SUMMARY

Moses came before Professor Joshua after having accidentally disclosed one of the questions on his Hebrew midterm to Aaron. Moses then contacted the Honor Council Chairperson and told him what had happened. Honor Council convened and reached consensus that a trial was necessary.

FACT FINDING

The jury (six members of Honor Council and six random jurors) met with Moses and began the fact finding part of the trial.

Moses related that he had been studying chemistry in the library. Aaron, another student in his chemistry class, walked by Moses' carrel and Moses called him over to ask a question about their chemistry assignment. To diagram the problem that Moses had asked about, Aaron grabbed a piece of scrap paper. There was a question printed on the scrap paper and, when Moses read it, he said: "Behold, that resembleth (resembles) a question from our Hebrew exam." Moses had just recently taken the Hebrew final examination, but Aaron, who was in the same Hebrew class had not and said: "But Moses, I hath taken not the Hebrew exam." After these words, they decided to tell Professor Joshua what had happened.

One of the jury members asked Moses why he had assumed that Aaron had taken the test. Moses responded: "It was very sudden. I thought he had [already] taken it."

JURY DELIBERATION

The Honor Council Chair began by reading a relevant part of the Honor Code. In short, it said that students should not discuss the "form, content, and degree of difficulty of any examinations...". The jurors responded that, in this case, the question of intent must be considered against a literal interpretation of the Code. Some saw Moses' case as a mere human mistake, but others countered claiming that, whatever the intent, the Code had been violated.

After a while, the jury came to the conclusion that a violation of the Honor Code, however small, had taken place. Many jurors, though, wanted to emphasize the lack of malicious intent and all quickly agreed that the resolutions should therefore not be in the least bit punitive. One of the jurors suggested that the resolutions should be purely an educational vehicle. She felt that such resolutions and the abstract might divorce the negative stigma normally associated with trials from the whole trial process.

* These, of course, are not really the words they used during the trial. I had to spice the dialogue up so that people would be interested in reading this.
The jury then reached consensus that a violation had taken place. The statement of violation reads:

"Moses violated the Honor Code by inadvertently revealing the form of a question on a final exam."

CIRCUMSTANTIAL

Moses returned for the circumstantial portion of the trial and the Honor Council Chairperson read him the statement of violation.

A juror asked him whether he had studied with Aaron for their chemistry class. Moses responded to the affirmative. Another juror asked him why he thought that Aaron had taken the Hebrew exam and he said: "I don't know."

The Chair then asked whether he could suggest resolutions. He said that he wanted to write a letter to the community describing his action, its relevance to the Honor Code, and warning others how easy it is to make this mistake. Another juror wondered whether he would agree to make signs for Stokes (the "form, content"...signs). He said that he would.

JURY DELIBERATION

The jury discussed Moses' idea of writing a letter to the community. One juror wondered whether the letter could be printed in the newspaper. The Chair suggested campus mail as an alternative.

Another juror was concerned about what Moses would write in the letter, and whether it would address the jury's concerns. The Chair responded by saying that they could use the presentation of the resolutions to delineate these specific concerns. Afterwards, the Chair could read the letter and make additional suggestions, if necessary. Other members found this unnecessary, considering Moses' thoughtfulness and honesty.

The jury reached consensus that Moses would write a letter to the community.

The jury then discussed the possibility of having Moses making signs for Stokes but that was shot down because: 1) he should not have to do such "labor" for Honor Council, 2) it would be a punitive resolution, and 3) it might compromise confidentiality.

A juror added that the letter should be disseminated not only among Haverford students, but also Bryn Mawr and Swarthmore students. The Chair assured her that he would investigate that possibility.

The jury reached consensus on the following wording:

"Moses will write a letter to the community to be distributed to the community before exam week describing the incident. The letter will be
incorporated into signs which will be posted during exam week."

PRESENTATION OF RESOLUTIONS

The jury reconvened and re-reached consensus on the resolution. Moses arrived and the Chair read the resolution to him. The jury related their reasons behind the resolution. It was stated that the purpose of the resolutions was to educate the community and not to be punitive. One juror commended Moses’ honesty. Everyone nodded in agreement. Another juror added that his action might make others feel comfortable about coming forward and dealing with the trial process.

Moses agreed with the resolution and had nothing to add.

Moses left the room and the jury reached final consensus on the resolutions. The trial ended and everyone went home feeling happy and content.

1) Do you think that the resolutions were fair?

2) Do you think that Moses committed a violation of the Honor Code?
Most of us do not think about the little details of the Honor Code. We think that they are too nit-picky or extraneous. I had not thought about one such detail until I made a mistake. This detail says not to discuss an examination that you have taken even with other people who have already taken the same examination.

The Code has been through many ratifications with many tribulations through the years. One of these times being this year. Every little detail in the Code, today, has been examined and approved by 95 years of Haverford students. So give serious thought to all the details of the Code. By doing so, we are respecting the opinions of all the Haverford students who have come before us.

I have already cleared myself with the twelve jurors and the Honor Council chair. Now, I would like to apologize for my mistake, and reconcile differences between me and you — the community.

Yours,

Sukesh Kansil

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"Moses" chose to reveal his real identity.