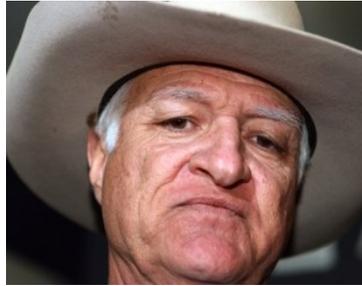


Pig's

University of Queensland Debating Society



Head

Tomas Heard, Lauren Humphrey, and Alex Molloy
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Queensland robbed at Australs, Responds by Trolling Nation Katter Style

In early June 3 teams and 3 adjudicators from UQ trekked over to Auckland to compete at Australs. All UQ teams performed outstandingly. UQ 3 (Nick Derrington, Jess Tinsley, Byron Hewson) won 5 out of 8 debates, missing out on the break on speaker points. Importantly, they controversially defeated Auckland 1, one of the tournaments strongest teams, and prevented them from breaking.

UQ 2 (Anthony Smith, Parker Reeve and Tom Ashby) also won 5 debates, only losing to teams that made the break, and pushing the tournament winners Victoria Wellington 1 to a narrow 2 point loss. Unfortunately, they ranked 17th overall, missing out on the break by less than 1 speaker point.

UQ 1 (Kristen Price, Sarida McLeod, Pat Begley) broke 8th with 6 wins. However, they were 'defeated' by Auckland 2 (eventual runners-up) in their Octo-Final. Kristen Price was also the 4th best speaker overall, the highest any UQ speaker has ever tabbed at Australs.

On the adjudicating front, David Stephens and Michael Mohun broke as adjudicators, adjudicating to the ESL Semi-Finals and the Open Quarter-Finals respectively.

Thomas Ashby



Hipster president is not amused by your adjudication.

Gossip

- Caped crusader and vigilante hero Kaerlin continues battle the seedy underbelly of Brisbane's Valley. His recent hospitalisation would seem to indicate that the crumbs of society have the upper hand.
- The relationship consulting business ChalkCo has gone into receivership for lack of professional inspiration.
- A royal commission has discovered that one Parker Douglas Reeve is still setting the competition topics despite an injunction for the public good. The Commission was tipped off by the hairy/boring prostitution topic.
- Dale dug a hole, and as a variation on last time, filled it with water.
- Kekkers continues to flaunt rules stipulating that members of the UQDS must date within the society. He is quoted as having said 'what do you expect me to do, all of the good ones are already taken!'
- Molloy and Lauren have been indicted for performing lewd acts in a public place. The offence was aggravated due to the presence of nearby picnicking children.
- Sashby continues to be a boring source of gossip.

Internals inconclusive, nation cries out for stability

The traditional UQ open competition was taken out by perennial old-timers 'We were here when.....' (Robert Forsaith, Parker Reeve, Stacey McEvoy) in a 4-3 split over 'Nick Sowden's Political Career went down faster than Carl Williams' (Oliver Badenhorst, Sarida McLeod, Nihal Kumta and Nick Derrington). The defeated Semi-Finalists were 'All the single ladies' (Emily Chalk, Jessica Rusten, Pat Begley and Tom Ziukelis) and 'The worst kind of threesome, except any involving Lauren and Molloy' (Kristen Price, Kaerlin McCormick and Tom Ashby). Kristen Price was the best speaker overall and Lucy Wark was the best novice speaker.



Pictured: the best kind of threesome.

A Tale of Two Cities... errrrr Lovers

It was a quiet and pleasant function at the Molloy Manse. The people, friends of diverse ilk, discussed the ways and woes of the world over a chilled beverage or three. As the night wore on, it became clear that two of the partygoers felt more than the mild gravitational attraction that two bodies of matter experience in space. Theirs would turn to be a whirlwind romance, an explosion of raw chemistry and fiery passion torn asunder by the cruel mistress of circumstance.

The night wore on. A gentle West Wind rolled across the gardens, and a fine drow began to grace the leaves. But alas, the eyes of the garden were drawn from the nourishing dew, left to accumulate and fall to the ground, unwanted and forgotten. The garden was rapt with the scene that was unfolding before its eyes, the newcomers who felt a depth of emotion unknown and unknowable to the leafy observers.

