

THE FORENSIC

OF PI KAPPA DELTA

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“It is hard not to agree with what our President says in his Sunday night fireside radio talks,” writes an opposition newspaper, “because he has such a sincere and disarming way of saying things.” There are many people who do not agree with President Roosevelt’s political ideas, but so far no one has come forward to question his charm and effectiveness as a speaker.

The student who is endeavoring to build up an effective speaking personality will do well to select some objective mark to aim at. He might select our President or some other recognized public speaker as his model. He could then study the qualities which contribute to his success and try to cultivate similar traits of his own.

If we return to the example of our national President, we find a rich voice which is pleasant to listen to; clear distinct enunciation; careful, precise diction; a tone of earnestness; and a sense of communication which makes each radio listener believe the President is addressing him personally.

No individual grows to his full stature overnight. No novice can by a mere fiat of the will add an increment of eloquence to his personality which will make him a finished speaker. He can however, by taking thought, overcome some of his speech defects, learn to use words which interest and inform, make his thoughts clear to others, and convince his listeners that he really wants them to understand what he is talking about.



An increase in college attendance amounting to ten per cent over that of last year has been reported in our national student population. Registration figures from Pi Kappa Delta institutions indicate this general increase. Augustana, South Dakota Eta, opened its doors to thirty-four per cent more students than attended last year. Every

other institution from which we have seen reports registers some increase.

This growth in student population should call for some increase in the forensic opportunities offered the students. It will mean, in the case of those institutions whose forensics are supported by a student activity fee, a larger budget, making possible an expanded program.

There are various ways in which the forensic program may be enlarged. More contests may be scheduled, new lines of competition entered, or forensic competition made possible for a greater number of students.

This last provision is very important. An institution intent on building up a winning record may be tempted to concentrate its efforts and expenditures on a few very selective speakers. This is hardly fair to the increasing enrollment. If forensic training is valuable to the student, it should be extended to as many students as possible. If its student body increases ten per cent, would it not be fair for each Pi Kappa Delta chapter to attempt to increase its forensic squad ten per cent?



BOOK REVIEWS

Winning Debates, Orations, and Speeches of Pi Kappa Delta, Volume V, containing the winning debates, orations, and extempore speeches of the Tenth National Convention held at Lexington, Kentucky, last spring was issued this fall by Noble and Noble. The material for the volume was compiled and edited by National Secretary G. W. Finley from stenographic reports of the debates and extempore speeches and copies of the orations.

In content and form Volume V is the best of the series of Pi Kappa Delta volumes. The debates are well reported. The splendid analysis, convincing argument, and forceful wording of the final debates on the question of the powers of the president are clearly presented. The refutation speeches catch the clash of the real contests. The final debates at Lexington were fine examples of good student speaking. Gustavus Adolphus and Augustana in the men's tournament, and College of the Pacific and Kansas State Teachers of Emporia were the final survivors of one hundred twenty men's and sixty-eight women's teams.

The winning orations of James Pease of Franklin College, Ted Hatlin of the University of Redlands, and Clayton Walton of the

University of Wichita give us splendid examples of student oratory. The women are represented by Ethel Mae Gunnison of Hastings College, Helen Campbell of Illinois State Normal University, and Lowrie Jane Smart of the University of Wichita.

The six extempore speeches give the winning speeches on the agricultural problem in the men's field and on the modern woman in the women's contests.

The volume is attractive in appearance, well printed, and attractively set off with illustrated division sheets between the various divisions.

Every Pi Kappa Delta chapter should take steps to have a copy of this volume placed in its college library. Students preparing for intercollegiate contests in debate, oratory, and extempore speaking will find it indispensable.

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Two recent additions to the H. W. Wilson Company's Reference Shelf of debaters' handbooks are:

Government Ownership of Public Utilities compiled by James Goodwin Hodgson; and *Federal Aid for Equalizing Educational Opportunity* compiled by Helen M. Muller. These books follow the usual Reference Shelf style, beginning with a brief and continuing with selected articles on the question. They are very useful and filled with valuable evidence on the questions. As the question of federal aid for equalizing educational opportunity is a newer question, there is not so much published material concerning it to select from. This last question is the official question for the high school leagues this year. The high school debater can well start his preparation for the season with Miss Muller's handy volume.

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Contest Debating, a Textbook for Beginners, by Prof. Harrison Boyd Summers of Kansas State Agricultural College has just been issued by the H. W. Wilson Company. It is a well organized, well written, useful beginners' text for debaters. It follows the usually logical approach to the subject. Among its attractive features are the numerous examples from college and university debates in support of the principles stated.

