First Annual Lecture Week--March 22-26

Next week, Dordt College's annual lecture week will be initiated with the presence of Dr. C. Van Til, professor of apologetics at Westminster Seminary, and Dr. F. Wolf, associate professor of mathematics at Carleton College.

Dr. Van Til, who is scheduled to speak on March 23, 24, and 25, has chosen topics in the area of Christian philosophy. His first lecture, which will be addressed to the student body on Tuesday, March 23, during their regularly scheduled chapel period, is entitled, "Paul's Challenge to the Greeks." His next lecture, "Noah, the Man of God," will be a public lecture presented on Tuesday evening at 8:00 P.M., in the college auditorium. On Wednesday, March 24, Dr. Van Til will address the faculty on the topic, "Christianity and Modern Methodology." Dr. Van Til will conclude his series of lectures on Thursday, March 25, with "Modern Thinking and Modern Thought." This final lecture will be given to the student body during their Thursday chapel period.

Dr. Wolf's visit to the campus is sponsored by the Mathematical Association of America, with the financial support of the National Science Foundation. This visit, part of a nation-wide program of visiting lecturers, has a four-fold purpose: (a) to strengthen and stimulate the mathematics programs at colleges and universities, (b) to provide the mathematics staff and majors with an opportunity for personal contact with productive and creative mathematicians, (c) to aid in the motivation of able college students to consider careers in mathematics and the teaching of mathematics, and (d) to create and strengthen ties between undergraduate colleges and graduate schools.

Dr. Wolf, who is scheduled to appear on March 25 and 26, will present lectures in the area of mathematics. His lecture schedule, which is subject to change, will be as follows: on Thursday at 2:30 P.M. he will address the Dordt College math students on "Some Mathematical Questions for the Undergraduate"; at 4:00 P.M., he will speak to college students, high school students, and high school teachers on "Infinities Unlimited"; at 7:30 P.M., Dr. Wolf will speak to high school and college students and teachers on "The Theory of Games."

Dr. Van Til is a graduate of Calvin College, where he received his B.A. degree, and of Princeton Seminary and University, where he received his Th.M. and Ph.D. degrees. He has been a member of the faculty at Westminster Seminary since 1930, and has, in recent years, lectured in the Orient and in Mexico City. He is the author of such books as Common Grace, Christianity and Idealism, Christianity and Modern Theology.

Professor Wolf is a graduate of Washington University in St. Louis, where he earned his B.S. and M.A. degrees. Work for his Ph.D. was done at the University of Minnesota. A member of the faculty at Carleton College since 1962, his research interests are in game theory, the foundation of mathematics, and teacher training. He is the author of Elements of Probability and Statistics.

Dordt Guest At Northwestern Practice Debate

Saturday, March 6, Charles Veenstra and Bernard Sturing met the Northwestern debate squad for another round of practice debate. Using their new affirmative case, they proved effective against the Northwestern attacks. Mr. Lovelady, the Northwestern coach, was present to aid in the evaluation of arguments. A lunch was provided, and the scheduling of future practice debates was completed.

Another activity scheduled for the Dordt debaters was the tournament held at Morningside College in Sioux City on March 12 and 13. The Dordt Debaters went six rounds with debaters from Iowa colleges and universities.

The Morningside tournament has concluded the scheduled debate activities for the '64-'65 school year.

J.H.
Les Beaux Arts
—Dick Leerhoff

Why is it that discussions concerning art never accomplish anything? Such discussions invariably deal with peripheral issues or move in tedious circles. The answer to this question isn’t as difficult as it seems. The problem very simply is definition. Artists and critics very skillfully avoid discussing the basic concepts of art. Anyone asking such a question as “What is art?” is immediately dismissed as naive or living in ignominy. However, if such basics were first discussed, later discussion might accomplish something.

