The aroma of "The Upper Crust"

by Marj De Bruyn

We'll smell its reality drifting from a converted profession of the old State Bank building diagonally across the street from Sam's Variety, hopefully by the end of January. That's what Mr. Dennis Heifner figures on, and he's the manager, part owner, and kitchen supervisor of the new pizza parlor that's opening.

Saturday noon he laid down his fork, leaving the half-finished dinner of his rush-rush day, to clue us in on the actual source of the pizza scents being sniffed around Dordt lately. First, he said, "It's my feeling that this is part of the Lord's leading. I'm still a Lutheran clergyman as I have been for 12 years and am still active in the church. But at this period in my life, being involved in the Sioux Center community, and in business, is the Lord's leading."

"The Upper Crust" plans to live up to its meaningful name, "It's thinking we're going to serve very fine people---the students, the community, the older people" according to Heifner, "and we're thinking of doing it in the old land style of the 1930's era. We'll be serving high quality products." Serving upper crust pizza to upper crust people in "The Upper Crust," Ummm!

Right now, inside the grey height of the old State Bank, the paint is being scraped off the beams to get back the 1930's dark wood aura. Kneeling over the blue prints laid out on his living room floor, Heifner let us join in the contemplation and excitement of "The Upper Crust" layout. It's a three part setup where 80 people can make themselves comfortable on awnings or in semi-private alcoves which will give that same frosted glass type privacy the old banks maintained for their managers.

We'll smell its reality drifting from a converted profession of this sort that these people are confronted, and that's why they've organized. They have worked with the Committee for Justice and Liberty, as well as the Christian Labor Association of Canada. "They are very open to academic input," Van Dyk stated, "because it became evident that some of the problems are so big that you need people looking into it full time." Van Dyk cont'd on page 3

VanDyk speaks at CFF convention

by Vera Van Hofwegen

"It was mighty encouraging," said John VanDyk, philosophy professor, referring to the recent Christian Farmers Federation (CFF) convention he attended, "I really enjoyed rubbing shoulders with those guys; I learned immensely from them." He spoke at the banquet held November 25 in Edmonton, Alberta.

The two day conference also included other speakers plus workshops dealing with the topics covered in the speeches. VanDyk said the "farmers themselves initiated such a group, "The 150 members of the two-year organization have, according to VanDyk, "found themselves caught up in this economic growth thing, and they want to take seriously such injustices as 'It is better to receive' and 'the root of all evil is the lust of money.'"

He said the CFF "created quite a splash" when they stood up against proposed coal mining in Alberta, because they spoke up, the government reversed its stand, saving millions of acres from being stripped.

"They realize," said VanDyk, "what economy, commercialization and the profit motive are doing and how that is creating hardships for so many. They ask what the nature of the expansion should be; is it just, they wonder, to show young people off who feel their calling is farming so that they can make great big farm estates for themselves."

"It's with a concrete issue of this sort that these people are confronted, and that's why they've organized," they have worked with the Committee for Justice and Liberty, as well as the Christian Labor Association of Canada. "They are very open to academic input," Van Dyk stated, "because it became evident that some of the problems are so big that you need people looking into it full time." VanDyk cont'd on page 3

Annual Christmas party features "Daylight"

The Student Union Activities Committee is sponsoring a Christmas party on Thursday, December 16. The evening will begin with a special Christmas dinner in the Commons for boarding students. Those who don't ordinarily eat in the Commons will have to pay the regular rate for the dinner. Students are encouraged to dress up for this dinner.

After being comfortably (or uncomfortably) filled with the delicious dinner, everyone is invited to attend a concert in the gymnasium, featuring the group "Daylight." It will begin at 8:00 p.m. This quartet from Minnesota will entertain us with their singing of folk music. There will be no admission charge.

After the concert, everyone is invited to a free reception in the S.U.B. Refreshments will be served, including punch, cookies, and candy.
I remembered most of the jokes I had heard about Grand Rapids when I drove up there during Thanksgiving break. When you visit friends who attend Calvin College or seminary, you're bound to see a part of Grand Rapids that the "Banner" doesn't mention very often, especially if your friends don't live on campus. They can't afford the living conditions of a suburb like Jenison, so they take over the houses where other Christians used to live. It's not always safe, but the black neighbors are an interesting group.

