

The Student's Dilemma

## Faculty poll samples opinions on cheating

On March 27, 1950, the following report was prepared on student cheating.

In accordance with instructions for the faculty to investigate the problem of cheating, the Faculty council wishes to present the following report for discussion by the faculty at the next faculty meeting.

Believing that any thorough study of the problem of student cheating would have to take more accurate account of faculty opinion than was heretofore available the Faculty council, through its subcommittee on discipline, sent out a questionnaire to 205 members of the Institute staff. Over 100 replies to this questionnaire were received—many more than is usually expected from such polls. From this sampling the results are believed to be fairly indicative of faculty opinion. Granting the questionnaire had many faults and that it did not secure exact data on the amount of cheating per instructor, some otherwise reliable information was collected.

1. The faculty, as sampled, believes cheating is prevalent at Illinois Institute of Technology. It is of little importance what the exact figures are; as long as the faculty and the students believe cheating exists in more than occasional instances, the situation is present and undesirable.
2. The faculty, as sampled, believes cheating is a serious offense, serious enough that measures should be taken to get at the root of the problem and to eliminate it as far as is possible.
3. The faculty, as sampled, did not believe, as is commonly asserted, that students cheat as a kind of game indulged in to "beat the system." It believed that cheating is the result of situations characteristic of the educational pattern followed at Illinois Institute of Technology.
4. The faculty, as sampled, was agreed that such situations as student-instructor relationship (autocracy, aloofness, indifference, servility, etc.), poor instruction ("take-it-or-leave-it," "don't ask any questions," "drill-master sergeant stuff"), heavy student load ("not enough time to get free from a sense of grind"), the use and character of tests ("everything depends on the test grade," "students live from test to test," "all that matters is what you

can remember," "nobody gets a chance to think in the exams") are largely responsible for cheating.

5. The faculty, as sampled, did not believe that the methods of grading or that grading on a curve were significant factors in the cheating problem.
6. Some faculty members submitted suggestions, both provocative and interesting for the control of cheating, some of which are incorporated in the paragraphs below.

The Faculty council, in an attempt to interpret and clarify these data, suggests that there are two ways of dealing with the problem of cheating:

1. Work within the present framework of instruction and examination methods. In this case the problem is largely one of policing, apprehension, indictment, and trial. If this is to be the method employed, the committee on discipline is charged with the responsibility of setting up and enforcing a system throughout the school. It would have to increase and enforce proctoring, provide better physical facilities for giving examinations, and might have to impose stiffer penalties. Cheating, no doubt, would continue but where detected it would be punished.
2. Or, as the results of the poll may indicate, more drastic changes might be contemplated: open-book examinations, comprehensive examinations, a pass-fail system of grading. These changes would involve far more than cheating; they would involve a complete re-thinking of our educational philosophy—our aims, purposes, and methods. There is evidence in schools where such devices have been developed that cheating declines in proportion to the intellectual responsibility placed upon the student. Such might, or might not be, the case if tried at Illinois Institute of Technology.

The Faculty council believes the decision rests with the faculty. It can continue to consider cheating an inevitable part of the educational system and maintain police methods to control it. Or it can consider cheating a symptom of organic disorder and try to remove its cause.

## as I see IT

By ED MICHELAC

MISTAKES CATCH UP with us, just like unfinished lab reports. It's time I tried to straighten up some of the errors that have had wrathful, misquoted and misguided students berating me.

I admit we erred with the probation figures published in the March 24 issue. As was stated in a letter to me, James Getz, ME 3, found percentages of 14.3 for Spring '49, 14.0 percent for Fall '49 and 26.3 last semester, while the best we could do was 14.3, 18.3 and 25.3, respectively, one-third correct.

This lamebrain calculating weakened our emphasis of the sharp difference of figures for the last two semesters' probation casualties. Mr. Getz snorts at the example of mathematics at which "the cream of the crop" was capable, asking, "Is the growth of probation lists unreasonable when such conditions exist?" "Yes," is my answer; but, don't take my math for it.



REPORTING DIFFICULTIES have beset our News staff lately. Though it was our purpose to make ITSA stories important, we have committed errors many times. For instance, there is the mixup of dates for the TBP and AIEE dances, which incited Mr. Stein's letter in the next column. We have repeatedly called the Junior Week Prom the Junior Prom, stirring the wrath of ITSA Social Chairman Wardell. Worse than that, some of our announcements have initially reported that the Prom was formal, when actually it is semi-formal—I repeat, semi-formal. What hordes of irate Prom bid promoters we had on our tail for that one!

