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JANUARY
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M.C. Otto

Volume VII Number 7



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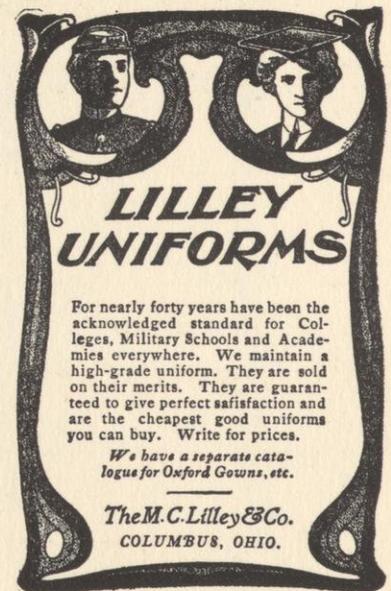
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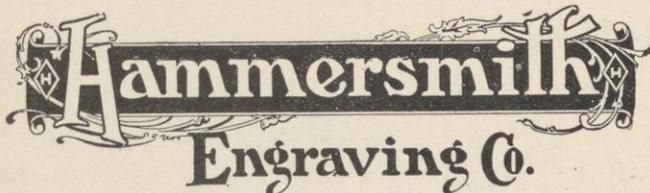
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Winter Manners

If a friend of yours should ask you, with mischief in her eye,
Upon a little skate to go with her,
'Tis polite to look offended—pass the invitation by,
For her meaning is quite easy to infer.

THE SPHINX,

Published fortnightly during the College Year
by Students of the University of Wisconsin.

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



We want football to stay. We sincerely hope the faculty will do nothing, in its omnipotent wisdom, that it will later regret. But that its aggravation is great, we are forced to admit, and that the problem before it is baffling and complex in the extreme, we fully realize. That, instead of wiping the game entirely from our

cardinal slate, as the easiest and surest way of obviating the difficulty, they will find in their midst a Moses who from his exalted position on the Hill will be inspired with a set of Football Commandments entirely adequate to control the evils, is indeed a consummation devoutly to be wished.

We think, however, that all this hue and cry about "brutality" is woefully misdirected energy. "Brutality" is not the source whence spring all the present evils; the source is professionalism. Professionalism is the cause, and "brutality" the effect, in this troublesome football problem. To do away with "brutality," therefore, professionalism must be stamped out with an iron heel.

That the faculty and the student body are at odds over the present situation, we all know. The faculty want clean, untainted athletics, or none at all. The student body seem inclined to believe that the end justifies the means. "In order to keep in the race with our rivals," they say, "we must do as they all do. We must fight fire with fire." And—how consistent!—the fact that the faculty passively refuses to protest players on other teams, whom the students firmly believe to be professionals, is another source of grievance. Then, too, (as everyone protests) conditions here are much cleaner than formerly. Why take drastic action when we are already on the road to improvement?

Now, what is to be done about it? The average student is a very reasonable and fair-minded individual. He abhors crookedness and double-dealing wherever it may be. He wants things to be done fairly and squarely above board. Yet his attitude is that we must do as other universities do in order to keep in the same class with them.

To meet this demand, then, and to keep in line with the horde of reform advocates, THE SPHINX respectfully submits the following solution, which is fully guaranteed to ease the present football belliack: Cease playing intercollegiate games under the name of the University of Wisconsin, whose code of ethics is ostentatiously amateurism. Establish a football annex under the euphonious name, The College of Football of the University of Wisconsin. Pull Andrew Carnegie's leg for a half-million shiners, and with it found a Board of Scouts, whose sole duty shall be that of beating out the scouts of our rivals in getting prep. school hellers. Buy a huge machine, guaranteed to grind out twelve yards of spirit per minute. Get a coach who had twenty years' training under Moses I. (of classic fame for his ability to get into the rushes) on the University of Paradise eleven, and who made the All-Heaven eleven nineteen out of those twenty years, according to Jasper Splitknee, the Heavenly Censor; then you will have things clearly and surely above board, and at the same time stand a fair show of getting into the Big Three class.



DON'T YOU READ the editorials in the *Daily Candy-ball*? THE SPHINX has observed that many students glance over the first page of that publication on such occasions as their neighbor's copy is delivered, but she has never seen any one reading a *Candy-ball* editorial.

