

Is Debate A Game?

Debate is called many things — “mental gymnastics,” “intellectual sparring,” “the loquacious person’s chess,” “sound and fury signifying nothing,” “method of democracy,” “a dance,” “a game.” In an attempt to discover what the practioners label it, *The Forensic* has conducted a selective poll. Five debaters replied to these questions: Is debate a “game”? If you reply “yes,” then would you say that the rules are followed? If you reply “no,” then what is debate?

Michael Weaver
Tennessee Tech University
TN Delta

Webster defines “game” as “any specific amusement or sport involving physical or mental competition under specific rules.” Based on this simple definition, and answering as a true debater, I must reply “yes” and “no.” “Yes,” because debate is amusing (to say the least) and it is a form of mental competition. “No,” inasmuch as the definition mentions “specific rules.” In my Speech 362 class, maybe . . .

After my first round of college debate, the judge wrote on the ballot that “the affirmative wins due to presumption.” Another judge once wrote on one of our ballots that “I will not vote against a good case like this one due to topicality alone.” (In this case, extratopicality) What can I say?

Michael R. Keller
North Dakota State University
ND Delta

In *theory* debate is *not* a game; in *practice* it is becoming more and more a test of which team can spread the farthest with no real concern or focus on argumentative speaking in order to resolve one or two truly important issues in the debate. In practice debate is consumed by the debater who best paraphrases a 4 x 6 card in order that he may throw out twice as many arguments as he needs to. The end result is a muddled, nonrational hour of discourse which may certainly be termed the opposite of the art of persuasion, beautiful and just.

Rules are followed, ethics are not. The problem arises from the fact that there are no rules which limit the number of arguments one can present. Thus the debater who can speak very rapidly, regardless of how unpleasant the delivery sounds, is already at an advantage. When you consider the extensive briefs and masses of evidence that are becoming so much a part of debate, you can see that the win goes to those who talk fast rather than to those who think fast.

Beth Wright
University of Wisconsin — River Falls
WI Delta

No, debate is not a game. The principles that are learned in debate can be applied to real-life situations. Being able to support your policies in any situation will enable a debater to be more successful in any profession. Most important is the fact that debate deals with topics that are relevant to today’s problems, and this knowledge learned can be used in dealing with those problems.

Debate is a learning experience. It provides people the opportunity to learn to argue and to be persuasive.

Donald C. Smith
Southern Connecticut State College
CN Beta

No, debate is not a game. When one thinks of a “game,” one, more oft than not, thinks of an amusing activity. Debate, although enjoyable, is best defined as a sport. “Sport” better denotes competition of which a great deal can be seen during tournaments.

David W. Evans
Wilkes College
PA Omicron

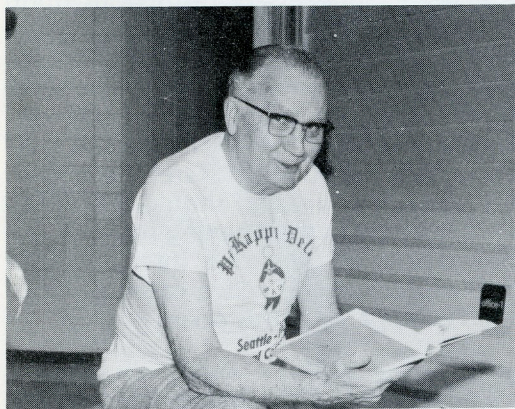
Debate is a game in the same sense that college football and basketball are games: they are meant to be taken seriously. This is not to say that debate is a matter of life and death; still it should not be taken frivolously.

The rules probably are followed and enforced to the extent that they can be. However, there are no written rules against shotgun attacks or graduate research teams doing research for undergraduate squads; these seem to be ethical rules which everyone agrees should be followed but which will be followed only if they suit one’s purposes. And, of course, there is no rule to preclude national debate topics which are so broad that any number of implications can be made and any number of “topical” cases can be constructed. Perhaps rules covering these situations can be written and enforced.

RECORDING THE VOICES OF PKD

Announcing a new event

Larry Norton, Historian



The idea has been circulating for several years. Who originated it and when is already lost in history. Then it was revived last year at the Seattle Convention. Some members suggested that the files of the historian should include cassette recordings of interviews with the veteran coaches in Pi Kappa Delta. Someone suggested that a good place to start would be the provincial level. As discussion continued, plans began to formulate.

