Campus work study wage increases will vary according to job description

by Tom Overlie

Big plans are in store for the work study program at Dordt College. Michael Epema, associate director of financial aid, says students will see major changes in the work study program for the next school year.

At a recent meeting with work study supervisors, Epema outlined provisions for the new program ranging from salary increases to changes in work hours for students.

Epema says one major advantage of the change is that the program will be competitive with area businesses. "Every year we lose over 100 students to outside employers like Wal-Mart, EMW Groshopp, Harker's, and Hardees," says Epema. "The changes, which will become effective next school year, will pave the way for a more competitive work study system."

According to Epema, program changes are being made for other economic reasons as well. One major reason is the increase in tuition rates expected to be passed by the full board of trustees this week. Epema says he hopes the new program will help students meet some of these expenses. So what are some changes students can expect to see next year? Although a big salary increase isn't one of them, according to Epema, students can expect their hourly wage of $3.35 to jump to $3.85.

Jacklynn Fitzke, a sophomore, says the fifty-cent increase is an improvement, but not one big enough to hold students to campus jobs. "Many times area businesses pay more than what Dordt offers its students," says Fitzke. "I really don't think a change in the program is going to keep a lot of the students from finding jobs elsewhere."

The plan to increase wages by 50 cents doesn't apply to all work study positions, however. Some positions will be getting more. "Because a few work study jobs are harder to fill, we'll be adding an extra 15 cents to the increase," says Epema. This increase applies to maintenance positions as well as jobs in the school cafeteria and farm. "It's our job to recognize the difference between those jobs and the other ones," says Epema. "Normally, these jobs are more difficult, and students receive no real value in the job besides the money."

Epema says the salary boost will not be in effect during the remaining two months of this school year. He says the increase will be implemented in the next school year as originally planned.

Another change in the program affects available work hours for students. Previously, students were normally limited to six hours a week, but under the new program they will have an option to work up to nine. That means students will be capable of making approximately $1000 per year in a work study position.

Julie De Boef, a sophomore computer science major, says the option of working more hours will be a great advantage to some Dordt students. "Any help is much needed," she says. "It's going to be hard for me to handle extra hours even if I wanted to. I barely have enough time in my schedule to reach 600 hours the way it is," says De Boef.

Epema says another major benefit of the new program will be a decrease in the total number of students filling work study positions. Under the new program, approximately 500 students will be working—a decrease of about 200 students from the original program. "This drop will allow individual students to have more hours," says Epema. He also says the program eliminates squeezing an excess amount of students into a limited number of positions.

Although a veneer of harmony and cooperation usually exists among faculty supervisors and the work study program, some squabbles have developed over the changes. According to Epema, scheduling for the excess hours has created difficulty among some of the supervisors. But according to Epema, "The new program was developed for the students. It may call for some supervisors to revamped their schedules, but I want to stress that we are making these changes primarily with the students in mind."

Strange encourages farmers to practice stewardship principles

by Shawna Sieperda

Sustainable agriculture, defined as using farming practices that promote permanence of the land, is the answer to many of the problems that plague American agriculture today, according to Marty Strange in his lecture Tuesday night, March 13.

Strange is the program director of the Center for Rural Affairs in Walthill, Nebraska. Strange has written Family Farming: A New Economic Vision, a textbook that has been used in the Dordt agriculture program.

Strange introduced his topic by talking about the stages in farm crises and the moral values prevalent in agriculture today.

Strange encouraged the use of sustainable agriculture, showing our moral obligation of stewardship of the land, how it would help us economically, and how it makes political sense to encourage its use. The sustainable agriculture movement promotes the idea that the farmer can do a better job with more limited resources. Farmers must manage more effectively instead of being R.L.S. (Read the Label Stupid) farmers.

Strange also commented on policies that he felt should go into the 1990 Farm Bill and on the Christian's and church's role in the various stages of farm crises. He emphasized that we need to speak up against certain practices and greed even when it is not the popular thing to do.

Proponents of sustainable agriculture are realizing that farmers have to accept responsibility for their actions because their actions affect the future of the land and its condition for use by future generations.

