

# THE FORENSIC

OF PI KAPPA DELTA

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NO. 3

## Orators Judge Each Other

LT. (jg) DAVID M. GRANT  
Former Director of Forensics,  
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Any director of forensics has experienced the difficulty of finding competent judges for contests in oratory, extemporaneous speaking, and all the other variations of the spoken word. Too often it has happened that the judgments of a preacher, a school superintendent, and a lawyer not only failed to agree closely, but actually were contradictory. Perhaps it is that each of the judges sees or looks for a different thing and that the end result is desirable, but frequently the student opinion of such judging is unfavorable.

In the spring of 1944 we undertook to use a different system of judging in our local oratorical contest, with the hope that we could improve the judging and at the same time furnish a valuable educational experience for the students. That method, while not by any means "new," was to have the orators judge themselves. A somewhat similar method of judging debate was reported by Professor Baccus<sup>1</sup>. He wrote that his estimate of the method indicated that "there is some justification, mathematically for believing that the judgments rendered are accurate and unprejudiced."

In the preliminary rounds of our contest, 50 students presented original orations on subjects of their own choice. They spoke in small groups, ranging in size from six to nine speakers, and each group was judged by one critic judge who was a member of our Speech Department. We had each orator judge every other speaker in his section except himself. The final result was based on the formula that the students' scores counted one-half and the critic's counted one-half.

We studied the ballots of the critics and the students for each round, but computed certain statistics only on the first round so that our conclusions could be based on more scores. For purposes of comparison, we used the ballots of the best 25% of the speakers and the poorest 25%. The ballot used was a modified form of the Barnes' "Rating Scale for Speech Making."

Inasmuch as our problem was essentially one of comparing student judging with expert judging, these problems were uppermost: (1) Did the students and experts agree closely on all items on the scale or were they

<sup>1</sup>Joseph Baccus, "Debaters Judge Each Other," Quarterly Journal of Speech, 23:74-80.

The author, in the interest of brevity, has omitted the tables of statistical data upon which this article is based. Those desiring copies of the data may write to him in care of the editor of the FORENSIC.



more variable on some items than others? (2) Was there more or less agreement between the students and experts in judging the upper one-fourth of the scores than the lower one-fourth? (3) Were there significant statistical differences in the scoring of the upper and lower fourths for the student judges? for the critics?

These questions were related most directly to our problem, for we were concerned in finding out if student orators are good judges of other student orators.

From the data in the preliminary rounds the following facts were derived:

(1) There is considerably more agreement between students and experts in scoring the upper  $\frac{1}{4}$  than in scoring the lower  $\frac{1}{4}$ , the experts scoring lower on the lower  $\frac{1}{4}$ .

(2) The statistical significance of these differences between the upper and lower  $\frac{1}{4}$  for students and for judges is high. In all cases, except "Choice of Subject" for experts, the null hypothesis can be rejected at the 1% level. In this exception the hypothesis can be rejected at the 5% level. Thus, mathematically, one can be "practically certain" that a real difference exists between the upper and lower  $\frac{1}{4}$  groups and that such a difference is not due to chance.

(3) Differences between students and experts in scoring the same groups reveal that in scoring the lower  $\frac{1}{4}$  all significant differences may be rejected at or beyond the 1% level and hence the differences can be considered "practically certain" to be real. On the other hand, in the upper  $\frac{1}{4}$ , with the exceptions of "Choice of Subject" and "Use of Language," the differences were not statistically significant. Since in this instance we are looking for similarity rather than differences in scoring, it is interesting to note that in scoring the upper  $\frac{1}{4}$  no large significant differences were found, whereas in the lower  $\frac{1}{4}$  there were large statistical differences in the scoring of the students and judges.

(4) Hence we can tentatively conclude from this experiment that students are just as discriminating as are our experts in scoring the upper  $\frac{1}{4}$ ; while the scores differed in the lower  $\frac{1}{4}$ , both the students and critics distinguished adequately between the two extreme groups of speakers. Since the upper  $\frac{1}{4}$  includes those orators who are the winners and superior speakers, this difference in scoring did not affect the final results of the contest.

We were satisfied with the scoring, and this analysis seems to indicate that trained student orators are good judges of other student orators; as good as our experts, and who knows, perhaps more just and kind! While no attempt has been made in this brief study to develop implications, it seems likely that students are good judges, not only of debate and oratory, but of the other various speech activities in which they are adequately trained and in which they participate.



