

TWO Modest Beginning

The Illinois Tech Student Association board of control went on record last semester as approving a faculty rating system for Illinois Tech. ITSA representatives then approached the faculty council and found them receptive to this idea.

As a result of the investigation that followed, the electrical engineering staff cooperated with Eta Kappa Nu, EE honorary society, to conduct such a survey in its department. The results were made known only to the individual instructors concerned.

The ultimate objective of such an inquiry must be to improve the methods of instruction at Illinois Tech. This is accomplished by giving the instructors an opportunity to become familiar with their own teaching characteristics, and should result in improved classroom technique.

Both student and faculty members on the campus have a great deal to gain from a properly conducted survey. Improved technique on the part of instructors can result in a spirit of student cooperation and genuine willingness to learn that is fast disappearing from some classrooms.

That a faculty rating system can be successful is evident from the number of institutions now making use of it. Among the schools with rating systems are Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Harvard university, University of Southern California, University of Michigan, and Purdue university.

To conduct a rating survey in one department is indeed a modest beginning—but it is a BEGINNING. The next step is to carry the program to every department on the campus.

Petition Payoff

Dad Dearborn has finally come across. Students of Illinois Tech may rightly feel that they played a part in making him do so.

Last week the Chicago Transit Authority announced that all express trains on the outer track will stop at 18th street, providing a transfer point to and from local trains.

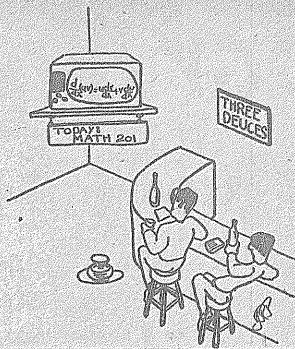
The Transit Authority's action was the direct result of a petition presented to them by the IIT student body. This petition, asking for a 33rd street "L" stop, had a signature list of Techawks more than 60 feet long.

The 18th street stop is not just what we asked for but we believe it does represent a decided gain for Illinois Tech. The action finally reached, although a compromise, is a real step forward in better transportation for students of IIT.

TECHNOLOGY NEWS

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Information For Free Machine Goes Berserk; 'D'-Bomb Hits 'A'-Boys

By "Wild" Bill Furlong
Much to the chagrin of the higher echelon, it was proved that machines do have hearts—well, at least more of a heart than the petrified objects that reside in some professorial pulmonary regions.

Nobody can be quite sure, but it is suspected that the IBM machines used in stamping grades on reports turned traitor or had a nervous breakdown between semesters and ran rampant. Rumor indicated that the machines were distributing A's like demented department heads. Before the unknowing eyes of attendants the mechanical judges went about their business stamping happiness over e'er they would.

But alas, it was not to be. No joyful yowls echoed through the corridors of lofty Chapin Hall—for it was the other way around. The machines instead were making great strides towards becoming the "Great Commoner" by dispensing D's with almost savage joy. Normally such a procedure would be condemned as disloyal to the students but it was generally agreed that those who suffered the shock of a "D instead of A" were those who could well afford a zero grade point.

Although the grades are even now being straightened out the few moments of horror given the "straight A" boys at least served to give adequate insight as to how the other half lives.

The only dampening aspect of the "tragedy" is that downtown bookies tell us that the machines can't be relied upon to pull a reversal (giving A's out instead of D's) for the next six generations.

Slipstick

Every time we swear to banish puns from this column some court in Nebraska sends a girdle thief up for a stretch.

Jerry: If a man smashed a clock, could he be accused of killing time?
Herbie: Not if he could prove the clock struck first.

Some sophomores were lazing the freshmen down in the South Union the other day when this bit of dialogue was overheard.

Soph: What is your greatest ambition?
Frosh: To die a year sooner than you, so I'll be a sophomore in hell when you get there.

I wandered into a tennis game the other day and sat down on the bench. Not knowing the score I asked, "Whose game?" A shy young thing next to me looked up hopefully and said, "I am."

My little Lois swallowed a half dollar last week. When I asked the nurse about her condition the nurse replied, "No change yet."

We understand there is a lipstick on the market which contains bourbon—making it kiss-proof, smear-proof, and 100 proof.

Bum: Say buddy, could you let me have a dollar so I can go to my family?
ME: Sure, but where can your family be that you can get there for a dollar?

Bum: They're in the balcony at the Rialto theater.

But before we leave we have a question here for women who wear slacks: "Does your end justify your jeans?"
Caroline Gus

Letters To The Editor

Student Points To Non-Profit Operation Of Cafeterias; Raps Survey Handling

Dear Sir: I believe that *Technology News* should be commended for the introduction of "Operation Cross Section."

Discovering the reactions of the student body to various campus activities and services can have a practical as well as informative value. However, the practical value of these surveys will be lost if less favorable results are not given equal publicity with the more favorable results.

