Van Til and Dordt Reach Milestone

By Deb Butler

After 26 years of teaching at Dordt College, Nick Van Til, professor of philosophy and history, will be retiring the end of this semester. Does Nick Van Til think that reaching age 65 is a milestone? He said, “It’s a benchmark because that’s when you are benched in favor of some junior members.”

Van Til said Dordt was his first teaching experience. He came to Dordt in 1955, the year the college opened. “There were five teachers at that time,” said Van Til. “I was the first choir director, the first pep band director, and the first drama coach.”

Van Til’s education before coming to Dordt was wide and varied. At an early age, Van Til moved from his birthplace in Highland, Indiana, to Freemon, Michigan. He attended the Freemon Christian School, a mile and a half away from the family farm, until the age of thirteen.

“I was blessed that I didn’t have to go to high school immediately out of grade school. The reason I was blessed was that we were isolated and far away and with the help of my older brother I learned to read the English classics, history and theology. I religiously used the dictionary and I think I gained most of my vocabulary during that time.”

Van Til was out of grade school three years before he entered high school at age 10. After high school, Van Til entered Calvin College where he graduated four years later with a degree in philosophy. The next three and one-half years he spent in the military service because of WWII.

“I went in a Bunk Private and came out a Captain,” Van Til said. He said the military service was another time he spent in word study. While overseas, the ship he was on provided no recreational activities, so he studied the pocket Bible and the pocket dictionary he had brought along.

After military service, Van Til studied one year at Westminster Theological Seminary in the area of Apologetics. Then he spent one year in the study of music at the Philadelphia Music Academy. Finally, he went to the University of Michigan where he received Master degrees in both history and philosophy before “taking the teaching position at Dordt.” Van Til has prepared lectures for 22 courses, including lectures for two courses he taught at Western one summer. At Dordt, he has taught all 10 courses for the major in philosophy, the ones he also taught American Government, Geography and Speech,” he added.

Van Til plans to keep an office at Dordt and entertain- ment for as long as the college can provide him the space. He plans to do research and to keep writing for Pro Rege, Renewal, and for “Plumbline” on KODC. “I think in the past I’ve written four times as much copy to Pro Rege as other faculty members. I like to write. I don’t consider myself a public speaker. I’d rather sit down and write.”

In all his years of teaching, Van Til thinks the most rewarding past was when everything “jelled:” when the class was really receptive and “things went well with your work.” He said, “And another rewarding experience was having students come back that found what you did for them useful and carried it with them.”

He feels the future of Dordt will go well “as long as we stick with the principles of our Christian approach.”

Besides writing, Van Til also hopes to do some academic and recreational reading. He also is an avid gardener and enjoys both flower and vegetable gardening.

“I have no concern that I’m going to be retiring,” he said.

Free time ahead for Van Til

by Henry Heyenga

President Haan Goes Here, There, Everywhere

While Dordt students were preparing to return to college for second semester, its president, Rev. B. J. Haan, was also preparing—-he was readying himself to go on a trip to the west coast in behalf of Dordt College. As students were attending their first classes of the new semester on January 14, Rev. and Mrs. Deborah Haan were leaving in their car for a three-week trip that would take them to Montana, Washington, Oregon, and California.

The trip had two purposes: first, to celebrate Dordt College’s 25th Anniversary and show appreciation to alumni for all good things shared throughout the years, and second, to meet with representatives of consistories to discuss quota support relief from the Christian Reformed denomination at large. To do this, Haan made the consistories aware of the dollar differences between Calvin and Dordt quota support. He met with eight consistories. Rev. Haan said, “Meetings with the consistory representatives did much to build up a stronger relationship of good will between the churches and Dordt College. The consistories were very consistent.”

Rev. and Mrs. Haan attended twelve hostess dinners attended by many Dordt alumni. Said Haan, “They did a good job of organizing and carrying out the program. At the dinners, the Dordt College Anniversary film, which tells of Christian education and Dordt’s place in Christian education, was shown; it was very well received by the alumni.”

Haan also visited Classis Ripon, California, and Westminster Seminary West, and led chapel services in Ripon Christian High School. He preached in churches in Zillah and Quincy, Washington in Salem, Oregon, and in Visalia and Hanford, California.

The trip was financed by the Anniversary Campaign budget, but “the costs were minimal because of the homes opened up for us,” the president said. “I’d rather sit down and write.”

