

Whispers

12-8-1983

Whispers, December 8, 1983

Cedarville College

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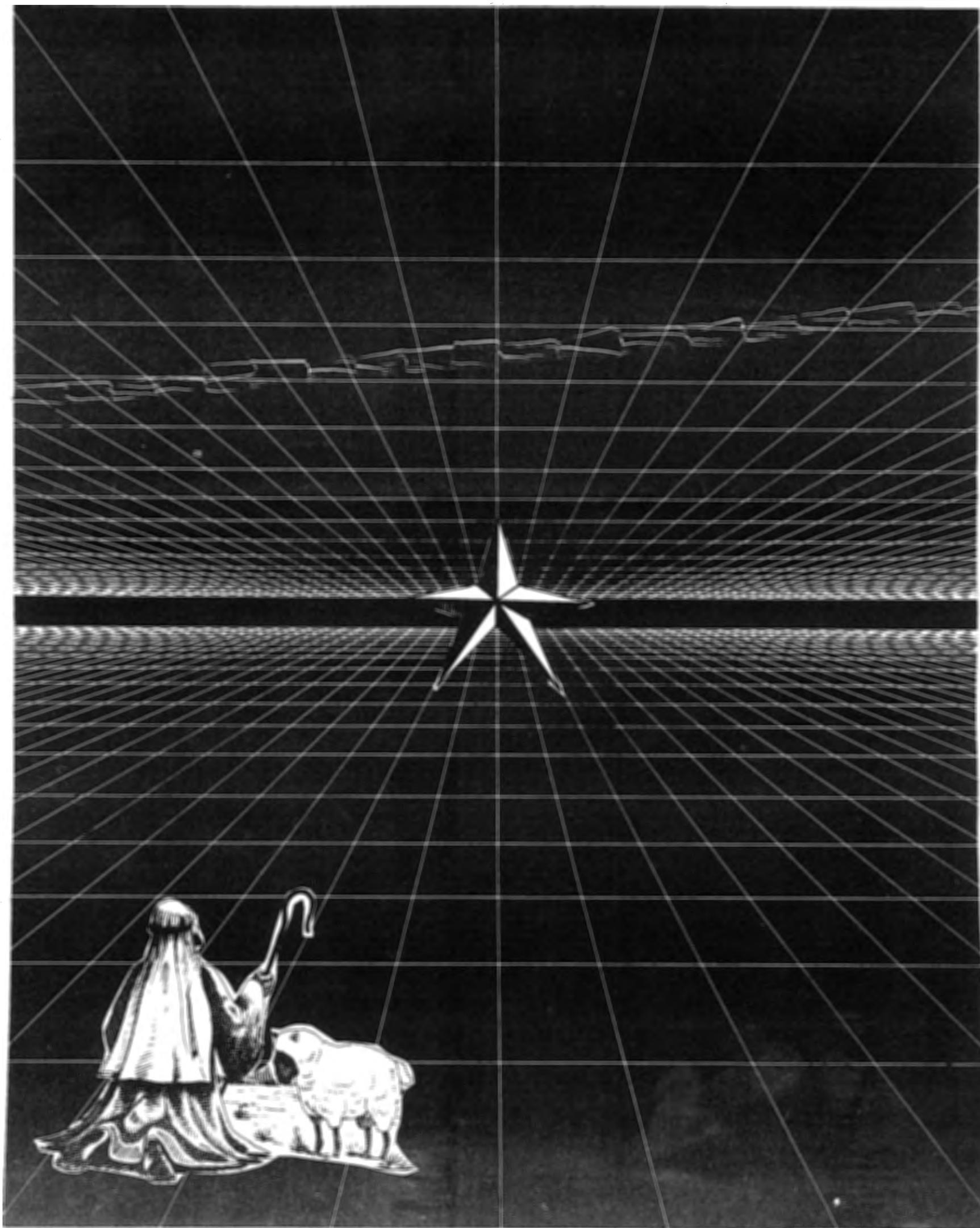
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whispers

Volume 1

number 2



Cedarville's international students

by Nancy Crick

For some it is hard to imagine traveling halfway across the country to come to Cedarville, Ohio, to enroll in college. Yet there are those who have come halfway around the world to this small college for their edu-

cation.

