THE FORENSIC

OF PI KAPPA DELTA

ALFRED WESTFALL, Editor G. W. FINLEY. Business Manager

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MARCH, 1938

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Twelfth Biennial Convention of Pi Kappa Delta

Topeka, Kansas, April 17-22, 1938

Hotel Jayhawk, Convention Headquarters

OFFICIAL PROGRAM

Sunday, April 17

7:30 p.m. Easter Sunday Sacred Concert by the Ottawa University Choir. First Baptist Church, Topeka.

Monday, April 18

9:00	a.m.	General	Assembly.	First	roll	call.

10:30 a.m. First round of debates. Topeka High School.

12:30 p.m. Drawings for first round of extempore speaking contests.

1:30 p.m. First round of extempore speaking contests.

3:30 p.m. Second round of debates. Topeka High School.

6:00 p.m. Convention dinner observing the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of Pi Kappa Delta.

8:30 p.m. First round of oratory.



HOTEL JAYHAWK Convention Headquarters





TOPEKA HIGH SCHOOL, WHERE MOST OF CONTESTS WILL BE HELD

Tuesday, April 19

8:30 a.m.	Third round of debates. Topeka High School.
9:00 a.m.	Opening sessions of both houses of the National Student
	Congress. Kansas State Capitol Building.
10.00 a m	Fourth round of debates

10:00 a.m.

Drawings for second round of extempore speaking. 12:30 p.m.

Second round of extempore speaking contests. 1:30 p.m.

Fifth round of debates. 3:30 p.m.

7:00 p.m. First business session of the National Convention.

Wednesday, April 20

8:00 a.m.	Drawings for third round of extempore speaking.
9:00 a.m.	Third round of extempore speaking contests.

Second round of oratory. 10:30 a.m.

Province luncheons. 12:30 p.m.

3:30 p.m. Sixth round of debates.

4:45 p.m. Seventh round of debates.

8:00 p.m. Convention party.

Thursday, April 21

10:00 a.m. Third round of oratory.

Drawings for semi-final round in extempore speaking. 12:30 p.m.

Semi-final round in extempore speaking. 1:30 p.m. 3:30 p.m. Eighth round of debates (final round).

Convention dinner and Student Night program. 6:00 p.m.

Semi-final round of oratory. 8:30 p.m.

Friday, April 22

Final business session of the National Convention. 9:00 a.m. Election of officers.

Drawings for final contests in extempore speaking. 12:00 m.

Final contests in extempore speaking. 1:00 p.m.

3:00 p.m. Final contests in oratory.

Convention banquet. Address by Honorable Josh Lee, 6:00 p.m. United States Senator from Oklahoma.



SYLVESTER R. TOUSSAINT National President Pi Kappa Delta

The President's Page

We approach another biennial National Convention—our twelfth meeting and the one which marks twenty-five years of life for Pi Kappa Delta. It hardly seems two years since we met at Houston, but the calendar does not lie. I, for one, am glad that it has marked off the days in order that I may talk again over a cup of coffee at breakfast or at midnight with friends I have not seen since we left the Lone Star state.

The most satisfying aspect of our national meetings is the reputation which our society has left in every city in which we have met. No finer tribute was ever paid to the membership of an organization than appeared in the newspapers of Lexington, Kentucky, during and after our convention there in 1934. Similar praise came to us at Wichita, Tulsa, and Houston. I simply remind this 1938 delegation of Pi Kappa Delta students that they have a convention heritage which appeals to them as ladies and gentlemen to see to it that Topeka, too, joins in a unanimous commendation of the character and quality of our people.

Some aspects of this convention will test the cooperative spirit of our membership. We inaugurate the first national student congress; added to an already full schedule it means that there will be more going on than ever before. We will be housed in two hotels, three blocks apart. That complicates many fold the problems of the convention committees and means that all of us will have to bend every effort to keep in close touch with convention headquarters.