Of course if one asks an authority on art a question dealing with a definition of art, one receives a standard answer. Art by its very nature is indefinable, limitless; it cannot be put into scientific boundaries. Such an answer solves everything, at least for the critics. Actually these critics are contradicting themselves when they make such statements. These same people who say that art is indefinable have been dictating to the layman what is and what is not art. Surely there must be some standards to judge art. The critics all say there are standards, but when one asks them what these standards are, the critics have another standard answer. Such standards cannot be defined; they cannot be put into black and white. Such an answer solves everything for the critic. After looking at all these indefinables, one can only conclude that an artistic cloud has descended upon some people, and these people become critics and tell us what art is. To be more practical it simply means that the art world is ruled by the subjective whims of a few critics who profess to be authorities.

A DORDT STUDENT: AMO, AMARE AMATUS

I have a little photograph Which cheers me while you’re far away. It looks so pretty, full of life, And has a smile for me each day.

Your letters too I have to read Which speak of love and Christian joy. Each one is read with eager eyes; They’d win the heart of any boy.

Although your picture looks so sweet, And though your letters are so true, They do not make romance complete Because you are not fully you.

I long to hear your happy voice And feel your hands held soft in mine. I long to see you smile again And see your eyes like diamonds shine.

Five hundred miles do part us now, And many an hour before we’ll meet; But some day I will come to you And make our joy much more complete.

THE DORDT DIAMOND

The Student Council Reports....

... that the council decided almost unanimously to have only a Junior-Senior Spring Banquet for the following reasons:

(1) Since this is our first years as a senior college, the council feels that precedence will be set. Future councils will follow our example.
(2) Due to the growth of the college, an all-school banquet is not possible.
(3) A financial problem would arise. If the freshmen and sophomores used their funds each year for a banquet, there would be no reserve for the future.
(4) Attending a banquet each year leaves no room for the special highlight in the last two years.

... that the petition dealing with a request for a banquet for freshmen and sophomores was received and discussed.

... that the freshman and sophomore representatives were advised to call class meetings to inform their respective classes about the previous decision, why it was made, and to get the feeling of the entire class.

... that the committee from the Penny Carnival reported that 24 groups were busily working. More commitments were expected to be submitted.

... that the proceeds from the Penny Carnival will go to the Student Activity Fund. Groups who encounter expense must submit a carefully itemized statement of expenses to the Student Representatives, signed by the chairman of the group submitting it.

... that the council approved certain revisions in the By-Laws of the proposed Student Council Constitution. —J.D.V.

Successful Travelogue

Dr. Maatman will present a paper at the meeting of the American Chemical Society in Detroit. The meeting will be held April 7. The subject of the paper is "The Surface Density of Silica-Alumina Sites Active in Cumene Cracking." Dr. Maatman will give another paper at the meeting of the Iowa Academy of Science to be held April 23 at the University of Iowa. This paper is based on research done by Dr. Maatman and three of his former graduate students. The paper is entitled "Comparison Between Some Simple Computer-Calculated and Experimental Ion Exchange Equations."

The third paper has the most significance for Dordt College. It is based on work done in the research lab here at Dordt. It has been accepted for publication in the Journal of Catalysis. The title is "Reactions of Several Aqueous Chlorides with Silica-Alumina Catalysts" by Deanna Ledeboer, Elroy Post, Wesley Bruxvoort, Rodney De Jong and Dr. Russell Maatman. —D.J.

Pre-Sem Tel-Star

"Frustrating, necessary, but rewarding," were the three qualifying terms used by Rev. Howard Vanderwell to characterize his experiences in working with young people. Frustrating, because young people are so inconsistent; necessary, since the entire life of the individual and the church is at stake; and above all, rewarding, because no one is more capable of growth, and shows such immediate response to pastoral efforts as does a young person.

Pivoting from the topic "Pastoral Approach to Young People," Rev. Vanderwell laid out five principles which he maintained were not exhaustive, but basic to a pastor's success with young people. These basic principles were:

(1) Have a sympathetic understanding with the young people, and develop the art of listening.
(2) Give them the kind of religion which challenges them to a personal commitment. They won't dedicate themselves to a "dead orthodoxy."
(3) Provide them with sound principles, but not a list of arbitrary rules.
(4) Provide for them a reasonable plan of action, since they are members of the church now, not merely the church of the future.
(5) Make a clear distinction in your (pastor's) approach to catechism and Young People's Society —catechism is a class for indoctrination of the youth; however, Young People's Society is not a second catechism class. Its purpose is to develop the leadership ability of the members within the organization, and to allow the young people to express their ideas, making the entire meeting much less formal than catechism.