In an era when three-fourths of our communication time is devoted to oral language and when our civilization is moving in the direction of a predominantly oral culture, it may be appropriate that Pi Kappa Delta recognize the trend and record some of our history in oral as well as written form.

We note, also, that in recent years the interview form has assumed a more important educational role in oral communication studies. Because it incorporates three essential techniques of interpersonal communication — questioning, answering, and listening — the interview has become a popular and useful type of activity as well as a successful method of teaching basic skills.

Then it was suggested, why not give consideration to combining the educational advantages of the interview with

the historical values of perpetuating, in oral form, the experiences, philosophy, and ideals of Pi Kappa Deltans? And if that is worth an experimental effort, why not extend the scope of those to be interviewed to include an extensive sampling of the personal opinions, beliefs, and reflections of students, alumni, coaches, administrators, and other members of the campus-community at the local chapter level as well as at the provincial and national levels? Why not involve students in a realistic, practical activity both as interviewer and interviewee? Why not experiment with the oral history interview as a contest event at some of the 1978 province meetings? It would not be the first time that the interview form has been used as a tournament event. Past President Roy Mahaffey included it in his Tournament of Champions more than twenty-five years ago.

So the discussion progressed to the point of considering some educational responses we might expect from pursuing this idea. In relation to the general field of intercollegiate speech activities, we might find answers to some questions relating to where we are in our forensic thinking, what we really do believe, how strong we hold those beliefs, in what direction we should be going, and just where our values lie. The answers to these and other questions might help to supplement the goals and roles of forensics set forth at the Sedalia Conference and aid us all in restoring a positive educational image to forensic programs.

The leadership of Pi Kappa Delta might hope to obtain deliberative responses from persons with varying degrees of involvement in speech contests concerning the role of an honorary organization in forensic activity. These answers could be useful in the reevaluation of the philosophy, structure, and function of Pi Kappa Delta.

It might be assumed that those who participate as interviewers might increase, through preparation and performance, their understanding of the nature and goals of forensics. They might improve skills in questioning, answering, and listening. In retrospect, they could have the satisfaction of making a worthwhile

contribution to the on-going process of improving intercollegiate forensic competition.

The persons interviewed would have the opportunity to formulate and to express opinions derived from varied experiences with contest speech activities and from a relationship with Pi Kappa Delta. Though the opportunity for expression is always available through other channels, only a very limited number of persons are actually heard and read on current forensic issues.

The areas and topics which could be used in the interviews are limited only by the imagination of the participants. These are but a few suggestions from which specific questions might be developed. What changes in the nature of competitive speech events have you observed in recent years? What are your reactions to these changes? Is judging better or

worse now than it was several years ago? Do you have any explanation for this? Does the general public attach more or less value to intercollegiate speech activities now than in previous years? Why? What are the values to be obtained from participation in speech contests? Are participants properly rewarded for their achievements in intercollegiate forensics? Are there unnecessary restrictions upon participation? What observations do you have relative to ethical behavior in forensic activities? Does Pi Kappa Delta serve useful functions in the area of intercollegiate forensics? If so, what are the most important ones? If not, are there contributions it could and should make?

As inferred in the opening remarks, it is hoped that all recorded interviews will find a place in the active cassette file of the Pi Kappa Delta historian.

The President's Message

(Continued from page 3)

trends in forensics, and to compile membership demographic data. The Function Subcommittee, composed of Jack Starr, Ted Karl, and Roger Hufford, will look into the function of our fraternity, considering such questions as how to implement the Pi Kappa Delta philosophy and what should be the proper relationship of this organization to the rest of the academic community. The Structure Subcommittee, consisting of Phyllis Bosley, Carolyn Keefe, and Jim DeMoux, former PKD vice-president, is charged with making recommendations about the structure of Pi Kappa Delta — its local, provincial, and national organization, its lines of communication, and its finances.

Task Force discussions began in earnest at the SCA Convention in Washington, D.C., last December. The timetable calls for meetings and discussions throughout this year and the next, culminating in a final report to be presented to the convention assembled in St. Louis in 1979. The Task Force will be a priority item on the agenda at the National Council's summer meeting this August. Much work, of course, remains to be done, but already the Task Force has made some preliminary recom-

mendations. As a consequence, for example, planning is now well underway for a series of early season local experimental tournaments sponsored under the aegis of Pi Kappa Delta. These tournaments, with special rules and regulations, will be designed to foster a style of debate consistent with our motto: the art of persuasion, beautiful and just. You'll be receiving more information about these tournaments when plans are complete.