Twenty-two students here are natives of countries other than the United States. Coming from different backgrounds, they have decided to come here for various reasons after having heard about the school from different sources.

Three of the international stu-

dents come from Australia: Jenny Boer, Sharon Wilson and Dennis Patterson. Miss Wilson reported that she became acquainted with Cedarville College through the summer MIS teams who visit her church each year along with further encouragement from Harold Green, Director of Campus Ministries.

Miss Boer in turn decided to come with Miss Wilson after hearing of the school from her.

Four international students are natives of the British colony of Bermuda. Among these students, Lynn Perry heard about Cedarville from her pastor whose sons had come here and from her sister who also attended here.

Former students affected Gillis West's decision to come to the United States from Monrovia, Liberia, as well. He explained that a number of Liberians had come here before him and like Miss Perry, heard more of the school from his pastor. An MIS soccer team to Africa in 1978 also influenced his choice.

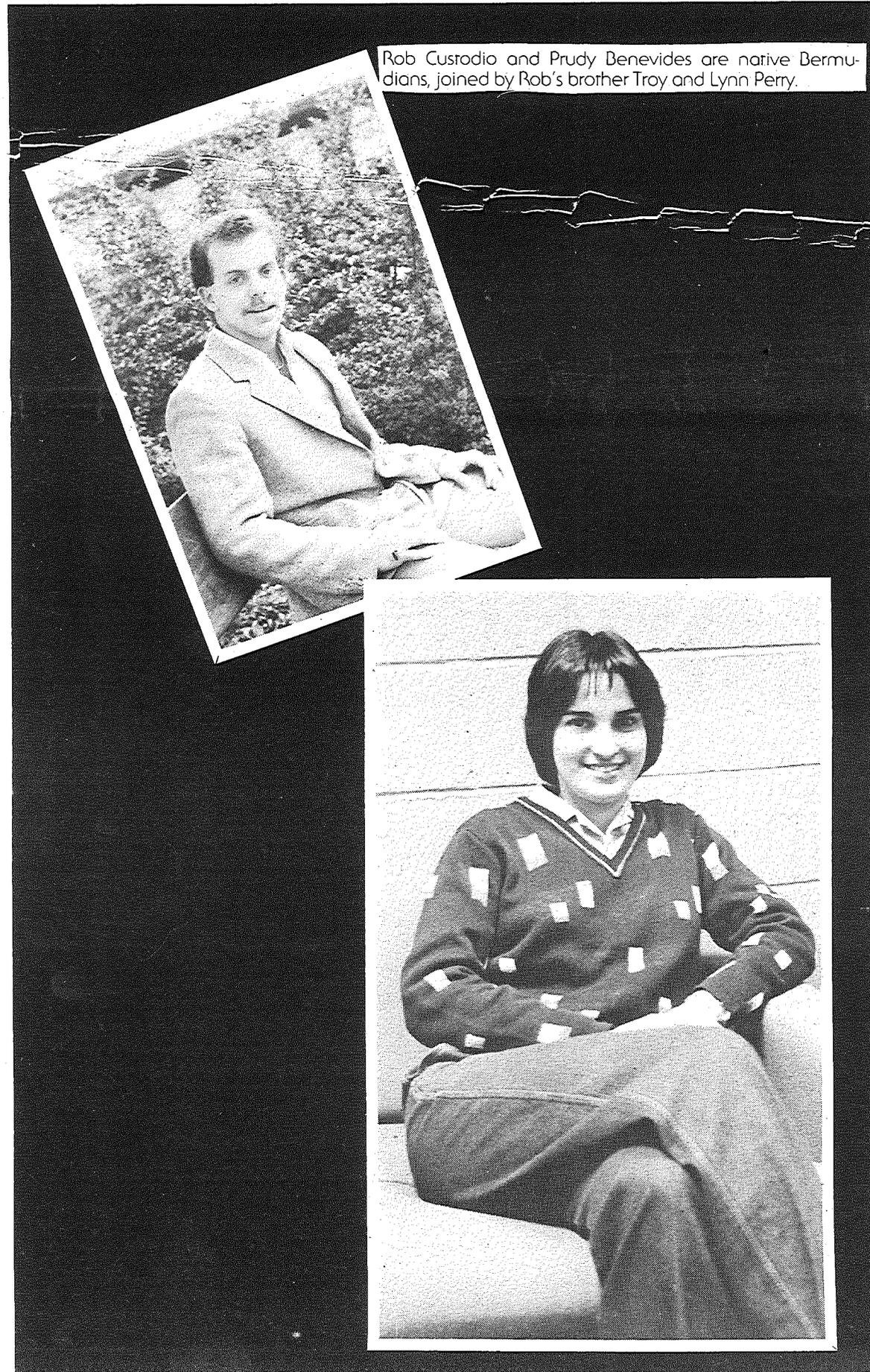
Canadian students number ten, the largest group of a single foreign country. From Montreal, Quebec, Mark Horne heard of the school through a former student, his sister.

