DORDT COLLEGE

Student Publication of Dordt College, Sioux Center, Iowa

Volume VI Tuesday, November 27, 1962 Number Five

PEP CLUB TO SPONSOR TALENT

The Dordt Pep Club is sponsoring an all-school talent program to be held Monday, December 10, in the college auditorium. All students who would like to, are encouraged to participate. There is much talent in our school that goes unseen and unheard each year.

Anyone interested in participating in this program should contact one of the Pep Club officers or Dr. Roebroo-, as soon as possible. Dr. Roebroo will be in charge of auditions.

No admission will be charged, and the program will be open to all Dordt students. The Pep Club desires that all students cooperate to make this a worthwhile and enjoyable evening.

—Judy De Jong (P.), Sec.

“Thank You, Pep Club”

On Friday evening, November 9, 165 formally attired Dordt students assembled in the Commons. Each found his assigned place at one of the tables set for eight. With the glow of candles providing a lustre, Jane Buleyn offered a prayer, and the students seated themselves cheerfully, but with fitting dignity. While President B. J. Haan labored in the kitchen, the congenial faculty, heavily laden with platters of chicken, bowls of steaming gravy, potatoes, corn, and beans, served. Then student hosts and hostesses filled the plates. Delicious! The diners, sated, joined in a hymn of praise and a thanksgiving. The occasion proved memorable and unifying.

—Harold De Jong

Athletes’ Feats

—by Lee

Dordt’s first basketball game of the season will be played tonight. The team will play nicely or carelessly. The team members will show themselves to be men or children. The spectators will act as Christian fans by cheering, or they will act otherwise by booing.

In the past, the conduct of spectators and players has often been commended by the officials and by the opposition; but there have been exceptions. For example, last year after the Defenders had won a hard-fought contest, and the coaches were talking after the game, it caused little joy when Dordt’s coach was informed that opposition coach and bench had been continually harassed by name-calling and obscenities from a small group of students. The joy of victory was marred in consequence.

I am sure that for the majority of (Continued on Page 4)

Student Representatives

Left to right: Glenn De Stigter (F.), Harold De Jong (S.), Linda Vander Veen (S.), John Altena (F.), Dorothy Vander Lugt (F.), John Hilbelink (S.)

DRAMA CLUB TO ORGANIZE

Thursday, November 29, is set as the organizational meeting for the Dordt Drama club.

Students who were members of the Tom-Sawyer and last year’s Pride-and-Prejudice casts and production committees will attend this meeting. Other students who wish to join will submit their names to the club, which will decide whether their applications will be accepted.

At a past meeting Grace Brouwer, Nolan Vander Ark, Greta Vander Ziel, Mavis Assink, and Mr. William Lothers, advisor of the club, met to decide membership requirements and the agenda for the organizational meeting. The agenda will include the election of officers, choosing of a club name, appointing of a committee to draw up a constitution, and a discussion of future club activities.

Dates To Remember

December 1

Nov. 27—Basketball—Wessington Springs, H.
Nov. 29—Basketball—Freeman, A.
Dec. 1—Basketball—Bethany Lutheran College, H.
Dec. 2—Male Chorus—Bethel, Sioux Center
Dec. 3—B. Ball—Emmetsburg, H.
Dec. 6—B. Ball—Estherville, H.
Dec. 7—Travelogue—“Away to the South Seas”
Dec. 14—Basketball—Waldorf, H.
Dec. 15—Christmas Cantata—First Church, Sioux Center
Dec. 17—B. Ball—Emmetsburg, A.
Dec. 18—Christmas party
Dec. 20—Next issue of Diamond begins
Student observation seemingly is more emphatic and more freely verbal this year than previously. Students have been effective in club organization; student leadership has been outstandingly expressed in class campaigns and elections. And members of the student body have requested a special prayer service during international crisis.

Evidences of aggressive student responsibility are neither anomalous nor undesirable. Such evidences prove that young men and women here are not merely parroting textbooks but are thinking of their own thoughts. One of the purposes of Dordt College is to develop deliberating and responsible character. We need students who recognize apathy and are disgusted by it. Energetic and ambitious minds among Dordt’s student body can be vital assets. But we have seen ambitious clowns. Energy is of value only if it is properly used.

In the process of expressing desires and especially things we find undesirable, we have, quite indiscriminately, used a dangerous term—criticism. Webster says criticism is “characterized by a careful analysis” and it “implies an attempt at objective judging.”

Some have commented that it is good to be critical, but not “overly” critical. I doubt that “overly” attempting to make a carefully analyzed objective judgment will ever produce bad results.

In attempting so-called “constructive criticism” we have been something other than apathetic, but, in many instances, we have made no improvement. In attacking our curriculum and ourselves, in hyperbolizing situations hardly extant, we have been neither carefully analytical nor objective. We have been biased and sometimes actually untruthful. We have often resorted to exploiting personal prejudices.

As young men and women concerned with the growth and quality of our persons and of Dordt College, we will realize that not only “he” or “you” may be immature, but “I” am immature. “I” will make mistakes in judgment as will “you” and “he”; for which mistakes “I” should not condemn, but from which “we” should learn.

Our attitude must be positive. Our concern must be for the truth. Both mild acquiescence and undue fault-finding defeat the purpose of Dordt College as it is—a vital organism in that which we call “The Kingdom.”
Letters to the Editor, cont.

The smattering of facts in Dave’s letter neither presented the actual circumstances nor did it touch on the basic problems.

Worldly amusements, particularly theater attendance, seems to be one of the main issues in Dave’s letter. There are several points which one should consider when pondering this question.