## Discussion in a World of Peace

L. L. LEFTWICH  
Culver-Stockton College  
Canton, Missouri

The United Nations organization offers us great hope for a world of peace. Delegates of some fifty-four nations are meeting together to discuss their mutual problems. Several world crises have, in all probability, already been averted. Imperfect as the UN is, we still support it and pray for its growth and improvement. Problems concerning its fulfillment should be emphasized in our college and university forensic programs.

One of the problems facing the UN is that of fair discussion of world issues. Have we prepared the statesmen of the world for free democratic discussion and the open discussion of problems? We need to be greatly aroused when we hear quibbling anywhere—especially when it concerns the future welfare of mankind.

But the desire to win at any cost is still demonstrated in some of our intercollegiate debates. In a recent tournament a clever debater lifted his opponent's words out of their context and took unfair advantage. Having won the decision, he laughed at his opponent and went on to his next debate rejoicing.

Many of the misunderstandings that arise between students on the one hand and college officials on the other can be traced to the absence of open and free discussion of the points of difference. If the opponents can be brought into conference around a common table with all the issues fairly and frankly faced then much progress can take place. Perhaps it is the inability of labor and management to discuss their common problems freely and openly that leads to so many industrial disputes.

Public discussion clarifies the problems and brings new techniques of peaceful living to our modern life. That is why we must keep the two- or three-party system alive in American political areas. A one-party system always leads toward stagnation and totalitarianism.

In some of our province debates we still permit the affirmative team to switch to the negative on alternate debates. This is a bad system and should not be resorted to now that the emergency is over. Students should read widely into an issue and then take a definite stand and stick by that decision. So much of our present public discussion seems to lack conviction. It is as a critic once said, "Modern debate trains students to speak on both sides of a question without thinking!" To avoid this criticism, we should not permit the same team to debate both sides of the question in the same tournament.

Public discussion and debates on modern problems should not be held in empty classrooms. Empty chairs can not be converted to one side or the other. I am not sure that one judge is the best system in a democracy.



## Welcome to Bowling Green

One of Ohio's most progressive state universities, Bowling Green State University, will be the focal point for Pi Kappa Delta members when they assemble for their annual convention April 6-11.

The university opened as a normal school in 1915 with two buildings. It is now a university with 26 permanent buildings and a large number of temporary housing units.

Enrollment has risen from a few hundred in 1915 to 4,000 today. This year's enrollment is almost double that of last year.

Among the campus buildings are a modern and completely equipped hospital, the only airport operated by a state school, and a riding stable.

The town of Bowling Green has a population of about 8,000. With the

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Certainly it is more important to have an audience than a lone judge. Perhaps we should hold all of our discussion and debate in a center of population where citizens, average Americans—housewives, farmers, students, business men, and professional men—could hear, take part, and be the jury if a decision needs to be made. Sophistry will not thrive before the general public.

This whole matter of world peace is so pressing that we must keep it ever uppermost in our public discussion. We in the colleges must do something to make free and open discussion a substitute to World War III. We must make each undergraduate aware of what he can do to help bring in a world of peace. First we must have faith that world understanding can be achieved and then we must bend every effort toward that distant goal. We may be surprised to find William James' "Moral Equivalent for War," right in our own department. It may turn out to be the free and fair public discussion of all of our most critical world problems.

This will be a great year for forensics in our colleges and universities if we face the problems of our modern world with a renewed sense of responsibility. Let's lift the vision of our students to a higher sense of social sensitivity, to a creative task of building brotherhood across racial, economic, and political lines. Let us inspire this student generation with the possibility of world peace in our own generation. Most of all let us insist that they come to honest and intelligent convictions about the kind of a world we want and about the methods of achieving that world. What a year we would have if we honestly devoted ourselves to the winning of world peace. Open and free public discussion is a good starting place.



exception of the H. J. Heinz tomato processing plant and a few small manufacturing firms, it is mostly residential.

The center of the business section is located at the intersection of U.S. 25 (The Dixie Highway) and U.S. 6 (The Roosevelt Highway). The latter route is the Southern boundary of the campus. Delegates travelling to the convention by auto will find either of these two roads accessible and speedy routes.

