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# The Sphinx

Naramore 64



## SPRING FEVER.

When springtime comes a floatin'  
O'er the Latin part of town,  
My spirits drop a foot or two,  
With Hausman's they go down.  
All the woes a hibernatin'  
In the marrow of my frame  
Come forth right cross and sleepy,  
And their wrongs to me proclaim.  
Oh, I wish that I was livin'  
In the bottom of the lake,  
Where fishes wee would sing to me  
And fan my feet awake.  
Spring fever is the worst disease  
That I have ever had;  
It ties my brain in twenty knots  
And drives my liver mad.  
When I go to solemn meeting  
Sunday morning with my best,  
My heart, so disrespectful,  
Beats "Cheer! Cheer!" upon my vest.  
Oh, I wish that I was livin'  
In a corner of the sky,  
Where birdies cuss and make a fuss,  
'Till troubles homeward fly.

—Nick.







## THE SPHINX.

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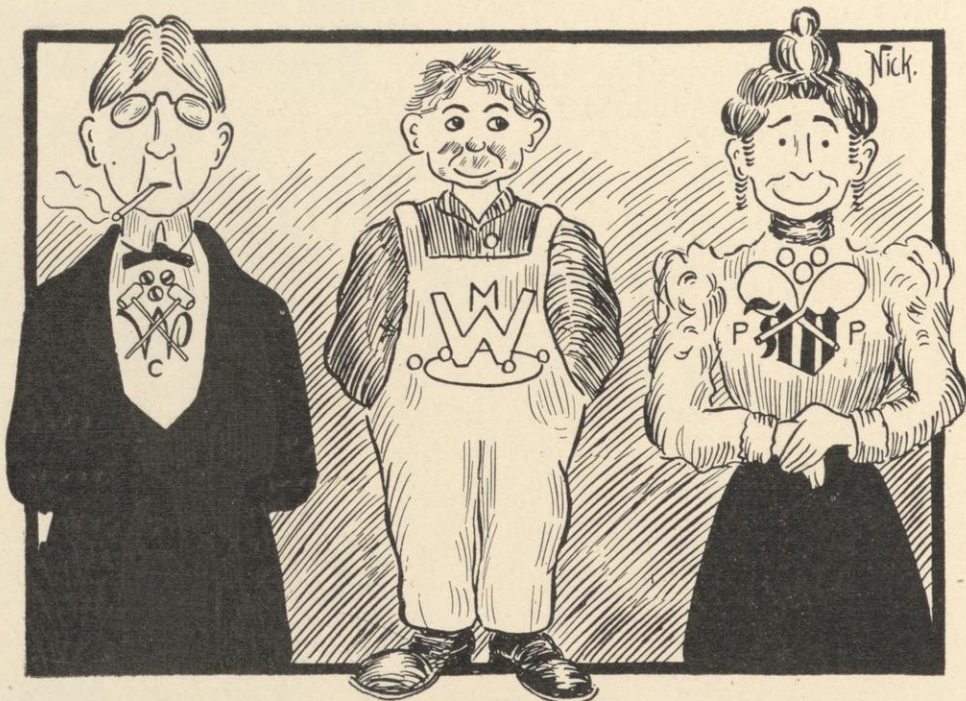
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Always remember that this is only pretence, so that you are not to believe a word of it, even if it is true.—Kingsley

## Wearers of the "W"



WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN





ISCONSIN athletic conditions just now seem to be at the lowest ebb. We are at the turning point between the old and the new organization. Whether or not the future holds in store success or mediocrity is still a matter for conjecture—and there is no dearth of surmises on either side—but after all, Wisconsin's position in the years to come with regard to athletics will be determined by the wisdom with which the new organization is builded up. In the attitude of the student body will rest the fate of the new organization (whatever it may be), so it behooves us to be builders and not destroyers. "Don't cry over spilt milk," is a wise proverb; one that is particularly applicable at the present time. No good will come of digging up the dead past. There will be hope for what is to come only when we cease looking regretfully backward and fixing our eyes steadfastly forward to the time when Wisconsin will be once more in the van of the Big Nine.

### How it Happened.

*(From the Minutes of the Faculty meeting.)*

. . . The following clause was then inserted in the resolutions: "Outdoor athletics will be hereafter conducted as scientifically and systematically as the indoor gymnastic training has been heretofore."

Asst. Prof. X. inquires what science and what system is referred to. No one can give him information.

