

# DIAMOND



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Thursday, April 23, 1987

## Jesse Jackson's Visit Was Rare Day In Sioux Center

by Chuck Adams

With arms crossed, the Reverend Jesse Jackson scanned the dining hall at the Holland House Restaurant, filled with eager faces. Cameras clicked all throughout the room where a large group gathered to hear the famed minister and unofficial candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination. As he spoke, his voice echoed as though he were on a pulpit preaching to a congregation needing to be saved.

The day is rare when a major American political figure makes an appearance in Sioux Center. Wednesday, April 15, was one of those rare days. Jackson made three stops in Sioux Center, including a press conference in the Dordt College SUB and a speech in the chapel.

Jackson was sponsored by the Siouxland chapter of the Association for Public Justice (APJ). He arrived in a two-engine jet at Sioux Center's own airport and was received by Eugene and Helen Westra, who hosted him for the night. Jackson revealed that he has special ties with Iowa. At the morning meeting he told guests that although born in South Carolina, he was "born again" in Grainville, Iowa.

Jackson made the issue of justice a major theme during his swing through Sioux Center. He stressed economic justice for the farmer and laborer, as well as justice for the youth of America. He spent a good deal of time asking young people to say no to drugs, alcohol, and sex without love.

At the press conference, a local journalist asked Jackson about his motives for campaigning in Sioux County, an area normally considered a Republican stronghold with an extremely conservative populace. Jackson replied that Sioux County is "a former Republican stronghold," adding that many rural Republicans feel they "have

been betrayed by [Ronald Reagan's] economic policy" and are now looking towards Jackson's ideas of "parity, not charity."

Throughout most of his meetings early in the day with community leaders and during his speech in the chapel, Jackson seemed to win the crowd over. However, during the question-and-answer session, he seemed to lose much of his momentum when pressed on the issue of justice for the unborn. Although Jackson admitted he believes abortion is morally wrong, he said he would stand behind what he called the constitutional right of a woman to choose whether or

not to terminate her pregnancy.

Jackson's stands on other issues pleased the northwest Iowa audience more. He received thunderous applause when he suggested that if the government could give large amounts of loan money to Chrysler Corporation and other large companies, the least they could do would be to do the same for farmers. He also gained approval for his stand on improving education in America. Jackson equated an increased quality of education and a better standard of living, with less crime, saying "schools at their worst are better than jails at their best."

Jesse Jackson's appearances in Sioux Center were part of APJ's voter education for the 1988 elections. APJ hopes to attract more political leaders to the area during the upcoming political races. Don King, an APJ board member and professor of political science at Dordt College, says that efforts to attract more candidates to Sioux Center in the fall are just beginning. According to King, APJ is trying to attract a number of candidates to the area. He mentioned following some personal leads with

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## Student Forum Candidates:

Candidates for the 1987-1988 Student Forum. Pictured are (back row, left to right) Kristie Klyn, Sue Kernwein, Audra Bleyenburgh, Paul Vande Kamp, Dianne Peterson, Dan Vanden Bosch, Rob Heitmeyer, Terri Breems, Phil Mulder, Eve Spykman, (front row) Galen Sinkey, Carol Van Berkel, Myron Kuipers, Brad Engbers, (not pictured) Melanie Woldhuis, Jean Zondervan, Dori Kooistra, Jacob Steiger, Roger Ellens, Jim Hummel, Chad Brands, Eric Miedema, Dave Van Heemst, Renae Eekhoff. Photo by Rick Faber.



## Diamond Met Its Goals... To A Degree

In most major newspapers and magazines there is a special "note" from the editor-in-chief. The Diamond is not, quite obviously, a major paper. In fact it has been struggling to survive as anything of value for the past few years, including this one.

But as the editor this semester, I have tried to shape the Diamond into a newspaper that deals with issues that affect and involve the Dordt populace. Whether the editorials or stories were read or reacted to is, unfortunately, difficult to tell. For this reason, I am writing a "note" to the readers of the Diamond.

Even behind the scenes, so to speak, the Diamond has not always been highly valued. It has often shifted hands in the middle of a school year, this year being no exception. Most college

or university newspapers have several students vying for the position of editor. The Diamond is lucky if someone volunteers for the position.

Please don't read this as a plea for pity. Presently the newspaper staff is strong in many areas, we are just few in number. We also have a difficult time stimulating student response--something which seems difficult to do these days.

I did receive a letter from a reader this week, however. She commended the last issue of the Diamond, but said that she was "very disappointed in the other issues so far this year and even embarrassed at the thought of non-Dordt people reading them." I appreciated this honest comment and the fact that she said she realizes the amount of work and responsibility involved

in this project.

