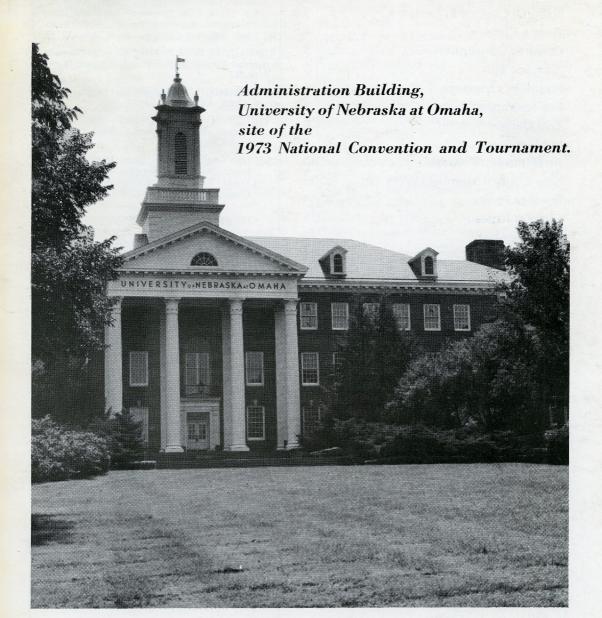
FORENSIC

SERIES 58

OCTOBER, 1972

NO. 1



The

FORENSIC

of Pi Kappa Delta

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National Council Reports

L. E. Norton

The National Council of Pi Kappa Delta held its biennial business meeting at the New Paxton Hotel in Omaha, Neb., August 7-9, 1972. All 10 members, including student members Kathy Vetter of Washburn University and Mark Tobin of the University of Nebraska at Omaha, were present for the seven sessions beginning at 9 a.m. on Monday and ending at noon on Wednesday.

Much of the time in business sessions was devoted to preparation for the 1973 convention. Recommendations of the 1971 Convention Evaluation Committee, evaluations by the 1971 contest chairman, suggestions of event chairmen and Province officers, Province convention reports, and student recommendations all served as the basis for decisions about events, rules and convention schedule. Additional items of business included membership, Province activity, status of probationary chapters, the financial status

of the fraternity, etc.

The purpose of this report is to present a brief summary of the points brought out in reports and to mention actions taken by the Council which may be of special interest to the chapters. New memberships for the past year totaled 992, slightly less than in the last non-convention year when the total was 1014. The number of chapters with no new members remained about the same as for the previous year. The major membership weakness revealed in the greater number of chapters with fewer than five members and in the number of chapters starting the 1972-73 year with no active members. On the other hand, 25 chapters will have more than 15 active members to start the new year.

The number of memberships in the Order of Debate, continues to decrease and the number in the Order of Competitive Individual Speaking continues to increase. The financial status of Pi Kappa Delta remains in good condition. This is due to a sharp decrease in the cost of printing the **Forensic** for the past year. Additional ways to decrease the cost of operating the fraternity will have to be found unless memberships increase over the next few years. The Secretary-Treasurer

distributed reports showing chapter and province strengths and weaknesses for the past several years. A summary of the situation in each particular province will be mailed to the Governors.

Council member Evan Ulrey, chairman of the recently appointed Membership Committee, reported on communications with those chapters having difficulty in maintaining minimum organizational requirements such as membership, convention attendance and annual reports. Vice President James Grissinger presented copies of analytical his study of the mendations by the 1971 Evaluation Committee, the Illinois-Upper Mississippi Provincial reports and suggestions made by other groups and persons for the improvement of the convention. Province Coordinator Les Lawrence reported on communication with Governors, the directions taken toward greater coordination within the province and the possibility of the Lt. Governors acting as chapter coordinators. Georgia Bowman, Editor of the Forensic, reported on the cooperative and competent efforts of Craftsman Composition and the Trojan Press. Associate Editors were commended. The Editor continues to receive more good copy than present finances permit us to print.

John Baird, chairman of the Charter and Standards Committee, reported that, within the past year, 12 colleges have indicated a desire to join Pi Kappa Delta. Four of these have had their chapters installed and four others have been approved by the Committee and by their respective provinces. James Grissinger, chairman of the Constitutional Revision Committee, presented nine suggestions which he had received for changes in the constitution. One pertaining to increasing the requirements for membership in the order of Competitive Individual Speaking required special work by the Council in order to establish specifics for each Degree. These amendments presented at the 1973 convention.

