

TECHNOLOGY NEWS

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Man Of The Week—

Backas, Champion of Student Causes, No Stranger to Job of Office-Holding

By RAY OLSON

Two weeks ago the junior class elected Ulysses Backas as its vice president, last week his fellow students named this same fellow to the honor board in another election, and this week he becomes *Technology News*' "Man of the Week" in recognition of these honors.

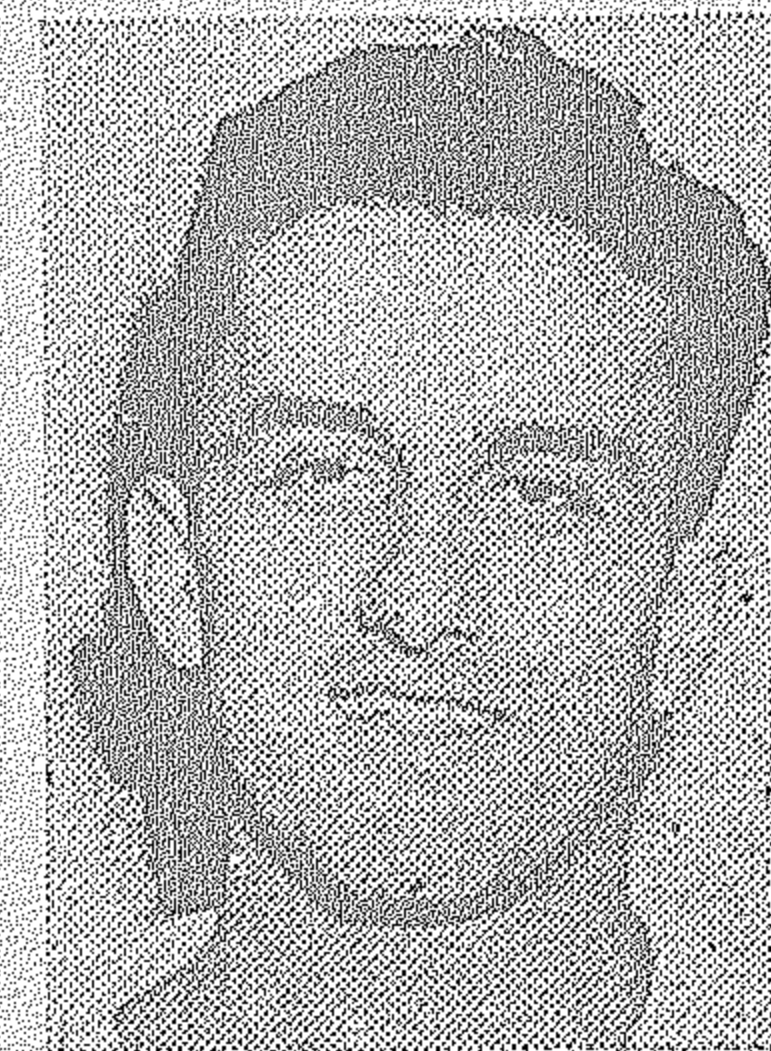
The office of vice-president found Backas, more familiarly known as the "Greek," not a stranger to the job, as he was vice-president of his sophomore class and also has served as vice-president of the board of directors of the Co-op Bookstore. He has retired from the latter post to serve as advisor to the Co-op.

Also the office of secretary is just as familiar to Ulysses—and he has also won twice in the last two weeks in this respect. He was just named secretary of the Honor Board, and the week before he was elected secretary of the Armour Players.

The "Greek" is also an important figure on the paper which this week salutes him. He is sports editor and circulation manager—and in this position, his becomes the face that is associated by students with *Technology News*, as he passes out the paper on the south campus each week.

Backas is also a member of the "Let's eat our lunches in the balcony" enforcement committee. However, this is one position where he maintains a relatively inactive status partly because it interferes with one of his favorite hobbies—making friends and keeping them.

As though this were not enough, Ulysses is a freshman adviser and a baritone in the glee club.



Ulysses Backas

In reward for his untiring efforts on *Technology News*, Backas has been made a member of Sphinx, IIT's honorary journalism society. Rho Epsilon, honorary radio society, has Ulysses on its roster. In addition, he belongs to the American Institute of Electrical Engineers.

In his "spare" time, Backas, besides studying electrical engineering and maintaining a fairly high average, manages to play a fast second base for the junior electrical's softball team. His musical talents are not restricted to singing, for Backas plays the mandolin.

He firmly maintains that although he likes to dance and does this very often, he is a ladies' man only when the time affords. Backas also enjoys, according to reliable sources, taking a little time off to sit around and "bat the breeze" with some of his many friends.

The "Man of the Week" has built up an enviable reputation as a champion of all student causes. Backas, although not a member of ITSA, attends all the meetings of this organization.

He is not at all hesitant about telling this board what students think, what they want, and what he thinks of any anti-student legislation. Backas led the campaign against the fifty-cent locker fee; he is now fighting for better tennis courts at IIT.

Backas came to Illinois Tech from Calumet High School where much of his time was occupied with earning money so that his dreams of being an electrical engineer might be fulfilled. He looks forward to a bright future in electronics.

