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# The Sphinx



Vol. VIII

Madison, Wis., May 10, 1907

No. 14

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cat  
Makes such discord when he  
sings?  
Because the horrid tom-cat  
Is filled with fiddle strings.  
—Ex.

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# The Sphinx

Naramore



## THE SPHINX.

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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



**W**E had hoped to write "S'fficiency" after our last authoritative discussion of the college sport question; but we are led to uncork it once more. The main educational squeeze of Lawrence was lately interviewed on "College Morals—or How to be Holy though Educated," on which occasion he dished an implied lemon to the large university (meaning us, by imputation), which he mentioned in that bated tone of voice used by the Presbyterian granger in sizing up the Relentless City. His idea was that the stude, in the dinky joint, is unavoidably under the solicitous eye of the faculty, like a bug under the dissecting lens—and if he gets to curving out of the strait and narrow path—stultifying his

God-given alimentary canal with occasional horrid smelly fermented drinks, and twining pensively round corners of billiard tables—it will be a rush order of slow music and ticket-of-leave for Willie. The small-college faculty, in brief, is a sort of triple cross between a conscience, a cop and a guardian angel.

It must be nice for the doting parent to know that Archie will be carefully wound up in conditions of moral antisepsis by the worthy guys who have the job of mentally unfolding him. It is our sub-conscious hunch, though, that the kido that needs a faculty dry-nurse substitute in lieu of his missing sense of decency isn't worth while blowing the price of a college course on. Besides, when a man is held tenuously to the Gospel Ship or the Water Wagon by the faculty apron string, there will be a whizzing reaction in the opposite direction when the string loosens; when the incubator kid falls, he falls

like Lucifer, and the Gay District marks the spot where he hit with a brass plate.

In Madison, Wis., the protection of the unsound-souled is, at present, undeveloped. We don't know whether this is due to a liberal professorial viewpoint, or the heftiness of dry-nursing 3,500 active individuals. Anyway, the simple stude has charge of his own morals; if the fond pa fears to let Archie loose on that basis, he assumes that Archie is incapable of the job.

We do not mean that freshmen come here to Biblically become Strong Through Passing Up Daily Temptation. Madison is pretty decent, considering. Everything but the dog-wagon closes at 12 sharp, despite the raven predictions of the cheerful *Journal*, last election. Madison is, in fact, mild.

When veterinary persons want to immunize an equine skate against say, lock-jaw, they begin with exposure to the attenuated form; later, the skate is capable of re-

sisting the real thing. Analogously, the kido has a chance here to tackle a mild kind of Life on his own responsibility, which prepares him to hit the real thing later. Consequently he takes away at least a rudimentary moral intelligence.

If the Fond Pa doesn't believe in vaccination, let him keep Willie tethered by the fireside; and watch his smoke the first time he takes a job away from home. Also—if Archie is a brat really incapable of taking care of himself, let the F. P. send him elsewhere—we have several and sufficiency of that kind here now. Send him to a small sheltering college, e. g., Lawrence—or, better, Vassar.



WE WILL again apologize for reopening a hackneyed subject, that was pretty rank when we first dug it up anyway. We mean the gym. The remark of the immortal Lucien Cary: "The gym is cleaner than it used to be; it is not clean as it ought to be"—holds now with its original force. *Tank* and *rank* still rhyme, and have similar connotations. The tank isn't worse than the average public natatorium, but it should be better, seeing that this is supposedly a Home of High Ideals. The shower floor is, indubitably, hosed. There arises however a howl from the locker rooms. Certain benches there

are literally anxious seats, by reason of the fifty-seven varieties of vermin native to the neighborhood. This may be nothing more than a tradition; but it would be comforting if the ghost were laid with chloride of lime. The dust that rises from the gym mats is too thick for a tradition though. Also last winter, the prevailing CO<sub>2</sub> was only disturbed by occasional blasts of cold, goose-fleshy outer air.

We realize that the cleaning of a building the size and build of a penitentiary is a job calculated to keep two men going some. Only you seldom see them going some.

We will not pause here to discuss the shortcomings of the required physical training. We haven't room.

The classic-minded will recall Hercules good job on the Augean stable. We reckon that the chief need the gym, just now, is a combination of Hercules and Colonel Waring and the Gold Dust Twins.

"If forty maids with forty mops Swept it for half a year Then do you think," the Walrus said, "That they could get it clear?" "I doubt it," said the Carpenter, And shed a bitter tear."



