

Slight Change Of Plans, Gang —

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By MARK GENOVESE
MICHAEL LAMENDOLA

The 10,000 Maniacs were to tour in Europe for the rest of this month. That has been delayed until late August, however, so they can make a demonstration record for "a major record label," group spokesman Dennis Drew told *The Post-Journal* recently.

Although the Jamestown-based group has not actually signed a recording contract, negotiations are under way, he said. The group also is considering offers from other record companies, he added.

Because the deal is not final, Drew preferred not to identify the record company.

The Maniacs' three-week tour of England and West Germany was scheduled to start on July 8, when this offer came at the last minute, Drew said.

"We were all set to go. Then, on June 27, the night of our date at the Rusty Nail, I got a phone call," Drew said. He flew to New York City the next day. The company, which he said is to pay for the recording time at Bearsville Studios near Woodstock, asked the band to delay its tour until the recording was finished.

The band is composed of Drew on keyboards, vocalist Natalie Merchant, who also writes the group's songs, Robert Buck on guitar, Steve Gustafson on bass, J.C. Lombardo on guitar and bass, and Jerome Augustyniak on drums.

The Maniacs have had tremendous success with music fans in Europe, Drew said. Their first release — recorded, pressed and distributed on

their own — is a five-song EP entitled *Human Conflict Number Five*. The record recently reached No. 16 on the English independent charts.

Their second independent release, *Secrets of the I Ching*, a 10-song LP, was named the best record of 1983 by

British music reviewer John Peel.

Drew said the group hopes to build a reputation on the European tour and get on other charts. This would cause "a ripple across the big pond (the Atlantic Ocean)" that would give the group a better position in dealing with

Actually,
There's
Only Six

Jamestown's 10,000 Maniacs, from left, J.C. Lombardo, Steven Gustafson, Jerome Augustyniak, Natalie Merchant, Dennis Drew, and Robert Buck.

