



One of the big problems facing a sponsor of dramatics in high school is that of organizing a healthy dramatics organization whereby youngsters can be active in the organization before they actually become members of the dramatic club. How to keep membership in a dramatic club democratic is something of a problem; too often such clubs turn into exclusive societies and popularity clubs rather than serious, well-functioning dramatic enterprises. On the other hand, directors find that when the doors are left wide open for anybody to get into the dramatic club, much dead wood is accumulated, hindering any real attempts at organizing a fine, high type, hardworking membership.

THIS MONTH we shall discuss one method of organizing a dramatic club. This is based on the point system, and has proved about as democratic as any method yet called to our attention.

Of course, the dramatic club must have a constitution and a working organization. The name of the organization is important and should reveal the nature of the organization in a dignified way. The Blank High School Dramatic Club is acceptable but needs a little more imagination. The Blank Players is better. At any rate a good deal of thought and discussion should go into the choosing of a proper name.

When the organization is started, in order to get new members, some such statement as this should be available to all students: "Any person desirous of becoming a member of the Blank Players must first file an application with the secretary. Then he may be admitted to the Blank Players as a regular member after earning a total of 30 points. This is to prove that he is worthy of membership, interested in the club and anxious to further its interests. These points must be acquired in the period of one year or less at the discretion of the sponsors."

SEVERAL TYPES of points may be given. Generally an applicant may earn points in the following ways:

1. By playing a role in a major play he may earn 10 to 15 points depending on the nature and extent of the part.
2. By playing a role in a one-act play he may earn 5 to 10 points depending on the role.
3. By serving as book holder or prompter of a major or minor play he may earn 5 to 15 points.
4. By ticket selling he may earn 1 point per ticket sold.
5. By working on the stage set or lights he may earn 1 point per hour of actual work.
6. By ushering at a play he may earn 2 points per night.
7. By working on business affairs, advertising, and publicity he may earn 5 to 15 points.
8. By working on properties he may earn 1 point per hour of work.
9. By working on costumes he may earn 5 to 10 points.
10. By showing a wholesome, cooperative, receptive attitude the applicant will be credited with 10 points.

The applicant should keep a record of his own points in an accepted style, each entry of points being signed by the sponsor. When the applicant has earned the required number of points, he should turn over his point sheet to the secretary of the organization.

At regular specified times during the year when new members are taken in, admission to the club should be extended to the applicants having earned enough points. Such an occasion should be a definite event, and should receive as much publicity as possible.

An organization of national scope devoted to the advancement of dramatics in secondary schools is The National Thespian Society. This organization furnishes all sorts of material, including a point system, for the high school dramatic organization. In addition, the Society publishes a monthly magazine, **DRAMATICS**, which contains many excellent articles and pictures pertaining to high school productions. Directors interested in this organization should address mail to: National Thespian Society, College Hill Station, Cincinnati 24, Ohio.

It goes without saying that if you are to have a dramatic club, you must have some plays to produce. The Drama Loan Service has reading copies of most of the current plays carried by all the major play publishers. If directors have not yet received catalogs from the publishers, it might be well to write them at once and get copies. These catalogs should

be available to all of the members of the dramatic club as well as a number of good standard books on dramatics and current dramatic publications.

- ADDRESSES** of some of the publishers are:
- Art Craft Play Co., Marion, Iowa.
 - Walter H. Baker Co., 569 Boylston St., Boston 16, Mass.
 - Dramatic Publishing Co., 1706 So. Prairie, Chicago 5, Ill.
 - Dramatists Play Service, 14 East 38th St., New York, New York.
 - Eldridge Publishing Co., Franklin, Ohio.
 - T. S. Denison Co., 225 N. Wabash Ave., Chicago, Ill.
 - Samuel French, 5 West 45th St., New York 19, N.Y.
 - Heuer Publishing Co., Cedar Rapids, Iowa.
 - Ivan Bloom Hard Co., 3806 Cottage Grove Ave., Des Moines, Iowa.
 - Longmans Green Co., 55 Fifth Ave., New York 3, New York.
 - Row Peterson Co., 1911 Ridge Ave., Evanston, Illinois.
 - Northwestern Press, 2200 Park Ave., Minneapolis, Minnesota.
 - Wetmore Declamation Bureau, Sioux City, Iowa.
 - Willis N. Bugbee Co., 647 So. Warren St., Syracuse, New York.
 - Children's Theatre Press, Anchorage, Kentucky.
 - Theatre Production Service, 1430 Broadway, New York, New York.

