

# TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Man Of The Week

## Charles Rowbotham, October Senior Mech, Is California Bound After Graduation

By MILTON BURKART

Meet the fellow who turned down a \$230 a month job, Charles Rowbotham, the Man of the Week. To underclassmen this may seem like a huge sacrifice, but to the seniors graduating on October 17, 1943, such refusals are routine. Jobs are plentiful and engineers are scarce.

Rowbotham, a senior mechanical, and the other graduates are literally swamped with offers of positions. The big task (which causes sleepless nights and loss of hair) is picking the job with the biggest contribution to the war effort and with the brightest future.

He even went to the Human Engineering Laboratory to see just what his aptitudes are.

After receiving some booklets from the California Chamber of Commerce describing the beautiful land of sunshine and romance, Chuck is certain that California is the place to live. He and his California-crazy classmates claim they are leaving for the coast on Monday, October 18.

Going full-blast-ahead is nothing new for this guy, because he has always taken on as

many activities as he could possibly handle and still do justice to his engineering education. His biggest job for the past year has been the position of feature editor on *Technology News*. As a prelude to this position, Chuck wrote the Co-op Column for two years. Now he is responsible for pages two and three of this paper. His is also the



task of censoring the "Slipstick."

In recognition of his work on *Technology News* he was elected to Sphinx, IIT's honorary journalism society. Due to a peculiar chain of circumstances Rowbotham was elected president of Sphinx thirty minutes after his formal initiation.

The 2.5 average of the "Man of the Week" gives him the position of fifth man in his class. Rowbotham was the only man in his class to be elected, as a junior, to Tau Beta Pi, national honorary fraternity for all engineers. Pi Tau Sigma, national honorary fraternity for mechanical engineers, also elected Chuck to membership as a junior.

The "Beast Club", an organization which promoted push-ups and chin-ups among IIT students was originated by Rowbotham. The varsity track team had Chuck as one of their two-milers for a year.

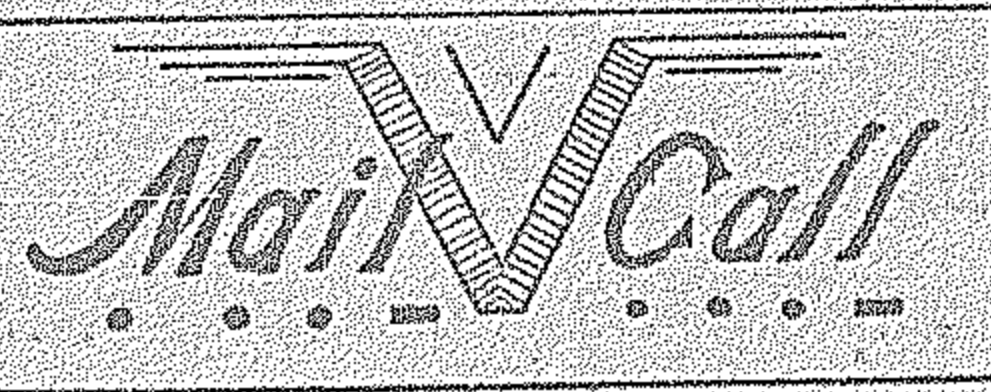
Concerning this sport Chuck remarked, "How those crowds would cheer when I swished past the grandstand headed for the finish, two laps behind the other runners. I guess they (and I) were afraid I wouldn't make the finish."

Approximately 90 per cent of his college expenses were earned as a cooperative student at the Chicago Screw Company. The other 10 per cent came from the Eckhart Scholarship awarded him in his senior year.

At the Chicago Screw Company Chuck worked in a variety of departments learning all machines and processes. He was vice-president and also president of a club for the twenty cooperative students working for this company.

Rowbotham is also a member of the Camera Club, the Inter-honorary council and the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, a co-op class officer for three years, an SUBC representative, and a promoter of anything and everything.

The future?—that is a vague mist. However, Chuck is an exponent of the five year engineering course developing cultured, well-rounded engineers, and consequently will take his "fifth" year of college in night school with plenty of economics, languages, and literature.



(EDITOR'S NOTE: Items concerning IIT men and women in the armed services will be printed in this column, and excerpts from letters from these men and women will also be presented. Contributions to the column will be welcomed, and the newspaper staff will make every effort to obtain news and letters from the stars of Illinois Tech's service flag—a group now numbering more than 700.)

By LOU WENDEL

Lt. Richard M. Guetzow, Ch. E. '43, stationed at Arcadia, Calif., as a member of the Faculty and Staff of the Instrument Repair Section sends greetings and requests his cronies to write him.

His address can be obtained at the Tech News office Thursday afternoon or by contacting the writer.

Dick writes further that he married soon after receiving his commission and he was so busy that he could not spare the time from his furlough to visit his friends on the campus.

Second Lieutenant Jack E. Glatt, former IIT student, is now attached at the San Angelo, Texas, Bombardier School where he is an instructor.

V V V

Since leaving IIT Isadore E. Kriesberg, C.E. '43, stationed at Fort Worth, Texas, has had an opportunity to use some of the knowledge he acquired here as evidenced by this part of his letter.

"At the present time, I'm writing a structural repair handbook for our C-87 army transport airplane. This manual is to be used by inexperienced men at foreign air bases. I find the work interesting.

V V V

From Fort Schuyler comes a letter written by Ray Smith, M.E. '43, giving an account of the activities of some of our alumni now in the services. Excerpts follow.

