Basketball Continues; Reporters Relax

DORDT 64 - NORTHWESTERN B
—by Dale Claerbaut

Dordt has continued its string of basketball victories by outpointing Estherville 86-74 and by running over Emmetsburg 84-53 on their opponents' home courts. The Defenders at the printing of this article, had a 5-0 mark and were hopeful of increasing their victory string to eight games before the semester break.

During the semester break, on January 26, Coach Calsbeek's squad will travel to Freeman, South Dakota, and participate in an all-day, four-team tournament there. Three of the teams participating will be Dordt, Norfolk, and Freeman. The fourth team has not yet been made known.

The first game will pit Norfolk and one of the two teams other than Dordt at 1:00 p.m. The second game at 3:30 will include Dordt and the fourth team. The winners and losers will play each other at night and a trophy will be presented to both the championship- and the consolation-game winners.

Many Dordt fans turned out to watch a tight first-half contest at Estherville, December 12. However, an all-out team effort including good defense, some fast breaking, fine passing, and excellent rebounding broke the game wide open mid way through the second half. The Defenders led by as much as 20 points several times before cooling off.

The team traveled to Emmetsburg on December 16, under the supervision of Mr. Sjoerdma, Mr. Calsbeek's father having died on December 15. The DIAMOND staff and all Dordt College extend their sincere sympathy to Mr. Calsbeek. Mr. Calsbeek thanks the basketball team for their memorial gift to his family, and to all those who have remembered him in this loss.

The game at Emmetsburg was a rout from the first two minutes of play until the final horn sounded. Dordt led at the half. Dordt's 84 points was its lowest offensive production all year, but it held its opponent down to 53 points. Dordt's best defensive effort. At the end of five games Dordt has a 52-point average on offense and a 66-point average on defense.

Basketball Championship and the consolation-tournament there. Three of the teams participating will be Dordt, Estherville, and military drill for the men. The women, instead of military drill, worked on rhythmic drill. Next semester the program will begin with gymnastics.

Basketball will play each other at night and a trophy will be presented to both the champions- and the consolation-game winners.

Where There's Smoke

The Christian Reformed Church is pre-eminently known for its stand on worldly amusements. Our church has taken this position for the spiritual welfare of its people. All young people recognize this stand, yet some college students fail to heed its warning. Uninhibited movie attendance and card playing are harmful, if for no other reason than that they are demagogues of time-wasting.

But a new crisis has arisen in the past few years which our church has completely ignored. It is the problem of physical deterioration and rot caused by smoking. Take time to read an article about the latest findings concerning the relationship of cancer and smoking, and you will find that cancer has definitely been associated with smoking. How can we as Christians continue this practice of destroying our own bodies?

In reality, smoking is a pleasant way of committing suicide. Since the knowledge of smoking's harmful effects has been laid before the public, one can no longer plead ignorance of self-destruction before the heavenly bar of justice. Since our elders have not taken the initiative in this matter, we as young members of the church must begin the movement to stop this deadly practice.
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Guest Editor
The DIAMOND

Dear Sir:

Once upon a time, there were six blind men who decided to go to the zoo to visit the elephant. Each of the six happened to come into contact with a different section of the animal’s anatomy, and each proceeded to describe the elephant in terms of his own experiences and sensations.

While these individuals were holding forth on the tree-like or spear-like qualities of the elephant, a passerby, who chanced to hear them, endeavored to give them a more accurate description of the pachyderm. “Pardon me, gentlemen, but the elephant is not really like a rope. You see, it is really an animal with four legs, and . . .” “Brainwashing,” interrupted one. “What a deplorable lack of originality,” sniffed a second. “To try to force us into your traditional pattern of thinking!” warned a third. “Who gave you an inside track to truth?” queried a fourth.

The passerby shrugged his shoulders and walked on, and the blind men continued their dissertations. And the elephant remained an elephant.

Sincerely,
Louis Y. Van Dyke
Dept. of History

Guest Editor's Reply

Dear Mr. Van Dyke:

Once upon a time, there was a big bad wolf who got himself boiled and walked on, and the blind men continued their dissertations. And the elephant remained an elephant.

Sincerely,
Alan Huisman

All of us who are associated with Dordt College have heard an appeal for vitality of thought and expression. We have been challenged to react—to prove that we are alert adults, not sheepish adolescents. If we are not too insipid to have noticed this challenge, we may be wondering where to begin this self-expression. As Christians we are required in all things to seek first the glory of God. So perhaps our most worthwhile beginning would be a reaction to Peter’s advice:

“Be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you.”

In other words, before we tear apart everything around us, we must be ready to defend our own convictions (or, to refer to the most basic necessity, we must establish convictions to defend). It is unreasonable for us to condemn someone else’s view unless we have a firm one of our own which can be supported.

We have no right to accuse our faculty of not thinking as long as we show no evidence that we want intellectualism. It is senseless to castigate sweepingly our college administration unless we have specific grievances to set forward and alternatives to present for consideration. In short, intelligent reflection forces us to exhibit a positive knowledge of the improvements or the opinions we want to promote, before we make accusations that we are being deprived of the right to have them.

We must never underestimate the importance of knowing what we believe for ourselves, and of being capable of defending our position. The future strength of the Reformed churches depends upon our awareness. The worth of our college and the significance of our individual contributions to God’s people and kingdom depends greatly on our discernment.

Have you been denied a voice to your thoughts? Or have you denied yourself and your responsibilities by saying nothing because you haven’t thought about anything?