President Fred Goodwin reported on routine duties performed as well as ad-

ditional actions including the pointment of a Membership Committee and a Site Committee, service on the SCA Debate and Discussion Committee for four years, and the appointment of William B. English, University of Houston, as the Pi Delta representative to Committee for a three-year term to begin Sept. 1, 1972. Replies to the President's request for contest and convention personnel from both outgoing and incoming Governors were of great value in setting up committees. The complete listing of committee memberships will appear in the January Forensic, following confirmation of appointments.

Some of the actions taken relative to the contests were: extemporaneous debate will be limited to six rounds, the number of speakers in each section of oratory will be reduced, informative speaking will be added as an experimental event. The evaluation reports indicated a desire for innovation in events but no specific directive was apparent; thus it was decided, after much discussion, to add informative speaking which is one of the events most frequently used in tournaments. Since it is impossible to add an event and maintain the present length of the convention without making some reduction, it was decided to reduce the number of rounds for all individual events from four to three.

The question to be used for discussion will be, "How can we improve the quality of forensics in American Colleges and Universities?" The first round will include position papers and will not be judged. Three judged rounds will follow. Three general area extempore subjects with three sub-topics each will be submitted to the chapters for a preferential vote by way of the annual letter from the Secretary which is mailed about the first of October. The first place subject area will be announced in the January **Forensic.**

In regard to housing delegates, each chapter will communicate directly with the motel or hotel of its choice and make its own arrangements. Places and rates will be made available with other convention information, including the entry form, late in January. The entry form will be returned to the Secretary showing a postmark not later than March 1, 1973. Free time for tours has been provided on Thursday afternoon and evening. Options will be available at the time of registration. Total convention costs will be reasonable. Many chapters sponsor special money making projects during a convention year to supplement the budget. Why not try it?

Want a Change? Send 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, 1972. 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:

James Grissinger, Otterbein College, Westerville, O. 43081, or John Burt, Illinois Wesleyan University, Bloomington, Ill. 61701, or Robert Lyon, Rocky Mountain College, Billings, Mont. 59101.

Come to Convention

Try the new look at Pi Kappa Delta's 1973 Convention!

The Place:

The University of Nebraska at Omaha. *The Dates:*

March 26 through 30, 1973.

Highlights:

A new event — Informative Speaking. A special discussion question on how we can improve forensics programs in American colleges and universities.

A continuation of experimental extemporaneous debate, WITH MORE TIME TO PREPARE.

Challenging topics for extemp.

Colloquium for Coaches. See call for papers in this issue.

A half day of special tours.

Banquet at famous Peony Park with famous Omaha beef.

Costs — Food:

Moderate. Exact prices for the food package (Tuesday morning through the banquet Friday night) will appear in the January **Forensic**.

Costs - Housing:

Each school will make its own housing reservations directly with the motel or hotel.

Motels (all rates the same):

Prom Town House Motor Inn, 70th and Dodge (within easy walking distance of the campus).

New Tower Hotel Courts, 77th and Dodge (busses every 20 minutes).

Wayside Inn, 78th and Dodge (busses every 20 minutes).

3, 4, 5 persons to room @\$5.50 per person per night.

2 persons to room 1 double bed @\$7.00 per person per night.

2 persons to room 2 twins @\$7.50 per person per night.

1 person to room @\$13.00 per person per night.

New Paxton Hotel, 14th and Farnum (Downtown Omaha; you will need a car)

Single occupancy, 5 nights, \$45 Twin occupancy, 5 nights, \$30 per

Triple occupancy, 5 nights, \$27 per person

Quadruple occupancy, 5 nights, \$25 per person

Costs — Registration:

To be announced in January, and it will be a bargain.

Events:

Traditional debate

Cross-examination championship debate

Experimental extemporaneous debate Discussion

Oratory

Extemporaneous Speaking Informative Speaking Oral Interpretation

Detailed rules for all events will be printed in the January Forensic.

NOW SEE THIS!

DON'T MISS THESE ITEMS

You have a chance to select the area for extemporaneous speaking at the national convention. Be sure to vote on the ballot from the national secretary, which accompanies the request for the annual fall report. The ballot will contain the subtopics of the general areas, which are:

- 1. Changing American Values
- 2. Ecological Balance
- 3. American Foreign Policy

Pi Kappa Delta is originating a new job placement service. See last page for details.

