Diamonds are forever

by Carolyn Vos

As each year comes to an end, everyone is filled with a sense of nostalgia. Well, let's get nostalgic. Instead of looking towards the promise of the future, let's go back in time and look at what has been happening in the Diamond through the years.

For the past twenty-nine years, the Diamond has made some changes; yet it has stayed the same in many ways. The first Diamond on file dates back to 1959. It was a lot different looking, consisting of four pages, like a folder. The type was small, and the stories were mainly on Dordt happenings. The February 19, 1960, issue contains a great story: eight sophomores and six freshmen had been announced as members of the Dean's Honor Roll for first semester. And if that doesn't make you feel good about your grades, only two students were able to maintain an A average!

By 1964, the Dordt Diamond was now eight pages, but still had a pamphlet-like look. This was the year that Dordt welcomed three new members to its faculty: Professors Koekoek, Alberda, and Mennega. The paper also moved from the entrance of the teacher's offices to a room in the Commons.

1968 was a busy year for the Dordt Diamond. A student by the name of Jim Schaap wanted a "free press" for the students to write whatever was on their minds, no matter how radical. And September 20 was the All School Retreat—a sixty-five car caravan headed for Lake Okoboji. A large article was written questioning diplomatic recognition of Red China. There was a movie review urging students to go to the gym where Cary Grant was starring in "Walk, Don't Run." A big issue of concern was whether dancing was right or not. Business courses were introduced to the curriculum. The paper ran a want ad for writers and typists. (Sound familiar?) And in the "free press" section was an interesting article questioning Dordt's unwritten law banning beards! But it was also a big year for issues. Students wrote about the right to vote at nineteen, and the War. A panel discussion was held concerning Vietnam, and a number of Dordt students held a demonstration "for the purpose of distributing Anti-Vietnam literature." Rev. Vander Stelt was lecturing on "The Christian and the Power of War." And another three professors found their way to Dordt: Professors Dekkinga, Struyk, and Vander Zee.

1972 was another big year for issues. One article urged students to re-elect Nixon; another urged Indian Rights. There were concerns of Labor Unions, Terrorism, and Civil Rights. There was a series regarding the big "Women's Liberation," and it was the end of the Vietnam War. More exciting news was that Dordt's own professor Hodgson received appointment as Recorder for the newly-created Minor Planets Section of the Association of Lunar and Planetary Observers.

On February 1, 1979, the Diamond was officially copyrighted for the first time. Articles written included Dordt's goal for the future, and another explaining where tuition money goes. An interesting article was run about a sophomore girl who was a Moonie, and loved it! There was also a series written on Dordt's sister colleges. The first article dealt with the new King's College in Alberta and if it would have an impact on Canadian enrollment at Dordt. Rev. Haan was reassuring: "I will do everything in my power to get Canadian students (Sept. 28, 1978)."

In 1983 the Diamond issued a press release: open house hours had finally changed to three hours every Wednesday through Sunday! Community pastors would be on campus for counseling, and students thought the Business Office was unfair! Campus movies included "Gandhi" and "Psycho." Even crossword puzzles were included. The paper looked different, too. The Diamond was boldly written across the front page, yet the whole page was almost one huge photo. Underneath were printed the first few lines of the story, with the rest continuing inside the pages.

From 1959 to 1988, the layout and design has changed time and time again. But the Diamond's goals have never changed: it's purpose is still to voice the efforts, opinions, and concerns of Dordt students. Articles are still written on issues—abortion, elections, and other current concerns. Sports, movies, and music are still reviewed, as well as on-campus activities. We still have the editorial page, and letters to the editor are as welcome as they were in 59.

Really, twenty-nine years hasn't brought much change, except for some fascinating history. So what does the future hold for the Diamond? We'll have to wait and see. My guess is if it's a real Diamond, it won't lose it's lustre, sparkle, and uniqueness over time. Face it, Diamonds are forever!

Welcome to the last issue of the Diamond for 1988. But this is no ordinary Diamond. Instead, we bring you something different. The students of Communications 242 have created a special human interest issue, each person in charge of one page. We would like to thank the Diamond's editor, Galen Sinkey, for all his help. We would also like to thank Paul Vande Kamp and Angela Eriksen for their help with photos.

