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Are We Cheating Ourselves?

The following letter from a member of the faculty has recently come to our attention:

"This is my third year at Armour. With respect to common honesty, three conditions have been forced on my attention:

1. Copying during examinations is much more prevalent than at other schools.
2. Cooperation on home work and use of the fraternity file system is widespread.
3. Both are more prevalent among seniors than among freshmen.

I may be wrong, but it is my impression that a teacher's job is to teach. Instead of finding classes taking this view (and the related view that a student's job is to learn), I find myself being forced unwillingly to play a sort of game with students. One might call it "Catch me if you can." Now that is usually pitifully easy. The real question is what to do with a culprit when caught.

Generally I ignore such matters on the broad ground that punishment is automatic and adequate, for these students chiefly harm themselves, and certainly do not harm me. The method has several disadvantages. First, it has a tendency to cheapen an Armour degree, thereby harming all students a little. Second, it produces 'unfair competition' among graduating seniors in their search for a job. This also harms honest students. Third, students, being human beings, tend to take the easiest path and this prevents, in some degree, Armour's functioning as a truly educational institution.

I might, of course, hale culprits before Dean Heald. But neither he nor I wish to stop seniors from graduating at this late date. Besides which, a teacher's job is to teach and not to police. If students sincerely desire to learn (not merely to accumulate a favorable record with the placement bureau) they should be self-disciplined. If a few cannot be trusted, the majority should force the few to conform to the prevailing moral code insofar as cheating is an issue.

Let's have a Student Honor Commission."
 B. E. COETZ.

Well, there it is. The truth of Prof. Goetz' statements cannot be denied. They are a challenge offered us. What shall we do with it? Accept the challenge, or, as we have in the past, deplore the situation and proceed to ignore it?

This question of cribbing has been thrashed out among the students in countless "bull-sessions." There are several different types of student attitudes evidenced in these impromptu discussions. However, it is most surprising to notice that, whatever the arguments offered, they are usually passive. The general attitude seems to be "Sure, it's bad, but what can we do about it?" We, at Armour, seem to accept cribbing, copying, and cheating as a necessary evil.

The defence usually offered by the cribbers or those who help cribbers is that the question of ethics or of pride is not involved. Quite frequently we find the attitude of professional politicians—"you help me today and I'll help you tomorrow." The competent student who helps the incompetent usually doesn't give a "hoot." In any case the cribber, whether occasional or habitual, feels he has nothing to lose and everything to gain. The tragedy is, of course, that both he and the student helping him lose heavily all of the time.

There is no need to indict cribbing on ethical grounds—that is best left to the individual. It is only when we get selfish and material that we can see that cribbing cannot and must not be tolerated any more at Armour. It is our own interests which suffer from the reputation which excessive cribbing invests in a school.

The incompetent who cribs his way to graduation is quite dangerous to the school from which he graduates and to his fellow graduates. After he has been fired from a job, his employer isn't likely to employ another man from the same school. The employer is soured on every, and all graduates from that school, however honest or competent they may be. Every job from which he gets fired thus reduces the number of potential jobs open to other graduates from his school.

By cribbing and condoning cribbing we only jeopardize our own interests—we cut our own throats. So, let us accept the challenge offered by Professor Goetz—first, by forming a student honor commission, and, second, by becoming "honor conscious."

If "honor consciousness" becomes firmly instilled in us, there will be no need for the student honor commission. In most schools where honor systems are successfully carried out, the actual enforcement is done by the students themselves.

The reputation of Armour has not yet been seriously damaged from excessive cribbing. Let's do something about it before it is too late.

The Slipstick

Cleave to the slipstick; let the slapstick fly where it may.

How the devil I get into situations like this I don't know! As far as an exhaustive survey enables me to ascertain no one reads this column and the freshmen who inadvertently DO look at it immediately turn a mild shade of olive green and hastily leave the room to complain bitterly to the dean. It's not the big rocks—it's possible to see them coming, it's the incessant rain of BB shot and paper wads that's making a jittering wreck out of a once noble specimen. (Yeah—I have also been informed that I must be a moral leper.)

I try hard to make the gags suitable to the environment. Here is an illustration of the birth of a riotously funny joke.

Joke (as told by a gentleman who was obviously apprehensive): Every man has his woman, but the iceman has his pick.

