

The Houghton Star

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No. 11



Merry Christmas & Happy New Year
from the Star staff

Of-told Story of X-mas Night Happenings Comes Through Loud, Not So Clear on TV

by John Kelly

Flicking on the television last night, I finally learned exactly what X-mas means. There, brought to me by some obscure floor wax, was the enthralling, highly delightful puppet special, "A Year without Santa Claus."

It documented the sad account of one X-mas in which that jolly ole fellow was prevented from carrying out his "mission of joy." With a

crippling cold, Santa was laid up in bed, making it impossible for him to deliver presents, or even to kick around the elves as was his custom.

Naturally, all the good children, knowing full well what they deserved, found themselves stricken with gout and plagued with embarrassing food stains on their clothes. Such disappointment is hard on the human soul. One sickly and obnoxious young-

ster, flinging himself in the snow, humbly weeps a contrite song, "The Santa Claus Blues". I'll be so blue thinking about you/ Decorations are grey on a green X-mas tree. /Won't mean a thing when you're not here with me," he sings.

- Moving, yes. This was X-mas at its saddest hour. What could be done? Filled with the tenderness and bribery of youth, thousands of hyperactive children send Santa well wishes, presents, and confused letters threatening the lives of five foreign diplomats along with those of the toytinkers and fairies.

Realizing the care and concern of these children, Santa laying in bed playing Monopoly with a demented reindeer, is miraculously healed. He jumps out of bed (if puppets can jump) and yells dramatically, "Harness the team! Fetch my coat!"

In closing, we hear the majestic, almost prophetic, lyrics: "Hang up your stockings, and say a prayer/ for Santa comes tonight."

Santa, fighting the high labor costs caused by unions of dissatisfied elves, struggling with a market quickly being closed by other competitors, such as the Easter Bunny and the Great Pumpkin, has a great many worries. But, we know as he knows now, "There'll never be a year without Santa Claus and all the joy that Santa brings." Yes, that jolly old man in the red polyester suit, that great symbol of American sincerity, is indeed our "joy to the world."

(Author's note: We fully realize that an obscure religious observance takes place on the same day as Xmas, but we can't make head or tail of it.)

Fiegl Moves to Mission Work From Maintenance Career

by Carol Snodgrass

Bob Fiegl has been a Houghton tradition for almost twenty-seven years, coming to Houghton at the age of 38 in 1950. Now, at 65, he is ready to move on. He has headed maintenance since the time of his arrival here, supervising the construction of the chapel, East Hall, Brookside, Shenawana, various other buildings and the athletic fields and ski slope. Everything was built by the Houghton staff, with stones carried from nearby creeks, and as much scrimping on the costs as possible. The Houghton staff under his direction has even laid the village water lines, gas lines, and put the electricity underground.

Bob Fiegl is very thankful for his crew of men over the years, saying that, "the Lord has sent the right people for the job." When there was a need for a certain kind of skilled person, Houghton would receive their request for a job without even advertising. He says the main asset to his work has been the Monday morning prayer meeting with his staff that has been going since the construction started for the chapel.

Mr. Fiegl's first love has always been missions, and he considered even his work here to be a mission of sorts. In the past during his vacations, he has flown to Haiti to assist in building a church, to Sierra Leone for construction on a hospital operating wing, and to Jamaica, Puerto Rico and an Indian school in South Dakota for other building projects.

He now is going into full time missionary work at other sites, having been asked by the head of the Wesleyan Board of Missions to be a construction supervisor wherever he is needed at various mission locations. Feeling that missionaries are overworked, Bob Fiegl wants to do all he can to aid them in their ministry by putting in good facilities, such as roads and buildings. He plans on keeping his home base in Houghton, at least for a while, while working on various mission projects.

Besides the fact that he is employed

here, Mr. Fiegl has appreciated Houghton because all of his three sons and three daughters attended here. He has really enjoyed it here especially the people and his neighbors "who were always ready to help out." He says, "I think I'll miss the students the most. They kept me young."

