

## *Great Debates at Grammar Fest*

### **“Rousing, Obamaesque, Occasionally Intellectual”**

Mr. Laffoley’s TRC classroom resembled an idealized Legislature during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual *Great Debates* on Thursday, November 21 as eight dynamic debaters took part in two excellent debates. The first debate of the night featured current S3 Grammar debaters **Scott Stirrett** and **Daniel Lewis**, pitting them against the Sacred Heart team of **Deirdre Casey** and **Andrew Morrison**. The resolution was ‘This house would allow cameras in courtrooms’ with Grammar opposing. The students showed an extremely high level of skill and aplomb, with fast and furious interplay, resulting in a draw.

**Andrew Welch’80, Steven Laffoley’84, David Finlayson’93** and **Adam Conter’01** squared off on ‘This house would reduce the voting age to 16’ with the Welch/Laffoley team as the government and Finlayson/Conter on the opposition. **Oliver Bjornsson, M4**, was an energetic moderator who kept good order and precise time for both debates.

Midway through the alum debate, Finlayson/Conter noted that “reduce” can have negative connotations, such as “reducing” the level of experience or knowledge that voters bring to the ballot, while Andrew Welch fired back in rebuttal that “reduce” can represent very good outcomes, such as when crime and drunk driving are “reduced.” As Daniel Lewis writes, “This was a very entertaining debate, featuring some of HGS's best former talent. Ultimately, Mr. Laffoley's Obamaesque eloquence was no match for the humor of Adam Conter, who had the audience roaring with laughter. Thanks to all who came out to enjoy an evening of rousing and occasionally intellectual discussion.”

We thank Andrew, Steven, David, Adam and Oliver for the talent they brought to Grammar Fest. Andrew traveled from Ontario and Adam from Sydney, loyally demonstrating the Homecoming aspect of the event. Kudos and much appreciation also to Scott, Daniel, Deirdre and Andrew, for their fiery give and take. All benefited from the always skilful coaching of **Josh Judah** and Brian Casey of Sacred Heart, in preparation and on the scene. We appreciate their contributions to what is hoped will be a long tradition of entertaining *Great Debates* at Grammar Fest.

To view more pictures of the Great Debates, click here.

<http://mail.hgs.ns.ca/~newsletter/newscast2/Greatdebates.pdf>