Cats (The Musical):
An Honor Council Social Trial
Released Spring 2016

This abstract was released in accordance to the timeline specified by the Students’ Association Constitution. The confronting party did consent to the release of the abstract. The confronted party could not consent to the release of the abstract.

Key:
Confronting Party: Skimbleshanks
Confronted Party: Rum Tum Tugger
Support Person for Confronted Party: Alonzo
Companions of the Confronted Party: The Pollicles
Fellow Concerned Confronting Students: The Jellicles
Location of Lewd Behavior: The Junkyard

Summary/Pre-Trial:
[Rum Tum Tugger], a Haverford community member currently living off-campus, was confronted by [Skimbleshanks] over repeated instances of lewd and lascivious behavior in a public space, [The Junkyard]. Over the course of two semesters, Rum Tum Tugger engaged in overt public displays of affection with several consenting community members in The Junkyard. Skimbleshanks, and [the Jellicles], who spent time in The Junkyard, were very concerned as Rum Tum Tugger’s behavior was often distracting and inconsiderate of their presence. After speaking to the Jellicles, Skimbleshanks decided to confront Rum Tum Tugger. Skimbleshanks felt as though his initial confrontation with Rum Tum Tugger was unproductive, as Rum Tum Tugger refused to communicate with him and instead walked away. Further attempts at confrontation were met with similar responses. Upon receiving statements from the parties, Honor Council immediately consented to send the case to a Social Trial to resolve any breach of trust between Rum Tum Tugger, Skimbleshanks, and the community.

Prior to the trial, several jurors recused themselves on account of feeling a close connection to the confronted party, Rum Tum Tugger. Due to this, the trial process took an unusually long time to begin, which only served to heighten the tension between Skimbleshanks and Rum Tum Tugger.
Fact Finding:
All parties were present for fact-finding. Unable to speak about this situation due to discomfort, Rum Tum Tugger brought a support person, Alonzo. Rum Tum Tugger had been living off-campus in the home of [Alonzo] that semester, and thus felt Alonzo could accurately represent his feelings about these events. Skimbleshanks began by recalling what had happened from his point of view. He spent much of his time working in The Junkyard throughout the year, and often came across Rum Tum Tugger and the Pollicles engaging in what he referred to as “lewd and lascivious” behavior, often under tables but sometimes on chairs or the open floor. While he realized Rum Tum Tugger and the Pollicles were both consenting parties to this behavior, he felt uncomfortable as it was often overt, distracting, and occurring in his line of sight. Furthermore, Rum Tum Tugger had propositioned Skimbleshanks on several occasions to take part in this behavior, to which Skimbleshanks generally politely declined and simply moved to another part of The Junkyard. Rum Tum Tugger always respected Skimbleshanks declining, but would often still engage in this conduct within his line of sight.

At some point about a month ago, Skimbleshanks simply found himself no longer able to work or spend time in The Junkyard because of this, and decided he needed to confront Rum Tum Tugger in order to address the building tension. Before confronting Rum Tum Tugger, he spoke with several friends, the Jellicles, who agreed that the behavior of Rum Tum Tugger was extremely distracting. Skimbleshanks attempted to confront Rum Tum Tugger several times, but on each occasion, Rum Tum Tugger either said nothing or walked away. Feeling frustrated, Skimbleshanks contacted Honor Council hoping to have some resolution to this building conflict. Skimbleshanks finished his statement to the jury by saying he felt as though Rum Tum Tugger should not engage in this lewd behavior so publicly, and that his home off-campus was far more appropriate a setting for that than The Junkyard.

