

## Congratulations!

To

Harry Layman & Jeff Williams

Raj Krishnan & Phil

LaRochelle

Adam Jed & Beth O'Connor

For breaking to octofinals at

WUDC 2002!

## The Clash

A Publication of the  
American Parliamentary  
Debate Association



## The Worlds

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A Publication of  
the American  
Parliamentary  
Debate Association

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Worlds Is Not Enough:  
Why APDA Needs Worlds Prep  
By Sam Rodriguez, Middlebury Debate

At the World Championships, APDA teams play to win. We, however, unlike the rest of the world, do not prepare to win. Thus, we bring home no trophy. While we favor APDA style, we must recognize that ours is not the only legitimate form of debate. It makes no sense for us to limit ourselves to only our own style—especially when a World Championship hangs in the balance.

Every form of debate has its own advantages and disadvantages. Although the logical analysis in a WUDC round is far less thorough than that of the average APDA round, the WUDC emphasis on the rhetorical elements of a debate should not be dismissed. Rhetoric is an art unto itself, and plays an important role in persuasion. An attorney does not win over a jury by logic alone. A politician does not win the favor of the masses by scrutinizing every last detail of his or her opponent's last speech.

APDA should run a World's Preparatory Tournament in the fall of 2002. This time, however, we must approach this tournament in a totally different way. First, the burden of holding the tournament should be divided among several teams in one area. This should be an APDA event, not strictly a Middlebury, Mt. Holyoke, or Bates event. Secondly, the tournament should be held unopposed in a location convenient to the APDA population, such as Washington, New York, or Boston. By making this a collaborative project, the tournament will be guaranteed the minimum number of debaters and judges to keep the event afloat for those interested in improving themselves.

To conclude, I hope we can hold a forum to discuss this proposal at the next APDA meeting. If at least three schools from one of the above-mentioned cities agree to take on the responsibilities of running such a tournament, the Board should take immediate action in favor of the project. If the initiative fails, then we should forget about holding a World's Preparatory Tournament ever again and accept the notion that APDA simply does not care enough to bring home a World Championship trophy.

**Worlds Prep: Never Again**

By Storey Clayton, Brandeis Debate

This is the case against ever attempting to hold a Worlds Prep tournament on APDA again.

**(1) Why People Don't Go**

First, most people who debate on APDA do not ever go to Worlds. Of the people who do go to Worlds, by far the most APDA people go just to have a good time. Now, of the people who both go & want to do well, many don't believe they need a whole tournament in Worlds-style to do well at Worlds.

**(2) Middlebury as a Case Study**

Many people at the APDA meeting at UMCP discussed remoteness of Middlebury as a reason for avoiding Worlds Prep this year. However, Middlebury, while somewhat remote, ran one of the best, most universally liked tournaments on the whole circuit last year. There is no reason imaginable that Middlebury should not have been able to draw 40+ teams to their tournament this weekend on the basis of their excellent tournament last year.

The idea of a Worlds Prep tourney is so drastically unpopular that people who would normally send many teams to the tournament instead choose not to attend. I don't think it's fair to keep asking teams to make this sacrifice.

**(3) Preparing for Worlds**

I really don't think that we need to have a whole weekend devoted to learning a style that relies a little less on analysis, a little more on rhetoric, & a lot more on an international perspective. I really think that watching the demo video & practicing rhetoric over analysis is sufficient preparation for going to Worlds & trying to do well.

The fact that 4 quals & full OTYs were still insufficient to get the WP at Midd to SIXTEEN teams this weekend should be more than plenty indication that people value avoiding Worlds Prep over darn near anything else they value. A 25% chance of qualling couldn't motivate people to save that tournament.

We've got to stop beating our head against the wall just because it feels good when we stop. It won't feel good until we stop.

APDA,

It's my pleasure to provide one impression of the Worlds Championship. I went to Toronto with a great deal of reservation. I wasn't looking forward to competing in a style I was unfamiliar with and with opponents rumored to be less than kind. To top it off, I was the representative for the U.S. at the Worlds Council, which assured me a New Year's Day meeting that could be no shorter than five hours. A week in the blistering cold of Toronto, however, proved to be much better than I anticipated.

I found that much of the talk about hostility towards America in the Worlds Circuit was just talk. While some competitors and organizers of the competition have biases or show very poor judgment, I found the vast majority of debaters and staff at the tournament understanding and cooperative. The truly obnoxious debaters were generally equal-opportunists.

I think that the British style of debate is actually the greatest obstacle to American participation. The style is far less analytic than ours and the roles are both different and taken more seriously. BP takes some adjustment, but by discarding the perception of grandiose American bias and focusing on the style differences, there is no reason why American participation needs to remain as is.

In the Council, for example, the competitive and stylistic barrier is gone. America's voice was heard and our opinions were expressed without any significant backlash. The meeting was extremely long- but the important and controversial question of where Worlds 2004 would be held was decided. One bid, which included an official known by many as hostile towards APDA, was defeated, thanks to international cooperation. I do not believe this would have been possible, had the Worlds situation really been as bleak as it is often portrayed.

In short, I'd ask each of you to give Worlds a chance. You needn't romanticize it, but you should be skeptical of horror stories or conspiracy theories. The reality of the Championship is somewhere in between- what you take out rests on what you put in. If you engage the Championship, however, I believe you won't be disappointed.

Sincerely,  
Jeff Williams

Madam Speaker Sir,

Hello out there. This issue of *The Clash* focuses on Worlds – how it went, some funny stuff people said, and whether we should prepare more for it. As for me, I have a list of five lessons I learned from Worlds:

**1. You can keep speeches to time if you try.**

Just start banging loudly on the table, and don't stop banging until he stops talking. It rules.

**2. Nice guys don't always finish last.**

At Worlds, they will drop people for ethical violations. See, they have this crazy notion that once you make rules, you should somehow enforce them. Also, the beauty of oral adjudication is that you get to listen to judges tell people they were slimy.

**3. The only thing APDA has to fear at Worlds is APDA itself.**

Maybe it was some sort of "misery loves company" phenomenon, but in Glasgow Americans actually rooted for each other. This year, some of the nastiest rounds I heard about were between American teams. My theory is you want all American teams to win at all times. If they're hitting you, you want them to come in second.

**4. Anorexia and rape make for great debate rounds.**

Oh, wait...

**5. Stellenbosch is going to be amazing.**

Not only is Worlds' really fun, both as a debate tournament and as a week-long social event, but next year's tournament is in South Africa. Two things you should know about South Africa are that December is during the summer there and that you can buy 8 beers for \$5.

I really encourage all of you to go to Worlds at some point during your debate career. As always, send me any ideas or articles you have for future issues.

Best,

Lauren Cusick

## Points of Disorder

Overheard at a party: Why is it that when Adam Jed walked into the room he went straight for the throne?

If you're older than your country, no one should take you seriously.

- Harry Layman, on Croatia\*s 2004 Worlds Bid

"At 10 this morning, I was debating. By 3pm, I was drunk, and by 5:30 I had seen tit. This day is complete!"

-Jeff Williams

"Sure -...you were 'playing a word game,' they were 'napping,' and they were 'watching the Simpsons.'"

- on leisure time at the Royal York Hotel