Enjoy this paper, for you are reading our final exam. And on behalf of the Diamond staff, Merry Christmas everyone. See you in '89!
The library -- a legend of learning

"...We, now, the members of this Christian community, ... dedicate ourselves and this [library] building to the service and glory of God."


by Teri Nikkel

Five hundred people gathered on the Dordt College campus to attend a dedication service for the new library building on August 25, 1966. A library, according to an article in the October 1966 issue of the Voice, "indicates the desire of all who are vitally concerned with Dordt to provide the materials, space, and atmosphere most vital for the achievement of high academic standards.

In the early years of Dordt's existence, the library at that time, which is the media center today, was proclaimed inadequate for the growing institution. After months of raising money and making plans for a new library building, construction began in May, 1965. The $350,000 needed to cover the cost of the project had already been collected through a federal grant, a federal loan, and through various donations. The new library first opened for the 1966-67 school year with approximately 30,000 gift books.

In the twenty-two years since then, very few changes have occurred. Art displays have improved the appearance of the library. Most of the pieces were given to the college. Artist John Knight created the colorful painting on the south wall of the library. The mural, based on the Biblical book of Amos, illustrates destruction and redemption. The library's largest addition consists of a growing number of books and periodicals.

Today the library, which was initially built to house approximately 65,000 volumes, holds an estimated 125,000 to 130,000 items, 650 of which are magazines and periodicals. Although not many new magazines and periodical titles are being added, there are about 3,000 books purchased every year. Members of the faculty make yearly requests for new books. Mrs. Reitsma and Mrs. Hulst, two professional library staff members with masters degrees in library science, then make the final decisions according to the budget. The library budget is taken from the operational fund of the college. In the 1988-89 school year, the total book budget is $60,000, and the budget for periodicals is between $30,000 and $35,000.

Such a large number of materials in the library also creates a need for a large number of employees. Three full time and five part-time staff members, and approximately twenty work study students operate the library, with Dr. Ribbens as acting director. Mending and shelving books, taking inventory, and other similar tasks form an on-going process. Employees' duties become harder, as "this has been the worst year ever for stolen, torn, and misused books and magazines," says Mrs. Hulst. "Students should be reminded that Iowa law states that theft or mutilation of library materials is equal to shoplifting."

Besides those that work at the library during its open hours from eight to eleven, a number of people also constitute the custodial staff. This staff conducts a thorough cleaning and takes care of major repairs over the summer. It has been about seven years since the library's last major decorating. Dr. Ribbens is quite confident that the library is toward the top of the "building needs: evaluation" list, and that there could be plans for expansion in the future.

"We need more breathing room," agrees Mrs. Hulst.

The Dordt College library is one of the most well stocked libraries in the area. This has been proven by the interlibrary loan program. Last year, Dordt's library borrowed approximately 400 books, but loaned out well over 600. "We have a large collection of well selected materials," says Dr. Ribbens. "Dordt students should be proud of their library.

All roads lead to the library.
Cleanliness is next to...  

By Gia Vos

Some Dordt students find cleanliness to be a chore. For them, cleanliness is often next to that pile of laundry in the corner or the stack of papers next to the couch.

Cleanliness becomes a commodity in East Campus especially when the bathtub is suddenly covered with a cushion of grime. It's at that time that those cleaning ladies in the dorms look pretty good.

They do windows; they do floors. They do sinks, toilets, showers, mirrors, and bathtubs. And they fill the toilet paper and empty the trash.

The cleaning ladies do all the things students would like to ignore. Floyd Reitsma says last year in North Hall. "My friend stuck his clothes in the end closet. The cleaning lady saw them—they were just filthy dirty—and she brought them home to wash."

However, students sometimes wonder how great that cleaning service is when the ladies come into the West Hall bathrooms to clean at 8:00 in the morning. At that hour students think sleep is more important than cleanliness and can get a little nasty.

Fortunately, the ladies have a sense of humor. And they also have names—-in East Hall: Elsie De Grotenhuis and Joann Hoogland; in North Hall: Lori Bonnema, Dorthy Mouw, and Carol Prinsen; in West Hall: Violet Haak, Lavonne Riphagen, and Eileen Van Voorst.

Back to their sense of humor. It almost seems like a requirement for the job—especially because of all the pranks they endure. Eileen Van Voorst (West) says quickly, "Oh, but you don't want to tell the worst."

Anyway, some of the stuff they put up with is pretty bad. In fact, a few years ago one prank was bad enough to make one North Hall guy faint.

