

NEWS

Carleton debate team presses on to national competition

By LAURA SHATZER
STAFF WRITER

In Parliamentary debate, competitors and the audience rap on the nearest tabletop or desk if a debater makes a particularly excellent point. On the rare occasion that someone makes a horrendous, illogical statement, onlookers have the right to say "for shame" – a very serious charge.

Carleton's debate team – which only competes in the Parliamentary format – hopes to hear a lot of knocking when it competes in the National Parliamentary Debate Association tournament in

"I hope we'll break the elimination rounds. We've been having a very strong season, a lot better than last year. Very much an underdog story."

-DAVID SCHRAUB '08

Colorado Springs over spring break. After undergoing a rebuilding process last year, the team has very high hopes for its performance at Nationals.

"I hope we'll break to elimination rounds," said debate team president David Schraub '08. "We've been having a very strong season, a lot better

than last year. It's very much an underdog story."

After the debate team nearly collapsed Schraub's freshman year, Jeremy Lyon '06 recruited a bunch of freshmen, and the young team – some of whom had experience debating in high school – began learning the art of Parliamentary debate. One of a handful of student-run teams in the nation, Carleton has students craft their own debating techniques.

"Last year we were trying to find our own style as a team," said Matt Cole '09. "Our style's distinct from other schools because it's been honed in Minnesota. We didn't do as well as we'd hoped [at Nationals last year], but the fact that people were able to hold their own in their rounds is not embarrassing."

In Parliamentary debate, debaters are given a fairly broad topic 15 minutes before their round. The two-member teams alternately represent the Government and the Opposition; the Government must develop policy to defend the topic, and the Opposition must prove the Government's position false.

At the state tournament held at Southwest Minnesota State University in Marshall, MN Feb. 17-18, the duo of Hope Harvey '09 and Matt Fink '10 placed third in parliamentary debate. Carleton's team finished second in the limited entry division.

The team of Cole and Bob Keating '09 are ranked in the top 150 in the country.

Carleton debate is a year-long activity, with practices generally held twice a week for a few hours during the fall and winter, and sporadically in the spring. This year the team sent

representatives to seven regional and four national tournaments. It hopes to add more competitions to its schedule next year.

The 12 active members on

"This is the first year the Carleton debate team has ever been a legitimate regional force."

-BOB KEATING '09

the team, which is dominated by the sophomore class, also spend a lot of time bonding.

"We're going to spend a week in a cabin [in Minnesota] before Nationals so we don't have to go home or pay to stay at Carleton," said Sarah Toews '09. "We'll do a lot of practice rounds, and we also have another tournament the week of Nationals in Minnesota."

March 22-25, eight Carleton debaters will travel to Colorado College for Nationals, where they expect to make Minnesota proud.

"This is the first year the Carleton debate team has ever been a legitimate regional force," Keating said.

Rusesabagina describes genocide and displacement in Rwanda

RUSESABAGINA FROM A1

negotiation, he said, became surprisingly powerful.

One aspect of life inside the Mille Collines not shown in "Hotel Rwanda" was the length of dialogue, "sometimes going several hours." Rusesabagina did everything he could to protect the refugees living in the

he thought might have the power to help; "I called the President of the United States, the United Nations, the Peace Corps. . ." He found that none were very responsive. "The whole world decided to abandon a whole nation" he said.

they need to wear uniforms? A civilian can observe just as well. If there's anywhere the UN has been effective, let me know."

Instead of placing his trust in the established international community to deal with the continuing African crisis, Rusesabagina had more confidence in younger generations' abilities to respond to future humanitarian crisis. "Students were the target audience of 'Hotel Rwanda,'" he said. "They are the leaders of the future."

Although last Tuesday was the twelfth speech Ruseabagina has given in seventeen days, he seemed especially energized when he started to remind the students in the audience that the condition of the future depends on their actions. He urged the young people to become aware of what's happening in Africa, and to raise awareness.

He advised his audience to encourage their government to freeze assets and otherwise pressure leaders of corrupt and violent nations. "These people will not have the same power if you tell them they're not untouchable" he said.

"Do you want it to a better world? It will be what you make it. Do you want it to be a world that is worse off? It will be what you make it," Rusesabagina said. "Today is the day to stop being bystanders, and to fight for those who cannot fight for themselves. The ball is on your side. It is yours to play. It is now or never."