Now it is a fact that nearly every issue of the sheet, or more accurately, nearly every issue that THE SPHINX has seen, contained a short and inspiring essay on some topic of student interest like the weather or morality.

The editorials have embraced a wide range of subjects, but the management has sedulously avoided such topics as would arouse controversy or engender bad feeling. One need not avoid the *Candy-ball* editorial column for fear of having his feelings hurt; it is nothing if not polite.

THE SPHINX believes that the effusive attitude of the management deserves recognition. She has therefore arranged to print in each number the *Candy-ball* editorial of the preceding two weeks which she considers the best. She expects the hearty co-operation of her readers in the enterprise and in case the returns justify it, is willing to give space to suggestions for editorials. These should be of great value to the *Candy-ball* staff.

THE SPHINX hopes that the rivalry engendered in the Daily's office will not result in ill-feeling. She is sure that the selection of the best editorial every two weeks will assist, rather than hinder, in the task of maintaining the high standard which has characterized the work of the *Candy-ball* staff in the past.

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Announcement

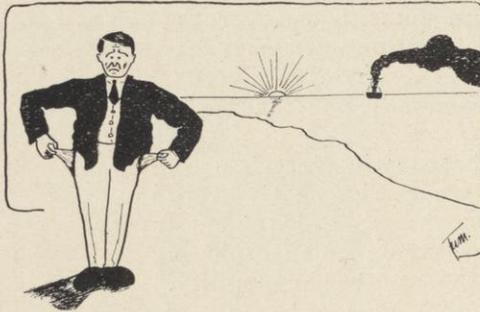
THE SPHINX takes great pleasure in announcing the election of Mr. Stempf, '08, as assistant Art Editor, and the election of three new members of the board—Lucian Cary, '08, of Madison; George B. Hill, '08, of Milwaukee; and John V. Mulaney, '08, of East Troy.



ANTED: Any number of good drawings, skits, sketches, stunts, stories, or ideas for the PROM SPHINX. It is desired to get out an exceptionally good number, and there is absolutely no limitations on the nature of the "stuff," no matter how dreadful a nightmare it may give the compositor to set it up.

We believe there is a bunch of "literary guys" here, but most of them persist in hiding their respective light under a bushel. To all such we make the classic appeal of the woodpecker—"Take it out."

To the successful contributors we will give a beautiful edition-de-looks set of Billy Scott's novels, and a 9,999 year membership in the Hammer and Anvil Clan.



Bold Lionel.

I.

Afar off in the distant sea,
Bold Lionel bravely goes;
I wish he would come back to me,
And pay me what he owes.

II.

His hand he holds up to his eyes,
To shield him from the sun;
He took my coin and told me lies—
The blamed old sun-of-a-gun!

III.

Will he come back to friends and foes?
Will his face be seen again?
Will he e'er pay me what he owes—
My hard-earned, long-lost ten?

—A. B. Shuster.

Sphinxograms.

Consistency, thou art indeed a jewel—
but most of us wear paste imitations.

*

'Tis better to give than to receive—especially the small-pox.

*

When a man starts talking life insurance to you, beware! He may be looking for your proxy.

*

The new skating rink is a peach all right; but it will have to go some to beat out the old one down the middle of State street.

*

History repeats itself; so do the funny papers.

*

A rolling stone may gather no moss; but it always gets the rough edges knocked off.

*

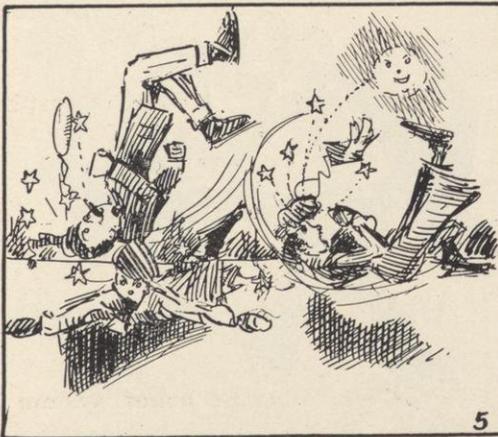
It takes longer, somehow or other, to find out that you don't know a pretty girl you meet on the Hill than it does to find out you don't know an ugly fellow.

♠

How do you like the honor system in exams?

Well, it was the only thing that saved me in Ethics!

Percy Goes Skating





Suds—Can a rabbi marry!
Nick—No, but his children can.

The Primer.

