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## The Sphinx. Vol. 3, No. 8 February 1, 1902

Madison, Wisconsin: University of Wisconsin, February 1, 1902

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# The Sphinx



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F. SUTTER

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—Life.

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# The Sphinx

N A R A M O R E ' 0 4

ONCE.

Oh, once I was a little boy with corkscrew curls and kilts,  
I played at fighting all day long in tournaments and tilts,  
I used to charge my hobby-horse and shriek with martial  
glee.

Do you suppose that little kid could really have been  
"Me?"

I longed to get some trousers on, for then I'd be a man,  
And beat at playing "shinney" with an old tomato-can.



Oh, once I was a school-boy and had pockets by the  
score,

I played at short-stop on the "nine;" I always slammed  
the door,

I scorned the girls with lofty scorn; I longed to go to sea.  
Do you suppose that little chap could really have been  
"Me?"

I yearned for college-days to come, with no one to obey.  
When I'd know some of everything, and come home  
Christmas day.



Oh, once I was at college, and believed  
I was a man,

I smoked a bull-dog mostly, and I  
swiped a lady's fan,  
I studied Evolution, and I ran things  
—two or three,—

Do you suppose that happy guy could  
really have been "Me?"

I dreamed of stirring days to come to  
prove my powers in,

I'd make the "wheels of commerce"  
move, and play the game to win.



Oh, once,—and that's at present—I'm  
supposed to be a man,

It isn't quite the sort of thing I always  
used to plan;

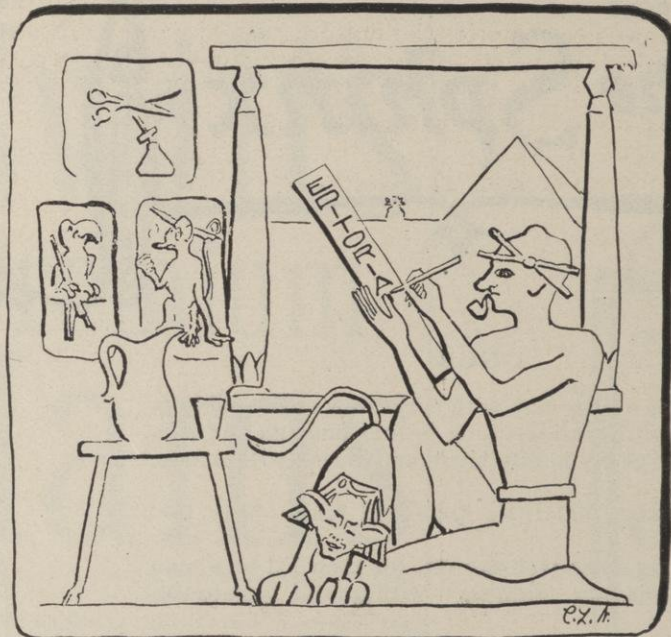
The stunt seems pretty small and tough,  
and yet,—it's mine, you see,—

But can this ordinary drudge be all  
that's come from "Me?"

And sometimes, spite of all the  
"cant's" that prey upon "I can,"

I'm hoping somehow, some day, still,  
to learn to be a man.





## THE SPHINX.

Published every Second Saturday during the College Year by Students of the University of Wisconsin. Entered at the Postoffice at Madison, Wis., as Second-Class Matter, September 28, 1901.

SUBSCRIPTIONS, \$1.50 PER ANNUM.  
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Future appointments to the staff will be made on a basis of contributions received.

Always remember that this is only pretence, so that you are not to believe a word of it, even if it is true.—Kingsley.



**B**EFORE the next number of THE SPHINX will appear, the largest annual social function of the University will be a thing of the past. The Junior Prom of 1902 with all its attendant gayety will be over, and will belong to memory alone.