WE WANT to boost a few, now, as a counterirritant to the above necessary knocks. We find something new and good anxiously awaiting upward assistance *a tergo*, that is, the proposition of excusing

seniors from their final exams.

At present, the senior graduates out of breath. Final finals, which are nervous businesses anyway, coming on top of a thesis, are insults added to injury. The senior composes his oration and conceives his commencement exercises between jumps of trepidation—consequently the said exercises, instead of being a bitter-sweet memorable festival of intellectual Thanksgiving, are mournfuler and deader than the good-bye ritual of a bankrupt Down-and-Out club.

Exams add nothing to your cultural content; they are, on the contrary, an intellectual stomach pump—a crude and cruel way of taking soundings for possible mental emptiness. We may assume that such exam tests will have eliminated the bone-head elements before the eighth semester.

Moreover, those last exams are scrupulously bucked for—the few they eliminate aren't worth the prehensile effort involved in collaring them. Senior finals serve only as a scarecrow to prevent sodgering the last semester; which could be done as well by an exemption system of class marking.

Give the senior a few spare minutes at the end of his course to frame up a class day worth mentioning, and to indulge in some of those regretful reminiscent memories we read about in books but haven't time for here. At present, there is about as much romance in a Wisconsin graduation as there is in a carload shipment from a glue factory.

WE AGAIN take pleasure in announcing an election to the SPHINX staff. We take extra pleasure because the election is seasonable to the month of freshman emancipation. Walter A. Buchen, '10, is the first man of his class to make the board; here's hoping his classmates will follow on in bunches.





### Alyson, 1910

You are a freshmaness  
 I am a senior,  
 Also all yours—from the moment I met you.  
 Now when I join the mob  
 Hunting the Needful Job,  
 While I am hustling, dear, think I'll forget  
 you?

Three years for you  
 In this bourne of the fusser—  
 Sure more than one matrimonial bid—  
 Have I the option though?  
 \* \* \* \* \*  
*Me for the needful dough!*  
 Knowing you're waiting—my dreamy-eyed  
 kid.

### Flippancies on the Faculty Direct From the Directory.

I want to be an **Angell**,  
 The **Kind** to leave no track,  
 So stand me in my **Coffin**  
 My **Sandells** on my **Bach**.  
 Then take a **Flint** and pithy **Reed**,  
 Beneath me **Lighty** fire  
 And let me **Roloff** on the road  
 Unknown as yet to **Meyer**;  
 The **Purin** French,  
 The "fail" in **Reinsch**,  
 My lectures under **Bleyer**,  
 Go, **Burnett** all,  
 And **Charlie Hall**,  
 Shall preach before the **Pyre**.

The Patient Equine brought his teeth  
 painfully down on the shoe-peg oat.  
 "That's a hell of a noat," he snorted, in  
 an aggrieved tone of voice.

The Conscientious Ethiopian lambasted  
 the southern exposure of the Maude Muller  
 Mule in vain.

"Once more into the breech," smiled the  
 Hybrid, backing obstreperously.

The Anaconda was trying to swallow his  
 own tail. But presently it disagreed with  
 him.

"It made me so whooping mad I could  
 hardly contain myself," he explained later.

I like to **Hunt**,  
 I like to **Fish**,  
 To **Cook** things in  
 my chafing dish;  
 And yet although  
 I like it so  
 To **Cook** I hadn't ought 'er,  
 For I **Haertel**,  
 And know it well,  
 My dishes often **Slaughter**.

## Tales of Horror

I

### The Quest

BY E. ALL-IN POE.

*(Taken from the Angle-worm Chronicle).*

AN I go on this horrible quest, thou wilt love me?"

"That will I," sayde softlie ye lovelie fayre lady Kappa of ye proude house of Mu.

Sir Lawnfal Stude he armoured hymselfe bye freezing on his face a smile and sallied forth to find ye poorest joke in all ye world. For thys was ye quest assigned to hym.

Uponne ye street of State he didde meet hys friende who didde majour in litereatoure, who spake unto hym sayinge,

"What is so rare as a day in May?"

Answered hym Sir Lawnfal,

"What indeede save ye grubbe house steak!"

"Almost myselfe didd I attain to it," he muttered after he hadde dodged ye fiste that would have smitten him upon ye beake.

He entered inne unto a house where lived a friende.

"What ho," sayde ye friende, "what thinkest of these my candy socks?"