Proposed constitutional amendments must be submitted by Nov. 15. See prescribed form elsewhere in this issue.

Subscriptions to the **Forensic:** New subscriptions, \$3.00 per year or two years for \$5. Current subscriptions continue at the present rate of \$1 per year.

The President's Message

Fred Goodwin

This President's Message is being written on a plane on the way home from Omaha, Neb., where for three days and nights your National Council has been discussing plans for the National Convention and Tournament at the University of Nebraska at Omaha next March.

From the welter of ideas generated, some new policies for Pi Kappa Delta and some new directions for a National Convention and Tournament have emerged. I want to describe a few of them

for you.

The tournament schedule has been revamped, permitting those interested in individual events to enter more contests than possible in the past. An experimental section in individual events in informative speaking is slated for inclusion in the contests. Experimental extempore debate will be offered again this year embodying the recommendation of last year's convention that more time should be provided in the schedule for case preparation. A special round of oratory will be offered for the seven remaining of the ten founding schools in this our sixtieth year.

As you will note elsewhere in this issue, an effort to emphasize the convention aspect of our meeting will be made as we invite formal presentations and subsequent open discussion by forensics directors on the question, "What makes an

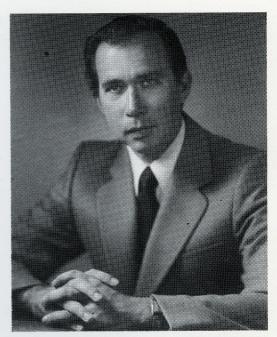
affirmative case 'propositional'?"

Following the lead of an interesting experiment in the joint province meeting of the Province of Illinois and the Province of the Upper Mississippi last spring, the contest in discussion will evaluate goals and procedures of Pi Kappa Delta, and will feature opportunities for student participants to interview present and past national and province officers.

Add to these new features some attractive entertainment packages being put together by our host, Prof. Duane Aschenbrenner, and we have what your Council believes to be a worthwhile convention

opportunity.

Different as well as traditional forensic



experiences await you and your chapter in Omaha. Plan to join us at our 29th National Convention and Tournament, March 26-30.

Call for Symposium Participants

The Coaches' Meeting at the National Convention and Tournament will feature a special symposium-forum treating the question "What Makes an Affirmative Case 'Propositional'?" (See Pelham article in this issue.)

Analysis of the question by selected directors of forensics will precede

general discussion.

If you wish to appear on the symposium portion of the program, the National Council invites you to submit either a paper in full or a prospectus of your position.

Symposium papers or commentary should be limited to no more than 10 minutes per contributor. They may treat

any aspect of the question.

Proposals should be mailed to Dr. Fred B. Goodwin, Southeast Missouri State University, postmarked no later than Jan. 15, 1973. Decisions regarding contributions to be included in the symposium will be made by Feb. 15, 1973, and all contributors notified on or about that date.

SHOULD DEBATE ADOPT THE TWO PLATOON SYSTEM?

Howard Pelham Director of Forensics, University of South Alabama, Mobile, Ala.

In a recent championship round of debate in a major regional tournament the amount of time spent on topicality and significance arguments was timed. Over ten minutes were consumed in arguments on the two issues . . . approximately five minutes by each team. This appears not to be an atypical example. Quite often these two issues become the only forceful arguments developed by first negative speakers.

A creative, logical exchange may be experiened between two skilled debaters within the two areas. Especially is this true of topicality. But the exchange is not as educational as is a creative, logical exchange on issues which go to the heart of a political, social, or moral question. Too much time is spent on arguing topicality and significance to the exclusion of consideration of the more rewarding areas.

Some relatively recent and interesting developments in intercollegiate debate have resulted in the distortion of the use of time. Paramount among these is the new relationship which is allowed to exist between the proposition and the case which is its warrant for adoption. Traditionally, a case to be topical, or propositional (I tend to use the two terms interchangeably), carefully defined the key terms within the proposition and the key terms within the case to illustrate the natural relationship existing within the indictment which then became a natural reason for adopting the proposition. The case was constructed of proof structures surrounding issues which carefully covered most of the totally implied areas of the proposition. In such instances, negative debaters seldom spent any time topicality and/or significance arguments. The time was spent on issues of substance.

