



A Forum for Student Opinions

The EAGLE'S EYE

Trumbull High School - 72 Strobel Road - Trumbull, CT 06611

December 20, 2007 Issue No. 4

THS Debate Team Competition in Hartford

Andrew Freeburg '09
EE Staff Writer Editor

On October 30th, 2007, four aspiring debaters roused themselves, fully bedecked in suits and ties, before the earliest of buses arrived at Trumbull High School. They were Lauren Dahlin, Andrew Freeburg, Lisa Kasiewicz, and Tegh Matharu, and along with two freshman members of the debate club and their advisor, Mrs. Rubano, they made the trek to Hartford, Connecticut and the Legislative Offices Building therein for this year's Great Connecticut High School Debate.

In the days and weeks prior to the debate, tensions and anticipations ran high in the four participants. As all of the competitors were veterans of both the club and this particular debate, they were naturally exhilarated to have another shot at success. They began preparing nearly three weeks in advance, with several late nights and early mornings thrown in, and worked towards the most impenetrable cases possible. All efforts were justified by this year's resolution: that no persons under the age of 17 should be granted a driver's license. As all of the competitors but Mr. Matharu are juniors, this was a topic with special significance to all involved, and was given appropriate gravity.

On the day of the event, preparations and rehearsals were still underway. For the entirety of



Left to Right: Tegh Matharu, Lauren Dahlin, Andrew Freeburg, and Lisa Kasiewicz pose for a quick photo before the competition. Photo

the ride to the Capitol, both teams went through their arguments with fine-toothed combs, and did the best that they could to patch up any remaining holes. This process continued into the cafeteria of the Legislative Offices Building – much to the chagrin of the senators and representatives present for the day's special sessions. Finally, the hour of each team's first competition arrived. Each of them disappeared into a meeting room for the next 45 minutes, and the two freshman debaters present went elsewhere to serve as timers. At the end of that time, all emerged with a mixture of elation, fear, worry, and no small measure

of hopefulness on their faces, and persisted in such a way until the results were posted.

Unfortunately, Trumbull High School didn't make it past the first round this year – although they did receive a tour of the Capitol and a seat to observe the day's Senate sessions afterwards. Still, all of the students who attended felt that it was a positive and valuable experience. The competitors gained much insight into the validity of their own tactics, and the freshman attendees got a taste of how enjoyable debate can be. None of those present would hesitate to return next year.