In the music-administration building there is a relatively small room called the record-listening room. It is used by music students who must listen to specified records in fulfillment of an assignment, by language students who are to listen to the language records for the building of vocabulary and for general improvement in the use of the language, and by anyone who merely enjoys listening to recorded music.

The room is open at certain hours as specified on the listening-room door; as a necessity for course work one may use the room at an unspecified time if one contacts Mr. Bos and makes special arrangements.

A student is present in the room during all the specified hours: his job is to supervise, to advise, and to explain the use of the listening-room equipment. Three students have been chosen for this job. The room is open for thirty specified hours a week and each of the appointed students is there for ten hours.

The facilities for record listening at Dordt may seem limited; however, there is more equipment at Dordt than at one of the midwestern universities. Furthermore, next year in the new library building the facilities will be considerably larger and improved.

The Play Was An Admireable Success

The Admireable Crichton, presented two weeks ago by a cast of eighteen, under the direction of Mr. Koldenhoven, was well-received. The leading players, Clem Van Tol as Crichton and Jerelyn Brower as Lady Mary Lasenby, gave excellent performances. Verne Meyer will be remembered for his humorous characterization of Ernest Woolley, fiancée of Lady Mary. Joyce Kamps convincingly played the part of Tweeny, a kitchen maid.

But it was Stu Williams who made the play a success by his hilarious portrayal of Lord Loam; his performance was truly great.

Too often a cast includes a few strong actors, a few of medium talent, and the remainder possess little talent. This was not true of the cast of THE ADMIREABLE CRICHTON.

Debators Make Nebraskan Jaunt

The Dordt College debate squad participated in a Forensics Tournament on Friday and Saturday, December 6 and 7. The tournament, which hosted 16 colleges and universities representing five states, was held at Wayne State Teachers College at Wayne, Nebraska. The colleges attending were from Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, and South Dakota.

In vigorous competition, the Dordt team showed much improvement over previous tournaments. However, this proved to be a difficult tournament because each team was required to debate both the negative and affirmative sides of the questions presented.

Dordt was well represented by Roger Van Dyken, Rodney De Boer, Paul Vos and Bill Ludwig, who were accompanied by Mr. Lofhers, the debate instructor.

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The Balk Comes To Basketball

On December 5, ten Dordt students participated in a donkey basketball game against the Hull Independents at Hull. The rough and tough, occasionally "dirty" game ended 42-34 in Hull's favor. There were some interesting halftime "ceremonies" also.

The team of mule riders was composed of Bernie Bovenkamp, Dave De Haan, Delano De Vries, Jim Heinzen, Vic Maris, Dean Meyer, Elvin Steinsma, Sheldon Stremler, Jim Terhorst and Alvin Vander Stoep (team artist). The proceeds were donated to Dordt College.

The Pause That Refreshes

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The Pause That Refreshes
Editorial
—by Alan Huisman

This editorial is an appeal. An appeal to both students and faculty. An appeal to anyone who is in any way connected with Dordt College.

Please revive that spark of dissent that denotes a thinking student body, a thinking faculty, a thinking constituency. Surely some of you have opinions that differ from the majority. Of course, the fact that they are different does not make them right. But only expressed opinions can be affirmed or debated.

I fear we are becoming far too “nice.” I fear that we are a college of sheep, unh thinkingly following the precepts of the hierarchy. I admit that the hierarchical form of authority is convenient. Look at the Roman Catholics. You don’t hear the pope or the cardinals complaining. And the underdogs? They surrender eventually. And those who do not are out. It really is convenient.

Permit me to address those at the apex of our little college community. You, “the powers that be,” are not infallible simply because you exist. But because you exist you do what you think is right. However, perhaps you do not think far enough or young enough. Or even often enough. You cannot say that you never make mistakes, and often a fresh approach can bring a distorted issue into focus.

Having asked for meaningful dissent, let us consider its expression. One of the places for discussion is the DIAMOND. However, need I remind you of the several insipid issues this year? Oh, here and there was an outstanding article, but the majority were trite, “blah,” if you will. Whose fault is it? The editor and staff are excellent scapegoats, aren’t they? But now it is time to address the student body. We are to blame—we who are too lethargic, too timid, too “nice” to think.

In the first issue of the DIAMOND of this year we were warned against ill-natured faultfinding. We were told to criticize the cardinals complaining. “And the underdogs? They surrender because you exist. But because you exist you do what you think is right. However, perhaps you do not think far enough or young enough. Or even often enough. You cannot say that you never make mistakes, and often a fresh approach can bring a distorted issue into focus.”

