

THE FORENSIC

OF PI KAPPA DELTA

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For years the United States has dominated the track and field competition in the Olympic games. Many of its winning athletes began their careers in grade and high school meets, perfected themselves during their college courses, to achieve the ultimate goal of international honors. Eddie Tolan first appeared on our track horizon as a high school star. Undoubtedly the secret of our Olympic success lies in our nation-wide network of secondary school track meets which attract any youth of athletic ability while he is yet young and provide him with a program of competition through which he may reach his full measure of development.

We are developing forensics in the same manner.

Those who have been following forensic activities during the season just closed are convinced that the tournaments at the 1936 convention will bring out a higher standard of forensic excellence and more vigorous competition than ever before in our national contests. More experienced, more able, and better trained speakers will take the platform.

Many of them will be high school veterans with two and three years of secondary experience behind them. The perfection of a high school organization with state and national contests has rapidly raised the standard of performance in our secondary schools. The National University Extension Association's Committee on Debate, with Mr.

T. M. Beaird of the University of Oklahoma as its chairman, has done much to stimulate active state associations. Whereas there were energetic associations in only a few states not many years ago, there are today functioning organizations in most of the states, organizations which reach all the high schools of the state and discover and stimulate the talented youth in every city, village, and farm. The National Forensic Society brought together a thousand of these high school speakers this spring at its national convention. This increased interest in school speech activities has attracted better trained and more able teachers into the work. High school speakers are already well trained when they take up college forensics.

During the past few years there has been a rapid increase in the number of junior colleges. These institutions have developed a virile forensic program of their own. They have their own national forensic honorary in Phi Rho Pi, an organization which also holds national tournaments. Some of our most able senior college stars have developed out of rigorous discipline of junior college competition.

The college coach today often begins with a freshman squad of speakers more advanced and more experienced than his veterans of a few years back. These students know how to find evidence and how to organize it. They have well trained voices and know what it means to communicate ideas to an audience. They are veterans of forensic tactics. Best of all they are spurred on by a clearer ideal of perfection and a taste of forensic achievement.

Hordes of these able speakers will descend upon Houston in 1936 with the experience of this year's provincial contests behind them. As sophomores and juniors they have schooled themselves in the stern discipline of tournament competition and are standing on the threshold of forensic honor, confident and unafraid. Those who come to Houston must expect to face competition from which the weak and the unprepared have been ruthlessly weeded out. Behind each tournament speaker will be the shadows of from ten to a hundred high school and college orators whom he has outdistanced and whose rivalry has stimulated him to greater perfection. To win out against such competition will be no mean honor.

Some of the winners of the 1936 Houston tournaments are already hard at work on their speeches. It is true that we do not yet

know what question will be debated, what topic will be discussed in the extempore speaking contests, or who these winners will be, but nevertheless they are hard at work. They know that it is going to take hard work to win at Houston and they are willing to pay the price. A year of work is not too much to expect to put in on an oration which is to win national honors. While any student can improve his work in extempore speaking by two or three months practice, he should not expect to make himself the best in the nation in that length of time. He can borrow many hours from the generous summer, use them for study and practice, and make them yield him a rich return next spring.

If wishes were horses every Pi Kappa Delta student might ride to Houston in 1936. Fortunately it is going to take more than wishes to get there. Some of the chapters have already laid aside money to send their delegates. If you have not already done so, begin now to plan, to save, to earn, and to budget funds for your trip to the national convention.

Resolved, That the several states should enact legislation providing for a system of complete medical service available to all citizens at public expense is the official high school debate question for next year. It was released recently by a wording committee composed of Professors J. H. McBurney, University of Michigan; Brooks Quimby, Bates; H. B. Summers, Kansas State; Bower Aly, University of Missouri; and E. C. Buehler, University of Kansas.

Kansas Zeta, Emporia Teachers, held its nineteenth annual banquet April 16, with Governor Alf M. Landon as the honor guest. The banquet program lists the active and alumni members, two hundred seventy-four in all, including former national president George R. R. Pflaum, the president of the college, former governor of Kansas Harry W. Woodring, the present governor, and William Allen White.

CHAMPIONS OF ILLINOIS STATE DEBATE LEAGUE



AUGUSTANA (ILLINOIS) TEAM

Left to right—Standing: Eugene Beattie, Robert Maucker, Peter Denger. Seated: Martin J. Holcomb, Coach; Leroy H. Petersen, Kenneth Walker.