The work of the Task Force will take much time and effort. Its ultimate success or failure will depend on each and every one of us because the members of the National Council cannot complete this task on their own. We shall need the advice and cooperation of every member of the fraternity. What role do you think Pi Kappa Delta should play in forensics in the coming years? What do you see as the Pi Kappa Delta philosophy? How might the structure of this organization be improved? Where is forensics heading in the next decade? Where should it be going? Questions such as these might make for lively discussion between rounds at upcoming province tournaments. Some provinces may even wish to place these matters on the agenda. I encourage you to discuss these questions with other students and coaches and let the Task Force know what you think.



The Secretary's Page . . . Theodore O. H. Karl

After Winter, The Provincials

As this is being written, the first month of 1978 is just about over. The news from the Midwest and parts of even the South is frightening — extreme cold, snow that is paralyzing the area — and while all of this is happening to many of you, we out here in the Northwest have yet to experience a temperature under 37 degrees. Of course, we have had some rain, but that is welcome after our previous winter of insufficient rainfall. The mountains are heavy with snow, due to all the skiers thinking "snow!"

By the time you read this page, at least some of the provinces will have had their conventions. I sincerely hope that all of them were well-attended or will be well-attended. The province convention and tournament is a very important part of the entire fraternity program. It would be good to know that at least some of the provinces were able to get the information out early enough to allow experimentation with the new interview event. If the innovation is at all successful, it is quite possible that such an event will be a part of the National Tournament in

St. Louis next year. As devised by Larry Norton, historian, and Roger Hufford, chairman of the national contests, it sounds most interesting and has much potential. After all, Pi Kappa Delta has been the leader and innovator of things forensic over the years.

The governors should arrange to send the results and the minutes of the province conventions (as well as other matters of general interest to the membership) to the Editor and to the Secretary. One copy should be kept for the province files.

This office has received ninety-two Fall Reports so far. Some arrived too late for the Directory, but each report will help to bring the chapter files up-to-date, as well as to provide an opportunity to order the supplies needed for initiating new members this spring. This office really does need the Fall Report. We have also been receiving outdated copies of Form A, as well as \$10.00 memberships rather than the \$15.00 fee which went into effect August 1, 1977. There are a number of changes in chapter sponsors, and we need

to know this in order to have a current mailing list.

To date we have received ninety-four assessment fees from the chapters. For those chapters who have not paid, an additional billing will be necessary. The National Convention in Seattle passed this assessment, which is annual and continuous until some convention in the future changes it. It would be of great service to the national organization if this fee

would be paid at the beginning of the year, thus saving both time and money.

It is our hope that you will have or have had a successful province convention and tournament. The Northwest Province Convention will be held at the Empress Hotel, Victoria, British Columbia, among our neighbors to the North. We expect to accomplish much and to also have a good and relaxing time. We wish the same for you.

Please Note: The annual chapter assessment is \$15.00; an individual membership is also \$15.00. Fees are payable to the National Secretary-Treasurer.

New Look for Old Event

Tired of progressing orderly (more or less) through discussion stages?

Definition and Delineation Stage

Problem Analysis Stage

Solutions Stage

Report Writing Stage

Ho, hum, John Dewey, brilliant and useful, step aside while Pi Kappa Deltans consider another type of discussion. Don't go far — we may return after exactness bores us more than probability.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROGER HUFFORD'S NEW LOOK FOR DISCUSSION

It has been proposed that part of the discussion competition at the 1979 Nationals be solving problems with right answers. The winning group would be the group that got the most right answers, and no group could blame judge prejudice if they lost. There comes a time, too, when verbal skill is not enough and when proposals have to be implemented and tested. These problems do not represent harsh reality but are just for fun. Can your group get the right answers?

GROUP DISCUSSION PROBLEMS

1. **PSYCHIC DETERMINATION:** Anna, Bella, Carla, and Donna try the psychic determination test. They put the four aces and joker from a standard deck of cards face down on a table, then try to guess which is which. Nobody got them all right, and nobody got them all wrong, and at the end no two persons had the same number right. WHAT WERE THE CARDS?