The Diamond can only continue to improve, however, if it has a strong staff. Being the only one on the staff who is paid for the hours of writing and production besides our advisor, Mr. Campbell, I am tremendously thankful for the photographers, writers and others who contribute hours and hours of hard work. I hope they can sense some of the benefits of this volunteered time.

There have been exciting stories to cover this year--everything from a guest professor from South Africa, to student teachers, to a visit from the famed Reverend Jesse Jackson.

Goals which were set for the Diamond this semester were to be a newspaper with quality writing which represented Dordt College. I believe these goals were met to a certain degree,

although once again, crucial student response was not present to confirm this.

In conclusion, I want to propose a challenge to all Dordt people--students and faculty: the Diamond is representing you, so please respond. If you can write, consider joining the staff; we need more writers. If you have an opinion you wish to express, the Diamond is the perfect place in which to do it. If you have written an essay for one of your classes which you think is worth publishing somewhere, the campus newspaper is one place to start. The Diamond is improving, but it can become even better with more regular input.

Next year I will probably be the editor again. I hope to have an increased staff with new possibilities.

In order for the Diamond to shine, it needs many hands to polish it.

### Campus Footprints with

*Jeff Burghgraef*



For seniors, with the ecstasy of graduation comes the agony of paying back student loans. It is a graduation from the enrollment line to the bank line. The realization of paying back student loans is something many Dordt students will face soon as they encounter their first student loan bill.

Loan phobia has forced students to become resourceful. I suppose there will always be some students who resort to crime in order to pay back their student loans. Evidence of this method is the frequent raiding of the "Pop Cans for World Hunger" boxes. Some students start a life of crime when they are freshmen, thinking that by

## Seniors, Beware Loan Phobia

the time they are seniors they'll have collected enough pop cans to pay off their loans. This method, as you may have guessed, isn't usually adopted by Dordt's smarter students. It would take at least 400,000 cans to pay off 4 years of tuition. That's a lot of caffeine for an student who supplements his criminal hobby by drinking pop to increase his can collection.

There are, of course, other alternatives, like the one used by Dordt gamblers. While some students are studying, others dream of ways to win the Iowa Lottery. Other gamblers indulge in a weekend ritual of playing poker or Dirty Your Neighbor. Although the potential for high winnings is possible through this method, its effectiveness has yet to be proven, especially since the consequences of getting caught are probably greater than the winnings of a poker pot.

Not everyone resorts to illegal measures to pay off loans; there are always

Dordt's national guardsmen. I'm told they are paid per hair that is shaved off their heads.

Some students may be envious of their colleagues entering the teaching profession. The government says that certain teachers are exempt from paying back National Direct Student Loans. Is it any wonder that of more than 200 seniors expected to graduate this year over 40 percent are likely to become teachers?

If all else fails one can resort to a traditional

method for paying back loans --marry someone rich!



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Proud Of A Gift?

by Bob Vander Hart

With the end of the school year drawing near, many of us might look back on the past few months (or years) and take stock of some things we've accomplished at Dordt. We might say, "I pride myself on my grade point average," or "I'm proud of my musical and/or athletic ability," or even "I'm proud of the fact that I made friends easily." Some might even say, "I'm proud that no student has ever failed my courses."

What are you proud of? Your looks? Your Dutch heritage? Is pride something we think about a lot? How

much room is there for pride in the life of a Christian? You may ask, "What's wrong with a little pride? After all, haven't we accomplished a lot here at Dordt?"

Have we? What really have we achieved? Christians like to talk about "gifts." Certainly, God has richly blessed each one of us with gifts and abilities. Furthermore, He gives us the responsibility to develop what He has given us, whether it be athletic or academic ability or anything else.

So where does pride enter? Reformed Christians have always confessed that

salvation itself and the development of it in all areas of life is a free gift of God, and not something we can earn. As recipients of a gift, shouldn't we accept it gratefully, realizing that the Giver could just as easily have passed us by?

When we become proud, who is really getting the praise? Pride chokes out real thankfulness and destroys our relationship with the Lord. In fact, God goes so far as to say that He "opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." There is no hope for someone as long as God opposes him.

Pride also destroys our

relationships with each other. How many friendships or marriages suffer and even fall apart completely because one or both of the people involved let pride enter in? Pride keeps us from confessing our sins to each other. Individual "rights" and "wants" become more important than a Godly relationship.

Let's try this: the next time we are tempted to say, "I'm proud..." say this instead: "I'm thankful to God..." After all, isn't that the attitude that is pleasing to God?