Jerrod Wynia

All-American Twice Over

Jerrod Wynia became an “All-American” for the second time in four months by finishing third in the three-mile run at Kansas City, Mo.

This past weekend, February 19-21, Roger Koele and Jerrod Wynia participated in the 16th Annual NAIA National Indoor Track and Field Championships in Kansas City, Mo.

Qualifications to compete in the meet consisted of running within a set time established by the NAIA.

Koele ran the quarter mile run, but did not pass the preliminaries.

Wynia ran the three mile run on Thursday and qualified for the finals. The finals were run Saturday night, and Wynia came in third, with a time of 14 minutes and 12 seconds. Because the top six in each race are considered “All American,” Wynia qualified for the title for the second time in six months. When asked how he felt about the race, and receiving the title, Wynia replied, “It was a great race and I’m very happy about my time. It was lots of fun.”

Approximately 700 athletes participated in the meet from over 100 American colleges and 1 Canadian college.

Congratulations are in order for Roger who put forth a good effort, and for Jerrod who received the honor of “All American” once again. Congratulations to you both.

Working on the assumption that Rev. B. J. Haan, president of Dordt College, soon will retire, the Board of Trustees has set up a committee to begin the search for a new college president.

The members of the committee are Rev. Dave Smit, Ted Van Bruggen, Everett Rikse and Dr. Arnold Boeve, president of the Board of Trustees. Though the committee has begun its work, it is still in the preliminary stage of drawing up a job description of the type of man they want for the job.

The Diamond, in the interests of getting students involved in the search for a new college president, invites student’s comments and critique on what type of president students feel Dordt College needs.
Students Uninvolved & Apathetic

The beliefs America has held throughout the history of the United States have been in "manifest destiny" and the "experimentation of democracy." The beliefs of this century have been that obstacles can be overcome and the United States has a strong and beneficial role to play in the world. Today, these beliefs are covered with doubt.

Presently America struggles with political, economic, and defense problems as well as ethical, moral, social, and spiritual problems. The American people have a lack of will, morality, and community spirit. They have an excess of selfishness and sloth. Selfish individualism is a leading motivation for taking advantage of the capitalistic system. Today's society is still a "Me" society; hope is seen in individual gain.

Patriotism and devotion to the nation is sporadic. Occasionally a single issue comes along and Americans can climb on "the bandwagon," ride it until it stops, or get off when they get tired of it. Watergate and, more recently, the Iranian hostage situation are examples of this. Single issue crusades tend to downgrade or ignore the broad national interest.

This is not to say that manifest destiny or the experimentation of democracy are desirable truths. What it is to say is that the very foundations of America are crumbling under the pressure of individualism and apathy. These two sins are not only found in the secular world but also in the Christian world, for instance here at Dordt.

Occasionally students hear a good lecture or sermon and feel a sense of duty. More often than not, however, our community remains silent and apathetic. This often happens when "toes are stepped on.." The Dordt community seems to need reasons to get excited about their faith. To this extent many students remain uninvolved with many opportunities at Dordt. How obscure college life to their field of interest and remain apathetic to most other areas.

The Dordt student body, on the whole, is uninvolved and apathetic. A major reason for this is that students are too involved with themselves; selfish individualism is common.

To be excited about faith requires that we be excited about all of God's creation. Life should not be reduced and faith life should not be dull or apathetic. Will uninvolved and apathetic the foundations of the Dordt community? Hopefully not, should meetings in the February 12, 1981 issue.

Potential Pitfalls

Editor: I read with interest the article on "The Alternate Seminary" in the February 12, 1981 issue. The article raises some substantial issues for the academic community at Dordt. If the leaders of the so-called "alternate seminary" have stated their reasons (or excuses) for such a seminary, what are the lay members of the church to do if they are dissatisfied with liturgy, sermons, outreach, educational programs, etc.--or for that matter, if they are dissatisfied with their homes, schools, etc. Do they abandon or even threaten abandonment as an option? In this appropriate way to react to disagreement? It seems ironic that when parishioners fail to attend church to do if they are dissatisfied with their homes, schools, etc. Do they abandon or even threaten abandonment as an option? In this appropriate way to react to disagreement? It seems ironic that when parishioners fail to attend church faithfully (or chapel) because "they don't do it my way," they are exhorted to change such behavior and attitude. Yet the leadership of such group endorses cause "they don't do it my way," they are exhorted to change such behavior and attitude. Yet the leadership of such group endorses such behavior and attitude. Yet the leadership of such group endorses their actions, the exact attitude that they find so revolting when it occurs on another level, namely in their local churches.

