

UPEI DEBATING SOCIETY HAS SUCCESSFUL TOURNEY

We have returned from the Excited States, and have had a successful foray into American debating. The two teams we sent, Beauty and The Beast (Darren Stretch and Janice Enman), and A Few Good Men (Andrew MacPherson and Edward Lank) did a fine job of representing the university. As we stated last week in our article, the theme of the Rapaporte Memorial Tournament in Waltham (near Boston) was the Academy Awards, hence the team's names.

Beauty and the Beast finished the tournament with a 1-4 record. Part of the reason for this was the differences between American and Canadian styles of debating. As there was no briefing on the first day of the tournament, several problems with rules and interpretations occurred, and the team lost three rounds. However, the team, led by Darren Stretch, issued an official complaint. Although the results of the first day were not changed, the teams were briefed on the differing rules and Darren and Janice went 1-1 on the second day of the tournament.

A Few Good Men finished the tournament

with a 3-2 record. losses were to a team from Bates College and one from New York University. Both losses occurred on the first day of the tournament. Their win on the first day came against a very strong team from Harvard University (Yes, Harvard!!!!) in the government position. With the clarification of the rules, Edward and Andrew grew more comfortable with the American style and won both debates on the second day.

A further fine finish for UPEI occurred in the public speaking rounds. Darren Stretch was the only representative to compete, and finished third overall. Of the approximately 50 debaters, 30 chose to compete.

In the first round, speakers were required to assume a given character, a scene, and the line that had just been spoken. Darren's character was Catwoman, and he gave a hilarious speech. In the second round, speakers were given the name of a star, the film, and were told they were publicizing the given film. Darren's character was Axel Rose, his film was "Silence of the Lambs II", and -- in his own words -- he played a butcher's knife in this Disney animated fea-

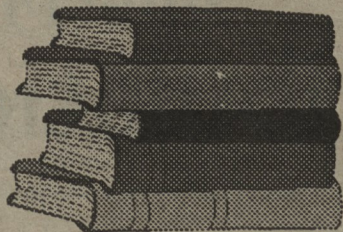
ture (say what?). Several Anne of GG heckles were tossed at him from the audience, and he ended by stating to Kathy Lee and Regis (his imagined hosts) that he turned down an offer to play Anne in Charlottetown in order to take part in the Disney film.

In the final round, the speakers were required to take the part of any actor they chose and give an acceptance speech for an Academy Award. Darren chose the character of Belle from Beauty and the Beast. Thanks went out to several individuals, including "the Beast", and our tournament director and host Wendi Barish for "letting me sleep by the beer".

In all, the members of the society had a great time and are looking forward to more trips south of the border next year. We would especially like to thank our patient advisor, Dr. David Sims for enduring us for the past year, especially this trip. We would also like to thank Andrew and Darren for navigating us down the I-95 (but not for the scenic but unplanned side-trips -- how could you lose an interstate?). See y'all next year.

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