

DIAMOND

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Students enjoy skating at Sioux City Rink

by Clarence Deelstra

Tuition To Go Up

by Debbie Butler

High financial costs have affected every area of life and students at Dordt College can expect to pay a total increase of \$470 for tuition, room, and board for the 1981-82 school year.

According to Bernard De Wit, Vice President for Business, there will be an increase of \$350 for tuition, \$80 for board, and \$40 (tentative) for room rent.

Total tuition costs, said De Wit, will be \$3,400 (approximately \$4150 Canadian) excluding the grant-in-aid which is distributed according to the student's distance from Dordt.

Total room and board costs for next year will be \$1440 (approximately \$1760 Canadian) which is the same as Morningside College in Sioux City, De Wit said. "Incidentally, that is one of the lowest figures for room and board in the State of Iowa," he said. The highest figure for room and board in Iowa is \$1740.

The extra costs for students come from a variety of sources. "We have to increase salaries and of course, utilities go up just like any other place. Inflation hits a college just as it hits a household," said De Wit.

Tuition, room, and board costs were set up at the last Board meeting. De Wit's job is to generate information for President Haan and the Board to act upon.

"I have to go through the process of getting information from Howard Hall for expected enrollment, and from Lyle Gritters for what costs will be. If we have fewer students but the same aca-

demical programs, then there are fewer students to share the expenses. We do try to reduce easily. There are some programs that can't be dropped," De Wit said.

Housing and enrollment are two factors that affect college expenses differently. "Housing people do their very best to insure 90% on-campus housing," De Wit said, "that's probably why we've been able to keep room rent down."

De Wit also said Dordt is expecting a drop in enrollment. "The college opening up in Canada (King's College) has hurt us a bit," said De Wit. Canadian students attending Dordt have decreased in the past three years: 1978-79 school year - 300 Canadian students; 1979-80 - 255; 1980-81 - 213 students. General enrollment has decreased from 1,218 during 1978-79 to 1,160 in 1980-81, said De Wit. Even between first and second semester 1980-81, enrollment dropped from 1,160 first semester to approximately 1,100 second semester. De Wit says he thinks the financial outlook is "bound to be awful tight. At this point in time, I would say we will have a deficit. We're working on different ways in making money and that could make a big difference."

"I think that if students would recognize the problem and cut back on their use of utilities, it would help the college. I guess it makes a difference when they don't pay the bills directly."

CRC's Dordt? Church Controls School

by Harvey Voogd

"Dordt isn't a college of the church; it's a college of the people," said Rev. B.J. Haan, president of Dordt College in an interview in 1980 for the Dordt College 25th Anniversary supplement of the Sioux Center News. "I don't see Dordt ever breaking away from the Christian Reformed people who are interested in Kingdom life."

But is Dordt really a college that asks people, who share the same world-and-life view as Dordt College, to come and join her educational task? Does not Dordt College claim to be affiliated with the Christian Reformed Church? What is the relationship between Dordt College and the Christian Reformed Church?

A glance at the by-laws which govern membership in the Dordt College Society (DCS) shows that to be a member of the DCS you have to be a member of the Christian Reformed Church (CRC). The DCS is the society which supports Dordt and elects members to run the college.

DCS elects 64 voting members from which 16 members are elected to the Board of Trustees.

Because all DCS members must be CRC members, all members of the Board of Trustees are also CRC. Thus, anyone who wishes to help shape the future of Dordt College by being a member of DCS, must be a member of the CRC.

Added to this is a by-law which states that seven of the 16 members of the Board of Trustees must be ministers in the CRC.

Historically, have not people of the Reformed faith, especially CRC members, stressed the separation between church and school? Why then is membership in the DCS restricted to those who are members of the Christian Reformed Church? Further, why do ministers of the CRC play such a large role in the Board of Trustees?

Presently 11 per cent of the students at Dordt College are not CRC. Dordt wishes to increase this number. Last year, Dordt hired Dr. Peter Steen as a recruiter. Steen works mainly in western Pennsylvania where there are CRC members, by many Presbyterians.

In the previously mentioned interview with the Sioux Center News, Haan was asked, "What about those not familiar with the Reformed perspective?"

Said Haan, "We're working on that. Often students come here after they've heard about our perspective and when they get here they find it different from what they anticipated. We're trying to help them feel more accepted."

Does not the DCS and the Board of Trustees also need them? Do you need to be theologically

continued on page 4

Skillen to Head APJ

by Rich Gaffin

It has recently been announced that Dr. James Skillen will be leaving his position as Associate Professor of Political Science at Dordt to become the first Executive Director of The Association for Public Justice (APJ). He will begin his job as director early in the summer of 1981 and said he hopes to establish an office in Washington D.C. by summer of 1982.

APJ is an organization of Christians "whose aim is to nurture responsible, active citizenship in accordance with biblical principles of justice." It attempts to do this by addressing all political issues from a Christian perspective. In the past, APJ has sponsored conferences and published papers to present their perspective.

At first, Skillen's main job will be to direct the APJ Education Fund which seeks to educate the public in terms of their po-

litical responsibilities and how they can exercise them in a Christian manner. Skillen wrote a book, Christians Organizing for Political Service, which outlines these responsibilities.

Another part of his job, said Skillen, will be to research problems of the current government and then to formulate Christian strategies to deal with these problems.

In the near future, said Skillen, APJ hopes to have full time directors in the research, government, affairs, and Education Fund departments with Skillen as the overall coordinator.

Skillen said he envisions APJ as a powerful force for Christian political action with dozens of strong local chapters. He said he hopes for research, policy, and government affairs centers in every state capital as well as Washington D.C.