His definition of success is "leaving this world a little better off than how you've found it." In this sense especially, Bob Fiegl has been extremely successful in his many years at Houghton.

Trustees Set To Consider Proposed Governance Plan

The Committee on Governance will present its proposals to the Board of Trustees in January for probable implementation next school year, said President Chamberlain.

The proposed plan of governance calls for four major permanent councils under the President. These Committees: Academic Affairs, Financial Affairs, Institutional Advancement, and Student Affairs parallel the organization of the Board of Trustees. They will be chaired by the Academic Dean, the Business Manager, the Director of Institutional Advancement, and the Dean of Students. Besides ex officio members, the councils include two faculty members each, division chairmen, and staff members. Students will be represented on each Committee, with two on the Student Affairs Council, and one on each of the others. These students will be elected by the Student Senate from nominations approved by the faculty Committee on Committees.

The new plan will supercede the old system of governance set up by the 1974 Constitution of the college. This system was criticized for giving too much power to the Local Advisory Board consisting of key administrators and faculty. When the Middle States Accreditation team visited in 1975 they requested a progress report by spring of 1977. Working with consultant Robert Voskuyl, the Governance Committee produced the "Dayton-Voskuyl" Plan of the following year. This was rejected by the Trustees as too centralized and work continued toward a new plan. When Dr. Chamberlain arrived this September he took over as chairman of the Committee, replacing Dean Shannon. They now have more than thirteen sub-committees working, most of which will have presented their final report this week.

To promote flexibility with stability, the committee plans three major documents of governance. The Constitution will set up the basic structure of government and the general duties of faculty, administration, and trustees. It is intended to be a permanent document. The by-laws will elaborate on the Constitution, outlining more specific programs. Finally, the handbook (or handbooks) will describe specific duties and procedures. These are expected to change to fit new situations.

Another feature of the proposed plan is the Issues Forum. These convocations will be called by the President before major decisions. The community or affected portions will meet for "informal dialogue." Through this, the community can have input into decision-making.

The committee is attempting to limit the number and size of committees for efficient governance. They are aiming for a plan that will combine the efficiency of the best small college systems, while at the same time "reflect the unique needs of Houghton (College)."

Chapel Committee Working To Improve Coming Chapels

This semester's chapels have been problematic from several angles — content, student complaints, audience behaviour. The college Chapel Committee is attempting to deal with these problems. (Committee members are: Chaplain Bareiss, Dr. F.G. Stockin, Prof. Irv Reist, Dr. Bruce Brown, Joe Lloyd and Kathy Confer.)

A major topic being discussed in committee at present is definition of chapel. It is generally felt that chapels have, unfortunately, moved away from worship. This, in turn, has been a factor in poor student behaviour. If, as some students have said, chapels are often only "spiritualized Senate Spots" then one cannot expect students to enter chapel with a worshipful attitude. While rudeness is not condoned, the committee recognizes that rudeness has its reasons.

Thus, the committee's top concern

at present is formulating a definition of chapel to be presented to the student body as early as possible next semester. It is expected that next semester's chapels will be more worshipful in nature.

The second semester schedule is being discussed. Plans include a week of "Share Our Faith" testimonies from students, faculty and staff; Christian apologetics; student preaching; and Fine Arts Week. Spiritual Emphasis Week speaker, Dr. Abdul Haqq, will also be chapel speaker that week, as is customary. There is a possibility that Tom Skinner will be on campus for several days later in the semester also.

The Chapel Committee encourages the student body to be patient, difficult though it may be, while they work to establish guidelines for chapel. The committee needs adequate time to formulate a thorough and correct philosophy on the purpose of chapel.

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Hawkins breaks news to "delighted" STAR staff.

Women's Basketball Season Begins with Win Over Alfred

by Valachi

Last Saturday, December 13, the women's varsity basketball team played Alfred University, for their first home game of the season. Led by freshman Polly Jennejohn, the women's cage team defeated Alfred by the score of 63-43.