The newer, yet uglier houses in the suburbs, along with the cathedral-like church on every corner, turn the jokes about "Jerusalem" into the most sickening truth we can come upon even concerning the group of people who call themselves Christians.

And now, since the snow has fallen, and since the stores are properly tinselized for the occasion, the Christians in G. R., and the people down here in Kalamazoo are ready to anticipate the happiest season of the year...it's like another spiritual high. There is warmth, togetherness, flickering candles, wine and pride...a pride that twists the truth like a worn-out dish rag, a pride that turns our eyes outside-in until we're seeing what we've done, how far we've come, and how great it is that we are where we are. And oh yes, we bow for a word of thanks before we stuff ourselves, asking God to "remember those who are less fortunate than we." God's country!

I was sitting in the projection room during Louis Tamminga's lecture on "Man and Work," one of the most significant events on campus this year! I believe he absorbed what he spoke, a group of "students" from an evening business course came down for their break, complaining about everything from the length of their break to the economics class where they would be listening to "that boring Tamminga business" on tape. Meanwhile, Tamminga spoke very practically about the trend of using all of our riches, our money, fuel, clothes, food and everything else, to open our eyes to our obese way of living. We don't even feel uncomfortable with it anymore, except, that is, when we have to get out of our padded chairs. There is no real struggle, no real questioning, no real consistent responsibility before God with our money. And we don't think twice about what we're doing.

The baby in the cradle has been reduced to sentimentality and jingle bells, the world is sick of ethically sound, other gift we have. the world won't see the justice and righteousness of the Messiah we're singing about. Tamminga spoke very practically about the trend of using all of our riches, clothes, wine and pride...a pride that twists the truth like a worn-out dish rag. The baby in the cradle has been reduced to sentimentality and jingle bells, the world is sick of ethically sound, other gift we have. the world won't see the justice and righteousness of the Messiah we're singing about.

We, who have such a hold on life itself, are so blind. We have our ethics and our smiles and our choirs, but...a pride that twists the truth like a worn-out dish rag, a pride that turns our eyes outside-in until we're seeing what we've done, how far we've come, and how great it is that we are where we are. And oh yes, we bow for a word of thanks before we stuff ourselves, asking God to "remember those who are less fortunate than we." God's country!

...what economic difficulties will God have to pull us through to open our eyes to our obese way of living?
Cryptogram with a comment

To the editor:

The puritan work ethic seems to be undergoing a revival after the decadent years of the 20th century. Based on the notion that we must "build first the Kingdom", this hallowed guide for faith and practice is pushing young intellectuals to heightened academic achievement worthy of the Civitas Dei. This ethic, so long ignored, provides a new image of the Reformed Christian as God's Little Helper. This pervading spirit, notable on our small but significant campus in Seoul Center, Iowa (a progressive community), is received with many open arms. Yet, things don't seem quite right.

As I recall, another organization devoted entirely to Kingdom Building existed many eons ago. Their members also felt themselves to be God's Little Helpers. They worked very hard. They grew very sophisticated and independent. Their project was to find the finishing touches on their Kingdom Chapel. They decided that God must really appreciate their work on the gloriously embellished piece of the Kingdom. God never said much, though. A chubby little guy, dressed just like the little helpers of the day, wasted more than anything else to get people to know God. The other little helpers couldn't understand that. "You don't know God, you work for Him," they said, smiling at his foolishness.

He turned all red. (He used to do that a lot--some say he was unbalanced.) After a lot of praying (He did that a lot too--some say he was very unbalanced), he one day put up a poster on the door of a Kingdom building. It said a lot of things, but it really meant to say "Sola Fide. Nobody said things like that in those days."

I don't bear a lot about that around here either.

Wik Wilk

P.S., I didn't know if I should submit this, but I've heard that a Diamond is a pretty heavy rock.

VanDyk cont'd from page 1

"...they're interested in showing that land should support people in other ways than just economical."

They asked VanDyk to give "more of an inspirational speech." He took them briefly through the history of humanism, liberalism and socialism, showing "that there are spirits built into both which are incompatible with Christian commitment, I then urged them to pursue that third option."

