

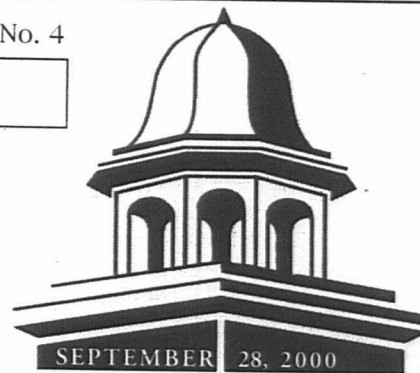
## Men's Soccer Falls to Roberts---Page 8

Volume 96, No. 4

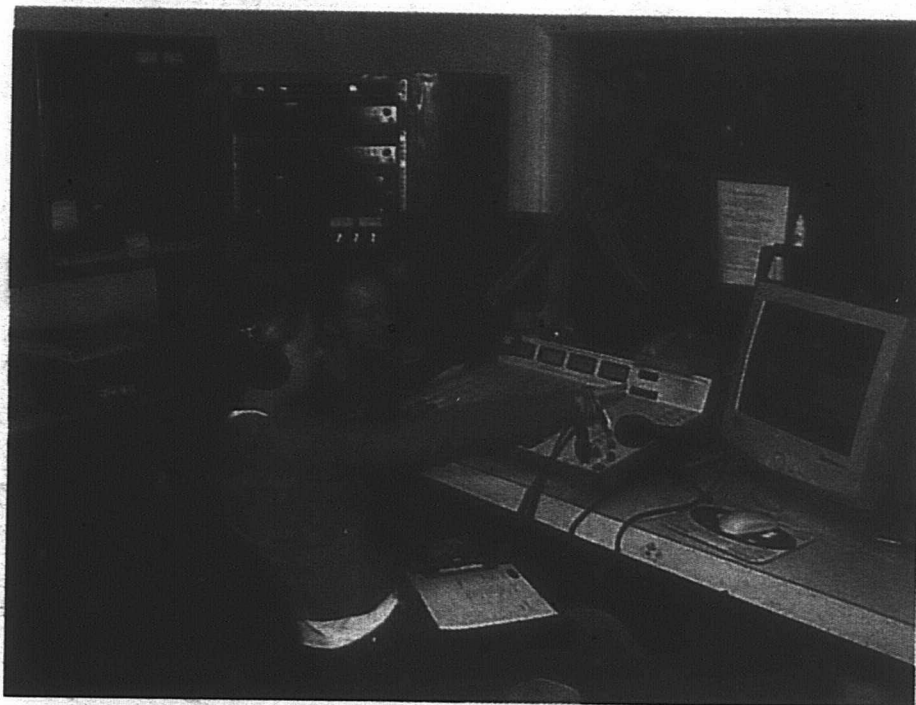
# STAR

The Houghton

THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF HOUGHTON COLLEGE



## Radio station pushes ahead despite setbacks



Junior Jennifer Carl teaches a new DJ during the first night of broadcasting

Lindsay Ackerman

The Houghton College radio station, WJSL, has not broadcast over the airwaves since Spring of 1999. Since then WJSL staff members have been patiently waiting for the Federal Communication Commission to issue a license to Houghton to own and operate a radio station. Generally, the application process takes approximately nine months to complete. WJSL applied for the license in January of 2000, but because of an influx of applications for a new low frequency broadcast license, Houghton's application will take longer to complete.

This year, the staff returned and made plans to broadcast over the radio. DJ signups have been held, and WJSL staff members expect their application to be approved in the near future. They recently published an all-campus newsletter informing the community of their progress. Until they receive a license, however, the station has been broadcasting over speakers in Big Ak's. They officially went on the air Monday night at 6:00 and will be playing Christian music daily.

## College pulls controversial video game

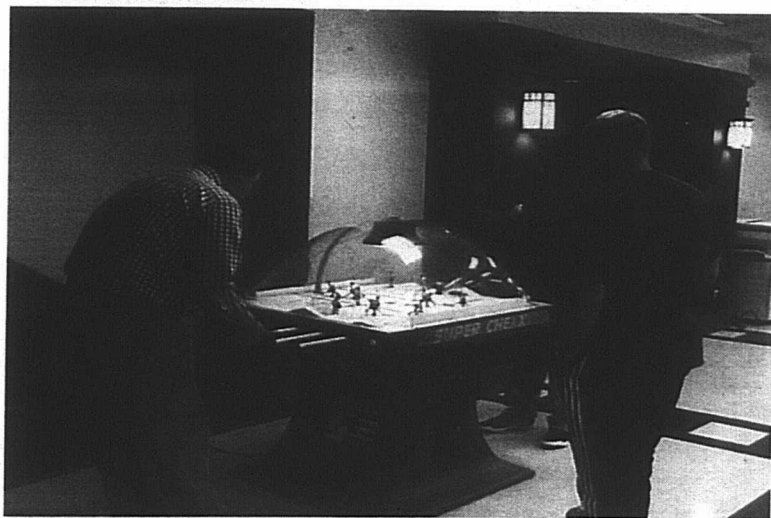
Glenn McCarty

The Student Programs Office made the decision Friday to remove two of the video games in the basement of the campus center, one of which had been drawing controversy since its installation. According to Director of Student Programs Matt Webb, the reason for replacing one was simple: they had been un-

able to get the video game system with the popular Bust-a-Move on it at the beginning of the year, but it had recently become available. Recognizing that it is a business venture on the part of the vendors, the college decided to reinstall Bust-a-Move due to its popularity with students. The game system replaced by Bust-a-Move contained

a selection of four games, including a samurai game.

