

Morally Wrong?

Under consideration by the Faculty council is a proposal by three Illinois Tech students for alteration of the quiz system now in use.

It is pointed out that, at present, engineering or other technical quizzes can in no way be considered an educational process, or part of one. The memorization of physical constants and equations required for an average quiz does not permit investigation of the student's power to reason, or his ability to put to use his understanding of the course.

This has brought about a certain kind of frustration on the part of the quizzee. It is responsible for the near-universal attitude toward cheating—that it is "wrong" to cheat just as it is "wrong" to walk across Ogden field when it is in a muddy condition. Cheating has come to be an infraction of disciplinary regulations for which the offender expects to be punished if caught; but nowadays there appears to be nothing morally wrong with the practice.

The use of alternate seating and more proctors would decrease cheating to an extent; it might, however, also generate an even less healthy attitude than the present one.

A far more constructive suggestion is that which calls for a general adoption of the open book type quiz—one in which the student is allowed to demonstrate his abilities, and his mark depends not upon his eyesight, but upon his understanding.

Fire One!

So now they're dancin' for the nation's health.

Eleven colleges in the Chicago area, including Illinois Tech, are cooperating to join in giving a dance called the "Collegiate Answer To Conquer Cancer." The informal dance atmosphere will be livened by the strains of Ray McKinley's band to say nothing of such notables as Louis Jordan and the King Cole Trio.

With all the "peaceful bloodshed" going on in the world it's sort of a pleasure to take part in a function like this—aimed at conquering cancer, not Israel.

Perhaps this dance will set an example for other cities and colleges. But whatever happens elsewhere, it looks like Collegiate Chicago is going to chalk one up against cancer on May 28.

Technology News

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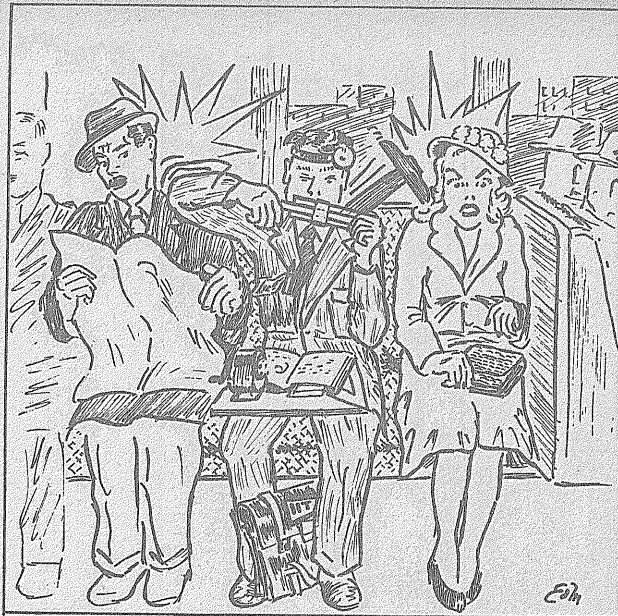
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NIGHT AND DAY



Letters To The Editor

Vote Commissioner Replies To 'Constructive' Criticism

Dear Sir:

Last week two letters concerning the pre-election activities and duties of the election committee were published in Technology News. I realize that both of these letters were intended as constructive criticism, which I always welcome. However, the casual reader may have drawn inferences from the letters which I feel obliged to clear up.

The date of Wednesday, May 5, was selected as the date for the release of petitions to students because it was felt that maximum participation, insofar as the number of candidates is concerned, could be obtained through the simultaneous release of information on the elections through Technology News.

Due to the fact that Technology News does not arrive at an exact time of the day the release of petitions could not

very well be timed to the arrival of the paper. Therefore the beginning of the day, 8 a.m., was selected as the time of release.

Naturally the other members of the ITSA Board knew the time of release, as did the other members of the election committee, so there was little opportunity to keep the time secret. And because of the fact that some of the members of the Board would be candidates in this election, I told any person who asked me the time of release.

While it is true that the candidates who turned in petitions early were among those who asked the time for release, it is also true that I told many people whom I did not know, but who had the same right to the information as any other person who cared to come to the ITSA office and ask.

No one had access to the petition blanks before 8 a.m., at which time they were placed in the South Union lounge for public distribution.

