

A Word From Dean Danner

Words of explanation about the revised Statement of Community Responsibilities from Dean Danner:

Every so often a community such as ours reviews its expectations for community members. During the last two academic years that process has taken place at Houghton. An ad hoc committee studied these issues for nearly a year, with input from the four oncampus councils; next the Student Development Council (SDC) considered the draft presented by the ad hoc group; the faculty discussed the draft and asked the SDC to do some additional work; then the faculty adopted a slightly revised edition of the draft and recommended it to the Board of Trustees; following a discussion of the draft by the Board Executive Committee, the Board approved the revised Statement of Community Responsibilities on February 23, 1996.

So what's new about the revised statement?

First, I encourage you to read the statement. I believe that you will find its tone more positive and inclusive.

Second, some changes were made to strengthen the position the college takes on issues like demeaning gestures; threats of violence or physical attack people or property; pornography; the use of beverage alcohol; tobacco; and non-medical drugs and other chemical substances. Third, the relationship of Christians to civil authorities and participation in civil disobedience was clarified.

Finally, the college position on the social dance issue was altered somewhat. Community members may now be guided by personal conscience and conviction in making decisions about participation in social dance beyond the limits of the Houghton community, i.e. outside the village of Houghton. The same principle applies to the Buffalo Suburban Campus and any other off-campus program where a group of Houghton students and faculty are together. Additionally, neither

Houghton College nor any group identified with it may sponsor dances.

The policy became effective upon Board approval and is printed in this issue of the Star for the information of the Houghton community. Printed copies will be available in the near future.

As a community we owe compliments and gratitude to all who have worked so hard to bring this review process to conclusion, especially to the ad hoc group which labored for an entire academic year on this subject. Dr. Paul Young as the group's chair is particularly deserving of our praise and appreciation.



Elections are fast approaching for the Student Governement Association; however, the SGA is still moving forward on several initiatives. The long sought after twenty-four study lounge was finally approved last week with the help Dean Danner. The basement of the Reinhold Campus Center will soon be open twenty-four. The doors entering the main and second levels of the campus center will be locked with the stairwells at the four corners of the building open to allowing access to the basement. The addition of the twenty-four hour study lounge is to be considered in the plan for the renovations to be conducted this summer. The sitting area of Big Al's will be tripled increasing the number of work areas for late night study. It is also hoped that third computer lab which will be added this summer can be built in the basement of the campus center, adding a twenty-four hour (continued on page 4)

Statement of Community Responsibilities

Approved by the Board of Trustees February 23, 1996

Houghton College derives its purpose from the mission statement approved by the board of trustees and contained in the college Catalog. As an independent liberal arts college of the Wesleyan Church, Houghton recognizes a responsibility to its students and to the Christian community at large. As an academic institution, Houghton has an obligation to pursue truth unflinchingly and without bias. Members of the college community recognize this task, and seek to create an educational environment that integrates faith, learning, and living. We are confident that all areas of knowledge and truth finally reflect and are extensions of the reality of God and His work in and through His creation.

I. Preamble.

The people of Houghton College comprise a Christian community that has joined together to seek academic progress, personal development, and spiritual growth. We strive to uphold a unity based on the lordship of Jesus Christ, guided by Biblical principles and the moral laws of God. We affirm our commitment to the triune God, perfectly revealed in Jesus Christ. We recognize that the Biblical standards for both individual and corporate life within the body of believers are necessary bases upon which to live.

As members of a community, we expect each other-- trustees, administrators, faculty, staff, and students-- to take seriously the responsibilities mentioned herein. We dedicate ourselves to individual academic progress, personal growth, and the building of a Christ-centered community that will provide spiritual nurture for all.

Together, we seek to honor Christ by integrating faith, learning, and living as we reflect the process of maturing in Him. We choose to live according to the word of God, to respond to one another in love, and to make decisions motivated by unselfish love and divine truth.