Editorial Who Builds Your Life?

Here it is the third week of this semester. It seems like we've been here so long already. Time goes by so fast.

However, it is a new semester. It's a new semester where you will share your time and experiences with roommates, friends, and fiancés. You will write papers, study for tests, and plan careers. Some of you will change majors or just try to get off the "undecided" list.

It's a semester that will have many late nights and few hours of sleep. You will be working on general education requirements. You will study for one of those courses in your major that you are not looking forward to taking. You may be practicing teaching during the day . . . and in your sleep at night.

This new semester may be a burden to you financially. You will have to get grants and loans or depend on money from yourself or your family. Some of you will be married after this semester and will soon depend on the career you are now studying for. Others of you are already married and know the struggle of getting an education while being married.

There will be many problems and pressures on campus. There are dating, housing, drinking, and theft problems. There will be family problems and roommate problems. There will be study problems and grade problems. You may get confused, depressed, or weary, and wonder what it's all worth. You may even feel like saying, "I hate being at Dordt College." But don't ever say it.

We have a purpose here at Dordt. To me that purpose is to praise and glorify God. To do that we must dedicate our lives to Him. We must lay our life and everything we have at His feet and then ask Him to lead us. Then, by the saving grace of Jesus Christ, He will lead us.

We must give our problems and pressures to God too. We can't work out our problems for ourselves, but must give them to God and let Him solve them and lead us to solve them. Only then will we have love for our roommates and friends. Only then will we have the right career or major. Only then will our stay at Dordt have true meaning and happiness.

Dordt is unique in its Reformational and Calvinistic principles. Just being a student here is one of the greatest blessings God could give to any one of His children. And just as our Reformational view says we must be Christian in all areas and aspects of life, so we must be Christian in our work here at Dordt.

We are here at Dordt building the foundation for a temple. Let that temple be strong and beautiful . . . let God build it. Then we can enjoy each other and enjoy God's creation. Let's take advantage of every opportunity we can here at Dordt. Even though we are often busy, we must keep going because this life is just a preparation for the life to come. In that life we will be busy for eternity. Time goes by so fast.

Guest Editorial

It's Your Ball Mr. President

by Jim Bouma

Obviously the two biggest news stories in the last few weeks have been the release of the 52 American hostages and the inauguration of our new president, Ronald Reagan.

In late 1979, 52 Americans were taken captive and held hostage by Iranian militants in Tehran. Fourteen and a half months and eight dead American soldiers later, the hostages boarded two Algerian 727's and flew to freedom.

Now that the ex-hostages are in West Germany and are giving reports of mistreatment by their captors, we'll be hearing a lot more in the next few weeks.

There are several questions that are starting to arise across our country. One is whether or not we should pay the Iranians the rest of the money now that we have our people back. After all, the Iranians are no more than ordinary kidnappers! It's not a deal we made with them; it's extortion! Therefore, any agreement we made previous to the Americans' freedom is no longer relevant.

Unfortunately, there are some people who take this one step further and call for the bombing of our worldly brothers. (ALL men are image bearers of GOD.)

The second question being discussed is the way the United States will react the next time something like this happens. Should we have specially trained commando squads for just such emergencies or should we have more security at our embassies? The idea that if you're in an embassy in a foreign land you're safe has been shattered. Just because we're Americans doesn't mean we're untouchable.

The final question being thrown out is what President Reagan is going to do next. How will he handle the rest of the deal? Will he pay off the Iranians or laugh in their faces? What will he do to keep it from happening again; if it does happen, what then?

These are some of the various questions being asked throughout our great country now. The stories of the hostages being mistreated will no doubt influence a lot of minds across the country but the only minds that count are in Washington D.C.

. . . The ball's in your court now, Mr. President . . . GOD be with you!

Lettitorials

Lettitorials Policy

Diamond encourages and appreciates letters to the editor. In consideration of space limitations and fairness we ask letter writers to confine their contributions to 300 words or less. Diamond reserves the right to edit or refuse publication of letters. Letters must be in the Saturday before publication.

Admonish in Love

Dear Editor:

Is there a true Christian perspective of relationships on Dordt's campus, be it staff to student or student to student? Before discussing this I want to point out that I realize we are all human and, due to our sinful nature and "the Fall", we all make mistakes. This letter is to try to bring about the prevention of any further mistakes of the sort which I want to deal with.

In the past year-and-a-half I have both observed and experienced the situation of which this article is about. As Christians, if there is a problem amongst us, we are to go to that brother, state the problem that exists, and try to remedy the situation amongst those concerned.

Both the Bible and the Student Handbook support this. Matthew 18:15 says, "And if thy brother sin against thee, go, show him his fault between thee and him alone: if he hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother." And the Student Handbook states, "In accordance with Matthew 18:15ff if any member of the College community finds another violating the procedures and rules of the College, he should admonish the offender in private with love. As Christians we have responsibility for the safety and welfare of one another."

Lately, it seems as though the Student Handbook with its rules, regulations, and procedures, is only being followed in part. Some students are neglecting their responsibilities to each other, and seem to go to the authorities with the problem immediately, without consideration for fellow students.

I think it only fair that those involved in the situation be personally confronted. The procedure regarding complaints on instruction applies here also. The Handbook states, "Charges must be specific and the party making a charge must do so personally with the person or persons involved. No anonymous charges will be processed."

What further aggravates the situation is that, of late, the authorities do not seem to take this into consideration, before seeing the individual(s) who are unaware they are involved or that the situation even exists. Also, the authorities have been taking hearsay and gossip that gets to them too seriously.

