

THE FORENSIC

OF PI KAPPA DELTA

ALFRED WESTFALL, Editor

G. W. FINLEY, Business Manager

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The increasing popularity of the debate tournament idea, with its severe competition and emphasis on winning, brings every debate coach face to face with a vital question of forensic policy. Should he concentrate his efforts and funds upon a few superior performers, or should he try to provide the benefits of forensic competition to as many as possible?

The first response is in favor of the extensive policy. With only a limited budget, certainly it is unfair to send a few superior speakers to several tournaments and neglect those who stand most in need of training. There is much truth in this contention. The law of diminishing returns sets in some place and to provide fifty or a hundred debates for some students in one season may well be supererogation.

The other side of the question should be considered. A democratic school system attempts to provide equal educational opportunities for all, but school authorities admit that it is at a high cost in efficiency. The most profitable returns are secured in training the student along the lines of his special aptitudes.

We recognize this in competitive lines. We do not try to make a foot racer out of every student, but select the most promising track material. In forensic competition we work only on those who exhibit native ability and interest. The general courses in speech provide training for the *hoi polloi*. The competitive training is only for those who can profit most by it.

Something may even be said in defence of tournament practice of repeated debates on the same question. They lead to final perfection. This repetition is in line with the practices of later life. The doctor, by performing the same operation time after time, perfects his technique. The lawyer handles the same type of case

time after time. The banker passes on the same type of security in loan after loan.

The necessity of winning forces a coach away from too narrow a policy. The tournament winners are usually veterans. The coach must keep training younger men who will replace his graduating competitors. The various types of tournaments now running provide for this training. We have tournaments for inexperienced debaters, tournaments for those in the first two years of college, and tournaments where an institution may enter any number of teams, sometimes as many as a dozen.

While the tournament plan is not without its defects, it is trying to correct its shortcomings and it has many virtues.

Democratic Collectivism and *Collective Bargaining*.—The H. W. Wilson Co. has added two timely volumes to its reference shelf. *Democratic Collectivism*, compiled by Helen M. Muller, presents one hundred fifty pages of briefs and reprints of the best available material on the question. This book should be very helpful for those middle-western institutions which are debating collectivism this year. *Collective Bargaining*, compiled by Julia E. Johnson, contains about a hundred pages more of reprinted material. A number of colleges around Chicago have been debating the question this season. Both of these volumes are in the convenient form and up to the high standard which the Wilson people have established for their Reference Shelf series.

SPEECH ABSTRACTS

Speech Abstracts, Volume 1, number 1 of which appeared in February, is a bimonthly publication in the field of speech which attempts to keep its readers informed of what speech literature is appearing in the world. The first issue, for example, gives summaries of seventy-nine articles in French, Italian, German, English, and American publications, including journals devoted exclusively to speech, as well as medical, psychological, and professional publications. There are probably not more than three libraries in the United States which would enable the student to keep in touch with all of the publications listed.

There are summaries of articles on audience, conversation, debate, drama and theatre, expression, oral composition, oratory, phonology,

pronunciation, public speaking, radio speech, reading and oral English, experimental speech, speech defects, voice, etc. There are reviews of four articles on voice, one from a German publication, one from an American journal of psychology, one from an Austrian publication, and one from an educational publication.

Speech Abstracts is mimeographed, sixteen pages on both sides. It is edited by Gilbert S. Macvaugh, Ph.D., Psychologist, U. S. Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas. The editorial and subscription office is at 614 South 61st Street, Philadelphia. The annual subscription is three dollars.

This is a fine effort which deserves the support of all those who have a broad interest in speech work.

OYEZ! OYEZ!

Greetings to the Provinces! This is the year in Pi Kappa Delta, to strengthen anew the bonds of fraternity in the far-off Pacific, the South Atlantic, the Lakes, the Northwest—in everyone of the thirteen provinces.

Nearly a thousand of us will meet together for one to three days to debate, orate, and discuss those arms and munitions, democratic collectivism, non-company unions, the plight of agriculture, gold, the new deal, or Huey Long. More than that, we will give first-hand evidence of the vigor with which we hold to the principle that the college student ought to play a primary role in the discussion of public problems.

Enjoy the days of the province meeting. Ponder carefully those measures which should be brought before the National Council. Consider the possibility of new petitions for charters from colleges in your region. Above all, boost for the National Convention of 1936.

