



THE SCHOOL OF TECHNOLOGY

TECH NEWS

CITY COLLEGE OF NEW YORK

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1959

222

BY STUDENT FEES

300 Seniors Jam Placement Session

On Thursday, September 24, more than 300 job seeking, graduating seniors from the four engineering, physics, and math departments jammed into Townsend Harris auditorium to attend this year's placement orientation session.

According to Mr. Lockom, Assistant to the Placement Director and Mr. Schnaebler, the Placement Director, this was the largest turnout of any graduating class. They attributed this to publicity at registration, publicity through the Placement Office Publicity Committee, and the cooperation of TECH NEWS. Mr. Schnaebler remarked that the process of publicizing the Placement Office orientations to candidates for graduation as part of the registration process will continue. Because of the large throng of students, all the forms and pertinent material disappeared in short order, and many students had to acquire these forms from the Placement Office.

Mr. Schnaebler opened the orientation by acquainting the group with the Placement Office in general, placement ethics, and then proceeded to reiterate the facts (see TECH NEWS, Sept. 23), that electrical engineers lead in demand, followed by mechanical engineers, math majors, physics majors, and chemical engineers in that order. He went on to say that, judging from the number of

inquiries and promised visits from various companies and organizations, the employment outlook is very good.

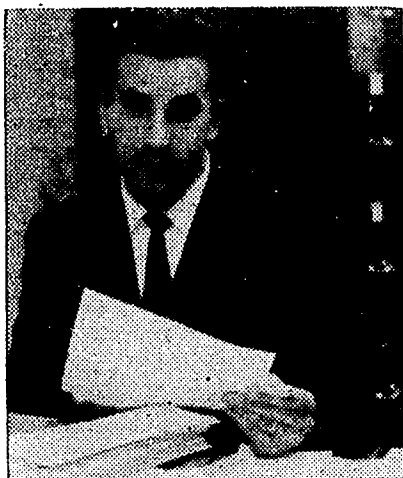
He then turned the program over to Mr. Lockum, who informed the audience that although many companies will not come to campus, they do wish resumes from prospective employees.

Mr. Lockum emphasized that the Placement Office program is multi-phase, consisting of on campus interviewing programs, a direct referral program, and a resume forwarding service.

He pointed out that the office continues to aid the graduates long after the on-campus interviewing program has ceased, and in fact often aids him many years after graduation. This illustrated the need to file recommendations and resumes in the best possible order looking not only to the present, but to the future. He also pointed up the need to file all pertinent information with the office as soon as possible, as the first interviews start next week.

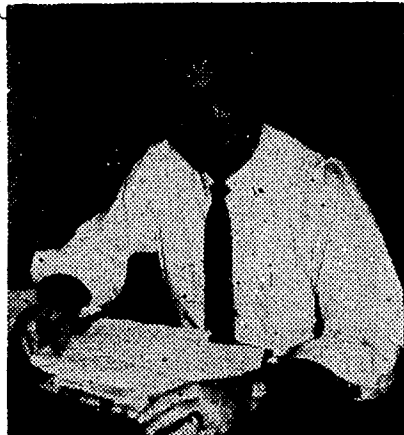
In closing he reviewed the role and responsibility of the student.

Lockom Leaves; Buckley Enters



Mr. William Lockum

Mr. William Lockum, Assistant to the Placement Director, resigned last Wednesday in order to become coordinator of personnel for a small industrial firm on Long Island. Mr. Lockum had been with the Placement Office since his graduation from the City College in June of 1957. In fact Mr. Schnaebler, the Placement Director, recalls that Mr. Lockum had to be given a two week vacation for his honeymoon before he could begin work. Mr. Lockum was well liked by the staff of the office and the graduating seniors with whom he dealt.



