

Dalhousie debaters win championship

By LINDA STROWBRIDGE

DALHOUSIE HAS WON THE 1985 Canadian championship in university debating.

But Sodales, the Dalhousie debating society, is facing a potential funding cut.

The team of Cyril Johnston and Ian Hanoomansingh defeated a team from Carleton University in the final round of the national championships held at the University of British Columbia Nov. 8-11. Speaking for the affirmative, Johnston and Hanoomansingh, both third year law students, convinced the judges and the audience that "Canada's laws against the incitement of hatred should be repealed."

In addition to winning the team championship, Hanoomansingh was chosen as the top individual debater in the country.

In a four-round public speaking competition held during the debating tournament, Hanoomansingh also won the title of top public speaker in Canada. In the championship round, he was asked to speak on the topic, "A camel is a horse made by committee."

Dalhousie's second team at the tournament, Tim Daley and Desein Nearing, placed 16th in the 26 team competition. While at the tournament, Nearing was elected to the Board of Governors of the Canadian Universities' Society of Inter-Collegiate Debate.

Winning three national titles shows Sodales is "not only a worthwhile academic pursuit but a highly competitive team," says Sodales president, Tim Daley.

But the team may not be able to compete very often, says Daley, if the university administration implements proposed cuts in the society's funding.

Sodales currently receives \$1100 each year from the President's office.

Even with that funding and the \$3500 the DSU gives Sodales, the society is having trouble financing trips to important tournaments, Daley says.

Because Dalhousie is the Canadian champion, it is now permitted to send a second team to the World Championships in New York this January. But, says Daley, the society can't afford to do that.

The university administration, he says, pours too much money into sports teams.

"Universities are institutions of higher education, not sports facilities," he says.

"I think it's a shame. A society like Sodales with over 100 years of history deserves more respect," he says.

In that 100 years, the membership of Sodales has included such people as Alan Blaney, leader of the opposition in Saskatchewan; Richard Cashin, president of the Newfoundland Fishermen & Allied Seafood Workers Union; and three of the six members of the Nova Scotia Queen's Bench.

Next semester, Sodales hopes to

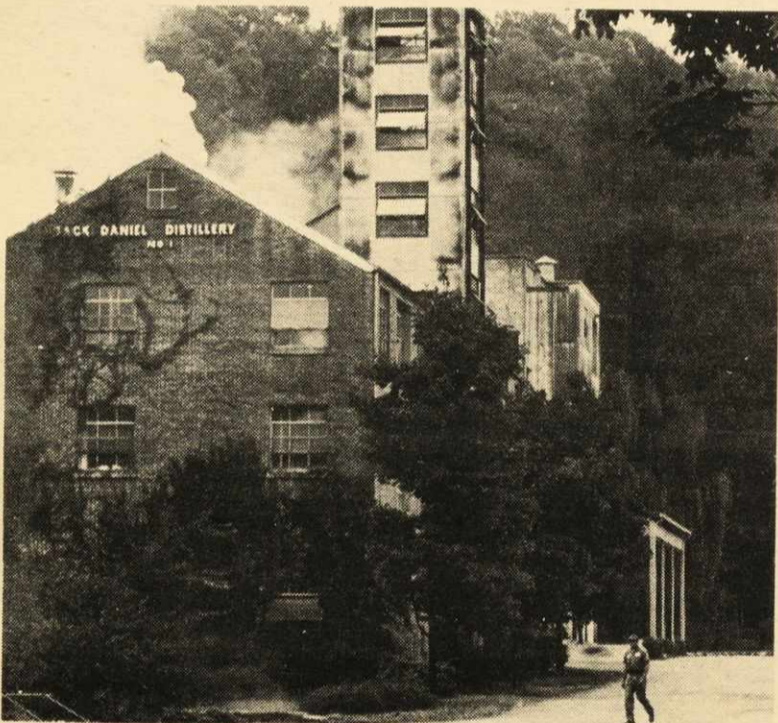
organize an exhibition debate between this year's national champions and the national champions from 25 years ago (the last time Dalhousie held all three national titles simultaneously).

The top debater in the country 25 years ago was Senator Michael Kirby.

Kirby and his partner, now Dalhousie professor Dr. Denis Stairs, captured the team championship for Dalhousie.

The public speaking championship in 1960 was won by Dalhousie student Brian Mulroney.

The proposed resolution for the exhibition debate is, "Be it resolved that wisdom dims with age."



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