Three people said that it was half past seven. Two people claimed that it was twenty-seven minutes past. One odd ball insisted that it was only a quarter after.

In a sleepy town like Sioux Center, time is of no relevant importance and mere minutes do not count. Mr. Van Til once pointed out that the jeweler sets his clock by the whistle and the whistler sets his whistle by the jeweler's clock. It is unknown by what basic time the Dordt clocks are set because each clock has a different time.

This is rather unfortunate because Dordt is run on a very strict schedule. Classes begin and end at specific times and the dinner is served at precise times.

The clock in the dining hall is especially difficult to use. It is impossible to read the time from it if one is more than fifteen feet away, nor is it timed according to the other clocks, bells, and whistles. Perhaps regular class bells in the commons would overcome the embarrassment of coming late to class.

The solution to the whole problem would be for Dordt to go on Greenwich Standard Time. Someone would listen to the beeps coming every second over the radio and would then synchronize all clocks, bells, buzzers, and alarms every hour or so. His title would be Beeper-Listener-Buzzer Setter.

Mr. Cooper and His Secretary
Letters To The Editor

Dear Editor,

It seems as though another source of chatter has continued to pour forth it's clutter even with the move to the new dining hall—that of "Mr. Common Griper."

Several faults have been suggested concerning our new eating facilities. Also suggested have been some changes that should be made. But, do we want a change in some areas? Was our conversation so old and stuffy that we would do ourselves well not to contaminate our new hall with it? If so, whose fault is it? Where are the innovators? Then again, probably our new hall should sound like a mortuary since some feel that it is only "deadly stuff" that comes out of there anyway. Also, the wall against our backs might be just the thing for those who become faint when they smell the "stuff."

Although I have heard much favorable comment concerning the new commons, and am quite pleased with it myself, I wish Mr. Vos would hurry and find his "Utopia" or "seventh room" and tell me about it. I just might be interested in joining him there. Until then though, I think I will just enjoy my ignorance.

A Dordt-commoner,

John Vander Beek

P.S. I hope Mr. Vos will make his services available in planning future buildings and landscaping on campus so that we may at least approach his ideal.

Dear Editor,

I was very interested in the "Spectrum" column of the DIAMOND (March 17) dealing with primary elections. However, I do not understand the writer's purpose.

I was under the same impression as was expressed by President Johnson when he said that primary elections are quite useful in testing the public sentiment.

In his last paragraph Mr. Van Dyken stated, "These are the men who see the usefulness of the primaries and general elections in testing the mood of the public rather than in the realization of the natural human rights of every individual."

I would appreciate it if Mr. Van Dyken would clarify and explain his statement saying that the usefulness of primary elections is "in the realization of the natural human rights of every individual."

I firmly believe that general elections are for "the realization of the natural human rights of every individual." However, Mr. Johnson did not say that GENERAL elections are for the purpose of testing the public sentiment. He was apparently referring to PRIMARY elections only.

I would like to know what Mr. Van Dyken believes is the specific purpose of primary elections.

Sincerely,

Lorna Van Gilst

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Editorial

—by Sandy

Those who oppose capital punishment are very vocal in our nation today. They may be numerous; they are certainly clamorous. When Ruby received the death sentence, voices immediately rose in righteous shouts of "Foul play," "Bias," "Cross injustice," "Barbarianism." Our system is called corrupt if it demands blood for blood. It is accused of travesty when an undeniable murder is legally avenged.

Surely we do not all share these opinions. Where are the voices of those who fear God's ancient command:

And he that killeth any man shall surely be put to death (Lev. 24:17).

The murderer shall surely be put to death (Deut. 35:18).

Time and again those who know and believe God's truth sit in silence while those who call men away from Scripture and Christian thought speak, boldly and loudly, their harmful dogmas.

Have you been swayed by arguments against capital punishment? Have you begun to think it a barbarous, inhumane cruelty? Perhaps the voices of the "merciful" have drowned out the voices of the murder victims and their loved ones who cry for the right and justice. And what of God's voice demanding that man be made to fear the destroying of His Image? To imagine that imprisonment is as dreadful as death is to deceive oneself. Life is far more valuable than liberty: as long as one has life, he can hope for liberty. But death entails a finality and a mystery which must be feared by sinful man.

If we Christians have not yet deceived ourselves that God's way can be ignored, altered, or violated without ruinous consequences, then we have a duty laid before us. We are obligated to express our convictions boldly before those who oppose them. If we are ashamed of our beliefs, we may as well abandon them. If we are afraid of the altercations they may bring upon us, we are not worthy to claim them.
Out of the mouths of babes and sucklings come forth...?

