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Division Indecision

Faculty Debates Future Of Athletics

Glenn McCarty

With many students anxiously voicing opinions and speculations, the discussion concerning the athletic affiliation of Houghton College made significant progress and understanding this past week, but ultimately met a major roadblock in Thursday's faculty forum.

In the first of two meetings last week, on Monday, April 3, the college's Student Life Council met to engage in discussion about the college's athletic association status. Since last summer, when Athletic Director Skip Lord announced the college's interest in pursuing an association with NCAA Division II, the Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics has been investigating the various options available to the college in the future. Lord and incoming SGA president Ben Rudd joined the SLC to hear two motions that were presented by Dr. Darlene Bressler, chair of the CIA. These motions were designed for the administration to vote on and gain a unified position to take to the faculty for a meeting the following Thursday, April 6.

The two chief options the college is considering are either 1) to remain a member of NAIA, but add a dual membership in NCAA Division II or 2) to choose exclusive NCAA membership in either Division II or III. The dual



Will Houghton athletes be switching divisions?

enrollment would allow the college to continue to offer scholarships to athletes, as well as giving the field hockey team a chance to compete in the Division II national tournament. The college is considering the second option primarily as "insurance" if the option of dual enrollment falls through.

At last Monday's meeting, the SLC voted "yes" on both motions set forward by the CIA: 1) to select Division II over III if

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Two Honored At Recognition Dinner

Susanna Rosenbaum

Last Thursday, April 6, Houghton staff and faculty gathered to recognize those who have been at Houghton for many years and to specially honor two individuals. The Annual Faculty and Staff Recognition Dinner was an enjoyable time of fine dining, fellowship, and special music provided by the String Quartet.

Dr. Chamberlain and Dr. Oakerson recognized faculty and staff that have worked for the college for ten, fifteen, and twenty years. They also honored Richard Halberg and Donald Taylor for twenty-five years of at Houghton, and Shirley Jacobson, Ina Newcomb, Jean-Louis Roederer, and Annabelle Tullar for thirty years here. Retiree G. Vaughn Drummonds (Trustee) was also honored.

One of the highlights of the evening was the presentation of the Mary Boomhower Staff Excellence Award, an honor bestowed on a staff member who has displayed outstanding dedication and diligence in his or her work. This year, the award went to Mitchell Liddick, as he received hearty applause and a standing ovation from Houghton faculty and staff. Well-liked by his co-workers, Mr. Liddick works in the maintenance department where he is known for his hard-working spirit and his physical strength.

Dr. John Arensen received the prestigious President's Award for Innovation for developing the Houghton in Tanzania program.

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Stressed Out!

Stress Fair Offers Temporary Relief

Laurie VanOrmer

Last Tuesday, April 4, the main floor of the campus center was transformed into a bustling "Stress Fair" put on by the Houghton College Counseling Center and Cecilia VanZyl. Colorful banners and balloons decorated booths where students could participate in a variety of stress-relieving activities.

At the booths, students received manicures, played with play-dough, built Lego castles, got a massage, colored pictures, decorated greeting cards, and made stress balls. Other booths focused on health issues, where students could have their blood pressure checked, read about health issues, discuss time management, or buy books and aromatherapy products.



Manicures were offered at the Stress Fair

A favorite exhibit at the fair, the cafe corner provided free Starbucks coffee, tea, and cookies. Sofas and chairs surrounded a stage area in the center of the lobby where students performed poetry readings, guitar pieces, vocal solos, and swing dances. Around the stage,

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EDITORIAL

Letter from the Editor: "Dad"

The Brothers Graffam

I've never really been angry with God before. I've never had any reason to because I've always been provided for, had everything I ever needed. If I do run into painful times it's usually just me getting what I deserve. Though I've never been angry with God before, there is something that has been perturbing me for some time now. It has nothing to do with me, but everything to do with my dad.

Memorial Day, 1987. For the first time in three weeks Al Graffam sees the light of day. He has just come out of a coma induced by a case of viral encephalitis, which in turn most likely was the indirect result of an extremely rare disease that weakens the immune system called myasthenia gravis. It takes doctors months to figure out what's going on and they barely do in time.

February, 1994. Dad goes into myasthenia crisis (critical condition) and spends several days on a ventilator. Doctors presume him dead twice. Over a period of four days a plasmapheresis is performed to clean up his blood, thereby cleansing his immune system. The procedure is a success (at least temporarily) and Dad goes back to his job as an administrator for Houghton's PACE program.

February, 1999. The myasthenia again returns while Dad is commuting from Buffalo to New Jersey on a weekly basis because of his new job. Doctors decide major surgery is the path to take so they perform a thymectomy, meaning they split his chest open and remove the Thymus gland. After a long recovery, the procedure seems to have worked.

October, 1999. Medication used in the treatment of a central retinal eye occlusion (a blockage in a vein in his eye) causes his myasthenia to flare up yet again.

Today, 2000. Dad has an immunoglobulin I.V. next to the recliner in his living room to infuse clean blood in yet another attempt to combat the effects of his ongoing war with myasthenia. Also, the occlusion has taken all vision in his right eye.

His poor health and extended stays in the hospital have done a number on his career. He is an ordained minister and has a PH.D in education yet hasn't caught a break in any job I can remember. He worked in administration at Medaille College in Buf-

falo until the trouble in 1987. He recovered and moved on to Houghton.

Both sadly and wonderfully at the same time, his departure from Houghton had nothing to do with health problems. He was ousted from his job after working to make the PACE program a respectable and successful one. Instead of being promoted he was handed a pink slip and something I can only describe as a bloody severance (incidentally, I'd trade my three tuition free years in a second for Dad to have back a job he loved).

