



Toronto defends censorship to win debates

Osgoode Hall Law School swept the board at last weekend's Western International Debates.

Brian Bucknall and Frank Mantello of the Osgoode team from Toronto won all five debates in the round-robin tournament qualifying them for the final debate against runners-up Allan Sehestedt and Jeff Minckler of the University of Montana.

This debate, "Resolved: This House Prefers Pornography to Censorship", was closely contested, with Osgoode Hall winning.

Sehestedt of the Montana team, supporting the affirmative of the resolution, based his argument on the beliefs that censorship is unnecessary because by today's standards nothing is shocking to the individual, undesirable because it restricts art forms and

personal liberty in choosing what you wish to read or watch, and quite ineffective.

He contended pornography is desirable because it acts as a release for perverted people, presents a realistic picture of the world, and makes the public more callous to obscenity.

Bucknall, first speaker for the negative, agreed with Montana that censorship is ineffective. "However," he added, "censorship is not intended to work. Rather, it defines pornography for without censorship you cannot know what pornography is." Censorship serves as a standard by which we can evaluate what is, or is not obscene.

Minckler of Montana defended his colleague's position by saying he did not deny the value of cen-

sorship, nor the fact that it exists. But, he said, the question of the debate is which is preferable, pornography or censorship. He said he must uphold the position that pornography is the preferable.

Mantello of the Osgoode team stated that the affirmative had evaded the central issue.

"All our society wants," he said, "is to classify obscenity. Censorship is the means of doing this."

During the rebuttal period both teams re-defined their position and accused the other side of having missed the point entirely.

Calls of "Yankee go home!" greeted Sehestedt of Montana when he thanked U of A hosts Ken and Judy Swan "for the privilege of debating in Canada, America's fifty-first state."

After a brief question period

Professor D. T. Anderson, law faculty at U of A, said there was little difference between the two teams. However, he said, as the purpose of a debate is to persuade, the judges had decided to award first place to the negative team for a well presented, subtle argument.

University president Walter H. Johns presented the winner's trophy to Osgoode Hall.

The University of Saskatchewan tied for second place with Montana. Both won four debates and lost one, but on total points U of S placed behind Montana.

U of A's affirmative team won three and lost two; the negative team lost four out of five.

"However," said Ken Swan, "U of A had no intention of winning. The ground rules stated they couldn't win."



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