

Dear Coaches and Students:

Much of what follows you know from previous years. Some of it is new. Please read the invitation carefully, so that you can't say we didn't warn you!

We invite you to the 44th annual Malcolm A. Bump Memorial Tournament, November 13-14, 2009, at Hendrick Hudson HS, Montrose, NY. We will again be offering Varsity and Novice Lincoln-Douglas Debate and open Public Forum Debate. We hope to once again offer strong competition, efficient tab rooms, good food for both debaters and judges, and a decent place to hang your hat for our student housing. We usually break to double-octos in Varsity LD, octos in Novice LD, and either octos or quarters in the PF division. Bump remains a TOC qualifier in LD at the Quarters level and PF at the Semis level.

Varsity LD will debate the November-December NFL resolution; PF will debate the November resolution. Novice LD will debate the "Modest Novice" resolution, "Resolved: Civil disobedience in a democracy is morally justified." Visit <http://www.modestnovice.org/> for details and discussion of this topic and its rationale.

Definition of a novice: A novice debater is defined, at this tournament, as a student in his or her absolute first year of debate. **Any** previous high school forensics experience negates a student's novice status. Novices who happen to be in their sophomore year, with no previous forensics experience, are perfectly acceptable. Novices in their junior or senior year, on the other hand, should set their sights higher and enter the varsity division. Students with pre-high school debate experience (i.e., middle school), may enter either the Novice or Varsity divisions, at the best judgment of their coaches.

Important note: No teams will be accepted into the tournament without a responsible adult chaperone, unless other plans are made in advance with the Tournament Director. Showing up without a chaperone and looking like a wounded dove will not suffice. An adult, for these purposes, is defined as a college graduate twenty-one years of age or older. And no teams will be accepted except as official entries from their schools unless, again, other plans are made in advance with the Tournament Director.

REGISTRATION:

All pre-registration is at www.tabroom.com, beginning 10/1.

Pre-registration will close at 9:00 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov 4. This will allow us to finalize food and judge needs in a timely fashion. There is an initial limit of 6 Varsity

Lincoln-Douglas debaters, 8 Novice LD debaters, and 5 PF teams per school. If you predict a likelihood of needing more slots, we will waitlist them. Note: we have historically filled up weeks before the deadline; waiting till the last minute may mean we can't get you in; we have just so much space, and once it's filled up, we're done. If slots remain available after 11/4, they will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis via tabroom.com, going first to schools totally shut out; extra slots will only be given after all locked-out schools have their chance.

Drops and other changes will be accepted without penalty through 9:00 p.m., November 9. Fees will be fixed at that time, payable at registration. **Please note that we are simplifying late fines this year. Anyone with registration changes at the table will simply put \$25 cash into the donation box; total donations will be given to the NYCFL charity supporting debate in developing nations.** We have eliminated registration fines because we've grown to believe that they tend to be as much trouble on both ends. We just want a fast, accurate registration. Complicated fines never really seemed to speed things up or make things more accurate, so if you can't get things straight, you've just made a contribution to charity.

FEES:

Same as last year. \$90 per PF team, \$60 per Varsity LD debater, \$45 per Novice LD debater, \$25 general school fee (for judge lounge amenities, etc.). Fees are fixed 11/9/09 at 9:00 pm. All fees are due at registration; checks only please, payable to Hendrick Hudson High School Student Activities Fund.

We will once more have a few judges for sale in all divisions. First come, first served, \$160 a pop, one per school unless there's extras, request them through tabroom. No fractional judges are available, and judges may not be shared. You will be notified via tabroom if your requests are accepted. (Please note that Bump does not sell arithmetic: if you buy a judge from us, it is a real, live person. If we have no real, live persons of the judge persuasion available to us, then we do not cross our fingers and sell them anyhow.)

THIS IS NEW: We have seen a growing trend in tournament after tournament of judges not being available for the entire tournament. "So-and-so will show up for round 3," we are told, or has to leave before round 5, or whatever. At Bump, every team must cover all its rounds. A surcharge of \$25 per missed round will be charged. If we know your judges are out for certain rounds prior to registration, that fee will be added to your registration invoice. If you inform us during the tournament, or rounds are missed without warning us in advance, then we will bill you during the last preliminary round for all your missing judges. This money is not going to charity: it is going to pay for the extra judges that had

to cover the teams of the schools who snuck out of fulfilling their obligations. Schools not paying these fines by the end of the final prelim round will not be allowed to enter elimination rounds, and will earn no awards, and will be barred from Bump in the future.

