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May 1957

Dordt Receives State Approval

Teachers To Be Certified By The State

Board Informed Of Accreditation

From the very beginning the faculty at Dordt College has worked to set up a teacher training program which would lead to the two year certificate in the State of Iowa. Our first concern was for the soundness of the program. We wanted a training program which would prepare our teachers for teaching in **Christian Schools**. This program had to carry out the basic ideals as to what we believed to be adequate training for teachers in Christian schools. A second concern was to set up our program to meet the requirements for approval by the Iowa State Department of Public Instruction.

The task of setting up such a program does not appear to be exceptionally difficult. Perhaps it would not have been as difficult as it was if the whole teacher certification program had been stable. However, during the past year and a half the idea of the two year teaching certificate has undergone basic changes. Often, in this changing period, it was not always clear as to exactly what was required. The basic changes were from programs in which large number of specific professional courses were specified to programs set up to carry out the basic philosophy of each individual teacher training institution.

After considerable revising and altering, the Dordt College teacher training program was submitted to the Division of Teacher Education and Certification of the Iowa Department of Public Instruction.

On April 16, Mr. J. C. Wrigt, the State Superintendent of Public Instruction sent a letter to Dordt College which indicated that the Division of Teacher Education and Certification had made a careful analysis of our proposed program and had approved it. This means "that your 1956-1957 second-year students will be able to receive the Professional Commitment Certificate."

Continued effort will be made to refine the program so that we may continue to give a distinctive education to our future Christian school teachers. Every effort will also be made to maintain the approval already granted.

Word was received from the Iowa Committee on Secondary School and College Relations that Dordt College has been granted limited approval.

This means that the three state institutions for higher learning in Iowa will accept transfer credits earned by students from Dordt College during the time that this limited approval is in operation.

The State Department of Public Instruction has also been notified of this limited approval. Two-year graduates of the Teacher Training Program at Dordt will receive the Professional Commitment Certificate through August of this year 1957.

Technically the state speaks of approval, not accreditation, but for all practical purposes these terms are used synonymously. By state approval we have in mind state accreditation.

The approval by the state is for the past two years of work. All credits earned by students during the past two years are valid for transfer. These credits will be honored by institutions outside the state as well as by the institutions within the state.

The work of the coming year will have to be reconsidered by the committee to determine whether or not the approval status will be maintained.

The term "limited" is applied to the approval because of the inadequacies of Dordt College in the field of science. To the committee this is a glaring inadequacy, and the committee is not willing to say that it will continue its approval very long if the college does not provide for genuine laboratory experiences in the field of science.

Receiving this limited approval by the state is an important step in the progress of Dordt College. Plans are underway to meet the problem of the science inadequacy so that full approval will be gained.

Accreditation is fundamental to the success of any college. Dordt College has worked toward this goal

D. Ribbens

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Science and Education

Enthusiasm for the natural sciences and the experimental method of learning is a comparatively modern phenomenon. Among the ancients, Aristotle used the methods of observation and experiment to reach some of his conclusions. Generally the tedium of minute observations, weighing, measuring, and calculating was somewhat below the dignity of the intellectually elite. During the Middle Ages, particularly, men were busy working out the logical implications of naive experience or the deliverances of prior authority. For example, Cosmas, a medieval cartographer, deduced that the sun disappeared behind a very high mountain in the north for a part of every twenty four hours thus causing the night.

Priests in the thirteenth century preached out of the "Sentences" of Peter Lombard if they preached at all. Philosophers were busy applying logic to the fragments of Aristotle which were then extant in the hope of drawing out some new conclusions. Then came Roger Bacon, a Franciscan friar, to say, "experimental science teaches experiri, that is, to test by observation or experiment the lofty conclusions of all the sciences." Bacon wrongly gave his experimental method the status of discrete discipline of study. In fact, he was ready to elevate it above the other branches of study.

Bacon's efforts in behalf of the experimental method were premature. He got into difficulty with the church and was given the opportunity to rethink his position in the solitude of a dungeon. Yet Bacon may have lighted the fuse which touched off the methodological dynamite that blasted the previous confidence in authority and the syllogism. By delayed action, the biggest detonations came with the Enlightenment of the eighteenth century. Since then Western culture has placed its confidence in the experimental method and has worshipped at the shrine of scientism.

As Calvinists, we should have no quarrel with scientific method as such. In fact, there is no reason why we should not be leaders in those fields of study which largely require the experimental method. Certainly, there is no group among the body of evangelical Christians who are more conscious of the fact that man has been placed under obligation to subdue the earth. This subjugation of nature, as we may equate the term earth here, cannot proceed apace without digging into its secrets experimentally. In opposition to all forms of naturalism, we believe, do we not, that the laws of nature are the laws God? Why then do we tend to view experimentation and the natural sciences with some suspicion? Perhaps the answer

is close at hand.