Those planning to travel by bus will find the Greyhound bus stopping on Main Street, a convenient walk from the campus. Debaters living in Ohio will find passage on the Greyhound barred because of inter-state commerce rulings. Any such persons will find it to their advantage to take any of the interurban lines to Toledo, Cincinnati, or Columbus and then board a C & L E bus for Bowling Green at any of these terminals.

Trains offer a variety of schedules. Those coming from afar will find the New York Central to Toledo a good route. Upon arrival in Toledo, they may change to another train or a bus. A branch line of the NYC, running between Toledo and Columbus, makes four stops daily in Bowling Green.

Headquarters of the convention will be in the Administration building. Registration will be in the Recreation Hall of this building and assemblies will be held in its acoustically effective auditorium. Debates will be run in classrooms of buildings all over the campus.

A complete program has been arranged to keep the debaters occupied during the six days of the convention. Beginning with a memorial service Sunday evening, in memory of members lost in the conflict just past, a mixer Monday night, and a stunt night, banquet and various other meetings the program promises to be broad enough to occupy most of the delegates' time. To fill in any spare moments, the student union building (Falcon's Nest), a rustic building nestled in the center of the campus, will be open for a quick coke and a whirl around the dance floor. For the athletic-minded individuals, the university's pool will be in operation during the convention. Bathing suits and towels are furnished by the university.

The campus is compact and a walk from one end to the other requires less than ten minutes. Delegates will be housed in three large dormitories and four cottage type sorority houses. If possible, delegates will be housed with the groups with which they will attend the convention. Meals will be served on the campus.

Ten restaurants and three hamburger shops in the city can supply any hungry delegates with snacks in addition to the dorm food. (However, Dr. Frank J. Prout, university president, recently stated that B.G. students were eating better now than they ever had.)

Toledo lies 23 miles north of Bowling Green on U.S. route 25. Advisers who may wish to depart from the convention for a while will find a



large number of department stores and a great many restaurants in the metropolis. (B.G. students find Grace E. Smith's Cafeteria and Dyer's Restaurant fine places to satisfy the appetite. Smith's serve all kinds of dinners cafeteria style while Dyer's specialize in steaks and seafood. The latter eatery, however, bars women patrons during the rush hours.)

Since Bowling Green students will be at their homes for spring vacation, the facilities of the entire campus will be at the disposal of the P K D delegates. Every effort is being made to make your stay an enjoyable and memorable event.

WELCOME TO BOWLING GREEN!

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### OHIO ORATORY

I am delighted that Pi Kappa Delta is holding its convention and national forensic contests in Ohio, for Ohio has long been devoted to the rhetorical arts and ranks high in oratorical achievement. It is appropriate that a great honorary forensic society returns to what is probably the birth-place of modern American oratory. It is fitting and proper to review the names that have brought such honor to the Buckeye state.

There was Pocahontas, more eloquent in gesture than in words. She won a trip to England by the simple expedient on draping herself around the neck of Captain John Smith and refusing to allow her father to beat out his brains with a war club. Of course that was in Virginia and we are talking of oratory in Ohio. She should not be in this discussion, but just wandered up here by chance. That's the way with Indians. They are nomads with no fixed habitation. They wander around in an unpredictable way and are apt to turn up any place, often to the embarrassment of the party, just as Pocahontas did to this discussion of oratory in Ohio.

William Henry Harrison is the second great Ohio orator we should mention. He also was born in Virginia and is the second from that state to force his way—her way into this discussion. He made his reputation in the Log Cabin campaign. His achievements show what a spur necessity is to man's efforts. If you have ever lived in a log cabin you can understand his campaign to get into the White House. I have never lived in a log cabin either, but they were introduced into Pennsylvania by the Swedes before the Revolutionary War. The Swedes are about the only ones who continue the use of snuff so you can imagine what a log cabin is like. Alas, President Harrison died a month after entering the White House. But his death subtracts nothing from Ohio oratory, as it occurred in Washington, which is along the Potomac.

And then there was William McKinley who conducted the "Front Porch" campaign. He used to sit in his rocking chair on the front porch



in his slippers and listen to the visiting delegations of politicians. When they would pause, he would say in a very serious and convincing manner, "That's right, boys. I'm in favor of it. You can count on me." While William Jennings Bryan was riding around the country talking about "a cross of gold," McKinley kept saying, "That's right." The people decided they would rather be right than be crossed and elected McKinley. But he was assassinated. Maybe he should have stayed on the front porch.

