

## NEWS

# Sodales dominates debating tournament

BY STEPHEN PITEL

First-year law classmates John LeBlanc and Paul Royal out-argued and out-styled their opponents en route to winning the 1991 Dalhousie Novice Debating Tournament, held during the weekend of October 4-6. Twenty-eight teams from seven universities competed in the event, making it the largest Atlantic Region tournament in over five years. In each of the three elimination rounds, LeBlanc and Royal defeated other Sodales teams, showing the strength and depth of the Dalhousie debating program. With the victory, Sodales captured the title which had eluded it in

1990.

The first four rounds of debate were held Saturday, packaged around educational seminars about various aspects of debating and public speaking. The fifth and sixth rounds took place on Sunday morning. The tournament dinner was held at Freeman's on Quinpool Road on Saturday night. Debaters then proceeded to the pub round at Domus Legis, the Law School bar. The pub round was particularly irreverent, with the debaters arguing about the removal of inter-provincial trade restrictions on the flow of beer. The highlight of the debate was a floor speech by David MacFarlane of King's College, who,

in the spirit of removing restrictions, broke free from a straight jacket during his five-minute address.

From a competitive viewpoint the most pleasing surprise of the weekend was the strength of the contingent from the University College of Cape Breton. Last year UCCB only managed to attend one tournament, and in years before that it had been all but dormant. Solid coaching and recruiting seems to have paid off, as UCCB placed third and seventh, breaking the Dalhousie monopoly on the top eight spots. Tom Gracie anchored the semi-finalist UCCB team, placing fifth individually.

The success of the Sodales team came as less of a surprise, due to considerable in-house training before the event and the presence of a large number of keen novices. Dalhousie took six of the top eight spots. In the all-Sodales final round, LeBlanc and Royal continued to dazzle the government, defeating Warren Chornoby and Sandy Cross. Speeches from the floor by David White and John Haffner injected some levity into the final, held at Province House. Strong individual showings came from Ted Livingstone (fourth), David Price (second), and Tim Costigan (first).

The successful tournament was due to the efforts of a high number

of volunteers who judged debates, organized meals, or accommodated out-of-town debaters in their homes. Sodales thanks all volunteers for their efforts, especially Carlyne Angers, the tournament coordinator.

The principal sponsor of the event was Scotsburn Dairies, who provided beverages for breakfasts and the bulk of the funds for the tournament.

Other sponsors were Moosehead, Kentucky Fried Chicken, Subway, Freeman's Little New York Pizza and Coca-Cola. Sodales thanks all sponsors for their contribution.

## Education left out of constitution debate

BY SCOTT HUGHES

In March 1992, a new round of constitutional negotiations will begin based on the federal government's proposal released in September. And once again, as in past negotiations, education will not be a hot topic of debate.

The primary reason education is not discussed in relation to the constitution is that it is an extremely sensitive area of concern for Quebec. For thirty years, governments of Quebec have strongly promoted the use of the French language within the province, and a main tool of this promotion has been the province's education system.

Jennifer Smith, a political science professor at Dalhousie, believes if the federal government is successful in gaining certain controls over education, "It's going to cause a lot of conflict with Quebec, and I don't think that's a good idea."

Proposed federal controls over certain aspects of education can also be seen in Quebec as a threat to their power to promote French language and culture within their province.

For this reason, Smith says "in the end, we'll have to reach some kind of Canadian compromise" which gives the federal government a stronger power of decision making in the field but does not exclude "an important provincial role."

Paul Robinson, a writer from Dartmouth and member of The Canada Council, which promotes arts and culture, feels that a strong federal role in education would be a good situation.

Robinson believes that through education, a country can give direction to its people and promote national goals such as reducing illiteracy or creating a more productive workforce.

A National Board of Education empowered with greater control over textbook publishing, he says, would create chances for national standardization of curriculum at the elementary and high school levels, and would take the money politics out of textbook production and selling, which extends right now (as every student knows) to the university level.

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There are people across Canada who feel that the education system should be left as it is, with the most decisions being made by the provinces. There are more people who believe that a greater federal role in education would be good for Canada and the future.

But most people are in the dark about the complexities of the education system and do not have the knowledge to support either position.

When this new round of constitution talks rolls around, don't hold your breath waiting to see educational issues get top billing in the headlines, even though they should be discussed.

## LETTERS

### "Put out" daily

To the editor:

It is unfortunate that the participation of women and children only in the "Take Back the Night March" left some individuals with feelings of segregation. In response to Jennifer Wain's letter of October 10, 1991, it must be noted that surely this was not malicious intent of the part of organizers or participants.

The fight for equality requires solidarity, but not just through public action. Solidarity is apparent in subtler forms. I believe that any individual sympathetic with the women's movement could have shown support by offering encouragement, childcare for the evening, or cheers from the sidelines.

The "Take Back the Night March" was an empowering experience for most involved. As a woman who took part, I must confess that my sympathies do not lie with those

who felt put out for one evening. My life is "put out" daily every time I check over my shoulder after dusk, walk in on a barrage of "blonde" jokes, or am devalued for being a woman.

Gayle Heinrich

### Women are ridiculed

To the editor:

I am writing to you, the editors, and the readers of the Gazette, because I have reached this state of great sadness, of futility. I am having problems understanding why some men treat women so poorly.

Last Saturday night, I sat and listened to a man complain about women. This - what we term "husky" - guy, stood up, with arms flailing, and publicly pronounced that "All women are fat. They're all fat, fat, fat..." Then, when his buddy spilt beer in his shoe, he removed it and emptied its con-

tents in the air, splashing not only myself, but three other girls. No apology.

My first response was disgust. Just where does this guy get off judging all women together, and what is this "fat" business anyway? Anger closely followed. And I know in the Hollywood world of *Thelma and Louise*, I would have gladly caused him some bodily harm. But, really, what could I do? Leaving, removing myself from the surroundings, doesn't solve the problem. And confronting him and his friends, as we later did, only caused laughter and the labelling of us not only fat, but ugly too! Why are women subject to this ridicule? Why does this guy, and his friends, feel comfortable talking this way? And where do the answers lie?

What I know, for sure, is that those men were undoubtedly the ugliest people I have encountered for quite some time.

J. Oliver

WE'VE GOT MORE  
VANDALISM, DELINQUENCY AND ILLITERACY —  
BUT WE'VE SAVED ON  
EDUCATION.



Colin Whack