Webb decided to replace the other game, however, for quite different reasons. A first-person shooter format game, players used plastic guns connected to the terminal to fire at enemies as they appeared on the screen. Since its installation, the game had drawn looks from students and college employees alike, and after two weeks it was time to act. According to Webb, "We had gotten lots of general comments, where people had concerns about the violence in the game... the shooting, blood splattering, blowing things up." Webb went on to say that as a parent who brings his children to Big Al's often, he had reservations about exposing children to this type of game. He said that it was a concern on Wednesday nights especially, when the community is invited for Family Pizza Night. "There are tons of kids, and we are just trying to be careful what we put out there," he says referring to the video game area next to the vending machines on the lower level of the campus center. "It was a matter of the fact that there are enough good games out there..." The game was replaced by an off-road racing game, and a new hockey, foosball-style game.

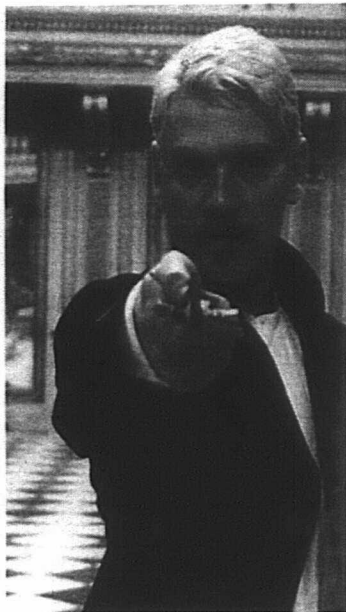


Jason Spykerman and Ben Zarkovich duel on the ice as Steve Wantuck watches

# Shakespeare company tackles royalty

Andrew Crowley

For three years, the student-led, student-run Houghton Shakespeare Players have been gaining more and more fans; last semester's production of *The Tempest*, directed by Joel Dunham, attracted an audience of a few hundred. On November 16-18, the company will perform an adaptation of Shakespeare's *Henry V* written by Mary Lou Rosato, an associate of the Juilliard School. The original cast of forty-six has been pared down to a mere twelve, a group of very talented actors who will each be playing multiple roles. *Henry* will be played by more than one actor, and one scene will be played by a different actor each night, to be chosen onstage by



Kenneth Branagh will not be in the production... Joel Dunham, however, will be

drawing straws! Please pray for this cast, as they each have a tremendous amount of work to do for the production besides their regular schoolwork. The cast is: Gabe Demaggio, Joel Dunham, Leslie "Spike" Dunn, Meredith Dyson, Risa Fealko, B.J. Haas, Missy Havens, Barry King, Brian King, Sonya Marthai, Aaron Rath, and Jonathan Winters. Please pray as well for me, Andy Crowley, Assistant Director Steve Erickson, and the many others involved in the production.

Mark your calendars, folks; it's gonna be a great show.

**Houghton College  
Drama presents:**

*The Butler Did It*

**Thursday,  
November 9**

**Friday,  
November 10,**

**Saturday,  
November 11**

see next week's Star for  
play preview

## Ready for Monday rocks hometown crowd

Mo Nishihata

Ready for Monday's CD release party was a huge success, as a crowd of over 700 people packed the chapel. Tickets were sold out for the momentous occasion and all fans got to see whether all the hype surrounding this band was for real over the course of their 15 song set. \* After nine weeks of touring in the summer, RFM has built up a fan base that came to support the band in this event.

The Dune (Steve Dunmire) opened up for RFM, as he played a captivating five song set list. The Dune was impressive with his ability to combine his technical guitar playing skills with his songwriting skills. The Dune's sound sets him apart from most acoustic guitar players (Justin

McRoberts, Steven Curtis Chapman, Eric Clapton, Dave Matthews) with his distinctive voice and songwriting skills. For more information on the Dune, visit his website: [www.the-dune.com](http://www.the-dune.com)

RFM took the stage as the crowd got up from their seats and flocked to the front. Their opening song, "Ready for Monday" energized the entire place and got people jumping to the beat. Nate Meloon (drummer) and Iain Velez (bassist, vocals) rocked the place with Iain playing slap bass and Nate playing a drum solo during the bridge of the song. Nate Meloon proved to be the solid cornerstone of the band and Iain laid the appropriate bass lines according to the style of the song. Mike Shipman (lead guitar, the occasional percussion, vocals) showed his skills through electrifying solos, licks and

rhythm guitar. Mike's effects pedal system allows him to use a variety of different sounds, as shown in their cover "Everything You Want" by Vertical Horizon. Chuck Gibson (acoustic guitar, saxophone, vocals) led the way on "Eternity" and "Deep Breath" as his vocals, which is comparable to the likes of Scott Stapp (Creed) filled the chapel. Although Dave Bancroft's (acoustic guitar, keyboards, vocals) voice reminded me of bands such as Delirious or U2, RFM has succeeded to stay away from sounding like a Delirious or Jars of Clay cover band. Overall the band was very tight and fun to watch.

RFM came back for a four-song encore and concluded with two worship songs. Their ability to integrate worship, music and fun made the whole experience relevant to the people there. Although RFM doesn't like to

consider themselves "rock stars", they certainly put on a rockin' show! For more info on RFM go to [www.readyformonday.com](http://www.readyformonday.com)

\*Set list

1. Ready For Monday
2. Another Try
3. Walk Away
4. Everything you want
5. Come to me
6. I want to fly
7. Free me
8. Lead me Home
9. Cry
10. Deep Breath
11. One day
12. Something happened to me
13. Sweet touch
14. Open the eyes
15. Better is one day

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The Houghton Star encourages the free interchange of opinions and suggestions in the form of letters, articles, guest editorials, and advertisements. Students are especially urged to participate. We also welcome the viewpoints of faculty, staff, townspeople, alumni, and all others having an interest in the Houghton community. Ideas printed herein do not, however, necessarily reflect the view of the editorial staff, or of Houghton College. The staff reserves the right to omit or reject any contributions for reasons of professional decorum. Letters (signed) should be sent to:

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VOX

expressions

voice

of a community of faith

## Letter to the Editor: Presser Hall Plea

Dear Editor,

I am writing to inform you about the changes to Presser Hall in the basement of the chapel. If you have not seen the room, it has a plywood floor, floor to ceiling mirrors, and a barre (used for ballet). I was informed by the ballet instructor that the funds for the remodeling were raised by "masterworks" - a music group that uses the room during the summer and brought ballet dancers this

past season. Our campus has needed a room with mirrors for quite some time now for the various performance groups on campus. The school play currently practices there also and three times a week it is used for ballet classes. I believe it would be a worthwhile investment to also have a wooden floor. This was originally in the proposal but for reasons I do not know it has been changed (maybe lack of funds?

