DAMOND THE

Volume XXX Number 7

Dordt College, Sioux Center, Iowa

Thursday, February 5, 1987

Dutch Like Dordt, Not So Sure About Iowa

by Melanie Ten Pas

"Having a windmill in your Sioux Center isn't really garden doesn't make you Dutch, " says 19-year-old Henk Sillevis-Smitt, the new student from the "Dutch boy" on campus. "The

names and nature is kind of Dutch," says Smitt, "but Dutch."

Mark Kuiper, another Netherlands, agrees with

in Bennekom, a town of 8,000 people. He lived in Washington, D.C., for a year with his family 10 years ago while his father was studying marine engineering. In August, 1986, Mark came

Smitt. "Some speak a little

Kuiper was born and raised

Dutch, but the food and

houses are different.'

to the U.S. again. "I heard about Dordt in

Holland at the Free University in Amsterdam," he said. "I talked to Wietse Zand who said 'It's great,' and I talked to some other people and decided to come for a year." Mark also noted that he was interested in attending a Christian college, having been brought up in the reformed faith.

Smitt grew up in Zwolle. the capital city of the province of Overijssel, with a population of 80,000-100,000. He has been to the states once before as well. In 1983 his family vacationed in New York.

Smitt did not plan to attend Dordt when he came to the U.S. this year. He was involved in the Rotary International exchange program. In September, 1986, he enrolled at Abraham Baldwin Agriculture College, a junior college in Georgia. Smitt said, "Education [there] was like a high school. I didn't like it. Rotary International didn't want me to transfer, but I didn't want to stay."

Smitt dropped out of the program and is currently on his own. "I decided to come to Dordt because of my cousin in Orange City," he said.

When asked what he thought of Sioux Center, Smitt replied, "It's small, but okay. But I think I'm a city person."

"It's too small," said Kuiper with a laugh. But when asked about Dordt, Kuiper replied, "It's great! But it's too bad it's in

boring."

Kuiper feels that the education in the Netherlands is on a higher level than in America. Kuiper skipped Calculus I at Dordt because he had already taken it in high school. "I have a lot of reading--as much as everyone else, but it's kind of easy for me."

"Dordt is nice, friendly ... profs also. Study material is tough," commented Smitt; "I have to study hard to get by."

How does the U.S. differ from Holland? In Smitt's opinion, "the average Dutch person is more aware of what is going on in the world than the average American."

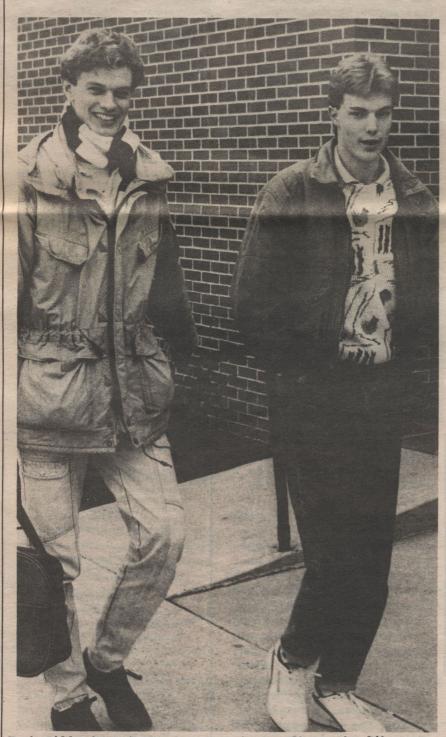
Smitt found Americans to be more involved with sports than people in the Netherlands. "In Holland people get involved mainly in professional sports. Sports events aren't well attended at colleges."

Kuiper claims that "the American people aré a little bit more open to people they don't know, but it's only a slight difference.'

Kuiper misses the sailing and surfing he did often in the Veluwemeer--part of Holland's large inland lake, the Ijsselmeer. He also likes volleyball and was on an intramural volleyball team at Dordt.

