

Hour, the home of Col. E. R. Bradley, three-time winner of the Kentucky Derby. Here you will see Bubbling Over, Blue Larkspur, Black Toney, Burgoon King, and Broker's Tip, 1933 Derby winner. In Lexington, too, are famous race tracks, the Kentucky Trotting track and the Kentucky Association track, the oldest running race course in America, opened in 1826.

It has been impossible to mention everything that will prove interesting and attractive to Pi Kappa Delta visitors. Your committee is conferring now with local convention officers and the Chamber of Commerce to arrange the best possible sight-seeing tour for one afternoon of our stay there. Nothing else will be permitted on the program to interfere with that trip. The convention will close shop and go. To do otherwise would be an injustice. You will like Lexington and Kentucky and you will remember it long after you go back to your own colleges.



TRANSYLVANIA CHAPTER

Top row (left to right): Ralph Saunders, President; Omer Stubbs, Mary Ingle McGill, Lucy Marium Atkinson, Melvin Stubbs, Vice President; Hern-don Wagers, A. R. Robertson, Jr., T. J. Mattingly.
Bottom row: Prof. Troxel, Debate Coach; Prof. Payne, Local Convention Of-ficer; Mary Edna Bruce, Sarah Thomas, Secretary; Prof. Saxon, Head of Expression Department; Prof. Shannon, History and Political Science.

American Men of Public Affairs As College Debaters

CHAS. F. SPENCER

Oklahoma Eta

East Central State Teachers College

In Mr. Bryce's scholarly treatise on the American government, *The American Commonwealth*, there is a chapter entitled "Why Great Men Are Not Chosen President." He maintains that American presidents have not generally been as able as British prime ministers. This is debatable, but certainly a greater percentage of British prime ministers have been college-bred. Of the thirty-nine prime ministers, thirty-three were university graduates, and almost all of them were from Cambridge or Oxford. In general, they seem to have regarded their careers in the universities as definite preparation for lives of public service, and the average age at which they entered Parliament is about twenty-five years.

The prime ministers who attended Oxford in the last century were active members of the famous Oxford debating society, the Oxford Union. It was founded in 1823 and has a membership of several hundred. The hall, where its meetings are held weekly on Thursday evenings from eight-thirty to eleven-thirty, is modelled after the British House of Commons. The president of the Union sits in a massive, canopied chair; the benches are arranged facing each other across a broad aisle; and Government and Opposition benches are located to the right and left of the president's chair respectively. Officers and debaters appear in evening dress. Members who support the proposition for debate before the debate begins occupy the seats on the Government side of the hall, and those who oppose the proposition sit on the Opposition side. Visitors, admitted by tickets, sit in the galleries. There are two main speeches on each side, usually about fifteen minutes in length, though there is no definite limit and fifteen or twenty more speeches may be made after the main speeches have been finished. The members, to the right or left, who have been influenced to change their minds, pass out of the hall at a door on the side opposite the side where

they have been sitting, dropping their ballots in carved oak boxes darkened by age. They vote not on the merits of debaters, but on the merits of the question.

The busts of the prime ministers who were officers of the Union are found on the Government side of the hall—Lord Salisbury, Gladstone, and Lords Asquith and Oxford. Lord Rosebury was a member, but not an officer of the Union. Lord Robert Cecil, Lord Bryce, Lord Birkenhead, Lord Milner, Hilaire Belloc, Sir John Simon, and John Buchan are ex-presidents of the Union.

Gladstone prepared for entrance to Oxford at Eton. Here he belonged to a debating society, and he made his first speech affirming the proposition that the poor should be educated. At Oxford Gladstone was an active member of the Union, and during his last year, he made his famous speech against the Great Reform Bill, the purposes of which were to broaden the franchise and to correct some of the worst abuses of the "rotten borough" system. Gladstone spoke forty-five minutes, and there were altogether about twenty-eight speeches made, the debate lasting through three evenings. The Duke of Newcastle, hearing of Gladstone's speech, had him elected to Parliament from one of his "pocket" boroughs.

University debating thus appears to have been a very important part of the education of British statesmen, and the evidence tends to substantiate the claim of debate enthusiasts that debating is valuable training for college students who expect to enter public life. Investigation of the college careers of such American men of public affairs as have attended college discloses that they too were generally active in debating.

The benefits to be derived from debating make a strong appeal to the student that is interested in public affairs; and such an interest has been widespread in the United States, due at least partly to the democratic basis of our government. Debating gives the student practice in investigating problems and in thinking. The student learns how to use the resources of a library, how to analyse a question, and how to organize evidence to prove his case. John Stuart Mill says, "I have always dated from these conversations (in discussion groups) my own inauguration as an original and independent thinker." Debating teaches the student to be open-minded. In the words of Charles Darwin, "The truth will not penetrate a preoccupied mind." The debater sees that at least most questions have two sides; and quoting Mr. Mill further, "No man understands his own side

was elocution and public speaking. This was also true of the curricula of our early colleges, and debating societies were also common. Aaron Burr was an active member of the Clio-Sophic Society at Princeton just before the Revolution, and James Madison organized the Old Whig Society at Princeton in 1769. Each of these societies has had a long and honorable history.

