MELBOURNE LAW STUDENTS BECOME WORLD CHAMPIONS!

A team of five Melbourne University Law students, Jonathan Gill, Fiona Hudgson, Susanna Lobez, Rosemary Martin and Daryl Williams,
won the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition in Washington D.C. on April 23 1988.

The competition is in its 29th year and this year over 200 law students from 31 countries, ranging from the United Kingdom, Japan and Norway to Swaziland, the Netherland Antilles and Hungary, participated. The United States fielded 11 teams and all other countries one each. Foreign teams have only wrested the Jessup Cup from American teams 7 times. Singapore and Canada have won twice each, the United Kingdom once and Australia (represented by the ANU) won the Cup in 1981.

The competition involves the preparation of both written and oral pleadings in a hypothetical case brought before the International Court of Justice at the Hague. This year's Jessup problem concerned a dispute between two nations, Yokum and Shangri, over State responsibility for acts of terrorism, extradition of terrorists and the limits international law places on "self-help".

The Melbourne team had won the right to represent Australia in a national competition involving teams from all Australian Law Schools held in Canberra in February. In the United States the team met West Germany, Colombia, HongKong and the University of Cincinnati in the first, seeding rounds. Its scores in this round placed the team among the top eight teams who were eligible to compete in the final rounds. Australia also shared (with Columbia Law School) the prize for the best written arguments and Daryl Williams came third out of over 100 speakers in the best oralist awards.

In the quarter finals Australia defeated West Germany once again and proceeded to the semi-final where it defeated Columbia Law School. The grand final was between Australia and Singapore. After a gruelling moot before a bench comprised of the Legal adviser to the Russian Mission to the United Nations, the head of the UN Legal department and one of the drafters of the problem, Australia was declared the world champion. Fiona Hudgson, who with Daryl Williams had argued all the moots in the final rounds, was awarded the best oralist award in the final round.

Hypothetically,

Melbourne Uni is tops

By TIM COLEBATCH,
Washington, Sunday

A team of five Melbourne University law students yesterday proved themselves the best in the world when they won the Jessup Cup, the international moot court championship contested by law students from 217 universities in 30 countries.

Fiona Hodgson, 24, of Glen Iris, and Daryl Williams, 25, a Tasmanian now living in Hawthorn, took the floor in yesterday's final case arguing for the mythical Republic of Yokum (Li'l Abner fans could guess where that is) in a fictitious case of international law based on the Achille Lauro hijacking in 1985.

In it, a ship of tourists from Yokum (the US) was cruising in the Medford Sea (Mediterranean) when it was hijacked by terrorists from PACM (the PLO). After killing a passenger and two crew, they ordered the ship to head for their base in Shangri (Lebanon), where they were first greeted as heroes, then arrested. When the Shangri Government then extradited them to the benign state of Saq (Egypt) rather than to Yokum, however, a Yokum fighter jet intercepted the plane, forced it down, arrested the terrorists and flew them off to stand trial in Yokum itself.

The task of the students was to prove that their side was acting legally and that the other was not. And in the past four months almost 1000 of the best brains among law students around the world have been grappling with the same problem as they fight through the elimination rounds.

Ms Hodgson, Mr Williams and their teammates, Susanna Lobez, Rosemary Martin and Jonathan Gill, began their work when their exams ended last December. They prepared written arguments for the national contest against teams from all the other Australian law schools in Canberra in February.

After spending all their summer holidays working on it, they won an unbroken round of six victories to become the Australian champions. They then set their sights on the world title.

They came to Washington as one of 36 teams in the semi-final round. Some days they appeared for Yokum, some days for Shangri. By last Wednesday, they had made the final eight.

On Thursday, they defeated the top West German team, the Free University of Berlin. On Friday, they took on one of America's best law schools, Columbia University, and won a unanimous verdict. Then yesterday they outpointed the National University of Singapore to bring the big cup home to Melbourne.

Melbourne's Susanna Lobez

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1989 JESSUP PROBLEM

Case Concerning a Diplomatic Mission
at the United Nations and the
Immunities of a Diplomatic Agent

The 1989 Jessup International Law Moot Court
Problem involves a dispute between a developed State and a
developing State. The Ambassador from the developed State
is involved in a serious automobile accident and is accused
of having caused it by drunk driving. The developing
country declares the Ambassador persona non grata and then
criminally indicts the Ambassador for the accident, claiming
that although the Ambassador was immune from its enforcement
jurisdiction while accredited, subsequent to the termination
of immunity he may be tried since he was at all times
subject to its prescriptive jurisdiction. Shortly
thereafter, while the Ambassador was on a vacaction in a
third State, he was extradited to the developing State
imprisoned, and is soon to stand trial.

While this is transpiring, the developed State --
which is host to the United Nations -- breaks relations with
the developing State and orders its U.N. Mission closed.
The General Assembly overwhelmingly passed a resolution
condemning the action, claiming that since the United
Nations is the accrediting body, only it may order a Mission
closed.