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In the first issue of the DIAMOND of this year we were warned against ill-natured faultfinding. We were told to criticize something more original than the college menu. It’s true, the menu isn’t too original. Ergo, we must search for something that is original. Let’s begin a long and fruitful intellectual search.

Originality! Yes, this a plea for originality, creativity, and positive thinking. Without these we will not grow intellectually. Don’t let Dordt stand still.

Introducing The Guest Editor

Alan, from Orange City, Iowa, is a reporter for the DIAMOND. He is taking the Secondary Education course and plans to major in English. A freshman, he graduated from Western Christian High School in Hull where he was a member of the choir and the newspaper staff. He has participated in high school forensics. In addition to being on the DIAMOND staff, Alan is also a member of the chorale choir here at Dordt. He has been asked to write a guest editorial for this issue.

Chronology

—by Ron Rynders

I saw an insect yet today. He may have been the last to stay. All the others, worst or best, have found sanction. Some to rest. Till springtime sun may rouse their slumber.

Others to be torn asunder. And to render in the springtime. Only wing-shells, parted meantime.

Of the trees, their age is telling. (As if for them some bell is knelling.) But the glory of deception is the joy of their reception. Into life and verdant shadow, again to shade the breathing meadow. This dying is their solemn duty. That springtime may enjoy their beauty.

And the grass, once so abundant. In green hues, now grows redundant—Brown on brown, its color matching even sky, impassive—watching. As the brilliant leaves drift slowly. To the drab grass, lying lowly. And then quickly disappearing. At the new green shoots’ uprising.

Speculations

by Alan Huismann

The turkey lies heavy at the pit of the stomach.

But we hurry to the attic.

To sort out tinsel and bells. We must prepare for Christmas.

Christmas is a tree...

“Mother, it looks AWFUL! Couldn’t you do any better?”

Christmas is giving...

“Tell Grandma not to give me purple socks this year.”

Christmas is greeting cards...

“They didn’t send us one, so don’t bother.”

Christmas is choirs...

“What a poor attempt at singing.”

Christmas is church services...

“You MUST go, and don’t argue!”

Christmas is a magnificent dinner...

“Don’t tell her to bring anything. Remember last year?”

Christmas is family fellowship...

“Mother, I won’t be home this weekend.”

Christmas is...

Christ was born.

He did everything for Christmas.

What have we done for Christmas?
In the November 26 issue of the DIAMOND, the Noteworthy column touched on the problem which is so prevalent in our Reformed circles—the fact that music, which plays such a major role in our lives, has reached a point of alarming degradation. Since that column was only an introduction to the problem, I feel that it should be discussed again, not only here, but wherever there is someone who is interested in purifying the music of the church.

The CALVIN COLLEGE CHIMES has been recently entertaining letters on the “hymnsing controversy.” Two gentlemen, Mr. D. Scripps and Mr. D. Kamminga, wrote in the November 8 issue of CHIMES their thoughts concerning the warped and even unorthodox Christianity which is so evident in hymnsings. Since the CHIMES publishes only letters from the Calvin student body, my letter of commendation to these gentlemen and their evident concern was forbidden publication. Letters have come to the CHIMES with only praise for these hymnsing, and an included program of a specific hymnsing only convinces me that if something is not done soon, the Christian Reformed Church will be in dire need of resurrection, theologically as well as musically. If we continue to sing the Arminian view of our choice in choosing a Savior, or our acquisition of glory, or continual-ly use the “I” and “me” instead of “Him,” our theology will become just as self-centered and as sentimentally humanistic. If we continue to use the syncopated and jazz tunes, the music with the “beat,” our theology will become just as frivolous and fundamentalistic. These tunes are used to play upon the emotions and to attract attention which is necessary in fundamentalism. But catchy tunes and popular words don’t strengthen our faith or bring us closer to our God. As Calvinists, we don’t need this emotional sentimentality. Our faith is not one of aroused emotions, of enthusiastic peaks for a time. It is a constant, solidly based belief in the Word of God as our foundation.

To enumerate the scores of choral and “rally hymns” which are undesirable would be impossible here. Choir music, hymnsing material, and music for youth and society meetings should be carefully chosen. The new PSALTER HYMNAL and other acceptable books of praise should be used as much as possible and SINGSPIRATION should be avoided entirely. Only with the constant use of good hymns will we be able to discriminate and soon the poor ones will suffer when the two are compared.

