

Abstract discussion will be held on Thursday (3/26) at 7:00PM in Ryan Gym.

Tangled:

An Honor Council Social Trial

Released Spring 2015

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. (The addition of this disclaimer began in Spring 2010).

Key:

Confronted Party: Rapunzel

Confronting Party (On Behalf of the College): Maximus

Haverford Class Rapunzel Took: Turret Climbing

Summary/Pre-Trial:

Rapunzel, a Bryn Mawr international student, was a confronted party in an Honor Council Academic Trial¹. One of the final resolutions of this trial was that Rapunzel be conditionally separated from Haverford College until completing her resolutions and reconvening the original jury in order to consent on her reentrance to Haverford. About four weeks into the semester, a student on the original jury noticed Rapunzel in the Haverford Dining Center and contacted Honor Council, concerned she may be taking a class on campus. Honor Council checked with the Dean's Office who confirmed that Rapunzel was taking [Turret Climbing] at Haverford College. When Rapunzel was contacted by Honor Council, she began taking steps to drop the class upon the request of Honor Council and the Dean's Office, and expressed that she had forgotten about the separation. Following this email exchange, Rapunzel immediately began to work on her resolutions from the previous trial. Honor Council consented to send this particular case to a social trial concerning Rapunzel violating the separation resolution and not completing resolutions. Dean Maximus served as the confronting party on behalf of the college.

¹ The abstract for this previous trial was released under the name "Grateful Dead" in Spring 2015

Fact Finding:

During fact-finding portion, both the confronting and confronted parties were present. A Bi-Co Liaison was also present throughout the trial. The meeting opened by going over the goals of Fact Finding portion, and Maximus began by giving a statement to the jury. He said that Rapunzel was not supposed to be enrolled in any Haverford classes and provided the jury with a list of resolutions from the previous trial. He also showed an email from the chair of the previous trial, clarifying with Rapunzel and the other party involved in her trial what separation meant. Maximus also expressed the sentiment that he was supposed to make sure Rapunzel was unable to register, but because of certain logistical issues in the registration process this information was not communicated to the registrar. He said he didn't know how that would play into the feelings of the jury, but that he felt partially responsible for not stopping this earlier.

Rapunzel began her statement, saying that she knew she had resolutions from another trial from the past semester, but that she had forgotten she was separated. Rapunzel then said that she had deleted all of her emails at the end of the last semester, and so she lost track of what the actual resolutions were. Once she had found out about her separation, she dropped the course and worked hard to finish her resolutions from the last trial. After her statement, the jury began to ask questions.

A juror asked about Rapunzel's progress in completing the previous trial's resolutions. She responded that she had completed almost all of them, beginning once she found out about her separation. The only resolution which she had not yet completed was meeting with her professor. Another juror asked when she had registered, to which Rapunzel responded that she had preregistered the previous semester. Additionally, the Bi-Co liaison pointed out that Bryn Mawr deans do not receive resolutions from Haverford trials that their students are involved in, and they may not even be aware of the occurrence of a trial at all, and so her dean would not have had the ability to remind Rapunzel of such restrictions during registration. A juror asked why Rapunzel had deleted all of her emails from her inbox. Rapunzel said that there were too many emails and she wanted to enjoy her vacation. Someone then asked if Rapunzel had intended to complete her resolutions after the previous trial. Rapunzel replied that she had thought about completing them, but that several of the resolutions were to be completed in collaboration with another party whom she had difficulty contacting, and that she kept procrastinating. She also said that she had problems coordinating with the other party due to differing schedules and concerns about maintaining confidentiality while discussing the trial in public. A juror asked if she had tried to complete any resolutions at all before she was confronted, and Rapunzel said no. When asked, Rapunzel said that she had understood the resolutions of the previous trial, but that there had been some confusion due to cultural differences. She also said that those resolutions had helped her better understand Honor Council and the Code. Following these questions, the meeting ended with a moment of silence, and the jury proceeded to jury deliberations.

Jury Deliberations/Statement of Violation:

Every juror felt that a violation of the Honor Code had indeed occurred. One juror expressed concern about the violation, given the seriousness of a separation resolution. Some jurors felt that forgetting trial resolutions was hard to believe, but that they weren't in a position to speculate. Still, some jurors felt that while there were inconsistencies in her story, they could only base their decision on what they knew, and from that they could ascertain a violation had occurred.

There was a general concern in the room that Rapunzel only began working on resolutions from the past trial once she was confronted. One juror expressed that Rapunzel violated the Honor Code both by breaking the separation and by not completing her resolutions, though they were intertwined. Steering themselves towards the goal of coming to a statement, the jury decided that they didn't want to speculate on intent in the statement.