Of the triumvirate Webster, Calhoun and Clay, the two first were college graduates. Although Webster was unable to rise from his seat when his turn came to give a declamation at Exeter Academy, he later became the best debater in Dartmouth College. There were two debating societies, and Webster became the most active member of the one to which he belonged—the United Fraternity. So successful was he in public speaking that as a junior in college he was invited to give the principal address at the Fourth-of-July celebration in Hanover. Calhoun entered the junior class at Yale in 1802. When the other boys ridiculed him for studying so hard, he replied: "I am forced to make the most of my time, that I may acquit myself credibly in Congress." He said that if he felt that he could not reach Congress within three years he would leave college at once. He became very proficient as a speaker; and one day in class when President Dwight asked him a question, he spoke so well that the president said that Calhoun had enough "talent to be President of the United States." Although Mr. Clay did not go to college, as a young man he joined a debating society in Lexington, Kentucky, where the Transylvania Seminary was located, and became a very effective debater.

Many of the American men of public affairs of the latter half of the nineteenth century were college-bred, and had opportunities to participate in college debating. James A. Garfield, representative of this group, had his first experience as a debater in a small academy; and one of his first debates was on the proposition "Resolved, That Christians have no right to participate in human government." He became a follower of Alexander Campbell, preached some, and had a debate with a spiritualist. Garfield finally entered Williams College, of which Mark Hopkins was president. He became president of one of the two leading literary societies, and developed into an outstanding debater. Soon after leaving school, Garfield became president of Hiram Institute; and while holding this position, he debated the subject of the "creation of man" with a spiritualist.

The American statesmen of the first third of the twentieth century were in college when the debating society was at its

best. Practically all of those who attended college were active in debating, notwithstanding Mr. Roosevelt's lack of interest in it.

Mr. Taft, when he was a student at Yale, helped to reorganize the famous Linonian Society, founded in 1753; and Walter Hines Page took a leading part in the miniature parliament, the Franklin Debating Society, at Randolph Macon College, in Ashland, Virginia. Albert J. Beveridge, as a mere lad, attended a debating society in a country school house; and at DePauw University he became a leader of one of the factions of the Platonian Literary Society. James E. Watson was the leader of the opposing faction. Beveridge's first debate in the society was on the question of protective tariff; and although he forgot the speech he had memorized, he delivered a powerful extemporaneous argument and won. He won several oratorical contests.

William Jennings Bryan became one of America's finest orators, and he received a large part of his training in Whipple Academy and Illinois College. He won several prizes for oratory and with a \$50 prize won in his senior year, he bought a wedding ring. Mary Baird had been dismissed from the Presbyterian Academy because she had been seen too much in "Will's" company, and Bryan went home with her to talk to her father. "Mr. Baird," he said, "I have been reading Proverbs a good deal lately and find that Solomon says 'Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing and obtaineth favor with the Lord.'" "Yes . . .," replied Mr. Baird, "but Paul suggests that he that giveth her in marriage doeth well; but he that giveth her not in marriage doeth better." Bryan, displaying his ability at refutation, rejoined: "Solomon would be the best authority on this point, because Paul was never married while Solomon had a number of wives." He won. The class historian wrote of Bryan: "Law and politics are his friends and he intends to court them as soon as other things permit."

Woodrow Wilson began his career as a debater when he was a small boy. He and his friends organized the Lightfoot Club and its meetings were held in his father's barn loft. Wilson, who many years later was to make a covenant for the family of nations, made a rudimentary constitution for the club. It debated, and its proceedings were conducted according to rules of order.

At the age of about seventeen years Wilson enrolled in Davidson College, near Charlotte, North Carolina. Two of the three buildings were devoted to the two debating societies. Wilson

became a member of the Eumenean Society, and although he made only an average record in the regular school work, he became a proficient debater. In 1916 he visited Davidson College; and in the little brick building where he had attended the meetings of the Eumenean Society, he said: "I once tried to make a speech in this room but couldn't."