The hearsay and gossip affects judgments, biases, and prejudices before the party involved has been given a chance to state their side, much less become aware that the problem or situation is present. Due to preconceived judgments on the part of those in authority, the person(s) involved are, at times, manipulated to support the authority's attributed cause.

It has also been brought to my attention that, at times, the authorities try to hold those with seniority as the ones responsible. All those involved are functioning adults, capable of making adult decisions, and are therefore each responsible for whatever their role was in a situation.

This also brings up the Handbook's sixth statement under the Student Conduct section, part A. General Behavior, where the following is stated: "All students in a resident unit will communally be responsible for the activities in that unit." I feel it improper, unjust, and unChristian to try to press the blame onto one or two individuals involved. All involved, being responsible, are therefore all to be given fair and proper treatment.

Several people have been unjustly hurt, in the past, but one cannot turn the hand of time back to mend those wounds. So, we must go on from here, striving to do what is right and trying to prevent further occurrences of such things. I realize some of these people have broken regulations and rules, but it is no cause for such injustices.

Michelle Vander Kooi

DIAMOND

The Diamond is published by the students at Dordt College. These students are part of a wider Christian community which looks to Jesus as the Truth. We are striving to develop journalism which proclaims the Lordship of Jesus Christ. Individual opinions may vary, but we hope that the communication of these ideas will stimulate growth in the Christian community.

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Commentary

Dordt claims it Can't Afford Housing Freedom

by Anya Seerveld

One question Dordt College has not fully addressed, it seems, is: Does Dordt College have the authority to control student housing for non-married students?

Dordt College, an educational institution of higher learning, must guide and teach students in various academic studies. Housing, eating, and church-going cannot be cut away from studying, but they are not academia. These auxiliary should be provided as services by Dordt, and not as arbitrary policies (which have exceptions).

Dordt, an educational institution, could provide housing as a service but should not use it as an academic threat to expulsion if not used; it could let students rent the East Campus Apartments and local basements in a tenant-landlord relationship instead of a student-college relationship.

Rev. John B. Hulst, campus minister, as a reason for the current policy, said, "Dordt College felt that it should not let students be at the mercy of the householder (landlord), because a student, basically, has not much clout.

Historically, Dordt College began on-campus housing because:

- 1) not enough community housing was available for students.

- 2) it was difficult for out-of-town students to make housing arrangements.

- 3) Dordt wanted to guarantee

quality and low-cost housing for its students."

Dordt College in 1981 has 1100-plus students and still uses these original rules as a guideline.

Marion Van Soelen, dean of students, said, "To put together a package deal to serve the primary idea of this guiding, higher education institution, there needs to be a commitment to fulfill various contracts." To get a good deal for the students, for example, both Dordt and a food company need to know how many students will eat there and continue to eat there in the future.

For example: East Campus Apartments E and F have no light-housekeeping facilities. The people living there are expected to eat in the Commons to fill quotas which seems to reduce housing and eating to the economic.

Hulst stressed that, "We try to provide a service that supports the educational calling of students and we try to stay within the policy of safeguarding students." To maintain these policies, money has to be paid and a minimum income is counted on each year to pay off the principle and interest on campus buildings. There must be a minimum of 91% occupancy in campus housing to pay previous debts.

Van Soelen made it clear that "the housing situation is in constant review."

Dordt College should not impose this convenient protection on all students. A student can say that windowless kitchens or packed basements are un-Christian but could not find another place to live; he has no landlord with whom to deal.

For example: Tim De Jager, Tom Fernhout, Cliff De Groot, and Dan Zinkand put down payment on a non-Dordt apartment in the beginning of December. They went to the Student Personnel Committee: Chairperson Van Soelen, Rich Buckham, Louise Hulst, Dallas Apol, Brenda Kuipers, Tina Huizing and Greg Vander Kieft, and presented a statement enumerating reasons why they wanted to rent non-Dordt housing. The four men brought reasons that were principal dealing with Dordt's authority in dictating housing and "practical", to the Committee. Tim De Jager said, "They put the 'x' through our principal reasons" and the meeting ended with sympathies but on a "but." Van Soelen said, "We had to adjudicate that case on existing policy. It would be ridiculous to adjudicate and change policy at the same time." He added "that we are reviewing housing policies again this year."

Dordt College, in its efforts to remain stewardly in paying its bills, forgets that paying the ends does not justify the means.



by Dale Wiersma

Apartment A-2 feasts in their spacious dining room/kitchen/living room

Abandoned Articles Auctioned Off

by Karen Knibbe

"...fiftycentswhowillstartmeof
fwithfiftycentsIhavefiftycentswho
willgivemeadollaradollaradollar
efifty..."

I guess you just had to be there. Don Vander Schaaf, Sioux Center farmer, talked many ears off at the January 17 Resident Communal Life Committee (RCLC) auction. If you put up your hand because you heard, "...do I hear two-fifty," it was possible that by the time it was up, Vander Schaaf was raising the bid to three-fifty. It took me at least an hour to get my nerve up to bid - and it was a good thing because once you start, you can't stop!

And the bargains! You had to see them to believe it. Many abandoned articles had been collected from the dorms over the past 10 years - dresses, coats, books and shoes. There were nicnacs and posters, suitcases (the

big attraction) and even ski poles. Suitcases sold for approximately six to twelve dollars, while pillows, blankets and towels went for a few dollars each. Because of an upcoming basketball game, the auction was cut short. Everything left sold for a quarter an article and books were ten-for-a-dollar.

