STAR STAR

MAY 1, 1992 VOLUME 84.15

Ivan T. Rocha, Editor-in-chief

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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 noon on Monday, and they should be no longer than two double spaced pages. The editors reserve the right to edit all contributions.

Fond Farewells: The Nice, Inofensive Editorial

As I contemplate the prospect of graduating from here my feelings become more and more difficult to sort. In my last editorial I discussed some of my gripes which, judging by the reactions of segments of the student body, were not only mine.

This editorial is more selfcentered. It is a selfish carving out of space in the issue for purely personal material. Feel free to disregard it. This is also my "nice" editorial, by the way.

There is a lot of ill-feeling on campus at the moment and I feel at leastpartly responsible for it. The *Star* has not exactly been a catalyst of "warm-fuzzies" this year.

We've been honest, and I think we've done a good job of making the student body aware of the many issues that have come to light throughout these nine or ten months. Unfortunately, in the course of being honest some of us have succeeded in alienating certain individuals and groups on this campus. We regret the offense.

Houghton to me has meant a lot more than merely the place where I lost my faith. These have been three unforgettable years. The relationships that I have cultivated, the memories, the experiences, the long conversations with friends into the

night — these will last as long as I live. I will forever be thankful for the caring, challenging, men and women I have met here.

I am immensely grateful to my art professors Scot Bennett, Ted Murphy, and Gary Baxter. To me,

friends and mentors rather than simply professors. I have learned about art from them, but I have learned about life as well. From Ted Murphy I have learned a greater love for good literature, music, and cinema, as well as a down-to-earth wisdom that has often been a great source of inspiration. From Scot Bennett I have learned, among the lyrical lines and

Japanese prints, a great respect for perseverance and an appreciation for craftsmanship. I will always remember Scot for the kindness and generosity with which he has treated not only me but all of those who come to him for assistance and advice. Gary will stick in my mind as the "sky god," the Marlboro man, the unflappable, inscrutable jack of all trades. From him I have learned a greater respect for the roots of art history as well as for the potter's craft.

And there are others. Though I have never taken a class from him, I have learned much from Dr. Fisher.

I will be ever thankful for his kindness and concern in listening to my existential doubts and for sharing his own with me. Dr. Airhart, whom I first met in Western Civ., I will fondly remember for his witty tongue, his bow-ties, and his political and historical wisdom. (Incidentally, I think the President's first words on May 11 will be, "Thank-you Dr. Congdon for that inspiring rendition of...")

My career at Houghton would not have been the same without Dr. and Mrs. Saufley. Theirs has been my home away from home. For two summers I lived with them and was greatly blessed by their many acts of kindness. To them I will ever be grateful.

Dr. Wing has taught me most of what I know about my craft. For his advice, his wisecracks, his wisdom, and his fireball chili I will always be grateful. Long live the wing commander!

Among my colleagues I have made close friends with whom I have shared many moments of joy, tension, happiness, anger, and depression. I count as particularly influential in my college career my ex-co-editor (and currently a staff writer for the Hornell town newspaper) L. David Wheeler, my house mate Johnathan (where are you?) Wydysh, and my great and beloved friend Karen Hillman who has changed me forever and without whom this year would not have been have as good.

Special thanks are also owed to a great many among the staff without whose contributions my career at Houghton may have been far longer. To Dr. Beardsley especially, I owe my three-year hyperspace-speed BA.

And I could go on. The point is, whatever the matter may be with Houghton (so it's caving in on itself—so what?) there are beautiful, kind people here whom I will never forget and who have made a tremendous impact on my life.

Thank you and good bye.

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Wisdom, Wit, and Wordiness from this year's graduates

From Maila Niemi

I wanted to write to you to tell you that the candles on the two farthest posts of my bed are flickering. For no reason at all that I can (literally) determine. Are there drafts that I cannot feel? Or does the wick not extend to the bottom as in all my usual assumptions? Life is only so long. (When painting four walls white, remember that you are introducing shadows. Candlelight does soften them—at least romanticizes—causing all objects to float upon an imperceptible depth of field. All mirrors, suspended. It is best to leave the floor some color of density.) The door rattles more and sounds are clearer. Sniffles at a certain pitch. High C maybe.

