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Man Of The Week—

Introducing Pvt. John Craig—Orator, Singer and Editor of the Army Page

By MILT BURKART

The man of the week for this issue is none other than a buck private who has been at Illinois Tech for less than a month. He is Pvt. John Craig of the ASTP unit stationed at IIT.

Private Craig has earned this recognition through his efforts on the Army page in this issue. "Blitz" Craig, as he is known in the army, has carried the full responsibility of producing this page, which will be a monthly feature in *Technology News*.

"Blitz" Craig enlisted in the army on Dec. 7, 1942, at Jefferson Barracks, Mo., where he spent his first two months of military life in the hospital with the measles and pneumonia.

After being released from the hospital, Craig was transferred to the heavy weapons battalion at Camp Walters, Texas.

While at Camp Walters Craig was a reporter on the camp newspaper and a member of the men's glee club which appeared on various radio programs. Although he has been in the army eight months, Pvt. Craig has never



been on K.P. duty.

John Craig was born the son of a Methodist minister in Fayetteville, Mo., and educated in Hannibal. In high school he was a feature writer on the school newspaper, which took first prize in national competition for two years in a row.

As a member of the dramatics club he played the leading role in the school production of "Charley's Aunt."

"Blitz" was a member of a male quartette that reigned as state champions for two years. He also played a trumpet in his school band, but was forced to give this up when he lost his teeth in an automobile accident.

Wearing false teeth has provided Pvt. Craig with some embarrassing predicaments. He lost them once in a swimming pool, and at present is trying to keep his room-mates from pilfering them while he sleeps.

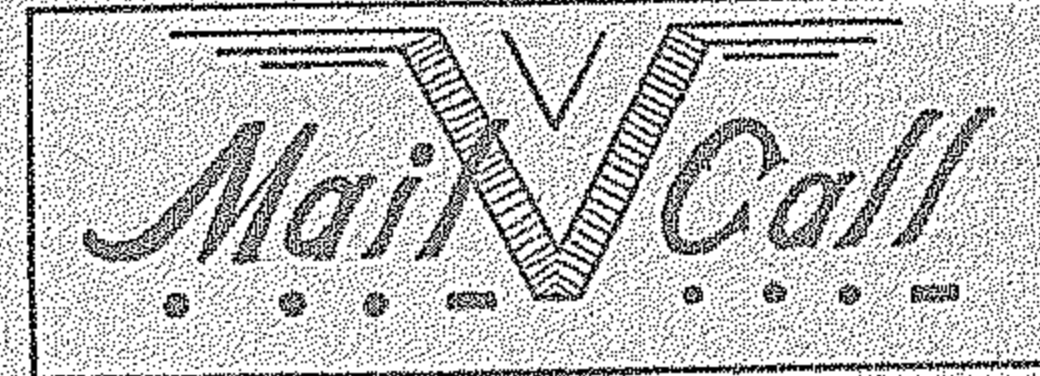
He also has won the Mahan Award in his state for oration and composition. This netted him a cash prize and a trip through the state of Missouri.

He is active in church work, having served as president in his local young peoples association. He was also treasurer of the Missouri Methodist Young Peoples Association.

After graduating from high school, Craig enrolled in the Kirksville State Teachers College, which he left a year later to attend Central College in his home town. While at Central he was on the staff of the Central Collegiate, the school paper.

During his spare time he also worked on the city newspaper. Besides this he has worked on the Carrollton Daily Democrat, where he wrote news, feature and obituaries.

Private Craig arrived at IIT on July 3, 1942, with the ASTP unit. He is serving as the assignment editor for *Technology News*, and handles all the stories from the army. After the war Craig, who is only 19, intends to make a career of journalism.



(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

Getting his share of traveling, A/C Richard W. Metcalfe, Ch. E. '43, spent the winter in Florida and now is studying and training at Stillman College, Yale University.

"The basic training in Florida was really swell. The setup at Yale, however, is rather heavy with work. We go from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. with one or two breaks in the morning besides meal hours.

The food and accommodations are both excellent and the physical training is tougher than hell. Some of the courses are very good while others are strictly a waste of time.

All in all the worst feature of the whole place is the fact that we have only one day to ourselves.

On top of that they haven't got any USO's in town and the only way to snag a babe is to go out on the wolf. Such an idea is strictly the bunk."

V V V

Pfc. Wolfram Futterer, M.E.C. '43 now at Massachusetts Institute of Technology writes of the glories of MIT but as a loyal alumni claims that the undergraduate school is no better than IIT's.

"Have been at the best schools in the country during the last month, Georgetown, Carnegie Tech., and finally MIT.

I'm taking a 12 week course in marine transportation, the only one of its kind in the country. There are only 25 of us in the class, all college graduates and a swell bunch of fellows.

This course is very interesting; it is made up of courses in labor relations, port facilities and cargo handling, characteristics of ports, ship operation, properties of ships, military science and of course physical training.

If we successfully complete this course, we will be sent to officers candidate school. From there we will be sent to some embarkation port as transportation engineers.

It will be our job to see that the ships are fully loaded and loaded in the best way."

V V V

From Ensign James Doane, USN-R, M.E. '43, comes news of a typical advance made by former IIT men.

"I went through specialized training as a dive bomber and got my wings about two or three weeks ago.

I am now taking operational training which is the last step. Then, I don't know where I'll go. I will either be sent back as an instructor or go out with the fleet."

