

Is Student Ability "Normally" Distributed?

Daily Nebraskan

The Official Newspaper of More Than 6,000 Students

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1939

2-408

VOL. XXXVIII, NO. 82.

Dr. W. H. Orr addresses Phi Beta Kappas

**Tells of contributions
given modern surgery
by Pasteur and Lister**

Dr. H. W. Orr, prominent orthopedic surgeon of Lincoln, will address members of Phi Beta Kappa on the subject of "Contributions of Pasteur and Lister to Modern Surgery" when the Nebraska chapter meets for dinner tonight at the University club.

Dr. Orr has served in offices of the State Medical association, the American association, and the American Orthopedic association. He is the author of several articles, including "A History of the Nebraska Medical Society," and "A Civilian Surgeon's Story of the Great War."

Having served as a member of the Medical Corps of the A.E.F., Dr. Orr now belongs to the U. S. Reserve Corps, Medical Division, as a consultant on orthopedic surgery.

Presiding at the dinner and meeting will be Dr. James Wadsworth, president of Phi Beta Kappa. About 65 members and their guests are expected to attend, including Chancellor and Mrs. C. S. Boucher, both of whom are members of the society.

Tassels to meet tonight at 7 o'clock

Members of Tassels, women's pep organization, will meet tonight at 7 o'clock in room 316 of the Union. All members are required to be present.

Behind world events

Bev Finkle

Europe is suffering a new attack of the "Hitler Jitters". Today Spanish loyalist forces, once concentrated about Barcelona and its environs, are in wild, hectic flight. Franco's insurgents are in hot pursuit and the loyalist rear guard is hard pressed to keep any semblance of order amid general chaos.

Three paths lie open from former loyalist territory to France and its havens of refuge. One of these is a pass high in the Pyrenees, and hundreds already are reputed to be dead in the attempt to scale this height. Another is a half mile long railroad tunnel bored thru the mountain side, and the humans who like rats crawl thru it are in constant dread of an onrushing train which would scatter them like chaff. The third is a paved highway from Barcelona to Peirpegnon, and this is under heavy bombardment from insurgent troops.

France has opened its borders to all who flee from the terrors of Barcelona. Men, women, and children, of all ages, have been pouring in in hordes too great to stop. French border patrols have worked on 24 hour duty to keep the flood of humans moving. Relief kitchens have been set up, and starved humans gulp hungrily at morsels thrown them, for they have scarce seen food in many weeks.

We, youngsters all, cannot remember the horrors of the World war but the memories of this conflict will remain long with us.

Loyalist troops anxious to defend their mutilated and ravaged homeland are being returned to the last strongholds at Valencia and Madrid. The costs of such transport are being borne by the French government.

While we must commend France for the aid she now offers to suffering refugees, we most heartily condemn the free transportation of foreign soldiers who are still at war. France has placed herself in the role of an active supporter of the loyalist regime. Germany, Italy, France and Russia are now engaged in a struggle to determine whether the government of Spain shall be in the hands of Premier Negrin or General Franco.

The world sits by tensely waiting the announcement of that little spark which may plunge the whole "civilized" world in catastrophic contest.

Premier Negrin has refused to obey the president of Spain's request for surrender in order to stop the destruction of life and property. Negrin has fled to France but is willing to sacrifice those remaining at home. Public sympathy cannot much longer rest with such a man who condemns his supporters to needless butchery.

(See WORLD EVENTS Page 2.)

Daily Nebraskan seeks 'problem' discussions

In one issue each week, the DAILY NEBRASKAN will devote an entire page to discussions of national, international, state, or campus problems. Any student or faculty member wishing to write an article of not more than four hundred words on any subject should address his communications to "Public Forum Page," DAILY NEBRASKAN.

'Dad' Elliot gives warning

**Fears anti-semiticism
here; calls for honesty**

"Dad" Elliott, veteran youth leader, sounded a note of warning for Americans to be on guard against anti-semitism as he delivered a challenging call for the return of old time honesty in the American philosophy of life. "Dad" spoke in the Union Sunday evening inaugurating a week of religious emphasis on the campus sponsored by the Religious Welfare council.