The babes and sucklings of Dordt College have destroyed the beautiful connotation of this phrase. Commonly known as freshmen, these educational adventurers have sought to express themselves in a fresh, original manner. They have now found their goal and added it to the long list of American colloquialisms.

As one stands in the breakfast line, he is not greeted by the usual friendly “Hello,” but rather by the double-barreled blast, “YOU AIN’T WRONG.” One hurriedly finishes breakfast and escapes to the solitude of the shower room to dress for physical education. However, soon a freshman of the male gender barges into the shower room with the non-sensical “YOU AIN’T WRONG.”

Our upperclassman seeks the intellectual indulgence of calculus class. What a pleasure it is to watch the professor carefully work out a difficult problem. But again this euphoria is destroyed by one of Dordt’s boisterous babes who can’t contain his approval and blurts out enthusiastically, “YOU AIN’T WRONG.” Our confused student now goes home and contemplates whether such chaotic grammar and barbaric babbling can possibly exist on a college campus.

He comes to the sad conclusion that it does exist. Suddenly he feels sorry for this group of illogical expressionists and hopes that they soon realize their absurdity. The only hope is that these babes may mature.

It appears that one of the fundamental freedoms and duties which we proudly claim in our system of government has suddenly become neglected at the college level. And I refer particularly to the Dordt College level. This responsibility is not only being neglected, but seems to be almost forbidden.

In a letter to Colonel Carrington in 1787, Thomas Jefferson stated in part that “the people are the only censors of their governors;... and keep the true principles of their institution.” And, he went on, we must “give them full information of their affairs through the channel of public papers.”

Apparently, this doctrine has been sorely contradicted by our recent National Administrations and all of us abhor their actions in filtering and censoring the news, feeding us little but favorable news articles. But, apparently, this doctrine has been sorely contradicted by our Administration more close to home and especially by the student body. They seem to abhor all columnists and reporters who dare to present their opinions. All writers must be certain to conform to accepted patterns and write nothing unusual or controversial or the powers-that-be will accuse them of non-conformity or of being partisan.

Normally, upon countering an argument, one does not demand that his opponent in the debate cease speaking. It is proper to counter argument with argument rather than with cries of partisanship. It is the opinion of this columnist that all “objectionable” statements or opinions should be answered by the printed means available to all, not by ignorant accusations of partisanship. If someone has something worth saying, let him expose it to all.
Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

It will come as a surprise to many that our new commons has a few things to be admired. First, the food has not gotten worse. It even seems that the vegetables are not quite so overcooked. The addition of baked potatoes occasionally is enjoyed by all. We have also now a new salad dressing, a sauce to cover up the hamburger, and cinnamon sugar for those who love a brekkie.

It can't be denied that the line moves faster. There are occasional exceptions and you still have to wait. But you don't have to scrape your plates or clear off your trays anymore.

One of the greatest advances of our new cafe over the old is the dishwashing process. It is also most fiercely criticized. Instead of having the dishes and silver washed in warm, slimy water and wiped with dirty and wet rags, the dishes are washed at 140 degrees at 180 degrees or higher. But the machine does not have eyes. Frequently the heat causes food to bake on the dishes and silver. Efforts are being made to prevent this. At first the silverware and glasses were spotty because the rinse solution hadn't been obtained yet. Now there is a noticeable improvement.

The cafe also has a cleaner look. However, in respect the student workers fail slightly. The commons has a multiplicity of color in tile, chairs, and silver, but the rainbow effect of three or four shades of jello, jam, fruit juice, milk, coffee and gravy scattered down the front of the serving counter is not needed. The shelves under the counters are often neglected also. It is up to the students who work to take pride in keeping the kitchen clean and in offering the best service possible to their fellow students.

Do you have a valid complaint or a practical suggestion regarding food or the serving process? Don't keep it under your hat. Student reforms are few and small in the past, but we have accomplished a few things. It was a student poll that abolished lemon juice for breakfast: a few students also suggested cinnamon for toast. One of my suggestions would be thinner hamburger patties. Do you agree?

Peggy Graham

Dear Editor,

When I pick up the Dordt DIAMOND from its distributing point, one of the first things I do with it is fold it with the front page facing me. The next thing I usually do is open it to the editorial page and prop the paper in front of my face. Sadly enough, when I read inside pages of the last two issues, I felt I wanted to keep my face hidden in the paper, in shame.

I have been doing entirely too much criticizing of late. Criticism in the constructive sense is fine but the type of criticism I am thinking of is derogatory and destructive. We should be able to find topics such as religion, education, or politics where constructive criticism can be given, rather than picking on food or a building and running it into the ground.

