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Reflections

In an Alien Land

by Mary Van Rheenen

This essay, written for Writing II class by freshman Mary Van Rheenen, appears in Spring Leaves, NW's annual student literary publication. For a complimentary copy of Spring Leaves, write to the NW publicity office.

I am a stranger to this land; I have never seen spring wake this place from winter's night. Tell me, is spring here like it was back home? Oh, I'm not asking about the part of spring with nesting birds, balmy breezes, and flowers—spring does that sort of thing everywhere. I want to know about the prelude to the flowers, the time when the only hint of new life is in a wild beckoning to freedom on the wind and a throbbing of new growth impatiently waiting to surface. Does your spring come like that—wet and invigorating on the tails of winter? Does it hold out on cold hands the promise of warm sunny days? Or when it spills the springs across Spring Valley Road and paints the scrub willows along Otter Creek with a mist of pale green will I yearn to be there; will I yearn to be home?

Back home an undercurrent of spring could be felt while patches of soggy snow still clung to the hills and sank under last year's dry, dead grass. A raw south wind would blow the valleys clear of winter, rattle the last withered brown leaves from the trees, and sweep everything clean, all waiting and ready to come alive again. Are there such lonely winds here, too, that prepare the way for life still wrapped away from the cold?

While snow yet lingered in the forks of trees shrouded in winter grays and browns and on the drab olive branches of the sober cedars, the maples would begin to stir. Their buds would grow bigger and redder against the black bark, spraying the gray sky with welcome dots of color. Are there any maples here with buds that swell until they burst into yellow blossoms that trail red-tipped streamers?

Even as the maples blossomed, the last tired patches of snow would sink away with the advent of spring rains, leaving puddles of water and swollen creeks. The crystal sound of water would be everywhere: dripping from eavespouts, trickling out from under snow banks, bubbling over springs, tinkling through ravines and along the roads, rushing to flood the icy creeks. Soft drizzles and wind-whipped rains would fall from the colorless sky for a whole week. Each day would be as gray and wet as all the others, but, in one jewelled afternoon, the rains would take effect and transform the spongy earth into vivid, emerald green. Do your sodden hills turn magically green in the space of a day?

Driven north by the wind, flocks of red-winged blackbirds would return, peppering the green hills, swooping into the tree-tops like a giant leaf that curves and curls upward on the wind. I have seen blackbirds here, but do the migrating flocks jangle like a thousand windchimes in the naked trees?

Back home the tree limbs would not be bare much longer. Starting with the willows, soon every tree would be a pastel green, shading the hills like a reborn autumn with more subtle hints and variations than I would have imagined possible. The rest of spring would soon follow with violets and plowed fields and an abundance of new-borns—cuddly kittens, noisy new-hatched eggs, gangly-legged fawns.

Does your spring come like that? Will I recognize its wild, free introduction? Or, when spring calls me to open doors and brave the wind, will I miss it? Will I miss it?
The following selections are from a series of two chapel talks given in March by Ben Wiese, Associate Professor of Sociology.

THE PLAYBOY PHILOSOPHY

In these days of uncertainty, many are experiencing identity crises as they reject childhood ideas and grope for new self-images. Males and females are conscious of their maleness and femaleness, not as facts, but as problems. On this dilemma, the playboy philosophy thrives.

Today I will express a few of the basic points of the playboy philosophy through a conversation with Candy. [Candy was represented by a large stuffed bunny rabbit seated on a chair next to me.] Although it may be difficult, try to imagine the bunny as a caricature of femininity and me as a playboy.

"Hi Candy! Man, you should really dig me. Take a good, appreciating look at me. I wear the right clothes. I know the best restaurants. I know the best clubs. I know the best drinks and food. I really know my way around. I go to the best contemporary plays and theatres. I drive the latest model sports car. I know just what to do and say in all situations. Stick with me and you will really have a good time.

"I am not a clod, a square, a fanatic, a boor, a puritan, a socialist, a do-gooder, or a teetotaller. I have finesse; I don't embarrass anyone by my awkwardness. I am broadminded and I won't disturb you with Victorian, puritan, or religious scruples. I also have some rules that I follow very precisely, and try to keep up-to-date:

1. Thou shalt not wear double-breasted suits, or single-breasted suits if the squares or clods do.
2. Thou shalt not swing or sway with Sammy Kaye; listening to Lawrence Welk is an unforgivable sin. Definitely one should not go to the concert series, student recitals, or groups performing religious music.
3. Thou shalt not drive Fords, Chevies, or other plain cars—nothing but the latest sports cars with the proper accessories.
4. Thou shalt not be crude, cavemanish in one's love-making, and above all—thou shalt not be guilty of chastity.
5. Thou shalt not be stuffy or intellectual.
Mr. Ben Wiese, Associate Professor of Sociology

"I sympathize with the playboy's revolt against narrow, prudish puritanism. There needs to be room in our religious life for the impulse which prompts us to enjoy the 'riot and fecundity of life.' The playboy is not wrong when he champions the joy of life, only when he equates joy with pleasure, assuming that the only alternative to puritanism is self-seeking hedonism."

6. Thou shalt not be emotional or sensitive to the fine arts.
7. Thou shalt not read The Church Herald, The Banner, Spring Leaves, or The Sunday School Guide.

"Gee! Candy. We should really have a ball together. I don't allow any childhood inhibitions, or moralistic cultural conventions, or parental rules or regulations, or guilt and shame to interfere with my life. I'm liberated from all these infantile, juvenile inhibitions and restrictions—I'm free! All the stuff about pangs of conscience when we have sex together is foolish. I'm an adult who can accept sex and love as a part of life without all that stuff about commitment, fidelity, loyalty, guilt or shame, modesty, blushing, and acceptance. After all, sex is fun and only physical. There is no reason why we should not go ahead, why we should take it so seriously—it really has no meaning beyond the pleasure of the moment. Oh yes! Candy! You and I can really swing together."

What do we have? Casualness and unruffled poise, a declaration of independence, a recreational view of sex, women as desirable accessories, no emotional involvement, a burning desire to play it cool, a need to be one-up on all others, and an obsessive preoccupation with proving masculinity.

It's not all bad. I'm sympathetic with the playboy's concern for style. As a Christian, I've always been upset by those people in the church who seem to assume that blah is more Christian than style, that averageness is more Christ-like than distinctiveness. However, lowbrows as well as highbrows are being non-Christian in their judgments when they elevate class and culture distinctions into the category of the ultimate.

Secondly, speaking from what I genuinely feel is a Christian perspective, I sympathize with the playboy's revolt against narrow, prudish puritanism. There needs to be room in our religious life for the "yea-saying impulse of biblical faith," the impulse which prompts us to enjoy the "riot and the fecundity of life." The playboy is not wrong when he champions the joy of life, only when he equates joy with pleasure, that the only alternative to puritanism is self-seeking hedonism.

As a Christian, then, I can see positive values in the playboy philosophy but this doesn't blind me to its weaknesses.

As we conclude, let us pray: God help us to deal constructively with our problem of identity. The playboy says, "There are two kinds of men—the clods and the sharpies;" but Christ has made us aware that "all men are sinners and have fallen short of the glory of God." The playboy says, "I'm free to do as I please;" but the Christian commitment implies, "Make me a captive, Lord, and then I shall be free." The playboy says, "My body is mine, to use in any way I see fit;" but the Bible says, "My body is the Temple of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, I shall glorify God in my body." The playboy says, "What I do is my own business;" but you have told us to "take care lest this liberty of yours somehow becomes a stumbling block to the weak. You are your brother's keeper." The playboy says, "I am a mirror, reflecting what other people desire of men;" but we as Christians are commanded, "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind."

So here, God, we have two kinds of men, two ways of life. Ultimately we must choose between them. The choice is now before us. Lead us in thy way. Amen.