The publications board is irked at me for allowing opinion to be recorded in a news article, a place where it should not be. Last week, the front-page story on the Integral executive interviews included the misleading "candidates will be judged on their personalities and their viewpoints regarding editorial issues. Letters of recommendation from the present editor will aid the board in making its final decision." Lord, what a mess!

There are other mistakes I can think of, but I see the end of the column approaching. I hope this is the apology to end all apologies; let's be buddies again and get our stories straight.

CHEATING being still a popular topic of discussion, compare the report of our faculty on cheating with some of the worries and attitudes that have made the temptation strong as depicted by "Little Reb" in our cartoon. I maintain that an opinion poll conducted jointly by faculty and students will be useful in measuring the prevalence of these attitudes and help us see the problem more clearly.

## AIEE veep airs gripe

To the Editor:

I wish to thank you in behalf of the AIEE for calling our group a "progressive, mature body," and can assure you that we are doing our best to continue to practice "responsible citizenship."

I believe both the ITSA article and your editorial in last week's issue of Technology News presented the account of the proposed AIEE dance from a one-sided point of view, and hope that you will, in the interests of good citizenship, print my reply.

The statement was made that "bids were sold to people outside of the AIEE." This is not the case, and was never proposed by us. In fact, no bids were sold to anyone! The dance was planned for the 150 couples, and of this number, half were to be sold to student members of the Northwestern university branch. Since these students would not have patronized the Junior Prom in any case, I fail to see why it was deemed dangerous competition for 75 members of the AIEE to attend a dance of their own eight days prior to the all-school dance, when an affair by 60 members of TBP on the same day was considered not to be competing with the Junior Prom.

Further, I wish to inform you that contrary to your statement, our dance was not proposed to boost our revenues, but that 50 per cent of its cost was to be paid from our treasury.

We did not "think to observe a mere formality by submitting a date for approval after having signed a contract with the Sheraton hotel. Our chosen date was submitted to the vice-president of ITSA several weeks before we closed said contract."

Lastly, I wish to quote from ITSA's article "A summary of the responsibilities which student groups have toward ITSA will be available within a short time." Since ITSA, upon our request, has failed to show in writing to this date what these responsibilities are, or that ITSA has any jurisdiction over a financially independent group such as ours, we must assume that these rulings, on the basis of which our dance was barred, have not yet been written. Is this democratic procedure?

H. P. Stein, Vice-President, AIEE

Editor's Note:

We apologize to Mr. Stein and to TBP for wrongly stating that the TBP dance was on the same date as AIEE's proposed affair (April 28.) Other apologies appear in "As I See IT."

## TECHNOLOGY NEWS

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## Slipstick

Professor, in the middle of a joke, "Have I told you this one before?"  
Class: "Yes."  
Prof.: "Good, then maybe you'll understand it this time."

Conductor: "Madam, that child is over five years old and he will have to pay full fare."  
Lady: "But I've only been married four years."

Conductor: "Just gimme the fare, lady. I'm not interested in your past."

Life Ambition: To marry a rich girl who is too proud to let her husband work.

A good girl always sticks to "no"  
A bad girl always "yeses"  
A smart girl makes them sound alike  
And holds the boys on guesses.

She: "OK, come over tonight and we'll play strip poker."  
Tchawk: "All right, but couldn't we bet a little money to make it interesting?"

It may cost a lot of dough to say it with flowers, just now, but remember—it's still a lot cheaper than putting it into writing.

Eutectic Eddie

## Former A- to address

Lieutenant General Leslie R. the alumni at their reunion dinner at General Groves, who directed the first atomic bomb, is now v for the Remington-Rand company.

The alumni reunion will be a part of Illinois Tech's JW-OH festivities, May 4-6. While all groups of alumni will be represented, ever five-year class from the period 1900-1945 will celebrate special reunions.

Two members of the IIT alumni association will be presented service awards at this dinner.

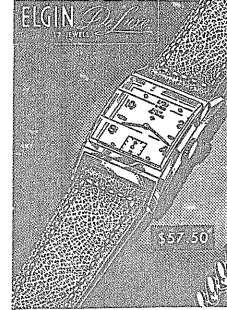
C. Herick Hammond, supervising architect for the state of Illinois and member of the architectural firm of Burnham and Hammond, Inc., will receive the association's distinguished service award for achievement in architecture.

Harris Perlstein, trustee of the college and president of the Pabst Brewing company, will receive the alumni service award for his record of service to Illinois Tech and the Alumni association. He is general chairman of the college's long range development program.

'So lovely... belongs in any graduation

SAYS Ann Blyth

Starring as the High School Senior in the SAMUEL GOLDWYN production "Our Very Own"



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