	First Card	Second Card	Third Card	Fourth Card	Fifth Card
Anna	Club	Joker	Heart	Diamond	Club
Bella	Diamond	Joker	Heart	Club	Spade
Carla	Heart	Club	Spade	Diamond	Joker
Donna	Diamond	Joker	Club	Club	Spade

2. **THE ORATORY CONTEST:** Art, Bob, Carl, Dick, and Ed agree to take part in an oratory contest judged by Fran, Ginny, Helen, Irma, and Janet. Each girl ranks the five speakers from 1 (best) to 5 (worst) with no ties. The ranks are added, and the speaker with the lowest total wins. There are no ties. From the given information, determine WHO SHOULD GET THE FIRST, SECOND, AND THIRD PLACE TROPHIES?

1. Everyone except Carl received at least one first and one last.
2. Art got one more first place than anybody else.
3. Bob's total of ranks was 2 better than Ed's and 2 worse than Dick's.
4. Fran ranked Dick above Carl, and Carl above Ed.
5. Ginny ranked Art 2 places ahead of Bob, and Carl 2 places ahead of Dick.
6. Fran ranked Bob last.
7. Helen ranked Bob first.
8. If Dick had received first from Helen instead of last, his total would have been 10, and he would have been a clear first (assuming the others did not have their totals altered by the change).
9. Irma ranked Dick ahead of Art.
10. Janet liked Dick best and Ed least (and ranked them accordingly).
11. Irma did not rank Bob third.

3. **CONFUSION CRESCENT:** Three married couples live on Confusion Crescent. The wives are all housewives, and their husbands work as the town butcher, baker, and candlestick maker. The strange thing about the couples is that all six of them have first names that are sometimes given to males and sometimes to females. To add to the confusion, one of each couple always tells the truth, and the spouse always lies. The following remarks have been faithfully recorded, and we can assure you that nobody mentioned his/her own spouse's name. DETERMINE EACH MAN'S JOB AND WIFE.

- Fran: 1. Bobby is married to Kim.
 Jan: 2. Lynn is not the candlestick maker.
 Kim: 3. Bobby is the baker.
 Bobby: 4. Fran is the butcher.
 5. Carroll is not the butcher.
 Carroll: 6. Kim is not the baker.
 Lynn: 7. Jan is the butcher.
 8. Fran is not married to the butcher or the baker.

The right answers will appear in the May issue of *The Forensic*.

CHAPTER NEWS

Edited by Ada Mae Haury

province of the missouri

SOUTHWEST BAPTIST COLLEGE

Reporter: Les Frazier

Missouri Sigma chapter started off

the forensic year by hosting its first tournament on September 23-24. Although the date was early, the tournament was well attended. Dr. Bob Derbyberry, forensic coach, hopes to make the tournament an annual event.

The debate squad had its first outing on October 13-14 at the Louisiana Tech tournament. The squad came home with second place in sweepstakes, aided by a first place in extemporaneous speaking by junior Darrell Moore.

On November 10-11, the team traveled to William Jewell's Blizzard Tournament. There the squad finished third in sweepstakes, with a first place in debate by senior Randy Arnett and junior Darrell Moore. Novices Randy Cowling and Kevin Laval also finished first.

The squad is looking forward to the Missouri State Tournament in March and the biprovincials in South Dakota in April.

WILLIAM JEWELL COLLEGE

Reporter: Kurt Stadtwald

Delta chapter has brought home awards from each of the five tournaments in which squad members have competed.

In September the squad traveled to Southwest Baptist College where Kelly Klopfenstein returned with a first place trophy in extemporaneous speaking. Carla Jordan was awarded first place in informative and third in oratory, while Karen Kerr received fourth in prose and Isaiah Lewis fourth in storytelling. In

junior division debate, Chris Hunter and Greg Cyr placed fourth. The squad ranked third in sweepstakes.

At the University of Western Illinois, Cindy Hoover and Donald McCall reached quarterfinals in junior division debate, while at Oklahoma Christian College they finished as octafinalists in junior division debate, and Carla Jordan brought home second place in oratory and extemporaneous speaking.

Jewell's efforts were crowned with victory at Johnson County Community College. Cindy Hoover advanced to extemporaneous finals and Carla Jordan placed second; Kelly Klopfenstein finished third in oratory; and Ike Lewis and Duane Reed placed first and third respectively in interpretation. In debate the teams of Dale Phelps—Mike Retherford and Kelly Klopfenstein—Kurt Stadtwald both advanced to octafinals in junior division debate. Kurt Stadtwald won the third place speaker's gavel.

