

Hospital

Continued from Page A1

the families and racers don't have consistent health services," McBurney said. With the help of the Medical Center, the MRO now provides a mobile unit equipped to offer fitness and rehabilitation to racecar drivers at racing competitions. "People have a lot of love for

NASCAR," McBurney said. "We did not pay the drivers. They donated their time. It's part of the whole relationship." This is not the first time race car drivers have endorsed the Medical Center. According to McBurney, two years ago, a series of billboards featuring five NASCAR drivers were placed throughout the state. Dale Earnhardt, Terry Labonte and Mark Martin, along with Gordon and Schrader were among those pictured in the advertisement. "When we had signs up in the elevators and the walls in the building with the picture of our billboard, people would take

them down to take with them," McBurney said. In addition to sponsoring the mobile Fitness and Rehabilitation Center, the Medical Center is supporting the formation of an MRO program called Infinity. In conjunction with other hospitals, Infinity would create a database of hospitals agreeing to provide health and medical services to race car drivers, team members and their families. "There will be a network of hospitals within the program that they can go to," McBurney said. "For a nominal fee they can sign up for Infinity so that they can call up from wherever they are and make arrangements to go to a hospital in the

area that is a part of the program." The Medical Center's relationship with the MRO has allowed for numerous opportunities to support NASCAR. In turn, McBurney says, its subsequent promotions featuring NASCAR drivers have succeeded in added exposure for the Medical Center. "NASCAR is the largest spectator sport in the nation, especially in the Southeast," she said. "We know through word of mouth that a lot of people are seeing the ads. We get a lot of people coming up to us in our offices all the time mentioning how they saw them."

Debate team in tourney

By Vanessa Raba
Old Gold and Black Reporter

After another year of competition on the policy circuit, the university debate team has seen great success in tournaments across the nation.

The National Debate Tournament Committee announced Feb. 11 that juniors Becca Eaton and Patrick Speice were extended a first-round invitation to the National tournament; first-round bids are an automatic invitation awarded to the top 16 teams in the country.

At the Northwestern University tournament, the last competition before the bids were announced, juniors Eaton and Speice reached the final four out of the 132 teams that competed. Their record in preliminary competition was 8-0, with impressive victories over competitors from the University of Georgia, New York University, and Michigan State University, before losing to Whitman College in the semifinals.

Allen Loudon, the director of debate and an associate professor of communications, commented on the team's recent accomplishments. "What a positive year," Loudon said.

Teams receiving first-round invitations include: University of California, Berkeley (2), Dartmouth University, Emory University (2), Fort Hays State, University of Kansas, Harvard University, University of Kentucky, Michigan State University (2), Northwestern University (2), University of Southern California, State University of West Georgia and Whitman College, Wash.

Regarding the team's success, Eaton said, "It's been a challenging year overall, as we've had a much younger squad than in the

"The reason why we've been so successful is that everyone on the team has made a huge effort. There was a lot of teamwork and it's been great to be a part of it."
Becca Eaton
Junior

past. But it's been very rewarding."

