates within a nest of ideas and commitments that are constantly open to discussion. For years, the human number of chromosomes was thought to be 48. Finally in 1956, scientists discovered that 46 was the correct number of human chromosomes. He concluded his first lecture by saying that a scientist's pattern of commitment to God may set the pattern of his objectivity. A belief in God and an effort to do science are not identical properties. Rather, "Even if I should learn all that is to be known about the universe, I should still hold God to be its creator and sustainer."

The lecture "Genes and the Brain" was accompanied by several charts, graphs, and pictures. Dr. Anderson covered a range of genetic problems, including albinism, Down's syndrome, the fragile X syndrome, Alzheimer's disease, ataxia, and epilepsy. continued on page 3
"Dordt College? Nah, this isn't the real world." The October 20, 1983 editorials attacked this blind attitude of students. This Diamond by opening our eyes to a criminal event, a moral issue, and off-campus educational opportunities, proves that we are indeed part of the real world in our own small way.

First, crime seems to monopolize a central part of reality. This past weekend someone slashed a valuable painting in the chapel mezzanine. Although this event seems to be small, it displays a very real, sick attitude towards art.

Second, the dance issue is now "realized" publicly. The Diamond will no longer advertise any "foot functions" in its calendar. However, Klynsma's (2/23/84) and Vanden Bosch's letters pointed out that these dances must be evaluated rather than being hidden by the label of "foot function." Therefore, I chose to include the articles about "Studio One" and "Footloose" hoping that they would force us to clarify our opinions of such dances.

Third, the "Spotlight" section reminds us that Dordt College offers many opportunities for education off Dordt's campus. Mike Johnson relates his experience as a Dordt transfer student now at Calvin, and Theo Vander Wel writes about his semester in Washington D.C. Meanwhile, Val Haarsma tells us that she "learned about life" on the Chicago Metro Program.

Fortunately, Dordt is aware that it is seemingly isolated within the cornfields of Iowa. For this reason, Professor Boot was assigned to explore the possibilities of internationalizing Dordt's curriculum. This means not only promoting off-campus programs, but also bringing a "real world" perspective to classes taught on campus.

We have two options: either run away to the real world of an off-campus program, or look closely at the events and issues that are a real part of our life at Dordt. Either way, we will grow. Really!

Term 'Foot Function' Asinine

Dear Editor,

Thank you very much for printing Randy Klynsma's letter in your last issue. It was very thought provoking. I also want to thank you for supporting him so clearly labelled this as your advertisement, of a your advertisement, of a印

It was very thought provoking. I just an example he used, your advertisement of a "Foot Function" on Feb. 24 clearly labelled this as a "grey" area.

I have heard that the only way to get the notice in your publication was to use such a phrase. Whether that is true or not I don't know, but I was rather disappointed to see it in the Diamond. If this were high school, "foot function" would be cute. If we had dances advertised every week, "foot function" would be a welcome variety in advertising techniques. However, since it is only a 2-3 times a semester affair, I feel you can better advertise a dance as a dance. To use the term Foot Function is asinine, not to mention an insult to our intelligence.

Mick VandenBosch

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Swedish News Perspective

NEWS RELEASE
Dr. Sune Lyxell, president of the Scandinavian Christian University of Müljö, Sweden will present a public lecture entitled "World Economic, Moral, and Spiritual Crisis, and Biblical Solutions." The presentation will be given Friday at 3:30 p.m. in G160.

Dr. Lyxell will provide enlightenment to a variety of social science issues, including, economic, political, and sociological issues. These areas of interest can allow students to be exposed to a somewhat different (i.e., non-American) perspective on current social issues.

Dr. Lyxell is the founder of the Scandinavian Christian University in Müljö, Sweden. The University was founded in 1983 to train Christian journalists to balance what he says is the Socialism, Humanistic, and Marxist influence in the media throughout Europe and the United States. Dr. Lyxell is also editor of the Swedish periodical Operation Scandinavia which seeks to discuss issues in Christian approaches to higher education and the application of Christian principles to the world situation. Other works include various articles and speaking engagements in Europe and the United States dealing with a broad range of issues including politics, economics, education, and the mass media.

The goal of the tour is to publicize the college, raise funds, attract graduate students, and develop contacts with various Christian institutions.