To cap the first half of the season, the squad participated at Wichita State University. Cindy Hoover placed first in extemporaneous speaking. In interpretation four of the six finalists were from Jewell, with Duane Reed bringing home first place honors, followed by Mary Bledsoe, Karen Kerr, and Ike Lewis. Carla Jordan advanced to oratory finals.

The chapter sponsored the annual Blizzard Tournament and the Missouri State Debate Tournament.

The squad is proud to report that Kelly Klopfenstein, a graduating senior, was honored by her peers in being selected lieutenant governor of the Province of the Missouri and is also serving as president of the chapter. Dale Phelps is vice-president, Cindy Dayton is secretary, and Kurt Stadtwald is historian-reporter.

province of the sioux

BUENA VISTA COLLEGE

Reporter: Dan Lintin

The Kappa chapter at Storm Lake, Iowa, wishes to announce

that their program is back on its feet and is enjoying a very successful semester.

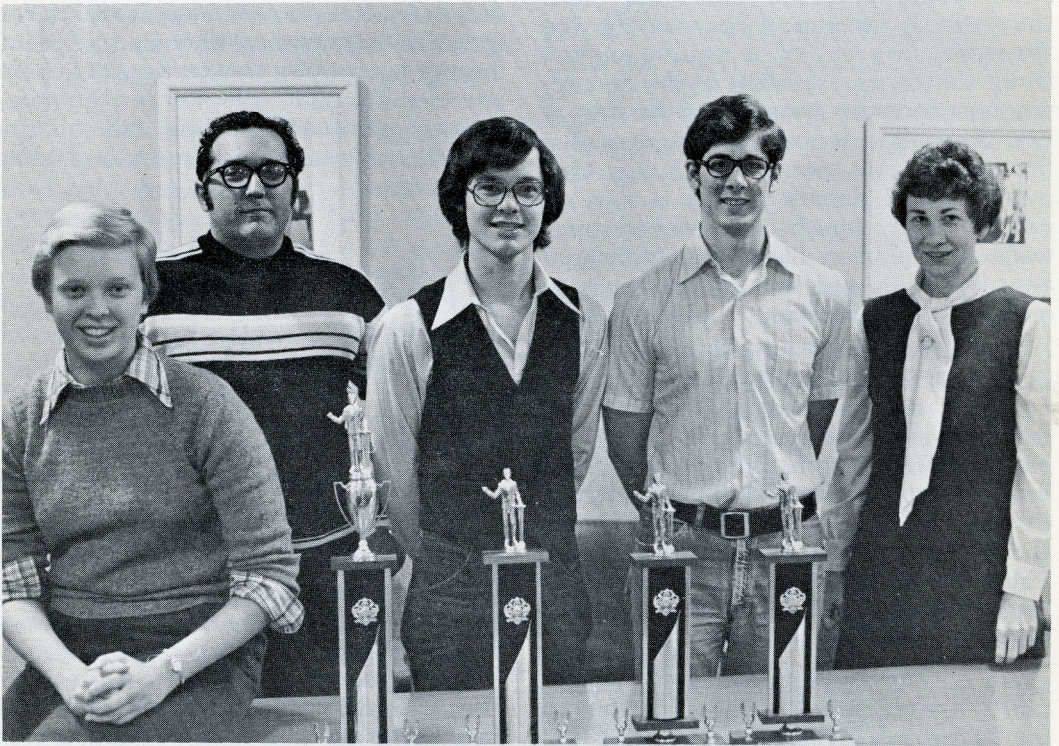
At the University of Wisconsin at Whitewater, Dan Lintin, Gordon Paulsen, Renee Schmidt, and Mary Massa placed eighth in novice debate, while at Creighton University, Raileen Peterson ranked fourth in humorous impromptu. Lori Van Osbree placed first in group discussion and parliamentary debate; Dan Lintin placed second in group discussion and parliamentary debate; Gordon Paulsen placed second in extemporaneous speaking; Bill LaBaume placed third in interpretation of prose; and

Raileen Peterson placed fourth in humorous impromptu.

The Mankato State University tournament found Buena Vista's Gordon Paulsen and Dan Lintin placing sixth in beginner's debate, Dan Lintin ranking fourth in rhetorical criticism, and Gordon Paulsen qualifying for semifinals in extemporaneous speaking.

At the Nebraska Wesleyan tournament, Raileen Peterson and Bill LaBaume placed fourth in duet acting; Renee Schmidt qualified for finals in after-dinner speaking; and Bill LaBaume and Lori Van Osbree qualified for semifinals in interpretation of prose.

