

THE FORENSIC

ΠΕΙΘΩ ΚΑΛΗ ΔΙΚΑΙΑ

Series 60

October, 1974

No. 1

Planning for Convention



The Council met at the Benjamin Franklin Hotel in Philadelphia the third week in August to make plans for Pi Kappa Delta's first hotel convention. Around the table, from the left, Georgia Bowman, editor; Jim DeMoux, Council, Ted Karl, secretary-treasurer, John Baird, president, Phyllis Bosley, Council, Carolyn Keefe, local convention officer; Tim Anderson, student, Council; Fred Goodwin, past-president, Kay Johnston, student, Council; Evan Ulrey, vice-president.

The FORENSIC of Pi Kappa Delta

SERIES 60

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The Presidents' Message

John Baird

The comedian W.C. Fields is supposed to have requested the following epitaph to be carved upon his tombstone: "On the whole, I'd rather be in Philadelphia." Next March the 29th Convention of Pi Kappa Delta will be held in that city. Some of you may already be trying to find means to raise funds to get there. The question arises, why Philadelphia? Why did the National Council schedule this convention and tournament in a city that has been called, "the citadel of conservatism, the faded dowager of the East Coast, the yawn between New York City and Washington, the well-kicked butt of humor for comedians?"

To understand the choice of this locale, recognize first our obligation to our chapters in the Province of the Northeast. Year after year these people have traveled across the country in order to participate in the conventions of our fraternity. Remember their problems in 1965 when we met in the Pacific Northwest or in 1969 when we were in Arizona. The conventions of 1967 in Wisconsin, 1971 in Texas, and 1973 in Nebraska were not exactly located next door for our members in Maryland or Connecticut. Some years ago, in an attempt to solve this problem and be fair to all concerned, we adopted a system of rotation by which our tournament would be moved from one geographical area to another. The lack of invitations from properly located host schools has frustrated these efforts, so many of us have advocated a shift from the campus to convention centers for our meetings. This change now makes it possible for us to meet in the East in 1975. I feel sure that you will agree this plan is only fair. Just as the chapters of Province 11 made sacrifices to meet with the rest of us in the past, so they now have a right to expect us to put forth every effort to visit them.

The second major reason for the choice of Philadelphia lies in the historical significance of that city. As you know, 1976 will be our national bicentennial year. Pi Kappa Delta will not be meeting that year; instead, we have scheduled our

observance for March of 1975. Many of the bicentennial preparations will not be complete that early, it is true. However, the date of our meetings will also have advantages in avoiding some of the crowds and regimentation necessitated by the scope of this national observance.

Our Convention/Tournament will be housed in the Ben Franklin Hotel at the corner of Ninth and Chestnut in the heart of Philadelphia. Imagine that you have a couple of hours between rounds. Walk out of the hotel on to Chestnut Street, turn to your right, and walk the three blocks from Ninth to Sixth. Stretching to your left will be Independence Mall, created to provide a proper setting for Independence Hall. The old Free Quaker Meeting House stood on the Mall, dating back to 1783. On the corner of Sixth and Chestnut is Congress Hall, occupied by the Congress of the United States from 1790-1800 when Philadelphia was the nation's capital. We are making plans to hold one of our contest finals upon this historic spot.

Just beyond Congress Hall, in the middle of the block, stands Independence Hall, built 1732-53 as the State House of Pennsylvania. Here, the Declaration of Independence was adopted in 1776, the Articles of Confederation were drafted in 1778, and the Constitution was prepared in 1787. The rooms in this building are small and not suitable for our contest purposes, but you will be able to take the tour. Very probably, you will see the Liberty Bell there, its new home not yet completed.

Beyond Independence Hall stands the Old City Hall, occupied by the U.S. Supreme Court from 1791-1800. Just behind it is Philosophical Hall, home of the American Philosophical Society since 1789. In the next block are located New Hall, a reconstruction of the building used by the War Department from 1791-92; Pemberton House, replica of a home built in 1775; Carpenters Hall, where the First Continental Congress met in 1774; the oldest bank building in America erected 1795-97; the Bishop White House, built

Continued on page 15

Student Council Members

As the new student members, they lent enthusiasm and good ideas to the August meeting of the National Council, and Kay Johnston and Tim Anderson will share their enthusiasm and friendliness and competent leadership with all of you at the Convention next March.

