

THE FORENSIC

OF PI KAPPA DELTA

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Missing

A WOMAN'S CHOICE

By ARDITH E. STOLTZ
Michigan State Normal College

At a time when, it seems to me, we are on the point of raising the white flag to the tobacco interests, my plea and even my subject may not appeal to some of you. But warnings ought to be sounded and the public informed if the day is not to be lost. In 1916 the American public smoked 17,000,000 cigarets. Last year it smoked 120,000,000, a seven-fold increase in ten years. My message this afternoon has a direct bearing upon the way in which women are involved in this alarming growth.

Women may well be proud of the part they have played in American life and the extent to which they have attained political, social, and economic freedom. Happy as we may feel because of these attainments, her rise to recognition has been accompanied by developments which can but make us shudder when thinking of the future. There is, perhaps, no other one thing which so seriously threatens the very foundation of white civilization as the recent spread of the use of cigarets among women. Before the World War the cigaret was universally recognized as the badge of the woman of the streets and the underworld. No well-bred man thought of smoking in the presence of ladies. The harm caused by the use of tobacco, especially cigarets, was continuously pointed out by textbooks on physiology, by our press, and our pulpits. Smoking generally was prohibited in Y. M. C. A. buildings, and the courts held that smoking in such public places as railroad trains constituted such disorderly conduct as to justify the expulsion of the passengers. All this was changed by the World War. We seized upon every means, right or wrong, to incite our people. This opportunity was eagerly embraced by the American tobacco trust to enlarge its profits by urging us under the guise of patriotism to purchase cigarets for the boys over there.

In the wake of the war followed the stupendous growth to which I have just referred. The normal mind finds it difficult to understand the exact causes which led American women to adopt this habit. It was probably due to a combination of circumstances. A lowering of moral standards always accompanies the reaction from war. There was the silly belief on the part of

the woman whose personal charms had faded that she could regain her former place in the affections of man by being his pal and sharing in his vices. There was the desire to seem sophisticated by imitating smart social circles as depicted in moving pictures. Without doubt, however, the most important cause was the intensive advertising campaign conducted by the American Tobacco Company, at an initial cost of \$10,000,000, so severely condemned as fraudulent in a recent report of the Federal Trade Commission. The appeal was to woman's vanity, to her desire for a trim waist, slender ankles, delicate arms. Imagine the psychological appeal of "Coming events cast their shadows before," upon a woman who weighed a little more than she thought she should, and "Reach for a Lucky" tempted the sweet-eating public to think of a cigaret every time it opened its mouth. The climax was probably reached when the tobacco companies urged the cigaret as a means of promoting health and mental keenness. A case reported by the Bureau of Investigation of the American Medical Association illustrates their advertising methods. In 1927 the advertising agency for the American Tobacco Company circularized a large number of physicians in the interest of Lucky Strike cigarets. Each physician received a carton of a hundred cigarets and two questions. The first was, "In your judgment is the toasting process applied to tobacco previously aged and cured, likely to free the cigaret from irritation to the throat?" Obviously, not one physician in 10,000 was or could be competent to answer this question, so said the Bureau of Investigation. Yet the exploiters claim that over 18,000 physicians answered. If this claim is not grossly false, it does not rebound to the credit of the 18,000. Thus has advertising played its part in leading women to smoke.

Examine the situation in the light of the better social conventions. Women say, "Men have a right to smoke; why not we?" Yes, we have the right. We have the right, I presume, to become intoxicated and lie in the gutter until we are loaded into the patrol wagon and taken to the police station. But why take on man's vices? Does it add to our gentility to imitate him? Vice among men is no argument for vice among women. And does such action evoke his respect? We feel expansive when we sit in a restaurant assuming the role of an experienced cigaret smoker. We may even think we resemble Theda Bara or some other intriguing vamp. But does smoking give us her talent? Is anyone deceived but ourselves? Men, seemingly tolerant, are only amused at our misdirected efforts. And we are within our

rights if we go further. Already one of the forerunners of fashion has ushered in the pipe, and now I suppose we shall start smoking pipes. And then what? Well, there will be the plug of tobacco to consider. The cuspidor will necessarily become a part of mi-lady's boudoir. For once we really begin, curiosity will prompt us to explore all the possibilities. But you may say that my argument thus far is that the cigaret is unconventional, and conventions change. Let us agree. However you will admit that our sense of womanly fineness is not enhanced by the picture of rights just presented.