—M.B.

Year Ends

Dordt College's series of travelogues ended on Friday evening, March 10, with the well-photographed and narrated film by Russ Potter. His film "Fabulous Belgium" explored "with taste and perception" Belgium's "beauty and opulence."

The series presented this year was, on the whole, very good. Patrons have expressed their satisfaction with the selections made this year. The Travelogue Committee deserves expression of gratitude for a job well done.

A preference vote held on Friday evening showed that most people enjoyed "Canadian Rockies by James Forshee. His film "Fabulous Belgium" exploded "with taste and perception" Belgium's "beauty and opulence."

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Suggestions for improvement included demands for Mickey Mouse and Superman.

General Chairman Arnold Koekoek said that next year a reserved seating arrangement might be instituted to eliminate the overflow crowds experienced this year. —A.D.O.
columns 7
by Glenn Van Wyhe

Gather 'round. I'm going to tell you some stories, kiddies. And remember, each one has a moral—a lesson to teach.

They said it couldn't be done. The whole country said it couldn't be done. But a little man halfway around the world didn't know that, so he kept trying. He couldn't do it either.

They will see the man who saved his money. He lived modestly—saving all his money for a rainy day.

If, on the other hand, the speaker is a professor, the student body is in for a treat. The self-conscious professor has no time to gain his composure during the walk; he runs on a current fact grasps the ledge, and groans into the microphone, "Why am I here?" From the back row there comes no sympathy, only snickers. Notice this the professor becomes perturbed and frantically searches his mind for an appropriate remark concerning the congregation with the loudest snicker. "A funny thing happened to Professor — on the way to school — " Thus the students are nourished.

Undoubtedly, something must be done. If this trend continues for the next ten years, don't students think that there is no need for meditation any longer. The only solution is this: chapel must be held five times a week and the following schedule seems to be a reasonable one. On Monday the president will use chapel period for the introduction of speakers. Their qualifications will be reviewed as verbally as possible since the various ministerial qualifications of the theologian student. On Tuesday there will be a contest of humorous ministers, the best jokester receiving a portfolio of Van Schouwen's lectures. Wednesday will be devoted to music and the chapel period will consist of a religious hootenanny. Appropriate songs will be emitted and hand-clapping, verbal "amens" and "hallelujahs" will be encouraged.

The faculty will make use of the usual Thursday period—in this case too drastic a change would be disastrous. Each faculty member will have opportunity to counterattack a previous insult, to give his views on the current faculty disagreement, and to tease his brain for an original "back-row" joke. Friday will be an important day for the talented student. The special numbers will be very special, indeed, and all participants must include in the performance a soft shoe, a juggling act, or whatever is current entertainment in the country's society. These performers could suggest "chapel in the round" so that all neck straining would be eliminated. Unquestionably, these performers will be thanked.

The fact that chapel will be held five times a week instead of two will certainly be advantageous and in a short time the entire atmosphere of the college will be changed.

THE DORDT DIAMOND

Monday, March 15, 1965

Humor, Yes; Ideas, No!

Two weeks ago Mr. Salom Rizk, the author of The Syrian Yankee, gave Dordt a two-fold privilege.

As a speaker, Mr. Rizk was effective. Especially his humor was in our culture. But his main point was that similarly, we all should have pride in and a large sense of responsibility to this world. His final statements were very indicative of his humanistic philosophy. The ideal of "the brotherhood" of all man in this world is fundamentally opposed to the principles of the Kingdom of Heaven.

Christians are certainly in the world, but definitely do not belong to the world. As children of God, Christians are citizens of the heavenly kingdom and will strive for its glory and not for temporal "brotherhood."

