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ITSA Does A Good Job

Hurrah for the ITSA! Theoretically, the ITSA is supposed to represent the student body. And this week, the ITSA did its best to fulfill this function as regards the Navy Ball. During the preceding weeks, there had been considerable question as to whether the majority of the students really wanted the dance to be semi-formal, as it was originally scheduled.

We on *Technology News* felt that little could be gained by discussion of the matter if no one really knew for certain how the student body felt. Accordingly, it was decided Monday to conduct a poll of a cross-section of the students in order to obtain an indication of their feelings.

On Tuesday, members of the ITSA, together with other students active in campus affairs, decided to hold a school-wide poll on the subject, and used for the purpose the questions we had devised indicated the same sort of preference.

Obviously, everyone on the campus is not satisfied with the ITSA decision. Certainly the 8 students who indicated that they would attend the dance only if it were informal will not be happy. But, on the basis of the poll's results, as many, if not more, students would be dissatisfied with an informal affair. So in this case, as in many others, it would seem as though the greatest good for the greatest number must determine the course of action.

And now that the decision has been made, we feel that there is only one thing for everyone to do and that is to put it over in the best possible manner in a fashion worthy of Illinois Tech.

—B. FRIED

A Good Word for the Navy

There's a time and place for everything, it is said.

It seems time that somebody said something nice about the Navy, and certainly this, the editorial column of *Technology News*, is the place, for it has been in the columns of the paper, through the various gripes aired in the "Campus Comment" column in recent weeks, that much has been done to stir up ill feelings.

The navy has enthusiasm and energy.

Navy students did the spade work and laid the basic plans so that Illinois Tech could have its first big name band dance in nearly two years—and in the biggest ball room in town.

Junior Marshalls, five navy men and two civilians, brought about the revival of Junior Week. And navy administrators juggled schedules so that plans could work out.

As a result, in two weeks, Illinois Tech will have the biggest week-end of student activities within the memory of most of those students now on the campus.

Yes, the navy is all right—and we believe that they truly are good Technicians.

A Tough Situation



Research Reports—

Dr. Yale Brozen Investigates Economics of Technical Change

(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.)

A new discovery is made in the laboratory. A new invention is developed. But often the benefits to be derived from the discovery or invention are not immediately passed on to industry or the man in the street. Why is this lag?

Questions like this are classified under the heading of "The Economics of Technological Change", a topic which has been investigated by Dr. Yale Brozen, economics professor at Illinois Tech.

In his research, Brozen has sought to find what the barriers are to technological change. He wants to find why inventions often lie idle for many years, even after being developed to the point where they are economic and where it would be profitable to introduce them. It is not at what rate the new inventions are made, but the rate at which they are actually used in production that is important.

Since the significant thing is the rate at which the developments are put into use, and since it is necessary to find the investor willing to purchase the equipment employing the new techniques, then the rate of investment is the main factor determining technological advancement. When there is a high rate of investment there is also a high rate of technological change, concludes Brozen. This may run contrary to the notions of many people who think that the barriers of technology are labor unions and enterprisers, protecting obsolete equipment.

If the investment rate is a barrier, then the barriers to investment are also the barriers to technological change. Brozen finds that one of these barriers is a declining quantity of money, that is cash and bank deposits. Another barrier to investment is monopoly in the equipment industries, which keeps the prices

at such a level that the rate of purchase of new equipment is kept low, preventing the introduction of new techniques because there is no competition for them.

Lastly, labor unions cause inventors to fear that they will push the price of labor up if they increase the productivity, thus taking from the investor the revenue, which might have been realized from the improvements.

Brozen, in another phase of his research, tries to find how well equipment should be made in regard to its probability of eventual obsolescence. The result of this type of research can be used by enterprisers to establish a policy in investing capital in equipment which will suffer obsolescence as well as physical deterioration.

Another of Brozen's projects is to study social policy in regard to technological change and the instability arising from too rapid change. Also in this field, he has set up as an ideal a patent system which would pay inventors directly from the government. This would make it possible for inventions to be used openly without monopolistic restraint. He realizes that this is just an ideal and would in practice be very difficult to administer, because of the problem of evaluating the inventions in money.

