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The Downer Dial, Number 3, November 20, 1959

Milwaukee-Downer College

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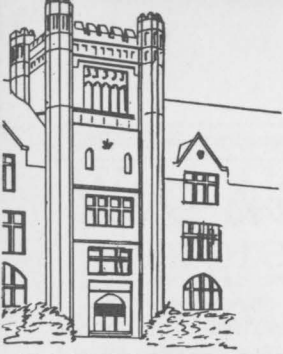
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THE DOWNER DIAL

No. 3

MILWAUKEE-DOWNER COLLEGE

November 20, 1959

RAC To Visit Zen Buddhists

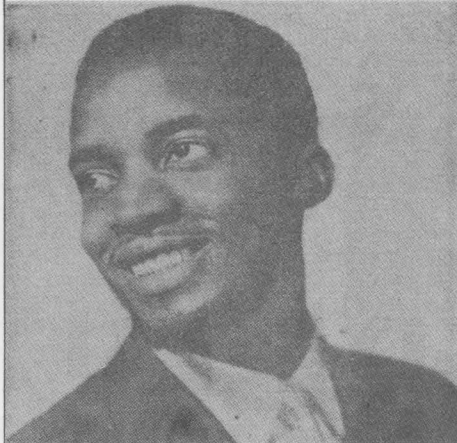
A Zen Buddhist Church is the destination of Religious Activities Committee's 1959 field trip to be held Sunday, November 22. A special Zen Buddhist service will be held at 2:00 p.m. Sunday afternoon for the visiting Downerites. Upon returning to Milwaukee, the group has been invited by Sandy Montgomery to a pot-luck supper and informal discussion at her home located at 2918 North Summit Avenue.

In response to the inquiry by Religious Activities Committee as to the possibilities of arranging an interesting and informative visit to the Zen Buddhist Church, Rev. S. Matsuo said, "I will have a special service for you and your students on November 22 at 2:00 p.m. This service will be held for the purpose of studying Japanese Buddhism. I hope that you will find it to be worthwhile."

The trip to the Zen Buddhist Church will mark the third annual trip sponsored by Religious Activities Committee. Two years ago Downer students visited the Bahai Temple in Wilmette, Illinois. Last year a visit was made to the Convent of Saint Francis of Assisi located in Milwaukee. An inquiry into Zen Buddhism was felt to be timely this year because of the popularity given certain aspects of it by the "Beat Generation".

The Zen Buddhist Church is located at 1316 North Clark Street, Chicago 10, Illinois. Transportation will be provided for those interested in attending. Cars will be leaving the Horseshoe Drive in front of Holton Hall promptly at 11:30 a.m. Brunch will be served at 11:00 to dorm students.

Jazz



Ahmad Jamal

Attention jazz fans! Social Committee is sponsoring a concert featuring Ahmad Jamal on Friday, February 12, at 8:15 in Merrill auditorium. Ahmad is, to quote, John Tracy, editor of Downbeat magazine, one of Chicago's most celebrated and talented pianists. He is a sincere and industrious young man, wise and mature for his twenty-six years."

Jamal first achieved success at the Blue Note in 1950. Keeping Chicago as his home base, he has played in New York, Pittsburgh, and St. Louis.

His artistry, talent, and creative abilities have been thrilled to and broadly proclaimed by music lovers. The Ahmad Jamal Trio was the biggest selling jazz group on records in 1958. A few of his L.P.'s are "Portfolio of Ahmad Jamal," "Chamber Music of the New Jazz," "Count 'em 88," and "But Not for Me". Ahmad's wit and imagination are in constant play, which is shown in his unique improvisational talent. Jamal is a true original, one of a handful produced by American jazz.

Special note: Albert will be open to outside guests for this gala weekend. Be sure to underline this date on your calendar.

Santa's Workshop to Open Tomorrow Afternoon

Tomorrow afternoon at two o'clock Santa's Workshop will swing open its doors as another annual edition of M.D.C.'s Christmas Bazaar unfolds in the gym. After the first snow everyone starts thinking about Christmas, and Bazaar is the best place to get presents for everyone you know.

There are lots of new things this year to interest even the few to whom this is just another Downer bazaar. The crafts booth will offer beautiful crocheted rugs. The candy booth features homebaked pastries with a real "old country" flavor, and the apron booth has cute children's aprons for your little sister. The Freshmen will be interested to know that the needlework booth sells knitted things in class colors. Another new feature this year is the playroom, which is another way of saying that the President's Dining Room will be converted into a nursery where mothers can leave their children to be cared for while they go to the bazaar upstairs.