THE MISS AMERICA IMAGE

Too much of the time we do not see the potentials of each other as total or complete persons, but only look at the external, visible, culturally valued and emphasized characteristics: physical appearance, beauty, clothes, hair styles, clothing styles, cosmetic creations, and behavior such as displayed by aggressive athletes, social graces, consumption patterns, and life styles. For a moment, for illustrative purposes, let us focus upon the cultural phenomenon of the Miss America Contest [could also be Mr. America, Miss Reingold, Miss Universe, or Playgirl of the Month] as a clue to how
Mr. Ben Wiese, Associate Professor of Sociology

"God has created each of us as a unique person with various talents and abilities which are not to be entrapped in external characteristics but developed for our human fulfillment. When with courage we develop these uniquenesses, they are complementary and fulfilling to all mankind, to meet man's three-fold needs (physical, mental-emotional, and spiritual)."

our culture views the ideal female person. Because, if in fact, she is the queen of femininity, as Bert Parks claims she is and keeps reminding us from year to year in monotonous and numbing rhetoric, we are justified in asking just what kind of an ideal she is, or, as some suggest, "it is." Is this single mold view of personhood of female identity [50 females parading across the stage resembling more a parade of clones than persons] helpful to us as we seek an approach to ethics and morality, or is it disabling and limiting?

Can an identity be built around the stereotype which in itself is very conflicting? According to the presentation of the "Miss America" ideal, a successful candidate must emulate a particular model of beauty, be inviting, suggestive, sexy, yet at the same time be a picture of innocence and purity. She is equally at ease in a casual play outfit for her talent presentation [which of course must be an act that is socially acceptable], a shapely swim suit as she parades across the stage, and a dignified gown. On the surface she is characterized by her dedication, courage, dignity, and patience.

One of the most interesting statements made by the queen contestants, and especially the winner of the contest, is that she believes all, or almost all, American girls are like her; and except for the grace of the Junior Chamber of Commerce which hosts many of the contests, they would also be there as a candidate. She believes that all other American girls believe in the same things that she does; and as her lips quiver, and the tears flow, she says that she is really surprised that she made it!

If it is true that no one is born a man or a woman, merely male and female, and that we become men and women according to the models provided by our culture, Miss America indeed confers identity on those millions for whom she is the incarnation of true womanhood—just as the male model of virility, aggressiveness and dominance is really nothing more than the traditional double standard of human sexuality contemporized.

Is personal identity really no more than a visual outward conformity to a carefully defined uplifted, made-up, sprayed down, brasless stereotype with all the correct measurements—or the stereotypes of the playboy who wears the right clothes, behaves the right way, and consumes correctly?

I would suggest that the images we have allured to have produced tremendous tensions between what we think is expected of us as male or female and what we actually know ourselves to be; between what is demanded of us and what we long to demand of ourselves. The Bible is most perceptive at this point. It suggests that we need to recognize that God has created each of us as a unique person with various talents and abilities which are not to be entrapped in external characterstics but developed for our human fulfillment [basically internal]. When with courage we develop these uniquenesses, they are complementary and fulfilling to all mankind, to meet man's three-fold needs found in the fact that he is body, mind and soul [physical, mental-emotional, and spiritual].

The first step in developing an ethic of interpersonal relationships is to accept differences manifested by others, not as threatening, but as complementary for us as individuals and groups. Human needs can then be more adequately met. The strong aid the weak; the weak fulfill the need of the strong to help. The emotional needs the more stable, sure and confident; the rational needs the emotional to remain fully human. The compulsive talker needs the passive listener; the passive listener needs the talker. Wherein do we find conformity to a narrow model of physical beauty or other specific behavior patterns as practical—or even real?

The Bible also says that what a man is in his heart is more important than what he looks like. The internal character of man is the significant part—not the external, what he wears or what he eats. So when we choose friends or dates, or join organizations because of the external qualities of persons, we may, in fact, be robbing ourselves of the very relationship with others that we most need to reach our own fulfillment, to fill in the gaps in our own existence, and therefore, also denying others the opportunity for growth. Research demonstrates clearly that there is no positive correlation between physical beauty and success in interpersonal relationships. A very good exercise for us all would be to seek out a person very different from ourselves—yes, maybe even one we dislike intensely—and try to become friends with him, willing to accept the surprises he has to offer in terms of the richness of his life.

Further, all persons basically need to be accepted and loved for themselves. Each has a life to live; all are invested with dignity by our creator. We cannot be treated as objects. We need to see each other as total persons rather than as caricatures of some narrow idea. Christ's command was to "love your neighbor as yourself." This implies that never should a person seek to harm, belittle, diminish, restrain, exploit, or use another person—or stand in his way—or deny him growth to meet his needs.

Shall we pray together [joining hands, with our eyes wide open, being conscious of the diversity of people surrounding us]: God, we are all one in you. Help us to understand that we all need each other with our diversity: tall, short, heavy, thin, quiet, talkative, mature, immature, lonely, outgoing; our different looks, personalities, beliefs, ideas, dreams, ideas, goals, insights, and experiences. Help us to relate to each other as persons interested in meeting each other's needs so that our own needs may be more fully met, instead of relating as objects, stereotypes, and fakery social models which limit us in our relationships. Please help us. In Christ's name we pray. Amen and amen.
Remember those lazy summer days at Grandma’s house, spitting innumerable watermelon seeds in the shade, then running inside to a supper of corn on the cob smothered in butter? Remember the county fair, where the big kids won panda bears or dunked some stranger in a huge tub of water, while you longed to try it too? How about the family reunions where the grown-ups sat around small-talking or arguing about politics while you played shyly with cousins you hadn’t met before?

Old-fashioned get-togethers aren’t just memories, not at the Northwestern College Family Fair. A project of the Northwestern Women’s Auxiliary, the Fair involves over 1,000 women from 125 Reformed churches in Iowa, South Dakota, Nebraska, Minnesota, and Wisconsin working year around: crocheting sweaters and dish cloths, writing letters to friends and acquaintances, hunting for bright red felt for Northwestern pillows, searching basements and attics for white elephants, starting buds off philodendrons. This year’s fair, to be held July 25, beginning at 3 p.m., is under the direction of Cheryl Wolf of Sheldon, assistant Marlene Schuur of Sioux Center and numerous booth chairpersons.

Fair day is like Christmas, according to Cheryl, with booth managers opening packages from various churches with the expectancy of children. All afternoon young and old explore the booths, to buy or just to look and chat. Scattered on the lawn are booths of Used n Reused, Toys n Togs, Arts n Crafts, Holidays n Happenings, Sweet n Treat, Cheese n Crackers, Kitchen n Kupboard, Snoop n Snack, Buds n Bloom, Knit n Stitch, Grow n Show, and N Shop. From stuffed toys, Valentine’s Day decorations, books and baked goods to aprons, cheeses, plants, and fresh vegetables, the afternoon offers lots of old-fashioned creativity to investigate.
Cheryl Wolf ('68), 1978 Family Fair Chairperson

"I feel like a child at Christmas time during Family Fair, opening packages from different churches. It's fun! Last year there was such a tremendous amount of baked goods donated by local churches that we didn't think we'd get rid of everything. But they were sold out before the afternoon was over!

"I'd like to see more emphasis on class reunions. There's no other time for NW classes to get together, so let's get something going at Family Fair."

Sometime during the day the kids convince their folks to stop at the Sundaes 'n Such department for delicious dishes of ice cream while seated in the shady parlor at round tables with red and white stripes. Umm . . . (Mom and Dad couldn't have passed by that booth much longer anyway.)

The hobby show, with Indian artifacts, paintings, and collections of dolls from around the world, attracts the entire family, as does the children's play directed by Dr. E., perhaps Robin Hood or The Brementown Musicians. And kids of all ages can't resist the carnival games of balloon popping and ringtossing.

Class reunions are a relatively new thing—this year the classes of 77, 72, 67, 62, 57, 52, etc., will get together. Many come from Sioux county or nearby—others return to see how the Dutch settlement of Orange City is doing. Some plan their vacations around the Family Fair, writing to urge friends from college to come, eager to discover how they've changed (get addresses from the NW Alumni Office). Dorms are available for those who need housing.

If families split up during the day, they usually unite again in the evening for barbequed beef, corn on the cob, ice cold watermelon, and visits with friends and classmates. The Fair ends with the traditional auction—furniture, frozen steaks and picnic baskets donated by area businessmen, with something for everyone.

Who needs super-duper double ferris wheels, 15-projector media presentations, and three-headed man side shows? Instead come for a day of old-fashioned fun at the Northwestern Family Fair.
At first glance one notices nothing extraordinary about John De Wild. He is of average height and build. His presence is not overbearing nor is his demeanor overpowering. Apparently he's just another face in the crowd.

After observing him, talking with him and interacting with him, hasty generalizations change. One finds a dedicated, committed and concerned Christian—dedicated to the people he knows, committed to dealing with the problems of life, and concerned about his responsibility towards his work.

