

Wisconsin High School Forensic Association Newsletter

"Not to defeat each other, but to pace one another on the road to excellence."

Vol. XLII

Madison, Wisconsin, November 1970

No. 2

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Calendar for 1970-71	2
Board of Control	2
District Drama Contest Winners	3
WHSFA Drama Contest 1929-1970	4
The Forensic Quarterly	6
Highlights of the Board Meeting	7
Election of Board Members	8
Wisconsin Speech Association Conference	10
Questions and Answers	11
Ballot Checkmasters	13
Public Address Topics for 1970-71	14



WISCONSIN HIGH SCHOOL FORENSIC ASSOCIATION
affiliated with

UNIVERSITY EXTENSION, THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN

MADISON, WISCONSIN

OFFICIAL WHSFA DEBATE PROPOSITION FOR 1970-71

RESOLVED: That the federal government should establish, finance, and administer programs to control air and water pollution in the United States.

CALENDAR FOR 1970-71

Dates for Contests

	Drama (1970)	Debate (1971)	Speech (1971)
Sub-District	*Oct. 31		*Mar. 13
District	Nov. 14	Jan. 30	Mar. 27
Section	Nov. 21	Feb. 13	
State	Dec. 4-5	Feb. 26-27	Apr. 24

* Latest dates for sub-district contests; all others are firm.

WEA Convention	Nov. 5-6, 1970
Thanksgiving	Nov. 26, 1970
WIAA State Basketball Finals	Mar. 20, 1971
Easter	Apr. 11, 1971

Board of Control Meetings

Madison Nov. 3-4, 1970; May 6-7, 1971

BOARD OF CONTROL

(See Elections of Board Members, page 13.)

Northern Section	Central Section	Southern Section
MARYLOU PATTERSON Eau Claire Memorial 54701 715; 834-8191	WALLACE E. HOFFMAN Green Bay Southwest 54301 414; 432-0351	J. PETER SHAW Evansville 53536 608; 882-4600

<u>Eau Claire District</u> N. F. PANZENHAGEN Cadott 54727 715; 289-4211	<u>Green Bay District</u> PETER C. HAMEL Green Bay Preble 54302 414; 437-5456
--	--

<u>River Falls District</u> DARYL K. LIEN Amery 54001 715; 268-7361	<u>La Crosse District</u> EDWIN SIEVERS Viroqua 54665 608; 637-3191
--	--

<u>Superior District</u> FRANK CIRILLI Superior 54880 715; 392-8243	<u>Oshkosh District</u> THOMAS J. LYNCH New Holstein 53061 414; 898-4256
--	---

<u>Stevens Point District</u> J. C. GILLMANN Marathon 54448 715; 443-2226
--

<u>Kenosha District</u> PAUL J. USSEL Muskego 53150 414; 679-2300
<u>Milwaukee District</u> RAYMOND BEHNKE Cedarburg 53012 414; 377-6030

<u>Platteville District</u> HERMAN LAATSCH Argyle 53504 608; 543-6671
--

<u>Whitewater District</u> GEORGE BUCKINGHAM Whitewater 53190 414; 473-2611
--

Chairman of Board of Control, J. C. GILLMANN, Marathon
 Vice-Chairman of Board of Control, N. F. PANZENHAGEN, Cadott
 Advisor in Speech, PROFESSOR HERMAN H. BROCKHAUS, University Extension
 Advisor in Drama, PROFESSOR EDWARD L. KAMARCK, University Extension
 Speech Consultant, MRS. JULIA MAILER
 Secretary-Treasurer, WHSFA, HERMAN H. BROCKHAUS,
 432 North Lake Street
 Madison, Wisconsin 53706
 Phone: Area Code 608; 262-2313

DISTRICT DRAMA CONTEST WINNERS

We are pleased to report the names of the schools which were awarded an A for their productions in district drama contests this year. Because this issue of the Newsletter went to the printer before the sectional drama contests in which district winners competed, it was impossible to report the schools participating in the state drama contest to be held at Wisconsin State University-Stevens Point on December 4-5, 1970.