It may be that one of the causes of our uneasiness stems from the fact that the theory of evolution claims scientific status. Because we believe the theory of evolution is wrong, we are inclined to believe that there is something wrong with scientific methodology. We also find that the majority of eminent scientists do not believe in a personal God and creationism. This may lead us to a quick refuge in the authority of God's Word when we are brought under attack. Thus we act as if science is enemy territory where we can only enjoy a temporary and tenuous position. As Calvinists we ought to boldly assert that science can only proceed to its proper end, the discovery of ultimately verifiable facts, under the aegis of Christianity.

There is still another reason for our distrust of science. In this case our distrust is well founded. The innovators in the various fields of science have often been frank to admit that their conclusions are only tentative or that they are merely theories.

However, in the process of percolating down to the level of secondary education, and perhaps even higher education, these theories have been palmed off as fact by the dilettanti. Such has been the case with the theory of evolution. An obvious conclusion should intrude itself at this point. We cannot, under the above circumstances, relegate to secularists the task of educating our youth in the natural sciences. In the first instance because fact must be separated from theory and hypothesis. But perhaps more importantly because facts do not speak for themselves in education. In secular education they are made to speak for a universe to which the personal God of Christianity is denied entrance. In Christian education we do not give facts any disinterested or ultimate standing. We can only speak of facts as they find their ultimate verification in the ultimate fact of God. So it turns out that the Christian not only has the mandate to explore experimentally, but we are forced to conclude that the non-Christian can only attempt to set up for himself islands of meaning in a sea of meaninglessness.

Science gave the devotees of secular education a new confidence. Science was to lead the way to Utopia. Modern methods of destruction have shaken the earlier confidence. Yet man looks hopefully to science to make his uneasy sojourn more endurable. The worldling finds solace in the physical comforts which science can produce. The Christian by contrast has always looked upon life as an ethical struggle. So in his education he has stressed the normative disciplines rather than the applied sciences. Partly, perhaps, because he retains

a sort of medieval uneasiness in his approach to physical enjoyments. And so it is that we are inclined to deny the natural sciences their rightful place in our educational system. This is not as it should be. It is not to our credit that we might still be making missionary journeys afoot if we did not have the applied science of the worldling at our disposal. Our cultural and our evangelical mandates are complementary. They are not mutually exclusive. Christian education must therefore produce not only religious leaders but it must also produce leaders in the field of science. It may rightly demand that it dominate all fields of human activity.

Nick R. Van Til

The Science Department

The following science courses are given at Dordt College at the present time: Biological Science for Teachers (one semester), Physical Science for Teachers (one semester), Health and Nutrition (one semester) and a general course in Introduction to Physical Science (two semesters). The above mentioned courses are not laboratory courses since no laboratory room is available at the present time.

For the development of a worthwhile science program in a junior college, courses in biology, chemistry and physics should be included as laboratory courses. Western Christian High and other Christian high schools have similar science laboratory courses on the high school level in their curricula. Dordt College should give students an opportunity to continue in these sciences. It is with this in view that a five year plan has been suggested.

This plan would add a course in biology as soon as a laboratory is available, preferably this coming fall term. This course would be a two semester course in general biology. Within two years after the introduction of biology, if enrollment warrants such and a laboratory is available, a two semester course in general inorganic chemistry will be added. Following the chemistry, again within two years if possible, a course in General Physics would be introduced. This will also be a two semester course.

If the above plan is followed the three new courses would be added in five years or less. With the addition of such courses the college would be able to give the general college students training in any one or all of the three basic sciences, biology, chemistry and physics. These courses are basic for further study in science especially for those who wish to become secondary school teachers in the sciences.

George Pals

Mr. Peter De Boer Accepts Appointment To Dordt College

Mr. Peter De Boer hails from Paterson, New Jersey. There he attended the North 4th Street Christian School and graduated from Eastern Academy. In 1951, he graduated from Calvin College with an A.B. degree in Education. Subsequently, he attended the Montclair State Teacher's College at Upper Montclair, New Jersey, and gained his Masters degree in Social Studies. In January 1953, he began teaching at Western Christian High School and taught such subjects as government, music appreciation, English, and history. During the summer of 1955, he studied at the University of Iowa on a scholarship granted by the National Union of Christian Schools.

Last summer, De Boer did graduate work in English at Montclair State Teacher's College and plans to continue his studies there this coming summer. Recently he received notification of his appointment to a graduate assistantship at the University of Iowa in the history department. Because of prior commitment to teach at Dordt College, he was unable to accept this appointment. Mr. De Boer is a member of the Mississippi Valley Historical association, president of the Northwest Iowa Chapter of the Calvin Alumni, and a member of the executive committee of the Calvinist Minister Teacher Association. At Dordt College, he will teach freshmen composition, freshmen speech, sophomore American literature, and will be in charge of the Dordt A Capella Choir.