Over 100 people signed up for bidding numbers. The highest bid was recorded along with the buyer's number - a regular "buy now-pay later" deal. The success of the auction - approximately \$720 profit - was possible only because of student interest. When you wear your shoes for 25 cents and your \$1 sweater while reading your 10 cent philosophy book in your \$1.50 sleeping bag, just think of the piano, or carpeting you helped buy for the dorms.

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Jay Van Groningen and Marion Van Soelen deal with housing

"It is Difficult to Justify, but it Works the Best"

continued from page 1

correct (being a member of the CRC) to have the reformed world and life view that Dordt College teaches?

The Diamond talked separately to both Rev. B.J. Haan, president of Dordt College, and Dr. David Boeve, chairman of the Board of Trustees, about Dordt and its relationship to the Christian Reformed Church.

Diamond: What do you see as the relationship between the church and the school?

Rev. Haan: It is a very intimate relationship but, I also believe in sphere sovereignty where control of church and school are separate. I think it is perfectly legitimate for the church to work with the school to get funds. When people come to church they bring money not just for the church but for the Kingdom.

Dordt College is an oddity. Historically, we faced the problem that Calvin College received church support. In the early 1960's, Dordt College tried to become a church-controlled school but, we were turned down by classis Orange City.

Diamond: Why is membership in the DCS and consequently the Board of Trustees restricted to those Christians who have their membership in the Christian Reformed Church (CRC)?

Rev. Haan: Right now the membership of the DCS is restricted to members of the CRC. This has made it possible for Dordt to receive quota relief. But the CRC does not officially control Dordt College.

Our people feel that to keep the college confessionally strong, it should be run by those of the CRC. We do have good relations with, and seek the advice of other groups. We sponsor minister conferences every fall for the Orthodox Presbyterian Church and the Reformed Church of the United States. We welcome the dialogue.

I'm not saying we shouldn't allow them on the Board of Trustees, but I say it just wouldn't work. There would be organizational problems and it is better for us to have our own identity to which other people are welcome to come. It is difficult to justify it, but it

works the best.

Dr. Boeve: We've had no push from any source to change, so we haven't changed. You also have to realize that people from the CRC are the ones who built Dordt College. Now, for these people to take in everyone would be hard to do.

Diamond: Dordt College wishes, in fact advertises, that though the student body is mainly Christian Reformed, there are others such as Reformed, Presbyterian, Baptist and Lutheran. Yet, why do we ask them to come if we will not allow them to share in the direction of the college?

Rev. Haan: There is an incongruity, but as I've mentioned before, there are historical reasons. We don't want to close the door to the Orthodox Presbyterian and the Reformed Church of the United States, but we must keep the board CRC because we need the quota relief. The non-CRC get no direct institutional grants, but they do benefit indirectly from the quota relief.

Diamond: The reason that the Board of Trustees is mainly CRC

then is financial?

Rev. Haan: Yes, but there are other reasons, such as historical. Interesting question though.

Diamond: According to the by-laws, seven of the Board of Trustee members must be ministers. Why?

Rev. Haan: We want people close to our people. Historically we do receive a lot of support from the CRC and ministers have a lot of leadership in the church.

Dr. Boeve: The ministers can report on and answer questions about Dordt College at classis as well as help push up the quota level.

The bad thing in the CRC is that ministers have been in control of a lot of boards and committees for years. Ministers have time and laymen are guilty of being unwilling to serve on these boards. I've served on the board for 10 years and ministers have been good members. It's worked. As long as these things work, you don't make changes for the sake of making changes!

Commentary

The Future for a Young, Reformed Christian

Our world is rapidly changing. It is becoming more complex due to constant new discoveries and the steadily increasing realm of knowledge. Man is coming to the conclusion that the master of his fate is himself, not a faraway god whom he never sees. The world is increasing in its tolerance toward the relaxing morality of today. This fact is especially evident in the way in which we spend millions of dollars developing a test-tube baby while over 1.2 million of our own natural babies are aborted each year. All of our morals are slipping. What will our world be like in the year 2000?

Being a young, Reformed Christian during the last quarter of the twentieth century is, and will be, a responsibility and challenge, and yet a privilege. We young people possess a fresh

vitality to pursue our goals. Our forefathers fought during the Reformation to reform the unbiblical traditions of the Roman Catholic church. As Reformed

God will certainly hold

us responsible for the

fruits our lives produce.

Christians, we are set apart from the world, and it is our duty to fight the battle against the rising tide of selfishness, immorality, and self-pride. We know that God is our courage and strength and will guide us in

our endeavors. The future depends on us! How will we take on this responsibility and challenge as opposed to our non-Christian contemporaries?

It is our responsibility not only to stimulate necessary changes, but also to have a part in carrying out these changes. In doing this, we first must set a Christian example to the world around us. If we don't live our calling, others won't see any reason to be Christians. No matter where we are—at home, at work, or in the community—our lives must reflect our Christian perspectives. We are commanded to let our lights shine before men. A person who lets go with a stream of expletives at a ballgame is not a good example of a Christian! God will certainly hold us responsible for the fruits our lives produce.

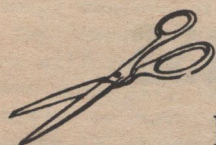
Working toward our goals as

by Dan Van Kooten
young, Reformed Christians is and will be a real challenge. God has equipped each of us with certain talents, which He expects to grow instead of lying unused. To develop these talents to the fullest extent, certain preparations must be made through the interlocking triangle of home, church, and school.