The speech was followed by a 15 minute question and answer period. The general audience was then dismissed while some stayed for another 45 minutes to ask questions and debate with Strange about his ideas on various subjects and to clarify points in his presentation.
Pro-life Christians must consider adopting "unwanted" children

Many Christians, including Dordt students, have poured into the streets and the voting booths to protest the death of American babies in abortion clinics. Rallies in Washington attract hundreds of thousands of pro-lifers, while rallies in smaller cities like Des Moines attract tens of thousands.

The outpouring of support for the pro-life movement hasn't helped the cause much. Pro-choice candidates won important elections in New Jersey and Virginia during 1989, and some pro-lifers are beginning to feel they are losing the battle.

One answer has been suggested to help stop abortion in the U.S. and Canada—adoption. It seems such a simple answer to a complex problem.

The pro-choice movement's strongest argument is that mothers who abort do not want the child that would result from their pregnancy. Pro-choice says an unwanted child would not be taken care of properly and would be unhealthy.

They point out that many unwanted babies would be born to single mothers who can't afford to take care of the child. Often, unwanted children are handicapped, of a minority race, born into the underclass, or even afflicted by the drug and alcohol abuse of their mothers. These are the children nobody wants.

Most Dordt students aren't quite ready to think about having children of their own. But it won't be very long before we will be having children. If we are concerned about the lives of "unwanted" babies, each and every one of us ought to consider adopting one or more children.

Adoption may be preventing a few cases of abortion already, but adoption agencies are having a difficult time placing children who are older, children from certain minority groups, and children with handicaps or severe illnesses.

Since the time of the early church, Christians have provided an example of Christ-like love to the world around them. Groups like Covenant House, which helps teenage runaways, and the Voice of Calvary, which strives for racial reconciliation, have been clear melodies of hope and love in a cacophony of despair. Even at Dordt, organizations like F.I.A. and the Community Outreach Program have done wonders providing examples of God-praising activity within the Kingdom.

Adoption should be the next example of Christian love. Christians who reach out and unconditionally love even the most "unwanted" babies would provide a tremendous model of God's love for the world. All Christian families should consider adoption—not just families who can't have their own kids. I can't think of any reason not to have a mixture of adopted and "natural" children.

Christian families should be willing to make a sacrifice and adopt handicapped or severely ill babies. Our faith is not meant to be convenient—certainly it was not convenient for Christ to die on the cross for us. If we simply take the easy road in our activity as Christians, we may soon find our faith deteriorating, not to mention our loss of credibility in Christian witness.

Those who raise their voices the highest in the abortion debate ought to make adoption a priority. I'd like to see Dordt students make a pledge with their spouses or spouses-to-be that they will adopt a child who might have otherwise been aborted.

Most Dordt students are strong believers in a traditional family structure, where one parent (usually the mother) stays home to take care of the kids and manage the affairs at home. A few kind of structure may not be for everyone, but those who do choose such a lifestyle must realize that they are living in an ideal setting for taking care of special needs children. When a family decides one parent will stay home full time, they have an obligation to consider adopting children who are handicapped or ill.

Millions of Christians adopting millions of "unwanted" babies would immediately wind up the sails of the pro-choice argument. No baby would be unwanted. I suspect a sudden upsurge in the number of competent, loving, Christian parents who choose to adopt one or more children would tide in favor of the pro-life movement.

At a huge pro-choice rally in Washington in November, several women marched from the Capitol to the Lincoln Memorial with signs asking the rhetorical question, "How many pro-life Congressmen have adopted handicapped babies?" The unfortunate answer is zero. And Christians haven't done much better.

I want to pick up the latest issue of the Voice and notice that several old acquaintances from Dordt have decided to go the route of adopting "future Defenders." I want to be one of them.

The Canadian maple leaf and the U.S. star spangled banner: round 3

To the editor:
This past year I have suddenly noticed a lot of Canadian-American muddling. I wish I could understand why this happened in my senior year. Except for a little razzing once in a while, I never heard any of this before.

When I read letters in the Diamond accusing Americans collectively of being ignorant, it bothers me. I was not encouraged in school to learn about Canada.

First, in Canadian history and geography classes, there is extensive discussion of the U.S. In my American history and geography classes, however, the only mention of Canada is that it is our northern neighbor, its government is more socialist than ours, and it is one of America's closest allies. You can see I was not encouraged in school to learn about Canada.

