

# — RED AND WHITE POLL —

## S. D. U. DEBATERS DISSATISFIED

by TOM McMILLAN

Something is seriously wrong with intercollegiate debating in Canada. This is the conclusion reached by SDU Debators Dave Campbell and Ken MacInnis after returning from the National Debating Finals in Winnipeg last week.

Almost since its conception, the Canadian University Debating Association (CUDA) has been the perfect example of how a national association should not operate. It has been no secret to debaters and student leaders across the country that the Coco Cola CUS sponsored Debating Finals have been inefficiently executed on all levels of organization. However, this year's experience at Winnipeg was particularly discouraging to the St. Dunstan's debaters.

Upon arrival in Winnipeg, Mr. Campbell and Mr. MacInnis were summoned to a special meeting along with the five other competing teams for the purpose of discussing the format of the debating competitions. Six teams were vying for the Dominion Title -- two from each of the Western, Central, and Atlantic Regions.

Despite the fact that there exists a constitution which specifies the procedure to be used for the Finals, and despite the fact that Osgood Hall, King's and St. Dunstan's opposed any tampering with the standard rules of procedure, UBC, McMaster and the University of Saskatchewan insisted on the adoption of a "special system" for the purposes of this year's Finals.

When one of the debaters from Osgood Hall was required to leave the meeting temporarily, a vote was called and those opposing any deviation from the constitution were outvoted as a result.

Consequently, a special point system was adopted whereby a unanimous win represented four points; a split win represented three; a split loss, two and a loss, one point. In addition to this irregularity, the competition was based on region against region rather than

team against team; the top team from the winning region would thus be declared Dominion Champion. Furthermore, the previous agreement to have the same panel of judges evaluate all three debates was not adhered to.

As it turned out, UBC won a unanimous decision over Osgood Hall; McMaster defeated King's College unanimously; and St. Dunstan's lost to the University of Saskatchewan by a split decision. SDU upheld the negative of the topic that "Canada's Role in a Troubled World should be that of Neutrality."

However, what is important is not who won or lost this year's Dominion Finals, nor whether SDU really did beat the University of Saskatchewan (as many in the audience insisted), but whether or not this intolerable situation of debating finals will continue. Contrary to standard procedure, no point system for the actual judging was practiced; no judging forms were used; and none of the judges were called upon to explain their respective decisions.

At a meeting with CUS President Pat Kenniff, Mr. Campbell and Mr. MacInnis strongly suggested that a standard debating procedure be adopted for all regions; that the present system of judging used by the AIDL be adopted; and that St. Dunstan's would seriously consider dropping out of the Canadian University Debating Association unless drastic measures were taken to insure that a team's chances of winning the National Finals were based on ability -- not whether or not it could impose on others its preference for debating procedure.

It is understood that these sentiments will be expressed to the National Congress of the Canadian Union of Students in September, when a brief will be presented by the SDU delegation in this regard.

It is interesting to note that no one is certain exactly who did win the Dominion Debating Championship in Winnipeg this year.

(A) WHAT DO YOU THINK OF STUDENT-FACULTY RELATIONS AT S. D. U.?  
(B) WHAT IS YOUR OPINION OF THE FACULTY AS PROFESSORS?



LEONARD PENN

The student-faculty relationship on this campus is one in

my opinion, that requires the utmost consideration in the future plans of S.D.U. the relationship between the students and the faculty most be realistic in order that the moral and intellectual responsibilities can be achieved, this relationship recognized and it has to be given paramount importance for the establishing of enthusiasm in this University.

B I think that the professors on this campus have not created so fervant initiative into the reactions and considerations on the part of the students. I think that the professors must look for reform in their instructions and in their positions in the administration of this college. The professors should make it their business to see that their responsibilities are fully exercised.



DIANE LAUGHLIN

Student-faculty relations on

this campus are not as good as they could and should be. The students often do not know any of the professors other than those whose courses they are taking. Even with these there is a general air of indifference on the part of both the student and the professor. In spite of the fact that many of the professors live on campus, it is extremely hard to get in contact with them. The professors off campus have offices but heaven only knows where

B The faculty as professors are excellent. Their classes are both interesting and informative. They do not "spoon-feed", and as a result the atmosphere is much more free than if they did.



KEN MORRISON

A Very good. It's not everywhere that you can get the faculty to sit down and discuss anything with the students. Fr. Kelly, for instance, is willing to revamp the religion courses because we feel that we benefit more from discussion. Then there is Mr. MacQuarrie and Fr. Sharkey with their SNUC.

B Generally speaking our professors are excellent. Of course you hear grumblings but that's as much from a lack of interest on our part as from poor teaching. The profs. are always willing to bend over backward to help. It's up to us to approach them.



TOM McMILLAN

A Though student-faculty relations are reasonably good at St. Dunstan's, one faculty is often ignored: student-faculty relations are "reasonably good" at most small universities and colleges. It is my opinion that there is much room for improvement in this area at SDU particularly in view of the fact that more than a few of the faculty are several decades behind in their appreciation of student responsibilities, rights and privileges.

