

October 15, 1945

campus COMMENTS

Tau Beta Pi Replies

It is not the desire of Tau Beta Pi to become involved in a journalistic argument, but we feel that the students of IIT should know the truth about Tau Beta Pi rather than the biased opinions of certain members of the *Technology News* staff. These opinions were expressed in an editorial in the Oct. 9 issue of *Technology News*.

Tau Beta Pi is not a service fraternity which recognizes only scholarship and leadership, as the writer of this editorial seemed to believe. Neither scholastic excellence nor leadership ability is the only qualification for membership in Tau Beta Pi, but a combination of these and other characteristics including integrity, personality, and co-operativeness, is required. The scholastic standard must be met before a person is considered as a candidate, but his acceptance depends on his possession of qualities which indicate success in the engineering profession. How these qualities are evaluated is the business of no one but the members of Tau Beta Pi, but it might be well to say that the decision is not based solely on the opinions of the undergraduate members.

It is our belief, and with good basis, that the editorial was prompted by the fact that the writer and certain of his friends were not selected for membership. We do not intend to discuss personalities as was done in the editorial. Politics exists in many elections but it did not exist in the recent Tau Beta Pi election although the writer of the editorial, who probably does not understand that fairness is often practiced, can find no other basis for our selections.

Membership in Tau Beta Pi means more to its present members and to those who have gone before us than friendship should govern our selection of members. A more disgusting and unfair statement has never, to our knowledge, appeared in *Technology News*.

We, as members of Tau Beta Pi, are proud of our new brothers and sorry that our campus newspaper does not limit its editorials to subjects of which its staff has some knowledge.

Don J. Albert, Pres.
Jack F. Schmidt, Vice-pres.
Leonard H. Jatzak, Sec'y.
Jack H. Slaton, Cataloguer
Roy Sahlstrom

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Upon the inquiries of several of the students, who are not affiliated with "Technology News," and with the belief that qualifications are a matter concerning all students and not a choice few, the managing board designated members of its staff, who are not eligible for Tau Beta Pi, membership, to make a two-week survey for the facts included in last week's editorial. Hence, we feel justified of the editorial's being written, but recognize the fact that a grave error was made by discussing personalities, and we apologize to the individuals concerned.

The Suds Run High

The sky sheds a tear. The earth gasps in anguish. And all life is still. The dreaded day has come. The day that all freedom loving men have feared has come—yes—the ancient honorable institution of soap throwing is about to be abolished. The wound goes deep and twice as deep when we remember that the first step was taken at our own beloved Illinois Tech.

Recently six men were unjustly punished for soap throwing in the gym shower room—could anything be more ridiculous—they were made to do some 49 3/4 laps to atone for the evil, dastardly deed. My friends, I ask you—what is this country coming to? But for the fact of creating a crisis, Local No. 711 of the International Brotherhood of Soap Throwers would call a nation-

wide strike to protest this gigantic injustice. As an extra protest they would demand a 30% increase in the amount of soap available in the shower rooms.

Soap throwers can boast of an illustrious lineage. The first soap thrower did not come over on the Mayflower, nor did he come over with Columbus, but I have it on reliable authority that he came over with that famous Viking, Soup Soup. It is common knowledge that he married the famous Indian Princess, Pee-and-Gee. As an incidental to their married life, the Princess gave birth to a baby boy (it's usually a baby at that age.) For lack of a better name they just called him Boy but today we all know him as Lifebouy. (The prefix "life" was added to indicate that the child was the first new life on this continent to be sired by a soap thrower.

In a recent volume by Charles and Mary Rinsco it is written that John Paul Jones never said, "I've just begun to fight," but rather when asked to surrender he seized a bar of soap (G.I. soap) and flung it at the British Captain. It is said that in a rage he shouted, "Take that, you son of a soap flake." (The lowest thing in the world to a real soap thrower is a son of a soap flake.)

Since the first public shower was established, soap throwing has become a part of American life. We, at Illinois Tech, have destroyed that part, and who will say what school will destroy another part 'til at last all is gone. In the words of that immortal soap thrower, Patrick Henry, "I know not what course others may take, but as for me—give me Lux or give me death."

Sam Suds

To the Sports Editor

This letter is a formal protest against your statements published in the October 9 edition of *Technology News*. The statements follow:

"Theta Xi had a fair chance to wrestle the Praetorians down into a tie for last place, yet they chose to forfeit. IIT may be thankful that such a lack of spirit does not characterize its students."

