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The Lunchroom Again

After innumerable years of bickering over the lunchroom, a new and satisfying condition is now seen to prevail. During the past three months, the quality of food served in the lunchroom has continued to improve. It has improved to such an extent that students have begun to make complimentary comments.

Both Miss Fergusson and her staff have endeavored to give the students what they want, and, in the main, they have accomplished that end. Certainly as one looks back over the years, there has been no comparison with what can now be had, both in the way of quality and variety of food.

One cannot say, however, that there is nothing left to be desired. In this connection, it has been felt by many civilian students that an earlier serving of luncheons would be of great benefit. At the present time, hot lunches are served from 11 until 11:30 a.m. For those who have classes at 11:20 this is rather inconvenient and they must rush through their lunch. It would be appreciated by a great many students if this service were begun fifteen minutes earlier. Something should be done about the dirty condition of the tables during the morning hours between 9 and 10.

—H. BURKART

The Moron and His Hot-Foot

A new height in sheer stupidity has been reached by certain of the junior chemical engineers.

The type of mentality which can derive a large amount of pleasure from administering "hot-foots" to classmates would scarcely seem to belong in a place of higher education. But be that as it may, it seems incredible that there are amongst us individuals so debased that they would actually use dangerous chemicals for their hot-foots.

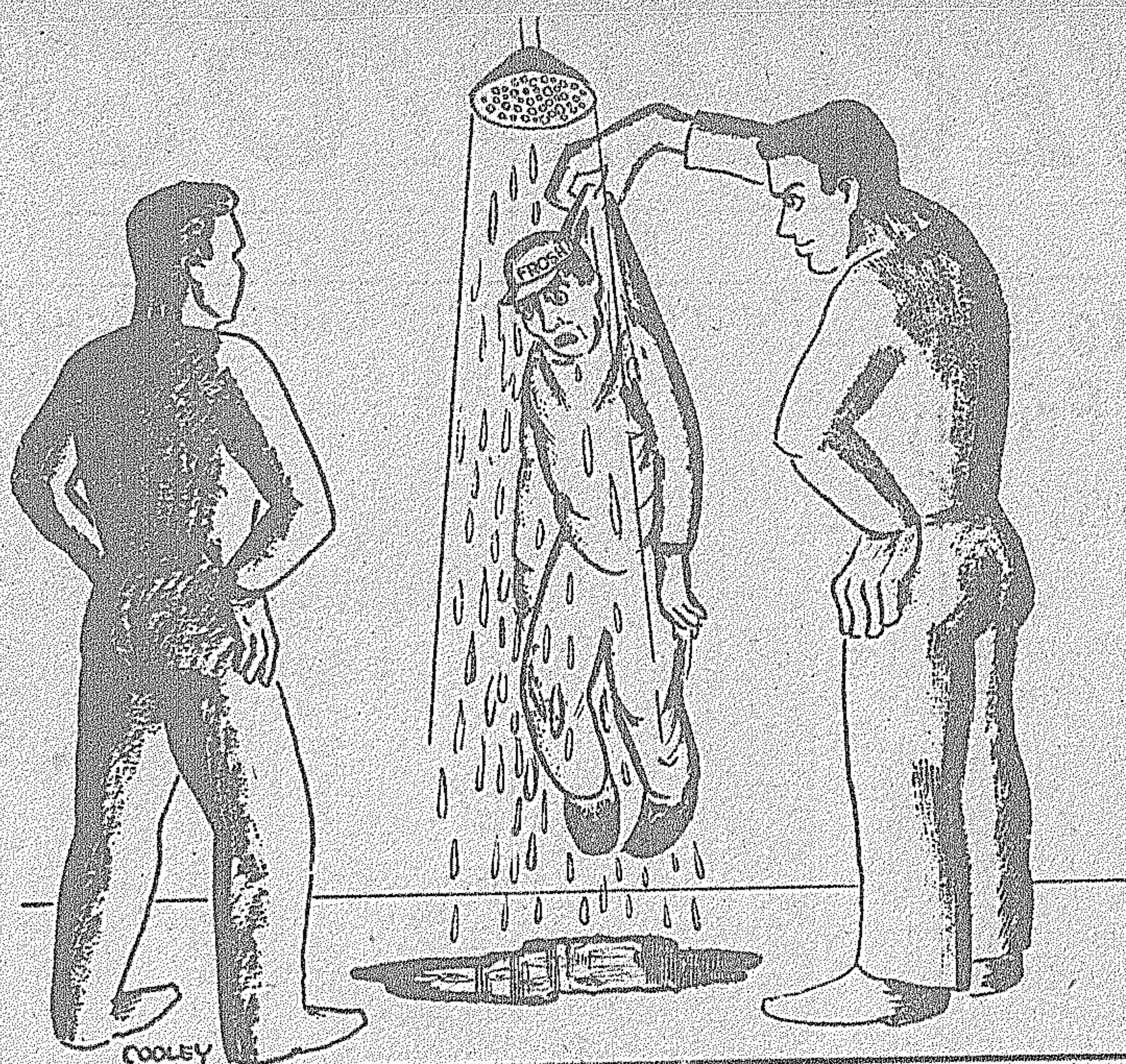
Such, unfortunately, is the case. It seems that for these sadists an ordinary hot-foot was not nearly exciting enough. So these ingenious morons devised the so-called "hot-seat", in which a lighted newspaper is held beneath the victim's chair. Among the results achieved in this manner is one burned chair in the lunchroom.