Our plans for next semester include hosting the Japanese debaters, an initiation banquet for the new Pi Kappa Delta members, and six tournaments.



Trophies Acquired by Buena Vista At The University Of Nebraska At Omaha

Left to right: Lori Van Osbree, first place in group discussion and parliamentary debate; Bill LaBaume, third place in prose interpretation; Dan Lintin, second place in group discussion and parliamentary debate; Gordon Paulsen, second place in extemporaneous speaking; and Dr. Sandra Madsen, director of forensics.

province of the lower mississippi

mountains, over the plains, and back to the hills we came, proudly bearing our Charter #382 — Arkansas Iota, and determined to do or die for Pi Kappa Delta. The University of Arkansas at Fayetteville may not have set the whole world on fire, but we are somewhat proud of the record we made during the fall semester and hope to be able to build on it during the spring. Our activities included attendance at the annual Debate Rally at the University of Arkansas in Little Rock, The Oklahoma Christian College Tournament, The University of Kansas Tournament, the hosting of our own six-state, six hundred-student tournament for high schools, plus participation in the Arkansas Speech Communication Association Student Congress at Little Rock, and the Louisiana State University at Shreveport Tournament. We are especially proud of being able to elect Doug Carson as president of the Senate, nineteen separate awards, and the title of Best Delegation at Student Congress, plus the sweepstakes award at L.S.U.S. Our overall squad debate record is now 60 percent, with teams having reached semis twice and quarters five times. Individual awards include two first places, two seconds, and four finalists.

Our officers for the year are Jo Carson, president; Roland Depew, vice-president; Leslie Lane, secretary; Bill Putman, treasurer and assistant coach; and Karen McCaulley, reporter. Keith McCommom is also a returning active member, and the list of new pledges includes Doug Carson, Joe Childers, Tom Fox, Carol Goforth, Valerie L'Allier, Sheryl Salter, Eric Van Scyoc, Eric Vaughn, Mike Waltman, and Velina Watson.

We are now setting our sights on second semester, sending out invitations to our Razorback II Tournament for colleges and universities, scheduled for February 17 and 18, and planning all sorts of money-raising activities from selling Christmas trees to Social Security cards to finance tournament attendance.

THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS— FAYETTEVILLE

Reporter: Mary Ingalls

Across the moun-

We are anticipating attending two tournaments, in addition to the State Speech Festival and, of course, the Provincials at Arkadelphia. We are even looking ahead to renewing friendships in St. Louis in 1979.

province of the southeast

DAVID LIPSCOMB COLLEGE

Reporter: Kenneth Schott

The Tennessee Theta chapter competed in eight debate tournaments during the fall quarter, breaking into the finals in every tournament. The greatest victory of the fall season was winning the Wake Forest Tournament on October 30. Winning debaters were Bruce Clayton and Mike Buchanan. The chapter has the following members: Tony Saunders, president; Karen Horn, vice-president; Leslie Bridges, secretary; Robert Whiting, David Sampson, Gary Pearson, Mike Cunningham, Bruce Clayton, Tim Dance, Karen Nichols, and Cathy Brown.

New members applying this quarter are: Kathy Jones, Nels Grubb, and Mike Buchanan.

province of the lakes

OHIO NORTHERN UNIVERSITY

*Reporters: Steve Swartz,
Ralph Harris,
and Vern Rudder*

In fast-paced verbal action, the Xi chapter competed in tournaments in Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Virginia, and Ohio. Consistent with our philosophy of providing debate experience for a large number of students, Ohio Northern entered sixteen debate team members and an additional sixteen argumentation students in competitive debate rounds this term.

Between tournaments we hosted the First Annual Cornstalk Invitational Debate Tournament, a novice event which provided beginning debaters with the chance to practice debating skill. In October, Northern debaters challenged two Oxford debaters to a debate on the merits of pornography or censorship.

Our chapter is pleased to announce an additional sponsor, Gary E. Bayliss, who will share responsibility with Elizabeth Roberts, currently secretary-treasurer of the Province of the Lakes. In addition to her PKD activities, Ms. Roberts is director of the Communication Skills Center at Ohio Northern. We also warmly welcome Chuck Johnson to the coaching staff of our team.