This, children, is Caspar Whitney. No, Mr. Whitney does not live in this vicinity. He is a product of the ef-fete East. What is Mr. Whitney's bus-i-ness? Be quiet children and I will tell you. Mr. Whitney has a vo-ca-tion and an a-vo-ca-tion. A vo-ca-tion is the same as a pro-fess-ion. An a-vo-ca-tion is a hob-by. Yes, Willie, all pro-fess-ors have hob-bies. Sh! Bobby, that is true, that pro-fess-ors' hob-by is raising steins, but we are talking about Mr. Whitney's hob-by. It is call-ing names. Who was the last goat Mr. Whitney picked out? There were sev-er-al of them, Willie. Two of them were the U-ni-ver-si-ty of Wis-con-sin's pres-i-dent and her athletic ma-nage-ment. Did Mr. Whitney ring the bell when he called us names? Yes, Bobby, I'll tell you on the quiet that he did.

What are we going to do about it? I think, Bobby, that we will try our best to climb up to Caspar's stand-ards. Maybe we will even get up to where he has put our im-mac-u-late rival, Chi-ca-go. Wouldn't that be fine, Bobby?

What Pa Ses.

I DON'T jest know; it seems ter me
Thet this here Universi-tee
Is mighty costly busy-ness,
An' takes more dough than all th' res'
Of my contrapshuns. Still I say
Thet every dog must hev its day,
An' if my Bill up there learns how
To do somethin' 'sides milk a cow,
I won't complain if he does blow
In thirty plunks a month, er so.
He writes me thet he likes th' place,
Though he ain't yet caught up th' pace
Them Hill boys set in wearin' pants,
An' Bill ses he ain't got no chance
To join them clubs an' other things
Thet city eddication brings.
He ses they calls him "short horn" there,
But enyway he doesn't care,
Cuz thet don't mean nothin' nohow,
An' he don't want to hev no row.
Cuz fightin' fist-fights ain't th' way
They settle grievances to-day.
An' them there city stoodent guys
Don't blacken up each other's eyes.
But Bill ses, "These blamed, high-toned
fools

Git even here by fightin' dools,
An' twenty paces distant stand
An' hurl cuss words from every land."
But, then, Bill ses there's plenty more
Of short horn fellers what loves gore,
An' almost every other night
They go down town an' hev a fight
That's fought in our old-fashioned way,
Where fists and mussel win the day.



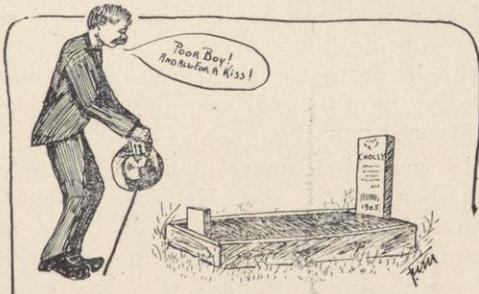


Another Touching Affair.

Professor—I am sorry to inform you, Mr. Cutter, that your work has been very unsatisfactory this semester. It will be touch and go if you get through the course.
 Mr. Cutter—That so? It will be a case of touch and go if I *don't* get through.



“Why don't you have a joke for this picture?”
 “Because we think it is more in need of a yoke.”



Post-Christmas Epitaph.

Here lie the remains of brave Cholly,
 Who died at his duty; by Golly!
 While kissing sweet Jo,
 'Neath the green mistletoe,
 He was caught by his fiancée, Molly.

It is reported on the best authority that “Freshman” Beebe took in the sociology trip to Chicago. It is also reported that several popular girls were in the party. Hi, there, Beeb!

“Bangs has changed a good deal. This year he's a blamed good fellow—no grind and a good spender. What's struck him?”
 “Oh, nothing much. He's endowed with charity that's all.”



OMAR settled back comfortably in a Morris chair, elevated his feet to a near-by table, and lighted a half-colored meerchaum pipe. Around him a small group of congenial souls were gathered for their customary nightly conflagration.

"Did any of you fellows see the 'twenty-third' last night?" queried Omar, looking expectantly at his little coterie.

"Sure!—You bet!" came in chorus.

"I happened to wander down that way myself"—began Omar, apologetically.

"Discover-r-red at last!" interrupted Simms, the Engineer, in a mock-tragic whisper, amid much good-natured laughter at the philosopher's expense.