Our goal is the ideal of mature self-regulation and active participation in fulfilling community responsibilities. In joining this community, we freely and willingly take upon ourselves the responsibilities outlined in this statement. II. Assumptions. Believing that the demands of community life require mutual forbearance, we make the following assumptions as we attempt to establish reasonable, viable expectations:

a.We call ourselves Christians by virtue of the grace of God and our commitment to Jesus Christ as Lord.

b. The Bible is our authority, providing all essential teaching and principles for conducting ourselves and our community.

c. The primary motivations for Christian relationships and behavior are loving God and being accountable to Him.

d. God, through His Holy Spirit, provides us with the inner resources and attributes to minister to each other in supportive relationship.

e. As members of this community we are either committed to Jesus Christ or are sympathetic with a Christian perspective on life.

f. We desire to participate in the process of a liberal arts education in an evangelical Christian context.

III. Biblical principles.

a. Relational responsibili-

We believe that living in dâily fellowship with other Christians is a privilege and an expression of God's grace. Consequently, we cherish relationships in our community. Living in an interdependent community, we recognize that the following Biblical principles should guide us in our corporate life and individual behavior.

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i. Our highest priority is to love God, as Jesus commanded, "... with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." As we love God, we can truly love others, and thus obey the second command, which is like the first: "Love your neighbor as yourself." (Matthew 22:35-40)

ii. It is our love for God which motivates us to obey Him. Jesus said "If you love me, you will obey what I command." (John 14:15)

iii. God's Word tells us what we must do to obey Him. "All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking,(continued on pg.2) correcting, and training in righteousness, so that the people of Week I hate television. I hate it as much as

Quote of the

peanuts. But I can't stop eating peanuts."

> Orson Welles filmmaker 1956

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Revised Statement of Community Responsibilities

God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." (II Timothy 3:16-17)

iv. When there is a question as to what constitutes obedience to God, we will seek to discern the mind of Christ through prayer and the example and counsel of Christian friends. Paul encourages Christians to allow God to guide them: "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding. will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians

4:6-7) In that same letter, Paul stresses the value of the example of others: "Join with others in following my examples, brothers, and take note of those who live according to the pattern we gave you." (Philippians 3:17)

b. Expressions of love

We desire several specific expressions of love in our community: building, forgiving, caring, confronting, and healing.

i. Building. We will strive consciously and deliberately to build relationships that support, encourage, and help others.

ii. Forgiving. When difficulties in relationships occur, we will follow St. Paul's admonition to:

. . clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another." (Colossians 3:12)

iii. Caring. We will support those who experience grief, discouragement, illness, tragedy, and other personal trials. We will provide comfort, consolation, encouragement, and intercession.

iv. Confronting. We will strengthen our community by speaking the truth to each other always in a spirit of love. Our confrontations will be for the purpose of growth, and will be motivated by love, not revenge. We will hold paramount the welfare of the person we confront.

v. Healing. When one of our relationships has been harmed, for any reason, we will reach out to one another: forgiving, making restitution, and restoring affection.

c. Specific behavioral expectations

We believe the Scriptures which say that certain attitudes are available to individuals through the Holy Spirit, includlove, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control." (Galatians 5:22-23). We will seek to demonstrate and encourage these attitudes in our relationships.

We believe that the Scriptures call us to worship our Creator, and that the Sabbath should be observed as the Lord's day for the express purposes of corporate worship, rest from labor, Christian fellowship, and service to others, especially people in need.

We also believe the Scriptures condemn certain attitudes, such as greed, jealousy, pride, lust, bitterness, needless anger, harmful discrimination and prejudice whether of race or gender, and an unforgiving spirit. We will seek to repudiate these attitudes in ourselves and in our community. We will seek God's forgiveness and help to grow in grace. We believe Scripture con-

demns certain acts, including drinking alcohol to excess, stealing, speaking or writing profanely or slanderously, acting dishonestly, cheating, engaging in occult practice, and engaging in sexual relations outside the bonds of marriage (including premarital sex, adultery, and homosexual behavior).