But what is the fundamental reason for conventions being good or bad? In the use of tobacco, convention ought to be determined by its effect upon mind and body. If it has no ill effects, then why be sticklers for convention? I give you part only of an array of evidence upon which I base my conviction. Professor Irving Fisher, of Yale University, after investigating a report by Dr. George Fisher, says that moderate smoking raises the heart rate and blood pressure, and markedly delays their return to normal after exercise, even in healthy, vigorous young men. Dr. Kellogg, of Battle Creek Sanitarium, found that every authority agrees that tobacco is a heart poison. Dr. Huber, of Columbia University, is convinced that tobacco predisposes to pulmonary tuberculosis. In this connection, no athlete doubts the effect of smoking on a man's wind. One hundred cases of mouth cancer were studied by Dr. Abbe, of New York, who found that almost every one of them had been an inveterate smoker. The New England Life Insurance Company, in 1911, published the data from 180,000 policy-holders covering 60 years. Where the maximum of expected death rates was 100, of tobacco abstainers only 59 died, of rare users only 71 died, of temperate users 84, and of moderate users 93, and excessive users were not accepted by the Company. Again, tobacco reduces mental efficiency, and the power and inclination to study. In short, it dulls the razor edge of thinking. Such are the general effects of smoking.

Now examine certain supplemental effects upon women. No less an authority than Surgeon General Cumming, of the United States Public Health Service, reports that "the cigaret habit indulged in by women causes nervousness and insomnia. Woman's nervous system, more highly organized than man's, is much more susceptible to respiratory diseases." The National Tuberculosis Association reported at its last annual convention that the increase in tuberculosis among girls is appalling. Whereas

five years ago the rate among girls was half that among boys, today because of smoking and accompanying vices, it is twice that among boys. A woman's health is not only impaired, but her appearance also. Joseph Byrne, managing director of the National Beauty Shop Owners Association says, "The features of a woman who smokes become coarser and sharper as the nicotine habit fastens upon her. Her skin becomes taut and sallow; her lips lose their rosy color; the corners of her mouth show wrinkles; her eyes acquire a glassy stare, and the lids rise and fall slowly. It mars her whole feminine beauty."

In the light of the physical effects I have just presented let us examine a more serious aspect of the problem—the potential, cumulative effects of tobacco. Have you observed how nature ends the life of many a tree long before its time? Into its history came a rotten limb, a stratum of dead wood at the heart. Time passed. The branches spread. Appearances gave promise of long life. But one day a storm swept the forest. While the sturdy tree withstood the crisis, the tree weakened by destructive forces, perished. It lacked the margin of strength to carry it thru. Thus, small vices fasten upon men. Apparently harmless today, their cumulative effect is to sap the reserve energy needed for a crisis likely to come in later years. Thus is explained the anxiety of the surgeon as he bends over the patient about to undergo a major operation. Can he survive? The surgeon questions. Will he draw dividends on his good habits, or like the foolish virgins of the parable, will he be found lacking the essential oil of life energy needed for the crucial moment? How far the cigaret is involved in the alarming death rate in later life from heart, nerve, and lung diseases, we can only surmise, but that it plays a part we can be certain.

But one more indictment, most serious of all—its effect upon motherhood itself. We may insist upon our right to flout convention if we will, to impair our own bodies and minds if we will, to ignore the bodily thrift that saves for later life if we will, but before the cradle of an unborn race, rights cease and duty begins. Dr. Kellogg states that the babyhood of our race is imperiled thru the passing of the blood-poison of the cigaret-addicted mother into the veins of the unborn child. At a time when we are summoning all our forces in the struggle against race degeneracy, the mothers of today must not be found wanting, for upon them rests a responsibility they cannot avoid.

