In memoriam: TEN Eng. News

By Steve Kirstch

Why, after almost 60 years, did the staff of Tech Engineering News (TEN) dissolve? Because people, including ourselves, care about their magazine! It's true that TEN has had its ups and downs, but we all knew that it was unique and special. And so it is with some regret that I approach the last "From the Editor's Desk," which I hope the following points will be helpful to those interested in continuing this tradition.

TEN was a magazine that had little or no future. You might say that the Board of Directors were giving their chance to the students to work on the magazine. From a purely business point of view, it would seem that we were all better off at times. The quality of the magazine was poor and the lack of advertising made it difficult to keep the issue size reasonable. The only person in the 1970's who really seemed interested in putting out a magazine was Camilo Gomez, who was editor-in-chief during 1976. However, the lack of advertising money would make it difficult to reach a larger audience. The magazine would have to be sold in Lobby 10 for one week in order to get enough subscriptions to keep it going. The only way to keep the magazine alive was to have a large number of advertisers, and this was not possible. The staff of TEN lost much of their interest in advertising, and the magazine began to decline.

But, all that aside, we agree that the magazine was not "insubordinate," unlike the proposal that the students should be the ones to run the magazine. We did advertise the magazine widely on campus. If the students who attended were "insubordinate" to the size of the Visiting Committee, the only answer to the question of who would succeed was the students themselves. We invite the staff of TEN to submit articles to us. The magazine is designed to be a forum for discussion, and we welcome contributions from anyone.

Eisenberg troubled by The Tech article

To the Editor:

I am writing to express my concern with the latest proposal to place further limitations on the ability of students to participate in Tech class drop dates at a later date. It is my feeling that the parties proposing these changes are placing too much emphasis on efficiency and cost savings, rather than on what is best for the students, and, through them, society as well. I believe, in other words, that the human perspective in this issue has been subjugated to more traditional engineering concerns.

In defense of Gomez, he said, "When Elliot got it [TEN], it was down. Elliot just didn't have much to boast about it." For example, plans to receive freshmen through such means as a booth at the Activities Midway "never jelled." Lach failed to carry out the most important duty of any officer: to interest students in the magazine. Scott methodology could only manage to staff a booth in Lobby 10 for one week, and only 20-30 students were "interested" in putting out a magazine for the magazine.

The situation worsened during the 1970's. The number of subscribers decreased from over 1,200 in the 1950's and 60's only about 1,000 in the 70's. This decrease was not due to a lack of interest, but to a lack of advertising. The magazine was not able to attract a large enough audience to make it profitable. And of that I am about 500 copies printed of the 30 page magazine does not come out every Thursday.

The Tech is a publication of Tech Engineers News, Inc., a non-profit organization. It is not able to carry out the function of a newspaper, but it is designed to be a forum for discussion. We welcome contributions from anyone, and we encourage the students to participate in the magazine. The magazine is designed to be a forum for discussion, and we welcome contributions from anyone.

opinion

Drop date: a human view

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