The fact that 52% of the students polled believe that the quality to price ratio in the lunchrooms is equal to that of commercial cafeterias is certainly not worthy of the importance and position it enjoyed in the report when "Over 90% of those asked felt that the Illinois Tech lunchrooms should charge less than the comparable restaurants outside."

Why do over 90% of IIT students feel that way? And why is this information relegated to the last paragraph of this report?

Upon entrance to Illinois Tech, I was told that the cafeteria is a non-profit organization. I assume that the rental is less than the rental for a comparable amount of space at off-campus rates. The wages paid the cafeteria personnel, I believe, are at a minimum and it certainly is not necessary to advertise for customers.

Under these favorable conditions the quality-price ratio should not only be equal to that of commercial cafeterias, but should be far more favorable. It is rumored that the cafeteria is operating at a loss. Is it possible that the management of the lunchrooms is so inefficient?

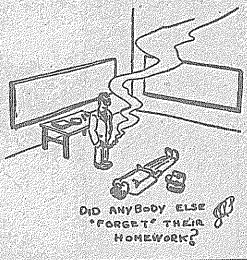
It is not surprising that 32% of those students questioned answered "seldom" to the question, "Do you buy your lunch in the school cafeteria?" Obviously many students are carrying their lunches or buying them elsewhere because the quality-price relationship in our cafeterias is not what we would expect from an efficient, well-managed, not-for-profit lunchroom.

Bert Gottlieb

Car Owner's Lament

Dear Sir: No doubt the administration often wonders why there is student antipathy toward school owned institutions, such as the bookstore and cafeterias. Many students wait patiently for opportunities "to get even."

Needless to say, many factors contributing to this spirit concern the operation and prices in the cafeterias and bookstore, and the lack of available lounge and study space.



However, there are many other little things done on purpose or unintentionally that also have a bearing on the subject.

For example why does the maintenance department have the snow shoveled into the already clogged streets when there are areas between the walks and buildings? This is an unnecessary procedure and no extra work would be entailed if the snow were not put in the street.

Bob Elliott

What's In A Name?

Dear Sir: This letter is in regard to the haphazard use of the name Jameson in cartoons with various gigantic mechanisms. When I stop to think of the possible ensuing results I can but quake in my boots and turn seven shades whiter.

Just think, 20 years from now as I walk down the street mothers will pull their dears and children into the house, then gawk meekly through a heavily curtained window

and with a trembling finger point to me and state: "There he goes, the inventor of the orange squeezer!"

Charles George Jameson

(Editor's Note: Drawing referred to appeared in February 16 issue.)

Artistic Temperament

Dear Sir: I trust that the enclosed picture voiced my sentiments vociferously enough. If any of the bookstore boys disagree, they can reach me at 619 Surf street and enjoy the pleasure of listening to my sentiments complete and unabridged.

Henry Berolzheimer

(Editor's note: Cartoon is posted on Technology News bulletin board. It depicts angry student waiting for sleeping counter man.)



IT WASN'T A PINK slip or a blue slip, but just a plain white letter that started my friend out, one year ago today, on a seldom told Horatio Alger story.

On March 10, 1947 Frank was informed that he was officially through at Illinois Tech—flunked out because of poor scholarship.

He had been studying electrical engineering and found that there was just not enough time for him to complete the quizzes. After a semester of probation he wound up with a still lower than "one point zero" average and was out in the cold.

"It's not that I'm worried what people will think," he told me. "It's just that I thought I wanted to be an electrical engineer ever since my first tooth and it seems pretty hard to drop it now."

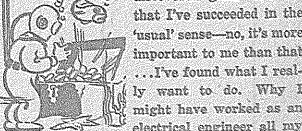
Frank went to work for a large radio manufacturing company as an inspector while he calmed down so that he could begin to think of the future again. He became interested in plant management and production during his first few months out in industry and came back to IIT to pick up several management courses at night school.

One day out at the plant he turned in a four page suggestion (written up like a heat lab report) and to his surprise received recognition plus a substantial monetary reward for his efforts. That egged him on. His next suggestion was a twelve page report including charts and graphs, enclosed in a disguised engineering lab folder.

Two months passed with no word of his second suggestion, turned in after weeks of work. Frank figured that this silence meant that his "report" had been thrown out or sidetracked. But a note from the front office one day proved him wrong. They just took all that time to "study his suggestion" as a company executive told him later.

It was less than a month before Frank was switched to a new job. Now he has the title of "Production Methods Engineer."

Yesterday Frank told me, "I feel as if I discovered gold. It's not that I've succeeded in the 'usual' sense—no, it's more important to me than that...I've found what I really want to do. Why I might have worked as an electrical engineer all my life, never once realizing that there was something else I would enjoy much more. I consider that flunk notice a pretty lucky break."



With a year of night school behind him, Frank plans to attend Illinois Tech full time next September, majoring in industrial engineering.