There is a great treasury in the hymns and chorales of the Christian Church. But this heritage can be easily and tragically lost. Only if those with high ideals, such as Mr. Scripps and Mr. Kamminga, will speak out, can there be hope for a new awakening to the impending disaster.
November 22, 1963, will soon appear as a common date in future history books. This was the day that Americans reacted with shock and horror to the assassination of John Fitzgerald Kennedy. Political and ideological differences were disregarded as the entire nation united in mourning. Representatives from every nation in the world (exception, the Chinese Communist bloc) appeared to pay their respects to our dead President. Nationally and internationally, the mood was one of reverence as all paid their homage. For this was more than the passing of the man John F. Kennedy, this was the death of the President of the United States of America. This was the elected leader of the greatest nation in the world, chosen to guide the ship of state through the stormy international waters. And suddenly, this leader, the captain, the commander-in-chief, was no more.

Several weeks have now intervened since the remains of our late President were laid to rest on a hillside at Arlington National Cemetery, overlooking the Capital and the monuments commemorating the deeds of his famous predecessors. In reflection, we ask ourselves, why would a man commit such a dastardly deed? Must he not be insane? Assassination, Murder. What a horrible connotation these words convey to us! What a bloody, bitter taste to these atrocities. What kind of human—no, almost, what kind of brute would desire to perpetrate such a crime and create such a blood-spattered scene? And a Communist. What did the Communists have against Mr. Kennedy? When did he humiliate or thwart them?

Perhaps some light can be shed on the recent assassination by the following account. On November 19, 1963, three days before Mr. Kennedy’s assassination, a Mr. Dewey, who is a free-lance international reporter, appeared at the University of the Pacific at Stockton, California. Mr. Dewey, an evangelical Christian residing in Oakland, California, reported that he had access to intelligence documents which revealed that Mr. Kennedy and Mr. Khrushchev were planning the removal of Castro, who has tended to ally himself with Peiping, and replace him with a man more favorable to Mr. Khrushchev’s intentions. This removal was significantly scheduled to occur just prior to the 1964 presidential elections. Incidentally, Mr. Dewey had also forecast the 1962 Cuban blockade.

Admittedly, this report tends to treat Mr. Kennedy rather harshly and antagonize our natural sympathies for the deceased. However, let us remember that a man is no better in death than he was in life. Death does not enhance a person’s virtues or cancel his deficiencies.

In whatever perspective this places our late President, it does shed light on his recent assassination. It will be remembered that the assassin, Lee Harvey Oswald, was a member of a group of dissident Russian soldiers and the head of a “Fair Play for Cuba Committee.” He supported Castro and opposed Khrushchev. His knowledge of the Kennedy-Khrushchev deal could have constrained him to thwart this plot against his idol by destroying one of the parties to the plot, Mr. Kennedy.

It has not been conclusively proven that this is the case, but it does offer a plausible explanation of the unexpected assassination of the President of the United States.

Revised Volleyball Schedule

**Monday Jan. 5**

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<tr>
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<td>8:00 4 vs 7</td>
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**Tuesday Jan. 7**

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<td>7:00 7 vs 3</td>
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<td>8:00 8 vs 2</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 9 vs 1</td>
<td>9:00 5 vs 3</td>
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“So much depends on a wheelbarrow...”
Volume fulfills its aim with precision posed to skepticism and relativism; lute Truth as the expression of the Christian college like our own. Where- or sets out to disprove this through people of both minds have felt that operation between the two. Many academic and the religious. and for co-

follower of Christ. He sees an era of national repute. is also a scholar. He upholds abso-
mence and devotion: this little ment for Christianity, and against it-

... assumptions based on faith are
apparently an ever-present com-

ment in any system of belief—
whether those assumptions include the existence of a personal God, or whether they begin with non-rational directionally-emergent forces gov-

erned by statistical probabilities. Our argument does not claim that evidences are so clear that faith is not needed.

Practice of Christianity is treated as well as theory, under the headings of "Commitment" and "Outreach." Many illustrations are taken from the field of linguistics, each pertinent and revealing. The essays range from the technical tone to the informal, from abstract to highly personal. Each in its particular way compels the reader to see the necessity of

"Intellectual search aimed at understanding the dynamics of the physical world in which we live, at struggling to see the Christian responsibility to the increasingly complex social and cultural order..."

Often Christians refuse to confront science and scholarship because they fear that these will disprove Christianity. Here is a man who has bold-

ly faced an apparent conflict and has discovered thereby a complement and a re-infomercement to his faith. He calls us, as intellectuals and Christians, to share in this source of strength.

What Today

MAGAZINE REVIEW

by Dave Netz

College students should and do read magazines. The type of magazine read varies with the student. The college historian picks up NATURAL HISTORY and enjoys a relaxing narrative about some lost tribe; the English major usually turns to The SAT-URDAY REVIEW or other literary periodicals; college students having a common interest in current world affairs all enjoy relaxing with TIME, NEWSWEEK, and U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT.