I am not sure). The choices are currently carpet, tile or leaving it in plywood. Now my reasoning is that the Pizza Barn (aka Jockey Street Pizza) is getting hardwood floors. This space in Presser Hall is LESS THAN HALF the square footage and it gets plywood??? Is there any way this information could be brought to the attention of someone who has the power to change the plans??? It would be a shame to have a half finished room, especially when an organization outside Houghton has invested in a place so that they can return and use it to the fullest potential.

Thank you for your time.  
Sincerely,  
Jessica Rudl

### Evangelicals for Social Action Meetings

Want to make a difference in the Houghton community and in the world? Join the Evangelicals For Social Action (ESA)! They meet at 6:30 every Tuesday night in the commuters lounge (located between the print center and WJSL). If you are interested in joining, or want to learn more, contact Hannah Alsdurf at extension 1157 or by e-mail at: [hannah\\_alsdurf@houghton.edu](mailto:hannah_alsdurf@houghton.edu) as soon as possible.

### Notable Quotables

"You don't feed me you don't go to heaven."

-Prof. Granada Hernandez after being denied a request for food by Sophomore Beth Maples.

"Both written in the King James... you know it's from God."

- Dr. Wardwell's proclamation on Shakespeare and the Holy Bible

"I imagine Christ danced."

- Dr. Charles Bressler

"A fart is not necessarily a sin."

-Dr. Wardwell

"In other words, nothing like you."

-Dr. Pelletier, in response to the question, "what do you mean by normal?"

"I am perfect"

-Junior Jason Miller

"She's taller than the other gymnasts, she's 5'4!"

-Senior Denise Dunckle

observing a gymnast doing bar routines

"Your class is my hardest class this semester. I'm a creative writing major, what other work do I have to do for my classes?"

-Senior Jea Adams to psychology professor Dr. VanWicklin after showing him the packet full of work he assigned.

"Don't read the STAR!"

-Dr. Wardwell

"I think I'd kill my own mother for a Peach Snapple right now!"

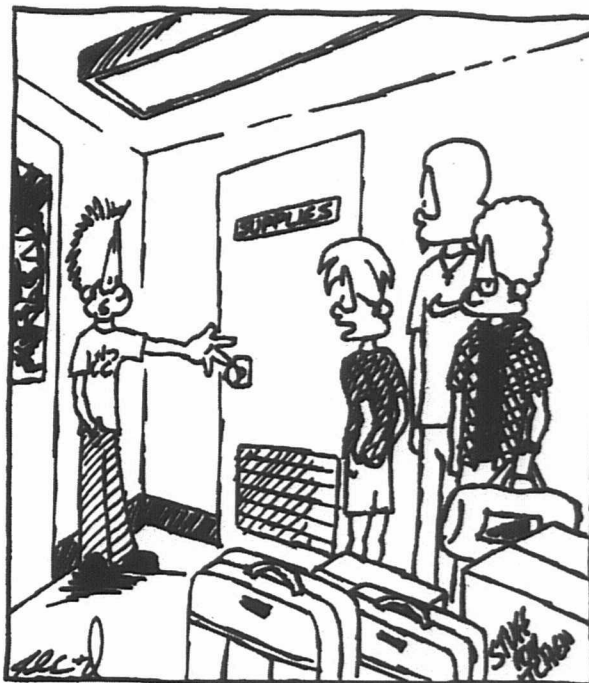
-Thirsty Sophomore Ben Hardy

"Don't think that when you disobey the speed limit, you're engaged in some sort of civil disobedience."

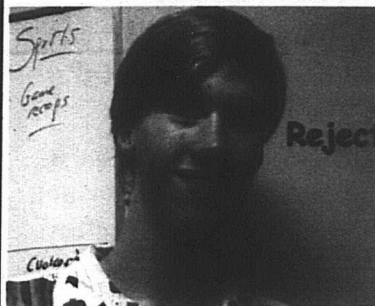
- Dr. Oakerson on exactly what is and is not civil disobedience.

## HoughToons

Adam Daab



"DUE TO THE HOUSING CRUNCH, YOU GUYS HAVE TO SHARE THIS BROOM CLOSET."



Stephen Maxon

## TOP TEN...

### Rejected topics for the Calculus Research Paper

(Portions of this list were originally printed in the STAR on 10/21/98)

10 "500 Great Derivative Jokes"

9 "Pi: Mathematical Constant....or Agent of Satan?"

8 "How much wood would a woodchuck chuck if a woodchuck could chuck wood?" - A Case Study"

7 "1 man plus 3 wives equals 17 kids," or "Allegany Countin'!"

6 "Pythagoras: Genius or Geek?"

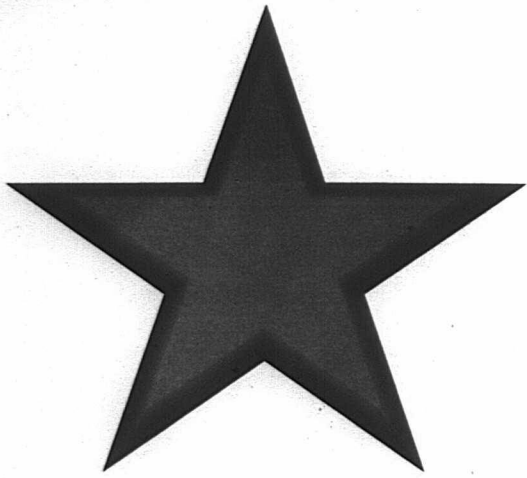
5 "Pictures of My TI-83 After I Ran It Over With A Truck"

4 "Quantum Physics, the Speed of Light, and the Teletubbies"

3 "How many licks DOES it take to get to the center of a Tootsie Roll Pop?"