Smitt is also interested in athletics, and has participated in soccer, wind-surfing, tennis, and horsebackriding. He enjoys reading and watching movies.

Kuiper will return to Holland this summer after touring a bit. He plans to study electrical engineering at the Technical University of Delft, which has between 20,000 and 30,000 students. Smitt will return to Holland June 20, after visiting his cousin in California. He plans to get into a university in Holland to study medicine.



Henk Sillevis-Smitt and Mark Kuiper walk to the library. Both are visiting students from the Netherlands. Photo by Mike Krommendyk

If You Don't Know Geography

We the people of the United States...are ignorant, unaware, and apathetic, and this is becoming increasingly apparent. This past weekend, a number of Dordt students and faculty members had the opportunity to attend the CMA conference "Caught in the Middle: Europe Amidst the Superpowers." Henk Sillevis-Smitt, a new Dordt student from the Netherlands related an amusing American experience to conference attendants. While he was in Georgia last semester, a student apparently noticed Henk's accent and asked him where he was from.

"Holland," Henk said. "Where's that?" the person asked.

"It's close to Germany." Henk explained.

"Where's that?" the person asked. Henk thought of an easier answer.

"It's near England," he said. Once again the American was at a loss. Finally Henk said, "Holland is in Europe. Do you know where Europe is?" Yes, the American had heard of

"Isn't that somewhere near China?" he asked.

Unfortunately this is a true story, although most of us can smile smugly and point out the Netherlands on a map. But an English professor at the conference

related another embarrassing incident. He said his freshman class was studying Greek literature, and no one in the class could point to Greece on the European map.

Is it so important to know world geography? Yes. According to Professor Koekkoek, "You can't understand history if you don't understand geography. Events that happen have a concrete place -- a setting. You can't really understand them if you don't know where the setting is. To understand geography is essential to understanding your world.'

There are many ways which cultures, geography, and people from many countries affect North Americans directly.

Wars that are constantly occuring in the Middle East could have a great influence on the availability of the oil and gasoline we use daily, to cite an example.

Last spring when the U.S. and Libya had their little spat, the dollar, which had been decreasing in value to the relief of American exporters, rose once again, sending exports down.

It has become so easy for us to travel to almost anywhere in the world. American tourists invade Europe by the plane-fulls every year. Many Europeans are offended by American

them to be pushy, unappreciative of other cultures, and some of these tourists still believe they can make anyone understand English by yelling loud enough.

There are also increasing numbers of foreigners visiting North America. Here at Dordt, an academic advisory group for minority and international students was appointed this year, and an international club is in the process of development.

Tax time reminds us again that a lot of our money goes to the federal government. The government in turn uses this money to build up nuclear arms, which are distributed to many different bases around the world. The government also pays to send troups to bases in Germany and elsewhere. Bringing this closer to home, there are at least two men from Sioux Center currently serving on bases in Germany.

As you can see from these few examples, we do feel the effects of geography, culture, and foreign people. Those incidents which we skim over on our way to the comics and sports pages of our newspapers do touch us in very real ways.

There are actually a number of ways to become more aware. Reading

tourist attitudes -- they find newspapers or newsmagazines on a regular basis, watching world news, and meeting and socializing with foreigners are some ways. Stepping out of our own shoes and trying on someone else's may not only teach us something about someone else, but about ourselves as well. Dr. Helen Westra discovered that she could even eat peanuts with chopsticks this summer when she taught in China for eight weeks.

Perhaps now is time to put in a plug for off campus programs that Dordt offers, an easy way to learn about different ways of life, and become aware of new geographical locations. Or we can remain apathetic and allow ignorance, apathy and unawareness to become the American way of life.

Correction

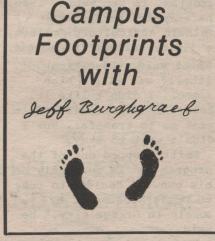
Correction:

Due to poor organization and sloppy layout, the articles by Dave Van Heemst and Eve Spykman were not presented in proper form in the last issue of the Diamond. Chuck Muether's sports commentary was missing a "continued" note, and the Dordt emblem was unintentionally inverted. The editor takes full responsibility and apologizes for these mistakes.