At this point, Rum Tum Tugger was pacing around the room nervously, and his support person, Alonzo, had to comfort him. Alonzo also asked to speak on Rum Tum Tugger’s behalf due to his inability to talk about the situation. The jury agreed, and Alonzo began his statement to the jury. Alonzo said that Rum Tum Tugger did not mean to distract or offend anyone with his behavior in The Junkyard. Rather, Rum Tum Tugger found it most convenient to connect with his companions, [the Pollicles], while in The Junkyard. Alonzo also said that Rum Tum Tugger didn’t realize this was inappropriate, as many members of the community encouraged it, and even led Rum Tum Tugger into The Junkyard to engage in this affectionate intimacy. Alonzo explained that Rum Tum Tugger often felt isolated while off campus, and so his time spent in The Junkyard while on campus was important to him. Alonzo finished by saying that Rum Tum Tugger had always tried to be discreet and respectful, but that he didn’t want to stop spending time in The Junkyard with the Pollicles because of this trial.
Jury Deliberations/Statement of Violation:
Following this meeting, the jury immediately began deliberating. The feeling of most jurors was that a clear breach of trust existed between Rum Tum Tugger and Skimbleshanks, the Jellicles, and the larger community. The jury quickly agreed that a violation had occurred, and felt that Rum Tum Tugger’s initial response to Skimbleshanks confrontation was especially concerning. While the entire jury could see why community members would want to express their affection for Rum Tum Tugger in The Junkyard, as he had a sympathetic and warm demeanor, they agreed that this behavior had been distracting to several members of the community. Still, the jury expressed a sentiment even in this meeting that they did not want Rum Tum Tugger to see this statement of violation as a condemnation of his character or presence on campus. With that, the jury came to the following statement of violation:

[Rum Tum Tugger] violated the Honor Code by distracting other community members in [the Junkyard] through his overt physical contact with other community members. He further violated the Code by continuing this behavior despite complaints by [Skimbleshanks] and others.

Interim:
Several posters were placed about Rum Tum Tugger’s lewd and lascivious behavior around The Junkyard saying Rum Tum Tugger was not welcome in the space.

Circumstantial Portion:
All parties were present for circumstantial portion. For clarity, Alonzo continued to speak for Rum Tum Tugger in this portion of the trial. The conversation began with a discussion of the posters put up during the intern. Alonzo explained that those posters had made Rum Tum Tugger feel betrayed, unwanted, and like he was not a part of the community that he loved. As Rum Tum Tugger was living off campus, this was his only real opportunity to befriend other members of the community. Alonzo went on to say this was a violation of the Honor Code. The jury asked Skimbleshanks if he knew who had put them up. Skimbleshanks was initially reluctant in answering the question but eventually admitted that he and the Jellicles had postered The Junkyard. He thought that because a jury had found Rum Tum Tugger in violation of the Honor Code he should now be punished and would soon be separated from the community. The trial chair explained to Skimbleshanks that not every violation leads to separation and that there were more, crucial, parts of the trial before resolutions would be finalized. Skimbleshanks listened and apologized for his actions, but reiterated his wish that Rum Tum Tugger be separated. During this discussion, Rum Tum Tugger fell asleep and had to be awoken by the trial chair.

The discussion continued as Alonzo explained that while Rum Tum Tugger lives off campus, he loves Haverford and spends as much time as he possibly can here. The Junkyard in particular
became very much a second home for Rum Tum Tugger near the end of last semester when he began to sleep overnight in the building. Skimbleshanks recognized how much time Rum Tum Tugger spends in The Junkyard, but pointed out this does not justify making others uncomfortable in the space. Skimbleshanks explained that The Junkyard is his preferred place to work. Alonzo pointed out that Rum Tum Tugger’s movement around campus is restricted as he cannot open doors on his own. Skimbleshanks recognized this and admitted he could work more often in other parts of The Junkyard to avoid Rum Tum Tugger. It was reiterated that the confrontation, statement of violation, and ensuing posters had tainted Rum Tum Tugger’s view of the community as an accepting space.