"If I belong to Jesus Christ and he says 'serve me,' that involves a responsibility," stated De Wild, whose position at Northwestern is Director of Church Relations. "My need to be responsible to Christ is more important than personal benefits from any decision I make."

De Wild believes Christians are called to be servants or slaves to Christ. "Our first purpose is to glorify God. Therefore everything we do relates to our service to him." This understanding is exhibited through activities in which De Wild participates.

A well-known figure in the Reformed Church in America, De Wild feels serving the church is part of his responsibility to the Kingdom of God.

"If I belong to Jesus Christ and he says 'serve me,' that involves a responsibility."

"I've never been a deacon," he chuckled, "otherwise I've held many offices and positions." Among his numerous responsibilities are elder, Sunday School superintendent, president of classis, chairman and member of the Board of Theological Education, member of the Board for "Temple Time" (which is now "Words of Hope"), and member of the NWC Board of Trustees. These various positions allow De Wild to taste of a variety of needs and issues that become his concern, exhibiting his dedication to people and commitment to dealing with problems.

As Christians called by God's Holy Spirit, we are possessed by Him. He owns us.

Also, I enjoy being a leader and this job offers leadership opportunities. I don't picture myself as amazingly imaginative but as one who is able to carry out and lead an idea once it has been presented."
John De Wild, Director of Church Relations

"As Christians we are called to be servants or slaves to Christ. Our first purpose is to glorify God. Therefore everything we do relates to our service to him."

Part of De Wild's job includes a number of unique opportunities like the Church-College Colloquium and the Ministers' Conference, annual events held in appreciation of the church's support.

The colloquium is an opportunity for pastors and faculty to discuss the value of Christian higher education. Held in February, Dr. Friedhelm Radandt, Vice President for Academic Affairs, spoke on "Christian Higher Education Today: Problems and Challenges." Later in the morning a panel explained the concept of the "total life" experience for students. Members included Dr. Bruce Murphy, Dean of Student Life; Doug Scholten, president of Student Christian Fellowship; Denise Den Hartog, student activities intern; Michele Potts, residence hall director (Fern Smith); and Ellis Scheevel, residence hall director (Heemstra). Following a question and answer period, a noon meal was shared, allowing time for more conversation.

At the ministers' conference a special speaker comes to campus to talk with pastors and their wives, with a public address presented in the evening. Tom Skinner, a native of Harlem, New York, was featured speaker for this year's April 4 event. Skinner has a long list of credentials including offices he's held, organizations he's belonged to, school's he's attended, and books he's written. Most important, however, is his work with Tom Skinner Associates (TSA), an association of people who share the same vision of reaching black America for Christ. Organized in 1964 the association seeks to be a catalyst in forming ministries to black communities, campuses, businesses, and other areas of life.

Pictured are, left to right: Dr. Sylvio J. Scorza, Professor of Religion, chatting with a visiting pastor at the colloquium; John De Wild; and Tom Skinner, guest at the April 4 ministers' conference.
According to Wojcik, biblical authors deliberately design their stories. "Looking at the twists and turns, asking why, is exciting. An adventuresome spirit is needed to ask what the author noticed, left out, juxtaposed, commented on, exhibited.

Often we read "this was done to fulfill . . ." "The authors consciously allude to ideas in their own previous history."

During the conference Wojcik offered specific ways and examples of looking at the Bible as literature. Using Matthew, chapter 14, he juxtaposes the two stories (v. 3-12 and v. 13-21). In the first story, the beheading of John the Baptist by Herod is told; in the second, Jesus feeding the five thousand. Wojcik analyzes: "In the Herod story the main event is a party for aristocrats in an inside, closed world. Herod is in charge of the party with a mother and daughter able to influence what happens. John is killed and his head is served on a platter. In the Jesus story a gathering of the poor takes place 'with Jesus teaching the people outside, in a world open to all. Jesus is the leader and the disciples influence what happens. The five loaves and two fish are broken and a miraculous meal is served in a basket. What do we have? A contrast between the kingdom of Satan and the kingdom of God."

"... When the narrative countenance changes it does so as the many expressions of a single maturing face."

passed over in silence or brought to the reader's attention."

In a literary approach to the Bible those are the kinds of questions asked.

Wojcik sees three voices in the biblical narrative: God, the narrator, and the characters. God is the creator narrator, the binding voice throughout the entire book. He becomes more and more alive as the story grows. The writer-narrator floats over and describes. The characters react and co-author. They are invited by God to do something, to be involved in the story. Thus, "when the narrative countenance seems to change it does so as the many expressions of a single, maturing face."

According to Wojcik, the narrators are conscious of the events and stories that have been told before them and draw parallels to these. One clear example of this is the use of prophetic rhetoric in certain statements of Jesus. He speaks as the prophets, changing styles abruptly, depicting some of the tension felt in those moments. Another example is Matthew's gospel where the Old Testament fulfillments in the New Testament are exhibited.

"I find myself saying the same thing as Luther: 'sola scriptura', only the text."

narrator deliberately draws this contrast."

Looking at the beginning of Luke, Wojcik again juxtaposes the two stories of John and Jesus. The annunciation, birth, and public life of each is depicted. The stories come together with the major part of Luke's gospel the story of Jesus' public life. Clearly the author views this
as the most important element in the story.

Obviously Wojcik advocates looking only at the text. "I find myself saying the same thing as Luther, 'sola scriptura', only the text." He tries to avoid looking at and dealing with cultural and historical effects on Scripture. Why?

"First of all, I am convinced as a literary person that the history that lies behind a text tells us nothing about the text. Secondly, I am trying to come up with a method anyone can use. Thus, one which employs only the text."

"Most people are interested in the Bible because it is something that focuses on a great deal of their lives. Using a literary perspective in my classes, I can show students things they have never seen before. Using only the text, I am able to do this without offending anyone, and leaving a next step to the student.

"The text offers so much every time you dig into it, you don't need to do anything else."

The text offers so much every time you dig into it, that you don't need to do anything else.

One legitimate question that has to be asked, according to Wojcik, is whether or not the use of translations allows a valid study of the text. According to research he has done through scholars like Ruth Roberts, the answer is yes. Roberts has done several studies including a look at eight different translations, in six languages, of Psalm 23. In this study she illustrated that the meanings were translatable. Thus Wojcik does not see the use of a translation as invalidating his approach.

Wojcik doesn't want to reach out for meaning beyond the text. He wants to use the literary perspective he loves, looking only at the text, to interpret the text. "So much is compacted into the book that every scholar and reader of the Bible is like a babe in toyland; the arms can only hold so much."

Comments on the Conference

Dr. E. W. Kennedy
Professor of Religion

"One could offer many technical criticisms of the limited approach of the Bible as literature. Wojcik concentrates on one aspect, giving a sense of artificiality in this interpretation, as he chooses to ignore history and applicability. This approach is, however, a needed corrective for two sorts of biblical interpreters who often miss what the story says: first of all, for the pietists who are too eager for an immediate blessing and second, for the critics who mainly want to dissect the Bible.

"Often we ignore the beauty of God's word as we read and study. A Bible as literature approach offers real value in allowing us to delight in the aesthetic beauty of the Bible."

Stan Vander Weide
Community Guest

"The Bible as literature seminar was a fresh reminder of John Robinson's statement, 'There is always new light to break forth from God's Word.' Wojcik spoke at Northwestern four years ago. One helpful insight he gave then was that Jesus often spoke of Himself with an aura of mystery. When the disciples thought they fully understood Jesus, He would introduce another mystery (John 16:29-33).

"One of Wojcik's ways of presenting the Scriptures is to identify some parallel passages. These comparisons offer some interesting insights. He remarked that his literary approach to the Bible does not attempt to provide a moral or theological application of the text. However, his method of identifying parallel passages in the Bible reminds me of a sound hermeneutical tool, which is 'interpret Scripture with Scripture.'"
Alfie and Esther Aalberts

It's a busy life—retirement. Alfie and Esther Aalberts can't find enough time for everything. Their days are packed with his early morning walks around town, her parties featuring Tupperware canisters, and their task of assessing Orange City residents; his kind assistance at Van Gelder Funeral Home, her preparation of roast and vegetables for guests, and their singing anthems in the church choir; his geraniums, tomatoes and lima beans in the garden, her red raspberry jam and frozen sweet peas, and their enjoyment of people.