Wilson entered Princeton in September, 1875. He joined the Old Whig Society, which, as has been said, was organized by James Madison more than a century before. Wilson became the speaker, or presiding officer, of the society; and he gained the reputation of being its best debater. Desiring a laboratory in which he might test the system of cabinet government, he organized the Liberal Debating Club, in which the officers were required to resign upon losing the "confidence" of the club. Wilson became its prime minister. At Princeton his interest in politics is shown by a remark often made to his friends: "When I meet you in the Senate, I'll argue that out with you." In his senior year he refused to try out in the contest among the members of the Old Whig Society to see who should represent the society in the Lynde prize debate. He had drawn the side of protective tariffs, and he refused to debate rather than to debate on the side in which he did not believe. Of the little group of debaters at Princeton, one became Attorney-General of New Jersey, another Justice of the United States Supreme Court, another United States Representative, and one Governor of New Jersey and President of the United States.

In the year in which he graduated from Princeton, Wilson entered the University of Virginia to study law. His motive is explained by a statement which he made later: "The profession I chose was politics; the profession I entered was the law. I entered the one because I thought it would lead to the other." Wilson did not like the study of law, but he entered with enthusiasm into the activities of the Jefferson Debating Society. When he delivered his address on John Bright before this society, ladies were permitted to attend for the first time, in order to hear him. The most interesting event in Wilson's career at the University of Virginia was the debate in which he spoke against the proposition "Is the Roman Catholic element in the United States a menace to American institutions?" The judges, unable to decide who had won first place, decided to award two medals, one to Wilson for being the best orator and one to his chief opponent for being the best debater. Wilson became president of

the Jefferson Debating Society, and helped to revise its constitution.

Within a little more than a year after he entered the law school, Wilson was forced to withdraw on account of his health. For a year and a half he lived with his father, who was a Presbyterian minister in Wilmington, North Carolina, and studied law at home.

In the spring of 1882 Wilson hung out his shingle in Atlanta, Georgia. His law practice required little of his time, and in January, 1883, he organized a branch of the Free Trade Club of New York. It met every two weeks, and developed into a general debating club, a "Georgia House of Commons," as he wrote a friend.

Disillusioned with the practice of the law, Wilson decided in 1883 to go to Johns Hopkins University, then only seven years old, to continue his studies in political science. He wrote to his future wife, Ellen Axson: "In a word, my ambition could not be fulfilled at the bar . . . A professorship was the only feasible place for me . . . True . . . professors could not participate actively in public affairs . . . Indeed, I knew very well that a man without independent fortune must in any event content himself with becoming an *outside* force in politics . . ." In another letter to Ellen Axson, written after he had begun his work at Johns Hopkins, Wilson said: "My chief interest is in politics, in history as it furnishes object-lessons for the present—the University professor's chief interest is in the accurate details of history—in the precise day of the month on which Cicero cut his eye teeth—in past society for its own sake." At Johns Hopkins Wilson displayed again his interest in debate. This was an activity in which he could use his knowledge of history for purposes other than "its own sake"—an activity that would aid him in becoming "an *outside* force in politics." Through his influence the Hopkins literary society was converted into the Hopkins House of Commons; and Wilson wrote its constitution, incorporating in it the principle of cabinet government.

After teaching three years at Bryn Mawr, Wilson went to teach in Wesleyan College, in Middleton, Connecticut. He called a meeting of the student body and proposed that the lifeless debating society then in existence be replaced by a Wesleyan House of Commons. He said to the students: "To initiate the House of Representatives would be patriotic but not interesting. The House of Representatives does not do its own debating, but

refers most of its business to standing committees So we shall imitate the British House of Commons." The plan was adopted, and the activities of the new organization aroused great interest among the student body.

In 1890 Wilson became professor of political science at Princeton, his Alma Mater. The debating societies were still active, and he assisted in coaching several of the intercollegiate teams. Wilson became president of Princeton in 1902; and in 1910 Boss "Jim" Smith, of New Jersey, badly in need of a respectable facade for a corrupt and discredited political edifice, secured for Wilson the gubernatorial nomination. His chief biographer, Mr. Baker, says to him: "Fifty-four years of his life he spent in preparation, ten in living, and three in dying." Certainly Wilson's experience as a college debater was no small part of his preparation.

Several changes have occurred in college debating in recent years. The time-honored debating society has declined, because perhaps of other activities that have absorbed the interest and the energy of college students. Regular courses in argumentation and debate are being offered. Formal intercollegiate contest debating has become widespread, beginning with the Harvard-Yale contest in 1892. Finally in 1921 international debating between colleges had its beginning, and British influences are being felt in American collegiate debating. But regardless of the changes that have occurred, or the changes that may occur, an activity that has had such an honorable part in the preparation of our men of public affairs deserves to be encouraged.



Squad Contest at Redlands

The University of Redlands and the University of Southern California tied for both the individual team and the squad championships in the Practice Tournament held at the University of Redlands December 8 and 9. There were 74 men's teams entered and 24 women's teams. In addition contests in Men's and Women's Extempore Speaking and Oratory were held. The University of Redlands won the women's oratory and took second in Men's Oratory and Extempore. Tempe, Arizona, won the Men's Oratory and Occidental College the Men's Extempore. College of the Pacific won the Women's Debate with U. S. C.

second. Los Angeles Junior College won the Women's Extempore.

