

# National triumph

## UMKC debate team number one in nation

2-3-92

Barbara Ucko

Staff Writer

**A**UMKC debate team, Chris Riffer and David MacDonald, have earned the number one ranking in the nation after winning seven of the last nine tournaments.

The Cross Examination Debate Association, of which UMKC is a member, includes Stanford, UCLA, Cornell, and Columbia University.

The Riffer and MacDonald team are also part of UMKC's debate squad. This twelve member squad is currently

ranked about third in the country.

The UMKC squad competes in the South Central region, and travels the national circuit.

A typical tournament pits 40-80 teams against each other. There are six to eight preliminary competitions, followed by final debates.

UMKC has won tournaments this year at Emporia State, Southwest Missouri State, the University of Central Oklahoma, Arizona State, and Weber State College in

Ogden, Utah, where only the top 12 teams in the nation were invited. UMKC beat UCLA 4-1 in the final round.

Linda Collier, debate director, said the debate squad enhances UMKC's reputation enormously.

"These students give more time to the university than just about anyone else does," said Collier.

This year's squad, the largest in the program's six years of operation, includes Jill Gartner, David Genco, Mike Gfeller, Martin Harris, Brian Johnston, John Johnston, Kristi Kingston, Elaine Maag, David MacDonald, Chris Riffer, Bevin Romans and Tim Scanlon.

The first year on the squad," said Collier, "is a baptism by fire." Rookies get the "drudge work."

About 25 percent quit after the first year. Collier said that the others stay on out of personal pride and commitment.

"They give up so much," said Collier, and few students keep the trophies.

To be a debater, Collier said students should be open-minded enough to argue both sides of an issue, be highly interested in doing research, have an individual sense of ego, but also a strong commitment to their team and squad. Debaters can earn a maximum of four credit hours for four years of debating.

Typically, squad members spend 25-30 hours each week on debate activities. Some members, including assistant debate coach, Josh Hoe, a political science senior who won the CEDA nationals in 1990, spend 40 or more hours a week.

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# MU proposes engineering reprieve

Rebecca Shelton

News Editor

**T**he graduate engineering classes were salvaged during hearings on the Columbia campus last week.

AT the hearings, the dean of MU's engineering school and other faculty members opposed the recent proposal to save \$1.2 million by eliminating Kansas City's mechanical, civil, and electrical engineering programs at the Truman Campus.

"We're not officially out of the woods yet," said Dr. Hauck, director of engineering at the Truman campus. Although he had not seen the final proposal, Hauck indicated plans were made for the courstranmitted on closed circuit T.V. According to Hauck, this "wouldn't save a dime-just make less work for the professors." Hauck hoped eventually full control of the engineering programs would be transferred to UMKC.

Hauck said Columbia's backtracking on the

recomendation to eliminate the Truman engineering programs may be due to the reaction from the Kansas City area, resolutions of support from local engineering firms and organizations, the general alumni, ASA, and students showing support. He added that Kansas City needed the full engineering school more than the mid state area.

George Russell, president of the University of Missouri system will receive the draft plan, and is to appoint a blue ribbon panel to further examine engineering programs in the state.

The graduate program in Kansas City costs at least \$300,000 to operate, said Gerald Brouder, interim chancellor at the University of Missouri-Columbia in an article in the Kansas City Star. About \$900,000 might saved by removing the undergraduate courses. About 110 of the 450 UMKC engineering students are graduates.

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# First place Debate

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Most of the time is used to re-search the two debate topics for theyearand devising strategies for specific opponents and judges.

"Debaters are a closed circle," said Collier. "We know each other very well." The hard work can pay off in other areas.

"Debating," said Collier, "makes students' class work much easier. They know how to

do research papers. After a year or two of college debate, they've gone into a lot of depth about key social issues and even some scientific ones.

## Trophies



MacDonald, Collier, and Riffer revel in past and present debate victories. Photo by Gary Dale.

"For most of my students," said Collier, "debate is the most important thing that happens to them in college."

# Much nothing about audit

A great deal of nothing happened at an All Student Association (ASA) emergency audit meeting last Tuesday evening. In fact, the event never took place.

The special audit meeting had been angrily demanded at the last General Council meeting (Jan. 15) by several representatives who alleged that the Allocations Committee's spending might need closer inspection.

That audit request was only one of three unusually critical proposals made at the Jan. 15 meeting. The other two included a motion to impeach an Executive Board member, and a resolution demanding a set of guidelines and ethics for the University News from the administration.

However, when the audit meeting time came, no one was there except Andy Sjarif, ASA Comptroller and chair of the Allocations Committee that was supposed to be audited. He brought five huge stacks of photocopies he had prepared, as requested, for the meeting.

According to Sjarif, the information in the photocopies is freely available in the Student Life and ASA offices, and he was frustrated for having to spend \$90.00 of ASA's budget simply making copies for everyone.

The meeting has been rescheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 4.

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