MORE NEW STUFF:

The tournament will be updated via @DebateTab on Twitter. Visit <http://www.jimmenick.com/twitter.html> for details. Also, as pioneered last year at the Northeast Championships, we will post all round result sheets as soon as possible after inputting the information. Our goal with this is to minimize and correct errors. We will also publish the elim brackets when break rounds are announced, to make fair the knowledge of who might hit whom when.

FOOD:

Dinner on Friday will be provided at the tournament. Once again we intend to offer a spread of various six-foot-long heroes, including vegetarian options. Housing families will provide light breakfasts on Saturday. Lunch Saturday will be provided by the tournament; this will prevent the dreaded "debater drift" of tournament participants disappearing into the various dens of iniquity, burlesque shows, Disney princess exhibits, roller derby arenas and do-it-yourself sushi joints that surround the high school, making the place a virtual Pleasure Island of future donkeys for the students who actually attend there.

HOUSING:

We can house up to 150 students (high school students only) who travel a considerable distance; bring a sleeping bag. All housing requests must be submitted through tabroom.com. We can offer no more than these 150 housing slots, on a first-come, first-served basis. A number of motels are available nearby for coaches and adult chaperones; please keep in mind that it is a drive to all of these motels.

Peekskill Motor Inn, 634 Main St., Peekskill 10566. The closest venue.

Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites West Point-Fort Montgomery, 1106 Route 9w, Fort Montgomery, NY 10922. Right across the Hudson, about 20 minutes away.

Route 9A, about half an hour south: **La Quinta Inn Elmsford** 540 Saw Mill River Rd, Elmsford, NY 10523

The **Alexander Hamilton House** is a small B&B in Croton, close to the school, with only 8 rooms. (914) 271-6737

The various motels in Tarrytown and Fishkill (for those of you who are familiar with these) are all also easily accessible, about half an hour away, and may be worth a look.

JUDGING:

Public Forum: The ratio in PF is 1 judge for every 3 teams. If necessary, we will augment the pool slightly with LD judges off and on. For the sake of consistency, and because schools often send new PF judges, we will have a short training session prior to the PF round one. Of course, coaches should also see to informing their PF judges in advance of what they should expect.

All PF judges must remain available for the first elimination rounds, even if their own teams do not break, and must subsequently remain available for one round after their own teams' elimination.

LD: In LD, schools are asked to provide one qualified LD judge for every 1-3 LDers in **each division**. That is, you need to cover your varsity separate from your novices. For example, if you have 2 varsity and 1 novice, you are required to provide a judge for the 2 (it's a 1-3 ratio) varsity, and a judge for the 1 novice (a similar 1-3 ratio). Experienced Junior and Senior LDers are acceptable as novice judges (and will be housed by us, if you request it in time to include them in our 150 slots). There are no strikes or community rankings in the novice division.

Keep in mind that a qualified judge understands the activity, speaks English, and is either experienced sitting in the back of the room with a flow pad, or else has been carefully trained by the team he or she is accompanying. A qualified LD judge knows how to assign speaker points, and knows how to fill out a ballot. If you need some instructional materials in advance for your lay judges, feel free to use ours (visit www.jimmenick.com/mhl/judge.html), but please do not try to sneak in a ringer. When you provide an incompetent judge, we usually find out about it only after a number of competitors have been, in a word, shafted, while you have been basking in the glow of judging by trained or experienced judges. This tournament is happy to provide a dozen reasons why we love lay judges in LD, but by that we mean a lay judge who knows what to do, even if just starting out, as compared to a seat-filler used by you to gain entry to the tournament.