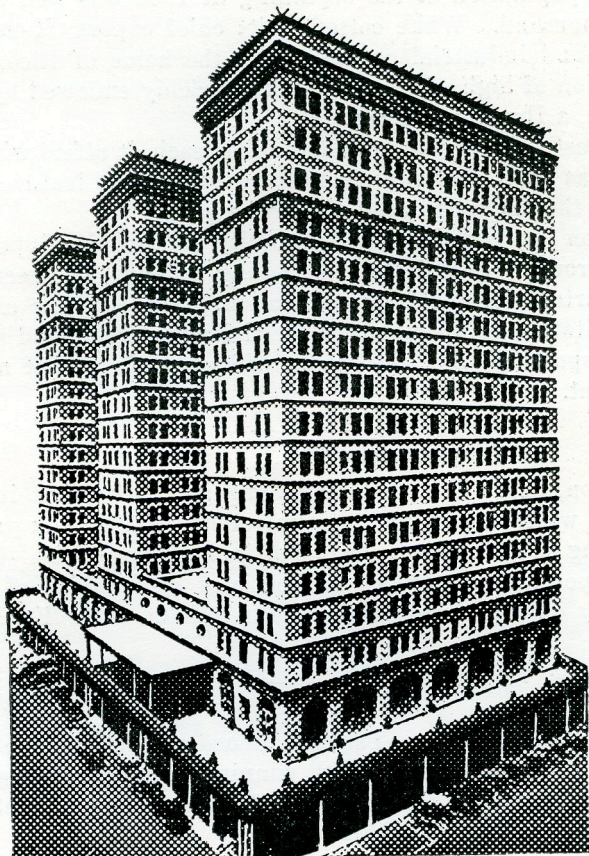
These representatives of the Illinois Xi chapter of Pi Kappa Delta at Augustana College won the championship of the Illinois State Debate League, consisting of seventeen colleges and universities. The question debated was: Resolved, that all collective bargaining should be negotiated by non-company unions safeguarded by law. Eugene Beattie and Peter Denger also made a splendid record on the armament question in the tournament at the College of St. Thomas, winning six out of eight debates.

The Illinois Xi chapter of Pi Kappa Delta at Augustana College has had an exten-

sive debate schedule during the 1934-35 season. Five teams were sent to the pre-season tournament at Southwestern College, Winfield, Kansas; two teams participated in the tournament at the College of St. Thomas, St. Paul, Minnesota; four teams were sent to the tournament at the University of Iowa; and both men's and women's teams were entered in the Provincial Tournament at Waukesha, Wisconsin. Last fall a debate was held on the Augustana campus with representatives from the University of London before an audience of eight hundred. In addition, Augustana has participated in both the men's and women's State Debate League.

All of Augustana's debaters and orators during the past season have been freshmen, sophomores, or juniors. Thus the prospects are fine for another good season next year. We hope to furnish strong competition for the other Pi Kappa Delta chapters at the National Tournament at Houston, Texas.

Houston, the 1936 Convention City



If you will look at a map of Texas, you will find along the gulf coast the deep indentation of Galveston Bay. Fifty miles northwest of the bay is Houston, the site of the 1936 Pi Kappa Delta convention. The Houston Ship Channel connects the city with the bay, giving Houston a sea port. This channel has made Houston the greatest cotton shipping port in the nation. The largest merchant vessels visiting the ports of the Gulf of Mexico and the South Atlantic safely navigate this waterway, coming to rest in the Turning Basin within the city limits. In 1934 a total of 4,986 vessels entered and cleared the port of Houston.

The completion of this ship channel stimulated the rapid growth of Houston. It is now the largest city in Texas and the second in size in the South. According to estimates of the United States Census Bureau its population at the beginning of 1933 was well over three hundred thousand. While cotton is its chief export, Houston is an oil, cattle, and industrial center. It is the home of Rice Institute, an institution of high academic standards richly endowed by William Marsh Rice, a Houston pioneer.

As Houston is only an hour from the beach, it offers winter bathing sports as an attraction. One of the convention features planned is a trip to the sea coast and a dip in the gulf.

Houston is a popular convention city and well equipped to handle large groups. Rice Hotel, its leading hostelry, has been selected as headquarters for the 1936 convention. The city has extended a hearty invitation to all members of Pi Kappa Delta and will place at their disposal all facilities which will make their visit memorable and pleasant.

Yankton, South Dakota Gamma engaged in its first intercollegiate debate when it met the state university in 1887, six years after the founding of the college. In one of its halls hangs the "Calcedony Slab," its permanent trophy emblematic of a succession of triumphs in the early days of forensics in South Dakota.—*The Yankton Student*.

