

Public Debate Format

PART I: Introduction

Opening greeting from Director of Debate,
Gordon Mitchell (5 minutes)

PART II: Student debate

Cynthia Kinnan opening speech (7 minutes)
Andrew Stangl questions Cynthia Kinnan (5 minutes)
Andrew Stangl opening speech (7 minutes)
Cynthia Kinnan questions Andrew Stangl (5 minutes)
Cynthia Kinnan closing speech (4 minutes)
Andrew Stangl closing speech (4 minutes)

PART III: Expert commentary

Response by Professor Davis Bobrow (15-20 minutes)

PART IV: Audience question time

Questions from the floor (25-30 minutes)

If you would like to receive a full transcript of this debate, or have suggestions for future debate topics, please contact:

Gordon Mitchell, Director of Debate
CL 1117, 4200 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15260
phone: 624-8531, email: gordonm@pitt.edu

PUBLIC DEBATE

Should the U.S. Sell Arms to Taiwan?

*Brought to you by the
William Pitt Debating Union*

Thursday, April 12, 2001
7:00 – 8:30 p.m.
William Pitt Union Ballroom

Affirmative

Cynthia Kinnan
University of Pittsburgh undergraduate student

Negative

Andrew Stangl
University of Pittsburgh undergraduate student

Expert commentary

Professor Davis Bobrow
*University of Pittsburgh
Graduate School of Public and International Affairs*

The William Pitt Debating Union

The William Pitt Debating Union (WPDU) is a student organization involved in a wide range of debating activities, including two-person intercollegiate policy debate, international parliamentary debate, and various forms of public debate. One of the oldest organizations of its kind in the nation, the Union is housed in the Department of Communication at the University of Pittsburgh. In recent years, the WPDU has sponsored debates on topics such as the race for Allegheny County executive, school vouchers, drug control policy, “no-kill” animal shelters, nuclear weapons policy, capital punishment, sports stadium finance, same-sex marriages, Pittsburgh’s citizen police review board, university unionization, and affirmative action. These debates have been staged at a variety of venues in the Pittsburgh community, and featured debating by University of Pittsburgh students and invited guest advocates.

Why Taiwan?

The recent diplomatic crisis between the U.S. and China over the fate of 24 U.S. soldiers being held on Hainan Island represents just one issue among a confluence of vexing security challenges facing the two nations. With Cold War-style rhetoric becoming more frequent and strident, China and the U.S. are seeking ways to settle a raft of disputes including controversy over the proposed U.S. missile defense shield and U.S. arms sales to Taiwan. This latter issue has particular salience in the present milieu, with an official presidential decision on the exact nature and timing of a U.S. arms package expected to be announced any day. In this climate, public dialogue and understanding of the relevant issues are especially pertinent.

The Public Debate

This event is designed to provide a forum for student debaters to present opposing views on the arms sales question, with such performances setting the stage for expert commentary and audience discussion. This format, adapted slightly from previous WPDU public debates, includes opening speeches by each student advocate, question time for the advocates, expert commentary, and finally audience questions.

The Participants

• **Davis Bobrow, Professor in the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs**

Professor Bobrow is a leading expert on international security and East Asian affairs, whose recent work has been published in *Pacific Focus*, the *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, *Kokusai Seiji (International Relations)*, and *International Studies Quarterly*. Dr. Bobrow earned a Ph.D. in political science from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and he currently holds a dual appointment to GSPIA and the Department of Political Science at the University of Pittsburgh. He brings a wealth of practical policy-making experience to the conversation, having served on the Defense Science Board for the U.S. Office of the Secretary of Defense from 1972-1995.

• **Cynthia Kinnan, University of Pittsburgh Undergraduate**

A sophomore majoring in Math and Economics, Ms. Kinnan is an experienced intercollegiate debater, having just returned from the Cross Examination Debate Association National Debate Championship in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. She hails from Golden, Colorado, and studied in 2000 at the Nanjing University of Chemical Technology in China.

• **Andrew Stangl, University of Pittsburgh Undergraduate**

Mr. Stangl is a senior pursuing majors in History, Political Science and Economics. He is seasoned in both intercollegiate policy debate and public debate, with his last public debate appearance in Pittsburgh taking place during the 1999 Roddey-Wecht student debate. Mr. Stangl’s hometown is West Des Moines, Iowa, and he spent the summer of 1999 studying at Beijing University in China.

• **Gordon Mitchell, Assistant Professor of Communication and Director of Debate, University of Pittsburgh**

Gordon Mitchell earned a Ph.D. in Communication from Northwestern University in 1997. As Director of the University of Pittsburgh’s William Pitt Debating Union since 1995, Dr. Mitchell has organized and moderated over 30 public debates in five states. He recently received the Tina and David Bellet CAS Teaching Excellence Award (2000) and the Chancellor’s Distinguished Teaching Award (2001).