To maintain a level of usability in the Varsity LD judge pool, we ask that each varsity judge be rated by you when you pre-register, as follows:

#1 – Coach, or experienced former debater

#2 – Parent or adult chaperone, with more than one year's experience judging regional tournaments

#3 – Newcomer whom you have carefully trained, and whose training you vouch for

All LD judges must remain available for the first elimination rounds in their divisions, even if their own teams do not break, and for one round after their teams are eliminated thereafter.

This year we will again offer community ratings and strikes in Varsity LD. This is how they work.

Strikes:

Any Varsity LDer registered by 9:00 p.m., November 9, with proper judge coverage (yours or hired), will be able to strike 3 judges. A complete judge list will be posted on tabroom.com after the closing of registration. Strikes must be entered by 9:00 p.m. November 11 in order to be included in Round 1.

Any LDer who has made strikes but whose own judges fail to materialize at the tournament, will forfeit their strikes.

Other students will be allowed to enter strikes at the registration table on November 13, but we can only guarantee that their strikes will go into effect by round 3.

Strikes may not last through elimination rounds, but usually this is not a problem, and we have not had to ignore strikes yet in previous years.

Community rankings:

In an effort to equalize the judging pool without giving any particular advantage to anyone, we use a system of ranking the judges by popular consent. Our belief is that "A" judges should be adjudicating so-called bubble rounds (down 1 or 2), as these are the debaters still in contention for elimination rounds. "C" judges are best placed for adjudicating where the stakes are less high. And "Bs" fit where they fit. Rather than the tab room deciding arbitrarily who's what on their own initiative, we will leave it to you. We will post a list of judges (with their 1, 2, or 3 ratings) on November 9. Each **school** (not each individual) may rate each judge A, B or C. We will simply rank a judge where he or she gets the majority of votes; that is, no complicated math, just rate them as the arithmetic sees them. We set no limits; you can rank as many as you want whatever you want. Rankings are due with strikes, by 11/11 at 9:00 p.m.

As for elimination rounds, we will pair as equitably as possible; that is, every round should get the same proportion of A/B/C.

Judges added to the list after 11/9 will be ranked by the tab room.

Other judging issues: Judges may or may not publish **paradigms** as they see fit, but they should be willing to indicate to competitors before a round a general sense of their vision of LD (if any) or a sense of their experience, to aid competitors in choosing how best to make their arguments. To make things clear, Bump follows the rules of LD as set down by the NFL, including standard use of CX time, equal burdens (i.e., no presumption for either side), etc. If you do not know the rules of the NFL, we would suggest that either you give up judging immediately, or else learn them. They're available at http://www.jimmenick.com/henhud/LD_description_NFL.pdf.

As Bump does award speaker prizes, the concept of **speaker points** at this tournament should be clear. The points are from 20-30, which means, in effect, a scale of 1-10. Our paradigm is that the points are analogous to grades: 29-30 is an A (excellent), 27-28 a B (good), 25-26 a C (average), less than 25 a poor performance that needs work. Points in LD should reflect the debating skill of the competitor in the round, and need not reflect the actual win/loss (i.e., low-point wins are acceptable, as are half points). Because of the more oratorical nature of PF, there are no low-point wins in that activity.

DIRECTIONS:

From points north, get from Rt 84 to Rt 9 South. Stay on Rt 9 past Peekskill and exit at Welcher Avenue. Go straight off the exit. This will put you on Route 9A. The school is about 2 miles south on your right.

From points south, get to Route 9A north. 9A becomes Rt 9 in Croton. Exit Rt 9 at Montrose and turn left on to 9A (again). The school will be about 2 miles north on your left.

We are half an hour from Stewart and Westchester airports, and an hour or so from the metro New York airports.

ARRIVAL:

The following will make everyone's life easier, I hope.

On the morning of the tournament please text 914-382-2661 as soon as you have collected your team and boarded your bus or other vehicle of choice, with either a confirmation of no changes, or a list of changes. This will speed registration enormously. (The reason we prefer texts to regular phone calls is that data transmission of texts is 100% accurate in our limited-service area, whereas phone calls from the bus all sound like you're being attacked by werewolves, which, in fact, may be an accurate description of your bus ride, but we don't want to know about it.)