There seems to be a greater demand for plays with small casts these days than ever before. But High School Directors will find that they have to do some cutting on many of these to make them suitable for high school use. We are listing a number of small cast shows, but we caution directors to read them carefully before jumping blindly into production on any of them. Make sure the local audience will not be shocked by either line or situation. It is much better to cut the line entirely or not to do the play at all than to offend the audience. In general, the following are new plays:

- Four Characters**
Burning Bright, by John Steinbeck. 3m1w, Drama, Roy on app. Dramatists. 3 act.
- Edwina Black**, by Dinner and morum. 2m2w, Drama, Roy. \$50 French. 3 act.
- Five Characters**
Bell Book and Candle, by John Van Druten. 3m2w, Comedy Roy on app. Dramatists. 3 act.
- Play for Mary**, by William McCleery. 3m2w, Farce, Roy \$35. French. 3 act.
- Story for a Sunday Evening**, by Paul Crabtree. 3m2w, Comedy, Roy on app. French. 3 act.
- Six Characters**
Family Affair, by Charles Townsend. 3m3w, Comedy, Non-roy, Penn. 3 act.
- Gayden**, by Mignon and Robert McLaughlin. 1m5w, Drama, Roy on app. Dramatists.
- The Innocents**, by William Archibald. 4m2w, Drama, Roy on app., French. 3 act.
- Leave to Marry**, by Albert Johnson. 2m4w, Farce-comedy, Roy on app. Row-Peterson. 3 act.
- Second Threshold**, by Philip Barry. 4m2w, Drama, Roy on app., Dramatists. 3 act.
- Seven Characters**
Black Chiffon, by Lesley Storm. 3m4w, Drama, Roy on app., French. 3 act.
- Clutterbuck**, by Benn W. Levy. 4m3w, Comedy, Roy on app., Dramatists. 3 act.
- 24—59—Inter-Leag—Leaguer—
Groom Said No! by Robert St. Clair. 4m3w (extras), Comedy, Roy \$10, Northwestern. 3 act.
- Legend of Sarah**, by Gow and d'Usseau. 4m3w, Comedy, Roy on app., Dramatists.
- The Man**, by Mel Dinelli. 5m2w, Drama, Roy on app., Dramatists. 3 act.
- That's the Ticket**, by Gilson and Scott. 4m3w, Farce-comedy, Non-roy (7 copies to produce), Row Peterson. 3 act.
- Woman Called "X"**, by Maurice Corbett. 3m4w, Mystery-comedy, Roy \$10, Eldridge. 3 act.
- Eight Characters**
Aunt Bessie Beats the Band, by Henry Rowland. 4m4w, Farce, 8 copies to produce, Baker. 3 act.
- Miranda**, by Peter Blackmore. 3m5w, Comedy, Roy \$25, Baker. 3 act.
- Mystery of the Locked Room**, by Le Roma Rose. 4m4w, Mystery, 7 copies to produce, Art Craft. 3 act.
- Two Mrs. Carralls**, by Martin Vale. 3m5w, Drama, Roy \$50, French. 3 act.
- West of East Lynn**, by Tom Taggart. 3m5w, Farce, Roy \$10, French. 3 act.



THE UNDERCURRENT—Winner of the Conference A One Act Play Championship for 1952 was "The Undercurrent," presented by Jacksonvill High School. The play was directed by James D. Everett. Members of the cast were, left to right, Suzanne Gay as Annie Fishyer, Nelda Peoples as Ma Fishyer, Shirley Adams as Mrs. Floyd, Grady Nutt as Pa Fishyer, and Myrna Ragsdale as Miss Page. Miss Peoples and Mr. Nutt were selected for the All-Star Cast of Conference A, and Mr. Nutt was rated the Best Actor in the contest.

Revision of One-Act Play Contest Rules Requires Registration of Title of Entry

Attention is called to a major change in the requirements for one-act play entries this year. Before a play is eligible, the title of the play must be registered in the State Office of the League, and a majority of the schools see fit to conduct their contests under prescribed rules, then all schools should conduct their contests according to the same rules or not participate in this contest.