Homes are the beginning of the development—Christian parents instruct their children in the Christian faith in conjunction with church and school. The church plays a large role in this growth. She, with the Holy Spirit, provides and guides in a firm understanding of Biblical principles and knowledge, and especially in Reformed circles, teaches sound Christian doctrine. Christian education helps bind together Christianity and all other areas of life. Most of us as Reformed Christians utilize this God-given tool from kindergarten through high school. Some of us even choose Christian colleges, which train us for occupations in God's kingdom.

The fact that we are young, Reformed Christians anticipating God's will for us in the next twenty-five years is a privilege. Life will be full of meaning because we are God's elect. How exciting that God has chosen us to carry on His name!

Each new day in the years to come should be met with a prayer and a cheerful attitude. We must live life to the fullest by carrying Christ's banner. The assurance is ours—He will be with us wherever we go and in whatever we do.



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New Banner Editor Popular with Students

"As I was preparing for the Sunday morning worship I picked up The Banner (11/10/80). This Banner is speaking to my people where they are at."

This letter from San Diego, California, to The Banner accurately reflects the view Dordt students (including the 11% non-CRC) have of the new editor of The Banner.

The new editor of The Banner, the official publication of the Christian Reformed Church, is Rev. Andrew Kuyvenhoven. Rev. Kuyvenhoven was elected to this post by the CRC's Synod of 1979 and began his duties in August, 1980.

When asked what they liked about the new editor and format of The Banner, students commented:

"Kuyvenhoven is more a pastor than a theologian. He discusses issues which are relevant to the church at large and does not get wrapped up in discussions over obscure and abstract subjects, which although they may be important, do not meet the needs of the church at a grass roots

level."

"The paper is no longer a theological magazine, but it has been becoming a magazine that all members of the CRC can read and benefit from."

These statements reflect what Kuyvenhoven stated in his first "Corner Kick" on September 8, 1980 he would like to do: "It won't take you long to find out that the purpose of the column is the edification of the reader, because the editor is first and last a preacher."

Already last May, when Kuyvenhoven spoke at Dordt College, he had a clear idea of what type of publication The Banner should be. The following excerpts are from an interview that Charlie Claus, a Diamond reporter, had with Kuyvenhoven at that time.

Question: As the official paper of the CRC, what type of paper should The Banner be?

Answer: I've thought of making it more of a newspaper. This could be achieved by having correspondents in different areas of the continent who would keep abreast of what's happening in

the different areas of the CRC. We can never remain one if we are not even interested in each other, or if we don't know anything about each other.

The most common complaint I hear is that The Banner is a Grand Rapids oriented paper. For example, the majority of the classified ads are from the Grand Rapids area. I would at least try to increase regional interest in the paper.

So first of all, we should get to know each other. If we want to maintain unity, we have to be informed about the different parts of our congregation. It should also be a forum of discussion, although not as much as I've seen in the past.

Question: Should the editor of The Banner reflect the diversity of the church, or should he take a position and attempt to give leadership from his perspective?

Answer: He must not try to please everyone. It depends a lot on the issue, of course. There are certain issues where the church is best served if I come right out and tell them

by Harvey Voogd and Charles Claus what, according to the Scriptures and according to the reformed confessions, I believe our stand ought to be. It has to be clear. Even if the readers don't agree, they should at least know very clearly where The Banner stands.

(Already last May, Kuyvenhoven spoke of burning the wooden shoes.)

Question: What do you mean by burning the wooden shoes? Is our cultural heritage a positive thing, or has it become something that is dragging us down?

Answer: A cultural heritage is, of course, a very important thing. A person who tries to deny his or her roots is foolish because you become nothing. But you can play that up, or tone it down. I can join any number of clubs that keep up Dutch folklore and are interested in Dutch heritage, but that is not the role of the church, for the church belongs not to the Hollanders—but to Jesus. And therefore you must always guard against getting those two mixed up.

Commentary

Will Justice and Peace Take Second Place?

by Gary Duim

Now that President Reagan's administration has begun, we as a nation can see in action the man whom we have chosen to lead us for four years. We look with hope to a new administration as it seeks to provide answers to what it sees as the problems of this nation. Thankfully, this can now be done without the bothersome, news-dominating hostage situation.

The actions of the Reagan administration should be of great interest to Christians since the largest segment of American Christianity—including Dordt students—seems to support Reagan. The Moral Majority triumphed as Christians supported the ideals appealed to by Reagan. Now we must watch closely and reflect on what "we" as Christians helped elect.

Did Christians vote for Reagan because he had the more Christian idea of economics, or because he supported moral social values, or for both reasons? The Moral Majority cast both of these areas in black and white terms to show the Christian option. However, Moral Majority Christians may be disappointed in Reagan's passion for upgrading society's morals. The emphasis will be on economic progress.

Economic concerns elected Reagan more than a new moral vision. The nation is searching for new—or a return to old—economic ideals. Reagan has provided these with contemporary conservative proposals.

Although moral social issues served as an emotional impetus to creating a body of Christians supporting Reagan, Reagan will not be foolhardy enough to polarize the real majority of liberal

or at least non-moral majority people. The real majority would not put up with a repeal of the achievements of the last 20 years in civil rights and programs to help people. These achievements have to a great extent been seen as making this a more just and equitable nation. But many of these same people still voted for Reagan in hopes of renewed economic growth and prosperity. In a materialistic culture there develops a faith in material progress and security. When this progress is threatened, people's faith is threatened and they eagerly turn to those proclaiming a way to return to progress.

How did our faith as Christians affect us in voting last year? And how will it affect us as we examine the future actions of this administration?

