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Sharing in Community Facilities

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formulation and is still comparatively flexible. Now would be the time for Christians to become active in government policy planning agencies in order to lend direction. The National Union of Christian Schools should also continue its systematic appeal for tax relief and/or tax support for private and parochial schools. We should continue to promote the idea that ours is indeed a pluralistic rather than a monistic society.

FOOTNOTES

1. John S. Brubacher, A History of the Problems of Education (New York and London: McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc., 1947), pp. 546ff.

2. Quoted in Brubacher, History, p. 43.

3. Brubacher, History, p. 43.

4. Ibid., 63.

5. Ibid., 64.

6. Ibid., 551.

7. Christopher J. Lucas, Our Western Educational Heritage (New York: Macmillan Company, 1972), p. 520.

8. Brubacher, History, p. 554.

9. Tyrus Hillway, Education in American Society, an Introduction to the Study of Education (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1961), p. 53.

10. R. Freeman Butts, The Education of the West, A Formative Chapter in the History of Civilization (New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company, 1973), p. 445.

11. Lucas, Educational Heritage, p. 520.

12. Ibid., pp. 520-521.

13. Howard B. Grose, "Aliens or Americans?" in The Educating of Americans: A Documentary History, ed. by Daniel Calhoun (New York: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1969), pp. 409-410.

14. Butts, Education of the West, p. 442.

15. Ibid.

16. Ibid.

17. Quoted in Brubacher, History, p. 567.

18. Butts, Education of the West, p. 442.

INCIDENTALLY....

SHARING IN COMMUNITY FACILITIES

"Joint-use facilities" is the phrase used to describe a concept which prevails in the Dordt College community. It means, simply, that facilities are shared by several identifiable groups in Sioux Center, including the College.

At a time of inflated prices, and in a small community where utilization of specialized space is imperative, joint-use of facilities is not only wise but necessary. In this ar-

rangement the College has available certain areas for its academic and student life programs, such as an indoor swimming pool, an athletic field, and, as is now being provided, a community center and a 400-seat theatre.

With a College student body of 950, and a city population of about 3,000, it would be impossible to consider separate provisions for each educational and civic group. Having this situation well in mind, the city govern-

ment over the past ten years has "sold" the idea of providing for and using space cooperatively. Group interests being served are the local public school, the Christian school, the community at large, and Dordt College.

The city, with matching funds from the federal government, has under development an 80-acre tract of land known as the Open Space Park. Facilities already in operation include Youth Fair Exhibition Barns and a Horse Riding Arena, a football field and rubberized field track, an olympic-regulation indoor swimming and diving pool, a quarter-mile auto race track, and a baseball field. Dordt College uses in particular the swimming pool, track, and baseball field for its Physical Education program.

Bond issue publicity for the construction of a new public school announced that joint-use would also be made of certain parts of that facility, in particular the 400-seat theatre auditorium. Through funds made available by the city, the Open Space Theatre, as it is called, is being professionally furnished with extra technical equipment in lighting, sound, and exterior docking. The theatre uses the modified thrust design, has a moveable portal to provide up to a 20-foot "arch," a floor pit, and other features which make it very versatile. Two raked-seating lecture rooms in the rear, separated from the main auditorium by folding doors, provide additional seating when desired, to about 600 capacity. College theatre, speech interpretation, and some

music programs will be carried out in this joint-use facility.

The most recent joint-use promotion has been made towards the purchase of the old Junior-Senior High School facility. The city is matching private contributions for this purchase, again in the name of joint-use, with plans to develop a year-round community center program. Programs there will be developed in both recreation and the arts, inviting all groups in the city and area to participate. Heavily trafficked areas, as well as specified rooms, will be used to display art collections and artifacts. Space will be dedicated to programs for senior citizens, youth programs, and family gatherings. Space will also be made available for both two- and three-dimensional artistic effort, as well as space for artists-in-residence. The local churches, too, have been invited to use the space for their educational programs.

Dordt College has made no commitment to sharing this facility, but it will be available beginning in the fall of 1975.

The most striking aspects of the joint-use concept are its economy and sense of corporate responsibility. As opposed to "empire building," where each authority, agency, financial entity, and institution works for its own interest and to the exclusion of other interests, joint-use development speaks from community interest that may be possible only where there has been first the development of Christian commitment for sharing.