



Schommer depicts problems facing football enthusiasts

"We want football" rings again the battle cry from undergrads at Illinois Tech. That cry has resounded periodically from our boys ever since the game was abolished at Illinois Tech.

Once Techs did play the game. But "enemies" ambushed our lads. From cellar to roof of our buildings these culprits poured in a relentless fire. Our intrepid warriors fell right and left under the barrage of incompletes, conditions and fanks. It was alleged later that unsympathetic followers of Socrates* and Euclid used "dum dum" bullets. Our opponents, too, maimed and hamstringed our "knights of the pigskin" so that many were wounded. Finally the game became more brutal and one of our lads was killed. Then our administration rushed into a meeting room and "the huddle" was born. Out rushed Dr. Gunsaulus, quarterback for the administration. He called one play. You guessed! He torpedooed football. Thus he antedated about 35 years Dr. Robert Hutchin's famous quarterback play in 1939. Both men, in years to come, may be remembered as presidents that abolished football.

Football is a great exciting game. It calls for both mental alertness and physical courage on the part of the participants. There are many lads that like a hard, gruelling, tiring, body-contact game. There is little wrong with the rules or the manner in which the game is played if the participants are trained and physically built to endure it. However, since the game is supposed to be played under the rules of amateurism in our American colleges, there has been much controversy regarding just what American amateurism means. The phrase is quite elastic and has been stretched to the breaking point many times. There has been much quarreling, alleging, suspicion and hypocritical attitude regarding the methods used in attracting and keeping excellent football players by the respective colleges of the U. S.

Much has been said about the abuse of elastic scholastic requirements used in many colleges. Some colleges have developed departments of physical education so that athletes may receive credit for football, baseball, basketball and many other types of games toward a degree in physical education. There is much money involved in "bigtime" football. A winning team pays hand-

somely; a losing team is a pain in the neck.

Because the writer was to meet three picked Illinois Tech students in a debate in 1947 on the subject "We want a football team" there were 114 questionnaires sent by the writer to the respective engineering colleges in the U. S., 98 returned. The questions were framed to find out how these engineering colleges found time to devote to football; in what departments the players were registered; whether or not the players were housed and fed free of charge; the number of engineers on the squad and on the team etc. The answers received varied widely. There were some squads and teams composed entirely of engineers.

So the writer will attempt from his experience and from the questionnaires to show why, under existing conditions here at Tech, football should not be attempted.

Remember the football season is one of the shortest of the competitive sports in our American colleges. It is of about 3 months duration; therefore, it requires intensive practice under adequate staff, equipment, playing field, flood lights and many other essentials.

Some colleges pursue a football program for publicity values; some for gate receipts; some for the educational values—mental and physical; and some try to combine all these features mentioned. Here at Tech a football program should be pursued for the educational and recreational values. Remember, at an accredited engineering college it must be done with due respect to other educational courses in the curriculum. Football should not be "the tail that wags the dog."

What are the conditions at our college that govern the time that would have to be allotted to a successful team? "Successful" does not mean we must beat the top teams in the country or even in our class of opponents.

To graduate as an engineer from Illinois Tech there is required a minimum of 144 semester hours of credit. This is well above the average required hours in many other engineering colleges and way above other colleges of literature and art that require from 120 hours and up. Illinois Tech in its literature and art courses requires 132 hours minimum for a B.S. degree. So

(See FOOTBALL on page 7)

as I see IT

By ED MICHELIC

HUMOR NOTE: If you ever want to take a quiz that has its share of humor, try one of those offered by the Political Science department in their American Constitutional System course. (PS 420). They use multiple choice examinations, which to the uninitiated, are nerve-racking, glorified guessing games.

It relieves the pressure a bit in a quiz to be able to chuckle when one reads, as an alternative definition for the Australian ballot, one used in a "kangaroo court." A "long ballot" might be guessed as being a "Tasmanian dodge," and the almost plausible meaning of habeas corpus is that a person cannot be convicted of murder unless the prosecution can produce the victim's corpse.

