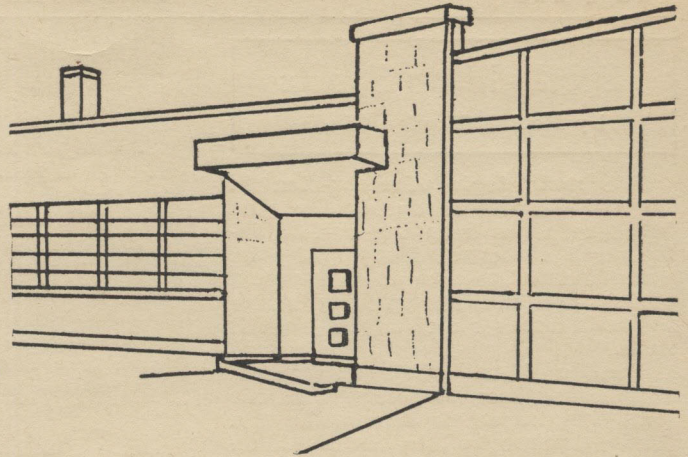


The Dordt Diamond

Student Publication of Dordt College,
Sioux Center, Iowa

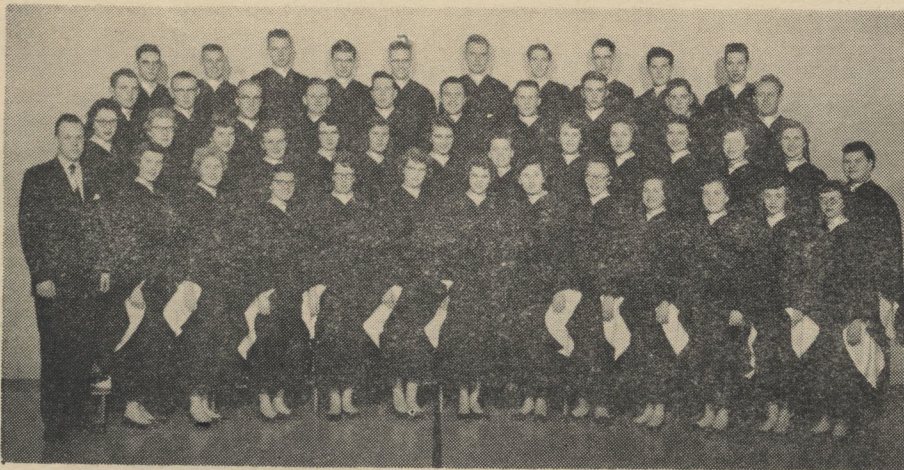


Volume 1.

Friday, March 28, 1958

Number 10.

DORDT CHOIR TO TOUR



Leave Campus April 1
at 8:00 A.M.

Soon another of the voices of Dordt College, her choir's, shall be heard and the echo of our "Lord Bless You and Keep You" will be floating back over an ovular distance of some one thousand miles, in a three-state area. With the cooperation of Sioux Lines buses, the tour will begin on the morning of April 1st. We are scheduled to embark from the Dordt College drive at eight o'clock sharp (a warning to all of you ten o'clock scholars) and expect to arrive in Pella, a distance of 270 miles, sometime Tuesday afternoon.

Our first concert is in the First Pella Christian Reformed Church on Tuesday evening, and since we are very desirous of putting our best foot forward, be sure you have those size thirteen's shined.

While in Pella we will also take charge of chapel services at Christian High and some of our students will be giving little propaganda speeches in behalf of Dordt, the trio will sing, perhaps there will be a solo, "Jack, Johnny and Ole Sourpuss" will display a little talent and maybe even the quartet will get in on the show if they find a number by then.

From Pella we make a short 86 mile trip to Wellsburg for our second concert on Wednesday night, April 2. Waupun, Wisconsin is the third stop and a somewhat longer ride—230 miles from Wellsburg. Leaving Waupun Friday morning, we'll enter Good Old Minnesota and give our fourth concert that evening, Good Friday, in the Minneapolis Church.