2 "Division By Zero - The Forbidden Fruit"

1 "Addition: How To Do It"



# Before They Were Stars

## The Former Lives of Houghton Faculty and Staff

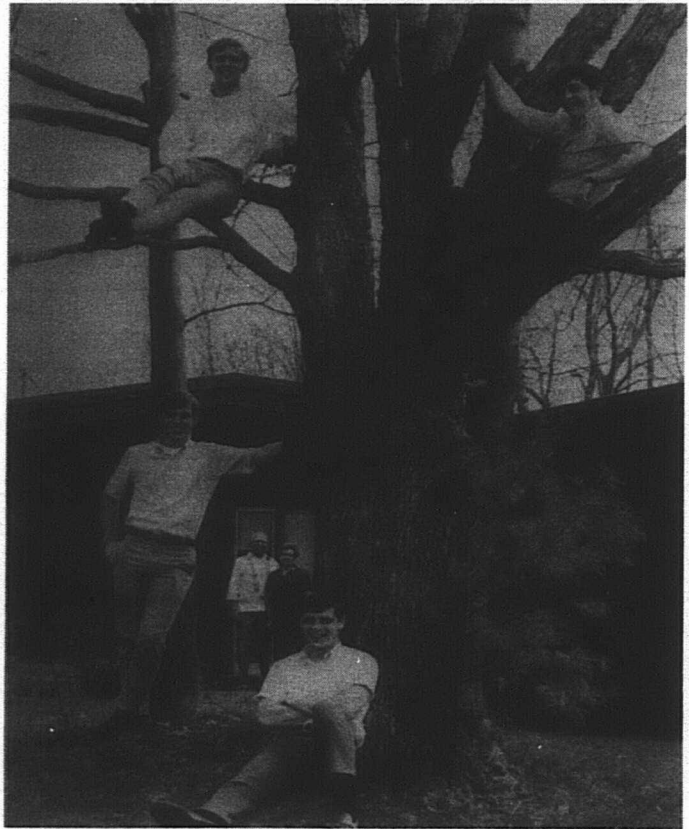
**Bethany Schwartz**

We see them every day - eating lunch at Big Al's, getting their mail at the post office (most of them actually get mail, unlike many of us), walking around campus, and most often, pacing around our classrooms brandishing chalk and the threat of exams. They tell us a little bit about themselves on the first day of classes - usually something safe like where they attended college. Some adventurous professors will even let us ask them questions about themselves, but that doesn't happen too often. Maybe they think their lives are too boring to share with us, or maybe it's that they think we just don't care, but as I found out, everyone has something interesting to tell.

Take Dr. Wardwell, for example. On the outside, he appears to be just an English professor who insists that his class is more important than chapel (and hopes never again to be

"misquoted" by the STAR). One of the things we do know about him already is that he works with the England/London programs here at Houghton...and some of us even know that he has spent a lot of time in England during his lifetime. But one thing we probably don't know is that he and his wife backpacked in England for two months after their first year of marriage. They learned a lot about England during that time, he says, and a lot about each other. Looking even deeper into his life, we find that he is a "PK" - photographer's kid. His father was a photographer for newspapers, and many times photographed his son for the papers. You also find out that Dr. Wardwell received his Master of Divinity (but never was a full-time minister) before going back to school for English literature. Even more surprising, perhaps, is the fact that he was athletic in high school and college, enjoying football, baseball, running, and swimming. (He even dreamed of being in the Olympics!)

Dr. Linda Woolsey is another English professor who like Dr. Wardwell, is not what she appears. She attended Houghton from 1970 through 1974, and was involved in many extensively in drama. During her Houghton years, she played St. Joan in Bernard Shaw's *St. Joan*, Mary Warren in *The Crucible*, and Titania in



Professors Bates and Halberg tried to make it to the top

*A Midsummer Night's Dream*. (The last of these three was her craziest part - queen of the faeries and in love with a man with a donkey's head.). She met her husband, Stephen, who also teaches in the English department at Houghton, during her four years here. The two worked on the STAR together before they started dating. One of Dr. Linda Woolsey's fondest memories of Houghton was the white frame house between East Hall and the old gym, that was home to the STAR, the Lanthorn, and the Stu-

dent Government offices. The walls of the house were plastered with posters and graffiti, including political comments such as "better red than dead" and "the only good commie is a dead commie," and Wesleyan comments like "Wesleyanism is its own punishment" and "you can do anything you want as long as you don't enjoy it." Because this was during the seventies, the dCcor in the house went along the flower child theme and was covered in psychedelic magic marker letters, but loved by



Dr. Stevenson's senior portrait

### In Question:

Where do you think you will be in ten years?



"Running a small town called 'Benopia' or 'Ruddland'."

Ben Rudd (senior)



"I'll probably be a children's librarian with a family of my own."

Lauren Zysk (Sophomore)





**Dr Linda Woolsey,  
Lanthorn editor**

all the students who worked there. Dr. Woolsey was the Lanthorn editor during the semester that the house was demolished, and her love for the building shines through as she says, "One day I was in the Lanthorn office typing and the crew came to tear off the siding. I kept typing even as light began to show through some damaged places in the wall." Clearly this is not just a stolid professor wandering around campus...once again proof that they are real people, too!

Another professor who was a student at Houghton was Dr. Stevenson, one of our psychology professors. He did not

begin as a psychology major, however; but majored in history and went on to become a high school history teacher.

