Incredibles I:
An Honor Council Academic Trial
Released Fall 2020

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

Key:
Confronted Party: Mr. Incredible
Confronting Party: Professor Edna Mode
Course: Super Suit Making 225
Other Student Involved: Elastigirl (identity unconfirmed, but thought by confronting party to be Mirage of Incredibles II)
Confronted Party’s School: Nomanisan Island
Other Tri-Co School: Metroville

Summary/Pre-Trial:
This trial involves a student, Mr. Incredible, who inappropriately collaborated with another student, Elastigirl (thought by the confronting party to be Mirage of Incredibles II), on a midterm in their Super Suit Making 225 class. Honor Council first became aware of the violation when the confronted party, Mr. Incredible, self-reported to Honor Council about the incident. Several overlapping circumstances caused this trial to be run significantly after the violation was committed, as well as for the students accused of collaborating to have temporally distant and separate trials. During the preliminary meeting for this trial, the jury met to review pertinent trial information, read statements, and discuss the purpose of the trial process.

Fact Finding Part 1:
The jury met for fact finding first with only the confronted party present because of scheduling difficulties. Mr. Incredible was given a chance to give his account of what happened and to add on to what he submitted as his statement. According to Mr. Incredible, he was in Super Suit Making 225 with multiple other students from Nomanisan Island and they had formed a regularly meeting study group to work on sewing projects, which was allowed and encouraged by Professor Mode. Mr. Incredible explained that he had been falling behind in class and was struggling with grades. The week of the third midterm, he had a lot of things going on outside of the exam, which led him to ask for help from a friend during the exam.
The jury was then given a chance to ask questions of Mr. Incredible. One juror asked about the midterm format, to which Mr. Incredible replied that it was a self-scheduled exam given to students at the beginning of the week, and they were expected to return it at the end of the week. However, students were only allowed to work on the exam for three consecutive hours. Another juror asked if Mr. Incredible only took 3 hours allotted, and he responded very unsurely. Multiple jurors asked Mr. Incredible to go into more detail about what exactly happened while he was taking the exam. Mr. Incredible clarified that he started the exam, realized it was very difficult, and then decided to text his friend asking for help. His study group had gotten in the habit of taking the midterm the last day they were due, so he suspected other people were taking the exam at the same time he was. Mr. Incredible referenced his text conversation with his friend and classmate, Elastigirl, since the incident had taken place some time ago and he didn’t want to misremember anything. Mr. Incredible did not confirm Elastigirl’s identity at any point during the trial.

Mr. Incredible said he texted Elastigirl asking if she was taking the exam, which he was about to start. Mr. Incredible told Elastigirl that the exam looked hard, and asked her a few questions that he stated were general enough not to be exam-specific. One juror asked if he and Elastigirl met in person to discuss exam questions. Mr. Incredible responded that they had, and upon being asked, also added that he wasn’t sure how much of the exam they had collaborated on. One juror asked if both he and Elastigirl had their exams open while they were talking, to which he replied that he had, but he wasn’t sure about Elastigirl. A juror asked if he had met with Professor Mode over confusions in the class before. He explained that since he was a Nomanisan Island student, it was incredibly difficult for him to schedule meetings with Professor Mode or to go to office hours, but he had managed to go to a few. He also added that Super Suit Making had been a source of anxiety for him for a long time; he took Super Suit Making 100 at Metroville after dropping it at Nomanisan Island midway through. He knew this course would be important for the Super Suit Graduate School Admission Test and was feeling pressure to perform well in the class. A juror asked if he had previously taken any self-scheduled exams, which he had not. He said he was surprised at the amount of academic freedom/trust at Haverford regarding exams, something he had never experienced. The trial chair asked if the professor had well explained the guidelines for the class, which Mr. Incredible said she had, and that there was no excuse for his violation.

The trial chair asked if Mr. Incredible had any questions for the jury, and he expressed concern about the status of Elastigirl, the student he had collaborated with (thought by the Confoenting Party to be Mirage of Incredibles II). The trial chair responded that cases involving multiple people are usually run separately, and that if his collaborator was to have a trial, the details of this trial would not be repeated or used in the other trial. Only the basic information provided in the statements or by one of the parties in the trial would be considered by the entire jury. Mr. Incredible said he violated the Honor Code by not following exam guidelines. He then asked if Elastigirl would be found to violate the Honor Code if she were brought to trial and
denied collaborating on the exam. The jury didn’t know, because it would depend on the composition of the jury for the other trial.

