

The Point Loma Free Fall Parliamentary Debate Tournament

Theme: Ethical Issues surrounding *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*,
by Rebecca Skloot



**Point Loma Nazarene University
San Diego, CA 92106**

October 29, 2011

THE POINT LOMA FREE FALL PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE TOURNAMENT

Saturday, October 29th, 2011

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Dear Colleagues,

A number of our local colleges and universities have been encouraging an interscholastic dialogue on important ethical considerations surrounding a number of important topics related to the runaway best seller *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*, by Rebecca Skloot. The administration at Point Loma Nazarene University has been good enough to allow us to focus an academic intercollegiate debate tournament that discusses some of these topic areas, mostly ethical questions surrounding science in general, stem cell research in particular, not to mention issues of race, gender, class, and privacy rights, even self ownership issues.

Additionally, I have long believed that the future health of inter-collegiate debate rests with encouraging and developing interest and ability within the Novice Division. Unfortunately, they often get lost or under appreciated at the larger tournaments with legions of more experienced competitors. Therefore, PLNU is offering a mostly Novice Parliamentary Debate Tournament this fall. Experienced students can compete in the Open Division, but it is our hope that many will instead help as judges to encourage novices from their own schools' entry level classes or other programs' teams.

This year's Tournament will be held on Saturday October 29th, 2011. It will allow limited Speech team, and/or Debate class debaters to test their mettle against other equally experienced (or hopefully inexperienced) competitors. Several programs' professors have indicated that they will count this tournament towards a student's class requirements or extra credit.

The Novice Division is designed for your first year Debate teams that consist of two partners, neither of whom has had more than 12 rounds of tournament experience in either high school or college, any format of actual interscholastic debate. Additionally, they may not have competed in three or more elimination rounds prior to the event. All other teams must be entered in the Open Division of Parliamentary Debate, and judges must no longer have eligibility to compete in the divisions in which they are judging. Eligibility questions should be cleared with the Tournament Director prior to the event.

All entries are due no later than Tuesday, October 25, 2011 by 4:00 p.m. Any changes are due by Thursday at 4:00 p.m. Web Registration will be available at www.forensictournament.net Special thanks to Danny Cantrell and Erick Roebuck who are making this web registration system available for no charge in support of free tournaments.

My e-mail address is skiprutledge@pointloma.edu We are expecting that mostly local schools attend, and even those, with fairly small entries so that we do not overload our campus facilities. Perhaps up to 5-10 teams per school might work out well. Please be sure to cover your judging commitment.

Undergraduate debaters that have no remaining PSCFA Novice eligibility and who are committed to providing a positive, nurturing environment within rounds are welcome to judge the novice division. All judges are encouraged to stress the importance of persuasive speaking skills and elocution. Excessive delivery speed and unsound or unsubstantiated arguments are strongly discouraged. Consistent with PSCFA rules coaching during prep time is allowed, and students may refer to written material or on line data only outside of the debating chambers. No such preparation materials can be utilized in the chambers once the round begins. Oral critiques should be given if the critic chooses to do so, but only after the ballot is completed and returned, but please do not cause debaters to miss the next round's

topic announcement. Be constructive and encouraging please. There will be no warm room disclosures.

The top two teams in each division (as determined by win/loss records and speaker points) will advance to the final round, *unless both teams are from the same school*. To avoid having one school close out the final round we will ask the next highest team from a competing school to debate the top team in the Final Round. Awards will be presented to top teams and individual speakers. This is to better insure an educational final round between two different programs, favoring educational opportunities for audience and competitors over the more traditional competitive end goal. For competitive purposes, such as NPDA and or NPTE points, we will recognize the closeout winners if any for outside assessment, and the actual final round debate will be instead a ceremonial, educational showcase.

Entry fees have been kept to a minimum. The tournament schedule starts later and ends earlier than most tournaments to encourage a more user friendly approach, and perhaps meals with your teams. Hopefully you can bring some senior competitors to judge to allow you to catch up on your grading in a serene environment. We are hoping to be able to provide lunch for participants free of charge. Please let us know if we may be of any assistance. Thanks for your support of this important activity.