PEOPLE ARE GETTING WORRIED about the apparent lack of financial success of the numerous all-school affairs held this term. My guess is that there were too many of them. At one time, it was thought by promoters of the various affairs, Integral Ball, Autumn Leaves, Hallowe'en Hop, Greetin' Meetin' and the more recent Homecoming, that publicity was the key to gaining enthusiastic patrons.

Publicity, as you know, involves articles in the newspaper, posters in the student unions, guessing contests, ticket booths, and personal salesmanship. It has been claimed in ITSA meetings that publicity mediums were not being used with the greatest effectiveness, a proper claim, though it is not the only factor involved in the success of a social event.

As far as Technology News, I think that it is not to be criticized as to the coverage given these events. There are times when the publicity for some events is cooked up right in the South Union News office and put through to the amazement of the officers involved in the dance.

Getting back to the subject, I am glad to see that many people are recognizing the most probable reason for these dances falling short of expectations. Their opinion, like mine, is that ITSA should not be so liberal in granting many and frequent social events where considerable sums of money are involved.

They are an unnecessary financial risk, and their probable failures might discourage social enterprisers. An enforced minimum of social events is better for morale and pocketbooks.



Jim praises footlight art

Wednesday night I saw the infamy of December 7th practically wiped out. From now on it will live in my mind, not as the day of the attack on Pearl Harbor, but as the day of "Campus Players" first performance.

When I went to the play, I intended to write a criticism in semi-darkness as the thing progressed, but, as luck would have it, I was chosen for the jury and had to write this after hours. (It's hell writing this now, and using past tense so it looks good for Friday's issue.)

I had a good line of bull all set up to tell everyone how bad a play put on by an engineering school can be, but I've changed my mind.

I went in expecting a performance of amateurs too loaded with homework to learn their lines in a short time, and came out a man with a very different opinion.

Here is a performance that would be a credit to any producer. The lines are pat. The dialogue's clever. The casting is superb. My only regret is that we don't have the facilities here at Tech to do the cast justice in their performance.

I've been writing for this paper for a long time now, and I hope that I express the opinion of the student body in general. I don't think I've ever given you a bum steer (not intentionally, anyway). If you want your money's worth, see "The Night of January Sixteenth" tonight. It's well worth your while.

Jim Gaffney, ITSA Pres.

• LETTERS

Finds courtesy lacking at Tech

To The Editor:

After having attended assemblies for three years at Illinois Tech, I have come to the discouraging conclusion that engineers are ill-bred and badly mannered. At the recent ASCE assembly at which Mr. Sykes spoke, I had to sit in silence as students sitting near the speaker walked out in the middle of his talk. The greatest shock, however, was to see an instructor among them. I will save him the embarrassment by leaving him unnamed.

I have attended assemblies at other colleges where there are no engineers and have never witnessed people so impatient.

I am almost ashamed to ask a self-respecting person to speak before a group of Illinois Tech engineers.

Ernest W. Nordquist

Slipstick

"Twas an early spring morning, and a timberman wandered unknowingly into the maple syrup district of Maine. He noted a lot of buckets hanging on the trees. "Gosh a' mighty," he exclaimed, in astonishment, "they sure have sanitary dogs around these parts."

Lois: Do you want to stop the car and eat, sweetheart?
Bob: No, pet.

Irv: May I take you home?
Enid: Sure, where do you live?

I drink to you when we're together;
I drink to you when I'm alone;
I drink to your health so often
I'm rapidly losing my own.

Someday they'll unravel the mystery of the sweater girl.

Sad indeed was the plight of the insecticide salesman who returned home one night and found a big louse in his bed.

Dave: She seems to be a good sensible girl.

Larry: Yeah, she wouldn't pay any attention to me either.

Many girls have been taken in when they thought they were going to be taken out.

Carbolic Gus

They were driving through the woods along a lonely road when suddenly the car sputtered and stopped.

He: Out of gas, by golly!
She: Yeah? (Pulls out bottle.)
He: Ah! And what do we have here?

She: Gasoline.

"I played strip poker with a bunch of chorus girls last night."

"How was your luck?"
"The best I ever saw."

Definition of an editor: A person who can see three meanings to a joke when there are only two.

By Carbolic Gussie