B It is my opinion, and with two years of high school and three years of university at St. Dunstan's behind me I feel I can be reasonably accurate in my evaluation, the calibre of professors at St. Dunstan's is high. This is especially true in the history, philosophy and biology departments. However, it is an understatement to say that several of the professors have neither the qualifications nor the ability to teach university students.

PETER M. JUNGERMANN

A When an almost totally negative attitude on the part of one group clashes head-on with the defensive attitudes of another group, one cannot say that relations between the two groups are going to be good. Solutions to evils--real or imaginary--are not going to be solved in lounges or in rooms. Some faculty members may be unapproachable; this is not true

of all. The faculty is an easy scapegoat for all the ills of the students, many of whom refuse to overcome their lethargy enough to reasonably assess any real problems at hand. Students, too, are handy whipping boys. Students should be less belligerent in their attitudes; professors should be more easily accessible for discussion. Without respectful communication and co-operation on both sides, a proper balance in relations will never be achieved.

B My only knowledge of the teaching staff results from observations made at faculty meetings, at chance meetings and conversations in the faculty lounge, and when I have eavesdropped on discussions. I can judge only by the ideals and ideas of the staff as I have heard or overheard them. Save for myself, our faculty are well-qualified. They are sincere in their task and interested in the welfare of the students. Perhaps one or the other man is satisfied with mediocre preparation for a class. However, this is not general. If education is leading one to the truth, do not ask to be spoon-fed, to learn dogmatically what truth is. If this has been done occasionally in the past, then it seems to me that it is up to the students to demonstrate their dissatisfaction with this method, not by rantings around campus, but by responsible discussion with the professor(s) involved. A professor cannot be expected to change if he is unaware that a change is necessary. Only by dialogue can the student and the ideals of the professor be homogenized.

instance, you can make more money singing in the streets than in many clubs."

Red and White "You're a University graduate. What are your impressions of Canadian University students?"

Gilmer "I don't think the freshman here are as well orientated as they are in Ireland. They seem to spend half a year getting used to the idea of being independent. At home, the equivalent of your last two years of high school are done the same as university, with lectures and the like, so when you get to the university, you're ready."

Red and White "What about Ireland. What makes her so unique?"

Gilmer "In Ireland, there's a Hell of a lot of tradition. Even the young people respect the past while working for the future. The Irish people are fiercely proud of their heritage. I've lived in both Northern and Southern Ireland and, in spite of the I.R.A., its all Irish."

We wanted to talk more, especially since we were getting used to Bill's slight brogue but just then, a very highly "spirited Irish-Canadian named O'Brien spirited "the Minstrel Boy" away to the sacred rendezvous of every Irishman, "a wee nip".

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## THE MINSTREL BOY

Red and White Interview TOM GALLANT

If you've never been to the "Rin Room" of the Benevolent Irish Society in Charlottetown on a Friday night, you've missed a unique experience. The atmosphere, if you will, a medium sized club, filled with people with one thing in common; a love of Ireland. People of all ages (over 21) are seated around tables, drinking, laughing, talking, remembering, and some -- just getting drunk.

The M.C. calls for quiet and introduces Bill Gilmer from Dublin who is going to "sing a few songs for us".

When he finished singing, he introduced ourselves as reporters for the Red and White and asked if we could have an interview.

"Can't talk without my pipe", said in a surprisingly quiet voice, "I'll be back in a minute". He smelt of this pipe will probably kill you but its part of me. I hope you don't mind."

Red and White "Not at all. You knew Brendan Behan. Was he as wild as the stories that were written about him?"

Gilmer "Brendan Behan was the most exuberant, don't give a damn type I've ever met. He was probably wilder than the stories. I sang with Brendan's brother Dominic in a group which often shared the bill with the Clancy Brothers and Tommy Makem."

Red and White "You're now singing your way around the world. Why did you leave home and where have you been since you left?"

Gilmer "When I finished University I looked around and saw people who were happy with their lot without really knowing what it was. I decided to get out of the rut while it was still shallow and take a few years to find myself and see the world. So far I've been to England, which I guess one could consider a country, Spain, France, the U.S. and Canada."

Red and White "Which one

have you enjoyed most?"

Gilmer "Canada, I guess I've stayed here much longer than any of the other countries I've visited. I like the small population. It's not too crowded. I've noticed that the people aren't Canadian enough though. They're French, Italian, English, Irish, etc. I first and Canadian second. I think it should be the other way around."

Red and White "We agree. You must have found yourself broke and hungry more than once in your travels. What do you do when this happens?"

Gilmer "Yes, I've found myself that way more than twice. There always seems to be some way of getting out of it though. When I was in Europe, I could always do the "blood run". Over there they pay you 25 to 30 dollars a pint for "donating" blood. The trouble was your constitution can only stand to give about one pint a month. I've tried giving more but I got to weak to travel. It's not all that bad. In Paris, for

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