After Houghton he bounced around to different jobs such as being a representative for DeVry Institute and a stint with the company in New Jersey. He now works at a small Christian grade school in our neighborhood as an advisor. It's a position he enjoys though for which he is vastly overqualified.

My father is the most righteous and upright individual I know. You tell me I'm looking through rose colored glasses and I'll tell you to get to know him even just a little and you'll see. Of course, he's not perfect, but he's about as close as they come. So why does such a faithful and committed individual so often get the short end of the stick? That question is the source of my prolonged agitation.

If I don't do well on a test or the Sabres lose (again) or the Star doesn't come out the way I planned, I cry like a small, small child and complain of what bad day I'm having. Just last week I had a few difficulties and all of the sudden my week was the worst week of the semester. That doesn't include the numerous times I do stupid things to bring difficult times on myself.

Though the past fifteen years have provided any necessary reason, I've never once heard him complain about troubles he's had. Not once. Ever. Just thinking about all he's been through and his continuing difficulty makes me unbelievably frustrated and choked up. I ask God why, of all the people there are on this deteriorating Earth, is my father one who has suffered and continues to suffer.

His life has inspired me to question God, but more importantly has inspired me to live. The funny thing is while I'm asking God why, complaining, and directing my bitterness and frustration heavenward, I'm certain my father is simply saying "Lord, it's nice to be alive."

Letter to the Editor:

Not So Shining Star

Once again the *Star* has done a poor job covering the news in Houghton. Let me remind you of all of the things that happened two weekends ago to refresh your memory. First there was a wonderful artist series with the Rochester Philharmonic featuring Dr. Boespflug and Dr. Brown as performers, and Dr. Hijleh as conductor and composer of the opening piece. Also there was the Shakespeare Players' performance of *The Tempest*. The Houghton Academy put on their play of *The Ransom of the Red Chief*. I won't even begin to include the number of recitals put on during this week either, among the cream of the crop Bethany Brooks' piano recital.

Now please stand back and look at all of this activity compared to the usual podunk news that we have here in middle-of-nowhere Houghton. One would think that the Houghton *Star* would have a field day with so many stories, but unfortunately this was not the case. None of these events received any coverage. Instead in that issue we read about the "Local Flavor" which basically stated that, yes, the BP and the Pizza Barn do in fact exist. We had an entire page dedicated to the premier of the local band "Reconciliation Experiment" at the Stone House party. One might ask how a local band

party could possibly one-up an Artist Series or a Shakespeare Play. Well, it's easy to understand once you know that the bassist for the "Reconciliation Experiment" is also the general editor of the Houghton *Star*. Instead of a review of the Artist Series or Shakespeare play, we have multiple pictures of the band, including the essential one of them playing Super Mario Kart.

Now besides the fact that I am personally insulted as a member of one of these neglected events, as a faithful (and usually disappointed) reader of the *Star*, I'm tired of seeing the school newspaper treated as an inside club by whatever townhouse Tim Graffam and his classmates are members of. Mr. Graffam is only following the lead of last year's general editor Dave Johnson who used the *Star* as his personal joke bulletin board to an even worse extent. My plea is to ask the *Star* to start acting more like a real newspaper.

In concluding, I do praise the last issue of the *Star* for its excellent coverage of some of the events and stories, especially the Writer's Conference at Calvin College that many Houghton students attended. Hmm... Maybe if all the exciting things are happening there we all ought to transfer to Calvin.

Joel Dunham

Editor's Response

Allow me to begin my rebuttal by saying the Mr. Dunham has many valid points and I appreciate his taking the time to voice his concerns in the *Star*. Student input is an integral part in making the *Star* a higher quality and more effective medium. Obviously I was stung by his criticisms, but I realize such censure comes with a public position such as Editor-in-Chief.

That having been said, I would like to respond more specifically to many of his points. Let me begin by reminding Mr. Dunham everyone who writes for this paper does it voluntarily. Certain writers prefer to cover certain stories, usually ones they are interested in. I can't really force writers to write, but I can ask them nicely to cover stories around campus. Also, we have no regular photographers. Most of the pictures from around Houghton that appear in the *Star* are taken by yours truly (that explains why they usually aren't very good!) and I can't be everywhere at once.

Anyway, we covered each

of the above mentioned theatre productions the previous week. It seems to me that reporting on such events before they happen is a much more effective way of generating buzz and assisting in raising awareness. True, we could have covered each play again, but at that point I figured once was enough. Had I been informed Mr. Dunham would like some more space I would have asked someone to be on it.

The Artist Series is a different matter. Yes, it is big news, but past experience was standing in the way. The *Star* business manager Caryn Hanks volunteered to cover an Artist Series last semester and did a fine job reporting and offering her opinion. Unfortunately, as a "lay-musician," her opinion that the performance was poor didn't sit well with some of the music faculty. I was informed that if I was to cover other such performances I should have someone from the School of Music do it. I don't know many people from the School of Music let alone one with a proclivity toward writing and nobody has since volunteered

Continued on next page

EDITORIAL

Editorial: "There Is An Old African Saying"

John Osae-Kwapong

Imagine it is one of those days where you feel as though the sky is falling. Your problems seem to be the worst compared to those around you and life can only be described as being very unfair. You decide to share your problems with an African who looks back at you and says "There is an old African saying, that until you see the size of someone else's farm, you always boast of being the only farmer." If it is in a cross cultural setting you may be confused and wonder what boasting about being a farmer has to do with having problems and sharing them with a friend.

