

Local

# Debaters to compete in weekend tourneys

By JOHN JO MAURER  
Battalion Reporter  
Why do 57 Texas A&M University students spend 20 hours a week doing library research that doesn't apply to any particular course? They do so because they are members of the nationally competitive Texas A&M Debate Society.

Wayne Kraemer, director of debate and forensics, said the Debate Society is sending two contestants to participate in two weekend tournaments. The tournaments, the first of 23 regional and national tournaments, are scheduled for Friday and Saturday at Oklahoma Christian College and Middle Tennessee State University. Eighty teams will compete in the Tennessee tournament.

A collection of engraved silver letters and an assortment of plaques and trophies are the prizes of Wayne Kraemer and Daniel are the result of the team's winning efforts. Daniel is assistant debate coach. Among the awards are first place in the Southwest Conference Debate Tournament, first in the Texas Tech Tournament and first in the University of Houston Cougar Classic.

Kraemer said debaters majoring in fields such as chemical engineering, pre-med and psychology gain valuable research skills and self confidence.

In comparison to the time spent researching, the competition time is short. Two opposing teams have 10 minutes each to present their evidence. A cross-examination period of three minutes by each team follows, both to clarify points or catch a debater on an error. A rebuttal period of five minutes concludes the tournament.

This year's topic for tournament debate, selected by members of the American Forensic Association, is whether government should curtail the power of labor unions in the United States.

In researching a topic, debaters use government documents, congressional records and technical journals. For this year's topic they will also use the Baylor and Texas Tech law libraries.

A good debater is "a fast thinker, a good researcher, articulate, able to organize his thoughts clearly and quickly, and be perceptive and analytical." — Wayne Kraemer, director of debate and forensics.

Besides debate, the Debate Society offers opportunities for individual speaking. The American Forensics Association endorses tournament events in informative and persuasive speaking, prose, poetry and dramatic interpretation.

# Union power topic for debate research

By RUBY A. DANIELS  
Battalion Reporter  
Research for Texas A&M University debaters is never finished. Director of Forensics Wayne Kraemer said this year's topic is whether the federal government should curtail the power of labor unions in the United States.

Debaters must be prepared to discuss both sides of the topic, Kraemer said. "Needless to say, it encompasses an incredible amount of time outside of class for one on the squad. We divide our efforts in the form of specific research assignments in order to get information on many aspects of labor unions researching a topic, debaters use government documents, congressional records and technical journals. For this year's topic they also use the Baylor and Texas Tech law libraries.

Foreign military commitments, mass media regulation and unemployment have been debated in previous years.

During the summer a national committee of debate coaches selects four possible topics for upcoming semesters. University students across the nation select their preference from among those four.



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