Lyxell is presently on tour in the U.S., the second such tour in the last six months. Last fall he appeared throughout the nation and in a nationally televised interview.
Clones Continued

Dr. Anderson showed that human existence, in all of its genetic complexity, was planned by God. He concluded: "All creatures are God's handiwork, but we have a unique relationship with Him. Humans were created in God's image.

These new cloning engineering techniques provide many new options for control. In his final lecture, Dr. Anderson demonstrated how Christian values apply to these new areas of technology.

In the first part of his lecture, he described several genetic engineering experiments that have been carried out. One experiment of particular interest was "The Making of a Frog." In this process, the nucleus of a fertilized frog egg is destroyed and an intestinal cell from a tadpole is inserted into the egg. If the egg develops normally, a tadpole clone is produced, and eventually a frog.

Dr. Anderson briefly discussed the cloning of man. He observes that although the process, if ever accomplished, would produce an identical twin one generation removed, the same qualities would not be present in both persons. He does not consider the human clone issue to be of major importance in the genetic field.

One interesting slide was that of a "geet"—a cross between a goat and sheep, accomplished by combining genotypes. Although the "geet" looked rather humorous, it did give a realistic picture of the capacity of genetic engineering.

Dr. Anderson discussed the possibility of utilizing genetic engineering to correct detectable deviations from the normal process of human growth. He gave the example of proportionate dwarfism. However, he stressed that the motivation and consequences of any procedure used to ameliorate human suffering should be thoroughly evaluated before carried out.

Dr. Anderson listed several points that should be addressed when evaluating proposed methods for medical treatment. He stressed the fact that scientists must use caution and be able to recognize any limitations. He also emphasized that all of our endeavors must be carried out in the spirit of being answerable to God, and that "any deliberate modifications of human biological nature would be acceptable only if it would enhance our capacity to behave responsibly toward God and others."

Dr. Anderson closed his lecture series by dealing with ethical implications of genetic engineering. He explained that the functions of science are to explain, predict, and control life. These functions have ethical concerns. Because science explains so well, man knows more, and thus the temptation to worship science arises. This is where Christian faith comes in. Because science is able to give accurate predictions, man has the ability to choose his options. This may tempt man to strive for unwarranted expectations. However, the grace God gives us provides hope. The final ethical concern Dr. Anderson dealt with was that of man's ability to change creation by using genetics, and the possible misuse of power that may ensue from this. He pointed out that this is where God's love comes in.
Transfer Reflects On Dordt

by MIKE JOHNSON

As students leave Dordt by either graduating or transferring out, many want to feel as if they are still a part of the Dordt community. Yet every year the Dordt community changes by losing about 300 old faces and gaining about 300 new faces. The graduates may attempt to retain ties with Dordt by reading the alumni newsletter while those of us who have transferred out grasp for latent Diamonds in order to keep all our ties from being severed.

Chicago Metro: Education Big City Style

by LAURA LEE VAN VELZEN

In America's second largest city of skyscrapers, subways, and sightseeing, the Chicago Metropolitan Program offered junior Val Haarsma the opportunity for change. Change from Dordt's population of 1100 to Chicago's population of 3,005,072. Change from a semester of classes to a semester of work experience. And change as Haarsma put it, "I never considered living or working in a city before. Now I consider the city an option."

Students participating in the Chicago Metro experience move to Chicago for a semester and are placed in an internship. The internship corresponds with their major or field of interest. This can range from working in a juvenile court to gathering news for a television station or to interpreting foreign languages at the O'Hare International Airport. Haarsma spent the past semester working at "The Tre Mont," a small luxury hotel located in downtown Chicago. According to Haarsma, the hotel had 120 rooms that were rented for about $135 dollars a night. "The place where I worked was materialistic and really catered to the rich. Everyone was so successful oriented and concerned with 'climbing up the ladder.' It did come in conflict with my values in that way, but it really helped me grow."

Dr. Donna Spaan, director of the program, explained that the Metropolitan experience was put together by three Christian Reformed Colleges: Calvin, Dordt, and Trinity; and three Reformed Church of America colleges: Central, Hope, and Northwestern. "The schools realized they were located in small communities and rural environments. They believed this program would be a good opportunity for students to spend one semester off campus in a large urban center to complete their education."