Eau Claire District

Eau Claire North
Fall Creek

Green Bay District

Gillett
Green Bay Bay Port
Oconto

Kenosha District

Greenfield
Muskego
New Berlin

La Crosse District

Mauston

Milwaukee District

Brookfield Central
Brookfield East
Germantown
Hartford
Port Washington

Oshkosh District

Green Lake
Neenah
Oshkosh
Ozaukee
Ripon

Platteville District

Cassville
Darlington
Monroe
Muscodia Riverdale
New Glarus

River Falls District

Ellsworth

Stevens Point District

Antigo
Marshfield
Three Lakes

Superior District

Maple Northwestern
Minocqua Lakeland

Whitewater District

Mc Farland
Monona Grove
Oregon
Sun Prairie

WHSFA DRAMA CONTEST 1929-1970

Forty-one years ago, the WHSFA Newsletter for November 1929 (Volume 1, Number 2) was designated as the DRAMATIC ISSUE. On the cover page the following announcement appeared under the heading DRAMATICS:

"At the time of the reorganization of the High School Forensic Association it was planned by the committee in charge of reorganization to add two events, debating and dramatics. Since both of these events were to be experiments and would require much thought and planning it was decided to try one at a time. The debate event, was chosen to be worked out first. Our debate work is now in such a settled and satisfactory state that we may now introduce the dramatic event and during two or three years of experimentation work out a satisfactory plan to conduct it. The board has been working with the advice of Miss Rockwell, of the Wisconsin Dramatic Guild, on rules, regulations, and policies of procedure for this event. This information is published in this number of the News Letter and will be used to direct our experiment in dramatic contest work during 1929-30.

"The Forensic Association is indebted to Miss Rockwell for the splendid Suggestions on Producing a Play, also published in this News Letter. The article will prove especially helpful and should be carefully studied and applied."

With the exception of a single column of news items, all eight pages of the issue were devoted to drama. "Regulations for the Play Tournament for 1930" were presented first. Then came the article referred to in the announcement on the cover page, "Suggestions on Producing a Play" by Ethel Theodora Rockwell, Chief of the Bureau of Dramatic Activities of the University Extension Division and Assistant Professor in the Department of Speech. In her writing Professor Rockwell gave practical advice on organizing a dramatic group, selecting plays, casting a play, as well as suggestions for rehearsals and suggestions for actors.

Under the rules published in the November 1929 Newsletter, competition began with preliminary drama contests in the various districts. Productions were ranked 1st, 2nd, 3rd and a single winner was selected in each district. District winners competed in sectional contests to determine the three 1st-place schools which would participate in the state final drama contest. This contest plan was in effect from 1929-30 through 1939-40.

In 1940-41 the ranking system was discarded in favor of the current A, B, C grading method. At the various levels of competition all productions receiving an A rating were eligible to advance to the next contest. In the state final drama contest only letter grades were awarded. No attempt was made to select a single 1st-place winner after 1939-40.

The following is a record of schools which placed high in the WHSFA state drama finals over the past 40 years. The record

for the first 11 years shows the schools in the order they were ranked. The record for 1940-41 to the present reports all schools receiving A ratings in the state finals.

1st, 2nd, and 3rd Places

1929-30	Cumberland, West Bend, Wild Rose
1930-31	Milwaukee Washington, River Falls, Mosinee
1931-32	Oconomowoc, River Falls, Marshfield
1932-33	Oconomowoc, Menasha, River Falls
1933-34	Oconomowoc, Oconto Falls, River Falls
1934-35	Oconto Falls, River Falls, Columbus
1935-36	Oconto Falls, River Falls, Lake Geneva
1936-37	Eau Claire, Columbus, Scandinavia
1937-38	Oconto Falls, Muscoda, (Third school defaulted)
1938-39	Muscoda, Colby, Eau Claire
1939-40	Shawano, Eau Claire, Horicon

