Debaters Score At Crimson Meet
Harvard Team Will Return Visit

By REED MARTIN

Boston, Feb. 5—The Rice University debate squad descended upon the Harvard University Invitational tournament in the midst of Boston's coldest weather in history and for the first time in our history placed high in the final rankings.

This city was an unusually cold host to the 130 teams from 40 states competing in the world's largest invitational tournament as it offered two days of constant snow and nightly sub-zero temperatures.

AS THE CRIMSON masses left Kennedy's favorite campus for mid-term recess, they left behind a corps of extremely cordial residents who welcomed us to their rooms for a five-day imposition and graciously guided us around their college and the city as well. This school's quarters were in Quincy House, a "dorm" of split level apartments including living rooms all on one level, for minimum party disturbance, with four individual bedrooms and studies, a bath, and kitchen upstairs.

The atmosphere was brisk outside and friendly inside as teams and coaches met before the tournament to freely discuss cases and points and offer criticism. We had one practice round with the Harvard senior team with constructive critiques from the University of Minnesota coach, the coach from Tufts college, the Harvard coach, and a law student.

THE TOURNAMENT itself was spread laxily over 3 days with debating in the afternoons. Although some of the teams "take gas" as they say up here, the vast majority of the schools were strong contenders. Both Rice teams faced fairly rough competition against New England teams, for the most part, a special brand of debaters from schools we had never met before. And we are pretty proud of the results.

Our primary objective was to do well personally at this tournament. In the overall ranking of teams, one of ours was in the top 97 percentile and the other in the top 95. Of the 260 participants, this reporter was rated 13th speaker in the tournament. John Wolf was 14th, and Jim Bob Doby and Gary Webb were in the top 10 percent. I'll mention again—we're fairly happy with our representation of Rice.

OUR SECOND objective, one more important to you back home, was to introduce the name of our University into debate in the East so that its teams would consider us as worthwhile stops in their annual spring tours. Although Harvard had initially overlooked us, as usual, they are now rearranging their trip to include, for the first time, a visit to Rice, immediately after Easter vacation.

Jim Bob and your reporter will meet Columbia's senior team in an exhibition debate next Wednesday, Feb. 8 in New York and, after meeting them at this tournament, they have indicated a desire to reciprocate, if our Administration formally invites them in accordance with Columbia's usual procedure. So in fulfillment of our second objective we have secured two of the top teams in the nation to meet us in exhibition debates on our campus this spring.

NEXT THURSDAY through Saturday, Feb. 9-11, we will be in Chicago for the Northwestern tournament which testifies to the growing name of Rice in the midwest, for it is the first time our school has been invited to participate in this, the second largest invitational tournament in the nation. We, of course, hope to continue our good luck there but in our more immediate plans is a shorter trip that will begin as soon as we can leave from the snowbound Boston airport.

We will spend a day in Princeton meeting with the debate society in a trip aimed at discussion, goodwill, and large portions of cheer. And then three days in New York, the three in Chicago for the Northwestern tournament, and home.

Our thoughts extend to you all as we begin our second week of extended mid-term vacation, and look forward to boring you with exaggerated accounts of each event of our journey.