South Dakota Gamma, Yankton, issued a special forensic edition of the college paper picturing its winning speakers, giving the history of forensics at the institution, and summarizing the activities of the season.—*The Yankton Student*.

Six new members were initiated into the Nebraska Alpha chapter at the annual banquet at the Cornhusker hotel in Lincoln, April 27.—*The Wesleyan-Alumnus*.

Coach Harold B. Allen of Shurtleff, Illinois Lambda, has named an all-time debate squad from the best debaters of the past ten years.—*The Shurtleff Pioneer*.

SPIRITUAL AMALGAMATION

Delta Sigma Rho, Tau Kappa Alpha, Pi Kappa Delta, and Phi Rho Pi, the strictly honorary collegiate forensic societies, have a total membership of approximately 30,000. Of this number, 100 met at a luncheon in New Orleans, December 28, 1934. Each of the four societies had official representatives present. These representatives all spoke. They were unanimous in their belief that the members of the forensic groups have an important role to play in present day society. They were unanimous in their belief that closer co-operation between the four fraternities was possible. To that end each society will select one member for a joint commission, whose duty shall be to evolve wise, cooperative policies, and attempt to cement the relations established at New Orleans.

At the luncheon, Delta Sigma Rho's president, Henry Lee Ewbank, was given honorary membership in Tau Kappa Alpha. The presentation and acceptance of the key signifies the kind of bonds that should be developed by all of the members of all of the organizations. It is not a physical amalgamation, but a fraternal union at which we aim.

Lest action fail to follow kindly words, we propose; the establishment of united alumni groups in large cities; the election—insofar as constitutional provisions permit—of the sponsors of all forensic society chapters by all of the societies; the annual publication of a single joint issue which will replace one current issue of each society, e. g., the January issue; a united effort to raise the forensic standards both inside and outside the collegiate field; an annual meeting of the representatives and members of the forensic societies, at the time and place of the meeting of the National Association of Teachers of Speech.

The Gavel of Delta Sigma Rho, March, 1935.

Milton Zacharias, Kansas Theta, Teachers of Pittsburg, won signal honors in the provincial tournament. He captured first in oratory, second in extempore speaking, and was a member of a debate team which got to the semi-finals. In addition to his forensic work Mr. Zacharias is editor of the college year book.—*The Collegio*.

Southwestern, Kansas Delta, reports that it has engaged in two hundred three debates this season. Does any other chapter claim a greater number?

THE FORENSIC OF TOURNAMENTS IN THE NORTHWEST



ORA WILLMOTT AND JEANNETTE AMIDON
College of Puget Sound

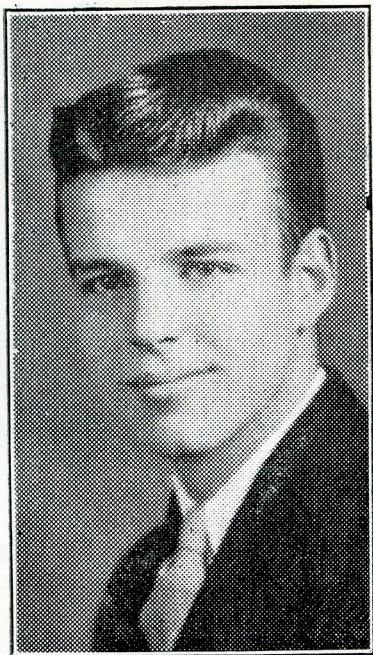
Two tournaments were held on the College of Puget Sound campus in Tacoma, Washington during this debate season. Again this year, a Washington high school debate tournament was held at College of Puget Sound. The first one ever to be held in Washington was held at College of Puget Sound last year.

The tournament, in the two-day sessions, included 88 debates, and 66 extemporaneous speeches. It was sponsored by the Washington Alpha chapter of Pi Kappa Delta, with Coach Charles T. Battin as director and Miss Jeannette Amidon as student director. College students were chairmen for the contests and debaters gained experience by assisting in the judging. The state high school question concerning federal aid to education was used, and the Pi Kappa Delta question for extempore was used.

College of Puget Sound was host a second time this year to the Junior Colleges of the Northwest, and to the underclassmen of four-year colleges. Teams from these institutions in Washington, Idaho, and Oregon met at the college March 15 and 16. There was competition in oratory, debate and extempore, with the regular Pi Kappa Delta subjects in both being used.

Under the chairmanship of Librarian Jackson E. Towne, five speakers at Michigan State presented book reviews of current world affairs, each speaker reviewing some of the recent books dealing with munitions, disarmament, Russia, and the League of Nations.—*Michigan State News*.