You object to and make slanderous remarks regarding our forfeiture of two Interfraternity baseball games on October 2 and 3. If you had made any effort to investigate the conditions surrounding these forfeitures, you would have found the following conditions to be true:

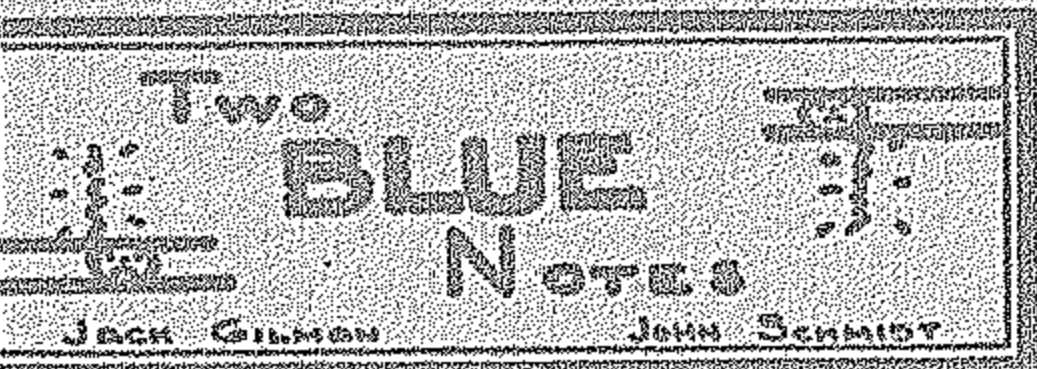
1. We attempted to postpone the games thru the Interfraternity baseball manager, but were told that there was too little time remaining to permit postponement.

2. At this time Theta Xi has low manpower reserves available for baseball games, and at best can get only fourteen players on the field.

3. On October 2 four of our team members were physically unable to play. One of these men had heart trouble, two were quite ill, and another had a badly burned hand. In addition to these men, there were two others who had jobs and had to work that afternoon. Due to these facts, we could not have put ten men in action, as required by the Interfraternity Council rules.

4. On October 3, Theta Xi held a formal initiation at the time the game was to be held. This initiation date was set a month in advance, and could not be changed for such a reason.

Respectfully yours,
Alpha Gamma Chapter
Theta Xi Fraternity



In line with our policy of bringing news of the popular music world to our readers, we present a short sketch of Duke Ellington. In our estimation, he has been (and still is) one of the guiding spirits in the 'pop' field.

What makes "The Duke" a leader in the popular music field? The reader must realize that his music has not always caught the public's fancy at the time he was playing it. When other organizations, realizing its worth, took up those same melodies, the music became "popular." He is a leader of leaders.

His music embodies originality, smooth style and consistent high quality. The Ellington outfit represents the peak in musicianship in the popular field. In a word, he is a musician's musician.

A contributing factor to the consistent high quality of his music is the fact that musicians come to his outfit to STAY. As a matter of fact, his drummer has been with the ork since the "Cotton Club" days. The turnover of the rest of the band has been phenomenally small as compared to that of other orchestras.

The Ellington men have consistently taken top honors in polls of well known music critics. Polls, such as those conducted by the Rhythm Section of "Esquire," have named Harry Carney, Lawrence Brown, Rex Stewart, Ray Nance and Johnny Hodges among the musical elite. Harry Carney's baritone sax, Lawrence Brown's "singing" trombone, Johnny Hodges, lyrical alto sax, Ray Nance's jazz violin and comical vocals, and Rex Stewart's "half-valve" trumpet form the nucleus of the highly successful combination. Much of the music turned out by the immortal Ellington and his band has been of the "Duke's" own composition. "Jungle style" songs such as "Black and Tan Fantasy," "Creole Love Call," and "Black, Brown and Beige" are most typical of his work.

In many instances, "The Duke" has been the instigator of a new trend in 'pop' circles. New ideas of his manufacture have been taken up by other name bands so consistently that one might be tempted to say that what Ellington plays today, everyone will be playing tomorrow. This is, however, not strictly true; but his influence has been so powerful that he might well lead the makers of "popular" music into his latest venture—that of placing "jazz" on the solid basis of symphonic length works played by large orchestras. Though this revolutionary style is still in its beginning stages, his "Black, Brown and Beige" shows much promise for the future.

IIT VETS

A great deal has been written about the Sea Bees and their construction work; but the Air Corps also had similar outfits that were always in the thick of things. Martin Salmon was a member of one such outfit that was commended for its excellent construction work at New Guinea, Leyte, and Mindora.



While attending Cornell as a junior in civil engineering, Marty received Uncle Sam's nod and was sent to Jefferson Barracks. From there it was a short trip to Geiger Field, where engineers, construction men, forest rangers, and oil men were being assembled. They went through their training period building roads and air strips.

Marty was assigned to the surveying crew and acted first as a rod man and then later as the transit man. It was monotonous work and the only diversion came when Marty captured a rattlesnake.

The 866th Air Engineer Bn's first step was at Finschaven, New Guinea, where Marty was promoted to corporal. To make matters a little difficult the rainy season had set in; but buildings, warehouses and hospitals were erected as if by magic.

Leyte was next and again the

rains came. As an added attraction the Japs provided fireworks. The construction men were bombed and strafed; but the work continued.