Introduced by Gilber Savery, president of the student section of the Religious Welfare Council, "Dad" opened his speech with praise of the Swedish system based on the homely virtues of Christian conduct. Swinging to Germany he interpreted the situation and emphasized the feeling among the "sane minority" there that anti-semitism will sweep the United States within 15 years.

"When I got back and saw the sweep of anti-semiticism and the sources of the propaganda," declared "Dad," "I was not so sure that they were wrong."

Elliott deplored the fact that "we are loaded heavily with people whose philosophy is simply graft," but found a ray of hope

(See ELLIOTT on Page 2.)

Mortar Board deposits \$100 in Loan Fund

**Chancellor Boucher
to contribute money
from out-state talks**

A deposit of \$100 with the university finance office by the Mortar Board officially opened the Student Loan Fund, yesterday. With a promise from Chancellor C. S. Boucher to contribute all money that he receives from out state lectures to the fund, Phyllis Chamberlain, president of the organization, has written letters to the leading campus organizations requesting contributions in an effort to swell the fund to \$1,000 by the end of this semester.

The Student Loan Fund, conceived by the Student Council, Mortar Board, and university officials, is to be a permanent fund to assist students needing financial help for a short period of time. No interest will be charged students securing loans until the end of a five month period. At that time loans will be considered delinquent and interest will begin at the rate of five percent per annum.

Contributions asked.

This fund is to be built up from contributions from university organizations with the Mortar Board in charge of collections. According to Barbara Rosewater, member of the Mortar Board committee in charge, any contribution, regardless of size, will be welcomed and will help swell the fund to the thousand dollar goal. Any organization or person who contributes to the fund relinquishes all claim on the contribution.

Money will be held in the office of the finance secretary and all contributions or withdrawals from the fund must pass thru this office. Collection of all loans will also be made thru this office. No loans will be made in greater amounts than \$50. The Dean of Student Affairs or such persons as he may appoint will administer the fund and make all loans. No security is required, the only criteria being good character in Dean Thompson's judgment. In special cases, the time available on loans will be specified according to the needs and the condition of the loan.

The Mortar Board committee which has made arrangements for the fund is composed of Barbara Rosewater, chairman; Betty Clements, and Phyllis Chamberlain. All contributions for the fund should be sent to Phyllis Chamberlain.

Debate tryout filings due today

**Judges to pick teams
for Colorado trip soon**

Prof. H. A. White announced yesterday that the names of all students who expect to compete in the debate tryouts for Feb. 14, must be filed in his office by noon today.

The affirmative and negative teams selected will make the Colorado debate trip in March. Speakers going on this trip will not be able to participate in any other large trip but will enter home contests.

"Resolved that the nited States should cease to use the public funds for the purpose of stimulating business," is the question to be discussed.

Instructors say 'No', quit grade curve

**Few faculty members retain rigid grading plan;
investigation of marking systems scheduled**

BY LUCILLE THOMAS.

The system of grading on a curve, rigorously denounced by university students past and present, is rapidly declining on the Nebraska campus, the DAILY NEBRASKAN learned today after two weeks of survey. Instructors in many departments, preferring to remain unquoted, expressed a growing antipathy for the system of judging a student's ability according to a "normal curve of distribution."



CHANCELLOR BOUCHER.
...donates speech money.

Y. W. installs new cabinet

**Officers-elect assume
duties at service today**

A special vespers service for the installation of the newly elected officers and cabinet of the Y. W. C. A. will be held this evening at 5 in Ellen Smith.

A program, arranged by Mary Bullock, in charge of the affair, includes a flute solo by Jean Simmons who will be accompanied by her mother, Mrs. Robert Simmons, and a prayer which will be led by Miss Bullock.

Following the prayer, Muriel White, retiring president, will give a short farewell speech after which she will introduce the newly elected officers and cabinet. The new officers are: Priscilla Wicks, president; Maxine Lake, vice president; Irene Hollenbeck, secretary; Ann Husted, treasurer; and Helen Kilmer, Ag president.

