

Smarter than Tech: Pioneer debate team trumps TTU

By **TRAVIS BATISTA**
Staff Writer

Volunteer State Community College hosted a debate between the Tennessee Tech University and Vol State Forensic teams.

The debate took place on Tuesday, March 20. The teams participated in a status quo debate. The topic for debate: the American people believe the U.S. should abolish the Electoral College and elect through popular vote.

The Vol State debate team, which includes members Drew Cleek and George Shifflett, had the task of proving it would be best for the American people to eliminate the Electoral College and have elections be determined by the popular vote.

Also, the team noted that the 2000 election left many unhappy with the results since George W. Bush did not receive the majority of the votes. "People just don't have any confidence in Bush," Shifflett went on to say.

However, the argument presented by the Vol State team was quickly

contested. The TTU team, Josh Williams and Garrett Valdez, presented an argument focused on the minority.

The team concluded that the popular vote would leave states with low electoral votes now out in the cold. Williams, argued, "Voters would be disenfranchised because bigger states would have the control," Williams argued.

His partner, Valdez went on to state, "The will of the majority and the rights of the minority (should always be remembered)," his partner, Valdez

Yet, in the end, the judges of the debate, Dr. Dawn Larsen, Len Assante, and David Warner, awarded the victory to Vol State. "It was 50.1 percent to 49.9 percent," in how close the debate was, Warner stated.

"Each side made some significant points that could have been better argued," said Larsen.

However, Assante said it was the agreement of the teams to present a case that suited the net benefits of the arguments that gave Vol State's case the edge.



Chris Crankshaw / Staff Photo

George Shifflett argued against the Electoral College in a debate March

Now Accepting Applications for

EDITORS

THE SETTLER

THE PIONEER

**Applications available in Student Publications
Wood Campus Center 206B or e-mail request to
Clay.Scott@volstate.edu**