The decline of the use of literal definitions paralleled the increase in emphasis on topicality and/or significance arguments. Indeed, there is a cause-effect relationship. De-emphasis of definitions obscures the proposition-case relation-

ship. The result is a dramatic shift of focus within the debate to the almost total eclipse of the proposition. This is true to such an extent that quite often debaters may forget to put the proposition in their cases. They may even slightly reword the proposition so that the case which follows appears to have a more natural relationship. Additional evidence of this trend is the use of the phrase "terms will be operationally defined within the plan." This is to say that the way the plan works is what the affirmative team defines as topical.

I am aware that definitions were supposedly to limit and clarify the area to be debated. I believe they did. Their disuse not only delimits the area to be debated, it allows an affirmative team to limit the area beyond what a fair use of definitions would allow. It works both ways.

As the emphasis upon topicality has arisen because use of definitions declined, so has the emphasis upon significance arguments increased. As the proposition recedes more and more to the back of the stage, the opportunity to safely limit the area of indictment and still claim topicality increases the question as to whether the area indicted is sufficiently significant to warrant adoption. There is vet another level of significance argument. Assuming that the negative team buys the limited indictment as significant, they may yet attempt to show that the evidence offered by the affirmative team is not significant enough to warrant the adoption of the proposition even when applied to an area so limited relative to the total area implied within the proposition. Thus two levels of significance arguments emerge because the proposition has lost its prominence in the framework of the debate

What has really happened is that cases during the past few seasons have moved further and further from support of the total propositional area. Judges, coaches, and debaters have gradually adjusted to and now have come to accept this approach as normal. A specific area indictment to the exclusion of the total

propositional area is the only way that some propositions can be debated. The 1971-72 proposition is a superb example. No affirmative team would win if it supported universal application with that proposition. But one of the interesting things about debate from season to season is how what proves feasible and successful under one proposition, because it is the way to debate that proposition, is retained for the next season's proposition even though some other structural approach to justifying the proposition may be the more naturally feasible, logical one. Thus it is that trends are fostered which may be of damage to the activity.

Many explain the trend to limited, specific area indictments within the proposition as only the desire of unscrupulous debaters to win. They supposedly dream up tricky cases and spring them on negative teams. Then unconfident, ignorant judges lack the courage and knowledge to penalize them. There may be some truth in this. However, there are other causes. The extended length of the debate season has had its effect.

Many will recall when the season for the most active program consisted of 8 to 12 tournaments. The tournaments were 5 or 6 rounds and debaters might participate in 50 to 75 rounds during a season. Now the season may consist of 20 tournaments, most of which are 8 rounds with octa-final elimination rounds, and a debater may participate in a 125 to 160 rounds during the season.

This extension has resulted in interesting pressures on the proposition. The case which an affirmative teams develops is exposed more widely more quickly. Exposure results in its weaknesses being discovered in a relatively short time. It then must be replaced by another case. This may even happen in a single tournament as is suggested by many teams who prepare cases to be used only in elimination rounds if they make it.

Repeated use of the case produces another reason for change. Debaters become bored with repeating the same ideas and by using the same defense over and over. It no longer is exciting. Add this to the reaction on the part of judges from hearing the same team use the same case several times, and an affirmative team is

motivated to change cases for reasons of interest.

There is a natural reluctance for a good team to take an area already staked out by another team. They fear being labeled unoriginal, so they seek new areas from which to construct an indictment. So the pressure of the extended season forces debaters further and further from the area of the original proposition.

The extended season with its overexposure problem has affected the proposition at its point of selection. Coaches measure the potential propositions for versatility. Looking for something with lasting power in order to solve the problems confronting debaters, they vote for propositions which promise variety. This versatility or variety then becomes another factor in the process which sees the case being unglued from the responsibility of justifying universal significance and application.

One might argue that the newly evolved relationship between case and proposition is an effective solution to the pressures brought by the extended season. But if the trend continues, and it is indeed already somewhat the case, every round of debate could possibly be a new proposition. The least harm is the waste of time in arguments pertaining to topicality and/or significance. Though logical, such arguments are empty. They contribute nothing to the expansion of the student's knowledge. A much more serious aspect is the waste of time throughout the entire debate because negative teams are unprepared to consider the specific proposition formally worded or not — around which the debate takes place. Such a debate does not test the logic, organization, evidence, nor persuasiveness of affirmative teams. Such a debate does contribute the frustration of negative debaters. It illustrates the frequently made observation that debate is a sterile, meaningless activity.

What then should be done? Certainly I don't advocate the curtailment of the debate season. The longer season can be utilized effectively to provide experience for more students.

