

TECHNOLOGY NEWS

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Square Pegs

Last week attention was focused by this department on the apparent uselessness of most of the clubs and organizations at IIT, and it was propounded that the reason for this was to be found in the faculty indifference in student affairs, and the student antagonism toward faculty intervention and suspicion of administrative action.

While the suspicion of administrative action can be erased if the administration will adopt a frankness with the student body in matters that concern them, it is felt that the student-faculty problem is of sufficient importance that we should talk it over with you in our last editorial.

Which came first, the faculty indifference or the student antagonism, it is not known. It is enough that it is here and is hurting both.

The state of the average club is sufficient proof that something is needed that is not present now. This something is a faculty advisor with a conscience.

It is not the job of a faculty advisor to run the club, to plan its activities, to select new members, or to do any of the actual work connected with an activity, but it is his job to see that these things are done.

When it has been left to the students, many of them are not done.

The facts speak for themselves:

How many clubs keep adequate records?

How many clubs could say who their members were ten years ago, or even five?

How many projects, brought to life years ago, that might have matured into a lasting benefit to everyone and remain as a tribute to those who carried them through, have been lost in the intervening turnover?

How many societies can even name their present faculty advisors?

Someone is necessary to an organization's well-being who is interested in the students, in their ideas, and who is willing to spend a little effort in seeing that they are directed along the right channels.

How many worth-while projects have been abandoned because they could not be completed during the tenure of one group, but could have seen fruition had the viewpoint been extended by the presence of someone who had the over-all interest of the organization in mind? This is just one of the things which most Illinois Tech organizations lack now—but which could be had with competent and interested faculty advisors.

Students are responsible for much of the disinterest on the part of faculty advisors, however, for all too often they discourage any real interest or activity on the part of their advisors. The number of REAL faculty ADVISORS who are really performing any worthwhile service could now be counted on one hand—or less.

A faculty advisor who does nothing should not be tolerated. Remember, however, that when an advisor starts to do something—to drive or to goad the members into PROPER ACTION—that advisor must be given a chance to show his full intentions and to prove his worth. He must not be criticized, condemned and crucified; if he is, the present sad condition of affairs can be expected to continue.

The dean of students should see that action is taken. "Fire" the faculty advisor who does nothing, or if it is the club itself which does nothing, or which is found to purposeless, disband the club.

There are enough clubs, and enough men, who can and will offer something positive, to make real progress. Why, then, allow Illinois Tech's social structure to continue to weaken with the aging of this sad situation that is a joint student-faculty responsibility?

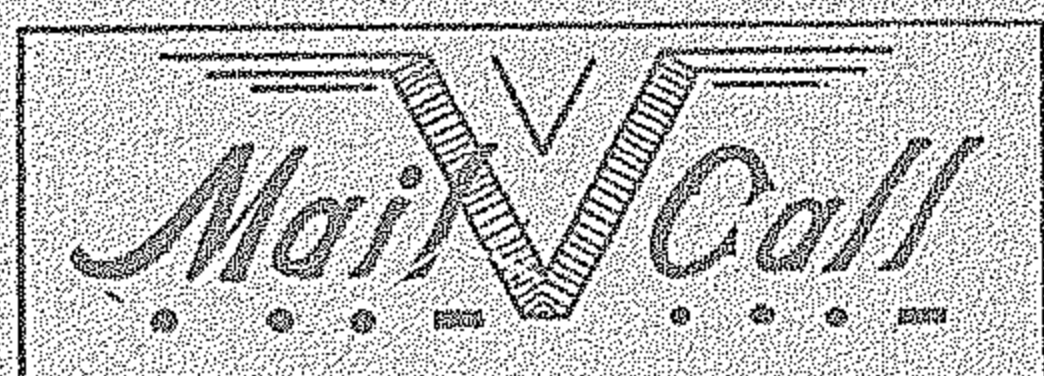
Time has come to end the stagnation of student affairs at Illinois Tech.

—LARSON

Man Of The Week

Soderberg, Tau Beta and Pi Tau Sigma Member, Graduates as 'Honor Man'

By CHARLES ROWBOTHAM



(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 1331.)

By LOU WENGEL

A communique from the Public Relations Office of Maxwell Field, Alabama, states that Harry J. Goepfinger, M.E.C. 2, Albert F. Kiaup, M.E.C. 3, and Richard Puente, M.E. 3, have reported to the Army Air Forces Pre-Flight School for pilots at Maxwell Field, to begin the third phase of their training as pilots in the U.S. Army Air Forces' expanding program.

These aviation cadets are receiving nine weeks of intensive physical, military and academic instruction at Maxwell Field, preparatory to beginning their actual flight training at one of the many primary flying schools located in the Army Air Forces Eastern Flying Training Command.

V V V

Not many I.I.T. students are aware of the activities carried on at both campuses by the Engineering, Science and Management War Training Program. The fact is that the ranks of industry are being replenished by these men and women who are putting in a full day at their normal jobs and then spending the entire evening at school. Just how helpful such training can be is found in a letter written by one of the former night electrical students, Sidney Bernstein, now a seaman first class in the Seabees.

"I am now a chief electrician's mate in the Seabees, stationed at Camp Planey, Va., and I can truthfully say that the knowledge I gained from the several courses I completed at Lewis had a great deal to do with my receiving this rating.

"I think that you at I.I.T. are doing a wonderful job in the war effort and I don't think the country knows how much good you have accomplished.

"The instructors have been very helpful, and I don't believe they could be more energetic and anxious to help even if we had paid for our courses."

