



1-4-1932

## The Ursinus Weekly, January 4, 1932

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## TWELFTH LEAGUE GATHERING SETS CONFERENCE RECORD

Two Hundred Sixty Hear Debate,  
Choose Topic for Discussion,  
and Get Acquainted

### MEMBERS CATCH ENTHUSIASM

"Resolved, that Pennsylvania enact a compulsory unemployment insurance law"—this is the question that some fifty first-class high schools of eastern Pennsylvania will debate within the next few months, as a result of the decision reached at the Twelfth Annual Conference of the Ursinus Debating League.

The Conference was held in Bomberger Hall on Saturday, November 7, and in point of numbers, enthusiasm, and helpfulness eclipsed all its predecessors. All told, there were two hundred sixty delegates present, about one hundred more than ever before. The rapid growth of these conferences can be explained only by the fact that the member schools get new ideas, form social contacts, and catch enthusiasm for one of the oldest and most useful forms of intellectual training.

The Conference opened at 10:30, with Pres. Witmer in the chair. Unfortunately Dr. George L. Omwake, President of the College, was unable to be present to welcome the Conference, as he has done almost every year since the League began; but he was represented by his Assistant, Mr. F. I. Sheeder, Professor of Religious Education. Mr. Sheeder, himself a college debater and now a member of our Debating Council, made everybody feel at home in a short talk full of humor and wise counsel.

To sound the League's "note of harmony" the President had engaged the Boys' Chorus of the Norristown Senior High School, composed of Paul Everson, Stephen Jump, William Shannon, John Keas, Mitchell Fennimore, Donald Wilson, Robert Brown, Donald Kriebel, and William Rehner, who sang these two numbers:

"Sleepy Hollow Tune," Richard Kautz  
"Kentucky Babe" . . . . Adam Geibel

These selections revealed good voices and careful training, and were greatly appreciated.

After welcoming new schools and delegates and explaining briefly how the League works, the President appointed the following Committee on Question: Miss Mabel E. Mulock, Head of English Department, Allentown Senior High School, Chairlady; Mr. A. M. Dixon, Supv. Prin., Spring City, Pa.; Mr. Allen C. Harmon, Coach of Debating, Upper Moreland High School; Miss Elizabeth W. Crouse, Coach, Cornwall; Dr. C. B. Heinly, Principal, William Penn High School, York; Mr. H. A. Lachat, Coach, Doylestown; and Mr. R. H. Eby, Coach, Derry Township High School, Hershey, Pa. The schools then submitted their questions and the

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## READER'S FIRST AID LIST ON UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

As usual, we submit herewith a partial bibliography on our official question, for the benefit of those who may not have easy access to the Readers' Guide. We have not had space enough to go farther back than the 1930 "Guide" for these references, though excellent earlier articles may be had. The stars before some of the entries indicate that they are exceptionally promising and should be consulted first.

For our book references we are indebted to the standard encyclopedias and the Cumulative Book Index. If further references are needed consult the "Guide" and the "Index" for yourselves. By writing to the Librarian of Congress, Department of Bibliography, explaining your membership in the League and stating that you would like to have a bibliography of our question for your school library, you will probably get a full one by return mail.

**LIST OF PERIODICALS**  
From a modern Samaritan; reply to What is a dole? J. Myers, Christ. Cent. 48:1283, Oct. 14, '31.  
Gov't bill for compulsory unemployment ins. in Norway. Mont. Labor Rev. 33: 805-6, Oct. '31.  
If we had the dole. J. J. Leary, Jr., Ill. Am. Mag. 112:11-13, Dec. '31.  
Labor on relief and ins. L. Stark, Survey 67:186-7, No. 15, '31.  
Mr. Swope's ins. plan. New Repub. 68: 220-1, Oct. 14, '31.

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DIETETICS BETWEEN DIALECTICS  
1931 DELEGATES, AFTER LUNCH, POSING AND REPOSING IN THE ARMS OF "OLD FREELAND"

## READING-YORK WORK PRAISED BY PENN DEBATE MENTOR

Talk Slowly; Add Interest to Logic,  
Says Mr. Strickler, in Comment

This is one of the most difficult decisions I ever tried to render. When the debate was about one-half over I thought it was going to be one of the easiest. I thought surely I should have to give a decision in favor of the Affirmative.

I find it doubly difficult, in view of the last remark made by a member of the Reading team and also by our Chairman, regarding the short time for preparation. Of course, that was the same for both sides. I suppose debating should not monopolize one's regular class-room interests. It would be interesting to note whether in the case of the York team the amount of work they have evidently done has interfered with their scholarship.