Statement of Violation:

[Rapunzel] violated the Honor Code by taking [Turret Climbing] at Haverford College while academically separated from the community. Her return to the community was contingent on completing resolutions from a previous trial, which she had not yet fulfilled. (10 jurors consent, Bi-Co Liaison Approves)

Circumstantial Portion:

Rapunzel was present for circumstantial portion. Maximus did not elect to be present as he was confronting on behalf of the college. Rapunzel began her statement to the jury by saying she felt this trial was very different from her original one because this was all her fault. She felt frustrated throughout the previous trial, since she felt she was not fully at fault. Rapunzel said that she was ready to accept any resolutions the jury decided. She ended her statement at that and the jury began asking questions.

A juror asked how Rapunzel felt about completing the previous resolutions and whether she now had a better sense of the Honor Code. Rapunzel said that over the course of the last trial and this one, she has learned not to let someone copy her answers. She said she grasps the Honor Code to a better degree and understands why she was in the wrong before. She said that despite the cultural issues she encountered, she now understands that the impact of what seems like a personal violation can be felt through the entire community.

The jury and Rapunzel discussed possible ways that juries or Honor Council could help her complete trial resolutions. A juror then asked if there were too many resolutions from the previous trial to keep track of, given that she had to collaborate with another student on much of them. Rapunzel felt that this was the case and that it certainly had factored into the violation.

One juror asked if after the two trials, she was still comfortable enrolling in Haverford classes in the future. She replied that she did not feel comfortable. While she felt the Haverford community was nice, this decision was for personal reasons that she didn't believe the jury could do much to change. When Rapunzel was asked if she was more likely to complete the resolutions this time, she said she definitely would not clean out her emails and would be on top of them this time around.

The trial chair asked if Rapunzel had any suggested tentative resolutions. Rapunzel did not and was happy to accept whatever the jury decided. The jury then moved to tentative deliberations.

Jury Deliberation/Tentative Resolutions:

When jurors began deliberating the resolutions, some expressed worry about burdening Rapunzel with resolutions, given that she still had some to complete from her previous trial. Jurors wanted to make clear through the trial just how important completing resolutions are for your restoration to the community. Jurors also wanted to direct resolutions to fully restoring Rapunzel to the Haverford Community, considering she had broken a previous resolution.

In considering resolutions, jurors first thought about education for Rapunzel. The Bi-Co Liaison suggested a potential resource for time management and procrastination help. The jury felt having a resolution that Rapunzel use this resource would be especially helpful given that Rapunzel expressed that she had issues with procrastination and time management in handling these resolutions and her other work.

When the issue of potentially assigning more separation came up, one juror brought up the idea of effectively permanent separation given the severity of the violation. Other jurors felt this would be too harsh. One juror cautioned against giving additional separation to someone who was already separated, believing that it would only add to the frustration of Rapunzel and make her not want to return to the Haverford community. Jurors expressed that separation from the Haverford community would not have as much day-to-day impact on a Bryn Mawr student as it would on a Haverford student, and that this should be taken into consideration when thinking about the circumstances that led to the violation. Another juror brought up the idea of adding one semester of separation, so that she wouldn't be able to reconvene the previous jury to return to the community until the end of the following semester. Other jurors questioned what the actual impact of this would be if she didn't intend to return to the community to begin with.

A juror inquired about other forms of accountability for a social trial, though as this was such a unique social trial, finding comparable resolutions from previous trials was difficult. One juror expressed that going through this trial and having to drop her class was already some accountability, though others had reservations with considering that accountability, as it was Rapunzel's fault in the first place that this occurred. Jurors discussed different time frames for additional separation, including no separation at all, and how this plays into accountability in a

trial. Most jurors were inclined to add an additional semester of separation before she could reconvene the previous jury, although two jurors were opposed to separation in any way. The Bi-Co Liaison expressed that at Bryn Mawr, this would be considered the most serious violation possible, as it would be considered disrespecting the Honor Code. The counterpoint was brought up that Haverford students could be held to a higher standard in regards to following the Haverford Honor Code than Bryn Mawr students, because they receive far more education about it.

The jury then discussed potential resolutions for restoration. The jury was concerned that it would be difficult to restore Rapunzel to the community if she did not want to return. Jurors also felt that given the issue of cultural differences posing difficulties for international students following the Honor Code being a factor in this trial and other abstracts, having a resolution directed at the Bryn Mawr and Haverford International Student Orientation (ISO) programs asking them to hold abstract discussions would be beneficial.

Ultimately, the jurors came to the following tentative resolutions, with two jurors standing outside on the separation resolution.

