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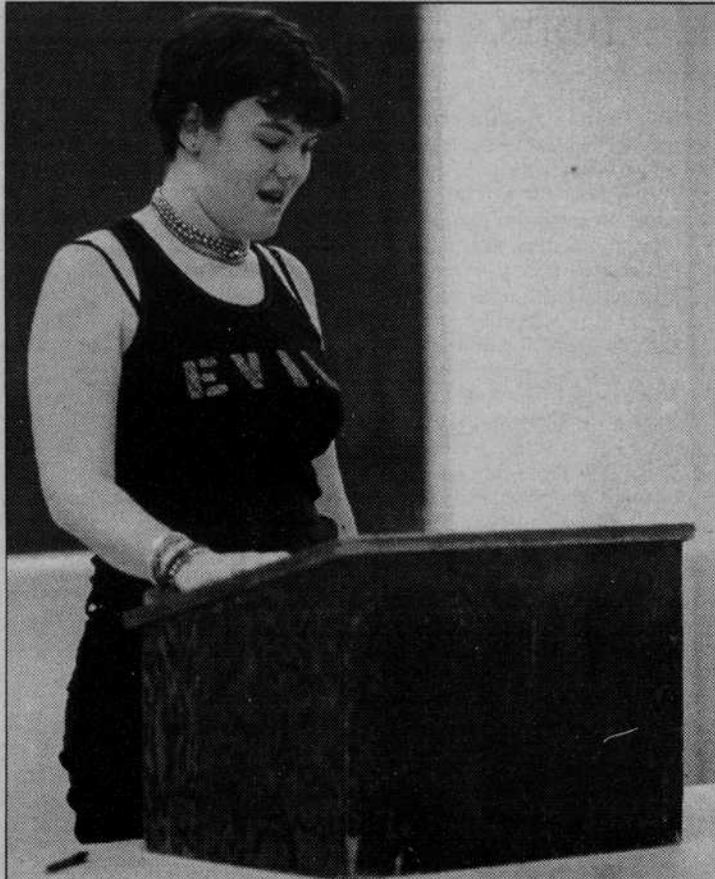
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Azle Malinao-Alvarez Emerald

Lindsey Ferguson practices her impromptu speech. Ferguson is a comparative literature major and a member of the University Speech and Debate team.

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# Grand Opening Party

## Tuesday February 29, 2000

4pm to 8pm  
**Gateway Sport:**  
110 Gateway Mall  
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Plus, Enter to Win  
a chance to participate in the  
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**Hot Shot Contest!**



No purchase necessary. Entrants must be 18 years of age or older. All entries must be received by 2/29/00 at 6:00 PM. Random drawing will take place on 2/29/00 at 7:00 PM. Must be present to win. Three contestants will be randomly selected and will participate in the order their entries are selected. Contestants will get one chance to preform a specified list of basketball shots within an allotted time period, but the first contestant to successfully do so will win the \$24,000 prize. If no contestant makes all of the shots successfully, no prize will be awarded. Other substantial restrictions apply. See club for complete contest rules and regulations.

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### Debate team continued from page 1

journalism major, finished fourth in the persuasive speaking category and is the first alternate to attend nationals. Knott placed sixth in extemporaneous speaking and is the second alternate for nationals.

The 45-member team is very young and learning along the way. David Frank, director of forensics education, said the forensics coaches enforce increased communications, organization and research skills. The team's progress is also because of its strong learning community environment.

"We try to teach ethical advocacy," Frank said. "Which means, you don't do everything you can to win a trophy. We also teach students how to conduct thorough research and to take that thorough research and present it in a form that people can understand."

Assistant coach Nick Lougee said the team has remained close despite hours of work together.

"On the whole, the team has performed at a very high level," he said. "They all work well together, and that makes for a strong team dynamic, internal work ethic and performance standards that are competitive yet cooperative."

Their dedication and perseverance has come from months of work and preparation. Junior journalism major Tom Suarez, who qualified for nationals in informative speaking and communication analysis, has been giving his speech on stopping the trend of medicating children for five months. Suarez said he feels the

debate team has helped him in speaking, interactions with people and especially in writing papers at the University level.

Ford also qualified for the national competition in the persuasive speaking category. Her topic is about how cellular phones can cause cancer. The speech has been successful because it is a topic people are familiar with; however, they don't necessarily recognize the health dangers of cellular phones.

"The big challenge faced when people are trying to write a speech is they are trying to speak about something their audience will find interesting and important but they haven't already seen on 60 Minutes or read in Time magazine," said Rick Peacor, director of intercollegiate forensics.

The team is just wrapping up competition in a third tournament, the "Heart of America Tournament," at Kansas University. Two contestants demonstrated the research-intensive activity known as policy debate. Policy debaters spent up to eight hours a day in the library, starting back in August, to prepare for competition during the fall and winter terms. The results from this tournament are not yet announced.

Currently, the team is hosting the Bower Aly Memorial Forensics Tournament in the EMU Ballroom. Members of the team are gaining experience in organizing and judging a debate competition for approximately 600 high school students.

The forensics team is an ASUO organization and a part of the Honors College, but anyone is welcome to participate in the program.

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