What is that third option? VanDyk answered, "It's an attitude that would counteract the nature of man, the ultimate happiness, the proliferation of goods, the subtle kind of advertising that goes with it, as well as the idea of a collection of consumers."

How did they respond? "Very good," according to VanDyk. "Those people don't even think that capitalism is the Christian way of life. They're quite a ways beyond that. In the U.S. evangelicalism has identified Christianity as a way of life. There are no questions being asked."

"But in Canada you have the socialists who have always been calling for a slowing down of economic growth, so the people are aware of the need. Now, they're interested in showing that land should support people in other ways than just economical."

In one of their workshops, they discussed the Biblical view of ownership, saying that "ownership is a God-given right" which involves responsibility. With the combination of the right and responsibility, one has office.

They also concluded that "capitalism-socialist controversy is not a real one" because "there is a communal and private side to ownership."

After looking at Old Testament norms such as tithing, the law of firstfruits and the law of interest, they stated, "the goal of ownership is that God's property is developed and managed in such a way that it continues to serve His main interest: the rearing of His children--in other words--the glory of God."

More specifically dealing with the third option, they discussed general guidelines, asking questions about sharing between neighbors and between employer and employee. They talked about the establishment of a national food policy, as well as a food distribution system which would "reflect justice for all, including the Third World countries. Also, they considered a "just land use policy" for Canada, talking about "urban, industrial, recreational, forest and wildlife reserves and agricultural zones."

"It was quite different from the common idea," concluded VanDyk, "especially found in the business enterprise, that we as Christians have to have an ethical dimension to what we do by just smoothing out the rough edges a bit. These people are busy with structural changes, looking for an alternative to the present agricultural policy, I hope this type of thing catches on."

To the editor:

I believe everyone should take a good look at their life here at Dordt.

Break down the 168 hours you have each week. Deduct the hours you're expected to be in class, the hours you sleep, eat and study. What do you have left? Now deduct the average amount of time you spend at church, chapel, bible study or prayer-meeting. What do you do left with the remaining time? Do you spend it in the game room, the coffee shop, downtown? This isn't being written to lecture you on using your time wisely as even I am at fault for wasting precious hours. So what is the purpose of this?

In Mark 10:28 Peter said to Christ, "We have left everything to follow you!" How many of us could say that same thing? Sometimes it seems like a chore to make it to church once on Sundays and then, if we go twice, well, that means we've been excused from chapel for the week!

Have you been to Tuesday night prayer meetings at 10:00 p.m. in C160? Or are you too busy? They only last a half hour. Are you so busy that you can't set aside that one half hour for prayer and fellowship once a week? God doesn't demand that much from us. He doesn't even insist that we go to church twice on Sundays, chapel twice a week or any prayer meeting or bible study. But the average time we're in church, chapel and prayer meetings per week (if you go to all) is approximately 3 hours per week. That's not even half the time we're expected to be in class (and there's no demands for two hours of work outside every hour of church, chapel or prayer meeting).

"Are you anyone is trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise...the prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective." (NIV, James 5:13 & 18)

Maybe you'll find that half hour to set aside for the prayer meeting next Tuesday.

Sheri Cleaves

Church music workshop scheduled for January

Dordt's Music Department is inviting high school music students, church music directors, students, and anyone else interested to participate in a Church Music Workshop scheduled for January 27-29.

In addition to Dordt's music faculty, three guest artists--Eugene Butler, Donald Bruggink, and Marilyn Stulken-Ekwo--will lead workshops and give lectures. The participants will also be part of a mass choir, directed by Eugene Butler, which will present a concert on Friday evening, January 28.

Eugene Butler directs choral activities and teaches music theory at Johnson County Community College in Overland Park, Kansas. He has published over 230 works and is known in the music world as a composer, conductor, educator and church musician. He keeps busy leading workshops for compositional seminars, church and choral music clinics, and new music repertory sessions.


Marilyn Stulken-Ekwo is the organist at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. She also conducts workshops and teaches privately. Her specialty is church music, her major instrument is the organ. She is an authority on hymns and hymnody. Besides giving a lecture and workshop, she will present an organ recital on Sunday afternoon, January 30.