This is then modified to read: Every man has his woman, but the engineer has his slide rule. And yet no one gets the point. They say it isn't funny any more in that form.

This verse is unique in that it is not labeled, "Pome."

*Both beautiful and dumb
 Must my true love be.
 Beautiful, so I'll love her.
 And dumb, so she'll love me.*

I have just been told that this is as old as a certain word starting with "H" that is censored in this column. I wouldn't know. They are picked with absolute impartiality—any copy of the *Armour News* dated four years ago is chosen and the column sent to the printer with instructions to simply reverse the order of the jokes.

Potter: "Ye gods! What kind of a derivation is this!"

Student: "I took it direct from Schuster & Lee, sir."

Potter: "Hmm, very concise, isn't it?"

There is no cooperation in wooing the muse around this institute.

"Do you know any good gags, Jess?"

"No, do you?"

Now, I ask you, what kind of a joke is that—And don't bother to answer.

Elected as most popular CLEAN gag by an overwhelming majority. (The only one anyone knows.)

"WHO WAS THAT LADY I SEEN YOU WITH?"

A.D.T. Alarm System Explained to F.P.E.S.

The Fire Protection Engineering Society had the pleasure of hearing Mr. McGinis of the American District Telegraph Company (A.D.T.) at their meeting in C-Mission last Friday morning at 10:30. Mr. McGinis described the many interesting services that the A.D.T. system offers to the property owner. Among these services are watchman checking, burglar alarm control, sprinkler system supervision, and bank vault alarms.

The speaker first described the origin and development of the company and then told how the company is organized at present. Among the devices that are used to detect out of the ordinary occurrences are the heat sensitive instruments for detecting fires. These devices will record the presence of excess heat due to fire in the space of only forty-five seconds. They are operated on a rate of rise principle by the expansion of air that is contained in a tiny copper tube eight hundred feet long. The expanding air operates a thin diaphragm which breaks an electric circuit. The stoppage of the current flow permits a relay to register an alarm in the central office of the company. In addition, a siren is started on the outside of the building to let the fire department quickly locate the piece of property needing aid.

Mr. McGinis also told of the elaborate precautions that are taken to insure proper operation of the equipment when the time comes for it to function.

The trouble alarms proved to be of considerable interest to all of the members.

Fire Discovered in Chapin; Extinguished Without Loss

A small fire broke out in Chapin 105 last Friday afternoon. Dr. Perlin's soph co-op calculus class was alarmed when Steve Cibira, a student, noticed smoke issuing from a small hole in the floor. With the aid of a janitor the basement door was broken open, but fire wasn't discovered in the basement.

The fire was confined to an area between the floors, and broke through the floor in one place only. The cause of the fire is problematical and may have been caused by crossed wires or a cigarette dropped into a crack in the floor. In any case it could have become extremely dangerous. It is rumored that carelessness on the part of the co-op students caused the fire.

Fraternity Organized by Sophomore Co-ops

Last October a group of sophomore cooperative students organized the Alpha chapter of Kappa Alpha Pi, national fraternity. Although unheard of by most of the students and faculty, the organization has become very popular among the co-op students. The twelve charter members of the Armour chapter organized the group last October 1st and are proud to say the brotherhood has increased to twenty, and six new men being pledged.

While striving hard to be recognized by the Institute, they have endeavored to keep the dues low enough so as to enable even the financially unfortunate to join. However, membership is limited to co-ops.

Charley Straight's Music—

(Continued from page one)

moral comprehension. (To the sophomores), the very fact that the freshmen did not have any organization, and were floundering in their plans while the sophomores were sure of themselves and carried out their program with finality indicates without a doubt that the freshmen will wear green caps regardless. And behind the scenes, the sophomores are sure of this fact. But the freshmen—well this tall thin lad again got up and waving his arms in a semicircle this time cried: "Are we going to wear green caps or are we going to let the sophs think by some remote chance however slight, they are a mite stronger?" One third of the room cried yes! Another third cried no!

Prof. Krathwohl to Speak at Central Y.M.C.A. College

Professor Krathwohl will speak this Friday before the Men's Mathematics Club on the subject of "Effective Teaching with Color." The meeting will be held at the Central Y.M.C.A.