This writer hopes that Mr. Rizk's audience was not too distracted by his humor to miss the importance of his philosophy. It is improbable that several professors took the time to discuss Mr. Rizk's talk in class time.

—B.P.
On August 26, 1945, the first victim of our Chinese Communist "Allies" lay shot and cruelly bayonetted in a ditch near the town of Hsuchow, China. He was a 23-year-old Baptist missionary to China who had interrupted his career by joining General Chennault's American Volunteer group in July, 1942. Often disguised as a coolie and speaking Chinese, he "became the eyes and ears of America's 11th Air Force." His name was Captain John Birch whose death was more popular against him than those of his fellow members, e.g., the immediate family. It is a fact that the individual members are bound by blood ties to an inner unity in which there is an authority regardless of whether they speak to each other or not. The free relation is exemplified in a seller and a buyer in which there is no inner unity and no delegated authority. Spier makes a further distinction which fits somewhere between the two former relationships. This relationship he terms a community in which there is no authoritative connection (e.g., family in the broad sense) or in which there is no internal unity (e.g., marriage). Philosophy has perennially attempted "to clarify the peculiar character of these structural unities."

However, the question before us at this point is this: "What is it that guarantees the authoritative relationships of human society their internal unity, or their own peculiar structural nature, and what is it that insures the identity of such a relationship in spite of change in its individual members?"

In the main, philosophy has answered this question with one of two solutions, viz., a universalistic or an individualistic approach to societal relationships.

Dooyeweerd, however, claims that the dilemma between universalism and individualism is false, and in the words of Van Riessen, there is a position "... which would recognize the principles of sphere-sovereignty, and of the balance of authority and freedom."

We expect to examine these possibilities in the next issue.

The story of Captain John Birch reached the United States only by private channels. A fellow missionary and a newspaper woman wrote John's parents that, "Had not the truth been suppressed, Captain Birch's death would have headlined every newspaper in America." The truth was suppressed as it is being suppressed today by Communism's powerful friends in Washington.

The symbol of John Birch's life, which the Communists tried to destroy, now guides the society which bears his name. The Communists are still working to destroy that symbol, and have used more printed space against the John Birch Society than for any other purpose. In the next issue of the Diamond, an initial review of the John Birch Society will be presented.

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THE DOROTHY DIAMOND

By way of introduction, let us say that man lives in a wide variety of societal relationships and each relationship has a different structural unity, i.e., different underlying or governing principles. For example, a father is authoritative in his family relationship, but on going to work he must respect the speed limit or pay the fine. He is participating in two distinct societal relationships.

Dooyeweerd designates and explains two types of relationships as authoritative relationships and free relations. The first is an internal unity irrespective of the relations of its members, e.g., the immediate family. It is a fact that the individual members are bound by blood ties to an inner unity in which there is an authority regardless of whether they speak to each other or not. The free relation is exemplified in a seller and a buyer in which there is no inner unity and no delegated authority. Spier makes a further distinction which fits somewhere between the two former relationships. This relationship he terms a community in which there is no authoritative connection (e.g., family in the broad sense) or in which there is no internal unity (e.g., marriage). Philosophy has perennially attempted "to clarify the peculiar character of these structural unities."

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CANADIAN AFFAIRS

by Winson Elgersma

A ten-man royal commission, set up by Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson, eighteen months ago came back with the following report: "There is grave danger to the future of Canada and all Canadians. What is at stake is the
THE DORDT DIAMOND

Monday, March 15, 1965

YOUR OPINION

Here are student comments on the famous lecturer, Salom Rizk, a native of Syria, who spoke for us on March 2:

—Very interesting! He had a unique sense of humor. He showed a lot of courage in his determination to come to America. I wonder how many of us could have done it.

We should have more speakers like him throughout the year.

—The kids sure seemed to enjoy him. So did I.

—I thought he was good, but he praised America too much. It’s not really that good. And I wondered about his attitude toward God.

—Very good, and interesting! I thought it was really something we could have someone like him here. I wish we could have more. He made us realize privileges of Americans which we never appreciated before, being born here.