Yes, in-between the bustling, Esther and Alfie delight in folks, both young and old. Yesterday they encouraged an uncomplaining but aching elderly friend; today they cheer a grumbling farmer tired of Iowa's cold; and tomorrow they may nuzzle a giggling baby. For years, neighbor kids have visited the Aalberts' for a daily treat—a jelly bean termed happiness pill by Esther and Alfie. The Aalberts’ chat with and encourage everybody: from the new music teacher and the young couple at church to the old friend from California.

So you’d think with all their kindnesses that Alfie and Esther would be plumb tired of it all. On the other hand, their concern even extends beyond family, neighborhood and town—to Northwestern College.

Ever since they were little tykes, Esther and Alfie knew Northwestern, for students roomed at their parents’ homes. Those were good times, too, remembers Alfie, with evenings often ending up around the piano. Later they both attended Northwestern, as did their three children, their son-in-law and their daughters-in-law. Alfie served as college business manager for four years, while his brother Edwin was head of the education department and academic dean; and Esther worked in the food service and the library, following in the footsteps of her mother, Dykstra Hall’s first housemother.

And that’s not all. Esther and Alfie have both worked actively in the Alumni Association, and Esther in the Women’s Auxiliary. Recently they’ve been travelling for the Church Relations department, discussing Northwestern with church members in several states. And often they frequent college events, including Chopin’s Ballades and Preludes in the chapel, “Man of La Mancha” at the Playhouse, and the Raiders vs. Briar Cliff in the gym.

“Our lives have been far richer because of the college and all of its fringe benefits—music, sports, drama, and the whole atmosphere that the college creates in town,” says Esther. “Orange City is really blessed.”

And Esther and Alfie are especially blessed, they believe, for they’ve made an effort to get to know college students. Before, during, and after Leon, Jim, and Linda attended Northwestern, Esther and Alfie entertained and enjoyed groups of students. They’ve watched the Miss America pageant, discussed Nixon and Watergate and toured Orange City with Northwestern students. They’ve even hosted thirteen fellows from third-floor Heemstra all at the same time, a once-in-a-lifetime evening, according to the Aalberts’, an evening with Tiny Tim on the TV, a chorus of Happy Birthday to Linda (supposedly practiced for three long weeks), and lots of disappearing chocolate cake.

“We have met some top-notch kids,” says Esther, students who the Aalberts’ have met again at weddings in Minnesota and gatherings in New Brunswick, New Jersey. “They get involved in their community and church activities so quickly,” she notices. “There’s a lot of depth to them; they’ve not just fun and games—although they have fun and games!”

Alfie and Esther delight in people, and they’ve been blessed, that’s true. But Northwestern has been doubly blessed, for this young-at-heart couple is a spark of hope to Northwestern across the nation.
Esther Aalberts, Academy Class of 1931

"We have met some top-notch kids from Northwestern. There's a lot of depth to them; they're not just fun and games—although they have fun and games.

"Our lives have been far richer because of the college and all of its fringe benefits—music, sports, drama, and the whole atmosphere that the college creates in town. Orange City is really blessed."

The Aalberts’ family minus three new grandchildren (left to right): Linda and Harry Tysen; Esther and Alfie; Kevin, Timothy, Jim and Karen Aalberts; and Daniel, Leon Ann, Leon Keith, and Joel Aalberts.
Northwestern College was recently recognized by the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports as the college in Iowa that has done the most to improve physical fitness on its campus during the year. Friedhelm Radandt, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Stan McDowell, Director of Intramurals, and Diane Murphy, Instructor of Physical Education, represented NW at the boy's state tournaments in March to receive the award.

The four-year-old award is given each year alternately to a college and then to a university. Intramurals, sports clubs, PE classes, and other aspects of a college's physical fitness program are reviewed. NW's unique features include the broad intramural program, the fun and fitness club, and such classes as aerobics and slimnastics. Murphy pointed out that the philosophy behind some of these classes is to educate students about fitness not just for here and now but for a whole lifetime. She commented, "A hindrance to fitness in America is that people are overweight and inactive. When they want to exercise or diet they cram or go all out. Aerobics is a progressive exercise program, and slimnastics provides weight control and an awareness of nutrition."

In the area of intramurals, McDowell is looking for more improvement and possibilities after the new Student Center-Physical Fitness Facility is constructed. With more facilities the intramural and PE programs could expand into racquetball, handball, tennis and archery. Plus in the future NW might be able to provide courses in canoeing, cross-country skiing, and outdoor survival.

Obviously physical fitness is important at Northwestern. More and more students are involved, and more faculty members are dreaming of new programs. One of the dreams about to become reality is the Student Center-Physical Fitness Facility.

This facility, part of NW's total vision of expansion (as described on p. 10, Winter Classic), will be created by renovating the recently purchased industrial building immediately west of Fern Smith Hall, a project estimated to cost 2.2 million dollars. Parts of the new facility is anticipated to be ready for use by the second semester of the 1978-79 school year.

According to President H.V. Rowenhorst, "we are giving special attention to the development of the whole person, not only academically, but spiritually and physically. Our intramural program is exciting, attracting the interest of a large number of students. But we have limited facilities; they are overcrowded, and we cannot do much programming in the area of physical fitness. Even in the community of Orange City there are limited opportunities for people to spend their leisure hours. Physical activity is something most everybody can enjoy."

The new physical fitness center will cater to non-varsity activities first, then athletic teams, explains Stan McDowell. "Till now students have had to work around varsity sports, but the new center will be accessible to students anytime."

Indoor intramurals can be held at more enjoyable times rather than late late evening (some volleyball games went to midnight!). Plus a running track will be available for joggers, with racquetball courts, archery, volleyball, badminton...

The new facility will allow for restructuring in the physical education department, too, said McDowell, because more opportunity for students to develop skills on their own allows professors time to develop new courses.

The new facility will be more than a physical fitness center, however—it will be a central location for almost all extra-curricular activities. "The concept, which I think is beautiful, is that every student on campus will have a reason to go to that facility," says Rowenhorst. "Most everything that happens in an extra-curricular way will be centered there. It will be a beautiful opportunity for us to develop an even better community of Christian learners, not only in the classroom, but in all the other things we might participate in."
H.V. Rowenhorst, Northwestern President

“We are giving special attention to the development of the whole person, not only academically, but spiritually and physically. Our intramural program is exciting, attracting the interest of a large number of students. But we have limited facilities; they are overcrowded, and we cannot do much programming in the area of physical fitness. We need more facilities.”

Proposed Student Center – Physical Fitness Complex

The Student Center will include a very ample snack bar and a huge lounging area facilitating several groupings in smaller areas. “I envision it as a large hotel lobby: someone reading, others over here meeting as a small committee, and others watching TV. There’s also a big open area for large meetings like Maranatha or small dances.”

Dave Landegent, in an interview for The Beacon, asked Rowenhorst about the morality of the building project. “If it is morally good to be in the field of Christian higher education it is morally good to have the kinds of tools and facilities that are required to do a good job,” Rowenhorst answered. “If we are less than what we should be we can’t be attractive to students, and without students we can’t do an effective job.”

“If we were splashing money around with a lot of things that weren’t necessary, overbuilding and being guilty of a lot of luxuries that we really didn’t need, then I would have a different view. There are only so many dollars we can spend wisely. It’s the same with my personal life. I can eat only one steak at a time, wear one suit a day, and wear out one pair of shoes at a time. The sin of money is when you become selfish with it.”

The dream is closer to reality these days. Rowenhorst and Director of Development Robert Wallinga have been traveling around the country, hosting dinners with the help of alumni and trustees, discussing Northwestern and “our dream as it relates to the building project,” according to Wallinga. They’ve completed 30 of the 39 proposed feasibility studies. Northwestern’s consultant on the project, Howard Braren and Associates, will give a preliminary report on the feasibility of the project to the Board of Trustees in April, and a final report in late May.

“We are uncovering untold numbers of people who have developed an emotional interest in Northwestern,” says Rowenhorst.

In addition to the Student Center—Physical Fitness Facility, the building project includes a new Chapel-Fine Arts Performance Center to be completed in 1980.
Note: The intaglio [pronounced intalio] prints reproduced here were selected from the Northwestern Student Art Collection and created by current and former printmaking students of John Kaericher. Kaericher, Associate Professor of Art and Chairman of the Art Department, holds an M.F.A. in printmaking from the University of Iowa '63.