We also find other practices to be inconsistent with scriptural principles for Christian liv-

ing and our view of our bodies as the temples of God. Therefore, we do not tolerate the following: demeaning gestures or words; threats of violence, or physical attack on people or property; pornography; the use of beverage alcohol; tobacco; and non-medical drugs * and other chemical substances (except as specifically prescribed by a physician). * ("Drugs" is defined to include controlled substances such as marijuana, hallucinogens, depressants, stimulants, and narcotics, as well as legal substances misused as drugs including solvents, alcohol, and anesthetics. We assent to the Drug-Free

Schools and Communities Act). We believe that Scripture calls us to submit to the authority of government except on those rare occasions in which obedience to the civil authorities would require us to act in conflict with our consciences as they are informed by Scripture. On such occasions, we will submit voluntarily to the civil penalty for our behavior.

IV. Expectations Adopted for the Common Good.

We believe that living as part of this community provides us with significant benefits and opportunities for growth in all areas of life. We also recognize that community living requires us to forego rights which might be available to us elsewhere.

The Bible does not provide specific teaching about every behavior and situation. Scripture does urge us, however, to be willing to give up even our rights for the benefit of others, especially when exercising our rights is harmful to them. We believe that both consideration for others and standards of good taste may either limit or redirect our activities. Based on these principles we voluntarily submit ourselves to the additional standards of behavior listed below.

These standards are for the good of individuals, the smooth functioning of the community in which we live, and the reputation of our community in the world. Consequently, we consider these rules to be prudent expectations, not Christian absolutes or measures of spiritual commitment. As we choose to live by these expectations we live out our belief that mutual trust and responsibility are necessary requirements of community. We expect that honoring these standards will help us to build a sense of community integrity, and we think that violation of these standards threatens community integrity. When one of us errs, our common integrity suffers. We also believe that the Biblical principles of love and grace must be applied to both keepers and violators of these standards.

a. Community members of all ages agree to forego the use of alcohol for the following reasons:

-in deference to the Scriptural principles suggested in I Corinthians, Chapter 8

-as a recognition of the physical and psychological dangers of alcohol and its counter-productive nature to the essential spiritual and intellectual pursuits of Houghton College.

- New York State law prohibits purchase of alcoholic beverages by persons under the age of 21 or giving or selling any alcoholic beverage to a person less than twenty-one years old.

b. We believe that gambling is an unwise use of Godgiven resources. We agree to refrain from gambling in any

c. We recognize that concern about the morality of social dancing has been declining among evangelical Christians of many denominations. At the same time, both Houghton's historical tradition and the home churches of a significant part of our community oppose participation in social dancing. Believing that much social dancing is unnecessarily sensuous and erotic, we agree not to engage in social dancing as a part of our community or under our sponsorship.

d. We show that we recognize our responsibility to God by careful use of our time, so we choose to engage in activities which contribute to our spiritual, moral, intellectual, and physical well-being. Fellow Christians have urged discretion and restraint in our choice of television pro-

grams, music, movies, theater, printed matter, card games, social dancing, video and computer games, the internet, and organizations with which to associate, especially if these activities are morally questionable or diminish our moral sensitivity

V. Application.

Community members are expected to live by the principles and standards described in this Statement of Community Responsibilities, and accept these responsibilities by their signature thereto in the application process, and annually in a community affirmation and mutual forgiveness chapel.

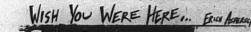
Members of the community who fail to live up to the expectations in this document may subject themselves to disciplinary action or dismissal (as outlined in appropriate college documents and policies), as well

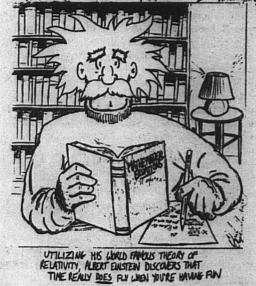
as to forgiveness and love. People who find themselves consistently unwilling to honor the specific commitments outlined in this document should withdraw from the community, at least for a season of reflection.

We ask our trustees, administrators, faculty, and staff to strive to live by these principles and standards. Because the policies of the college are not intended to infringe on the government of the home, we specifically exempt students under either of two conditions:

i. When they are neither registered in a college program nor residing in the village of Houghton, NY or,

ii. When they are at home and parental standards differ from those of the college. Nonetheless, even in these exempt circumstances, we ask students to exercise restraint as representatives of our Lord and this community.