More advice. Sheets are important. Always change your sheets. And keep them a simple stark white. It's so hard to make judgments about someone with white sheets on their bed. This is imperative in a place like this. If possible, avoid staining them. Blurred outlines of substances that can't be identified are as dreadful as things that require forgetting but are always remembered. Sweep the floor. Everywhere. I once decided with Some One that is is ideal to walk barefoot, as stones can be felt without having to look down. Keeping eyes horizontal. Of course, it is better to ride trains. Though, there are many forms of viable transportation. (As long as they are not that kind that are plugged in and kept on the old ping-pong table in the basement.) From toy trains one moves to plastic boats to model airplanes. It is true that childhood only ends in theory, but buy real tickets. Available to just about anywhere. (Don't bother with brochures. It's never quite the same when you get there-or even in transit. Permanent Transit.)

Take Houghton for example. I finally discovered

something that dregs out a slight smile (from the very bottom) every time it rains here. (Foreshadow Profundity.) Whilst frosting my tender posterior on those cement stairs behind Fancher, attempting to avoid detection, I witnessed an exchange between two individuals (I had knowledge of but never knew) about the significance of worms. Worms drowning themselves in Nabokov's puddles "...which still had not dried, surrounded by the bruise of the dark damp. (The live eyes of the asphalt)." They drown in eyes and have no eyes with which to see the irony. (Have you ever watched the vapor pouring forth from those pipes at two a.m.? Surreal). One of the two sold me their bed, but it was too big to fit through the door. I hope this does not mean they have some greater capacity than I. Of course, the room is small and temporary. As are all here. Think worms for a minute.

The hardest thing is to leave at peace. I am not the first to say it. It struck me from someone else's mouth. (Wooden tongues spit splinters that are hard to spring). But this is typical. Like the common cold.

I will wonder tonight if I should blow out these candles before sleeping. Thoughts like hot wax dripping in my eyes. White wax from white candles on white sheets leave no obvious stains (they say not impure ones), so there is less to worry about. Though the thought of something continuing on while I become increasingly unaware of it does cause anxiety. Some sadness. More anxiety. They do send all graduates the *Milieu*, don't they? (It's hard to leave before you've really been). But what does that ever really say. About worms. About trains. About candles.

Is it better to blow them out, or let them burn and melt into themselves? Extinguished at some moment we are not aware of an, later, can't pinpoint exactly. While we dream in something else, somewhere else, quite unrelated.

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From Steve Crandall

Starting first semester freshman year we often hear of senioritis and the horrid symptoms that accompany it. Unfortunately, there are no classes, no seminars to eliminate the dreaded condition in its entirety. All we can do is attempt to alleviate as much of the confusion and pain as we can. There is, however, one thing that has helped me survive in this segment of my educational endeavors: perspective.

No, not the kind of perspective (prospective) that comes on a bus and is given the "royal red" treatment either until they themselves decide to attend Houghton, or their parents subtly coerce them to come with such promises as "Ifyou go to Houghton (and don't get married), I'll foot the bill!" No, the kind of perspective I refer to can only be obtained a posteriori, by experience after the fact.

To be honest, I did not attend Houghton the entire four years. Neither was I always a communication major. I attended D'Youville my freshman and sophomore years as a B.S./M.S. physical therapy major. (I believe I'm the only communication major who has ever dissected a human cadaver.) I entered college primarily because of the Dorfman equation. You know the one I speak of. It sounds something like this: Person A + \sum (degree 1 + degree 2 + ... + degree n) = career opportunity. Obviously, the higher n is, the greater the career opportunity. Whereas this equation for life may work for certain people in certain degree programs, it certainly does not hold true for myself. Something just didn't click. So, I packed up all of my belongings into my beat-up 1980 Olds and struck out on the Liberal Arts freeway to find ... well, to find whatever clicks. This freeway is much different from the road I was used to. Now there are three lanes in each direction rather than one to go one way and one to go the other. There are entrance and exit ramps instead of intersections and Business Loops that are sometimes so confusing, they send you going in circles worse than the infamous chapel rambler. This Liberal Arts freeway may seem like more trouble than it's worth. There are those who would prefer a single-laned road that just gets them were they want to go. But is that really enough?

Some may say "What good is French to a psychology major?" or "Why learn biology when all I want to do is play my music?" Or even more frightfully, "Why should I learn literature when all I really need to know is the Bible?" No, it is definitely not enough. Sure, I could spout off some pat explanation using cost-benefit analysis, but even that is insufficient. Simply put, there's just more to life than we can ever hope to learn about. Now back to perspective.

