

he was never the typical Californian. Roberts attended a high school with an enrollment of 3,500 students. He said he felt lost sometimes.

The incident made him shun religion. Until now, Stott said he is happy. "Sometimes I wish I could be in South America and having fun. But

Roberts said Stott laughed at the idea that people think the Moonies put electrodes on the heads of prospective converts.

Breaking Away

From Bardstown to Florida, staff

By **RON HALL**
Senior Staff Writer

Willie Nelson sings about it, Jack Kerouac writes about it and the country is bound together by it — our system of roads winds its way through our culture. The romantic lure of life on the road inspired me to bicycle to Florida last summer. This account of the lessons I learned along the way is written for those who may also feel the attraction.

The hot Georgia sun had broiled down on me all day. My sweat-drenched T-shirt, riding shorts and John Deere cap, (rescued from a roadside ditch), offered little protection. The sun's rays penetrated what endurance I had managed to build up in my previous three weeks of cycling.

The mercury had reached the century mark early in the afternoon, and I had been riding through 100-degree temperatures for several hours now. My once red T-shirt was now a shade of crimson, and my attention was focused on my water bottle, rather than the sweltering scenery around me.

It seemed to me that southern Georgia's flat, parched countryside had not felt the caress of a cool breeze since Rhett Butler and Scarlett O'Hara had "Gone with the Wind" and left Georgians with no relief from the sun's excesses.

Macon cooked under 104-degree temperatures as I pedaled through in the late afternoon. The sun was beginning to loosen its grip; but the buildings, streets and sidewalks caught those ebbing rays and bounced them back at me, creating the sensation of riding through a reflector

oven.

My spirits labored with my body to get me through town, as I watched the motorists around me rushing to get home to their air conditioners, showers and iced tea. The romantic lure of life on the road was withering under the combined effects of the sun and an 80-mile day.

But Macon was soon just another map point on the line I'd drawn showing my circular route from Kentucky to Florida. Its buildings and parking lots receded and were replaced by rolling embankments that framed the roadway and screened me from the lingering rays of the setting sun.

The embankments were crowned with a tangle of unruly vines whose voracious appetite consumed the trees, telephone poles and fences in its path. But while they are a menace to farmers and the Road Department, they were a welcome relief to

UK's Jeff Jones named top debater

Combined from staff reports

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Jones, a B&E senior from Toledo, Ohio, outdistanced 123 other debaters from throughout the nation to claim the top individual honor.

Jones is the second UK debater in the past five years to win top speaker at the national tournament. Gil Skillman won the same honor in 1977.

"He's certainly one of the finest debaters I've ever worked with," said J.W. Patterson, director of debate.

Patterson said Jones has every quality a good debater should have. "He's very conscientious," he said.

Jones teamed with Steve Mancuso, a B&E junior from Cincin-

nati, Ohio, to set an all-time tournament record for preliminary round debating by winning 23 of 24 ballots and recording the most points of any team in the 35-year history of the tournament.

They emerged from the eight preliminary rounds with a perfect 8-0 record, but then lost in the semifinals to the University of Pittsburgh.

Jones' and Mancuso's semifinal finish is the third time in the past eight years that Kentucky has been in the semifinals.

Jones and Mancuso went into the national final with one of the country's top records, having won four first place victories at the Kentucky Thoroughbred Round Robin, University of North Carolina, West Georgia College and Dartmouth tournaments and two second place victories in tournaments at Georgetown University in Washington, D. C. and Middle Tennessee State University.

