

the Houghton Star

FEATURE: SNACK
Shop
music



issue

4

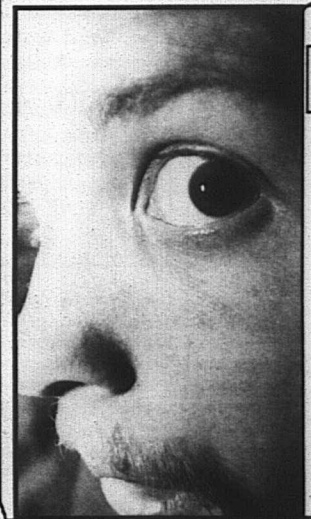
Today is his
birthday.

28 Oct. 88

ending
Oct. 28.

Opening:

Nov. 4



Vol. 81

Who should turn the dial?

patrick bamwine

Students and the Alumni Association have different ideas of what kinds of music ought to be played at Big Al's snack shop.

The Cultural Affairs Committee (CAC) planned to discuss this subject at their meeting earlier today, but the discussion has been postponed until their November meeting.

The discussion will focus on a memo issued to the CAC by the Alumni Association which asks them to consider this policy: *"That music played in public areas of the campus be confined to easy listening, classical or the Christian contemporary idioms, or other music selected and approved by the CAC."*

Most students think that an opinion poll ought to be taken as a basis for any decision. An opinion poll was taken last year, however, and the results were ignored. In that poll, 246 out of 499 responses (49%) did not favor Christian music at all;

241 (48%) favored both, and only 16 (3%) showed interest in only contemporary Christian music.

Kris Paroline, a junior, suggested another survey before any decision is made. She believes most students listen to popular radio stations. "I wonder how the administration will regulate private tapes and radios in the rooms and cars?"

According to Paroline, who works in the snack shop, students understand the problem. "We know which music is unacceptable. For example, several students have donated personal tapes to the snack shop; the music is both secular and Christian, and the variety has been interesting and tolerable."

Senate officials Patrice Broderick (Vice President) and George Wilson (President) believe that the controversy over music is due to

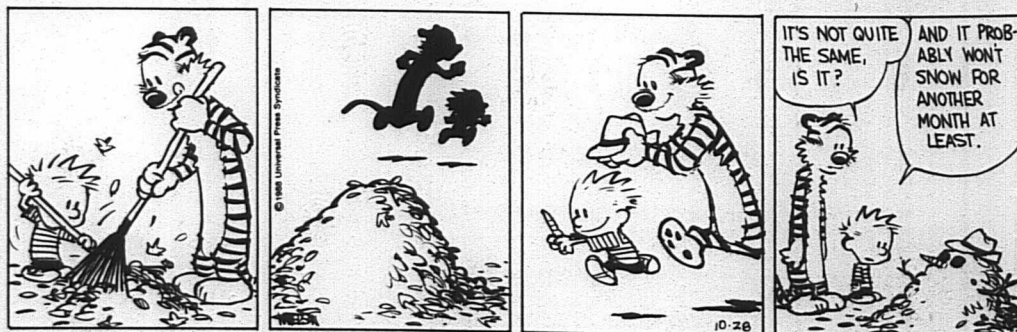
pressure from outside the student body, not from the students themselves. On April 16, 1988, the Alumni Association passed a motion urging *"the Administration through its Cultural Affairs Committee and Division of Music to examine carefully its current position on music on campus,"* and further resolved *"that new efforts be made to educate students with regard to the types of music they appreciate, and specifically, to invite Wes Aarum Jr. to present at least one educational chapel address on this topic with opportunity for student interaction following."*

A student who requested anonymity said, "We know Wes Aarum. He led the sophomores' retreat this year. He's biased, and all he'll tell us is 'young people, all music is from the mouth of the devil.'" Although in Wednesday's chapel Aarum did not mention music, he preached hell so hard you could feel the heat.

Junior Steve Gurley blames the move on "people higher up. It's

Calvin and Hobbes

by Bill Watterson



snack shop music

... the students?

unfair to impose preferences on us," he said. "There are valid complaints about music on the radio. We all detest heavy metal, for example, but no one would be upset by pop, say Top-40 music."

"Although the snack shop is college-owned space," he continued, "the administration is overstepping their bounds. It's an exclusive recreation area for us students. We are ready for a compromise during lunch times when the place is open to the whole community. But not at night. We need our own time, our own choices."

