

UK's McKinney top debater in Dartmouth tournament

By **SUSAN COREY**
Contributing Writer

T.A. McKinney, a UK senior debate team member, was named "Top Debater" at a three-day debate tournament at Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire last week.

This is the second time this season that McKinney, a political science senior, has received the "Top Speaker" award. He also earned the honor at the Wake Forest University Invitational in November.

"To get both of those it takes a lot of luck because it is really close," he said. "It depends on if you get the breaks."

McKinney estimated there were about 80 debaters who participated at Dartmouth.

McKinney, 21, a Nashville, Tenn., native, teamed with David Walsh, a political science senior from Irving, Texas, to emerge from the eight preliminary rounds as the top seeded team, but they lost their quarterfinal round to the University of Texas on a 2-1 decision.

"The tournaments have two compilations, (and) the person who gets the most points during eight preliminary rounds wins," said J. W. Patterson, UK Director of Intercollegiate Debate. McKinney finished three points ahead of his closest competitor.

Thirty teams participated in the Dartmouth tournament, Patterson said. The number of teams varies in each competition.

Kentucky's next tournament will be held at Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill., Feb. 8-12. After that, the debaters will have their sights set on the final competition, the National Collegiate Debate Tournament, in April.

The competitors debate on the same topic for an entire season. The national topic for this year's debate is Resolved: "That the United States should substantially change its trade policy toward one or more of the following: China, Hong Kong, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan."

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Forum: "The Arabs and the Middle East" at Student Center Room 230; 7:30 p.m.

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