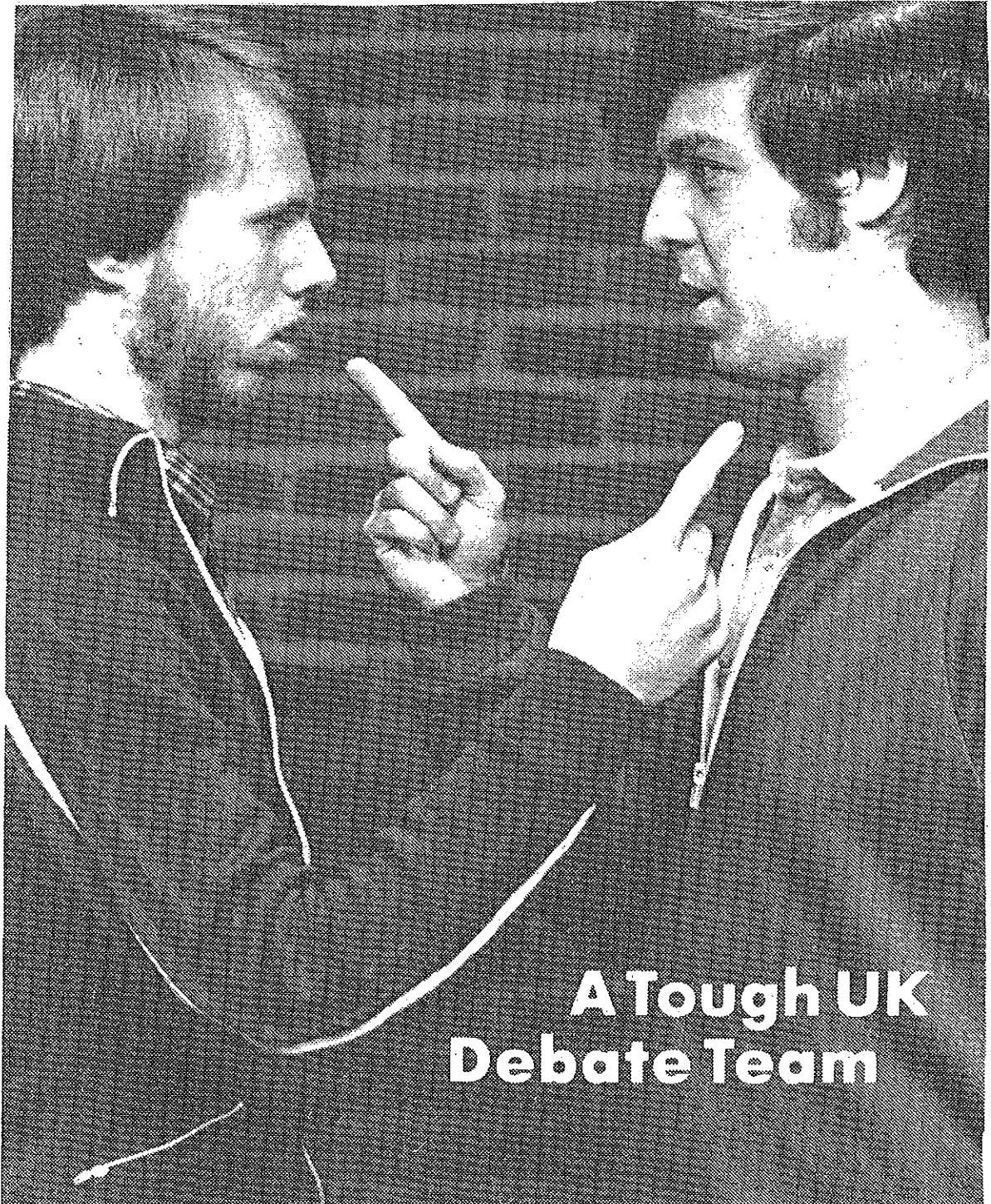
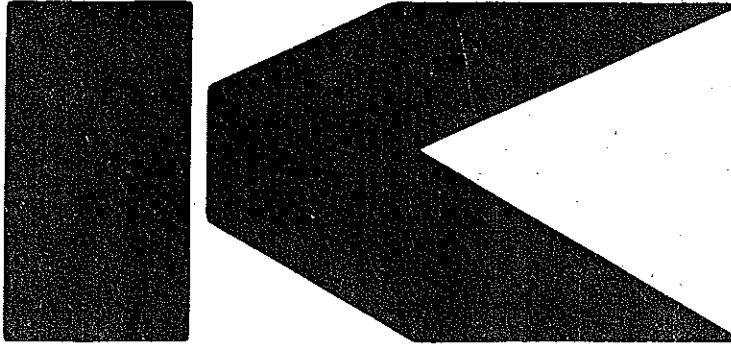
Mancuso attributed their vic-



tories to "close work for many hours, coordination of research, and close friendship." Successful individual and team effort were mentioned by Jones. Mancuso also gave much of the credit to the team's assistant coach Roger Solt.

The topic for the national final was, "Resolved: That the United States should increase significantly its foreign military commitments."

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A Tough UK Debate Team

Team Members Jeff Jones and Steve Mancuso

UK debate team prepares for National Debate Tournament

Continued from page one

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negative constructive in which he argues against the change, or sometimes offers an alternative solution.

Both teams are tense, alert for openings. After the first negative speech an affirmative team member has three minutes of cross-examination to attack. His teammate gathers facts and logic for his ten-minute second affirmative speech which will follow.