Kay's home town is Monaca, Pa., and she is a junior honors student at California State College, where she is vice-president of the student body. A three-year member of PKD, she is president of the Pennsylvania Beta chapter. Having attended the Convention at Omaha in 1973, where she earned a gold medal in Oral Interpretation, she is already familiar with the workings of a large convention and tournament.

Tim's interests range from music to elementary education with speech looming large between. His home is in York, Pa., and his school is West Chester State, the host institution. Tim began his musical studies at the age of 5, and is skilled in piano, violin, percussion and trumpet. Community interests include volunteer for the JFK Day Care Center, Youth Fellowship, Sunday School teacher, district bands, orchestra, and regional orchestra. He is a former member of the Matinee Music Society, Candlelight Recital Club, and has entertained

throughout York County. Selected as a finalist in the annual West Chester College Foundation Speech Tournament, he has won awards in persuasive speaking and after dinner speaking.

The task of the student members is to serve as liaisons between students and the national organization. During the Convention they will conduct all student meetings, attend the National Council meetings and report student reactions and requests, and they will serve on the staff of **The Key**, the daily news sheet published during the Convention.



Submit Amendments Now

If you wish to submit a Constitutional Revision proposal, you must (1) Follow the form given on this page, and (2) submit the proposal by Nov. 15, 1974. No amendments will be received after this date, since all proposals must be submitted to the membership in the January **Forensic**.

PI KAPPA DELTA CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION PROPOSAL

To: Constitutional Revision Committee

From: (Name of individual, chapter, province, or National Council)

Statement of Proposal: (Identify article, division, section, and paragraph. Wording must be accurate.)

Reasons for Proposing the Revision:

Before Nov. 15, mail to:

Fred Goodwin, Southeast Missouri State University, Cape Girardeau, Mo., 63701,
or John Burt, 509½ E. Walnut, Bloomington, Ill. 61701

The New Look for Convention

Here's news about the forthcoming national convention and tournament which every member ought to know.

Dates: March 23-27, 1975

Place: The Benjamin Franklin Hotel, Philadelphia, Pa.

Theme: Our national bicentennial.

Highlights:

A new event: Speaking to Entertain. One contestant from each school is eligible to present a humorous speech, not more than eight minutes in length, using as a theme some quotation from Benjamin Franklin as found in **Poor Richard's Almanac**.

Extemporaneous Speaking will conclude with the six top-ranked speakers presenting a parliamentary debate in Congress Hall on the proposition: Be it resolved, That this House favors the convening of a new Constitutional Convention for the United States of America. Time limits:

Affirmative - 10 minutes

Negative - 10 minutes, used as desired

Affirmative - 10 minutes, used as desired

Negative - 10 minutes, used as desired

One 5-minute summary for each side.

The general topics for each round will be found elsewhere in this issue.

Discussion will have six rounds, with rounds four and five in the form of parliamentary debate, and round six an evaluation stage of the solutions reached by each group in the problem-solving stage. The national question on inflation will be used.

See Philadelphia: An afternoon free to visit the historic sites in downtown Philadelphia.

Freedom Foundation Awards: Certain public addresses are eligible to compete for national Freedom Foundation awards. This might be of particular interest to orators. For further information as to requirements, write Awards Department,

Freedom Foundation, Valley Forge, Pa. 19481.

Costs: Housing-

\$6.75 for those staying in the 50 four-man multi-purpose rooms. These will be assigned on a first-come first-serve basis on the request of coaches. All single beds.

\$7.75 per person for those staying in two twin bedrooms with bath between.

Singles: \$19, \$20, \$22, \$23 (no rollaways)

Doubles: \$25, \$26, \$28, \$29 (no rollaways)

Twins: \$25, \$26, \$29, \$30 no rollaways)

Six per cent state tax must be added to all the preceding figures. Most rooms will be used for contest purposes. Free parking is available. Each school will make its own housing arrangements with the hotel.

Costs: Meals - On your own. Local hosts will provide names and addresses of suitable eating places.

Costs: Registration - \$20 for each student and coach; \$10 for each additional judge, wives and visitors. This includes the banquet and all contest fees regardless of how many events are entered.

EXTEMP AREA

Centering on the bicentennial theme, the topic for extemporaneous speaking at the national Convention will be drawn from the preamble of the Constitution of the United States: "To form a more perfect union." Subtopics for each round follow the concepts in the preamble.

1. "To form a more perfect union" (structure of the Constitution).
2. "To establish justice."
3. "To secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity."

