

## Heavy metal

### Messiah brings powerful music to The Lighthouse

By Scott Kinkade  
JC 225

The music is powerful and deafening. The guitars scream like ambulance sirens as the bass and drums rumble like an earthquake.

The music style is heavy metal. Such an ear-blasting assault that no one would ever think this powerful music came from Greensboro. The band is Messiah, a young quartet.

"Young (in experience) we are not," says leader-guitarist-vocalist Steve Harris, 21. Messiah, which now consists of Harris, Greg Stentz, Scott Davenport and Tim Haisman, has been together for five years "in one incarnation or another."

All four musicians are technically proficient on their individual instruments through classical and jazz music training, as well as learning most music theory by playing trumpet, clarinet, trombone and drums in their high school band before playing heavy metal.

Many people who see pictures of Messiah and go to their shows might consider the band to look on the drugged-

out, hellish side, singing songs about the devil. According to the band members, the assumptions are fallacies.

"Even though some of our song topics may be related to the topic of religion and Satan, we also delve slightly into the political warzone too," says Steve Harris. "We are not Satanists and we don't try to influence our audience in any way. That should be anybody's choice. For our crowds in general, we have an anti-drug message. Our audience ranges in the 16-to-25-year-old age bracket, mostly white males of blue-collar origin."

Harris says, "Everyone should become educated and responsible on the topic of drug abuse. We have all tried drugs but have come to the conclusion that they pose serious health threats and that they don't help lead the perfect life."

People like Messiah's attitude. Matt Douglas, a sophomore at Elon, liked the group the first time he heard and saw it play live. "Messiah is a really great band. They are sincere and convey a responsible attitude to the audience. Drugs are no fun,



Messiah will be at the Lighthouse in early December.

and Messiah shows in how hard they work as a band that drugs are no way to do things in life."

The attitude of responsibility is followed by a keen sense of business common-sense. This has led Scott Davenport and Steve Harris to have musical instruments built exclusively for them. Both are endorsed by Steele Custom Guitars of Greensboro.

Scott Davenport explains his thoughts for success. Messiah is currently looking for a record deal with a decent independent or major label, such as Electra or CBS.

Davenport insists "We will take any chance possible to make it to the top. We are willing to work hard, even through the hardships we have, like coming from a small southern city rather than New York or Los Angeles, and without having as much exposure as other bands did in their early stages."

At the moment, Messiah is receiving exposure in five different fanzines (magazines written and published by fans of Heavy Metal; most are printed by photocopies and sold in limited quantity at some obscure record shops) a week worldwide.

### Professional writers will give advice

By Laurie Wommack  
The Pendulum

The English department, *Colonnades*, *Pegasus* and the Writing Center have teamed up to present the Elon College Writing Extravaganza on Saturday, November 18 between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. in the Fine Arts Building.

The event provides a chance for aspiring writers to hear published authors and poets read excerpts from their work. Additionally, students will have the opportunity to submit their work for a critique.

The extravaganza begins with fiction readings by Dorothy Casey, a creative writing teacher in residence this semester, and Doug Smith and poetry readings by Anne Lundquist, both members of the English faculty.

Following the readings, students will break into groups and samples of student writing will be discussed.

"This is a chance to hear published authors read from their work. It's a chance to learn how to write," Haskell said.

This is the second time a workshop of this sort has been organized. "Last year, this was a roaring success," said Haskell, who estimated that 50 students attended.

## Review: "Look Who's Talking" relies on gimmick

The gimmick works.

Without it, "Look Who's Talking" could not stand alone. Without Mikey's wisecracks, supplied by the voice of Bruce Willis, the film would be basically boring. It would not get far if it had to survive exclusively on the charms of Kirstie Alley and John Travolta.

What makes the PG-13 rated movie worth seeing is a gimmick. Mikey is a baby who pressures his unwed mother to search for a husband. He thinks out loud very comically, thanks to Willis.

Surprisingly, Alley and Travolta aren't bad either.

**Michele Rowe**



Travolta's performance is especially surprising. He has had a string of bad luck since his first three box office hits, "Saturday Night Fever," "Grease," and "Urban Cowboy."

In "Look Who's Talking," Travolta goes back to playing the style of some of his original situation comedy characters. He plays a nice -- although not very

smart -- New York cab driver. He meets unwed, pregnant Alley as she is about to give birth in the back seat of his taxi.

Being the nice guy that he is, Travolta's character is immediately attracted to the sarcastic young accountant and her newborn son. The feeling is not mutual. Alley's character is determined to test out the natural father, a married businessman played by George Segal.

Alley's relationship does not work out with Segal because he is a selfish '80s man who thinks it's time for him to worry about himself.

Alley's experiences with

blind dates prove especially humorous. One of her co-workers gives her detailed descriptions of his digestive problems, thinking she will be fascinated. Another date proves nightmarish when Alley's companion screams at a waitress because there are spots on his dishes.

As little Mikey starts to grow, he has a smart-alecky comment for everything. The movie comes up with many oldies tunes that are worked into the story for almost every situation.

"Look Who's Talking" is directed by Amy Heckerling,

whose past films include "Fast Times at Ridgmont High."

The movie is definitely from an unwed mother's point of view. This is not to say that men won't enjoy the film, because it has a very comic approach to its messages.

Travolta plays Mikey's babysitter and obviously works well with children. He captures the heart of Mikey, who would like nothing better than to have Travolta as a father.

You'll have to go see what happens: a steamy love affair, a good friendship, or neither of the two.