Would Dordt Survive A Nuclear War?

by Teresa Weidenaar

Before Spring Break, around 240 students were given a political science questionnaire compiled by Paul Otto and Teresa Weidenaar from Professor Don King's class called "Peace in a Nuclear Age." Some of the questions were taken from a Soviet survey done in 1983. There were some surprisingly unusual answers, but many students were unaccustomed to answering questions such as these:

- 1) Is a nuclear war possible during your lifetime?
- Dordt Students
- Yes..... 0.8%
- Possibly.....38%
- Highly Unlikely.....43.2%
- Uncertain.....18%

- Soviet Students
- Yes.....2.9%
- No.....80.7%
- Uncertain.....16.4%

- American Students
- Yes.....38.5%
- No.....16%
- Uncertain.....39.5%

- 2) Would you survive a nuclear war?
- Dordt Students
- Yes.....4.1%
- No.....70%
- Uncertain.....25.9%

- Soviet Students
- Yes.....2.9%
- No.....80.7%
- Uncertain.....16.4%

- American Students
- Yes.....22%
- No.....38%
- Uncertain.....40%

- 3) Will Reagan's Star Wars Plan eliminate the high risk of nuclear war?
- Yes.....14.2%
- No.....44.8%
- Uncertain.....41%

Star Wars will not eliminate the high risk of nuclearwar. In the event of an all-out attack on Dordt or the United States, even the most optimistic scientists believe that this "protective shield" will not keep out all the incoming missiles. It may destroy 90 to 95 percent of all missiles, but what about the 5 percent that do reach the U.S.? Considering the

results of our survey, we feel that each person should take a stand consistent with Scripture and work toward peace and encourage peace in

Where Does Your Tax Money Go?

by Teresa Weidenaar

Recently Paul Otto and Teresa Weidenaar conducted a political science survey. The following is a short discussion on two of the survey questions.

One of the questions asked was "Where does the money you pay in Federal taxes go?" The responses of students were varied, but for those who participated in the poll, this is the actual breakdown of the United States federal budget for 1987:

Defense and related expenditures.....37%

Social Security.....25%

Interest on the national debt.....14%

Public assistance to the poor.....6%

Health care.....10%

Other (education, etc.)...6%

Do our economic expenditures reveal the United States priority of commitments? Yes! Education funds are so minimal that they had to be put into the "other" category. Isn't it time we start saying something about these priorities?

Another question on the survey was this: "To your knowledge, has the U.S.

every aspect of life. "Blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called sons of God." (Matthew 5:9).

threatened another country with the use of nuclear weapons since 1945?" The answers were revealing. Out of 246 people surveyed, only 85 thought that the U.S. had threatened another country nuclear weapons. The fact is, nuclear weapons have been used to threaten other countries in the precise way that a gun is used when you point it at someone's head in a direct confrontation. Specific incidents include:

- U.S.S.R. vs. U.S. in Iran --1946
- China vs. U.S. in Korea --1953
- France and U.S. vs. Indo-China --1954
- U.S. vs. Iraq in Kuwait --1958
- Berlin Crisis --1961
- U.S. vs. U.S.S.R. in Cuban Missile Crisis --1962
- N. Vietnam vs. U.S. --1969-1972

These events continue today unbeknown to the public. When it is revealed to the public, the incident has usually passed, and the concern is minimal.

**DIAMOND**

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## Will Jesse Jackson Make His Dent With Democrats?

by Eve Spykman

Assuming he will soon officially declare his candidacy, how far can we expect Rev. Jesse Jackson to get in his pursuit of the Democratic nomination? This question, which has been raised often since Jackson's visit to Sioux Center on April 15, has no clear answer. Many politicians expect next February's Iowa caucuses to be an important test of his strength. On the one hand, Jackson seems to already be generating much more support in Iowa than in his last campaign, but on the other hand, experts do not expect Jackson to pull into first position.

Already competition is becoming stiff, with ten Democratic leaders having declared candidacy or exploratory campaigns: former Senator Gary Hart of

Colorado, Senator Paul Simon of Illinois, Senator Joseph Biden of Delaware, Senator Albert Gore of Tennessee, Representative Richard Gephardt of Missouri, Gov. Michael Dukakis of Massachusetts, former Gov. Bruce Babbitt of Arizona, Gov. Bill Clinton of Arkansas, Senator Sam Nunn of Georgia, and Jackson.

On the Republican side the list of hopefuls is also growing: Vice President George Bush, New York Congressman Jack Kemp, Rev. Pat Robertson, Senate Minority Leader Bob Dole of Kansas, and former Secretary of State Alexander Haig.

Although Hart and Bush are the current frontrunners, Dordt political science professor Don King does not believe it will necessarily stay this way. It is still a relatively open race

compared with the last several elections, King says.

As for Jackson's chances, many political scientists see Jackson as a "spoiler," not a potential nominee. His running will perhaps prevent any single Democratic candidate from gaining enough support. Furthermore, King believes that getting on the Democratic ticket is Jackson's secondary goal. It would take a "tremendous upheaval in the system" for Jackson to be nominated, states King, although he does think Jackson would like to come in second.