The Collegiate World

A "Hobby Workshop" is provided for the students at Lawrence College, Appleton, Wisconsin. Instructors are there at all times. Students may do such things as painting, pottery making, designing and making linoleum block prints. Special sketching classes are open to anyone on the campus. Dark rooms are furnished for camera enthusiasts.

ITSA MINUTES

MINUTES OF THE ITSA

The meeting of Aug. 3, 1943, opened at 2:15 p.m. with President Harry Anderson presiding.

President Heald, Dean Tibbals, Dean Clarke, Mr. Spaeth, Mr. Weissman, Prof. Schommer, and Lt. Anderson of the administration, faculty, and Navy were present.

Ronald Ailara, Lou Wengel, and Ronald Lind of the board were present along with six members of the student body. Classes and laboratories prevented the attendance of the other members of the board.

The first item of business was the proposed budget for the present term. The budget was presented by Mr. Spaeth and was as follows:

PROPOSED ITSA BUDGET Term beginning July 1, 1943

Income:	
Lewis	\$25.00
Armour	6,275.00
Navy	1,080.00
Total	\$8,280.00
Expenses:	
Publications:	
<i>Technology News</i>	\$1,150.00
<i>Integral</i>	575.00
<i>Engineer & Alumnus</i>	862.00
2,587.00	
Directors and Coaches:	
General Expenses	1,200.00
Intramurals	500.00
Musical Clubs	400.00
All School Social	
Program	1,293.00
Reserve for Fall Sport	
Program	1,100.00
Total	\$8,280.00

In the discussion of the budget, the problem of what to do with the monies of the now defunct Co-op Classes was raised by Lou Wengel. No action was taken but it was suggested that a committee of co-ops be formed to report to the ITSA regarding their class funds. Pres. Heald expressed the opinion that the monies should be divided up among the class treasuries according to the status of the Co-op class involved.

Lou Wengel moved, Ronald Ailara seconded, that the proposed budget be adopted. Motion passed.

Prof. Schommer moved, Dean Clarke seconded, that track begin this summer and that the track men should begin training now. Motion passed. In this respect, Prof. Schommer stated that it was entirely possible that transportation for the track team might not be available, depending upon the future laws governing travel.

There was no Tech News report. The by-law governing the all school social committee was read and discussed. Ronald Lind moved, Lou Wengel seconded, that the by-law be accepted and incorporated into the constitution as such. Motion passed.

This by-law read as follows:

ARTICLE IX—All-School Social Committee

Section I.—Membership:
The All-School Social Committee shall be composed of the Social Chairman of each class at Armour and Lewis and one faculty member. The chairman of the committee shall be the Armour senior representative.

The faculty representative shall be elected by the Illinois Tech Student Association Board of Control every other semester.

Section II.—Powers:

Every social function of the Illinois Institute of Technology is subject to the approval of the All-School Social Committee. This shall include approval of date, time, and place. Smokers, parties, and dances specifically as such are included.

The All-School Social Committee shall advise and assist in social functions when asked, and shall itself promote all-school functions.

The All-School Social Committee may require pro-rata financial aid from all classes when promoting all-school affairs.

Prof. Schommer moved that Dean Tibbals be appointed as faculty advisor for the All-School Social Committee. Motion passed.

Mr. Spaeth offered the following resolution with regard to the *Engineer and Alumnus*:

"Whereas, each and every student paying the regular Student Activity fee has paid the amount of \$0.75 (seventy-five cents) per semester subscription fee to the *Illinois Tech Engineer and Alumnus*, be it now ordered that students who have paid the current fee of \$7.75 per term for a total of eight (8) or more terms during their attendance at Illinois Institute of Technology, shall be considered to have paid a life subscription to the magazine and shall receive therefore all future issues of the magazine during their life and the publication of the magazine."

Mr. Spaeth moved, Lou Wengel seconded, that the resolution be accepted. Motion passed.

Mr. Spaeth then revealed that the ITSA has been declared to have no authority to accept the state tax refund for the individual students.

The time of the next meeting was set for Tuesday, Aug. 17, 1943, at 2:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald Lind, 1st Vice-President
(Acting for Warren Furst, Secretary)

Tech Time Table

Tuesday, August 10

3:30 p.m.—Tau Omega—1AL

5:00 p.m.—Tau Beta Pi—Faculty Grill

Wednesday, August 11

ty Grill

5:10 p.m.—Army Band—Auditorium

6:30 p.m.—Navy Band—Auditorium

Friday, August 13

10:30 p.m.—Math Club—214 Chapin

Monday, August 16

5:00 p.m.—WSE—Faculty Grill

Broken Records?

It has been the custom of the various honorary fraternities to regard the averages as computed and recorded in the registrar's office as the source of and final authority on the scholastic standing of the student body.

Yet you will probably recall the undercurrent of uneasiness that swept the campus last semester when it was discovered that one of these fraternities had failed to consider several men because their records had been misplaced, and so failed to reach the fraternity's hands.

And as a result, this fraternity was subjected to a great deal of undeserved accusations. No matter how unjustified, they have not failed to leave their mark, not only upon the fraternity involved, but upon all similar organizations.