The day that all of us are looking forward to is Saturday, for then each choir member will be on his own (or somebody else's) to enjoy the sights, "Cinerama" and shopping in Minneapolis.

Saturday evening we hope to arrive in Pease, 90 miles from the Cities, and spend Easter Sunday
(Continued on page 2)

The Challenge

by Cliff Christians

There are many books in the libraries of our Christian circles which are looked upon by many of our people rather favorably. These we could classify as religious novels (supposedly). Our church libraries are literally filled with books of this type, e.g. Grace Livingston Hill's books; and they are enjoyed by many of the people to whom they are accessible.

It is the contention of this author that we as Young Calvinists should indeed be wary of such books—even though they come to us wrapped in a glossy, religious veneer. I assert this for more than one reason: It is characteristic of these books that having read one, a person has read them all. They all speak of fond lovers, of a sick mother or father, of brave children, of orphans, and of unexpected deaths. The villain must always meet a horrible death, and the hero always comes out on top with everything falling his own way; furthermore this hero overcomes his difficulties without any divine guidance or assistance.

(We hereby speak of these novels in general).

The foremost critics of religious novels despise them because of their intense falseness. There is first of all a falseness about the characterization. It takes only a minutes of prayer, or a careful thought and the hero can overcome any obstacle. The virtuous son who marches off to war soon wins all his buddies to Christ. The second form this dishonesty takes is an unrealistic treatment of evil (more specifically, the results of it in the world). The authors of such novels treat evil as if it were no worse than a bad cold. They all exclude suffering, misery, and privation except for enough to make some form of a story. In the end, the hero throws all evil aside and everything that is wonderful is heaped upon him.

These books are only inviting the cynic's leer and snicker, for even secular authors are more adept at portraying human nature than religious authors; they can explain the circumstances of life in a far more pleasing, more realistic manner.

Therefore, I maintain that they should be removed from the shelf and forever disdained. There is

(Continued on page 2)

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Spotlight on Sports

by Harlan Vanden Einde

The main topic of discussion in the halls of Dordt during the past few weeks has been the various intramural contests. Many of the tournaments are now in full swing, and it will not be too long before we shall discover a champion in each field.

The boys' volleyball tournament has already been completed, and the girls' tournament is now underway. Team number "4", in the boys' division, consisting of J. Gesink, R. De Stigter, J. Schapper, G. Van Stedum, L. Talsma, and M. Alons came out on top with a 5-0 record. The girls' tournaments, as of Monday, March 24, are not far enough advanced to report.

All the games in the first round and some of the second round in ping-pong and shuffleboard are already completed. There have been some very close games, and I'm sure there are still some very exciting games in store.

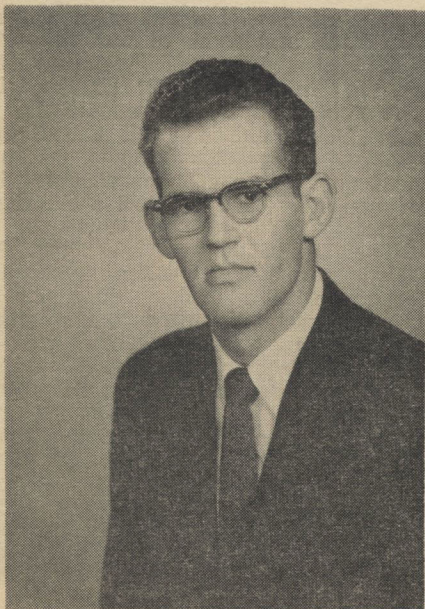
The girls' badminton tournament has also been started, with a few games already finished.

In the very near future, the bowling tournament will also get under way, and as soon as the weather permits, the horseshoe and track events will also begin.

I am sure that everyone is enjoying these tournaments very much, and it will be very interesting to keep up with them and see who comes out on top in each division. We will report all official results in this column.