Patrice Broderick is also concerned about overprotection. "We came to college to be prepared for real life," she said. "Instead of building a protective wall around us, the administration should realize that most of us chose Houghton knowing what it stands for. We should be left to exercise responsibility, because rules and regulations are easily broken."

Furthermore, Broderick believes the administration is setting up a policy for no reason. "Only two songs played in the snack shop last year were really questionable," she said.

Sue Schmidt, Senate member and student representative on the CAC, regrets that this issue is being revived. "We tackled the issue last year. We thought we had already reconciled it," she said. Schmidt said that the student representatives will try to avoid voting at the November meeting until more student input has been sought. She believes

a restrictive policy will annoy the majority of students.

Asked what options students have, Wilson and Broderick suggested that students can send well-written letters to Dean Danner.

"He is approachable, he is willing to listen," said Broderick. "We students stand a good chance. We

are three members on the CAC, and the faculty and administration are seven. But two of them are on our side. We are split 5 to 5; so more coherent, gentle input from students could win us a decisive vote."



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The Houghton Star is a weekly publication dedicated to printing news of consequence. The attention of The Star is turned inward upon Houghton College. Naturally, neither the editors nor the college espouse every opinion found in The Star, since the articles often present opposing viewpoints. The editors recommend dialogue among faculty, staff, and especially students. Signed letters must be submitted by 12 noon Tuesday. They may not exceed one double-spaced page in length; the editors reserve the right to edit all contributions.

... the snack shop managers?

beth brotzman

One of the first differences I noticed on campus this fall (besides the scatter system and the funky carpet) were the unfamiliar strains of Petra filling the snack shop with Christianity musicized. The reason for this change was taped on the inside of the pizza shop window, in the form of a memo from Dean Danner. It specified that the music played at the snack shop should be confined to Christian contemporary, classical, or easy listening styles until the Cultural Affairs Council could come to a final decision.

Although the rule had been in existence for a long time, none of the managers knew about it. Tim Nielsen, who has been working at Big Al's for four years, became aware of the rule only at the end of last semester. "At that point," he said, "I didn't really think it was a rule. I thought it was somebody's opinion until this fall." There is a rumor that the rule is being enforced now because of complaints, but these complaints have no names or faces.

So what kind of music is being played in the snack shop this semester? There has been a considerable amount of confusion as to what the provisional standard

excludes, and this confusion is being taken advantage of. U2, The Alarm and Bruce Cockburn get a fair amount of play, mixed with some Michael W. Smith and Stryper. James Taylor songs monkey with the definition of "easy listening," and The Beatles innocently avoid being bound by any definition. As manager Mike Obringer said, "The decision to allow us only to play contemporary music is nicely ambiguous."

Many of discussions about democracy have been taking place around Big Al's. Anke Suelzner, also a manager, said, "I feel like this rule is another way of censoring us students. I don't feel that the music we play is harmful. Then again, I don't know what people do when they leave the Snack Shop."

The consensus seems to be that the majority should make policy instead of a few faculty who occasionally stroll through or a few parents who wish to shelter their young. "If the majority wanted me to play classical music," Mike Obringer said, "I would play classical music. If they wanted Christian contemporary, I would play that. But they don't."

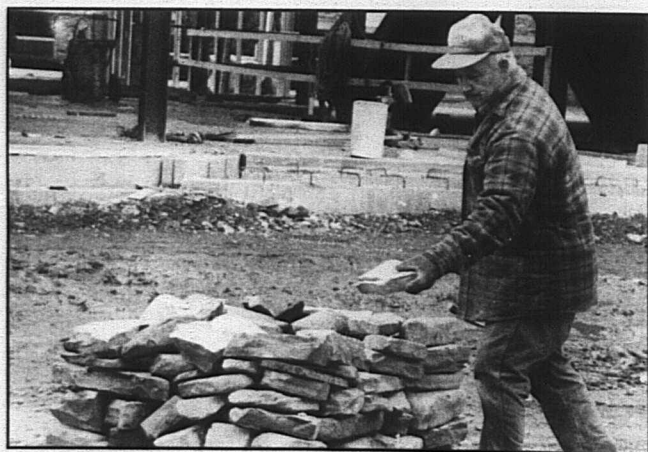
The present limitations also arouse some feelings about the maturity of students. "If we're adult enough to go off and fight a war," Mike Obringer said, "then why can't we be adult enough to choose the music we listen to?"

