

Lucy Maud Debating Tourney the Talk of the Block

BY DEE BARDER

The first weekend of midterm break was hardly a dull time at UPEI. Besides the wild party on Saturday night at the Barn for the staff of the Sports Centre (the details of which I am not at liberty to reveal), Atlantic Canada's premier debating tournament took place on the UPEI campus.

The Third Annual Lucy Maud Montgomery Invitational Debating Tournament produced a wild weekend of top drawer debate, featuring almost every Atlantic Canadian university along with a number of teams from Upper Canada, including participants from McGill, York, Carleton, and Guelph. Debating consisted of seven rounds plus open semi-final and final rounds, all divided around three rounds of public speaking. Like the cult movie classic *Repo-Man*, it was intense.

The final round of debate and public speaking took place at Memorial Hall in Confederation Centre. When the dust had settled, Jamie Springer of McGill and Mike Peters of Carleton defeated former champion Sudanna MacDonald and her partner Jason Moffitt of Dalhousie in a split decision. As for public speaking, this year's winner was the wildly mercurial redhead from St. Francis Xavier, Jamey MacIsaac.

Once again, the Lucy Maud Montgomery Invitational Tournament set the standard for splendour, elegance, and class in the wonderful world of Canadian University Societies of Intercollegiate Debaters (CUSID). Kudos and thanks are in order for Chris, Heather, Tom, Danielle, Randy, Mark, Michelle, Bruce, and all the judges and volunteers who helped make this tournament such a great success. Special thanks as well to Professors Bulger and Lawther for giving up their time and giving us their expertise over the course of this very exciting, stimulating, and fun weekend.

In other debating news, UPEI sent two teams to Acadia University for a debating tournament from February 27-29. Although the tournament paled in comparison to our own Lucy Maude (how could it not?), the competition was very strong. Overall, Chris Bentley and Tom McCrae placed fifth in the tournament and Tom received the top novice award in this competition.

This Monday afternoon, (yesterday as you read this), the Annual MacDonald-Reid Debate takes place in Lecture Theatre "A". With the theme "Let's Get Ready to Rumble" well in place, Michelle Filion and Randy MacDonald will pull out all the stops in order to take back the trophy that so rightfully belongs in Robertson Library. Onward to Victory! Talk is cheap!

Around the World Paris

BY KRISTEN PATTERSON

After Amsterdam, this is my favourite continental city -- so far. The flavour is so distinct: nowhere is there a place anything like Paris. Gold statues, huge gardens, colourful shops, breathtaking architecture, museum after museum, expensive but delicious food (explore the markets because they'll save you a ton of money and the food is incredible anyway), and the list goes on. Art and fashion capture your attention everywhere you look. I can only sit back and sigh when I think of Paris. Beyond the cliché, Paris is too beautiful for words.

How to get to Paris: Any way you want. If given the option, do not choose first class if travelling by train. It's completely boring. Second class is where everything's going on -- what could be more fun than spending the trip stuck in the train's galley with three illegal immigrants?

Where to stay in Paris: There are a number of hostels to choose from. I stayed at Léo Lagrange in Clichy, which is just outside of Paris; an easy metro ride from the city's centre. You wouldn't actually know that you were outside of the city, except for the change in colour on the map, where the city's limits end. The hostel is decent enough: there's a pub and lounge on the main level. The rooms are sparse, but the views aren't bad (I discovered a little pointy, tower-like object in the distance from my window). The staff is friendly, though somewhat tricky: play along with them if you can and use whatever French you know. They tend to forget English words like "left" and "bank".

How to get around Paris: You could drive, you could cycle, you could walk, but why? Not when there's the Paris metro system. It's too much fun and it will get you everywhere so quickly -- as long as you know where you're

going. Save walking for sight-seeing. Paris is huge and you'll only kill yourself. Keep lots of water with you, if you are there in the summer. You don't want to pass out en route.

Where to go: Where not to go?! All I will say is this: get to the Eiffel Tower first thing in the morning, before temperatures rise and set aside a day or two for the Louvre - it will take all the energy you have. Watch out, asthmatics; the dust will wreak havoc with your lungs. I won't try to describe all the things you should do and see because they speak for themselves.

La Tour Eiffel

La Musée du Louvre
L'Arc de Triomphe de l'Étoile

La Musée Rodin (this would be where Rodin's *Le Penseur* is located)

Notre Dame

Sacre Coeur

La Musée d'Orsay

La Rive Gauche (the Left Bank - shoppers anonymous)

.....and so much more than I could ever list.

Tips: If you can speak French - do! And make sure everyone knows that you're Canadian - it will make a huge difference.

Next week: Cork, Ireland.

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


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