Council Plans Convention

From 9 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. — or later — was the schedule at the National Council meeting in Philadelphia August 21-24. There was brief time out for lunches at the Chuck Wagon, a sandwich spot which will probably pick up a lot of business during the National Convention and Tournament next March 23-27. Time out, too, for a gracious and hospitable dinner at the home of Mrs. Carolyn Keefe, sponsor of the West Chester Chapter and official Local Convention Chairman.

Many hours of discussion went into the deliberations on convention arrangements, contest events, rules, and committee appointments. The meeting was held at the Benjamin Franklin Hotel, which will be the site of the March gathering, so that the Council could, in effect, take a "dry run" to see how a hotel convention would operate. Several facts emerged, and both coaches and students will want to take note of these items and plan accordingly.

A hotel convention necessitates using delegates' rooms for contests. Why? Consider the logistics: a hotel has perhaps 20 public meeting rooms; a national debate tournament requires up to 110 rooms at one time. Where else but in the contestants' bedrooms? But most Pi Kappa Deltans have attended tournaments at resorts and are accustomed to getting up and dressed early so an oral interpretation round can come sailing into the room at 9 a.m.

Food at hotel restaurants is more expensive than in college cafeterias, so save money from now on. The local committee will provide lists of good, reasonable places to eat, and the schedule will permit some flexibility in meal times.

Hotels do not have student union lounges with ping pong and pool, nor quiet libraries. But the lobby is large and comfortable, and the student delegates are working out arrangements for a student lounge on the mezzanine.

City conventions offer more opportunities for sightseeing than do small towns, and Philadelphia is a gold mine of interesting spots. Parking is almost easier than on a college campus, for the hotel has parking space available for guests. The airport has limousine service to the hotel

at a reasonable charge, and pooled taxis won't demoralize the student budget.

So much for the new aspects of a hotel convention. Equally important are the new events and rules.

If you're a student with a sense of humor, you may want to enter Speaking to Entertain. It's an eight minute contest, one entry per school, and the central idea of the speech must be based on a saying of Benjamin Franklin, as found in **Poor Richard's Almanac**. Detailed rules in the January **Forensic**, but start now to work on this new event. All the old events are there, too: standard debate, extemporaneous debate, championship cross-examination debate; oratory, oral interpretation, informative speaking, discussion, and extemporaneous speaking. New dimensions have been added to discussion and extemp.

Instead of only four rounds, there will be six rounds of discussion with rounds four and five taking the form of parliamentary debate, and round six a session of defense of the outcomes of the group thinking. Again, details will be provided in the official rules.

Extemp promises to be truly exciting. After three rounds, the top six speakers will be selected to engage in a parliamentary debate in historic Congress Hall, the room where George Washington was inaugurated. This session will be open to the public, and should provide an evening of historic significance. Further details of the event will be found elsewhere in this issue.

The Council determined the dates which will cause the least disruption to member schools' schedules would be March 23 through 27. Hence, registration and the opening business meeting will take place on the 23rd and the convention will close with the awards banquet on Thursday night, March 27. This will be held in the beautiful Crystal Ballroom of the hotel.

In other business the Council studied and agreed to recommend several Constitutional amendments designed to clarify concepts, endorsed the continuation of work on ritual revision for both initiation and installation ceremonies, and reviewed the status of existing chapters and petitioning schools.

Some Thoughts on the 10-Minute Rule

Thomas B. Harte
Southeast Missouri State University

The date: September 15, 1858. The place: Jonesboro, Ill. Stephen Douglas has just delivered a stirring defense of his position on slavery in the new territories. It is now Abraham Lincoln's turn to address the crowd. Quietly, Mr. Lincoln studies his notes. One minute passes, then two, then three. The crowd becomes restless. Several members of the audience get up to leave. Mr. Lincoln, oblivious to them, continues to shuffle through his notes. Now seven minutes have elapsed. A general murmuring of discontent is heard through the crowd as patience evaporates. Finally, the lanky, bearded candidate raises his head, looks to the audience and asks, "How much time do I have left? We are following the ten-minute rule, aren't we?"

