Lindsey

Senior Lindsey "turned herself in" to the Honor Council Chairperson for an academic violation. The Honor Council decided that a jury should be convened to handle the infraction.

In the finals week of first semester of her Freshman year, Lindsey was assigned a closed-book take-home final exam. Lindsey thought she was "fairly ready" to take the exam; however, when she opened the exam, she panicked. She put the test away and studied some specific areas which were covered on the exam. Lindsey then closed her books and took the exam. She knew that she had broken the academic Honor Code but did nothing about it.

Lindsey had justified her action by rationalizing that "everyone does it." She felt the pressure of graduate school, and she couldn't "face-up to it herself." Lindsey promised herself that she would study more for the other exams so that the temptation to cheat would not be so great.

Lindsey's reasons for turning herself in after three years stemmed from her renewed interest in Christianity. Her recent conversion to Christian fundamentalism sparked her interest in re-establishing her commitment to the Code.

The jury asked Lindsey whether she had "turned herself in" because of her devotion to the Honor Code or because of her devotion to her religion. There was concern that Lindsey had not internalized the Code. Lindsey told the jury that her personal integrity was a product of her religious convictions, though she did point out that she believed her convictions were complimentary with our Quaker Honor Code.

One juror found Lindsey's response unacceptable. The juror believed that Lindsey had not demonstrated a good understanding of the Honor Code and, thus, did not sufficiently respect the Haverford community. Lindsey may be a devout member of her religion; the juror reasoned, but this did not necessarily make her a member of the Haverford community. The rest of the jury was able to accept Lindsey's commitment to personal integrity and, therefore, presumably, the principles of the Honor Code.

In general, the jury felt that cheating on a final exam should result in failure of the course and possible separation from the College. However, the jury felt that Lindsey's decision to "turn herself in" deserved to be recognized in the resolution. Hence, the final resolution was that Lindsey would receive a 1.0; and she would prepare two letters describing her infraction—one for the Haverford Community and one for freshman orientation.