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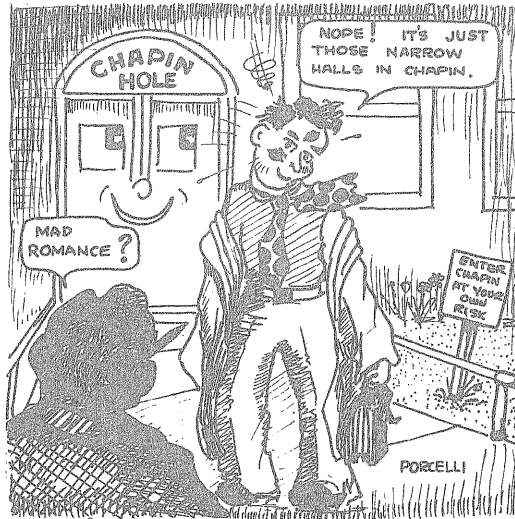
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"It Could Happen to You"



"Hey, what's that, some new jive?"
"Yeah, it's 'Steamshovel, Ricketty Ricketty' by the Digger and his Broken Spades. Dig me?"
"Maybe you haven't been dug but it is nice to check."

The speech course offers more than described in the bulletin, at least for Shirley Langill. It seems that the current classwork is for each student to give some sort of demonstration. One of the first events was posing for a photo. The instructor called upon Shirley, the only girl in the class, for a performance. During the next session a demonstration of dancing was presented with Miss Langill being the guinea pig once more. The deviation from the schedule has aroused the class' expectations to greater heights.

D. Mandel Freidlan has developed a peculiar psychosis which causes him to register fright at the sight of a classroom chair. In one class Mandel's chair consistently topples over for some unknown reason. Non-partial observers believe that Lois Graham, the red headed Tau Beta Pi girl, has a marked effect on his stability. Good or bad—it's a new technique anyway.

The latest endeavor of Bill McDonough is propositioning the coeds to enroll at "McDonough's School of Charm." The course of study includes "parlor acrobatics" with a practical lab course being conducted by the "cute" Danny O'Connell. Upon graduation the girl's back is tattooed with a "Graduate of McDonough's Charm School." This is purported to entice the wolves at formals and beach parties.

Backing away into an abyss, the Digger honorably leaves the column for a few more days when it once more comes out, with a few snatches of dirt.

THE DIGGER

Faculty Facts . . .
by John F. Wolfe

Prof. John Henry Rushton, Chairman of the Chemical Engineering Department.

Although John Henry Rushton has been at IIT only six months, he has already impressed fellow faculty members and students with his cordiality and industry.

Dr. Rushton, whose home town is New London, Pennsylvania, began preparing for his career at the University of Pennsylvania. During his undergraduate days there he made his first visit to Chicago with the Mask and Wig Club, a college dramatic group. Getting his start as a member of the glee club, Dr. Rushton was later promoted to the specialty dancing chorus. His memories of pining desperately over engineering reports in backstage dressing rooms can still bring forth a reminiscent chuckle.

Graduating in 1926 with a B.S. in chemical engineering, Dr. Rushton spent three years in industry before returning to the University of Pennsylvania to earn M.S. and Ph.D. degrees. While attending graduate school he was also an instructor at the Drexel Institute of Technology in Philadelphia.

After leaving Drexel in 1933, Dr. Rushton held posts at the University of Michigan and the University of Virginia, where he was head of the School of Chemical Engineering. All through his teaching years, Dr. Rushton has also been engaged in industrial consulting work. He has been associated with the Dow Chemical Company, and is still technical advisor to the Thermodynamics Research Laboratory at the University of Pennsylvania. He is a member of numerous engineering societies and fraternities, including the American Society of Refrigeration Engineers and the American Society for Engineering Education, and has contributed many articles to technical journals. He is the co-author of the textbook, "Process Equipment Design."

At present, Dr. Rushton is particularly interested in petroleum technology and the application to industry of large quantities of oxygen. During the war, he was on leave of absence from the University of Virginia while he held the position of section chief with the Office of Scientific Research and Development. He was concerned with the large scale production and military uses of oxygen.

Frequently traveling around the country on lecture tours, last January found him speaking to six local sections of the American Chemical Society in the course of one week while in New England. Perhaps because of these many trips each year, he enjoys relaxing at his summer home in Maine, where his energies are devoted to fishing and an occasional game of golf.

Eighthtermism

The well established final examination terminating the majority of Illinois Tech's courses has finally enveloped the eighth term student.