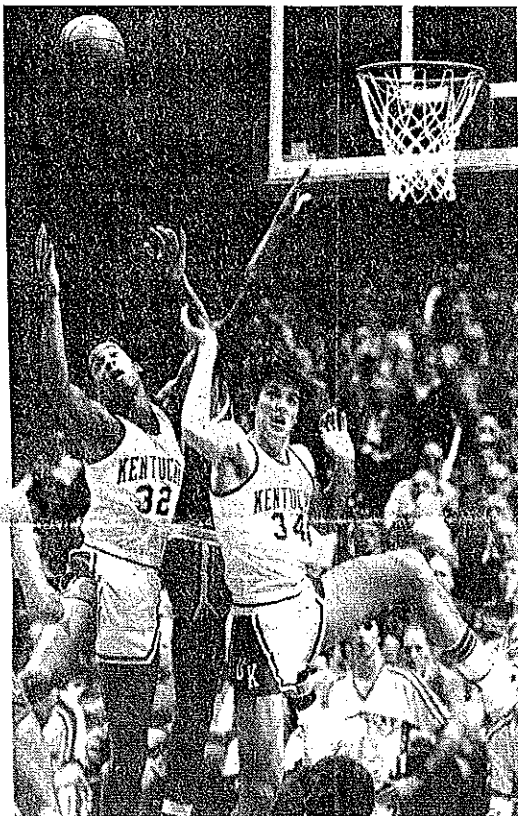
The purpose of his speech is to rebuild the affirmative case while refuting the first negative attack. After cross-examination by Team 2, there is a final negative speech and cross-examination.

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his scoring notes and prepares his verdict.

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Although excellent debaters, Skillman and Oberst are, to individual extents, capable of keeping their argumentative outbursts under control. "Debate is also the process of diplomacy," said Oberst, authoritatively. "We don't always walk around with a chip on our shoulders." But, as Skillman admitted, "You will get the tendency to debate with people."



By GARY LANDERS/Kernel Staff

UK dancers?

Derrick Hord, 32, and Chuck Verderber, 34, twist and shout as they watch a potential rebound carom off the basket during Saturday's game against Baylor. In the first home game of the year, UK won 80-46 to bring their season record to 4-1.

Kaptain Kyle

The famous free throw shooter, diplomat, star, big-time celebrity

By JOHN CLAY
Sports Editor

It's been three years since Kyle Macy, the famous UK All-America guard, decided that he would look a lot better in blue and white than black and gold. And needless to say, in that time he has left numerous opposing coaches shaking their heads and wondering, "Is there anything this guy can't do?" Well, maybe save the world from Iran or stop nuclear testing or something unimportant like that. But as far as college basketball is concerned . . . no, not a whole lot.

For example, in Saturday night's UK-Baylor contest at Rupp Arena, whatever the Wildcats needed Mr. Macy was there to supply.

When the Bears clogged up the middle with their collapsing zone, Kaptain Kyle went white-hot, hurling bombs from the Kincaid Tower to demoralize the visitors. Stats? 19:32, Macy from 20; 16:10, Macy from 14; 11:10, Macy from 22; 8:46, Macy from 24 and so on and so on. Of the Wildcats first 20 points Kaptain Kool owned 14 of them.

"The big men just stayed inside so that left the guards to do the shooting," Kyle Macy the famous offensive star said after the game. "We didn't

plan on it, that's just the way it was going. It really wasn't designed for me to take outside shots."

With 8 of 11 outside shooting and one of one from the line, Macy poured in 17 points in 26 minutes on the floor as the Cats rolled to an 80-46 victory. And even that lone free throw was significant.

When Macy knocked it home, it was the 28th straight the Indiana native has nailed since last February, breaking the record held by Louie Dampier since the 1966-67 season.

The game was stopped and the game ball (even before the game was over) was presented to Macy by Coach Joe Hall as the 23,000 roared its approval.

"I really didn't know anything about it," Kyle Macy the famous free-throw shooter and big-time celebrity said. "I knew I hadn't missed since last year. I heard them call for the ball."

Someone asked how long he could keep it up.

"It's hard to say," said Macy smiling. "Sometimes you feel good up at the line. Other times you've been running up and down the floor and you're tired."

But what about defense? Need you ask?

With just five minutes gone in the

Continued on page 4

Debate team nearing national championship

By BOB COCHRANE
Staff Writer

There is a UK varsity squad ranked among the top three in the nation headed for the national championship tournament in March, and it's not the basketball team.

UK's top varsity debate team — composed of Steve Mancuso, a business and economics sophomore from Cincinnati and Jeff Jones, a B & E junior from Toledo — has just completed the first half of its season. Mancuso and Jones ended it with a second-place finish at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C.