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University Debaters' Annual for 1933-1934, edited by Edith M. Phelps, and published by the H. W. Wilson Company, continues and maintains the high standards of the long line of debate annuals which

have been issued by Miss Phelps. It contains debates on the British system of radio control, armed intervention for the protection of American interests, Japan's policy in the far East, a department of the consumer in the president's cabinet, the University of Chicago plan in education, economic reconstruction, the powers of the president, socialized medicine, freer trade, and state liquor control. The institutions represented are the universities of Cambridge, Iowa, Pennsylvania, Alabama, Virginia, Wisconsin, Western Reserve, Ohio Wesleyan, South Dakota, Oxford, Columbia, Colgate, and Princeton; and the following colleges: Lafayette, Evansville, Wabash, Oberlin, Wooster, South Dakota State, Kansas State, and Alabama Polytechnic Institute.

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The Interstate Oratorical Association will this year again publish in a single volume the orations of the winning orators of the eleven states in the Association. These orations will be available after April 1, 1935 at 50 cents per volume. Beyond the number needed for distribution among the colleges and universities which are members of the Association, only as many copies will be printed as are ordered in advance. Orders should reach the Executive Secretary, I. M. Cochran, Carleton College, Northfield, Minnesota, by March 15, 1935. There are a few copies of the volume of the 1934 orations still available at 50 cents per copy.

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The Rocky Mountain Oratorical Association will hold its annual program of contests October 25-7 at Colorado Alpha, the Agricultural College. There will be a debate tournament and contests in oratory and extempore speaking. The debates will be on the question, Resolved: That the federal government should fix maximum limits upon personal incomes and inheritances. There will also be a debate of the committee-conference type on the same subject. The topic for the extempore contest is current problems. The following institutions will be represented: Brigham Young University, Colorado Agricultural College, Colorado College, Colorado Teachers, Denver University, Montana State, and the Universities of Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming.

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Prof. W. C. Dennis has gone to Upland, Indiana, to take charge of forensics at Taylor University. Professor Dennis was formerly a member of the national council of Pi Kappa Delta. For many years he was in charge of speech work at Simpson College, Iowa Epsilon. He went from there to Redlands, California Alpha, and later to Iowa Alpha at Wesleyan.

'Four Horsemen' to Washburn

A friendship, which began in their undergraduate days at the University of Wichita and which has become so firm that the campus eds and co-eds refer to them as "The Four Horsemen," will be continued indefinitely as the quartet announced Saturday they will enter law school at Washburn college at Topeka this fall to pursue a three-year course.

The four are Oliver Witterman, George Squibb, Tom Croft and Clayton Walton.

All were outstanding students during their four years at the municipal institution, not only in scholastic achievements but because of the honors they brought to the school as a result of their oratorical and debating talents.

Witterman and Squibb were graduated in the class of 1933, while Walton and Croft received their sheepskins last spring. Witterman began his law studies at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor last fall, but will transfer to Washburn. Squibb has had one year at the Topeka school.

It is their intention after they have become full-fledged lawyers to hang out their shingles in Wichita. The firm would be known, not as "The Four Horsemen," but as Witterman, Squibb, Walton & Croft.

All are forceful speakers. Witterman held the title of national collegiate oratorical champion during his final years at the university, while Walton received second place in the national meet last spring at Louisville, Ky.

All were affiliated with Pi Kappa Delta, national honorary forensic fraternity.

Although Walton and Croft opposed each other for the position of president of the student council at the university, they did not let their politics or fraternity affiliations hamper their friendships.

Croft was married last week to Miss Anita Brown, a former classmate who has been teaching in the Cullison schools. She is also a forensic star, having won second in oratory in the Pi Kappa Delta national contest at Tulsa in 1932.

Even marriage cannot break up "The Four Horsemen" and they anticipate the time they will be able to barge forth on a legal career.



William Whipple of the Iowa Theta chapter was elected president of the student council at Coe College.—*The Coe College Cosmos*.

News From the Chapters

During the past year California Gamma had a very excellent season not alone in the forensic work in which it participated, but also in the success of the annual Greek play production, which is one of its main undertakings. The financial success of this production enabled the chapter to make plans to send four men to the national convention. Because of circumstances which no one could foresee, only two men were finally able to attend.

During the coming winter we will again favor a comedy of Plautus for production here on the campus. Last year the *Menaechmi* was produced. This year a revised interpretation of the *Haunted House* by Prof. William Huse of the Institute faculty is to be the program with direction again by Drs. Harvey Eagleson and Roger Stanton, also of the Institute faculty.

The chapter suffered by the loss of several men through graduation, nevertheless there should be approximately fourteen active men on the campus during the coming year. Seven pledges were initiated, among them Drs. Eagleson and Stanton of the faculty.

