



The choir from Urk, The Netherlands, performed on the Northwestern College campus earlier this week. The choir gave a performance in the college chapel. They also gave a performance on the Dordt College campus in Sioux Center.

## Urk singers perform here

A choir from Urk, an island on the IJsselmeer in the Netherlands, offered a concert in Dutch and English during chapel at Northwestern College Tuesday morning.

After touring the community, the group gave a public concert at Dordt College. They stayed with host families in Sioux Center.

The Urk choir is one of seven in the community where singing is very popular. The group touring this country is the best known of the groups and has won numerous prizes.

The Urk Zanger choir has been the subject of three television programs and eight records. They give 20 concerts per year.

A book now being written by Lize Stilma, a famous Dutch author, will feature the group prominently.

"We have an overfilled schedule," J. Koffeman, chairman of the choir said.

The group isn't professional and most perform because of a love and dedication to music. Interested persons just ask to join. Koffeman said 75 percent of the members are involved in the fishing industry.

Urk remains one of the major fishing ports of western Europe. It is home for a fleet of 150 fishing boats and a very large fish processing plant.

Touring here were 50 of the 85 members. All took vacations to come here and paid their own flights to and from the U.S. In this country their travel was sponsored by the Dutch Immigrant Society.

In Orange City their host was Charles Canaan. The Heritage Singers, a Northwestern College choir under the direction of Kim Urke Schouten, performed in a church in Urk in 1979.

The group had been acquainted with Canaan when he was directing groups in Michigan. They requested a performance here after it was learned the choir would be travelling the country.

This was the choir's second trip to the United States. They have also performed in Germany.

Koffeman said Urk is almost 100 percent Reformed and Christian Reformed. That, he suggested, is a big reason for the popularity of the choirs in Urk.

His group gives a concert on their own once a year. There is also a showcase for all of the choirs in February.

Canaan says the people of Urk are raised in a singing culture. "When I heard them in Holland, it was so overwhelming I wept." He has twice taken groups there.

He said having the group here, many in Dutch costume, was a cross cultural experience for the students. "They just don't come in contact with that many foreigners." He felt the students appreciated hearing the group sing and speak in another language.

"The group enjoyed coming here so much. This is a contrast to Chicago and Michigan where they've been because it is so much more rural. They were amazed at the response here and the number of people who could speak Dutch.

"It was worthwhile," Canaan said.

## Economy concerns senate foes

Voters making a choice for the Iowa Senate, third district, have a choice between the orthodox and unorthodox.

The Republican endorsed candidate is Doug Ritsema and his opponent is Garry De Young, nominated by petition.

The third district covers virtually all of Sioux and Plymouth counties along with five rural Woodbury County townships.

De Young, Perkins, says the independent label fits him well. He was raised in a socialist household in New Jersey and later became a Democrat. He now feels closer ties to the Republican party.

He was formerly the chief writer for the Minnesota Highway Department, a job that entailed much of the speech writing for governors Harold LeVander, a Republican, and Wendell Anderson, a Democrat. Minnesota GOP members run on the Independent Republican ticket and De Young says he coined that phrase in 1974.

De Young, 59, hasn't held any political offices but did make a run for the U.S. Senate in the last general election. He is a farmer, operates a nursery and publishing house and is an author. His most recent book is *The Meaning of Christianity*.

Ritsema, 29, has served in the Iowa House of Representatives the past two terms. His district covered the southern part of Sioux County and a large part of Plymouth County. Ritsema is an attorney.

Much of the third district has been served by Republican Lucas DeKoster, Hull, for the past 25 years. DeKoster disclosed his retirement plans about a year ago.

Both candidates say a big concern of theirs is state finances. "The economic issue is a very serious

one," De Young said. "We need to slow the growth of state government," a spokesman for the Ritsema campaign said. Ritsema, whose grandfather died in Michigan this week, was out of town.