Prof. Y. paints a touching word picture of the athletics of the future, "when the rosy-cheeked association of football players will stand in an orderly line while Eddie takes their numbers. (Cheers. Prof. Y weeps for joy.) Resuming, he recommends inter-fraternity football under proper restrictions and chaperonage.

Prof. X—"I object to this discrimination. Why not inter-sorority football, too?" (Prof. X. called to order.)

Dean Henry takes the floor; when remonstrated with he gives it back, however. He says: "There is too much graft in stu-

dent athletics. The faculty ought to take hold of this with a firm hand."

Prof. Z. reads the report of the committee on Substitutes for Football. Croquet is condemned because of the dangerous implements employed; ping-pong because of the abnormal inverted postures necessary when hunting for the ball under the piano; marbles because of its element of chance and the gambling spirit fostered. Consternation in the meeting. . . .

Pa Williams, emeritus professor, solves the difficulty. "Why not," he says, "permit football with the smaller teams, viz: Of Ripon, Lawrence, the Academy, the Orphan's Home. It would be safer than ping-pong, with no element of chance. It would foster a love for the simple life. Say to the students: 'You may play football, but not for keeps.'" Cheers. Cries of "The very thing." Wild excitement.

"It is a simple, soulful, sober substitute, and should be satisfactory to the strenuous students," says Sunny, lingering lovingly on the alliteration.





**"MAN'S INNERMOST THOUGHT"**



### Poor Willie

An old fortune-teller once said, "Mr. Bill,  
You'd better get busy and make out your  
will.

Your little hand tells me you were born  
very late,

A very sure sign you will soon meet your  
fate."

But Bill he just smiled him an overgrown  
grin

With a mouth so extensive a team could  
drive in,

And a snipe that he carelessly left on his  
lip

Was swallowed alive as the shock made it  
slip.

The stogie set fire to some "Force" with  
which Bill

Had that very same morning attempted his  
fill.

Billy swore hard and hysteric'ly laughed,  
Which, alas for poor William, created a  
draught.

The doctor examined Will's leavings and  
said

He wasn't surprised the poor fe'low was  
dead;

For the grub in his stomach, and lunch-  
counter trash,

The fire had turned into boarding-house  
hash!

—D. C. N.

### In 1919.

THE Wandering Wraith floated through  
the vast, empty, expensive halls of  
the Library. He drifted up the stairs and  
through the crack between the swinging  
doors into the reading room. The air that  
greeted his ethereal nostrils was the old  
familiar air of 1906, consisting of 80 per  
cent. nitrogen, 10 per cent. carbon dioxide,  
10 per cent. of assorted microbes, and a  
trace of oxygen. He glided invisibly  
toward two pale, thin, bloodless, scholarly  
creatures, who were barely able to support  
the load of scholarship badges and pins of  
Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Phe Pho, Phi Phui  
Phudge, etc., etc., which adorned their  
attenuated bosoms. They bent together  
over a volume which had not been dis-  
turbed for long years.

"Only see, Archibald, this peculiar verse  
inscribed upon the fly-leaf," said the paler  
one.

The wondering Wraith looked over their  
shoulder at the writing. It was:

'Varsity, 'Varsity,  
U-rah-rah-Wisconsin,  
Praise to thee we sing.  
Praise to thee, our alma mater,  
U-rah-rah-Wisconsin.

"How exceptionally meaningless," ejac-  
ulated the first scholar. "Goodness gra-  
cious, I—"

"Remember, Archibald, profanity is for-  
bidden," interrupted his companion, re-  
proachfully. "But, truly the passage is  
without logical denotation or connotation.  
I am curious to know where it originated."

"I am unable to enlighten you," replied  
the other. "I myself have never before  
heard it."

With a low moan the Wandering Wraith  
faded into Outer Nothingness.

### Prophecy.

The farmer may talk of the blue-bird;  
Of zephyrs the poet may sing,  
But a tack, upright  
On the floor at night  
Is the cause of an early spring.



“LA PETITE FADETTE





## The Spring Bird Class



### Song of the Signal Corps.

We sit around luxuriously  
In elegant kitchen-chairs,  
And listen at ease to the weary tramp  
Of the sons of the gun upstairs.  
We ghoulishly chuckle to hear the plunk  
Of their heavy guns on the floor,  
For we are soldiers of leisure now—  
We are the Signal Corps.



Oh, we have a card, on which is a code,  
Which we are supposed to learn;  
Some of us buck it diligently,  
Others don't give a dern.  
Don't let it worry you, captain dear,  
Some day we'll know some more;  
(We'll have to know more for we couldn't  
know less)  
We are the Signal Corps.