As King sees it, Jackson's primary goal is to attract as much support as possible so he can "influence the Democratic platform and the choice of nominee." In his speech in the Dordt chapel, Jackson stressed his commitment to choosing "a

new challenge, a new course." Getting a strong backing might allow him to promote his views on important issues, views which lost out at the last party convention--his emphasis on economic equality, aid for the poor and minorities, etc.

Whether Jackson can pull this off remains to be seen. Clearly his success in Iowa in February will be an important factor. According to King, the fact that Jackson is different from all other candidates, Democratic or Republican, and that he has an established identity is in his favor. At any rate, Jackson will have to be one of the top candidates throughout the caucus and primary months. Only then will he be able to try to make an impact on the course his party will chart.

## Jackson Reaction: Students Give Opinions

by Julie Peterson

"He had an optimistic outlook, but didn't back it up with anything."

"No substance."

"He gave a rah! rah! speech."

"Jackson's approach to foreign policy good, but goes to far on domestic policies."

"His speech was politically orientated: Like me! Like Me! Like me!"

-anonymous comments

"He talks a lot, but doesn't say how he's going to support his goals."

-Kathy Brandstetter

"It is good to have him here ...national leader. He told us the same thing the Democrats have been saying for the last thirty years...Sounded naive about the Communist threat in Nicaragua and about the Soviet Union."

-Johnathan Grossman

"Jackson has good ideas, but I don't agree with his stand on abortion...He's right

about Central America."

-Curt Westra

"Hopefully people will look past everyone's pet issue of abortion and look at the other things he had to say."

-Preston Zwart

"Jackson was really sensible about issues, although I didn't agree with the abortion issue. I think people need to also look at his stand on other

issues...he seemed to have his head on straight."

-Kathy Rasmussen

"I appreciated his concern for poverty and the minorities of our nation, but he undermined his whole speech when abortion came up. Justice for the unborn is just as prevalent as justice for the poverty."

"It's good to have a figure like him in the political scene. Even though he doesn't have good solutions, he challenges other politicians to deal with issues that usually get shoved aside because of some unwritten, political laws."

-Ken Anema

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candidates as well as party connections in order to attract candidates. King hopes to bring in both Republican and Democrat speakers, with much of the active pursuit of candidates coming later this year.

Jackson's trip to Sioux Center was the first by a major presidential candidate in many years. Jackson, who won several states in his race for the Democratic presidential nomination in 1984, urged support for his prospective candidacy from all sectors of the population. He urged farmers, businessmen, students and others to join his "coalition for justice" and support him for President in 1988.



Democratic Presidential hopeful Rev. Jesse Jackson



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## Leaving Profs Make Plans, Remember

by Galen Sinkey

Three professors at Dordt--Dan Eisma, Ken Cornelisse and Randy Vander Mey--won't be returning to teach next fall.

Eisma has taught in the Business Administration department for the past three years. After school is out this spring he plans to work for Sioux Automation, a growing business in Sioux Center. He will occupy an accounting/management position and will help make the necessary changes that go along with a growing business. Eisma hopes to be involved in developing some new personnel and business policies, as well as in budgeting and planning.

Looking back at his three years at Dordt, Eisma says, "I've grown to appreciate the education I received at Dordt as a student much more after being on the other side as a professor, and [after] having some

experiences at a non-Christian institution. At Dordt you aren't a number. Here the profs are sincerely interested in the students individually and in helping them learn."

Ken Cornelisse will be returning to western Michigan to teach vocational agriculture at the high school level. He has taught Animal Science in the Ag. department at Dordt for two years.

Cornelisse says his two years at Dordt have left him with "an appreciation for the Christian philosophy in the classes and for the students and the professors. I've always taught in public high schools, so I appreciated the Christian perspective. You don't find this perspective in the ag programs at the public land grant universities."

Randy Vander Mey is planning to leave Sioux

Center in order to better meet the needs of his family. Vander Mey's wife is working on her Masters of Fine Arts degree in Iowa City, where Vander Mey hopes to find work. He is also considering a job offer from Trinity College in Chicago.

Vander Mey has taught in the English department at Dordt for seven years. Of his years here, he says, "I've grown very fond of the English department; they are a wonderful bunch of people. We have developed a camaraderie among us, yet have made room to be ourselves. Every member is a strong distinct character."

Vander Mey is also fond of Dordt students. "Every year I've found a new group of students that were very interesting. I think Dordt far too often emphasizes that the 'serviceable insight' is taught in one direction--from teachers to students. I have found a great deal of teaching from student to teacher," Vander Mey says.