Ray Kearns, Kansas Iota, was elected president of the College of Emporia student body. Mr. Kearns is a junior who has been active in forensics throughout his college course. He is also active in music circles. As a member of the college a cappella choir he sang last year at the opening of the Century of Progress in Chicago. He is also a member of the Festival Messiah chorus.



Maryville, Tennessee Alpha, won both the men's and women's debate honors of the South Atlantic forensic tournament, held at Lenoir Rhyne, Hickory, North Carolina, March 7-8. The tournament attracted representatives from sixteen schools in six different states. Gertrude Levy of Virginia State Teachers won the women's oratorical contest. S. B. Moss of North Carolina State won the after dinner speaking contest. R. L. Batts, also of State, won both the men's oratorical and extempore speaking honors. The tournament was under the direction of Dr. Albert Keiser, Lenoir Rhyne, who will be remembered by many as the very successful former coach of Augustana, South Dakota Eta. He was unanimously elected to another term.

Baylor University, Texas Iota, has won twenty trophies this year including first place in six debate tournaments and second also in two of them; first in three oratorical contests, second in four; first in two extempore contests, second in two and third in another.

Book Reviews

ORAL ARGUMENT, Donald Hayworth and Robert B. Capel, Harper & Brothers, 1934.

This new book on oral argument should be of especial interest to members of Pi Kappa Delta, as its authors are teachers in two institutions having Pi Kappa Delta chapters, University of Akron, Ohio Delta, and Upper Iowa University, Iowa Eta. The preface also acknowledges assistance received from Miss Edith Whitaker, coach at Simpson, Iowa Epsilon and Prof. J. D. Menchhofer, Michigan State, Michigan Delta. In addition it prints in full the oration with which Prof. Ray Ehrensberger, coach at Franklin, Indiana Alpha, won the Old Line interstate oratorical contest during his student days.

Beyond the interest this text holds for us through its connection with members of the society, through its clear and logical treatment of the problems of argumentation it appeals to teachers and students in this field. It begins with an interesting approach to the question of oral argument, takes up the usual problems of interpretation, research, analysis, evidence, and the forms of argument. Its treatment of these basic matters is clear and interesting. The illustrative material is fresh. There are good chapters on the patterns of proof and debate strategy. Not many of our texts on debating devote much space to this last subject. Especially to be commended is the abundance of illustrations from intercollegiate debates showing how students use the principles explained.

This text is attractively printed. It lends itself to use in classes centering their attention especially on debate rather than the abstract theories of argumentation. It should appeal especially to students as it is written from their approach.

PRINCIPLES OF EFFECTIVE SPEAKING, William Phillips Sandford and Willard Hayes Yeager, third edition, revised and enlarged. Thomas Nelson and Sons, 1934.

In revising a text which had already proved itself popular, Professors Sandford and Yeager have done a thorough piece of work. They have retained the best elements of their old text, incorporated fresh illustrations, and added new chapters on the speaker and speech

situations, and on clarity, appropriateness, imagery, rhythm, and figures in style.

Of course any college text must devote much of its space to basic principles. Much of this text is given to these principles. The only originality must be in the method of presentation and the illustrations. The authors here hold student interest and show that they are well acquainted with the historical development of the accepted principles. They acknowledge their obligation to Phillips for well known analysis of the reference to experience and the ends of speech.

There are a number of longer illustrations at the end of the book. Many of them are speeches of well known public men, President Roosevelt, Senator Borah, etc. But there is a generous space allotted to student speeches. Because these are on the level of his interest and achievement, they should appeal to the students who use the text.

This text is basically sound. It is rather eclectic, drawing from a number of established sources. It does not commit itself to any individual or untried theories. The popularity of the first two editions is evidence that they met with the approval of college teachers of public speaking. The revised edition should prove even more popular and more serviceable.

Last month's brain teaser involved three boys who were seated at a table and were to tap with their fingers if they saw a mark on the forehead of either of the other boys and were to stop as soon as they could figure out from the tapping of the others whether or not they had a mark on their own foreheads. The one who first figured out the problem correctly was to get a job.

When the boys opened their eyes each could see a mark and each started tapping. From this one of them reasoned that he must have a mark on his own forehead. Let us call the boys A, B, and C. If only A had been marked, as he could not see his own forehead, he could not tap. If only A and B had been marked, B could see that C was not marked and that A, who could not see his own forehead, would have to see a mark on B's forehead. He would then know he was marked and stop. Since all three kept on tapping, A was correct in inferring that he was also marked.