Mr. De Boer is married to the former Joyce Kusters of Sioux Center. He has two children, Bonnie Jo, and Walter John.

C.V.S.

Dordt's First Graduation Set May 24

In order that we may fittingly celebrate the gracious keeping care of our God in the past two years and acknowledge His great blessings over us, the Executive Board of our college has decided that it is most fitting that we should close the school year with a public program. This program which we may term a graduation for those students who have completed two years at Dordt is scheduled for Friday evening, May 24 at 8 p.m. in the Bethel Christian Reformed Church of Sioux Center. The Rev. Paul Holtrop has been chosen as graduation speaker. Rev. Holtrop serves the Kanawha Christian Reformed Church. He is one of the members of the Executive Board representing the new district which was added to our constituency

COLLEGE CHOIR IN SPRING CONCERT SEASON



Appearing for the first time in their new robes, the Dordt College Choir opened its spring concert season on April 8 with a concert in the Christian Reformed Church of Corsica, So. Dakota where it was most hospitably and enthusiastically received. Subsequent concerts have also evoked enthusiastic response. These have included concerts in the Bethel Christian Reformed Church at Sioux Center, Iowa and in the Christian Reformed churches of Prinsburg, Minnesota, and Sheldon, Iowa. The choir will conclude its concert appearances in the first week of May with concerts in the First Christian Reformed Church of Edgerton, Minnesota on May 1 and in the Kanawha Christian Reformed Church, Kanawha, Iowa on May 3. The choir is under the direction of Professor Nick Van Til.

The choir at Dordt College serves principally two functions. It gives the students who have musical talent an opportunity for musical expression and the improvement of their vocal work. The choir also serves as a link between the school and those who support it, as the choir goes out and meets the constituency in its concert work. With reference to the latter function, it is most gratifying to note the very hospitable reception which the choir has enjoyed in its concert appearances. This hospitality is most inspiring because it reflects the interest of our people in their school.

N. Van Til

last summer. The program of the evening will be as follows:

Opening prayer — Rev. Richard J. Venema
 Psalter Hymnal 240—Audience
 Making History at Dordt—Herman Nibbelink
 Musical Selections—College Choir
 Address—Rev. Paul Holtrop
 Presentation of Certificates — Mr. Arnold Christians, Chairman of the Board
 Psalter Hymnal 451—Audience
 Closing Prayer—Rev. C. Van Schouwen
 Doxology—Audience

BOARD INFORMED OF ACCREDITATION

(continued from page 1)

from the very beginning. The efforts have proved successful even though the approval is limited at this time and even though it will have to be reconsidered next year. It is hoped that when the committee reviews the work at Dordt College next year, unconditional approval may be gained.

L. R. Haan

Forensics

Members of the Dordt College student body have recently participated in two junior college forensics festivals. On April 16 the group traveled to Mason City to participate in the Northwest Iowa Speech Festival. On April 25 the students participated in the Iowa Junior College Speech Festival at Ellsworth Junior College at Iowa Falls.

Students participating were: Gertrude Haan and Donna Hengeveld in interpretative reading; Evelyn Graves in original oratory; Barbara Wassenaar in radio speaking.

The one act play, "The Revolt of Mother" was also presented. Members of the cast were Gertrude Swier, Theresa Jouwstra, Barbara Wassenaar, Gene Van Stedum, Roger De Stigter and Herman Nibbelink.

The debate team participated in the debate tournament held in connection with Festival in Iowa Falls. Members of the debate team are: Gertrude Swier and Wilson Haarsma for the affirmative; Helen Vander Lugt and Elizabeth Van Tol for the negative.

D. Ribbens

CAMPUS NEWS

A changed spirit comes upon Dordt students during April. It is a psychological something which accounts for lethargy at work and vivacity at play. This spirit also expresses itself tangibly. Witness, for example the cotton frocks, ingenious pranks, and increased number and duration of strolls and sessions under the apple trees.

Let me hasten to add, however, that we also work. Examinations which are only thirteen school days distant hang about our heads like six-tailed whips. And unfortunately we are not exceptions to the general fury of places to go and things to do before the school year closes.

The choir has made four concerts to date. Our first was in Corsica on April 5. Our reception there was very cordial. On April 14, we sang in the Bethel Christian Reformed Church in Sioux Center to a large crowd. On April 26 we returned to Prinsburg and on the following Sunday we sang in Sheldon. Many of the older folk enjoy the song "Daar Ruischt Langs de Wolken" even though our pronunciation is more English than Dutch. We have two concerts remaining.

