Letters to the Editor

Moderation approved; honorary retaliates

To the Editor:

In reply to the timid soul who wouldn't sign his name to the anti-alcoholism letter, I say bluntly—NUTS. Possibly the only real solution to this problem, from his point of view and mine, would be for him not to attend any "drinking brawls" at all. While conceivably this is a rather severe remedy, it also is the only one where all parties concerned will be contented.

Although a few couples did get slightly clobbered, there weren't any present that got obnoxious enough to offend anyone except possibly Carrie Nation, and compared to other colleges and their functions, IIT should be commended.

I cannot help but come to the conclusion that "timid soul" should not get his "water" hot until 60% of IIT students stagger into class, pull out a fifth, and drink and burp at the professor.

E. B. Frysinger.

To the Editor:

Last week's letter to the editor referred to "excessive drinking" at our school functions and proposed social restrictions. In part we agree; excessive drinking is not good. Social restrictions, however, are not the answer. *Discretion* is.

Our group is seriously concerned about any trouble at school functions which comes from a minority—but concerns us all.

True, a street car college cannot afford to jeopardize its only social outlets at off campus dances. Social drinking will not imperil the success of our dances away from school. As individuals let's keep our drinking social, for social drinking and good fellowship go hand in hand.

Beta Omega Nu

To the Editor:

Mr. Friedlander has expressed, rather emphatically, an opinion which I feel sure must be shared by others. Unfortunately for Mr. Friedlander, however, the majority of the students do not agree with him. If they did, pledging procedures in the honoraries would have been modified years ago.

The pledging activities, to which Mr. Friedlander has chosen to give notoriety, do serve a definite and useful purpose. The signatures which a pledge is required to obtain have a purpose which is two-fold: They enable the active and pledge to get acquainted with one another and they serve to educate the pledge in the history and purpose of the fraternity. Information of this type is required of a pledge before he receives a signature. I feel sure it is not asking too much that a man be at least somewhat familiar with an organization and its members before joining their ranks.

The "regalia" referred to in Mr. Friedlander's letter distinguishes the pledges as prospective members of their respective organizations and aids the active members in recognizing the pledges and making themselves known. The "regalia" also invites publicity which can be favorable or of the type which prompted this letter to be written.

The sum total of the pledging activities has the unique feature of bringing complete strangers together and destroying barriers of formality that would otherwise exist. The end result is a fraternal bond much stronger than could ever be imagined by the casual observer. But then, Mr. Friedlander doesn't fall under this classification since I remember him wearing a "bright blue cap" and a "pretty red handkerchief" only last semester. Perhaps I forgot to add that pledging activities occasionally separate an uncooperative pledge from the main pledge body.

After recalling Mr. Friedlanders' past association with Pi Tau Sigma, I think I can sum up his letter in much

(see LETTERS on page 5)

Blowing the Gaff

Jim looks for helpful letters

Last week's "Letters to the Editor" carried two epistles of quite a controversial nature, referring to drinking and honoraries.

As I write this, I can't say anything about the replies to the letters, but I think that it's a safe statement to say that there are replies.

I have my own ideas on both subjects, but I don't believe that this is either the time or the place to expound them. Further, I do not think that the editorial page is the place to solve them. It's a little difficult to retain continuity of ideas in articles appearing at weekly intervals.

What usually happens when you have letters of the type printed last week is that a few people blow their top and go off half-cocked and nothing is ever really solved.

I said before that I have my own opinions. You probably have your opinions, too. But let me caution you; before you condemn anyone's ideas, weigh the issue carefully.

In all the letters you will probably find good points and bad points, but as long as the participants use the medium of a weekly newspaper, and stay at pencil points, as it were, in carrying out their arguments, nothing will ever be accomplished (outside of winning a few cartons of Chesterfields).

If people are really sincere in their ideas, let's see them get together and come up with something constructive instead of throwing brickbats that take a week in flight.

Jim Gaffney, ITSA President.

TECHNOLOGY NEWS

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as I see IT

By ED MICHELIC

PROFESSORS HAVE "ARRIVED" in Technology News this week. On page three you'll meet Ross Dykman in a new feature. There are some fine points involved in the purpose of these articles. As a reader, I think you should know what we are trying to do, whether you are a student or a faculty member.

One thing certain, we are not trying to "make points" with the faculty, or bow to whatever status system exists within faculty ranks in considering candidates for our column.

Whether or not the instructors we deal with are old hands at the blackboard, or young graduate fellowship men, we will try to bring to view those personal qualities an instructor has that contribute to his "success."

Since success is hard to define, and seemingly harder to give credit for, we have been faced with the problem of finding writers who are mature and impartial enough to know from experience what good instruction is regardless of the way an instructor "parts his hair" and who also fulfill the more difficult requirement of being able to convert observations faithfully into writing.

There is a problem of the possible treading on instructors toes. Perhaps I could illustrate with the case of the nagging wife, always telling her husband about a neighbor wife's new fur coat, car or dinner ring, pointing out her husband's inadequacies by implication. God forbid that Technology News should be a "nagging wife"!

Two things I want not to happen are: that students and instructors get an indifferent attitude that makes them say, "Well, what jerk have they got in there this time?", that instructors will not get "stage fright" if asked to be interviewed.

The idea is not to make them conspicuous "butts" for kidding among their fellows, not to elevate them into a mutual admiration society. We are trying to answer the students' sarcastic "How can you teach and be human?" and the instructors' "How can you teach and be effective?"

This week's best letter was submitted by E. B. Frysinger. Don Campbell will be awaiting him with a carton of Chesterfields in the Technology News office at 11 a.m. today.

Slipstick

They are telling the story now of the arrival in Britain of a shipment of fresh eggs from the United States. One store received its allotment and the proprietor immediately put a sign in the window: THESE EGGS ARE FOR EXPECTANT MOTHERS ONLY. A line formed in front of the store, and as it moved up, one young lady whispered to the clerk: "I'd consider it a favor if you'd put a dozen eggs under the counter for me. I'll call for them in the morning."

* * *

Marilyn: "If wishes came true, what would you wish for?"

Dave: "Gosh, I'm afraid to tell you."

Marilyn: "Go ahead, you sap, what do you think I brought up this wishing business for?

* * *

"Here is a letter from your wife saying you are the father of a ten-pound boy."

"Does she say anything else?"

"That's all, except at the end of the letter she says 'Truly yours.'"

A small boy was asked by his father, a well-known contractor, what he would like for Christmas. "A baby sister," replied the boy. "But it is only two weeks until Christmas and that doesn't leave much time," said the father. "I know father," answered the child, "But can't you put more men on the job?"

* * *

It is invariably the rule when a gal goes crazy over love, sooner or later she gets a little buggy.

* * *

Little Sally had just come home and announced that she had been playing at the neighbors' with some other children who had taken off all of their clothes. Her mother, horrified, asked her if they were little boys or little girls.

Sally replied, "Why Mama, if they didn't have clothes on how could I tell?"

By Carbolic Gussie