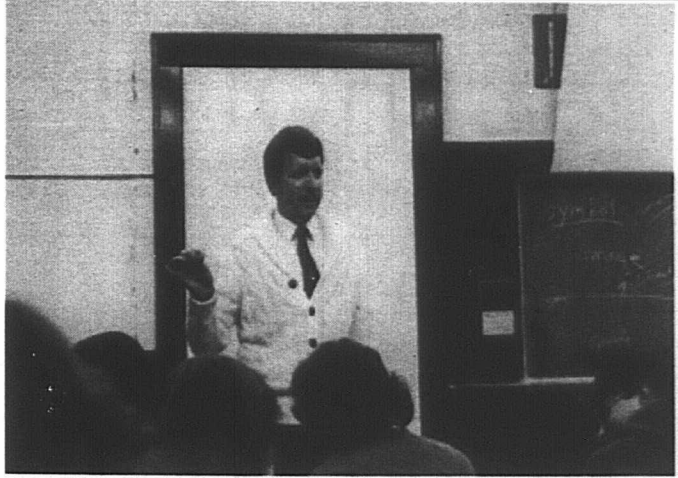
Like Drs. Linda and Stephen Woolsey, Dr. Stevenson also gained more than an education here - he found a wife. When he was a student at Houghton, the dining hall experience was quite different: half of the students on campus at in a cafeteria in the basement of East Hall, and the other half at in Gayo Hall (on the site of the present-day Fancher building). For all four of his years as a student, Dr.

Stevenson was a waiter in the cafeteria in East Hall. His wife-to-be was also a waitress at the same cafeteria, and they knew each other for two years before he finally asked her out. Their first date was not quite what we would consider exciting today - they went to a professor's house and watched election proceedings on TV (he was a Republican and she was a Democrat, so you can imagine the romantic conversations!). He walked her home that evening, but didn't talk to her again until three months later, when they went with a group of students to Washington, DC for a conference. They spent the entire time together, and by the end of the week knew that they were going to get married.

And at the end of their senior year, they did just that. Graduation day was Monday morning, June 1, and Monday evening they were married. Even more of a coincidence, Dr. Stevenson was the second out of three head waiters of the East Hall cafeteria to be married



**Dr. Stephen Woolsey, a meditative collegian**



**Dr. Charles Bressler, always fashionable in sweaters**

on graduation day. Talk about an exciting day!

Like Dr. Stevenson, Dr. Rich Perkins didn't end up doing what he started out majoring in. When he started school he wanted to be a veterinarian, but changed his mind when he found out he would have to take organic chemistry. He wasn't even sure he wanted to go to college, but only went because it was the cultural norm. In fact, he didn't even fill out the application for Wheaton - his mom did. He was accepted and went to Wheaton, but only began to enjoy college in his junior year, when he discovered the joy of learning for learning's sake. After graduating with a degree in psychology, he spent two years as an officer in Vietnam. He got his masters degree in sociology, and taught at Washington Jefferson College in Pennsylvania and Westminster College in New York for a total of five years. He had never even heard of Houghton until one day when he was hiking with his wife through the woods in New Hampshire. They met one of his old friends from Wheaton on the trail, who told Dr. Perkins that they Houghton not only needed a sociology professor, but that they could even find a job for his wife on the residence life staff. Through this chance encounter Dr. Perkins came to Houghton, where

he has been teaching for twenty-three years. He even has words of wisdom for us - "don't let the question of what you're going to do dominate your thinking; instead, worry about building your character." That's good advice from someone who has experienced so many things.

There are so many professors that we have had in class and see in the halls, but never stop to talk to. And although they're older and wiser, they



**Tim Nichols, a member of the  
1980 Homecoming Court**

have had many of the same kinds of experiences we have and hope to have. So I encourage all of us to stop and chat with our professors. Get to know them and you may find they have shared some of the same stops on the journey that you have.

Thanks to Beth Freeman and Amy Robinson, who helped me get information on a few of the professors!



**"Hopefully doing so  
something artistic  
within the realm of  
my major."**

**Mike Ross (Senior)**



**"Playing for a good  
team, like the  
Philadelphia Flyers."**

**Johnny Plastic  
(Little Hockey Guy)**

# arthouse

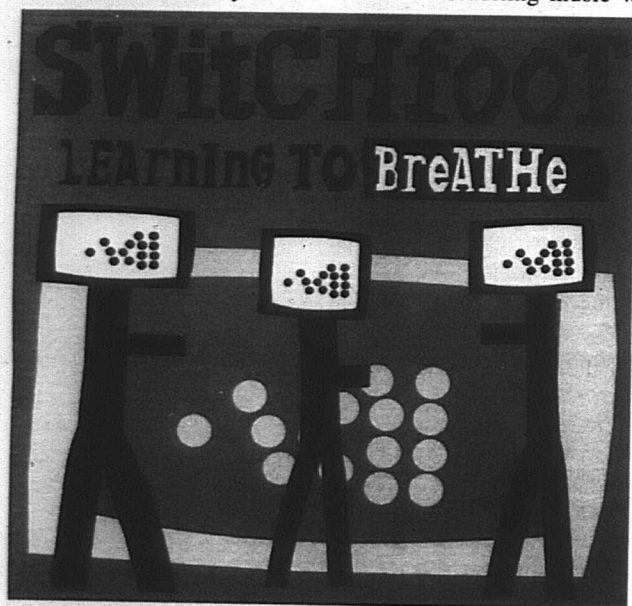
A look at the intersection of faith and art

## The Case for Christian Music

Glenn McCarty

The concept of "Christian" music, like the concept of Christian writing or Christian art, is difficult to define. In the past twenty years, the Christian music industry has risen from being simply an outpouring of the Jesus Movement in the early 70's to a multi-million dollar a year busi-

ness constantly surpassing prior sales records and gaining new accolades for its artists. Within this success, however, lies a warning: Christian music is in danger of losing its cultural relevancy. One of the principle theories of cultural aesthetics states that art created in a vacuum is irrelevant to the culture it attempts to mirror. This problem has become particularly apparent in recent years as for the first time in the history of popular music, artists of faith have been able to define themselves within a subculture that caters exclusively to their product-Christian music. In other words, artists that thirty years ago would have been competing against Bob Dylan and the Rolling Stones for listeners are now competing only against each other. Too often, this has translated into watering down the message so that it will be accepted without complaint by those within the Christian subculture. Instead of using their platform to challenge, too many artists have used their platform as a cushion and padded sales with feel-good messages of earthly



bliss. Their music has also suffered from the lack of challenge. Growing out of a heritage of praise-chorus worship services, Christian music has often been paint-by-number, sentimental pith, as formulaic as it is soothing. Needless to say, this is a far cry from the culture-assaulting music which

Christians should be known for.