Profs' Choices Point The Way

When some Dordt professors chose their occupations they also chose between two lifestyles. For many it was a choice between life in the business world or life as a Christian school teacher.

One way to grasp the difference between these two worlds is to compare salaries. The salary for a starting engineer averages about \$21,000, according to the Occupational Outlook Handbook 86-87. If an engineer with his masters degree was granted a teaching job at Dordt his salary would be \$16,500, assuming he had no prior teaching experience (President's Report to the Churches, Fall 1985). The \$4500 salary gap between the two positions broadens over time. An engineer who has spent a number of years in the business world



usually receives twice the annual income of a Dordt engineering professor with the same amount of experience.

My point is not that Dordt should vigorously compete with the business world in salaries, but that some of Dordt's teachers have turned down certain lifestyles in

order to pursue their occupations.

As students, some of us may be faced with choices similar to those that our teachers once made. We might have to ask ourselves questions like "Where does God need me the most?" or "Where can I glorify God the most?". These questions must be addressed by each Dordt student searching for a job.

Dordt's teachers have set an example for us in where our priorities should lie when we search for jobs. Profit-motivated students would have an easier time finding the best paying job if 'the "help wanted" ads were ranked on a page according to salary. From a materialist viewpoint some of Dordt's teachers are crazy; of course, no materialist ever bought his way into heaven.

DIAMOND

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Gathering Ponders Cold War

by Angela Struyk

One evening a year from now, you invite eight college acquaintances to your home to talk with a psychology professor whom you know personally. In the midst of your discussion with him, you hear the air raid siren. You turn on the radio and the Civil Defense station broadcasts that enemy planes are approaching your city.

Fortunately, you have a well equipped bomb shelter in your basement.

Immediately you direct the professor, your eight companions and a mechanic who has been repairing the air conditioner, downstairs.

Just after you arrive safely in the bomb shelter, a bomb is dropped. On the radio you hear the announcement: "A bomb of great magnitude has hit the western part of our city. Damage is extensive; radiation is intense. It is feared that those not in shelters have suffered a fatal dose of radiation. All persons in shelters are warned that it will be fatal to leave before at least a month."

Immediately you realize there are eleven people in a shelter equipped with enough food, water and oxygen to last eleven people for two weeks, or six persons for a month. What do you do? Who will survive?

This simulation game with these questions was given to students and professors from nearby colleges as the final event of the conference "Caught in the Middle: Europe Amidst the Superpowers," held January 30-31 at Westmar College, Le Mars.

The conference was the first in a series of four workshops designed to lessen the isolation of international students and enhance their impact on the campuses of the Colleges of Mid-America (CMA). Funding for the project was provided by the U.S. Information Agency, through a grant from the Cooperative Grants Program of the National Association for Foreign Student Affairs. Ten students from Dordt attended, as did a number of faculty and staff members.

On Friday night, a panel discussion was led by Dr. Josef Enzweiler, German Consul General from the Chicago Consulate, and by Dennis Yergler, Assistant Professor of History and Political Science from Westmar College.

There was some disagreement between foreign students and the Consul General about Germany's role in relation to the superpowers. Enzweiler believed Germany to be an ally of the U.S. and

therefore not really caught in between the superpowers.

Yergler believed all of Europe to be caught in the middle of the cold war between the U.S. and the Soviet Union. Several students from European countries spoke up as well, discussing peace movements and feelings of their countries toward the two superpowers.

After spending the night in Westmar's unoccuppied dormitory, students resumed discussion on Saturday morning with professors and other guests. Yergler gave a lecture on "Personalizing the Perspective," suggesting that people from different countries get to know each other in order to see the human side of each country instead of only the political issues.

After the nuclear shelter simulation game, conference evaluation, and lunch in Westmar's cafeteria, students and professors returned to their respective colleges. The next conference will be held at Briar Cliff, and will be focusing on Latin America.



