

Oratory by the Seat of Your Pants

FRED B. GOODWIN

(The author of this article is one of the outstandingly successful coaches of oratory of this or any other generation. In the past three years he has won two firsts and a second in the men's division of the Interstate Oratorical Association. Last year at Stillwater his orators rated superior in both divisions. For the past two years they have been the state winner in both divisions at the state contests. What a coach with this record has to say ought to be of interest to everyone interested in this event. The article has been previously read to the Central States Speech Association on April 14, 1961, in Chicago.)

Almost invariably a paper on the successful coaching of oratory opens with a statement which says in effect, "There's nothing really new in what I suggest. It was all originally outlined by classicists like Cicero, Aristotle, and Quintilian." The paper then continues to talk about the role of the speaker, the speech, and the audience. A nod is given to eros, pathos, and logos. Some discussion is devoted to good supporting material, good oral style, choice of a universally appealing subject, and other aspects which must be labeled the fundamentals of good public address. The paper then closes with a summary which says again, "This is not new, but basic and necessary to the development of successful oratory."

You may have figured from what I have just said that the standard approach is not the one I propose to take this afternoon. The title of this paper, "Oratory by the Seat of Your Pants," already may have indelicately suggested that to you. But let me make it clear before I proceed that I am not condemning standard papers on oratory. Nor, most certainly, am I demeaning the contributions of the early Greeks and Romans. I want to take pains to re-

move myself as far from that presumptuous position as possible. Every student orator ought to become familiar with the precepts of Aristotle and Cicero. Every beginning orator ought to read some good, standard papers on oratorical preparation. One such paper, I thought, was the one entitled, "Coaching the Contest Oration," written by Tompkins and Baker, and appearing in *The Forensic* of Pi Kappa Delta in January of this year.

You are doubtlessly familiar with many others. Some of the older numbers of the publications of the Interstate Oratorical Association "Winning Orations" contain pertinent ideas for students to read.

But the essence of *outstanding* oratory as opposed to *good* oratory usually is not to be discovered in a simple consideration of basic fundamentals. An "approach by the book," as it were, prevents, usually, a bad speech. But it does not assure a good one.

To me, the essence of successful coaching of oratory, or debate, or public speaking of any kind for that matter, is to be found beyond the fundamentals. The margin between what is good and what is superior is to be found in what, for a lack of a more precise word, I shall call in this paper, "taste." What makes an illustration appealing? What gives a speaker ethical attraction? What constitutes a subject choice of catholic breadth? What makes a phrase pertinent and ear catching?

The answers to these questions are not to be found in textbooks nor articles in one of the speech journals. I have read many chapters in which authors have tried to discuss what they call "factors of attention," or "factors of interestingness." I find this material very hard to teach. I suspect you do too. And I have never been satisfied with explanations given by psychologists regarding why people like what they like. To my knowledge, there is not an acceptable quantitative method which can be applied to explain or teach "taste." To a greater or

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lesser degree, you like Haydn or you don't. You appreciate Lady Welby's attitude toward the philosophers or you don't. You subscribe to the economics of John Kenneth Galbraith or you do not.

These things involve what I mean by the word, "taste." And taste is the ultimate factor which directs the help I give students who are trying to become effective orators or public speakers. For example, if a student asks me if he can participate in oratory, I encourage him or discourage him as my sense of taste tells me that he will or will not have ethical appeal. (If he doesn't have it, I refer him to further courses in public address.) When he chooses a subject, I encourage or discourage its development as my sense of taste tells me that the subject will have universal audience appeal. As he selects supporting material, I tell him that in my judgment it is relevant and appealing or irrelevant and dull. As he writes and brings drafts of his manuscripts to me for criticism, I say, "That's good," or "I don't care much for that." If I can explain my feelings, I tell him why I think so. Many times, however, I find myself unable to offer an explanation for my likes and dislikes of a phrase or paragraph. In those instances I simply say, "Change it." All of these reactions are governed by what my speech office companion refers to with a notable lack of taste, "a gut reaction."

Now let me be quick to say that I at no time in this paper wish to represent my sense of taste as "right," "educated," "cultured," "proper," or any other adjective which implies a right standard of values vs. a wrong standard. The only conclusion I am prepared to draw is this: if the students whom I assist in the preparation of their orations are successful, and if the primary guide used to help them in the development of that oration is my sense of taste, then my sense of taste must be compatible, or at least not antipathetic, with the tastes of a significant majority of the other teachers of speech who judge the contest.