Vander Mey also says he has found inspiration and

strength in Dordt students. He says he finds students very often naive, yet forward-looking and brave. "I see a joy and a vision in my students."

Vander Mey especially regrets leaving Dordt for two reasons. He had hoped to develop and teach a film course after spending a year in the Studies Institute doing research in this area. He had also hoped to teach the General 300 course offered to Dordt seniors. "I strongly believe in the value of that course. For some it will be one of the best remembered courses they've taken."

Considering his future, Vander Mey hopes to continue teaching. He says, "I believe that teaching is my life-long calling."

"Reformed Christianity has done very little by way of renewal in the area of the mass media. We are failing to reach millions with a prophetic or Christian interpretation of our world because we are not involving ourselves nearly enough in the modern media as the center of cultural power," said Vander Stelt. "It is regrettable that not by choice but by default, Dordt is presently not in a position to avoid contributing to this problem of a wrong set of priorities that are operative in our tradition."

Although President Hulst agrees with Vander Stelt that Reformed Christians should work more in the media, he sees the cut as a necessary one. "We had little choice in the matter. Something had to be cut, and with the recommendations I received from the six academic heads, KDCR would be the best area to make a cut, with little damage resulting from it."

Vos thinks the station will still be an effective outreach despite his absence. "Quite frankly, our listening audience is more interested in our music than in our news. Our audience, being situated in Northwest Iowa, tends to want to hear news in terms of black and white," said Vos. "Simply put, there isn't a demand for a news commentator out here."

According to Vos, the news department was at its peak last year. "Dave Campbell and I co-anchored the afternoon news. We had our own theme music and we jointly deciphered and reported the news as it came across the wires."

Thursday, April 23, 1987

## Budget Cuts Force Loss Of News Director

by Chuck Muether

Tim Vos, news director at KDCR, will be leaving his post this year as a result of revisions in the college budget. According to President Hulst, the college is forced to make cutbacks in collegiate programs due to smaller enrollment in recent years.

"Personally, it was not a crushing blow to me. I had advanced warning that I would be let go," said Vos. "I am concerned, however, that the fruits of my labors will rot on the vine."

Vos's labors include news directing and reporting, announcing Dordt basketball games, and overseeing internships. "Basically I take news off the wires and I decide before reporting it whether it is appropriate for our audience," said Vos.

Station manager Dennis De Waard sees Vos's leaving as a setback to the station.

"Tim has been a great asset to the radio station. He has brought to our listening audience news from a truly Reformed perspective. His absence will force the station to make several concessions, beginning with cutting out our own news commentary and relying more on CNN (Cable News Network). De Waard is also concerned



News director Tim Vos broadcasts over KDCR.

Photo by Rick Faber

with the station's well-being. "We try to take leadership in the area of broadcasting, but this is hard to do when we are in retrenchment."

Dr. John Vander Stelt, professor of theology and philosophy, believes the

media are the central cultural power of today. Moreover, he sees the release of Tim Vos as being detrimental to the kind of distinctive witness the Reformed community must provide in our modern secularized culture.



## Senior Rick Ebberts, Heading For Urban Ministry Heads

by Chuck Muether

Rick Ebberts, a second year senior from Sheboygan, Wisconsin, has always shown interest in the ministry. "Since I was a freshman, I wanted to be a youth pastor in a suburban setting church, but over the years I became more interested in serving the urban church."

Rick attributes his shifted interests partly to his education at Dordt. "This may sound corny, but the professors here really show their Christian commitment," Rick said. "It blows me away to see how much these professors give themselves to the students and go out of their way to

challenge the students."

One of the challenges Rick faces is the matter of relevance: "How do we make things relevant? What's the real gospel, and how do we make the gospel relevant to different settings? How can we assess the community's needs? That's what I've been challenged with," Rick said.

By attempting to apply these questions outside the classroom, Rick has taken his challenge seriously. "The two activities I've really been involved with are the PLIA project and the Roseland Christian Ministry Center," he said. While working for Roseland in Chicago, Rick was a

counselor for the Boys and Girls Club and for Teen Time. Rick was also involved with the Drop-In Center, a place for homeless and de-institutionalized people to participate in a semi-structured social atmosphere.

Rick worked with PLIA for five years on the planning committee. "PLIA has really opened my eyes to world needs and the importance for the Christian to be dealing with those needs," Rick said. Once, while he and the PLIA group were in Chicago, Rick bumped into a black man who accused him of wanting to cut his head off. "He called me a 'Rev' and asked

me for a quarter to buy a cup of coffee. He then asked me repeatedly if I was going to cut his head off," Rick said. "I asked myself, is this the impression the church is giving?"