West German Consul General Dr. Josef Enzweiler leads discussion at CMA conference. Photo by Angela Struyk

Dordt Students March Against Abortion

By Susan Powell

Despite the numbing cold and the "pledge a picketer" campaign organized by Sioux City Planned Parenthood, more than forty Dordt students joined the 1000-plus crowd circling Sioux City's St. Luke's Hospital on the evening of January 22.

"I hope we bankrupt every Planned Parenthood office in the nation!" said one woman, referring to the fact that a number of Planned Parenthood supporters had pledged an average of seven dollars for every pro-life marcher at St. Luke's.

The diverse crowd of protestors included a man

shouldering a wooden cross, a few men carrying lanterns, children holding candles in mason jars, mothers with babies, and high school students. One group of Dordt students talked with protest organizers, while another group altaernated singing campfire songs with a Sunday school class. Shivering protestors welcomed steaming cups of coffee and hot chocolate that were served by a supporting organization.

A television reporter on the scene compared the picketers to the Israelites marching around Jericho and commented that the walls hadn't cracked yet.



Dordt Student Gives You The Weather

by Connie De Boer

For Dordt College senior Brenda De Wit mornings and evenings mean something different than they do for the rest of us. Every Monday and Tuesday she gets up at 4:00 a.m. to go to KTIV in Sioux City to prepare the day's weather forecast.

De Wit believes that both her classroom experience and practical experience at KDCR helped her to secure the position at KTIV. She says, "the communication department at Dordt has benefitted me not only in the actual work itself, but in preparing me for writing a resume, giving me confidence, and teaching me to conduct myself in an interview." Concerning her experience at KDCR De Wit says, "I wouldn't have known the first thing when walking into a television station, on how to talk or even conduct myself on the air without my radio experience.'

De Wit says she is at a disadvantage at Dordt, however. "I have never worked with any TV equipment whatsoever, and had never been in front of the camera. ratings up. It's definitely

As I look to the future that high pressure in the will be one thing that will be holding me back. Any employer will have to take extra time to teach me how to use the equipment--time most other graduates will not need." De Wit likes the idea of getting into news and would like to anchor it someday.

De Wit believes that her "Dutch work ethic" and Chrisitan Reformed upbringing go a long way in the working world. "I would say to anybody that the two things that are going to pay off for them in the job market are the fact that they are responsible and that they are willing to work hard. These are the two things that are going to reflect most favorably on them. They have to be able to take initiative and do the work that is expected of them, and maybe a little bit more."

As a Christian working in a secular television station, De Wit sees her incentive as different from that of her collegues. "I definitely see that they are working hard to keep their

ratings. When I think of improving myself I do it because I want to be the best I can be. I want to develop the talents the Lord has given me to my fullest capacity because that's my task in life. I want to show them that I am a hard worker, but that the reason I'm working hard is something more than just the students is to remain open ratings.'

De Wit stresses that the job involves more than the glamour that is sometimes assoctiated with it. She says, "I don't want to flaunt the fact that this is preconceived ideas of TV work--that it's glamorous. The fact that I'm in front of the camera doesn't even enter my mind. Maybe that's why I don't get nervous. To me it's a job. It's not all glamour by any means. The half hour of the

news cast is just a small part of the day. If you're in it for the glamour you will be in and out of the business in probably a year. There's so much more involved in it than that."

Looking back at the two years she has been involved in broadcasting, De Wit sees the Lord's hand at work in her life. Her advice to to the Lord's leading. "Things that you never would have dreamed would be open to you are opened up. It's miraculous. You need goals, but don't start with exactly what you want to be. Let the Lord lead you. Be willing to follow that lead and work hard wherever you are. It's amazing what he'll do with your life if you let him."



Brenda De Wit says she has learned much from her work experience at KDCR. Photo by Paul Vande Kamp



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Low Input Farming Promises Stewardly Land Use

by Galen Sinkey Most people dislike drinking water contaminated by fertilizers and herbicides. Perhaps this is why there was barely room to stand in room S-4 of the science building when Dick and Sharon Thompson gave their presentation on low-input farming last Tuesday night.