Were the leaders of the alter-
Forensic Club Speechless

Dordt College was not represented! It couldn’t be. There were not enough student entries for the meet!
The Dordt College Forensics Club had planned to compete in the Iowa InterCollegiate Forensic Assoc. Speech Tournament held February 20 and 21 at Drake University. Due to insufficient participation, Dordt was not represented.
The Forensics Club is a student organization directed, organized and financed by the Dordt Communications Department. The primary function of the club generates interest in intercollegiate speech activities such as oratory, oral interpretation, informative speaking, debate, extemporaneous speaking, and duo interpretation.

Three Dordt students entered the oral interpretation competition February 20 and 21, but when one student withdrew, the Department decided the Club would not attend the tournament. Finances also influenced this decision.

Communications Professor Charles Veenstra had hoped for more student participation, less cutbacks, and lively atmosphere. However, Veenstra felt that a lesson was learned. He said such a tournament is a worthwhile experience, and that “it takes money, and it takes time.”
The Forensics Club meets two or three times per year, attracts fifteen to twenty students from various areas of study. At these meetings, the members discuss and plan tournaments and socialize. “This year,” says Veenstra, “the club has not been very active,” attending only one tournament last semester in Mankato, Iowa, and none so far this semester, which “has been a very slow semester.”

A cause for this is cutbacks which the department decided were necessary.

Club members participate in judging precollegiate speech tournaments at area Christian schools. Many schools have requested Dordt students to judge speech tournaments. This semester, students have judged at seven tournaments.

Speech finals, held March 13, at Western Christian High School will require thirteen Dordt students. Communications Professor Daryl Vander Kooi said, “judging these tournaments is a valuable experience, an experience most students have enjoyed.” He added that it gives students a chance to utilize the speech skills they have.

The next event for the Forensic Club is the Dordt Speech Contest held March 2 at Dordt College. This contest is for Dordt students, and will feature competitions in oratory, oral interpretation, and radio broadcasting.

Pumping pig hearts, solar collectors, plant exhibits, electronic projects, a homemade synthesizer and a 100-popscicle stick bridge that will hold 400 pounds are all part of the Science Fair to be held Friday, February 27.

Cor Vander Wel, president of the Natural Sciences Club (formerly called the Biology Club), said members of the club and students of Western, Unity, South West, Pella and Sioux Falls high schools will enter exhibitions for the fair.

There will be a competition for the high school students, said Vander Wel. The club has received $500 from the Vermeer Foundation and $300 from Dordt College to give away as scholarships. These scholarships will not be given as cash prizes; they will be deducted from the student’s tuition fees when he/she attends Dordt College.

There will be four awards given on the basis of the projects. Besides the four scholarship awards, all contestants will receive a certificate of participation.

Said Vander Wel, the fair will make use of almost all the classrooms, labs, and hallways in the Science Building and also the new greenhouse for the exhibits. Free refreshments will be served in S1 (Science Building), students will be able to test their abilities in any of three quizzes (biology, chemistry and physics). Science Fair t-shirts will be on sale for four dollars a piece.

The Science Fair will be held on Saturday, February 21. The meeting was attended by approximately 70 people, consisting of students, faculty and administration.

President Haan pointed out that in the ’80’s, colleges and universities across the U.S.A. will face declining enrollments because of the end of the post World War II baby boom. At present there are 32,000 college-aged young people in the Christian Reformed Church. Of these 32,000, approximately 6,000 are attending either Calvin, King’s, Trinity, or Dordt. But in the next few years the number of 32,000 will drop to 22,000 and as a result, enrollments will decline.

According to President Haan, Dordt College expects its enrollment to drop as low as 800 or 900 students. President Haan ruled out the possibility of getting more students from other denominations to help fill the gap.
Covenant Bond Blinks Through Calvinist Gothic

by Anya Seerveld

A cut above 157 S. Main 722-4797

He’s a virgin in all aspects—sexual, spiritual, social and emotional—and is ill at ease with many of his dimensions,” said Randy Vander Mey introducing Rudy Van Den Elzen, the protagonist of Vander Mey’s novella “National Volvo.”

