Choir revives an old tradition

Hear ye! (Hear ye!

Let it be known that the Lord of the Manor has cordially invited all lord and ladies of Dordt College to step away from the chaotic clutter of books and papers and experience "ye olde feastie" in the Elizabethan fashion.

The royal banquet or Christmas Madrigal Dinner will be prepared for you by the Dordt Concert Choir on December 7-10 at 7 p.m. in the Dordt West Commons for the enjoyment of all who attend.

Though the banquet occupies only four squares or days on the faithful Dordt calendar, much more time is spent in the actual preparation of the annual event.

The madrigal dinner tradition began when Dale Grotenhuis, director of Concert Choir, and his wife attended a conference about madrigal dinners for choirs about three summers ago. They returned from the conference full of ideas and the idea of putting on a madrigal dinner at Dordt.

And so they did. Madrigals, 16th and 17th century songs of love, were selected and dusted off. Costumes for the girls were created by themselves and their mothers. Leann Tanis, a member of the choir, researched through historical journals and the like for authentic costumes for the men. She then proceeded to make these outfits. Authentic decorations depicting the actual environment and mood of the day were unearthed and reproduced. Tickets were made and sold. Rehearsals came and went and it was a success.

The community of Sioux Center really loved it. Grotenhuis explains it this way, "It is a thoroughly enjoyable affair. The dress is formal and I believe that people like to dress up occasionally. The food prepared by Mike Cassidy is superb. The atmosphere is special and, I'd like to say, the music is great.

The evening is indeed special, "You must experience a madrigal dinner to enjoy it," claims Grotenhuis.

As the evening begins, you imagine yourself at the table of a Lord and Lady of the manor. The feast, divided into several courses, has each course introduced by song.

"We Wish You A Merry Christmas" and "Now Bring Us Some Figgy Pudding" are just two examples of the songs. "The Boar's Head Carol" accompanies the entrance of an actual boar's head into the room. "Actually," says Grotenhuis, "we're most fortunate to be within such close proximity of Sioux Preme Packing. We're one of the few colleges in the country to have an actual boar's head on our table.

During the singing by the small groups of Concert Choir members, brass instruments will provide accompaniment. Between songs, background music will be played on flute and harpsichord which was the instrument used in those days.

For most of the members of Concert Choir, this is a totally new and unique experience. Many members of Choir, brass instrument players, have never sang madrigals to the extent which they do at this dinner. An alto claims, "They were the type of music sung in Elizabethan times. Sort of like the radio music of the day. They performed it for themselves and for enjoyment."

Laurie Geenan, soprano and three year veteran of the madrigal dinner, says her favorite part of the event is "singing the carols with the audience. I just love it!"

"Each year," Geenan continues, "gets better and better because it gets more involved as more features are included each year. Also, the people come excited and look forward to the dinner with excitement because they know what to expect."

"Maybe the best part of all is that for a few hours, "says Geenan, "you are living apart from reality as you journey backwards into time."

"It's really different," says Doug Peters, "but I'm looking forward to it." Peters anticipates the actual performance as the highlight of the entire event for him.

"Yes, the costumes are definitely different," claims John Henderson, "but even getting into those plaid trousers can be fun. You might feel kind of dumb at first but then you begin to like it as you get into the mood of the event."

photo by Tim Lyon

J.B. performed at Te Paske

After much practice and time on the part of directors, behind-the-scenes workers, and performers, the first performance of Archibald MacLeish's J.B. will be tonight at 8:00 p.m. in Te Paske Theatre. There are also a few seats still available for Friday's and Saturday's performances. For reservations call 722-3771.

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**Letters**

**Dear Editor:**

It's interesting to discover that during the past week I've been labeled a fundamentalist, unreformed, and even a Grand Rapids Baptist (whatever that is). I'm asking you to print this for the sake of accuracy. Since then I've been told by some students...

1. I am a firm believer in the covenant. But to assume that everyone in this campus has given their heart to the Lord and therefore supports all his purposes, such a belief in a modern view of sin which looks for it first of all in the political and social area, where the next day, it was more

2. I have nowhere stated in my previous letter that I flatly disagree with Christian involvement in politics, business, labor, or any other area.

3. I've nowhere implied that the function of Christian education is to save souls. However, I don't think that the statement is an unfortunate thing if someone coming to Dordt could somehow, by coming into contact with God's people, learn our language.

