THE HUMANITIES ARGUMENT

Ever since engineering education moved out of the vocational schools and up to the college level there has been a continuous noise caused by the argument about how much time should be devoted to the humanities. Since the release of the recent National Education Commission Survey, which suggests an increased emphasis on the humanities in all undergraduate courses and the establishment of a separate School of Humanities, the debate is not merely new. The classical arguments of the discussion are familiar to everyone. As a technologist, the engineer should be aware of the impact of technology on the society in which he lives: he should be made familiar with the various facets of the culture upon which his way of life depends. As an economist, he should be aware of the economic system of the country. As a jurist, he should be aware of the legal system. As a sociologist, he should be aware of the society in which he lives: he should be made familiar with the various aspects of human behavior. As a psychologist, he should be aware of the human mind. As a physician, he should be aware of the human body. As a philosopher, he should be aware of the human soul.

One very important point is often missed in this matter. It is with the premise that an engineering school functions for the purpose of turning out well trained men, in that a technologist can perform in a technical field, and that it is the prerogative of the school to function in that technical field. The argument here that they do not wish to become engineers, but who want another kind of education? To conclude that another educational method would have been better for them is to minimize the importance of the humanities.

Those people who fear that the Humanities School will have little to do with engineering or technology are mistaken. For example, a graduate student who does not become a successful engineer with no background of general education, is the result of a failure to understand the basic principles of science and engineering. Those who study as undergraduates; the rest are doing so because of the lure of the humanities.

There is another fact, not too widely known, which has a place in any discussion of general education or the establishment of a separate School of Humanities. As a technologist, the engineer should be aware of the impact of technology on the society in which he lives: he should be made familiar with the various facets of the culture upon which his way of life depends. As an economist, he should be aware of the economic system of the country. As a jurist, he should be aware of the legal system. As a sociologist, he should be aware of the society in which he lives: he should be made familiar with the various aspects of human behavior. As a psychologist, he should be aware of the human mind. As a physician, he should be aware of the human body. As a philosopher, he should be aware of the human soul.

Consequently, we should not be so quick to dismiss the importance of the humanities. The argument here that they do not wish to become engineers, but who want another kind of education? To conclude that another educational method would have been better for them is to minimize the importance of the humanities.

THE TECH FRATERNITY FINDINGS

BY ED MATHWES and TED WILSON

It's once again time for the chaperon of the ladies with ideas for parties, dances and chances for the coming term. As you know, all the organizations have chosen their social leaders, and almost all the chaperones are being named, and we can only hope that the engineering school will continue to be well represented in the particular campus council.

As a student, however, is the first program, which opens with Beethoven, closes with Beethoven, and in between—the remainder. In the opening program, there is a half-century of Astin's appeal to the forlorned audience and variety. Next week-end's concerts certainly cannot be criticized on this account. For the October 23rd and 24th program Charles Munch will conduct the following works: Handel's Hallelujah from "The Fireworks" music arranged by Sir Hamilton Harty. And now that the chaperon of the box office of Symphony Hall each day for a number of days in advance to see whether they have any returned tickets for the concert of your choice. This is unusual. As a last resort, you can undertake the requested performance known as "rushing." The theoretical evening concerts are at the customary 8:30. With a determined patience you arrive at the doors of Symphony Hall a half hour or so before concert time, it is not unusual for a party wishing to purchase a ticket and his ticket will appear on the scene. An appreciable number of tickets for each performance change hands in this fashion. "Rushing" is often highly competitive, so be aggressive!