After the war, when he has the time to revise some of his work, Prof. Brozen plans to publish it in a book dealing with the economics of technological change.

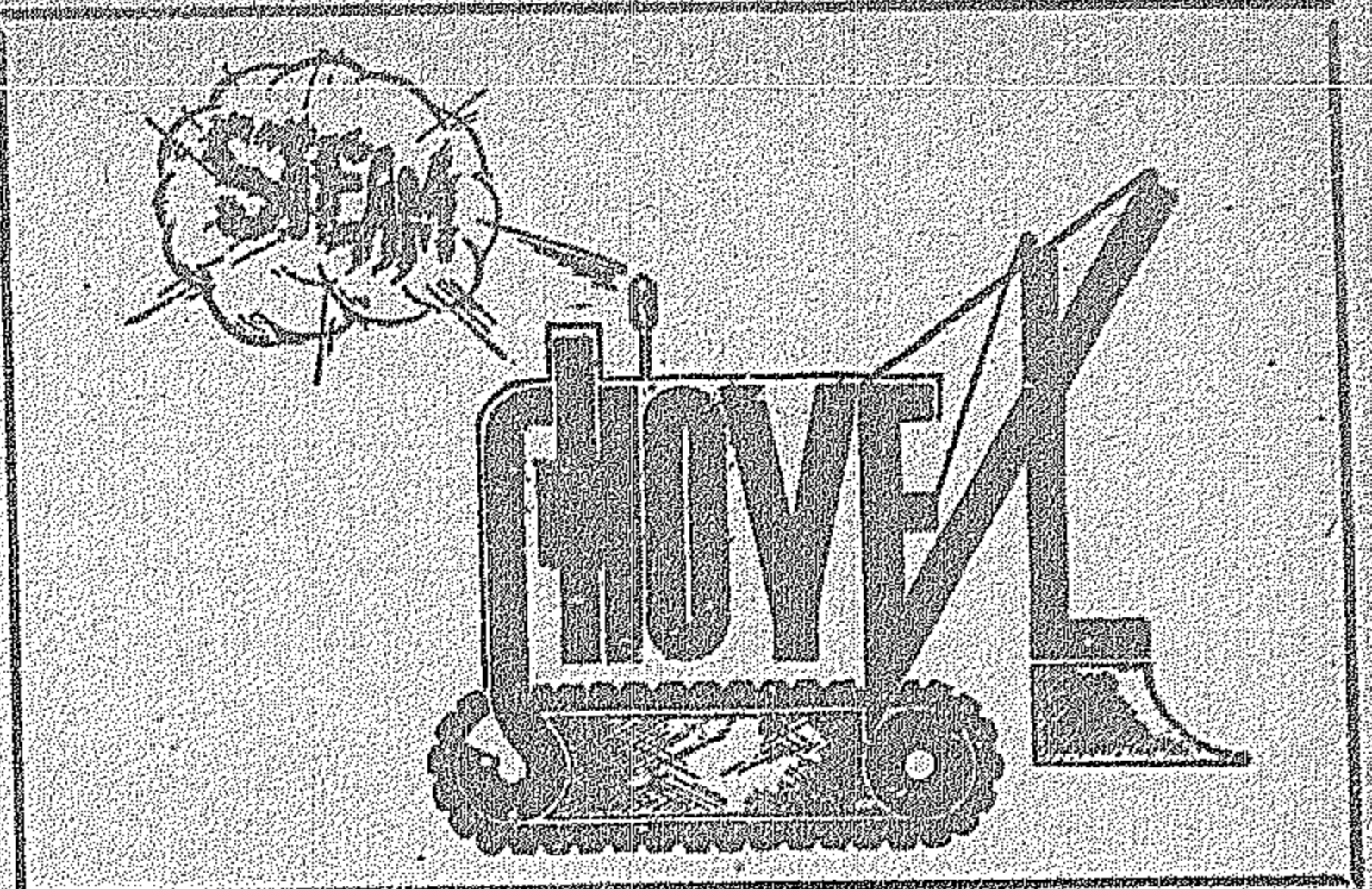


Yup, General, the women of Illinois Tech are certainly what you're looking for for the WAC. They can fill all of those 239 vital army jobs with ease. The only trouble is, there are only about five gals on the Armour campus, and maybe a hundred on the Lewis campus, so they might have to do a little doubling up on it. They're good women, though.