A glance at the program which appears in the opening pages of this issue seems to indicate a relatively leisurely schedule. We hope that it will not prove to be too strenuous. The reduction of the debate tournament from eleven rounds to eight should prove a boon in this respect. The printed schedule, however, does not list the daily meetings of the Congress, which will be in almost continuous session following the opening on Tuesday, either in general meetings, caucuses, or committee hearings. The time schedule was governed largely by the availability of the Topeka High School, which will be at our disposal all day Monday and Tuesday but only after 3:30 on other days. We tried, also, to accommodate members of Congress who are competing in oratory and extempore speaking by placing their contests at times when they would conflict least with their other duties. Thursday morning is relatively free and we are expecting it to be

used to advantage by various convention committees which will be drafting reports to be presented at the final business meeting on Friday.

You will note, too, that we have provided for but two business sessions—both at times when they will not interfere with contests nor be disrupted by other convention events. The Tuesday evening meeting should give ample opportunity for full free discussion of many society problems. An equally free period on Friday will allow the completion of our business without haste or lack of consideration. May I suggest that in many respects the business sessions of the convention are the most important single features of the week. They merit your attendance and your participation. Remember that the National Convention is the ultimate authority in Pi Kappa Delta.

Following the plan at Houston we shall have two dinners besides the banquet. The Monday night program will commemorate the Silver Anniversary of Pi Kappa Delta. We are trying to arrange a presentation of the history and gowth of the order which will be impressive and vivid. On Thursday night we repeat an event which took the 1936 convention by storm—the student night entertainment. Janet Brown and Billy Greene are in charge of this program and all of you entertainers should work with them to make the 1938 edition of the Pi Kappa Delta Varieties bigger and better than the initial bill.

Other events of interest are treated in separate articles in this number and I won't discuss them here. The location of the convention in the heart of our constituency, the addition of the Congress to our program, the renewed enthusiasm for forensics in many of our chapters promise to make this the largest convention in point of numbers that we have ever had, topping the previous high of 700 delegates at Lexington in 1934. We are eager to match this registration with a convention program and atmosphere which will mark the Topeka conclave of 1938—our quarter century milestone—as one outstanding in competition, inspiration and fun, and an efficient businesslike handling of our affairs. In that spirit I urge you to come, for in that spirit we are planning for your coming.

S. R. Toussaint.

SENATOR LEE WILL ADDRESS THE CONVENTION.

MARY ADAH MILEER Colorado State College

Once a debater, once an orator, once a professor of public speaking, Senator Josh Lee will come to the National Pi Kappa Delta Convention at Topeka, Kansas, April 22, 1938, from the maelstrom of the 74th United States Congress.

One of the country's foremost dramatic speakers, Senator Lee is truly what Mr. George Creel designated him: "the closest approach to Delsarte that this country has ever produced. Watching him speak is a postgraduate course in synchronization."

Senator Lee achieved that which every young orator may hope to gain—he virtually talked himself into prominence. A whirlwind campaign of brilliant speeches made not only before city groups, but also to the spit-and-whittle groups gathered around the stove in a village store, so impressed the Oklahoma voters that Joshua Lee, when he was only 43 years of age, was selected for the Senate in 1935. In the campaign he ran away from his nearest opponent, the blind ex-senator Gore.



JOSH LEE Senator from Oklahoma

The election before he had won a seat in the House as Congressman from the Fifth District of Oklahoma, with 1,500 more votes than his five opponents combined. All he had to do this time was to move to a desk in the other end of the Capitol.

When Senator Lee leaves his multitudinous duties in Congress to come to Topeka to address some seven hundred of the best trained student speakers from the colleges of the nation, he will be entirely in his element. He has spoken before groups of all ages, but he undoubtedly is best acquainted with college people.

The Senator began his career of being the outstanding speaker of any and all groups of which he was a member by first reciting in the frontier school at Rocky, Oklahoma. Next he tried to dominate with his agile tongue the unruly pupils at the same frontier school which he himself had attended.

Later his dramatic and oratorical ability helped him to defray his college expenses. He was in constant demand as an entertainer before all manner of groups. Although he preferred recitations, he gave many impersonations for the diversion of his audiences. The prizes consistently won in oratorical contests added substantially to his income while he was a student at Oklahoma University.