There are two ways to look at graduation at Houghton. The first: I'll have a degree. Degrees are wonderful things. They show your accomplishment almost a priori and hopefully they get you into grad school. They let your parents know that those many thousands of dollars were well spent. They show other people that we graduates are SOMEBODY!

The second perspective is somewhat more elusive: I'll have an education. Education is the part I think most of us forget about. It is what makes pastors know ethics and doctors know Mozart. It makes radio announcers know Voltaire and social workers know James Baldwin. An education improves upon who we are and whereas a degree show others, an education shows ourselves that we are SOMEBODY!

I am convinced that the current trend towards specialization will end up hurting us. When pastors lose ethics, the church flounders. When social workers lose James Baldwin, the community forgets its struggle. Perspective... as I graduate from Houghton, I have the time I invested here (not spent) well in perspective. I will leave this college with more than just a piece of parchment that says I'm now qualified to succeed in a career. I will leave with a true education. My mind has been stretched, my values challenged, my spirituality is strengthened and my world is a lot bigger now. And at the risk of committing petitio peincipii, I owe it all to an education.

From Tom Noyes

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I feel there's a lot I want to say here. Good and bad, beautiful and ugly. Houghton's all of these to me. It probably is to you too. How do you capture the essence of someplace so diverse? I don't think I can. Not in three double-spaced pages anyway. Without getting too mushy or sentimental, I could start by saying that the time I've spent here has been the most valuable of my life. Honest.

I remember what I did my first night at Houghton. I sat there alone in my room on 2nd Shen and marked all the vacations on my calendar. I counted the days until Thanksgiving. I prayed to God for deliverance. For the first time in my life I prayed for the rapture. (I rescinded this prayer a few days later after my first few Bib. Lit. classes.)

Some things have changed since that autumn evening back in 1988. I don't live in Shen anymore. Bib. Lit.'s over and done with. Some things, however, have stayed the same. The rapture still hasn't occurred. (Not that I know of, anyway.) Have I changed? sure. I'm about fifteen pounds heavier and a few thousand dollars poorer. A little smarter? I guess. More cynical? I'm afraid so. Wiser? I hope.

How about God? Isn't that the idea of coming to a fine Christian institution such as Houghton? So you can get to know and understand God better? I don't believe God has changed a whole lot since I came to Houghton. It's funny though, how He seems different to me. I've changed, my point of view has changed, so in some ways God seems to have changed. I think when I got here I attributed some things to God that I

shouldn't have. Some people here still do, I think. Uhoh. Here I go.

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I've screwed up here. I've messed up some relationships. I've experienced the realization that Mick Jagger was right. You can't always get what you want. This is in my mind as I hear back from graduate schools and consider the possibility of finding that dream life out there. If all comes together for me I'm not going to complain. But if some pieces don't fit right away, I think I'll be all right. In the last four years I've learned that even when everything's not all right, I still can be.

What's the most valuable thing I've found at Houghton? Definitely friends. Friends that hopefully will be a part of my life long after my name is called at graduation. Also examples. I've come into contact with some people (faculty, staff, and students) here at Houghton who I'd do well to emulate, or at least remember.

Well, that's it then. A little praise and thank you. A little constructive criticism. I'm sure that there will be times when Houghton will haunt me in my nightmares. I'm sure there will be nights when you'll all seem much too far away. I'm sure there will be nights when you'll all be in my prayers. I pray there will be nights when I'm in yours.

From Amy Littlejohn

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I knew my life had been a very fortunate one. No one I ever cared for had died, (until that summer), I had never been the victim of a crime, and I had loving parents who taught me old-fashioned, if not Christian, values. I also knew some things had to change, and I saw college's dramatic shift of environment as a chance to do so. I wanted to understand the people around me, maybe help them. Until college, I hadn't been very good at listening, but then I thought no one would want to talk to me. As for God, I was disgusted with the bog of apathy I have been stuck in almost since I'd been saved.

God agreed with these sentiments, and helped me out from day one. He sent me friendly, interesting people to learn from and befriend. Within my first week at school, my roommate inquired why I didn't have daily devotions, and I decided, what the heck, it was about time I did. I've read at least a chapter of the Bible every day since then. The combination of close fellowship and greater concentration on God has increased my understanding and my love, and hastened my recovery from the difficulties of my high school years. I could go on forever, telling what God has done for me—everything from sending me to Houghton to creating the air I breathe. But that would give you an unbalanced picture of my life. I am still no angel.