Sir Lawnfal he forebore to speake for he loved much his friende. Also his friende was handie wyth his mitts.

"Come nowe, be candyd aboute it." Ye friende did cackle ghoulishly over hys outrageous punne.

Sir Lawnfal also was exceedinge joyfulle for he now thought that surelie he hadde founde ye object of ye quest.

"Butte there might be worse in Godde hys world," thought he. So he hied hym unto Guck Brunert's domicile.

Guck hadde hys feet uponne ye back of ye chaire in which satte Bill Dearie.

"Wake uppe," he called to Bill as Lawn entered, "wake up." And he did chastelie wiggle hys foote neare to ye Lenheric nose of Bill, who oped hym hys eyes and quoth,

"Whoosh! Not amonge themme feete," and betook hymselfe to sleep again.

"My feete of strengthe," quoth Guck prouddie.

The hearte within Sir Lawnfal didde leap with joye beneath hys ribb for nowe of a veritie hadde he founde ye poorest joke inne all ye world. That night, that very night, would he take Her to ye statelie hall of Kehl. He rose for to hie hym home.

"Staye," sayde Guck, "didst hear why Fred mayde not Tau Beta Pi?"

"Nay, that have I not heard," sayde Lawn.

"He didde cutte Flom's twice last semester. He has one con in five fifths Flom's. He will never—"

Butte ye valiant knight he fledde.

And in hys roome there came unto hym Hill Barley sayinge,

"Thou art of those who oftenne curse with one great curse ye Dean Dickards and John Olin. As it were, thou art of ye goboon clan. Now tell me, can a manne hys widow's sister marry?"

"Founde," groaned Sir Lawnful hoarsely, "founde. There is none worse in Van Hise hys kindergarten."

(According to the latest reports Sir Lawnfal Stude is still at the battie-house suffering from dementia punniana.)

The **Martin** is a **Woolley** beast,  
She lives on little **Moles**.  
She gets her **Clawson** them whene'er  
They **Dodge** out of their holes.

Up **North** the **Doughty Scott** goes out,  
**Atwood**-craft he's a winner,  
He nabs the little **Martin Wild**  
And then proceeds to **Skinner**.

## U. W.—A. D. 2007

The Japs will be 10,000 strong,  
And sweet Jap maids will be the rage.  
The Latin quarter of this age  
Will hear the Mexicana's song.

The pipe committees soon will be  
A trust of multimillionaires.  
Two dollars *now* for quarter wares!  
In five score years—oh, Hully Gee!

The faculty will all be dead  
And great bier ads will meet your gaze.  
We'd like to see those golden days,  
But now they're better left unsaid.

A few score lanes like Linden drive,  
With darkened subways underneath,  
The coming decades must bequeath  
To make this burg a paradise.

—'08.

Whether or not variety is the spice of  
life, a variety show is usually a spicy one.

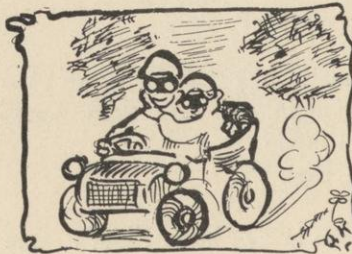
The old man planted three swift kicks on  
the Fusser's spinal column—in the sacral  
lumbar, and dorsal vertebrae, respectively.

"Gee, what a lightning calculator," re-  
marked the young man, alighting. "Did  
you notice how rapidly he footed up that  
column?"



## Taking Cold

Olive went to walk with Taylor,  
On a Stone she bumped her Shinn;  
If you're Sharp you'll see at once, sir,  
What a boat the two were in:  
He couldn't ask to see her—Shanks:  
—The Turner fancy led her  
Made Olive blush a rosy "Red"  
But Taylor still was Roedder.



## II.

If you fuss with a girl in a tippy canoe  
And you jiggle the slightest iota,  
The boat will deposit you two in the goo  
And, teacher, 'tis cold in Mendota.



## Recitation on Fussing

## I.

When you fuss with a girl in automobile,  
And you aim a fond kiss—and she joggles—  
You connect with her nose—how embarrassed you  
feel!  
And you cannot goo-goo through your goggles.