Until recently, Christian artists who attempted to break out of this paradigm had received little, if any, critical acclaim for their attempts. Artists such as the 77s, Adam Again, and the Lost Dogs all were buried in radio and retail beneath a wave of "Jesus makes my skies blue" artists who, it would seem, refused to recognize the presence of original sin. Sadly, even recent artists such as Sixpence None the Richer, who began in the Christian market, did not achieve recognition there until they had "crossed over" and been accepted by mainstream pop culture. Unfortunately, the combination of integrity, innovation, and initiative has largely been missing from the Christian music scene since its inception. This summer, however, two new releases, *Coming to Life* by the Normals and *Learning to Breathe* by Switchfoot, raise the bar considerably for Christian music, proving that it is not impossible for artists of faith to express themselves in a way that is relevant, yet still remains true to their spiri-

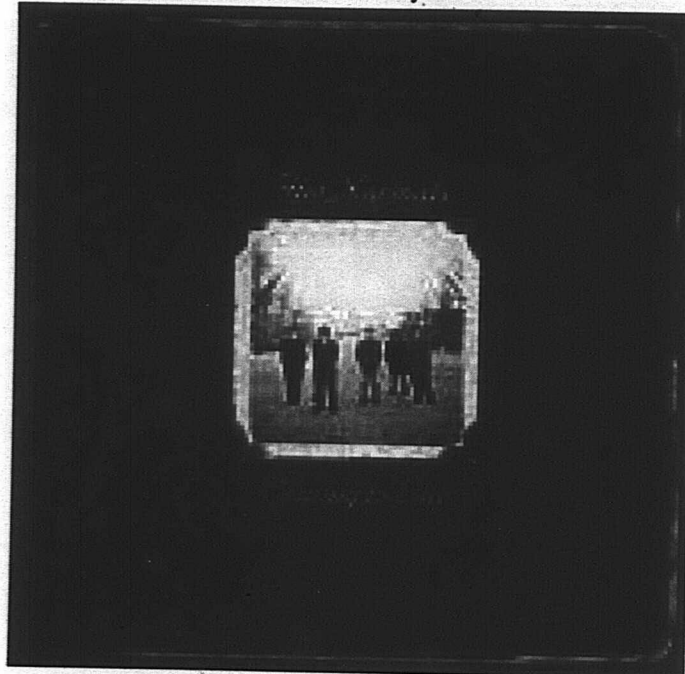


tual roots.

Formed in America's heartland, and raised under the banner of U2 and REM, the Normals seem at first to be an overgrown college folk-rock band. *Coming to Life*, however, shows significantly more polish than either of the two categories of rock bands currently in vogue: break something" rap-core a la Limp Bizkit or undersexed college dropout rock a la Matchbox 20 or Third Eye Blind. Frontman Andrew Osneaga who spills his guts, but unlike most, does it in a more confessional, not complaining manner. The lyrics read like Osneaga's personal journal in his quest for fulfillment, but unlike Thomas, Jenkins, or Durst, fulfillment is found in a higher power. The most striking thing about the lyrics, however, is the natural way in which personal struggles lend themselves towards a spiritual solution. Instead of seeking another hit or a one-night stand, Osneaga isn't afraid to look deeper and not be satisfied with easy answers. Recognizing that most people live in the gray areas between black and white, Osneaga walks the delicate line between condemnation and tolerance beautifully, resulting in an album that is a thoughtful portrayal of human experience. Like the Normals, the Southern-California based rock trio Switchfoot pushes the envelope for Christian music. Not as

confessional (and likely not as controversial) as the Normals, the music of this modern rock band tends towards that of chart-climbers like Everclear or 3 Doors Down. This is not a case of musical thievery, however—the work of Switchfoot is complex, impetuous and intelligent, never taking the easy way out with chord progressions or instrumentation. Their new album, *Learning to Breathe* showcases the band's knack for cultural satire, while at the same time pointing the finger at themselves in the need for change. The song "Poperazzi" alternately nails boy-bands, Nirvana, and "velvet Elvises," but primary songwriter Jon Foreman is careful to include himself in the criticism, recognizing that he too is capable of the silliness he is accusing us of; it is part of being human.

The metaphysical tendencies of both the Normals and Switchfoot may be too heady for some, but raise the bar considerably in an industry where, until recently, "friends are friends forever" seemed to be the dominant buzzword. Only time will tell whether this philosophy gains a considerable enough following to yield widespread commercial success. At the very least, we know that combining Christianity, intelligence, and rock and roll can be done, and successfully too...





# TAKE 2

The Star movie critics sound off on a current movie

## Almost Famous

A.P. Crowley

In the 70's, when Cameron Crowe was 15 years old, he was a writer for Rolling Stone. Now, after writing and directing Jerry Maguire, he's written and directed Almost Famous, a sparkling illumination of the life of a 15-year-old writer for Rolling Stone in the 70's.

