

Underwriters' Labs Set High Standards

By John C. Dinou

"Tested for Safety—Underwriters' Laboratories," are words familiar to both manufacturer and consumer, for they appear on a much sought-after label. Equally familiar words are those which appear on a bronze plaque commemorating the life of William Henry Merrill. They say, "the protection of life and property through engineering." These words express the purpose of Underwriters' Laboratories.

In some fifty years of its operation UL has tested perhaps a million articles ranging from juke boxes to pre-cast concrete slabs. There are three major offices and testing centers in this country and 185 branch offices in the United States, Canada, England and Hawaii. Building codes and machine specifications look to UL's stringent safety tests for their fire and accident prevention standards.

Started In 1894

Such was not the case in 1894. The directors of Chicago's great Columbian Exposition decided to headline Tom Edison's electric light. The "new contraption" created such a series of fires at the fair that interested insurance companies became alarmed.

With characteristic efficiency, these people called engineer William Henry Merrill to investigate these fires; to stop them if he could. They installed Merrill in a loft above the horses of Fire Patrol Station No. 1. Within 6 months Merrill came up with the first electrical installation codes and the fires at the fair practically stopped.

The insurance folks rubbed their hands with glee and promptly rewarded Merrill by moving him away from the horses and into a new office.

Varied Program Scheduled For Spring Concert

The Spring Concert—the event the musical clubs of IIT have been looking forward to for the past year—will be presented from the stage of the Civic theater April 4, complete with background and lighting effects.

Beginning at 3 p.m. that Sunday, the music clubs' program will last two hours. The listener will be subjected to music varying from the delicate harmony of "Drink To Me Only With Thine Eyes" to the thunderous volumes of Khachaturian's "Sabre Dance." "All in all," said O. Gordon Erickson director, "the boys and I are sure that it will be a very pleasurable afternoon for all those present."

The program, as released by the music department, is:

Overture, "Die Fledermaus".....Strauss
ORCHESTRA
Charles Belong to our.....Tchaikovsky
Waltz, "Soul of Mine".....Borodin
GLEE CLUB
Themes from "Schéhérazade".....Rimsky-Korsakov
Adagio.....Gordard
Excerpts from the opera.....Herbert
ORCHESTRA
Ranger Song from "Rokita".....Borodin
Wedding Song, "Be My Wife".....Borodin
Wedding of the Painted Doll.....Brown
Drunk to Me Only With Thine Eyes.....Old English
Polovetsian Dances from.....Borodin
Lullaby
GLEE CLUB and Orchestra
INTERMISSION
Overture, "Sakuntala".....Goldmark
Inflamation from "Sisak Mater".....Rossini
Charles Belong to our.....Tchaikovsky
Three Dances.....Khachaturian
Dance of the Rose Maidens
Sabre Dance
Pauline Caprice.....Paul
Robert Horn-Saxophone
Tone Poem "Finlandia".....Sibelius
Concert Band
Alma Mater

Placement Schedule

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24
Under Special Machines
N. M. Kintz and Associates
MONDAY, MARCH 25
Mechanical Handling Systems
Republic Steel
Cook County Highway department
Standard Oil Development company
TUESDAY, MARCH 26
Crescent-Edwards Steel
Inland Steel
THURSDAY, APRIL 1
International Harvester—Farm Implement
Inland Steel
FRIDAY, APRIL 2
International Harvester—Farm Implement



SHOWN ABOVE IS the Underwriters' laboratory at 207 East Ohio street, its location since 1917. UL was established in 1894 after William H. Merrill proved the value of strict electrical installation by the prevention of fires at the Chicago World's Fair.

The expansion from then on was phenomenal. By 1917 UL had incorporated under its own non-profit charter, had installed-itself in permanent quarters at 207 East Ohio street, and had become self-supporting. The old sponsors became clients and new clients came pouring in.

Stringent Tests Required

These clients wanted to manufacture safer products. They wanted to know about Christmas tree lights, fire doors, hair dryers, juke boxes, etc. Once a product passes prescribed tests it is privileged to carry UL's label of approval.

The integrity represented by this label is UL's most zealously guarded asset. A subsequent article will outline some of Underwriters' Laboratories severe tests and show how the whole organization backs up this label.

All School Dance To Be Sponsored By Phi Beta Pi's

Phi Beta Pi sorority will present its first annual all school dance "Platter Parade", at 8:30 p.m. on April 9, in the North Union.

"Dancers will sway to music by the best bands in the nation on records", stated Lillian Phillips, entertainment chairman, "but live entertainment will also be present during the intermission."

The main event of the evening will be a "mystery platter" contest with prizes for the winners. For those who do not care to dance, card tables will be set up in the lounge.

Dancing will go on till midnight. Admission is free and refreshments will be served in the lounge during the intermission.

An abundance of girls has been promised by the social chairman, since girls from local colleges and nursing schools have been invited.

Letters to the Editor

Irate Student Claims Independent Senior Survey Does Not Represent Majority

Dear Sir:

I am afraid Mr. Louis Fisher, the cynical lad with the gripe against formal affairs, has finally overstepped his bounds. This anti-social publicity hound who writes in his complaints with amazing regularity has impressed several people as nothing but a loud-mouth who uses some sad attempt at statistics to try to prove his weak point.

There appeared in the last issue of *Technology News* a "poll" taken of the Senior class which was supposed to indicate that the majority of the class desired the Senior farewell to be an informal affair. There happen to be 400 members of the Class of June, 1948, and Mr. Fisher's clever little survey showed a tally of only 197 statements.