Rum Tum Tugger also brought in some of his companions, The Pollicles, to speak on his behalf. They expressed their great appreciation and love for Rum Tum Tugger and told the jury that without Rum Tum Tugger’s visits it would be harder for them to be productive while working. One Pollicle said that had Rum Tum Tugger not provided stress relieving breaks during finals week she wasn’t sure she would have been able to finish her papers. Skimbleshanks said that he had not realized the positive impact Rum Tum Tugger had had for others and that he recognized he may have been overreacting.

**Jury Deliberations and Tentative Resolutions:**
The trial chair began this meeting by explaining the goals of trial resolutions - education, restoration, and accountability. Many jurors felt like Skimbleshanks’ putting up posters in The Junkyard was a breach of the Honor Code, and were frustrated that procedures did not allow them to address that breach of trust. The entire jury was committed to restoring the breach of trust between Skimbleshanks and Rum Tum Tugger, and felt that making both of them, as well as the Jellicles and Pollicles feel welcome in the Junkyard was of the greatest importance.

In the middle of the meeting, the trial chair received an email from Skimbleshanks stating that he still felt very guilty about the posterering, and hoped the resolutions could address him in some way. He suggested writing a guide for how to be a good confronting party, focusing on how to act in general, and also during a trial if it comes to that. He stated that he no longer felt Rum Tum Tugger should be separated, which was based on his initial anger at Rum Tum Tugger’s lack of communication with him. Given this email, and given the jury’s commitment to resolving this situation quickly and delicately, the jury came to the following tentative resolutions:

1. [Rum Tum Tugger] will write a letter to the community expressing some of the sentiments about the community he felt unable to express during the trial process. This letter will be written by the end of [semester]. (10 jurors consent, 0 stand outside)
2. The jury recommends that [Rum Tum Tugger] engage in mediated dialogue with [Skimbleshanks], if he is willing. This mediation will occur by end of [week]. (10 jurors
3. [Rum Tum Tugger] will look for other spaces on campus to express affection for his companions. (10 jurors consent, 0 stand outside)

4. The jury supports [Skimbleshanks] writing a guide on how to be a good confronting party, both inside and outside of the context of a trial. Should [Skimbleshanks] write it, the guide shall be appended to this abstract. (10 jurors consent, 0 stand outside).

5. The jury recommends that the community continue to welcome [Rum Tum Tugger] on campus. (10 jurors consent, 0 stand outside)

The jury also came to the following statement on reporting this violation to other institutions of higher learning:

Some jurors feel [Rum Tum Tugger] would continue his distracting behavior should he attend graduate school. Though, we feel very strongly that his adorableness and irresistibility should be considered when deciding whether or not to consider this a disciplinary proceeding. (10 jurors consent, 0 stand outside)

Finalizing Resolutions:
All parties were present for this meeting. Skimbleshanks felt comfortable with all of the resolutions, and no longer harbored ill feelings toward Rum Tum Tugger. He stated he could now see why Rum Tum Tugger’s distracting behavior was so appealing to the Pollicles as Rum Tum Tugger was positively adorable. Alonzo spoke on behalf of Rum Tum Tugger, saying that they felt comfortable with all of the resolutions, and were very glad Rum Tum Tugger would still be welcome on campus. Throughout this discussion, Rum Tum Tugger wandered around the room, crawling under chairs, and eventually settling down on the radiator. Given that all parties were comfortable with the resolutions, the jury consented to them with no changes:

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**Post-Trial:**
The resolutions were not appealed by either party. Rum Tum Tugger did not write his letter to the community as he is neither literate nor fluent in any human languages. Skimbleshanks did complete his guide on how to be a good confronting party, but it was not determined to be within the spirit of the resolution, as its only content was “do not confront a cat.” Thus it has not been appended to this abstract.

**Discussion Questions:**
1. Should Skimbleshanks be frustrated with Rum Tum Tugger’s lack of response to his confrontation? Is it ever appropriate to confront a cat?
2. Is subtlety necessary for humor?
3. Have you ever engaged in overt physical contact with Havercat?
4. Should Honor Council be allowed to release April Fools abstracts?