Classes are also a part of the Chicago program. Along with the four day a week internship, students spend each Monday together in various seminars. The seminars include a values practicum, a metropolitan seminar, and a fine arts seminar. According to Dr. Abe Bos, Dordt's representative for the Chicago experience, the seminars examine issues such as values in American society, the lifestyle of a city, and what is available for art, music, and theatre in Chicago. "The intent of the program is to bring out the characteristics of the city," noted Dr. Bos. "Most people who are dumped in a city don't know how to get around. The city is a dangerous place. You can't behave like in Sioux Center."

"You have to come with a creative, intriguéd mind—one that's open to new experiences and challenges," advised Dr. Spaan. "I think the strength of the program is its completeness. It's not just the classes, or the internship, or the city itself, it's all these things working together toward integration."

In order to qualify for the program you must be a junior or a senior and have a grade point average of 2.5 or above. According to Dr. Bos, tuition is approximately the same as a semester at Dordt and students receiving financial aid can apply this money towards their tuition. Application forms are available from Dr. Bos' office but the deadline is April 15.

"I would encourage people to go on the experience," stressed Haarsma. "It's well worth the time and money. You learn about life. Since I grew up in northwest Iowa, I think it or enjoy it even more because it was such a change of pace."

Dordt Students G

SPOTLIGHT

continued on page 5
Washington Program For All Majors

continue Johnst

to Dordt so that my ideas and perspectives can be enhanced and solidified.

I am very satisfied with my year away from Dordt. I've learned to appreciate Calvin College for what it is and I've seen that Dordt must be appreciated for what it is. Constantly comparing the two institutions in an attempt to belittle the other is not helpful in the growth of the Christian community in the service of her Lord. Dordt, as well as Calvin, needs to learn to appreciate itself for what it is. Last fall the Diamond carried articles about the need for a stronger caring community atmosphere at Dordt. I found it very tempting to respond cynically after seeing the depth of a common perspective at Dordt and elsewhere. Yet, in retrospect I think that it is good for Dordt to work at a stronger community, at more communal scholarship, and at more serviceable insight. Dordt must work to enhance its strong points and to do away with its own weak areas. An institution like Dordt can and should stand on its own two feet before our Lord. I thank my Lord for Dordt and am looking forward to returning to the community next fall.

Dordt Seeks Cross Cultural Growth

by JAMES ROSENDALE

"Dordt should sensitize their students and faculty to the fact that there are many different cultures on the globe," said Professor Kornelius J. Boot of Dordt College's Foreign Language department.

Boot was appointed two weeks ago to the Dordt College Studies Institute to study if and how Dordt can internationalize its curriculum.

Boot would like to sensitize students and faculty by introducing cultural awareness in courses where it could logically fit, such as in many of the humanities classes.

Boot would also like to get students and faculty to work together to achieve this end by opening the possibility for students and faculty from foreign countries to study and teach on Dordt's campus. Along with this, Dordt's students and faculty could go abroad or into a different culture to study. Upon returning from such an experience, says Boot, students would be more aware of the differences between cultures and better able to understand and adjust to them. This experience will prepare them better for service in God's kingdom. According to Boot, "We live in a global village."

A similar program should be introduced into area grammar and high schools, Boot believes. When asked if he would like to introduce it at Trinity Christian College and Calvin College, he agreed it could benefit them also.

or as groups and nearly become experts in their specific topics.

Apart from the academics, the internship program provides an exciting opportunity to gain on-hands experience in one's particular field of interest. This semester the American Studies Program has placed students in senatorial offices, the Heritage Foundation, and the Peace Corps. As interns, they work about 25 hours per week developing professional skills and integrating their Christian faith in these non-paid vocations.

Most of the students reside in a dormitory two blocks from the Capitol. Its location provides easy access to the subway system, government offices, and museums. The city offers rich cultural diversity to students, many who come from Christian colleges in rural areas.

I have had many good experiences in the past two months. The administrators of the program are dedicated to understanding the Lordship of Christ especially in the political realm. They struggle with the students on issues of justice. The one course per month method of teaching has given me a new way of looking at my education. It provides room for more subjective thinking.