All Junior Proms have very much in common. There is always placed in control a committee who wish to make it the best Prom ever held, and who when it is all over, sum it up in saying that "it was the best yet." There is always the crowd of visiting young ladies and chaperones who are invited to attend the party, and who return to their homes, carrying with them the idea that life at the University of Wisconsin is nothing but one continual good time, and who when they think of the University, remember it as they saw it during Prom week. Without these out-of-town girls the ball would not be what it is. From all parts of the state and from many different parts of the country do they come and help to make the Prom and Prom week a social success. The personnel of the visitors may be different each year, but on the whole, one Prom in this respect is like any other; no Prom has ever been held without numerous visitors, and none has ever been held with only out-of-town girls present.

Then, every Prom is the same in that thirty or more dances are on the program, and five or more are omitted. Every year 'tis the same. "The Prom this year will surely complete the program; the Faculty have given their consent." Why at the greatest social event of the year the program should not be allowed to be completed, is beyond understanding. The Alumni Ball, held during Commencement week, has its entire program completed; the students who attend the Legislative balls or Charity balls, dance until late in the morning. Why then this rule when the largest University party of the year occurs? There should be no feeling in the minds of those present at the Prom that just when the clock strikes the hour they must stop and go home. Unforeseen circumstances always arise at a large ball, and it is well-nigh impossible to run off the occasion

like clock-work. The dancing program is not a schedule, or a handicap race, and the committees in charge ought to be allowed to complete the full program of dances. Nothing ought to be done to mar the evening's pleasure; surely, the cutting out of the last part of the program is unnecessary.

The Junior Prom by custom, has always taken place on the last Friday before Lent. It was necessary this year, as every one knows, to change the date first decided upon, and the faculty after consideration decided upon the Monday following the Friday of examination week, as the date of this year's party. While of course Monday is not as good a day as Friday, it was the best solution of the difficulty, as the postponing of the Prom until after the Lenten season was open to severe objections. Monday then having been decided upon as the most reasonable date, that day must be taken with all its inherent evils. That lessons on the following Tuesday will suffer is self evident and must of course have been considered when the date was discussed; but as it is the opening day of the second semester the loss in work done is very little and did not appeal very strongly to the faculty else the date would not have been given. But there is another matter connected with the date which is not so easily disposed of. Every one knows that the festivities attendant on the Prom play a great part in the enjoyment of the week, and that they are numerous and various. When the Prom was held on Friday, Saturday was usually the day for most of these extra parties and entertainments, and as a rule everything was concluded by Monday. But with the party coming on Monday there is not the advantage of a holiday following, and many of the festivities must either be given on Tuesday or dispensed with. The faculty have requested that all social functions cease on Monday, and that no dawn-teas or breakfasts be held on Tuesday morning, and have asked for the co-operation of the different fraternities in this respect. As far as this request pertains to the students themselves, there is no reason why it should not be acceded to on their part, as the request is framed in a fair manner and is evidently accompanied with a fair spirit. But unfortunately the request affects other persons than the students alone. Many of the students will have guests during Prom week, and it has always been customary to give a breakfast or dawn-tea in honor of these guests after the Prom and these entertainments generally add not a little to the enjoyment of the visit.

While THE SPHINX does not believe it impossible to carry out in its entirety the request of the faculty, she does believe however, that the request if acceded to, would effect the visitors more than the students, and would rob the Prom of one of its most enjoyable features.

The increase in price of the tickets has met with a great deal of criticism. It should, however, be said in favor of the committee that the expense of the decorations will be much larger this year than in the past, both on account of the committee being compelled to hire help for that purpose, and of the rise in the cost of materials. But it rests with the committee to silence all criticism by making the decorations this year of such a nature that the increase in price will be forgotten.

On the whole the Junior Prom for the year 1902 has met with unusual difficulties in ways never thought of in the past, and the committee will deserve great credit if they make it "the best yet."







“Trying for the track team?”  
 “Nope, training for those twenty-five dances at the Prom.”