When Lavonne Riphagen (West) compares cleaning house to cleaning dorms, she asserts with a laugh, "My own home doesn't get this dirty."

An opinion like this comes easily after cleaning hundreds (or thousands) of bathrooms. The ladies in West Hall clean for a total of 48 hours a week. If they cleaned day and night they'd be there two out of the seven days.

But it's not so bad, they're quick to stress. As Dorthy Mouw (North) grins and says, "So far, we always come back."

Joann Hoogland (East) has been cleaning Dordt's dorms for "at least" 20 years. She was cleaning North Hall when it was still a hall for girls.

Eileen Van Voorst (West) and Violet Haak (West) have both been at Dordt for about 17 years. Dorthy Mouw (North) for 10 years, Elsie De Grotenhuis (East) 5 years, Carol Prinsen (North) 3 years, Lori Bonnema (North) for one year, and Lavonne Riphagen (West) for only four months.

With this many hours and years, these ladies know their jobs. Joann Hoogland knows East Hall so well she can tell you exactly which glass rings on the front desk are removable and which ones are permanent stains.

And they carry a sense of practicality. One student said that a few years ago he and his roommates in West Hall thought they would brighten up the cleaning lady's morning by singing her a quartet of "Hello, hello, hello." After they finished, the cleaning lady sweetly replied, "Your singing is sure nice. But I would like it even better if you could keep your bathroom a little cleaner."

Day after day, their practicality, cheerfulness, dedication, and hard work make the dorms sparkle—or at least as clean as humanly possible.

So apparently in Dordt's dorms, cleanliness is next to the cleaning lady's bucket of soap and water.

Soap and water—plus

Mr. Lou Kuiper, Dordt plant manager, estimates he orders, per year:

.....9,600 rolls of toilet paper
.....1,600 rolls of paper towels
.....180 quarts of bowl cleaner
.....55 gallons of floor-care soap.
For better or for worse, for richer or for poorer, in trailer or in basement...

by Melanie Woldhuis

Marriage is a commitment for life and takes a great deal of time and effort to build. At Dordt, more and more Dordt students are choosing to start that commitment while they're still here. According to the student directory, seventy-nine of Dordt's students are married this year. That's 8% of the total student body. While other students break away from depending on parents and move toward supporting themselves, the married students are learning to share everything with someone else. They need to cook and clean, and pay rent and bills while single students take trips to Sioux Falls and eat at Hardee's. Being married at college is fun, according to the married students, but it isn't easy.

One of the first concerns of a married person is finding a place to live. A few couples become RD's (Residence Hall Directors) and live in a dorm or east campus apartment. Others live in a Dordt trailer, or off campus somewhere. All three options have both advantages and disadvantages.

To be RD's the couple must first be accepted, and that is difficult since there are only four RD positions that exist. Also, they are interrupted about 2-10 times a day by students who want something. Dorm noise can be a big annoyance too, especially for a couple with a small baby (like Les and Kathy De Roos in west hall). The RD position does have some big advantages, though, like no rent or utility bills. Their apartments are larger than trailers too.

Almost anything would seem bigger than the trailers, but size is not the only consideration. Most of the trouble stems from the fact that the trailers date back to the 1960s. In Dave and Amy Tiemersma's trailer the decor reflects the problem—everything is green. The refrigerator, sink, stove, bathroom sink, bathtub, and toilet are all the same shade of green, and the linoleum, wallpaper, and carpet are green also.

Bad decor is a mixed blessing, though, because the administration realizes that the trailers are less than ideal, and they allow the students to paint, pound in nails, and do whatever else they want as long as it's an improvement. The students are able to make them look really nice with their personal decorations. Amy summed up another trailer problem when she said "It rocks little when it's windy; we can see the pictures shake."

Mice are another small problem. Dave and Amy once caught three in a trap—that way the mouse could not steal the bait and run away. Best of all, he can use the same bait over and over again.

Dordt's trailers have advantages too, such as a rental charge of only $185/month including utilities. They also provide a community atmosphere for newlywed occupants. Dave and Amy also like the fact that they have their own place, instead of just part of a house or apartment building.