In his farewell speech, former President Carter voiced his concern for the future in three major areas: the nuclear arms race, the fragile global environment, and human rights. On these issues Carter showed a marked difference from Reagan during the campaign. These three areas should be of great concern to every Christian and we should carefully watch how our new administration handles these issues.

If the SALT II treaty is not good enough for Reagan it is possible no agreement can be reached and that would satisfy Reagan's military superiority mentality.

Reagan has already been accused by environmentalists of disregard for the environment. Moreover, we must be concerned about the global environment that is often misused politically and physically, insuring poverty.

Rightist factions in Central America have already voiced glee over Reagan's election. This may signal a return to U.S. policies that force our interests on others, thus creating Nicaragua and Iran.

What ties all of Reagan's vision into a neat unifying package is the need for a strong economy protected by a strong military. Concern for the environment, the hungry, third world rights, justice, and peace may take second place to a growing American eco-

nomy. This economism elected Reagan. In the inaugural speech we heard that government exists to promote economic growth.

As Christians we must reflect on where we stand on these issues. As we pray for wisdom and strength for President Reagan we must remember that we are not praying this for the good of our own pocketbook. We must be praying that the justice God demands in his Word may be longed for and applied on earth.

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Kramer Vs. Kramer: Tear-Jerking Sentimentality

by Corinna Meijers

Kramer vs. Kramer is a film dealing with a contemporary problem: divorce, the death of a family.

The Columbia picture, written and directed by Robert Benton, attempts to portray the realities of divorce with somewhat typical late 20th century characteristics. Joanna Kramer (Meryl Streep) suffers from an identity crisis, and leaves her husband and son to "find herself". She feels her marriage is destroying her as an individual and she feels unfit as a mother to seven-year-old Billy (Justin Henry).

Ted Kramer (Dustin Hoffman) is an art director in an advertising firm, and is working his way up. He is completely absorbed in his work and fails to notice anything else. During the custody hearing he admits, "I thought when I was happy, she was happy", but this was obviously not the case.

The initial true realization that he is both father and mother comes to Ted when his attempt at making french toast for breakfast, getting Billy ready for school and getting himself ready for work does not go as smoothly as he had anticipated. Later in the film a somewhat similar scene is played; this time it is clear that Ted has matured, and learned much. Once again, french toast is served, but this time, minus the frustration and

flaring temper. It is obvious that through Ted's maturing experience, Billy has become his life.

The real problem that disrupts Ted's and Billy's adjusted relationship arises when Joanna returns after 18 months in California, with confidence in herself restored, and demands custody of her child.

What follows is a custody hearing filled with "tear-jerking" sentimentality. As expected, Joanna wins custody of Billy and one would think that it would end there: Joanna and Billy joyfully walking off, leaving behind a lonely Ted who must once again learn to cope with a new situation. Not so. On the morning that Billy must leave to live with his mother, a teary-eyed Joanna shows up and tells Ted of her decision to leave Billy with his father...at home.

Although I have a rather limited knowledge of the divorce procedure and the short/long term effects divorce has on those involved, I did find the film somewhat unrealistic and disillusioning. I do not believe that divorces "go" that smoothly or friendly. Throughout the film, Joanna and Ted exchange no bitter or cutting remarks; and, neither parent belittles his/her spouse while explaining "things" to Billy (who seems to accept a tremendous amount with little visible difficulty or dubiousness).

The Kramers had one friend (as far as the viewers could tell), a divorcée who started out as Joanna's confidante, and ended up as Ted's.

The film was very well directed and did not get long or boring. There were many "quickie" scenes and one-liners that always kept the audience attentive and

interested. It was the kind of film that one can be laughing with the characters one minute, and feeling rather melancholy the next. It makes one think about divorce, an issue perhaps many of us have not had personal experience with, but one that we should be aware of.

Calendar of Events

January 29

-Isaac Jen (Run), a Chinese speaker from the Back to God Hour, will give a talk in C-160 at 7:30 p.m.

January 31

-Film: "Breaking Away" in C-160 at 6:30 and 9:00 p.m.
-Men's Basketball - at Yankton, 7:30 p.m.

February 2

-Laura Vander Windt will perform in a student recital on the organ at 8:00 p.m. in the Dordt College Chapel
-Men's Basketball - at Dakota State, 7:30 p.m.

February 4

-The Sioux County Concert Series will present the "Chestnut Brass" in the Chapel at 8:00 p.m.
-Women's Basketball - Westmar, here, 7:30 p.m.

February 6

-The South Dakota String Quartet will perform in the Chapel at 8:00 p.m.

February 7

-Men's Basketball - Northwestern, here, 7:30 p.m.
-Women's Basketball - Northwestern, here, 2:00 p.m.