There is no question about it. Had the Lincoln-Douglas debates of 1858 utilized the so-called "ten-minute rule" they would have been very different events indeed. The rule, allowing each team in a debate a total of ten minutes preparation time between speeches, has become standard at all but a few tournaments around the country. It has created some mild controversy. Opposition to the ten-minute rule usually comes from judges who must sit and twiddle their thumbs as they wait what seems to be an interminable period of time for a debate to progress. Some judges, for example, have been known to berate students, especially first negatives, for not being ready to speak sooner. "When I was debating," the argument goes, "we had to be up on our feet ready to speak just as soon as the previous speaker had finished. Today's debater ought to be able to do the same." There is merit to that argument, of course. Moreover, the effect on an audience of having to wait long periods of time between speeches should not be overlooked. Surely the sooner a speaker is ready to respond to his opponents the higher his credibility (other things being equal).

While both of these viewpoints embody sound reasons to limit the ten-minute rule, they both appear to assume that the rule is the creation of slovenly students and coaches unwilling to accept as one of the

duties of debaters an obligation to be ready to speak on time. They, thus, attack the rule itself and not the conditions which give rise to the rule in the first place. It is important, however, to look past the rule itself lest we be guilty of "shallow analysis." The ten-minute rule is not the invention of a group of "soft" debaters and their coaches. Its existence, rather, can be traced directly to the style of contemporary inter-collegiate debate.

As a debate judge who frequently finds it physically impossible to record on his flow sheet the arguments of the first affirmative, I must admit to some sympathy for the poor first negative who must not only record the arguments, but produce responses to them and locate appropriate evidence to support his responses. In most of the debates I hear it is unrealistic to expect the debaters to leap forth with refutation immediately following the last utterance of the previous speaker. In a day of affirmative as well as negative "spread" techniques, the ten-minute rule makes more sense. What does not make sense is a debating style that necessitates the rule. When skilled debaters who have studied the arguments on both sides of a question still need to take several minutes to be ready with a rejoinder to their opponents, it is time to ask questions about the quality of argumentation and communication being displayed. In too many instances it appears to be inferior.

Debaters, affirmative and negative alike, often are uninterested in an analysis that focuses on clearly articulated major issues. They appear largely uninterested in building defensible arguments with an abundance of evidence. Indeed, at times one may even question whether some debaters are even interested in communicating. Instead of analyses which narrow to salient questions, debaters utilize "spread" techniques. For each point made by the opposition, the enterprising debater will advance three of his own as a rebuttal. For each of these three the opposition can provide three of its own, and so it goes with the arguments multiplying in geometric fashion. Fun-

damental issues are frequently lost sight of. The whole presentation is made in such rapid fashion that only the most efficient stenographer could possibly put the essential points on paper. Less efficient stenographers, of course, request to see the evidence itself, a practice unheard of only a few years ago but which is now fairly commonplace.

Even first affirmatives are not immune to this behavior. With increasing frequency first affirmative constructives are jammed with so many arguments, including the plan, and delivered so rapidly that they may justifiably be said to exhibit the shotgun technique once thought to be the prerogative of negative teams. The ultimate is perhaps reached by those speakers who linguistically expedite things by resorting to a type of forensic verbal shorthand which the initiated are supposed to accept without complaint. Thus, instead of plan meet advantage arguments we hear "PMA's," in place of

claims that "the affirmative plan would produce significant disadvantages" we are told to "look at those disads," and rather than being told to "reject the affirmative plan in today's debate," we are told, "suggest opt neg." The result of all of this comes out sounding much more like a lawyer's brief than a public speech. Under such conditions is it any wonder that the next speaker needs some time to gather his thoughts before responding?

What I am suggesting is that the ten-minute rule would not be quite so prevalent if debaters spent more time trying to build defensible arguments around major issues rather than trying to obliterate their opponents with a barrage of arguments regardless of their caliber. The ten-minute rule itself is not as bad as the conditions which have given rise to its use. And simply telling debaters to "be ready sooner" is not the answer. Debaters on both sides of the question will have to change their habits.

New Directions –

Rhetorical Criticism

Larry Medcalf
Associate Editor

Every few years a new event appears on the forensics schedule that is offered at a few tournaments, based on the sporadic likes and dislikes of the tournament Director. These events usually attract less entries than the other, more established events and eventually are dropped altogether, doomed to join their predecessors in the "Well, it was a nice try" forensic graveyard.

One event that has been struggling to make a place for itself as a standard event is Rhetorical Criticism. Criticism is not only offered at some collegiate tournaments but also surfaces in some high school contests as well. Despite this, rhetorical criticism suffers because of lack of uniformity on all levels, and general disagreement on what exactly it is.

On the high school level rhetorical criticism is considered to be an off-spring of oral interpretation, with "analysis" thrown in to differentiate it from its parent event. Judging is based on the student's

ability to interpret orally the speech and to offer some analysis of the speech as it pertains to the occasion, the audience and/or the significance of the address.