What are their predictions for the future? "If you want my opinion," said Tim, "I think we're going to get secular music back." And if not? Here's where the divisions occur.

"As a manager," said Anke, "I would have to abide by the rule. As a student, I will be very willing to argue the situation, but I'm empathetic to the administration's position as a Christian college. This is my fifth year and I've seen a lot of changes that no one ever thought would happen. I don't think people will stand for censorship."

Mike sees "a fine line between job security and social activism. I do not wish to act in a way so as to harm anyone. I just want my voice to be heard."

Tim, on the other hand, doesn't see much merit in active protests. "It's not apartheid," he said, "if you know what I mean."



genus: *laborus*. species: *manuali*.

Most *laborus manuali* are quite shy and gentle. This one works alone. He utilizes stone and hammer in the attempt to fashion an eternal structure for non-eternal mortals.

snack shop music

... the administration?

dave wheeler



When Big Al's was renovated a few years ago, with money accumulated from the campus center video games, a jukebox was installed. It was removed when it became apparent that the students weren't interested. The current speaker system replaced it, but no guidelines restricted the kinds of music that could be played on it. Secular radio stations and tapes were often used.

A twenty-member alumni board sent the Cultural Affairs Committee (CAC) a resolution which stated what music they would consider appropriate for public areas in Houghton. The CAC will discuss this resolution at their next meeting in November.

In the meantime, Dean of Student Development Robert Danner sent a memorandum to Big Al's limiting acceptable types of music to those which the Alumni Association endorses, with the added clause that some tapes would be allowed if they were first checked by the CAC. Danner commented that he was willing "to interpret the policy rather liberally." This memorandum's purpose was to give the employees at the snack shop definite guidelines to go by, to "establish a definite policy—the filling of a policy gap," according to Dean Danner.

Danner explained that it would be possible for him to make the final decision; he believes, however, that it is "better to work in consensus," particularly in a liberal arts institution.

Dean of Student Development Robert Danner would like to see the Cultural Affairs Committee arrive at

a music policy that will "accommodate everyone in some way." However, he is realistic; he knows that the CAC will never please everybody.

"There are segments on each end of the spectrum," Danner said. "On the individualist end, there are those who say, 'My individual rights demand that you play anything I want you to.' On the conservative end, there are those who are against rock music in any form, secular or contemporary Christian."

Many CAC members are uneasy about regulating music. Kathy Brenneman, for example, said she is "personally against any type of censorship." She points to the music situation in East Hall lounge, in which she is the head desk proctor. The radio in the lounge was purchased by the dorm council (consisting almost entirely of students) and plays both secular and Christian stations. There have been no problems there, according to Brenneman.

Danner expressed his reluctance to take a "strong control-type position on music in a liberal arts college." He added, however, that in a public place like Big Al's, "the music takes on the character of being either sanctioned or condoned by the institution" to people such as trustees, alumni, and community members.

Assistant Dean of Student Development Nancy Louk-Murphy sees the music question as raising deeper issues, such as "the definition of areas considered public and private," and "the individual's rights versus the community's needs." Whatever decision the CAC reaches, these issues are at the forefront.



...Mick Williams?

The Minefield: noisy gongs and clanging cymbals

The topic of music in Big Al's has come around yet again. Last year I wrote about this subject but the letter was too controversial to print. The gist of it was that last year on two out of three weekends during a particular month when I went to Big Al's the radio was blaring the song "Relax" by Frankie Goes to Hollywood. This blatantly homosexual group revels in its sodomy, and the words to "Relax" are so perverted as to be unpublishable in this paper, yet here they were playing in the snack shop of a Christian school.

The bearing that this has on the upcoming decision as to whether to choose a) Christian contemporary music, b) classical music, or c) so-called "easy-listening" music has to do with gradations of evil. Yes, some supposedly Christian music is only nominally so (like U2 or most of Amy Grant's recent hits), and some classical music has themes which are sinful ("risque" is the word the professional critic would use).

The most evil of the three, however, is the so-called "easy listening" music. Basically, this can be seen in two lights: first, the message of easy listening music is a contemporary version of the attitude of the rich man in Jesus' parable who has harvested a good crop and says, "You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry." But God said to him, "You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?" (Luke 12:19-20). Second, the message of easy listen-

ing music is similar to that of secular humanism. If one carefully listens to the words (most people claim they don't), the basic message is: "do whatever you want, just don't hurt anybody." Fornication, adultery, and drinking are frequent song topics. As sweet as they sound, people like Phil Collins and Billy Joel are giving out a message far more dangerous than the hard rock of Frankie Goes to Hollywood, simply because they've repackaged the same wicked message and made it subtle and easy to

listen to. If the authorities at Houghton cave in and accept easy listening they might as well endorse the Humanist Manifestos I & II.