Second, I didn't learn that it was very important to learn about other countries. I was always socialized to believe that the geography and history of my own country was hardly necessary, let alone that of other countries.

I would like irritation Canadians to imagine a switch in world power—instead of the U.S. being a world power, put Canada in that place. I think Canadians would know less about the U.S. in such a situation.

Finally, I want to make it clear that I like Canadians and their somewhat different way of looking at things. I have learned a lot from Canadians in the last four years.

Now I must plead with you. If you don't like American ignorance, if you don't like the Midwest, or if you just like to complain, please don't tell me about it. I am proud of where I am from, just like you. I am tempted to tell those grumbling people not to stay here and suffer on my account, that I'd be glad to help Tim Antonides pack your bags, and I'll even give you a ride to the airport.

Instead, I'll ask my fellow students why a group of people, most of whom call themselves Canadians, can't live in the same community without arguing about "Who is more ignorant," or "Who has more culture." Although I enjoy discussing differences between Canadians and Americans and razzing each other occasionally, I think it is pathetic to hear all this name calling in a "Christian" community.

Jay Kuipers

Germany comes to Le Mars

Germany comes to Le Mars

by Heather Alsum

Eight Dordt College German language students went to Westmar College in LeMars for a German festival on Thursday evening, March sixth.

Dr. Dallas Apol accompanied the students. "I wanted the students to have the cultural and language experience and see plays perfomed in German," says Apol.

"It was an educational evening," says German student Denise Alsum. The costumes were authentic and fun to look at.

The evening began with music followed by a series of plays: The Bremen Town Musicians, Little Red Riding Hood, and Rumpelstiltskin.

Festival participants sang German songs with the choir.

Festival sponsors served German foods: Schwarwaler Kirchtorfe, Sachertorte, and Apfelkuchen mit Streuseln cake-like tortes.

"German desserts taste a lot like ours," says Alsum. "If we were to go to Germany, I'm sure some of the food would be quite different from American food."
Curiosity kills?

Last issue we learned that we're racists. That notion is somewhat correct yet, as someone claimed in Students Say, a lot of racism is due to ignorance. Ignorance doesn't justify racism, by any means, but it seems that while the pure racism's antagonistic feelings are somewhat ingrained into their personality, at least the ignorant can be taught. That is my approach to the subject of racism. For that matter, the same is true for sexism and nationalism.

My solution to the problems these particular "ists" present is simple. I'd like to redefine the terms of racism, sexism, and nationalism and provide a positive perspective to each term. Too often racism and sexism can't be discussed without a lot of presuppositions. For example, a common assumption and misconception concerning African Americans is that all blacks desire to be treated as if they were whites with black skin. Not so. Blacks don't want to be white any more than women want to be men. Blacks want the freedom to be black. Women want the freedom to be women. Canadians want to be Canadians—and be recognized as Canadians.

When the civil rights movement took off in the 60s, the blacks' main goal was not that their skin color be somehow overlooked, or for people to pretend they were white, but rather their desire was to get a breakfast at the local diner without being slapped upside the head with an axe handle.

Women today don't (or shouldn't, at least) feel the need to be men with breasts and high heels. Instead they want to be recognized as being female, able to do their own thing in a distinctively female manner and not be criticized as a result.

Concerning the recent hype over the lack of interest American students show toward Canada, consider that the apathetic attitude is a nationalistic one, rooted at the core in ignorance. Remember that there is no contest being held to find the best country in the world. America is both Canada and the United States. We are one land.

So how do we grant these groups their desires without being racist, sexist, or nationalistic?

Since blacks, for instance, don't want to be white, and we already know the negative meaning of racism (see Chuck's last editorial if you don't), a positive perspective is one which recognizes peoples and cultures as different from our own, yet appreciates them exactly as they are.

Let the racial ignorance, sometimes displayed in prejudice, be turned into curiosity. It's not wrong to wonder about different cultures. It's not wrong to want to find out what makes one race different from another.

That's what's so excellent about the human race—everyone is different. Curiosity is good.

What makes the black man who he is? Why does he like what he likes, eat what he eats, talk as he talks, and live where he lives? Be curious.

What makes the Indian or Hispanic different from the Dutch, or the German, or the Chinese? What makes the Canadians who they are? What gives them that passion and courage to speak their mind in a way only a Canadian can display? Be curious.

