

# Changes in honor code outlined in booklets

By JAY HENDERSON

A new booklet detailing recent changes in the Honor Code and the judicial system will be made available to the faculty and students of Old Dominion University next week. The changes were made under a grant of authority from the Board of Visitors to the Honor Court to make certain procedural changes within certain limitations of due process.

The introduction to the booklet underscores the spirit of the Honor System. It reads: "The Honor System is a privilege granted to the students by the Board of Visitors. It assumes that men and women of college age possess respect for others

and themselves, and are capable of self-government. This system is based on the integrity of the individual. It assumes that the student will view his role in the academic community with a feeling of self-respect and duty to his fellow students.

Every student enrolled at ODU is automatically under the jurisdiction of the Honor System. This jurisdiction extends to all activities related to college life.

The purpose of promulgating the handbook is, says the Court, to provide simplicity in procedure, fairness in administration, and the elimination of unjustifiable experience and defining infringements of the

code: lying, cheating, stealing, and failure to report infringements. Four ways of reporting infringements are detailed: confronting the violator and requesting that he turn himself in; reporting the offense to any member of the Court, to the Dean of Students, or to the Attorney General of the Honor Court.

Lying is defined as "an untruth deliberately told; an uttering or acting of that which is false for the purpose of deceiving; intentional misstatement; misuse, forgery, and giving false information on official documents, records, or identification."

Cheating is "to deceive and defraud; it necessarily implies a fraudulent intent. . ." Stealing "denotes the commission of theft, that is the felonious taking and carrying away of the personal property of another, and without right and without leave or consent of the owner. . ."

The booklet also gives a sta-

handbook. Important rights include: presumption of innocence until proven guilty; the right to face one's accuser; the right to defense counsel; the right to avoid self-incrimination; the right to summon material witnesses; the right to hear and question testimony; the right to an open hearing, if desired; the right to appeal, and to be free from rehearing on the same offense.

Procedures are outlined for investigations, preliminary hearings and formal hearings, and appeals.

Honor Court violations are investigated by the Attorney General. Investigations cannot violate the rights of a student, and cannot be initiated without a written complaint. Wiretap or electronic surveillance is unequivocally prohibited. Fingerprint evidence may be used, but only if presented by experts in the field, such as the state police.

Defense counsel has the right

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leave or consent of the owner..”

The booklet also gives a standardized definition for plagiarism. Plagiarism is “the act of appropriating the literary composition of another, or parts or passages of his writing, or the ideas or language of the same, and passing them off as the product of one’s own mind.” Plagiarism, by the definition, is involved in: “using someone’s idea without citing the source; paraphrasing a source without acknowledging the debt;” or taking words from a source, even though the source is cited, without using quotation marks for the original material.”

A list of Honor Court personnel is given in the booklet, along with the methods of selection and official functions.

A General Review Board, composed of the Chief Justice, one Honor Court member, two faculty members, two students, and one administrator, is charged with the supervision of the Honor Court and its functions. The General Review Board is an independent agency; when fully constituted, it will select the members of the Court.

An Orientation Committee is provided for in order to advise new students on the Honor System. A Rules Committee will provide continual review of the rules of the Court. The booklet also lists an Administrative Services Officer, Attorney General and staff, Public Defender, Clerk of Court, Public Relations Officer, and Faculty Advisor.

The rights of an accused student also are set forth in the

lice.

Defense counsel has the right to obtain photostatic copies of all material evidence, as well as names of witnesses, from the Attorney General.

Commenting on the grant of authority given to the Honor Court by the Board of Visitors, Chief Justice Joseph Hughes said, “We feel that we’ve taken the route of preserving student rights. Our authority is fairly wide, but we have limitations. The procedures which we set up must be consistent with the fundamentals of due process.”

“This booklet is actually the result of five years of work by student and faculty committees,” said Hughes. “Of course, we’re always open for recommendations on changes.”

The booklet will be distributed by the Court this Monday; copies will be available at the front desk of the Webb University Center.

## *Debators to convene*

The first debate meet of the year will be held at Washington and Lee University on October 3. ODU will be represented by a team of two debators. There are nine people on the squad altogether.

The debate topic for this year is “Compulsory wage and price control.” The topic for the year is selected by a vote of debate and forensics coaches all over the country.