Of five major tournaments, UK won two and narrowly missed victories in three others. The National Debate Championship will be held in March at Arizona University, in Tucson.

There is no formal ranking procedure for debate teams like the *Associated Press* or *United Press International* basketball polls, but if one were taken UK would be among the top three, according to J. W. Patterson, UK director of debate.

"If you contacted all the coaches around the country, you would probably find Kentucky, Dartmouth and Redlands (Calif) mentioned most, in some order," Patterson said.

In addition to having one of the nation's best teams, UK also sponsors one of the most important tournaments of the first half of the season, the Henry Clay College Debate Tournament.

"Our tournament is the first major one of the season, and it drew most of the major teams," Jones said. As the host school, UK did not participate in the tournament which drew 80 teams from around the country.

This semester, Kentucky won the competition held at Middle Tennessee State in Murfreesboro and followed with another victory at the Tarheel Invitational at Chapel Hill, N.C. Forty schools competed in that tournament, including Harvard, Dartmouth and Bates College — which fell to UK in the finals, 3-0.

In other major competitions UK lost to powerful Dartmouth at Emory, to Redlands in a mild upset at Wake Forest where UK had the number one seed, and then lost in the finals to Augustana College (Ill) at Georgetown.

"The philosophy of this squad is to go up against the best teams," Patterson said. "It's no fun to win a tournament over weaker competition."

In order to survive in that caliber of play, it is necessary for the debaters to practice at least 20 hours a week, in addition to devoting virtually the entire weekend of a tournament to debate, Patterson said.

Why would anyone put that much work into a project that receives so little attention?

"Mainly because it supplements the learning experience. I also enjoy the travel and meeting people," Jones said. "Most of the teams are very friendly."

Although competition is very stiff, an individual round is not so crucial that it determines success or failure during an entire season and competing teams often offer each other helpful criticism.

While it is the top varsity team that receives most of the attention, there are a total of five UK debate teams. Arts and Sciences freshman Condon McGlothlen, a top novice from Hoover, Ill., is a member of one team and trying to adjust to differences between high school and collegiate debates this year.

"Debate is more sophisticated in college," McGlothlen said. "The issues are much more real life."

The debate issue is determined every year by a national committee, and the topic remains in effect for all tournaments during the year. This year's topic involves federal regulation of broadcasting rights.

While a debater may hold personal opinions on the topic, rules of procedure force them to take both advocacy and opposition stands.

When the debate topic was abortion a few years ago, one team member was so opposed to abortion he couldn't really argue for it, Patterson said.

"He would begin his advocacy by saying that he personally agreed with the opposition. He would say, 'If I were an advocate of abortion, this is how I would argue it.' He very often won with that tactic," Patterson said.

This type of charisma is a valuable attribute for a debater, according to Patterson. "I look for a student with self-discipline, who can reason and think on his feet," he said. "I also look for persuasive personal characteristics which just can't be taught."

today state

AN INQUEST INTO THE DEATH of the man sought in the slaying of a Kentucky State Police Trooper probably will not be held until the first of the year, authorities said yesterday.

Clyde Daniel Graham, 22, of Elizabethtown, Ky., was shot to death by a Kentucky state policeman Saturday after answering a knock on his maid door in Effingham, police said. Kentucky and Illinois state police said Graham reached for a hunting knife before he was shot.

Dr. R. R. Lystila, Effingham County, Ill. coroner, said that an autopsy performed Saturday afternoon showed Graham died of two gunshot wounds, one in the chest, the other in the abdomen.

THE NATION'S ALUMINUM-WIRE industry will be on trial today as oral arguments begin in the multimillion-dollar lawsuit stemming from the Beverly Hills Supper Club fire two years ago.

The civil suit in U.S. District Court for the May 29, 1977, which 165 people were killed. Out-of-court settlements already have reached an estimate

natio

THE STATE OF ALASKA the oil industry tomorrow like a pair of axes on the sale of the Ocean.

Alaska has adopted a "net" joint state-federal lease sale awarded the best state-owned Beaufort Sea, the most promising in the country.

It means the oil company's greatest percentage of its profit wins the lease. In previous sales company that offered the

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The topic for the tournament was "Resolved: That the federal government

should significantly strengthen the guarantee of consumer product safety required of manufacturers."

Individually, John Walker of Georgetown University was the runner-up to Skillman. Jeff Pash of Harvard University placed third.

Audubon outing Sunday

The Buckley Hills Audubon Society is sponsoring an outing to study Sinking Creek in Jessamine County Sunday, April 30.