Northwestern has one of the finest equipped and most active intaglio printmaking facilities of any small college in the Midwest.

Fine arts prints are multiple original works of art; each proof or print is 'pulled' or printed from the surface on which the artist worked.* Although all fine arts printmaking categories (intaglio, relief, planographic, stencil) are in some form practiced in Northwestern's Art Department, the intaglio process (intaglio meaning 'incised line' or 'beneath the surface') is primarily taught and practiced.

Intaglio printmaking historically dates back to medieval and early renaissance times. Medieval armor-makers burnish printed incised and inked designs onto paper—designs which previously were engraved on metal armor surfaces. The impressions printed on the paper were then displayed outside their workshops to advertise their abilities as armor surface designers.

Gradually these printed images on paper became recognized as works of art in their own right. When paper became more available by the 15th century, intaglio printmaking on flat metal plates became widely heralded and practiced as a serious art medium. Religious and popular secular subject matter found expression in early printmaking.

When the wooden double roller press (with moveable bed) was invented, manual burnish printmaking came to an end. The intaglio presses at Northwestern are precision steel descendants of the earlier wooden prototypes, essentially unchanged in design.

At Northwestern, printmaking course requirements involve work in several intaglio processes (etching, engraving),
with each student searching for the artistic potentials of the medium. The limitations of each process demand self-discipline of the artist. Metal (zinc, copper) on which students create images is not a passive material—it forces limitations as students push against it with manual incising tools (burins, gravers) and modify or eliminate imagery with the scraper tool. Students eventually learn something about their own unique limitations and, therefore, are forced to creatively make conceptual decisions about what is important and what is mere novelty in their personal aesthetic values. Thus I consider the intaglio process the best teaching medium for my students at Northwestern College.

*Many commercial establishments advertise 'fine arts prints' for sale which are actually only photo-mechanical reproduction of paintings or other pictorial media and not 'prints' in the fine arts sense.
Faculty-Student Promenade

A student-faculty weekend took place March 3 through 5, with Karen Roetman, Nancy Wester, Dale Vander Broek, and Deb Sinkey in charge.

Held to promote informal interaction between students and faculty, weekend events included the movies *Cat Balou* and *Fahrenheit 451*, and a rollicking evening of square dancing followed by pizza. The highlight of the weekend for most students was eating in the homes of faculty members.

'De Booms establish scholarship

President Virgil Rowenhorst announced recently that Northwestern College has become the recipient of the Mr. and Mrs. Adrian De Boom Scholarship.

The scholarship was established by Mr. and Mrs. Adrian De Boom of Owosso, Michigan. The interest from the $5000 will be awarded each year to a student "who is preparing to enter the Christian ministry, missionary service or other Christian work, or an education major preparing for a degree in secondary education anticipating graduate studies," according to the De Booms.

Mr. De Boom attended Northwestern Classical Academy.

Veldhuis named to Iowa Council

G. Henry Veldhuis, physics and chemistry teacher at the Sheldon Community High School and assistant professor of physics at Northwestern, has been selected to serve on the Iowa Council of Science Supervisors Steering Committee.

The committee makes recommendations to the Council which in turn implements curriculum changes in various geographical areas of the state, the place of creationism in public schools.

Women’s Auxiliary to fund additional development person

The Women’s Auxiliary of Northwestern College will underwrite the cost of an additional person in NW’s Development Department for two years, according to Auxiliary President Shirley Rozeboom.

"This is a timely decision in light of the imaginative and necessary capital fund program at Northwestern this year," said Director of Development Robert Wallinga. The capital fund program involves two new buildings on campus, a Student Center—Physical Fitness Center and a Chapel—Fine Arts Performance Complex, plus a 50% increase in endowment in addition to continuing support in the general fund.

The process of advertising for the new development person has already begun, according to Wallinga. Those interested in the position are encouraged to contact the Office of the President.

The Women’s Auxiliary annually provides major gifts to the college. This past year they refurbished Heemstra Hall, a men’s dormitory, with new drapes, carpet, and lounge furniture, and provided over $1000 worth of volunteer labor in Northwestern’s mail room. They are also providing necessary funds for new choir robes for the A cappella choir.

Fund raising projects sponsored by the auxiliary include Booster Suppers March 31 and April 1, and the Family Fair July 25.
Guest lecturers and artists speak and entertain

Dr. George Eldon Ladd, Professor of New Testament Exegesis and Theology at Fuller Theological Seminary, was the featured speaker at the annual Staley Lecture Series March 13-17. His chapel talks were centered around the theme, “The Kingdom”. He also lectured in various classes.

Dr. Nicholas Barker, Academic Dean of Covenant College, Lookout Mountain, Tennessee, spoke to the college faculty on “A Christian Position on Aesthetics and the Fine Arts.”

Dr. Stanley Wiersma, an Orange City native, poet and professor at Calvin College, presented some of his works to the public and various classes during the week of Buning’. He was named Teacher of the Year at Covenant College in Sherman, Texas, led a faculty honored and entertained.

Dr. John D. Moses, President of Austin College in Sherman, Texas, led a faculty honored and entertained.

Tom Skinner, a native of Harlem, New York, evangelist nationwide, was the featured speaker for the Northwestern College Ministers Conference Tuesday, April 4. Educated at Wagner College, the Manhattan Bible Institute and the American Management Association, Skinner is a recipient of an Honorary Doctor of Divinity Degree from Houghton College and is listed in Who’s Who in Black America. He has written numerous books and articles, including Black and Free, Words of Revolution, How Black is the Gospel? and If Christ is the Answer, What are the Questions?

Reba, on tour with a back-up band, performed at Northwestern Feb. 10, singing selections from her albums LADY and THE LADY IS A CHILD.

“So Small Change,” a multi-media presentation by Heavy Light Productions, was shown Sunday, March 5. A nine-projector presentation, “Small Change” is “a dynamic, concise presentation ... an excellent basis for opening dialogue within the church,” according to Dr. Bruce Cook, Professor of Communication, Fuller Seminary and University of Southern California. The production centers on the theme of the reevaluation of present day Christian values in light of the teachings of the Bible and the examples of Christ’s life.

Vander Werff and Radandt publish books


Vander Werff’s goal in the book is to inform the Christian community of past experiences between Christians and Muslims and to comment on the Christian obligation to Muslims today. He covers happenings in India and the Near East between 1800 and 1938, concluding with two fascinating figures: Temple Gairdner, an Anglican who emphasized practicing Christian presence, and Samuel Zwemer, the co-founder of the Arabian Mission, who was strongly concerned with proclamation.

Christian Mission to Muslims: The Record was published by the William Carey Library. Copies of the paperback book are available from William Carey Library, 1705 North Sierra Bonita Avenue, Pasadena, California 91104, and the Northwestern College bookstore.

Dr. Friedhelm Radandt, Vice President for Academic Affairs, has written a volume on A Literary History of Germany: From Baroque to Storm and Stress, 1720-1755.

The eight-volume series, by scholars from England, Canada and the United States, provides a detailed account of the development of literary forms and themes throughout German history. To illuminate the reasons why the various forms came into existence, careful attention is given to the general cultural background of each period. Each volume covers the major writers of the time as well as the prevalent genres and schools, according to the publishers, Barnes and Nobel of New York and Croom and Helm of London.

Three of the eight volumes on A Literary History of Germany are now available.

Gift of love sent to Focht

The Church of the Brethren of rural Sheldon recently presented Northwestern College senior Chuck Focht with “a gift of love,” according to Focht. Paraplegic Focht was given a standing device, enabling him to leave his wheelchair and actually stand.

The “Stand Aid” retails for about $895, according to Main-Tainer Corporation in Sheldon.

Focht, from West Sunbury, Pennsylvania, has been preaching regularly at the Church of the Brethren.

Grants awarded to Wiese and Zwart

Ben Wiese, Associate Professor of Sociology, was recently named the recipient of a Colleges of Mid-America grant to individualize his introductory sociology course.

“Our incoming students represent a wide spectrum of backgrounds and abilities,” explained Wiese. “To overcome the mediocrization of the course which results when there is such diversity I hope to replace the traditional lecture method with personal attention, individualization, and competency. My basic objectives are to increase motivation by allowing students to go at their own rate, increase feedback, and overcome learning obstacles.”

