### WHO?

Young Writers' Day is open to all youngsters currently in the 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, and 7th grades (next year's 4th through 8th graders). Incidentally, all participants will receive an official Young Writers' Day tee shirt.

### WHEN?

Young Writers' Day will take place on Friday, July 15, 1988. The activities of the day will begin at 9 AM and conclude at 4 PM.

### WHERE?

Hope Protestant Reformed Christian School in Walker, Michigan will be the location of the day's activities for the 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders; while the 6th and 7th graders will be located at Covenant Christian High School for their writing sessions.

# READERS' FORUM

## FROM DOON, IOWA:

Please allow me to express appreciation for the Winter issue of Perspectives and to make a few comments on Mr. Jon Huisken's article, "An Assessment." I heartily agree with his evaluation of the situation in regard to our students. Failure of parents, teachers, and boards, to take heed to his warnings will, I fear, bring bitter consequences upon our schools, homes, and churches. It is especially that last idea, namely, the effect on the churches, that I wish to address briefly.

But before I do, I wish to point out that, in my opinion, a large share of the blame for the lowering of standards in our schools lies with us parents. I say that because teachers who have taught for years cannot maintain the same level of homework and papers they once did. Why so? Said one, The work assigned simply "doesn't get done." Now one could say, Assign it anyway. But to understand the difficult position these teachers are in, consider the following. What would be the response of us, the parents, should our son or daughter come home with a failing grade in English or history because of failure to complete a sound research paper? And what would we say when that student objected, "But half the class flunked!"? Who would get the most "heat," the teacher or the students? I think you can see what I mean. We must insist that teachers demand these things from students, and then stand behind the teachers.

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A second point I wish to make is that the situation described by Mr. Huisken has a serious effect on our churches. It already has had a noticeable effect on our reading of good religious writings. Even the Standard Bearer is considered by many to be "too deep"; and soundly Reformed books of the present and past are not even considered by most. As a rule we are unaccustomed to thinking through a problem, and this has a disastrous effect on our ability to interpret the Bible on our own (i.e., without commentaries or a minister). But the really frightening possibility is the ease with which the lie could supplant the truth in this environment. What damage could not a man bent on bringing heresy into the church do, if he were a gifted speaker with a quick mind, and one who gave evidence of being a learned scholar? Without a broad knowledge of church history, we would probably not recognize the old heresy in new clothes (for there is still nothing new under the sun). And, not accustomed to thinking things through, would we even catch the lie mingled with the truth? I am very thankful that God has given us some exceptions - young men and women who like to read and study and who can and do think for themselves. As a rule, however, we are not inclined to those activities.

I hope, therefore, that we see the dangers that accompany the decline of our graduates' interests and abilities in these crucial areas. May God grant us the wisdom not only to take heed to the warnings sounded by Mr. Huísken, but also to take appropriate action.

I see that this "letter" has gotten almost as long as the "introductions" to some of the *Perspectives* articles, but I hope you can find room to print it anyway.

Yours in Christ, Rev. Russ Dykstra

## FROM GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN:

What a precious magazine you put out! I had no idea that there was such a worthwhile magazine! I especially enjoyed the "boney" one by Gary VanDerSchaaf. You know, I never had opportunity to attend school beyond the 8th grade in Byron Center. And we never saw any instruction under "science." But Gary's insight into the Scriptural point of view of our skeletal system was an eye-opener, and truly was appreciated.

I did not realize that within me were osteocytes, osteoblasts, and osteoclasts working their little heads off for me! Looking forward to the next issue!

Sincerely, Iohn Faber