Low-input farming is a method of planting, cultivating, and harvesting crops with a minimum of fertilizers and herbicides. These methods reduce pollution of the water supply and produce a crop quality.

Low-input farming methods involve growing cover crops to protect topsoil, using manure and composts to enrich soil, and rotating crops on a three year basis.

The Thompsons recommend growing a crop called Hairy Vetch to cover the topsoil after a field has been harvested. During the winter, the vetch keeps nitrogen in the soil where it belongs, rather than

letting it seep into the groundwater. This cover crop is never harvested. Instead it is shredded and killed in the spring because its job is finished and planting must begin.

"WE NOW HAVE EVIDENCE THAT HERBICIDES ACTUALLY INCREASE BROADLEAF WEEDS."

Before planting, however, the Thompsons recommend spreading manure over a field to release more yield of higher quantity and nitrogen into the soil. This manure, plus the nitrogen retained by the cover crop, sufficiently prepares the soil for planting without fertilizers or herbicides.

The Thompsons strongly discourage the use of herbicides in fields. They claim that their cover crop controls unwanted weel growth without herbicides, greatly reducing potential pollution to groundwater. "Herbicides do not solve the [weed] problem. They just

change the problem, " says Thompson. "We now have evidence that herbicides actually increase broadleaf weeds."

Low-input farming also advocates the use of a three year crop rotation. The crops grown should be corn. soybeans, and oats. The Thompsons claim, this method solves the corn rootworm problem and produces a higher quality crop. More importantly, this crop rotation is more economical. Growing soybeans and oats in alternate years will reduce the over-supply of corn and eventually raise its selling price.

The Thompson presentation showed many Dordt students and area farmers that low-input farming is safer for the community and a more stewardly use of God's land.

Dick Thompson speaks to students and area farmers about the benefits of input farming. Photo by Paul Vande Kamp

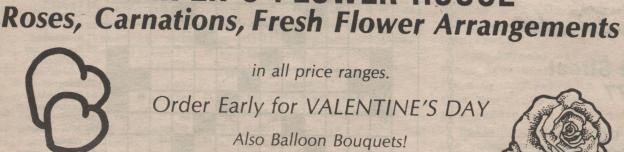


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Hiring Will Be Down For '87 Grads,

By Alicia Nugteren

"What next?" This is the question many Dordt seniors ask as they work to complete their final semester. Some plan to enter the work force, while others will continue further their formal education.

The College Press Service recently presented a somewhat ominous outlook on job prospects for spring 1987 college graduates, based on the results of two university studies. A Northwestern University study indicates that although the number of

college grads hired will be similar to last year's, screening of applicants will be more intense. Michigan State University surveyors learned that large companies intend to cut back on the number of recent college grads hired. Although more grads will be employed by small companies, the MSU study predicts that overall hiring will be down 2.4%.

These studies suggest that graduates with degrees in civil and mechanical engineering, agriculture, geology, and advertising will have a more difficult

time finding jobs than in the past. Areas which will show growth in job opportunities include education, hotel and restaurant management, marketing and sales, computer science, retail, and accounting.

Despite some of these national trends, Dordt maintains an outstanding job placement record. From the 1986 graduating class, 96% found employment or continued at other schools. Forty-four percent of the class have found a place in business and industry, 27% in teaching, 5% in social services, and nearly 20% are continuing their formal education.