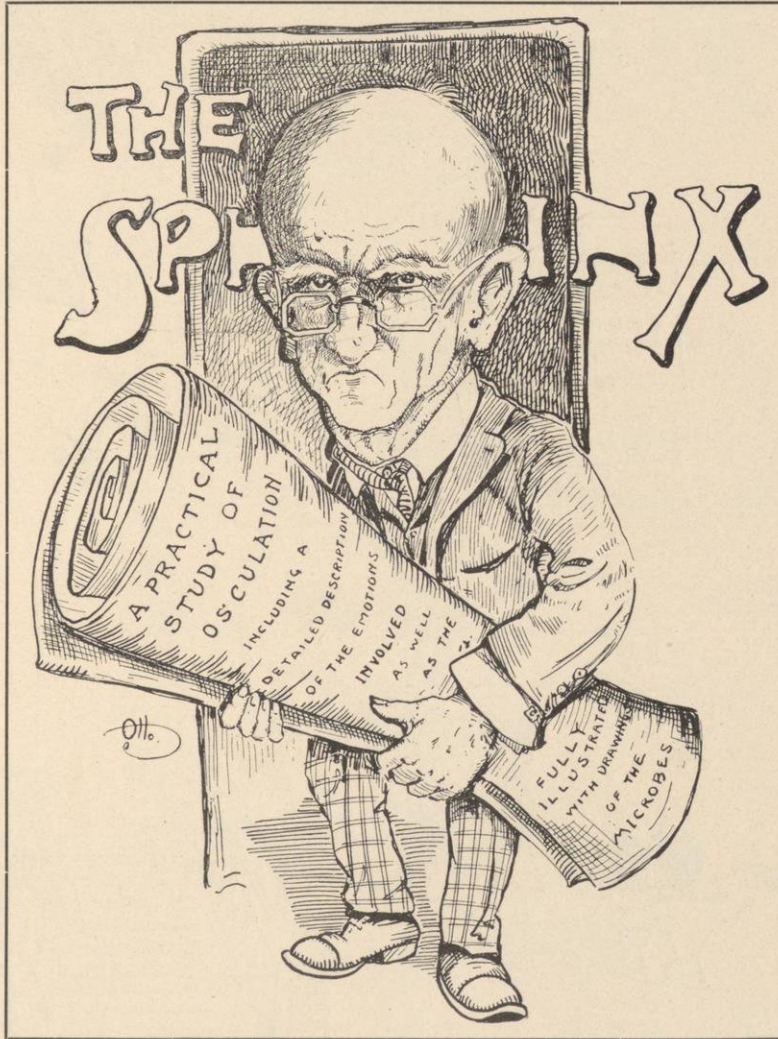
## III.

Plain ev'ry day fussing, conducted on land  
Is endorsed by authorities, Mar'm;  
With naught to distract from the business in hand—  
Or rather the business in arm.

—G. B. H.

A Card

WE want to thank, as officially and politely as we are able, the young ladies who took charge of the last SPHINX. There is an unwritten law, passed along from one editorial generation to the next, along with the office cat and the biscuit paper weight the Domestic Science department made for Phil Allen, that the SPHINX be exclusively a stag affair. This lets us out of keeping painfully respectable as a general thing. But, the SPHINX affords the only outlet for certain kinds of literary talent—and it is unfair, and unkind, and wasteful, to deny the university girls the chance of giving voice to the literary-humor latent in their systems, to mingle the metaphors, as it were. The success of this year's issue makes THE SPHINX hopeful that every year the girls will take possession of one of her numbers, and help along her well-meant efforts to boost the gaiety of nations.