Men, ever get the feeling that you'll never understand women? Possibly true, yet find out why women are women.

Be curious about what makes a woman different from a man. Take ignorant sexism and turn it into something good.

Dordt has an awful lot going for it. Let us use the same reasoning in clapping. Chapel is not cultic worship, rather, it is an informal gathering of the church. Because it is, should we make the same rules for it as we do for cultic worship? Nay, I say. Let us thank the singer or instrumentalist for leading us in informal non-cultic worship of our great God! In fact, while you're at it, why not raise a hand in praise?!!

Maybe even say "Amen" or "Hallelujah." Do I dare endorse tongues too?

We should allow secular music on KDCR because we wouldn't want to be inconsistent with our anti-dualistic ideals of the world and life views.

Well, KDCR was not established to promote those who blaspheme or take a "neutral" position towards the God of the Bible. Rather, it is to "proclaim a God-centered culture" and to exalt Jesus Christ for an 80-mile radius.

The job of KDCR is not to give air time to those who hate Jesus Christ or those who will listen to anything with Christian lyrics to sell more records (U2, Bob Dylan, etc.).

Rather, let me add my two cents and say, "Why doesn't KDCR get off its but and play some real contemporary Christian Music? Where's the Shout, Bloodgood, Mastedon, Ruchea, and Geoff Moore? Come on, KDCR!! Splug! Buy something besides Amy Grant, Steve Greene, and Sandi Patti. How many mix tapes can you buy at True Vine at reduced prices, and have some awesome music on the air. I'll even dare wager that if you offer True Vine Bookstore free advertisements during "Illumination" (9:00-11:00 pm), in return for the latest rock, rap, dance, and metal CCM, they would be happy to stock your shelves with the latest in tapes and CD's. If it works on KFXR-FM in Lincoln, Nebraska, it should work in little old Sioux Center, Iowa.

Well, Diamond readers? Did you see anything that really struck you? Give me your best shot. If you can.

Jeff Voorhees

Students say...

Should certain work study workers be paid higher wages than others?

by Heather Alsum and Jeff De Boer

Bonnie Bandstra
Junior
"Yes, because they work in the commons. Switchboard and desk-sitters can do their homework, but I have to be busy working the entire time."

Denny Vander Velden
Freshman
"No, because wherever do you draw the line in deciding who should get paid what?"

Phouang Nongthinath
Sophomore
"Yes, I agree with that. Because some work harder and deserve more."

Pam Van Wyk
Senior
"No, I think working for a professor can be just as hard as pushing a lawn mower."

Giie me your best shot"
Task force to improve campus life

by Karla Kamp

The Campus Life Task Force is underway discussing plans to incorporate a holistic approach to campus life. The task force, headed by Dean of Students Nick Kroese, first met in January and hopes to report to the Board in March, 1991.

"The task force was created because the administration felt the college community is not exclusively an educational community—it's also a social community," says Kroese.

The task force's mandate is to assess how the college community can further develop Christian commitment and genuine piety in campus life outside of the classroom. Four students—John Wagenveld, Diana Klungel, Kevin Wagenen, and Joeli Kooima, join members of the faculty and administration on the task force.

Klungel and Wagenveld explain that the task force has been investigating its purpose and coming up with a manageable mandate. Presently the task force is outlining concrete ways in which campus life can be improved.

"Housing is a key discussion, say Klungel and Wagenveld. How can the building structures and student living situations be directed in obedience to God?"

Wagenveld says he'll suggest changes to church attendance cards and ways to promote brother/sisterhood between RA's and RD's and students.

Kroese says student involvement is vital to the task force's operation. Faculty and administration tend to become philosophical, says Kroese, but students bring discussion to the level of "what does this mean?" "I'd encourage students who have thought about life on campus to feel free to talk to students on the task force," says Kroese.

"Students are given a lot of voice," says Wagenveld, "and we have to be vocal."

Glasnost opens the Soviet Union to college students

by Sandra De Jong

Imagine yourself attending a university in the Soviet Union surrounded by a new and exciting culture. Although this is a tentative and vague scene, the breathtaking culture. Although this is a tentative opening and advancing education in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe may be opening up new and exciting opportunities for students and faculty of the Christian College Coalition, of which Dordt is a member.

