

## *Reflections 2003 On BHS Model Congress*

“By reflecting on model congress, I realized I have developed by going through different stages. Last year [sophomore] when I first got involved, I found the work and meetings, at times, to be frustrating and tedious; in fact, I even considered not sticking with the club. However, once I got past the “bill writing,” and parliamentary procedure” stages, things changed. I attended the Yale Model Congress, and I thought that it was exciting and interesting; even though it was rather hectic since it conflicted with my football schedule. Next I attended Hartford Model Congress at the State Capital and I saw things start to come together. I felt like I really flourished in committee sessions. I was confident and I felt a sense of satisfaction because I knew that I was involved in something important and beneficial. This year I experienced the third stage, “success.” I combined a better understanding of procedural rules with my natural enthusiasm and passionate curiosity, and it paid off. I received an honorable mention at Yale, and I was very proud of the fact that I passed my bill in both committee and full session. My bill placed a nation wide moratorium on the usage of the death penalty; so it was no surprise that it provoked intense debate. Next, I was on the team that won the best district court team award at Harvard Model Congress. We were lead by three great seniors, and I had a blast acting as a witness in the court room. The final stage is the stage I am in right now, “anticipation.” I am expecting Model Congress to be an intricate part of my senior year...”

--**Greg Benson** is a senior president of BHS MC and a thoughtful and stellar student. He has extended his “success stage” by winning another award at Yale this year in the highly selective and competitive supreme court program. He returns to Harvard MC in February 2003 but this time as a great senior leading his DCourt team. BHS MC appears to continue to be an intricate part of his senior year.

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“I feel that one of the most valuable things I have been able to draw from my Model Congress experiences is the ability to speak in public and in front of large groups. At the beginning of my freshman year, I was very introverted, and rarely spoke to people other than my closest friends. At my first Yale conference that year, I only spoke once, and only for about two minutes at that. However, at Yale during my sophomore year, I spoke on almost every bill that was presented, and felt much more comfortable doing so. Now, I am able to speak with ease basically anywhere I need to. I spoke in front of the Full Senate at Yale this year, and felt completely comfortable doing so. I finally won my first award at Harvard, and although it was a team award and not an individual one, I feel and hope that I will win at least one gavel as a senior. Another major thing that the Club has given me is a much larger perspective of American and World affairs. I now pay much more attention to news from around the world more than I have ever before, and I believe that I am much better off for it. I am able to keep track world events that I would never have understood before, and I have a greater appreciation of life because of it. And of course, I have learned much more about law and government than I had ever known before, which I know will help me years down the road when and if I go into the field of law...”

--**Matt Trofatter** is a senior MC president. He will have attended seven model congress events before he graduates. He a mature, bright young man who really enjoys staying in hotel rooms on our trips (inside joke:).

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“I cannot believe it has been four years that I have been a member of Model Congress. And what an honor at that... I have learned how to present and defend court cases...about civil and federal cases and how a defendant is found guilty or innocent...I have been able to debate topics more effectively, and my confidence and skill as a public speaker has improved significantly...this will help me a great deal next year as student council president and the speeches I will have to make to our student body...Finally, being a witness on the DCourt team at Harvard was an incredible learning experience. Not only did I have to know my affidavit frontward and backwards, I had to be able to respond to the cross-examination questions with quick, intelligent responses that wouldn't hurt my case. This also helped me to improve my ability as an effective debater...In conclusion, I have valued every MC experience. BHS is lucky to have BHS MC. It is by far the greatest program in the school with the most to offer, and I am grateful for the opportunities and everything that I have learned from it.”

--**Dan D'Orlando** is a senior MC president and legacy of one of the original MC presidents, brother Paul. Dan is admired for his friendly personality, diplomacy, and distinguished eyebrows☺ He is also very humble, especially in his defeat to the old man Petela at the annual Harvard Charles River Run. An award winner at Harvard last year, Dan no doubt will lead his team (along with the above gentleboys) to another gavel victory.