A play cast presenting "The Revolt of Mother" by Freeman and a group of individual speakers competed in the district speech meet at Mason City. On April 25 the game group plus the debate team, went to Iowa Falls for the State Contest. At this contest, Gertrude Swier received a superior rating for her part as mother in the play. We feel that this is an excellent way to represent Dordt College among the junior colleges in Iowa.

E. Van Tol

Donations To Library

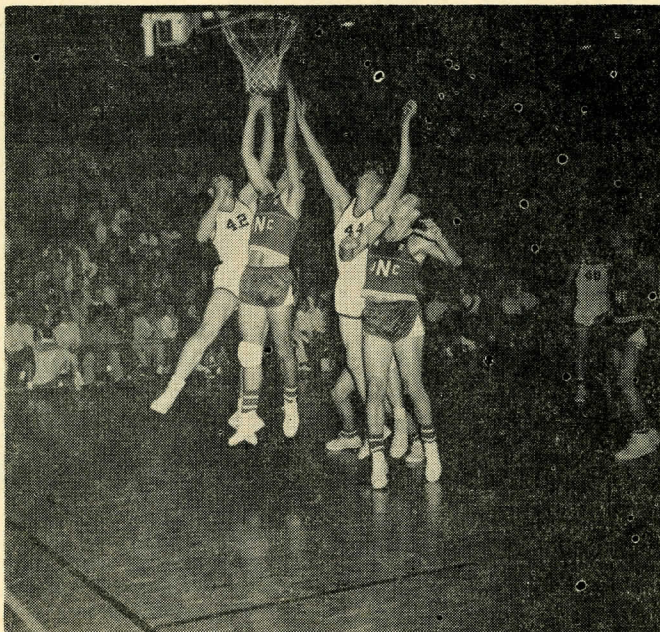
Dr. H. Meeter, professor at Calvin College, has recently sent several cartons of books for the Dordt library. In all, nine cartons were included in the shipment.

Most of the books donated by Dr. Meeter are in the field of religion. Many of the volumes are expensive books and constitute a valuable addition to the library.

Also included in the shipment is a set of Encyclopedia Britannica and several volumes in fields other than religion.

With the donations of money from various societies this year, the allotment from the Board, and personal gifts such as this one from Dr. Meeter, the library is rapidly reaching toward the standards necessary for a junior college.

DORDT'S BASKETBALL SEASON



The first basketball team of Dordt College was coached by Mr. Hazen Brummel. A schedule of eleven games, six home and five away, was completed after which the team was entered in the Iowa Junior College Regional Tournament at Estherville, Iowa. In this tournament the team placed third, being defeated by Waldorf College in the first game and winning over Emmetsburg Junior College in the consolation finals.

The record for the year was seven wins and six losses. The boys practiced in the small Sioux Center Christian School gymnasium. Four home games were played in the Sioux Center Public school gymnasium and two in the Hull Memorial building at Hull, Iowa. As a mem-

ber of the Northwest Iowa Junior College Conference, games were scheduled with Northwestern College of Orange City, Emmetsburg Junior College of Emmetsburg, Estherville Junior College of Estherville and Waldorf College of Forest City. Besides the conference schools, the team met squads from Freeman Junior College of Freeman, South Dakota, and the Nebraska State Trade School of Milford, Nebraska.

Members of the Dordt squad (the Defenders) were: Gerald De Stigter, Sioux Center, John Wissiak, Middleburg, Arlin Meyer, Volga, South Dakota, Arnold Davelaar, Sioux Center, Herman Van Donge, Sioux Center, Roger De Stigter, Sioux Center, John Link, Prinsburg, Minnesota, Gilbert Blankespoor, Hull, Bernard Alons, Orange City, Preston Droog, Pollock, South Dakota, Gene Van Stedum, Vesper, Wisconsin, and Fred Walhof, Edgerton, Minnesota. Andrew Brummel, Rock Valley, served as student manager. Dordt College cheer leaders at the games during the past year were Diane Duistermars, Bernice Guerink, and Barbara Wassenaar.

The schedule for the next school year will include games with the teams met this season with Worthington, Minnesota added. With more experience in the field of college basketball we are looking forward to an even more successful season next year.

The boys and their coach are to be congratulated for their efforts and their successful record in this first year of basketball at Dordt College.

George Pals, Athletic Director

Mr. and Mrs. Nick Feikema of Sibley, Iowa who recently celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary requested that the gifts which they had received from relatives and friends be given to Dordt College.

With these gifts which were in the form of money an attractive dictionary stand and an unabridged dictionary were purchased. This fills a needed place in the library.

Many thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Feikema and to all who contributed. A bronze plate on the side of the stand marks the occasion of the gift.

* * * * *

Two attractive and very useful magazine racks were also donated to the library recently. These stands are gifts from Mr. George Pals and Mr and Mrs. Leonard Haan.

An excellent Bible commentary set was recently sent by Mr. E. Schoolmeester of Edgerton.