Megamind:
An Honor Council Academic Case
Released Fall 2019

This abstract was not released in accordance to the timeline specified by the Students’ Association Constitution. The confronting party consented to the release of the abstract. The confronted party consented to the release of the abstract.

Key:
Confronted party: Bernard
Confronting party: Professor Roxie
Classmate of confronted party: Metroman
Class: Superheroics 234

Summary:
This case was reviewed by Honor Council and dropped instead of being sent to trial, as Council felt that the trial goals of education, accountability, and restoration had already been met. Bernard was working on a take-home test in Superheroics 234 in a public setting in the presence of Metroman. During the test, Bernard talked through some of the problems out loud. Bernard did not ask questions to Metroman or other students nearby, and nobody spoke in response to Bernard. Metroman decided to report the issue to Professor Roxie. Although Metroman was present for the potential violation, Professor Roxie agreed to serve as the confronting party. She reached out to Bernard. Bernard explained that he had a habit of talking through his problems and was not trying to gain or provide help. He was simply taking his test as per his usual custom. When Professor Roxie and Bernard met to discuss the issue, they both felt that they were on the same page. Still, Professor Roxie asked Bernard to report himself so that Honor Council could determine the next appropriate steps.

Council Deliberations:
Honor Council first discussed whether they were suspicious of a violation. Some members felt that Bernard’s actions during the test were a violation of the code while others believed that, though unwise, Bernard’s actions did not constitute a violation. Council also discussed whether they felt the trial goals had been met. All members felt that accountability, education, and restoration had been met through the confrontation process, as by all accounts the trust between Professor Roxie and Bernard had been re-established. Therefore, Council agreed that the case should not be sent to trial, regardless of whether Bernard’s actions constituted a violation. In
order to alleviate concerns that they were taking the case too lightly, Council decided to recommend a conversation between Professor Roxie and Bernard mediated by a member of Honor Council Executive Board. With this recommended resolution, Council consented to drop the case.

**Discussion Questions:**
1. What message does Honor Council send when it decides to drop a case? Should all cases automatically result in a trial, or does dropping a case have legitimate purpose?
2. Are mediated conversations an effective resolution in situations such as this?
3. Do you think that Metroman should have confronted Bernard directly, or do you agree that he did the right thing in recommending that Professor Roxie confront Bernard?