I shall have to give the decision, however, in favor of the Negative. Of course, the decision, I think the Chairman has suggested, is relatively unimportant. The thing that you are interested in is not the decision but an analysis of the situation and why the decision should have to go in one direction, rather than in the other.

These two teams represent the advantages of the new system of debating and its disadvantages. The old system tended to sacrifice interest to logic; the new system tends to be persuasive at the expense of logic. I do not know whether debating is solely a matter of winning the audience. To a certain extent I think that is true; but the danger is that a team, in attempting to influence an audience, will merely give us pleasant speeches which entertain us, but do not influence us by means of sound reasoning and dependable evidence.

I do not mean to say that there was not some good reasoning on the Affirmative. I mean this: The Affirmative side did excel, I think, in the modern type of debate; that is, they gave interesting, persuasive, direct, conversational speeches. I feel sure that that is the thing you are striving toward. In fact, high school debating, at least in Pennsylvania, has sometimes come to mean bombast, loud tones that do not mean very much. But in achieving a more interesting and persuasive style the Affirmative did frequently sacrifice logical thinking.

Now, not only were the members of the Negative more logical, but I think I am safe in saying that the Negative won the debate, especially in view of the experiment this afternoon, because I believe the Negative did excel in refutation. Even in their constructive speeches they showed their ability to "think on their feet" and refute the opposing arguments.

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## SMILING THROUGH

Perhaps you have angled  
from morning till night,  
And caught not a fish,  
felt not even a bite;  
Or worse, lost the "big one"  
already in sight.  
Were you blue? Not you!  
For the laughter of waters  
had lightened your pains,  
And the tan on your face  
was the best of all gains.  
Like a sport, you smiled through;  
There was nothing to rue.

Perhaps you'll debate,  
with skill, vigor, and zest,  
Yet lose all the judges,  
in spite of your best—  
Even find your opponents  
unfair in the test.  
But you? Don't be blue!  
For the keenness of conflict  
will strengthen your mind;  
And your failure means future  
successes, you'll find.  
Be a sport and smile through;  
It's the making of you.

## LEAGUE TREASURER'S REPORT

SEPTEMBER 1, 1931	
CASH BALANCE, Sept 1, 1930	\$124.64
RECEIPTS:	
Dues, 50 High Schools	\$500.00
Mt. Penn H. S. toward luncheon	5.00
Total Receipts	505.00
Total Credit	\$629.64
EXPENDITURES:	
M. W. Witmer, Exp. Acct., Postage	\$25.24
Clerical assistance	14.25
Office Supplies	1.70
Telephone	.70
Traveling Expenses	2.51
Collegeville Flag Co., 12 banners	162.13
F. E. Klingaman, Auto mileage, etc.	18.50
Bussa Studio, Photos "Ursinus Weekly" special issue	68.39
Conference Luncheon, Dining Hall	84.25
Clerical Assistance	76.27
Printing: Ed. Christian Ed. . . \$ 6.25 Norristown Register 27.00	\$33.25
Total Expenditures	492.19
CASH BALANCE, Sept. 1, 1931	\$137.45
(SIGNED) JAMES R. RUE, Treas.	

The above report, like those on the Conference and the debating season, is highly gratifying. For the first time in its history the League has been self-supporting. This is because our receipts from member schools were larger than ever before, and because our expenditures, owing to a combination of circumstances, were about one hundred dollars less. It happened, for instance, that no plaques had to be purchased; and the President did not find it necessary to make any long automobile trips. Personal visits always strengthen the League, but mileage runs up. You will not wish us to be "penny wise and pound foolish," but you will rejoice with us that for once, at least, we could support ourselves.

There are two items in the above report that may need explanation:

(1) The item "clerical assistance" appears twice. Under the name of M. W. Witmer is means money that he paid to students for addressing and mailing papers, circular letters, etc. Under "Expenditures" it means money paid to the President's stenographer.

(2) The League is charged with twelve banners, although only ten were awarded during the year. This means that two of the banners should have been in last year's account. They were made later than the others, and were not paid until after the beginning of the new fiscal year,

## MEMBERSHIP MORE THAN 50 IN LEAGUE'S BIGGEST YEAR

Several New Groups Organized,  
16 Trophies Given

Nothing gives the head of an organization greater pleasure than to report its progress from time to time. For ten years now, ever since we have been in charge of the Debating League, it has been our duty, as the new year approached, to take account of stock; and each year that duty has become a pleasure as we were able to report some new goal attained, some coveted wish realized. This year we are able to say for the first time that our membership has passed the half-century mark; we had fifty-one members last year.