Those interested in participating in the workshops or in attending the lectures should watch the bulletin boards for details.

photo by Dave Groenenboom

Breaking down 168 hours

by Stan Kinca
No more soybeans, grits and rice

BY AL INGELSTADSSA

Gentle Hall, that bastion of vegetarian cuisine, has become a kitchen area, so we thought we'd better investigate, "ex-"

There are smiles between the snowflakes... frozen. It's like a herd of sheep on the edge of a green pasture, yet refusing to go through the open gate.

"I do it for the kids," she said, and the kids followed along, sensing that it was something joyful, something bright.

And when they grew up, they said they did it for their kids.

photos by Aric Bond
Defenders: a new team and still developing

Dave Don Herder and Lee An, two senior members of Dordt's varsity basketball team were approached to gain insight into the players' point of view. They talked about the team's attitude and how their games have been going. For the record, the defenders have won two and lost three of their first five games, but let's flesh this out in terms of attitude and performance.

Both Lee and Dave agreed the team has been plagued by a lack of concentration in their first five games which resulted in mental errors. They attributed much of this to the fact that it is still early in the season.

A perennial problem of Dordt's varsity has been getting psyched out by highly rated teams. Lee felt this was the case particularly in their game with Wartburg College and almost decided the outcome even before it was played. Dave stipulated, however, that although the problem is there, things are changing, and a more confident attitude is becoming evident.

Both players referred to a very positive attitude on the team as a whole. There is also general agreement between Lee and Dave that it is a new team, and it has new team problems. Only a handful of players remain from last year's squad. Lee and Dave maintain it is exciting to see their problems being worked out as the season progresses.

For example, the team had been having defensive problems on the court, but the continual stress on defense during practices has begun to pay off. Now defense is considered to be a strong point, matching the already good offense.

They still need a team leader on the court; someone to control play on the floor. Lee and Dave feel that total team dedication is helping to resolve this problem. Both men see bright things in store for the varsity team, as the bugs are consistently being worked out of a new team.

Dave and Lee believe something also must be said about fan support, especially at home games. Lee sums it up by saying, "I expect fans to cheer for us and clap for the opposing team." Lee expressed his disappointment in fans who in any way make derogatory remarks to any player. Fans are there to build up and encourage, not to break down.

This also refers to the referees. They too are doing their best and do not deserve any type of hassle from fans.

Dave puts it very clearly, "A referee will make a bad call on purpose just as much as a player will miss a lay-up on purpose. Too many games have been ruined by fans riding the referees' "poor" judgment. Fan support is great, but should not downgrade the other team or the actual playing of the game, according to Dave and Lee.

This Saturday afternoon, they will meet Martin Luther College on our gym floor.

Chorale concert January 28

Dordt's Chorale will be featured in a concert on January 28 at 8:00 p.m. in the gym. Concert Choir and some community high school choirs will present a few selections.

The performance will be under the direction of Eugene Butler, an American composer-director. A 200-voice mass choir will perform some of Butler's compositions.
Hidden behind a deserted farm house in Orange City is a typical red and white barn, far from the kind you expect to find full of cows. The first noticeable difference is the sign above the door reading "Coffee Barn." Once you enter the barn you immediately forget its exterior. Kids are sitting around on the carpeted floor talking, laughing and eating popcorn. Some sit gazing into the fire, and others enjoy a game of foosball.

The Coffee Barn, just east of Debo Drive Inn, is much more than a barn. It's also much more than a coffee house. It is a group of 11 volunteers from North Eastern College dedicated to giving high school students a Christian atmosphere in which to function.

The Coffee Barn itself is a place to socialize, to get involved. It's a place to call their own. "The Coffee Barn," says Darcy, "helps prepare the kids to take their place in society and it gives them a chance to meet Jesus, learn about Him and feel His love."

The staff doesn't limit it's activities such as swimming, tennis, youth homes and senior citizens. "The Coffee Barn still needs people that the Coffee Barn has lasted," recollects Darcy. It took a lot of work to transform that barn into the coffee house that it is today. Hours of labor, numerous donations, and many articles were contributed. "Look around you," suggests Darcy, "and the carpet, the football game, ping-pong table, piano, and fireplace are all gifts."