#### Apropos of the Prom.

The Prom committee having been advised in a fatherly manner on the best way of influencing the behavior of out-of-town guests, has decided to impress upon the minds of all patrons to what extent they are indebted to this worshipful committee for the privilege of having a Prom at all. The following will be printed on the backs of programs.

Patrons will *please* remember:

1. That this is a Six dollar Prom. All former attempts have been on the scale of a paltry five.

2. That although we have been having trouble about music and musicians' unions, whatever music we have will be able to furnish noise. We hope you'll like it.

3. That instead of doing the decorating ourselves, we have hired it done, and that is clearly a much better way, since we get out of more work and we can stick our patrons harder.

4. We do not guarantee to play our full

program of dances. That rests with those in higher authority than ourselves.

5. We think everyone ought to come and bring all their friends, because this is our party and we need the money to turn over to the faculty committee.

#### The Food of the Gods.

I've sung unto you of the dread rarebit stew,  
 And no one can doubt that I've tried  
 To picture what harms its insidious charms  
 Are certain to cause you inside.  
 But now my muse sings of some different things,  
 Pronounced by most competent judges,  
 The best of their kind, for I have in mind  
 Those sugary blisses—called fudges!

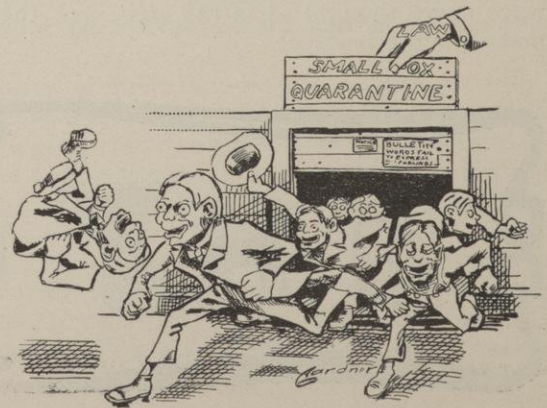
They are sweeter than kisses from kissable misses,  
 And richer than Croesus by far;  
 They are distilled and drawn from the fountain of dawn,

Where the fairyland candy stores are.  
 No more shall I try to get to the sky  
 By the way the majority trudges,  
 For why should I care for the Heaven up there,  
 When I can taste Heaven in fudges?

I've forgotten the hour when I came in their power,  
 'Twas ages and ages ago;  
 And I don't take the pains to break from my chains,  
 Such bondage is pleasant you know.  
 And though doctors say there's dyspepsia to pay,  
 My solemn conviction scarce budges,  
 That there's nothing so filling, so soothing, so stilling!  
 As Mamie's most wonderful fudges.

The taffy so yellow, the powdered marsh-mallow,  
 Are both of them pleasant to taste,  
 And I could write reams about chocolate creams,  
 And odes upon odes to fig paste;  
 In fact there's no candy that you could name handy  
 Against which I have any grudges,  
 But the sweetest, the finest, the simply divinest  
 Of all are my Mamie's best fudges!

Old Homer has told of the gods who of old  
 On ambrosia and nectar existed;  
 But Homer I claim, in spite of his fame,  
 Has got things a little bit twisted.  
 Now the truth it is this, and all scholars with bliss  
 Should embrace it—poor overworked drudges,—  
 The stuff the gods wined on was nectar. They dined  
 on  
 Ambrosia, that's Greek—meaning fudges.



“O HAPPY DAY!”



Co-ed Critic—"Isn't it a lovely masterpiece?  
Such intelligent faces and all different."

### "Song of the College Man."

[From "Slaves of Sobriety," an unwritten  
Comic-opera.]

What ho! ye rounders, and pillow pounders,  
Come list for a while to me,  
The Land of Dreamers' no place for schemers,  
But for lads whose hearts are free.  
We want no workers, but rather the shirkers,  
Or the youths who blandly paint,—  
The things they would do, in a lurid hue,  
If their hearts were not so faint.

There's lessons to learn, will the good oil burn,  
Until after the midnight hour?  
No; devil the flame, 'tis not my game,  
I've a far more potent pow'r.