Persons are asked to meet at Woodside Farm at 8:30

a.m. dressed in wet weather clothing. To reach Woodside Farm, take U.S. 275 two and one-half miles south of Fayette Mall to KY 1980, turn right, go one mile and turn left at the farm sign.

This was the fourth straight year that UK debaters have received an at-large bid to the national tournament. Oberst and Skillman went into the tournament with one of the nation's top collegiate team records for this season.

UK debate team conquers coast

By JIM McNAIR
Kernel Staff Writer

In a year supposedly for rebuilding, UK's top debate team has made accomplishments that are undebatably astounding. And its members, Gil Skillman and Gerry Oberst, won't argue the fact that a little hard work was involved.

Having taken a first, a second, and a tie for fourth in invitational tournaments on the West Coast, Skillman and Oberst are hardly breathing easy as they face five more tournaments this semester, including the big daddy of them all, the National Debate Tournament, which ends the debating season in April. They debate next at Harvard, Feb. 2-4.

The entire UK debate squad is coached and coordinated by speech professor J. W. Patterson. A second varsity team is composed of Dave Howard and John McClung, whose achievements haven't reached the limelight yet.

Skillman and Oberst, seniors majoring in economics and philosophy respectively, have been debating together for three years at UK.

Skillman, named top speaker at a California State-Fullerton competition, has been active during the five years since he began debating.

Oberst started earlier, seven years ago in high school, but circumstances forced him out of the picture for one of those years. He was the top speaker at Houston in 1975.

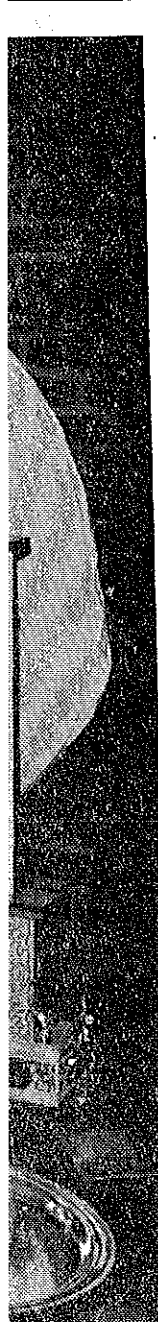
Is useful in other ways

Skillman explained the debater's role as it applies to him: "It's more than just a hobby. It has a lot of impact on your future life because it helps you when you apply for graduate school or employment. For instance, I was hired at the Northwestern High School Speech Institute to teach debate."

"It seemed like something I'd enjoy," Oberst reminisced. "I enjoyed the activity, the argumentation, and the attempt to persuade people. One of the long range effects is that you learn to speak and think better."

At the beginning of the debating year, a topic is selected by the country's debate community. (This year's topic is "whether or not the federal government should strengthen consumer product safety guarantees"). When the topic is announcement, debaters immediately begin research, which depends highly on the specialized publications available.

Continued on back page



of the booty
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—Steve Schuler

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Continued from page one

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Debaters Win Two Tourneys

The University of Kentucky Debaters last week captured first place honors in two major national invitational debate tournaments and finished in the finals of two other tourneys.

In California, Kentucky's top varsity team, Gil Skillman of Parkersburg, W. Va. and Gerry Oberst, Owensboro, won first place in the annual Golden West Invitational Tournament held at Redlands University, defeating Harvard in the final round, 5-0.

Kentucky's Guy Campisano, Louisville and David Donovan, Fayetteville, Ark., won first place in the Drury College Annual Round Robin Debates in Springfield, Mo. The two went through eight rounds undefeated.

In addition, Campisano and Donovan finished in second place in the Southwest Missouri State University tourney held in Springfield follow-

ing the Drury Invitational. They lost the final debate to the University of Kansas team.

David Howard, Covington and John McClung, Springboro, Ohio reached the quarter-finals in the annual Vanderbilt University Tournament in Nashville before losing to Emory University, 2-1.

The California victory was the third major national event captured by the top team of Skillman and Oberst this season.

In October they went undefeated through the annual UK National Round Robin as well as the University of Georgia National Meet.

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The topic for the national finals was, "Resolved: That the United States should increase significantly its foreign military commitments."

UK hosts debate tourney; 62 colleges represented

By BARBARA WARD
Staff Writer

About 250 debaters and debate coaches from around the nation will visit the Bluegrass this weekend to participate in the College National Debate Tournament, hosted by UK.