Dr. J.B. Hulst, after hearing a speech by Dr. Martin Susi, the president of the first independent university in the Soviet Union, became interested in what Susi had to say about the new opportunities in education in the Soviet Union.

New educational possibilities look promising is due to Gorbachev's new policies. Glasnost, or openness, is opening and advancing education in the Soviet Union. Under the old regime all education was controlled by the state.

Although it is not known what kind of opportunities Dordt could have in the Soviet Union, or whether Dr. Susi is a Christian, tentative plans are being made for Dr. Susi to visit Dordt's campus for a few days in April to discuss future opportunities for Dordt in the Soviet Union.

Dr. John Vander Stelt says establishing contacts and exchange programs in the Soviet Union has been important for over 400 years. John Calvin in Geneva already stated a need for established contacts with Christians in Russia. Now, although everything is extremely vague, contact with Christians in Russia through education is looking promising.

Kristin McCarthy, a freshman, will be travelling to Russia this summer with Gordon College in Wenham, Massachusetts. She will be spending approximately a week and a half in the Soviet Union and is looking forward to getting to know what the people there are really like.

Wanted: your contribution

On April 26, 1990, the Diamond staff will produce the final issue of the year. And we want this issue to be completely yours. We're looking for any kind of article you would like to write—the idea is similar to last summer, when we had plenty of stories to produce a great issue.

We're especially interested in contributions from seniors reflecting about their years at Dordt. Other submissions are also very welcome. Perhaps you could even send in something you wrote for one of your classes. The Diamond staff hopes turnout will be as heavy this semester as last semester.

Send your contributions to DC 375. The due date is Monday, April 24. Do you have questions? Feel free to call Chuck Adams (722-1938) or Karla Kamp (722-2548).

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'Thank you for your support during the year.'
Campus radio raises funds with auction

By Janet Poot

On March 5-10, KDCR aired a live radio auction, one of the station's biggest fundraisers.

KDCR is licensed by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) as an "educational broadcast facility," says Denny De Waard, station manager. KDCR is not allowed to run advertisements since it is a non-profit station.

The auction serves two main purposes: area businesses advertise through their donations and KDCR raises funds.

De Waard says, "People in this area have become attracted to auctions. Aside from the income, we gain listeners that normally don't listen to KDCR."

The auction first started as a fundraiser for a Spring Arts Festival Dordt sponsored in 1986. Because of the success, KDCR adopted the auction permanently. The fundraiser takes places every March and October.

Area businesses donate items for the auction. Approximately 200 items are donated each year—from filing cabinets, mattresses, and vacuum cleaners to pizzas and necklaces.

"Small items are the most popular with the listeners and make the most money for the auction," according to De Waard.

Many listeners' bids go over retail prices to help benefit KDCR. De Waard says this "demonstrates some real support from KDCR listeners."

Ruth Holland, a part-time secretary for KDCR, coordinates the auction and works closely with KDCR staff and senior Tom Prinsen.

Jim Bolkema, program director, has written a computer program consisting of information on all the merchandise. During the auction he enters in the bids of the callers and their phone numbers.

De Waard talks to callers, taking their bids over the air. Carolyn Douma, also a part-time secretary at the station, screens the incoming calls.

Each auction brings in an estimated $4500, and the profit keeps growing every year.

Two-cents from the back forty

To the editor:

I also head the Iowa KKK. Jumpin' Jehosophat, I'm the Wizard. Reminds ya of the old Briar Cliff games, don't it? Member burnin' crosses on the lawns by Shop-Ro after the game? Relieve-those were the days!

Love to think about those good ole days of racism and sexism. I blech, I blech those were the days!

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Love to think about those good ole days of racism and sexism. I blech, I blech those were the days!

Love to think about those good ole days of racism and sexism. I blech, I blech those were the days!
Music springs at Dordt

by Alisa Siebenga

"The hills are alive with the sound of music." Well, maybe not the hills, but at Dordt College certainly is.

It all started March 2, with Susan Van Till's and Walter Meyer's recital. Van Till is an organ performance major studying under Dr. Ringerwolle, started off with pieces from Bach, Beethoven, Chopin, and Hawes. Then Meyer, a junior organ performance major also studying under Dr. Ringerwolle, took over. His recital consisted of various composers from the 17th to 20th centuries composers. One piece, "Drop, Drop, Slow Tears," an opera by Persichetti, was assisted by vocalist Joan Van Holland.