A subtle use of taste in composition and subject choice is probably the most important factor in successful oratory, yet this sense of taste for certain ideas, expressed in selected language, by selected speakers, cannot be quantified. The man who said, "There is no accounting for taste," came as close to the truth as we ever come. It would be difficult at best and impossible at worst to devote a portion of this paper to a *mean-*

ingful discussion of the question, "What is good taste?" It is possible, of course, to make statistically quantifiable analyses of six "successful" orations by looking at such criteria as ratio of adjectives to vowels, or type-token ratio. But as neatly as these studies lend themselves to arithmetic symbols, to me, they fall short of a usable yardstick for measuring good taste.

The turn this paper must take, then, is a consideration of how "tastes" and value judgments can be taught. Criteria for the good and bad, the right and wrong, the appropriate and the inappropriate are acquired over a long period of time. They obviously cannot be taught in a matter of a few weeks. But they reflect the real process of education, and they can be taught.

A student learns a sense of taste from an instructor in the same way that he learns it from a parent or friend. He observes the sense of taste in action, and then, if he is so inclined, adopts it for himself. He has to have a model. Now the big implication from this, as I see it, is that a teacher of oratory cannot expect a student to learn how to write in good oral style, how to choose subjects and narrow purposes wisely, how to select illustrations effectively, simply by being *told* that he should do these things. To me, a teacher has this responsibility: when he tells a student *what* to do, he takes upon himself the obligation of helping the student do it. I am not suggesting that a teacher should write a student's oration. That is quite wrong as I see it. But if a student is having difficulty with composition, there is no harm and a great deal of good in giving him a tasteful example of what you would like him to do. I think it is good technique for the teacher to sit down with the student and rewrite a part of an idea, a transition, or an illustration, and then say in effect, "That's what I mean. Now you try it with the next section." In this fashion the student gets the model which he must have to *really* learn. He does not merely get the set of rules which he *knows* about speech composition, but which he has not really learned. Knowing is not learning. He may know the rules in his cortex, but he doesn't learn them until the rules become entrenched in his abdomen. And what he has been told and what he sees eventually become a gut reaction through demonstration, practice, and discussion.

If, after several demonstration sessions, a

student still is unable to turn out a written product which is salable, I recommend devoting some time to a discussion of the idea expressed in speech. This, I think, is an extremely important technique. I recently listened to a speech by Dr. Arthur Combs of the University of Florida in which he made, what to me, was a telling indictment of the lecture method of teaching. He said, "We copied the lecture method from European Universities, but neglected to copy with it its essential counterpart, the beer hall." Here, he said, was where the students had an opportunity to discuss, dissect, and argue the ideas presented in lecture. And he deplored the absence of a similar institution in the U. S. Now, I maintain that the best substitute for the European beer hall in the United States is the Speech Department. The Speech Department is a natural location for synthesis of facts and generation of ideas. The catalyst for all this is naturally and most usually the speech instructor. If a student has difficulty in composition, it may mean that he needs what Dr. Combs would call the beer hall treatment. At our school we use coffee instead of beer, and it may be a poor substitute, but it gets the job done in many instances. Tastes are created in these situations, and it is the obligation of the instructor to provide those situations because from them grows the seed of successful college oratory as well as what is more important, a sense of taste which will guide the student through all the rest of his life.

In summary, I have tried to deal with the important factors in the preparation of a successful oration and the development of a successful orator. No really good orator can be produced without careful consideration of the fundamentals of subject choice, selection of supporting material, organization, composition, and delivery. But basic to these fundamentals, there is a nebulous measuring stick of "taste," which is used to determine the value of the fundamental criteria. Not enough papers on speech composition have tried to deal with the matter of taste. What I mean by the word taste has, to my knowledge, never been quantified, nor do I think it can be, but it can be taught. Teaching it takes time. The job of helping the student acquire it is the job of all the faculty at our colleges and universities, but I have submitted that no teacher on the faculty is in a better posi-

tion to help a student synthesize ideas, adopt points of views, and develop his sense of taste than the teacher of speech. Oratory is an important vehicle to that end.

Future National Conventions

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early nominations with a time lag before election so that voting delegates will have an opportunity to consider the candidates. A third idea would be the extensive use of *The Key* in reporting items of business accomplished by each group each day.

No proposal such as this can ever be considered finished. I am sure that many readers will have a modification or refinement to suggest, and if this proposal is published the editor might invite rejoinders and evaluations. If there is sufficient interest on the part of students and faculty, I am sure the National Council will carefully consider such an experiment.

Pi Kappa Delta should grow in numbers and quality in the years ahead, and that growth can be more significant and lasting if we involve more of our delegates in the decision making process.

A New Standard of Reference

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sympathetic with the FCC and the problems it faces. They will discover, despite its problems of style, that this work represents a thorough investigation and analysis of the relationship between broadcasting and government in the United States. Dr. Emery has produced a volume that should become a standard reference for students of speech, law, and history, as well as broadcasting and government.