The 62 two-person teams will debate eight rounds on this year's topic: Whether or not the federal government should implement a program which guarantees employment opportunities for all U.S. citizens in the labor force.

Debaters will have four "pro" and four "con" rounds before the competition narrows to the octofinals, with the 16 best teams participating, UK Debate Coach J. W. Patterson said.

Some of the top debating teams in the nation — from approximately 25 states — who will come to UK include the defending national champions from Northwestern University, Harvard, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Alabama, Utah, Morehead and the University of Louisville will also be attending, according to UK Junior Karen Gruneisen, a special assistant helping to organize the tournament.

The tournament is funded by the National College Debate Committee, with partial funds coming from UK and the Ford Foundation, Patterson said.

Participants will be staying at the Hyatt Regency.

Initial and final debate rounds will be held at the Hyatt Regency on Friday and Monday. Intermediate rounds will be held on the UK campus Saturday and Sunday, Patterson said, in various campus buildings with unused

classrooms.

The rounds are open to the public and anyone interested in helping with the tournament is urged to call the debate office at 258-4570, Patterson said.

This will be the first year in the history of the tournament

that UK will serve as host, Patterson said. The tournament will take place here because a member of the National Debate Tournament site committee was impressed with UK and Lexington, according to Patterson.

Two UK students qualify for debate

By BARBARA WARD
Staff Writer

The UK Debate Team has participated in the national tournament each year since 1972, and sophomores Jeff Jones and Jim Duffy will continue the tradition in the 1979 National Debate Tournament April 20-23 at UK.

Jones, a business major, and Duffy, in the College of Arts & Sciences, will debate the question of whether the federal government should guarantee employment opportunities for all U.S. citizens during their eight preliminary rounds.

UK Debate Coach J. W. Patterson said this is the second year Jones and Duffy have qualified for the tournament, which was held last year in Denver, Colorado.

Because they are a sophomore team, Jones and Duffy's chances of making the elimination rounds "are about average," Patterson said. However, they have qualified for octofinals at "virtually every major tournament this year," including Georgetown University, Harvard, Dartmouth, UCLA and Baylor, Jones said.

At Northwestern, which

tournament in the nation with about 105 teams of 210 debaters," the UK team qualified for quarterfinals and Jones received third place in the Best Speaker category.

"I'm looking forward to the tournament and hope to make octofinals (the top 16 teams)," Jones said.

In addition to their two years of debate experience at UK, Jones debated three years for Toledo Whitmer High School in Ohio, and Duffy debated four years for Riverside Brookefield High School in Illinois.

Members of UK's debate team have qualified for semifinals (the top four teams) twice, in 1974 and 1975, Patterson said. In 1977, the top speaker at the National Debate Tournament was Gil Skillman of UK, he said.

Jones and Duffy aren't the only talented debaters at UK, however.

The freshmen team of Steve Mancuso, business & economics, and Ron Kincaid, arts & sciences, recently qualified for the semifinal round of the Novice National Debate Tournament, held at Northwestern. Mancuso won fifth place in the Best Speaker

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Finch, should be
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least in the top five," Patterson said.

Patterson lost three of his six top debaters last year, including Jason Patil, who transferred to Stanford.

This year, with his team's depth decimated, Patterson is riding on Skiermont, whom he calls the best debater in the country, to lead UK to a championship.

Already Skiermont, an Omaha, Neb., native, has tallied three top speaker awards in four tournaments this semester.

Ironically, his worst performance came at home, when UK held its annual tournament in October.

UK placed fourth then among eight of the nation's top teams.

Skiermont finished in a relatively disappointing position as runner-up for best speaker.

Next semester, UK's team will travel to at least five tournaments, including competitions at debating giants Baylor and Wake Forest universities.

One Christmas gift that may improve UK's

chances for a successful spring campaign is potentially having Skiermont's former partner Patil back at UK.

Patterson said the political science senior is planning to return to next semester. However, Patterson added that Patil will probably not be paired with Skiermont.

Instead, Patil may finish his debating career with junior Jason Renzelmann as his partner.

Last year, each of UK's top three two-man teams received an invitation to the national tournament, which placed UK among some of the greatest all-time debate teams.

UK's top-seeded duo, Paul Skiermont and Patil, sailed through preliminaries with seven wins and one loss but were upset by a Wake Forest team in the quarterfinals.

UK's second team was eliminated in the preliminary rounds, and the the third reached the first of four final rounds before losing to Harvard's top team.

