

THANKS

The editors of Elements would like to thank the following individuals for their generous support of and assistance with this issue of

Elements:

KEITH AKE, *Assistant Director of Marketing and Design for the Office of Marketing Communications*

DANIEL BAIROS, *Technology Consultant*

BEN BIRNBAUM, *Executive Director of the Office of Marketing Communications*

AUSTIN EIGHAN, *German Translator*

CUTBERTO GARZA, *Provost and Dean of Faculties*

DONALD HAFNER, *Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies*

JOYCE MANNIX, *Business Manager for the College of Arts and Sciences*

DAVID QUIGLEY, *Interim Dean for the College of Arts & Sciences*

BARBARA VIECHNICKI, *Associate Dean for Finance and Administration*

We would also like to give special thanks to the Dean's Office of the College of Arts & Sciences and the Office of Marketing Communications for providing budgetary support that made this publication possible.

QUESTIONS & CONTRIBUTIONS

If you have any questions or would like to contribute a letter for our next issue, feel free to contact the journal at elements@bc.edu.

Please consider submitting your own research to the next issue of *Elements*. Our next deadline is **Friday, April 9, 2010**.

COVER

Konkordatsunterzeichnung in rom
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PERIODICITY

Elements is published twice an academic year in the fall and spring semesters.

The information provided by our contributors is not independently verified by *Elements*.

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Elements, Undergraduate Research Journal, Volume 6, Issue 1, Spring 2010

Boston College, 140 Commonwealth Avenue, Service Building 103,
Chestnut Hill, MA 02467

Printing: Dynagraf Advanced Printing Solutions, 5 Dan Road, Canton, MA 02021

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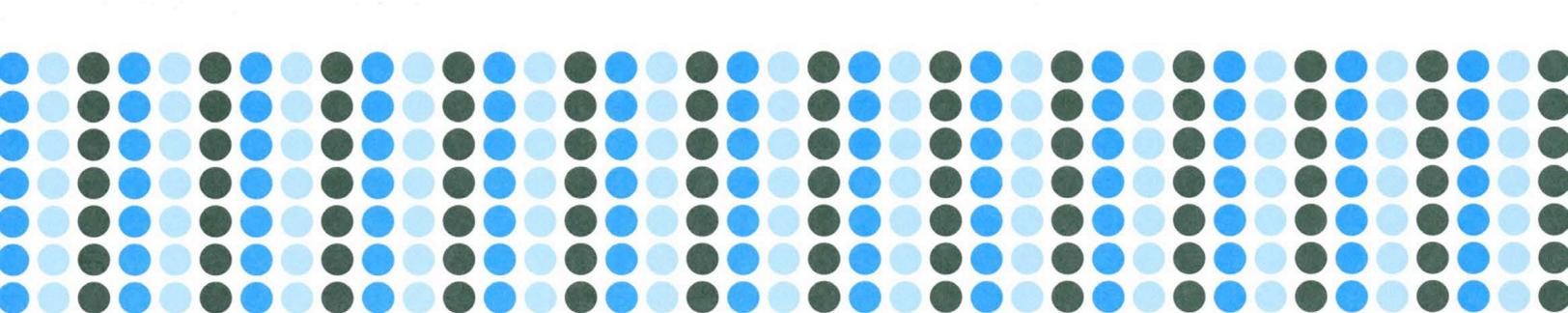
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EDITOR'S NOTE

"I have no greater grace than this, to hear that my children walk in truth."

—John iii. 4

On March 21, 1937, these words echoed throughout Nazi Germany, from pulpit to pew. *Mit brennender Sorge* ("with burning concern"), an encyclical from the Office of the Holy See under Pope Pius XI, was read aloud in German Catholic churches with exhortations to the faithful to seek out truth, justice, and unfettered faith even in moments of greatest distress. Written in response to new policies restricting religious freedom, the encyclical challenged the seeming invincibility of the Nazi regime. Within hours of its first reading, the German government ordered all copies of the encyclical to be ceased and destroyed. Complications of dual loyalties to one's country and to one's Church sent tremors throughout Germany. Yet the Church stood strong in the face of controversy.

Mit brennender Sorge remains today a symbol of the human struggle to confront controversy with resilience. It opened the gate—a gate forcibly locked by propaganda and institutionalized enmity—to walk in truth. Our featured article examines the encyclical in this light, as a document which diplomatically yet forcefully challenged any institution blocking the path to truth. As young men and women for others, entering into a world rife with injustice, falsehood, and ignorance, our call to act "with burning concern"—to "walk in truth"—has never sounded with greater desperation. We, too, are called to let truth resound throughout our world.

As students, we are privileged to have the freedom to actively search for truth in any manner. Research is no small task, nor a trivial assignment to check off a list. It is the student's opportunity to open his or her own small gate of truth. The students featured in this issue of *Elements* have unlocked truths about American diplomacy, global health, logic, and modernity. "Iran and the Nixon Doctrine" suggests, contrary to conven-

tional opinion, that the Nixon Doctrine was not independently drafted, but stemmed from Nixon's interactions with Muhammad Reza Pahlavi in 1967. Both "Expanding Waistlines" and "Hormone-mimicking Chemicals" offer findings imperative to our health in response to China's changing attitudes towards consumption and our misconceptions about potentially harmful chemicals in household products around the world. A Husserlian analysis of Gottlob Frege's conceptual notation—a logical analysis of language—reveals a fatal flaw within analytic philosophy, as explicated in "Frege and Wittgenstein." Two of the articles argue the importance of returning to ancient truths and ancient traditions both aesthetically, as in "Illuminating a Culture," and philosophically, as in "The Truth in Things (And Love in the World)."

We are proud to celebrate the fifth anniversary of *Elements*, Boston College's undergraduate research journal, with a call to accept the responsibility of researchers to seek out truth and justice. In five years, nine issues, and seventy-four articles the undergraduates of Boston College have continuously shattered the gates of ignorance and the unknown. May this journal continue to encourage the undergraduate communities of the future to walk in and give voice to their own discovered truths.

Sincerely,



ERIN E. EIGHAN

Editor-in-chief