My internship, however, is the best part of my semester here. I work for the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), the nation's oldest and largest Hispanic organization. My work has included attending press conferences, seminars, and subcommittee hearings. As a political science major and economics minor, I have been able to participate directly in the lobbying of legislation on Central America and illegal immigration.

I believe that every student should check into the off-campus programs which Dordt has to offer. The American Studies Program is one of many which allows students to continue their academic work and understand how to integrate their faith in their prospective vocations simultaneously.

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To Dance Or Not To Dance

by KRISTI VANDER KOOI

On Friday, February 24, Wayne Kroon held a social event. There were no invitations sent out for this event, nor were there any posters, yet everyone seemed to know about the event. News of it seemed to spread until every student on Dordt's campus knew of it. The event was a dance, held at the Community Center in Sioux Center.

Kroon is the new owner and manager of the former "The Flip Side," now called "Studio One," which puts on dances for the students of Dordt College.

Holding dances for the students of Dordt is a little different than holding dances for the students of other colleges. There is a lot of controversy over whether dancing is ethical for Christians, and whether the atmosphere is one that is conducive to Christian morals.

Most students who do not attend the dances, when asked how they feel about dancing, said that dancing in itself was not wrong. Many do feel, however, that some of the things that go along with dancing to rock music are unethical. One student said, "Dancing is not wrong, it is the atmosphere that goes along with it." Another said, "The atmosphere at these dances is fine, but they could watch the music that they play." And one student thought that some of the suggestive overtones of dancing is what made it wrong.

Nate VanderStelt, who until just lately managed "The Flip Side," is struggling with the problem of whether or not dancing is moral. Nate seems relieved that he is no longer responsible for putting on entertainment which is a gray area for so many people. He says, "The dance issue is much more weighty than what one person's shoulders can handle, and it has taken me three years to figure it out."

Nate states two reasons for getting out of the business. "First," he says, "it is too demanding on my time. My future plans don't allow me to continue because I plan to go on the Chicago Metro and the Washington Studies programs over the next two years. Also, I had a difficult time agreeing with some of the things I was doing, and I was getting a lot of pressure to play certain types of music, mostly the secular top 40. There were many of the secular aspects of the dance that influenced me and I regret this."

Nate does not feel that he is being hypocritical in his questioning of the dance. He does not condemn dancing. He feels, however, that he cannot agree with every aspect of it.

Wayne Kroon, Nate's successor, doesn't seem to feel that pressure that Nate did. Wayne feels that people must form their own opinions about dancing; if it is a gray area for them, they won't go. Wayne feels he offers a choice of good entertainment for the students. "I'm here to entertain them and maybe even keep them out of the bars; although they are allowed to go there too, if they want."

Wayne says he intends to keep a good atmosphere and image for his dances by maintaining the "no alcohol policy."

Wayne wants his dances to be thought of as simply another source of entertainment for the Dordt students. Many students also feel that dancing is just good fun.

Students that were asked why they went to dances said that they liked to go and socialize, listen to the music, and, of course, dance. There are many students who enjoy the type of entertainment that Wayne provides. The last dance filled the Community Center, and Wayne expects the turnout for the next dance to be just as good. Wayne also hopes the quality of his dances will improve as he gains experience.

Band Tour Reaches Great Lakes

The Dordt College Wind Ensemble, directed by Dr. Gerald Bouma, will be spending spring break in Michigan, Illinois, and Ontario, Canada. This is the first year the band will be travelling in Michigan. The band will make stops in Hudsonville, Kalamazoo, Fremont, and Grand Rapids. The Grand Rapids concert will take place in the Fine Arts Center on the Calvin College campus.

Brampton, London, Toronto, Bowmanville, Hamilton, and St. Catherine's are the stops in Ontario. The band will also visit Redeemer College in Hamilton.

The band's final stop will be Fulton, Illinois before returning to Dordt April 3.

Placia Served In Snackbar

Placia, a play by Howard A. Blanning, will be performed at Dordt on Tuesday, March 20 in the SUB snack bar as an experiment in a type of street theatre. The play which was cast a few weeks ago is being directed by Cynthia Ripperdan. It is an unusual play about finding a place for yourself in life. Show times will be 11 a.m. and 12 noon. Don't miss the experience.

Dance—is it uplifting?

