need for forethought and planning in activities

thursday afternoon the institute committee, student governing authority of technology, met in its first session of the new term. immediately after opening, the committee found itself in a quandary.

many of the representatives were unapproved—the former managers of the activities which they were representing had neglected to make provision for these successors to their representatives of the first term, no longer in attendance at the institute.

other representatives who are in attendance at the institute were not in attendance at the meeting, presumably because they were unaware that the meeting was being held.

the minutes of the last meeting of the previous term were also in abeyance.

discouragement was complete.

the situation of thursday afternoon is due to no one person or no one cause, but rather due to the lack of forethought on the part of a number of members of the committee, principally the retiring officers who neglected to take action for the future.

the confusion which resulted from the mass exodus of many of these former committee members was, under the circumstances, unavoidable, and will probably be of short duration.

the disadvantage to the committee of opening its new term under such circumstances is none-the-less great, however.

the position in which the institute committee found itself points out an important object lesson. responsible persons should secure the future of all institute activities by making provision for the complete assumption of their duties by their successors.

the successor should be trained in the duties of his office by the incumbent, so that he is completely ready to assume his office when it is necessary to do so, he should have already superseded his predecessor in authority if not in name, his plans should be complete, and there should be no confusion when the office actually changes hands.

this means, in words of one syllable, that officers must definitely provide for the future of their organization—they must not assume the peremptory of the wizened bird who flies tall forward because he had rather see where he has been than where he is going.

the rapidly changing situation in which we now find ourselves demands intelligent forethought and careful planning for the uncertain future.

the summer session

time was when the attending of school in the summer was for the summer student and had a superficiality of red ink in their spring marks.

summer, by definition, was the time when a fellow was supposed to go fishing, swimming, or camping. that was away back in the dark ages when we were twelve years old.

things have changed.

we must not allow ourselves to think that this is an ordinary summer; we must not permit ourselves to neglect our work, thinking that in the summer it is not necessary to work.

we have a duty to the fellows in the footloose. we have a job to do. let's do it.

ex-r.o.t.c. men find private's life trying

editor's note—this letter was received by major spurr of the military science department, from a group of members of the class of 1944 who had been in the advanced r.o.t.c., and left the institute last month for active military service. it is published here through the courtesy of major spurr, who thought many of the students might like to hear what their ex-classmates think of the army.

u. s. army
c. s. d. s.
tc.
f. bellevue, va.

june 26, 1943

dear major spurr,

the boys who have just returned to us in standard barracks to the sight and sound of the roll call have left us with some very vivid impressions, and some which we have less than favorable.

"the food, you can't eat all of it." (too much)

"everything is pretty clean, the couple's house is going to keep it that way.

"at the end of twelve weeks each of us expects to make one very good husband.

"we are certainly glad that we have had some swab training but we need to know more of what private duties do and less what the company commander does in much the same situation indicates that we would be better off to stay a month or two. it seems as if the army is the only branch which makes use of us this year.

"i certainly is rough down here but everyone is enjoying it.

"the captain informed us to"

wagner has psychographic tendencies, says music critic

a minneapolis newspaper columnist, and music critic on the sideline, received the following letter from an undergraduate:

"being engaged on a senior thesis on musicology, in which i have an interest, the relationship of wagner to his music was a part of my book, and having heard of your interest in the subject, some years ago you did some special research on Richard Wagner, i am interested (i always prefer potential affirmative), a very special source of information to ingest in your analysis of my interest in this matter, without assuming the perogative of the wizzle bird who flies tail forward because he has no interest in the rather ambivalent character. i would especially like to have you examine wagner's music in terms of metaphysical, nationalist retroversion, racist mysticism, and psychoanalytic diabolism. i am of the belief that the russia is the key to the answer which wagner's music holds for his. anything further that you might have to say concerning wagner's place in the scheme of utopian nationalism generally would be appreciated. please be later in mail if at all possible, by next mail.

and answered as it follows:

"dear sir:"

while the meta theory is undoubtedly a key, in part, to wagner's racialist mysticism, i think you have erred in not allowing sufficient for the psychographic tendency that day that a few men from the installation will go on to do not two weeks. furthermore the battalion is loved with no heart. we guess that most will go to ast."