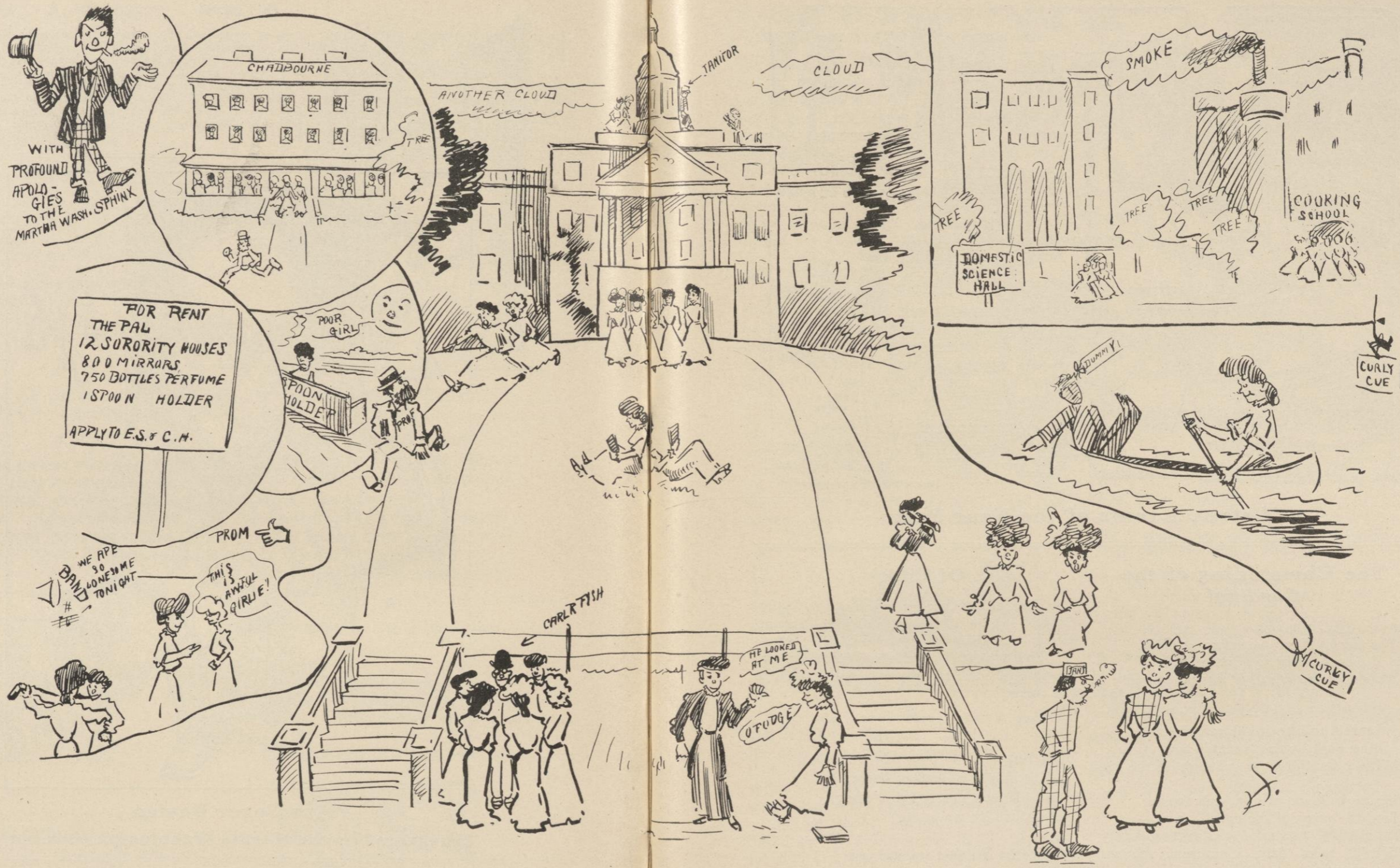
Prize Cover Design

Suggested by the Martha Washington Number

The Eveless SPHINX impressed the men ('twas meant to, and deserved to)  
 By limning all that they would miss, of cardiac sensations,  
 Deprived of *clinche a deux* with incidental osculations.  
 (We might describe the same, ourselves—but never've had the nerve to.)

Oh, Beebe is a man of parts,  
 No false pretenses he:  
 "I want to be just what I am:—  
 Let Be Be Be Be Be."

My Hart is Gay, the Knight is Cool,  
 Let's climb the Hill and Fus-ell,  
 Or March o'er Moore and Mead and Lee  
 And hear the Bass Woods Russell.