"As I was saying," continued Omar, imperturbably, "the Spirit moved me to take it in night before last, and for pure, dyed-in-the-wool enjoyment it couldn't be beat. No, Beggs, my aesthetic standards *haven't* degenerated. It wasn't the acting I enjoyed; it was the total lack of it. And then the audience! Why, old Sir Roger would have given up his title to have had the opportunity to 'spectate' on that amusing display of human foibles. From the nigger heaven, filled with street urchins, of the dime novel type, down to the lower boxes, which held the bulky, over-dressed forms of the plumber's wife and the butcher's helpmate, he could have seen representatives of every social stratum. And the burning desire of each class seemed to be to ape the 'style' affected by the class just above it."

"Just the same," interposed Sims, "I thought the comedian was pretty much all the gravy."

"Well, I'll have to admit that he was fair—comparatively speaking. He was funny at burlesque. But as for comedy, or even high class vaudeville—why, he couldn't see up to either with a telescope. His stunts were all of the absurd kind; amusing because of their extreme improbability. As if a perfectly sane and physically sound man ever pitched himself over onto his face, while crossing a room, by stubbing his own right toe against his own left heel!"

"There are absurdities in high class comic operas," observed Hobbins.

"To be sure. A comic opera is nothing but a conglomeration of absurdities——"

"And bewildering figures," said Simms, slyly, much to the discomfiture of Omar.

"We go to see comic operas," continued the latter, when he could make himself heard, "solely and simply for the purpose of being amused at these same absurdities. The more absurd they are, and the more original their conception, the better; and if they hit off, with gentle satire, some little weaknesses common to human nature everywhere, then it is best of all.

"But in the drama—yes—melodrama, if you will, Beggs—where *realism* is attempted, then, I say, all this tomfoolery is decidedly out of place.

"And it was the ludicrous *attempt* at realism in the show the other night that made it so funny to me. Here they tried to portray, in two hours, most, if not quite all, the grand elemental human passions—fear, love, hatred, jealousy, revenge, and I know not how many more—changing abruptly from one to another, in a most unpsychological manner, in the length of time it takes to utter a guttural 'Ah, ha!'

"What made it all the more ridiculous, too, was the fact that the actors—dummies, I should say—whose role it was to represent by word and gesture these volcanic passions were all of them thin-blooded, weak-spined, dissipated individuals; who had just enough nerve-force in their fibres to feel a morbid, passive interest in the peccadilloes of life."

"Their dramatic ability was certainly a travesty of the real article," remarked Simms, appreciatively.

"It was *that*—mere buffoonery. You remember when the Heroine was kidnapped by ruffians? Yes? Well, may my ears grow long, if she didn't squawk for all the world like a woman who had seen a mouse in the pantry! And then when the Villain was suddenly seized in the throes of a diabolical scheme by which he could murder the Girl's father in cold blood and cast suspicion on the Hero, he announced the inspiration to the audience by exclaiming, 'Ah, ha! I have it!' in the tone of voice of a 'traveling gentleman' who had just discovered a troublesome bed-bug under his pillow.

"In the first act the Hero, the Villain, and the Old Gentleman all go daffy over the charms of a sweet, little flower girl, and

when the aforesaid S. L. F. Girl finally makes her appearance before the footlights, with a round of applause and whistling from the nigger heaven and a chorus of groans from the student aggregation in the dress circle, she turns out to be a childishy-dressed woman on the off side of thirty, and about one hundred seventy, avoirdupois,—a most kittenish elephant.

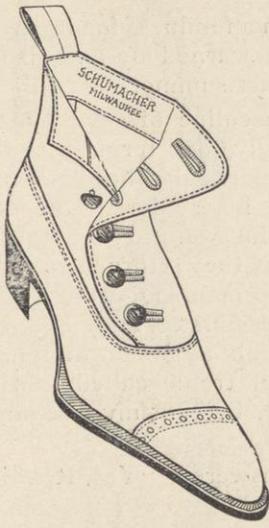
“There was the Heroine’s brother, too, you remember, A blue-blooded, high-strung son of the Southland, who with a long rifle was on the trail of his sister’s betrayer, whose heart he had sworn to pierce with cold lead. With his gun over his shoulder, he shuffles onto the stage, like an iceman in a Modern Woodman parade. At last he meets the Villain face to face, and asks him, ‘Is this Jack Dalton?’ exactly as a messenger boy would ask the janitor if Mr. Jones were ‘in.’