SAM BENSHOOF/CARLETONIAN

In addition to delivering a speech, Rusesabagina led a round-table discussion with students to discuss human rights issues.

hotel, including giving militia members cash to convince them to leave, and getting a militia leader to look at the situation "as [if they] were facing history."

Although Rusesabagina's experience tells a terrible story in a hopeful light, his comments about what the world has learned from the genocide were not as optimistic. In the hotel during the genocide, Rusesabagina phoned everyone

Now concerned about Darfur and Sudan, Rusesabagina said, "I see Sudan today as just like Rwanda between 1990 and 1994. There are a lot of people being displaced, living in refugee camps." He expressed serious doubts about the abilities of the United Nations after its lack of action in Rwanda, criticizing both the poor training and vague missions of peace keeping forces. "If they are 'observers'" he argued, "why do

Global Migrations class draws community attention to Darfur

By ADDIE HONEYCUT
STAFF WRITER

Most class projects result in excess poster board, and many hours of work which are quickly forgotten after the due date. Ellen Kennedy made sure that her Global Migrations class produced projects that would have a larger impact Carleton and Northfield. Kennedy, a visiting

to a group at Northfield High School on Monday, January 19. The event was open to the Northfield community. A second group gave a talk to ARISA, the African Student Association, and other interested students. The talk focused on educating Carleton about the conflict in Sudan. A third group is spreading awareness of the genocide in Burma.

ermen; these investments allow the conflict to continue. Many small liberal arts colleges like Carleton have joined forces in requiring ethical investments, and Carleton students would like to know the policies of their own college. The group is circulating a petition, which asks from the school a transparent investment portfolio and more ethical investments. For more informa-



SETH PROCTER/CARLETONIAN

More than writing papers or creating posters, students in Ellen Kennedy's Global Migrations class are calling the Northfield community to recognize problems in Darfur through education, advocacy, and fundraising.

sociology professor from St. Thomas, assigned her students a project regarding migration and displacement that will affect the Northfield community's view of, and actions toward, Darfur.

Much of migration is due to genocide, pushing whole ethnic or religious groups from their homes. Kennedy said she centered the assignment on this present-day example because "the situation in Darfur has created nearly three million displaced people in Sudan and also in Chad and the Central African Republic." Students were asked to create a project which involved advocacy, education, or fundraising. Kennedy's desire to assign this project comes from her past in public sociology. She coordinates state-level programming for the Genocide Intervention Network, and worked as the director of service-learning for eight years. Kennedy feels strongly about the connection between college campuses and their communities; she believes interactions between the two can be used to raise awareness and activism.

Students created projects using these three approaches to the Darfur project. Under the category of education, one group presented a movie on Darfur and invited Professor Kennedy to talk

In terms of advocacy, one group used public art to try to affect policy. They cut out cardboard forms of people, representative of victims in Darfur. They tabled in Sayles for a week, asking for pictures, notes, or just signatures. Then, the same option was offered at Northfield Public Library. This was intended to be an open forum for ideas about legislation or general attitude towards the Darfur conflict. According to Eberly Wedlake, '07, the group delivered the completed figures to Representative Kline and met with a staffer. Another group also tabled in Sayles, contacting legislators electronically, by phone, or letter writing.

One project touched on both education and advocacy, with students hosting a talk last week on divestment as it relates to Carleton and Darfur. The turnout was impressive, and the group presented videos of various Carleton students and faculty discussing not only the conflict itself, but also how investments—in general, and of this campus—relate to the region. Carleton treats its investment policies very secretively, so students do not have access to whether or not this institution is supporting some of the prime companies funding Darfur's gov-

tion on where this petition can be accessed, e-mail weimerl@carleton.edu.

In the third category, fundraising, several students are "hosting an evening of advocacy and education" in Minneapolis on March ninth. Sarah Ingebritsen, '08, explained that the event will include two speakers from the American Refugee Committee. A caterer has donated hors d'oeuvres, and lots of information on the conflict will be presented. This event targets a different demographic than the other projects, primarily because it does not take place in Northfield. The majority of those invited were Carleton alumni. The group hopes to spread awareness and raise funds throughout the evening, all of which will go to the American Refugee Committee, which runs refugee camps in Darfur.

Global Migrations may have lasted only a term, but the effects will be felt much longer. If Kennedy is right in her assumption, education on the campus and in the community is a strong tool for creating change. Hopefully, Carleton can begin to take substantial action for Darfur.

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