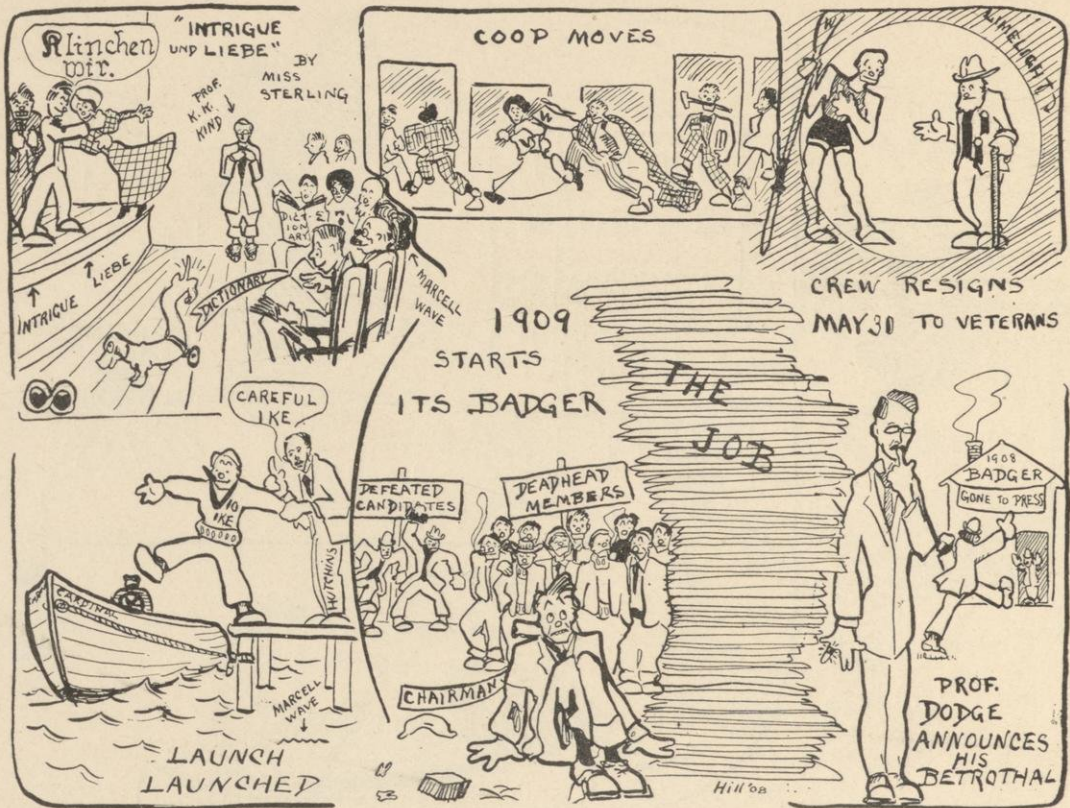


One night I lay a-sleeping  
 And dreamed the worst one yet,  
 ('Twas due to sev'ral rarebits  
 I'd previously et.)

**WISCONSIN IN 1908.**  
**AN AIMLESS EDEN.**

Parents!  
 A Desolate Deserted Depository for Desirable Daughters.

The males had left Wisconsin—  
 (Athirst for banished drinks),  
 Inversely to the way things were  
 In Martha Wash's Sphinx.



Historic Events of the Near Past.

### The Christening of the Cardinal

*Into the H<sub>2</sub>O she slid.  
Ten Eyck's cigar transfixed a Grin.  
But I only thought as Maudie did,  
How different it might have been.*

I dreamed of a co-ed—beauteous?—wow!  
A stately maid with shining hair,  
Standing high by the launch's bow,  
With a demijohn poised high in the air.

Bringing it down with superb sweep  
Into the prow of the coach's boat—  
With a lovely spume of what subsequently  
Would balm each clamorous student  
throat.

Alack! she was launched in the half mile  
limit,  
That area arid of aught but water,  
They might use milk, but I bet they'd  
skim it.  
*Yet, 'rah for the Regents. B'gosh, they  
bought her.*

### Of Cores

"The competitive ain't giving the Signal  
Corps a square deal," burred the Captain,  
biting his buttons in agitation.

"That's right," said the Heliographer,  
soothingly. "The whole deal is rotten to  
the corps."

"Goodnight" (we took this from the *Lit*),  
"The lights are getting Loew,  
What's Moritz nearly two o'clock  
And time for me to go."

He was the Miller's stalwart son  
And she the Baker's only,  
And though their Holmes were side by side,  
She Moody seemed and lonely.

Hiestands and Patzer lily hand;  
"I guess ere I'll be going,  
I'll have to ask you to Turneure  
That kiss I think you're Owen."

## Letters of a Soph-Flayed Freshman to His Grandmother

April 30, '07.

*Dear Grandmother:* Last night I went to see Maude; but tomorrow it will be May. I have just come from "At Yale." Paul Gilmore made a hit. He flew out to Gamma Phi, the first thing. They made him stay to dinner—caught at the plate, as it were. There were lots of singles made there—I mean single maids—and any one would be glad to help him make a home run, I reckon. He stopped at the first cushion though.

The house is fuller every time I go; the rush was fierce; I felt like compressed yeast, only the yeast could raise the dough, and I couldn't. The man behind me was counting my vertebrae with his nose; it was a pug nose; I was glad of that. Some one called us a pack of animals, but it reminded me more of a pack of cards; anyway I felt like the deuce. There wasn't room to kick; you couldn't get a word in edgewise.