I have changed a great deal since I first came to college, but I feel the faults I struggle with are still very much the same. They have only changed form, and seem more difficult to root out than ever. I understand that this feeling is pretty common, and often accurate. A recovering addict (of any type) has to fight the habit for the rest of his/her life. My habits of insensitivity to God and man are of a less obvious nature, but it looks as if I will have to fight them all my life as well. I only hope my concentration will not prevent me from recognizing any other problems I may have.

In high school, my social and spiritual faults came under the heading of negligence. Now, the social one at least may be called ignorance. I too often find that I have troubled those around me, and never known the fact until it was too late. This trouble has formed part of my now insatiable concerning my fellow human beings. My

spiritual fault is more difficult to label; perhaps timidity will do. It is from this that the original negligence came, and why I have reason to question whether I am doing all I ought for God.

This discussion of faults is not meant to be taken as self-pity or despair. Rather, my feeling is almost hopeful. It has been said that the people most difficult to change for the better are those who seem good. I seemed good four years ago, and yet now I am a different, (I hope better), person. Others, with apparently insurmountable problems, have been transformed in a similar period of time. Who knows what will have become of the problems I have just related to you in the next four years? God has gotten me this far, when it all seemed impossible, without him. College gives all students four years of time specially designed for change. I hope this essay encourages anyone who feels trapped by their flaws to take advantage of it.

From K. Foster Lynip

Being given an opportunity to be published in a school newspaper strikes me as being par with being offered a soap box to stand on. And in view of the recent disclosure of certain chronic activities, I fight the temptation to succumb. Nevertheless, I must try to see the large picture.

I liken the college experience to a petri dish—a giant, roiling, cultural, social, spiritual petri dish. The college years, like no other period of time in our lives, thrusts upon us a slew of choices. The most significant and overarching choice is, of course, being. Who am I going to be? The quintessential college problem of finding oneself never seems to carry with it the implication that in fact one can find oneself by choosing who one is. I see no sense in sleepwalking through life waiting for my identity to be pasted on me by others (perhaps in code: four interchangeable letters).

Life, it seems to me, captures two contrary forces, wrangling and stressing, seldom in balance with one another, between the passive and the active. Life at once happens to use while we happen on it. It is a strange and lovely tangle never free from angst and always free from dogmatic resolution. At college then, a seeming intensified microcosm of the "real world," the opportunity for active participation in one's life is great, yea, even necessary. For at college a range of choices of being are available that never have been at one time before and, I predict, never will. Oh, yes. When I speak of choice I mean it in the most practical sense. I speak not of any abstraction of free will

Continues on page 8

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Being given an opportunity to be published in a school newspaper strikes me as being par with being offered a soap box to stand on. And in view of the recent disclosure of certain chronic activities, I fight the temptation to succumb. Nevertheless, I must try to see the large picture.

I liken the college experience to a petri dish—a giant, roiling, cultural, social, spiritual petri dish. The college years, like no other period of time in our lives, thrusts upon us a slew of choices. The most significant and overarching choice is, of course, being. Who am I going to be? The quintessential college problem of finding oneself never seems to carry with it the implication that in fact one can find oneself by choosing who one is. I see no sense in sleepwalking through life waiting for my identity to be pasted on me by others (perhaps in code: four interchangeable letters).

Life, it seems to me, captures two contrary forces, wrangling and stressing, seldom in balance with one another, between the passive and the active. Life at once happens to use while we happen on it. It is a strange and lovely tangle never free from angst and always free from dogmatic resolution. At college then, a seeming intensified microcosm of the "real world," the opportunity for active participation in one's life is great, yea, even necessary. For at college a range of choices of being are available that never have been at one time before and, I predict, never will. Oh, yes. When I speak of choice I mean it in the most practical sense. I speak not of any abstraction of free will

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or predestination. I certainly "feel" like I have free-will. Whether I do or not is a moot point.

So then, who IS Martin Guerre? Well, that is another story. However, I ask myself and ask my fellow graduates to ask the same, who am I? Have I made the choices so abundantly available to me? Yes, abundantly. Even at Houghton. I have no particular skill (No one would think of paying me to think for myself, unless I trick them.) but I know I want a skill and, more importantly, I have chosen who I am.