There's a thesis to write, but your jovial wight,  
Sends the paper straight to hades,  
For he's off to the dance, where he'll blythly prance,  
For half the night with the ladies.

O! college days, have ever a haze,  
That screens all thought of the morrow;  
As we gaily tramp, o'er the mosses damp,  
We reckon not of ever a sorrow.  
But short I wis, are the nights of bliss,  
And the daylight, finds us tired,  
So we yawn and turn, while our hearts still yearn,  
For the girl last night we admired.

### A Freshman's Experience.

The little Freshman girl leaned back  
And wished she was in heaven,  
She had three blank pages in her book,  
Her minutes left were 'leven.  
Her eyes were red from sitting up  
All night, 'til morning seven.

Her head was filled quite full of dates,  
And yet within it too,  
Were many thoughts of that first Prom.  
And what she was to do,  
About the dress that had not come  
That thought naught could subdue.

She leaned her head upon her hand,  
A hand all stained with ink,  
She cast her eyes upon the floor  
And of dates she tried to think,  
Yet still her mind it seemed to dwell  
On th' dress of softest pink.

The little Freshman girl looked up  
At the questions yet undone,  
She had not studied as she ought,  
She feared she'd get a "con."  
And yet what mattered that thing now?  
For Monday was the "Prom."

The Prom night came with all its joys.  
It banished all her fears.  
The girls, the gowns were all so gay,  
Even the "Profs." were "dears."  
But when she got her first report  
She wept—Oh! many tears.



### On the Hill.

#### Act I.

*Scene:* Upper window in Law Building;  
tree before the window partly hiding it;  
walk under the tree.

*Actors:* Young man at open window;  
squirrel in tree near window, eating a nut;  
young woman on the walk; chorus.

*Action:* Young woman looks up, does not  
notice the window, but sees the squirrel,  
says "You sweet thing!" Young man at win-  
dow waves his hand, says: "Thank you!"  
Young woman with red face disappears.  
Chorus appear at other windows, look out,  
laugh, say "Ah!"

#### Act II.

*Scene:* As before. A few minutes later.

*Actors:* Same young man at window;  
same squirrel now on a limb over the walk;  
another young woman.

*Action:* Squirrel drops nut on young  
woman and scampers to his first position.  
Young woman startled, looks up and says  
"Oh you beast!" Young man with red face  
disappears. Chorus appear as before, look  
in, laugh, say "Ah!"

Curtain.



Jan. 14—Atheletic board decides to retain baseball.



Jan. 16—Prom committee decides to stick us \$6 to come to their parties.

Jan. 17—Reason for \$6 Proms: We must beat last year's and hire our decorating done.



Jan. 18—Military Hop; the third Freshman Dec.



Jan. 20—Art ex. opened by Prof. Jastrow in Museum of Historical Library.



WHO IS NEXT?





Jan. 22—Bryan at the Gym. on "A Conquering Nation."

Jan. 23—Mrs. C. K. Adams presents us with pictures of "Our Eddie" Cochems to hang in the Gym.



Jan. 24—Prof. Olsen contemplates a treatise on "Dawn Breakfasts and Injuries Therefrom." Red Dominoes play with themselves.

Jan. 25—First indoor meet.

**Inconsistent.**

Prof. Dodge, in advanced composition class—"Please avoid rhyming constructions like 'he came out with a shout.' Now at the end of a clause we naturally pause—" class smiles out loud.

**Is It Needed?**

Like the good war-ship Wisconsin,  
So mighty in its power,  
Our university should have  
A decent conning tower.

**How One Man Slipped and Nearly Fell.**

Fred thought, before he came up here, that he knew all about college girls; that is college co-eds. They are all very well to jolly, good fun to take ice-boating, and just the sort of girls to take to a hop, because they never mind it when your collar wilts and you don't look exactly trim.