The use of color in teaching is merely an application to a new field of what the business world has realized for a long time. Color enables a person to grasp the salient points immediately without a great amount of detail. The variation of color affects the way in which a person will react to the image. Brighter colors causes a desire to continue, while dark depressing shades serve to minimize the object which they represent.

Professor Krathwohl has for many years used colored chalk in his classes at Armour. That he has been eminently successful in his methods is evidenced by the interest taken by the students in his mathematics classes.

Fraternity Notes

PI KAPPA PHI

A very novel dance was swung on March 12. The dance, from start to finish, was one unexpected form of entertainment after another. The dance was put on by the class of '41 in an A-1 style.

The ping-pong tournament has now narrowed down to eight finalists, all equally good. "Poor" Brother Pave is trying to pick the team from these eight.

PHI KAPPA SIGMA

We congratulate the following men on their formal initiation into Phi Kappa Sigma on Feb. 25, 1938, at the Medinah Club:

Earl Anderson
 Robert Hausske
 Jack Clark
 Grant Whitehead
 James Crotty
 Robert Lange
 Paul Heubach
 Ben Lease
 Robert Greenberg
 Charles Proctor
 George Gardes
 Bruce Olsen
 George Lykowski
 Robert Ettinger
 William Hoverson
 Ronald Smith

We also wish to announce the pledging of Phillip Pettes, C.E.-41.

The pledge dance was a "screaming success" when at midnight, the lights snapped out and a phosphorescent skeleton came glowing down the steps, and strolled amongst the dancers. The house was original in its decorations, and with the help of Art Janke's orchestra, the Phi Kaps had a time of it.

It seems that some of the boys in the house have found a new way to while away the unoccupied moment. Frequent "Jam Sessions" form the new diversion.

DELTA TAU DELTA

Practice for the approaching bowling tournament and preparations for the coming ping-pong battle with last year's champs have been among the forms of diversion common around the "Delt" house.

However, though inter-fraternity competition spurs during the week, the week-end saw a radio dance on Saturday night, and a Mothers' Club tea Sunday afternoon.

Scherer passed out cigars last Tuesday because he is no longer wearing his badge.

THETA XI

While the men stand about in our rooms thinking over the enjoyable hours that were spent at our Shamrock Party a la the pledge group; Chief Editor-in-Chief Emmerich is working frantically to feed the giant rotary presses as they turn out the *Alpha Gamma News*.

Decorative paddles are being exchanged between the new initiates and the graduating seniors. They're very fine examples of woodcraft, and they certainly are appreciated.

SIGMA ALPHA MU

Sigma Alpha Mu is pleased to announce the pledging of

Paul Mayer, Ch. E. '41.
 Charles Iker, Ch. E. '41.

Plans have been made for a Parent-Alumni Meeting to be held on the evening of March 16th, at the chapter house. Paul Sang will speak on his recently completed tour of Europe.

Details have been completed for Sigma Alpha Mu's Annual Water Frolic, to be held on the evening of March 18, at the Medinah Athletic Club.

Fraters have been busy for the past week polishing up their paddles in preparation for the hell week and initiation which will start next week.

ARX NEWS

T'heck (yes, tech) with introductions.

It seems as though one audacious freshman, Poor by name, was in want of a date for the Mad Hatters' Ball and wishing to take one of the art school gals, went up to one in the cafeteria and inquired if that nice young thing would swing it with him. To which she replied, "Maybe you had better ask one of the students!" There are rumors that she was either a teacher or a model. Good taste, anyway, I guess.

Our Swedish Smoking Swami Swanson has queer taste in pipe tobaccos, for just the other day he was using sawdust and cut up rubber bands in his tobacco mixture. Odd.

Professor Potter's un-Passionate Pupils in Physics are in a state about about the way locomotives go: D-ING, DING, DING, DING, D-ING-G.

We have at long last (me and the duke) found out a definition for Burnham's "nosey parker." It's the same as a quidnunc.

Maybe it's just as well that so many men in the department are cultivating mustaches, because after seeing how terrific the other guy looks, they can tear home to remove their feeble growth.

T'heck with conclusions.