Mr. John Buckley

Mr. John Buckley, the new Assistant to the Placement Director, is no stranger to the City College. He has lived in the neighborhood for over fifteen years, and has served as secretary to the chaplain of the Newman Club at the College. John, a tall man with brown eyes, graduated from St. Joseph's Seminary with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1956. He majored in philosophy. He hopes that his job will give him an opportunity to learn and participate in the placement field. John feels that the College's program is well organized and feels that the student can derive many benefits from it.

Opera Party Nine Instructors Join EE Staff

TIIC Asks Group Rates

By T. SEMEGHAN

By a unanimous vote TIIC passed a proposal to sponsor an Opera Party this term. Tickets at reduced rates may be made available through the Group Plan of the Metropolitan Opera Guild. TIIC is now awaiting the approval of the Guild before it chooses a particular performance.

Miss Perry stated that TIIC membership in the guild would allow the purchase of tickets at 20 percent discount.

The position of E-day chairman for 1960 was opened for nominations; Mike Cooke (Chem. E) was nominated. Final nominations and elections will take place at the next TIIC meeting.

It was moved that TIIC select a chairman for the sports committee to arrange and coordinate the workings of this terms slide rule league.

The Technology Interfraternity Intersociety Council is also planning to participate in Freshman Orientation classes. In the orientation sessions it hopes to acquaint the freshman technology student with the engineering field and the engineering curriculum. A possible briefing on the extra-curricular activities may also be included. While the exact method of addressing the students has not been formulated, Dr. Brotman (Dept. of Student Life) has suggested that a panel of four upperclassmen speak to the students with a period at the end of the hour devoted to questions from the floor.

A survey which was to be taken during registration has been distributed during the last two weeks. The survey was designed to give some idea of the cultural and social activities of the technology students at the College so that Council could plan a more effective and attractive program.

The EE department has added nine new instructors to its staff this term. Some of these men have taught previously at the College, but have been engaged in other pursuits for the past few years. Many of them are graduates of CCNY who have done their part in upholding the fine reputation of our School of Technology.

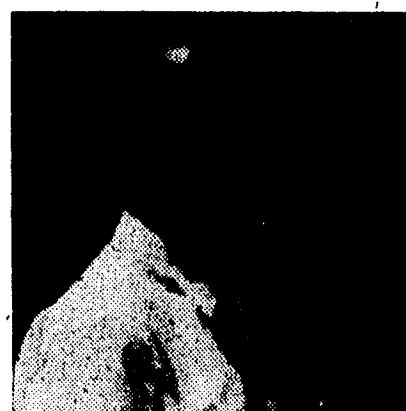
One of the new instructors, Arthur H. Seidman, obtained his BEE at CCNY in 1951. He took graduate courses at Columbia and Hofstra and was graduated from Hofstra in 1958 with an MA in Physics. Mr. Seidman taught here in the Evening Session from the Fall of 1954 until the Spring of 1957. He has worked in industry for 9 years, the last five of which were spent at Sperry Gyroscope where he attained the position of Senior Engineer. His major interests are electronics and solid state devices. Operating ham radio is his hobby, his call letters being K2BUS.



Mr. Arthur H. Seidman

Walter Strauss, another new instructor, graduated CCNY with a BEE in 1948. He is working toward his PhD at Columbia University. He taught here in the Day Session from 1948 to 1953. His industrial experience includes work at Columbia Radiation Lab from 1953 to 1959, where he did research and development work in magnetrons. Demosthenes Kostas graduated from Community College in 1955 with a degree in electrical technology. After working for General Electric in their technicians training program, he returned to CCNY where he is now working toward his BEE. (He needs only four more credits.) His field of specialization is servomechanisms.

Richard Klafter, who was



Mr. Demosthenes Kostas

graduated from M.I.T. in 1958, obtained his Masters in Electrical Engineering from Columbia in 1959, and is currently working toward his PhD at that school. He is a member of the M.I.T. chapters of Tau Beta Pi and Eta Kappa Nu. During the summers he did work in the



Mr. Walter Strauss

field of transistorized printed circuit amplifiers at the Ford Instrumental Company. This past summer he worked for Sperry Gyroscope, designing a parametric amplifier. He is interested in solid state application to microwave devices and in acoustics.