ARDITH E. STOLTZ WINS NATIONAL ESSAY-ORATORICAL CONTEST

MISS Ardith Stoltz, a senior at Michigan State Normal College of Ypsilanti, representing the Province of the Lakes, in the National Pi Kappa Delta Essay-Oratorical contest, won first place with her oration, "A Woman's Choice," in competition with eleven other representatives, chosen by the various provinces last spring. John Brooks of Nebraska Wesleyan, representing the Province of the Platte, won second place with his oration, "Why So Hot"; Harold LeVander, with his oration, "Date Kernels," won third honors, representing Gustavus Adolphus of the Province of the Upper Mississippi.

Those who read the Forensic will remember that last year we proposed a "National Essay-Oratorical Contest," in which the contestants would be the first place winners selected in the provincial convention tournaments. It was so arranged, and the province governors cooperated in selecting their respective representatives. In nearly all of the provinces there were two winning orators, one each for the men's and women's contests. Each of these provinces had to decide upon one winner as its national representative. The Province of Kentucky is the only one not participating in the national contest.



ARDITH E. STOLTZ
Winner First Place

President Pflaum insists that we keep in mind that this is an essay-oratorical contest, not an oratorical contest only. Since the province winners in the tournaments last spring were judged on a basis of the delivered orations we were assured of competent representation from the point of view of delivery. Of course, because in our essay-oratorical contest, decisions were to

RANK OF CONTESTANTS IN FINAL CONTEST

Name	College	Province	Oration	Judges			Total	Rank
				X	Y	Z		
Ardith Stoltz.....	Michigan State Normal...	Lakes.....	"A Woman's Choice".....	2	2	1	5	First
John Brooks.....	Nebraska Wesleyan.....	Platte.....	"Why So Hot".....	1	3	3	7	Second
Harold LeVander..	Gustavus Adolphus.....	Upper Mississippi..	"Date Kernels".....	3	4	2	9	Third
M. B. Amos.....	North Carolina State....	South Atlantic.....	"October".....	5	1	4	10	Fourth
Lowell Ditzen.....	William Jewell.....	Missouri.....	"Evasive Politics and a Third Party"..	4	5	5	14	Fifth
John King.....	University of Redlands...	Pacific.....	"Pioneer Blood".....	6	6	6	18	Sixth

The following provincial winners were eliminated in the preliminary of the national contest:

Name	Province	College	Oration
Glen Moore.....	Oklahoma.....	Northwestern State Teachers.....	"The Death Penalty"
Charles Brooks.....	Lower Mississippi.....	North Texas State Teachers.....	"The Challenge to America"
Joyce Gregory.....	Sioux.....	Eastern State Teachers (South Dakota).....	"We Call Them Radicals"
Helen Leach.....	Northwest.....	Linfield College.....	"A Vision of Hope"
Harold Hammer.....	Kansas.....	Southwestern.....	"The Reign of Autocracy"
Dorothy Warlow.....	Illinois.....	Illinois State Normal University.....	"Behavior in a A Scientific Age"

be based entirely on the manuscripts we must think of this particular contest as one in essay. Should these representatives be privileged to compete on the same platform the decision might be very different from that announced. However, since thought content is the most important consideration in modern oratory, the decision as here given is significant.

How Judged

President Pflaum appointed the judges for both contests—preliminary and final. To the judges in the preliminary contest, twelve orations, one from each competing province, were submitted. These judges were instructed to rank the twelve. From their group decision, six orations were eliminated, and the remaining six sent to the judges for the final competition.

The following professors, all teachers of speech, and with two exceptions in Pi Kappa Delta Colleges, acted as judges:

In the preliminary contest—John Parlette, Morningside College; W. H. Veatch, Washington State; and Enid Miller, University of Michigan.

In the final contest—Karl Mundt, Eastern State Teachers (So. Dak.); Edith Whitaker, Simpson College, and J. W. Carmichael, Bowling Green State College. The manuscripts submitted bore only the title of the orations, not the names, schools or provinces of contestants.