Other international students come from France, Nigeria, China, and Germany. German native Anne Grosse, was encouraged to come to the United States by missionaries who eventually arranged for her to come here to study Bible and to teach German.

Her reasons for coming have a slightly different twist. She is not only a student but also a part time faculty member who has come to the United States to apply to Evangelical Baptist Missions as a candidate.

EDUCATION

She already has the equivalent of a master's degree in English and Spanish from a German university, so this is not her first college experience. Likewise Sharon Wilson, a one-year Bible student, has attended law school in Australia. Jenny Boer, an elementary



Rob Custodio and Prudy Benevides are native Bermudians, joined by Rob's brother Troy and Lynn Perry.

International s

Occasionally a Cedarville student decides to become an international student and travel abroad for study. In the past Israel has been one of the more popular sites in conjunction with the Institute of Holy Land Studies trips led by Bible Dept. Chairman Robert Gromacki (covered on page 4).

Study Abroad Programs for Christian Colleges based at Kings College, offers international study opportunities in France, Germany, England and Spain.

Last year after spending the summer in Spain first with an MIS singing team, then in an MIS internship program, Alice Boyd decided to enroll in the University of Madrid and attended a missions church there. Her university work was somewhat different though.

She explained that classes cover an entire year with testing occurring only twice, similar to the situation in Germany described by Miss Grosse.

She remarked that it was different from the quick change which happens here.

Besides not having frequent exams, they didn't have many papers or projects as American students have. University education is free to Spanish students, while foreigners don't pay much, according to Miss Boyd. She added, though, that their earlier education is paid for since it is primarily through private schools.

Just to get to school across town on public transportation systems took 1½ hours.

"There is no interaction in class or outside of class with professors," she commented. "Teaching is totally permeated with humanism," she continued, adding "I really missed not having classes start in prayer."

The University there is larger than any in the

Students represent eight nations

education major, spent three years at an Australian Bible college. Lynn Perry studied at a Bermudian college for a year, as well.

They pointed out that these past experiences were unlike their present one. In Germany, Miss Grosse explained that general education requirements are fulfilled in high school, so this is not a part of the college program. Classes are different in that there are fewer exams throughout the year, but rather cumulative tests covering the entire year.

Lynn Perry described the Bermuda college she attended as also being different because it is based on the British system of education rather than the American system.

Mark Horne noted, "A Christian liberal arts education is an unheard of concept in Canada. From a similar situation, Miss Boer remarked that she came

abroad to study education so she could not only be taught from a Christian perspective but be certified upon graduation.

"Our whole educational system is distinctively Liberian," remarked Gillis West, explaining that while their curricula is primarily American, they emphasize more "the ability to communicate in the written word." This system is also more teacher oriented with stricter discipline.

FOOD

Besides their educational systems, international students encounter other differences. One which Miss Boer and West particularly noted is the food.

"I miss eating lamb," Miss Boer noted, explaining that pork is not as common in Australia.

West misses the Liberian diet which is predominantly vegetables. "We eat rice every

day," he continued, adding that there is less fast food there as well as commercial food processing. Miss Wilson noted the same of Australia where there is less fast food.

In Bermuda, beef is less popular because it is very expensive, while seafood is more common, according to Miss Perry. Like Australia, and Liberia, they don't have fast food restaurants.