All Received A Ratings

1940-41	Eau Claire, Westby
1941-42	(No A's were awarded)
1942-43	Milwaukee Riverside, Shawano
1943-44	Black River Falls, Milwaukee Riverside, Wauwatosa
1944-45	Milwaukee Riverside, Shawano, Wauwatosa
1945-46	Black River Falls, Delavan, La Crosse Aquinas, Montello
1946-47	Milwaukee Riverside, Shawano, Wauwatosa
1947-48	La Crosse Aquinas, Plymouth, Shawano
1948-49	Mayville, Milwaukee Marquette, Muscoda, Waupun
1949-50	Eau Claire, Milwaukee Marquette, Milwaukee Riverside, Mosinee, Oconto Falls, Shawano
1950-51	Eau Claire, La Crosse Aquinas, Milwaukee Marquette, Milwaukee Pius XI, Superior Cathedral, Superior Central
1951-52	Greenwood, Milwaukee Marquette, Muscoda, Superior Cathedral, Whitewater
1952-53	Adams-Friendship, Eau Claire, La Crosse Aquinas, Milwaukee Mercy
1953-54	Eau Claire Regis, Green Lake, Milwaukee Marquette, Westfield
1954-55	Fond du Lac, Hurley, La Crosse Aquinas, Milwaukee Mercy, Milwaukee Marquette, Poynette, Ripon
1955-56	Milwaukee Mercy, Milwaukee Pius XI
1956-57	Eau Claire Regis, Medford, New London
1957-58	Ashland DePadua, La Crosse Aquinas, Ripon
1958-59	Marinette, New London, Ripon, West Allis Central, West Bend
1959-60	Fish Creek Gibraltar, Greenfield, Kaukauna
1960-61	Edgerton, Muskego
1961-62	Brookfield Central, La Crosse Aquinas
1962-63	Fond du Lac Goodrich, Kewaunee, La Crosse Aquinas, Muskego

- 1963-64 Brookfield Central, Cambria, Fond du Lac Goodrich, Muskego, Prairie du Chien Campion, Racine St. Catherine's
- 1964-65 Greendale, Hayward, McFarland, Milwaukee Pius XI, Muskego, Prairie du Chien Campion, River Falls
- 1965-66 Fall Creek, Green Bay Southwest, La Crosse Central, McFarland
- 1966-67 Greendale, McFarland, Sun Prairie
- 1967-68 Cadott, McFarland, Monona Grove, Muskego, River Falls
- 1968-69 Fall Creek, McFarland, Reedsburg Webb
- 1969-70 La Crosse Central, McFarland, Oshkosh Lourdes, Walworth Big Foot

THE FORENSIC QUARTERLY

Each year member schools participating in the WHSFA debate program receive from the state office the four current issues of The Forensic Quarterly, published by the National Office of the Committee on Discussion and Debate, National University Extension Association. The quarterlies are purchased by the WHSFA and distributed to debating schools without charge.

As debate coaches know, all four issues of The Forensic Quarterly are devoted to the national high school discussion and debate problem area for the year. Contained in them are a reading list; an analysis and interpretation of the problem area, discussion questions, and debate propositions; articles prepared especially for publication by leaders in the subject matter field from which the problem is drawn; and selected supplemental reference material.

Librarians and persons responsible for instructional materials in high schools will be interested in knowing that the four issues of the 1970-71 Forensic Quarterly are available in a special library edition. The single volume is recommended as a permanent reference and source book on Environmental Quality.

The book, available from the National Office, runs over 500 pages plus an index, is Smyth-sewn, and bound in a fabrikoid binding. The list price is \$5.00 a copy postpaid if billed. Orders accompanied by a remittance in full will be filled at the price of \$4.30 a copy postpaid. No order will be honored by the National Office unless it is accompanied either by a remittance in full or by a signed institutional requisition.

Orders for the special library edition of the discussion and debate sourcebook on Environmental Quality should be mailed to the following address:

National Office, NUEA Committee
on Discussion and Debate
Room 68 Prince Lucien Campbell Hall
University of Oregon
Eugene, Oregon 97403

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BOARD MEETING

The WHSFA Board of Control held its fall meeting in Madison on the evening of November 3 and the morning of November 4. Besides hearing reports from the Secretary-Treasurer on the status of the Association, the Board reviewed a number of policies and took action on several proposals.