George Bush.

He's taller.
He's whiter.

courtesy: SNL

letters

Dear Thom and Dave,

The *Star's* third issue shone thought-provokingly. The following capriccio is a light handling of a heavy matter.

I was speaking recently with Chief Bear-mace of the Houghton tribe. We discussed Founder's Day and thought it would be nice, as a sportscaster once said, "to reminisce about the future." I recalled to him events which have not yet happened, such as the graduation ceremonies of spring 1989, which the faculty did not

attend. I reminded him that the graduating braves and maidens were happy, because they were able to celebrate in their own way. They formed a huge circle around the inside of Wesley Chapel, joined hands, and sang good songs. They chose two of their smartest peers to give speeches. It was a nice experience.

On Founders' Day that fall the faculty didn't come, but the braves and maidens, shedding any lingering concern for older members of the tribe, decided

to honor outstanding graduates of the previous spring who had now been out in the world and had become successful. However, some of the younger braves and maidens had less knowledge of the successful graduates, and they refused to participate. Shedding all interest in a past they had only vaguely experienced, they chose to celebrate the spring of 1990 by themselves, meeting on the quad for singing and holding hands and hearing speeches.

That fall, the quad group organized a Hero Day to honor their smartest peers, but newer braves and maidens, shedding all interest in persons they hardly knew, formed their own group and celebrated the spring of 1991 on the soccer field. . .

Chief Bear-mace (now called Chief Bore-mace, as he no longer carried his club anywhere, and also because he irritated everyone because of self-pity) interrupted me, asking in a puzzled tone, "What big point of story?" Seeing that he was not subtle, I answered, "No big point, Chief. I've just been telling a shaggy-dog story." Slowly his face broke into a broad grin. "Ho," he said, "that good story. I like stories about animals that shed."

william allen
professor of music

Dear Dave and Thom,

In issue #1, you called me Key Grip; in issue #3, Flower Colorer. This Wednesday in chapel, I was called "young person," and asked if I knew where I would end up, should I die tonight.

Pastor Wes Aarum addressed the community this week concerning the importance of salvation. He confronted us with Old and New Testament prophecies, the fulfillment of which, he proposed, were close at hand. Quoting Zechariah, Aarum told of the enemies of Jerusalem who the prophet said will suffer having their flesh melt from their bones. Aarum was certain that this Old Testament prophecy was brought to pass in the wreckage of the 1945 Hiroshima

bombing. Does this mean that the residents who were mangled and slain at the close of WW II somehow brought about their own torture? Quite a jump from Jerusalem to Hiroshima.

I was disturbed at Aarum's simplistic attempt to see the prophecy made fact, and at his lack of compassion toward a world in which acts of polity occur, unexplained and vague. In presenting a hope for salvation, Aarum ignored Christ's compassion, without which our hope could never be.

I left the chapel Wednesday feeling, not redeemed by a compassionate speaker, but tired, having been whipped by the pointed index finger of a mortal who forgot to love Hiroshima's people.

amy lawrence



Foreground: Jenny Taylor.

Front row: Marion Austin, Lisa Sanger, Kelly Schoonmaker, Deb Pease, Gloria Anderson, Sharon Jackson.

Back row: Judi Yuen, Vi Schmid, Lisa LaFave, Sonja Gurley, Natalia King, Julie Horn, Laura Hayes, Diane Matney, Deb Howard.

Missing: Stephanie Button, Tina Swauger, Heather Morrison, Becky Keene.

Winning isn't everything but it sure will draw a crowd

beth mcgarvey

A team is only as good as its ability to work together, helping each player through crises and cheering one another on during successes. The women's soccer team, despite a losing season, has been reminded of this repeatedly.

Lisa LaFave, first-time goalie, depends on the encouragement from the other players for the perseverance she has needed to learn a completely new position. Being the goalie involves individual pressure she didn't face when she was a fullback in high school. When the team loses, it is hard for her not to feel more responsible than anyone else. "I have

to remind myself that the ball that goes past me has come through the other ten players first," she said.