An attractive solution is the adoption of two annual propositions rather than one.* Since the season is about twice as long for some debaters as it was a few years ago, the length may call for two propositions.

There are many ways in which the two propositions could be utilized.

One way to utilize two propositions would be to allow the tournament director to choose which proposition he desired to use. There are some drawbacks to this procedure. It does not guarantee that one proposition would not still be overworked. All tournament directors could possibly choose to use the same one.

Another method might be to use one proposition until Christmas, a natural dividing date, and the other proposition for the remainder of the year. A national poll might be conducted to determine which proposition would be used in the national tournaments. This question might also be decided by coaches and teams attending certain national tournaments.

An additional way to utilize the two proposition idea might be a two platoon squad. This might especially be practical for the larger debate programs. Half of the squad would research and debate one proposition and attend 8 to 12 tournaments during the year while the other half did the same with the other proposition. Some sort of system would have to be worked out so that an equal number of tournaments were scheduled for each proposition, but there are two national committees which could undertake such an assignment. An additional advantage here is that debate could then touch larger numbers of students, the opposite of which is often the charge leveled against debate.

It might be argued that for schools with smaller programs the two proposition, two platoon system might be a disadvantage. It would not necessarily be so. To debate two limited propositions quite possibly could require less research time than one totally unlimited proposition. Were the tournaments using both propositions properly planned and scheduled, a squad could choose to research and debate only one of the two.

Some kind of season allowing the use of two limited propositions could solve some of the problems confronting debaters. It would relieve the pressures from over exposure which presently motivate the frequent case changes. This unending search for a case would eliminate the need to stray further and further from the propositional area. It would eliminate the amount of time consumed by topicality and/or significance arguments to a degree. It could help to restore the natural relationship which should exist between the proposition and the case which serves as its warrant for adoption. There would still be some debaters unprepared to debate, but their unpreparedness would spring from their own weaknesses rather than an officially arranged situation in which they have little or no chance to prepare to participate effectively. It could make debate a more profitable experience for students.

*The possibility of a multi-question year is now being explored by the national committee on debate and discussion.

In Memoriam

Dr. William V. O'Connell — but everyone called him Bill — died in a San Antonio, Tex., hospital April 4, 1972, after more than 40 years of association with Pi Kappa Delta.

While at East Central State Teachers' College in Ada, Okla., in 1931, he was appointed to fill an unexpired term as governor of the Province of Oklahoma. At the 1932 Tulsa convention he was elected third vice-president; second vice-president at Lexington, Ky., and first vice-president at Houston in 1936. Remaining on the Council after election procedures changed, he moved to the national presidency at the Knoxville Convention in 1940, and he served on the long World War II period Council as immediate past president until 1947.

Dr. O'Connell was at Northern Illinois University, De Kalb, for 22 years where he was chairman of the department of speech and drama, and a president of the Illinois Speech Association. After his official retirement, he taught for another 10 years, including a period at Southwest Texas State University, San Marcos, Tex.

Born in New York in 1892, Bill is survived by his wife, Grace, and two sons.





Above:

Sweepstakes coaches of the Province of the Lower Mississippi. Left to right: Ben Chappell of North Texas State University; Dr. Evan Ulrey, holding the trophy awarded to Harding College for the most points overall; Percy Parro of the University of Southwestern Louisiana.

Left:

Dr. E. R. Minchew, left, retiring Governor of the Province of the Lower Mississippi, presented a plaque on behalf of the Province to Dr. D. J. Nabors in appreciation for his many years of service to PKD. Dr. Nabors retired last spring. The presentation was made at the Province Convention.

New Chapter In Ohio

The Ohio Rho chapter of Pi Kappa Delta was established May 2, 1972 at Rio Grande College, Rio Grande, O. The installing officer was Dr. Wayne Wall, professor of speech communication at Marietta College, and for the past two years Governor of Pi Kappa Delta's Province of the Lakes.

Four Rio Grande College administrators and faculty members formed the nucleus of the new chapter and conducted the initiation of new members. Dr. Alphus R. Christensen, president of Rio Grande College who has been a member of Pi Kappa Delta for 35 years and holds the Degree of Highest Distinction, took charge of a portion of the ceremony. He was assisted by John Graham, professor of speech, Edward Sofranko, professor of psychology, and Gerald Ramsay, director of special services.