For these reasons, all schools should show the official registration card to their District Play Director, or he has the right to declare the entry ineligible. Although the deadline time for getting the official registration card in One-Act Play is one week before the District Contest, directors will find it highly desirable to choose a title early and get that

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Dozen Conferences Slated This Year

By HORACE E. STAPH
 Slide Rule Director

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be led by a chairman to be elected by Texas City High School, "President City." The drama section will be led by Chairman D. L. Hybarger, principal of French High School, Beaumont, and Consultant Robert G. Rittenour, Chairman of the Drama Department, U.H. Demonstrations and criticisms will cover farce ("Gammer Gurton's Needle"), comedy ("Arsenic and Old Lace"), tragedy ("Macbeth"), and dance for theater.

THE SPEECH sectional meetings will be under the direction of Otis M. Walter, Chairman of the Speech Department, U.H., and will include units on debate, extemporaneous speech and declamation. Chairman of the first will be Lester Smith, Administrative Superintendent of Brazosport School District, Freeport. Chairman of the second will be Ross Jones of Ball High School, Galveston. Chairman of the third will be Superintendent V. W. Miller of Pasadena.

Consultants from the University Interscholastic League will be taking part in each of the sponsored conferences, and in addition, faculty members of the University of Texas will cooperate with the sponsoring school in nearly all of the conferences to give delegations the benefit of the resources of two institutions of higher learning.

your principal. These are contained in the Constitution and Rules of the University Interscholastic League. The rules are a little different from last year but only in clarification and emphasis. If your principal doesn't have a copy of the rules, a copy may be obtained from The University Interscholastic League, Box H, University of Texas, Austin 12, Texas.

Also get a copy of the **INSTRUCTIONS FOR GRADERS FOR THE SLIDE RULE CONTESTS**. Become familiar with it.

Read and reread these publications. Obtain and use the visual aids mentioned in the Constitution and Rules. And above all, practice and more practice. Maybe we'll see you in May at Austin.



HORACE STAPH



BILLY SCOTT

TYREE HARDY

Sonora Debaters Win Class B Championship

Champions of Conference B debaters are Billy Scott and Tyree Hardy of Sonora High School. For these two new champions, victory is especially sweet, since the 1952 State Meet was the third in which they had been entered as representatives for Region II. For their school, their victory marked the third time in five years that Sonora debaters have won highest honors in Conference B.

Tyree Hardy, now a pre-medical student at Texas A&M, was a debater for Sonora for four years, a top honor student, a First Division medal (two) winner in band, and a member of the paper and annual staffs and the National Honor Society. He found time, in addition to debating his way into the State Meet in three years, to be editor of the school paper and drum major of the band for two years.

Tyree is the son of Dr. and Mrs. W. T. Hardy of Sonora. He and his partner were coached by T. M. Harvey.

Billy Scott is this year a senior

Inter-Nation Union '52 Debate Topic

The 1952-53 debate proposition is: Resolved, That the Atlantic Pact nations should form a Federal Union.

For a number of years movements have been underway to form various kinds of regional and world governments. Since the Atlantic Pact nations have formed a rather close alliance, the idea of making these nations into an organization more binding than an alliance has been receiving much attention.

THE INCREASING popularity of this idea grows out of the threat of the communistic nations to the democracies. Supporters of the Federal Union believe that through a common government of the North Atlantic Pact signers, Democracy will gain the power to oppose successfully the inroads of Communism.

The Atlantic Federal Union would be patterned after the union of the United States. It would have a central government with certain limited powers over member nations. Through several suggestions have been advocated, the following may be considered typical of the powers which supporters would give to the Federal Union:

1. A union defense force and union foreign policy.
2. A free market for all member nations.
3. A common currency.
4. A postal system for the whole Federal Union.
5. A union citizenship as well as a national citizenship.
6. A union system of taxation to make it possible for the international government to carry out its obligations and exercise its powers.

SEVERAL PLANS for establishing international governments have been set forth by various organizations. Some of the organizations advocating one or another of these plans are: Organization of American States (attempting to work out problems affecting the United States and Latin American nations); The Council of Europe (cooperation of European democracies in attempting to solve common economic and social problems).

One of the main advocates for a Federal Union is Clarence K. Streit, whose book **Union Now**, has set the pace for quite a movement toward international government.

In addition to Clarence Streit, Estes Kefauver, R. W. G. Mackey, B. H. Hickenlooper, Quincy Howe, John W. Bricker, Owen J. Roberts and others have argued the pros and cons of a Federal Union on a number of Town Meeting of the Air programs. (Copies of these broadcasts are available from Town Hall, Inc., New York 18, N. Y.)