So Houghton, thank you for being my petri dish. I am ready to jump out now. A special thanks to Dr. Airhart. Under the Mercy.

Senate Report

The last student senate meeting of the year took place on Tuesday night, April 28. The meeting, though brief, accomplished a few important housekeeping details.

Next year's advisors, appointed by president Phill Ginter will be Edna Howard and Dr. David Benedict. Along with a few extended cabinet members, these were approved by the student senate ate the meeting.

The extended cabinet includes parliamentarian Sabrina Persell, public relations liaison Deb Carayel. and executive assistant Carrie Sturtevant.

The meeting also held a brief discussion on the impact and overall student opinion on the open forum on student senate elections and financial affairs.

The senate also briefly discussed an amendment to its bylaws which would get rid of the six divisional senators and replace them with two student development council senators, two academic affairs senators, and one inter-hall (representing the dorms) senator. A change is necessary because there will be no more academic divisions after this year. This amendment was tabled until next year, since a few classes were underrepresented.

AND IN OTHER NEWS

by Amy Littlejohn

The U.S. is suspending drug reconnaissance over Peru after Peruvian fighters allegedly strafed an American cargo plane.

According to Britain's A n t i - S l a v e r y International, more than 100 million people worldwide suffer in the bonds of some form of slavery. A few are traditional chattel in Mauritania, and the institution is returning to the Sudan, where it had once disappeared. Far more people come under

the category of debt bondage, where a whole family will work at below subsistence wages in an effort to pay off a loan. Many debts are passed down for generations. This is the situation in Pakistan, India, the Dominican Republic, etc. In the countries of the Persian Gulf, "guest workers" from around the world are essentially slaves. Filipino maids who escaped from Kuwait during the war tell of beatings and rapes.

In California, Robert Alton Harris, double murderer, became the first criminal executed in that state in over two decades. Harris had been given four stays of execution before he was finally killed.

The rebel Mujahedin have officially taken over in Afghanistan. An Interim Council is residing in Kabul, but sporadic fighting between rebel factions continues.

Bangladesh and

Myanmar have signed a treaty for the repatriation of refugees to the latter.

The UN peacekeepers are having difficulties in Cambodia due to the complete breakdown of roads and communications in that country.

An oil tanker has gone down off the coast of Mozambique. Thousands of gallons have spilled, but experts say much of the tanker's cargo will simply solidify on the cold ocean floor.

Meanwhile, fighting continues in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

In Russia, a notorious serial killer is at last going to trial. Andrei Chikatilo has allegedly killed fifty-five people.

In Germany, there is a public worker's strike. Sanitation, hospitals, the post office and the subway have all stopped.

sources: CNN, Newsweek

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Dear Editor:

Any good that has been accomplished by the past senate has been erased in the last few weeks of disasters. The elections, as we all know, were a fiasco. They have created a great deal of hurt and animosity, and as usual overshadow any good that has come out of them. The student body of next year is starting off with a bad taste in in their mouths about student government. This image, in part was created by the anti-senate group called Stockbola. I would like to believe that this was not their intention because to believe that they wished to cause the abolition of selfgovernment is to believe that they do not advocate democracy. Please do not misread my feelings about Stockbola, a little dissent now and again is healthy. In fact they have done a great service for the senate cabinet of next year, persecution has refocused our efforts and has drawn us closer together. I believe that next year will be one of the most influential years for a student Government here at Houghton. We have a president and secretary who are familiar with the administration as well as new faces who are eager to serve.

Many wounds have been inflicted on a system already plagued by apathy. The turnout for candidates in this past elections reflects many diseased opinions. "One vote doesn't matter." "I can't do anything about it." "My opinions don't matter." "All politics are dirty." (Come talk to me about that one, I'm a political science

major.) "No one listens to us anyway." "We should just get rid of student senate." These are only a few of the many phrases that are circulating our campus.

Theodore Roosevelt once said "If decent people" don't like the way politicians behave then they should either get involved in politics or refrain from complaining about anything politicians do. It seems rather harsh but if it is applied to our situation perhaps we would see that involvement in the "system" is the only way to change it. Abolition is not the answer. Now it would seem that perhaps I am only defending this position because I am a part of the new cabinet. For those of you who know me, you know I love a cause and that I have very different motives. As a political science major I have chosen a filed where it's tough to be a christian, and hard to keep your morals. It is one of the toughest mission fields, but we can make it easier by our involvement. We should not think that we will dirty ourselves by being "political," our leaders need to know that there is a "right " way and that we will support them when they follow it. But they also need to see we are active enough to oppose them if they stray from it. So if we begin on a small level, here at Houghton, we will learn the way we should participate on a national level.