Among the policies reviewed were those stated in General Rules 7a and 7c. The first is concerned with the composition of sub-districts, "no fewer than four schools and no more than six schools." There was general consensus that specifying a minimum of four schools was desirable in order to insure an adequate amount of competition in each sub-district. The maximum of six schools came in for a bit of criticism; however the Board was not inclined to change General Rule 7a at the November 3-4 meeting.

The second policy discussed at length is found in General Rule 7c, which requires that "no later than October 15 district chairmen shall inform member schools in their district what sub-district they are in for drama and what sub-district for speech." The necessity for setting up sub-districts in drama not later than October 15 wasn't questioned; however, the necessity and desirability of setting up sub-districts for spring speech was questioned. The advantages of announcing the composition of sub-districts early in the year were cited by several Board members. At the conclusion of the discussion there was no disposition on the part of the Board to change General Rule 7c, especially since it has been in effect for less than a year.

A major action of the Board concerned the proposal of an ad hoc committee of the Wisconsin Speech Association that coaches of extra-curricular activities meet certain qualifications and be certified by the Department of Public Instruction. A motion to approve the committee's recommendation was defeated by the Board at its meeting last May, after which it voted to reconsider its action. Acting on instructions from the Board, the Secretary-Treasurer sought the reactions of two members of the Department of Public Instruction, Mr. Klein and Mr. Rodman, prior to the November meeting. Their reaction to the proposal was hardly optimistic. Because of the discouraging response of both Mr. Klein and Mr. Rodman and because of fears about the adverse effects the proposed certification of speech coaches might have on the forensic program in some schools, most of the Board members voted against endorsing the proposal of the WSA ad hoc Committee on Certification of Speech Coaches. The vote was 3 ayes and 10 nos.

The Secretary-Treasurer reminded the Board that 1970-71 was an anniversary year for the WHSFA. Seventy-five years ago, in 1895, the forerunner of the present Association was founded; and forty-five years ago, in 1925, the WHSFA itself came into being. The Board endorsed a proposal made by the Secretary-Treasurer that the anniversary year be observed at a dinner held in conjunction with the state debate tournament on February 27, 1971.

A contest study committee comprised of Marylou Patterson, chairman, Wallace Hoffman, and George Buckingham reported on several matters it had considered prior to the meeting. A major item was a proposal by Mr. James Copeland for incorporating in the WHSFA spring speech contest a plan whereby contestants in selected events who chose to be ranked would be given a 1, 2, 3 ranking instead of an A, B, or C. The committee recommended that the proposal be explained to coaches throughout the state at district coaches meetings held at the time of the district speech contests on March 27, 1971. The Secretary-Treasurer was instructed to prepare an explanation, tape-recorded and written, of the proposed plan for presentation at all 11 coaches meetings. General reactions will be sought. A decision on the proposal will be made by the Board in 1971-72.

The contest study committee was expanded to include the third sectional chairman J. Peter Shaw, and the three advisors to the Board: Mrs. Julia Mailer, Professor Edward L. Kamarck, and Dr. Herman H. Brockhaus. The committee was instructed to present specific recommendations concerning contests at the meeting in May.

ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS

This fall elections were held in three districts and two sections to fill positions on the WHSFA Board of Control. Re-elected to the Board were Mr. J. C. Gillmann, Stevens Point District Chairman; Mr. Frank Cirilli, Superior District Chairman; and Mrs. Marylou Patterson, Northern Section Chairman. Their new term of office is for three years, 1970-73.

Mr. Paul Ussel, Principal of Muskego High School, was elected to the Board for the first time. He was chosen for a three-year term, 1970-73, as Kenosha District Chairman, the position held last year by Dr. Joseph P. Schwei of West Milwaukee. Dr. Schwei chose not to be a candidate for re-election.

Mr. J. Peter Shaw of Evansville High School was elected Chairman of the Southern Section for 1970-71 to fill the unexpired term of Norman D. Flynn who left the teaching profession to go into business. During the summer and early fall this year, Sister Ann Marie Trimberger of Milwaukee Pius XI High School served as an interim chairman until the elections. She had been appointed to the temporary position last spring by the Board of Control. The work she did for the Association in the interim is sincerely appreciated.