**Jury Deliberations I:**

The jury recapped the timeline of events surrounding the violation. To their understanding, Mr. Incredible started the exam, found it too difficult and texted Elastigirl for help. They then met up in person and Mr. Incredible asked questions and did part of the exam with Elastigirl. Based on the events, the jury was suspicious that Mr. Incredible took extra time to complete the exam. The trial chair noted how unusual it was for Mr. Incredible to be so concerned about protecting Elastigirl, as that usually does not happen for cases regarding potential collaboration. Since the jury still had to meet with Professor Mode before coming to a statement, they adjourned.

**Fact Finding Part 2:**

Professor Mode was present for this meeting via Skype. She began by explaining that she noticed the two exams were similar while grading because they shared a distinct, uncommon mistake. After she finished grading, she compared the two exams more closely and saw just how similar they were. The fabric stitches were done in the same way and in the same orientation, when multiple orientations were possible, and the exams had received extremely similar scores. When Professor Mode contacted Mr. Incredible, he admitted to getting information from another student’s exam. According to Professor Mode, Mr. Incredible had not been doing very well in the class, and the professor thought this could be because as a Nomanisan Island student, Mr. Incredible didn’t get the same amount of one on one help during office hours. Before leaving, Professor Mode asked how the trial could affect the grades and graduation timelines for Mr. Incredible and Mirage (the other student she confronted).

**Jury Deliberations II/Statement of Violation:**

The jury was in agreement that Mr. Incredible violated the Honor Code, but had continued discussion about what the extent of the violation was. Mr. Incredible said he had violated the Honor Code by not following exam guidelines, and that he received help from a friend. The jury reviewed the exam guidelines, which included rules about spending no more than 3 hours on the exam and not collaborating. The jury was unsure whether or not to include Mr. Incredible spending more than three hours on the exam, because while they found it likely that was the case, they were not sure if it had actually happened. Ultimately, they decided not to include this in the statement.

**Statement of Violation:**


[Mr. Incredible] violated the Honor Code by inappropriately collaborating with a classmate on his third midterm in [Super Suit Making 225]. (9 jurors consent, 1 juror stands outside in absentia)

Circumstantial Portion:

The jury began by asking Mr. Incredible about how the class intersected with his super suit fashion ambitions. Because it was Super Suit Making 225, Mr. Incredible found it to be really important for wanting to be a pre-super suit professional. Mr. Incredible mentioned that he and his friends in the course had gotten in the habit of taking their exams on the last possible day, so a juror asked if this was related to his time management and/or study habits. Mr. Incredible said they did this in order to have as much time as possible to study. A juror asked if Mr. Incredible decided to reach out to Elastigirl in a moment of panic, and if there was anything that could have been different that may have prevented him from making that decision. Mr. Incredible said that there were resources available to him, like office hours, and he felt that he had used them. He just was in a moment of panic because he didn’t understand the questions on the exam.

Mr. Incredible was now unsure about if he was going to apply to super suit school or not. A juror asked if Mr. Incredible was having any difficulties balancing the workload between his classes. Mr. Incredible said that professors at Haverford and Nomanisan Island are very willing to give help and extensions to students who ask. Mr. Incredible noted that he could have asked for help more, but didn’t see how this contributed to him violating the Honor Code during the exam. A jury member asked Mr. Incredible if he had changed anything about his habits to potentially prevent a violation from happening again, which he said he had not.

Jury Deliberations and Tentative Resolutions:

The jury began by discussing things that they wanted to address in the resolutions. The jury thought there was some disconnect with how Mr. Incredible interacted with the Honor Code and trial process. A juror mentioned that they thought the trial goal of education was largely met, and another juror wanted the jury to address what Mr. Incredible should do if he found himself in a similar situation, so that he didn’t act with academic dishonesty again. The jury wanted Mr. Incredible to at least get a zero on the exam. A juror was frustrated that the jury didn’t get to the point of how Mr. Incredible got into a situation of collaboration in the first place. Another juror was bothered by not knowing how to remind peers about the Honor Code.