I stood on one foot a long while; then on another—don't know whose they were. The upstairs seats arn't cane bot-tomed—they are all rush seats.



Next year I shall take political science and make the Badger. That is, I'll make the board; but I won't need help make the book. If you send me the money to buy spike shoes I'm sure I'll make the track team; but lately I've been running behind.

Talking about boards, I am awfully bored by the military drill here. My major is in English, but my captain will be in the lake if he don't change. I am in the color squad, with the Filipinos and the green men. We paddled our corporal yesterday, because he said our row was crooked.

It was cold, but now it is  
Fair.

Well—I must close.

I. B. NAUGHTTEN.

P. S. Maybe you think corporal punishment wrong, but you'll see it is write soon.

## Smart Boots for Men



Schumacher Shoes are renowned for their distinction—their shapely, stylish appearance. They fit, retain their shape, and

afford absolute comfort in walking. A favorite among neatly dressed men, and once you wear them *your* favorite too.

\$4, \$5 and \$6 the Pair.

**SCHUMACHER BROS.**  
MILWAUKEE, WIS.

*We Have No Branch Stores.*

Blow, Blow, Blow,

On thy horn, oh boy in blue!  
And I would that my tongue could utter  
The thoughts that I think of you.

Oh, applaud the fraternity boy,  
As he shouts with his brother at play!  
As the ball soars up in the air,  
And the bat swings up in the day.

Oh, well for the dear little slip,  
That he paid his home doctor to sign;  
That Chester is weak in the hip,  
And cannot stand straight in the line.

And the stately maids come down,  
From their classes on the Hill;  
But, oh, for the scratch of a doctor's hand,  
And the sound "Excused from drill."

### Inhuman Provocation

"And he says, says he: 'Try on these spring clothes;' and I says, 'Sure, and I'll turn back all but wot hangs best.' And he says, grinin', 'Ah, the survival of the fit-test.'

That, you honor, was why I killed him."

Poor Mrs. Robinson Crusoe:  
She had to make over her trousseau  
From the spring overcoat  
Of a William H. goat—  
Now how in the deuce could she dousseau?

**Fussing the Bar**

BY ALFALFA TENNYSON

Cuts, cons and flunks there be,  
Still—one more beer for me,  
And may there be no short horse at the  
bar

When I go half o'er sea—

But such a bunch as never goes to sleep  
While there is lunch and beer,  
Who have a thirst it costs a lot to keep,  
Nor small hours fear.

Midnight and copper's knock—  
Turned out long tacks to roam!  
Wending like angleworms at one o'clock  
Our journey home.

Yet tho' from out our bourne at Smiley's  
place  
Weak legs must bear us far,  
Let's hope we meet no big cop face to  
face,  
Bearing what's crossed the bar.

"I hate that case in equity where the de-  
fendant is a Texan. It's worse than any of  
the whole lot."

"I don't see why you should particularly  
hate that."

"Oh, you're so apt to get a bum steer."

Smith went down to visit Hausman,  
Thought to catch the little Miner,  
There he found his Foster Cousins  
Fuller than an ocean liner.

10. My beloved spake and said unto me, Fuss  
up, my love, my fair one, and come away.

11. For, lo, the winter is past, and the coal man  
has hiked to the Riviera on the proceeds.

12. The flowers appear on the earth and the  
cadies on the freshmen; the time of the singing of  
birds is come; the bird class sporteth like a bunch  
of kids on the mountains of Bether; and the voice  
of the lawn mower is heard in the land.

13. The prof putteth forth his dern assignments  
and the class with tired eyes give not a good D. M.  
Arise, my love, my fair one, and cut class.

'Tis proper quite for King to reign,  
You'd scarce expect it, though,  
In Science Hall at twelve o'clock  
To see Professor Snow.

For fear this sinful little pun  
On someone might be lost,  
Let's journey further up the Hill  
And see Professor Frost.

Or if your interest's in the crew,  
To English we might go,  
Just loaf around an hour or two  
And watch a Mr. Roe.

—Mu.