Although the Board members are identified on the inside cover of every Newsletter, we believe you'd like to know them better. Therefore we are printing a roster of the people you have elected to determine the policies of the WHSFA.

District	Chairman	First Elected	Re-elected	Term Expires
Eau Claire	N. F. Panzenhagen, Adm. Cadott Public Schools	1967	1968	1971
La Crosse	Edwin Sievers, Prin. Viroqua High School	1964	1968	1971
Milwaukee	Raymond Behnke, Prin. Cedarburg High School	1969		1971
River Falls	Daryl K. Lien, Adm. Amery Public Schools	1943	1968	1971
Green Bay	Peter C. Hamel, Prin. Green Bay Preble High School	1966	1969	1972
Oshkosh	Thomas J. Lynch, Prin. New Holstein High School	1969		1972
Platteville	Herman Laatsch, Adm. Argyle Public Schools	1961	1969	1972
Whitewater	George Buckingham, Dir. of Student Affairs Whitewater High School	1960	1969	1972
Kenosha	Paul Ussel, Prin. Muskego High School	1970		1973
Stevens Point	J. C. Gillmann, Adm. Marathon Public Schools	1956	1970	1973
Superior	Frank Cirilli, Prin. Superior High School	1968	1970	1973
<u>Section</u>				
Southern	J. Peter Shaw, Coach Evansville High School	1970		1971
Central	Wallace Hoffman, Coach Green Bay Southwest High School	1969		1972
Northern	Marylou Patterson, Coach Eau Claire Memorial High School	1964	1970	1973

It should be pointed out that Mr. Behnke was elected to a two-year term as Chairman of the new Milwaukee District instead of for three years, to establish an equitable rotation schedule.

Mr. Lien and Mr. Laatsch had both been on the Board prior to their present terms of office. Mr. Lien was first elected in 1943 and served until 1953; he was elected again in 1968. Mr. Laatsch was first elected in 1961 and served until mid-year 1963; he was re-elected in 1966.

As stated previously, Mr. Shaw was elected this fall for one year to fill the unexpired term of Mr. Flynn, coach at Monona Grove, who held the post in 1969-70. Preceding Mr. Flynn as Chairman of the Southern Section was Mr. Arthur S. McMillion, who was a coach at West Bend. When, at the close of 1968-69 Mr. McMillion accepted a new teaching position at Eau Claire Memorial High School, his Board position became vacant since Eau Claire in in the Northern Section. Next fall a chairman for the Southern Section will be elected for a full three-year term, 1971-1974.

WISCONSIN SPEECH ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

The Wisconsin Speech Association held its annual fall conference at the Milwaukee Inn on Friday, November 6, 1970. The morning program featured Mr. Earl R. Davis, Supervisor of Speech-Drama for the State of Illinois. The title of his keynote address was "I Want to Live; I Want to Speak."

Mrs. Harriet Borger of Shorewood High School and Mr. Craig Streff of Wauwatosa East High School conducted sectional workshops following Mr. Davis's speech. The session directed by Mrs. Borger concerned itself with "Problems in Teaching Theatre." Mr. Streff's presentation dealt with "Teaching Interpersonal Communication."

In the business meeting which followed the Conference Luncheon, the members of the Wisconsin Speech Association voted to adopt a new constitution which, among other things, changes the name of the organization to Wisconsin Speech Communication Association. They also elected the following new officers: Vice-president, Dr. S. Clay Willington, Wisconsin State University-Oshkosh; Secretary, Miss Thelma G. Rothe, Fennimore High School; Executive Board members, Dr. Fannie Hicklin, Wisconsin State University-Whitewater, and Mr. Arthur S. McMillion, Eau Claire Memorial High School.

The report of the ad hoc Committee on Certification of Speech Coaches was presented by its chairman, Mr. William O'Brien, Janesville Craig High School, and was approved by the body. The recommendation in the report which was adopted is as follows:

The ad hoc Committee on Certification of Speech Coaches recommends that as of a given date (which would be specified by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction) a person graduating from a college or university must fulfill one of the following requirements in order to be certified to coach or direct extra-curricular speech activities in either a junior or senior high school in Wisconsin:

1. Complete a minor in speech, 22 semester hours.
2. Complete a minimum of 9 semester hours in courses directly related to the area in which he will coach: (a) debate and public speaking, or (b) drama and oral reading.
3. Receive an affidavit from the Chairman of the Department of Speech in the college or university from which he is graduating, testifying to his competency in the area he will coach. The affidavit must come from an institution which grants at least a minor in speech.