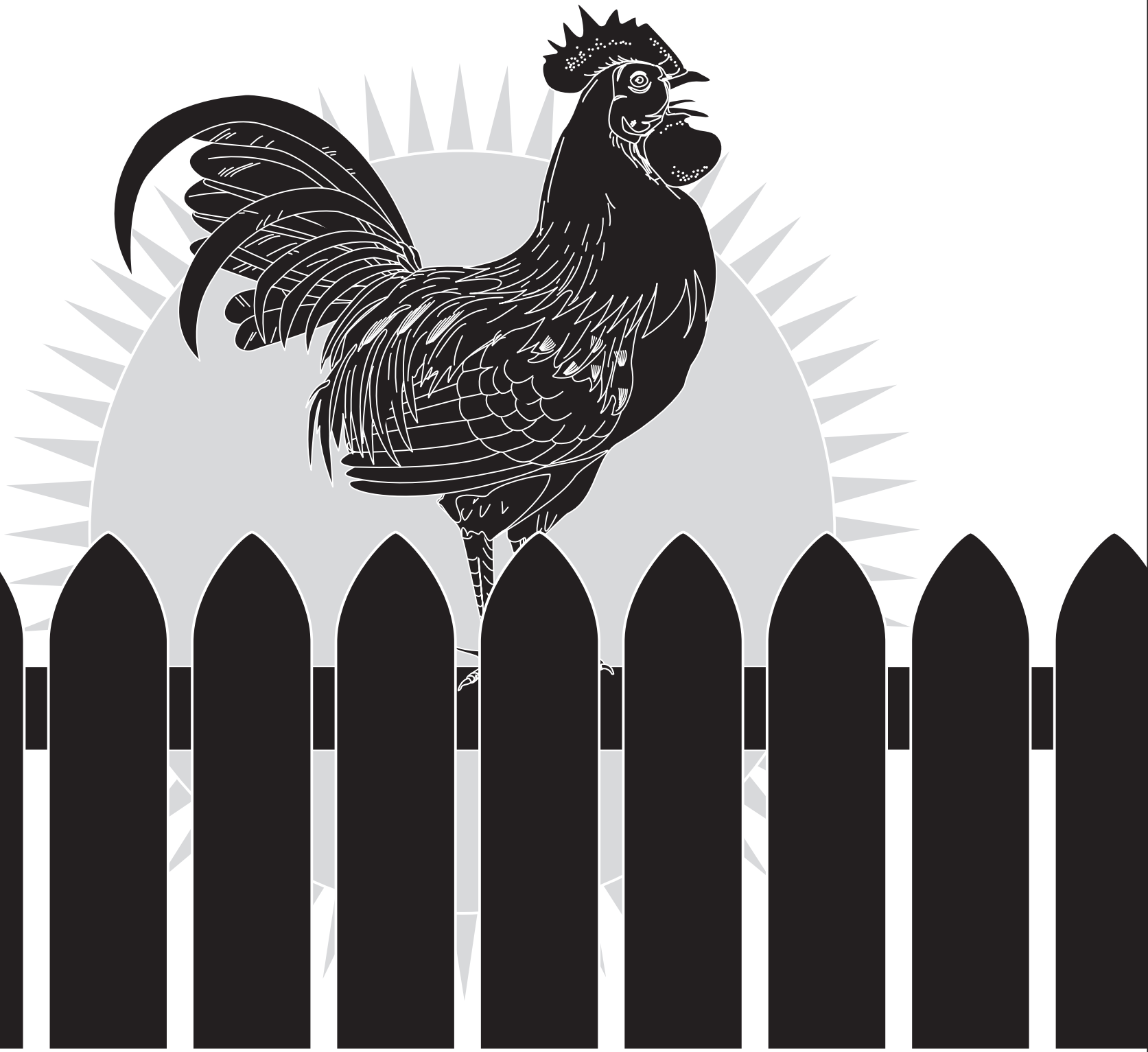
Eaton added, "The reason why we've been so successful is that everyone on the team has made a huge effort. There was a lot of teamwork and it's been great to be a part of it."

Other achievements include seniors Mike Perry and Chris DeVault's presence in elimination rounds at the Northwestern tournament after a 6-2 preliminary record. They defeated Dartmouth before losing to Harvard in the octofinals. They also reached elimination rounds at California State University-Fullerton, West Georgia, USC, and were in the final eight at Baylor University.

Sophomore Sam Enzer and freshman James Morrill made it to the octofinals at Baylor. Enzer and junior Kevin Kneupper placed at USC and Fullerton.

When asked about his debaters, Loudon said, "I was particularly pleased with the first-round bid granted to Eaton and Speice. After last year, when they finished 17th and just missed the invitation, this is sweet revenge. According to Loudon, "There was a lot of hard work put forth this season, and the bid was definitely earned. We also saw a breakthrough by the seniors and quality work done by everyone involved with the program. What a positive year."

The district qualifying tournament to select 78 teams to compete in Nationals will be held the last weekend of February. The university teams of Chris DeVault/Mike Perry and Sam Enzer/ Kevin Kneupper will be among the stronger teams in the Southeast district competition to be held at Georgia State University.



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It could soon be the start of a great day.

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