Fraternally yours,

GEORGE V. BOHMAN.

Eighteen schools entered the Missouri college and university debate tournament at Marshall, Missouri Lambda, February 8-9. Westminster and Northwest Teachers, Missouri Alpha and Kappa, won first and second in men's debate, senior division. Missouri Valley, the Lambda chapter, won the junior division from Southeastern Teachers. These same Southeastern Teachers won the women's tournament from Park, the Beta chapter.—*The Capaha Arrow*.

Forensic News



Dakota Wesleyan held a high school debate tournaement March 21-3.—*The Phreno Cosmian*.

A total of fifty-four men's and twenty-four women's teams entered the Linfield tournament February 21-3.—*The Lewistonian*.

East Central, Oklahoma Eta, sponsored a high school tournament February 22-3 which drew twenty-four teams.—*The East Central Journal*.

The Manchester, Indiana, tournament was held February 21-3. Northwestern won the men's tournament which discussed the collective bargaining question.—*The Wheaton Record*.

Southwestern, Kansas Delta, won the college league women's debate tournament at Friends University, Wichita, March 2. Bethany and McPherson tied for the runner-up position.—*The Bethany Messenger*.

The annual Hastings College speech and music contests for high schools were held March 7-9. The feature event of the tournament was an exhibition debate between Hastings and the University of Nebraska.—*The Hastings Collegian*.

Five Indiana colleges are sponsoring state high school contests of different types. Wabash is handling oratory, Manchester debate, Indiana University the discussion contest, Franklin declamation, and DePauw extemporaneous speaking.—*The Rostrum*.

The National Forensic League, which holds its national speech tournament at Kent State, Ohio Iota, May 6-10, has found it necessary to limit competition to those who have won first in a NFL district contest in which twelve or more schools have competed. Some others are admitted. For example, all schools which have added one hundred members or degrees have the right to enter a contestant. The tournament is being extended another day to avoid the rush of past tournaments.—*The Rostrum*.

UPPER MISSISSIPPI CHANGES DATE OF PROVINCIAL

The convention of the Upper Mississippi province will be held Friday, April 12, instead of the date previously announced. It will be held at Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter, Minnesota. The events will be extempore contests for men and women, play-reading contest for women, and the Peace oratorical contest.—Owen P. McElmeel.

Two teams from Pittsburg Teachers, Kansas Theta, went through the Tahlequah, Oklahoma, debate tournament, junior men's division undefeated.—*The Collegio*.

Central Teachers, Oklahoma Iota, and Oklahoma Baptists met in debate before the student assembly of the former. The audience decision was in favor of the Teachers.—*The Vista*.

Twelve high schools entered one hundred fifty debaters in the second annual debate tournament sponsored by Indiana Alpha and the speech department at Franklin College, February 1-2.—*The Franklin*.

Michigan State women carried off the honors in the annual intercollegiate tournament at Albion, February 8-9. Ten colleges entered forty-five teams in this tournament. Albion led with nine, while Kalamazoo and Northern State Teachers entered only two each. Michigan State's teams won ten debates before they tasted defeat. The schools having the best records were: Michigan State, twelve won, two lost; Albion, ten won and six lost; Western State, twelve won, eight lost; Wayne, ten won, ten lost; and Adrian, four won and four lost. These victories gave Michigan State the league championship and the tournament honors. All debates were on the question that a policy of development toward collectivism under our present form of representative government be permanently adopted by the United States.—*Ormond J. Drake*.

Four debaters from St. Thomas engaged in fifteen debates on a five day trip through Wisconsin and Illinois.—*The Aquin*.

Bethany and McPherson divided honors in a triangular tournament at Kansas Wesleyan, January 8.—*The Bethany Messenger*.

An intra-mural debate tournament open to any one interested was sponsored by Oklahoma Zeta, the College for Women.—*The Trend*.

The organization of the Olivet Debate Union, modeled after the Oxford Union, has increased student interest and participation in forensics.—*The Olivet College Echo*.

Wheaton sent a women's team into Michigan where it met Western State Teachers, Kalamazoo, Albion, Wayne, Michigan State Normal, Adrian and Hinsdale in no-decision debates.—*The Wheaton Record*.