I am particularly thinking of the criticism that has been directed at the Dining Hall. I am convinced the criticism afforded it is of a thoughtless nature and is directed at things of minor importance. The purpose of the Dining Hall, as I see it, is to provide an atmosphere of pleasant functional environment in which food can be served efficiently to the students.

It is true that the view to the east of the Dining Hall is a cornfield. We are in Iowa, the corn state, and should be adult enough NOT to expect mountains erected for our visual pleasure or a state park filled with trees and a lake or two to supplement a tasteful enjoyment. We should expect to see a cornfield. It is also true that we have red draperies for the windows, but I would ask what other color has been used so little in the interior decoration of our campus buildings?

We have "multi-colored" benches to relax on while waiting to be served. These are not only softer than the chairs we used in the old dining hall, but also the janitors will tell you that it is much easier to clean the floor beneath the benches than under the old chairs.

The Dining Hall is not all gold-faceted, black-handed clocks on a beautiful wood paneled wall. To an alert person (as most of us college people like to be considered) with 20-20 vision the clock can be read from a multitude of angles and moderate distances. It is serviceable for students who wish to know the time of day.

The Dining Hall is a building equipped with facilities and conveniences which would make us all, including the cooks, hate to go back to the old. We have a building which is not elaborate but is here for our use rather than our criticism.

A fellow student, Elroy Post

The world is a vast heritage of knowledge, culture, and beauty which has accumulated since the creation of the universe. The potential experiences which may be encountered during a lifetime are infinite, but life is short. How then may we live a life which even attempts to absorb all the intricacies of God's creation?

The most obvious answer to this question is to utilize every moment of life to good advantage. Life may be brief, but still many waste their time and fail to have any stimulating encounters with their environments. Those who realize that devoting time soon consumes all opportunity of intercourse with their environment use every moment and opportunity.

Being alert and perceptive of all phenomena enriches life with new perceptions and appreciations. But to observe a single less nature, one must react and be sensitive to the stimulus before there is actually an experience which may broaden his scope. The keenly sensitive person acquires a storehouse of experiences which make life vivid and fascinating.

Education introduces the student to the diversity of God's creation which he might not otherwise encounter. But the student must not cease being a student when formal schooling stops; for he stops educating himself, he will become intellectually moribund, and from then on life will become a drab existence of routine chores. Offices, stethoscopes, grade books, store counters—all these may mean a life of boredom unless we continue to create, to discover, and to go out of our way to grasp every experience which will make life rewarding.

College students are about to have the curtain raised on their lives as mature adults. Students must consider whether their lives will be stimulating and provocative or dull and uninteresting. The world is the Fort Knox of God's wonders. Few of these wonders become actual experiences in this short life because of conscientious application.

Applying Your Perceptions

—Dick Leerhoff

Dordt Needs Higher Criticism

There are two kinds of criticism: the first is an act of unfavorable judgment, censure, negative review. The second is an ART—of "judging with knowledge and propriety the beauties and faults" of something. It is the former brand of criticism which is the easiest and the least desirable. It leaves readers dissatisfied and even angry; it usually exaggerates unduly.

But just because we have witnessed this undesirable degree of criticism, we have no legitimate excuse to abandon the latter variety. Without knowledge and propriety, an objective evaluation of both the faults and beauties of Dordt, we can not expect ourselves to be alert and sensitive; nor can we expect to see the beauties increased and the faults rectified. One can not disintegrate a mountain—or a mole hill by ignoring its presence. If we have any faults here at Dordt (and who can dispute the latter assertion of identification?) it is unhealthy and futile to ignore them. On the other hand, we must be decorous and balanced even in criticism, so that we continue to achieve "higher criticism" and as many assets and "beauties" as we all enjoy at our school.

—S.W.
When the Don Cossack Chorus began the program on Monday evening, March 16, many in the audience were surprised and shocked. For those who were hearing the group for the first time, it was a completely different experience from what they had anticipated. The rumbles from the bass section, the tendency of the group to slide up to pitches, and the scurrying here and there of diminutive Serge Jaroff caught most of the audience off guard. The first reaction was one of dismay at the thought of spending an entire evening in Northwestern Auditorium.

Parts II and III were received with a little more enthusiasm. The chorus was enjoying itself and their gaiety infected the audience. Sung completely in Russian, the program was made meaningful by gestures, facial expressions, and selected dances. By the conclusion of Part III most of the audience had warmed up to the group, a fact which was evident by the demand for two encores. However, some left the auditorium still disturbed by the type of concert they had heard.