As I step off my soap box and get back to the real motive behind this article, I would beg you to please give this senate a chance and do your part by giving your opinion to someone who can help, student senate. Drop us a note, call, stop by the office (campus center basement) or better yet, stop us when you see us and let us know what you're thinking. Thanks for letting me bend your ear a little.

Elaine A. Armstrong

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Thefollowingconclusionshavebeen reached by a group of concerned students who call themselves the Inner Circle and the Stockbollah. In spite of the activities which these students have previously engaged in, activities which may be viewed as derisive and harmfully over-critical, the following pints are meant to be constructive suggestions which will help student government to function in a more peaceful and unified way, hopefully avoiding some of the conflicts which have plagued the Houghton campus over the past couple of weeks. None of the suggestions are in any way directed at a particular person or group of people. In one way or another most of us share the blame for what goes on in the student senate and in the cabinet.

In light of the shortcoming which the recent elections have shown the student senate constitution to contain, and in light of the recent revelations regarding the mafeasant use of student funds, we recommend that the senate take the following action:

1. As the constitution now stands, there results a conflict of interests when the president chooses to run for reelection. The constitution requires the president to sit as the chair of the election board, a committee which oversees the election process. In the event that the standing president chooses to run for reelection, the president is faced with a difficult dilemma. This president must either serve on the election board (causing a logical conflict of interests) or he/she may refuse to serve as the chair of the election board. We recommend that the senate amend the constitution in order to bar any person currently running for a senate cabinet position from sitting on the election board.

The election board should be required to meet at least once prior to the election and during this meeting should evaluate the eligibility of each candidate.
 The board should notify those candidates who have questionable eligibility status.

3. The treasurer of student senate should be required to present a monthly report of of all senate expenditures to the senate and to student body. The report should include itemized accounts of all purchases. The person responsible for each purchase should be prepared to justify their expenditure of student funds to the student body.

4. We recommend that those perks which cabinet members have enjoyed in the past be regulated by the constitution. We recognize the need for cabinet outings but suggest that the number of cabinet dinner paid for by student activity fees be limited to two per semester. (Itemized receipts should be published in the treasurer's monthly report.) We also suggest that the senate take measures to ensure that no personal phone calls are made at the expense of the student body, and that the cabinet keep a log of long distance phone calls and their purposes.

5. Considering the increase of \$.25 per student which the senate has given itself (giving itself direct control over \$3,400), we realize that the above measures will leave a surplus in the senate accounts. We recommend that the senate use this surplus to pay its deficit, which now amounts to over \$2,000 (an amount which has accumulated over the past several years). After the payment of this debt, we recommend that the senate consider reviving the tradition of supporting charitable causes and missions.

We recommend that the student body take the following action:

1. It appears that many of the allegations against the abuses of student senate were brought to light by seniors who will be graduating in just one week. When they found themselves aware of inconsistencies within the constitution and the apparent misuse of student funds, they were unable to do anything about it because for four years they had excluded themselves from student government. We recommend that concerned and conscientious underclassmen involve themselves in student government.

2. Scrupulous students who are concerned about the use of their funds should form a watchdog committee which acts to oversee the outworking of the above policies. Such a committee should check the treasurer's report against receipts in the senate offices and against receipts in the bookstore and elsewhere. The committee should act out of love, concern for justice, and with a commitment to integrity.

We recommend that the Houghton accounting office take the following action:

- Establish and maintain an auditing system of the finances of student senate.
- Enforce the payment of student senatedebt without granting an increase in the student activity fee.

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Dear Houghton:

I am a graduate of the college ('90); a former student senator (87-90); cabinet member (treasurer 88-89) and current resident of Houghton. I have written this letter to share my knowledge of the history of these "traditions" from my past involvement with cabinet and senate. I am also sad and concerned by the recent events concerning senate's use of funds and power (elections).

I commend Tom Noyes for taking the initiative to explore some of the rumors and truths concerning student senate. I'm sorry to see that others, who may be able to "shed more light" on the various issues have not also taken some initiative and stepped forward. But I'm sure the

thoughts of graduation and the unpleasant thoughts of getting tangled in a lawsuit don't excite many?!?