A Glance at the Data on Opposite Page

We have sometimes assumed that those in charge of forensics in teachers' colleges are handicapped by the fact that students in such schools do not continue their work toward degrees as uninterruptedly as do students in other institutions. If teachers' colleges are handicapped forensically in this way there must be, as we believe there are, certain advantages in their favor. Glancing at Mr. Jacobs' article (see p. 52 of the October Forensic 1930), and at Mr. Toussaint's report on the Province Tournaments (see p. 6 May Forensic 1931), we note that teachers' colleges have had their share of honors. Note in the list given that five of the twelve national representatives are from teachers' colleges. Forty-two percent, therefore, of "teachers" are in this select group, yet only 14% of our chapter representation is from teachers' colleges. Someone else may be interested in explaining this fact. As a point of further interest on this matter see the article and picture in this issue concerning Eastern Texas State Teachers' College, of Commerce, Texas.

We have also sometimes assumed that oratory was the right-

ful province of strong, resonant-voiced men. Looks like we are wrong also in that, for note that five of the twelve representatives (and these are not all from teachers' colleges), are women students. And you will note particularly that not only did the representative of a teachers' college win first honors, but also that this representative is a woman orator.

Some Reactions of Our National E-O Contest Judges

At least our national finalists, and perhaps others, will be interested in some "observations" of our contest judges. Their comment was not solicited, and they did not commit themselves with the expectation of being quoted. Because of this latter fact we will not indicate who said which. These remarks merely accompanied their decisions. We believe the criticisms and suggestions made are interesting, involving as they do fundamental considerations in the construction and thought content of oratory and the judging of same. Their observations follow:

"May the Saints protect me if I agree with none of the other judges."

"It is difficult to judge infallibly a dozen orations when all possess excellence."

"Knowing that some of these province winners, and many excellent new orators of like ability will compete at Tulsa, we can safely conjecture as to the quality of our next National Pi Kappa Delta Tournament."

"Such ability and serious thinking as is evidenced in these orations causes one to re-evaluate his opinion of college youth. College life, represented as one big whoopee party, as pictured in the movies, is a bit erroneous after all."

"In judging these orations I had in mind the following considerations: 1. Is anything worthwhile said? 2. How well said? 3. Thought or mere words? 4. Would an audience be interested?"

"Why So Hot" contains an excellent idea but is not so well written as "October," and "A Woman's Choice."

"_____," is an example of verbal effervescence from which modern oratory should depart."

"Likely none of the other judges will agree with my decision, and perhaps if they should we would all be wrong."

"Although I disagree with much the author of "A Woman's Choice" has to say, it seems to me she is speaking about a time-

ly problem and one in which she has strong personal convictions and she proposes a definite remedy."

"Date Kernels" is a good oration and in some ways I think it is the best but I have ranked it second because the subject matter is trite and because the student spends too much time in setting up a problem which we readily recognize as serious and too little time in trying to propose a solution for a problem which has puzzled the wise men of the world for ages."

"Why So Hot" has a good idea and the author states his problem well, but he spends far too much time in trying to prove something which does not need much proof and far too little time in proving the validity of a solution which does need proof."

"The author of 'October' scarcely develops his theme along sound enough economic lines to make his problem of vast and universal consideration, and although it is true we are in an economic turmoil, he fails to point the way out and fails to convince me that human shortsightedness rather than a combination of economic situations has been the cause of the turmoil."

"Evasive Politics and a Third Party" is a loosely hung oration and makes a rather unreasonable assumption when it assumes that the derivation of a third party would *ipso facto* provide a solution for national problems which have always been ours and which numerous third parties in history have failed to solve. Furthermore, some of his statements were rather extravagant, in his complete indictment of our two major parties governing America."