Already this semester one of the departmental honoraries, upon going over the records of the men in their group alone, has disclosed that the records will have to be viewed with scepticism at best.

One of the highest ranking seniors in that department was not even listed with his class.

Another eligible candidate would have been missed entirely had not his class work made his absence from the list conspicuous. It was discovered that his average was listed .2 of a point lower than it actually was.

It must be realized that there is a degree of scholastic proficiency disclosed by the records which often carries enough weight to throw a decision on a candidate in a definite direction when it might go the other way in the light of other considerations.

To lose the convictions placed in this factor because of inaccurate records will seriously handicap the purpose and function of these organizations, and might easily lead to an inimical attitude toward their future activities.

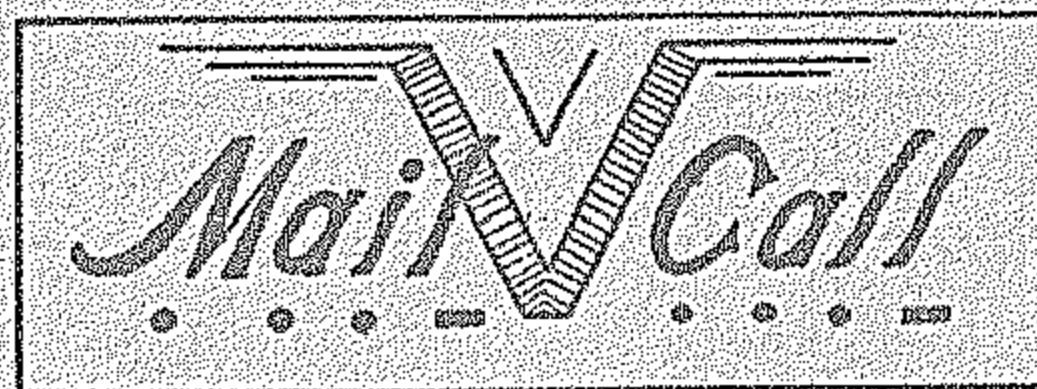
Dr. C. W. Kepner, the registrar, recognizes the presence of this situation and the problems that these fraternities must face. He has promised to furnish, after this semester, trained staff members to compute averages instead of student help. Further, the averages will be made available to the respective honorary fraternities in exact accordance with provisions set up by the Interhonorary Council.

This promises a definite step forward in the future. But each of the fraternities must yet select men this semester on the existing basis. There will undoubtedly arise individual situations where a man, feeling that he has qualified in every respect, will wonder whether his name has actually been submitted for consideration.

He has no recourse whatsoever. He is powerless to inquire of the fraternity for fear that he may actually have been considered. Ill feeling will be easily kindled.

We hope the judgment of these organizations will be regarded in the light of the conditions under which they must operate.

—LARSON



(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 WENGEL

Greetings to all the boys are sent in by Ensign Donald J. Keigher, USNR, F.P.E. '43, who is stationed on the destroyer U.S.S. Knapp, launched July 10, 1943, as assistant engineering officer.

V V V

A letter received from 1st Lt. Jack Emrick, M.E. '43, and also censored by the same 1st Lt. Jack Emrick gives hints of exciting adventure. Excerpts from his letter follow.

"Have been here (location undisclosed) four months now—had a good trip over, totaled about 14,000 miles by air. I lost my ship shortly after arrival here and now I'm flying 'Forts'."

V V V

Fate smiles occasionally on IIT boys as evidenced in this letter from Pvt. James ("Red"), Gibbons, M.E. '44, stationed at the University of Maryland.

"Well, I've finally cashed in on that fool Irish luck of mine. I am now stationed here for engineering. Couldn't talk my way back to the middle west."

V V V

Lt. (j.g.) William F. Vizard, E. E. '42, stationed in California, sends in his complete address to be forwarded "to the mailing room of all blondes, brunettes, and red-heads" claiming he will be there for "one hell of a long time." After that, he optimistically believes his outfit will be stationed on "some island in the south-west Pacific, that is, after we clean it up a bit." Interested persons can obtain his address and the addresses of other service men at the *Technology News* office any Thursday afternoon.

V V V

Although he is not in the armed forces, Leroy Simpson, MEC '43, is still doing his part in the war effort as flight engineer for the Pan American Airways Company which is serving the navy. Excerpts from Leroy's letter follow.

"Several other IIT fellows, Adam Jemsek, John Warhus, John Aikens, Don True, and myself are all here working for the Pan American Airways Co. at their Pearl City base. So far I like it very much. The climate is beautiful and the work is interesting. Our room and board is on the navy which makes it pretty good.

Our diversion here is rather limited to our occasional beer brawl among the twenty of us who live in the same house. There is a blackout and curfew at 10:00 p.m. and since we are fifteen miles from the city of Honolulu it is impossible to be in town after dark and still be home before curfew.

Part of our job consists of making an occasional trip to the South Pacific. The sights to be seen in some of the areas are both awesome and interesting. The display of U.S. arms in a lot of these places really makes you know that we're fighting a war."