Miss Grosse noted that she missed "good, solid German bread."

Their churches are primarily smaller than those here. Miss Wilson attends a church in Australia begun by Baptist Missions, so it is not typical of Australian churches in general. Gillis West remarked that his home church was established by Baptist missionaries, so it is smaller. Less transportation causes Bermudian churches to be smaller, according to Miss Perry.

HOLIDAYS

Christmas offers another occasion where there are differences in custom. "Christmas is more festive here," remarked Miss Wilson, continuing that it is summer in Australia now so they don't have the traditional snow scenes. Christmas Day

church services are also more common.

Likewise, Liberia has a "green Christmas." West noted that Christmas in his home is not as family oriented but is rather a time of visiting others in their homes.

Bermuda, though, has a more family oriented Christmas, but Liberia Bermuda, and Australia maintain many similar traditions, simpler.

Germany is more different, though. The most important day of their holiday is Christmas Eve evening. In the Christian family, Miss Grosse notes, there is typically Bible reading, devotions, prayer, gift exchanging. Their tree is set up that night and it usually is lit by real candles.

For the non-Christian family, though, Christmas there is very materialistic, Miss Grosse continued.

Santa Claus does not come until January 6 when you leave your boots or shoes outside. Santa then leaves gifts in them, usually chocolate or cookies.

Weather poses an adjustment for some as they find Ohio's climate different from their home. Lynn Perry remarked that it has never snowed in Bermuda and that it is generally hotter.

"You've already had our coldest weather," Miss Boer noted before Thanksgiving.

PAPERWORK

Another situation unique to international students involves acquiring student visas, Mark Horne related that U.S. forms changed this year, and after they had begun school they were told that they had to file new forms within 30 days to remain in the country.

Acquiring a student visa, according to these students, generally requires only that they prove that they have adequate finances as they are restricted somewhat in employment.

Horne related that they are required to carry these papers when they travel which "caused me to miss a plane on the way down."

Jenny Boer remarked, "You sort of feel more patriotic about your country when you're away."

West concluded, "The foreign student in America has a greater incentive to excel, a greater motivation to complete his task."

Miss Grosse believes that she will be able to relate to Americans in her country better now as she experienced their lifestyle.

study reversed

United States, she noted, with a student population of over 80,000. All these students must commute as there is virtually no student housing.

Besides not living on campus, Spanish students don't work while they go to school. "The first job they get is when they graduate," Miss Boyd explained.

Professors there also command a different kind of respect, she noted, as in the literature classes where the professors often are the authors of the important works being studied.

She found Spanish life style different in that families generally do not invite people into their homes for entertainment. "When people get together they go out."

Christmas is celebrated somewhat differently as the bigger holiday is Three Kings on January 6 rather than December 25. This is their time for exchanging gifts.

On Christmas Day, she explained, there are no gifts; it is more of a family setting. She remarked that they seem to have maintained a more Biblical view of Christmas in part demonstrated by exchanging gifts after the day of Christ's birth in remembrance of the three kings who brought gifts to Christ.

Their diet involved a lot of rice and prepared food. She found less convenience foods, noting that the Spanish woman spends most of her day in the kitchen preparing meals or going to the market twice each day to buy fresh meat and produce for those meals.

She noted that while her experiences in a church there were not typical, as it was a missions church, she did find the people to be more open to prayer and services less imposed with structure. "Everyone participates in a service."



Sharon Wilson from Australia found it easy to adjust to life here.

Gillis West has established his place on campus, becoming known to students primarily as the Student Body Chaplain.



Old, New Testament study comes alive in Holy Land

Dr. Gromacki coordinates an Israel study program that seems too good to be true: the time is abbreviated, the credits transferrable, and the experience invaluable.

by Jennifer Matthews

Cedarville College offers a unique opportunity to its students to see the Bible "live" at the Institute of Holy Land Studies located right outside the old walled part of Jerusalem.

This program allows students, Bible and non-Bible majors alike, to study on a short-

term basis during the summer or on a long-term basis during the school year. Credits earned will transfer back to Cedarville and will count toward general education credits.

It is "an opportunity to live there in the land, at a low cost, touring and studying twice as long for the price of a typical

tour," says Cedarville coordinator, Dr. Robert Gromacki.