We must remember, I think, when we judge the Don Cossack Chorus and Dancers that we cannot compare them to the Roger Wagner—Robert Shaw Chorale. We didn’t go to hear that type of music. As the program notes suggested, this group began “... around a campfire... where a group of bedraggled Cossacks... had gathered.” Can we condemn if the chorus lives up to its name, “The Original Don Cossack Chorus and Dancers”?

Although every member of the chorus is an American citizen, the group conveyed to the audience the spirit of their Russian ancestry. Of course, the music they sang does not illustrate Russian music in general, just as sending to another country a Negro chorus singing spirituals would not represent American music. Spirituals are certainly a part of our musical culture, but we do not condemn them because they are different from our jazz or folk songs.

The Original Don Cossack Chorus and Dancers have a unique attractiveness. Learn to enjoy them for that particular beauty and they will become a pleasing part of your musical experience.

Pardon Our Error: The correct dates for the Fine Arts Program are Wednesday and Friday, April 22 and 24.
Athletes’ Feats

INTRAMURALS

The intramural basketball standings ended in an unprecedented three-way tie. Congratulations to the two sophomore teams and the freshman team for their excellent performances and for receiving a share of the regular championship.

A tournament has been set up by the I. M. Council to add more interest to the program and to allow one team to come out on top. The council composed of Cecelia Drenth, Pat Dykshoorn, Judy Theune, Lois Van Beek, Dennis De Kok, Stan De Vries, Larry Meyer, Paul Vos, and faculty advisor, Mr. Calbeek, is doing a praiseworthy job. Presently they are working on the preparation and planning of the spring sports.

The final standings of the six-game season for the boys and the four-game season for the girls is as follows:

**MEN**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Team Name</th>
<th>Captain</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Won</th>
<th>Lost</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Dirty Dribblers</td>
<td>Fey</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Dunkers</td>
<td>Bovenkamp</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Flying Blue Angels</td>
<td>Groothuis</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Cousy’s Cousins</td>
<td>Krommendyk</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Wilt Slitters</td>
<td>De Boer</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Royals</td>
<td>De Jong</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Pushovers</td>
<td>Gabrielse</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6</td>
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</table>

**WOMEN**

<table>
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<th>Place</th>
<th>Team Name</th>
<th>Baker</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Kittens</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Fowlers</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The members of the championship teams are as follows: Dirty Dribblers: Fey, Haan, Velkamp, P. Vande Voort, Ypma, Redeker, and G. Van de Voort; Dunkers: B. Bovenkamp, Kok, Statema, Haagema, Steinsma, Slater, and Heeringa; Flyin’ Blue Angels: Groothuis, Wolterslorff, H. Visser, De Lange, A. Visser, Van Essen, and R. Vis.

The fourth team given a berth in the single-elimination tournament was Cousy’s Cousins. A report on that tournament will be in the next issue.

The championship girls’ team captained by high-scoring Clarena Baker also included Lois Haupt, Sheryl Limberg, Joyce Van Dusseldorp, Ruth Vande Haar and Sharon Nieuwsma.

Intramural bowling has proceeded rather well. Most games have been played, although the last ones have not been officially recorded. There are five women’s teams and seven men’s teams. The “StrikeItes” a junior team made up of Judy Theune, Judy Van Der Veen, Grace Brouwer, Kathy Butyn is leading the women’s competition. The “Alley Cats,” a sophomore team, presently is leading the men’s race. Team members are Gary Regnerus, Gene De Lange, Elson Haan and Ken Vande Griend. Judy Theune has the highest average for the women and Gary Regnerus and Aldon Kuiper for the men. Glenda Hariboorn had a 179 game and Aldon Kuiper a 218 game to take individual high-game honors so far.

Stewart Addresses Journalists

Mr. Wayne Stewart, editor of the SIOUX COUNTY CAPITAL addressed a captive audience of about twenty-five students Thursday evening, March 26. This meeting was sponsored by the Journalism Club with the purpose of gaining general information about journalism.

Mr. Stewart claims the distinction of having edited an army newspaper in the Far East during the war years. Further journalistic experience was gained while serving on both high school and college newspapers. Prior to taking over the SIOUX COUNTY editorship two years ago, Mr. Stewart worked on the advertising staff of a St. Louis paper.

Propaganda and criticism were the two topics which were dominant during the discussion. Mr. Stewart said that a reporter must have a dissenting mind and must attempt to right the errors. He stressed that the good reporter desires a good effect on the people and thus he should offer constructive criticism.

I.M. Basketball