"D. J. Keigher is having quite a time with studies on the Prairie State (now stationed on the U.S.S. Knapp) as is most everyone else over there. An unofficial 'Bilge List' has come out over there but as far as he can find out no one from Armour has been bilged.

"Bob Kearney, F.P.E. '42, left N.Y. last weekend for a week in York, Pa. He is receiving further fire control training there and then expects to be in Chicago for a week. From there he expects sea duty.

"While touring the Brooklyn Navy Yard last week I ran into Gene Clears, E.E. '42. He is based at the yard and services equipment on ships entering the yard.

"Peter Vander Ploeg, M.E.C. '43, is also stationed here at Fort Schuyler. I have no orders as yet so don't know what to expect."

V V V

From the eastern battlefields comes a letter written by Pvt. Lee Pummer, former sophomore juicer. The details of some of Lee's adventures follow.

"Early in 1942 I left the states for Australia. After a short preparation there, I was shipped to New Caledonia to help hold it as a base and to train in jungle fighting. My work entails scouting and ground observation work.

"Later we were moved to Guadalcanal in support of the Marines and witnessed a good part of the Jap defeat. Having escaped without wounds or serious sickness, I'm still overseas, enjoying a temporary rest."

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### 'Service With a Smile'

Next semester the Registrar's office will compute only those averages which are better than a "B." Such was the statement Dr. Charles Kepner made to me last week when I inquired about averages.

By this statement are we to believe that a man below a two point average is so low a creature as to have no interest in his school standing? This may be so in a liberal arts college but things are different in an engineering school.

Today it is often necessary that a student's average be computed correctly. Mr. Schommer's office often requires a student's average, and an error or lack of computation may mean a great deal.

Dr. Kepner's answer to this is probably that every student has his own record of his courses at home. This may be so, but who would take a student's own word when an accurate statement is needed.

There have been cases brought to my attention where students with better than "B" averages have found definite errors in their records. These errors may have occurred before Dr. Kepner took over the registrar's office, but his attitude doesn't promise any change.

I remember quite well a statement that he made when he made his first address to a portion of the student body. Speaking to the freshmen and their senior advisors he said that his office was to be one of *service with a smile*. You were to leave the office with a smile he said. Nobody was to be disappointed.

I think that his office staff (the largest that any registrar has had in recent history) has tried to smile as often as it was able to. But those who have left the office haven't always had a smile and quite often they possessed a frown.

The registrar of a school of this size has many problems. That is why he was given as much help as he has. Two former registrars are among his helpers. His office has been allowed to expand so that the numerous files could be housed in the same building. Yet there seems to be no marked improvement in registrar office activities as far as I can see.

Students ask only two things from the registrar. They would occasionally like to check their averages so that in later years they can be sure all who ask for them will receive an accurate account. Errors can be made (it is only human), but a student wants to correct it when it is made. It may be too late after five or ten years.

Secondly, they would like registration made as easy and efficient as possible. These are not the only jobs a registrar handles by far, but if the student body is to be kept happy and smiling these two jobs should be done correctly.

—BACKAS



(EDITOR'S NOTE: This column is for expression of ideas from readers. Letters containing not more than 250 words will be printed. Anonymous letters will not be considered for publication, although a writer's name will be withheld from publication if desired. The Managing Board reserves the right to select the letters to be printed whenever the number of letter submitters exceeds the space allotted for this column.)

To the Editor,

In our experience the consideration tendered student complaints pertaining to curriculum and methods of instruction as well as instructor ability has been particularly poor and in many cases practically non-existent. The result has been that the complaining and griping continued and a certain stigma has attached to the so-called "moaners".

We realize of course that we are on the first rungs of the educational ladder; that we don't have twenty years of "teaching" experience, and possibly, because of this lack of background, our complaints have not been rational.

So now, instead of further complaints, we would like to cite an example of a course, a teacher, and a method of instruction which we unanimously agree is about the best and most inspiring we have yet been exposed to. Namely, the course in electronics taught by Prof. Paul G. Andres.

First, Prof. Andres has a thorough grasp of both the subject and its historical development. Along with this he has a wide and up to date knowledge of its practical applications.

His lectures are excellently organized and stress fundamental conceptions rather than specific details and relatively minor factual information which are forgotten shortly after examinations.

Engineering handbooks are the engineer's reference for the latter, and while we recognize the importance of the handbook, its function is relatively narrow. We do not relish becoming "Handbook Engineers" but many of our classes are leading us to that very thing.

Finally, Prof. Andres doesn't treat the student body as a group of empty flasks sent here by proud parents to be filled with "Knowledge".

The student is treated as an adult individual capable of thought, and under this treatment he rapidly responds and loses those remnants of adolescent characteristics which are so painfully evident both on the campus and in other classrooms.

Eighty satisfied senior co-ops

Dear Editor;

I wish to congratulate Mr. Gordon Erickson, members of the combined army, navy, civilian Illinois Tech band and the glee club for a fine program Friday, September 16. The addition of the new Navy and Army men has created a band that has plenty of volume. All that brass in a nice brisk march not only stirs one up but really shakes the rafters and walls, not only literally but actually.

The numbers performed in the program were very well chosen and everyone around me enjoyed them very much.

A concert of these martial and the fine glee club performance helps to relieve the tensive monotony of school work as well as a mental "tone-up". For this reason, I would like to hear from them.

If Mr. Erickson rewards us with another concert, I would enjoy hearing the glee club sing a spirited hearing the band play a few Romberg tunes.

Thanks for a swell performance.  
Earl S. Goldie