Is dancing an acceptable form of entertainment for Christians? Nate, now that his business has been sold, hopes that both those sponsoring the dances, and those attending them, will continue to struggle with the issue of dance. Wayne hopes to see the dances continue to be popular as he works to build his business. We as students will probably continue to either go or not go to the dances, but we should take time to evaluate the way we use the leisure time that God has given us.
Blades Ice Opponents In Marina Inn Tourney

by ENNO MEJERS

The Blades saw a lot of action this past weekend, but they proved that they were ready to take on anything the Midwest could throw at them. On Friday evening, and all day Saturday, the Blades participated in the third annual Marina Inn Hockey Tournament, and by 6:00 Saturday evening they left the Marina Inn Ice Bubble having swept the tournament in four straight games. Although some people may not believe it, this is not a first. The Blades achieved the same feat in 1982 at the First Annual M.T. Tournament.

On Friday, March 9, the Blades had their first contest against Sioux City. Dordt held the lead for most of the game, but the situation tensed near the end of the third. Dordt was winning 5-3 with 1:30 left when they got two quick penalties. Sioux City pulled their goalie, and the result was a 6 on 3 track for Sioux City. Despite an intense defensive struggle by the Blades, Sioux City slipped a low shot past Enno Mejers into the net. The Blades, however, hung on for the last 50 seconds, and Ed Groot even managed to score into the empty net. The final score was 6-4 in favor of Dordt. Other goal scorers for the Blades in this game were Ken Minderhoud and Ken Griffioen with one each, and Ed Groot and Frank Vander Kraats with 2 each.

The next confrontation occurred at 10:15 a.m. Saturday. This time it was Norfolk (Neb.) turn to buckle under a strong Blades offensive. Jack Bandstra led the attack by scoring quickly. Pete Zwiers and Peter Helmus followed to make the score 3-0 at the end of the first period. Norfolk surged to score a goal in the second period, but the Blades answered with 3 more goals, two by Jack Bandstra and one by Ken Minderhoud. Tom Bosch and Frank Vander Kraats scored in the third, making the final score 8-1.

The third and most exciting game at the tournament came at 2 p.m. when Dordt clashed with last year's champions, Sioux Falls. Ken Minderhoud opened the scoring by streaking up the wing and blowing a powerful low drive past the Sioux Falls goalie. Pete Zwiers tallied next with a scintillating shot from the point. Sioux Falls fought back, and slid one past Mejers amidst a scramble in front of the Blade's net. In the third period, Frank Vander Kraats scored what proved to be the winning goal on yet another long shot. Sioux Falls managed to put another one between the pipes, but when the final buzzer sounded, the Blades were ahead 3-2.

Although they had already played two games that day, the Blades showed their winning form once again against South Sioux City. Mike Vander Kraak led the scoring with three, followed by Ed Groot and Pete Zwiers with two each. Ken Griffioen, Ken Minderhoud, Norm Visser and Tony Bosch each scored one to make the final score 11-0 in favor of Dordt. Immediately after the game, captain Jack Bandstra was handed the first place trophy, and the Blades made a victory lap around the ice for 3 or 4 adoring fans.

Indoor Track Runs Out

by D. DE BUTTER

On March 3, the men and women from Dordt's indoor track & field team traveled to Orange City for the Northwestern Invitational Indoor Meet which included 6 women's teams (Dakota State, Northwestern, Wayne State, Westmar, Yankton, and Dordt), and 7 men's teams (same as women plus Dakota Wesleyan). The women finished 3rd just behind Northwestern. Top finishers for Dordt were Shari Veurink with 1st in the 2-mile race (11:26.7) and a 2nd in the 1500m run (4:35.5); Lynn Postma, 2nd in the high jump (5'12") and 3rd in the 55m hurdles (9.1); Bonnie Boeve, 2nd in the long jump (15'8 1/4); and Kathy Druvenga, 2nd in the shot put (39'6")

Steve Schuring's 4th place finish in the 800m run (2:02.2) was the best finish for the men. They placed 5th in four events and 6th in two as they came in 7th overall in the final standings.

March 10 the track team traveled to Loras College to compete in the N.A.A. District 15 championship. Four colleges (Iowa Wesleyan, Northwestern, Loras, and Dordt) competed in the women's division and six (same as women plus Graceland and Westmar) in the men's field.