Talk about your eager minds—oh boy, oh boy, oh boy! And skillful

hands! You hit the right note there, General! But what they are best informed on is the vicious nature of the enemy. General, have you ever been out with one of the Armour wolves? You would be initiated to a vicious enemy the like of which you ain't never dreamed of before.

These wolves can think up flanking attacks, frontal attacks, surprise attacks, and infiltration maneuvers that would make the U.S. Rangers look like a bunch of campfire girls.



A/S Roy Olson, "the lover," is in search of another girl. In all his life Ray has had but one girl-friend, a sixteen year old South Shore High School glamour girl, whom he first dated for the Freshman Fling last semester. Before that time he had never had a single date. Apparently he has found something interesting in girls.

Jonas J. Korn, the man from Lewis who loves to come to dinner and stay, is having trouble with his girls due to entry in the beard growing contest. Korn, one of the main contenders in this beard brawl, has been unable to come within arms length of his women, because of an unshaven countenance. We wonder how the other "beard brumls" are making out in their new situations.

"Give me back my two dollars and sixty cents," was Bill Zechels, soph fire-protect, remark as the waiter stole that vast fortune. Poor Bill having ordered and consumed the vast quantity of four lime rickeys supposedly was given a bill for lime gin rickeys because the waiter was not familiar with the former. We wonder if Bill drank the gin rickeys unknowingly and what a topper he must be not to even recognize them.

Here's another phone number for you fellows:

Clarence "Shorty" Sikorski has lost his virile masculine appeal it seems, as he was stood up last Saturday night by that "real stacked girl", Mickey Victor. Those who dare can call Brunswick 6696 for this sharp number.

Frank Kutchik, that Junior Chem Casanova, has really tamed down of late and is sticking to his number one sweetie, namely Miss Marion, instead of those five that were chasing him. We all wonder if Marion chased all the others away or just quietly puts the ball and chain on Frankie. Let's all hope that Frank can engineer the deal at this crucial time.

At the 3A's stag last week it was conclusively proven that an Honor I man can drink anything. Hank Koci took the challenge of Bob Kasnicka and Joe Kaleba to drink one of their concoctions. They fixed up a mixture of beer and coffee to which was added a variety that would turn any stomach, namely salt and pepper, a piece of hamburger, a dill pickle, and a handful of toothpicks for roughage. Hank drank the potent mixture with ease even though it resembled some varnish remover. At this action those with uneasy stomachs ran for cover.

The big question of which department produced the best engineers has long been fought over; but now the opposite can be answered. A survey showed that more than three-fourths of the Senior Civils failed to pass their pre-induction physicals, to lead all the other departments in this respect. This is more likely true because these fellows are worked so hard that they can't help but collapse at the induction station. This fact probably cured the doctors against passing these lads.

Not that I have been snooping or anything but it seems that I heard someone whisper gently to someone else something about Ronald Lind and Christina. It seems that my ears weren't sharp enough, so if anyone has any information concerning this issue it would be of the greatest pleasure to me to hear anything of this. Maybe she may be his mother for all I know but please don't keep me in suspense.

Marion Lindstrand, physics secretary, has caught the eye of an entire analyst class. After much thought the freshmen have voted her "the girl we would most like to parabola around with." Now all the sophomores have to do is vote her "the girl we would most like to ellipse with." My what spring does to a gay freshman.

In another analyst class the old gag about Charles Boyer and Lifebuoy-aye was pulled on Dr. Rufus Oldenburger. With a blank (?) look on his face, Rufus said "What are they, radio actors? I never heard of them."

The changes in the University of Illinois prom are leaving Norman Friedman, senior aeronautical, in a quandry. His one and only (?) sweetheart has written him three times of changes in the date of the dance. Isn't it too bad that Norman had something planned for these free week-ends each time. "I wonder if on May the twenty-sixth they will decide to have the dance on May nineteenth," he quipped hoping that with a hope of this a solution to the problem may be found. Oh, how true love ties a man down. Pretty soon Norm won't be going out those extra weekends after she catches on to his cadavering.

—XETER and ALOYSIUS