“Oh, yes, this cheap melodrama is all right if you look at it in the right way.”

“Then you feel that you got your money’s worth out of it?” asked Beggs.

“Sure,” replied Omar. “It’s a good investment to see occasionally how ‘the other half’ plays.”

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MILWAUKEE

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Eloquent Ben.

I.

In a little valley,
By a maple tree;
Ben and dainty Sally,
Happy as can be.

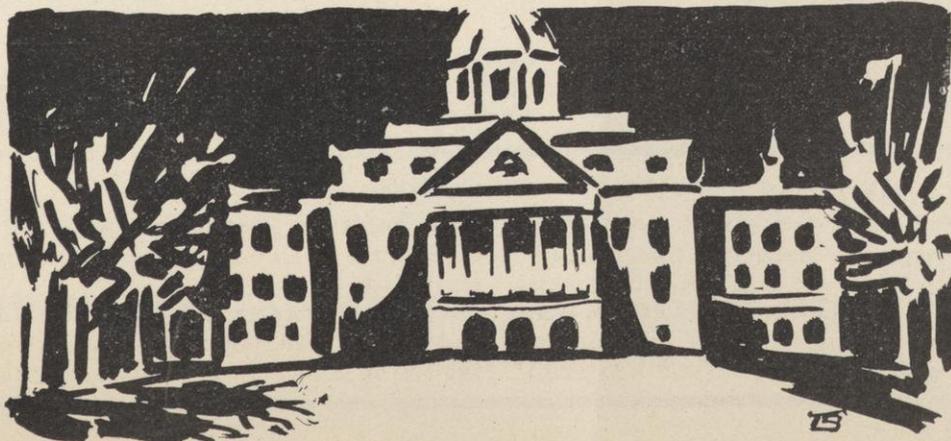
II.

Speech in Ben has risen,
Words that fairly burn;
He says if she’ll be his’n,
That he will then be her’n.

—A. B. S.

Apples in the spring time;
Peaches in the fall.
My Lulu went out skating,
But she took an awful fall!

My Lulu’s slim and slender,
My Lulu’s tall and thin,
But she made such a hole in the ice where
she fell,
You could drive four horses in!





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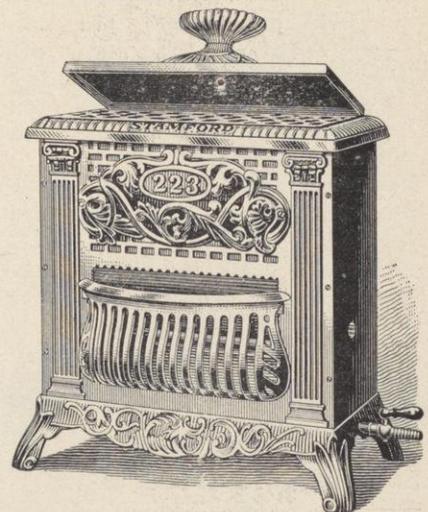
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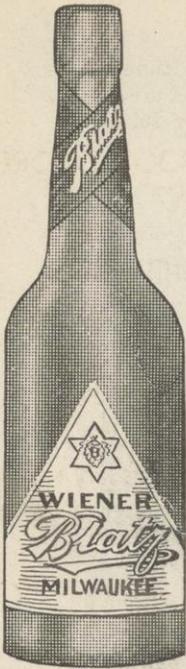
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Findlay's.

Coffee List.

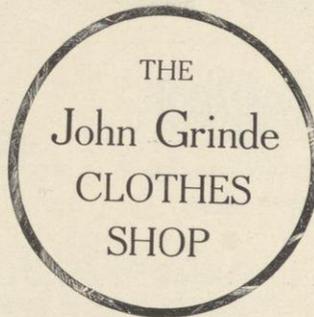


Better keep this list so you will know just what each coffee will cost you.

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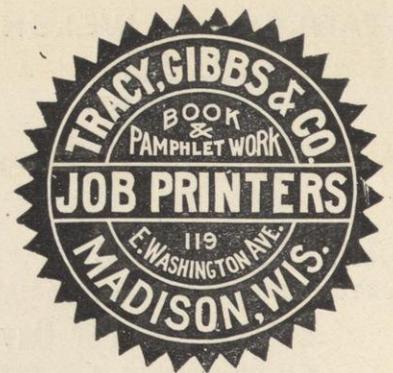
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