The women finished a very close second behind Northwestern. Veurink again had first and second in the 3000 meter run (10:43.7) and the 1500m run (5:00.0) respectively. Druvenga grew the shot put 39'8" for a first place finish as teammate Annette Singer captured a second in the same event with a toss of 31'5". Other top finishers for Dordt included Postma with a second in the high jump (5' 2") ; Boeve, second in the long jump (16'2") and a second in the 50m dash (7.02); Laurie De Boom, second in the 50m hurdles (8.84); and Char Vander Griend, second in the 800m run (2:26.77).

The men finished in fourth place with strong finishes by Russ Smith, third in the 600m run (1:28.04); Schuring, fourth in the 800m run (2:05.50); Ardy Postma, sixth in the shot put (41'9 1/2""); and the 1600m relay team consisting of Smith, Schuring, Jim Smith, and Joel Smith, finished fourth with a time of 3:45.19.

The indoor season is now over and the team members now start to train for the outdoor meets which will start shortly after spring break.

Baseball Team Texas Bound

The men's varsity baseball team has been practicing daily in the gym in anticipation of their annual spring break trip to Texas. The Defenders have 4 double headers scheduled for their " Lone Star State" excursion; 4 games against Le Tourneau College and 2 against both East Texas Baptist and Jarvis Christian colleges.

The team consists of seniors Mike Broekhuis, Vance Brower, Doug Medema, and Loren Van Zanten. Juniors are Tim Geurink, Dave Kozenboom, and Pete Solis, while sophomores are Darryl De Butrer, Scott Griggers, Mitch Kahler, Dave Uitermark, and Grant VandeKamp.

The freshmen include Lee Diedrich, Dave Vande Kieft, and Joel Vanden Heuvel.

Coach Tom Visker who is optimistic about the season states that experience up the middle of the diamond and the outfield are the team's strong points. And if the hitting and pitching prove to be as productive as they look, it should be a very successful and enjoyable season for all.
'Footloose' Dances For Joy

by ELLEN DE GROOT

"Footloose" is the story of a high school senior named Ren who moves from Chicago to the small Western town of Bomont. He has trouble fitting into his new home, mainly because he loves to dance to rock music, but dancing is against the law in Bomont. A local minister has lost his son because of a drunk driving accident after a dance. This minister convinces the town council that dancing inevitably leads to tragedy and a law banning dance would prevent this.

Unfortunately, his daughter Ariel loves rock music and feels compelled to dance to it. She finds she can't talk to her father the way she did once, and tragically, the gulf between the two widens.

"Footloose" is not just another older vs. younger generation conflict with realism and compassion. Ariel and her friends are real teenagers: vibrant, yes, but also subject to foolishness and temptation, and their immaturity causes some legitimate furrows in the minister's brow. Ariel is deeply troubled by her brother's death and her father's distance. Because of this she lashes out in rebellion.

Her father, in turn, is not a villain but a minister who is concerned for his congregation and his daughter. His concern for them makes him decide what they may and may not do. In this way, hestrips them of their freedom and tries to win the salvation of the town and his daughter on his own merit. With Ren's help he must learn to live with difference of opinion and learn to admonish rather than to judge.

The figure who pulls all these threads together—the simple joy of dance, its complex moral questions, and the painful separation of people—is the delightful character of Ren. He acts as mediator by bringing the dance issue before the town council. He proves that he can throw a dance with no drugs or alcohol. As he says, for him dancing celebrates the joy of life.

These are some of the deep aspects of the film, and there are many admirable qualities in the acting, characters, conflicts, and resolutions. But "Footloose" is a double pleasure because it also shines on the level of entertainment. Its music and humor are joyful and the dance scenes are great—unabashedly exuberant and not too polished. The dances make the viewer want to dance out of the theater afterwards.

One of this movie's flaws is that it bites off more moral issues than it can chew. Subjects like Ariel's sexual activities and the minister's emotion-seeking preaching techniques are brought up but given short shrift. However, the fact that the film takes these moral questions seriously makes this movie different than most. Because of this, "Footloose" has been described as "hokey," and of course it would seem so to a society where dancing is taken for granted. But for our own Reformed community, "Footloose" is far more relevant, for we take these issues seriously too.