Or imagine it is one of those conferences where the keynote speaker concludes by saying "Go out into the world and make a difference." However, in your mind, the chaos that has gripped our world cannot get any better. The world is beyond repairs and therefore you leave the event convinced that the idea of trying to make a difference is nothing but a mirage. But then in comes an African who, in trying to dissuade you from giving up, says to you "There is an old African saying that if you think you cannot make a difference in this world, try staying in a closed room with a mosquito." And once again you wonder what mosquitoes have got to do with making a difference in the world.

Or continue to imagine being in a position where your boss never seems to stop complaining about your job performance. You come to work on time, you hardly ask for any days off, you are the first to volunteer whenever extra help is needed and yet still if there is any one worker who is subjected to the unkindness of the boss it is you. Looking for a shoulder to cry on, you walk into an African with whom you share your frustrations and to which you hear the response "There is an old African saying that no matter how well the hen dances, the hawk is never pleased."

Response Cont.

to do the story, so it doesn't get done.

As far as the Reconciliation Experiment goes maybe I did take liberties by dedicating a page to the party and the performance, but I don't see it as much of a problem because the party represents student life. There were approximately 80-100 people at the concert party and willing to be that's as many as showed up at the student recitals, if not more. In my opinion, that's a decent enough chunk of the student body to merit some coverage in the

Imagine this last scenario.

You are determined to change something everybody agrees cannot be changed. You feel very discouraged and begin to regret having surrounded yourself with people you think do not understand what it means to be supportive. The African in the group, on the contrary, tries to be supportive by saying to you "There is an old African saying that no matter how long you leave a stick in the river, it will never become a crocodile."

My friend Nigel always wondered if there were any new African sayings and worse still why anything had to be explained by drawing on an old African saying to which I responded "There is an old African saying that you speak to the wise child in proverbs, not in ordinary language." Just like Nigel, I often used to wonder about the frequency with which older folks back home drew on these African proverbs whether it was during a fireside story or the settling of a dispute or a marriage ceremony. I remember raising a lot of questions at home one day, not only about these proverbs, but other cultural traditions as well. The response I got was "There is an old African saying that if you dig too deep into the eyes of a dead man, you may see a ghost."

Through oral tradition these old African sayings were passed on from one generation to another. In the last several years there has been an effort to put them into writing with explanations. The use of old African sayings, however, is not as rife as it used to be in that traditional Africa continues to clash with modern Africa as the latter tries to assert its 'superiority.'

In case you are still wondering about the point of this article remember "There is an old African saying that when poverty begins to knock at the doors of the white man, he learns to speak another language."

newspaper. The excessive coverage is a little bit of indulgence. You want your play covered and I want my band. I win out because I'm the one putting the paper together. Also, if it seems like the men of Stone House are in the Star too much, it's because they're the ones that are around me most. They hang with me in the office and help out in little yet important ways when needed.

Finally, after twenty issues of the paper, as hard as I've tried I've come to find that you can't please everyone all the time, a lesson I'm going to hang on to.

Kathie's Corner Restaurant Reviews

Kathie Brenneman

Turfside

Turfside, Rushford's finest restaurant, opens for the season Friday, April 14. Turfside is located at the golf course outside Rushford. Donna and Conrad Bruckert own and operate Turfside. Donna grew up in Fillmore and her parents were the owners of McCarty's about 20 years ago.

The Turfside's hours will be every day 11:00 am to 2:30 but dinner will be served only Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Sundays Turfside will serve noon dinner, but close at 4 pm.

This year the salad bar will be gone and tossed salad with a choice of dressings will be featured.

Donna says that the prices will be the same as last season, running from \$9.00 to \$15.00. Her homemade soups will be included in the dinner price. Chicken with sundried tomato and cream sauce, chicken with lemon-pepper and herbs, broiled and sauteed scallops, shrimp scampi, and prime rib Friday and Saturday nights are some highlights of the menu. On Sundays Donna has several specialties.

Desserts are made by Conrad and are mouth watering. Tollhouse cookie pie, served warm is a favorite of mine. Lemon cups and lemon sour cream pies are tasty. Ozark pudding and bumbleberry pie, and peanut butter cup ice cream pie are popular. A new feature this year will be

raspberry white chocolate cheesecake. Sounds yummy.

This is a great place to go Baccalaureate Sunday. For that day, reservations are required. Call 437-2658. Enjoy!

The Charcoal Corral

Each season, I take pleasure in directing people to Charcoal Corral on RT 39 just outside Perry. This wonderful restaurant has once again re-opened for the season. If you haven't managed to get there, take time this year to go. Rick Stephano is the owner and manager. He runs an efficient, clean and good service restaurant.

The Charcoal Corral is composed of 3 restaurant; the first, a charcoal grill area; the second, a pizzeria; and third, an ice cream shop. Not only is the food high quality, but Charcoal Corral also has miniature golf and a drive-in movie theatre (this year with 2 screens). In the summer an outdoor stage features a variety of music each evening, and cruise night every Thursday.

Go to Charcoal Corral and try a blue burger - grilled ground beef with blue cheese dressing and crisp bacon, or have a corral steak sandwich - thin sliced NY strip steak with provolone, lettuce and tomato, or try a chicken fajita salad, a veggie pizza, curly fries, chili, Maryland blue crab cakes, pesto pizza - etc. Arrugh, I have to stop writing and run right now to the Charcoal Corral! If you want to see a menu, or get directions, stop at the Info Center, or check www.charcoalcorral.com.