Vector Scoops NY Times

Vector has scored a scoop over the New York Times. The Science in Review column of the September 27 Times reported on a "revolutionary family of high energy liquid propellants..." named monopropellants. Vector's article, appearing in the March, 1959 issue, described the development of this novel family of fuels five months in advance of the Times' story.

The report in the Times stated: "Development by Navy civilian scientists at the Naval Air Rocket Test Station at Lake Denmark, Dover, N.J., of a revolutionary new family of

high-energy liquid propellants for rockets was announced by the station through the Third Naval District last week. The new propellants, named monopropellants, were developed after five years of intensive research under the direction of Dr. John D. Clark, chief chemist at the station."

Monopropellants combine the fuel and oxidizer in one liquid. This, it was pointed out, "makes for a less complex rocket motor, with much less plumbing and with greatly increased reliability."

"Prior to this development," the Navy announcement states,

"monopropellants that had enough energy to be useful had to be handled with great care, as they would explode violently at the slightest provocation. The new monopropellants, however, are remarkably stable and easy to handle. They can be dropped, pounded or kicked around indefinitely and nothing happens, and they can be heated to over 300 degrees Fahrenheit without exploding."

The Vector report stated: "The NARTS chem lab is working on monopropellants. Dr. Clark, head of the propel-

(Continued on Page 3)

Technical Writing

The engineering student, complacent about his future, often accepts engineering as his life's work while disregarding the merits of other technical fields. The purpose of this article is to discuss an alternate profession open to the technically trained: technical writing.

Technical writing has received extra publicity in recent months because of the enormous increase in the need for technical writers caused by increasing defense contracts. In general, when there is a need for engineers there is a corresponding need for technical writers. This is logical when one considers the tech writer's various tasks: the preparation of military manuals, engineering progress reports, design proposals which explain projects in detail to a customer, and similar duties. Almost all technical writers are employed in defense work and are required personnel in various stages of development. The many duties of the technical writer is illustrated by the following description of a government project and the related tech writer's duties. All defense projects must be specifically described for administrative purposes in a written proposal which outlines the project objective and describes the technical means of attaining this objective. The tech writer, in consultation with design engineers, prepares the proposal. These proposals are printed and distributed to selected military personnel. As work progresses regular reports on work completed and problems encountered may be required by the defense contract. These may be prepared by the tech writer. Finally as the project is completed a manual is to be prepared which describes in detail the function, operation, maintenance and repair of all technical equipment designed for military use in the course of the defense project.

There is some civilian employment of tech writers in private industry where his duties are similar to those of

(Continued on Page 4)