Debate Tournament Televised

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public relations staff, headed by Clarence Mantooth of Tulsa, Oklahoma. Undoubtedly the tournament was a great public relations boost, not only for forensics, but for higher education in general in Texas. Sinclair presented the program without commercials but feels that even so it made a good buy in sponsoring the show. In the final round Lamar Tech won over Hardin-Simmons. Final score 154-150.

Report of the National Questions Committee

HARVEY CROMWELL, Mississippi State College for Women

One hundred and forty-four Pi Kappa Delta chapters voted on the national questions this year. Three chapters failed to rank the questions, three sent in their votes after the ballots had been tabulated, and seven did not vote for the discussion questions. There were thus one hundred and thirty-eight valid ballots for the debate propositions and one hundred and thirty-one valid ballots for the discussion questions. The results of the vote on the National Debate and Discussion Topics for 1961-62 are listed below as announced on August 7, 1961. In tabulating the votes, each first-place vote was scored five points; each second-place, four points; each third-place, three points; each fourth-place, two points; and each fifth-place, one point. The topic in each list receiving the highest total was chosen as the official question.

DEBATE	
RANK	VOTE
1st	Resolved: That labor organizations should be under the jurisdiction of anti-trust legislation 1322
2nd	Resolved: That the United States should extend diplomatic recognition to the Communist Government of China 1262
3rd	Resolved: That the Un-American Activities Committee of the United States House of Representatives should be discontinued 1195
4th	Resolved: That the United States should adopt a foreign policy which includes the option of taking initial action against potential enemies 1087
5th	Resolved: That the United States should withdraw the Connally Reservation from its declaration of Adherence to the International Court of Justice . 1074

DISCUSSION	
RANK	VOTE
1st	What procedures should the Federal Government follow to protect the civil rights of all citizens? 1274
2nd	How can the United States best meet the challenge of communism? 1242
3rd	What should be the policy of the United States on disarmament? 1099
4th	How can the problems of world population expansion best be met? 1090
5th	What should be the agricultural program of the United States? . 740

The national questions committee is governed by the following procedures:

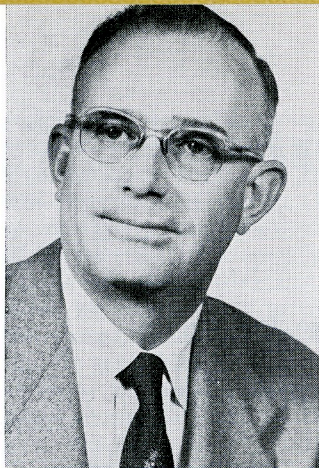
(1) The Speech Association of America Committee on Intercollegiate Debate and Discussion is composed of one member from each of the four cooperating forensic societies—Delta Sigma Rho, Phi Rho Pi, Pi Kappa Delta, and Tau Kappa Alpha—one member appointed by the president of the American Forensic Association, and one member appointed by the president of the Speech Association of America. The chairmanship of the committee rotates among the four forensic societies and the AFA and SAA appointees.

(2) Each committee member is responsible for polling the chapters or members of the organization which he represents. All suggestions for topics must be submitted to the committee members not later than the May date set by the committee.

(3) The committee members must meet during the months of May or June to decide on topics and phrase the questions for discussion and the propositions for debate.

(4) The debate propositions and dis-

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D. J. Nabors

The Secretary's Page

Pi Kappa Delta had another good year in 1960-61. The addition of 12 new chapters brought the total number of chapters in the directory beyond 200 for the first time in Pi Kappa Delta history. More than 1,000 new members were added during the year, and another special distinction was achieved as new members exceeded those of the past 12 years. Total membership has passed the 34,640 mark.

An examination of the financial report indicates that 27 chapters sent in more than \$100 for all purposes while six chapters had over \$90, yet less than \$100. Heading the list was Central Michigan with

Wisconsin State, Eau Claire, second and Humboldt third. The top 27 are listed below.

