

# Faculty forum

Do you feel that the supportive and elective courses that students take to fulfill their major are necessary in their education?

By Stuart Erwin  
and  
Michele Jais

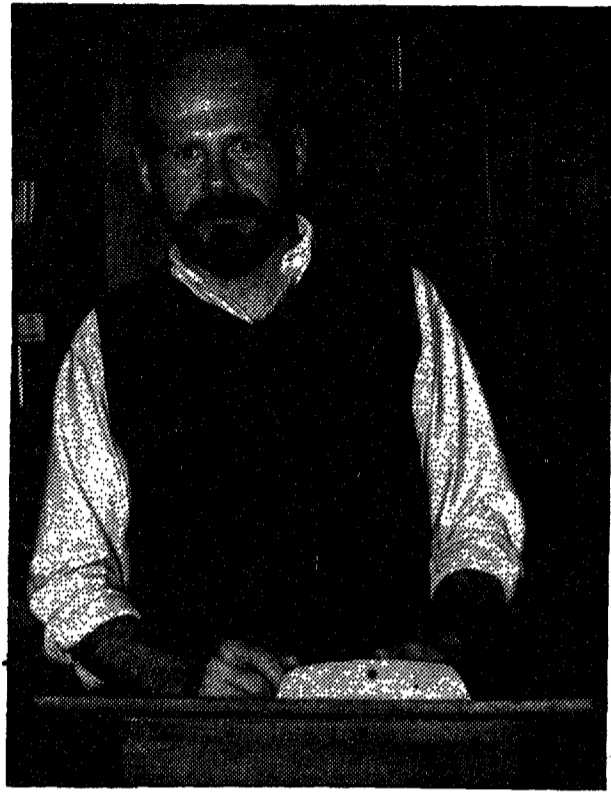
The courses which students elect to take and must take outside their major fields of study serve as the basis for a broad outlook on life and make them well rounded individuals. In the late sixties and early seventies that was considered to be a weak justification for elective and supportive courses. In those days students wanted a justification of these courses that was relevant and that would relate immediately to their career goals. For instance, students lamented, and perhaps still do, the fact that studying a foreign language seemed irrelevant. "When am I ever going to speak French?" "What good is it?" Students

failed to look beyond their immediate needs to find that foreign language learning is "foreign culture" learning. America cannot ignore other cultures nor can it afford to isolate itself from the international community. Language is perhaps the most important element of any culture. I feel that my opening statement is not a weak justification. Supportive courses are integral parts in the education of the well rounded individual.

Foreign Languages are only an example; the concept applies to other areas as well. Can we, as educated people, afford to ignore the effects of economic policy? Can we

ignore the impact of nuclear power? genetic engineering? Do we ignore the arts which represent the history of man's creative achievements?

The courses which students are obliged to take outside their major fields help to make them aware of the world around them. These courses supply students with the needed resources with which they can make intelligent and informed opinions about the many events which affect their everyday lives. The supportive and elective courses are the necessary elements which make the difference between EDUCATION and just training.



Stuart Erwin

Photo by Tom Topoleski



Michele Jais

Photo by Tony Leshinskie

Supportive and elective courses are necessary for a well-rounded education. In an age of specialists, students often fail to see a need for any courses outside of their major field of study however, to communicate with others outside of your area of expertise you need to be a generalist. For example, if you're at a luncheon with five other people you want to be able to converse intelligently about something other than the latest innovations in computer technology. Although this topic may interest them, a solid hour of conversation about it would bore even the most avid computer enthusiast. Elective and supportive courses if chosen carefully can provide you with that broad base of information needed to function in your day-to-day living outside of the work

place. They provide you with a flexibility and awareness of subject areas outside of your major. Courses in economics, history, literature, etc. help you to see relationships between yourself and others. They also provide you with an opportunity to explore an area (i.e. art) that may interest you even though it does not directly pertain to your chosen major. Sometimes the initial exposure that you get in an elective course gets you interested in an area that prior to taking the course you knew nothing about.

Supportive and elective courses fill the gaps and bridge the relationships between courses in your major and the world around you. They help to transform what could be just a boring specialist into an interesting individual.

## ... on SGA elections

In terms of the recent controversy surrounding the SGA presidential election, we wish to congratulate Alita Rovito, Jim Bagley, and the rest of SGA on the tactful, diplomatic handling of the situation and the subsequent reelection. We realize that situations of this nature are delicate in that whenever the validity of an election is challenged, there can result a lasting cloud of doubt and bitterness over everyone involved.

Fortunately prompt and decisive action on the part of those charged with the responsibility of administering a fair election left little room for anyone to doubt or question. The students' choice has been voiced and the new leaders can begin to prepare to ex-

plore new ideas and serve their fellow students to the best of their ability.

If there is any one element of the election and reelection process that may have been handled differently, perhaps a more significant attempt might have been made to inform the student body of precisely why the first election was questioned and what the process of deliberating have made any lengthy informing process counterproductive to the cause of rapid resolutions.

On behalf of the entire staff of the Highacres Collegian, we wish to extend congratulations and best wishes to President and Vice-President elect and pay a hearty salute to our current leaders for a job well done.

## From the editors desk

### Students serving campus

It seems to be the same every year. Everyone knows who the campus leaders are. Their names are everywhere and they receive a lot of recognition. But what about the people who sit behind the scenes, picking up loose ends and being reliable? We feel that they deserve some special recognition.

Phil Voystock, president of Belle Lettres, organized the Reading Festival held every year on campus. Judd Buskirk, Missy Miller, Jim Bagley and Tom Swarr are all hard-working SGA senators who never get the recognition. Bob Tier, George Puhak and Bill

work all the lighting for the cultural events. Pat Loverde, Eric Selber, and Michelle Shiber are hard working SUB members. Pam Eppinger, Terry McCarthy and Mary Jane Cuba are people who have come through for the Collegian many times.

Dave Albright, Tony Leshinskie, and Jim Pugh are hard working RHC members. Mandy Amsell has stuck it out with Chorus for the full year and has done her best. Anne Cormier can be very proud of New Horizons along with all her work. Gary Strausser

has worked hard for not only SGA, as does Deb Gorman, but also for Circle K. Mark Anton, Steve Zarick, and Bill McVaugh are HCV's right hand men. Cathy Ferry, Dave Picarelli and Robin Bergstresser are the coordinators of the newly-revived Outings Club. Kevin Sharpe and George Brobst have worked actively with Financial Aid and the Vets.

We'd like to thank all of these people, plus all of those we haven't had the space to mention. You all deserve a good pat on the back. It's about time you get recognized.