4. If I have given the impression that I do not appreciate my education here, let it be known right now that I would not trade my education at Dordt for any other colleges. I love this place!

As Rev. De Waal pointed out in his Reformation Day speech, there are several sub-groups (liberals, conservatives, neo-Pentecostals, etc.) which constitute the bulk of the Reformed faith. Aside for each group’s weaknesses and strengths, all of us, nevertheless, are part of the Reformed heritage. To state flatly, then, that “outside of the vision there is no room for argument on Dordt’s campus” makes it very clear that things are fine and dandy as long as one does not buck the system (the kingdom vision). And if being Reformed means only, then “all areas of God’s wondrous creation for Him,” I would certainly encourage all of us to grow more than just the minority of those who see that vision. To find out what others have said on this subject, I refer you to Section VII of the “Fundamental Beliefs,” written by several Reformed elders in the Netherlands and published in 1971. (Bredskijen in Kirken og Teologi, pp. 136-43, J.K., Køk, Kampen, 1974.)

The Christian faith is in the first place a personal matter and thereafter a collective something. We pit ourselves against a modern view of sin which looks for it first of all in the political and social structures. To state flatly, then, that “outside of the vision there is no room for argument on Dordt’s campus” makes it very clear that things are fine and dandy as long as one does not buck the system (the kingdom vision). And if being Reformed means only, then “all areas of God’s wondrous creation for Him,” I would certainly encourage all of us to grow more than just the minority of those who see that vision. To find out what others have said on this subject, I refer you to Section VII of the “Fundamental Beliefs,” written by several Reformed elders in the Netherlands and published in 1971. (Bredskijen in Kirken og Teologi, pp. 136-43, J.K., Køk, Kampen, 1974.)
square dancing: A promising future

by Audrey Vlieg

Keith Nelson calls the square dance steps.

The sounds of "Swing Partner!" Dordt students put up a sweat on the dance floor under the experienced dance of Ken Nelson. Call steps since 1946, Nelson likes how he got into the square dancing. For years, people would gather at some farm house, barn or even the schools. The neighbors of mine want to have a party and my father tells me it is the only person who showed to call a step or two. It was not at all until the next day that Aurelia, Iowa, dur-

s tos, an organization for the Western Iowa Cancer Associ-

erners as well as the Prarie Coun-

rm, as an organization for the entertainment and improvement of square dancing. He calls as it three a week for self T and 85 square dancing to maintain his love as an analysis constant of Aurelia, Iowa, dur-

the day.

I feel at home on the dance floor," states Nelson. "Square dancing is something I have to do to release the pressures of my job. It's something where you can really see people smile for a change. They don't worry if they've had a bad day and neither do I. They just move to the rhythm and have a good time.

Nelson feels square dancing is a trend that is sweeping the States. "In fact," states Nelson, "square dancing has come to the point that Oregon has proclaimed square dancing their state dance. There is a move before Congress to make square dancing the national dance. The trend in dancing is going completely to the 1940's style. Really big band sound.

"I am consulting with his statement on square dancing," Nelson Focuses on the college level of dancing. "All the Californian colleges are moving to big type dancing such as ballroom, waltzes, polkas, and fox trots. It's really the thing nowadays. You take some of the music groups around today. You give them a group of kids dancing on the floor and the band can't play music to the rhythm of their dancing. If the bands would just learn the fox trot and the waltzes, they'd have music.

"Motioning to the Dordt students emptying the gymnasium after a dance, Nelson comments softly, "I know of some of the problems your culture has had in terms of dancing. It's been your heritage that dancing has all kinds of bad things connected with it. The kids out there are just beginning to learn how to dance where as most kids have learned to dance at the junior high level. Most of your kids just don't know how to dance. I think it's just great that they're starting. It's about time."

One of the connotations connected with square dancing is liquor consumption, explains Nelson. Assuring us that liquor is not included at the dances he calls to, Nelson gave an example for emphasis.

"There was once a bad commercial coming out that had people square dancing and drinking beer at the same time. The Caller's Association protested the commercials' release. We won and it was banned from television.

"We have a strong code about the serving of alcoholic beverages," continues Nelson. "We will not call for any group where liquor is served. Drinking and dancing don't mix. I think people truly want to participate in square dancing. They want to have a good time learning. It's just good clean fun after all. It's a real socialization."