Northwest Teachers, Missouri Kappa, has just ended its best forensic season. It engaged in more than fifty debates with thirty-five colleges in nine states, winning a majority of its contests.—*The Northwest Missourian*.

Hastings, Nebraska Delta, won most of the honors at the Nebraska Intercollegiate Forensic Association tournament at Lincoln March 14-16. It won the Peace oratorical, the men's and women's extempore speaking, both the A and B tournament in women's debate, and placed second to Nebraska Wesleyan in the A and B divisions of men's debate.—*The Hastings Collegian*.

William Jewell, Missouri Delta, closed its season with three interesting debates. It met the College of the Pacific, California Delta, and Oklahoma University on the William Jewell campus, and Vanderbilt in a split team radio debate at Nashville.—*The William Jewell Student*.

Several demonstration debates on the national Pi Kappa Delta question were given between teams of the College of Puget Sound in Tacoma, Washington, before various clubs, PTA groups, churches, and high school debate groups.

John B. Darrah, sophomore, won the F. O. Johnson local oratorical prize of twenty-five dollars with a speech on the economic effects of the liquor traffic.—*The Bethany Messenger*.

Ernest Grissom, Inc., an Abilene, Texas, department store sponsors an oratorical contest open to the men of Hardin-Simmons University. The contest is held in the store.—*The Brand*.

Texas Mu of Stephen F. Austin College issued a special edition of the college paper under the title of "The Forensic Log."—*The Pine Log*.

Gabriel Hauge, president of the Minnesota Zeta chapter at Concordia, was valedictorian of his class.—*The Concordian*.

Five College of Idaho teams engaged in 77 debates, winning forty-five, a percentage of .582.—*The College Coyote*.

UCLA, California Epsilon, won first in men's debate, oratory, and extempore at the tournament of the Pacific Forensic League held at Walla Walla, Washington. Tom Lambert was a double winner in oratory and extempore. The women won the provincial tournament at Stockton. June Hallberg also won first in the Southern California Women's oratorical contest. It plans to close the season in a joint party with the Redlands chapter.

Coach J. D. Menchhofer, Michigan Delta, took his debaters on a trip through Canada and New England, meeting Ontario Agricultural College, Dartmouth, Boston, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Rhode Island State, New York, Columbia, Syracuse, Fordham, Bucknell, Allegheny, and Western Reserve. Two of the debates were given over the radio.

First Vice-President S. R. Toussaint has started training a speaker for the 1954 national convention. Her name is Julia Katherine Toussaint. She arrived in Monmouth April 17. Just now she is working hard on voice exercises, chiefly at night.

Lighted by candles when the electric supply went off, debate teams of Marshall and Stephen F. Austin, Texas Mu, opened their recent debate at Nacogdoches. The electric lights came on before the finish.—*The Pine Log*.

Western Union, Iowa Iota, this year engaged in seventy-one debates, three times the number of last year. The prospect of having fifteen experienced debaters back next year is encouraging.

Morningside won the men's debate tournament and Parsons the women's at the Iowa forensic tournament held March 13-16 at Dubuque.—*The Dubuque Christian-American*.

The National High School Forensic League tournament was held at Kent State, Ohio Iota, May 6-10. Prof. Karl Mundt, Eastern State Teachers, South Dakota Theta, governor of the Province of the Sioux, who is also president of the National Forensic league, presided. There were approximately a thousand in attendance.—*The Kent Stater*.

Three Pi Kappa Deltans will head student activities at Dakota Wesleyan next year. They are Don Phillips, student body president; Franklin Stark, editor of the college paper; and Odell Jacobson, business manager.—*The Phreno Cosmian*.

The Colorado Alpha and Beta chapters have planned to meet for a dinner and joint initiation May 15. For the past fifteen years these two chapters have been closing their forensic seasons with a joint meeting.

Moxley Featherston, Hardin-Simmons University, Texas Theta, who with Don Gayer won the men's debate tournament in the Province of the Lower Mississippi, is president of the student body.—*The Brand*.

The editor made an effort to secure pictures of the outstanding winners to run with each provincial report. Perhaps it is modesty which keeps some of the provinces from being pictorially represented.

Jessie Dearing, Oklahoma College for Women, was one of the few double winners in provincial tournaments. She annexed first prize in both oratory and extempore.—*The Trend*.

Centre, Kentucky Beta, debaters took a thirteen-hundred-mile jaunt through the South, meeting Union, Maryville, Vanderbilt, and Southwestern.—*Centre College Cento*.