The first, as juvenile as it may seem, is that since this is the first time that many Dordt students have been away from home and parental authority, some turn to movies. They have been told of the wrongs of movies, but never having seen one, they want to find out for themselves. Then there are those who go for no other reason than that they saw someone else going, and “If he can go, why can’t I?”

The second argument could be that certain students have attended movies quite regularly before and can not see any logical reason for ceasing to do so now.

In the first instance I feel that some allowance should be given—I’m not saying that one has to kill just to find out what it is like. It is the second group that will have to stop trying to use “rationalized” logic, and accept the authoritative word of our Synod: “Theater attendance must be judged not in the light of certain theaters or certain theatrical productions, but by the general character of what is put forth by the theater as a whole.” (Acts of Synod, 1928, page 32)

Dear Editor:

I feel that perhaps the church is too much a place of worship and not a place for entertainment. That state of affairs has come to pass because of the “low ebb” which the activities of Dordt students have reached.

In an attempt to remedy the situation for the few discontented people, I would like to offer two suggestions: First of all, we must change the attitude of constantly looking for the evil side of every situation. This is not only immature and “off color,” but sinful.

And finally, before we judge, let us take careful stock of ourselves to make sure that we are not judging others on the basis of our personal discontent.

Sincerely,
Gary Roelofs

Ship of Fools, Katherine Anne Porter
Little, Brown and Co., 1962

In her preface to Ship of Fools Miss Porter tells her readers that for this novel she used her impressions of her first trip to Europe to form the simple and almost universal image of the ship of this world on its voyage to eternity.

Although one might expect this book, written to portray mankind, to get bogged down with hazy symbolism, the author manages to keep her many characters very real and concrete.

On the Vera, the ship, there are many passengers who have the drifting unconcern common today. These people cannot be said to be evil; they are, however, guilty of the sin of supporting evil as they never bother to interfere or prevent injustices and wrongs done by others.

Some of the Fools, though, are actually evil. Among these are the Spanish dancers, for whom all the world exists as an object of hate, and in their hatred they steal, insult, bully, torture, and violate morality in particularly offensive ways.

The time of the story, 1931, and the nationality of the ship, German, fit in well with the theme of the story—the dehumanization of our day, which Miss Porter condemns. We see in many of the German characters the attitudes which made it possible for Hitler to succeed as much as he did.

Because of their feelings of superiority, they exclude their Jewish fellow-travelers, and they have hardly any feeling for the 876 deportees in the ship’s steerage. Their attitude results in selfishness, petty gossip, and cruelty to those outside their small select group of “pure bloods.”

Most of the characters are not attractive, but then neither are many of the people whom they symbolize.

Even apart from its theme, this bestseller is worth reading just to note how well the author commands her difficult material.

Sincerely,
La Verne Rens

Ship of Fools
by Deanna Ledeboer

The ship and its growing pains are so excruciating that the author commands her difficult material.

La Verne Rens
ATHLETES' FEATS - - -

(continued from page 1)

students the preceding incident will be enough incentive for them to conduct themselves according to the traditions of a Christian college. But for those who still doubt the merits of propriety, I offer these facts: A loud and long cheer has the effect of instilling spirit into those whom it supports, and it has quite the opposite effect on the opposition. A loud, long boo is appreciated by no one—not by your team, not by the opposition, and certainly not by the officials. As a cheering spectator you are part of a united effort to inspire your team to victory. But as a booring spectator you are just a disgruntled person venting his feelings, much as a braying ass would express his annoyance.

Then, also remember that a team and audience that do not identify themselves as boisterous rebels, but as good sports, often gain the breaks when there are breaks to be had.

Come to games prepared to show good conduct—to cheer Dordt's team to victory, not to boo it into ignominy.

golden hair. She rattled and sprayed till her hair looked very much as if it belonged to a bushman from Borneo.

One day after classes Milgrig decided to walk to the post office to mail a letter. She put on her grey coat with the huge fur collar and set out. As she passed under a large tree, a gorilla which had escaped from a nearby zoo pounced upon her and carried her off. She was never heard from again.

Moral: When girls go to college, they should not "rationally" change their hair styles.

Dordt Defenders for 1962-63

Following the concert presented in the college auditorium at Orange City, many comments were heard. The impression on the people was a good one. Of course, that is just a general summation.

The performers for the evening were the talented Gregg Smith Singers. The Singers, under the direction of Gregg Smith, sang music with great depth (as in Psalm 67 by Charles Ives) and a delightful array of folk songs.

The first selections lacked a certain vigor that radiated throughout the rest of the program. A stiffness, which presented itself uncomfortably to the audience, was retained throughout a majority of the numbers. However, a great amount of this stiffness was lost when the Singers started the second part, Shubert's Stabat Mater, which allowed the choir an excellent opportunity to display their ability in musical dynamics.

Although musically correct, Gregg Smith's work, Praise the Lord All Ye Nations, could have been placed elsewhere in the program. Perhaps it was placed at the end to group all polytonal numbers in one general section. However, Smith's composition was cheapened because it followed Charles Ives' Psalm 67. Ives' number also dealt with polytonality, and since Ives is apparently more experienced in music composition, his work tended to dominate Smith's.

The final part of the program was obviously the most popular, for the folk songs and the audience reaction to them seemed to enliven the Singers, and the program concluded on a very light note. Another such program would be welcome.

From left to right: Glen Steinsma, manager. Rodney De Jong, Stanley Veltkamp, Norman Prins, Larry Redeker. Ralph Roos, Ken Faber, Leon Fey, Elson Haan, Alden Altena, Larry Van Essen, Harvey Visscher, Harvey Blankespoor, coach.