This membership represents all the old groups and two new ones. The first of these is especially gratifying to the Editor, for it came almost unsolicited from his native county of Lancaster. Five schools banded together, called themselves the "Garden Spot Group," and applied for League membership. These schools are East Lampeter, Maytown, Paradise, Rothsville, and Upper Leacock. The Editor received his own early training in public speaking in one of the schools of the "garden spot," and is delighted to know that he can be of some use in stimulating forensic ambition among his successors of today. Long live the "Garden Spot Group."

Another new group should have been composed of three schools; but at the last moment one of them felt obliged to withdraw for the time being, which left Mt. Penn and Hamburg alone. However, these schools debated and a banner was awarded. This, of course, cannot be a permanent arrangement, and we hope to enlarge the group this year.

All told, we had sixteen groups at work last year, scattered through twelve different counties. Ten silk banners were given outright and six bronze plaques awarded on a three-year basis. There are now comparatively few first class high schools in southeastern Pennsylvania that do not have one or more of these beautiful trophies to show for their debating skill. And, in consequence, hundreds of high school graduates are going out into life better equipped to assume positions of leadership.

One of our proudest boasts of former years we cannot quite make at this time. On the whole, the machinery ran very smoothly, but there was a misunderstanding in one group which our Debating Council was called upon to adjust. We are glad to report, however, that, like good chiropractors, we were able to "make an adjustment" which was acceptable to all concerned. We are therefore still able to boast that we have never lost a school because of dissatisfaction with a Council decision. This is certainly a high tribute to the sportsmanship of our member schools.

May we stress again, however, that a drop of oil in time will save friction in the bearings. It is easier for schools to prevent misunderstandings by practicing the Golden Rule than it is for us to adjust them.

From these general remarks we

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## NEW DEMONSTRATION DEBATE A TRUMP CONFERENCE CARD

Reading and York High Students  
Discuss School Activities;  
Little Help, Less Rote

### CRITIC-JUDGE GIVES ADVICE

At the request of a number of schools, some of whom could not be represented at the Conference, we take pleasure in printing here a stenographic report of the demonstration debate between the Reading Senior High School and the William Penn Senior High School, of York, on the proposition: "Resolved, that extra-curricular activities are over-stressed in Pennsylvania high schools."

As stated elsewhere, this question was submitted only three weeks before the debate, and both schools agreed not to use memorized speeches and not to do more coaching than would be given to a class-room project of equal importance. These limitations should be kept in mind by the reader.

To help the assembled debaters and coaches to get the full benefits of the experiment the League secured the services of Mr. D. W. Strickler, who is in charge of argumentation and debating at the University of Pennsylvania, to act as critic-judge. It was agreed by both schools that little or no stress should be laid upon his decision, because the discussion was primarily an experiment in high school debating technique and not a contest for victory. It was his criticism more than his verdict that the debaters and the audience wanted.

Inasmuch as there were no manuscript copies of the debates, the League employed two stenographers to record the speeches and criticism. They did very well, and are to be commended on their speed, though it must be confessed that their report is not always verbatim, and seems occasionally to have missed some items.

The Editor, who presided at the debate, has taken the liberty of inserting a few remarks within marks of parenthesis for the guidance of his readers who are interested in the art of debate.

Please remember that this is not offered as a model debate. In the first place, as we have said, the stenographic copy is not always complete and accurate. Besides, a debate prepared under the limitations mentioned cannot be as coherent and polished as memorized speeches. But it requires more thinking on the feet, and is a better preparation for the discussions in after life. We offer it, therefore, as a first step in the right direction; and we hope that you students in other schools, after having studied both the debate and the criticism, will learn to rely more and more upon your own initiative and thus relieve your coach of all work except a broad general oversight.

## THE DEBATE RESOLVED: THAT EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES ARE OVER-STRESSED IN PENN- SYLVANIA HIGH SCHOOLS

First Affirmative Speaker  
Miss Robin Jean Reigner

Mr. Chairman, Honorable Judge, Worthy Opponents, Ladies and Gentlemen: Good afternoon. This afternoon we are confronted with a very important problem and one to be debated:

Resolved, that extra-curricular activities are over-stressed in Pennsylvania High Schools.

It was not so many years ago—not more than fifteen—that classroom exercises were the only means of education, but gradually there has been an entrance into the educational system of more and more extra-curricular activities, and by this we mean all subjects not included under the list of academic subjects and which do not receive credit toward graduation. (Definition of "extra-curricular activities.")

As the first speaker, I will prove to you that extra-curricular activities are over-stressed in Pennsylvania high schools because of the fact that academic subjects are neglected and actually disposed of from the school curriculum. I will also prove to you that the expense involved by them and falling upon the student is very great. (First main issue.)

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