Offense once again looked good. Two women hit double figures, Polly Jennejohn with 18 points and Renee Boschee with 13 points. The ball was worked well in and out of the key to keep the defense off balance. On defense the women played a tough moving zone forcing Alfred to take a poor selection of shots. Total domination of the boards closed down the Alfred defense. Once again Polly Jennejohn took charge with eighteen rebounds. Equally tough on the boards were Sue Roorbach and Renee Boschee with twelve rebounds apiece. Coach Greenway was pleased once again with play. He also stated that there is a need to work on shooting a bit more.

The Houghton women's basketball team will resume play second semester. Try to come and support them. The team plays with a tough, aggressive defense that forces teams to take bad shots and an offense that is a threat from anywhere on the floor. All home games are played in the Academy gym and admission is free.

Holzmacher with ten apiece.

The consolation round of playoffs was taken by Still Newsances in a game against B league's Kate's Krop, 30-16. Rita Foster of the winning

team led all scorers with 14 points.

Women's houseleague basketball will begin another round second semester. Several new teams will be joining the leagues.

Editorial

It's Christmas time here at the Star. We've had our office party. Some of the decorations are still hanging: tattered streamers of two-ply tissue, a string of lights that has some empty sockets, a couple of shiny red ornaments suspended above my head on a strand of used typewriter ribbon. But even with the decorations, and the lamps we brought in as an alternative to fluorescent glare, the Star office is still the Star office. The decorations will pass; they are not the essence of Christmas.

The essence of Christmas is this: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. All of the customs of Christmas have grown up around that fact. Sometimes they have obscured it. They are different the world over. They come and go. But all of them were conceived because the Incarnation took place and we celebrate it.

The Christ child is with us but once a year. Christ the Savior is with us always. We speak of having the Christmas spirit all-year-round. This is what it means: to be a sinner saved by Christ. We think of the Christmas spirit as a merry spirit. We find that being saved by Christ brings us that kind of happiness, sometimes when the turns our lives take make us want to grieve. He cures us with the "merry heart" that does good like a medicine.

But now it is Christmastime here at Houghton. And we are thinking of the holiday season and the prospect of a new year. We usually take stock of the past year and set new quotas for the coming one.

This column has been concerned with several issues this year but with none so greatly as the Houghton College pledge. We have criticized it and suggested that it be altered. We leave the responsibility for evaluating our criticisms and altering the pledge to those who have the power to do so. If they would like to hear more specific ideas from us, they may talk to us. We are going to let it lie.

A Christian liberal arts education involves much more than negative community standards. We are going to expand our editorial horizons. We intend to read *About School: Essays concerning Christian Higher Education* over the semester break. (You can get this book too, if you are interested in keeping up with us, from John Kelly at the *Lanthorn*. It was published right here at Houghton. Tell him Dan Hawkins sent you and he might give you a break on the price. Then again he might just break your nose.) We will leave the pledge behind. Pledges come and go, just like Christmas decorations.

Why, then, did we spend so much time talking about the pledge? Because it is the most obvious symbol of the Houghton community. Because it is a custom that we must follow. Because it has grown up out of the essence of Houghton College.

And the essence of Houghton College is this: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. We are here to learn that message and to prepare for a lifetime of speaking it through our vocations. The obvious question is: which of the customs we practice here remind us of it, and which obscure it? Certainly the pledge obscures that message by attaching extra-biblical criteria for behavior to the Christian life at Houghton, rendering our lifestyle incomprehensible to most of my unbelieving friends at home.

Perhaps Houghton would be merrier without any pledge. Ah, but I have promised to leave that behind and plunge on into deeper matters, matters closer to the essence of this college and our Christian lives. And Christmas. Merry Christmas. And a Happy New Year.

Daniel Hawkins

(Note: The idea of Christmas' essence comes from Mr. Reist, who preached it from I Timothy last Sunday. The rest is my idea.)
(Another Note: The picture on the front page is from a lithograph, "Heritage", by Chris Overvoorde of Calvin College. It appeared in the March 20, 1976 issue of the Star.)