Stress Fair cont.

students lounged on sofas and on the carpet, sipping coffee and enjoying the festive atmosphere. Comments about the fair ranged from: "I was looking forward to this all day" to "They should do this every semester."

Cecilia VanZyl, a Houghton College Senior, was the brain behind the festivities. Two years ago, a student had conducted a similar stress fair as a Psychology practicum and VanZyl decided to repeat the idea this year. By adding coffee, entertainment, books, and more fun activities, VanZyl hoped to "make the fair more applicable to the students."

The Counseling Center helped with practical aspects and VanZyl did the planning. "I

couldn't have done it without the Counseling Center" said VanZyl. SHAC, the Student Health Advisory Committee offered to make posters, design the layout, and help with setting up and tearing down. VanZyl also extends her thanks to the many students and community members who volunteered to staff the booths.

VanZyl's favorite experience at the fair was a conversation she had with the Starbucks' representative. Comparing the behavior of Houghton's students with that of students at a nearby university, the representative commented, "I can't believe these are students - they're so nice!" VanZyl appreciated the woman's comment, grateful that the stress fair had provided an opportunity to demonstrate Christ's love.

Life After G

Seniors Steppin' Out

Y2K Graduates Speculate About Life After Houghton

Anna Ireland

Together we have spent the last four years talking, laughing, and supposedly learning. As our final year draws to a close, we are all getting ready to live in the "real world." I look around and see the changes in the people I know and it amazes me how far we have come.

As we leave Houghton, many of us are starting new lives or furthering our education, although most plans are subject to change. Others still have no idea what life will bring them and just plan to move back home and work. Good Luck and God Bless.

Ben Coy will be doing an internship at Trinity EC Church in Pennsylvania for the fall semester. In December, he will finally marry his high school sweetheart, Samantha.

Justin Lawrence will move to Minneapolis, Grand Rapids, or Chicago and hopes to get a job in the publishing industry.

For the fall semester, **Will Couch** will move to Buffalo to work and attend Villa Maria to study jazz. He is looking for a cat to share his apartment.

Oliver Gingrich is looking for an internship in law, politics, or music. He hopes to continue playing and writing music

with Ben Coy as they will be living close to one another.

Heather Hebbard hopes to find an apprenticeship in ceramics and will be a waitress to pay the bills.

Paul Ulrich has been accepted to several grad schools, but will probably attend the University of Delaware for Marine Biology.

Doug Graham hopes to attend grad school for his Masters in Public Health.

Allen Hollenbach wants to find a job in Washington, D.C.

Emily Whittaker will spend the fall student teaching in Buffalo. She will teach music to

grades K-8.

Becky Manwaring and baby Ethan will be coming back to Houghton in the fall to finish classes and then will join her parents in Africa.

Melissa Seaman is trying to get into Medical School and is on waiting lists for University of Pennsylvania, SUNY Syracuse, and Ven Gurion.

Brett Eddy will be teaching at his alma mater, Hackensack Christian School. On June 26, 2001, he will marry Corina Guardino.

Dave Albright is enlisted in the army as a second lieutenant in the field artillery division. He will spend the summer in Oklahoma and most likely move to North Carolina after Christmas.

Bob Livolsi will attend University at Buffalo and get his masters in physiology and work to

"I'll be in Honduras for one month. Then I'm moving back to NYC, where I'll be working at a Public Relations firm."

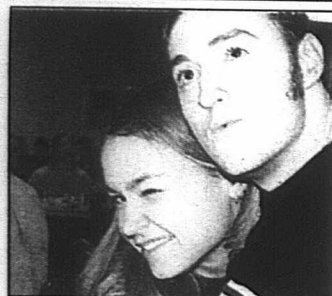


-- Andrea Toro

"I'll get married in July, then try to find a teaching job. If not, I'll live off my new wife and spend my days playing Sega."

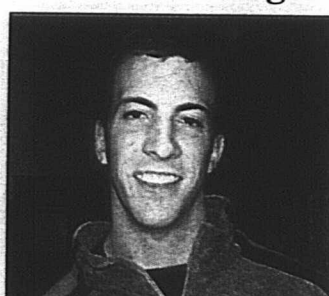


-- Dan Jackson



-- Kristen Jaloszynski

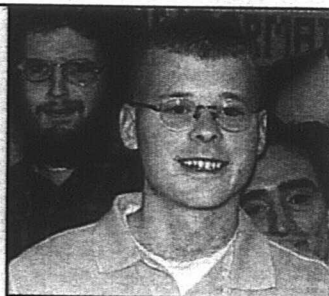
"I'm either doing Peace Corps or going to optometry college in New York City."



-- Thomas Scriven

"I will be spending the summer working for Chautauqua Institute for the Arts, and then hopefully attending law school."

"I'm going to Colorado for Adventure Sports."



-- Scott Bussom

"I'm going to grad school."



-- Brandy Reese



-- Eric Hamlin

"I'll be working my patoot off to pay back loans, and then molding the minds of America's youth as their pastor."



-- John Osae-Kwapong

"I am moving down to Washington D.C. where I'll be pursuing a Master's in International Affairs at American University."

Graduation

pay for food and a car.

Kim Klink is going to grad school at West Virginia University in Immunology.

Gordon Keesler will leap into the future through an internship in outdoor recreation somewhere on the west coast.

Jesse and Liz Zimmerman plan to move to Fulton, NY where Jesse will work in a machine shop and Liz will be working somewhere nearby.

Jennifer DePaolo plans to spend the summer working at Chautauqua Institute for the Arts and will then try to find a job as a nanny.