Ben and Sandy Dekker chose an off-campus trailer in the Sunrise Estates, just east of east campus. Since Dordt owns both the trailer and the court, Ben and Sandy pay only $135/month plus utilities. The off-campus trailers have their own problems. Ben and Sandy say: "The walls are paper thin, the windows don't deal properly, and almost none of the doors work the way they're supposed to."

A major advantage of all the off-campus and Dordt-owned housing is the maintenance men. Ben Dekker says, "They are the best guys around. They give us everything we need." For example, when Ben and Sandy wanted a deck, even though they didn't have time to build one, the maintenance men were able to get wood so that Ben could build it himself.

The most popular choice of married students is to live off campus. Here students have more options. Steve and Angela Zwart live in Franken Manor this year. They are one of three young couples surrounded by senior citizens. Some advantages to Franken Manor are its tranquility and very reasonable rent. Rent includes utilities and is based on income, which college students usually don't have much of. Some disadvantages are that it is so far from campus and that not many opportunities arise fellowship with other newlywed couples.

Finally, basement apartments rent $135/month plus utilities and is experience. Some disadvantages are that it is so far from campus and that not many opportunities arise fellowship with other newlywed couples. Finally, basement apartments rent for somewhere around $200/month, and students there have the advantages of living in a real house with four solid walls. The disadvantage is that they lose some privacy to the family that lives above them. They don't have a place all their own.

Even though they're married, those people are still students and they have to find time to study. Single students often have a hard enough time getting everything done, without all the added responsibilities of marriage. It's not impossible to be a good student and a good spouse, though; in fact, the married students seem to be doing quite well. Married housing is usually quieter than the dorms or east campus apartments, but not too quiet, like the library, so a good study atmosphere is built right in. As long as they're careful with their time, married students are able to get everything done and still have time for each other.

These couples recommend marriage for other student couples, but always with reservations. Their main concern seems to be that students have to be sure they're ready to be married before they make any decisions. If they're ready, then it's a great experience.

Ben and Sandy Dekker suggested dating for at least a year before getting engaged. Dave and Amy Tiemersma and Les and Kathy De Roos all say that it is best to wait at least until your senior year so that you will have time and energy to put into the marriage without having to get used to the stress of college life. Steve and Angela Zwart, don't feel that it is necessary to wait that long, though, as long as the couple realizes that it takes a lot of work to build a marriage. Every one of the married students interviewed agree that before deciding to marry, every one should carefully consider exactly what they're getting into.

Going to college is busy for anyone, but for married students it's even busier. Most of them carry full loads and still work as many as 25 hours a week. They normally stay about as busy as the unmarried students, but it isn't easy.
A church away from home

"Of all of the local churches Covenant draws the most Dordt students."

by John Dykstra

On Sunday morning the bells of First Church ring. The cars gradually begin to fill up the parking lot. On campus students walk to their cars or Dordt’s bus. Most of the students at Dordt are far away from their home churches and they must make a Sioux Center church home.

Of all the local churches Covenant draws the most Dordt students. Covenant has received approximately 350 church cards. First Christian Reformed Church has approximately 140 church cards. Faith has approximately 110 Dordt students and Bethel has 90.

Maybe so many students choose Covenant because it starts at 10:30 instead of 10:00 as First and Bethel or even 9:30 like Faith. Probably there’s more to the decision than that; many students like the casual atmosphere at Covenant. Covenant’s services are considered to be lighter. Some students find Rev. Weidenaar’s sermons easier to understand and more meaningful. Covenant Church has a relaxed atmosphere that makes it easier to feel at home.

Lori Domingo, a sophomore, attends Bethel because it reminds her of her church at home. Bethel is considered to be the more traditional of the churches, and draws the fewest students. Another student, Paul Vande Kamp, a junior, says that he used to attend Bethel sometimes, because many of his relatives go there, but now he goes there consistently because that’s where his girlfriend goes.

First Church draws some students because of the music played there. First Church is large and it is similar to the students churches at home. Jeff Vande Voort attends First because when he was a freshman all his friends went there, and he has continued to go. Other students have said that they find First’s building cold and unwelcoming and would rather go somewhere else.

Faith church meets the earliest, which probably means that a few less students go there than would if it met later. The students who do go there like the life of the church; ninety percent of Faith’s members are under age 60, and the church is full of kids. Some students even like to get up early and go to church right away.