But even this seemed tame, so the next step was to use magnesium shavings. These were succeeded by a mixture of red phosphorus and potassium chlorate. When one of the fellows received a severe burn, which has not healed in the fortnight since he received it, with this mixture, the simpletons were evidently satisfied.

It is not our intention to mention here the names of those who are guilty. It should be the job of the more sensible majority of the class to see to it that these stupid pranks are stopped.

—B. FRIED

Next Time He'll Walk



Research Reports—

Smith Investigates Equilibria Of Three-Component System

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This column will present each week a brief report of the various research projects being carried on at IIT. Since Technology News is the student newspaper of a technical school, these articles will be of a more technical nature than would be possible in an ordinary newspaper, but they will nevertheless be written in such a manner as to be accessible to the majority of the student body.)

Investigation of the composition of liquid and vapor phases in systems of three components has been the subject of research work carried on by Thorlowne Smith, graduate assistant in the department of chemistry.

This research project is significant in that, to date, very little work has been done with three component systems. Work of this type is in the field of physical chemistry.

Smith has shown particular interest in the study of the system consisting of acetic acid, acetic anhydride, and water. This combination of substances is especially difficult to work with since the anhydride tends to combine with the water to form acetic acid.

This reaction is quite rapid at the normal boiling point of the mixture. However, if a reduced pressure is used, the mixture will boil at a considerably lower temperature. For example, at a pressure which is slightly greater than one tenth of an atmosphere, distillation may be carried out at about 50° C. at which temperature the above mentioned reaction is slow.

While distilling a mixture, samples of vapor and liquid are taken simultaneously. The vapor is condensed as it leaves the distilling flask, some of it being collected in aniline and the rest in mineral oil. Any acetic anhydride which is in

the portion collected in aniline will react with the aniline to form acetic acid which is then titrated. Mineral oil is used to prevent evaporation of the other portion. The anhydride in this portion is hydrolyzed to acetic acid which likewise is titrated. By means of three titrations, and from the weight of the sample, the composition of the vapor phase is completely determined.

While vapor is being distilled off the liquid is siphoned from the flask and is collected and analyzed in the same way.

Using this method, it is possible to determine the compositions of the liquid and vapor phases which are in equilibrium with each other.

By performing numerous experiments in which he varied the original proportions of the three components, Smith has determined the compositions of a number of equilibrium phase pairs. Such data, plotted on a triangular graph, give what is known as a phase diagram.

By means of these diagrams, one can determine the relative amounts of liquid and vapor and the compositions of the liquid and vapor phases for given conditions of pressure and temperature.

Phase diagrams are of great importance in industrial chemistry, particularly in those processes which employ distillation columns.



Ever hear of the Ouiji Board? Gives you all the answers as long as you push the hand the right way. Lots of people believe in it. Course, not too many people, so it isn't so bad.