Anna Ireland joined the Peace Corps and will move to Africa in June to teach English as a Second Language or write curriculum for an English program.

Get Your Career In Gear

Career Services Assists Seniors After Staff Switch

Melanie Hess

As the semester comes to an end and graduating seniors realize that they actually have to find something to do with the rest of their lives, career services is a place where they can turn.

I spoke with Tim Nichols, the director of Career Services, and he told me a little about what is happening there.

With the departure of Sharon Givler, a gap was left in Career Services Office. Givler worked before hand to make sure that things in Career Services would continue smoothly. Nichols

stepped in, and he is currently in the office from 3-5 p.m. every day. Eva Hillman works with students' resumes, and the student workers and she are making sure websites and files stay current. Dean Danner even helps out with the workload. There are still some gaps; for example there is no one to interpret Myers-Briggs test results if students wish to take that test.

Nichols said that the major they see most in Career Services this time of year is Elementary Education. Elementary Education Majors have to use the credential files, and there is a recruiting fair for teachers coming up.

Although schools are hiring faculty for next year, many other majors find that it is too early to job hunt, as most employers do not interview now for jobs that start in September. Many students are also coming to Career Services for information and help about filling out graduate school applications.

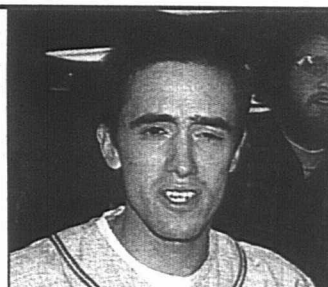
Career Services offers many services for students concerning graduate school and future jobs. Even if you aren't sure what you want to do, there is a variety of books about various careers and graduate schools that you can read as well.

"I hope to get a teaching job near my home in Bath, New York."

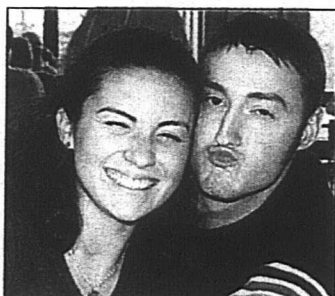


-- Kevin Baker

"I am moving to Indiana to become a circus All-Star. Shortly thereafter I'll begin my career as a coffee-house bum"

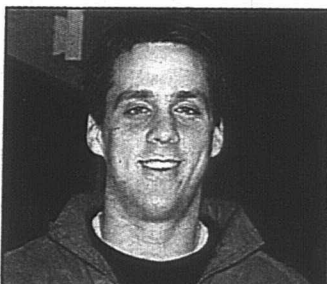


-- Ramon Solis



-- Rebecca Altero

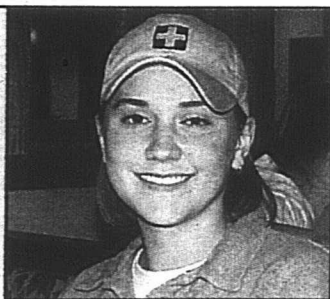
"I am going to Honduras for a six-week internship."



-- Dave Shaw

"I plan to attend the University of New England to get a Master's in Physician's Assistant Studies."

"I'm going to get a J-O-B! My goal is to work in public relations or human resources, and get a real life."

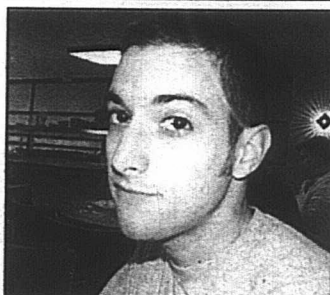


-- Judy Johnson

"I'm going to Israel to walk in the footsteps of Jesus. After that I will hike the Appalachian Trail."

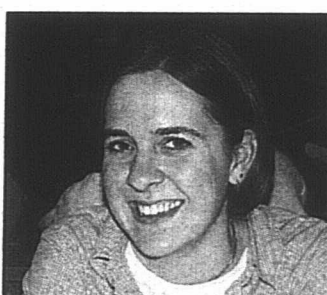


-- Dan Mund



-- Jim Ulrich

"I am looking into grad school at Rutgers to get an MBA."



-- Laurie VanOrmer

"I want to live in Spain for a few years and teach English. But first, I'm going to get my teaching certification."

ENTERTAINMENT

The Dove Awards 2000

Part I- "Living On The Edge"

Glenn McCarty

This is the first in a two-part series coinciding with the Dove Awards (the annual Gospel Music Association awards show) on April 20th. In this first part, we examine the past year's trends in Christian music; in part II, several key up-and-comers will be spotlighted and profiled.

To some, the mainstream acceptance garnered by several "Christian" bands and solo artists this past year forces an uncomfortable dilemma. Certainly there has always been a place in mainstream radio and retail for artists who were "abashedly" Christian, that is, artists who did not publicize the reality of their faith and chose not to align themselves with the CCM industry at all. This past year, however, several artists who got their start through "Christian" record labels were picked up by mainstream distribution and flung into the great beyond-mainstream radio and re-

tail-in record numbers. The newfound exposure of these artists, such as P.O.D., Sixpence None the Richer, Jars of Clay, and Jaci Velasquez, formed a gray area between "Christian" and "secular," an uncomfortable place for those fans who were used to selecting their music based on the fact that someone else had already decided that it was "Christian," and therefore acceptable. The artists in this gray area have made a conscious decision to move out into the mainstream world with the hope of gaining a wider audience for their music. By gaining acceptance in areas of mainstream culture where Christians "being Christian," openly publicizing their faith, have never been wanted before, these artists demonstrated that it is possible to make music that will appeal to

Christians and non-Christians.