The initiates included seven students and two faculty members. The students were Robert Lawson, Robert Williams, Brenda Jean Stewart, Larry Landaker, Lewis Hendrickson, Susie Conley, and Jacob Bapst. John Bernard and Edward Roark of Rio Grande's Speech Department were the two new faculty initiates.

The officers: Robert Lawson, president, Lewis Hendrickson, vice-president, Jake Bapst, secretary-treasurer, and Susie Conley, reporter.

In a speech welcoming the new chapter into Pi Kappa Delta, Dr. Wall lauded the students and instructors for their work in speech and forensics, and urged them to continue to expand it. Dr. Wall noted that Rio Grande College committed itself to full support of forensic activities before the college could be considered for membership in Pi Kappa Delta, and encouraged the students to make certain that the commitment remains always a reality.

The installation ceremony in the college dining hall was followed by an informal reception for members, families and friends.



The Ohio Rho Chapter of Pi Kappa Delta. Standing from left to right are, Lewis Hendrickson, Jeannie Stewart, Bob Lawson, Jake Bapst, Ed Roark, Susie Conley, John Bernard, Bob Williams, Larry Lanaker. Kneeling; Edward Sofranko, Jerry Ramsay, Dr. Alphus Christensen, Dr. Wayne Wall of Ohio Zeta and John Graham.

Boners for Election Year

The Constitution of the United States was adopted to secure domestic hostility.

The courts of the United States are Superior, Nuptial, and High Courts.

The seats of Senators shall be vaccinated every six years.

Q. Give qualifications for a President of the United States.

A. He must be at least 35 years old because before that time he would be too busy thinking of getting married to be of any use to his country.

The President has a cabinet in order to keep his China in it.

N. C. D. A.: An Immodest Proposal

Dr. Gordon R. Owen **New Mexico State University**

In this era of budgetary belt tightening, with courses, activities, faculty members, and even whole departments threatened, analysts of the status quo need not document the embattled status of many speech communication programs. Most members of our profession are painfully and personally aware of the threats we face.

Instead, it is proposed in this analysis to focus on specific problem areas of intercollegiate forensics which seem to attract budget-cutting administrative eyes, then to search for probable causes of these trouble spots, then to detail a recom-

mended solution.

Has intercollegiate forensics problems? Look at any recent issue of the professional journals or attend any public address-oriented session of recent conventions. Read reports of last spring's forensic fraternity meetings. Skim through the sheaf of contributed papers and comments from last May's WFA Conference on Forensics. Problems, and analysts of them, are in over-supply. It is time, however, to become solution-oriented. To do so, we must look at those indictments which seem to represent a consensus and condensation of all the hue and cry. Most cited are the following:

1. An inverse relationship seems to develop between debating experience and communicative skill. As experience accumulates, style and delivery deteriorate until the speaking heard in the so-called prestige tournaments is non-communicative, non-persuasive, and apparently oblivious to the audience, even conceding the fact that said audience rarely

materializes.

2. What many critics have dubbed the "ever-increasing reality gap" between tournament debating and "real-world" discourse.

3. The intense topic fatigue which develops by Christmas vacation and causes both interest and live analysis to vanish.

4. Conflict and competition between host schools for each weekend date, as tournaments have proliferated. This leads to splintering of large squads so that a school may be participating on four or five campuses per weekend, including Sundays, and as an inevitable consequence, to low quality attitude and performance in the less prestigious or less traditional tournevs.

5. The star system of team organization and tournament participation which is contrary to the purported educational goals of intercollegiate forensics. This, as well as the other factors listed above, has resulted in an ever smaller percentage of total student bodies participating

forensic programs.

6. The paucity of research in the whole forensic area. Back in the halcyon days when everything was onward and upward. bigger and better, forensic claimed to be too busy to attempt any experimental validation of what they were doing. Today, with most of us carrying a full teaching load plus forensics, we really are too busy to conduct research.

If we hope to solve problems such as these, and this is far from an exhaustive list we must search out causes and attack them. Even as a forensic director reads the above list of indictments, he is thinking in terms of causes. For instance, most would insist that deplorable debate delivery and style are caused by the ineptitude of coaches, both in their roles as instructors and as critic judges, or by poorly designed or weighted ballots; or that the reality gap is due to rigid adherence to traditional formats; or that topic fatigue is caused simply by a stubborn refusal of selection committees to suggest alternate questions, though they admittedly may be too willing to suggest edited wordings of adopted questions; or that tournament proliferation and resultant conflicts are due simply to small school upstarts trying to get into the big-league act; or that the star system