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MARCH 19, 1941

THE NAVY . . .

For the second time in the past month Armour campus played harbor to the United States Navy. Yes, the Navy steamed in, gold braid and all, only to weigh anchor forty-eight hours later, leaving behind the torpedoed hopes of some 120 junior and senior engineering students aspiring to serve their country in time of national "crisis." We quote the word crisis, because somehow we are beginning to question the kind of a crisis this is that puts brawn above brains, a crisis that demands Tarzans for drawing boards and Ulysses for research labs. With the anguished and tearful cries of the National Government for more and more trained engineers and technical men ringing in our ears, we present you now with the results of the first concerted attempt to obtain them . . . over 90% of the students, carefully selected by the school, rejected by the Naval medical examining board.

In a final desperate appeal, John J. Schommer, securing special last minute permission of Commander J. M. Ross, dashed down to the lunchroom to announce before those gathered that all applicants who had previously not been accepted by the school board and those now interested who had never applied were now invited to immediately report for medical examination. The response to his plea swelled the ranks of applicants to between 300 to 400, as compared to the original 100. From these, 64 students finally passed the physical. But gone were the original requirements that engineering scholastic ability and general character were to be the prime requisites for selection.

The February 18 issue of Technology News reports the first visit of the Navy, when Admiral Yarnell and staff appeared before an assembly of junior and senior engineering students to conduct a recruiting drive. There can be no doubt of the favorable impression they left after them. The case they presented was an eloquent one, a scholarly

one. In considerable detail was explained the intricate technical problems that confronted the Navy in their tremendous new building program.

Said they, greatly needed are men of the training this college supplies; mechanical and civil engineers to help design and build destroyers, mechanical engineers to build huge guns, electrical engineers to electrify them, chemical engineers to work on our explosives, aeronautical engineers to produce navy planes, radio engineers to improve airplane communication facilities. And for this purpose, commissions as ensigns in the navy reserve were to be given to selected engineering students of high calibre. Active service would commence upon graduation with surprisingly generous salaries. Pertinent to their problem of speedily fulfilling the needed quotas of engineers was the assurance that THE BARS WERE TO BE LET DOWN IN THE PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS which are prerequisite to acceptance of the applicant. Is it any wonder that the response to this offer was tremendous, that the Institute was able to quickly recommend over 100 upperclass engineering students of, and note this, high mental and moral calibre, men supposedly able to fulfill the requirements of an officer. Is it any wonder that these boys cheerfully waded through the rigmarole of red tape demanding birth certificates, photographs, letters of recommendation, and the filling out of three different application blanks. And, if you please, may we be so bold as to ask—FOR WHAT? Not, we think, to be finally told that a missing molar, a few shoulder pimples, weak uncorrected eyes, and other such simple irregularities are major drawbacks in the cause of science.

The reply of the Navy, that the physical requirements were reduced somewhat, is, to our minds, a forlorn answer. It is an answer implying to them a sense of values which is suicidal in a time of national crisis. They ask that young scholars with engineering minds vouched for by the faculty of a first flight technical school be turned away for small physical imperfections, preferring the physically perfect to do a job which requires mind, not muscle.

We seriously doubt, gentlemen of the Navy, that Einstein could, at the present time, lift a sixty pound weight. Tsk, too bad, Mr. Einstein, can't use you.

And we close with a final thought, dear Naval gentlemen, Take no frail geniuses. Yours will be the satisfaction of a technical staff with a fine advance physical rating.

What is the program for engineering accomplishment?

Tom Brown.

GREEN CAPS . . .

This week has again ushered in one of this institution's oldest and most notable customs—"the wearin' o' the green." Freshmen at Armour have always been required to wear the small green caps, not with the purpose of causing hardship and strife, but to bond them together by virtue of the singularity of their group. In past years, freshmen not complying with this traditional rule were, at times, forcibly dealt with, but the last few years have brought about a gradual decrease in the degree of violence used.

