



The Clash

Dear APDA,

Welcome to Columbia Novice! The Clash is APDA's quarterly publication, which aims to inform, and entertain the members of our debate world of the happenings of our community. For those of you new to the circuit (and those of you who are sticking around), we're excited about the Clash's new format.

In the year ahead, we plan on providing detailed accounts and analysis of our rounds throughout the circuit, as well as advice from yesterday and today's top debaters. We also plan on giving detailed profiles of APDA's most interesting personalities, as well as providing humorous commentary on debate as an activity.

The Clash, however, is dependent upon the debate community at large. In order to succeed, we need contributions and suggestions from the whole of APDA. In the end, the Clash will be about what you want it to be. We of the Clash wish you the best of luck this year, and hope that you enjoy Columbia Novice, as well as all other tournaments you attend.

With sincere thanks,

*Jonathan Marcus
Editor-in-chief, The Clash
APDA, Member at Large*

p.s. If you would like to share an article, suggestion, or just want to drop us a line, send an email to clash@apdaweb.org

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The American Parliamentary Debate Association Executive Board:

The People In Charge. . . Sort of

APDA President:
Greg Jennings

Welcome to the premier college debate league. As the current president of the American Parliamentary Debate Association it is my pleasure to welcome you all. Unlike other debate leagues, APDA is entirely student-run. The debate style of APDA is designed to teach you how to argue with anybody about anything. It is a style that favors innovation, humor, and sharp analytical thinking.

In addition to the great debates I've had here, APDA has been a great family to me for the past three years. Beyond the interesting discussions that you will have in-rounds, APDA is home to a wonderfully diverse group of people. From an internationally ranked chess expert to an art major from Nebraska, you'll never stop being surprised at amazing friends you'll meet here

In closing, I would like to thank the Columbia team for all their hard work, in particularly Jessee Alexander-Hoepner and Max Mayer-Cessiano. In addition, I would like to thank Angelo Carusone, the board designated liaison to the novice tournament. Without their dedication, I don't think this tournament would be a reality. I encourage all of you to thank them as well

Greg is a senior at University of Maryland at College Park

Vice President of Finance:
Patrick Nichols

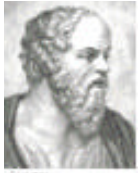
As a senior in computer science from one of APDA's few technical schools, I occasionally feel out of place in board meetings, being one of the few people capable of adding numbers and drafting a balanced budget. My ability to do the latter is probably why I'm the VP Finance of APDA, which entails collecting dues from teams, managing the league's finances, and attempting to start an APDA capital campaign. If you ever have questions about money, I'm the guy to talk to. On the side, I help run the APDA mailing list and maintain the web site.

Pat is a senior at MIT

Vice President of Operations:
Kate Meyers

I have little to prove as VP Ops. The last UMBC person to sit on the board had Pat's job and embezzled lots of money. I can't possibly be worse than that! I'm a senior at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County and my board responsibilities include being the token female, blowing Angelo kisses and making fun of Greg and Jon, a job that I am supremely qualified for. I also handle the tabulating of OTY points, helping new schools come onto the circuit, and making sure the board really does nothing except what you want us to do

Kate is a senior at UMBC



American Parliamentary Debate Association's Large Members
. . . Err, Members at Large

Angelo Carusone, Fordham University

As member at large, I am responsible for several tasks. I am the board liaison to the Equal Opportunity Facilitators Program (EOF). I am the Worlds Prep coordinator as well as the novice tournament liaison. Aside from that, I have several "unofficial duties." One of which is to serve as the board's "regulator" of sorts. Those who have seen me in action lovingly refer to me as "hatchet man." I am Pat Nichols' personal cheerleader. My other "duties" involve complaining to Kate Meyers about my life, which is merely a string of successive embarrassing moments and writing short prose such as this.

In closing, I hope that you are able to find a spot for yourself within the APDA Community and if you ever need any help finding that spot, I would gladly offer my assistance. Welcome to the American Parliamentary Debate Association!

Jon Marcus, Boston University

Hello, my name is Jonathan Marcus, you might remember me from such letters as the letter from the editor. I go to Boston University and I am an APDA Member-at-Large. If you want to know about me feel free to ask and I'd be happy to tell you all (though if you want the truth you might want ask someone else (ie. Kate)). I am the guy who does the Clash and the website, with the help of many fine individuals. If you need anything feel free to e-mail (USFJonny@aol.com) or call (516-241-3986) me. I hope you enjoy your time here on APDA and have a decent day.

The Clash would like to apologize here for the missing profile of Jay Cox. Due to unavoidable technical difficulties, Jay's profile was lost in a mess of burned circuitry as Jon's computer self-destructed, Mission Impossible style. All we can offer is this stupid quote and that Jay is a great guy

Nothing is more intolerable than to have to
admit to yourself your own errors.

Ludwig Van Beethoven

P.S. Jay's profile will appear in a future issue of the clash

P.P.S. Jay, if you what to hire someone to take care of Jon's incompetence, we can arrange that



The Nitty Gritty: How do I do this debate thing anyway?