North Dakota University won a decision from Macalester in the final debate of the Red River Valley tournament sponsored by Concordia, Minnesota Zeta, February 8-9. Thirty-three teams competed.—*The Concordian*.

The women's tournament sponsored by the University of South Dakota drew teams from thirteen colleges in four states. Yankton won the A division and State, South Dakota Delta, won the B division.—*The Phreno Cosmian*.

Augustana, South Dakota Eta, won the state inter-collegiate forensic tournament February 15-16. The Augustana winners were: Raymond De Boer, oratory; Johnson Jeffries, men's extempore; Mary Strahon, women's extempore. Gertrude Gantz of Yankton won the Peace oratorical, and Geraldine Fergen of Eastern Teachers won the women's oratorical contests.—*The Phreno Cosmian*.

The West Texas Speech Tournament held at Abilene Christian College, February 8-9, attracted sixty-one teams from fifteen institutions. Oklahoma Theta, Southeastern Teachers, defeated Texas Theta, the host institution, in the men's debate finals. The Texas Theta women won from Denton, Texas Eta, in the women's finals. Kelley Barnett, Texas Theta, won the oratorical contest.—*The Brand*.

Kearney Teachers, Nebraska Zeta, held a high school debate tournament February 9.—*The Antelope*.

Twenty-four teams from six Kansas colleges participated in a practice debate tournament at Emporia Teachers, Zeta, February 1-2.—*The Bulletin*.

Two debate teams from the College of Idaho, Alpha, put on an exhibition debate before a guest meeting of the Twin Falls Rotary Club.—*College Coyote*.

Michigan State opened its forensic season with an audience decision over Alma in a debate before the Teachers Institute of Midland.—*Michigan State News*.

The six girls who competed in the local Peace oratorical contest at Oklahoma Zeta, College for Women, have been speaking before church audiences.—*The Trend*.

Yankton, South Dakota Gamma, won both the A and B division of the invitation men's debate tournament held at Dakota Wesleyan, February 1-2.—*The Phreno Cosmian*.

Upper Iowa, Eta, met Simpson, Penn, and John Fletcher in a series of practice debates. In the Luther College tournament, Upper Iowa won three and lost one.—*The Collegian*.

The Little Six practice debate tournament at Kansas Aggies February 1-2, brought together less experienced teams from Emporia, Emporia Teachers, Ottawa, Washburn, Baker, and the Aggies.—*The New College Life*.

Debaters lead all campus groups in scholastic honors at Dakota Wesleyan. The forensic stars had a grade point average of 2.39. The presidents of all campus organizations, with 2.09, were second.—*The Phreno Cosmian*.

Dr. H. L. Ewbank, professor of speech at the University of Wisconsin and president of Delta Sigma Rho, spoke at chapel at Central State Teachers, Oklahoma Iota, February 6, on the place of speech in the curriculum of the future.—*The Vista*.

Augustana, Illinois Xi, won a debate from Monmouth, Illinois Zeta.—*The Oracle*.

Fifty teams from the southwest entered the Baylor tournament January 18-19.—*The Yellow Jacket*.

East Central, Oklahoma Eta, sponsored a high school debate tournament February 22-3.—*The East Central Journal*.

Central and Parsons, Iowa Beta and Zeta, presented the munitions question before the Rose Hill Parent Teachers Association.—*The Central Ray*.

Sixteen debaters from Park and William Jewell, Missouri Beta and Delta, met in a congressional type debate at the former institution January 30. Each speaker was limited to five minutes.—*The Park Stylus*.

Wheaton, Illinois Mu, debated over station WCFL of Chicago on February 9. The question was that the recent ruling of the Supreme Court should not greatly hamper the working of the New Deal.—*The Wheaton Record*.

The student council of Kent State, Ohio Iota, has been conducting student forums for the discussing of campus problems. One of the first matters taken up was an investigation of the value of the honorary societies on the campus.—*The Kent Stater*.

Debaters from eighteen states entered the University of Iowa invitation tournament. Mont. Hilleary, Kansas Zeta, won first in his division of the extempore contest. The finals were broadcast. A legislative session made up of the debaters formed the program for one evening of the tournament. The topic for discussion which was chosen by a member of President Roosevelt's cabinet was "Resolved: That the United States should own the munitions industry." Lewis Richardson, Emporia Teachers, was chosen floor leader for the "Liberal" party. He presented the bill for consideration. Lyman Fields, representative from Kansas University, was selected speaker of the House of Representatives. Doris McGuire and Dorothy Abromson, Emporia women debaters, spoke for six minutes in favor of the bill. The bill passed after a two hour session.—*The Bulletin*.