Still young and beautiful at age 75!
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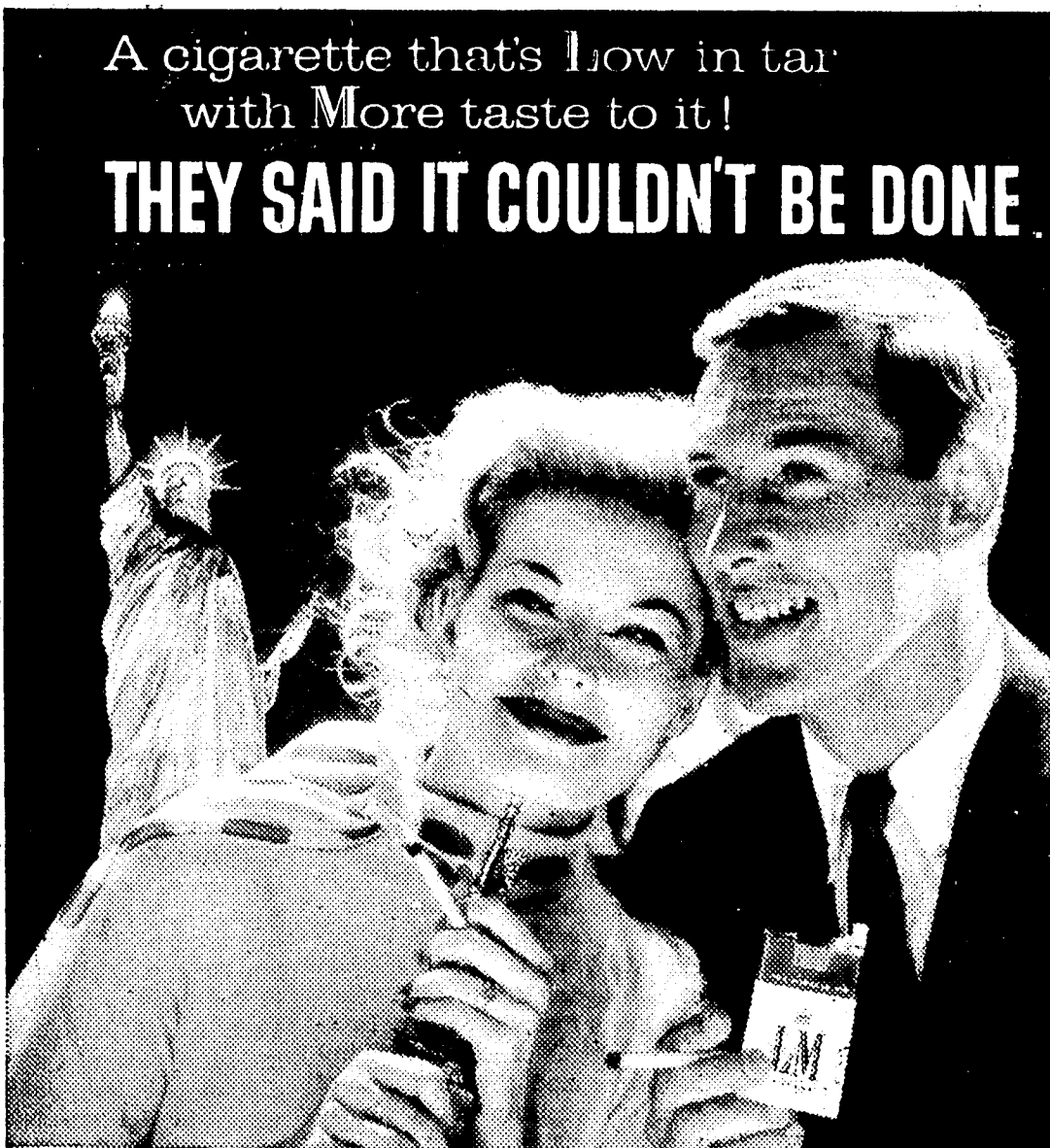


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LETTERS

To The Editor:

The purpose of this letter is to present the purpose and new ideas of VECTOR. We hope this letter will enlighten the college community as to what differentiates a college engineering magazine from a technical journal. (Something that TECH NEWS itself does not know as evidenced by its last review.)

We agree with TECH NEWS that the prime purpose of a college engineering magazine is to present the original research and ideas of students at the College. We seek articles written by students who have done original work, or have special interests in a field of engineering. We will print any such article immediately, regardless of how technical, or how limited the potential audience may be.

But what happens if no one comes forward with such an article? Shall we ask our staff members to write highly technical articles, of limited appeal,

with the sole purpose of "snowing" the readers? Hell NO!

We assign articles which are of general interest to many engineering students. Most staff members are not qualified to write highly technical material—and most students are not qualified to read it. The students who are interested in a specialized field probably belong to professional societies and receive their technical journals. (Membership in IRE, ASME, etc., entitles you to receive 24 pounds of "snow" per year—for five bucks—a good buy!)