One of the most popular short speeches in the history of oratory was made in Ohio. It has since been repeated times innumerable in every state in the union and seems to gain in popularity. It consisted of only seven eloquent words, "Bill, let me buy you another drink." The first word is often changed, especially with the advent of the women into the forensic halls where this speech is most appropriately given, but the sentiments of the last six words continue to ring unchanged through the years.

I should also mention another famous speech made by an Ohioan—Ohion—Ohian—Ohighman—well, anyway, a man from Ohio. He said, "I am no orator as Brutus is." Yes, I know Antony, according to the reports of William Shakespeare, was supposed to have said it first. But he went on and made quite an oration. It was true in the case of this man from Ohio and, of course, therefore much more convincing. No one would want to deny him the title to these words nor to dispute his reputation. The honor is his by right of eminent domain.

Coming down to more recent times there are Ohio's presidential candidates. There are several of them. There's Brinker. I don't remember what he said. Perhaps he did not say anything. And there is Taft, Robert Taft. Perhaps he shouldn't be mentioned in this discussion of Ohio oratory. He may also be a nomad and may have wandered in here the way Pocahontas did. Or he may have been the man from Ohio who said, "I am no orator. Period."

#### TIME

Take time to work—it is the price of success.

Take time to think—it is the source of power.

Take time to play—it is the secret of perpetual youth.

Take time to read—it is the foundation of wisdom.

*Broadcaster*

Please send me the names of any members of your chapter who lost their lives in World War II. We should like to have a complete list for the honor roll at the Convention.

G. W. Finley, National Secretary.



**MARTIN J. HOLCOMB**

MARTIN J. HOLCOMB

Martin J. Holcomb is the twelfth national president of Pi Kappa Delta. He has served the longest single term of any of our national presidents. He was elected vice-president at the 1942 national convention in Minneapolis. When Glenn R. Capp, who had been elected president at that convention, resigned in September of that year to join the Navy, Martin Holcomb became president.

His membership number is 3424 and he wears key number 2005. He became a member of the Kansas Mu chapter at Bethany College in 1923, while he was director of forensics. Later he transferred to Augustana College, Illinois Xi, where he is head of the speech department. He has been a member of the National Council since 1938.

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**DEBATERS SUCCEED**

If you want to succeed, be a college debater.

This is the conclusion to be drawn from the survey made by Prof. Henry L. Ewbank, head of the speech department at the University of Wisconsin, which revealed that the number of ex-debaters listed in WHO'S WHO had increased almost 50 per cent in the last three years.

Prof. Ewbank made a survey of the membership of Delta Sigma Rho, national honorary forensic society, listed in the biographical volume. He found that a larger percentage of debaters enter the field of education than any other profession. Second most attractive field for debaters is working for some branch of our government.

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**Former National Officer Fights Pendergast Machine**

W. Prewitt Ewing, former national vice-president of Pi Kappa Delta and debater and forensic coach at William Jewell College, Missouri Delta, is mentioned in the March READER'S DIGEST as one of the men who helped to halt the attempted come-back of Kansas City's notorious Pendergast machine. When the machine helped President Truman "purge" Congressman Roger C. Slaughter, the alert KANSAS CITY STAR organized a group of thirty ex-service men to investigate fraudulent voting. Among them was "W. Prewitt Ewing, former Navy officer, professor of law, and election board official."



## The President's Page

You will be in the midst of your final preparations for attending the National Pi Kappa Delta Convention when this issue of **THE FORENSIC** reaches you. May I assure you that the members of the National Council are eager to see you all at Bowling Green. We hope that each local chapter will send the maximum number of delegates allowed by your forensic budgets. We wish for all of you a most enjoyable and profitable week at our first post-War Convention.

The Convention Committees and Secretary Finley's office are busy these days completing the final preparations for the convention. We solicit your whole-hearted cooperation as it is only through the united efforts of all of us that we can have an efficient and successful convention. Especially will we need the cooperation of all of the faculty representatives in judging the various contests. During the registration period each of you will receive your judging assignments for the week. We urge you to be diligent and prompt in fulfilling those assignments.