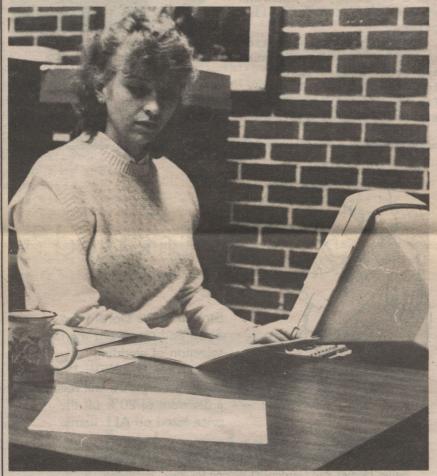
Ouentin Van Essen, Director of Career Planning and Placement at Dordt, attributes the graduates' success to a number of factors. Because Dordt has such a diversified student body, grads do not limit themselves to one geographical area when

seeking employment. Van Essen points out, however, that it is sometimes more difficult to make contacts with employers in distant locations. But he comments that most Dordt students "don't realize how well-trained they are," having a strong liberal arts education, the ability to work hard academically, and a firm family background that emphasizes good morals and high ethical standards. These are characteristics which employers look for, he noted.

Van Essen stressed the increasingly important role that alumni are playing in job placement for Dordt grads. A "network" is gradually being set up so that grads can establish contacts with potential employers and obtain information about living in a certain community. Alumni provide a favorable impression of Dordt by maintaining good work records, he added.

The Puzzle

Answer on page 7



Tami Marcus is one of the 96 percent of 1986 Dordt graduates to receive employment. Photo by Rick Faber

ACROSS

- 1 Abstain from 6 Steeple
- 13 Went by water
- 14 Negative prefix 15 One skilled in
- dissection
- 17 Chinese dis-
- tance measure
- 18 Time gone by 20 Shatter
- 21 A month: abbr.
- 22 Back of neck
- 24 Pose for portrait 25 Female relative
- 26 Rockfish
- 30 Metal fastener 32 Clayey earth 33 Stretcher

35 Proceeds

- 40 Singing bird
- 43 Buffalo
- 46 During the
- period of
- 47 Kind of race
- 49 Hebrew letter
- safekeeping

- 38 Precious stone
- 42 Piece of cut

- horse
- 50 Hold back
- 52 Put away for

55 Sows

- 1 Chinese or Japanese
- 2 Coarse

3 Running 4 Mountain on

- 5 Lairs
- 23 Growing out of
 - 27 River island 29 Prevent from free speech

around waist

8 Negative prefix 9 Soften in

temper 10 Decree 12 Male sheep: pl. 13 Method

16 Den 19 Unlocking 21 Swordsm

- 33 Pillaged 34 Remainder 36 Leaked through
- 37 Cutting edge 39 Witty remarks
- 43 Kind of cheese 47 Hindu cymbals
- 48 Fish eggs
- 51 Agave plant 53 Concerning

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Weak Plot, Weak Culture Lesson, But Witness This Film Anyway

by Dean Draayer

Witness, directed by Peter Weir, is a murder story set in a Pennsylvania Amish community. This basic contradiction, the foundation of the entire movie, leads to a series of unexpected and disorienting developments.

The plot is simple. As it opens, a recently widowed Amish woman, Rachel Lapp (Kelly McGillis), and her eight-year-old son, Samuel (Lukas Haas), are visiting Philadelphia for the first time. The young and impressionable Samuel witnesses a murder. With the boy's help, Detective John Book (Harrison Ford) discovers the murderers to be corrupt cops from his own department. Book, nearly murdered during the investigation, joins the boy and his mother and hides in their safe Amish community.

At this point in the film the theme changes from a murder story to a cross-cultural encounter. A major portion of the movie is now devoted to Book's learning about and adjusting to Amish ways. And, of course, Book and Rachel fall in love.

The issue of the murder is revived when (by a stroke of

cops track down Book at the Amish farm. The movie winds down with a flurry of activity.

What is the main point of the movie? It certainly cannot be the murder, for the plot is weak. The murder story is an excuse for developing the theme of the cultural clash between Book and the Amish. But the movie is weak here as well. Although it alluded to some intercultural issues -- guns, violence, and romantic relationships -- the movie shied away from confrontation over serious cultural differences.