My knowledge of cabinet activity is limited to the year I served as treasurer (the year before Darren became treasurer) and the previous two years, as I was a good friend of that treasurer. I have a difficult time understanding how these traditions or "allowances" were "passed down through the years" as Darren and others have suggested. How could this be so, if they were non-existent during those three years, and if nothing was "passed?"

The only tradition that I am aware of concerns the dinner issue. At the end of each school year the old cabinet and advisors would take the new cabinet and advisors out for a dinner. This dining occurred *once* a year, and did not include appetizers of shrimp cocktails and escargot, which seems indicative of more recent dining practices.

I was a bit disturbed by the statement that "membership has its privileges." My thought is that the "hearty scholarships" the cabinetal ready receives is privilege enough. I realize they put long hours in, but so do a lot of other leaders in organizations on campus who don't receive money, but are still content to serve. Why have we become more engrossed in how we personally should benefit as opposed to being dedicated to serving the students and their concerns. I'm not sure that both of these ideas are compatible.

My greatest concern is that all the issues at hand (money and elections) will not be fully addressed (partly because it's the end of the year). But instead the idea that "better planning will avoid occurrences such as this in the future" will be embraced. I think that those involved need to be held responsible for their actions and decisions, and hope that the finger doesn't get pointed in some other direction. I ask my alma mater, "Are we going to also sweep this under Houghton's rug? Isn't that space under our rug already full?

Charlie Howard

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Special Report On Student Senate Forum on Spending Practices

by Michael Evans

An open forum was held at 11:00 on Thursday, April 23, 1992 at Wesley Chapel to address confusion over the election of the 1992-93 cabinet. Robert Danner, Dean of Students, was asked by the Senate to moderate the forum. Questions were submitted prior to the event to be answered by the Panel of out going cabinet members including: President, Darren Chick; Election Commissioner, Jim Hilliard; Treasurer, Mark Evens; Secretary, Amy Danner; Executive Assistant, Sara Witmeyer; and Vice President, Phill Ginter.

Danner, at the outset, stressed that the students are to govern themselves. he said, "I assure you that it is not our intention to step into these matter that have been discussed and have been written about in the Star. You must learn to solve these problems in the context of this big leadership laboratory that you happen to be in."

The format was very controlled. The audience was attentive. Most of the questions concerned either the recent election or allegations that senate funds have been abused by mem-

bers of the panel. the majority of questions were addressed to Chick, however, Hilliard, Evans, and Ginter were also addressed.

Election-related questions reflected a concern that the student body by better informed. They wanted to know whether a neutral party was involved, who make the mistakes, and whether improvements were being made for the future.

Some questions were about Doug Stockwell, one of three who were elected to office before it was discovered they did not meet the Grade Point Average of 2.5 or better. The asked way a second election was needed after Stockwell got a waiver for his low GPA. Jim Hilliard said, "These positions were declared vacant, which allowed further candidates to enter petitions as outlined [in the constitution.]." Chick admitted that he failed to check on eligibility for each candidate prior to the first election.

Many submissions accused the cabinet of abusing senate funds. the main concern seemed to be expensive "business meetings" at "The Old Library", a fine restaurant in Olean. Chic explained that this has been a tradition. In the spring the new cabinet invites the old cabinet and their advisors to discuss the transition and future agenda in Senate. In the fall, the new cabinet invites the new advisors to the restaurant for another such meeting. Phill Ginter said of the "tradition", "...the students have spoken and they don't think it is a wise use of money, so it's not going to happen." He added, "It doesn't take much for change to happen but we need to know what your upset about and what you want to see changed."

However, Ginter said at a Senate Meeting on Tuesday that all long distance phone calls are now being recorded. He said that the new cabinet is current looking into the books "to see what expenses have been unnecessary." He said he intends to get something sound in the summer issue of the Star about the finances of the Senate.

Danner explained that the accounting office is currently auditing Student Senate financial books.

Chick stated that the Student Senate has voted to require monthly financial reports on CAB and Senate in order to promote accountability. These reports will be printed as part of meeting minutes and posted in the campus center basement.

Other financial issues discussed included the \$2,000 senate debt, as well as the matter of allegedly personal long distance phone calls charged to the senate account. Evans said that the debt occurred when the accounting office incorrectly put special projects funds into the senate account. This error was not discovered until the money was removed last month. The cabinet denied making any personal phone calls at senate expense.

