As for the rest, the girls in his set at home who go to parties all the time and never bubble over are the only possible girls for real occasions. Fred knew so much about college—college society, of course—that he took every precaution before coming up here, not to make any mistakes. The very first thing he did was to invite the most fashionable girl he knew to the Junior Prom. She accepted very graciously—and absent-mindedly.

Fred had not prepared for all emergencies. That was unfortunate. It happened, as it often may, by some mysterious freak of chance, that there was a very charming girl in college who was in fact, irresistible.

Fred found his fortifications weak and inadequate. They broke down entirely.

At Christmas time, he had been taking her to everything for some time, and he was growing very uneasy about the Prom. He had not been able to find out whether she was going or not. He knew this much, not any man in college had asked her unless he had asked her a very long time ago. He was obliged to admit to himself that he had been most careful to forestall any fellow who had seemed in the least inclined to ask her anywhere. He had completely monopolized her so that no one else ever thought of inviting her. In fact, it was quite universally "understood."

That was not all the trouble. He had not been corresponding with the fashionable girl at home. He had not seen her since he made that foolish blunder, and he wished he might never have to see her again. He had written to her a little while before and in a very formal way reminded her of his invitation of last summer. The middle of January had arrived and she had not answered his note. Very possibly she was not coming. If she had answered at once, it would not have been too late to ask Elsie to go to the Prom. Perhaps Elsie might be going after all. If she was, he wanted some dances, naturally.

Fred had developed a meditative habit, and the furniture in his room began to look considerably banged up. He was ill-natured too, and the boys kept out of his way.

As for Elsie she had a very devoted brother who had offered to come up and take her if she wanted to go. Elsie had been postponing her decision for some reason, toward the middle of January she wrote to her brother a rather unenthusiastic letter and told him to come. Toward the end of January, she noticed that no one had asked her for dances.

She wrote to her brother not to come after all. She did not really care much about going.

Fred could have filled her program several times over, by that time. Three weeks before the Prom, the fashionable girl wrote to him from Paris. Fred had not been reading the home papers.

Well, if Elsie was going, he would stag,—but if she wasn't?

Elsie certainly had been cooler the last few days. Their conversation skirted all around the edge and sometimes it came perilously near the brink. If Fred had not been so absolutely correct, he might have blurted out the whole matter and been forgiven, but Fred was absolutely correct, and so he did not.

It certainly would have proved a tragedy if it had not happened that Elsie's brother was a jewel. He found out just how the matter stood and then he went to work.

Ten days before the Prom Fred called one evening in the most cheerful frame of mind; he ignored all snubs and was even so undignified as to seem hilarious. After that he talked about the Prom, frequently in a way that greatly exasperated Elsie, who did not understand it.

The climax was reached when he invited her to the house party down at the frat house. Elsie was so indignant that she turned and walked away without a word, for she might have said something she would be sorry for.

It was the Thursday before the great event, when a box arrived from her mother. She opened it to find a dress that the total supply of adjectives which the house afforded, could not express.

Then before she could get her breath, came a telegram from her brother telling her to expect him on Monday.

That night Fred telephoned to her. He said that perhaps she might be interested to know that her brother had left her Prom program with him and he hoped she would not think he had been presuming too much in filling it for her. Then he begged her again to come to the house party. He told her that he would not go near the place if she was not there. There would be so many out-of-town girls and he really could not endure them.

Fred certainly didn't deserve it, and Elsie knew he didn't; but she went.

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—*Exchange.*

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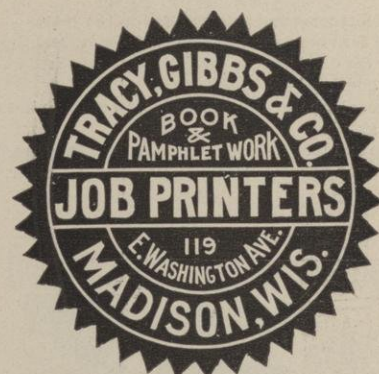
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 Twelve photographs go for a few idle dollars.  
 Though competitors growl and "take on" a sight,  
 They fail to prove that Ford is not right.