Each of the our churches does different things to help make students feel at home. Usually there’s coffee and punch after the morning services to give students a chance to interact with the members of the church. Faith and Covenant have adoptive parent programs that match students up with church families to provide some good fellowship and some great homecooked meals for their "adopted" children. It is really a good way bring the church members and Dordt students together. Having adoptive parents is especially nice for the student who live far away from Sioux Center and wouldn’t otherwise have any local connections.

Student membership in a church is a special status that allows students to take communion here in Sioux Center by filling out a card that is sent to the home consistory.

Last year Rev. Postman of First Church held a pre-confession class for Dordt students. The class had about eight members and they studied the Belgic Confession. Rev. Postman helped the students prepare for their profession of faith in their home churches during the summer.

Dordt’s students also provide services in the Sioux Center churches. Some students help in leading Sunday School Services. Naturally Dordt’s education majors are well suited to teach Sunday School. Other students help out by ushering. Some of the Dordt students that go to First Church participate in the church service by singing in the choir.

At the beginning of each new semester the churches have an announcement in the bulletin, "Welcome to our returning Dordt students." They really do welcome us, and in Sioux Center is easy to feel like a part of the community. We can also do a lot to help them and show our thanks for them taking good care of us while we are far from home.
A Quiet Hour with Mr. Matheis

By Janelle Hofland

While talking with Mr. Norman Matheis, his passion for art becomes quite obvious as he discusses the things he enjoys doing. Matheis says that he's always been interested in art, "It came naturally, so I did it and I decided to stay with it."

When he was a teenager he discovered that his grandfather had also been an artist. Matheis is now fortunate to own some of the works his grandfather created. His teachers were influential in helping him become an accomplished artist and books of great artists from the past also gave him inspiration.

There are so many things which capture the interest of an artist, but painting has long been the favorite of Matheis. He also enjoys working with stained glass even though he hasn't done much with it lately.

Matheis' work is currently being featured with his grandfather's in the chapel mezzanine, and several of his paintings are also displayed on Dordt's campus, including the exquisite flowers which adorn the walls of the West Commons. The boardroom and some of the faculty offices are also homes to some of his work.

Sports and music have always been big attractions on the Dordt campus, and they may be a reason that the art department often gets overlooked. According to Matheis, "Christians commonly ignore art. It's always been that way."

He feels it is a shame to ignore art because it has so much to offer. He recommends that students should take art classes for the same reason. Not only does it help a person gain dexterity, but it also helps them improve their thinking. Art provides a constant challenge because an artist must first make a composition and then perform that composition.

The entire process of producing good art ends up being similar to producing good music. First, a composer creates a masterpiece before someone can perform it. Similarly, an artist creates a work of art in his mind and then transfers it to a canvas for everyone to enjoy.

Art 200 offers a student a chance to become acquainted with the field of art. Matheis said, "The class exposes students to another dimension of how they are made. God gave art to us—we should use it for us. Art is just another way man responds to what God wants him to do."

Art also enhances the thinking process because students are forced to consider what the object they want to recreate really looks like. They have to see in order to be able to recreate the object. Art is more than just regurgitating what you see onto a piece of paper. One must recognize the clues each subject gives; clues of color, shape, and how it should look when it is presented on canvas.

And yet Matheis doesn't set his field above all others. He said, "Artists really aren't special. They're just like anyone else who wants to make a living—like lawyer, or a farmer, or anyone." But it may be harder for an artist to support himself because people tend to ignore art or they don't see any value for it. Instead people tend to emphasize the sciences.

To help people overcome this short-sightedness, he suggests that students be required to take art classes throughout their education just as they are required to take science and math. In reality, art offers just as much of an opportunity to think as any other class.

He suggested an interesting exercise to help people think more. One should take something, a tree for instance, and try to visualise other things in it because everything has some kind of meaning. If you take the time to do this and use your imagination you can actually "see people" in the trees. Young trees often resemble young children who are full of energy and move to and fro, and old people can be seen in the bent gnarly trees who seem ready to break at any moment from the burden of their weight.

You may have seen the landscapes Matheis has captured on canvas. Perhaps you wouldn't consider making a tree blue, or using the color combinations present in the painting. But if you step back and really look at that painting, and imagine what those trees look like in the shade—you may see blue. Years of work and rework have enabled Matheis to capture the tree and its individual personality.