Wiese plans to use a wide variety of learning processes and strategies in the developing course including reading and personal study, listening, discussion and tutoring sessions, written research projects and essays, examination, mastery requirements, feedback and group work.

David Zwart, Assistant Professor of Education, has been awarded a $250 grant from the Colleges of Mid-America to develop a class in Methods in Environmental Education.

Zwart’s students will study various models in nature—the environment around us—determining how to present this information in the classroom. The study will include two half-day field trips.

Little Brother-Sister weekend at NW

Little brother-little sister weekend was held on campus January 27 through the 29th, and proved to be a promising new experience. Roller skating, bowling, a trip to the bakery, sleeping in the dorm, and the movie “The Apple Dumpling Gang” were a few of the activities in store for brothers and sisters.

King and Queen Crowned

Kim Wieking and Jamie Beers were crowned king and queen of 1978 Winter Carnival festivities February 16.

Activities for the weekend included a student theatre production, a dance, a men’s basketball game, a broom hockey game, a movie, a banquet, and snow sculpturing.

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Basketball season wrap-ups

The Lady Raiders basketball team wound up their '77-'78 season with a 9-10 over-all record, tying for second in the Okota Conference, and placed three of its members on all-conference teams. Westmar won the conference crown with a 6-1 record, while NW, Briar Cliff, and Buena Vista were dead-locked with 5-2 records.

Deb Hoogeveen, a sophomore guard, was awarded a post on the all-conference first team, while forwards Karen Woudstra, a junior, Miriam Van Riessen, a freshman, were named to the second team.

As a team they had an offensive average of 68.6 points a game, while they allowed 67.6 defensively. Their rebounding average was 46.6 per game, with 55% from the free throw line.

Individually Miriam Van Riessen had the highest scoring average with 11.9 a game. In field goal Jeanne Sohn hit 57% and in free throws 73%. In the rebounding department Heidi Woudstra was the leader averaging 7.9 per game. Deb Hoogeveen nabbed a total of 48 steals this season, and led in assists with 88.

When Briar Cliff defeated the Raiders in the District 15 playoff game on March 6, it ended another good season for Northwestern.

Three major highlights marked the 15-9 campaign. First, the Raiders again captured another Tri-State title. Second, Northwestern made it to the first round of the District 15 playoffs. Third, center Phil Moss joined the 1,000 point club. The senior is currently ranked seventh on the last scoring list with a total of 1163 points.

Forward Jeff Kraayenbrink captured two scoring titles. The junior led the team in Holland with a 15.2 per game average. Kraayenbrink averaged 17.1 per contest for the regular season plus the one playoff game.

Northwestern had a 77.6 scoring average for 24 games, while their opponents tallied 74.6. The Raiders shot 49.6% from the field, while hitting 69% of their free throw tries.

Northwestern had a 10-0 mark at home. However, when wearing the red uniforms they slipped to a poor 5-9 record.

Three players received recognition for their 77-78 efforts. Dean Schnoes, Randy Yoder and Kraayenbrink were named to the Tri-State Conference first team, while Yoder and Kraayenbrink were also selected to the NAIA District 15 squad.

A look into the life of a BB manager

by Paul Delger

It takes a lot to make a basketball season go smoothly, and the manager has no small part to play.

The Northwestern men’s team is in good hands, with a guy like Roger Feekees at the controls. Feekees has Jim Mickelson and Dave Janssen assist him with varsity, while Dan Roberts and Paul Hartman help with the junior varsity.

Feekees should know something about managing—he is in his eighth year of washing uniforms and filling water bottles. The senior did it in high school for three years, and now he is going on his fifth year in college.

Some of Feekees’ duties include being at both varsity and junior varsity practices, washing uniforms, towels and basketballs, handling statistics for both the visiting and home teams at Northwestern home games, and calling in scores after the games.

Feekees says that he loves being affiliated with sports and the team as a whole. But trying to control himself in the blue booth during a game is a difficult job, according to Feekees.

The senior has a good record at managing too. “I have not forgotten anything on a road trip no matter how far, including Holland,” said Feekees. “I take pride in this accomplishment.”

Feekees is a graduate of West Sioux High School in Hawarden.

Wrestlers in NAIA meet

Northwestern was represented by three wrestlers at the NAIA National Meet held in Whitewater, Wisconsin, in early March.

Freshman Duane Muecke and Lyle Lundgren, both of Sheldon, and junior Rick Seydel of Readlyn, took part in the meet.

Tulip Queen

Shari Peuse, freshman student at NW, was named Tulip Queen for the 1978 Tulip Festival in Orange City. Connie Bastemeyer, junior, and Tami Rowenhorst, freshman, were also elected to the court. Shari is the daughter of Mrs. Cynthia Peuse, Connie is the daughter of Mr. (51) and Carol (Veenkap ‘56) Bastemeyer and Tami is the daughter of Mr. (52) and Mrs. Willard Rowenhorst.

A student reacts to Carter

By Cindy Vande Stouwe,
Northwestern College student intern
with Berkley Bedell

I have had an opportunity this past month to study the American presidency since World War II, with special emphasis on Jimmy Carter. For the past three weeks I have been reading books and articles, listening to speakers and going to the White House to gather information on this topic.

President Carter has only been in office for 11 months, not long enough for anyone to examine or evaluate the job he has done. But judging from the number of articles already written, many people have tried. I am about to join those ranks.

Until late 1975 and early 1976, Jimmy Carter was just a Georgia peanut farmer who had once been governor. When he first began campaigning for the Presidency, many people asked, “Jimmy who?” A year later he was the president-elect of the United States of America. His ability to win over the American people could possibly be one of the greatest success stories in American history.

In the past few weeks I, with the other members of the American Studies Program, have gone to the White House complex on four different occasions to speak to members of the Executive Office of the President. They represented the Congressional Liaison Office, Office of Management and Budget, the National Security Council and the Press Corps. They all demonstrated what was and is one of the contributing factors to Jimmy Carter’s success—openness. It is not an openness directed at special interest groups to get favorable publicity but a genuine feeling of caring, a feeling expressed by everyone who comes in close contact with President Carter.

Carter is continuing an open Presidency that Gerald Ford started in the aftermath of Watergate and, hopefully, this openness will be continued by future presidents. The four people from Carter’s staff we talked to were all very interested in helping us to understand the workings of the departments they represented and were willing to answer all of our questions. They made a special effort to take time out of their busy and often hectic schedules to talk to 23 college students who represented no special interest group, making us feel right at home.

Carter seems to surround himself with people like these four. He has been as open as any president could possibly be in his dealings with the press and the public. He has not done a perfect job—no one can. He has not kept all his campaign promises—no one can do that either. I did not vote for Jimmy Carter in 1976 and I do not agree with everything he has done or is trying to do; but it is nice to know we have someone in the highest office of the country who cares about more than power.

Cindy Vande Stouwe, a senior at Northwestern College, spent last semester interning for Congressman Berkley Bedell in Washington, D.C. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Vande Stouwe of Hull, Iowa.
Area artists exhibit works

Several art exhibits were on display in Ramaker Gallery recently, including drawings by John Kaericher, February 6-17. Kaericher has been on NW's staff since 1963. His work has been shown in over 80 national and regional invitational and competitive exhibitions, including 10 one-man shows; recently his work was shown at Benjamini Galleries in Chicago and Lynn Kottler Galleries in New York City. The recipient of four Creative Production Grants from NW College, Kaericher has also conducted and/or participated in several college and university seminars, in addition to having judged regional art exhibitions.

In February he judged the annual competitive art exhibition for all media at the Sioux City Art Center, selecting works to be exhibited and the purchase prize, which was added to the center's permanent collection. Kaericher's works have been mentioned and reproduced in several periodicals and reviewed in the art journal, "Park East" in New York City in 1973, Bowker's "Who's Who in American Art" 1976 and 1978, and other professional biographical books.

The Kenneth Foster Ceramics Exhibition was displayed February 22-March 3.

A photograph exhibit by Margo Vanderhill, featuring photographs taken in Rome, was on display January 16-27. Vanderhill is the wife of NW art professor Rein Vanderhill and currently teaches art at Unity High School in Orange City.

The NW Senior Art Majors Exhibit was on display March 6-23. Student art exhibitors were Bob Jenkins, Sheila Willms, Carol Tjeerdsm and Roger Smit.