The co-chairmen of Bazaar this year are Judy Davis and Judy Kuentler. Willie Baldwin is in charge of financial affairs, and Mrs. Baehr advises the whole workshop.

Santa's Workshop is full of surprises this year because of the following chairmen: Aprons - Linette Schoder, Marilyn Austerman; Crafts - Mary Ellen Swanty, Nancy Holmes; Needlework - Malle Vaarsi, Mary Schipper; Candy - June Goldschmid; Flowers - Eleanor Yamashita; Toys - Helen Bystol; Lynne Sprague, Bonnie Maas; Jewelry - Barbara Brandt; Books - Carolyn King; Stationery - Ann Mary Murray; White Elephant - Barbara Diffay; Playroom - Sue Eppler; Tea Room - Loretta Hahn, Connie Meek; Donations - Holly

SNIFF--SNIFF

Thanksgiving is a good smelling day--it's the best kind of a day for smelling!

I wake up on Thanksgiving morning and (as soon as I realize that it is Thanksgiving morning) I try to smell Thanksgiving in the air--but I can't. Thanksgiving does not smell early in the morning! I get up and I smell an ordinary Sunday morning type smell, even though it's Thursday.

I put on my patent leather smelling clothes and go outside, and then I smell Thanksgiving! I have smelled this same spirit of Thanksgiving other times in the year, but on Thanksgiving Day it smells the most. On Thanksgiving Day it's a clear, cold, sunny smell, having a lot to do with the sky. I can't smell a whole lot because my nose freezes--that's part of it.

I go back inside, and now the house is smelling like Thanksgiving, **EXPECIALLY IN THE KITCHEN!** I stick my nose in the oven and a gush of hot air steams my glasses and fills my lungs and heart with wonderfulness. Mom says I have to shut the oven, so then I peep in a pot on the stove. **UHG!** The giblets for the gravy! (And they look about as good as they smell.) I smell the casserole of creamed onions, but it smells like creamed onions always smell. I don't like creamed onions. But the pumpkin pie smell makes up for it, and Mom has me put evergreen sprigs around it, and the cedar woodsy smell with the pie smell is the best smell ever! Our cousins arrive and I hug their coats because they are filled with the exciting outdoor smell I mentioned before.

The kitchen gets smelling better, and better, and better until it smells the best it can, and then we eat up all the smells! It's kind of sad when they are all gone--but the next morning at breakfast they come back, with the turkey slices and cranberry sauce.

Judy.King '63

Mead of the Matter

Zen Buddhism

While not altogether naive, I still retained some weak hopes of expressing the sense of Zen in a compact way in this article, until I came across this statement by Alan Watts in "The Spirit of Zen".

"Anyone who attempts to write about Zen has to encounter unusual difficulties; he can never explain, he can only indicate; he can only go on setting problems and giving hints which at best can bring the reader tantalizingly nearer to the truth, but the moment he attempts any fixed definition the thing slips away".

Zen appeals to the facts of personal experience, not to book knowledge. At a certain point the individual may, by looking into his own mind, have a sudden intuition of the inexpressible principle underlying the universe (enlightenment).

In accordance with this doctrine the monasteries of Zen monks offered no didactic instruction but sought to awaken in their pupils, by means of riddles and derision, the awareness that the real is irrational and can be found in simple experience.

When a monk asked master Chao-Chou, "What is the Tao (the way)?" he replied, "Usual life is the very Tao." The

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The Editor's Desk

In a few short days we will all be taking a "break" to celebrate Thanksgiving. It is trite, perhaps, to stress the "meaning" of such a holiday in a publication of this kind, but perhaps a good look at ourselves and our culture would not be unseemly.

The super-organized world in which we live is becoming more grotesquely inhuman every year. Nothing in it is on human scale - our schools, our public buildings, our large industrial cities, our governmental agencies and political organizations. At the same time, the split between the world of action and the world of thought, and the crushing of imagination by mass media are making us accept the gulf between our public and private lives with a minimum of moral nausea. We begin to feel that public morality has nothing to do with our private lives and, that private morality is useless before public events. We begin to be guilty of a crime which is doubly terrible, because it is not intentional and can never be proved - indifference sanctioned by habit.