1. *[Rapunzel] will meet with the Academic Support and Learning Specialist at Bryn Mawr College once [current semester] and once [following semester] to discuss time management and organizational skills. (10 jurors consent, 0 stand outside, Bi-Co Liaison Approves)*
2. *[Rapunzel] will continue her academic separation until at earliest the end of the [following] semester for the purpose of personal reflection and reestablishing trust with the community. (8 jurors consent, 2 stand outside of consensus, Bi-Co Liaison Approves)*
3. *[Rapunzel] will meet with her dean prior to preregistration for [semester after following semester] classes and reconvening the jury of the original trial. This meeting will be to discuss her progress on resolutions and desire to return to the Haverford Community. (10 jurors consent, 0 stand outside, Bi-Co Liaison Approves)*
4. *If [Rapunzel] wishes to return to the Haverford Community, she will write a letter of reflection to the original jury about her being restored to Haverford. This letter will be considered along with her other previous trial resolutions by the original jury in discussing her return to Haverford College. (10 jurors consent, 0 stand outside, Bi-Co Liaison Approves)*
5. *The original jury will be informed about this violation and its circumstances in their meeting to determine [Rapunzel's] returning to Haverford. (10 jurors consent, 0 stand outside, Bi-Co Liaison Approves)*
6. *The jury recommends this violation not be reported to other institutions of higher learning. (10 jurors consent, 0 stand outside, Bi-Co Liaison Approves)*
7. *The jury advises that both Bryn Mawr College's and Haverford College's ISO programs*

hold abstract discussions during student orientation in order to facilitate a better understanding of the culture of the Honor Code and restorative processes. (10 jurors consent, 0 stand outside, Bi-Co Liaison Approves)

(10 jurors consent, 0 stand outside, Bi-Co Liaison Approves)

Finalizing Resolutions:

In the interim between tentative and finalizing resolutions, the trial chair contacted the Bryn Mawr and Haverford ISO programs concerning the final resolution recommended to them. Both the Bryn Mawr and Haverford ISO programs responded positively to it, hoping to implement it in the future.

Rapunzel agreed with the resolutions, and was eager to complete them, even if she did not return to Haverford in the future. As Rapunzel had no questions with the resolutions and expressed no qualms with them, the portion of the meeting with her ended.

When Rapunzel left, the jury discussed her thoughts and the tentative resolutions. Rapunzel had no qualms with them, and through reflection, the jury did not change their thoughts on the resolutions. One of the jurors who had stood outside of consensus on the separation resolution now expressed she felt comfortable consenting, while the other juror who stood outside still was not comfortable consenting. With that said, the jury consented to the following final resolutions.

- 1. [Rapunzel] will meet with the [Academic Support and Learning Specialist] at Bryn Mawr College once [current semester] and once [following semester] to discuss time management and organizational skills. (9 jurors consent, 1 stand outside in absentia, Bi-Co Liaison Approves)*
- 2. [Rapunzel] will continue her academic separation until at earliest the end of the [following semester] semester for the purpose of personal reflection and reestablishing trust with the community. (8 jurors consent, 1 stand outside of consensus, 1 stands outside in absentia, Bi-Co Liaison Approves)*
- 3. [Rapunzel] will meet with her dean prior to preregistration for [semester after following semester] classes and reconvening the jury of the original trial. This meeting will be to discuss her progress on resolutions and desire to return to the Haverford Community. (9 jurors consent, 1 stands outside in absentia, Bi-Co Liaison Approves)*
- 4. If [Rapunzel] wishes to return to the Haverford Community, she will write a letter of reflection to the original jury about her being restored to Haverford. This letter will be considered along with her other previous trial resolutions by the original jury in discussing her return to Haverford College. (9 jurors consent, 1 stands outside in absentia, Bi-Co Liaison Approves)*

5. *The original jury will be informed about this violation and its circumstances in their meeting to determine [Rapunzel's] returning to Haverford. (9 jurors consent, 1 stands outside in absentia, Bi-Co Liaison Approves)*
 6. *The jury recommends this violation not be reported to other institutions of higher learning. (9 jurors consent, 1 stands outside in absentia, Bi-Co Liaison Approves)*
 7. *The jury advises that both Bryn Mawr College's and Haverford College's ISO programs hold abstract discussions during student orientation in order to facilitate a better understanding of the culture of the Honor Code and restorative processes. (9 jurors consent, 1 stands outside in absentia, Bi-Co Liaison Approves)*
- (9 jurors consent, 1 stands outside in absentia, Bi-Co Liaison Approves)*

Post-Trial:

The resolutions were not appealed. As a result of this trial, Honor Council discussed and consented to a set of guidelines for a party breaking or not completing resolutions. (These can be found on the Honor Council website under "Guidelines.")

Discussion Questions:

1. How much responsibility should Honor Council have in monitoring the progress of trial resolutions?
2. How can a trial restore someone who may not want to be restored to the community?
3. How much detail should the administrations of Haverford and Bryn Mawr be given about trials? Should confidentiality be emphasized, or can more transparency be helpful to those with resolutions?
4. In determining a potential separation resolution, how much consideration should be given to whether a confronted party is from Haverford or from another institution? How should differences between such confronted parties from Haverford and those from other institutions be taken into account in determining resolutions more broadly?
5. Under what conditions should resolutions include conditional separation as opposed to separation for a set number of semesters?