However, I think little damage was done, and future election committee chairmen can benefit from the verbal flurry of this election. Warren G. Brockmeier, Election Commission Chairman

Points To Disservice

I want you to know that many people feel that the jokes in your "Slipstick" column are not always up to the level which can rightfully be expected of a college gentleman. The first three jokes in this column in the May 12 issue are highly objectionable. The second and third are definitely not for a mixed group such as appear on our campus.

Engineers don't have to be "tough" at least in the sense of being immoral. This column, further, is a genuine disservice to some of your readers.

J. D. Parent, Educational Director, Institute of Gas Technology (copy also sent to President Heald)

Slipstick

Who says the Russians have no sense of humor? Here's a joke that is currently rolling them on the Kremlin sidewalks:

Puervi: Kto buila dama, e ketoroj ya videl bac, vchera. yecherrom?
Torui: One net dama—ona moya zhen-ya.

- Scene: Frat House
- Characters: Two Delts
- "Got a pen?"
- "Sure thing, pal."
- "Some paper too?"
- "Guess so."
- "Going out past the mail box?"
- "Yeah."
- "Wait until I finish this letter?"
- "Uh-huh!"
- "Can I borrow a stamp?"
- "Yeah."
- "What's your girl's address?"

Eileen: Did that English course help Ralph any?

Joan: No, he still ends every sentence with a proposition.

"How is your son getting along at IIT?"

"He must be doing pretty well in languages. I just paid for three courses: \$10 for Latin, \$10 for French, and \$100 for Scotch."

There are two kinds of guys And only two that I despise. The first I'd really like to slam; The one who copies my exam. The other is the dirty skunk. Who covers his and lets me funk.

Even though we're the last people you may turn to, we are the last to let you down.

Your friendly neighborhood mortician. Carboite Gas

as I see IT-

By Sherwood Benson, Editor-in-Chief

"WHERE'S THE EDITOR? I'll tear him limb from limb!" shouted the pretty stranger standing in the doorway. "Who me?" says I. "I don't even know you."

The young lady had been rightly indignant about the publicity her affair had received in the paper—she came to her "source" of trouble.

But this sort of thing happens more or less frequently all through the semester—every semester. Only recently a deserving class dance did not receive the type of publicity it should have had.

Most of the victims blame the editor; they allude to his prejudice and claim, "He just didn't want to give us publicity."

An editor cannot afford to harbor this kind of prejudice, especially with 8400 publishers. No, this is not the root of the trouble—but there is a trouble.

I am going to present a plan to the ITSA Board of Control or the Student Coordinating Council (whoever will listen). It costs no money; the only thing it needs is understanding and some cooperation.

My plan is prompted by the firm conviction that a campus newspaper should not be relied upon to act as public relations agent for each individual all school affair that arises. Of course the paper should work with and cooperate with these functions in every way possible.

But all too often the importance of adequate publicity for a dance is completely overlooked. I would like to set up a student public relations bureau. Completely apart from the paper this bureau would operate in every way possible to make school functions a hit by writing interesting and complete copy to present to Technology News. Then when this "bureau" copy comes to the campus newspaper the editor should have the right to handle it or place it anywhere he sees fit.

A campus newspaper must retain its right to judge the importance of copy, but if the material is handled well before it reaches the editor's desk its chances of appearing in print are greatly increased.

Although circumstances do not permit me to reapply for the editorship of Technology News I would willingly handle this miniature "news bureau," with or without several assistants (preferably interested in advertising).

AN OPEN LETTER TO DR. J. D. PARENT:

(The letter referred to is in column 2.)

Dear Dr. Parent, Thank you for your recent letter about Slipstick. Although I do not wholly agree with your point of view your earnest is indeed an expression from a very earnest man.

You have already cost me \$3.75, for when I read your letter over for the tenth time I threw my hands up in despair and bought Max Eastman's book "Enjoyment of Laughter."

My despair sprang from my distaste for arguments such as "It has always been done," or "We get our jokes from some of the finest educational schools in the country."

For how can I convince you that we are not trying to be "tough" or desert the level of gentlemanly standards when we print jokes that have a tinge of sex in their double meanings?

Eastman's book is well written but I could get no ammunition from any of his three chapters on sexy jokes and Freud.

We are constantly trying to draw the line between vulgarity and just plain college humor. But it should be realized that we cannot draw this line to suit all of our readers. Yours is the second "immorality" letter we've received in two years.

I myself take jokes as they come, with less analysis and more laughter.

Respectfully yours, S. Benson