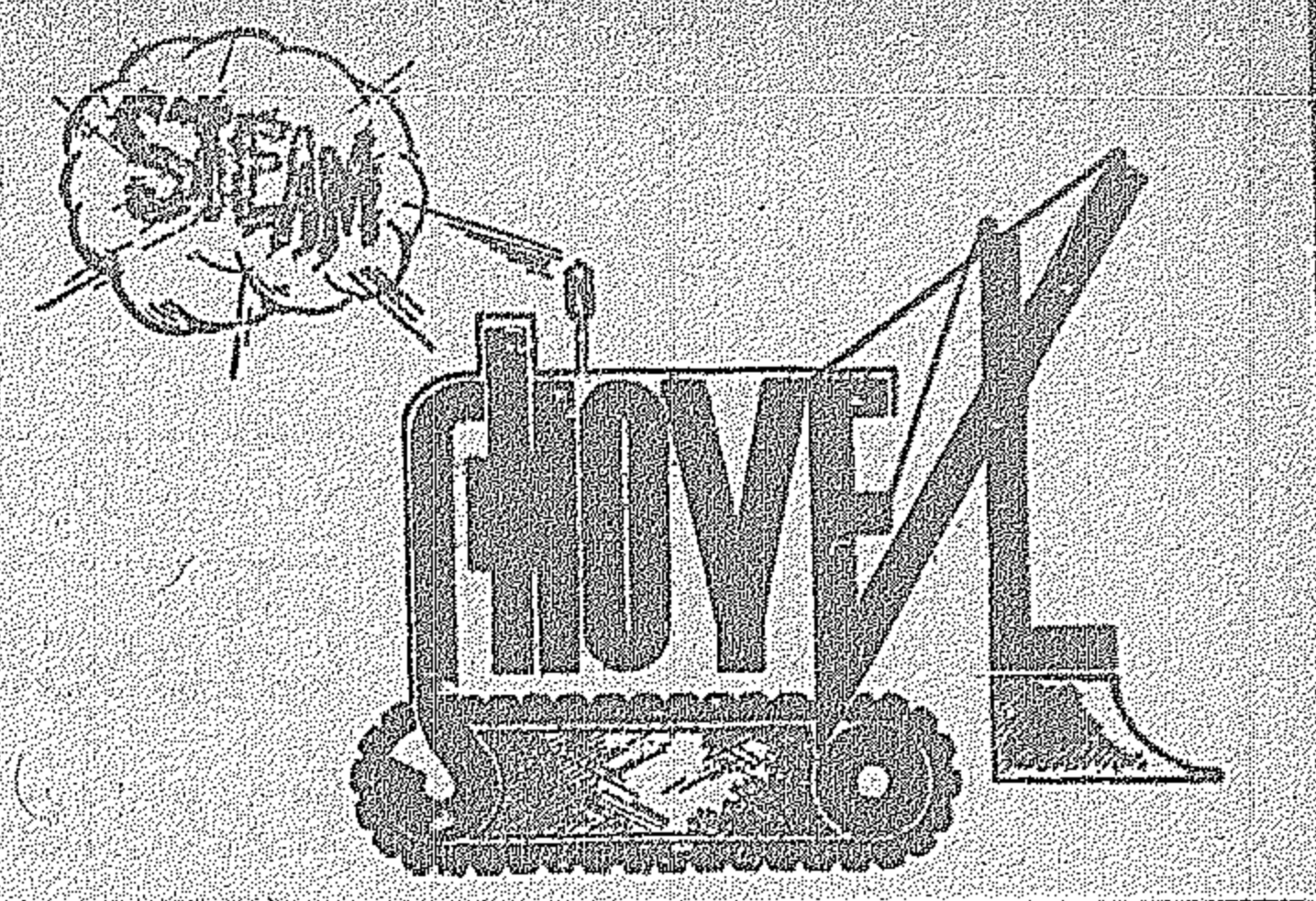
There's a worse thing going on now. There were some people in "Shangri La" recently talking about "tipping tables." Seems as though three of them had been sitting in a dark room one night and by only placing their hands lightly on the table, it would tip and, some way or other, answer questions. One poor demented soul said that the table was even suspended in mid-air, and solemnly pronounced that nothing was holding it up. It moved two feet across the floor by itself.

In the midst of protests of disbelief by scientifically minded students, the blond haired gal sitting with this crowd chimed in with her two cents worth. Tipping tables, says she, is something from out of this

world, and is hard to explain. But, she glows on, when she and some of her friends tried it (she was an independent candidate and wasn't tipping with the other three) it performed wonders and told them amazing things. It's the electricity in your body that produces static attraction and lifts the table, goes on the gal who's proud of her high school physics course. She's all wound up in the soup-ernatural (or is it the Cuban concoction the little lady is pouring down her throat?)