The sophomores have, as a matter of custom, always been the self-appointed enforcers of the rule. Harassing of freshmen was carried out until Junior Week when a climax resembling modern blitzkrieg warfare was reached. As a result of the ensuing brawls, members of both the freshman and the sophomore class suffered scholastically as well as physically.

The faculty, the managing board of this publication and the majority of the upper-classmen are of the opinion that such hazing is detrimental to the welfare of the student body as a whole. The classes missed, the bruises and broken bones incurred, and the distasteful impression left with company representatives visiting the school, all go to out-balance the "good" points involved—namely, "fun" and the exercise.

We propose that all wrestling, hurling and running be confined, for the next few months at least, to the gymnasium and the athletic field where it will do the most good for IIT. We propose that any freshman not willing to wear the symbolic green cap with the rest of his schoolmates should be allowed to do what he pleases, even though it segregates him from the rest of his class. This, in itself, should be punishment enough for the "lone wolf" without any violence on the part of the sophomore class. Students attending this school have too much at stake to allow high schoolish antics stand between them and their purpose.

D.B.

QUOTE & UNQUOTE

Let Us Name It

It is generally accepted around school that the name of the yearbook for the year 1940-41 is to be the "Polygon." Who backed this name? Is it a selection of the students? No! definitely it is not. The name was picked by the yearbook staff and this staff is not elected by the student body. After all, the yearbook is a publication of the students, by the students and for the students. I should think that the students would have a right to pick the name of their own book.

Understand this is not a kick about the name "Polygon," but rather one against the method of selection. After all we pay for the book.

There is no reason why the ITSA. cannot conduct a vote for the name of our yearbook. Perhaps it would take two votes, but then is that so difficult? The first vote could be for any of 20 or 30 names that have already been suggested by the students, last fall. The second vote could pick one name from the top four or five in the previous vote.

The name thus selected would be, truly, one picked by the student body, the vote having been carried on, of course, at both Lewis and Armour campuses. This is a plea for democratic ideals, for fair play, and for our rights. It is not too late. Let's do something about it now.

Junior Commission.

Co-operate

Some of the freshmen at the Armour campus have objected, I suppose just to bring attention to themselves, to the wearing of the green hats. Such students will be considered by the freshman class as a whole as outsiders. This is "our" year as freshmen. I plan to make the most of it. We should get together and the wearing of the green hat is our distinction. The opportunity of this occasion for organization of the first class of IIT will never be the same. Let's all wear the green hats. We will be wearing them because we want to wear them, not because of the implications that might be rived from the class of '43.

Ulysses Backas

Have We Grown Up?

Why is it that the boss is always such a dumb guy? Perhaps the best answer is that if the boss were the employee, and the employee the boss, the boss would still be a "dumb guy". This same relation also exists between parents and children, and between professors and students. The relation is no different.

I do not mean to infer in any way that the quality of college teachers is not as good as it might be, and some of the suggestions on this matter in a recent article in this column are excellent indeed; but to attribute inattention and the "I don't care" attitude of unembellished lectures is, I believe, stretching the point.

Personally, I don't see how a student can pay much attention to a classroom lecture if he doesn't know what the professor is talking about. And if the lecture is what it should be, the student will not know what the professor is talking about unless he has studied his textbook! In other words, if you haven't studied your book, and you do know what is being discussed in class, rush down to the business office and get your money back. Either you already know the subject or you are not going to get as much out of the course as you should.

All this revolves around the question of what the purpose of a classroom lecture is. It should emphasize the most important points which almost all the texts omit, and most of all, it should coordinate the material so that the student may see some of the forest besides the trees. It need not be a form of entertainment. It should not try to stuff a subject down the students' throat!

By the time we get to college, we should be past the grade school phenomenon of learning a subject in the classroom. We should be able to stand on our own feet, and to be able to get most of a given subject matter alone. If we can not do so, I'm afraid that we just are not of college caliber.

Studios.