Professor Sjoerdsma

Received Award



Professor Ted Sjoerdsma, instructor in mathematics and physical science, has been awarded a scholarship from the National Science Foun-

--EDITORIAL--

Cultivating Appreciation For Books

All of us, no doubt, have met individuals who frankly, even boastfully, have told us that they "just didn't care to read." And, no question about it, they live up to their boast. Now it is always more or less tragic when a man, whose characteristic from the animal is his rationality and morality, coupled with an aesthetic appreciation for God's glorious universe, banishes from his life that which is basic to the well being of the former and the satisfaction of the latter—books. But tragic beyond all comprehension is such an attitude or tendency found among college students.

Education is today undergoing a great deal of face-lifting. So much so that in many instances one can hardly recognize the old face. Space does not permit us to go deeply into this issue—surely it is an issue. One aspect of the change bears on the point of this article. Education is being viewed as a means to a concrete, limited end. Specialization is the talk of the day. One suffers through four years of college—with its books and all—to reach that one end. There one can use books in a limited sense, just to stay posted in his field, but for the rest be free from the exacting business of reading. The old idea that education is the beginning of a life-long process and enjoyment—the disciplining of the mind essential to good reading and the introduction to the field of literature—finds the going extremely rough. Education which addresses itself to the responsible task of developing the total man with broad interests and cultural appreciation is facing strong competition.

Yet this is the kind of education we believe in. That means for one thing that we will cultivate appreciation for books. Some need this cultivation more than others—our reference is to college students. All need it in some measure. Few of us possess that natural love for reading that needs no external stimulus to keep us up and at it. Great scholars of all times console us lesser lights by their confessions. What we must have and engender is spirit—determination. If only the spirit is willing. The flesh competes, but it can be crucified. This requires discipline.

Many books there are. Among them are books that have that peculiar quality of quickening within the reader both the desire and the determination to read widely—to stay at it. The late Dr. Henry Zylstra's book—now found in Dordt's library—belongs to this class of books. **TESTAMENT OF VISION** is a book you ought to read. It cultivates appreciation for books. And that is a basic task of education.

Guest editorial by Rev. B. J. Haan

dation for a summer's study at Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan.

Mr. Sjoerdsma, in this six week summer institute, will be taking subjects in the line of mathematics. He does not yet know what specific subjects he will be able to select.

Mr. Sjoerdsma stated that he was eligible for this award because he is currently employed as a junior college teacher of physical science and mathematics. His plans are to continue in this capacity and to work in future summers toward the master's degree.

When asked how he felt about receiving this award, Professor Sjoerdsma replied, "Oh, it's dandy. I'm very anxious to resume my graduate studies." Mrs. Sjoerdsma and the two children will accompany their "Dad" to East Lansing.

DORDT CHOIR TO TOUR

(Continued from page 1)

worshiping with the people there. Sunday night our concert will be given in the Pease church and then on Monday morning we'll hurry on to Prinsburg where we'll present our little program in Central Minnesota Christian High and also sing that evening. Tuesday the buses again head southward and, after 120 miles of smooth Minnesota highway, Edgerton will welcome us. For the third time on tour we will conduct

chapel services; this time in Southwest Minnesota Christian High. That evening, Tuesday, April 8, we'll give our last concert on tour, and then begin the last lap, 63 miles back to Sioux Center.

Throughout the tour the choir members will receive lodging in the homes of the people in these areas, and are looking forward to this too as a means of acquainting our people with Dordt College.

We are sorry that Virgil Baker will be unable to accompany the rest of the choir, forty seven voices, on tour. He was compelled to leave school by his father's accident several weeks ago.

One final thought, Choir: not too much luggage. We're staying eight days not months. And remember those toothbrushes, Men.

On Wednesday morning, April 9, two-thirds of the choir will trudge sleepily to classes again. (The other third will roll over and stop their ears when the seven-o'clock siren sounds.)

THE CHALLENGE

(continued from page 1)

hearty agreement with this contention in the January, 1958 issue of the **Reformed Journal**. Steven Vander Weele there offers numerous other reasons why we should think twice before we classify "religious novels" as good literature.