Of course a caller must be able to plan square dancing. Then, after you've become a qualified caller, like myself, you must be capable of calling to a group that knows nothing, just the basics. If it's advanced, or is fully qualsified. A certified caller must be able to teach rounds, not just ballroom basics. A caller must be able to plan a program. I am at the point where I can plan my programs on the way while I'm driving my car. Of course a caller learns through experience like everyone else, but most of all, a caller must know how to be an expert square dancer."

"Square dancing is really progressing," stresses Nelson. "Before 1950 there wasn't too much written down about square dancing. When I started calling there was only 26 fundamentals. Now there are thousands.

Some of the dances Nelson called at the October square dance included a Paddy Cake Polka, White Silver Sands and a Grand Square. Nelson explained that he tries to use dances that teach the basic steps to music while it teaches the students some rhythm. Giving the students some tips to remembering the steps they were taught, Nelson said, "When I want to memorize something I see if I can go through it as soon as I get home. In your case, it's square dancing. Then, after I wake up in the morning, I see if I can do it again. In that way I never forget it. That is the way to master square dancing."

Surveying the 150 students present at Dordt's last square dance, Nelson sized up the students present. "There is a pretty good balance of girls and guys this time. That has been rare in the past. Of all the years this is the greatest so far. I tell my colleagues, I don't believe the participation I'm getting. You kids have really made a mark. You're just great!"

Ken Nelson calls the square dance steps.

November 3 - 8:00 pm, Play Jb, TePasKe
November 4 - 8:00 pm, Play Jb, TePasKe
November 5 - 11:00 am, Travelogue: "Viva Mexico" with Ronimala Willemsen, Gym
November 6 - 8:00 pm, Women's Volleyball, State Tournament at UNI
November 7 - 7:00 pm, Cross Country, NCAA Division, LeMars
November 9 - 9:00 pm, Soccer, USD at Dordt
November 10 - 8:00 pm, Play Jb, TePasKe
November 11 - 8:00 pm, Fellowship Unmanaged
November 12 - 9:00 pm, Film: "Spiritual Activities" C160
November 13 - 7:30 pm, Biology Club meeting, presentation by John Endig, "Field Trip across Outstanding K.C."
November 14 - 7:30 pm, "The First Day of Life", C160
November 15 - Fine Arts Festival

photo by Art De Noor

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It's three bands in one

At first glance it would seem that Dordt College has three different bands: a concert band, stage band and pep band. But what is really the truth?

Gerald Bouma, associate professor of music and director of all three bands explained, "It's really not three different bands. The Concert Band is the primary instrumental performing ensemble at the heart of the program."

There are 72 people in Concert Band this year. We concentrate on instrumental skills as well as general musicianship. We work on a variety of musical literature," Bouma added, "ranging from transcriptions of orchestral music to music written for concert band."

Concert Band also deals with light music to very serious music. For example, as Bouma explained this year the group will perform selections from P.D.Q. Bach as well as more serious selections like "Finkal from Symphony no. 3" by Salaste-Saena.

We present a number of concerts throughout the year," commented Bouma, "and periodically go on tour. This year the group is going as far east as New York and as far north as Ontario, Canada. The tour will last from January 5-17. Membership into Concert Band is by audition and students must try out before they can be accepted, according to Bouma. Students rehearse four times a week for one hour.

About one-fourth of the students in Concert Band are music majors," Bouma continued, "others are in just because they enjoy playing their instruments."

This is true as Leanne Jergelins, senior said, "I've played for four years and I enjoy it very much. You have to learn your own part and how to play it, and how to increase your volume to balance with everyone else."

Kevin Schonewill, a senior, who's entering his fourth year in Concert Band agreed, "It's challenging in that you have to get to learn how to use your instruments together to make a unified sound."

Schonewill also added, "I like instrumental music in general. It's a good way to express your thanks and praise."

The two outgrowths of Concert Band as Bouma explained are Stage Band and Pep Band.

In Stage Band we deal more specifically with jazz styles," he said. "We work at developing instrumental skills and students also do some improvising."

Stage Band is composed of about 20 members who rehearse for an hour and a half one evening a week. The group performs about three to four times a year depending on when they have something ready. Bouma also added that sometimes the Stage Band performs in the SUB after a basketball game, in the Commons during the supper hour and for high school assembly programs.