May I again remind each local chapter to send the names of your gold-star Pi Kappa Delta members to George Finley. Obviously we want none of our honored dead to be omitted from the Memorial Roll to be read at the opening service of our convention. Too, may I urge all delegates to plan your arrival at Bowling Green in time for the Memorial Service on Easter Sunday evening. Undoubtedly this will be one of the most impressive events of the convention. We'll have a fine speaker and excellent music. And the service also will include a fitting solemn memorial act in honor of our comrades who gave life itself for country and freedom.

This convention marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of George Finley as our National Secretary-Treasurer. All of us are truly grateful to George and to his good wife, Dora, for the most efficient manner in which they have performed the tedious tasks of our secretarial office during all these years. Too, we are greatly appreciative of their genuine friendliness and of their loyalty and devotion to Pi Kappa Delta. We are happy it appears likely that both of them will be able to attend our convention at Bowling Green. George and Dora, the convention days will be more enjoyable for all of us because of your presence. We salute both of you for your great contribution to Pi Kappa Delta during the past years. And we sincerely hope that your health will permit you to continue performing the important work of our National Secretary's office.

This has been designated as our Victory Convention. We are truly thankful to God that our Nation is at peace again. But we must not be unmindful of our responsibility to preserve that peace. Many signs are prevalent in the world today that our peace will be short-lived if we do not exercise constant vigilance. No doubt one of the greatest forces for pre-



serving peace is the enlightened, constructive thinking of the young people in our colleges and universities. May I urge the delegates who will be attending our convention to become imbued with a crusading spirit for peace. You possess the ideals and the convictions essential for peace. May you all make your influence felt not only on your local campuses, but also in your active professions as you leave your college environments and face life's realities!

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### CONVENTION COMMITTEES

Convention Arrangements—W. V. O'Connell, Evelyn Kenesson, Glenna Smith.

Charter Committee—Cunera Van Emmerik, Central Iowa; R. D. Mahaffey, Linfield; Roy D. Murphy, Southwest Louisiana Institute.

Research Committee—Wilbur Moore, Michigan Central; Joseph Bacus, Redlands; F. L. D. Holmes, Illinois State Normal University.

Judging Committee—Sherod Collins, Kirksville; J. Albert Tracy, Bowling Green.

Constitutional Committee—Enid Miller-Hoffman, Nebraska Wesleyan; Chas. Battin, College of Puget Sound; Wm. Schrier, Hope College.

Representatives on National Debate Question Committee—Forrest Rose, Southeast Missouri State; R. D. Mahaffey, Linfield.

Nominating Committee—H. M. Jordan, Sioux Falls; Carl Dallinger, Dubuque; Olive M. Johnson, North Texas.

Resolutions Committee—Maurice A. Hess, McPherson College; Charles Battin, Puget Sound.

Publicity Committee—Alfred Westfall, Colorado A & M; Dana T. Burns, Baldwin-Wallace; Roy D. Murphy, Southwest Louisiana Institute.

Committee on Convention Invitations for 1949—S. R. Toussaint, Greeley State.

Parliamentarian—Forrest Rose, Southeast Missouri State.

### Contest Committees

Men's Debate—Glenn Capp, Baylor University; D. J. Nabors, East Central State, Oklahoma.

Women's Debate—T. A. Houston, Southeastern State, Oklahoma; Harriett McPhetres, Macalester.

Oratory Committee—V. A. Utzinger, Carroll; F. L. D. Holmes, ISNU.

Men's Extemporaneous—Ted Levander, Augustana, Illinois; John Randolph, Westminster.

Women's Extemporaneous—E. H. Evans, Whitewater; P. Merville Larson, Carbondale.

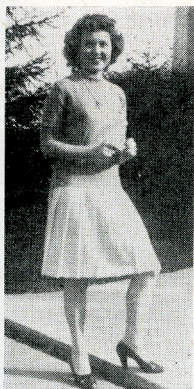
Discussion Committee—Wilbur Moore, Michigan Central; Paul Crawford, De Kalb.

Convention Contests—Edward S. Betz, College of the Pacific.



## Student Members of The National Council

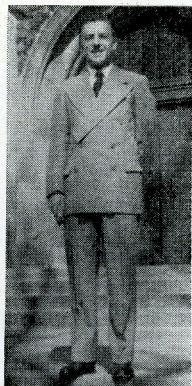
These students will see that student opinion and student will is represented on the National Council, which, otherwise, consists solely of faculty members and debate coaches. They will have a vital part in handling the convention. Many duties come under their jurisdiction, including the management of the Stunt Night program Wednesday of the convention week.



