

# The South Lakes *Sentinel*

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## It's Academic

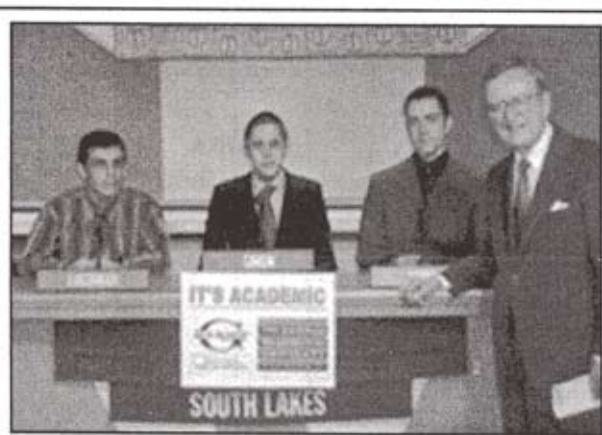
by James Murray

The South Lakes It's Academic team was on the NBC show *It's Academic* on March 11<sup>th</sup>. The team is made up of Simon Clough, Loghman Fattahi, and James "the ox" Murray. Simon Clough is the captain of the team, seated in the center of the picture.

The format is that there are three teams of three people each and the one with the highest amount of points at the end wins. We went up against Park View High School and Sidwell Friends High School.

Sidwell Friends won the match. The score was 570-320. Sidwell friends used a unique strategy of hitting the buzzer before they knew the answer to the question on the chance that they would a couple seconds later. This is the same strategy that Ken Jennings used in *Jeopardy*. Also, Sidwell Friends is a private school that costs twenty-five-thousand dollars a year to attend. Chelsea Clinton and Al Gore's son both attended that school and over 30% of their graduates end up going to Ivy League Schools. If Sidwell Friends wins the final round then they will get \$10,000 of scholarship money to divide among their team.

The format of the *It's Academic* show is different than



Host Mac McGarry (right) poses with South Lakes team members Loghman Fattahi, Simon Clough, and James Murray on the longest running game show, *It's Academic*.

some other competitions. The first round is all thematic questions and is worth 10 points for every correct question. The second round questions are directed at individual teams and are worth 20 points for each correct answer. The third round has a picture attached to every question. The fourth round is another individual round. The last round is a grab bag round in which every question is worth 20 points.

The *It's Academic* show has been on the air for 45 years and has had many notable figures on it. Chuck Schumer, Sandra Bullock, Angus King, Donald Graham, Bruce Cohen, and George Stephanopoulos all

appeared on the show at some point. Hilary Clinton was an alternate, forever proving that Simon Clough is superior to Hilary Clinton in every way. *It's Academic* is only in the Washington metropolitan area and Baltimore. Other areas have similar shows but they have different names and different formats.

This is not the last *It's Academic* competition this year but it is the only one that has an award of scholarship money and is aired on television.

For information on future *It's Academic* competitions, ask Mr. Forward or Mrs. Schenker.