"Some of the same people in Concert Band," Bouma said, "will also be performing as the Stage Band on tour."

Bernie Haan, a senior, has performed in all three bands and this will be his fourth year. "Stage Band for me, depends a lot on the kind of music we play. It's tied of kind of music that's more 'rocky',' he explained. "The thing I enjoy is that it's tough music, but you grow to like it as you work on it."

The second branch of the Concert Band is the Pep Band. "Pep Band," Bouma explained, "is basically a functional organization. We exist to provide entertainment and help arouse excitement at basketball games."

The 20-25 member group deals primarily with light pop music, and this year, according to Bouma, a couple of new things have been added. Rather than the normal percussion instruments Pep Band will also feature a drum set and an electric guitar, which Bouma hopes will add some depth to the pulse of the music.

Another change will be in the variety of songs played during the games. Jasna De Groot, a Sophomore, explained, "I think this year it will be more fun for the Dordt kids because we'll have more of a program performance instead of lumping all kinds of songs together. For example, one game could have all TV show themes, another game might have rock songs and another game might have college pep songs. "We're going to be sitting in a different place too. Instead of being tucked in the middle, we're going to have a platform built on top of the bleachers."

Bouma is excited about the change too. "The Pep Band has not had a rehearsal yet," he said, "but judging from the number of people who have signed up and the talent involved it should be a powerhouse kind of group."

Bouma also feels the same way about the Concert Band than I ever have been because I feel we have great potential. I feel we have a tremendous amount of dedication and talent. Our rehearsals have been outstanding and our performances will be too."

Photo by Tim Lyon

Blades begin new season

This past weekend the Dordt Blades took to the ice for the first time this season. And if their performance was an indication of things to come, the hockey team will have a very successful season.

The Blades played two games against the 'B-squad' of Iowa State University.

In the first game, won by Dordt 15-4, a hat-trick went to Theo DeCrest and Ken Vander Veen.

In the second game, it took a short time for Dordt to score. The first goal came with only four minutes left in the first period. But once the ice was broken, the goals came almost continuously.

The Blades won the second game 14-2. Ron Van Driel scored three goals with Andy Straatsma, Len Debolt, and Arie Bomhoff contributing two goals each. Charlie DeJong had three assists to lead the team.

The Blades' first true contest will come this Friday when they face off against the Sioux City Musketeers.

by Debbie Budic

‘Viva Mexico’ coming in travelogue series

Romain Wilhelmsen - scheduled to present a travelogue at Dordt College Friday, Nov. 4 - has a knack for treasure hunting. He gathers enough history on an area to speculate where old treasures might be and then sets out to find and film these interesting spots. He has not only found lost cities, missions and fort, but treasure weapons of war and armor that have not been seen for centuries.

He used this adventuresome spirit in filming "Viva Mexico" which he will present as the second film in the Dordt College travel and adventure film series. His flair for the unusual and excellent photography combined with a stimulating narrational style help make Wilhelmsen meet the country a most interesting and successful travelogue artist.

Wilhelmsen will take his viewers on a fabulous train ride in the Western Hemisphere through awe inspiring northern Sierra Madre mountains; they will view the colonial town of Taxco and the deserts of Mariscal, Puerto Vallarta and Acapulco. The audience will see exquisite Mexican table set ups and the famous Mexican city Tropical rivers and vast canyons will complete the story of the fun and pleasure of Wilhelmsen's travelers.

Wilhelmsen will present his travelogue at 8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 4 in the Dordt College gym Auditorium at $1.25 for adults and 75c for students.

by Del Wilhelmsen

Soccer team undefeated

The Dordt soccer team continued its winning streak, although this time it had to journey to Nebraska to find its victims.

In what coach Ron Van Driel called, "The toughest contest we've ever faced," the soccer team edged a fine UNO club by a score of 1-0. UNO was an intense defensive struggle, with Dordt's lone score by Brian De Jonger not coming until the second half. UNO had a number of shots on goal, and only a valiant effort by goalie Mark Vander Vliet kept the Dordt squad on top. Dordt next went on to shut out an independent team. Seven goals were scored in this game, with Ron Zonzig leading the way with two goals. The Hymies will finish their undefeated season with two home games. October 29th and November 5th.