Vander Mey, visiting professor of English, read in C-160 Sunday night. He began with a poem written by his English 200 class, “Kiss Me, Then Finish.” He then read a poem, “Milk,” that was good, pure, “wholesome” fun.

The novella “National Volvo” was the major part of the reading. It was written as Vander Mey’s M.F.A. (Master of Fine Arts) thesis in 1976. This particular reading was entitled “Calvinist Gothic.” “Gothic hints at the presence of the grotesque,” said Vander Mey. He added, “it is a conscious conviction that there are few things more grotesque in this world than a show coffee break.”

Part four begins with Rudy at a Calvinist cocktail party in an orbit of a large Christian Reformed College. The imaginative clever description of this “typical” party makes the party a totally new experience.

Vander Mey effectively portrays four characters. Rudy, the innocent, college freshman; Len, the host who is a red-haired, hot-tempered senior; Delia, the young and rather trusting, the actress who dines on lovers; and Tunis, the large, fat, musician who does impressionistic dances by himself.

At the end of the party Vander Mey juxtaposes the halo’s surrounding the lightbulbs to the “decadent state” into which the party fell.

Vander Mey has a dramatic way of capturing moments and locking them into the listener’s memory by using brilliant, intricate description. For example, in the second part of the reading when Rudy gets up to go to church and experiences his oatmeal. “Sugar runoff marbleing in the butter pools made paisley designs, changing, rearranging, endlessly engaging. Oatmeal was a treat to watch if you had the time.”

During a short coffee break, Vander Mey took us to church. Rudy enters the seven-storied church and sits in the pew. Plays games to stay awake after a sleepless night of partying. He plays finger games with a rubber band, tries “magic,” while locating hymns, and has fantasies of beginning a new movement of liberation theology. Unexpectedly, not from the familiar preaching of the Word, but through what seems to be a blink of the stained-glassed eye of God, caused by a bird’s movement outside, Rudy experiences a moment of God’s covenant bond.

The tone of the story, illustrated by Vander Mey’s facial expression, body gestures, and tone of voice, is cynical. However, this cynicism changes for the audience with the awareness that God’s grace doesn’t depend on Rudy. 

Vander Mey’s style is strongly synographic. Eating oatmeal and mounting steps of the church are made intriguing for the audience by bringing out nuances in ordinary events. He captures the audience for hours through the playful language, syntact, alliteration, and many other poetic devices.

Audience reaction was positive; many enjoyed the humor, cleverness, appreciated and could identify with Rudy’s struggles, as well as sensed the strength of God’s covenant. However, some people were offended and left. Perhaps they were offended by the word “levd” description and “spotted” and therefore missed the redeeming point.

U.S. Aid Not Helping the Hungry

Marv and Peggy De Vries visited Dordt on Feb. 19 to talk about their experiences as CRCW missionaries in Bangladesh. They have been in Bangladesh for the last three years and have encountered many of the problems faced by the natives.

Bangladesh is one of the poorest and most crowded countries in the world. There is approximately two acres of arable land per family. Fifty per cent of the people own no land, while 10 per cent own one-half of the land. Of the poorer families, 75 per cent are employed by landowners and work in oppressive conditions for extremely low wages. Those who do own a little land must supplement their wages, in order to support their families, by finding alternative jobs. They can’t get own land, they must sell their land, which only the rich landowners can afford to buy. It is a cycle where the rich get richer and the poor get poorer.

The U.S., said De Vries, must take a look at itself in regard to its foreign policy in nations such as Bangladesh. Often the foreign aid is more beneficial to the States than to the recipients. De Vries said he has often worked with bankers to get loans for the farmers. He is also involved in researching the general problems faced by the farmers. CRCW, said De Vries, tries to find solutions that apply to specific situations. Vander Mey said three things are necessary for someone working in Bangladesh. First, it is necessary to have a technical mastery of the area you specialize in, whether it is nursing, agriculture, or engineering. Second, you must be able to organize a plan of action and teach it in such a way that the locals can understand it. Third, it is necessary to have an understanding of the culture in order to apply your knowledge to their situations.