STAR Z C.P.O. BOX 378

The Houghton

HOUGHTON COLLEGE HOUGHTON, N.Y. 14744 (716) 567-9210

THE HOUGHTON STAR is a bi-weekly student publication; its focus is on events, issues, and ideas which significantly affect the Houghton College community. Letters (signed) are encouraged and accepted for publication; however, they must not constitute a personal attack, they must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. Friday, and they should be no longer than one double spaced page. The editors reserve the right to edit all contributions. The views expressed by the reporters and essayists of this publication are not necessarily in agreement with those of Houghton College.

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Platforms

SGA Election Platforms

Presidential Candidate

Dan Bates:

In most Presidential Elections voters are given a choice. Unfortunately at Houghton College elections for most positions are often uncontested and this year the position of SGA President is also uncontested. It is ironic that for Student Government this next year will be its most important in recent history. After a year of rebuilding and progress in many different areas, it is important that the Student Government Association (SGA) moves forward and continues establishing itself as a organization which represents student interests and concerns. Before I move into specific areas which must be on the Student Government Platform let me introduce myself. My name is Dan Bates, while not at Houghton I call Canby, Oregon home. I am a sophomore History and Political Science major. Currently I serve as the SGA Commissioner of Communications.

There is one theme in which my platform can be related. Investment. Either yourselves or your parents are making an investment. The SGA must be the guardian of that investment. In any investment the goal is to receive more from the investment then it costs. It is important not only to insure that your money is being spent wisely while you are attending Houghton. Any action this college takes directly influences the value of your diploma.

This year the SGA has made tremendous gains for students. Through a policy originating from the SGA seniors next year may live anywhere they like within the hamlet of Houghton. The current Commissioner of Finance and myself were able to push a policy through the administration which increases the number of hours a student may take at the flat tuition rate to 18 hours. The SGA Computer Committee which I chaired were able to gain student representation on two faculty committees on computers and technology change. This committee worked hard to ensure that students would have computer labs which worked and internet access in college housing next year. The administration and Trusteeis listened and passed a policy supported by 95 percent of the students. Student Government has spent this entire year working successfully to increase the value of your investment. While the SGA has been

able to turn its self around this year and make progress it is essential that the SGA continue to push forward and continue to make changes which benefit students. This includes keeping the Administration accountable to the housing policy developed by the SGA and the Trustees, which included the elimination of college-approved housing and allowing seniors to live anywhere in the hamlet of Houghton next year and juniors the following year. It is also important to make sure that the 24hour study area which was approved by President Chamberlain is not abandoned. This is a proposal which was generated in the SGA after the SGA created a 24-hour Study Area Committee which I chaired as well.

While this has been the most successful year in Student Government history, there is more which can and must be done. We must continue work for improvements in technology, insurance of academic excellence and improvements and repairs to older college owned housing. The SGA must work with the Administration to develop an workable comprehensive plan to improve the library in accordance with recommendations given by the group which is responsible for evaluating the value of a Houghton investment. My goal and job as President is to serve your interests and to improve on the investment you have made.

Steve Dobrenski:

Communications

I believe the Student Government Association has many roles to play at Houghton College. Among the many things they do each year, I believe there are two important functions that I would like to contribute to as Commissioner of Communications (a.k.a. Secretary). First, the SGA represents our views to the Administration of the College. Although the Administration desires to develop policies that benefit us as students, the SGA should be able to clearly communicate our interests and concerns. Second, the SGA, along with the Campus Activities Board, sponsor events that make life interesting on a rural campus like ours. I believe that money should be spent wisely and, as with every public organization, the SGA should be held accountable for the money they spend.

The primary jobs of the Secretary include preparing and distributing the agenda for the Senate meetings, recording the minutes at the meetings, and helping out with the various activities the SGA sponsors. Having worked for a Canadian political party at the national level, I know how important organization and communication is when a large number of people are involved. As Secretary of the SGA, I would be committed to working with the other members to achieve the collective goals of the student



body. The most effective Cabinet will be one that is able to cooperate and understand each other.