*Just on paper,
there's no way
they couldn't be
at least in the
top five."*

J.W. Patterson
UK debate coach

Debaters win consistently

By ROY FUGITT
Kernel Staff Writer

If you want smooth talkers—we've got 'em. And they've got the trophies to prove it. The UK debate team won over 80 trophies at invitational tournaments last year, said Dr. J. W. Patterson, debate team coach and speech professor. But despite its success, the team has received little recognition. Patterson estimates that in his four years as coach the squad has won over 250 awards and trophies. Last year's team finished third in one national tournament and in the runner-up position at the other. This gave UK the distinction of being the only university in the nation to place in the top three positions of both national tournaments. UK also received an individual award at one of the national competitions, the Delta Sigma Rho-Tau Kappa Alpha National Tournament early last year.

Gil Skillman, A&S junior, won the individual speaker award at that tournament. During the current season, Skillman and his new partner, Gerry Oberst, A&S senior, took top debate honors at the UK National Round Robin tournament in October, and at the University of Georgia National Round Robin in November. They also won at the West Invitational Tournament several weeks ago in California.

Skillman's partner last year, Mary Thompson, was enticed by the Wake Forest coach to enroll at that university by what Patterson, jokingly calls "the ultimate extreme to get a good debater." Thompson married the coach and is presently debating for Wake Forest.

The other top UK debating teams are Guy Campisano, A&S sophomore, and David Donovan, A&S junior, and the team of David Howard, A&S sophomore, and John McClung, A&S junior.

In competition earlier this month, Campisano and Donovan went undefeated through eight straight rounds to win the Drury College Annual Round Robin Debates in Springfield, Mo.

They then proceeded to win second place in the Southwest Missouri University tournament also held in Springfield. The Kentucky pair dropped the final debate to the University of Kansas.

While other UK teams were making their presence known in California and Missouri, Howard and McClung ventured to Nashville and reached the quarter-finals of the annual Vanderbilt University Tournament before falling to Emory University in a 2-1 decision.

When asked about the team's lack of recognition, Skillman, considered by many to be the top debator in the nation, said he has become accustomed to anonymity. He qualified that by adding that he sometimes resents being unknown when he gets into a

but is geared to a specific audience. "Debating is on the intellectual level," he said.

With a strong winning tradition UK maintains its position among the five debating schools in the nation competing against such schools as Harvard, Kansas and Southern California. Patterson and his squad praise the advantages of their debating experience.

Patterson said the chief value of the competition is the promotion of "intelligent, effective and responsible advocacy," while allowing the students to become acquainted with some of the best minds in the country.

He said debate teaches students to "analyze and research, which sharpens their skills in reflective thinking."

The students, on the other hand, expressed a more practical view of debate's advantages. McClung and Howard, who both plan to attend law school, said debate research techniques are very beneficial, especially when writing papers for class.

Skillman and Oberst said they have benefited from their increased research ability—they know where to look for information. The ability to organize and use their research material to analyze problems and arguments as well as generally knowing how to work under pressure are also gained from debate, they said.

Because of their experience, Skillman and Oberst are able to see fallacies in political speeches and in television commercials, they added.

Competition teaches a person to better express himself which would be advantageous when encountering a prospective employer, Skillman and Oberst said.

Much practice and travel is required of debaters and this taxes their academic and social life. Although they said they enjoy debating, the six find they are always behind in class and must rely heavily on the notes of other students.

McClung, a political science major, said some instructors do not like students missing classes and have tried to get McClung and others to quit the squad.

Skillman suffered a "traumatic experience" in December when he received his first "B." He does not, however, feel debating was the reason he received the grade. The economic major has an impressive 3.97 grade point average.

Despite all the travel, the team said debating is not as glamorous as it seems. The squad has experienced many all-night drives in crowded cars filled with luggage and eight passengers. They also know about strange towns with the ole "two blocks down and turn left" routine.

UK's next competition will be in early February against Boston College. The team will also compete against Harvard this semester.

Skillman is optimistic about UK's chances at the national tournaments in March and April and his chances for winning the individual debate award again.

"We have already won more pre-national tournaments this season than in any recent year," Skillman said.

At the top in national competition...debaters may well be UK's...

SUPER TEAM

By RON MITCHELL

The two teams square off, waiting for the officials to start the contest. There is a tenseness among the participants and a ripple of excitement in the audience as the action begins. Team members of both sides play the game with skill, patience and fierce determination achieved through many past contests and countless hours of practice.

Finally, the match is over—and the University of Kentucky team has once again emerged as the victor.

This, however, is no athletic event played on the gridiron or in a spacious arena with thousands of cheering fans.