Joan Van Holland, a senior vocal performance major from the studio of Mrs. Dorr, performed March 6. The performance consisted of pieces from the 19th and 20th centuries and a comic opera performed in English. Accompanying Van Holland were Carrie Veenstra, Fran Mulder, Kim Hoii, and Madal Watwin. An opera is not a common occurrence in the recital series and it offered a unique experience for Dordt students. The Oxford String Quartet performed the next concert on the agenda. This professional group, consisting of Hali Grossman, Kaufman, Mary Harris, and Steven Shumway, is a faculty ensemble from Miami University in Ohio. Their repertoire included works from the 18th to the 20th centuries, including a piece by Samuel Powell.

The music extravaganza continues on March 16, when the Concert Band and Chamber Orchestra will delight the college with pieces both old and new. Vocalists Joe Grenimore and oboeist Tania Roosendaal will accompany the Orchestra.

Following spring vacation, Roosendaal will give an oboe recital on April 6. A Good Friday Recital will be given by the Humanities Department on April 13, and the Sioux County Oratorio Chorus will perform the Messiah on April 14.

Walking your talk

To the editor:

I don't know. I just can't wait to get out of Dordt. I used to feel that we had a quality institution going here, something to be proud of. Now, however, I've got my doubts.

I cannot fault the professors. They are consistently excellent, a factor that led to my choosing Dordt over other Christian colleges, and they are personal friends, something that helped me choose Dordt over a "secular" university. While I do not wish to deny the professors, I think they consistently take too much flak from students who misread or do not understand their views. This upsets me. For example, remember the Hogstle debate about a couple of years ago? If not, ask someone, and I'd be surprised if you didn't find it ridiculous.

The thing that upsets me most about Dordt is that students who have chosen to go to a Christian college where they should be challenging their faith, strengthening it, and studying every realm of God's kingdom in order to eventually serve in it have become generic believers. That is to say, looking at them, one is not sure what they believe.

I was not at the Briar Cliff game of infamy, but what I read about it angered me greatly. Maybe the people who were doing the abusing should have been called "worst" and decided to do some damage of their own. I know that racism is a problem on campus (remember the big West Asian/American disputes of a couple of years ago?) but this is ridiculous. I would suggest that a vast majority of students, if questioned directly, would say, "Racism is wrong." But how do people walk their talk? Not too many from what I can see.

Incidentally, I brought a friend of mine from Northwestern (who happens to be black, as if that should matter) to the talent show after Humanities. I was shocked at the amount of people staring at us afterward. Did they feel threatened, shocked, curious? I don't know, but it made me mad.

I've heard a rumor that KDCR is going to graduate school at a "secular" university where hypocrisy is not flaunted as faith. If Dordt doesn't shape up, I'm not sure I won't be happier there.

Michael Goedhart

One of the more unique vocal recitals this year was Joan Van Holland's. Van Holland, here with the assistance of Carrie Veenstra, performed an entire comic opera during her recital. Several more musical events are scheduled before spring break, and a large number of events will also take place after break. The Dordt music department would appreciate your attending any of the remaining events of the year at the Dordt college chapel-auditorium. (Photo by Jeff De Boer)
Of Robin Williams, Christian politicians, and competent women

To the editor:

In the last issue of the Diamond, I responded to several of the questions brought up by Professor Adams in his February 15 letter. I would like to complete my response to his letter. Adams asked two questions which deal with politics. I am going to combine my responses. Adams seems to suggest we should have a Christian political party. This would be very impractical, if not impossible, since Christians do not agree on how the country should run. Wouldn't there be more bickering over legislation with more political parties, and wouldn't the bickering slow the legislation process down even more? With this in mind, I believe it would be more advantageous for Christians to work at reforming the Republican and Democratic parties, since neither party is inherently evil. This means we must do more than just vote. We should get involved in some way with a political party and one or more candidates.