—I enjoyed listening to him very much. His accent added a lot to his good sense of humor.

—that’s what we need more of—more good, “down-to-earth” lectures. They get kids to listen.

—G.S.

The DORDT DIAMOND

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Editorial

Today, March 15, 1965, the Board of Trustees was to have given the final approval enabling the student constitution and by-laws to go into effect.

But this action was destined not to take place. The faculty refused, for the second time in thirty months, to accept the document.

This student constitution was the culmination of nearly a year's arduous study on the part of a faculty committee. This group of five men met every week for six months to compose an effective system of student government. They listened patiently to student suggestions and worked co-operatively with the Student Representatives. They compared our proposed constitution with those from other colleges all over the nation. Finally, understanding the implications of virtually every article involved, they presented it to the faculty. The faculty refused to accept it. The constitution was studied, revised, clarified. Again, the faculty has refused to accept it.

There seems to be a problem regarding finances. The majority of the faculty, influenced especially by the Administration, do not believe the proposed Student Council should have a treasury. These members of the faculty feel that their students cannot be trusted with the proper disbursement of the Student Activity fee. Despite the fact that the Board of Trustees controls the penna the funds available to the proposed Student Council treasury; despite the fact that the Board must approve the Student Council's proposed budget, the faculty feels that this is not enough control. Instead, they say, we should submit "requisition slips" to the Administration—which is no different from our present "system." They want a special Administration official to determine whether or not even "requisition slips" can be submitted!

We realize that our faculty members are men of principle, and we are thankful for it. But we feel that in this instance a majority of them are over emphasizing the principle of total depravity at the expense of common grace.

All we ask for is a little faith on the part of the Administration and faculty, a little trust, a little confidence. It seems rather paradoxical that we, who in three years will be leading congregations; that we, who in even less time, will be in the classrooms entrusted with the training of 30 souls for eternity, do not merit the faith to handle properly the funds from our own Student Activity fee.

Letters To The Editor - - -

Dear Editor:

Having read the editorial of the February 15 issue of the Diamond, I experienced feelings of both approbation and disappointment. I approve of the comments regarding the untidiness of the lounge and the appeal to us as students to take action. I tend to agree that "immature individuals" are those who are largely responsible for the lounge's unkempt appearance and for the "bizarre sounds" which one at times encounters there.

However, you seemed to condemn a certain area high school for the deeds of a few students. This guilt by association is obviously unwarranted.

But, the gross cries of defamation in "Touchstone" of the last Diamond toward the editor appear to be truly overcritical. The writer of that column seems bent on revenge. If "character assassination" were implied, the editor is dead.

This petty bickering between fellow students of a Christian college and between fellow personnel of the same "paper" is somewhat absurd. It does not cast a favorable impression upon Dordt, and it is not conducive to camaraderie among the student body. May I express my plea that such practices cease.

Sincerely,

Bill Van Hal

Dear Editor,

It would be easier to comment on the last two paragraphs of Mr. Huisman's column, "Touchstone", March 1, 1965, if I could determine his reasons for doubting the competence of the student representatives. It is probably his special talent to be vague when no substantiation for his position is given.

As president of the student representatives, I would like to inform Mr. Huisman concerning our functions. As we are presently constituted, we have only one official duty, and that is to plan social activities. In compliance with the administration and faculty, we do concern ourselves with many other things in anticipation of the passage of an adequate constitution.

The poster, which was placed in the student lounge, is an expression of the wishes of the students of Dordt College. They desire their lounge to be neat.

I have great confidence in the Dordt student body, and I believe that a poster (neatly lettered if you will) is a sufficient answer.

Sincerely,

Larry Van Essen

REPLY:

Mr. Post:

I certainly must apologize for my unwarrented assumptions concerning the duties of the Student Representatives, and for the displeasure I seem to have aroused in that august body. Since the time of my review I have been informed that they are not supposed to do anything outside of a bit of janitorial work now and then. My lack of (along with their planning of social functions, of course) knowledge was inexcusable.

Alan Huisman