Rick graduates this May and will go on to Calvin Theological Seminary. He hopes to some day work at a Christian ministry center or work in what he regards as a "church without walls," otherwise known as a street ministry. His advice to younger students is: "no matter what you do, let the Holy Spirit work through you, and come up with crazy radical ideas that will knock the world's socks off."

### Group Sounds Retreat To Break Barriers

by Angela Struyk

"Retreat is a good time--just plain messing around, not getting any sleep..." said Jacob Steiger, co-chairperson of the committee to organize the annual all-campus retreat.

"Unified to Glorify" will be the theme for retreat '87, held annually at Lake Okoboji. The retreat is set for the first weekend of the '87-'88 school year, August 28 and 29.

The committee, consisting of seven students and Dean of Students Marion Van Soelen, has been busy planning the retreat since last semester. Every Friday this core group meets to plan skits, games, discussions, contact speakers, and construct a banner. "It's a lot of nit-picky work, but it's a lot of fun," said co-chairperson, Rachelle Vander Stelt.

Steiger and Vander Stelt gave their reasons and goals for this year's retreat: "It's a good way to start off the year in the context that we're all here because of God and we want to start off the year right."

Steiger commented that as well as inspiring people spiritually, the retreat's aim is to "break down barriers" between new and returning students. "That's the biggest thing, just getting to know people," he said. The committee is

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## Making Agriculture Dramatic

by Eve Spykman

Dordt's New World Theater will be the stage for tonight's one-act play, "Planting in the Dust." This thirty-five minute performance about contemporary rural life is billed as evocative and entertaining, poignant and hopeful.

Phyllis Schrag, star of the one-woman act, is an experienced professional actress, director, and teacher from South Dakota. Coming from a farm background, she was attracted to this role because of her concern for land preservation. In the drama Schrag plays Annie, a farm woman who reflects on past generations and struggles with the present. In her surrounding community she witnesses the abuse of

soil and water, farmers' loss of land, and the migration of rural families to cities. A portion of Annie's script reads, "Everything I used to think was forever is eroding. Foreclosures every week. Soon there won't be enough people out here to hold a square dance. Then who will take care of the land?"

"Planting in the Dust" was written by Minnesota poet and playwright Nancy Paddock. The idea stems mainly from the writer's conversations and experience with rural residents.

The play is produced by the Land Stewardship Project, a Minnesota-based nonprofit organization concerned with soil erosion, the loss of land to developers, and fostering the stewardship ethic.

Tonight's performance is sponsored by the Iowa Humanities Board in cooperation with Dordt.

Although it is being brought on campus in connection with Ag Day, agriculture professor Duane Bajema emphasizes the value of "Planting in the Dust" for all students, including theater arts, sociology, and psychology majors. The play attempts to make the audience realize that although we know the technological solutions to these problems, as a nation we lack a commitment to solving them.

A discussion session led by Professor Bajema will follow the 8:00 performance. Tickets must be purchased in advance for \$1 at the box office.

## Ag Day: More Than Milking Cows, Tossing Hay

by Galen Sinkey

Dordt's Ag Day will kick off at 9:00 tomorrow morning with agricultural displays and contests. Several businesses in the area will be displaying farm machinery. Since many younger children will be present, Ag Club is including a petting zoo with baby animals. Other displays will include a sheep shearing display and animal displays which will be judged by high school and

college students and scored by an official judge. The contests included are the ever popular hay bucking and hand milking contests, as well as a seed identification contest and an agriculture quiz. Ag Club will also sell pork patties, lamb samples, ice cream, milk, pudding, and cheese in the SUB all day.

Ag Day's purpose is to raise student awareness of agriculture and what Ag students are doing. For this

reason there will be many student projects on display in the SUB lounge.

"Hopefully Dordt students won't think it [the Ag program] is just fun and games. There's a lot more to it than learning to milk cows and throwing hay. We also want students to realize that we don't all plan to be farmers some day," says Jacob Steiger, Ag Club member.



## Michael W. Smith Paints A Thought Provoking "Big Picture"

by Galen Sinkey

Michael W. Smith, popularly known as a Christian Contemporary Music artist, has recently released his third album, The Big Picture. Smith proves he has matured as an artist in the several years since he released his last album. His lyrics show more depth of insight, and his instrumentation seems more upbeat.

The Big Picture's lyrics do a good job of "hiding the art within the art." In other words, they are thought-provoking; his message comes through engaging metaphors. In his song "Rocketown," Smith sings of how Christ came in and changed a person's life: "There came a certain man/A stranger to the crowd/We didn't understand/What he was all about/He walked a different pace/So out of place in Rocketown./What was his mission?/Where was he going?/Why was his heart light always glowing?/ All I was missing/He stood there holding/What was his

secret?/Could I know it?/... He said it's in the heart/This change that comes to be/Now he had done his part/The choice was up to me."