As a climax to his collegiate forensic career Senator Lee was acclaimed the winner of the intercollegiate National Oratorical Contest held in Lexington, Kentucky in 1916, where he competed in the finals against eight young men and women, who had been chosen from 1400

original contestants.

Even the World War with its death-laden bombs and filthy trenches did not furnish a bushel ample enough to hide the light of Joshua Lee as a speaker. At the signing of the Armistice he was transferred from the 135th Infantry to the entertainment division where he became both a producer and actor of plays designed for the amusement of the American doughboys in France. As a result of his experiences in France he published his book "Soldier's Rhymes" in 1919.

On his return to America he took a step further in speech activity; he became instructor of public speaking at his Alma Mater. After several years he added another to his lengthening list of achievements when he was promoted to Head of the Speech Department there.

Because he believed that work in dramatics furnishes perhaps the best possible means of speech training, Senator Lee, in his capacity as a speech instructor, spent his summers on the Chautauqua circuit accompanied by a troupe of his students.

On such a circuit he spent the afternoons lecturing to farmers, merchants, doctors—anyone—about the art of speech. He tried to help them as he helped his students to become able and effective in public address. In the evenings he himself took part in the plays.

Those arduous Chautauqua circuit days with their lecture and play every day undoubtedly prepared him for his even more strenuous campaigns, first for the House of Representatives and later for the Senate. Swept into the Senate by a wave of votes which swamped four of the state's strongest political figures, Josh Lee is rated today as one of the nation's best-known speakers.

As one of the country's most astute legislators Senator Lee has capitalized on his speech training to the fullest extent. It was he who proposed the bill to take the profits out of war, expressing the belief that if it is morally right and constitutionally legal to draft men in war time, it is also justifiable to draft money. In a recent radio ad-

dress he said, "I believe that if you can draft men you can draft money. If you draft one man's services you can draft another man's property."

He is not radical on the question of peace. With many others Senator Lee sees the necessity of maintaining an adequate defense.

While campaigning Joshua Lee first advanced his theory of "a farm for every farmer." In spite of existing conditions, or perhaps because of them, Senator Lee has become a staunch supporter of home ownership. He firmly believes that many of the economic problems facing the United States today would melt away under the impetus of homes owned by those who live in them.

While in the House of Representatives, he was one of the leaders in the movements to equalize the educational opportunities of the

nation by use of federal funds in aiding the weaker schools.

Among other things Senator Lee is an ardent prohibitionist. In fact his oration delivered at Lexington in 1916 dealt with this topic.

Such is the man who will speak at the convention in Topeka.

The school-boy orator, who has traveled the full route from the district school platform to national prominence and a seat in our highest legislative assembly, comes back to greet the entered apprentices in his craft and to tell them that "Success today belongs to the man who can speak."



Washburn students making convention plans.

THE NATIONAL STUDENT CONGRESS

The S. R. O. sign will have to be displayed when members of the National Student Congress convene in Topeka for the opening session on Tuesday, April 19th. More than 200 students, representing almost 100 different chapters of Pi Kappa Delta, have been formally certified for appointment—and there are only 40 seats in the Senate and 125 in the House. Consequently the committee in charge of the Congress has been compelled to make up a waiting list, including names of the student nominees who could not be seated; as vacancies in either chamber occur, students will be appointed from the waiting list to occupy the vacated seats.

Everything points to a highly successful session. The Columbia Broadcasting System will broadcast a part of the debate from the floor on two or three days of the session; Life magazine is planning to send a staff photographer to cover the session for that periodical; a message will be presented from the President of the United States: a number of state and national officials will be on hand; and from the number of bills already received by the committee, there will apparently be plenty of work for the Congress to do.

Headquarters for the Congress will be on the mezzanine floor of the Kansan Hotel, as will be headquarters for both major political parties. Members are urged to report at the Kansan and secure their credentials, as soon as they arrive in Topeka.