The high school student entering the collegiate circuit immediately discovers that rhetorical criticism is not the event he was trained to do. Unfortunately the idea that rhetorical criticism is not an interpretation event is about the only fact that collegiate forensics can agree on. The event varies in both definition and execution from tournament to tournament, so that often the student is forced to change his speech every month to meet the standards of the next tournament.

In this writer's region the Northern California Forensic Association (NDFA) offers its own version of rhetorical criticism, entitled Speech Analysis. The NCA defines the event as an eight minute presentation analyzing the rhetorical, historical, political and/or sociological nature of any oration, series of orations by

the same person or the orations of any political/social movements.

However, when the student travels to Southern California he is forced to adapt to the standards of rhetorical criticism as defined by the Pacific Southwest Collegiate Forensic Association., (PSCFA). The PSCFA offers an event entitled Communication Analysis, an eight minute analysis of any form of communication. While the popular entry still is an analysis of an oration, PSCFA contestants also do analyses of poetry, popular songs and even non-verbal forms of communication.

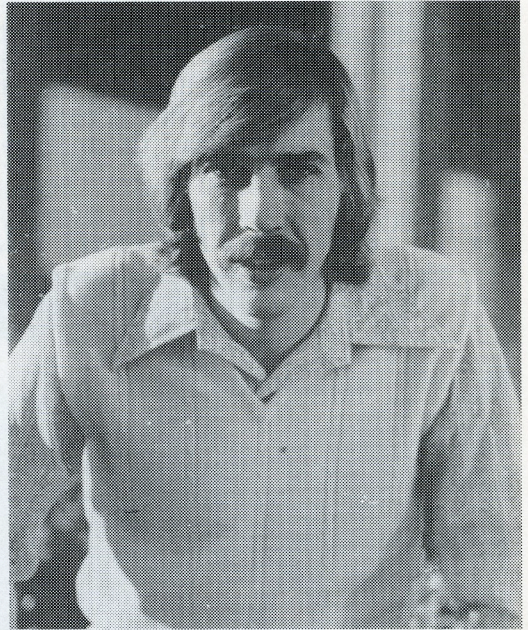
So the student who has prepared an analysis of a hit song for PSCFA competition would quite likely find his analysis ineligible for competition 100 miles up the freeway in a NCFCA tournament. Further evidence of this lack of uniformity from region to region can be found by reading the preferential ballot in the October 1973 issue of the **Forensic**. The ballot lists four events, Speech Criticism, Rhetorical Criticism, Experimental Rhetorical Criticism and Extemporaneous Speech Criticism, all presumably different events yet all dealing with the same area. I would suspect that most of the people reading the ballot would be hard pressed to define each of those four events or explain how they differ from each other.

The art of rhetorical criticism takes on a new perspective when it is taken out of the competition arena and presented in a more scholarly atmosphere. The California State Conference in Rhetorical Criticism, offered annually for the past eight years by the Speech/Drama Department at California State University, Hayward, is an extremely successful format that allows students to submit Rhetorical Criticisms outside the hampering boundaries of forensic competition.

The Conference is open to all colleges and universities in the Western United States. Each school may enter one or two students of upper division or first year graduate standing. Students may submit papers on any topic that ordinarily would fall under the heading of the history of public address, speech criticism, rhetorical interaction or rhetorical theory. Students attending the conference read their papers in sections of three to five persons before a panel of professors sitting as editor-critics. Following the 15 minute presentation of

each paper, the panel offers constructive criticism on the papers. After the period of criticism, and with the students dismissed, the editor-critics in each section discuss and rate each paper, Superior, Excellent or Good. The students whose papers are rated Superior read them one more time, this time before the entire Conference.

The purpose of the Conference is to provide students in rhetoric and public address an introduction to a significant area of scholarship in association with established scholars in the field. Unlike the competitive format of tournaments that rank students first, second or third, there are no limitations on the number of students who can be rated Superior. Each



year the Conference publishes a journal containing all the Superior papers, as well as the banquet address by the guest speaker.

The format of Cal State's Rhetorical Criticism Conference is gaining popularity and is now being copied by other institutions in our state and in other areas of the country. There still, however, is a vital need for the forensics circuit to offer rhetorical criticism as an event for college students who are interested in that area of the speech field. To insure the survival of the event will require some changes and innovations on the part of students, coaches and forensic associations.

