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National debating finals at Dal

by C. Ricketts

"I maintain, Mr. Speaker, that the people should be kept in their place". He turned on his heel, black scholar's gown sailing, and sat down.

"I thank the Honourable Prime Minister for his opening remarks and call upon the Leader for the Opposition to address the House," said Mr. Speaker, Steve Coughlin, Dal law student and DSU chair.

The final debate for the national Canadian University Society for Intercollegiate Debate (CUSID) was held in the provincial legislature Nov. 7. Bob Lawson and Mike Gibson from the Royal Military College in Kingston took the government role to opposition John Duffy and Jeff Nankivell from the University of Toronto.

Teams from 32 universities across the country participated in the tournament, which has been in the planning stages for

months.

The government in the final debate maintained the people should be kept in their place - away from the professional elites. The army, police and government elites would be replaced by popular participation, which would be more democratic because it allowed 'everyman' to be trained and would end war.

"Keep the people away from the professional elites who like war," said Lawson. "They don't understand the rights of their neighbours because they don't work with them."

First speaker for the opposition Nankivell countered the thrust of the government's argument. "The situation is that everyone is now kept in their place - in pubs and procreation," he said.

Then the rhetorical question: "Do people in army and government remain people? No. They are governors."

The three judges for the debate, Judge Robert J. McCleave, Justice Thomas Coffin and John Dickie, Q.C. ruled with over 100 spectators in the house that the government case was not well supported. U of T walked off with first place honours leaving RMC in second.

Special guests Dal university president Andrew MacKay and Mayor Ron Wallace enjoyed the verbal sparring.

In closing remarks Judge McCleave said the participants should be in the House of Commons. "I look forward to seeing these names in elections in the near future," he said.

Top six public speakers in the tournament were John Duffy, U of T; Jeff Nankivell, U of T; Jim Harris, Queen's University; Fred Walker, University of Ottawa; Tom Harding, University of Victoria and Bob Lawson, RMC.

Help for sexual assault victims at Dal

by Shelley Ganderton and C. Ricketts

Sexual assault is an ugly experience. But for many victims, the aftermath of self-doubt, guilt and the effects on people close to them is even harder to bear.

Until this summer, there was no organization a woman could approach for counselling and information. The Service for Sexual Assault Victims (SSAV) opened its telephone lines to women on July 18.

"The main purpose of the service is to offer alternatives to the victim," said Carol. (Crisis interveners use first names only to ensure anonymity for both themselves and victims.) "This re-establishes her sense of control in decision-making and allows her to strengthen existing support systems in the meantime."

To date the service has received 26 calls. "This already matches last year's total number of reported rapes in the Halifax area," said Carol.

Between 1972 and 1980 the number of reported rapes in Nova Scotia jumped from 18 to 135 per year, partially due to increased public awareness and willingness to seek conviction of the rapist.

A rash of rapes in the south end of Halifax prompted Dr. Ed Renner of Dal's Psychology Department and his Community Psychology class to investigate the need for crisis intervention programs. Through their efforts, the SSAV program started with the aid of a federal grant. The service continues through the support of Help Line which gives SSAV access to its telephones.

Crisis interveners work with the victim on a confidential short-term counselling basis and often act as a referral service if further assistance is needed. They

are on call seven days a week. Victims or their friends/family members can call a volunteer at Helpline, who in turn contact a crisis intervener via a beeper system. The crisis worker is normally able to contact the caller within ten minutes.

"Rape is still one of the least reported and least convicted crimes treated today," said Carol. Ten per cent of rapes are ever reported and of these, only one per cent of rapists will ever be brought to trial and convicted.

If the police consider the case founded, legal processing usually

takes from twelve to eighteen months, and the low conviction rate, coupled with the emotional trauma the victim is again forced to experience in court make the decision to press charges a difficult one to consider," said Carol.

Contrary to popular belief, over 50 per cent of victims are sexually assaulted by someone they know and trust. Ages of victims range from six months to 99 years, making the argument that only "loose women" get raped unwarranted.

Ten years ago rapists justified their actions by saying women

dressed in a way that "turned them on." Today, in response to the women's movement, rapists indicate they are raping in order to "put women in their place."

"It's a power struggle," said Carol. "Most rapists are not mentally ill. About 70 per cent of them have very responsible jobs and are in a relationship with other women at the time."

She added these men rape because in one respect they can't function in a socially acceptable interaction with women.

SSAV is currently training new volunteers. Each undergoes an extensive six-day training session with a three- to four-hour workshop each evening, followed by a six-week training period with an

experienced crisis intervener. Volunteer crisis workers will then be responsible for at least two shifts per month.

Any persons interested in working with SSAV can contact Ann Keith, the SSAV co-ordinator, through the Help Line office at 422-2048.

The future of the Sheaf in jeopardy

SASKATOON (CUP)—After eliminating the campus women's directorate, the University of Saskatchewan student council is setting its sights on the student newspaper, the *Sheaf*.

The council tabled a motion to cut *Sheaf* funding at its most recent meeting, and instead struck a review committee composed of four councillors, two students at large and one non-voting member of the *Sheaf* staff.

Councillor Martin Kalmokoff moved that *Sheaf* funding be suspended, saying the paper does not properly report campus events.

"A large proportion of the stories are good and important, but they shouldn't be covered in the *Sheaf* because they don't affect people on campus," Kalmokoff said. "I don't want international issues in the paper."

But finance vice president Brad McDonald called Kalmokoff's motion "ill-advised, premature and under-handed." He said it

was a poor time to alter the newspaper's funding, but agreed there are problems with the *Sheaf*.

"But you don't just chuck it out the window," he said. "You just don't cut funding."

Sheaf business manager Dave Perry pointed out that the *Sheaf* is a separately incorporated society, which means council cannot change the paper's structure.

"The committee can only investigate whether to cut funding," he said.

Kalmokoff's criticisms of the *Sheaf* included the paper's political nature, and its adherence to the Canadian University Press statement of principles.

The same student council recently voted to cut all funding to the 10-year-old women's directorate and locked the office doors. Councillors claimed the directorate—Saskatoon's only women's resource centre—was too political.