LaFave is not the only one who has found that the team has worked together well. Tina Swauger, stopper, thinks that everyone, including the assistant coaches (Tracy Taylor, Eric Hine, and John Retz), has an important contribution to make. Diane Matney, right halfback, pointed out that the players on the bench, too, contribute to the team's cohesiveness by encouraging the others during games and by challenging the starters in practices.

Stephanie Button, left wing,

believes that the record of the team is the main reason that women's soccer games have not attracted much of a crowd, even though the team has improved tremendously since the beginning of the year. She thinks that this is unfortunate, since "the team, simply because it is a college team, is worth recognition."

Both Matney and LaFave agreed that the women's soccer team would play better if more people would come to cheer them on. In the absence of a large audience, the team follows certain routines that serve as encouragement. All the team members, both players and coaches, have "secret psychers" (other team members) who give them gifts and notes before each game. Devotions give the team a focus outside themselves which helps them realize that they have a common purpose, beyond simply playing soccer.

soccer and cross country

Up and down

don dutton



The women's soccer season has been an exercise in struggle and frustration. With a record of 3-10-1 and only three games remaining, the team will not play in the district playoffs (due to a college policy that requires a .500 percentage to participate).

One reason for their poor record was the tough schedule—in their first five games, they lost to nationally ranked teams including Geneseo and Niagara Universities. In addition, injuries sidelined two starting players: center halfback Deb Pease, who started the season despite a broken arm, and Becky Keene, right wing, who injured her knee and was unable to play for most of the season.

High points of the year involved wins against Gannon University (1-0) and Roberts Wesleyan College, whom they defeated both at Roberts' own homecoming (1-0) and at home (2-1). The team agreed that their closeness and enthusiasm partly made up for the many disappointments, and Coach Paula Maxwell specifically noted the team's improvement and good attitude. Coach Maxwell also commented on the play of sweeper Laura Hayes, whom she said "has been so consistent all season for us."

With six strong prospective players for next year, there is hope for a better season despite the loss of seniors Stephanie Button and Tina Swauger. To help matters further, Houghton will no longer play Division I schools. Coach Maxwell, who made the decision to modify the schedule, said that the team "did pretty well for playing over [their]

heads," and she felt assured that next year they will play better, since they will go against teams within their own division.

dave perkins

Running nude

"If we ran naked," said Rob Wuethrich, "like the ancient Greeks, maybe we'd have a better turnout."

Wuethrich is one of four men on the cross country team. Amy Gates is the one woman runner left of the five who began the year. "Cross country is not a de-emphasized sport," she said, "it's a forgotten one. There are very few people on the team."

In fact, there are too few people on the cross country team to have a team. In order to place officially in a cross country meet, the men's and women's teams must have at least five runners apiece. This year, they began with two official teams, but enough students dropped out to bring the team below the minimum requirement (prompting Wuethrich to dub the team "The Houghton Remnant").

As a result, none of the cross country team's meets have counted since their Pitt-Bradford meet several weeks ago. "It is hard to run when I know that no matter how well I do, I won't be helping the

team," said Gates. "But my commitment to the other players and the chance that I will beat my personal best have been enough motivation for me to stay on the team."

Both Wuethrich and Gates are glad to be on the team simply because they enjoy being with the other runners. "We've all made a bond with the coach, Bob Smalley," Wuethrich said, "and we like going together to meets."

Smalley, too, is impressed with the dedication of the five runners. "Because they are committed and fun to be with," said Smalley, "I'm not discouraged that many of our meets didn't count."

Smalley predicts that there will be a legitimate cross country team next year. Since this was his first year coaching cross country at Houghton, he didn't have much time to recruit or practice before the season started. For next year, he has two advantages: he knows more students who are interested, and he'll get a chance to watch some of the runners on the track team this spring.



top editorial :
thom satterlee



bottom :
dave perkins

Determine What Your Fortune Will Be

On the Day the CAC Reaches Their Decision.

(Follow these guidelines to the answer.)