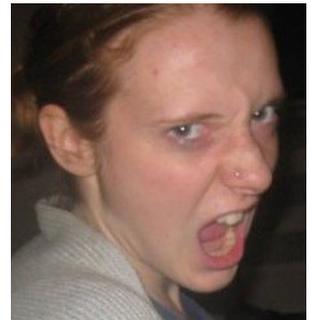
One was long of leg. His hazel eyes bespoke all at once the passion of the tiger and the genteel, majestic grace of the stag. He stalked his quarry, but always knowing that his prey wanted his claws, his teeth, and his dominance...

The prey was hardly such. As the nymph Calypso deceived fine Odysseus, so this one's striking looks and feminine allure left our hunter a slave of his own passion, bound indelibly to her by a flick of her copper hair or a coquettish bat of her long luscious lashes. One spectator later compared this dance of passions to the mortal kombat of mongoose and cobra – the cobra hypnotising its quarry and striking, assured of the kill, realising too late the magnitude of its folly, the depth of its deception.

Finally the lovers embraced. Secluded from the party, serenaded by the disarming melodies of the evening's fine playlist, they abandoned sensibilities to passion, threw caution to the wind, and surrendered to their base desires. Their lips met. Angels sighed, fairies cried, demons died, and elves vied to lay eyes on this fantasy communion. Zeus turned to Cupid, contented and impressed 'Nice f***ing shot you freaky little cherub'. Hades rumbled from the Underworld 'Boom, Headshot!'. The wind forgotten, the lovers nestled into each other's arms, quietly and determinedly eating each other's faces.

Every fairytale comes to an end however, and before long the night drew to a close. The lovers departed. Only the West Wind knows what promises and plans were laid that night, or if each lover accepted that the World was not ready for the union of a BA and a BSci. We will never know. Each soul went their separate way, briefly quenched of their base human need for intimacy, but not quenched of desires that they would need to sort out later in the privacy of their own homes.

It is my hope that this young couple should not be forgotten. Theirs is a love that should echo through the ages, a beacon of hope for the lonely and disillusioned. A tale of the purity of passion. A tale of the virtue of abstinence. A good story to pay them out about next time you see them. (In case you missed the subtext, Patrick and Bec hooked up at my party last Saturday)



The fair maiden limbers her jaw in preparation for face-eating

THE LOST ART OF DIRECT REBUTTAL

I have witnessed a disturbing trend in both schools and university debating over the last year. It is a trend away from rebutting arguments *directly* and towards *indirect*, roundabout responses to ideas raised by the other side. It is cowardly, lazy and an abandonment of the daring, direct engagement that has become a cornerstone and hallmark of UQ debating. In fact, it is getting so bad that we are beginning to resemble a bad scene from the Abbott-Gillard debate (if you could really call it a debate).

What is direct rebuttal?

Let me provide an illustrative example -

Argument - deep sea oil rigs are too dangerous because we can't work at those conditions if something goes wrong.

Indirect rebuttal (what you will see 9 times out of 10) - oil is crucial to all kind of key industries in our economy like the medical, computer technology and construction industries. So spills are a necessary cost of these industries.

Direct rebuttal (*increasingly rare*) - we challenge the premise of your argument that companies can't work at those levels. They constructed the rig in the first place in those conditions. The same equipment can also be used to repair a rig.

So what's the difference?

The first response implicitly accepts the claim by the opposition that leaks can't be managed. In fact it doesn't seek to challenge or question the claim in anyway shape or form – the rebuttal response *isn't even about underwater conditions*. Engage god dammit! Why would a team do that? Debaters should not even implicitly accept highly damaging claims by your opposition if it is at all possible to avoid doing so! Where possible (i.e. where it won't make you seem completely one-eyed and rejectionist), deny to the ground the veracity of any damaging claims made by the opposition.

What's the best rebuttal technique?

Use both tactics! The first response should almost always be a direct rebuttal of the other teams argument. The *second response* after that can then be any indirect rebuttal you have up your sleeve

Example: We reject the argument but we also challenge whether that is sufficient to prove their side of the topic.

And that's the lost art of *direct* rebuttal. As an adjudicator and coach I can't begin to describe its magical effect in a debate. It is amazingly refreshing - adjudicators and audience members alike will love you because you make it easy to understand the 'clash' between the two teams (probably because there is more likely to *be* some clash). Try it! Once you have you'll wonder how you ever considered that pathetic excuse for an attack on the opposition's case otherwise known as 'indirect rebuttal' could be considered to be real rebuttal.