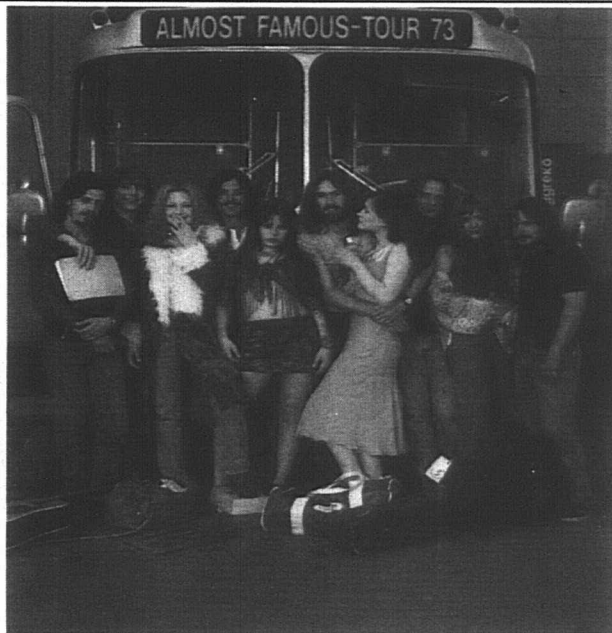
Unlike the recent steady flow of 70's epics like Summer of Sam, Velvet Goldmine, and especially Boogie Nights, Crowe's film never delves too far into the dark weirdness of the time. Instead, the audience sees everything through the unclouded 15-year-old eyes of William Miller (Patrick Fugit), shielded from "commercial reality" by his overbearing,

militant-intellectual college professor mom, a hilarious Frances McDormand ( Fargo ). "Don't do drugs!" she screams at him as she drops him off at his first Black Sabbath concert. Meanwhile, a world of fantasy and fluff living beckons William, headed by the artificial band Stillwater, led

by

Billy Crudup ( Jesus' Son ) and Jason Lee ( Chasing Amy ). It's a coming-of-age story without the harsh realities; it's an exposee without the gore and skin; but somehow the essence of the seventies is communicated by its not being there. What we don't see is often more powerful than what we do; that's the strength of the film.

The screen is absolutely stolen by Philip Seymour Hoffman ( Boogie Nights, Magnolia, The Big Lebowski ) as Lester Bangs, the editor of Creem magazine and William's mentor. But the real stars are the kids who run through this playground of sex, drugs, and rock n' roll: Fairuza Balk, Anna Paquin, Jimmy Fallon, Zooey Deschanel, and especially Patrick Fugit and his love interest, the legendary Penny Lane ( Kate Hudson ). Somehow, without forcing us to watch the awful Gomorrah we don't want to remember about the 70's, Cameron Crowe has extracted all the pretty things to hang a backdrop for William to grow up and discover why "real life" is so beautiful in any



decade.

Special kudos, too, go to Crowe for his research. The soundtrack breezes through over forty songs, including the first use of a Led Zeppelin song ever in a motion picture; Peter Frampton (who has a cameo) is

listed as "Technical Consultant," and Heart's Nancy Wilson wrote the score. A fine way to spend a Saturday night, and-surprise! Even though the seventies are involved, you won't leave feeling dirty at the end.

Richard Mehring

\*\*\*\* (out of four)

Almost Famous is one of those movies that comes along once in a great while that really rejuvenates the human spirit. It takes a fresh and careful look at the well worn ideas of youth and freedom in America and presents them in such a truthful manner that any trace of pronounced sentimentality or manipulation is utterly absent. In a way, it's a fantasy (a fifteen-year-old kid gets assigned the job of writing a story for Rolling Stone magazine while on tour with his favorite band), but the characters and situations are so believable that the story reaches an uncanny level of verisimilitude. It's a coming of age story, a love story, and a music story all rolled into one, a distinctly American story.

The film opens in 1969 and William Miller is an eleven-year-old in the eighth grade. His mother (Frances McDormand), a college professor, has managed to accelerate her son through grade school, but hasn't ever told him exactly how old he is in hopes that he'll adjust better. William's sister thinks her mother is too strict, and when she confiscates a Simon and Garfunkle album from her, the sister decides it's time to leave and become an airline stewardess. Soon after, William finds his sister's albums and instantly falls in love with Rock and Roll.

The movie flashes forward to 1974, at which point William (now played by Patrick Fugit) is a senior

in high school and writes album reviews for his school paper. He sends some clippings of his work to Lester Bangs of Creem magazine (Philip Seymour Hoffman), the premier rock critic in Los Angeles, and even manages to meet with him on one occasion. Lester admires William's thoughtfulness in writing and, after giving the young writer some advice on the importance of objectivity in the music industry, gives him an assignment to interview Black Sabbath backstage at their next venue.

At the concert, however, the doorman doesn't believe William's story and turns him away. He eventually gets let in with the opening act, Stillwater (his favorite band), and decides to interview them instead.

Soon after the concert, William gets a phone call at home from an editor at Rolling Stone who's heard about his work via Lester, asking him to go on the road with Stillwater and write a story about the rising band. After his mom finally relents, William joins the band and begins to get to know the lead guitarist, Russell Hammond (Billy Crudup) and his groupie girlfriend, Penny Lane (Kate Hudson).

The story evolves around William and is seen largely from his perspective. He watches as the band suffers through disputes, as Penny Lane falls in love with Russell (and as he continually keeps her at arm's length), and as the group has to cope with their

increasing fame and success.

What makes the movie great, though, is how much it gets the viewer to invest in the characters. When Penny Lane cries after finding out Russell paid someone to get her off the tour, we want to cry with her. When Russell climbs onto a rooftop of a house after dropping acid and screams out, arms raised "I am a golden god!" we laugh right along with the onlookers on screen. It's not because the scenes are manipulative, it's because they take on such a vibrant, tangible life of their own that we can't help but feel we're a part of the situation on the screen.

Almost Famous marks the fourth and most ambitious writing/directorial feature for Cameron Crowe. In the past he wrote two of the best and most significant teen movies of the eighties: Fast Times at Ridgemont High and Say Anything (also his debut as a director). Moving to more grown-up material, he directed Singles in '92 and the equally funny and affecting Jerry Maguire in '97. In Almost Famous he explores themes he's dealt with before, but approaches them from new angles. There's a lot more riding on whether William learns the lessons of honesty and integrity in a world filled with lies and human disconnect than there was for Jerry Maguire. Tom Cruise's

character was trying to achieve redemption after already having been corrupted whereas William is learning a lot of life lessons for the first time, and we hope he gets it right.