After the adoption of the above recommendation, the members of the WSCA voted that the President appoint a committee to implement the acceptance of the certification proposal by the

Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.

At the conclusion of the meeting, information was given concerning plans being made for the WSCA fourth annual Spring Conference. It will be held at the Dell View Hotel in Lake Delton on April 30-May 1, 1971. To make a reservation for the Spring Conference or to receive more information about it, write to the 1971 Conference Program Chairman:

Dr. Charles E. Haas
Department of Speech
Wisconsin State University
La Crosse, Wisconsin 54601

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

From time to time the state office receives questions about contest rules and procedures. Answers are given as promptly as possible to the person making the inquiry. Recently it occurred to us it might be helpful to share the questions and answers of general concern. Consequently, in this issue of the Newsletter we are printing several queries and the responses given by the secretary-treasurer.

Question: In extemporaneous speaking, is it permissible for a contestant to bring with him to the preparation hour an annotated bibliography of the materials he has?

Answer: In the WHSFA extemporaneous speaking contest an annotated bibliography may not be taken to the preparation hour. "A contestant may bring to the preparation hour his own magazines and dictionary, but no written or typed notes or outlines." (From Rule 5, "Supplementary Rules for Extemporaneous Speaking," p. 29, September 1970 Newsletter.)

Question: The specific problem area for the sub-district contest in public address this year is as follows: "What educational needs are imposed on students by our contemporary society?" (See p. 30, September 1970 Newsletter.) How should this question be interpreted?

Answer: The general problem area for public address this year is "How can the educational needs of students in our contemporary society best be met?" This subject has to do with the question: How relevant is the education which students receive today? The sequence of the specific problem areas follows this order: (1) What is the need? (2) How well is it being met? (3) How can it be met better?

In helping a contestant interpret the specific problem area for the sub-district contest, you might ask him these two questions:

(1) What kind of a society do you live in? (2) What kind of an education do you need to help you live in that society? Perhaps the specific problem area for the sub-district level could be stated this way: What is a relevant education today?

Question: In the public address contest, should a contestant's speech be informative or persuasive?

Answer: Among the "Supplementary Rules for Public Address" (p. 31, September 1970 Newsletter), there is no rule which specified whether the speech should be one to inform or one to persuade. However, in the description of the contest in the 1970-71 Contest Handbook (p. 23), this statement is made: "The speech may be an informative one through which a student seeks to broaden the audience's understanding of the designated subject, or it may be a persuasive speech through which he attempts to get the listeners to think or believe the way he does about the topic."

The nature of the specific area, or topic, can influence the choice of general end. If the topic calls for analyzing a problem, a speech to inform would be appropriate. If the topic requires advocating a solution to a problem, a speech to persuade would be fitting. The distinction between an informative speech and a persuasive speech is not always clear cut, nor does it need to be in this contest.

Question: In the significant speeches contest, may a contestant select a sermon as the speech he will interpret? The contestant had in mind a televised sermon by the Rev. Billy Graham.

Answer: Since sermons are speeches, they are acceptable material for a contestant to use in the WHSFA significant speeches contest. In considering a sermon he should apply the same criteria he would in examining any other speech for the contest. "For this contest a student will select a single speech which has historical or contemporary significance and interpret that speech for his listeners." (Rule 1, "Supplementary Rules for Significant Speeches," p. 31, September 1970 Newsletter.)

A sermon, or any other type of speech, which was only a broadcast presentation (from a studio) is not a good choice for this contest. Using a speech given only to a radio television audience, the contestant will have difficulty fulfilling one of the requirements of the contest: "In his presentation the contestant will give pertinent information about the speaker, the audience, and the occasion on which the speech was delivered." (From Rule 3, "Supplementary Rules for Significant Speeches," p. 31.)