Matheis also likes to work with people in his paintings. And he prefers to maintain a realistic appearance in all of his work rather than using an abstraction. By being realistic, more people are able to relate to the finished product. Otherwise it may just be an extension of the artist which only the artist would enjoy.

He also feels it is important to complete one work of art before moving on to the next. He said, "It's just like eating a bag of potato chips or pretzels. You can't just eat one and then set them down."

It takes long hours of hard work to become an accomplished artist like Matheis. And yet, even if you never reach that level, you can still appreciate the wonderfully exciting world of art if you just give yourself the time and the imagination to do so.

Discover Art at Dordt!

by Janelle Hofland

Many students sit in class and doodle and scribble, why not put that pent up energy to use and get credit for it at the same time!

Everyone has some hidden talent and a desire to express themselves. Art will give a person that chance! A person doesn't need to be an art major to get enjoyment out of an art class. Art classes offer a chance to get away from the hum drum of other classes. Even if one doesn't plan to be an aspiring artist, the classes offer a lot of enjoyment and can help to polish an undeveloped skill. Classes will help students appreciate God's wonderfully exciting creation in a new and inspiring way.

A student will learn to think better. They can gain an appreciation for the work of other artists because they'll realize the great talent artists need to produce works of art. But if you feel that you just don't have the time and energy to make an art class worthwhile, at least go wander around the art rooms and check out the hard work of your fellow students. Appreciating their work may enhance the way you see everything else around you.

Mr. Matheis watches Mark Buss put finishing touches on ceramic pieces.

Photo by Paul Vande Kamp

Mrs. Alberda helps Sandy Allspergh with her quilt for Advanced Fibers.

Photo by Paul Vande Kamp
Athletes work hard

by Steve Hoogland

In the 1987-88 school year nearly 100 athletes competed in varsity sports at Dordt College. The long seasons force the athletes to make sacrifices for their sports. Still some people stress there are many sacrifices for Dordt. What does athletics mean for students at Dordt?

Team sports and individual sports are the competitive sports at Dordt. While some athletes take part in both team and individual sports, they play for distinctly different reasons. Individual sports include men and women’s track and golf. Baseball, softball, soccer, volleyball, cheerleading, and men and women’s basketball are offered as team sports. A non-varsity team sport is hockey.

Athletes play individual sports basically for their own enjoyment. One track member says, "I do it for my own enjoyment, but I do enjoy hearing my name over the loudspeakers. It shows others I have done well." Other athletes participate in individual sports to work out frustrations. Women’s track member Stacey Vanden Bos says, "It feels good to relieve stress. Running a while energizes me." Still others work out just to stay in shape. "It’s my duty to stay in good physical shape, and by competing I can have fun at the same time." Another athlete says, "Athletes who participate in individual athletics give up a great deal of time during the season. They practice two or three hours a day and meet such as track meets last as long as six or eight hours. Seasons also feature many long rides because many of the meets are far from Dordt.

Fans play a role in individual sports. Tennis player Tim Kramer says, "I don’t expect people to come and watch me, but I get pumped up when someone is there." Individual players also care what other students read about them. The Signet and Diamond are often the only recognition individual sports get.

On the other hand, members of team sports take more pride in team accomplishments. While for them, teams are often the priority. One player says, "I just enjoy working with a group of guys and seeing how much we can improve." Coach Len Rhoda adds, "Many of the players enjoy the opportunity to play."

Team sports require two hours a day for practice, as well as games. They, too, spend many hours on the road. However, many of their games are at home. Team athletes often spend a lot of time in other ways. Soccer players make weekend trips to Des Moines for games and tournaments. While many students headed home for Thanksgiving several weeks ago, the men and women’s basketball teams went to Cedar Rapids. Both basketball teams give up one-half of their Christmas break because practice starts several days after New Year, more than two weeks before classes resume.

Fans also play a big role in team sports. Basketball player Loren Greenfield says, "When you step into a gym full of people it really fires us up. We want to do well." Most students remember the lines for the basketball games last spring. Fans continued to represent Dordt well in their first two games. Women’s basketball attracts more fans every year and hockey games remain popular. Earlier this year nearly 300 fans traveled to Sioux City to watch the hockey team take the ice in the home-opener. Players appreciate the support they receive in gaining the home-field advantage.

Sports shouldn’t be limited to running races and shooting a puck into the net. Sports comes down to individuals. Rhoda says, "Working with individuals and seeing each as a whole person is what makes athletics fun." Each individual participating in sports pays dues from the key starter to the player on the end of the bench.