February 9

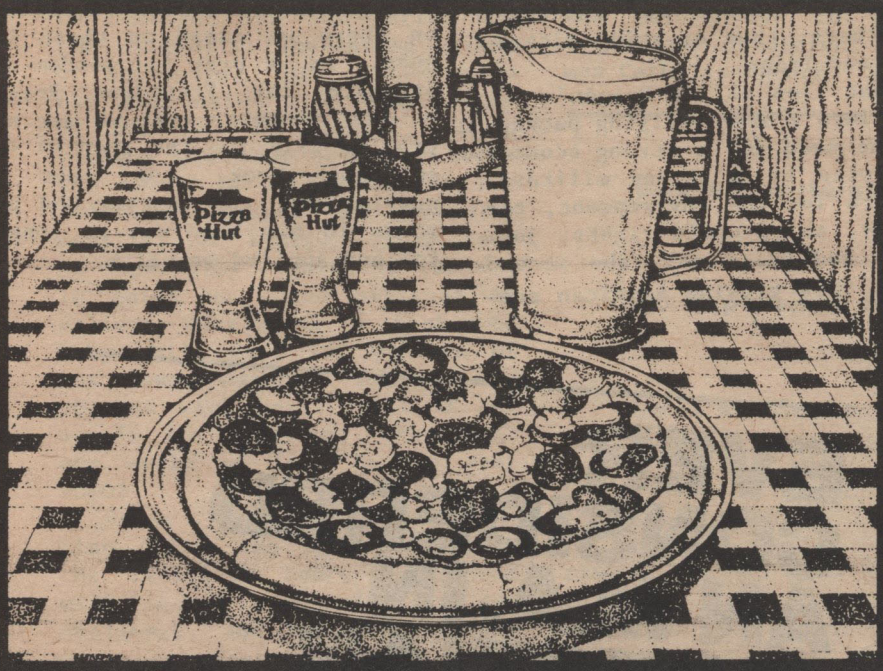
-Grace Van Someren will give a student voice recital at 8:00 p.m. in the Chapel
-Women's Basketball - at Morningside, 7:00 p.m.

February 10 and 11

-Dr. Woldring will speak in C-160 on the 10th at 3:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. and on the 11th at 3:00 p.m. At 3:00 p.m. on both days Dr. Woldring will speak on "Key Problems in Reformed Society--Critique" and at 7:30 p.m. on the 10th--Dostoevsky Memorial Lecture
-Women's Basketball - 11th, Buena Vista, here, 7:30 p.m.

February 12, 13, 14, 16, and 17

-The Theatre Arts Department is presenting Hedda Gabler by Henrik Ibsen. Every night it is given in the New World Theatre at 8:00 p.m.



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'Real People' and Sex

by Norlan De Groot

One of the more popular shows on television is NBC's Real People. As the name implies, the stars are real people but they are not all ordinary. One show consisted of a cat doctor, a game show fanatic, a 50-year-old football player, and others. For some it is hard to believe that the stars are real people.

Most of the show can be considered good entertainment. Some people are shown doing courageous things. One Indian man took on the government to retain possession of his grandfather's land. He succeeded when the then president Carter signed a bill allowing him to keep it. Another example of good, clean entertainment is a whistle competition filmed for Real People.

However, Real People has a bad side. Nearly every show includes sex. One show contained a suntanning competition. The film included two close-ups of

bikini-clad women. The close-ups started at the feet and moved on up. The highlight of the competition was pulling down part of one's swimming suit to show how much difference there was between the white and tanned skin.

At the end of the film clip, co-host Sarah Purcell mentioned that tanning is not really good for people. Co-host Skip Stevenson said he did not like tans either; he liked the white parts much better.

Real People does itself a disservice when it stoops to using material like this. One cannot help but wonder if sex is included just to boost the ratings. Judging by the audience's "oohs" and "ahs" at the contestants in the competition, it seems to be working. However, what they gain in ratings through the use of these methods, they lose in quality.

Theatre Arts Plans Ambitious Semester

by Brenda Reiter

Hedda Gabler, one of the plays by Henrik Ibsen, will be performed in February at Dordt College. Hedda is a discontented Norwegian woman of the late 19th century. She is married to Tesman, the typical husband of the time; he expects her to take care of him, the house, and the family, but she wants to do more than merely fulfill her duties as a wife and to be more than an object for her husband to own and to fondle. But Hedda has neither goals nor courage. She is self-centered and enjoys the comfort of being a wife as she is. The combination of these factors in her personality cause problems for Hedda.

Henrik Ibsen, a Norwegian dramatist, has been called "the father of modern drama." In his works, he dramatized modern social problems realistically. Although he wrote the plays many years ago, they deal with modern problems. This is true of Hedda Gabler, the 26th play in his fifty-year play-writing career, which was written in 1890. Besides being a modern dramatist, Ibsen wrote poetry, verse, and controversial articles.

Professor James Koldenhoven, director of the play, said Gioia Seerveld will play the title role, with Ron Otten as Tesman. Both the costumes and scenery will depict the realism of Ibsen. The play will be performed

February 12, 13, 14, 16, and 17 at 8:00 p.m. at the New World Theatre. It is advisable, said Koldenhoven, to reserve tickets early in order to be assured of seeing this play, since NWT seats are limited. Tickets may be ordered at the box office in the S.U.B., Ext. 6430, from 1-5 on Monday through Saturday and from 6-9 on Monday through Saturday. Koldenhoven said any tickets not picked up prior to thirty minutes before the play will be sold.

Two other productions will be performed in February. On February 19, 20, and 21, Charles Spurgeon will be presented. John Schuurman will be the sole performer; he will "be" Charles Spurgeon in this biographical portrayal.

A new event, Reader's Theater, will present The Lady's Not For Burning on February 20. Dr. Stanley Wiersma, guest professor of literature, will lead a discussion following the performance. The discussion will be open to viewers.

The Theatre Arts Department, said Professor Verne Meyer, will also present the following during the present season:

-Musical Revue in early March.
-Three student-directed plays in mid-March.

-The Tavern, a major play, in April.

-Interpreter's Theatre productions in May.



Gioia Seerveld and Ron Otten contemplate lead roles

by Henry Reyenga

Concert Band Enjoys Tour

by Cathy Ross

"What really made the tour was the kids! There was an absolute 100% working together as a unit—musically, socially, and spiritually," commented Professor Gerald Bouma, director of the Dordt College Concert Band. He also said that what made the difference was the fact that not one of the students ever lost sight of who they were and why they were on tour.