Future plans include a winter PKD initiation, several fund-raising projects, an intersquad debate tournament, a Florida debate tour, and the province convention.

province of the colonies

BLOOMSBURG STATE COLLEGE

Reporter: Cindy Fissel

Pennsylvania Delta chapter reports many new forensic mem-

bers this year. Susan Waters has won an award in poetry interpretation, while Mark Lucia has won an award in persuasion. Anne Otto and Regina Wild are student teaching this semester but will join the squad in January. Our new Pi Kappa Delta officers are Mary Fowler, president; Sherri Reichard, vice-president; Cindy Fissel, secretary-treasurer; and Gert McGoff, pledge mistress. Neil Hilkert is our advisor.

We have traveled to five tournaments this semester: Prince George's Community College, Shippensburg, North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Frostburg, and Penn State University. Also we hosted the Ninth Annual Mad Hatter Tournament early in November.

WILKES COLLEGE

Pennsylvania Omicron chapter is gaining fame not only on the Wilkes campus and area communities but also among other colleges. Although it is one of the newest chapters in Pennsylvania, it is indeed on the move in competition.

The chapter which calls itself "Kinney's Kids" (named for their coach and director) have won over twenty-six major awards this year. Next semester promises to be even a bigger success for the debaters as they attempt to break the col-

lege all-time winning record.

In addition to engaging in intercollegiate competition, the Union provides instruction in forensic skills for ten to fourteen-year olds in the "College for Kids" program. The past two summers these workshops have been very successful. Now each semester the Union will offer workshops and visitations to local high schools to increase interest in forensic activity. Plans are underway for five new members to be taken into the chapter ranks.

CHAPTER NEWS CITATIONS

The following chapters are commended for their cooperation in reporting their forensic activities. Each chapter has sent in news at least twice since August 1, 1975, when the current staff assumed their duties.

BETHEL COLLEGE, KS XI
BLOOMSBURG STATE COLLEGE,
PA DELTA
BUENA VISTA COLLEGE, IA KAPPA
CALIFORNIA STATE COLLEGE, PA ZETA
CENTRAL COLLEGE, IA BETA
DAVID LIPSCOMB COLLEGE, TN THETA
ILLINOIS WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY,
IL ALPHA
HARDING COLLEGE, AR ZETA
LOUISIANA TECH UNIVERSITY,
LA DELTA
MOORHEAD STATE UNIVERSITY,
MN KAPPA
MOUNT UNION COLLEGE, OH MU
OTTAWA UNIVERSITY, KS ALPHA
SOUTHEAST MISSOURI STATE
UNIVERSITY, MO IOTA
SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE
COLLEGE, CT BETA
SOUTHWEST BAPTIST COLLEGE,
MO SIGMA
UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS-
FAYETTEVILLE, AR IOTA
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-EAU
CLAIRE, WI ZETA
WEST CHESTER STATE COLLEGE, PA IOTA
WILKES COLLEGE, PA OMICRON
WILLIAM JEWELL COLLEGE, MO DELTA

Send Chapter News to: Professor Ada Mae Haury, Associate Editor, *The Forensic*, Bethel College, North Newton, KS 67117.