Athletes report strong grades

by Steve Hoogland

Athletes often spend many hours at athletics and their grades reflect it. Most players say their grades improve during the sports season. Players must learn to manage their time for studying. They realize responsibilities to studying as well as to team members. Sports also helps athletes forget about the frustrating aspects of school for a little while each day.

Athletics helps athletes plan ahead. Loren Greenfield says, "I can really discipline myself much better. I get a lot more done." Another athlete says, "During the season I work at sports and studies. I get lazy when I don’t have basketball to push me."

Not all athletes agree that sports helps their grades. One soccer player says, "My first semester grades are always a little bit lower because of sports."

So, is the phrase student athletes a contradiction? One female athlete answered that question like this, "No, but if you aren’t careful sports can get the best of your grades."

Later Lisa studies for her upcoming exams. Photo by Paul Vande Kamp
What are we really like?

by Floyd Reitsma

"Hi!"
"Hi!"
"Hey, how are you doing?"
"Oh, just fine."
"And how are you?"

These are the students of Dordt College. They’re friendly. They say hi to everyone they pass. They smile at each other and stop to chat along their way to class. They cause traffic jams in front of C160 because they’re so friendly. Even prospective Dordt students say they’re great. At least they used to be. Not everyone seems to think so anymore.

One freshman, who won’t give her name, says, “They’re not as friendly as I thought.” When she visited last February to check out Dordt, everyone said hi. "Now that I’m here," she says, "it doesn’t seem to matter anymore."

A transfer student from Trinity Western and Calvin, finds Dordt people “cliquey.” "They're friendly, but only up to a point," he says. "They basically say hi, and that’s it."

A sophomore from Wisconsin has also noticed a change. "No one really says hi anymore. It’s different this year." Two sophomores in east hall don’t like it anymore. "It’s different this year. It’s boring and everyone’s got their heads down now."

"Even though it’s a familiar campus, it’s different this year," says John Rambadt. "Everyone has changed over the summer somehow." Helen Heyboer agrees. "But if we’d never change, we’d never mature," she says.

Some of the students see no change in other students attitudes. Have they changed? Watch people walking to class. Sure they say hi to their old roomates, old friends, and those they recognize. But how about the new and unfamiliar faces, the freshman and the transfers?

What about the Vietnamese, Laotion, and Korean students? Are they so different that they should be ignored? They do like to have their space like everyone else, but we can make an effort to get to know some of our fellow students of different race.

A junior who was a transfer last year said, "I got the worst looks from people in my speech class when I said that people here were cliqueish." He went on to say that last year people were more friendly than this year.

Why is this change happening? It may be a change in the environment in which each student lives. Director of Student life, Jan Schregardus thinks so. Sophmores who moved to west hall this year have a big shock because it’s not as social as north or east hall was. This, believes Ms. Schregardus is a result of the non-community bathroom. "Those who share a community bathroom get to know one another better," she says. More contact with each other happens in those halls, creating bonds of a better friendship.

"In west hall you could stay in your room if it weren’t for classes," Schregardus says. She continues, "In north or east hall you have to go to the bathroom or something."

Dordt is about the right size for making acquaintances with many people. There are many ways in which Dordt works to create those special bonds between students. Clubs, hall and wing activities, and peer counseling programs are just some of the ways used. The roommate choices are not haphazard either. Schregardus has the tough job of placing people with their roommates, which also affects the friendship-bonding relations. Those who seem to be compatible because of their backgrounds or likes and dislike are put together. It sounds kind of like a dating service, but it is much more serious than that.

Dordt students consider themselves friendly. But most people have friends before they came here, or they have friends from last year. We really don’t need to psychoanalyze the situation. Maybe we should take a look around at the new faces. A simple "hi" can really make a difference.

Come to the Pub!!

Not the local bar, the Student Publications room of course.

If you are interested in writing for the Diamond, or working on layout of the newspaper, come to the Student Publications room down in the basement of the SUB Jan. 25 in the evening. Be prepared for an interesting time and chance to work on one of Dordt’s most exciting productions.

for more info, call the editor at 722-4474

Students congregate in the SUB - Photo by Paul Vande Kamp

Groups gather around a common interest--this group for student publications.

Photo by Paul Vande Kamp

Merry Christmas