Smith's song, "Wired For Sound," laments some people's attitude or state of mind, which has allowed them to be brainwashed into accepting anything they're told. Smith sings, "Easier believing what is hard to get rid of/Than to try/ Never searching--just accepting." Smith ends the song with a chorus, "Wisdom from the sacred page/Is turned and ignored/ In a world that's wired for sound." To me, this shows a deeper level of thinking than Smith shows on his first two albums.

Smith has mixed some aggressive instrumentals with his lyrics. Smith himself is well-known for playing the synthesizer and has played on a number of Amy Grant albums. His instrumentals lean toward "New Age" music. The album starts out with a neat

sounding, deep-pitched note on a synthesizer, moving from the right speaker to the middle, then to the left, while picking up volume and intensity. At what seems to be a peak, the percussion storms in with an aggressive rock beat. Here the song takes off, with synthesizers, percussion and guitar mixed together. Smith uses a variety of music throughout his album. He includes a near Billy Joel clone in "You're Alright" and flirts with harder rock beats in "Tearin' Down the Wall." This variety is a pleasant change from his first two albums, "Michael W. Smith Project" and "2."

The Big Picture is indiscreetly geared towards the teen crowd. Smith's songs encourage biblical values on love and sex ("Old Enough to Know") and on planning ahead ("Pursuit of the Dream"). "You're A'right" intends to boost a weak self-esteem, and "The Last Letter" tries to persuade teens to say "no" to suicide and to turn to

Christ in times of defeat.

There do not seem to be any established ways of evaluating Contemporary Christian Music, although the most obvious place to start ought to be the Bible. Christians are taught to value honesty, to recognize the direction of people's lives, to give full respect to others as image-bearers of God, and to attempt to satisfy others' needs. The Big Picture has met these criteria. The album is in no way deceptive, but contains many Christian truths.

Overall, The Big Picture is particularly appropriate for today's teen crowd. Hopefully young people will be captured by the popular, pop-rock sound and listen to it long enough to learn that being a Christian can be "cool" too.

"It's not just what you do/But what you do it for--and who./There are choices that build you/Choices that will make you fall/All part of the big picture/One day you will see it all."



## Basically Red (& Gutsy)

by Preston Zwart

Last year the British band Simply Red burst onto the American music scene with its debut album, Picture Book. The singles from that album "Holding Back the Years" and "Money's Too Tight to Mention" both did well on the charts, and the band was nominated for a Grammy Award for Best New Group. That was last year.

This year Simply Red's newest release, Men and Women, is in the stores and making its mark on the record charts as well--but with a different approach to the music. While Picture Book was filled with mostly soft, soulful songs, Men and Women puts the emphasis on the gutsy side

of Simply Red's music.

The throbbing bass line of the opening song and current single from the album, "The Right Thing," sets the pace for the entire album. Although this five-man band makes its home in Manchester, England, it has been said that Simply Red's musical home is the Motown sound that originates in Detroit. Rhythm and blues, soul, and a touch of jazz still does not completely describe Simply Red's sound. The band can do justice to rollicking rhythm and blues like on "Infidelity" and can also play some reggae music, as heard on "Love Fire." Simply Red can also handle a crooning, 1944 Cole Porter ballad, "Every Time We Say

Goodbye." Simply Red has mastered the basics of soul music and travels beyond just imitation of other groups; they move forward, making the music uniquely their own.

Lead singer Mick Hucknall's voice is unique as well. On songs like "Let Me Have It All," Hucknall's voice is sandpaper-gruff, but on songs like the Cole Porter tune, his voice soars smoothly through the melody line. Hucknall's songwriting is distinctive also. On original songs like "I Won't Feel Bad" and "Move On Out,"

Hucknall (like he did on "Money's Too Tight to Mention") paints a picture of people discouraged and disillusioned by the current economic situation they find themselves in.

Men and Women packs a bolder, gutsier punch in its songs than did Picture Book, so some listeners may not like the new album as much. If Simply Red is the band destined to carry on the traditions of classic rhythm and blues and soul music, Men and Women shows that the band is not about to let the tradition down.