NEW MEMBERS OF PI KAPPA DELTA

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL ARKANSAS

50549 Karl M. Sherwood

TENNESSEE TECH UNIVERSITY

50577 Michael Mark Kingsbury

ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

50721 Larry Litton

WESTERN WASHINGTON STATE COLLEGE

50730 Paul Amundson

50731 Thomas P. Gillespie

TEXAS A & I UNIVERSITY

50742 Roger C. Bunch

50743 John Brooke

50744 Brenda Faye Holt

50745 Michelle Mew

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN—EAU CLAIRE

50746 Mary Boos

50747 Marie Ann Jensen

50748 Lois J. Krajnak

50749 Mary Larocque

50750 Brad Waller

50751 Michael M. Walsh

50752 Michael Symons

MIDWESTERN UNIVERSITY

50753 John Randall Keck

50754 Steven Louis Keck

TEXAS LUTHERAN COLLEGE

50755 Scott Wyant

50756 William F. Shupe

50764 Elizabeth Ann Reader

50765 Mark K. Mathyer

50772 Karl Alf

SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA UNIVERSITY

50757 Karen Leigh Langhart

50758 Deborah Bullock Nault

50759 Cherie Hutchinson

50760 J. Michelle Amacker

50761 Dennis Dunn

KEARNEY STATE COLLEGE

50762 Larry L. Peterson

50773 Nancy Jolene Fleming

50774 Mark Larson

50775 James William Green

50776 Daniel S. Scarborough

WESTERN STATE COLLEGE

50763 Paula Randolph

SOUTHEASTERN OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY

50766 Chris Lee Stickney

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN — WHITEWATER

50767 Darlene Klaehn

CARTHAGE COLLEGE

50768 Heather Jewell

50769 Carol Ruyle

50770 Laura Saari

50771 Dee McDavid

NEBRASKA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

50778 Chris Shapcott

DEFIANCE COLLEGE

50779 Desirée L. Angeli

50780 Robert J. Fournier

50781 Gary R. Brackle

50782 Anne R. Schultz

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS — FAYETTEVILLE

50783 Tom Fox

50784 Carol Rose Goforth

50785 Michael Scott Waltman

50786 Eric Randall Vaughn

QUACHITA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

50787 Beth Patterson

50788 Cheré Sneed

CENTRAL MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

50777 Tim R. Edwards

50789 Matthew E. York

50790 Roy T. Weiss

50791 David J. Whalen

50792 Eileen M. Edwards

50793 Linda S. Carlson

50794 James S. Rice

50795 Carl Edwin Spradlin

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS — MONTICELLO

50796 Thomas E. Harden

50797 Travis R. Berry

A Word From The Editor . . .

"Talk Is Cheap"

"Talk is cheap" is a saying too common to show up in an impromptu round where points are given to contestants who can meet the unexpected unexpectedly well. But it suits my editorial purpose this March of 1978.

This three-word aphorism describes the talk of too many of us forensic professionals. For years we have been "long in the tooth" about the dreadful state of intercollegiate debate. We deplore case proliferation, the ten-minute rule, canned evidence, canned analysis, file systems on wheels, rapid delivery, lack of audience adaptation, and numerous other so-called abuses. But when we are given the chance to effect change, we cling more strongly

to the status quo than does a negative team.

In "Shall We Dance? A Comment on Contemporary Tournament Debate" (*The Forensic*, January 1978), Michael Volpe attributed the causation of the problems to debate judges and suggested that the solution was theirs too. I believe that he is right. Debaters come and go, but we who teach, coach, and judge debate may hold out a generation or more. We are the style-setters who make fashions out of fads. And the current debate line is about as serviceable to speech communication as flip-flops are to track.

Let us suppose for a moment that a state department of education official were to

observe a debate tournament in order to evaluate the academic value of the activity. Working inductively from observable behavior, the official might well conclude that the competencies being taught would read something like this:

The student will be able to participate in eight rounds of switch-side debate on the national proposition by developing an affirmative case so unique that the opponents have no evidence to refute it; by presenting a negative spread of at least fifteen points so that reasonable affirmative refutation would take no less than thirty minutes; by speaking at a rate so rapid that neither the judge nor the opponents can take a flow sheet; by having at least 2,500 evidence cards on file; by mastering seventy-five terms of debate jargon and inventing ten terms not found in an unabridged dictionary; by adapting evidence to either side of the proposition, without attention to original intent. Competency will be determined by a 4-4 or better win-loss record.

Contemporary debate practice, thus reduced to measurable behavior, would not gain the approval of any sane curriculum committee or state educational official.

But we forensic educators continue to give competency ratings to debaters who demonstrate these behaviors. Yet in our speech communication classes we lecture about vocal and conceptual clarity, sufficient amplification of ideas, audience

adaptation, mental contact with listeners — and we reward students who apply these principles and give low grades to those who violate them. Why this duplicity? Is rhetorical theory so narrow that it does not encompass debate? If so, what rhetorical theory is operable for debate and where, if anyplace, is its application?

Once I thought and taught that debate found its model in the courtroom and legislature and, to a lesser extent, in the town meeting and public forum. But I now know that nothing outside the forensic circuit looks or sounds like the ludicrous mutation known as intercollegiate debate.

Many of us in Pi Kappa Delta feel that the time has come to end this exclusivity. We forensic educators have brought it about; we must now cease our cheap talk and take constructive action by offering students intercollegiate debate competition that rewards thorough, reasonable analysis and pleasing, impressive delivery. Under the leadership of President Tom Harte, the National Council is making plans for a series of debate tournaments at which any fairly intelligent observer will be able to find behavioral competencies worthy of being taught.

Call for Articles

How do you carry out the educational goals of forensics? in coaching? in a course? in field work? in community service? Please describe your program in 800-1,000 words and send to the Editor. Deadline for submission is June 15, 1978.

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