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Langley broadcasts every Thursday at 2:30 on KDCR p.m. and more divorces, abortions, crime, etc. will tell you that your "standard of living" went down. However, if your marriage began to sour, your "standard of living" is not being done by anyone else, I do it myself."

Although a news release concerning the "alternative seminary" has been expected, there has been none to date. The Diamond contacted Rev. John Kloustra of Gaca who said there have been no developments or official reports as of this date.

"But there is plenty of thought about the seminary. The Diamond talked to an interested Dordt student concerning the need for and his impression of the possible new seminary.

Roger Sparks, a junior pre-study student at Calvin, said he considered such a seminary should develop. Sparks prefaced his interview, saying, "I can only speak for my own feelings and impressions. Sparks said some people are concerned "because of graduates of Calvin Seminary." Certain Calvin graduates are concerned about their past experiences at Calvin and would like to see graduates have opportunity to go to a more "orthodox" seminary.

Sparks personally prefers a new seminary because he has heard that "Calvin is a very cold place with cliques, and Calvin is too 'intellectual.' It's concern to turn out theologians." But Sparks said it's not just a problem at Calvin, but the need for a seminary with a more pastoral emphasis. "Calvin is not a bad place to go to but if the new place opened up and it had academic accreditation potential and had a change in emphasis from theologians to a more pastoral type of training, then I would probably opt for the new seminary," Sparks said. "Nothing is meant to be "pastoral," Sparks responded, "There is more to meeting the needs of your congregation than being well read and more to policies that will keep the economy perking at the level required for employment as well as policies to lessen the bad effects of inflation. A high level of production depends on a high level of consumption!

"The whole down to a life geared to the need to consume in nonworking hours what is produced in working hours. If the level of consumption falls, there are production falls and we have unemployment. As improved technology it is possible to produce, for example, 25 cars per employee instead of 20 cars per employee, it means the 5 extra cars per worker must be "consumed" or 25 percent of the workers must be laid off."

"It's simple: Consume what the system can supply or live with unemployment. Consequently, high consumption is almost put on the level of patriotism."

"Since the white man first came to North America, economic progress has been the standard by which we judge our national happiness. People still emigrate to North America seeking to improve their economic status."

All U.S. presidents have more or less faithfully believed that our "standard of living," our "standard of living," can be measured by our economic progress, the GNP. When our economy begins to grow or stagnate, we think it can work. Instead, Reagan promises to cut waste, slash taxes, and create incentives so business will regain its confidence and reinvest, and the consumer will have a bit more cash to spend. But to what end? I believe it's high time for us, as Christians, to get off the bandwagon and pop the myth of consumption! It's frightening to think of how much time we spend talking about money and shopping. On top of that, if we want to be good consumers, we have to spend a lot of our time comparing prices, clipping coupons and running around town to get the best deals.

"Being a good consumer is hard and time-consuming work. It also means less time to work at other relationships: friendships, marriage, family, community, politics, art, literature and drama appreciation, volunteer and church work, to mention a few. If "standard of living" is given its full meaning, that is, the development of every area of life, it will involve a lowering of our overblown "economic standard."

"I was asked to write a series of articles for the Lectureship Center, celebrating its 50th anniversary." Roger Sparks said, "I see a lot of dangers." According to Sparks the "issue is not the Confessions so much as the view of Scripture. Women in office basically comes out of this problem."

"It would be nice to have two seminaries for one church! Sparks believes it can. "It has worked in the Conservative Baptists, which (Sparks's background). They have one in Denver and one in Portland. Denver is more expensive and academic and the other is more ministerial. I can see a parallel and think it can work."

"Sparks was asked if in his view the new seminary would move in the same philosophical direction as Dordt. "No, definitely not. We have no intention of wanting to start a seminary in Sioux Center knowing where the Seminary is coming from and where it is going to."

"Sparks said that if it would be a completely non-Dordt project but he hopes for cooperation between the two institutions."

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Among other thematic concerns, Hedda Gabler unmask...
Individuals Dedicated to Service

by Lyle Breems

All of life demands dedication: setting aside for a particular purpose. Individuals have the purpose of service to God. Whether it be studying or entertainment, teaching or relaxing,

Service is not limited to single individuals. Devoted individuals comprise the community dedicating themselves for Kingdom Work, developing a genuine relationship and individual growth.