New cabinet members.

Members of the new cabinet who will be installed are: Dot Glen, Faith Medlar, Jean Simmons, Charlotte Utt, Mary Lou Daly, Ella Jo Marshall, Mary Jo Henn, Helen Able, Frances Van Anda, Maxine Lake, Pat Sternberg, Joy

(See Y CABINET on Page 2.)

Entries due for carnival booths

**Women's houses must
file by 12 noon today**

Plans by women's organized houses for booths in the Coed Counselors' annual penny carnival must be submitted at Mrs. Ada Westover's desk in Ellen Smith by noon today. Selection of the booths for the carnival to be held Saturday, Feb. 18, in Grant Memorial will be made by Elizabeth Smith and Maxine Lake.

Tickets for the affair are 15 cents and may be purchased from any Coed Counselor, Coed Counselor board member, or from selected persons in each organized house. The ticket includes 5 cents admission and 10 cents to be spent at any of the concessions. Each ticket purchase is accompanied by one vote which may be used in voting for the most popular booth in the carnival. At the end of the afternoon the winner of the contest will be awarded a trophy.

Dancing will be featured at the carnival and refreshments may be purchased at the booths. Co-chairmen for the event are Coed Counselor board members Fern Steuterville and Faith Medlar.

Without having any idea as to what a grade curve really is, most students use it as a peg on which to hang their complaints for low grades. The grade curve is built on the idea that the majority of students are just average, and that the brilliant students and the dull students are about equal in the minority.

Formula unfair in small classes

That is, in a normal class, the distribution of intelligence is such that about half of the students will be deserving of a grade between 75 and 80, 15 percent of the class will probably be worthy of 80-something and 15 percent will deserve grades in the 60's, and the remaining few will be equally divided between the very bright students and those who should flunk.

This principle may take the form of a strict formula that works fairly only in large, usually elementary, classes. In the small, more advanced classes, where an unusual number may be brilliant, the practice of the curve works an obvious injustice.

At present there is no all university ruling to regulate the policy by which colleges, departments, or instructors distribute their grades. As a matter of departmental policy, the English department deems it wise to place the majority of its grades in the 75 to 85 class, but no rigid rules are followed, and, according to Miss

(See CURVE on Page 2.)

Medlar services set for today

**Funeral of professor
arranged for 10 o'clock**

Funeral services for Arthur W. Medlar, associate professor at the university, will be held at the Warren Methodist church at 10 o'clock today. Rev. W. L. Ruyle will officiate.

Professor Medlar had been head of the rural economics department at the university since 1918. He was a member of Gamma Delta Sigma, agricultural honorary society and was active in university affairs.

Surviving are his wife, Lucy; two daughters, Mrs. Burton Marvin of Chicago, and Faith; three brothers, Dr. Clyde Medlar of Verdon, Dr. Edgar Medlar of Mount McGregor, N. Y., and Warren Medlar of Kimball; two sisters, Mrs. Millard Bigelow of Payette, Ida., and Mrs. Oscar Toothman of Natrona, Wyo.

The body is at Castle, Roper and Matthews mortuary.

Hoffman explains cancelled lecture

**Did not speak here due
to misunderstanding**

Former New Jersey Governor Hoffman in an interview Sunday at Omaha, said his lecture scheduled at the Union Sunday afternoon was cancelled as the result of a misunderstanding. Hoffman had told the sponsors of the lecture that he would not touch on the Lindbergh case in his talk, but that he would answer any questions that might be asked.

Hoffman said he believed that because it was Sunday and because the lecture had been advertised as a safety talk, the sponsors thought the attendance would not be large enough.

Hoffman told interviewers he still feels Hauptmann was not guilty, and he did not like the New Jersey justice Bruno received. He has not changed his opinion one bit since the trial. "I have my own opinion on what happened, and I still think there was 'Something Rotten in Denmark,'" he said.