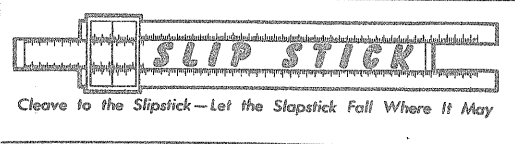
This circumstance can be attributed to the weakness of advanced students to a condition we label "Eighthtermism." It is not a synonym for an overdose of social activity, for spring fever or its like, but is a state in which a student tries to complete his college career by figuratively "swimming with the tide with his head just above water." In other words, it is the custom of many students to loaf during their last term with discredit to themselves, to their instructors and to our Institute. The final exams for eight termers have been inaugurated to avoid this difficulty.

Finals for graduating seniors have been considered for a long time, but the tight schedules never afforded the time, especially when the Navy V-12 was here, but now they are incorporated in school policy mostly because of the aforesaid reasons, commented Dean of Engineering, James C. Peebles. It is hoped that fewer students will now bask in the sunshine and glory of their first seven terms and work instead to achieve a crowning triumph upon receipt of their diploma.

There are some subordinate procedures that will be followed in enforcing this new policy. For example, the instructors of eighth term subjects must, if they choose to give finals at all, schedule them earlier than the regular exams. (For this term they will be taken before June 7th, which is the date of the Senior Farewell). On the other hand, seniors enrolled in freshman, sophomore or junior subjects will be required to take finals at the regular scheduled time unless their grades warrant an excuse by the instructor from taking the exam.

It is granted that students are usually the busiest during their last term. Some take part in so many organizations that they must keep all meeting time duly recorded for fear they will miss the session which overshadows an ordinary dull class. In addition, the chiming of the key chain, with its load of brass, informs all that the wearer is a veteran at the college game and is a busy man. Some seniors go to all lengths taking interviews and trying to decide whether they are best qualified as a president or vice-president, but they sometimes forget that they yet hold no degree. A well rounded activities program is no excuse for poor work.

Eighthtermism can be cured; there is a vaccine. All that is required is a little spark of intelligence, a little more burning of the midnight oil, a little cooperation, but most of all—just a little more effort. It is hoped that the finals will cultivate and encourage this effort.



Ah, yes, here we are again with our old jokes, taken from back issues of Tech News, Joe Miller's Handy Handbook, and Saturday night taxi drivers.

—IIT—

A certain night club advertises a chorus of fifty, but we are positive some of them aren't a day over forty-five.

—IIT—

EPITAPH TO MY WIFE

Here lies my wife,
Here let her lie
Now she's at rest
And so am I.

—IIT—

Back seat soprano: "I don't stand for necking."

B.S. bass: "You don't?"

B.S. soprano: "No, standing makes me tired."

—IIT—

Modest: "Did you see that young

lady smile at me?"

Buddy: "That's nothing, the first time I saw you I laughed out loud."

—IIT—

Prof: "Why the quotation marks all over this paper?"

Student: "Courtesy to the man on my right, Prof."

—IIT—

Marriage is like a card game. They start with a pair; he shows a diamond; she shows a flush, and they end up with a full house.

—IIT—

Witty: "What is the difference between a girl and a horse?"

Fuzzled: "I don't know."

Witty: "I'll bet you have some swell dates."

(See SLIPSTICK on Page 3)



(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.)

LETTER TO THE EDITOR: Metric System

When one reads of the U.S. Army making tests on German rockets and jet planes a question arises in my mind. How were the Germans so far in advance of we Americans in science? I realize that we did not wish to develop our science for destruction as did the Germans. Now that we know why they did it the question remains: How? Could this be part of the answer:

"In science as well as in all other fields of learning, a good foundation is important and the tools for their development should be the best obtainable, simple in nature and simple in reasoning." We Americans have the foundation but our tools for thinking (the English system of units) appear to be clumsy, confusing and obsolete. I have heard it said (you engineers will agree) that Americans waste half of their time in science straightening out the English units and converting from the English system to the metric (e.g.s.) and vice versa. If this is true, here is the bottleneck in our scientific progress. Ask any man in that field (for they have the experience) which system he would prefer to use. Invariably the answer to this question would be "the metric system." Why? Because here are the tools that are simple in nature and simple in reasoning.

I assume that we Americans desire a science department equal to

or better than the German, though not for destruction. Then eventually the metric system will supplant the English system. But the man in the street would exclaim that it is rather late to make this change. However, remember that the longer the English system remains the more embedded it becomes, making it still more difficult to remove. Therefore, the sooner the easier.

To accomplish the change is going to be difficult, because not only does this change need to be made in science but in everything connected with it, down to everyday life. Men intending to be scientists must be taught from infancy a clear way of thinking. In elementary schools metric methods of thought, reasoning, and units could be introduced. To make use of this educational improvement a nation-wide drive should be inaugurated to convert everything now in English to the metric system, having both we could carry on until it would be practical to drop the old, obsolete system.

I Wonder