Today the Coffee Barn still depends on the community. The $250 to $300 a month that it takes to run this place is received from all sorts of individual donors, college kids, high school kids and community members. A great deal of support also comes from businesses and churches. Some churches include the Coffee Barn in their budgets.

Not all the money needed to keep the Coffee Barn in operation is received by donation. The staff and kids themselves put on a few fund-raising activities such as their bake sale, flea market, and pig roast. "We have a really good time putting those things on," stresses Darcy, "but not too much money is made. None of us are business-orientated."

"The significance of these fund-raising schemes is not in the money that's made but in the backing that is received. In our bake sale and flea market," explains Darcy, "we had all kinds of cakes and articles dropped off by people who didn't even know."

The Coffee Barn has come a long way since Larry Leslie and Glen Hammstrom first approached Northwestern about it. All they had was an idea and a great deal of enthusiasm. Today, looking back over the years, Darcy says, "We've come a long way since then, making mistakes but learning from them."

As for Tom Van Engen and his coffee house project for Sioux Center—"Sure we heard of it," explains Darcy. "He's been here a number of times looking for help and ideas. Using our experience and resources, we help him in every way we can. Some day, soon we hope to work together as sister coffee houses."

The red and white barn in Orange City

by Clarence Miller

Ken Venhuizen joins sociology department

Ken Venhuizen, after being involved in various areas of social work, will be joining the ranks of Dordt's sociology department beginning next semester. He will begin a course on the Introduction of Social Work and take over the course Sociology of Criminology. Taylor will begin a course called The Sociology of Religion. Venhuizen is also planning a course on a selective basis under special topics to get students involved in field work. This will be complemented with a practice seminar.

After attending Calvin College and the University of Washington, Venhuizen became involved with juvenile detention work, family services, youth homes and senior citizens. From 1972-1976 he worked with the CRWRC in Korea in placing Korean orphans in Korean homes.

Venhuizen feels that "Dordt College has a real impact of taking sociological teachings and applying them in terms of a Christian perspective." He does feel that a Christian can approach sociology in some ways as a non-Christian can because "if you're trying to learn, there are things to learn." He went on to note that "you come with some things as a Christian that you wouldn't come to that same study with if you were a non-Christian."

Venhuizen pointed out that a Christian involved in sociology can "bring his perspective to bear on the theoretical positions of historical sociology and today's sociology." He stressed that a Christian brings a real understanding of humanities and a real compassionate understanding of man made in God's image.

"The Christian, because of his prior understanding of man, is not blown about by every 'wind of doctrine.' " Venhuizen sees this instability in sociology as one of the main weaknesses in sociology today. He noted that we must be careful when we try to relate the Bible and sociology. "We are instructed to know our selves and in that regard, sociology may be a help for man to know himself." He also feels that the Bible has "an awful lot to say about man, society and those relationships." Venhuizen concluded, "We're going to hang our hats, so to speak, on the side of what God says versus what our sociological inquiry leads us to believe."
As one approaches the building, it appears to be just like any other home. There are no significant marks or bars on the windows to make it distinctive. Inside the building are all the traces of a family: comfortable furniture, trampled rugs, the delicious aroma of dinner simmering on the stove, and people. A motherly woman is cooking in the kitchen and the kids are watching TV after a day at school: How will they go anywhere except back home. The Christian influence in this Christian institution starts here. Christianity is not forced at Harmony Home but everyone who works there or is involved with the Home will agree that "without Christ we wouldn't have been here and without Christ we wouldn't last." All the employees are Christians, and this is one way in which Harmony Home can be called a Christian institution. It is not a Christian institution in that you are placed in these homes by the courts and every turn. Rather it is the spirit of things and how they are dealt with in which a Christian spirit of living is emphasized. This can be seen in a normal day. After waking up at 6:45 a.m., doing their chores and eating breakfast, the residents are off to school. When they return, there is either a planned activity, group therapy session or free time until dinner. After dinner, there are chores, planned activity or free time. Through this daily routine, the counsellors try to provide the love and security which the residents need.

