Montana High School Speech League activities to include theater festivals

University of Montana--Missoula. Office of University Relations

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Theater festivals will be included in Montana High School Speech League activities this spring for the first time, according to Dr. Ralph Y. McGinnis, chairman of the Montana State University Speech Department and league director.

District theater festivals will be held in six Montana communities at the same time as the speech contests, April 13 and 14, he said.

By-laws establishing a theater division of the statewide organization were approved by the Montana High School Association at its annual meeting in January, Dr. McGinnis said. Firman H. Brown Jr., chairman of the MSU Department of Drama, was named executive secretary of the division. He will work with Montana high school drama directors to establish the theater program and set up the first district festivals.

The festivals will be offered on a workshop basis with qualified adjudicators working with each high school production that comes to a festival, Brown explained. Some of the plays at each district festival will be brought to the annual Inter-scholastic Little Theater Festival at MSU in May.

High school drama directors are asked to register their schools now with the Drama Division of the league by writing to Firman H. Brown Jr., Department of Drama, Montana State University, Missoula.

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