GLENNA SMITH  
Bowling Green  
State University

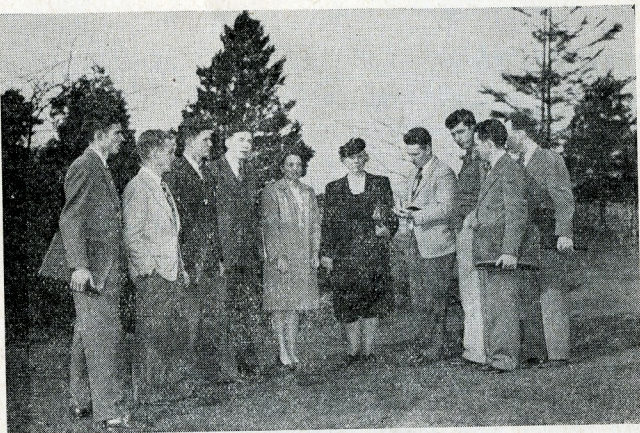
Miss Smith is a Buckeye by birth. She was valedictorian of her high school class. She is a junior in education, majoring in English and minoring in speech; has been active in debate, discussion, and oratory. She was editor in chief of EYAS literary magazine. She is an honor student, a member of association of women students, and of Gamma Phi Beta, social sorority. She played the part of Bianca in the University production of the "Taming of the Shrew." She is also vice president of the Ohio Eta chapter of PKD.

Bob Parkins is also a junior. He represented Nebraska in the Old Line Interstate Oratorical contest last year, winning first in the western division and placing third in the national. He serves as program manager for the local radio station KGFV. He plans to complete a master's degree, with the teaching of a radio workshop as his ultimate goal.



ROBERT PARKINS  
State Teachers College,  
Kearney, Nebraska



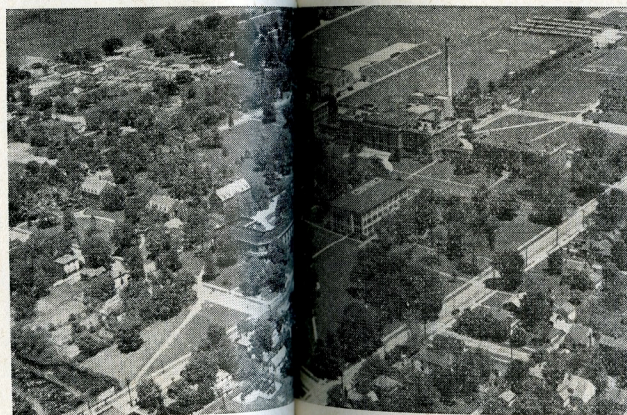


SEATTLE PACIFIC COLLEGE

From left to right:  
Wendall Lansing  
Harold Cox  
Gerald Hartman  
Talmage Wilson  
Violet Root

Lillian Danielson, coach  
Robert V. Damon  
Wilford Luce  
Robert J. Cox, president of  
Washington Beta  
Donald Johnson

## They Coming the Cornerse Nation

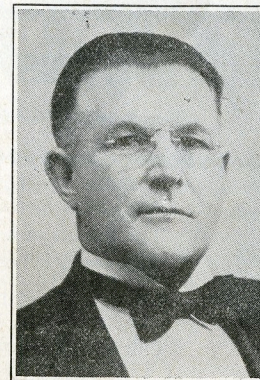


CAMPUS BOWLING GREEN UNIVERSITY



GEORGE PEPPERDINE COLLEGE, CALIFORNIA ZETA

Left to right: Beverley Meyer, after-dinner and impromptu; Gerry Webb, discussion; Pat Medley, discussion; Wade Ruby, forensic director; Howard Privett, debater; John Bean, extemp and debate; Lucille Lawrence; and Mary Knapp, debate and extemp.



DANA T. BURNS  
Governor  
Province of the Lakes



JOHN B. STETSON, FLORIDA BETA

(Left to right): Helen Louise Wooten; Russell Hornsby; Deloris Holly; Ruth Cobb; Richard C. Brand, director of forensics; Betty Miller; and John A. Sutton. (The tropical setting may be real, but there is nothing in the suit cases and if Prof. Brand thinks we believe that he and those six students are going to ride to Bowling Green on three bicycles, he doesn't know what a non sequitur is.)