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Communications: Theme of Retreat

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Incidentally....

by James Koldenhoven

Communications: Theme of Retreat

Some 450 students from Dordt College spent September 9 and 10 in a welcome break away from school at the 10th annual retreat at Camp Okoboji on West Lake Okoboji.

They concentrated on the overall theme of communications. Dr. James De Jong, Associate Professor of Theology and faculty adviser of the retreat-planning committee, said that the committee chose the theme because it "speaks to kids where they're at."

Daryl Vander Kooi, Associate Professor of Communications, spoke Friday night on the topic "You Know, I've Been Getting the Dirtiest Dishes Lately." He commented on how easy it is for persons living in close contact—roommates, for example—to become angry with each other and to fail to communicate properly.

Saturday morning, Charles Veenstra, Instructor of Communications, responded with "Don't Laugh, You Wash the Dishes

Too." He emphasized that a breakdown in communications is rarely only one party's fault.

The concluding address, given by Rev. J. B. Hulst, explained the need for Christian cooperation in communications, to make it possible for people to live and function together. Skits and demonstrations under the direction of Verne Meyer, Instructor of Theatre Arts, explored different ways people communicate.

As part of his presentation, Vander Kooi divided the students into groups of five to play a game called "War" or "Child's Play." The object was to collect certain items from their peers by trading, begging, or stealing. Afterwards, the students compared how they reacted to the challenge to defeat the other teams. They reported feelings of greed, selfishness, and the desire to win at all costs. The retreat later compared these experiments with Scriptural injunctions about communicating.

The retreat included a campfire hymn sing in the outdoor chapel by the lake, as well as free time for volleyball, basketball, frisbee, capture-the-flag, swimming, and mock television game shows.

Ebenezer, a Christian musical group

from Michigan, gave concerts both nights. The group, which sang at the Young Calvinist Convention in August, provided the retreat with a living example of communication in music and word.

Bonnie Miedema

Preacher Runs at Dordt College

A Baptist minister named Haydn Gilmore appeared in a recent Dordt College Lecture Series. Gilmore, author of the Zondervan publication *Jog For Your Life*, is the pastor of two congregations near Tunkhannock, Pennsylvania. He graduated from Dallas Theological Seminary and the Syracuse University School of Journalism. Before pastoring churches, he served as an Air Force chaplain, college instructor, and public relations director.

The Reverend Mr. Gilmore was invited by the Department of Physical Education at Dordt to deliver two lectures on the rapidly rising national interest in jogging. Gilmore, 48 years old, jogs about five miles a day. He began jogging ten years ago and has participated in several 26-mile marathons since then, including the famous Boston Marathon.

In his evening lecture Gilmore presented an exciting narration of what it feels like to run the Boston Marathon. The audience of students and joggers from Northwest Iowa (some who plan to run in

marathons) were delighted with Gilmore's wit and vivid portrayal of this challenging run.

In a presentation made earlier in the day, Gilmore spoke on matters relating to his book. The author-runner left no doubt that he is dedicated to the benefits of jogging when the following morning he joined students and community members in an open invitational jog. Some forty persons began the run, but only one finished with Haydn Gilmore at the end of nine miles.

Gilmore, pleased with his visit to Iowa and Dordt College, plans to feature the highlights of this trip in the *Runner's Gazette*, of which he is editor. He left Dordt College with a collection of writings as well as experiences. A good listener as well as conversationalist, Gilmore was especially impressed with the Reformed thinking that immediately became apparent, he said, as he visited with professors and students on campus.

Marion Van Soelen