Service then, is our devotion, as individuals, constituting the framework of a community, toward the service demanded us to express meaning in our life.
"If" was the ominous word bounced among Defender fans Wednesday, Feb. 18, after the loss to Briar Cliff, but Thursday the "If" took an optimistic note: "If" we beat Northwestern in the playoffs, we'll get another shot at the Chargers—and this time Dordt may have some more believers. Dordt finished the regular season Feb. 18 by hosting the number one team in the nation and the soon-to-be three time All-American Rolando Frazer. Yet, the Cliff squeezed out only a 54-53 win, and if Jim Bouma had hit a free-throw with :04 seconds left or had Kevin Wolterstorff been able to play, Dordt could well have scored an upset.

Dordt's season-long optimism was slightly shook even before the game started, the team's leading scorer, rebounder, captain, and MVP, Wolterstorff was on the sideline with a badly bruised ankle. Wes Poppma, a starter since the third game of the year, was not able to start— he had missed practice during the week because of an infection in his foot. On Wednesday he finally received medical permission to play.

The Defenders have showed character all season and in the season's last game came out determined to win despite being short-handed and despite facing the number one team in the NAIA. In the opening minutes Dordt had a six point advantage but with a 14-13 deficit, Briar Cliff made one of their familiar runs, outsourcing Dordt by nine to take an eight point lead at the half. However, Dordt made a streak of their own in the second half, tying the game with under a minute left to play. Charger guard Mitchell McCallister hit one of two free-throws with :30 seconds, giving the Cliff the lead at 54-53. The Defenders with the last chance, could not convert the front end of a one-and-one with :04 seconds, nor with :03 seconds could Kevin Vande Streek hit a 15-footer.

Bouma had his first starting assignment of the season, in place of Wolterstorff, and provided 11 points, 7 rebounds, and excellent defense. Wolterstorff had all scorers with 20 and Denny Van Zanten tallied 14 points and grabbed 11 caroms. In the first meeting this season the combo of Reggie Grenaald and Rolando Frazer combined for more than 60 points, but were held to only 29 in the second meeting. Frazer, the leading scorer in the entire NAIA, was effectively defended by Van Zanten and Bouma and finished with only 15 points.

On Feb. 14, Dordt finished the Tri-State schedule, outlasting Western in Lemoine 91-90 in overtime. The win gave Dordt a share of the Tri-State Conference championship in the loop's first year. The Defenders share the crown with Northwestern; both have conference records of 4-2. These two teams will meet Saturday, Feb. 28, in the NAIA District 15 playoffs in the Dordt gym. Each team has won on the other's home court this season. Tickets for the Dordt-Northwestern game are on sale at the Box Office in the SUB $2.00 for students and $3.50 for adults; student passes will not be taken.

If Dordt should win Saturday, they will travel to Sioux City to play Briar Cliff Monday, March 1. The Women's State championship game will be held March 4 at a yet undetermined site.

Blades Seeking Harvest of Goals in Canadian Fields

The Hockey Club, also known as the Dordt Blades, left yesterday evening to participate in a six-team tournament in Thunder Bay, Ontario.

According to present coach John Rop, a replacement for Brian Doornenbal who is student teaching this semester, the six-team tournament is an annual event for the Blades. The opening game of the tournament called the Blades at the beginning of the season to invite them to play in the tournament.

The tournament includes two teams from Winnipeg, two from southern Ontario, one from Thunder Bay, and the Blades. Expenses for the trip are approximately $600-$700, Rop said. However, the Blades has raised money for the trip, and in preparation for the tournament, the Club has been working in the Commons to raise money. "The basic thing," Rop said, "is that we're matched dollar for dollar for every dollar we make. Dordt is giving us a grant this year."

The director of the hockey club will play at least three games, but probably more. "We don't have a really good idea of the quality of the teams," said Rop, "but in past years, Dordt has won more games than they've lost. We'll just give 100 percent and see what happens.

In preparation for the tournament, the Club has been working in the Commons to raise money and for the trip, the Club has been working in the Commons to raise money and sponsor other activities. Once in Ontario, the Club members will stay with area families which eliminates the extra expense of hotels. "The basic thing," Rop said, "is that we're matched dollar for dollar for every dollar we make. Dordt is giving us a grant this year."

The Blades will stay with area families and in the Commons to raise money for the trip, the Club has been working in the Commons to invite them to play in the tournament.