The residents are graded on their chores each day. If it isn't done correctly or on time they receive a "poor." If, after a week, a resident receives all "good's," he gains a privilege. This is the beginning of a three level privilege system. After a resident receives a certain amount of "good's," he reaches the second level, privileges such as use of the telephone, off-ground activities and home visits are made available. The final level works on an individual scale through contracts. The counsellors set up individual contracts to remedy individual problems. The benefits of this level include individual activities and more home visits.

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"The results of this system can be seen better two years after the resident has left Harmony Home," claims Van Ekeren. "Not everyone makes it, but about half of the graduates do live normal, good lives."

With much prayer and support from fellow Christians, Harmony's system of helping delinquent youths can continue and improve. For Harmony Home realizes that "without God, we wouldn't have been here, and without God, we wouldn't last."
On November 29, eight members of the Forensic Club attended a speech tournament at Lincoln Wesleyan at Lincoln, Nebraska. Twenty-five other schools attended the event. Those competing from Dordt were Nancy Hylamo, Polly Olivier, Dan Van Hoyest and Cindy Holtrop in Oral Interpretation, Charlene Scottrop and Mary VanderPloeg in Dramatic Interpretation, Cindy Holtrop and composer Prokofier and Olivier, Dan Van Heyer and "Appasionata" Sonata No. 2 and Scherzo No. 2.

The Forensic Club plans to attend will be the first two periods and hang out with friends afterwards. The program will include a music session and a potluck dinner. The club will be meeting Thursday evening, hard, physically rough, though 28 and 29. Anyone wishing to complete their well-earned 4-3 at Iowa State in Ames on Jan. 10-11 and 13-15 and judged some of the events Dordt handily outscored ISU.

Tatum tot to satisfy Dordt cinema appetite

Hanke and I waited for rhubarb pie. Hanke’s aunt was cutting in the kitchen. The Wednesday night church roast beast was quickly enough for the guests. Sunday meal at Hanke’s aunt was a gladly accepted break from the cafeteria dining. Turning to movies as Hanke, Dordt’s resident film philosopher, reflected on recent campus films, "I saw the first 20 minutes of 'Platoon,' " said Hanke. "Hanke looked at me with a blank face as he finished off the dinner rolls. "Maybe, Bergman's films are melancholy," I said. "I don't think that's necessary, Hanke. Bergman is in tax evasion trouble in Sweden and has left the country. The publicist always gets his man, "the demonstrates beat this pride, "You didn't like the film? I asked.

No, it was OK, even though I thought it was in French. It's just that 'Bilby Jack' was on T.V. that night, I've got my priorities, you know," declared Hanke, as he finished off the green beans. "I don't know anything about they can't have anything but black and white films," asked Hanke. "I don't know, Hanke. Bergman's 'Winter Light' was here with the Film Club.

"I know. The Bergmaniacs were out in numbers, 30's in Swedish and looking grim. "Bergman's films are melancholy, aren't they. He struggles for meaning in life, his struggles are tense and agonizing, and this is reflected in his films."

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Two monetary awards of $100 and $50 will be given to the two Dordt students who have made the most significant writing contribution during the '76-'77 school year.

All selections -- of prose, poetry, fiction, essays and articles -- must have been written during the '76-'77 school term and give evidence of sustained quality.

Students applying for the awards should submit their writing pieces to Hugh Cook or Mike Vanden Bosch, English professors before April 9. Any writing published in either the "Diamond" or "Cannon" may also be entered.

These awards are from an anonymous friend of the college. The English department will judge the entries.

"Why didn't I finish my term paper when I took the books out in October?"

by Steve Helckin

Women's BB team hosts Briar Cliff

Cliff Friday night

The women's basketball team is out to a fine start this fall. With an eleven member squad which includes six freshmen, Coach Huisman has put together a strong, unified team. Led by two freshmen starters, Dordt has played three times, winning 66-47 over Sioux Empire, 86-82 over Northwestern, and 68-54 over Sioux Empire again. This last game was an extremely tough one. Dordt had a few problems on the floor, but the team worked hard to compensate.

Coach Huisman stated that the team must do the performing on the floor... She busied herself with teaching the fundamentals and getting the girls to work as a unit, plus instilling team spirit. Miss Huisman feels that the team unit has been helped by activities outside of basketball, for instance team dinners.

The next home game for the women's basketball team is Friday night at 7:30, when they host Briar Cliff.