Still, I cannot help wondering about complaints of helplessness before a world so cruel it gives us no chance to prove our virtues. Pleading lack of issues and helplessness is perhaps the safest excuse there is to avoid actually being put to test. I can't bring myself to believe that there is a large element of our population that has a full blossom of virtue hidden in its heart withering away for lack of opportunities to display itself. It is true that our public actions are limited today, but using this as the reason for inaction implies that given the chance one would take up causes and fight for them.

Is our problem lack of issues? Lack of opportunities?

Soren Kierkegaard once advised all who feel life is getting dull to try to go through one day as perfect Christians and see if their boredom diminishes.

The Editor

Work Camps Interpreted

The weekend work camp program was started in Philadelphia about ten years ago by the Quakers. It was based on the Quaker belief that there is "that of God" in every individual, and that every person has a tremendous potential which can be uncovered and activated by the appeal of love and good will.

The American Friends Service Committee, a group of Quakers and like minded people of all religions, races, and nationalities, and Neighborhood House, a Milwaukee Community Center, originated the weekend work camps in Milwaukee a number of years ago. The program has since been taken over by the Milwaukee Weekend Work Camp Committee, which is an autonomous group made up of interested individuals, but which works closely with AFSC and other religious and college groups.

The headquarters for this year's work camps is St. James Methodist Church, which is located at the eastern end of our project area, one of the oldest and most neglected sections of the city.

Each work camp lasts from Friday night dinner through Sunday morning church. Campers prepare the evening meal with the aid of the directors. Later an orientation session is held in which the directors try to interpret the special problems of the people living in the area.

On Saturday the campers work in groups of two and three with families who have been previously selected because of need and interest. The campers help to improve the physical environment of the home by painting, wall papering, plastering, etc. and, perhaps even more important, establish a rapport between members of different racial and economic groups.

Evaluation on Saturday evening can be one of the most meaningful periods of the whole weekend. During this session, participants express their own reactions to the day's work and its value.

"December Violets" Chosen Theme For Junior Prom



On Saturday evening, December 5, Downerites will be attending an extra-special event, ---Junior Prom, 1959. "December Violets" has been chosen the theme for this annual extravaganza. Much speculation has resulted from the choice of this theme, since it is really a combination of three ideas--December, Christmas, and violets. The Jewish Community Center will be the site of the prom, which will be held from 8:00 to 12:00 p.m. Johnny Walters' Orchestra, an excellent, local five-piece group will play.

A lovely sextet will represent the purple class as their court. They are: Sheri Biegelaar, Jan Braatz, Ann Dyer, Holly Habegger, Carol Neibel, and Nancy Van Schelven. Co-chairmen of the event are Kay Dobson and Joan Tomarkin. The price per couple is \$4.00. In Holton, pay Ann Dyer; City students--Ann Kuetemeyer; McLaren--Joan Tomarkin.

from Antioch College Record

October 9, 1959

Fat girls have a better chance of getting married than skinny girls, a British physician reported recently.

Dr. R. W. Parnell, Oxford University researcher, put the fat girl's odds at 3-2 over the lean willow type.

According to the results of his study, the fat, fairly muscular and short girl rates a 90 per cent chance for marriage.

A very tall thin girl with little muscle stands only a 60 per cent chance, Parnell reported.

Studio Club

This year, in an attempt to create more interest in art on campus, Studio Club is renewing one of its activities, the Marjorie Logan Picture Library. Started in 1959, the rental service grew from an initial gift of Lucia R. Briggs upon her retirement as president of the college. She designated that it should be established in honor of Marjorie S. Logan, director of the Art department for thirty years. The Studio Club helped set up the collection, which includes color reproductions of new and old masters, and some original paintings by members of the art faculty.

For the purpose of inventory, Studio Club is requesting that all pictures now in circulation be turned in at the end of this semester, by January 8th. Members of the club will then clean and repair the prints and put them on display at the beginning of the second semester, when students and faculty members may select the prints of their choice. They will be rented for fifty cents a semester and must be turned in at the end of the year. The pictures may also be purchased at cost.

Editor.....Jan Schmidt
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Art Editor.....Judy Smith
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Santa's Workshop

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Habegger; Publicity - Sue Fletcher; Art Coordinator - Judy Smith; Decoration - Corki Parmentier; Entertainment - Ann Dyer.