If the miracle Mr. Adams described in question seven concerning Robin Williams actually occurred, Williams would be an excellent speaker, able to bring the Word of God effectively to a congregation. Since the sermon is an integral part of the worship service, it would not be sinful to switch to a different congregation because a pastor has an outstanding ability to bring out the will of God for our lives—possibly with some humor. This does not mean we should change congregations simply because the pastor is more humorous.

I have not heard of "women students who think too high a grade point average endangers their sex lives." Nor have I heard of men students "who find competent and thoughtful women threatening." But it doesn't mean they don't exist. I suspect most male students believe that competent and thoughtful women are interesting, not threatening. I would like to address a more subtle form of sexism at Dordt. It seems that men must ask women out on the first date, for if a woman were to do this, some would think her too aggressive. I encourage women to ask men out more often and disregard this horrendous stereotype.

Adams's ninth question deals with the pursuit of a high GPA, admission to college, and future careers. As he states, "It is not evil to pursue a high GPA." But it may be more evil to pursue a high GPA as an end in itself, rather than as a means to an end. Adams implies that a newspaper would carry such stories. I would like to address a more sincere being as gaining "the acceptance of our peer group." What we do to gain "the approval of our peer group"—actions as well as words—should be done in accordance with God's norms and laws for Creation.

Paul Wielard

Further response to Prof. Adams's letter

To the editor:

In response to Professor Adams's letter, I want to address some of the questions he raised. I hope he doesn't mind—I'll try to make my reply brief enough so you can enjoy some semblance of a sports page.

Before I respond to some of Mr. Adams's devil's-advocate-type questions, I have a question of my own. First, he seems disappointed that a newspaper would carry such trivia as "descriptive reporting of past events." Am I missing something? The last time I checked, that's exactly what "news" was—unless he's referring to psychic predictions for 1990 in some supermarket tabloid.

Second, does Mr. Adams have a bias against sports? Is he afraid to interest in sports will somehow diminish enthusiasm for engineering and other academic pursuits? As I watched the exciting Dordt-Northwestern basketball game a few weeks ago, I sat in a crowd of students majoring in education, business, communication, and even engineering. In the game itself, I witnessed fine teamwork among players representing different majors. Surprise! Even engineering was represented.

But wait, there's more. At halftime, Northwestern student Robin Pais was honored as a second team Academic All-American. In addition to numerous "oohs" and "aahs" when her outstanding 3.98 GPA was announced, she received a standing ovation at the ceremony's conclusion. I suggest any fears Mr. Adams has about sports supplanting academics are premature, to say the least.

I'd like to reply to a couple of Adams's "provocative" questions, specifically the first and last, which I think are related.

Both questions imply that the pursuit of a high GPA, admission to graduate school, and "a good job in somehow "lustful." If so, Mr. Adams must be caught between a rock and a hard place. Either he's afraid his current job isn't good or he has decided that the dreaded college diploma was a convenient way to qualify for a "good job," and put in his four years like the rest of us Philistine students.

There may be other reasons Dordt students try to get good grades other than merely getting into grad school, increasing their value in the eyes of employers, or gaining personal prestige.

In the parable of the talents, those who make the most of what they are entrusted with are rewarded, while those who make little use of what they're given are condemned.

In another passage, we're told to "study to show thyself approved unto God." I gather from these passages that we have a responsibility to use our abilities to the fullest—not only to please God, but to be a good witness to those outside our Christian community.

I'm not claiming that I never considered the monetary implications of getting a high GPA. I wish I could say that, but it's hard when you major in business administration. But before Mr. Adams labels Dordt students lustful, let me point out that Dordt offers monetary awards to students with high GPAs, thereby encouraging such lustful attitudes in students. And before he petitions Dordt to stop offering such "sinful" scholarships, Mr. Adams should keep in mind that some of the insightful students in General 300 are there because of scholarships. In fact, without scholarships, Mr. Adams would probably be lecturing to a roomful of empty chairs, or perhaps be out of a job.

So, unless my reasoning fails me, Mr. Adams's employer is a prime example of the "decadent surrounding culture" of which he speaks:

Can we rightfully expect to keep our motives pure when the same institution that extorts us to "serve God and not mammon" promotes the lustful pursuit of high GPAs by promise of monetary award?