The emergence into these uncharted waters has made quite a few fans very uncomfortable. Most prevalent are the critics who claim that these artists have given up their faith by attempting to bring their music to a wider audience than is allowed by normal "Christian" distribution machinery. They claim that these artists have hidden their lights under a bushel and are somehow hiding from their faith by writing songs that place an emphasis on artistic craftsmanship and attempt to deal with the deeper problems of being human, such as loss, doubt, temptation, or the inability to forgive. What these critics fail to realize, however, is that by seeking to think deeply about both the musical and lyric elements of their craft and to make music that reaches both Christians and non-Christians, these artists are actually letting their lights shine more than if they had stayed within the Christian market.

It is a fact that non-Christians simply do not understand and will not tolerate music that is sonically behind the times or is simply mimicry of other popular artists. Likewise, they will not understand lyrics that proclaim exuberant optimism and easy answers to life's questions. Sadly, however, music of this caliber has long populated Christian music. With the emergence of artists who have a passion for all people to hear their music, as well as artistic integrity, Christian music is beginning to win back those who for so long associated "Christian music" with something they gave up in junior high.

What makes these artists so remarkable? Are they relying on cutting edge technology? Clever marketing schemes? Heady lyrics? Surprisingly, the reason these artists have achieved acceptance is because they are honest in their lyrics, in their mission, and in their belief about the people they are. According to P.O.D. drummer Wuv, "We're able to play the music we like—there's nothing better than that—and go all crazy, let our aggression out. But when we write our songs, it's not out of an anger that we have for the world, but a

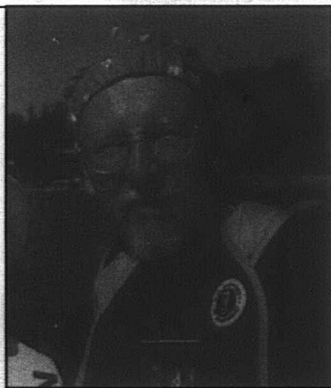
Continued on page 8

Spotlight on Faculty: John Leax

Jea Adams

John Leax, Professor of English, has been teaching at Houghton College since 1968. While he teaches courses such as Personal Narrative Essay and Writing of Fiction, few know of the talents that this man possesses outside the classroom. I realized this while at the latest Festival of Faith and Writing Conference, after being swarmed by three women in the restroom who had seen, thanks to my nametag, that I was from Houghton, New York.

"Do you know Jack Leax? Do you ever talk to him?" they had asked me. "We love his books!" ("Sure", I responded, "I've had classes with him and met with him last Tuesday when he helped me



fill out my course selection slip"....an autograph every semester; to this they were in awe!)

Professor Leax has had eight books published from 1974 until just recently this last month. His book *Out Walking*, which made a literary entrance last

month, includes essays and psalms. All of what he writes showcases his talents and shares insight into his past, imagination, thoughts on nature, and faith.

Growing up in a town outside of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (which is referred to as "Turtle Creek" in his poetry), the high school Leax attended was full of literary minds with many people reading and writing. He tried writing because it was "in the air" and later found out that he was actually very good at it. Also while in high school, he was a league champion wrestler in his weight class and commented that wrestling in a way made him a disciplined person which carried over to his successful career in writing, which calls for great discipline.

For his undergraduate college experience he attended Wilmington and Wheaton before settling down at Houghton to graduate in 1967, one year after marrying his wife Linda. Next he

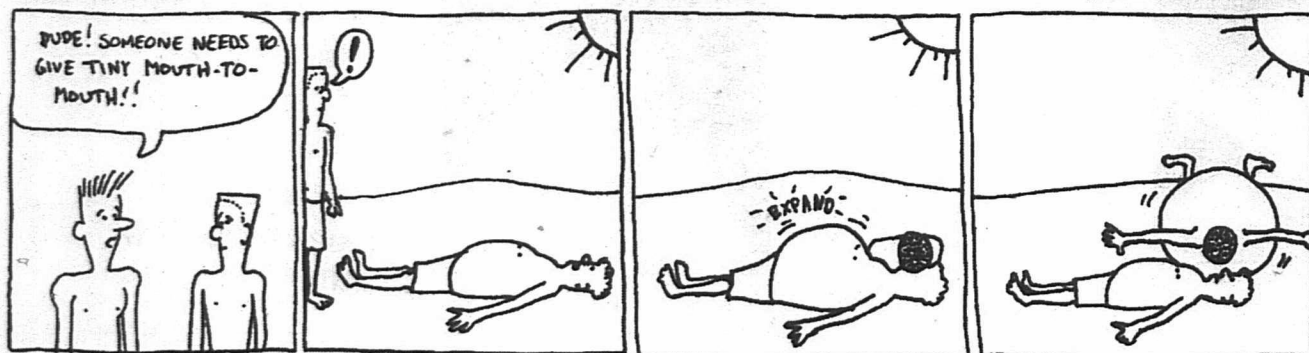
attended grad school at Johns Hopkins and then came back to Houghton to teach. I asked Professor Leax if he had any comments to share with the student community and he responded with, "Tell the whole world to stop calling me Doctor," so at his request, I think we should remember that he is Professor, not Doctor Leax.

Two other interesting facts about Leax are that his only daughter, Melissa, and her husband are currently traveling around the world in a sailboat, and there are tanks of live goldfish (of outdoor pond size) in his office.