Phi Rho Pi, the junior college honorary forensic society, will hold its seventh annual convention at Bristol, Virginia, April 16-8.—*The Persuader.*

“So far this year Missouri Iota, Southeastern Teachers have travelled about 4,000 miles on debate trips, and will cover approximately 1,400 more before the season is over,” writes Forrest Rose, the coach and one of our national vice-presidents.

January 21-27, a women’s team representing Missouri Iota, Southeastern Teachers and debating the arms and munitions question, took a trip through Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and Michigan, debating McKendree, Bowling Green, Battle Creek and Valparaiso. Six debates were held, all being non-decision. February 2, Missouri Iota entertained eight members of the debate squad of The Principia College, St. Louis, in debate. Two debates were held in the afternoon. A dinner-debate was held in the evening at one of the local hotels, with members of the two debate squads and a few invited guests present. After dining together, the two groups spent the rest of the evening “quarreling.”

This is a record of achievement. The Sioux Province, composed of eleven chapters in North Dakota, South Dakota, and Iowa, renews the claim made two years ago by its past governor Parlette (March, 1933, FORENSIC), that its biennial contests, to be held at Dakota Wesleyan University, Mitchell, April 3-6, are in reality a “little national.” Consider the records. Nine of its eleven chapters are in the upper third of the rankings of national convention achievements. Six are in the upper 20 percent. Included in the 1935 contests will be five women’s and six men’s debate teams that survived five or more rounds of the recent tournaments at St. Thomas and St. Catherine’s, including the second place women’s team from Northern Normal, and a host of individual speakers from last year’s National. Among these are Cleon Reidinger, Marjorie Collins, and Gertrude Gantz of Yankton who were in the semi-finals or finals of their contests in oratory and extempore speaking; Francis Smith of the second place Augustana debate team; and Parnall Mahoney and Robert Dunham, the 1933 and 1934 National Forensic League champion extempore speakers. Professors Elbert Harrington of Mayville Teachers, Evan Anderson of Gustavus Adolphus, and Leroy Laase of Hastings have been selected to judge this forensic carnival. The Sioux Province is giving due warning that it will be ready for the call to the 1936 National contests.

PLANS FOR LOWER MISSISSIPPI PROVINCIAL CONVENTION

Date: April 5, 6, 1935. Place, Trinity University.

Registration, 8:00-10:00 A. M., Friday, April 5.

Assembly, 10:00 A. M., Friday, April 5.

Provincial dinner, 6:30 P. M., Friday, April 5.

Business meeting, Saturday morning, April 6.

Events, both men's and women's divisions: Debate, oratory, extempore speaking. Men's extempore subject, the New Deal; women's extempore subject, Socialized Medicine.

Objective: Every chapter represented in every event.

Trinity is sending two men's teams to the Savage Forensic at Durant, Oklahoma, March 1 and 2. The preceding night they will debate Austin College teams at Sherman, Texas.

Southwestern University is scheduled to contest the munitions question with Trinity in Waxahachie, February 28. Two teams from Trinity will meet Southern Methodist University at Dallas, February 26.

Three teams from Trinity, Texas Beta, participated in the Baylor University tournament Jan. 18-19, one team, consisting of George Collins and Stuart Lumpkins, going through the sixth round before being eliminated.

Charles Ferguson and Joseph Copeland, representing Trinity University on the affirmative of the munitions question, lost an audience decision to a Texas Christian University team before the Fort Worth Current Events Club Feb. 5. T. C. U. will return the visit to Trinity March 4.

Erasmus Lozano, who debated for Trinity in 1930-31, is now on the staff of a Spanish language newspaper at San Antonio. Paxton Smith, who was a member of Trinity's delegation to the Tiffin, Ohio, meet in 1928, is now pastor of the Methodist Church at Italy, Texas.

With the current semester, Trinity is giving college credit to the debaters. A course in fundamentals of debate will be given during the fall semester, while members of the debate squad will receive credit for one semester hour each season they represent the school, till a total of six hours in debate is attained. These courses, listed as Speech, will be taught by Prof. Allan Mote, Director of Debating.