According to my mathematics, that does not indicate a majority, even if all of those were for an informal affair. This number is only about one-half of the class, and if you take 65% of 55%, I'm afraid you will find this is the minority that Mr. Fisher so hotly denounces at every turn.

At every polling taken during class meetings the students, including Mr. Fisher, have had a chance to express their views. Why must a few people clutter up the school paper with their little personal dislikes? The senior committees are functioning with a great deal of efficiency, and if Mr. Fisher were so greatly interested in the welfare of the class he would help them out instead of tossing petty disputes in their way.

He can argue all he wants to about people and their finances, but considering the number of informal affairs offered during the year at which he is more than welcome, and that some of them are free, and that there is only one last Senior farewell, it seems that since he is a big boy now and is supposed to be able to manage, he could take a good look at some of his classmates who can forego some things to make their last social at college something to remember.

If Mr. Fisher belongs to the sad group who find no pleasure in social affairs, then what is his complaint? The class, its commencement, exercises, its responsibilities, are shouldered by the students who are interested in the school and their class. Since he has chosen to be a one-man campaign to down the plans for the senior social, I say

more power to him and may he find the same opposition that he offers to everyone.

A Southerner Speaks

Dear Sir:

In the last week's issue of *Technology News* an editorial said that 20 southern states compel segregation in some form or other. That seems to be a strange figure considering that this would represent almost half the number of states in the Union. It really requires quite a stretch of the imagination to classify twenty states as "southern".

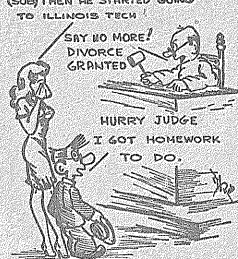
You also stated that 2% of Mississippi's "eligible" voting population go to the polls. According to the 1945 issue of "The World Almanac", 14.4% of all the people of Mississippi over 21 years of age voted in the last general election. John Gunther in "Inside U.S.A." reported approximately the same percentage voted in the 1946 primary in which the late Senator Bilbo was reelected.

In southern states which do not have a poll tax the percentage of the people voting is no greater than in states which do have a poll tax. For your information only seven states have a poll tax as a requirement for voting: seven out of your twenty "southern" states.

In regard to the Fair Employment Practices Act—do you propose to tell an employer whom he may hire and upon what basis he may select prospective employees? In regard to a federal Anti-Lynching law, lynching is unlawful in all states and the United States Constitution grants each state the right to enact and enforce its own criminal code.

If you propose to violate the rights of all states in the matter of lynching you may as well advocate federal laws against murder or any other crime. How do you propose to assure punishment under a federal law more effectively than under a state law? Will the accused be tried by a jury of the local citizens, or do you propose to try people in Mississippi for crimes committed in Illinois, or vice versa.

(SO) THEN HE STARTED GOING TO ILLINOIS TECH!



In closing it may be well remembered that there would be considerable disappointment on the part of the Congressmen, who biennially propose these measures, if they were actually passed. Also, I am sure that the late Senator Bilbo would have felt that he was being cheated of a juicy political issue if these laws were not brought up every election year.

J. R. Brough
Editor's Note: See reply in "As I See It" on page two.

Butter Injustice

Dear Sir:

I am interested in seeing the injustices perpetrated against the manufacturers of oleomargarine corrected.

The following is a list of points which have come to my attention:

1. There are direct taxes on oleomargarine (which were pushed through by a "butter lobby").

I do not know who is connected with this lobby, but it definitely is unfair discrimination.

2. It is against the law (or prohibitively taxed) for the manufacturers to color oleomargarine.

There is no valid reason why oleomargarine should not be colored. Butter is colored during the winter months. The Pure Food and Drug Act will take care of any misrepresentation of food products.

3. Recent witnesses testify that oleomargarine might be sold as butter.

As stated above, the Pure Food and Drug Act will cover that. The fact that horse meat could be sold as beef does not seem to require any special laws or taxes.

Somebody from Wisconsin displayed a small statue of a cow and said that the cow is the foster mother of the human race.

Interesting, but hardly an argument for butter.

4. Government institutions are prohibited from serving oleomargarine.

Oleomargarine is just as wholesome as the finest butter and just as suitable for use in every way as well as being considerably cheaper. If the above mentioned conditions are corrected, the economy will be even greater.

These things directly concern consumers, and I hope that justice is done.

He Likes Theory

Dear Sir:

In three of my classes the instructor has been charged with being "theoretical." In each of these the man's only fault lay in trying to give the students value for their tuition.

Applications are great; I go to into applied work myself appreciate all methods which gather which will help me in work. But I feel that the I learn now should be of general applications. It is obviously possible for anyone to teach a special method which will cover possible problems with which will be confronted in practice.

The students who cry out against general "theoretical" instruction are, without a doubt, hurting themselves. These are who are teaching us like the jobs. Of course they don't want too many complaints to reach their superiors. The safest is the path of least resistance to teach whatever the bulletin calls for and no more.

Many instructors want to extend the subject matter of their course. They would gladly take the time to teach some elementary analysis or the method of solving a few simple differential equations. They know that if the students this knowledge a great deal of ground could be covered and one would have a better understanding of the course. But complaints are made even when simple material we all supposedly learned sophomore calculus is used.

The primary purpose of education is to give a scientific education to intelligent young men. Those who only want "die gear," a man that will grind out routine and will do well to investigate institutions in the vicinity that help themselves trade school.

Robert A. B.