BALLOT CHECKMASTERS

Gary Meschke

(Editor's note: The following article by Mr. Gary Meschke, Debate Coach at Eau Claire Central Junior High School, is written in the form of a memo to debate coaches who serve as judges. Because the memorandum can be a reminder to all debate judges, we are publishing it in this Newsletter.)

TO: All Debate Coaches

FROM: Gary Meschke

RE: Ballot Checkmasters

I am still rather new at this game of coaching debate and forensics. Although I work with students at the junior high level, we still manage to take in our share of debate tournaments each year. However, for the past two years I have noticed a problem growing that deserves attention. Perhaps it is just irritating to me--call it my pet peeve if you will--but I'm sure other coaches are aware of it, too.

At each debate tournament, ballots are distributed to the judges for the purpose of setting down their reasons for their decision. Most of the ballots have some sort of rating system along with various categories to check in the objective way. Some ballots also have space for written comments! It is this last space that is many times overlooked and omitted.

This is one of the most perturbing practices to me as a coach. I would like to know why my team of debaters has won or lost a debate. Furthermore, how might each of the speakers improve? However, some judges must feel it's only important to indicate winners and losers, and dispense with any comments on a student's performance. There seems to be a trend developing away from written comments.

Earlier this semester my debaters took part in a clinic-tournament sponsored by a university in our state. This is a great clinic, especially for beginners such as mine. At any rate, our delegation consisted of eleven participants. This would account for 33 individual ballots after three rounds of speaking. Upon examining these ballots at the end of the day, I found that 11 out of 33 (33%) had no written criticisms of any kind! After conferring with my students, I further learned that some of those same judges did not give oral criticisms either! This is by no means the only tournament or clinic at which there are such omissions.

Have our judging procedures become so archaic that we no longer are concerned about a student's growth, but rather just pointing at a winner and loser? Perhaps most of our judges are unqualified, but then, most of our judges are coaches!

Maybe some judges feel they are incapable of defending their own decision, or lack the responsibility to do so. Possibly we have become too objective, mere "checkmasters" of various categories, while we pretend to play our role as the professional helper of student achievers. I am not sure of the causes, but I am sure of the problem. It's a problem that needs to be solved, and it can be quite easily with your support.

As you know, there are two major types of criticism, oral and written. Each one compliments the other. Individually they are fine, but together they are superb. The written criticism is of more value to both coach and student, simply because it's something concrete, something to refer to when preparing for future tournaments. If a coach must depend on a student's memory, as is the case with oral criticism, then there is little he can do to help that student improve where he needs it most.

A concerted effort by all of us can eliminate our problem. When you serve as a judge, force yourself to write individual comments for each speaker, no matter how boring or exciting the debate is. If you cannot defend your own decision, no one else can. If you feel incapable of doing the job, then hire a good, qualified judge to take your place. And how about tournament directors holding a brief meeting for all judges before the rounds begin?

I realize I have been directing most of my remarks to the minority of judges, but I strongly feel we all can help solve the problem. Students in debate need and want our help, but without written criticism they have little to go on. How about you? Will you help or will you be a mere "checkmaster"?

PUBLIC ADDRESS TOPICS FOR 1970-71

For several years the state office has followed the policy of selecting Public Address problem areas recommended by coaches. An invitation to send in general and specific areas for 1970-71 was printed in the February 1970 Newsletter. We wish to thank the coaches who responded. The topic chosen for this year, relevancy in education, was proposed by Miss Kay M. Robinson of Greenwood High School.

Other teachers and coaches who recommended problem areas, all carefully worded, were: Mr. Bruce Birkemeyer of Hayward High School, Mr. Robert Gaffney of Rhinelander High School, Mr. Robert Harrison of Union Grove High School, Mr. David E. Hnath of Ondossagon High School, Mr. K. J. Hyink of Kohler High School, Mr. James La Belle of Butte des Morts Junior High School in Menasha, Miss Patricia Ladwig of Brookfield East High School, and Mrs. Robert Witczak of New London High School.

An invitation similar to the one given last year will be printed in the Newsletter for February 1971.