Plan on arriving after 2:15. You will not be let onto the school grounds before that; our buses simply do not wish to perform a mating ritual with your buses. If you find yourself arriving early, consider the following:

- North of the school there is a diner, near the Route 9 Welcher Ave exit. Across from the diner is a small shopping center with a McDonalds and a Chinese restaurant. There's plenty of room at either the diner or the shopping center for a large bus. Have a snack.
- These are more car or small bus territory: Across from the school and slightly north there's a Dunkin Donuts and a couple of other joints of that ilk. Across almost directly from the school and slightly south is a Mexican cafe. To the south on the same side of the street as the school there's a pizza joint (Some-Number-of-Brothers Pizzeria). Have another snack.

Remember: only adult chaperones/coaches will be allowed to register teams. Teams that misplace their adults will be sent packing. But you will still owe us your fees, because we held space for you that others could have taken.

Important note for those in the novice pool: you will be back and forth between the high school and grammar school often over the two days of the tournament. If the weather looks iffy, do yourself a favor and bring an umbrella. You will thank me for this, I promise you.

Tentative Schedule

Wednesday, Nov 4

Registration closes at 9:00 p.m.

Monday, Nov 9

All fees set at 9:00 p.m. All LD judges due.

Monday, Nov 9

LD Judge ranking/strikes begin on tabroom.com

Wednesday, Nov 11

LD Judge ranking/strikes end 9:00 p.m. On tabroom.com

Friday, Nov 13

As soon as you leave your school please text 914-382-2661 en route to report: A) all is fine, or B) any registration changes. This will speed everyone up at the registration table.

Circa 2:30 No one will be allowed to enter the premises until the place is emptied of Hen Hudders at the 2:15 dismissal. Nevertheless, we still plan to begin Round 1 at 3:30. Therefore, please schedule your trip to arrive between 2:15 and 2:30; if this means circling the block a few times because you wisely decided to come early, this will be laudable on your part. Keep in mind that we have to register about 300 teams in about half an hour if we want to start at 3:30. Your early call-in (see above) will help insure this.

Schools not registered by 2:45 may forfeit Round 1. If you are going to be delayed, you can connect with us on our cell phone (914-382-2661). We are requesting your cell phone number as well with registration, to make this a two-way operation. We will start without you, however, if we have to. We cannot adjust flights because you didn't allow enough time to arrive. All tabbing decisions, in other words, are made on a purely utilitarian basis.

NOTE: There will be no opening assembly aside from Menick whispering a general greeting of striking unintelligibility. An electronic virtual opening meeting will be sent to all the tournament participants outlining the rules of the day; handouts outlining the same information will also be included in the registration packets.

3:30 Round 1 LD: Varsity LD preliminary rounds in the high school, Novice LD prelims down the hill at the grammar school.

3:45 Introductory session for PF in the high school cafeteria

4:00 Round 1 PF in the high school

5:15 Round 2

6:30 Dinner in the high school, all divisions

7:45 Round 3. If it is deemed reasonable to do so, given its later start, PF round 3 will be held Saturday at 7:30. (They will catch up as they have fewer elimination rounds.)

10:00 Housing assignments in the cafeteria

Saturday Nov 14

7:30 Yes, Virginia. **7:30!!!** Round 4 (**forfeit at 7:45**)

10:00 Round 5

12:00 Lunch served in the high school, Round 6 begins in Varsity LD

1:00 Elimination rounds begin in Novice LD and PF.

2:00 Elimination rounds begin in Varsity LD.

We target two awards ceremonies: for LD following Varsity octofinals, and for PF following semis. This should allow all students to enjoy recognition for their achievements at the tournament, while keeping things moving efficiently. (We will try to get everyone together at the same time, if possible.)

As usual, we can only hold final rounds, if warranted, provided that they begin earlier than 9:00 p.m. (By begin, we mean begin: all judges and debaters in the room, at the very least in a 1AC.) The decision to hold the rounds will be announced no later than the emptying of the rooms from the various semifinal rounds. (If you wish to query this position, there are those among us who will be happy to rant at a moment's notice over the abuse meted out to debaters in aid of... something... at too many venues. We hesitate to even suggest a reason why tournament directors feel their events should last longer than the Crimean War. And given our custodial fees, we're even more vicious these days than usual.)