Sincerely,

Skip Rutledge - 619.849.2391
Director of Forensics
Point Loma Nazarene University

DIRECTIONS

From North or South - Those coming to San Diego via Interstate 5, take the Sea World exit and proceed 2.4 miles and bear left at Nimitz Blvd. Proceed to the first exit beyond West Point Loma Blvd., which is Famosa/Catalina. Turn right onto Catalina. Proceed on Catalina in a somewhat southerly direction until you reach LOMALAND drive. Turn right on Lomaland – You are at PLNU!

From the East - For those coming via Interstate 15 or 163, take Interstate 8 West until it ends at Nimitz and follow the above directions beginning with “bear left at Nimitz Blvd.”

From the Holiday Inn - proceed south on Sports Arena to Rosecrans, and turn right. Follow Rosecrans about 3 miles to Canon. Turn right on Canon and proceed on Canon to the top of the hill to Catalina, and then turn left. Move quickly into the right hand lane, and turn right at the first stoplight, which will be Lomaland. Drive up the hill and you are at PLNU!

From the Airport - Simply head West on Harbor to the Point Loma area (directional signs at airport help), turn left on Rosecrans, right on Canon and see above directions from the tournament hotel from there.

POINT LOMA FREE FALL PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE TOURNAMENT
ADMINISTRATIUM

ENTRIES: All entries are due by Tuesday October 25, 2011 by 4:00 PM. Changes are due Thursday by 4:00 p.m. Web Registration will be available at www.forensicstournament.net Special thanks to Danny Cantrell and Erick Roebuck who are making this web registration system available for no charge in support of free tournaments.

FEES: For reasonable size entries, we will not be charging entry fees assuming judges are provided. If room restraints limit entries we will to work with coaches in advance of the tournaments on creative solutions.

JUDGES: Each school must bring one qualified judge to cover each two teams or remainder. Judges may be experienced undergraduates, which have used all their Novice eligibility. Coaches and senior competitors are preferred. All judges should be committed to providing an encouraging, instructional environment for the debate.

Judges should be cautioned not to hold debaters up with oral critiques, so that they can reach their next round on time. No critiques should be made before ballots are returned to the ballot table, and only then with the debater's consent. Please be constructive and encouraging at all times. All judges are asked to closely review the handout on judging.

FORFEIT RULE: A 2-minute forfeit rule will be in effect. If a team is 2 minutes late beyond the preparation time the judge should announce the forfeit and return the completed ballot to the ballot table. Late debates throw the whole schedule off.

TIMES: The standard NPDA times will be used, 7,8,8,8,4,5 with 20 minutes of preparation time to precede the round after the central topic announcement.

PHILOSOPHY: This tournament is more about education than competition and trophies. It may be necessary to follow practices not preferred at most tournaments. For Example: A school may hit itself and may have a judge from the same school as a critic. But every effort will be made to keep a critic from hearing a team from his/her team against another school's team. Know too, that we guarantee a non-closeout final round to provide more educational opportunities.

Theme: Ethical Issues surrounding the book: *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*, Rebecca Skloot. We recommend reading the book or portions thereof prior to the tournament. It covers fascinating ethical issues surrounding medical research, race and class, patients rights and privacy, group needs over personal rights, stem cell research, etc. . .

Topics: Will be taken from issues surrounding this book, please submit suggestions to me via e-mail.

Point Loma Free Fall Parliamentary Tournament
SATURDAY, October 29, 2011
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

9:00 AM	REGISTRATION (Cabrillo Hall) (Park across from Nicholson parking structure)
9:15	ROUND ONE
10:30	ROUND TWO
11:45	ROUND THREE
1:00	LUNCH (available for purchase at Cafeteria, or provided by PLNU)
2:15	ROUND FOUR
3:45	Bronze Round
5:00	AWARDS CEREMONY -- FERMANIAN CENTER (or earlier)
5:15 or ASAP	<u>FINAL ROUND: PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE</u>
6:30	Dinner with your team in America's Finest City

RESEARCH TIPS: Website Reference: <http://libguides.pointloma.edu/lacks> Special thanks to Dr. Sharon Taylor from San Diego State University who provided me with the preface to the book, reprinted below, which is available on most book ordering sites:

The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks, Rebecca Skloot – The Preface

She's usually identified as Helen Lane, but often she has no name at all. She's simply called HeLa, the code name given to the world's first immortal human cells—her cells, cut from her cervix just months before she died. Her real name is Henrietta Lacks.