Crowe's casting choice of Patrick Fugit as William is an excellent one. From his disheveled look to his concern for Penny Lane to his relationships with his mother and Russell, he's everything everyone else around him is not. Frances McDormand (Oscar winner from Fargo) has several great scenes. One occurs on the telephone with the wise cracking Russell. He starts out sarcastically, but she quickly reduces him to reverently saying "yes, ma'am" to every one of her warnings. Billy Crudup is also quite good as Russell, the lead guitarist who says he's always groping for "something real" and who's constantly verbally sparing with the lead singer, Jeff (Jason Lee). The characters are all a wonderfully realized lot and we accept and truly care about every one.

In conclusion: Almost Famous is a great film (quite possibly the best of 2000) and a wonder to behold. The R rating is a small one, so go see this movie! It'll be good for you.

Rated R for language and implied drug use

# Highlander SPORTS

For complete game scores and statistics, visit  
[www.houghton.edu/news/athletics](http://www.houghton.edu/news/athletics)

September 20-26

## RUMBLE WITH THE RAIDERS

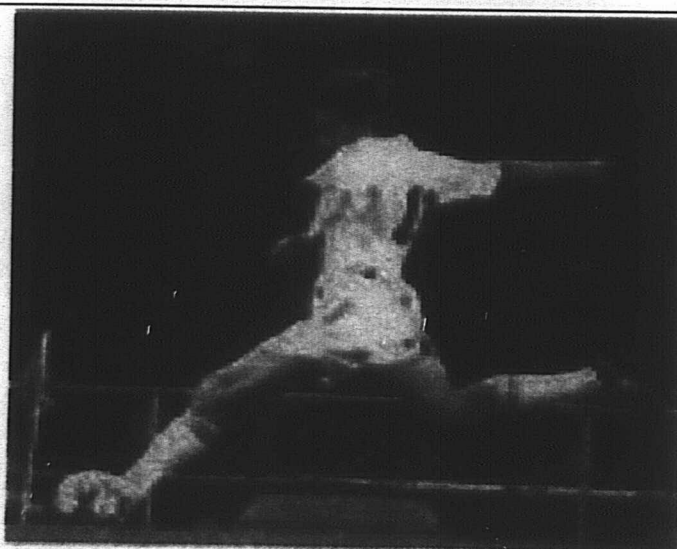
### MEN'S SOCCER TAKES ON ARCH-RIVAL ROBERTS

Aaron Mack

They played 104 minutes of soccer at Burke Field Saturday night, and in the end a fluke seeing-eye shot found the far post and sent Houghton fans home disappointed.

The much-anticipated game began in a quiet manner and finished the same as both teams spent the greater part of the match feeling each other out, much of the game fought in midfield.

Neither side was able to penetrate the defensive walls, which were put up to prevent attack. When the Houghton defense was unable to clear, it was the contribution of midfield and forwards which kept Roberts at bay for the first two halves. In particular a defensive play mid way through the second half by Tyler Stevenson helped the game progress into ex-



tra-time. Coming a long way across the pitch Stevenson cleared the ball away from the oncoming Robert's midfielder and into the corner.

Both Tim Mayhle, and his Roberts counterpart in goal, Trinidad and Tobago international Richard Goddard, controlled their goal areas with ease for the entire

game.

Extra time brought the youthful legs of Ole Petter Andresen to the attack. Ole nearly broke the game open early in the extra frame. He did his best to open up things and pressure Goddard.

In the end though, a seeing eye shot, or cross, found a few deflections on its way off the far post and into the back of the net. A silence that has not been felt in Houghton stands for quite some time, perhaps as far back as the offside decision during the 'snow bowl' game three seasons ago, fell on Burke Field.

As has become customary for the Highlanders, the men ran across the pitch to salute the fans in appreciation for The Houghton fans saluted the team for the hard fought effort, and they saluted back. Keep your heads up guys, good job!

## 1 on 1 with Jeremy Martin



## R-E-S-P-E-C-T

In general, fan support for athletics here at Houghton is tremendous. The stands for the men's soccer game with Roberts Wesleyan were packed with enthusiastic fans from both schools. But, the stands for the women's volleyball game with Roberts the week before were more sparsely filled with more silent fans.

The difference in attendance between men's and women's games was especially evident at a field hockey game last week where only a handful of fans turned out to support the

team.

Houghton women's teams compete at the highest level. The women's soccer team is undefeated and only one team has even been able to score on them this season. The women's volleyball team is having a winning season and playing well. The women's field hockey team is also having a winning team and competes with top ranked NCAA Division II teams. Everyday these ladies go out and practice just as hard as any men's team. They play just as hard and win just as much, but they still

hear fewer voices cheering them on.

Odds are in a school Houghton's size that you are friends with or have a class with someone who plays for a women's team. In the next week nearly every women's team has a home game. Make time to go out and support them. Schedule it as a study break or make it a part of your weekend plans. There's always room for more Houghton fans in the stands!

## Highlander SportsWeek

### Men's Soccer: (4-3-1)

Varsity:

Thursday, Nyack College,  
7:00 pm

Saturday @ Western

Ontario University, 3:00 pm

### Women's Soccer (9-0):

Varsity:

Thursday @ Roberts

Wesleyan College, 4:00 pm

### Field Hockey: (5-3)

Friday, Southern

Connecticut University, 3:30  
pm

Tuesday @

Bloomsburg University, 3:30  
pm

### Volleyball: (12-9)

Tuesday @ Daemen

College, 7:00 pm

### Cross Country:

Saturday @ SUNY

Geneseo, 11:00- Women,  
12:00 Men