The jury started by discussing the potential merits of a guide for Metroville and Nomanisan Island students taking classes at Haverford, because while members of an academic community expect people not to cheat, Haverford students have had additional resources like HCOs for navigating the Honor Code. The idea of the guide was expanded to general resources for students in Haverford courses. The jury discussed potentially having Mr. Incredible attend abstract discussions or other Honor Council events as a way to increase his engagement with the
Code. The jury was in agreement that they wanted Mr. Incredible to write some kind of reflection about his violation and the trial process.

With regards to the grade change, some jurors were most comfortable with only a zero on the exam, while others wanted Mr. Incredible to receive a zero on the exam and an additional 0.3 step reduction in the course. The rationale for that was that it’s better to not turn anything in at all than to turn in dishonest work. Other jury members felt that a zero on the exam would already give Mr. Incredible a lower score than if he hadn’t cheated, and was appropriate for holding him accountable. The jury decided to include both versions of the grade change resolution in the tentative resolutions to get both parties feedback. However, no one wanted Mr. Incredible to fail the course, so there was a caveat phrase added so that if he would fail with a zero on the exam, he should get a 1.0 in the course instead.

There was also extensive discussion among the jury about recommending CAPS or the Nomanisan Island equivalent as a part of the resolutions. There was discomfort from some jurors about including CAPS in the resolutions because Mr. Incredible never mentioned mental health stressors beyond panicking while taking the exam and suggesting CAPS felt like the jury was making lots of assumptions. Other jurors thought there were still merits to suggesting CAPS, because people can benefit from seeing a therapist in lots of different ways. The jury ultimately decided that by having Mr. Incredible go to the OAR, the staff there would be in a better position to recommend Mr. Incredible going to CAPS if it seemed necessary.

**Tentative Resolutions:**

1. [Mr. Incredible] will develop a written guide for students about the resources and options available to them should they find themselves academically stressed. This guide will be anonymous and submitted to [Professor Mode] to be given to future students if she sees fit. This guide will be completed by the end of the [redacted] semester. (9 jurors consent, 1 stands outside in absentia)

2. [Mr. Incredible] will meet with [Professor Mode], if she is willing, to discuss his experience as a [Nomanisan Island] student and the difference in social regard/attention to the Honor Code at Haverford compared to at [Nomanisan Island]. This may help [Professor Mode’s] awareness of varying student experiences in the Tri-Co. This may also help inform [Mr. Incredible] in developing Resolution 1. This discussion should take place by the end of [redacted]. (9 jurors consent, 1 stands outside in absentia)

3. The jury recommends that [Professor Mode] give [Mr. Incredible] either a) a 0 on the exam or b) a 0 on the exam as well as a one-step grade reduction in the course, unless this would cause [Mr. Incredible] to fail the course, in which case he should receive the lowest passing grade, a 1.0. (9 jurors consent, 1 stands outside in absentia)

4. Should [Mr. Incredible] enroll in Haverford courses in the future, he will meet with the OAR before any self-scheduled exams to develop a plan detailing where, when, and how he will take said exams. Additionally, recognizing the stress of midterms and finals weeks, the jury recommends that [Mr. Incredible] meet with the OAR or its [Nomanisan Island]
equivalent to help with time and stress management skills. (9 jurors consent, 1 stands outside in absentia)

5. [Mr. Incredible] will write a letter reflecting on his violation of the Honor Code and his experience during the trial process, with the goal of encouraging deeper introspection into how he came to violate the Code. This letter will be submitted to the staff support person by the end of [redacted]. (9 jurors consent, 1 stands outside in absentia)

On Resolutions as a whole: 9 jurors consent, 1 stands outside in absentia

Statement on Reporting:

While the jury is unsure of whether this would be considered a disciplinary proceeding at other undergraduate institutions, the jury feels that this case should be reported to institutions of higher learning. (9 jurors consent, 1 stands outside in absentia)

Finalizing Resolutions:

Professor Mode and Mr. Incredible both attended the finalizing meeting through Skype. Professor Mode and Mr. Incredible both felt that a zero on the exam and a grade reduction of 0.3 in the course were fair. Professor Mode felt that having the violation reported to other institutions would be punitive considering how honest and straightforward Mr. Incredible had been since the initial confrontation. Professor Mode did not want the violation to follow Mr. Incredible beyond the Tri-Co considering how much responsibility he had taken for the violation.