I've spent years staring at that photo, wondering what kind of life she led, what happened to her children, and what she'd think about cells from her cervix living on forever—bought, sold, packaged, and shipped by the trillions to laboratories around the world. I've tried to imagine how she'd feel knowing that her cells went up in the first space missions to see what would happen to human cells in zero gravity, or that they helped with some of the most important advances in medicine: the polio vaccine, chemotherapy, cloning, gene mapping, in vitro fertilization. I'm pretty sure that she—like most of us—would be shocked to hear that there are trillions more of her cells growing in laboratories now than there ever were in her body.

Henrietta died in 1951 from a vicious case of cervical cancer, he told us. But before she died, a surgeon took samples of her tumor and put them in a petri dish. Scientists had been trying to keep human cells alive in culture for decades, but they all eventually died. Henrietta's were different: they reproduced an entire generation every twenty-four hours, and they never stopped. They became the first immortal human cells ever grown in a laboratory.

"Henrietta's cells have now been living outside her body far longer than they ever lived inside it," Defler said. If we went to almost any cell culture lab in the world and opened its freezers, he told us, we'd probably find millions—if not billions—of Henrietta's cells in small vials on ice.

Her cells were part of research into the genes that cause cancer and those that suppress it; they helped develop drugs for treating herpes, leukemia, influenza, hemophilia, and Parkinson's disease; and they've been used to study lactose digestion, sexually transmitted diseases, appendicitis, human longevity, mosquito mating, and the negative cellular effects of working in sewers. Their chromosomes and proteins have been studied with such detail and precision that scientists know their every quirk. Like guinea pigs and mice, Henrietta's cells have become the standard laboratory workhorse.

"HeLa cells were one of the most important things that happened to medicine in the last hundred years," Defler said. Then, matter-of-factly, almost as an afterthought, he said, "She was a black woman." He erased her name in one fast swipe and blew the chalk from his hands. Class was over.

In culture, cancer cells can go on dividing indefinitely, if they have a continual supply of nutrients, and thus are said to be "immortal." A striking example is a cell line that has been reproducing in culture since 1951. (Cells of this line are called HeLa cells because their original source was a tumor removed from a woman named Henrietta Lacks.)

That was it. I looked up HeLa in my parents' encyclopedia, then my dictionary: No Henrietta.

As I graduated from high school and worked my way through college toward a biology degree, HeLa cells were omnipresent. I heard about them in histology, neurology, pathology; I used them in experiments on how neighboring cells communicate. But after Mr. Defler, no one mentioned Henrietta. When I got my first computer in the mid-nineties and started using the Internet, I searched for information about her, but found only confused snippets: most sites said her name was Helen Lane; some said she died in the thirties; others said the forties, fifties, or even sixties. Some said ovarian cancer killed her, others said breast or cervical cancer.

Eventually I tracked down a few magazine articles about her from the seventies. Ebony quoted Henrietta's husband saying, "All I remember is that she had this disease, and right after she died they called me in the office wanting to get my permission to take a sample of some kind. I decided not to let them." Jet said the family was angry—angry that Henrietta's cells were being sold for twenty-five dollars a vial, and angry that articles had been published about the cells without their knowledge. It said, "Pounding in the back of their heads was a gnawing feeling that science and the press had taken advantage of them."

The Lackses challenged everything I thought I knew about faith, science, journalism, and race. Ultimately, this book is the result. It's not only the story of HeLa cells and Henrietta Lacks, but of Henrietta's family—particularly

Deborah (her daughter)—and their lifelong struggle to make peace with the existence of those cells, and the science that made them possible.