1. Central Michigan	\$222.65	15. Black Hills	118.25
2. Wisconsin State, Eau Claire	178.55	16. Illinois Wesleyan	117.00
3. Humboldt	178.50	17. Los Angeles State	116.96
4. University of Illinois at Chicago	172.95	18. Idaho State	115.00
5. Bradley University	160.01	19. Macalester College	112.50
6. University of Arizona	159.20	20. Univ. of Southwestern Louisiana	112.40
7. Ferris Institute	148.80	21. Whitworth College	111.84
8. Pasadena College	145.10	22. Carroll College	111.25
9. South Dakota School of Mines	137.72	23. Drury College	107.75
10. San Fernando Valley	137.00	24. Pacific Lutheran	106.20
11. Heidelberg College	136.40	25. Southwestern Kansas	105.25
12. University of Kansas City	125.35	26. Phillips University	103.66
13. Bowling Green	125.20	27. University of Pacific	100.00
14. Wisconsin State, Whitewater	118.80		

Twenty-six chapters sent in 10 or more new memberships, with Wisconsin State, Eau Claire in first place. Central Michigan was second place, and the University of Arizona placed third. Ten chapters had nine members. The top 26 are listed below.

1. Wisconsin State	\$171.00	14. Southwestern Kansas	84.00
2. Central Michigan	140.00	14. Heidelberg	84.00
3. University of Arizona	126.00	14. Augustana, South Dakota	84.00
4. Univ. of Southwestern Louisiana	112.50	14. South Dakota School of Mines	84.00
4. Macalester College	112.50	14. Wisconsin State, Whitewater	84.00
6. San Fernando Valley	112.00	19. Dakota Wesleyan	81.00
7. Humboldt	110.00	20. Idaho State	80.00
8. Black Hills	93.50	21. Bradley University	77.00
9. Pasadena College	91.00	22. Carroll College	74.00
9. Southern Illinois	91.00	23. University of Detroit	70.00
9. University of Kansas City	91.00	23. Hamline University	70.00
9. Ferris Institute	91.00	23. Drury College	70.00
13. Whitworth College	90.00	23. Texas Western	70.00

Fifteen chapters purchased \$40 or over in new keys during the past year. They are:

1. University of Illinois at Chicago	\$109.95	9. Los Angeles State	56.46
2. University of the Pacific	93.00	10. Pasadena College	54.10
3. Bradley University	83.01	11. Heidelberg	52.40
4. Central Michigan	82.65	12. Pacific Lutheran	50.20
5. Humboldt	68.50	13. Arizona State	43.75
6. Illinois Wesleyan	61.00	14. Kearney State	41.90
7. Bowling Green	58.20	15. Phillips University	40.66
8. Ferris Institute	57.80		

Chapter Notes

BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY

The forensic staff at Bowling Green underwent an organizational change this year with Dr. Yeager assuming his new duties as national president of Pi Kappa Delta.

Dr. Otto Bauer, former debate coach at the U. S. Air Force Academy, will be in charge of the debate program. He was a debater and coach at Northwestern University where he received his degrees.

Mr. Howard Shine, a Pi Kap special distinction debater with a law degree, will continue as Novice coach.

Two graduate students will assist in the over-all program—Bill Colburn, a Pi Kapp'er from Illinois Wesleyan, and Dan O'Neill, a former debater from Wayne State University.

Among the new graduate students at B.G. are eight recent Pi Kap debaters. Colburn and Jim Panowski represent Illinois Wesleyan, Sandra Ratliff is from Lewis and Clark, Judy Myers is from Grove City, Lois Bonnema and Leonard Lee debated for Hope College, and Bobbi Wolfer and Sam Merrick are from Bowling Green.

New officers for Ohio Eta are Tom Neuman—president, Mark Raisman—vice-president, and Margo Sorenson—secretary-treasurer.

WISCONSIN STATE COLLEGE, EAU CLAIRE

Wisconsin Zeta of Pi Kappa Delta at Wisconsin State College at Eau Claire held its Installation Formal Dinner on May 22, 1961. Twenty-three new members were admitted to the chapter. Following the dinner, the Annual Spring Forensic Recital was held, and the group gave a standing ovation for one of the speakers, Richard Duesterbech, 1961 first place winner of the Interstate Oratorical Association. Duesterbech was Coach Grace Walsh's eleventh state oratorical champion and her fourth first place winner at Interstate.

Important news about Wisconsin Zeta alumni announced that evening was that Norbert Tlachac, 1955, has just been appointed as Admissions Director at Marquette University while Ralph Zimmermann, 1955, posthumously was honored by

having his speech, "Mingled Blood," selected as one of four speeches in the field of science to be selected for the *Speaker's Resource Book* published by Scott-Foresman, 1961. Interestingly enough Tlachac and Zimmermann were debate colleagues representing the college at West Point in 1954.

WESTMINSTER COLLEGE

The debate squad at Missouri Alpha will be partly under new management this year. Dr. Thomas Fernandez has left Westminster to teach at his alma mater Marietta College; his replacement will be Calvin Stoney, who got his M.A. this August at Central Missouri State College.

New officers for the year are Brad Kent, president; Mike Linihan, vice-president; and Hugh Williamson, secretary-treasurer.