The four fellows don't believe what's being said, so the gals pipe up with an invitation to a seance, but shut up when they find that the table is too heavy.

Things like this make one wonder about the decayed minds of such Twelfth-Century Charlatans. But, it might as well be chalked up to "potent portions poured down parched palates". People just can't be that ignorant. Oh, well, life's like that.



The wheels of fortune turn, and now Gil Katz, after discovering the uncertainty of his recent throb, Frances Pechter, is chasing after everyone and anyone. One of these is a girl named Susan and another is the new physics secretary, blond Marion Lindstrom.

Microbe hunter, Harley Flanders, has had 40 cadet nurses living across the street from him for the past six months and has not even squeezed out a word to one of them. He even purposely avoids them. Is he suffering from too much mathematics or has everyone caught the spring fever ahead of time?

Frank Kutchik, Junior Chem, really has got what it takes. Girls that he has gone around with actually brag that they use to be number one on his list but at the present moment they are in fifth place, (temporarily of course). This statement may be easily verified by asking a waitress at the "Wimpy" hamburger stand (location 95th and Western) named "Ginger".

Roland Lind, who had been seen around with Irene Ptak, has more recently been seen with Irene's more sedate sorority sister, Ursula Smok. Can it be that Irene is too hot a potato for Rollo?

Man in the rut appears to be Dick Flaskamp who accompanies Bart Malina on some Saturday night sorties. Bart who has both a date and a car was forced to accept the pleasure (?) of Flash's unescorted presence.

Observers report that the promptest lab instructor in the chem department is now Gene Nowlin. Gene prepares to leave half an hour ahead so that he will be sure to arrive in time for the newlywed's supper.

Since the departure of Gordon Campbell for med school, less has been seen lately of Helen Gordon. Helen, who has called for more west-south campus cooperation, was conspicuous by her absence at the Spring Fling.

Our hero "Sonny" continues to wage war on pinochle sharks. Norm Patinkin, "Notche" for short, is bearing out well under the frequent raids made by Sonny. Norm seems to have pinochle time, which consists of three hours every afternoon of the week. The bug has bitten him to such an extent that he is thinking of advocating a 7 day school week.

A drenching which occurred last week was not part of the Junior Marshall's war on underclassmen elevator riders. It happened when Walter Grengg gingerly turned the valve in chemical engineering lab annex which resulted in the sudden overflowing of the tank and subsequent downpour upon helpless Roger Tate and Frank Crossley who were perched high up in the air on planks, unable to side-step the avalanche.

Dr. Carpenter, chemical engineering department, seems to have through traffic lights in his 419 metallurgy class. About forty-five men start the period; only thirty or so are left when the dismissal bell rings.

John Koza, civil engineer, creates much suspicion in the mothers of the girls he dates. At the last dance club meeting a telephone call was received in Sonny Weissman's office from the mother of Koza's date. She wanted to be informed as to John's character!!

Flash. The luscious ferame who accompanied Bill Ludwig to the Spring Fling was Helen McCartney and her telephone is Hollycourt 0417. After one of the numbers, Bill had jived so much that he was ready to go to sleep. Helen is looking for a fellow who is also capable of much activity after one a.m.

The Senior Mechs, is: Bill Lenzi, Al Purzycki, John Gerald, Joe Rimeck, Roy Olson, Dick Morse, and Tom Artingstall, seemed to be having quite a time as the story goes, at the "Spring Fling". There was a general exchange of girls among the fellows. But "one date Purzycki" ended up sitting outside on the "fireplug" holding his head wondering what hit him. The "Black Market Liquor" isn't as good as it used to be.

Long lost John Kastholm came in all the way from California just to see his little "peaches and cream."

Tom "never say die" Dressler after trying to date this certain "Mary Ann", Lakeview 8978, finally succeeded. It seems that on five previous attempts for dates, she was always going to see a "brother" leave for the Army.

Tom Artingstall's "delicious dish" Dolores Eddelman, was very much surprised to meet some of her former students at the dance. She is a teacher at Senn High School and her former students now attend IIT.

—XETER