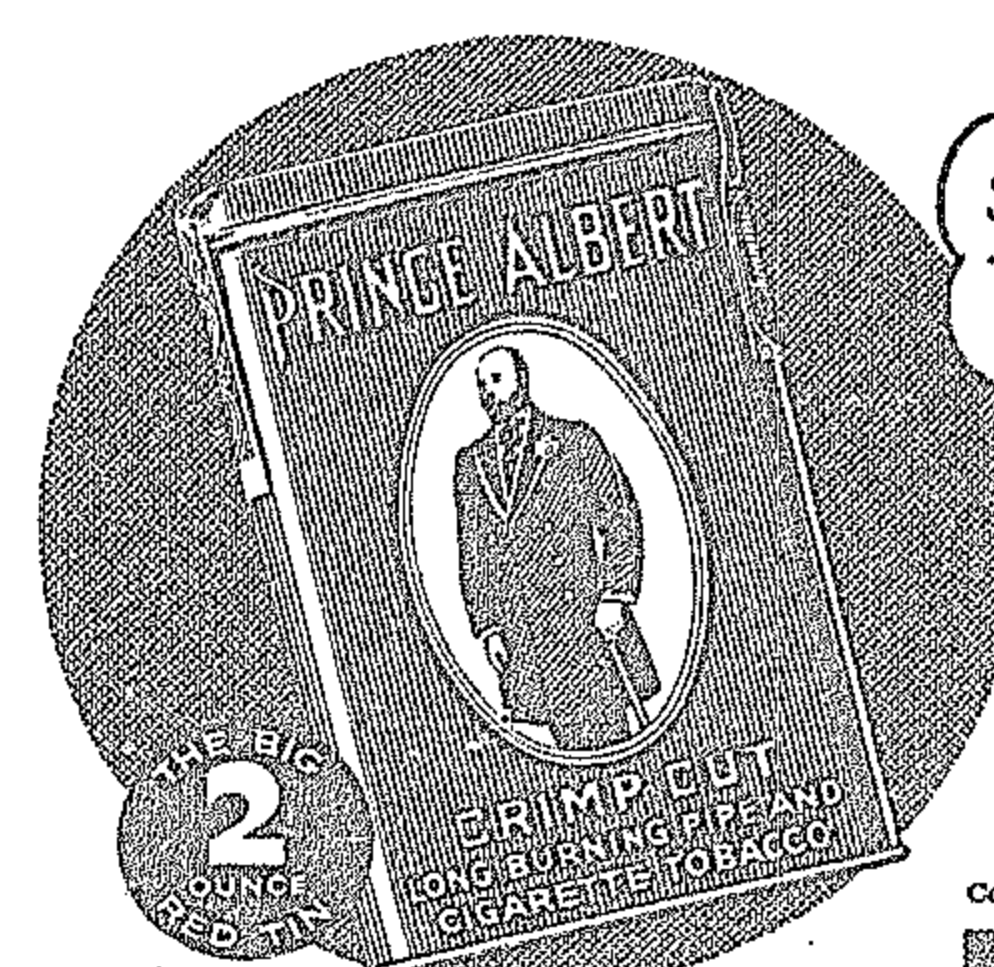
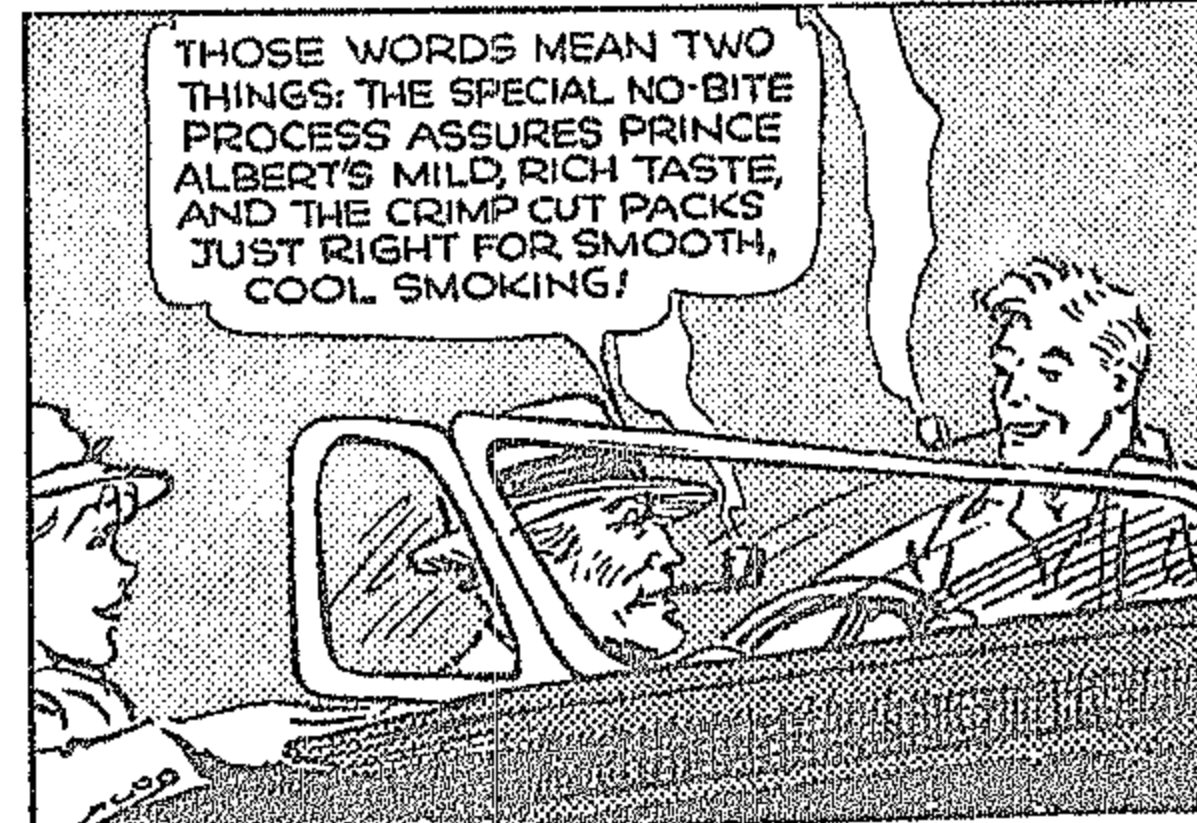
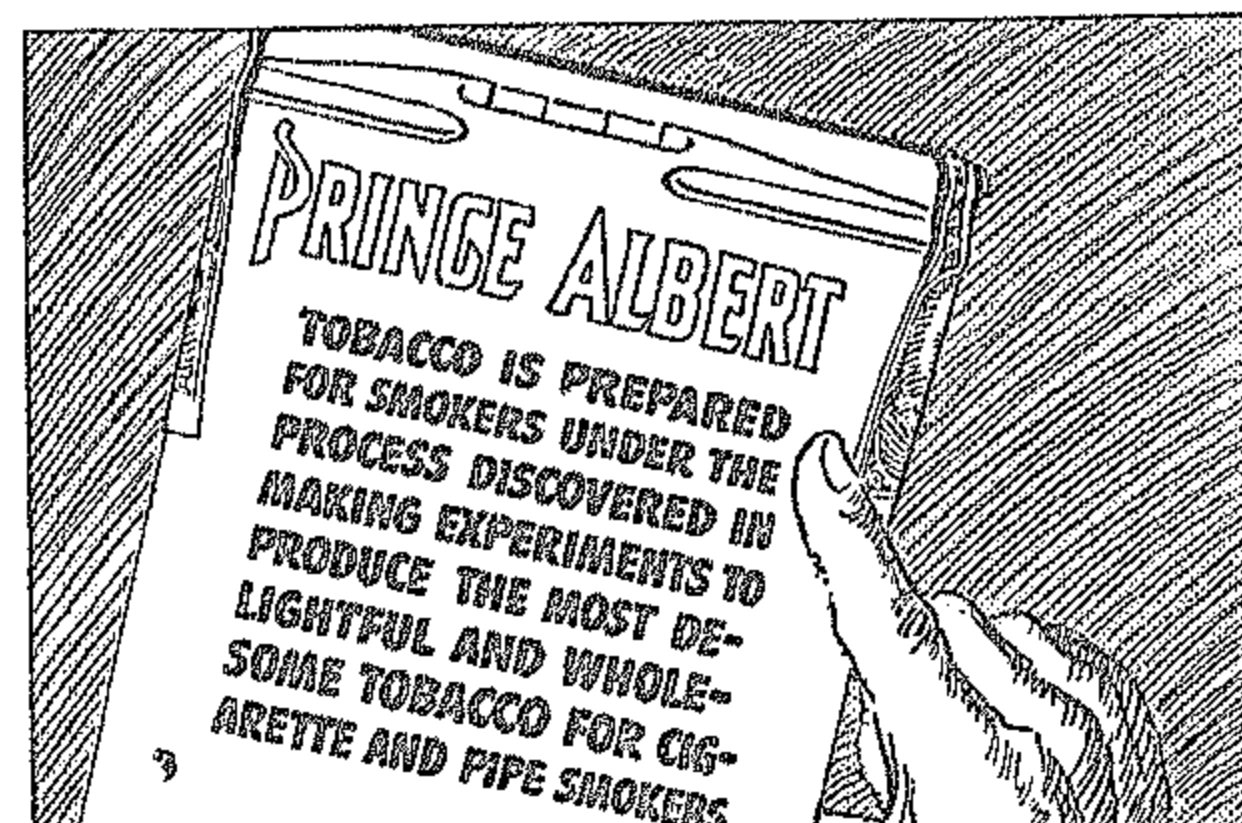
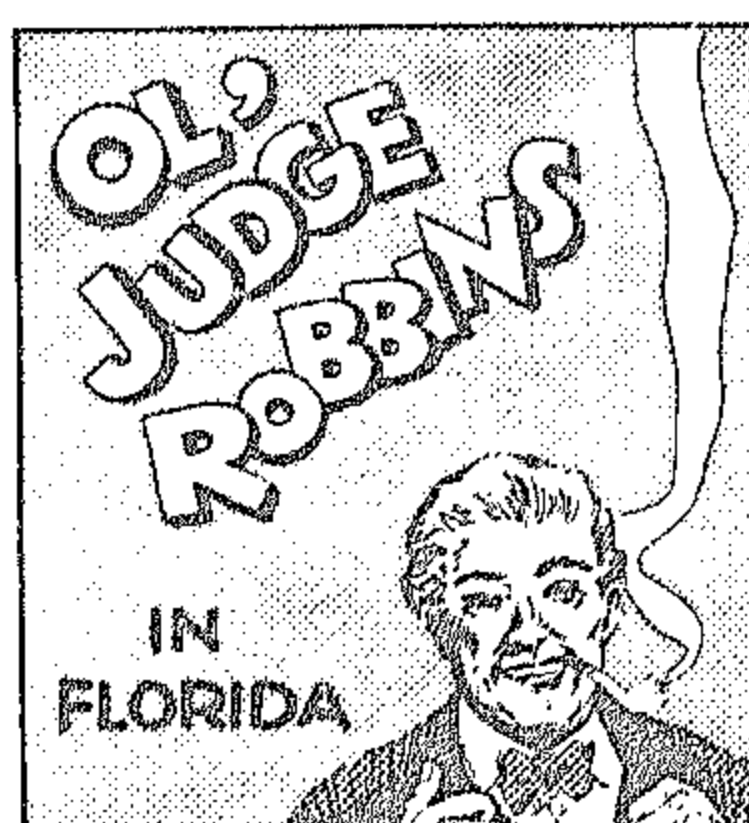
BOZ-ART.

Eta Kappa Nu—

(Continued from page one)

Many noted men representing the business world, included patent lawyers, research directors, business men, and electrical engineers, spoke and discussed topics at this meeting.

Attending this conference were delegates from numerous college chapters, members of alumni groups, and professors and instructors of electrical engineering. The conference took place in the Auditorium Hotel, and the Saturday meeting at which Dr. Poulter spoke was held in the Blue Room.



I'M SURE GLAD I STARTED MY PIPE-SMOKING CAREER WITH PRINCE ALBERT. THAT MEANS EXTRA-MILD, RICH-TASTING SMOKE FOR LIFE!

SMOKE 20 FRAGRANT PIPEFULS of Prince Albert. If you don't find it the mellowest, tastiest pipe tobacco you ever smoked, return the packet tin with the rest of the tobacco in it to us at any time within a month from this date, and we will refund full purchase price, plus postage.

(Signed) R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Co., Winston-Salem, North Carolina

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