This is the first squad contest in a tournament on record. The rules called for colleges under 500 to enter three teams, Colleges over 500 and under 1000 to enter four teams, and colleges over 1000 to enter five teams in order to compete. U. S. C. and Redlands with five and four teams respectively won 75 per cent of their debates in the first four rounds upon which the squad championship had been staked. A squad championship can also be figured on the performance of all the teams in the entire tournament. On this basis Redlands would have won as it had three teams left in competition when all of U. S. C.'s were retired but one. The individual championship will be played off in January. Redlands entered the tenth round undefeated but fell before the U. S. C. team. The hour was too late and the teams too tired to finish the tournament, all contests having been compressed into two days.

Two colleges in Utah and three in Arizona sent teams and squads in addition to the California colleges, most of whom were represented.

The tournament was managed by Professor Baccus, assisted by Professor Nichols and Mrs. Baccus and one of the women debaters from the Redlands squad, Miss Helen Ary.



The annual convention of the Western Association of Teachers of Speech was held at Portland, Oregon, during the Thanksgiving vacation.

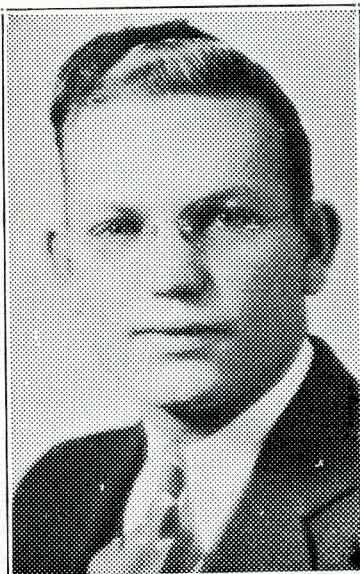
The convention was preceded by a debate tournament at Linfield College, McMinnville, Oregon, about fifty miles from Portland. This meet was attended by about sixteen debate teams representing Linfield, Oregon State, College of Puget Sound, Washington State, Pacific University, Albany College, and the University of Redlands. The latter institution sent two debate teams north via automobile with their coach, Professor Nichols, who was chosen President of the Western Association for the coming year. The next convention of the Western Teachers will be held at Salt Lake City, Utah, during the Thanksgiving holidays.

President Nichols hopes to have this convention preceded by a practice debate tournament at Utah University.

Student Returns As Coach

To debate in more than 150 debates in four years and lose just 23 out of that number is quite a record—and in the case of Glen Capp, 1933 graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University, it brought a reward.

When school was ready to open in September, Norman W. Mattis, coach of debate at the university last year, was granted a leave of absence to succeed Dr. Samuel Howell in the speech department at Harvard University. With school just a week off, it was necessary to get in touch with some one to coach debate and teach argumentation. University officials selected Capp. The contract was signed and Glen Capp returned to his alma mater where he had debated for four years to take over the duties of debate coach. Capp will have Porter Routh, his colleague for three years, and a group of other promising young orators around whom he can build the team he plans to take to the national convention at Lexington.



GLEN CAPP
Oklahoma Baptist University

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It looks to the Californians as if the College of the Pacific women's team which won the Redlands Tournament is going to make someone step at Lexington to outdistance it.

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Dr. J. Thompson Baker, the genial director of the great Winfield debate tournaments, was president of The College of the Ozarks from 1905-6, leaving to take the presidency of Frank Hughes College. He has also been a Lyceum lecturer. He has also been an extension lecturer for the University of Virginia. He received his Ph. D. degree from the University of Chicago.—*The Mountain Eagle.*

EDITOR'S PERSONAL PAGE

Where inconsistencies cease from troubling and logic is at rest

"Then you should say what you mean," the March Hare went on.

"I do," Alice hastily replied; "at least—at least I mean what I say—that's the same thing, you know."

"Not the same thing a bit," said the Hatter. "Why, you might just as well say that 'I see what I eat' is the same as 'I eat what I see'!"—*Alice in Wonderland*.



Love is the greatest force of persuasion. Men will do more for love than for reason. It is hard to influence those whom we despise or those who despise us. A polite word or a kind deed is frequently the most eloquent argument we can employ. Lincoln, who was one of America's greatest speakers, never said a word which was discourteous to opponents or listeners.



"Whatever we conceive well we express clearly, and words follow with ease."—Boileau, *L'Art Poétique*.



Things you will need at the national convention:

A stiff shirt for the final banquet—to get the autographs of the people you dine with.

An extra necktie. Your coach will probably borrow your best one.

A Southern accent to make a hit with the local judges.

Suspenders—to keep your shirt on after adverse decisions.

Golden slippers—to tread on the clouds when you win.