I transferred to Houghton as a junior from Carleton University in Ottawa, Canada. I am a history major/political science minor. I have been involved in student government in the 8th grade (grade representative), my senior year in high school (as grade rep again), and as an organization president at university. This year I have had the opportunity to be involved with the Shen dorm council, the Boulder, and intramural softball. I will be an R.A. in South Hall next year and look forward to meeting more people in that position. Currently, I spend my summers in my home town of Jordan, Ontario, as the owner and operator of Carnforth Driveway Sealing. If you have any questions about my candidacy for Secretary, please feel free to stop and talk with me.

V. P. Candidate

Becky Tanner:

When I was first approached with the idea of running for vice president of Student Senate, I thought, "Well, that would be fun and all, but I really don't have time for it." But then I thought about it, and I realized that everyone on this campus could easily say that they don't have time, but it would be sort of like saying, "I don't have enough time to care what Houghton College does, I'm too busy!" This is obviously a foolish statement to make, since every decision that is made by "Houghton College" is going to effect every Houghton student, whether it is by an extracurricular activity that is or is not offered, a class that is restructured, or tuition dollars. Now

really care that much about where your money is going, why don't you get involved? I personally decided that I do have time to care where my tuition goes, and what activities and opportunities are offered to me while I'm at Houghton.

As vice president of the student body, I want to represent the needs and concerns of the entire student body. I'm not going to fool myself into believing that I can get free pizza Friday nights for everyone, or get the new Fine Arts building up in one year. I do plan to let the administration know what students want concerning the computer issue, since next year will be a time of major decisions in this isperked up, right? Well, if you see happen is a 24 hour study ence.

lounge somewhere on campus with computer access. I would also like to see continued efforts at improving our library. I would also be willing to represent any other concerns you might have as a student.

As you can see, I am not in this position because I have any outstanding, radical ideas to push on the administration as "the student's concerns." I do want to accurately represent your concerns as students. However, I'm not telepathic, and neither is anyone else running for office, so if you want your views to count, don't sit at your lunch table and complain about how "bad" Houghton is. Try attending a Senate meeting, or writing a letter to a Senate member. You might actually find that you do when I said tuition, everyone sue. One thing I would like to have time to make a little differ-

C. of F **Janelle Anderson:**

My name is Janelle Andersen and I will be running for Commissioner of Finance. I will be a junior with a major in Accounting and a minor in Business Administration and Math. I feel that I fill the requirements that this position demands. I have worked hard in my classes and as a result have become a Dean's List student. I am currently in Accounting Principles II and last semester I obtained an A- in Accounting Principles I. I really enjoy working with numbers and I've proven myself to be a very good treasurer for Youth For Christ this present year. I enjoy doing the running around to get money and deposit money which other people may find frustrating. I've noticed that being a treasurer requires a lot of organization and time. I realize that I will be working with larger sums of money which will make orga- of Finance.

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nization even more important and I feel prepared to take on the responsibility. Those close to me know that I'm very organized and I believe that this will help me immensely as Commissioner of Finance. I look forward to working as a part of the SGA team. It may be difficult getting started with a new team but the Management class I'm in has taught me a lot about working in groups and how to work things out when not all members agree on everything. I have an advantage because I believe I will work well with any of the people who are running for the various offices. I plan to follow Alyson Clark's lead by doing my job to the best of my ability. I will not favor any one group or individual over any other but I will attempt to serve the student body as a whole. I believe I have all the necessary requirements to be a good servant as Commissioner

Comish. of Activities

Shonda Richards:

I would enjoy serving my fellow students as the Commissioner of Activities. I have always enjoyed working to plan events and lead clubs. I believe that being involved in clubs and also being the president of my graduating class prepared me to adequately perform the role of Commissioner. This past year at Houghton I was involved with my class by helping with homecoming, Study Breaks, Class Shirts, and Winter Weekend, through my position as Social Chairperson.

In addition, I really love working with people. With this job, I would have the opportunity not only to get to know more people, but also find jobs for all the willing

workers who have been looked over in the past. It would be a challenge to delegate and organize committees. I would have to work hard to not take on activities alone, but I know many people who are willing to help and who have already approached me about lending a hand.