The 68-member band went on tour January 2-13. Their itinerary included Manitoba and Alberta, Canada, but they also performed concerts in Volga, South Dakota, and Manhattan, Montana. In addition to giving concerts in the various Christian Reformed churches, they also gave assemblies at the Christian high schools in Manhattan, Calgary, and Lethbridge. At these assemblies, the band played lighter numbers and the stage band performed. The pep band played at a high school basketball game while they were in Manhattan.

John Veltkamp, baritone play-

er, said he enjoyed getting to know the other students in the band better. He was also impressed with the unity of the group. "The whole outfit felt like we were one big family. Even though we were tired, we all pulled together before a concert and gave it out best."

A member of the percussion section, Suzette Luyt, enjoyed the traveling the most. She said, "I thought Montana was really nice; the countryside was so neat." She also liked meeting new people. "The whole tour was a mountain-top experience. It was something I'll never forget."

Bouma said the audience reaction to the Dordt band was fantastic. "We were well-received wherever we went." He was impressed at how expressive Canadian audiences were. He concluded, "The band played better than they had before and the audience enjoyed hearing the music as much as the students enjoyed playing it."

Actors prepare for Hedda Gabler rehearsal

by Henry Reyenga



Defenders' record now 14- 4!

Nostalgia Out!-Winning In!

by Tim P. Vos

Nostalgia and the common basketball fan do not mix. Fans do not want to know about a team's history! Just Support a winning squad . . . NOW. But nostalgia was the only out for fans if they wanted to mention the Defenders and winning in the same sentence. Talk about 1974-75, when Dordt won 13 games, has suddenly become quite cheap. After all, when one uses phrases for the 1981 edition like "best ever" or "playoff bound," the fans are looking ahead not back. Dordt has won 12 of its first 16 games and by week's end the 1981 squad will own more victories than any other Defender basketball team.

At the year's beginning the word was cautious optimism; by midseason the word was confidence—confidence in a team that has something special. The word got out January 2-3 in the Dutchman Classic in Pella. The classic featured Central vs. Calvin and Hope vs. Dordt in Friday night's opening round. Calvin and Hope were the co-favorites but Central pulled off the first upset and Dordt the second with a thrilling overtime victory to advance to the Saturday night championship. Dordt vs. Hope was a classic within itself. Kevin Wolterstorff dazzled with 23 points and 14 rebounds; Wes Fopma contributed 14 markers and 11 rebounds; Denny Van Zanten tallied 10 points on 75% shooting, but Dayton Vogel was the hero, getting the last of his 14 points with a tip-shot at the buzzer to take a 85-83 overtime victory.

The stats were nothing new



by Henry Reyenga

Kevin Wolterstorff (51) flips one over All-American Rolando Frazer of Briar Cliff

for the Defenders: 53% shooting, a 46-30 rebound advantage, and a dreadful 24 turnovers (to Hope's 7). What was new was a Central College team that Dordt had beaten November 28, 80-64—the Dutchmen showed noticeable improvement. Dordt was not able to put the game out of Central's reach until the final two minutes. A little concentration rewarded Dordt with a 67-64 victory, a 10-2 record, and gave the Dutchmen their second loss on their home floor since 1977.

Van Zanten led with 18 points, Wolterstorff managed 15 points and 15 rebounds, and game high honors went to Central forward and Sioux Center native, Steve Kraayenbrink with 27.

Dordt, labeled "Dork College" or "Offenders," by opponents, got a new label . . . Champions! Champs of the first Dutchman Classic.

Currently Dordt is 12-4 with seven games remaining, having lost to Briar Cliff 98-86. Despite shooting 59%, the Defenders could not overcome the third-ranked team in the nation,—who was led by All-American Rolando Frazer's 37 points and Reggie Grenald's 28.—Dordt was led by Van Zanten's 18 points and Wolterstorff's 19 points and 10 rebounds. Despite the frustrating loss, the Defenders are still looking ahead. They do not have to look too far to see yankton, Dakota State, and Northwestern, but they are not frightened by the final regular season game versus Briar Cliff or of representing Dordt College in the playoffs.

Women Defenders Sing, Visit and Compete in California

by Carol Bentz

There was no "White Christmas" for Dordt's women's basketball team as they journeyed to California to participate in the Bellflower Basketball Tournament.

The team left Sioux Center Wednesday, December 17, and arrived in Bellflower Saturday, December 20, where they played their first game against Biola. Dordt lost 85-39, but went on to beat Whittier, 69-44, for third place on Monday, December 22.

Coach Rhoda felt Dordt gave a fine performance considering Biola had two All-Americans and an Olympian from Korea playing on their team, making Biola the best team Dordt has played.

Dordt competed against Modesto Junior College Saturday, December 27, and lost 57-51. Rhoda said the team played well but he felt that tiredness from the trip was an important factor in slowing them down.

Rhoda felt the trip benefited the team by giving them two extra weeks of playing time when they would otherwise have had a month off from action. Since the team is mostly sophomores and freshmen it gave them extra game experience which, Rhoda said, will help in the long run.

Another benefit was the contact Dordt made with the people. During their stay in California, the team met people by playing basketball, staying in homes, singing at church, and going to Dordt Alumni meetings. Rhoda said he felt more certain about the value of the trip after going through the experience than before bringing Dordt into the California community.

The team came back to Sioux Center on December 31 to spend the rest of Christmas vacation at home.



by Jeff Bouma

D.J. Niewenhuis guards ball for Defender Women