A full schedule of events has been planned, starting with the University of Missouri Novice Tournament on October 14 and ending with the joint tournament of the Missouri and Illinois provinces, to be held this year by Carroll College, Waukeasha, Wisconsin. This year's international debate will apparently be with a touring team from Ireland.

STETSON UNIVERSITY

The Florida Beta Chapter of Pi Kappa Delta concluded the 1960-61 school year with a meeting at which new members were initiated and the officers for next year were elected. Those initiated were: Jo Anna Conte, Jean Simonsen, and Jerry Harding, in the Order of Debate; and Miss Mary Ellen Anderson in the Order of Instruction. The new officers are: Barbara Hulbert, President; Judith Green, Vice-President; Jo Anna Conte, Treasurer; Jerry Harding, Reporter; and George Patten, Pledge Trainer.

The meeting was held at the home of the chapter sponsor, Dr. Mary Louise Gehring, and was preceded by a supper. Two Graduate Charter members, Mrs. Bob Lee Mowery and Dr. Irving C. Stover honored the group with their presence. Also attending the supper were: Don Aiesi, Claudette Finley, Richard Jenkins, Wes Johnston, Anne Quarles, and William Sims.

Members of the chapter participated in

several tournaments and conferences last year. At the Alabama Discussion Conference, William Sims won an Excellent. At Southern Speech Association, Barbara Hulbert received an Excellent for her job as Presiding Officer of the Senate and William Sims and Richard Jenkins won an Excellent in Parliamentary Debate. Claudette Finley won an Excellent in Women's Oratory and a Good in Discussion at the Pi Kappa Delta Tournament this year.

Stetson Pi Kappa Delta members have participated in many other activities in which the art of persuasion has helped them to attain special distinction. Barbara Hulbert was President of Stetson Player's Guild and has recently been initiated into Theta Alpha Phi, the national honorary dramatics fraternity. She is a member of Women's Council, which is a part of the Women's Student Government Association and is an active member of Wesley Foundation on campus.

George Patten is President of the Student Union Board, a member of Sigma Nu social fraternity, and a Co-Chairman of Green Feather Charity Drive. He is also a member of Green Circle, a men's leadership fraternity.

Charles Royal, a senior, is past President of Pi Kappa Delta, a member of Omicron Delta Kappa, the national men's leadership fraternity; a member of Beta Alpha Sigma, the national business fraternity; past Lieutenant Commander of Sigma Nu social fraternity; and past President of the School of Business.

William Sims, another senior, is a member of Delta Sigma Phi social fraternity, a member of Omicron Delta Kappa, and Phi Alpha Theta, the national honorary history fraternity. He was also Vice-President of the state and local Methodist Student Movement and treasurer of his Freshman Class.

These and many other outstanding members of Pi Kappa Delta have made the Chapter on Stetson an outstanding organization.

AUGUSTANA COLLEGE, SOUTH DAKOTA

The following social note, excerpted from the Sioux Falls *Augus Leader*, will be of interest to all those in forensics who know and admire Miss Clara Chilson, the Augustana coach: "Christ the Victor Chapel of the First Lutheran Church was the scene of a wedding Friday morning uniting

Miss Clara J. Chilson and Professor J. Earl Lee. Dr. L. M. Stavig, president of Augustana College, officiated before fifty guests.

"Mrs. Lee is an associate professor of speech and director of forensics at Augustana College. Professor Lee is professor of music and chairman of the department of music at Augustana College. After a trip to northern Minnesota and Canada, the couple will be at home at 1404 E. 33rd St."

THE FORENSIC extends its very best wishes to the Lees and hopes that her marriage does not mean that we will no longer be seeing Clara at speech meetings around the nation.

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

The 9th Annual High School Speech Roundup. Under the general management of Dr. Don Streeter, 60 students from 18 different high schools in three states participated in one-act play, radio-television, dramatic and humorous interpretation, prose and poetry reading, debate, extempore, duet acting, and persuasive speaking. Cecil Pickett, high school coach-of-the-year in 1958 and 59, Mrs. Carolyn Grillo, and Mrs. Carolyn Yarbrough were instructors in the course. A teachers' workshop numbering 15 teachers worked throughout the Roundup.