If you are interested in reading the works of Professor John Leax, check out the campus bookstore or Amazon.com for purchase and browsing. Also, you could try his webpage at: http://www.houghton.edu/depts/english/Jack's_page.htm which not only has a few poems, but photographs of his beautiful garden as well.

Man and Snail

By Donovan Church



ENTERTAINMENT

The Metal Shop With Dan

Dan Graffam

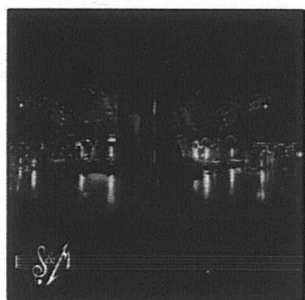
S&M Metallica Elektra Records

For one night only Metallica played a concert with the San Francisco Symphony Orchestra conducted by Michael Kamen. It is a seamless mix of hard rock from Metallica and classical music from the orchestra recorded on a double CD that is altogether about two and a half hours long.

I think the fact that these two groups of performers are so different is part of what makes the album so great. The guitars of James Hetfield and Kirk Hammett, the bass of Jason Newstead, and Lars Ulrich's drums blend perfectly with the orchestra. Hetfield's low growling voice is also a perfect match to the instruments. He has made great strides vocally since his screaming days on early albums such as "Ride the Lightning."

Metallica further proved their lasting appeal with this album. They have been in the music industry for over twenty years and are still going strong. Included on the album were a few older hits like "Master of Puppets," "For Whom the Bell Tolls," "Sad but True" and "Enter Sandman." Many new hits from the albums "Load" and "Reload" were also included. Songs like "Fuel," "Hero of the Day," "Until It Sleeps," and "Bleeding Me."

Metallica also threw in two new songs: "Human" and "No Leaf Clover." Also included was my all time favorite song "One." This song is seven minutes long and is one of their first hits. It starts out very slow with just the two guitars and towards the end gets extremely fast. This is a perfect song to showcase the talents of all four of the band members and it sounds even better with



the orchestra, which is more evident in this song than in any other during the concert. Instruments such as trumpets, trombones and percussion can be easily heard during the four plus minute instrumental at the end of the song.

Although the performance itself was superb, Metallica neglected to include a few of their best songs. I realize Michael Kamen chose the songs that were most conducive to orchestral accompaniment, but it would have been nice to hear older songs like "Creeping Death," "Fade to Black," or "The Unforgiven" with the symphony.

Another great aspect of the album is now people can see what a talented band Metallica really is. For a long time Metallica has been mistakenly thought of as the epitome of what is wrong with music. Hopefully now people can see them in a different light. This concert gave people who normally refused to listen to them a chance to see a new side of Metallica.

The Top Ten Intramural Name Suggestions

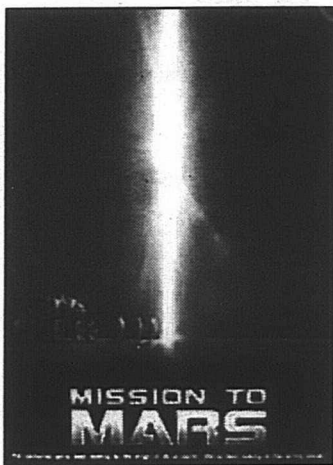
Steve Maxon

- 10 "Danger! Mongoose!"
- 9 "Straight-Edge Vegan Warriors"
- 8 "3.14159265"
- 7 "Winners on the INSIDE"
- 6 "Music Major Massacre"
- 5 "O.J. Ate My Baby"
- 4 "Poultry in Motion"
- 3 "The Integrative Studs Department"
- 2 "Tuba Solo"
- 1 "The Phlegm - inists"

In Theatres Mission to Mars

★★★★ (out of five)

During mankind's first landing on the red planet, something goes horribly wrong. Commander Luc Graham (Don Cheadle), having discovered an ancient, dome-like structure on the surface, watches the destruction of his team by a snake-like sandstorm. When NASA learns Graham has somehow survived the



tragedy, they send a rescue mission headed by widower Jim McConnell (Gary Sinise) and married man Woody Blake (Tim Robbins). Several times the rescue team needs rescuing. (But hey, we all know Gary Sinise has been

through all this before.)

If you like science-fiction, this is a must see. But if you don't go in all for that life-on-other-planets stuff then you might be disappointed. Especially, if being down to earth means being picky about script writing (e.g. plot gaps, dramatic weaknesses, lack of any realism). For example, when does NASA ever let astronauts take their wives along for the ride? (Oh, she's pretty? Then I guess it's okay.) And what really happens when you take off your helmet in space?

Though *M2M*'s beginning is maple-syrup sappy, and its ending is a cartoony retelling of the evolutionary tale, the middle is surprisingly worth it, like chocolate in a candy shell. The acting is occasionally believable and the cinematography is often stunning (scenes including zero gravity situations, a circular ship with artificial gravity, and a white room with only one visible plane, that being the level of their feet). The soundtrack, as well as the use of silence, is a salute to older sci-fi films such as Kubrick's *2001* (which places it in good company). Above all, however, it was refreshing to watch a PG action movie. I wish there were more.

- Reviews by Jon Hartt -

On Video Arlington Road

★★★★

After the death of his wife in a botched FBI operation, professor Michael Faraday (Bridges) becomes obsessed with the subculture of terrorist groups. His spirals are revived with the arrival of new neighbors (Tim Robbins, Joan Cusack), with their children that his son can play with. He is even beginning to see another woman, a former grad student. However, Faraday suspects that there's something odd about his kind, friendly neighbors. Or is the loss of his wife making him paranoid?