Members who plan to present bills are urged to have them ready



Left to right: Mr. Sam D. Blythe, Manager of Hotel Kansan; Mr. Arthur White, president Kansas Beta Chapter Pi Kappa Delta; Professor H. B. Summers, Kansas State College, Manhattan; Professor G. S. Ful-bright, Washburn College, Topeka, Kans.

These men are discussing plans relating to the National Convention. Summers has just made a wisecrack.

before the session opens, and if possible, to send copies to the committee in charge of the Congress a week or two in advance. And all members are particularly urged to see that their entry fees for participation in the Congress are sent to the National Secretary at the time when contest fees are paid.

We're looking forward to seeing you all, in Topeka!

H. B. SUMMERS.

EASTER CONCERT FOR OPENING NUMBER

Pi Kappa Delta students and faculty members will be gathering in Topeka on Easter Sunday. It seemed appropriate that an organization half of whose chapters are found in colleges with denominational ties and many of whose delegates are identified actively with church life and interests should recognize the day.

Easter and music are inseparably linked and when you find an outstanding student choir in the college holding the Alpha chapter of our fraternity the answer is evident. The Silver Anniversary Convention of Pi Kappa Delta opens with an Easter concert by the Ottawa University Choir, given in the First Baptist Church, conveniently located half-way between the two hotels housing our delegations. The willing cooperation of the university, the choir members, and the church make this event possible.

The Ottawa Choir, under the direction of Professor Edgar D. Kerr, has won an enviable reputation as one of the foremost choral groups of its area. Its fall tour of Kansas was acclaimed by the press. The members of the choir are sacrificing their vacations to present this Pi Kappa Delta concert toward which they have been pointing all year. It promises to be an evening of rich beauty and inspiration.

One of the high points of the concert will be a group of baritone solos by Professor Kerr, who holds degrees from the Chicago Philharmonic Conservatory and the Westminster Choir School. Active in Chicago music circles before going to Ottawa, Mr. Kerr has been enthusiastically received as a concert and oratorio singer in many eastern and central states. His voice and his personality will win his listeners immediately.

Arrangements are being made to reserve a section of the auditorium for Pi Kappa Delta people. No more impressive opening has ever been given to a National Convention program and delegations will do well to plan their driving schedules to reach Topeka in time to

share in this musical treat appropriate to the Easter season.

Decisions on the Pi Kappa Delta Question Reports from two tournaments indicate that decisions on the official question are running fairly even.

Ai	tirmative	Negative	
Baylor University Tournament	. 173	180	
Red River Tournament	175	185	
	-		
Total	348	365	

WASHBURN COLLEGE WELCOMES PI KAPPA DELTA

Washburn College feels greatly gratified and honored at the selection of Kansas and Topeka for the twentyfifth anniversary meeting of Pi Kappa Delta. As we review our own connection with the society, we gladly recognize the stimulus which Pi Kappa Delta has given to training in the effective presentation of ideas among our own students. The place which the society has come to hold in the speech activities of American colleges is a matter of particular pride to the institutions which were associated in its founding and early history.

The tournament this year is a great event for Topeka and for Washburn. We plan to enter so heartily into the



PHILIP C. KING Washburn College



G. S. FULBRIGHT
Washburn College
In charge of
local arrangements
at Topeka.

welcome and the local arrangements that all who attend will have reason to know how significant we believe the event to be.

Philip C. King, *President*.

Unique Values of Competitive Debate

JOSEPH BACCUS
University of Redlands, Redlands, California

The following discussion seeks to focus attention on certain values of competitive debate which, in the writer's opinion, are achieved nowhere else in the educational process. Training in the use of the library, readiness of vocabulary, team-work, a positive platform manner and many other desirable habits and attitudes will not be discussed, for while such values come through debate participation, they may also be achieved in other Speech, English, or similar courses. My desire is to justify debating by three values to the student, values unique to the competitive form of debate. In making this statement, it must be understood that I am presupposing that during the season the debate program will include other types of activity besides the tournament or competitive debates.