The main criticism in TECH NEWS' last review was that the articles weren't technical enough. In this particular issue, we had no special technical article so we presented several semi-technical articles that were timely and of general interest. The reviewer apparently counted the number of integral signs and Greek letters—found the total close to zero—and then wrote his review. Our governing factors are competence, appeal, and interest.

In addition to serving as an

outlet for student technical writing, over 500 copies of VECTOR are mailed to industry, alumni, and high schools. Thus, VECTOR represents the School of Technology at City College to a great many people outside the college community. It is for this reason, plus the interests of good journalism, that we want VECTOR to be the best. The School of Technology at City College is one of the nation's finest; we want VECTOR to be consistent with this reputation.

We feel very optimistic about the coming issues of VECTOR. We have a fine, experienced staff, eager to work. Our financial problems are still with us, but to a much lesser degree. We know that this year VECTOR will produce the finest magazine seen in recent years at the College.

How can the student body help us? If possible, they can write articles or join the staff of VECTOR. Support VECTOR; it belongs to you!

Steve Shepard
Ira Glickstein
Co-Editors



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TECH LIFE

By MARK LEEDS

"REMAINING ON THE QUI VIVE"

Not too long ago, a young man who was about to be graduated from the School of Technology with a Bachelor's Degree in Electrical Engineering (with high honors) was notified that his application for an instructional position with the EE Dept. was being accepted and that he would be grasping the teaching reins with a period of 2 months. Upon learning of this, he went ahead and performed each of the laboratory experiments in those laboratory courses that he would be teaching when he would assume the role of instructor.



I wish to bring out that he performed this act on his own time and with no material gain in sight. Moreover, he did this work during the month of August which, as you well know, does not lend itself very well to labor of any kind.

However, those rewards which he did, ultimately receive, were such a nature that he was more than compensated for his efforts. Because, in doing so, he obtained the respect and admiration of his fellow instructors, the EE lab technicians, and his students. In addition, his students also profited from this endeavour, because they were able to directly derive the benefits of his enriched practical working knowledge during their meetings in the laboratory.

I do not know whether this action on his part was the setting precedent in the School of Technology. Also, before continuing further, I wish to declare that this procedure need not be made protocol for any person who is about to enter the field of engineering

education at the College.

Thus, the full and proper preparation for the role of instructor by the individual has to result in a profit for all persons concerned.

Therefore, I do not think that it is asking too much of a potential (or present) instructor that, if, he has any doubts about his skills in the laboratory, he take the necessary steps and corrective measures to overcome those nebulous points confronting lest they ultimately become an impasse.

The American Institute of Electrical Engineers — Institute of Radio Engineers will hold its first meeting of this semester tomorrow at 12:30 PM in S306. Professors Taub, Hansteen, Hunt, and Wolf of the EE department will address the group. Also, plans will be made for a field trip to take place later in the term.

ASME

The American Society of Mechanical Engineers will hold an engineering "Summer Job Symposium," tomorrow at 12:30 in Harris 106. There will be a panel discussion.

SIGMA PHI OMEGA

Sigma Phi Omega, a social engineering fraternity at 19 Hamilton Terrace, is opening its vast reference file of laboratory reports to all those interested in pledging the fraternity. In addition they are offering free dance lessons between the hours of twelve and two on Thursdays. If you are interested in either of their programs they invite you to drop in at their house.

I have yet to hear from the publicity officers of the other engineering organizations in the School of Technology. Since one of the functions of Tech News is the free publicity offered to the societies in the Tech School, and, since the promulgation of a group's activities may attract some student interest and perhaps, some new, dues-paying members. Need I say more?

... Vector

(Continued from Page 1)

lant division, defines a mono-propellant as having a fuel part, and an oxidizer part 'separated by two firmly crossed fingers.' He cited nitroglycerine as an example but noted that it would not be suitable for rockets. Dr. Clark said that they had developed a mono-propellant which does not explode except at very high temperatures. When visitors come to the lab, he uses it to put out small fires."

