

UNL meets New Zealand in debate

By Tish Mockler

Posing with their white sheep, Johnny Mutton, who they rescued from a Chicago store, two Victory University debaters from New Zealand said at a press conference Thursday afternoon at Henzlik Hall that they debate because they enjoy it and it is a hobby.

The debate team is touring the United States on a trip sponsored by the American Speech Communications Association. They qualified for the trip by earning the highest speaking points at specified tournaments in New Zealand. Noel Sainsbury said that Victory University participates in the tournament every two years.

The speech communications department at UNL invited the debaters to debate two UNL debaters. The American Speech Communications Association pays for their expenses once they are in the United States, and the

university where they are debating usually pays for their room and board, said debater Sainsbury, 23, majoring in law.

Sainsbury said that he hopes to become a trial lawyer. His partner, Donald Stevens, 20, is majoring in history and law. He says he does not plan on keeping both of his majors and is not sure about his career.

Sainsbury said that they are nearing the end of their tour in the United States, after which they will have visited 17 states and have made one to four stops in each state. The tour will have lasted two-and-a-half to three months, he said.

Sainsbury and Stevens have picked the topics for each debate. Sainsbury said they have a pool of 10 topics, some of which are, "I'd rather be nude than watch 'Dallas,'" "Morals have no place in foreign affairs," and "Ronald Reagan is right."

Sainsbury noted several differences between debate in New Zealand and in the United States. Perhaps most notably is the amount of research done in the United States, whereas in New Zealand there is very little research and the debate is more audience related. The goal is to present arguments reasonably and to interest the audience, because, "No one is going to vote when they are asleep," Sainsbury said.

He also said that in New Zealand there is no cross examination between speeches, which the United States does have. He said that it was kind of fun. There are also three persons on a team and they give 15-minute speeches.

In New Zealand there is no equivalent to the National Debate Tournament in the United States for college debaters. There are seven universities in New Zealand, all government funded, five of which have debate programs. The universities hold debates between each other, Sainsbury said.

He said that in Wellington there are 100 people who join debating clubs as a hobby. The ages of members range from those just out of high school to those in their 50s and 60s.

Sainsbury and Stevens have both debated since they began high school and have never contemplated quitting. Sainsbury said that if they stopped enjoying it, they'd stop debating.

He said their audiences have varied from 40 people to a crowd of 500 in Champagne, Ill., where the topic was "Morality has no place in foreign affairs."

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Free folk dancing lessons, sponsored by the UNL Folk Dance Society, are given every Friday from 7:45 p.m. to 10 p.m. in the multi-purpose room of Selleck Quadrangle. Minority, international and other students are all invited.

A guided tour of the Nelson Art Gallery's French Collection highlights a bus trip to Kansas City, Mo., April 15. The one-day tour is sponsored by the UNL Division of Continuing Studies and International Educational Services. After the morning tour, the afternoon is free for further viewing of the gallery or visiting the nearby Country Club Plaza.

The bus leaves the Nebraska Center for Continuing Education, 33rd and Holdrege streets, at 6:30 a.m. with a scheduled return at 11 p.m. Participants may "brown bag" or purchase their meals in Kansas City.

For more information contact Christa Joy, Flights and Study Tours, 345 Nebraska Union, 472-3264.

Raffle tickets for the University Child Care Project's fifth annual Spring Raffle can be purchased until April 15. The \$1 tickets are available from Project parents and staff or from the main office at 333 N. 14th St., 475-0120. Prizes include a 10-speed bicycle, a one-year membership to Sportscourt and a dinner for two at The Lincoln Exchange.

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