

UNACCUSTOMED TO PUBLIC SPEAKING

Heard an interesting squib on early morning CBC yack-yack last week. A survey was made somewhere in the States to determine, in order of fearfulness, man's greatest fears. Number one? Not fear of death. Surprisingly it ranked fourth. Believe it or not, the survey showed that the greatest fear for the majority of those polled was the fear of speaking in public!

This fear, of course, does not exist among the youth of P.E.I.—or does it? Possibly it does. Maybe not as a number one fear but a very real fear all the same. One suspects it from the unwillingness of students to speak out in class participation and the reluctance of young Christians to get up and read Scripture at a service or at Mass.

Time was...well, go home and ask your Dad about the good old days when this Island, these very hallowed halls of learning, produced some of the best young public speakers in all of Canada. Ask Dad if he knew Mark McGuigan Jr., Fr. Lorne MacDonald, Don MacDougall Colin MacMillan, to name but a few of the old debaters.

To argue that it wasn't debating skill alone which brought these men to prominence in their careers would be to make a valid point. But—and perhaps they would be the first to

agree—the ability to think on one's feet, to be articulate, to persuade with all the tricks of the debating trade were skills they were happy to have developed.

Students feel themselves to be so hassled these days they may well feel they have no time to invest in anything other than their courses, papers, seminar preparations etc. Pity! All that knowledge and perhaps only a grade ten ability to share it with others. All

those...all you business majors with more brains than tongue to put your ideas across in board rooms and sales meetings later on. All you poli-sci people with good ideas to bring before the government in years to come, robbed by shyness of the opportunity of being properly heard. Greatest loss of all—you who are Christians and who have the responsibility of bringing the conviction of your Christian principles to all walks of

life, all the less effective because inarticulate.

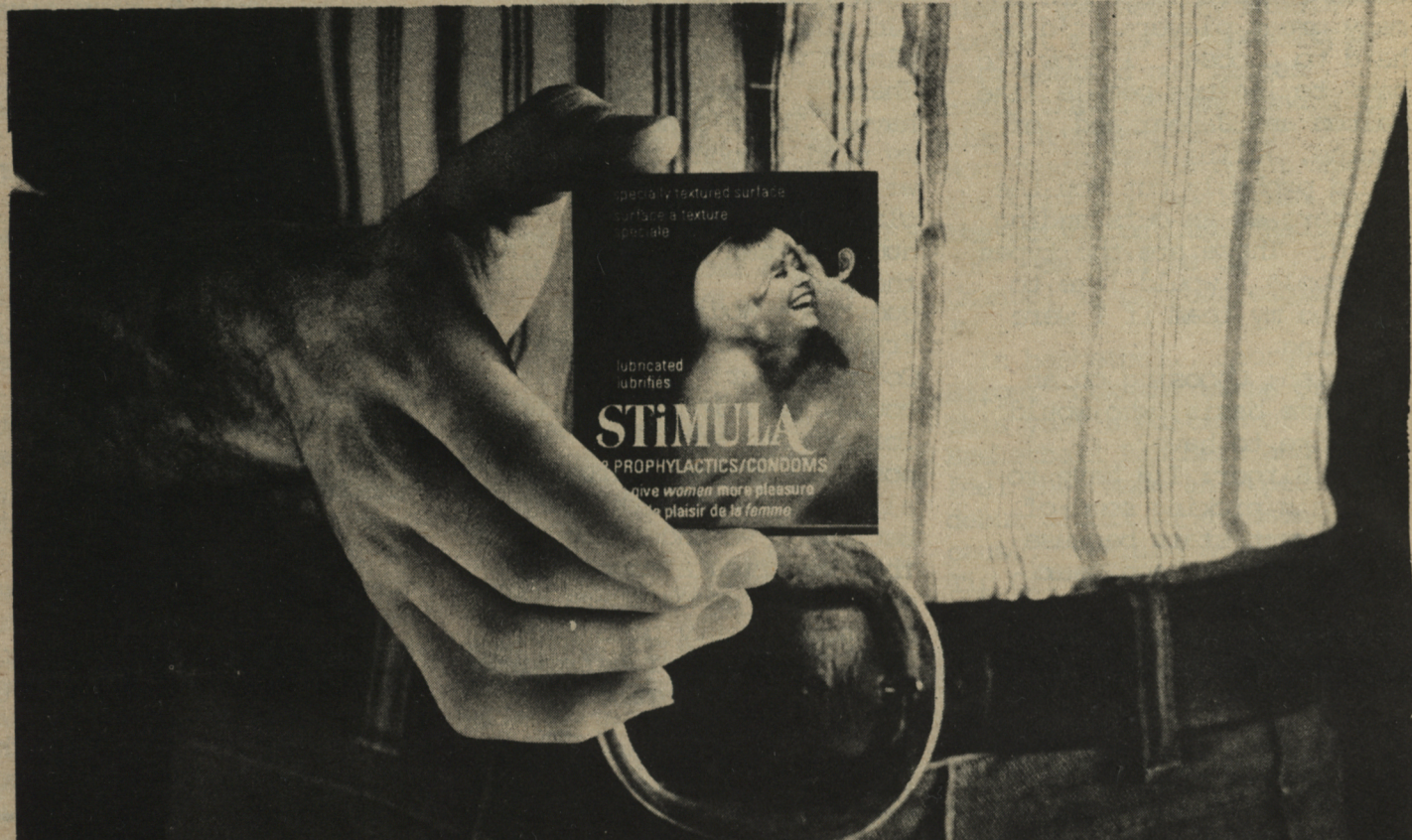
Some of the old speech masters are gone. But there are a few old pros still around and surely ready to coach those who are ready to learn. All it would take would be ten interested students to say to one of them, "Hey, we would like to learn how to speak in public, how to debate."

It must be possible to revive an interest in public speaking on the campus of U.P.E.I.

COFFEE TEA AND FUN

Who says you can't have fun without liquor? Coffee, tea, cake and cookies were all that was needed at the coffee house last Wednesday night.

People sat around candle-lit tables, drank coffee and listened to some great music. There was a piano player, several guitarists and some fantastic singers. There were even a couple of poetry readers. Things got started around 8:30 p.m. and carried on until 11:30. People were coming and going all evening. At one point I counted over fifty people, not bad for a first night event. The coffee house will be held every Wednesday night at the Chaplaincy Centre from 8:30 to 11:30. Everyone is welcome.



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