The three values which competitive debating possesses are:

I. The analytical weighing of vital material under pressure, with

acceptance of logical conclusions.

The give and take of wits at play, under the pressure of seeking to advance a point of view develops in the student the foundations of success in life. To present an issue; to have it attacked in a way never before considered; to re-organize the issue in terms of defensible material; to make a judgment as to which arguments to minimize, which to enhance; to have the judgment criticized for its effectiveness; to have the unity of the entire case attacked as well as individual arguments going to make up the case; to seek to find a unity that will reestablish the original point of view; all the while to be attacking points of view of the opponents; re-affirming and re-building the case in its entirety—this is what goes on in debate and nowhere else in the curriculum.

Is the result likely to be a dogmatic insistence on a particular case or argument? It is true that in the mechanical arrangement of debate it is necessary to maintain a position until the debate is over. It is possible to say in passing that it is valuable to have some activity where an individual holds on to an opinion long enough to give it a trial. There is need for stubbornness of purpose, need to push forward a conclusion, albeit a tentative one, in the face of opposition. So in debate the individual is asked to hold on to the interpretation

he has presented and give it everything he has until the debate is over. What happens after debate? After ten years of experience I differ from the critics of debate as to what happens then. It may be the case of one man's word against another. I present the following experience as logical and reasonable. It has happened this way practically every year.

First, the debaters study the question, and immediately there is a superficial judgment that one side is easier or harder, more nearly right than the other. Then there is an investigation of material and invariably within three weeks a change of mind takes place, so that the other side is now considered the stronger. Then, as he is able to present his views on the platform before opponents who had been thinking along different lines, the debater changes his mind again, believing as originally, but with the significant difference that there are more logical reasons for believing as he now does. As the season continues the shifts back and forth continue, one side being considered stronger than the other, then the reverse, now the affirmative, now the negative, now because of this reason, now because of that combination of arguments or points of view. On the way home after a debate there would be frank discussion of good and bad points and frequently a scrapping of the entire interpretation. In a tournament a team might change its entire perspective and present a new case in the third debate because on the same side in the first debate its position had been untenable. At the end of the season the debater usually has definite ideas one way or the other. These ideas rest on solid, fundamental reasons for belief. They had been checked and rechecked, analyzed and synthesized; defended and attacked, fought for and against, upheld and torn down. The final product is belief, conviction, sometimes moral judgment for the debater.

Let no one misunderstand, for we are at the heart of democracy. The facts do not change much, but interpretations of the facts change frequently. During the weeks and months these debaters were accumulating facts, authorities, statistics, evidence of all kinds. They made judgments and conclusions to the best of their ability. And they tested contrary points of view in the process. It is possible in a discussion to go no farther than a "Yes—that's right" attitude towards a problem, never reaching a point of vital concern. In debate as carried on throughout the year, the debater is able to put the opposing points of view into perspective. Since each point of view has been ably upheld at one time or another, a cross-section of the strength and weakness of all positions can be obtained. Therefore, these debaters weighed material, frequently under fire, considered contrary points of view, each presented in its best light and then

sought to arrive at logical conclusions. We are now ready for the second advantage.

II. The debater develops an ability to change from one conclusion to another consistently.

"Horrible! Why, the first hour they debate one side, fifteen minutes later you'll find them debating the opposite side. It is ghastly!" Debating both sides is a practice that is accused of being immoral, inconsistent with educational policy, charlatan. These accusations are false. Debating both sides is not immoral unless a debater develops a moral conviction on the subject. Sometimes, during the course of the debate season a debater will honestly feel that he cannot debate both sides conscientiously. Such an attitude must be respected. On most questions of policy, however, there is little reason for moral judgment. To say that it is immoral or shocking to debate both sides is stupid because it shows a lack of knowledge. Few debaters would be guilty of making an assumption with such insufficient evidence. Here is the true picture.