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Hawk Does Not Fly

by Elaine Skillon-Birch

Contrary to his widely known intentions, Editor Dan Hawkins has announced plans to remain at Houghton next semester. Hawkins was to transfer to Calvin College in Michigan.

"I just couldn't leave," Hawkins said. "The Graphics Lab would be

lost without me. Who would keep John Kelly out of trouble? And who am I to deprive Jack Leax of his most promising student? It's my moral duty to stay."

Editor Kathleen Confer refused to comment. Deprived of her anticipated tyrannical power, she is, at present, pouting in her office.

Foxy Ladies upset A league's Femiron team 40-35 in the Women's houseleague basketball championship game played Monday night in Bedford Gym. The Ladies went ahead 7-0 in the first three minutes and held tight to their lead, outfoxing Femirons "team of guards" on the boards. Tanya Shire of the Femiron team led all scorers with 24 points. Foxy Lady Sylvia Howry led her team with 11 points, followed by Becky Marshall and April

TAP Processing Continues; Other Awards Considered

The New York State Higher Education Services Corporation has informed us of the status of the TAP award processing.

As of this date 432,000 applications have been received; 236,000 awards have been mailed out and another 15,000 have been approved and will be mailed within the next few days.

They have finally succeeded in entering all but the most recently received applications on the computer. A new printout will be sent to the Financial Aid Officers next week reflecting these additions as well as over 30,000 new award approvals.

In the last two weeks they have increased the staff working on correcting applications and many more evening and weekend hours are being put in to clear up the backlog.

The following Regents Higher and Professional Education Proposals also potentially affect many Houghton students. (These are only proposals; they have not been finally approved.)
Institutional Aid to Independent Colleges and Universities.

HP-38 - To increase aid per degree for independent colleges and universities.

Intended

Carol Beveridge (77) and Ron Beabout (77)

Nadine E. Baker (77) and John Tanner (77)

Aid to independent institutions was increased in the State appropriation act for FY 1976-77. The act, however, did not provide a permanent rate increase. Under the appropriations act, the awards per degree are as follows: Associate Degree - \$330 and Bachelor's Degree - \$940. This bill would provide the following new permanent rates be established for 1977-78: Associate Degree - \$500 and Bachelor's Degree - \$950.

HP-27 - To expand the authority of the Higher Education Services Corporation to guarantee loans to New York residents attending medical and dental schools.

This bill would increase the maximum amount of loans from the HESC for medical and dental students to \$5,000 for each year and \$20,000 for each program of study. It would also increase the maximum period for repayment of such loans to 20 years.

Graduate Fellowship Program

HP-29 - To establish a comprehensive program of graduate student aid by initiating a Regents Fellowship Program, and by revising the schedule of Tuition Assistance awards for graduate students.

This bill would change the duration of Tuition Assistance Program awards to graduate students. The duration of the TAP award for graduate students would be one year, or two years if the master's degree program of study requires more than one year, or four years if the first professional degree program requires more than

one year.

Tuition Assistance Program

HP-25 - To change the criteria for the exclusion of parental income for applicants for student financial assistance, and to establish separate Tuition Assistance Program and academic performance award schedules for certain students who have been granted exclusion of parental income in determining award amounts (HP 42/76)

This bill would amend the Education Law so that the present criteria for determining emancipated status would apply only to undergraduate students who are over age 22 and graduate students who are over age 26. A student who is 35 or older would be automatically recognized as emancipated. The bill would also provide that emancipated students who are single for income tax purposes would have their Tuition Assistance Program awards reduced faster as income rose than dependent students or students with dependents. The bill would contain a similar provision for accelerated scaling of academic performance awards for single emancipated students.

HP-28 - To provide aid to students under the Tuition Assistance Program

This bill would provide undergraduate students a maximum Tuition Assistance Program Grant of \$1,700, effective July 1, 1977. The impact of this bill would be restricted to students at non-public colleges and schools.