Santa's Workshop will have three of its members, Lynne Sprague, Bonnie Maas, and Mary Ellen Swanty, featured on Beulah Donahue's Chanel 4 television show this afternoon at 2:00. Lynne will show how she is making puppet mittens and Bonnie will show some very active monkeys, both of these being for the toy booth. Mary Ellen will demonstrate the decoration and filling of whiskey bottles with bath salts for the crafts booth. Miss Donahue was particularly receptive to the publicizing of Bazaar on her show as she is a Downer alumna.

Also new this year and guaranteed to be a wonderful addition is Reader's Theater, "For the Love of Music", given by Joanne Madsen. This will be held in the Auditorium at 3:15 and will cost thirty-five cents.

For those with the perennial problem of many gifts to buy and little money available there will be a credit booth run by Carolyn Meci where students may borrow up to ten dollars. The loan must be paid back within the following week.

This year the proceeds will again go to the Adolescent Girl's Home of the Wisconsin Child Center, Sparta, Wisconsin. The project started last year of fixing up a recreation room for the girls was not completed. Therefore, we'd like to complete the project with this year's proceeds. This is an institution which is not cared for by a public charity, and so Bazaar is glad to contribute to so worthy a cause.

And, last of all, let's not forget dear old Santa himself, jolly and cheery as ever, all set to meet the kids who come to visit his Workshop tomorrow. Anyone want to guess who he is?

Sue Fletcher '62

FOLK FAIR SPOTLIGHTED

So your plans were unexpectedly changed at the last moment and you didn't get to see the Brussels World's Fair after all? Well, don't feel badly, for the Holiday Folk Fair at the Milwaukee Auditorium and Arena tomorrow and Sunday will bring you up to date on the various cultures in the world.

Thirty-five nationality groups will be exhibiting their customs through their arts and crafts, foods, and dances.

There will be exhibit halls where you will see demonstrations of Norwegian rosmaling, and Chinese and Japanese origami, the ancient oriental art of folding paper into cups, swans, pinwheels, and other forms. You will also see the weaving of an oriental rug and the making of silver and amber jewelry by the Latvians.

Imports will be for sale at the World Market. Here you might want to pick up an Arabian inlaid jewel box or a Mexican serape for someone on your Christmas list.

For your entertainment, there will be floor shows, three on Saturday and four on Sunday, giving you the opportunity to see a Spanish flamenco dance, an Austrian zaelenthaler laendler folk dance, the Russian Kavkaz dancers interpreting the planting of the early crops, or the Polish commemoration of the expulsion of the Tartars from Krakow in the thirteenth century.

Those of you who are four-mets will certainly want to stop at the International Sidewalk Cafe' to sample the fifty complete foreign meals and the more than one hundred foreign pastries. There will be Czechoslovakian trena babovka, Austrian apfelstrudel, Hungarian linzer, and Norwegian fatteman bakels (poor man's cookies). Or perhaps you'd like to try the Armenian sarma, which is meat and rice rolled in grape leaves, or the Russian peroshki, a roll stuffed with meat.

Mead of the Matter

Con't from Page 2

monk asked again, "How can we be in accord with it?" Chao-Chou answered, "If you try to accord with it, you will get away from it."

Bakuju (Mu-Chou), who lived in the latter part of the ninth century, was once asked, "We have to dress and eat every day, and how can we escape from all that?" The master replied, "We dress, we eat." "I do not understand you," said the questioner. "If you don't understand, put your dress on and eat your food," came his reply.

An example of a koan or riddle which clearly shows limitations of logical thought is the illustration of Wutsu, "A cow passes through a window its head, horns, and the four legs pass over easily, but only the tail cannot pass through. Why can't it?"

Suzuki gives the following instruction for the use of the koan, "Now devote yourselves to this koan and try to find its meaning. Devote yourselves to it day and night, whether sitting or lying, whether walking or standing; devote yourselves to its solution during the entire course of the twelve periods. Even when dressing or taking meals, or attending to your natural wants, have your every thought fixed on the koan. Make resolute efforts to keep it always before your mind. Days pass, years roll on, but in the fulness of time when your mind is so attuned and recollected there will be a sudden awakening within yourselves... an awakening into the mentality of the Buddha and the patriarchs. You will then, for the first time, and whenever you may go, never again be beguiled by a Zen master."

Ann Mead '61

The theme of this year's fair, the sixteenth annual, is a salute to the St. Lawrence Seaway, and all the groups will somehow employ the lore and lure of the sea, which was instrumental in their coming to the New World.

The Fair is open from 11 A.M. to 10 P.M. both Saturday and Sunday.

Toni Marone '60