On the other hand, how many students ever browse through CHRISTIANITY TODAY? Although we all profess to be Christian, students ignore Christian periodicals because they supposedly do not have any important articles.

CHRISTIAN HOME AND SCHOOL is seldom read except when one is looking for a teaching position. This periodical is written for those interested in aspects of Christian education and living. A very interesting article in the November 1963 issue is entitled "Christ, Metaphor, and Appraising the Arts" by Mr. Stanley Wiersma. This article has a very philosophical and intellectual appeal: "I am using metaphor in its broadest sense; 'substituting one thing symbolically for something else,' without which there is no art at all." Mr. Wiersma's thesis is built on the central object of all true art, which is the communication of ideas and emotions through symbolism. But there is more than this impersonal communication. "The artist gives himself with his metaphor to his audience, and by giving himself, as in happiness or sorrow, he finds himself afresh."

God is the ultimate artist of this universe: "Let me repeat in this new holy context one of the things I said about human artists: The artist gives Himself with His metaphor to His audience." Thus, along with the true metaphor of the revealed word of God, He also gave His Son, for He is complete.

The conclusion of the essay is an eminent example of the material and ideas of Christian periodicals. It is a guide for Christian discipline in modern life. Mr. Wiersma states, "Because God uses the cosmic metaphor of the crucifixion, men made in God's image can also in a small personal way use metaphor." It is our duty to be metaphors of Christianly.

ECUMENISM EXEMPLIFIED

Winslow, Arizona, has a unified clergy. During a Sunday presentation at the city's First Baptist church, a Roman Catholic priest—in behalf of the United Presbyterian church—introduced a program entitled "Martin Luther."
Athletes' Feats

—by Dale Claerbaut

There has been much action in athletics at Dordt College since the last "Athletes' Feats" article. Basketball games, including one on muleback, intramurals, and cheerleading make up the news.

The final players of the basketball team to be introduced are Henry Eekhoff and Jim Streelman. They are two of the nine freshmen still out for basketball. All five sophomores still remain. Both Henry and Jim commented on the season's team.

Henry Eekhoff: "I think we'll have a really good season this year. We have some top-notch players. With good teamwork, shooting, and rebounding, I think we will win most of our games." Henry comes to Dordt from Kanawha, Iowa. He lettered while at high school in all four major sports; basketball, football, baseball, and track. He was voted the best-athlete award for his school as a senior. Henry is the only married player on the team.

Jim Streelman: "Playing college ball is a thrilling experience for me. I love the keen spirit of competition that is shown here at Dordt. I think we have an excellent team this year and I believe that we should make a very good showing." Jim attended Valley Christian High in Artesia, California. He lettered there—three years in football, two in track, one year in baseball. In his senior year he was chosen for the all-conference track team.

Intramurals Prosper

During the past few weeks competition in intramural volleyball and table tennis has continued. The results of the games so far have been posted on the bulletin board in the gym. The champions will be announced in the next issue. The tournaments will probably finish a short time after Christmas vacation. Competition in both boys' and girls' basketball will follow immediately upon completion of the fall sports. Another handbook will be distributed on winter sports.

The council officers are Judy Theune, chairman; Lois Van Beek, secretary; and Dennis De Kok, recorder. They report good cooperation on the part of the participants.

IN PRAISE OF OUR CHEERLEADERS

The DIAMOND would like to compliment the cheerleaders on the fine job that they have been doing in leading the fans in support of the teams.

The girls said that they were impressed by the large turn-out of Dordt students at the games and appreciated their enthusiasm. They hope that this will continue for the upcoming games as well as for the future home games. They also wish to thank the pep club for buying new sweaters for them.

TEAM TAKES THREE

An individual breakdown of the team's shooting in field goals and free throws, as well as offensive and defensive rebounds is as follows:

<table>
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<th>Player</th>
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trees. This is not unique in itself, but the uniqueness of this dream lies in the leaves themselves. What a multi-colored variety of leaves I saw. There were white leaves, red ones, blue ones, yellow ones, gray ones, and a few chartreuse leaves. One hardly expects this color scheme in the leaves themselves. What a second unique aspect of the leaves was their lack of individuality. All the leaves dropped in pairs, blew in pairs, and lay in pairs. The last identifiable characteristic was the length of the leaves. They were usually long slender leaves. This is all I can remember about my dream. Would you have a hint as to the interpretation?"

Dear EL,

I may be completely on the wrong track, but it seems to be a typical fall or early winter morning in which knee socks are worn to school to allay the sub-freezing temperature. If you find this hard to believe, you may check with your local astrologer.

Simon