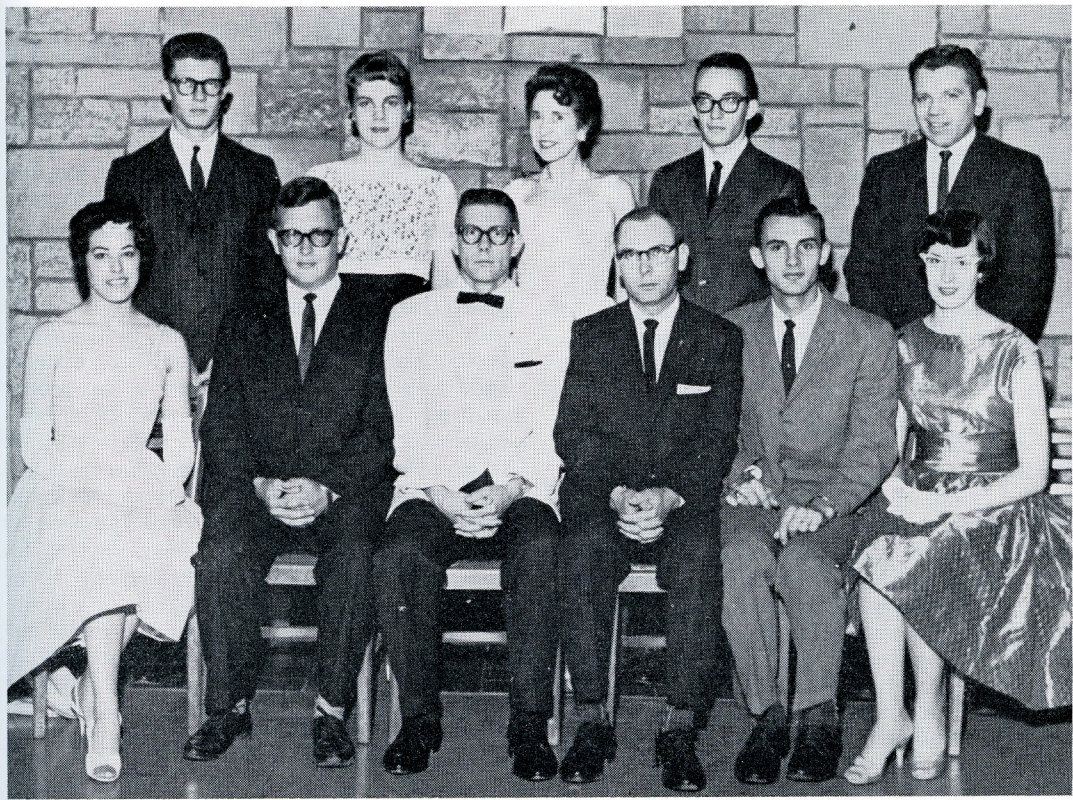
The debate squad has a new Falcon Deluxe Club Wagon to use for their debate trips.

The University of Houston debate squad will participate in early season tournaments at T.C.U., A&M., the Pi Kappa Delta Workshop at Stephen F. Austin, and the Bellaire Forensic.

BUENA VISTA COLLEGE

The Iowa Kappa Chapter of Pi Kappa Delta at Buena Vista College carried out an extensive program of activities during 1960-1961, which included participation in nine inter-collegiate tournaments and numerous local speaking engagements. Members of the Speakers' Bureau were especially active, appearing before service clubs, church and civic groups.

The eleventh annual high forensics conference was a most successful venture, with over three hundred high school students from Northwest Iowa participating in discussion, debate, oratory, extemporaneous speaking, and poetry reading. Advanced speech students under the direction of Professor Gladys Kuehl, director of forensics,



IOWA KAPPA—BUENA VISTA COLLEGE. Seated left to right: Lynn Lewis; David Lampe; Lynn Phelps; Gary Michener, Keith Gillespie; Kay Tucker. Standing left to right: Jim McDiarmid; Ruth Eickstaedt; Gladys Kuehl; Joe Meusey; Rod Van Klompenburg.

served as judges and chairman for the various events. These students also judged other high school speech contests during the season.

Kappa Chapter also sponsored the seventh annual all-college oratory contest, the winners of which were presented with medals and a traveling trophy to the first-place speaker. Ruth Eickstaedt, freshman, was the winner of first place.

In the annual after-dinner speaking Joe Meusey, sophomore, was the trophy winner.

Five members comprised the team entered in the National Pi Kappa Delta tournament at Stillwater.

The formal banquet for initiation of new members and installation of officers was held on May 17. Four new members were initiated: Rod Van Klompenburg; Joe Meusey; Jim McDiarmid; Ruth Eickstaedt. New officers for 1961-1962 are: David Lampe, president; Joe Meusey, vice-president; Gary Michener, secretary-treasurer; Jim McDiarmid, corresponding secretary.

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHWESTERN LOUISIANA

Two members of the Louisiana Gamma chapter have been awarded Woodrow Wilson National Fellowships and are doing graduate study this year. They are Isaac Jackson Burson Jr., and John R. Todd. They are among the 1,333 students from 381 colleges who were granted such fellowships last spring by the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation, the largest number ever elected by the Foundation.