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**W**E are ready for you with  
everything that is good  
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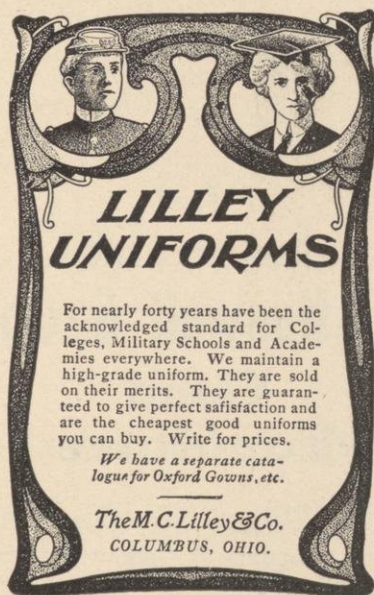
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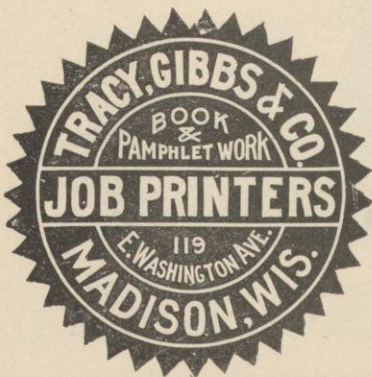
**Whew**

"Speaking of harrowing inci-  
 dents," said the sailor, "I wuz  
 once washed ashore."  
 "I know it must uv been awful,  
 pard," broke in Tired Thompson,  
 "I had to take a bath once my-  
 self."  
 —Widow.

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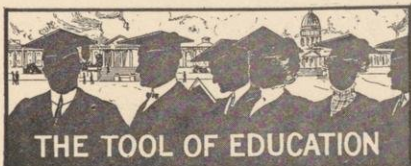
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 if you seek clothes  
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**A Definition.**

Johnny: Paw, what's meant by "the rule of three?"

Paw: That, my son, is a term applied to the combined work of the mother-in-law, the ice-man and the cook.

—Chapparral.

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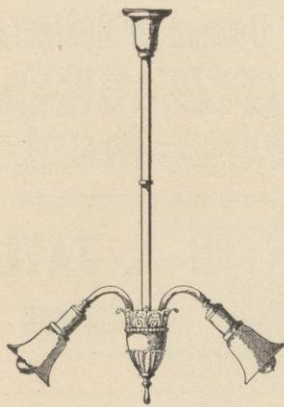
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### Coyne Hat Shop



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"Yes, he's just had a telephone  
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**Matching a Taste.**

Dullard—"When did you buy those awful tan shoes?"

Sharp—"One morning when I had acquired a dark brown taste."  
—Tiger.

Breathes there a stude with soul  
so dead

Who never to himself hath said,  
As clock chimed out 7 A. M.,  
"I do not care a D. A. M."

—Widow.

Mary Ann—"Please, mum, the gasoline stove has gone out."

Mistress—"Well, light it again."

Mary Ann—"Sure, and I can't. It went out through the roof."

—Ex.

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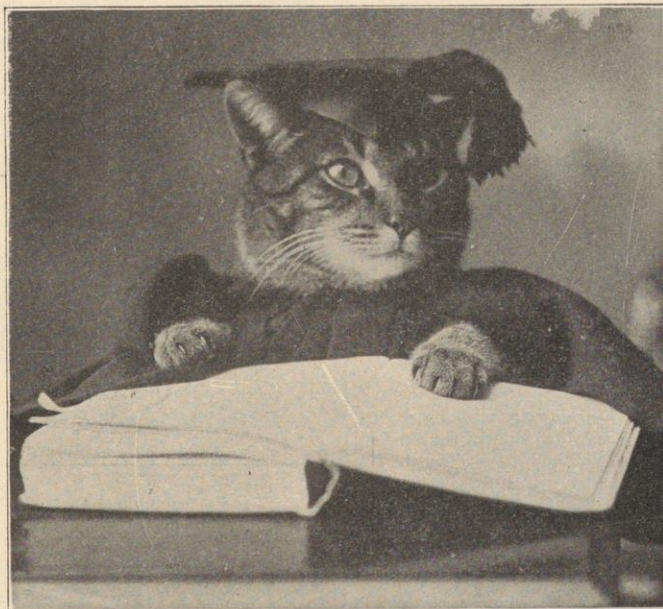
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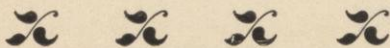
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There was a young girl named  
Maude Lynne,

Who raised such a terrible  
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When she came in at night

In that state known as "tight,"

That they shortened her name to  
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—Lampoon.

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Do not tell a girl you would  
die for her, for you may have to  
live up to it some day by eating  
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