Special Column:

By Sean Kates

When I joined the Maryland Debate Team as a freshman, I excelled at about one thing, and that was tearing things down. Whether it was a wardrobe choice, or the Berlin Wall, I made sure that the issue or item in question was irrevocably changed by my critique, or would have been had anyone been listening to my stupid rants about the Berlin Wall. It would seem, then, that taking the opposition bench in a debate round would come naturally to me. However, it did not, and I am not sure that anyone truly starts off as a great OPP debater. That being said, I can offer a few humble pieces of advice. These are things I learned from debaters far better than I will ever be, and lessons from which I think most debaters would benefit greatly.

Steve Maloney once explained creating an opposition philosophy to me using a metaphor concerning chess. A sucker for the game, I found I took a great deal away from his simple story. In chess, Steve explained, the first person to go has to start by making a move away from the original position, or setup, of the pieces. As with any chess move, this move hopefully strengthens the competitor's advantage in one place, but invariably weakens it in another. Chess, as a game, is about exploiting the weaknesses found in your opponents' moves. So, too, is debate, specifically when opposing a case. The Government must run a case that changes the status quo in some manner, just as the first

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Nude, Lewd and Funny

By Patrick Nichols

Using humor in debate rounds is often risky – an incorrectly delivered joke can make an out-rounds audience roar in laughter, or it can meet hushed, embarrassed silence. Though risky, the payoff of being funny in debate rounds is worth it – an amusing speech can win over a crowd, garner extra speaker points, or give you an edge over a less compelling opponent. There is no recipe for humor, but there are a few basic “dos” and “don’ts” of being funny in debate rounds.

There is a fine line between being witty, sarcastic, or funny, and being seen a pretentious asshole. (The fineness of this line varies from person to person, and style to style. I am often on the wrong side of the line.) The key to using humor in debate rounds is to never cross that line. When your opponent makes a particularly poor argument, you can often effectively make fun of the argument in a humorous manner. At the same time, it is important to make sure that you don't *only* make fun of the argument; make sure you also demolish it analytically. There are both funny and unfunny replies to arguments:

- Funny Reply: This is the sort of argument that a million chimpanzees with typewriters would come up with after years of hard work.
- Unfunny Reply: This argument is dumb.

Recently, I had to debate a case concerning the legalization of nudity – a topic that had plenty of room for funny arguments and remarks. One good way to be humorous to intersperse light-hearted remarks among more serious points – this can add levity to a round, as well as to grab the judge's attention. For example, in a round about nudity you might have the following arguments: 1) Some people might be offended by public nudity. 2) Public nudity might pose a public health concern. people to walk around public, as many people will be struck blind by the site of ugly naked people. When making this argument in the round, I used myself as an example. I should not be allowed to walk around in public naked.

Pat's Advice: In general, using exaggerated examples, funny accents, weird arguments, and any number of things will make for a funny, enjoyable debate round. Debate is about making sound arguments, but it is also about being a compelling public speaker. Being funny in rounds is a great way to enjoy debate and to give your judge a reason to give you the win in a round. Give humor a try.



The Nitty Gritty: How do I do this debate thing anyway?

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player must move his or her piece away from the starting position. Opposition, then, is simply to find out where your opponent has opened themselves up to attack. True, it is much harder than it sounds, but the best start to finding a strong Opp philosophy and quickly attacking the government's case is simply to find out where they have opened themselves to attack. Hannibal used elephants because the Romans did not defend their mountain passes. He knew where to attack them, and that was the important part. Plus, he had freaking elephants.

And therein lies the second half of my small bit of advice. Know your own weapons, and use them well. If your sarcasm is biting and effective in bringing a point across, use it to bring key points to the judge's attention, and turn the round in your favor. If you excel at slowly and rationally breaking piece after piece of an argument, then focus on that. Do not imitate anyone's style, as it rarely ever works for two people. Remember also that you have a partner with talents, and knowing those is just as important as knowing your own.

The last thing bit of advice concerns the nature of good opposition debating. Opposition is not about simply refuting, but also upholding and creating. Build your own case, one complete with its own distinct points backed by solid argumentation. But unless you want to be crying like some Carthaginian over a burnt down city and salted earth, make sure to defend it as well as you would were you on the opposite side of the house.

The Forgotten Debater

The Member of Government

By Adam Jed

There are a variety of ways to begin the MG speech. One tactic, often used, is to make an "independent point." Try not to just save points that really should be part of the case given in PMC. MG independent points are best used if the MG suddenly thinks of an important new argument that is more than just a response to the opp, or if the round starts to get muddled and a substantive argument can help to clear it up. Another tactic for beginning an MG speech is an MG overview. Basically, the MG gives a broad explanation of where the round is going, what issues are becoming important, and where the opposition may have failed to address something of particular importance.

However, more often than not, it is best to just begin the MG by jumping right into the arguments in the round. Normally, one should begin by addressing the independent points brought up by the LO and then go back to reconstructing the points on case. Be careful to always flag what you are addressing so that everyone in the round can follow you. For example, "The first independent point made by the LO is....., I have 2 responses, My first response is..... Back on case, the first thing we talk about is why autonomy is good. . . In many ways, this speech is similar to an LOC.

It is critical that every argument get addressed by the MG, because this is the only time that the Gov team can respond to arguments made in the LOC. However, it is important to realize that an MG must focus on supporting the actual case. You may have a brilliant argument or example that explains why a single argument made in the LOC is a poor one. However, make sure that the argument or example does not give a good reason that your case is wrong.