V V V

Ensign E. P. Lipp, U.S.N.R., is serving as engineering officer on one of the sub chasers somewhere on the briny deep. In a recent letter to Prof. Roesch, he says his only complaint is that he believes they should receive extra pay for flight duty as well as for submarine duty as they certainly serve in the air and under the surface on the same trip.

V V V

The following is a War Department communique from the headquarters of the Army Air Forces Bombardier School in Carlsbad, New Mexico.

"Stepping up its preparations to lambast the axis, the Army Air Forces has graduated another class from its Central Instructors School for Bombardiers at Carlsbad, New Mexico.

"Included is Second Lieutenant Jack E. Glatt, who is regularly stationed at San Angelo, Texas, A.A.F., where is a bombardier instructor.

"Lt. Glatt will return to his home station where he will instruct his cadet classes in techniques learned at the teachers college for bombardiers."

Scholastically tops in his class, Jack Soderberg, V-12 mechanical engineering student, will be "honor man" at the graduation this Sunday. Public praise for his scholastic achievements will be awarded Jack at that time; campus recognition is presented today as "Man of the Week."

"Extra-curricular activities are an essential part of a real engineer." With such an attitude Jack's blonde head is a familiar sight in Illinois Tech circles. Tau Beta Pi, national honorary fraternity for all engineers, elected Jack to membership this semester. In this organization Jack shares the distinction of being one of the two V-12 actives.

The vice-president's office of Pi Tau Sigma, national honorary fraternity for mechanical engineers, was filled by Soderberg for the past 16 weeks.

A pledge for 18 weeks—Jack has to tell a long story when kidded about this record length of pledge-ship in Triangle social fraternity. It seems that Jack, a co-operative student, went through six weeks of pledging and then had to return to industry for the nine week work period.

When the school term started, Jack had to fall in with a new group of pledges and, three weeks later, was finally initiated.

The rest of Jack's spare time has been spent as a co-op class officer for two years, and as a member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, Society for Automotive Engineers, IIT Dance Club, and the Technology News circulation staff.

Hal Kemp is Soderberg's favorite orchestra. In fact, eighty of Hal's records (practically all he has recorded) are a part of Soderberg's collection of 400 popular and classical "platters."

Another of Jack's pastimes was track mechanic for a midget racer. His chief hobby and also his favorite subject is still mathematics.

Jack's co-operative work at the American Steel Foundries reads like an engineer's dream: four round trips to Los Angeles and a round trip to Kansas City, all on the Santa Fe Super Chief, test rides in freight cars at 100 m.p.h., development and design work.

The trips to L.A. and Kansas City occupied seven weeks of an eight week work period. Jack and another chap were instrument men when the company tested brakes installed on a Super Chief Pullman.

Jack put in about 90 hours per week at the usual time and a half, ate the best meals served in the diner, slept in lower berths, and stayed at the best hotels, all at company expense. Incidentally the one-way fare to L.A., if Jack had to pay it, is about \$115.00.

As a V-12 student, Jack's immediate future is midshipmen's school. Engineering officer on a destroyer escort vessel will be Soderberg's request after he earns his ensign's stripe.

When this war is won, Jack intends to return to American Steel Foundries and continue working toward his engineering career goal—design, development, and research.

The Collegiate World

College courses by mail has been instituted at the University of Kentucky, under the sponsorship of the Armed Forces Institute. Correspondence courses for military personnel who have been in active service is the main theme of this undertaking. The government will pay half the expenses of texts and tuition for the enlisted men. Women in the auxiliaries have the opportunity of taking the same courses as the men.

from our READERS

(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.)

Dear Editor,

A time honored custom at Illinois Tech that graduates are excused from writing finals is, in my opinion, a good one.

But non-graduating students, in the great minority, are required to write finals in classes where graduating seniors are excused. This may cause an unfair lowering of the grades of the few students who are writing these finals.

The occasions where many non-graduating students are in the same classes as graduates are few. For example, in the Aerodynamics course there are about five out of thirty who are not graduating. Should their grades suffer a possible lowering due to a final when they have done as well as the graduating seniors throughout the semester?

Two fairer alternatives are these. A quiz in the last hour may be given to all; or the instructor may take into full consideration all elements of scale grading and so judge the few who must write.

It is unfair to lower a scale grade because of an extra quiz. The just act would be to only consider raising the grades if the final showed considerable improvement.

Sid Baker

To the Students,

The approaching final exams find students in one of several frames of mind. There is the student who is honestly interested in his work and will study diligently to pass the exams. Then there are other types with the I-don't-care-if-I-pass attitude; and also the ones who will use any means to pass, whether the means be honest or otherwise.

The Honor Board is interested mainly in the last classification, not to pass judgment on them, but to make an effort to lead them away from such practices. For one thing, the Honor System is still in effect during these exams, for instructor and student alike. The exams should be an indication of how much a student has learned or remembered during the semester, and not an indication of how much a student has learned to cheat.

It takes a MAN to admit that he hasn't got the ability or the required time to grasp a subject. Cheating is certainly not the method of learning a subject during the two hours of a final exam. Whether a student eventually goes into the armed service or industry, "stolen" credits will soon be noticed in the eyes of experienced men.

Remember that honor begins with first blush of conscience.

Earl R. Mills

Vice-chairman, Honor Board.

Tech Time Table

Wednesday, October 13
7:10 p.m.—Tau Omega—I Ae S
West Dining Room
5:30 p.m.—WSE—Board meeting
202M
Thursday, October 14
Friday, October 15
9:12 p.m.—Rho Delta Rho
Dance Lounge
Saturday, October 16
9:30 p.m.—1 a.m.—Senior Closed
Dance
Oceanic Room of Knickerbocker Hotel