The November Vector will present news about aircraft control devices which are still in the development stage. Vector predicted the development of fuels for rocket trips to the moon eight years ago. Vector is essential reading for all CCNY engineering students who want to stay ahead of the news of technology.

— Glickstein

MITRE CORP.
Campus Interviews
WEDNESDAY, OCT. 21
(See Ad Below)

Dropping Engineering?

By RITA SCHER

Many tech students feel they don't belong in engineering but are reluctant to drop out of the school for fear of losing too many credits.

Such fears are groundless according to Prof. Robert Taylor, registrar. He said, "Many pre-engineering and professional engineering courses can be credited towards the 128 credits necessary for graduation from the School of Liberal Arts and Sciences. In addition the date of graduation is usually not delayed beyond the time you would have taken the engineering students ordinarily."

Even though many credits can still be retained when a student drops engineering in his junior year, Prof. Taylor urged those who want to change their major to do so at the end of their sophomore year. It is most desirable at this point because almost all pre-engineering courses can be substituted for similar courses given by the School of Liberal Arts.

In addition there is a list of prescribed courses for a B.S. degree which must be taken before a student can do concentrated work in his major field. For those who have completed the pre-engineering curriculum these courses include: Philosophy 12, Economics 1 or 2, Government 1, Speech 4, Biology 3 and 4, Art 1, Music 1, possibly Geology 1 and a language sequence. The length of the language sequence depends on the number of years taken in high school, and whether a different language from that studied in high school is selected.

If engineering is dropped after the sophomore year, there are about forty engineering courses that are creditable toward graduation. Those courses which receive credit are listed in the Liberal Arts Bulletin. In addition there are other courses which may be credited pending approval of the Committee on Course Standing and the department involved.

Shepard
Glickstein
Editors

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CAMPUS INTERVIEWS

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Engineering Center To Be Erected

A United Engineering Center, designed to house the headquarters of eighteen major engineering societies, will be constructed on the block between 47th Street and 48th Street across the street from the United Nations.

Ground breaking ceremonies took place last Thursday, with former President Herbert Hoover sharing earth-turning honors with Jerry Fujimoto, a freshman engineering student from Hawaii.

The new structure, scheduled for completion in mid-1961, will be the largest undertaking ever attempted by the engineering profession as a unit. Andrew Fletcher, president of the

United Engineering Trustees, the organization that will own and operate the structure on behalf of the engineering societies, said that "the primary purpose of the new structure is to provide adequate working space for the headquarters staffs of the engineering groups, which carry extensive publishing, research and standardization programs." The building will also symbolize the growing strength and unity of the engineering profession.

Land for the structure was acquired in 1957. Since that time, major efforts of the UET have been directed toward design of the building and fund raising activities. Five million dollars in industrial contribu-

tions have already been received, and individual engineers have presented the organization with three million more.

The societies to be housed in the new building are together responsible for a major part of the nation's technical publications, industrial standards and engineering conferences. Some of the groups are now housed at the Engineering Societies Building, 29 W. 39th Street in New York.

Mr. Richard Frazee, President of the New York section of the American Rocket Society, will present the official ARS Charter to the ARS student section at the College.

Mr. Alvin Blackburg, President of the CCNY ARS Chapter, will receive the charter on behalf of the College in 200 Shepard, Oct. 8, at 12:00 noon.

Dr. Martin Shechter, S. Research Scientist of Atomic Energy Commission will address the Society of Orthodox Jewish Scientists at their meeting this Tuesday. His topic will be, "Jewish Attitude toward Nuclear Learning."

The meeting will begin 12:15 p.m. in room 208. Everyone is cordially invited to attend.

...Tech Writing

(Continued from Page 2)

defense. A few tech writers are employed in advertising and technical journalism.

