

Fact finding bureau affects students, faculty

'Messiah' oratorio set for Dec. 17

Seven students solo in annual Yuletide song fest; Westbrook directs

Annual presentation of Handel's "Messiah" by the university's combined musical groups will be held in the coliseum Sunday afternoon, December 17, with seven students taking the solo parts.

Director of the school of fine arts Dr. Arthur E. Westbrook will preside as conductor of the Christmas oratorio, to be sung by the 400 voices of the university choral union. The symphony orchestra as well as other musical units will participate.

Soloists are Nina Armstrong of Emerson, contralto; Louise Stapleton, Lincoln, soprano; Martha McGee, Columbus, soprano; Dale Ganz, Alvo, and Glen Clark, Elgin, baritone; and Nate Holman, jr., and Jack Donovan of Lincoln, tenor.

The ranks of the choral union will be augmented for "The Messiah" program by the university chorus, which is under the direction of Dr. Westbrook; the college of agriculture chorus, Mrs. Altinas Tullis, director; the university singers, W. O. Tempel, director; the Grieg Male chorus, Hermann T. Decker, director; and the adult campus chorus, also under supervision of the fine arts head.

Don A. Lentz will conduct the symphony orchestra in rendition of the oratorio accompaniments, and Ward Moore, assistant professor of brass instruments, will have charge of a brass quartet consisting of Robert Buddenberg of Gothenburg, and Robert Krejci, Schuyler, cornets; Edward Edison, Lincoln, French horn; and Herbert Cecil of St. Paul, trombone.

Debate teams announced

Season begins after Christmas vacation

Assigning of teams for the debate try-outs which will be held Dec. 6 are: Affirmative, Ben Novicoff, Jack Stewart, Blaine Sloan, Otto Woerner, Howard Bessire; negative, Harold Turkel, Gilbert Huefle, C. Loyd Shubert, Edwin Carraher.

The assigned topic for the debate is: Resolved, that the United States should follow a policy of strict economic and military isolation toward all nations outside the Western Hemisphere engaged in armed international or civil conflict.

The debate season starts immediately after Christmas. The first debate will probably be with the University of California, in Lincoln.

In the try-outs to be held Wednesday, Dec. 6 in Andrews, room 126, at 7:30. Men who enter their names in the try-outs now will be assigned to one side or the other in the order that their names are received. Each man is allowed 8 minutes for his speech. In this time he is to present both constructive and rebuttal arguments in any manner he may choose. Judging will be on the basis of both material and speaking.

Botanist names new cup fungi after NU woman

Dr. Fred J. Seaver of the New York Botanical Garden has named a new cup fungi after Dr. Leva B. Walker of the department of botany, who discovered the plants growing in a pan of soil on which she was testing the growth of other organisms. Dr. Walker, herself an expert on fungi, believed the small plants were different from any she had found, so sent them to be identified by Dr. Seaver.

In a recent issue of Mycologia, the New York scientist writes: "I have received from Dr. Walker a beautiful specimen which is unquestionably a Boudiera. While the general characters leave no question as to its generic identity, its specific characters differ greatly from the other two described species." The previously identified fungi attain a diameter of five-eighths mm., and were dark brown in color, while Dr. Walker's plants are scarcely a mm. in diameter and are pure white, he says.



DAILY NEBRASKAN staff photo.

Instructional research body studies university practices

Guilford, Cox administer tests to students, conduct statistical surveys for uni faculty

By Edwin Wittenberg.

Amid the headlines announcing the administration charges that followed the appointment of Dr. C. S. Boucher as chancellor last year, the establishment of one additional bureau on the campus in February passed almost unnoticed.

News columns took little heed when, at the instigation of the new chancellor, the university senate on Feb. 1, 1939, voted into existence the Bureau of Instructional Research with Dr. J. P. Guilford, professor of psychology, given a new task as bureau director.

To obtain a full time research expert, the administration went to the University of Georgia for Henry M. Cox, assistant director, who already had attained a reputation in the field of educational research.

Affects every student.

Since Feb. 1, the bureau, tucked away in an obscure corner of the basement (room B3) of the administration building, has in some way affected every student and every faculty member on the campus.

Originally established to make statistical studies for faculty members, and to establish a factual basis for educational policies the bureau has been given the addi-

tional job of administering tests to incoming freshmen and new students.

In spite of its far reaching activities, the bureau does not encourage publicity. That fact was made quite clear to a DAILY reporter when Dr. Guilford ruefully complained, "I must have been out of my mind when I agreed to this interview." And Mr. Cox was cautious personified in explaining the

Salvemini, foe of Fascism, to speak on campus Dec. 5

Italian historian was smuggled out of Italy by his students, has taken up crusade for democracy

Dr. Gaetano Salvemini, "most effective critic of Fascism outside Italy," will address two campus groups Tuesday, Dec. 5. He will discuss "Will Mussolini Remain Neutral?" before a convocation at 11 in the Temple, and "What is Democracy?" at a Union forum.

Dr. Salvemini was for many years professor of Italian history at the University of Florence. In the post-war period he served as a member of the Chamber of Deputies. After the rise of the Mussolini regime he refused to take the compulsory teachers' oath. He was smuggled out of Italy by his students, and went to England, later coming to America.

One semester of the year, Salvemini is professor of Italian civilization at Harvard, lectures at the social research school in New York, and has been a visiting professor at Yale and Stanford.

Dr. Salvemini has written many widely-read books and articles. His latest book is "Under the Axe of Fascism." Others are "The Fascist Dictatorship in Italy," and "Mussolini-Diplomat." His articles have been widely published in Foreign Affairs, The New Republic and The Nation.

With the noted Italian exile, democracy is a crusading cause. He regards it as the best and most workable system of government and speaks of it with great fervor.

activities of the bureau.

Extensive testing program. The bureau's testing program alone is many-sided. No student will forget the psychological exams he took on entering the university with such puzzling and confusing questions as: "If a cow gives milk, put an x in the circle; but if sows give birth to calves, put an x in the triangle." These and other entrance examinations asked for by different schools and colleges of the university are prepared and given by the bureau.

Also this year, the bureau has given individual tests on vocational aptitudes and interests to a number of students who have been sent there by advisors. It has been discovered, said Dr. Guilford, that dissatisfaction with school or particular courses of study is caused in many cases by poor study habits.

Expects demand for more tests.

Dr. Guilford predicts that under the new junior division plan recently set up, there will be a demand for additional general tests for incoming students to aid faculty members in placing their advisees in the correct colleges and courses. Possible general examination subjects mentioned by the bureau director were vocational interest, general mathematics and reading ability.

The bureau is by no means satisfied with merely giving the examinations, but is constantly checking up on their accuracy to find out whether a particular test can be relied on to perform the intended function of predicting success or failure of students in particular subjects. Because of this, pointed out Dr. Guilford, the future will see better and better tests being used.

Accuracy of the exams can be See PRACTICES, page 4

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