The affirmative states that an Atlantic Federal Union would give free peoples a goal toward which to work. The setting up of an international government by a group of free nations would be a serious setback for the communists. Such an example would show in its true light the forced membership of nations in the communist bloc.

THE AFFIRMATIVE also states that such a union would provide better economies for the member nations. A combination of the resources, skills and industrial capacities of these nations would result in a very strong economic system.

Of tremendous importance is the affirmative point that such a union would be the best way to oppose the communist military threat.

In order to stop Russia, the affirmative advocates that a Federal Union of the Atlantic Pact nations with a system of cooperative defense, economic development, and mass communications alliance would be the most effective method.

It should be noted in this question that although the original organization of a Federal Union is directed to the Atlantic Pact nations, nothing in the question prohibits other nations from joining the Union as strategy and willingness permits.

THE NEGATIVE view of a Federal Union holds that such a Union would upset the balance of power in the United Nations. In so stating they maintain that the United Nations is the best hope for peace the world has. The U. N. as it is now organized, operates through individual nations. The formation of a kind of superstate would create a new group of problems. The overwhelming power of such a union would dwarf all individual nations. And the negative asks—how would votes be cast in the U. N. by such a union? Would individual nations still have a voice plus the combined voice of the union? or would only the Federal Union be recognized? At any rate, the negative points out that such a union might result in the

breaking up of the United Nations as it now exists, or at the very least, such a union would create a tug of war between the Federal Union and the communist bloc.

Another negative argument is that such a union would speed up preparations for war. Such great concentration of power on the communist western flank would cause the communists to increase their military forces as rapidly as possible.

Furthermore, an attempt at organizing a Federal Union is likely to emphasize the differences between nations rather than pull them together on their similarities. Even in planning for the North Atlantic Pact, the member nations have revealed the many differences that exist between them. Instead of providing a basis for cooperation, the union might be a means of dividing nations now working together.

THIS ALL BOILS DOWN to saying, for the negative, that nations are simply not ready for regional international governments. All nations are still concerned mainly with their own interests. Any economic or social policies which they want carried out are those which will benefit their own people. As a result there would be much hard feeling over any union policies which were considered harmful to one particular group. Even in such a limited economic union as that between Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxemburg, these nationalistic barriers were almost insurmountable.

Both the negative and the affirmative sides of this question can do much to help us clear up our thinking on this important issue of the day. The discussion of this problem this year should prove an interesting one.

Material for the debate question is available from the University Interscholastic League, Austin, in the following forms:

NUEA BULLETIN VOL. I (includes material on the background for debate and selected articles introducing the problems) 75c per copy.

NUEA BULLETIN VOL. II (includes additional selected articles on various aspects of the question and quotations by authorities on both sides of the question) 75c per copy.

LEAGUE BRIEF AND BIBLIOGRAPHY (contains an analysis of the question, a detailed brief on both the affirmative and negative sides, and an extended bibliography for reading materials) 15c per copy.

Any additional material received on the question will be sent free with each order.

In addition to these services, The National University Extension Association Committee on Discussion and Debate Materials has assembled an outstanding group of publications at reduced price to form the Forensic Library on International Organization. Books in this collection will be a valuable permanent addition to any school library. The Committee bears the expense of distributing these items in order to offer the entire collection at the lowest possible price. Details of how to order from the Forensic Library are contained on page 13 of Volume I, NUEA Bulletin. Orders must be sent direct to the NUEA Debate Committee, 1327 University Avenue, Madison, Wis. Mr. Robert H. Schacht, Extension Division, University of Wisconsin who is treasurer of the NUEA Debate Committee, is graciously handling this service this year.

The National Radio Program devoted to the high school debate question will be broadcast by the Reviewing Stand of Northwestern University over the Mutual Broadcasting System, Sunday, November 16, at 10:30 a.m., CST. If you would like a copy of the program after the November broadcast, send 10c to Reviewing Stand, Radio Dept., Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill.

Letter Box

This is a note of protest to a recent coaching school (Fort Worth, Aug. 7, 1952) suggestion that the beginning of baseball be delayed until track ends.

In our Dallas City race, we cannot start any later and complete our schedule by June 1. Too, we already have American Legion and other leagues for the summer. We cannot have all our boys in the summer months, since some have to work.

I am for leaving baseball as it is and having spring football in January or February. Respectfully submitted, Don R. Helms, Assistant Football and Head Baseball Coach, Woodrow Wilson High School, Dallas.