As Commissioner of Activities I would plan activities that appeal to all types of people. Not every plan will be of interest to all, but I will strive to find new and fun events. Because of Houghton's location and setting, students often feel like there is "nothing to do" or that they are missing out, and I want that to change. We will never be complete satisfied where we are, but I want this college to be a place with something happening every weekend. We need activities to get everyone involved and events and places where we can just hang out.

In conclusion, we must remember the ideals Houghton upholds. We are students of a high moral and academic standard. The events I plan will be both edifying and fun. That may sound contradictory, but it is a goal of mine to make Houghton more fun while working with and edifying the student body. We are called to Christlike in all areas of our lives. I would help create an environment where students can be socially active and at the same time remain at a minimum risk of temptation.

Chaplain

Rich Sylvester:

My name is Rich Sylvester, ind I am currently a sophomore who loves this school. I have chosen to run for this position because I am excited to work with the Spiritual Life Committee as well as the SGA Cabinet, to create an environment in which hearts are changed by the power of God. do not wish to be seen as a person who thinks they have all the answers, but simply as a brother in Christ who desires to see God the number one priority in all of our hearts.

In creating an atmosphere like this, I would love to see class prayer meeting reach record attendances. I also hope to see chapels that are filled with people that are coming not because they have to, but because it is the highlight of their day. To fulfill these desires, I would like to get speakers who will encourage and challenge us to develop our faith more, as well as have praise and worship chapels more frequently.

Also as Chaplain, I will be an encouragement to the other members of the cabinet and the senators. The only way for our leadership to be truly effective is if they keep in mind the will of God. Hopefully I can be an instrument in opening our eyes to doing what Christ desires.

I am very excited to meet the challenges that my position entails. I desire to let the lord use me to make a difference on this campus.

Alison Bixler:

There is an old proverb which says, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it." This phrase may pertain to audio equipment and refrigerators but when applied to the Campus Activities Board it loses some effect.

CAB has been effectively entertaining Houghton College students with activities for quite some time now. However, I believe the Campus Activities Board can be even more effective with some new blood and fresh ideas.

I am Alison Bixler and I am new to Houghton College government. For the past two years I have fallen victim to the ageold excuse that I had no time to get involved. I have come to the realization however that time does not magically appear. Time is to be made.

With the changes that are occurring on campus from high enrollment numbers to the Information Superhighway which has made a stop here, the campus Activities Board must be flexible and able to change with the times. CAB, with its movies, concerts, and coffeehouses has provided students like myself with limited choices for activities. The Campus Activities Board needs to branch out and search for new ideas. For example, Houghton College has created a bond with messiah College as of late and I intend to keep that bond alive while communicating with other interested colleges in the Eastern united States.

I have leadership skills and enjoy working with people. This past summer, I was a job coach for mentally and physically handicapped adults who were being mainstreamed into the working community, namely a painting factory. I not only had to instruct and lead these people in their duties, but I also had to act as a go-between for the organization that hired me originally and factory management.

Being able to work with people effectively is a very important facet of this position. These communication skills are ones I have and cultivate with students, administration and faculty.

I see this position as an opportunity to expand Houghton College's view and increase the variety of entertainment that Houghton students deserve. Although CAB may not be broken, it can certainly use some new fixin's.



CONTINUED FROM PG 1

computer lab. The SGA would like to thank Dean Danner in helping to bring about this long sought after edition to campus.

The SGA would like to remind you that we need your help to effectively express and protect the student interests and concerns. All positions with in the SGA including Senate and College Committee seats are up for reelection this month. All interested students can get more information from either the SGA office in the basement of the Campus Center, ext-211, or from the class Senators. Cabinet elections will be Wednesday, March 13th with speeches in a bonus Chapel Tuesday, March 12. General Class elections will be March 27th for petitions please see your class presidents.

Editors Needed Interested in running for editor or business manager of the STAR, the Lanthorn or the Boulder?

Campus Activities Committee is still accepting names of interested students but time is running out. if you wish to be considered send your name to Lawrie Merz, CAC chair, or call her at X607.

Student Government Association Elections

Candidates Speeches March 13

General Elections for Cabinet Positions March 14

Class and Senator Elections March 28

Transfer Powers - April 10