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS (CHICAGO)

Officers elected for 1961-1962 are Karen Jahnke, president; Joan Fine, vice president; Howard Gordon, secretary; Richard Sommers, treasurer.

The two final events of 1960-1961 helped to make it overall the second best season in the history of UIC. A team composed of Mary Lou Hamps, Joan Fine, Karen

Jahnke, and George Lehner won seven and lost one to earn the first-place trophy at the Urbana Novice Tournament. Lehner by ranking in the top ten per cent, received a certificate of superior and Miss Jahnke, who missed a superior by one point, received a certificate of excellent.

On May 5 and 6 Howard Gordon and Eileen Markham won five and lost one to place third at the Marquette Varsity Tournament. They tied with Ripon and Illinois State Normal University in the number of victories but had fewer quality points. Miss Markham received the fourth-place medal in individual scoring.

The team for the year won 64 per cent of its debates for the second best over-all performance in the fourteen-year history of the program (1952-1953, 68 per cent; 1958-1959, 63 per cent). Twelve of the thirteen students who participated in tournament debates had winning records and the thirteenth broke even. In seventeen tournaments we had a winning record in fourteen and a losing record in only two. Eileen Markham in three years won seventy debates to rank first among our women debaters for the fourteen-year period and fifth among all of our debaters. Geraldine Ruksza with forty-one victories in two years is our second ranking woman speaker. Howard Gordon set a new all-time record for the total number of debates won in one year with forty-one.

The leading speakers for the year with their win-loss records in parentheses were Gordon (41-20), Miss Markham (29-15), David Kahn (26-16), Larry Sarnowski (24-11), Ernest Kundert (23-16), George Lehner (13-8), Miss Ruksza (13-12), Miss Jahnke (12-5), Miss Fine (12-5), and Eugene Sterbis (11-6).

The finals of the National Contest in Public Discussion, which Dr. Arnold managed in 1960-61, were held as a sectional meeting of the Central States Speech Association Convention. Thirty-six colleges and universities participated with the University of Southern California receiving first place. Boston University was second, and the University of Hawaii was third.

Let thy speech be better than silence, or be silent.
—*Dionysus the Elder*

Let a fool hold his tongue and he will pass for a sage.
—*Publilius Syrus*

National Questions Committee

(Continued from page 15)

cussion questions are submitted for preferential vote not later than August 1 to all chapters of the four forensic organizations and to a representative number of the non-affiliated schools.

(5) If circumstances require a change during the season, the committee may, by a two-thirds vote, alter the wording or move to a second choice proposition or question. Individual chapters or schools are encouraged to write their reactions to the propositions or questions to members of the committee as the forensic year progresses.

(6) The four cooperating forensic societies agree to use the SAA questions as their official propositions for debate and discussion during the college year. This does not prevent individual schools or groups of schools from debating or discussing more than one question during the school year; but it does mean that none of the four societies would select a different question.

(7) The topics must be announced by September 10.

Working under these regulations, the following committee members met in Chicago, Illinois, on June 16 and 17, 1961, and phrased the topics listed above: Kim Giffin, University of Kansas, American Forensic Association; Murray A. Hewgill, Michigan State University, Speech Association of America; Nicholas M. Cripe, Butler University, Tau Kappa Alpha; Auston J. Freely, John Carroll University, Delta Sigma Rho; Lloyd P. Dudley, Pueblo College, Phi Rho Pi; and Harvey Cromwell, Chairman, Mississippi State College for Women, Pi Kappa Delta.

The regulations under which the committee operates prevent issuing any official interpretation by the committee, nor is any organization or individual so authorized. The right of interpretation rests with those who debate the proposition or discuss the question. The committee has attempted to phrase questions and propositions that are broad in scope in order to encourage thorough analysis and investigation and to give the advantage to those students doing the more extensive and intelligent work. The committee members hope the topics chosen will provide a profitable forensic experience during the school year.

Alumni News

Out of the West—

From the University of Redlands in California comes substantiation that nothing succeeds like success. Ron Tabor, Special Distinction winner in debate, is presently serving as assistant coach for Dr. Eugene Moulton. . . . The outstanding duo, Tony Rosenbaum and Chuck Pylon, who won Superior ratings in debate at the Bowling Green National and who were West Point finalists, are in graduate school. Tony is a Woodrow Wilson Fellow at Princeton and Chuck is a graduate assistant in speech at Purdue. . . . Scott Dye is one of the debate coaches at Purdue. He achieved the degree of Special Distinction and was a crack debater for Redlands a few years back. . . . Ed Miller, Superior in debate at the National at Brookings, South Dakota, is in his second year of Law School at the University of Southern California. He is first in his class and is editor of the *S. C. Law Review*. His colleague, Gene Outka, Superior in debate and oratory, is pursuing graduate study at Yale.

