

# 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*

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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 Jones described as "the biggest

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 awards, Jones said.