

First-year debate held

by Marni Goodman
Special to the Brunswickan

During the second week of classes in September, Dr. Daizal Samad told his three first-year English classes that they would be participating in a debate as part of his course.

Samad teaches one English 1-200 class at STU, and two English 1000 classes at UNB. It was decided that STU would be the government and the two UNB classes would team up as the opposition to debate the following topic: "Be it resolved that firm and immediate action be taken to raise the low level of English written by secondary and post-secondary students in New Brunswick."

All of the students were involved in the debate. Four debaters were elected from each team, and the remaining students volunteered to take part in other ways.

Eleven students, including chiefs Leanne Rooke and Joanne Gaunce, were the organizers, whose responsibilities ranged from advertising and sponsoring, to inviting special guests, including Dr. Roger Barnsley, Vice President (Academic) of STU.

The remaining students formed small groups, and took on the task of gathering information for the debaters to use in preparation of

their arguments.

Faculty and students at the high school and university levels, and members of the community were surveyed and interviewed by some of Samad's students.

Other classmates conducted research at libraries and looked through old newspaper articles for statistics.

After weeks of preparations, the talented debaters were ready for Samad's seventh-annual tournament, Saturday, November 20.

Nicole Godbout, the speaker, kept the debate running smoothly, and ensured that the audience was attentive.

STU's team consisted of Shannon Hubbard as the Prime-Minister, Emmanuella LeBelle, Karen Roberts, and Rhonda Parke. They did a very good job of defending the topic, and made good use of many facts and quotations.

The team members from UNB's classes were Melanie Ellis as the leader of the opposition, Andrew Bird, Lori Rovers, and James Robinson.

They very successfully argued this difficult topic by noting social changes and people's opinions, and by closely examining the issue.

The three judges found it difficult to decide on the winning team. They all enjoyed the debate and felt the debaters were successful in

making their audience think about what they said, and shedding light on new ways of looking at the issue.

Dr. Patrick Malcolmson, of STU's Political Science Department, commended the debaters on their courage and success in public speaking. He then suggested that the debaters slow down and focus on fewer points to make their argument stronger next time.

Dr. Roger Ploude, Chair of UNB's Department of English, pointed out the educational value of debating, that issues are complex and that there are no easy answers. He thanked Samad for reviving debates at the universities so students may become aware that "truth for knowledge is two-sided."

The Chief judge, Dr. Ian Fraser of STU's Psychology Department, was suitably impressed with the amount of involvement and information that the two teams had to offer. He announced the winners: UNB.

Last weekend's debate did not create rivalry, but united all in a relaxed but education environment. It also created a team spirit among each of these classes. The debate was a success.

Marni Goodman is a student in one of Dr. Samad's first-year english courses.

The taxi business, part three

New kid on the block not playing 'fare'

by Jonathan Stone

The city's taxi fares remain relatively constant between companies, although a new company is bending the rules.

When the Brunswickan called the different companies to inquire about a fare from the SUB to the end of Forest Hill Road, the only discrepancy came from United Taxi, who allowed three people into the cab for the same price as one. All other companies have stuck to the agreed charge of 50 cents per extra person, although United's fare jumps by a dollar if there are four passengers.

"The only thing that he's varying (United) are fares up and down the hill," said Ron Grant, ex-President of the recently-formed Fredericton Taxi Drivers' Association.

"He's giving a cut rate on that, but it works out to about the same if you go by the carload," he said.

"The companies have pretty well agreed to keep the prices as they are, for the winter anyway." Grant, who left Trius to assume more responsibility as both a driver and Marketing Manager for the Checker Group, said he stepped down from his brief term citing lack of finan-

cial commitment on the part of the other drivers. The fact that he is now working in a management position would also be a conflict of interest.

He said that of the 83 drivers who attended the association's formative meeting, only 30 had paid the \$25 registration fee.

"I stepped aside, but some of the guys are trying to keep the organization going," he explained.

What it comes down to now is competition based not on fare but on cleanliness and speedy, friendly service.

The key to speedy and efficient taxi service is having a dispatcher who knows where to place the cars for minimal pick-up time. It also helps to have an adequate fleet.

The Checker Group, which includes cars running under Mac's and Capital Campus banners, has about 45 vehicles in its fleet.

Trius, who owns Student and Penny Saver, has a fleet of about 65 taxis. They also have a wheelchair accessible vehicle.

Standard Taxi runs about 16 cars while United has about 10.

By spring, a bylaw enforcement officer, who will ensure that taxis are safe, clean, licensed and sticking to the city's bylaws on zone fares.

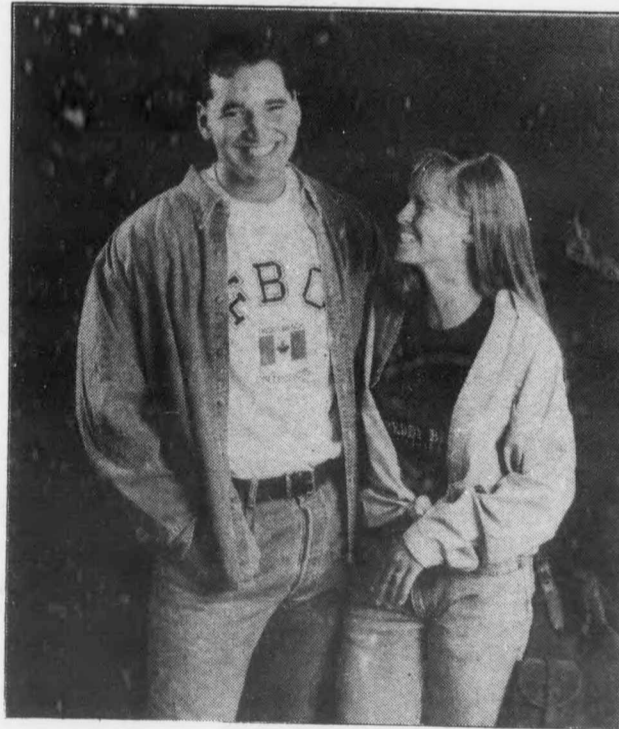
Beaver Food Service Schedule For The Holiday Season

Location	Last day of operations	First day reopening
I.U.C. Head Hall	Dec 8/93	Jan 10/94
Marshall d"Avray	Dec 8/93	Jan 10/94
Roasters - SUB, Deli	Dec 17/93	Jan 10/94
Lady Beaverbrook	Dec 17/93	Jan 10/94
Lady Dunn	Dec 19/93	Jan 9/94
McLeod House	Dec 20/93	Jan 9/94
Harvey's UNB	Dec 22/93	Jan 9/94
McConnell	Dec 23/93	Jan 9/94
University Club	Dec 23/93	Jan 4/94
Full Range	Dec 23/93	Dec 29,30/93 & Jan 4/94

Best of luck in your exams!
Have a safe and Happy Holiday.
**See you in
the New Year**



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