From the great Northwest—

Comes varied news from the desk of Roy D. Mahaffey, major domo at Linfield College (McMinnville, Oregon). Paul J. Little, who attended the Nationals at both Stillwater (first time) and Kalamazoo, has been appointed Associate Professor at Linfield. . . . Roy Dancer, who represented the college at the National at Bowling Green, has been made head of the English department at Hillsboro High School. At the 29th Invitational Tournament, he brought a squad of fifty-some students who took a second place in all divisions of the sweepstakes. . . . Paul Winters ('48) is forensic director at the University of the Pacific. . . . Roy keeps smiling along.

From the vast Southwest—

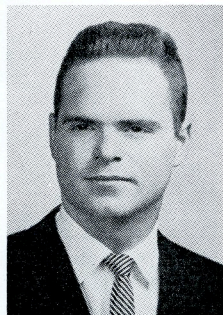
From Texas Eta at North Texas State College in Denton comes verification that mighty oaks from teensy acorns grow. William R. De Mougeot reports that Lavonna Rowett ('55) was coach of the Garland High School girls who won the Class AAAA state championship in debate in Texas in

1961. . . . The preceding year, the boys Class AAAA debate championship was won by Hillcrest High of Dallas, coached by Peggy Stephens Lehmberg ('58). . . . Happy pipe-line, Bill? . . . Carolyn Raiford ('58) has returned to North Texas State as a faculty member with the Speech Clinic staff. . . . Ben Chappell ('55) has joined the staff of Mississippi Southern as assistant professor of speech.

From the broad Middle West—

George McCarty has been appointed Chairman of a brand new Department of Speech created at the University of Dayton, Ohio. With some elation he reports that henceforth forensic activities will be separate from the English department. He will also serve as sponsor of the Ohio Lambda Chapter.

Dan Salden ('60) bears the distinction of being appointed the first graduate assistant in speech in the newly expanded graduate program at the University of Akron (Ohio Delta), where Master of Arts degrees are now attainable in Public Address, Theatre, and Speech Therapy. Dan is working in the area of Public Address and is assisting with the undergraduate forensic program. Dan is past president of Ohio Delta chapter and of Omicron Delta Kappa, past secretary of Phi Sigma Kappa, and was Cadet Colonel of the Army R.O.T.C. Dan was a strong competitor in all forensic areas: extemp, oratory, discussion, as well as debate.



Mr. Maurice Klein has joined the staff of Dr. Wayne Thompson at the University of Illinois, Navy Pier, Chicago (Illinois Psi) on a part-time basis. He plans also to do graduate work at Northwestern. As an undergraduate, Maurice Klein was one of the outstanding debaters in the U. S. At Hiram College, Ohio, in 1951-52 he and his colleague qualified for the West Point

Tournament, where he ranked near the top in individual ratings. Later, he transferred to Northwestern University, where he was a member of their two-man team which qualified for the national championships. The past year, Maurice was assistant director of forensics at West Virginia University.

Where is the South?

Where is the East?

The tongue is but three inches long, yet it can kill a man six feet tall.

—*Japanese Proverb*

CORRECTION

In the listing of the Convention Registrants in the May FORENSIC the name of Appalachian State Teachers College, Boone, North Carolina, was inadvertently omitted. Those attending the Stillwater Convention from North Carolina Epsilon were Miss Jo Crowder, Miss Ramona Craig, and Professor Leo K. Pritchett, debate coach and sponsor.

I commend the old proverb, "For we must look about under every stone, lest an orator bite us."
—*Aristophanes*

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY PLANS LAID



(Photo by Information Service Southern Illinois University)

Planning the largest collegiate debate tournament in history, officials of Southern Illinois University and Pi Kappa Delta, national honorary forensics society, met at SIU Sept. 23. The Golden Anniversary convention of Pi Kappa Delta will be at SIU in March, 1963, and will draw some 1,000 debaters from more than 150 colleges and universities to vie for national honors. Pi Kappa Delta officers, seated from left: Roy Murphy, Southwestern Louisiana Institute, vice-president; Ray Yeager, Bowling Green University, president; Harvey Cromwell, Mississippi State College for Women, past president, and D. J. Nabors, East Central (Okla.) State, secretary-treasurer. Top, from left: I. Clark Davis, SIU director of student affairs; C. Horton Talley, dean of the SW School of Communications, and M. J. Parker, SIU debate coach.