

Unconventional debaters rank fourth nationwide

Original research key for forensic team's Jacobsen and Prosis

By Kirsten Lucas
Emerald Reporter

The ability to go beyond conventional arguments, such as those surrounding the issue of political correctness, makes senior debate partners Ted Prosis and Trond Jacobsen one of the hottest debate teams in the country today.

Forensics department head David Frank describes the duo as "one of the finest teams to appear in academic debate in the last decade."

With a combined total of 12 years of debate experience, the pair emerged from a winning combination of minds, critical of traditional thought, firm in their beliefs and exercised by hours of research.

Although they've risen to the top ranks of their activity, they don't stand alone.

"The forensics program here is team-oriented," Frank said. "It's a very communal, kibbutz-like program."

As a whole, Oregon's 35-member forensics program placed fourth in the country among 230 schools in the latest ranking of the largest national inter-collegiate debate association — beating out such prestigious institutions as UCLA, Cornell and University of California at Berkeley.

In the last tournament, which took

'By interpreting things in a variety of different ways, you can argue the same types of positions on both sides of the issue.'

— Trond Jacobsen,
Debate team member

place in Oklahoma, Jacobsen and Prosis took third overall. Jacobsen, a senior in sociology, was the top speaker among more than 80 speakers. The pair took first place in every other national tournament prior to the Oklahoma tournament.

Among other things, Jacobsen attributes their success to the attitude and approach they take to debate.

Jacobsen and Prosis use the University library and other sources such as "alternative press" publications for background research and evidence to use in their arguments.

In addition to their research, they say one of their most valuable resources are the people around them, particularly fellow senior division partners Ladd Wiles and Pete Mohn, who are among

the top 20 teams in the country.

Through working together, forensics team members come up with solid evidence and strong arguments with which to compete.

The basis for a debate is embodied in the "resolution." Debaters then affirm and negate the resolution.

Jacobsen and Prosis said they always believe in the arguments they use to affirm and negate a resolution.

The following is an example of a debate round from a recent tournament.

Resolution: "Colleges and universities have inappropriately altered educational practices to address issues of race and gender."

Affirmative argument: "Such alterations have been inappropriate because they are not integrated, but marginalized in the curriculum. Classes such as ethnic and women's studies are crumbs to the voices of diversity."

Negative argument: "Such alterations have been appropriate because they allow people to confront systems of oppression, and give them the opportunity to challenge oppressive institutions from within."

"It's not as though the activity, or the world in general for that matter, is based on opposing principles," Jacobsen said.

"By interpreting things in a variety of



Forensic team debaters Trond Jacobsen (top) and Ted Prosis have got what it takes to consistently place at the top nationwide.

different ways, you can argue the same types of positions on both sides of the issue."

"It's not as though we're required to take the exact opposite of our beliefs for half of the round," he said.

This season's resolution is "political correctness," specifically the introduction of multiculturalism into higher education.

CAMPUS UPDATE

"Stop the Hate" symposium addition today

A forum on discrimination against Arabs has been added to the ASUO Fall Symposium's "Stop the Hate" week of events. The panel discussion will take place today from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the EMU Oak Room.

This event will be led by Dr. M. Reza Beh-Nam, director of the Institute for Advanced Middle Eastern Studies. Among the other participants are Fida Mohammad, former director of the Muslim Student Association and Abraham Hamid, owner of Eugene's Casablanca restaurant.

Cultural diversity event funds available

Student groups, departments or individuals who have an idea for an event designed to enhance activities for students of color or provide awareness of issues surrounding cultural diversity can apply for funding from the Council for Minority Education to help make the event a reality.

CME allocates a total of \$5,000 each year to groups or individuals requesting financial help for a proposed event. Marshall Saucedo, director of the Office of Multicultural Affairs, said several people receive a part of the money.

Proposals requesting funds are due by Monday, Jan. 13 in the Office of Multicultural Affairs in Room 314 Oregon Hall.

Each proposal must be accompanied by a state-

ment explaining how the project or event relates to the primary goal of CME.

CME is a policy-making body regarding the recruitment, retention and the academic success and personal development of students of color at the University.

Students needing assistance with grant writing may arrange to have their grants reviewed by calling Prof. Ann Keding at 346-3737 by Jan. 7.

A subcommittee of the CME will review all applications and make recommendations to the Council.

Poland through Jewish eyes slide presentation Monday

University student Jonah Bookstein will give a slide presentation Monday at 7 p.m. in the EMU Ben Linder Room on his travels through Poland earlier last spring.

"I started out trying to find where my grandfather grew up and I ended up meeting some really amazing people," Bookstein said. "I worked with some Jewish students, met some avant garde actors. I'll take people on a trip by showing these slides and talking about the feelings I had."

Bookstein said his presentation is a view of Poland through Jewish eyes, with a focus on current Polish/Jewish relations. "This won't be a tour of the death camps," he said. "It's a monument to what is still in existence."

Ontario," Reid said.

Saucedo praised the University's contribution.

"The fact that the University has contributed resources to the event demonstrates a continued commitment toward an increasing diversity on campus," Saucedo said.

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campus and the importance of education.

Event organizers said they ended the day feeling pleased with the program's outreach.

Phil Reid, a counselor in the

Office of Admissions, rated this year's effort as a success; the number of this year's participants is nearly double last year's.

"There was a larger representation from towns and cities this year from as far away as Hood River, Grants Pass and

CORRECTION

A story in Wednesday's *Emerald* on the University's recreation facilities should have stated the University

provides the same level of building and grounds maintenance for the facilities as it does for other campus build-

ings.

The *Emerald* regrets the error, and apologizes for any confusion it may have caused.

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Prizes for UO undergraduate and graduate students:

Humanities Center Essay Prizes

1992 Theme: America: 1492-1992

The University of Oregon Humanities Center announces the annual essay prizes for UO undergraduates and graduate students. All students are invited to submit an original essay or other piece of work on the annual theme. The Humanities Center expects to award one prize for the best essay by an undergraduate and one prize for the best essay by a graduate student. The prizes each will provide **\$250.00**, and the awards will be announced in the University Spring Awards Ceremony program and the Humanities Center Newsletter.

Further information about the annual theme, and guidelines and a required cover sheet for submissions are available now in the Humanities Center; interested students should pick up this information as soon as possible. The deadline for the 1992 Humanities Center Essay Prizes is 3 February 1992. Final decisions will be announced by 15 March 1992.

RESUMES

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