Debaters

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After two tournaments the Rice Debate Club scores itself one and one for the start of the season. From the Bellaire Tournament the teams brought back one Second and two Third place awards, a record which Rice must consider good for early season activity.

At TCU two weeks ago the debaters did not do so well. In the stiffer competition Rice returned with no trophies at all.

Defending this as a moderately successful record, Debate President John Early made several comments on the nature of debate at Rice. "We are plagued by the general Rice problem of overwork. Preparing for a tournament takes a fantastic amount of time."

Lack of Time

Lack of time gives Rice a different approach to debate than is found at schools with speech departments and scholarships. Our teams rely on scope and debate skills learned in high school rather than on massive factual preparation.

The potential of our teams was shown last year when Mike Rosenthal and Eddie Phillips, two freshmen, won the SWC affirmative championship.

Early accepts the campus anonymity of the debaters philosophically, "The Forum Committee seeks to fill all the time students have free for political discussion."

Still Active

Also the debate topics are generally "out of it." "This year's topic is: 'Resolved that the federal government should establish a program of public works for the unemployed.' This is not a burning issue in America."

The University two years ago abandoned the practice of hiring a part-time coach after a trial at one season. At the same time the Club lost its office in the RMC.

The Club has no coach except its sponsor, Dr. John Rodgers of the Geology Department. This arrangement, Early declares, is quite acceptable because of Dr. Rodgers' high degree of participation.

Not All Active

In the past two years the membership has climbed from 6 to 23. Not all of the members are fully active. The number of squads sent to a tournament depends upon how many have the time to prepare and the funds for the trip.

Seven two-man teams went to the local Bellaire Tournament. Four teams were sent to TCU. The travel expenses are paid for with funds from the Humanities Department.

Many of the Club's trophies are for individual events, such as oratory or extemporaneous speaking. No attempt is made to prepare entrants for these events. These are mainly entered on the strength of skills learned in high school.