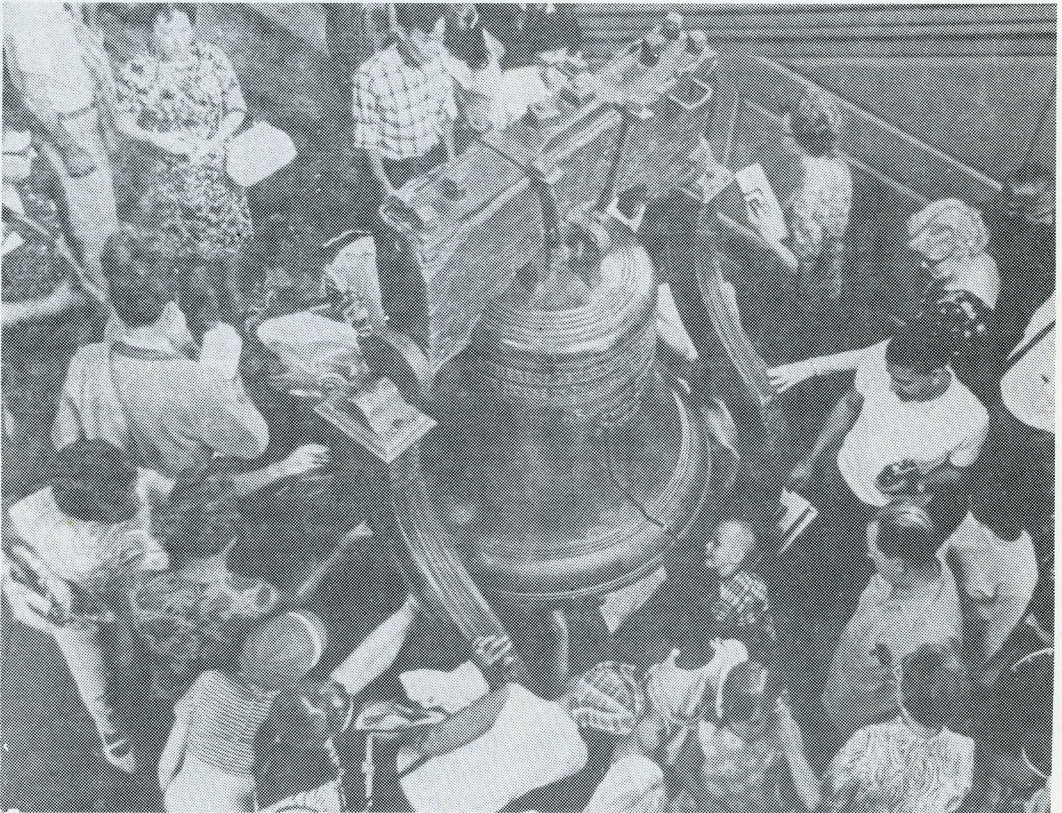
Rhetorical criticism should be clearly

defined in all areas and regions. Some standards of uniformity must be achieved so that students and coaches understand what the event encompasses and what is expected of the contestant. Another factor that must be considered is the judging qualifications for rhetorical criticism. I am still astounded by a judge who confessed in his criticism of my presentation (an Aristotlean analysis of Plato's *The Apology*) that he didn't understand ethos-logos and pathos. Tournament directors should endeavor to make sure that the students are judged by people who have some knowledge and experience in the field, just as directors now try their best to insure that someone who has never even seen a debate doesn't end up judging the final rounds of a debate event. The third change that needs to be tried is to give rhetorical criticism a fair chance. It should be offered as an event as often as possible for at least an entire year. Given some

form of uniformity and stability students will be much more inclined to prepare themselves to enter this event.

The success and popularity of intercollegiate forensic competition can be directly related to its ability to adapt itself to meet the needs and desires of the students, as well as to continuously serve as an educational experience. The art of rhetorical criticism is certainly basic to the field of speech and once again forensics has the opportunity to be a leader in allowing the student to gain invaluable experience in this area. But in order to achieve this goal we must strive to achieve some degree of uniformity, arrive at a format that is most advantageous for students and coaches alike and offer the event as often as possible. And then we as students must demonstrate that we have the interest and ability to make rhetorical criticism a viable event on the forensic circuit.

Will You Be There in March?



Millions of visitors come to Philadelphia each year to see America's most famous shrine—the Liberty Bell. The story of the bell can be heard by taped recordings in eight languages.