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Thursday, April 23, 1987





Team spirit soars high among the women's softball team.  
Photo by Paul Vande Kamp

## Baseball Scorecard

April 7 at Westmar

Dordt - 16 Westmar - 13  
Westmar - 16 Dordt - 12

April 9 at Dordt

Dordt - 5 Mt. Marty - 2  
Mt. Marty - 5 Dordt - 0

April 10 at Wayne State

Wayne State - 18 Dordt - 2  
Wayne State - 4 Dordt - 2

April 16 at Dordt

Briar Cliff - 3 Dordt - 1  
Briar Cliff - 11 Dordt - 0

April 18 at Northwestern

Dordt - 5 Northwestern - 3  
Dordt - 15 Northwestern - 13

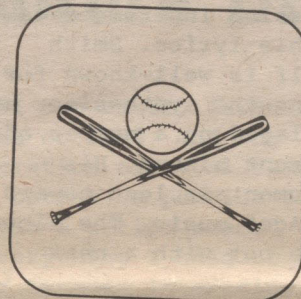
April 21 at Dordt

Dordt - 5 Westmar - 4  
Dordt - 13 Westmar - 11

### Overall Record

Wins  
12

Losses  
8



## Pro-life Rally To Feature Nederhood

by Melanie Ten Pas

Gregg Boer, President of Dordt Defenders of Life, met with various pro-life groups in the area to discuss how to respond to the decision of St. Luke's Hospital in Sioux City to prohibit abortions. It has been difficult for them to draw up a response because "it's been a change of policy, not of heart," says Boer. According to the Tuesday, March 31, Sioux City Journal, abortions cannot be performed at St. Luke's, but the Board of Directors still feels that "elective termination of pregnancy is lawful and is a matter of personal choice." They will "make sympathetic counseling and appropriate referrals available to persons desiring these services."

Boer says they like the decision, but yet are disappointed in the referrals. Therefore a public response has not yet been drawn up.

The Annual Spring Pro-Life Rally will be held tomorrow, April 24, at 7:30 p.m. in the chapel. Speaking will be Dr. Joel Nederhood, Director of the Back to God Hour Ministries.

A discussion session will follow in the SUB with Dr. Nederhood responding to questions asked.

On Saturday, four 45-minute seminars will be presented in C160 starting at 9:00 a.m. Topics of seminars will be 1) Facts & Figures on Planned Parenthood, 2) Political Advocacy, 3) Euthanasia, and 4) Examining a Chastity/Respect Oriented Sex Education Curriculum.

## "This Year, A Building Year." Track Coach Altena

by Anne Veldman

The gun has sounded, signifying the last lap. Once again that hectic time of year known as track season is drawing to a close; only three meets remain. These meets are Drake Relays in Des Moines, Red Raider Invitational in Orange City, and Howard Wood Relays in Sioux Falls.

If you ever go to watch a track practice or a track meet, you will see athletes engaged in physically grueling events. You may ask yourself who in their right mind would put themselves through the torture of running eight 400's in one practice. Tracksters' reasons for participating vary; some take track seriously, while others look at it from a lighter point of view. Here are some responses that Dordt's track members commonly give when asked why they participate. "I do it to keep in shape." "I run for the satisfaction I get out of it." "I feel it is a way of using some of my talents." "I'm just in it for the great tan I get at the meets." This last person

was not very enthused at a recent meet in Storm Lake, Iowa. It was too cold to do anything at this meet except peel off your sweats right before your event. Whatever the reason for joining the team, track draws athletes together to develop their abilities and compete against each other.

This year was a building year for the team according to Coach Syne Altena; the new members on the team almost outnumbered the old ones. These first year tracksters are: Mindy Jongejeugd, Lois Pastine, Brenda Van Wyhe, Jean Heeringa, Nancy Schiebout, Anita Brouwer, Janet Hiemstra, Patti Vant Hoff, Dave Tebben, Craig Heynen, and Brian Van Wyhe. Returning members are: Jannette Bakker, Lavonne Vande Griend, Annette Singer, Anne Veldman, Roger Ellens, Kevin Veenstra, John Marcus, Jonathan Grossman, Larry Faber, Kevin Gesink, Duane Konynenbelt, Martin Van Beek, Kyle Beran, and Jeff Poortinga. Only two of these people are seniors, so Altena is looking forward to

having an experienced team next year.

There is always room for improvement on a track team. Cutting down individual and relay times or throwing and jumping even better are persistent, realistic goals. Athletes push themselves to go a little faster or farther at each successive meet. Therefore, school records and personal records are often broken toward the end of the year. Altena is hoping for a strong finish in this last lap of the season.

### continued from page 6

urging upperclassmen to seriously consider attending the retreat. "Just the idea that the upperclassmen are helping the freshmen is part of unifying," says Steiger.

"Kids that haven't gone might think that it's a spiritual revival or something, but it's really low key," commented Vander Stelt.

Former president of Dordt College, Reverend B.J. Haan, has been chosen to be the guest speaker.

To encourage students to sign up for the retreat, the committee will be sending out registration materials during the summer. A special booth will be set up in the registration line next fall as well, giving students the opportunity to sign up.

"Go, because everyone's going to be there-- especially if you're new or even if you're an upperclassman. It's a great way to get to know people," Steiger said.

Thursday, April 23, 1987