California Gamma men have been active in many other forms of activity on the campus and this is shown by the fact that three of the five graduating seniors were given the Honor Key award by the student body; John Pearne, student body president; Bryant Myers, Elvin Lien. In addition John Pearne was Graduate with Honor, scholastically. During the coming year the chapter is again well represented in student politics in the person of Wallace Johnson, student body president.

ELVIN B. LIEN,
Past-president California Gamma

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Franklin College is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year and Pi Kappa Delta has a vast speech program outlined. Among the major activities sponsored this year will be: Indiana State Oratorical Contest; Pi Kappa Delta Provincial Convention; High School Debate Tournament; High School Declamation Contest for N. F. L. Fifteen old members are back in school, including three provincial champions, and James Pease, national champion. Several outstanding high school debaters are enrolled in this year's freshman class, including three state champions and the state oratorical champion from Wisconsin. Thirty people are on the debate squad at present waiting to work on the question.—RAY EHRENSBERGER.

Prof. Ray Ehrensberger of Indiana Alpha spent the summer at the University of Iowa doing work on his Ph.D.

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Missouri Theta at Kirksville is planning to open its season with a dinner and alumni reunion.—*The Northeast Missourian*.

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Miss Geneva George who won a number of national honors while a student at Oklahoma Eta, East Central Teachers, is now speech instructor and assistant debate coach at her *alma mater*.—*The East Central Journal*.

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Instead of sponsoring an intramural debate tournament again this year, Kansas Zeta, Emporia Teachers, will work on the high school question and give demonstration debates before neighboring high schools.—*The Bulletin*.

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National Fourth Vice-President Rose has planned an active season for his Missouri Iota debaters. There will be a trip to Chicago just before Thanksgiving with debates en route. December 7-8 he will attend the Winfield tournament. Next will be the tournament in Kansas City for beginning debaters from Kansas and Missouri colleges. Missouri Valley College, Missouri Lambda, will next be host for the All-Missouri tournament. Later the home chapter will entertain the provincial tournament. The debate Whippett, which has carried the debaters more than 15,000 miles during the past three years, has been traded in on a Dodge sedan, which may be christened "Beucephalus" after Alexander the Great's famous steed.—*The Capaha Arrow*.

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The Illinois Pi chapter of Northern Illinois State Teachers of DeKalb has started the year's forensic activities by sponsoring a public discussion contest. This contest is open to all students excepting those with intercollegiate experience. All teams are directed by student members of Pi Kappa Delta. The winning team has the names of its members and the organization it represents engraved on the President's Discussion Trophy. The winning speakers also receive a cash prize. In each of the two years that this contest has been conducted approximately a hundred students have participated. This year it is expected that about one hundred and fifty will be enrolled by the time all entries are in. The topic of this year's discussion is: "The Effect of the Economic Crisis upon the Point of View of Youth."

Florence Capkey, Minnesota Delta, was awarded a prize of twenty dollars at Hamline for her essay "Preachment." Miss Capkey won third place in the women's extempore contest at Lexington.—*The Hamline Oracle*.

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The Texas Kappa chapter at Sam Houston Teachers closed its forensic season with a banquet at which Professor J. D. Thomas, Professor of English and Debate Coach at Rice Institute, spoke on the "Place of Debating in the Curriculum."—*The Houstonian*.

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Michigan Eta at the University of Detroit is beginning forensic activities with seven veteran debaters back. Plans are under way which call for debates with Loyola, Florida, Wayne, John Carroll, and probably Michigan and Northwestern universities.—*The Varsity News*.

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Prof. Verton Queener, Governor of the Province of Kentucky and debate coach at Maryville College, is working towards his Ph.D. degree at Indiana University. His work is being carried on by other faculty members during his absence. He expects to attend the provincial convention at Franklin College, Indiana Alpha.

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Two British students, representing the National Union of Students of England, will meet Nebraska Zeta, Kearney State Teachers, in November or December on a question to be selected by the vote of the student body. The Britishers are traveling under the auspices of the National Student Federation of America.—*The Antelope*.

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The national office of the National Forensic League, the high school forensic society of which our own Karl E. Mundt, South Dakota Theta, is president, has moved from Ripon College, Wisconsin, to the University of Denver. National Secretary Bruno E. Jacob will serve as Graduate Assistant in the Department of Speech.—*National Forensic League Bulletin*.

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Wheaton College, Illinois Mu, held a banquet to honor its state champion teams. Those honored were the wrestling team, the women's tennis team, and the men's debate team.—*The Wheaton Record*.

The University of Detroit gained possession of the trophy offered by the Detroit Yacht Club by defeating Wayne University on the powers of the president question. The debate closed last year's forensic season for the two schools.—*The Varsity News*.