The salary for technical writers is the same as or slightly better than it is for engineers with bachelor's degrees. A fair proportion of tech writers never attended college, having gained the technical knowledge necessary either in technical schools or in the armed services as technicians. For advancement in the field, however, a college degree is necessary, a Masters helpful. Anyone with a Ph.D. can do better elsewhere.

The main merit of the profession is variety. In no other technical field is one introduced to so many different kinds of technical apparatus. The tech writer travels often and works with various persons: design engineers, lab technicians, printers, executives, artists, military personnel, salesmen, etc. Very often, especially in this age of security, he is able to see the overall picture of a project's development while the design engineer is permitted to understand his own technical problem. Depending on the job, a specific task may occupy a tech writer for one week to two years. Most jobs, however, last only about six months to a year. In contrast, design engineers are involved in specific problems which usually entertain them for two years or more. The tech writer, then, can always look forward to a change of pace every few months.

The prime disadvantage of the profession is that the tech writer never actually creates anything. He must understand technical things but he never solves any problems. Expected to be a dilettante he can never specialize. While able to see the big picture, he is not an integral part of engineering. Unless he attains an executive position in a tech writing company he can rarely hope to enter the realm of engineering administration and the executive suite.

The main ability required of the tech writer is, of course, the ability to write, especially in technical terms, but in varied styles. He may have to explain technical things to persons with only two years of high school education or to highly trained personnel. He may be given complete literary freedom but more often he will be instructed to write in a specified style.

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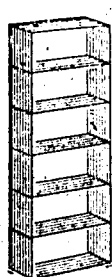
Placement Office has further details.

GENERAL  ELECTRIC

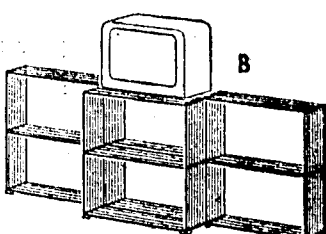
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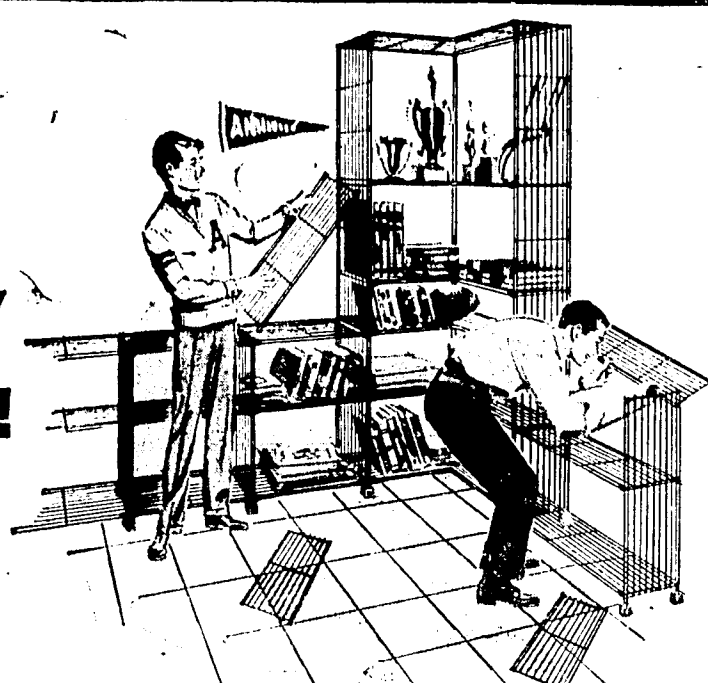
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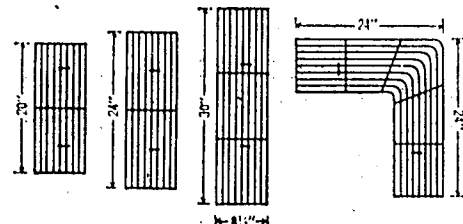
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