Let me close by saying I am not opposed to scholarships. In fact, if Dordt were more generous in scholarship awards, Mr. Adams may find more "people who think" in his classes. Perhaps the money earmarked for the ridiculous pond between East Hall and the Commons could be used more wisely to provide scholarships for bright but financially needy students that want to come to Dordt to take one of Mr. Adams's courses. Wouldn't that be more stewardly?

Gary Dykstra
8 SPORTS

Blades participate in Drake tourney

by Wayne Dykstra

The Dordt Blades finished up their 1989-90 campaign in Des Moines two weekends ago. They participated in the first annual Drake Invitational Hockey Tournament. Teams from Iowa State, Northern Iowa, and Washington University joined regular Dordt foes, SDSU, Drake, and Carleton in the round-robin tourney.

Dordt's first game pitted the Blades against Iowa State. The Cyclones took it to the Blades early and skated to an 11-5 victory. Poor all-around play prevented the Blades from beating the Cyclone squad. Sophomore Kevin Zandbergen says, "Everybody tried hard, but it just wasn't there."

Dordt's next game was against the host team Drake. The refreshed Blades were eager to prove themselves offensively and defensively. Although the score was tied 4-4 at the end of regulation, Drake was declared the victors because they had more shots on goal.

Only twenty minutes later the Blades hopped back on the ice to tangle with Carleton College. Strong play carried over from the previous match. Dordt grabbed an early three-goal lead. The Blades lost their edge, however, and Carleton came away with a 10-5 victory.

The Blades didn't win as many games as they had hoped this year, but many individual and team improvements were made. The Blades want to thank all the fans and advisors who were involved in their season.

Next season, the Blades lose three seniors: Joel Kamp, Dave Tilstra and John De Hoogh.

Talks are underway about a possible league next season which would involve many of the participants from the Drake invitational. The Blades hope that some additional freshman can help them be competitive.

Dordt fans attract attention

by Steve Hoogland

In each of the team sports so far, this year's fans have gained attention of athletes and sports enthusiasts. Each year it seems the soccer team gains a few more fans. In volleyball, attendance was as high as it has ever been, for sure the past five or six years. When Dordt defeated Northwestern in three come-from-behind victories in October, there was as much excitement as the gym saw this year.

In women's basketball fans supported the team early in the season as the Lady Blazers raced to a 10-2 record. But as Dordt lost a few game, fans quit going to games. What was most disappointing about the women's basketball season was the small crowd for the home playoff games. It seems that many student "fans" turned and left the gym when they saw they had to pay $2. As a result Northwestern had a larger student section than the host Dordt.

In men's basketball the students apparently lost interest in a club which lacked the punch to beat the good teams. Also marring the men's basketball season is the question of whether or not Dordt's fans are racist. The issue seemed to come to a head against Briar Cliff.

First, if racism is a problem why does everyone say, "It's not us. It's those people that sit over there. Let's blame them." Second, if racism is a problem here at Dordt, the seeds must go much deeper than a basketball team. Many disapponting about the women's fans quit going to games. What was most disappointing about the women's season was the small crowd for the home playoff games. It seems that many student "fans" turned and left the gym when they saw they had to pay $2. As a result Northwestern had a larger student section than the host Dordt.

Dordt fans attract attention

Small track team begins competition

by Jill Beran

The Dordt College track team started practice January 22, for this year's track season. According to Coach Syne Altena, 11 women and 12 men reported to practice.

Strengths of the women's track team lie in the middle distance running with Lois Pastine running the open 1500 meters and Fran Ton running the open 400 and the open 800. In the field events Rita Mulder throws the shot put. Pastine, a senior, leads the women's team as captain.

The men's track team is in the process of rebuilding after graduating four of its competitive runners last year. Senior leaders include Craig Heynen and Dave Tebben, junior javelin thrower Bill Vander Kooi, sophomore Robert Redeker, and freshman Troy Kooima will help rejuvenate this year's team.

You have to be optimistic and go with what you have," says Coach Altena. This year's focus will be more on the individual events rather than relays.

Altena sees the women's track team's biggest weakness is its lack of participants, whereas the men lack competitors in field events.

"The athletes I have are very dedicated," says Altena. "This makes my job very enjoyable. The team works hard in practice and I'm sure this will carry into the meets."

The team's first indoor meet was a triangular last Saturday at Wayne State. The Dordt Invitational is scheduled for April 14.