Concerts and recitals

Several students from the Music Department presented their junior and senior recitals during the past few months. Students were from the studios of Dr. Rodney Jiskoot, Dr. Herbert Ritsema, Miss Kimberly Utke, Miss Marna Magee, Mrs. Annette Eberly and Mrs. Mary Lou, Wielenga. Students participating were Gloria Smidt, saxophone and piano; Cathy Greenfield, piano; Moni Deal, voice, harpsichord and piano; Deb (Myskens) Helmus, piano; Dirk Lindner, organ, harpsichord and piano; Rich Bawinkel, organ; Lori (Sterler) Balt, piano; Karen (Den Hartog) Alderlink, voice; Rachel Van Maanen, voice; Paul Camp, organ; and Susan (Elman) Risius, voice.

The 70-piece concert band, under the direction of Dr. Herbert Ritsema, presented a concert on January 30. Ritsema, director of bands at NW since 1961, conducted the band in selections by leading contemporary composers for concert band; Floyd Werle, Carlos Surinach, W. Francis McBeth, Paul Whear, Robert Jager, and Alfred Reed.

The Sioux County Orchestra presented a concert on Sun., Feb. 5, under the direction of Dr. Herbert Ritsema. A major number performed was Schumann's "Piano Concerto" featuring senior Deb Myskens on the piano. Other numbers included "Romeo and Juliet Overture" by Tchaikovsky, and Brahms' "Hungarian Dance No. 5." The 45-member orchestra includes college students, adults, and other students from the surrounding area.

Richard Collins, currently Artist in Residence at Brenau College in Gainesville, Georgia, presented an unusual program of piano music on February 15, featuring the four Ballades and twenty-four Preludes of Chopin. Collins conducted a piano workshop for piano students and teachers that afternoon.

On Sunday, March 19, Northwestern hosted the Sioux City Chamber Orchestra in concert. Directed by Mr. Thomas Lewis, Conductor of the Sioux City Symphony, the concert featured Rossini's "Italian in Algiers Overture," Mozart's "Diverimento in D Major for Strings," Debussy's "Petit Suite," and Schubert's "Symphony No. 5 in B-flat Major."

The dedication of the new 49-rank, three-manual Phelps organ, co-owned by NW and American Reformed Church, will be held at American Church at 8 p.m. April 18, featuring internationally-known organist Frederick Swann of Riverside Church, New York City.

Play of Christmas receives award

The Play of Christmas, produced in December by Northwestern's Department of Theatre and Speech and Department of Music, won the American College Theatre Festival regional award for excellence in properties. The Play of Christmas was selected for the award out of 37 college and university productions entered from four states: Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska. The award was presented Saturday, January 21, at ceremonies in Omaha.

The properties for The Play of Christmas were designed by R. Keith Allen, chairman of the Department of Theatre and Speech. They were constructed by Northwestern students: Kathy Ahders, Diane Dagel, Barry Lefever, Denise Nannina and Linda Van't Hull. The production was viewed by two critics from Missouri, who were particularly impressed with the sets which the prophets carried. One of the critics wrote, "The production was extremely well mounted...the properties were extremely well designed, with much care taken in their execution." He went on to say that "the production works surprisingly well."

The American College Theatre Festival is sponsored annually by The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, The American Theatre Association and AMOCO Oil Company. The Festival seeks to recognize excellence in American college and university theatre.

Irish in a Dutch town

The Northwestern College Theatre Department presented the 1978 student theatre production, "Seamus MacManus and Company," directed by Northwestern Senior theatre major, Tom Heiman, on February 16, 17, and 18.

Student director Heiman, who spent the fall semester interning as assistant set designer at Victory Garden's Theatre in Chicago, became acquainted with the literary works of the Irish author, poet, and playwright, Seamus MacManus, over his college career. After Heiman had selected the stories he felt would be best, he was faced with two formidable tasks: the first to translate the thick Irish brogue into understandable English without losing the distinct Irish flavor; second, to adapt these stories for the stage. After considerable exertion, Heiman's efforts met with success.

From blah to beautiful

The Northwestern College coffee lounge was once a forlorn place, too spacious and too drab, with the coffee pot being its only redeeming feature. The drabness is past, however; now the lounge is inviting, even cozy, as the result of work by Northwestern faculty members and administrators.

Staff members volunteered time over Christmas vacation to redecorate this student-faculty lounge in Van Peursem Hall. They painted the walls light yellow and the ceiling black for a drop effect, adding bright blue carpet and creating light enclosures incorporated into ceiling beams. They also built a natural wood mug rack and wide rustic dividers. From what was once a lonely spot, these men created a center of cheer, debate, and refreshment.

European Tour

The second 350th Anniversary Heritage Tour of the Reformed Church will be held July 20 to August 4, hosted by Rev. and Mrs. Willis Vander Kooi of Orange City. The tourists will visit the Netherlands, Paris, Germany and Austria. Please call or write the Alumni Office at Northwestern College for further information.

Coming Events

Reunion—Class of '38 Academy. Sat., May 13
Baccalaureate.................. Sun., May 14
Commencement.................. Mon., May 15
Reunions—Class of 1928 and before
Family Fair................... Tues., July 25
1978 N-Day.................... Sat., September 2
Dave Kleis, Chairman
Alan De Graaf, Co-chairman
Homecoming................... Sat., September 30
Parents' Day................... Sat., November 4

identify alumni

Congratulations to Duane Buttenob of Aurelia, Iowa, Anna Marie (Geurink) Kolberg of Gayville, S.D., Frank Calisbeek of San Marcos, Texas, and Cornie D. Keunen of Waupun, Wis., for correctly and quickly identifying the mysterious alumni from the Winter Classic. The two friendly chaps are Ted Sagami (5255 Poola St.) and Ed Matsui (912, Hao St.) of Honolulu, Hawaii, from the class of 1951.

Now to identify another alum. Write to Identify alumni, Northwestern College if you recognize this alumnus on the right.

Alumni News

'36 Lawrence Van Wyk, who served as Professor of Music at NW for 23 years, was appointed to serve on the Worship Committee of the Reformed Church in America at its last General Synod meeting in June. Eight members serve on the board from various geographical areas of the denomination. Dr. Howard Hageman is chairman of this committee which meets twice each year. Lawrence attended a committee meeting last September where plans were made for a special 350th anniversary service to be observed by all Reformed Churches next June.

'39 Gerald De Jong, professor of history at the University of South Dakota, has been granted a sabbatical leave of absence for the spring of 1978. Dr. De Jong will use this opportunity to begin writing a history of the mission maintained by the Reformed Church at Amoy, China, from 1842 to 1950. Most of the research for this study will be done in the Sage Library at New Brunswick Seminary, the Missionary Research Library at Union Seminary, and the libraries of Hope College and Western Theological Seminary. Professor De Jong has written numerous articles on the history of the Reformed Church, and his "History of the Dutch Reformed Church in the American Colonies" will be published in early 1978. Mrs. Gerald De Jong is the former Jeanne Masseleink (’48).

'48 Kenneth H. Vermeer was recently installed as pastor of the Morningside Reformed Church in Sioux City. Ken who is a graduate of NW Junior College, is also a graduate of Hope College and Western Theological Seminary. He took additional work at Fuller Seminary and Claremont School of Theology in California. He has served as a school teacher, Army Chaplain at Fort Sam Houston, and pastor of the Community Church of Castro Valley, CA, Calvary Reformed Church, New Berlin, WI, Valley Drive-In Church of San Dimas, CA., and most recently the Faith Reformed Church of Norwalk, CA. Rev. and Mrs. Vermeer (Jean Rens) are the parents of three children.

'54 Arle Brouwer, Reformed Church in America General Secretary, was elected vice president of "Bread for the World" in New York City. The organization is a Christian citizens' movement dealing with world hunger and public policy.

'55 Willis Rozeboom has become sole owner of De Vries Interiors of Orange City after 12 years of being in partnership with Larry Baltzer of Hospers. Willis and his wife, Shirley Van Putten Rozeboom, are parents of three children. Their oldest daughter Debra (’79) is Mrs. Robert Holeinger.

'61 Fred and Betty(Mulder) Dykstra plan to open a new fabric store in Orange City after 12 years of being in partnership with Larry Baltzer of Hospers. Willis and his wife, Shirley Van Putten Rozeboom, are parents of three children. Their oldest daughter Debra (’79) is Mrs. Robert Holeinger.