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 And for every one several new faces appear;  
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 I've been up and down 'em many  
 times,  
 No poetry about 'em—*Widow.*

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**If Omar Came to Cornell.**  
 Oh, love, could thou and I with  
 Fate conspire  
 To grasp this sorry Scheme of  
 Things entire,  
 I'd make Clear Nights for  
 Military Hops  
 —I hate to loosen up for  
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 —*Widow.*

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VERSES suggested by an Oak Grove Chicken Pie.

I.

HAPPY fowl  
(Rooster's wife),  
Wicked man,  
Carving-knife;  
Cluck! Cluck!  
Cluck!  
(Useless strife!)  
Twisted neck,  
Exit life!

II.

Boiled and hid  
Under crust,  
Student bought  
(Not on trust);  
Eaten up,  
How unjust!  
Ash to ash,  
Dust to dust!

—*Harvard Lampoon.*

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Of the many distinguished men in our glorious country, the City of the Four Lakes, is well represented and we can feel justly proud of them. We have the famous statesmen, brilliant orators, noted professors and talented musicians, who too well appreciate the excellency of the Chickering, A. B. Chase, Fisher, Schiller, Hobart, Cable Piano. Groves-Barnes Music House are local agents for the above named pianos. If you are contemplating the purchase of a piano, we request a call and we will promise you our thoughtful consideration. New sheet music is arriving daily—latest and most complete.

What's a photograph? Ford's impressive image.

Ikey—"Dere is a great pargain in a new vatch, Gapiel."

Gabriel—"You won't teceive a frient Ikey? I see *second hand* on de face of it."—*Widow.*

New styles in those "different" and extreme swell tailored "Stein-Bloch" ready to wear Spring suits and overcoats will be shown at THE HUB, on or about February 15th.

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Fresh—"How did you manage it?"

Frosh—"Why when he called my name I didn't answer and he marked me absent."—*Widow.*

Who is Ford? A Photo Grafter.

What's college life without humor?

If you have troubles, don't tell of them, bury them as a dog buries a bone, and don't let any one dig them up without a growl.—*Exchange.*

Violet's—Farnese. One drop enough; \$1.50 an ounce at SEXTON & O'NEILL'S.

"Is there any cure for jealousy?"

"Yes."

"What?"

"The faith cure."—*Exchange.*

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Manager (of agency)—If you accept this place, you must agree to take the place of the mother.

Nurse—Isn't the mother alive?

Manager—Yes, but she's a social success.—*Life.*

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**An Examination in History I**

[Respectfully submitted to the consideration of the proper authorities.]

1. Give a brief outline of Frankish history. Did Charles Martel personally conduct Tours? Was Pippin an apple of discord among the Franks?

2. Who was Constantine? Constantius? Cornstarch? Tell something about Geiseric's brother, Goldbric. Was Rome captured by Paregoric? Who was Candelstic?

3. Compare the careers of Stilicho and Bilighote.

4. Was Mohammed a Buffalo? Who was Ali? Was he the person known after death as Paradise Ali?

5. Were any coon songs written in Medinah? Who wrote the Mohammedan hymn, "Islam, lam, lam?"

6. During the persecutions of Diocletian, how long did it take an early Christian to become a late one?

7. In history, which of a Roman's ears is known as the Roman frontier?—*Harvard Lampoon.*

Which is what? Ford's Photographs.

"She was a widow stern and spry,  
And brimming with lots of fight;  
She married a man five feet high,  
And he died from the widow's might."

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Who sent in his card last night?"

"His work was pressing, father dear,  
And his love for it was great;  
He took his leave and went away  
Before a quarter of eight."

Then a twinkle came to her bright blue eye,  
And her dimple deeper grew.  
"Tis surely no sin to tell him that,  
For a quarter of eight is two."

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