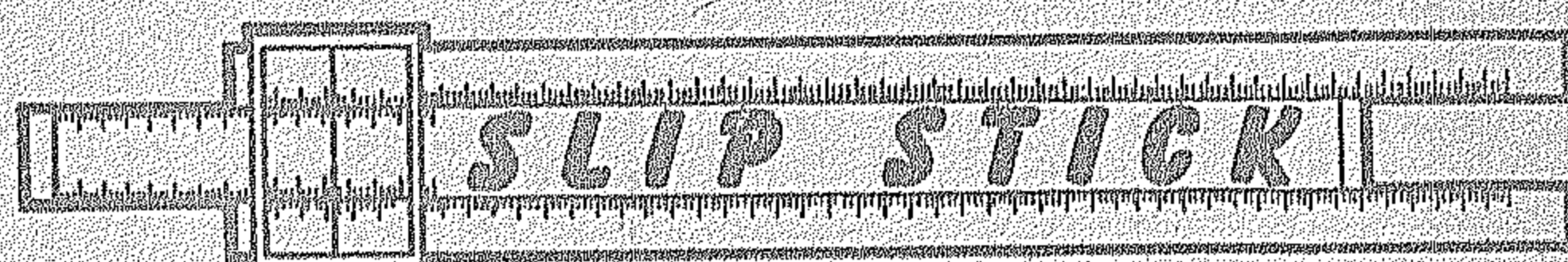
Marty then left on a convoy bound for the invasion of Mindora. The Japs received word of the expedition and prepared a welcome. However, there were some miscalculations and the navy had a field day shooting down over 50 planes.

Mindora, for a change, was without rain; and the engineers began work on a 5,000 ft. air strip. It was completed in just four days and was to be used in the next invasion. While at Mindora, Marty claims the Japs never forgot to pay their bombing respects.

Marty's first sergeant was a former IIT man, and when Marty received his honorable discharge after twenty five months of active service, he also enrolled at IIT in order to complete his degree in civil engineering.

Marty thinks very highly of the Air Corp's construction men and feels that the slogan "the impossible we do immediately; but the miraculous takes a little longer," is exceedingly appropriate.

—JACOB KRAMER



Cleave to the Slipstick—Let the Slapstick Fall Where It May

The boat had just left the dock when a little blonde stow-away was discovered in a lifeboat. The captain ordered her sent to his cabin. "I don't know what to do with you," he said as he questioned her.

"Say, skipper," she finally said, "how long have you been a sailor?"

—IIT—

Wife: "That brazen Miss Smith boasts she's been kissed by every man in town except one."

Husband (absently): "Wonder who he is?"

—IIT—

Blonde: "I wonder what sailors talk about when they're off by themselves?"

Brunette: "Probably the same things we do."

Blonde: "Oh—aren't they awful?"

—IIT—

When the girl told the sailor that she never went out with perfect strangers, he said: "Baby, who said I was perfect?"

—IIT—

"Nicely reared girl, isn't she?" "You bet! Not bad from the front either."

—IIT—

Jack: "My wife is scared to death someone will steal her clothes."

Jim: "Why don't you insure them?"

Jack: "Oh, she's got a better idea. She has some guy stay in the closet and watch them. I found him there the other night."

—IIT—

There's a recent report that a sailor was wrecked on a desert island with twenty-five girls, and when they found him he was nearly dead.

From exposure?

No, exhaustion—from pulling down all the distress signals the girls put up.

—IIT—

Sailor: "Going my way, cuttie?"

Girl: "Sir, in front of the library is no place to accost a girl who lives at 524 Arms Street, Circle 9190."

—IIT—

The zipper is the undoing of the modern girl, and yet on the other hand it opens up great opportunities.

McBagpipes was driving along the boulevard when he drove head on into another car. The other driver jumped out and together with McBagpipes took a survey of the situation, in the course of which Scotty gave him a good snifter from his bottle. "Thanks," said the other fellow, as he wiped his lips, "but aren't you going to have a snort for yourself?"

"Aye," said Scotty, "but na' til after the police have been here."

—IIT—

A modern girl is one who can meet the wolf at the door and come out with a fur coat.

—IIT—

She: "I'd better warn you—my husband will be home in less than an hour."

He: "But I've done nothing I shouldn't do."

She: Well, I just wanted to warn you that if you're going to, you'd better hurry."

—IIT—

Celeste: "You had no business to kiss me."

Tony: "But it wasn't business, it was a pleasure."

—IIT—

Math Prof: If I've talked too long, it's because I forgot my watch and there's no clock in this room.

Voice in the back: There's a calendar on the wall behind you.

—IIT—

A secretary came down to school one morning wearing two silver bars on her sweater. Immediately one of her rivals approached and inquired, "Is he a captain?" "Oh no," replied the first, "two lieutenants!"

—IIT—

So ends another term of contributions to "The Corn is Green." In the event you have found it hard to digest, why, merely plow it under and wait for next semester's crop. 30—

—THE RAZOR BLADES