'64 Myrtle Mellema Manders is the owner and manager of a new gift shop in Spencer, Iowa.

George Bonnema was recently named "Teacher of the Year" at the High School in Luverne, Minnesota. In our last Classic we
credited the honor to Lowell Bonnema ('72). Our apologies! George Bonnema currently serves as a member of the NW College Board of Trustees.

'65 John Wurpts has left the teaching field to become farm manager for the Bergstrom Company of Ogden, Iowa. Mrs. Wurpts is the former Rosalie Nyhol ('69).

'70 Herman Van Galen is the new pastor of the American Reformed Church at Hull, Iowa. He formerly served as pastor of the Comanche Reformed Church of Lawton, Oklahoma.

Philip Jager and his family live in Holland, Michigan where Phil is employed by a trucking firm. Mrs. Jager is the former Doris Gleichman ('71).

Lewis Terpstra an English teacher at Dubuque, Iowa. He recently earned the M.A. degree in English at the University of Iowa.

'72 Kim Spradling completed work toward the M.A. degree in Art last December and is now beginning work on his Ph.D. at the University of Iowa. Mrs. Spradling, (Carol Blom) is a certified CPA and is employed at an Iowa City Hospital.

Dennis W. Van Berkum, former football defensive coordinator and instructor of physical education at Jamestown College, joined the staff at Augustana College in February. He will serve as an admissions counselor and assistant football coach with no teaching responsibilities. While completing requirements for his M.S. at South Dakota State he served as football assistant. He has been a member of the Jamestown coaching staff for the past three years.

'73 Ronald Bunger recently became the pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Holland, Minnesota. He is a 1978 graduate of Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary. Ron and his wife, the former Jacelon Mikkelson ('75) are the parents of a daughter.

Vera (De Boer) Bradley graduated from the University of Northern Iowa with a master's degree in communications media in December, 1977. She is currently working as the media specialist for Parkview and Neveln Junior High Schools in Ankeny, Iowa.

Phyllis Kroon was recently named county assessor for Sioux County, Iowa. She has served as county assessor since last August.

Bruce Dykstra is teaching High School Science at Lansing, Iowa.

Doug Ritsema recently announced that he will seek the Republican nomination for the office of State Representative of District II in next June's primary. Doug is currently in his final semester of law school at the University of Iowa.

Leah Heemstra earned the M.S.W. degree at the University of Iowa in December, 1977.

Rita Good Douglass lives at Laurens, Iowa where her husband is head of Instrumental Music in the public school. Rita formerly taught vocal music at Pocahontas, Iowa. She now spends her time as homemaker and mother.

Bruce E. Jensen, formerly employed by NW College in the business office, is now teaching in Moulton, Iowa.

Ann Hietbrink Smit lives in Chicago Heights, IL and presently serves as a blood donor recruiter for a Chicago blood bank. She and her husband are actively involved in youth work at the Faith Reformed Church of South Holland.

Dan Jager earned the M.A. degree in Social Work at Mankato University and is currently working at the Rehabilitation Center at the hospital in St. Peter, MN.

Brenda K. Ekdorn was named to the Dean's list at the University of Iowa for the 1977-78 fall semester. She is in the College of Liberal Arts.

Anita (Plantage) Bomgaaars is teaching physical education at the United School District of Boone, Iowa.

Ronald Falknor is a computer programmer for the Borough's Corporation of St. Paul, MN.

Clyde Rensink is an Intern in Mission in Taiwan.

Nita Bloemendaal was named to the Dean's list at the University of Iowa for the fall semester. Nita is enrolled in the College of Business Administration.

Necrology

Stanley Hieb ('43) died December 31 at the Medical Center Hospital in Huntsville, Alabama at the age of 54. Mr. Hieb enlisted in the Army Air Corps in 1942 and became a pilot and served in the Pacific War Theater until his discharge in 1946. He graduated from Iowa State in 1949 and married Henrietta Geurink ('52) in 1955. He is survived by his wife, one daughter, four sons, and a sister, Kaye Sloben ('41) of Rockwell City.

Anna Rowenhorst ('73) of Iowa City.

Elizabeth Elenbaas ('34) Mrs. Cornie Hoekstra, died March 5 at a Sioux City Hospital. She was born in 1915 at Springfield, S.D., married in 1934 and she with her husband and family had farmed in the Boyden area for 38 years until 1975 when the family moved to Orange City. Henrietta is survived by her husband, four daughters, one son, and two sisters, Thelma Elenbaas '40 Palsma, and Frances Elenbaas '69 of Orange City.

Marriages

Evan Peuse ('77) and Shawn Duistersma ('78)
Lyla Riepma ('74) and Darrell Allgaier
Kevin Tesch ('77) and Lisa Pluim
Stephanie Durband ('75) and Philip Doeschot

Births

Mr. and Mrs. Larry Cull (Darlene Gregan '69) Daughter-Jantina Marie
Mr. ('74) and Mrs. Harlin Vermeer (Elaine Daum '75) Son—Brent Alan
Mr. ('74) and Mrs. Alan Vander Zwaag (Linda Schoon '74) Daughter—Allyson Linae
Mr. ('77) and Mrs. Mark Veil linga (Miriam Somsen '76) Daughter—Brittany Leigh
Dr. ('67) and Mrs. Robert Bruyn son—Caleb Michael
Mr. ('68) and Mrs. Firman Schlebout (Cheryl Slingerland '70) Daughter—Sarah Elizabeth
Mr. ('74) and Mrs. Roger Haug (Lora Raak '73) Daughter—Stephanie Joy
Mr. ('74) and Mrs. Dennis Bosma (Clady Huilstein '70) Daughter—Jennifer Ann
Mr. ('72) and Mrs. Marvin Wynia (Esther Reyen '72) Daughter—Julie Lynn
Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Hallstrom (Dianne Vander Ploeg '75) Twin Daughters—Tracy Jean and Darcy Lyn
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Vande Brake (Linda Wielenga '71) Daughter—Robin Joy, Jims two brothers, Michael and Mark
Mr. and Mrs. Pat Phinney (Karen Sitter '72) Daughter—Andrea Joy
Mr. ('68) and Mrs. Edward Bakker (Evelyn Te Slaa '64) Daughter—Sheri Lynn
Mr. ('74) and Mrs. Robert Vermeer (Laura Koerselman '74) Son—Ryan Thomas, Jims two year old brother Jason
Mr. and Mrs. Harry Goodwin (Janice De Groot '71) Daughter—Jessica Rene Jennifer
Mr. and Mrs. James Douglass (Rita Good '75) Son—Christopher James
Mr. ('70) and Mrs. Gary M. Smit Daughter—Erica Lee
Mr. ('69) and Mrs. Conrad Harthoorn (Joanne Boom '61) Son—James Lee
Mr. ('77) and Mrs. David Katt Son—Jason Michael
Mr. ('71) and Mrs. Leslie Norgaard (Linda Van Ommeren '71) Daughter—Stephanie Maria
Mr. ('76) and Mrs. Dean Blom (Susann Rehder '76) Son—Jason Dean
Mr. ('69) and Mrs. Allen Namminga (June Bosgraaf '69) Son—Drew Allen
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Apotheker (Kaye Van Dyken '68) Daughter—Julie Elizabeth, Jims two brothers, Mike and Richard, 5
Mr. ('77) and Mrs. David De Younge (Beverly Vermeer '76) Daughter—Sara Beth
Mr. ('74) and Mrs. Kim Dorschner Daughter—Candace Ann Marie
Mr. ('72) and Mrs. Franklin De Graaf (Brenda Rensink '73) Son—Jason Paul
Mr. ('73) and Mrs. Dale Van Veldhuizen Daughter—Kelly Beth
The Classic
NORTHWESTERN COLLEGE
Volume 49, No. 3 Spring 1978

CONTENTS
2/Reflections: In an Alien Land
Mary Van Rheenen
3/Playboys and Miss America by Ben Wiese
6/01d Fashioned Fun at the Family Fair
8/John De Wild: Learning to be a servant
10/Bible as Literature: Listening for echoes and looking for shadows
12/Blessed and Blessing: Alfie and Esther Aalbers
14/Vision of Expansion: The Student Center—Physical Fitness Facility
16/Intaglio Printmaking
18/News Briefs
22/Alumni News

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COVER
Craig Spirek’s “Counterpoint.” See pp. 16-17 for more about intaglio printmaking at Northwestern.

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