"Pioneer Blood" makes a rather new approach to the age old problem of crime, and we rather expect the author to make a comparison of America with some of the crumbled empires of the world; he suggests nothing very definite for the audience to do, to improve the situation. I believe some of the descriptions of the Pioneers' progress into the hinterland as given in "Pioneer Blood," are extravagant. For example "Women reared in luxury dragged silks and satins through the muck and mire of the wilderness"; "Pioneers marched forth to possess the Promised Land leaving their peaceful homes not in glory but in indifference", (would "indifference" drive a man to suffer even a small part of the hardships described by the author?) Again in his descriptions of the "Promised Land" some of his statements are hard to accept, e. g., "Great herds of wild beasts thunder across the prairies, treacherous animals lurk in the tree tops." Then such statements as "The blessings of education and knowledge the most remote territories of the nation" are hard to accept in

view of what we know concerning the educational background of the Kentucky mountaineers, children of negroes and backward rural school conditions in almost all our states. Such inaccuracies have led me to rank an otherwise well written oration in 6th place."

"Please understand that in accepting the honor of acting as one of your National judges, I do so only because you and Pres. Pflaum requested it, not because I consider myself a last-word authority."



WILL YOU ACT AS JUDGE?

Perhaps you may want to register your opinion on the three winning orations in this issue. Would you rank them as they have been placed by our National judges? If you care to do so, please send your decision and if enough join you we will be glad to tabulate your group opinion. At any rate, if you are interested in oratory, you will enjoy reading these three successful contributions.



A WOMAN'S CHOICE

(Continued from page 70)

Before us, the women of the twentieth century, lie two alternatives. Shall we assert our right against good convention in the face of the risks to appearance, to body, to mind, in the face of the exigencies of later life, in the face of the claims of childhood yet unborn; or, shall we uphold tradition, shall we keep fit both for ourselves and for those who follow us? Which shall it be? The question comes to you and you and you. Ours is a woman's choice.



Was This the First White vs. Negro Debate in the South?

In the May Forensic appeared the statement that Oklahoma City University and Wiley College debaters took part March 24 in the first negro vs. white debate in the South. Prof. Harold B. Allen of Shurtleff College informs us that an earlier debate of this kind was held. He states that Spencer Brown, Roscoe Marks, and Robert Steen, representing Shurtleff College, met a negro team representing LeMoyne College February 20 in the LeMoyne College auditorium in Memphis, Tenn. This contest preceded by one month, therefore, the Oklahoma City debate.



If you are planning to compete in the contests at the next National Convention you will want to study the winning speeches of the last three.

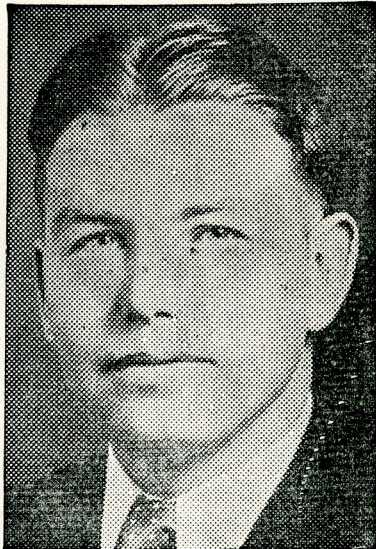
WHY SO HOT

By JOHN BROOKS, Nebraska Wesleyan University

At the banquet held before the Nebraska State Oratorical contest last December, Dr. Martin, President of Kearney Teachers College said to the guests, "You're here for your oratorical contest. The question I want to ask is: What will you do with your oratory?" He continued by observing that the orator is not so popular as he once was, and that society seems to depend much less than formerly upon his services.

There is much to think about in Dr. Martin's question. A year or two more, and those of us who have had a hand in college oratory, go to work in the world. What are we going to do with our oratory? What have we gained from it? Or, more immediately, of what value is oratory to us now?

On a moment's thought, the traditional benefits come to mind. You may remember paragraphs in this book or that which make all sorts of claims for oratorical training. For one thing, those who are supposed to know tell us, the practice in speech technique we gain in oratory is valuable; and to be sure, emphasis is laid on such training, by our speech teachers,—at least for the one or two students who get a chance to enter a contest. Again, research upon public problems is a part of preparation for oratory. The other day I saw these topics posted on a bulletin board as suitable subjects for orations: Peace, taxation, armaments, tariffs, companionate marriage, birth control, and some others. In the study of these problems, the orator grows in breadth of knowledge.



JOHN BROOKS
Winner Second Place