He's not paranoid. The neighbors ARE terrorists. Don't worry, I haven't told you anything you won't learn from the first few minutes of the movie. Robbins is supposed to play the part of a trustworthy neighbor, one whom you'd trust your kids with. But I wouldn't trust this guy with my goldfish! Faraday is understandably cautious in the face of Robbins's eerie expressions, almost as if he might laugh hysterically the next minute.



(This tendency of Robbins also detracts from his credibility in *M2M*.) In contrast, Cusack's performance is noteworthy. She is believable as a smiling housewife, but freaky as a frowning terrorist.

I can't understand why Bridges has to yell his way through the movie. In tense situations, such as the ending, that sort of behavior is acceptable, even desirable. But every scene? I think he and director Mark Pellington need to cut down on that caffeine intake.

The film's direction did not build suspense by playing up the innocent side of the Faraday's neighbors. From the outset, we all know they're terrorists. (And of course, Robbins's unusual persona didn't help.) The only suspenseful and surprising part of *Arlington Road* are the last few minutes of the movie, which are almost redeeming. Almost. I guess I have a hard time believing that domestic terrorism is so wide-spread and domestically organized.

NEWS

Junior Varsity News

Houghton To Begin JV Soccer, Basketball

Steve Maxon

More students at Houghton will have the opportunity to participate in intercollegiate athletics through the creation of junior varsity programs for men's and women's basketball, as well as men's soccer.

One of the main goals of the new JV programs is an increase in enrollment, as well as growth in athletic participation among current students, according to assistant men's basketball coach and

new junior varsity basketball coach Trini Rangel. Prospective students will be recruited to play on these JV teams, and some will receive scholarships to play.

"The hope is," Rangel said, "that we can attract students to the college for an opportunity to play intercollegiate athletics, at the JV level, and thus increase our student enrollment."

The men's basketball team, coached by Rangel, will play approximately twelve games next winter, but no games have been

scheduled yet. The coaches expect to contact local community colleges and junior varsity programs at bigger schools. Varsity and junior varsity players will practice together, and standout JV performers will have a chance to work their way on to the varsity team.

The new junior varsity teams will open up the competition in intramural sports as well. As the best players move to intercollegiate play, greater parity can be achieved, and the leagues will be more competitive.

Dove Awards cont.

love we want to show the world." This honesty about the people behind the music reveals that Christian musicians are just like their counterparts in the "secular" industry. As the old adage goes, "Christians aren't perfect, they're just forgiven."

In addition to the honest approach, these artists are characterized by an earnest desire to achieve musical innovation, even if it means sacrificing fans. For their recent release, Jars of Clay packed up their instruments and headed to the deep South, isolating themselves in tiny Oxford, Mississippi and choosing producer Dennis Herring, known for his

penchant for forcing bands to "think outside the box." In the end, Jars produced an album that suggests by its title that leaving the "zoo" of traditional approaches to music and ministry may very well be the way to go. According to lead singer Dan Haseltine, "We realize that we do not have to fit into that mold [Gospel Music Association] and that we have to move out into the world. They're building their fence around it, and our property is not inside the fence."

More and more emerging artists are seeing the "safe confines" of the Gospel Music Association as fenced-in property and are choosing to allow their music to dictate the type of audience. In the process, these artists are con-

cerning themselves less with the label attached to their music than the quality of music produced and the type of people they are. An example—last fall's appearance by Sixpence None the Richer on the Late Show. When interviewed by David Letterman, lead singer Leigh Nash gave a complete explanation of the origin of the band's name (a quote from C.S. Lewis' Mere Christianity about the inability of Christians to repay God for his grace) to an overwhelming audience response. Letterman's response? "Well, that's beautiful...that's very nice... Leigh Nash, ladies and gentlemen... charming!" This episode illustrates that despite the myriad portrayals of Sixpence as having left their faith, they were able to present a picture of themselves as humble, caring people who were amazed at their stardom and endeavored to use it as a platform to present the

Division cont.

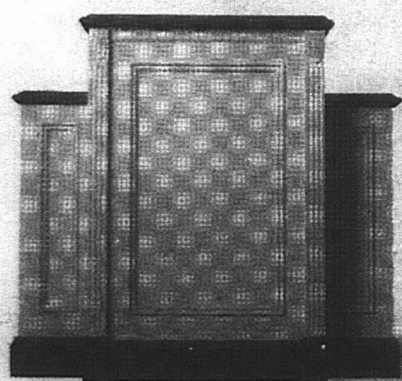
forced to choose "because it allows the college to most closely follow its current athletic philosophy and program, with modest athletic scholarships and limited intercollegiate sports sponsorship," and 2) to maintain NAIA membership "for as long as possible," but also recommended the "beneficial dual affiliation with NCAA Division II."

This proposal gave the SLC the green light to approach the faculty with these proposals, which happened on Thursday, April 6. In this joint meeting, however, there was, according to Dean Bob Danner, "no prevailing strong sentiment either way." The faculty's division on the issue means that no firm decision has been reached at this time, bringing the process back to the discussion stages. Danner also notes that this indecision means "the responsibility for deciding lies squarely on the shoulders of the President." According to Danner, the next scheduled meeting of the SLC is Monday, April 17.

In the coming weeks, The Star will seek to present a more in-depth treatment of the many facets of this issue and their effects on the future of the college.

riches of God's grace.

This view of themselves as artists with a message of love and forgiveness in a culture that craves integrity is what defines the "new wave" of Christian musicians. In next week's issue, we'll profile several of these artists in preparation for next Thursday's Dove Awards.



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