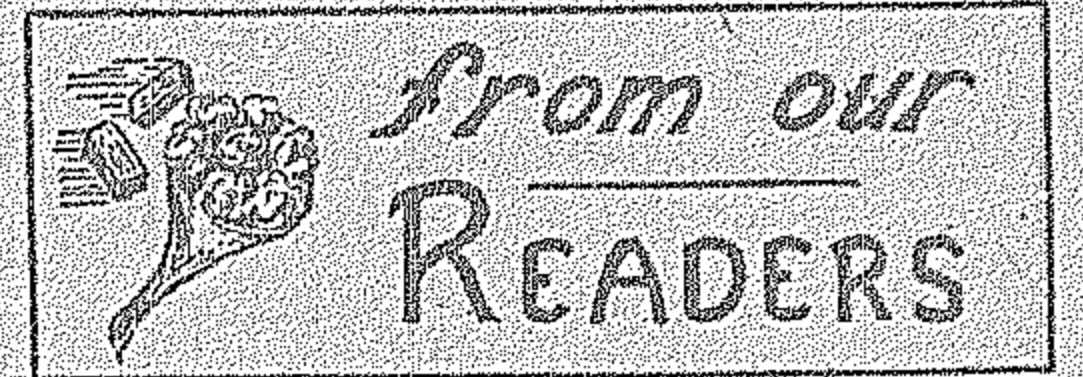
V V V

Some of the trials and tribulations of a soldier are expounded by Pvt. Mel Levey, M.E.C. '43, in a letter received from Camp Crowder, Mo.

"We made a forced march yesterday cross country with full packs that include a full roll. After every mile the pack increased in weight by at least ten pounds.

If you can imagine what the foot hills of the Ozarks look like, then you will know what kind of terrain we ambled over."

—LARSON



(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:

This is in reply to the letter from the Interhonorary Council which says that civilian students at IIT are slackers because their class attendance is not as good as that of navy and army students.

We all know that the success of a fighting unit, either army or navy, depends upon each man following his every order no matter how insignificant it may seem to him.

Consequently strict rules on class attendance, shoe shining, etc. are imposed on service men to train them for this regimentation to which they must necessarily be subjected.

On the other hand, in training engineers for industry, initiative and responsibility should be main objectives, and a man should be judged by what he accomplishes.

So, without an unduly long discussion on this subject, I would suggest that the Interhonorary Council withhold their judgment of slackers until the end of the term.

At that time those civilians whose grades so indicate, should certainly not be deferred longer from the draft. But in the meantime it is foolish to judge a man by his failure to comply with petty rules.

L. E. Packard

The sophomore Physics Lab, Physics 205-6 is a good course in report writing, but the sophomores haven't the time for it.

For example, we may work for three (usually more) hours on a preliminary report only to have it returned for correction because of some little mistake that it will take an hour or so of our very scarce time to correct.

Then we return them perfect, we think. But the darn things keep coming back. By the time they are accepted, we have worked the equivalent of a week in any other course on the preliminary alone.

Finally our prelim is accepted. Now all we have to do is write the report—a push over. So we write the report. We get it back for correction. That prelim wasn't right yet; a reading was left out of the report. Naturally, this makes us very happy since we have worked far into the night on the report. Many of us are still longingly awaiting the day when our first report will be accepted.

Besides being a terrible nuisance, Physics Lab leaves very little time for our other courses. Many students have complained of the mountain of work encountered in that monster, the Physics Lab.

Grades, for a large part, are given for quantity and neatness, instead of quality. The only way to get that quantity, students have found, is to copy the lab manual quite closely. What will we learn by doing that?

To shorten working hours, the required length of the preliminary report should be decreased considerably. Some attempt should be made to clarify the lab manual.

All physics-infested sophomores may as well give up all their classes. There are only 24 hours in a day and even without sleep, there isn't enough time. Yours for a shorter and fairer Physics Lab.

Bert Pearl

Manner Mouse?

Even if it did take a wholesale display of bad manners at the army-navy introductory assembly to bring the conduct of a typical 'tech' type to the attention of the remainder of the student body, perhaps it will serve a purpose by the very fact that this attention was so widespread.

If the undercurrent of protest at the actions of their classmates was any indication, at least part of the men have had some previous etiquette training. This, at least, is encouraging.

However flagrant the violation of good taste may have been, it is, nevertheless, merely one indication of the rapid disintegration of campus etiquette.

Walking out on a speaker before he has completed his talk is being done every day, if an instructor may be so unfortunate to be still speaking when the bell rings. How then can we blame the offenders for doing what has become natural for them?

It is obvious that this problem of good manners must be tackled at a much lower plane. Instruction in civil conduct should have been started before we were able to walk. Either our parents have failed, or we have come to consider Illinois Tech as little better than a gang hangout.

Backas, in his editorial last week, intimated that we were acting like high school kids. I think he is mistaken. If we had assumed the same attitude in high school as we do here, we would still be sitting in the principal's office.

We can't get away with such conduct anywhere else, why is it taken for granted here?

In other schools—"No Smoking" signs mean no smoking!

Enrollment in a course means coming to class, coming on time, and leaving only when the instructor indicates dismissal. It means refraining from talking at once when it is time for the class to begin, as other classes are in session even if one of them isn't.

It also means refraining from entering with a clamor if tardiness is unavoidable, and from disturbing a preceding class should you arrive early.

Common courtesy asks only that we wait our turn when using crowded conveyances or entrances—that we take off our hats when entering buildings—that we dispose of refuse in containers provided for that purpose.

We shouldn't be hearing this for the first time, but if we have heard it before we haven't given any indication of it.

Employers won't say "just don't mind him, he's one of the engineers." It'll take him only two words to tell us what he thinks of our conduct.

Engineers, unfortunately, are also expected to be citizens; it's about time we started practicing that phase too.