1. Do you believe that the mission for the Cultural Affairs Committee is to create a Christian environment? (If not, go to number 5.)
2. What is a Christian environment? (If you cannot answer this, go to number 5. If you can, continue the proceeding sequence.)
3. Who has the wisdom to make decisions that affect hundreds of people in this Christian environment? (If you cannot find a wiseman, go on to number 5.)
4. If you have adequately defined "Christian environment" and have found a suitable wiseman to construct principles by which a Christian environment may be maintained, go to number 8.
5. Do you believe that Christians, placed by accident or by hunger, in a pizza joint in the basement of a students' center of a liberal arts college are bound to make wise choices about the patterns of sound waves meant to accompany their leisure time? (Select one of the following: <a> No, they need advice; Some will; but others will ruin it; <c> No, but that's okay; God will watch over them; <d> Yes, the ability to make wise choices is a trait found in all Christians. If you chose <a>, or <d>, go to number 6. If you choose <c>, go to number 7.)
6. You assume the existence of wise people. Name one, then proceed to number 8.
7. You are a person possessing a skeptical nature. You are also hopeful. Whatever decision is reached by the Cultural Affairs Committee, you will enjoy your day with its various successes and failures, sorrows and inspiring moments. You know you can't do any better.
8. You are a positivist. Either you are yourself a great knower of truth or you know someone who is. When the Cultural Affairs Committee reaches its decision, you will probably be furious, since the likelihood of their adopting yours or your guru's position is slim. You know they could have done better.

Val Novak told me the other day that she talked to someone who asked, "Do you like the Star?" Val said yes. The other person said she didn't. She said Val was the first person she'd asked who did.

Val asked why she didn't like it. The other said she thought the Star was mainly a way for Thom and Dave to tell everyone what they thought.

Someone else told me she wanted to write us a letter, but was afraid we'd respond to it. She feared that we'd be harsh or sarcastic.

But listen: neither one of us wants to make people feel that way. We'd rather get your letter than not. We have only responded to letters which directly questioned our editorials, and then only after talking it over with the person who wrote to us.

We're not in the business of telling people what we think and then turning our backs. That would be irresponsible. We like to exchange ideas with people—that's why we write back to people who write to us. We don't do it because we want to make anyone look stupid.

Responding also helps with the

flow of ideas. Responses spread out over three or four weeks are like a conversation with one-day intervals between questions and answers.

So, if you want to write a letter, remember that we will not respond unless we've asked if you we can. And you can say no. We are not trying to wall ourselves in the Star office and slip truth weekly under the door.

When the Star comes out, we sit at the bottom of the cafeteria stairs and color in the flower. If you want to say something to us rather than write a letter, that's what we're there for.

Above all, don't worry. Be happy. Look at me, I'm happy.

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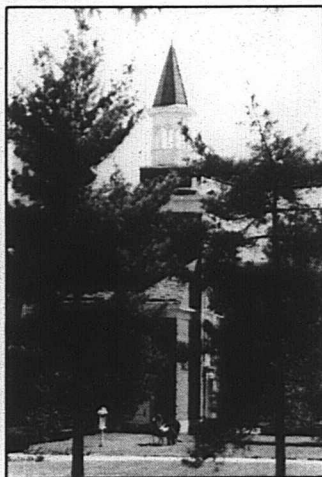
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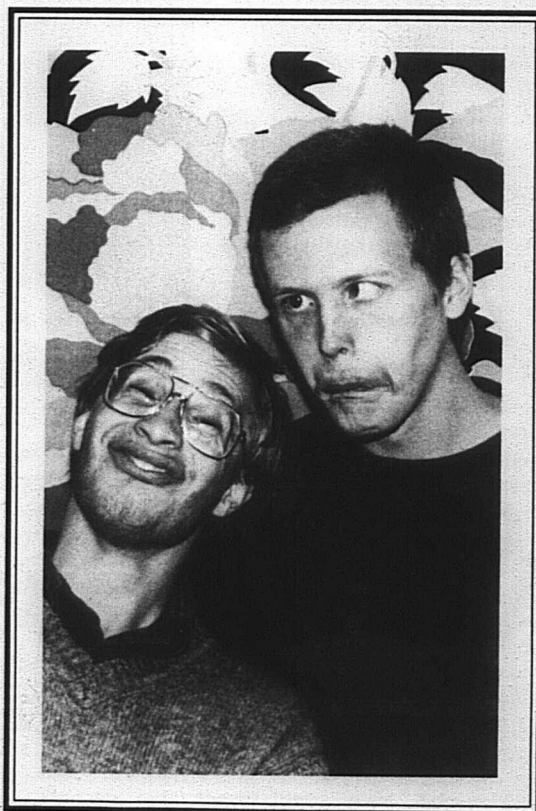
-- **Masters and Johnson**

". . . words of such sweet breath composed."

-- **William Shakespeare**

"We will never surrender. Never, never, never, never."

-- **Winston Churchill, as spoken to Dave and Thom.**



Dorks on the Staff