The debater throughout the season is reading material from many points of view. Some articles are definitely affirmative, some definitely negative, some have combined affirmative and negative arguments with different emphasis in different articles. All these the debater masters. He debates both sides, seeking to present the best argument for the side he is on at the time. What is the result? The debater is able to present the merits of the case being defended, be it affirmative or negative. When he shifts, it is not on the basis of prejudice, gossip, opinion, political expediency, or treachery, but on the sound basis of a different interpretation of the facts.

Until I can be shown that all truth rests on one side of the proposition, that there are no arguments save on that side, that justice and light rests there and nowhere else—until that time, I claim for debate a value of significant importance to our democratic institutions, the ability to change from one conclusion to another consistently. When, as the result of considering all points of view and every point of view, the debater does arrive at a moral judgment and has a conviction on an issue, he is a power in the land, for he knows all the arguments pro and con, knows that men differ from him, but also knows the reasons why they differ. Therefore, he is ready and able to meet those differences in the interest of great results. Such men have gone and are going today from our debate classes to make democracy more nearly ideal.

III. Debate tests ideas that won't work without serious detriment, thereby developing a social technique of immeasurable value. If an audience is necessary for debate, then the statement given above is weakened, because there would be possible detrimental effects from the experimental ideas discussed on the platform. The tournament has shown, however, that the audience is not necessary, at least during the preliminary rounds; in so doing it has made a contribution of value. We have been drifting too far along the path of exhibitionism in debate as well as in all our speech activities. It is time we realize that the debate program is an educational device, intended for the training of the student. An audience and its enlightenment is incidental except in the extension debate where definite preparation is made with an audience in mind. As an educational device, the debate platform gives opportunity for testing theories without detrimental after-results. An analogy with the scientist may be helpful.

In the laboratory the scientist makes many mistakes. He is able to correct these mistakes without loss except to equipment and materials. The social scientist is faced with a harder job. He hesitates to experiment when he is dealing with human lives. The debater, in testing his ideas, having them criticized and evaluated, is developing techniques which make it possible for him to err less frequently as he continues working in the social laboratory. He may lose a debate, but that is a small matter. What is happening to him is important—the training in learning what will work and how it will work. That such training does take place is shown by the fact that the experienced debater wins more debates.

Is there any training in the experience the debater goes through that makes it possible for him to win more frequently in the problems of life? There can probably be no direct answer, but again the analogy of the scientist may be useful. The scientist learns to avoid certain mixtures and activities he knows or feels sure will produce harmful effects. Learning what to avoid has certain definite survival values. More than that, the scientist learns certain techniques which are likely to be successful. The social scientist doesn't have the laboratory possibilities of the natural scientist. Frequently he must experiment with actual conditions where mistakes are very costly. The debater, through his experience, is learning techniques to avoid in dealing with people, influencing opinions, handling facts, drawing conclusions, and a host of other abilities that are comparable to the activities of the scientist, seeking ways of producing his results. Because of these techniques, I believe the debater will be a definitely superior person in the social arena. Because he has learned valuable techniques that are likely to work with men and ideas, he will be a value to the social organization. His success is not guaranteed, any more than are the experiments of the scientist, but it is more likely, because he knows what to avoid and what is likely to produce the success he desires.

During the tournament, the season and his college experience, the debater has many opportunities for testing, changing, evaluating his opinions, his convictions, his methods of thinking, analyzing; in fact, all the mental processes going into the development of an intelligent citizen are his in perspective. Through the years, the loss of any particular debate or debates because of experiment with theories or method is so negligible that it does not count. But the opportunity for experiment, in actual meeting of men and issues, is such a valuable and important experience that I claim first place for it in preparing individuals to be valuable citizens in a democracy where we do not want our leaders to experiment on human beings, but to use intelligence and care in dealing with the lives, fortunes, and happiness of the men and women entrusted to their care.

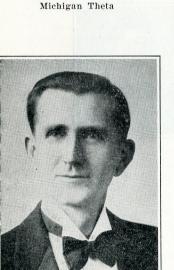
John Reinemund and Edward Baker, Augustana, Illinois Xi, who will be heard at Topeka. Augustana has won fifty-eight debates this year as against fourteen defeats. Twelve debaters have helped in establishing this record.



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