"There needs to be fiscal responsibility and we must still serve the needs of the citizens," his spokesman said. "He would weigh the needs of the people against not spending beyond the money available."

On education funding Ritsema didn't back efforts to cut back on school aid. The measure he supported didn't provide as much additional funding as some had demanded.

De Young offers state banks as a solution to fiscal problems. He says it isn't a new idea and provision for such a bank is in the state constitution. "It would be allowed to earn big money for the state of Iowa."

He says currently banks draw their currency needs from large out of state banking conglomerates. His proposal would allow a state bank for smaller banks to draw their money needs from.

"The revenue from the interest would go into the state treasury and the money would go into the pockets of the people. It would solve the economic problems immediately."

He says eventually that bank could coin its own money, circumventing the federal reserve system.

De Young also is saying his views are more favorable to private education. He notes an Iowa Association of School Boards survey that lists him as favoring more aid to private schools and allowing the use of non-certified teachers in those schools. De Young, who is teaching his

children at home, charges Ritsema with not favoring tuition tax credits and greater aid to private schools.

Ritsema has been the vice chairman of the judicial and law enforcement committee and the ways and means committee in the house where he has influenced recent changes in the criminal code and tax law. He has been floor manager of bills concerning domestic abuse, drunk driving, look-alike drugs and the new bankruptcy law revisions.

If elected, it is thought he will be among just two or three lawyers in the Senate. That would likely put him in line for a high post on the judiciary and law enforcement committee there. Among the issues to be taken up in the near future are parole and mandatory minimum sentencing. "Doug's experience would give him a big influence."

De Young is arguing that Ritsema's attorney practice should disqualify him from serving in the Senate. He says a lawyer is an officer of the court.

The Perkins candidate says this is a violation of constitutional provisions for separation of powers. "When there is a conflict between the two branches, legislative and judiciary, he'll support the judiciary position."

"I'd say look at a problem and see how to solve it," De Young said.

Ritsema is banking on his experience and knowledge of having served this area to fulfill the needs of the third district. "It's important to have a voice that is respected by others and carries some weight," said county Republican chairman Andrea Van Beek. She anticipates many changes in the legislature that will put a lot of influence in the hands of experienced legislators.

## Grand jury may probe death

A seven-person county grand jury might be called in early next week to look into the shooting death of a young rural Ireton woman.

County attorney Harold Postma declined to comment on what the pending grand jury session might consider during its term. The new term is slated to begin next week.

"I cannot divulge the nature or content of any possible pending grand jury probes," Postma stated.

Postma declined to comment if the grand jury might be looking into the rural Ireton incident saying "it is only speculation" what might ultimately be considered.

Authorities have called the mid-September shooting an accident.

Lisa Vander Esch, 19, was killed in the early evening hours of Sept. 14 by her husband Darwin. Vander Esch told authorities that his rifle had accidentally discharged. The bullet struck her in the head while she was playing with the couple's 18-month-old son.

Authorities were notified by Vander Esch shortly after the incident happened, according to county officials. Authorities have not released what caliber rifle or bullet killed Vander Esch.

State Division of Criminal Investigation and the county sheriff's office have not officially closed their investigation of the Ireton shooting incident.

### Pope (Cont'd. from 2)

rejected it.

"Now I would like to see some kind of bill that would be presented," said Pope of allowing parimutual betting in the state.

Pope said if the constitutionality of the railroad bonds is upheld in the courts, there might be some activity to sell them which could further improve rail service throughout the state.

Pope has served two terms in the Iowa House. He has served on the legislative council and on the appropriations and rules committee in the House.

### Watson (Cont'd. from 1)

Testimony in the trial began last Tuesday. The trial was expected to last one week, but extensive state's evidence was entered into the case.

In addition to the criminal charges made by county officials, several civil lawsuits are pending in Sioux County District Court against Watson, the Coovers and others.

Those lawsuits have been filed by several individuals who were involved in pension planning with the group.

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