The editors of Technology News wish to thank the student body for the hearty response to this newly organized column.

KUFFEL TALKS TO INSURANCE MEN

Sometime next month, Illinois Tech will become a mecca for insurance men. Plans are now under way for an insurance conference to be held here.

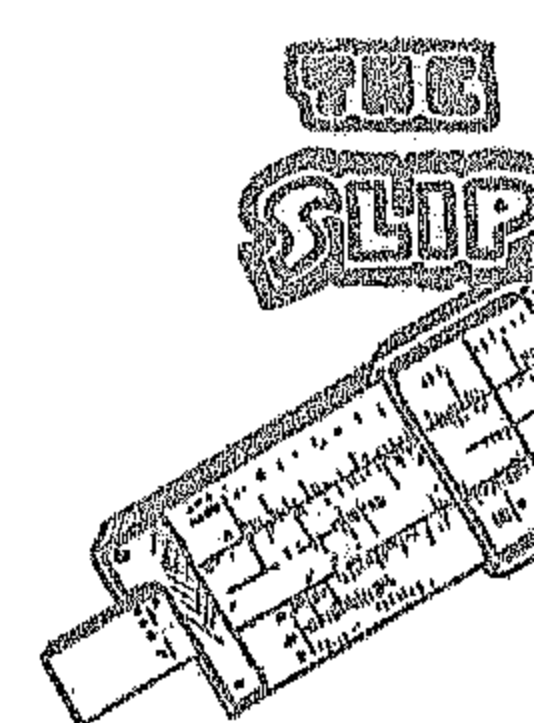
Arrangements are being made through Mr. Wilton S. Kuffel, assistant western manager of the Phoenix Insurance Company. Mr. Kuffel is an Armour graduate of 1927. The school will act as host, providing class-rooms and probably a banquet for the guests.

The subjects to be discussed by the men at the conference deal with insurance practice and fire protection engineering in the night school semester beginning next September. These will be the first night school courses from the fire protection curriculum to be offered in recent years. In the second semester of the 1941-42 school year an elective course in fire protection engineering will probably be offered to day-school students who are not fire protectors.

NEW LAB COURSE FOR SENIOR M.E.'S

The mechanical engineering department has instituted a mechanical laboratory course for seniors. It consists of two parts: fifteen lectures on modern laboratory practices given by the professors of the M.E. department, and work on projects in which the students are divided into small groups which make a thorough study of some piece of equipment. In some cases, the students do part of the construction work. There are about seventy seniors taking this course at the present time.

Some of the projects are testing a turbo-generator, investigation of air conditioning equipment, studying the pressure drop in pipe lines, and studying the effect of different kinds of insulation on pipe. The purpose of this course is to develop knowledge and initiation in laboratory technique which is essential in engineering practice.



The top of the chorus girl said the stage, "Here before the house"

Rastus and I when suddenly I came up with a "Did you all see mah equilibrium?" "Ah sho did," most before I no

The patient u monia. He had and finally the spoonful of rice A few minutes her and said: "N Bring me a post"

They say the free air in a gar

Doctor: The be up cigarettes, li Patient: What'

Ed Zdrubek: C She: Sure, wh

There was a yo Who hadn't an He indulg To touch (Most any last

Kind Lady: W the man? What's live?

Small Boy: T don't know my moved yesterday again today.

Seagull No. 1 down there belo Seagull No. 2: in the lead.

Seagull No. 3: thing I had on

A young lady in a small town station where sh "There's no k you can sleep w "Sir!" she excl I'm a lady." "That's alrigh "so is the statio

Marriage is th comes between

Gather your kis Time brings For the girl Are the ch

TO AL "Tsk, tsk! Re to be in runnin "Yes, her fate"

A patient pur to a salesman. ter, "you must be psychic. Now the minds of the I know what's "Well, then," ing agent, "why

No wonder Wears o For it has ju It first

And we come Elizabeth might eigh, "Keep you