When Witness was released, the Amish wanted to boycott it. Although the movie's portrayal of the Amish is in general quite accurate, they felt that it misrepresents certain aspects of their lifestyle. They also felt that they were being exploited. They are a simple people who want to be left alone. Witness increased tourism in Amish communities, against the wishes of the Amish. It is ironic, then, to note that even in a few scenes of the movie the Amish were reduced to "zoo animals" by the stares of curious tourists.

Despite its being a poor murder story and a poor lesson in culture. I did enjoy Witness. There are a number of thoroughly suspenseful moments. Since it revolves around a subculture, it is unique, enlightening, and refreshing. And if you are a Harrison Ford fan, you will not be disappointed. Witness will be shown on Saturday, Feb. 7 in C-160. Showing times are 3:00, 6:00, and 9:00 p.m.

New Bruce Dethrones The Boss

Hornsby And The Range Has Simple Melodies, Beautiful Piano

by Preston Zwart

The man with the number one album in the country is a musician named Bruce-and it's not the guy in blue jeans from New Jersey. Bruce Hornsby and the Range and their album The Way It Is rose to the number one ranking last week, mincidentally dethroning the other Bruce (Springsteen, that is) from the top spot on Billboard's album chart.

Hornsby and his band have been waiting quite a while to enjoy this kind of success. It took Hornsby's friend Huey Lewis to finally convince RCA Records to sign the five-member group to a recording contract, and even after its release, The Way It Is was not an instant hit. Six months after release, the record had sold Little Kiss" to the only 500,000 copies, but things are much better now--The Way It Is sold another

half million last month alone.

Sales have been brisk due to the debut of the album's title track, which made its way into the Top Five: now the latest release, "Mandolin Rain," is also on its way up the charts.

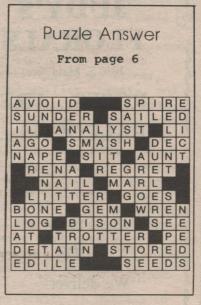
Hornsby's appeal lies in the simplicity of his songs. The listener is not pummeled by mindless, pre-programmed synthesizers or screeching guitars; in a Bruce Hornsby song one generally hears simple melodies with understated accompaniment. The main emphasis of the album is on lyrics.

Most of the albulm's nine songs are medium-tempo ballads. They tell stories ranging from odes to lost loves such as "On The Western Skyline" and "Every understated anti-racism song "The Way It Is."

Although at times Bruce

Hornsby and the Range sound suspiciously like Huey Lewis and the News, Hornsby's crew has a distinctive attitude toward its music. Instead of showing off their instrumental talents. Hornsby and the Range let the lyrics and the melody take the spotlight. And when Hornsby does take a piano solo, the music is truly beautiful.

Bruce Hornsby and the Range have been nominated for a Grammy Award in the Best New Group category, and in a reader poll conducted by Rolling Stone magazine, the group was voted Best New American Band. If their future work can equal or surpass the quality of The Way It Is, Bruce Hornsby and the Range may be one America's top bands in years to come.



Defenders Lose to Red Raiders JV Team Wins

by Gailen Veurink The Dordt Defenders travelled to Northwestern last Saturday evening to take on the Red Raiders but fell short 97-81. The game

was marked by the absence of All-American center Greg Van Soelen, who was out with an

ankle injury.

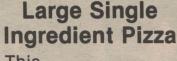
Dordt played an excellent first half and trailed by only seven points. But as the second half progressed, Northwestern built up a lead that Dordt could not overcome. Northwestern was again led by Bill Francis with 27 points. Steve Ver Meer led five double-figure scorers for Dordt with 17

points.

After this game Dordt's record fell to 10 and 11. Now the team is in a situation where it has to win a large percentage of its remaining games to land a spot in the NAIA playoffs.

Dordt's fortune turned around in the junior varsity game where Dordt won, 90-77 Dordt built up a big first half lead and fought off Northwestern rallies in the second half to seal the victory.

Dordt was led by Derrick Altena, who poured in 31 points. Joel Veenstra added 21. The junior varsity record now stands at 11 and 3.



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