HONOR COUNCIL ABSTRACTS

DAVE

During an earlier inquiry a random jury member, Ray, learned that all possible academic Honor Code violations must be brought to the attention of Honor Council. He had a friend, Beth, who suspected Dave of committing an academic infraction of the Code. Ray realized that he must tell Beth to talk with Dave. If Beth and Dave thought that a violation might have occurred, this must be brought to the attention of Honor Council. Ray talked to Beth, and she, in turn, spoke with Dave about a suspected plagiarism. Dave did not think that he had plagiarized but was unsure. Thus, he went to a member of Council. Because of the ambiguity of the suspected infraction, Honor Council determined that an inquiry was needed.

The inquiry began with the presentation of the facts to determine whether a violation had occurred. (As in any inquiry, if the jury does not think that there was a violation, then the inquiry is terminated.) Dave told the jury that he had written an essay for his economics class. It was supposed to be about one of the first three chapters of the text and was to use one of the models contained therein. The essay would not be graded. Dave had read the introduction to the text but had not quoted from it in his essay. Beth, who was in the same class, had read a copy of Dave's essay after it had been turned in and thought that it contained ideas from the introduction, and the source of these ideas was not acknowledged in a bibliography.

The jury read Dave's essay and the introduction of his textbook. There was one similar idea between the two works, but that idea was not used in the same manner. In addition, it was a common idea, which could have easily been used by anyone writing about that topic. No other similarities were found. The jury deemed that a violation did not occur but cautioned Dave about using secondary sources for his papers without footnoting them.