Professor Mode and Mr. Incredible logged off, and the jury discussed the grade change and the statement on reporting. With a grade reduction in the course, jury members felt comfortable not recommending that the violation be reported to institutions of higher learning, since they were both different forms of accountability. Jury members who were more in favor of just a zero on the exam were comfortable consenting to the additional course reduction because Professor Mode and Mr. Incredible approved of it, and it addressed the accountability “lost” by not reporting the violation to institutions of higher learning. The jury also recognized that the relationship between Professor Mode and Mr. Incredible was already restored through the trial process, because of both parties’ honest engagement.

Final Resolutions:

1. [Mr. Incredible] will develop a written guide for students about the resources and options available to them should they find themselves academically stressed. This guide will be anonymous and submitted to [Professor Mode] to be given to future students if she sees fit. This guide will be completed by the end of the [redacted] semester. (10 jurors consent)
2. [Mr. Incredible] will meet with [Professor Mode], if she is willing, to discuss his experience as a [Nomanisan Island] student and the difference in social regard/attention to the Honor Code at Haverford compared to at [Nomanisan Island]. This may help [Professor Mode’s] awareness of varying student experiences in the Tri-Co. This may also help inform [Mr. Incredible] in developing Resolution 1. This discussion should take place by the end of [redacted]. (10 jurors consent)

3. The jury recommends that [Professor Mode] give [Mr. Incredible] a 0 on the exam as well as a one-step grade reduction in the course, unless this would cause [Mr. Incredible] to fail the course, in which case he should receive the lowest passing grade, a 1.0. (10 jurors consent)

4. Should [Mr. Incredible] enroll in Haverford courses in the future, he will meet with the OAR before any self-scheduled exams to develop a plan detailing where, when, and how he will take said exams. Additionally, recognizing the stress of midterms and finals weeks, the jury recommends that [Mr. Incredible] meet with the OAR or its [Nomanisan Island] equivalent to help with time and stress management skills. (10 jurors consent)

5. [Mr. Incredible] will write a letter reflecting on his violation of the Honor Code and his experience during the trial process, with the goal of encouraging deeper introspection into how he came to violate the Code. This letter will be submitted to the staff support person by the end of [redacted]. (10 jurors consent)

On Resolutions as a whole: 10 jurors consent

Statement on Reporting:

The jury is unsure of whether this incident would be treated as a disciplinary proceeding at other undergraduate institutions. Having considered the voice of the confronting party and her desire not to have this incident follow [Mr. Incredible] beyond his undergraduate career, the jury feels that this incident should not be reported to institutions of higher learning. (10 jurors consent)

Post-Trial:
The resolutions were not appealed. The letter to the community has been sent to Honor Council.

Discussion Questions:
• How much should the confronted party’s positive attitude and forthcomingsness during a trial influence trial resolutions?
• How can the Haverford community better help students from different institutions understand the importance and expectations of the Honor Code?
• What is the role of Honor Council to make recommendations encouraging the use of CAPS in Academic trials?

**Letter to the Community:**

Dear Haverford Honor Council,

This letter serves to reflect on my violation of the Honor Code and my experience during the trial process, in hopes to deeply introspect how I came to violate the Code. As a pre-[Super Suit Maker], I was having a stressful semester, and given the novelty of the nature of a take-home midterm for me, I was tempted to seek help from one of my classmates. The stress from the class load should not be an excuse to be dishonest, and I feel ashamed for my past actions. Throughout the trial process, I was able to see a community who sincerely cherishes the honor code and honesty and trust it brings to the community, I felt more ashamed for violating the trust. It truly was a big learning moment for me, I was able to see the true value of honest between individuals and among members of a community. It allowed me to see, however big or small a lie may be, I do not want to a dishonest person. Thank you for your understanding and patience throughout the process, and I would like to take this opportunity to once again sincerely apologize for my misconduct.

Sincerely,
[Mr. Incredible]