Rather, it's a college debate, where polished debaters test their verbal skills and persuasiveness against an opposing team. The audience usually is small and includes other debaters, friends or relatives and the judges.

Instead of a tipoff or kickoff, the contest begins with ten-minute "constructives," or opening arguments, by each of the two members of both teams. This is followed by five-minute rebuttals by each member to the position presented in the constructives.

The team is assigned either the affirmative or negative side of the issue just shortly before the debate and therefore must be prepared to argue either side. This year's topic is "Resolved that the Federal Government Develop a Comprehensive Plan to Control Land Use in the United States."

The judges—ranging in number from three to nine per match—pick the winner based on which team presented the most rational argument, regardless of the position taken on the issue.

The UK debate teams have in recent years captured their share of favorable decisions and have achieved national recognition among major college debate teams.

The top varsity debate team of Gil Skillman, of Parkersburg, W. Va., and Gerry Oberst, of Owensboro, has won three major



Center and left trophies were won at Golden West tourney in California; other trophy is from Drury College invitational in Missouri. All are first place.

national events this season, defeating such stalwart teams as UCLA, Harvard, Northwestern and Georgetown, among others.

In 1972-73 and again last year, the UK debate team ranked third in the nation. The two annual debates hosted by UK have grown in popularity and competitiveness and those tournaments now have a select field of top teams each year.

Much of the team's consistent success can be credited to Dr. J. W. Patterson, the UK debate director.

Patterson's duties include planning all debates, organizing research and teaching the fundamentals and techniques of debating. He is assisted by one graduate student.

"Many aspects of the debate program are frustrating. You are constantly faced with logistics over which you have no control, such as space, travel and student schedules," he said.

The relative anonymity of the debate team does not bother Patterson "as long as the UK students who want the training are getting it. I perceive the debate program as an academic activity rather than just a game we play."

Skillman, a junior economics major, said he averages 30-40 hours per week doing research and practicing debates. During weeks when the team travels to a tournament at another school, as many as four days are devoted to debate.

"It irks me sometimes that so few people are familiar with our success, but you can't complain too much," explains Skillman. "We are sometimes negligent in sending out reports of our victories and most of our debates are not held here at UK."

Debate activity does not hinder the debaters' academic progress, Skillman said, since team members structure their time to allow for both debate and study activities. "Debaters generally have better grades than other students because they know how to work under pressure and are able to effectively schedule study time."

The actual debate is only a small part of the debate program, Skillman says, explaining that he has seven boxes of "evidence," the result of continuous research on this year's topic alone.

The topic is selected from a plurality vote taken of all debate teams across the country. Coaches submit suggested topics to a national committee and each school is polled on the top five.

"At each tournament, some team always brings up an aspect of the topic we hadn't thought of," said Skillman. "Usually we can consult the evidence boxes for help, but sometimes we have to bluff our way."

Skillman, a debater in high school, said his participation in the debate program "has given me research skills which have helped me as an economics major. And many debaters are pre-law majors who use it to learn how to present persuasive arguments."

Kevin French, a freshman political science major, said he became involved in debate while a student at Larue County High School and chose to attend UK because of the debate program.

A member of one of the two novice debate teams, French said his participation in debate helps him "get into the grind of things, keep me on the ball. If you're not doing something like debate, then it's too easy to neglect your studies and sleep a lot."



Debate Winners

Mark Viehe, left, and Carl Stich, both of Lexington, admire one of their trophies earned during the 1973-1974 debate season as

members of the University of Kentucky debate team.



Debating Champion

John McClung, Springboro, and his University of Kentucky debate partner, Carl Stich, Lexington, Ky., recently won third place in the National Novice Debate Tournament at Evanston, Ill. A 1973 graduate of Springboro High School, McClung is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John E. McClung of Springboro. At UK, John also is a member of the honors program and will be a member of the UK varsity debate team next year. McClung, right, is pictured with debate teammates Mary Thomson of Nashville, Tenn., Gil Skillman of Kettering, Stich, and coach Ron Mather, center.

'Boro Native Places In Debate



JOHN McCLUNG, RIGHT, SPRINGBORO, with University of Kentucky debater Joe Wright, left, Cadiz, Ky., and UK assistant debate coach Ron Mather, center, show some of their trophies.

John McClung, Springboro, and his University of Kentucky debate partner, Joe Wright, Cadiz, Ky., recently won third place in the National Novice Debate Tournament at Evanston, Ill.

A 1973 graduate of Springboro High School, McClung is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John E. McClung of Springboro.

At UK, John also is a member of the Honors Program and will be a member of the UK varsity debate team next year.