The course offered during the summer is an intensive three week study entitled "The Geographical and Historical Setting of the Bible." Students prepare by mapping out different passages of the Old Testament to give them a familiarity with the land before they arrive.

In Israel, the Institute takes the students to the site of the material covered during class. Senior Jon Bowersox, who attended during the summer of 1982, cited this as a distinct advantage. "The scenes of the Old Testament and New Testament come alive to me as I read."

Dr. Gromacki believes that this enables these students to have better comprehension of the Bible. "It's one thing to study geography and another to visit it."

Bowersox also believes that the program was profitable for the experiences outside the classroom. Because of the close location to Jerusalem, he was free to explore the city. The field trips and tours allowed him to see more of the land and the people "not just of 2,000 years ago but also of today".

Some highlights for him were being there during the invasion of Lebanon, taking a walking tour to Jerico and seeing the archeological digs which often unearthed 20 layers of civilization. According to Bowersox, it is the best way to earn six hours of credit. The hardest part for him was trying to take his finals here early so he could be at the Institute on time.

The Institute's long term program offers the same benefits only more in depth. Gerri Jue, a senior history major, went on the long term, as well as the short term, program. She studied predominately history--Jewish and Islamic, along with archeology. The fall studies concentrated on the Old Testament and the spring semester concentrated on the New Testament.

Miss Jue cited the study as especially advantageous in light of her goal to study the nation of Israel and to know the people at

the same time: "living in the context of study".

Outside opportunities to "know the people" abound. Miss Jue cleaned house for an Israeli family and took a course in Yemenite weaving at an area museum.

The Institute itself compliments the setting. The size of the school allows opportunity for the professors and students to really know each other. "We sort of formed a family," says Miss Jue.

The professors are all American, and classes are conducted in English. The Institute often had guest professors from the Hebrew University, the Tel Aviv University and the government.

Cedarville currently has two students, Ray Wigdal and Neil Sargent, enrolled for the fall semester. There is still opportunity to attend this year's summer session from May 30-June 22. All interested can contact Dr. Gromacki for more details.

'Gift' captures season's sensitivity

by Jane Owen

Sandi Patti seems to capture the fullest essence of Christmas in her new holiday album, "The Gift Goes On."

Instead of focusing only on the traditional memories-of-the-first-Christmas songs, she brings a spark of new, fresh life to the album with an emphasis on praise of the Savior Who not only had a memorable birth but Who still lives.

Her theme of praise, picked up in the title song with the lyrics, "The Father gave the Son, the Son gave the Spirit, The Spirit gives us life, So we can give the Gift of love," is carried on in "Bethlehem Morning." Its composer and lyricist, Morris Chapman, writes, "Bethlehem morning/Is more than just a memory, For the Child that was born there/Has come to set us free./Bethlehem sunrise/I can see Him in your eyes./For the Child that was born there/His Spirit never dies...."

Contrast abounds in Miss Patti's upbeat collection. Her naturally vivacious style pervades most of the cuts, and her well-honed sensitivity lends a bittersweet, almost melancholy spirit to the quieter renditions of "I Wonder As I Wander" and the more contemporary "Merry Christmas with Love."

A particularly enjoyable cut is her "Celebrate the Gift" medley,

a kind of "hooked-on-Christmas" composite of "Rejoice," "For Unto Us A Child is Born," (both by Handel), and two Christmas carols.

Overall, her vocal ease and flexibility coupled with her personal charisma result in a diversified Christmas album that has a good chance, it would seem, of satisfying a large portion of the listening audience, whether college age or older, whether devotees of classical, contemporary or traditional. A remarkably wide cross-section will be able to say of at least a

couple of cuts, "That hit the spot!"

When faced with "The Gift's" overabundance of talent and the complete escape from Christmas-album monotony, this reviewer found it hard to find a flaw unless one objects to the definite "hooked-on" beat of "Celebrate the Gift" or the slightly classical/operatic taste flavoring a few of the cuts.

Miss Patti's opera-quality voice, her warm, bubbling extrovertedness, her exuberant spirit all shine and soar in her Christmas "gift" to her listeners.



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