We practice at first with neat little sticks,  
Which we are supposed to wag,  
But after awhile, we put on style  
With a weather bureau flag;  
'Tis a brute of a thing in a gale of wind;  
It maketh your shoulder sore.  
If it wasn't for that we would all get fat  
In the Sedentary Corps.

We are the Signal Corps,  
As I remarked before;  
We are the liesurely soldiery—  
We are the Signal Corps.

### Engineering Note.

Naughty-nine they had some tickets,  
Which were anti the machine,  
Mr. Stiehm he ran for prexy,  
Now the class is run by Stiehm.

(Puzzle: Which is more a crime,  
That there pun or that there rhyme?)

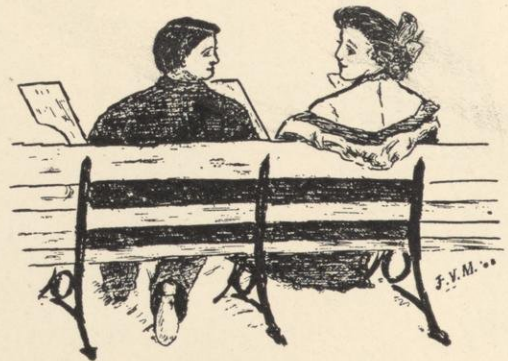
MEMORY—How infinite thy variety!  
Strong and intense and vivid as the first  
unstudied draught of Straight Whiskey;  
dull and commonplace and monotonous as  
the landlady's monthly Tale of Woe; faint  
and fragrant and elusive as the Odor of  
Perfume wafted from the Superb Gown you  
once escorted from some by-gone ball.

Mrs. Henry Peck—Henry, pay attention  
to me. Here I have been writing and writ-  
ing, and all you have been doing has been  
to read and read. Shall I say "disillusioned"  
or "disillusionized"?

Mr. Henry Peck—I don't know. Why  
don't you say "married" and let it go at  
that.

This is the way it came to us.

She stepped up to the attendant at the  
delivery desk in the Library and asked for  
Patmore's Poems. The attendant disap-  
peared into the stacks and emerged in a few  
minutes with this remark, "We do not seem  
to have Patmore's Poems, but I can give  
you Tom Moore's."



### Mixed Phrasing.

Freshman Girl (in German class)—  
"Have you translated any of this 'Jung-  
frau' for to-day?"

Freshman Grind—"O yes, it's easy! I've  
gone over it a half dozen times at least."

Freshman Girl (raptuously)—Goodness!  
you don't say so, why you must be a regu-  
lar German carp!"



## Another Expression of Spring Fever

In the glow of early morning Prof. Tiddle de Tum set forth from his home out near Monona to make his eight o'clock on the third floor of University Hall. It was a beautiful spring morning. No sound was heard save the noisy twitter of the sparrows in the gutter or the joyful lay of Sunny's milkman making his daily rounds. Professor Tiddle de Tum stepped joyously along, swallowing huge gulps of the Mendota breeze and cogitating on the "Joy of Living." By the time he had reached Main Hall his step was buoyant, his spirit exuberant and his poetic soul was saturated with the pristine joys of spring.

The members of the class stirred uneasily in their chairs. They looked longingly out across the budding tree-tops to where the ice was breaking on Mendota, and discontentment stirred the souls within them. At the sound of the professor's voice, however, they sat up and took notice.

"In expressing the spirit of culture instilled within us by daily contact with the great and beautiful," he began, "this message of the Gods, this quintessence of Helen, as I may say, we become winged Mercuries from Olympus, veritable pipes from the Helicanian springs." The members of the class looked concerned and importuned by the mission thus thrust upon them. They glanced about furtively. "However," said the professor, "we must endeavor to cultivate the positive expression of these intellectual concepts by explicit terms, with the absolute eradication and elimination of the artifices of metaphor."

In the distracting silence which followed this efflorescence of culture, an Olympian semi-public debate man on the back seat was heard to sigh heavily. The girl on the front seat swallowed her gum, and a former country school teacher in the second row fainted with a despairing shriek.



Sing a song of Sunny Pyre,  
How we raised his righteous ire,  
When we cut his class two minutes after nine.

How he talked of truth and right—  
Gave the co-eds all a fright,  
While the fellows all repented, fair and fine.  
O, we'd ne'er have cut at all  
If we thought that in the hall  
We would meet him and get hustled back in line!



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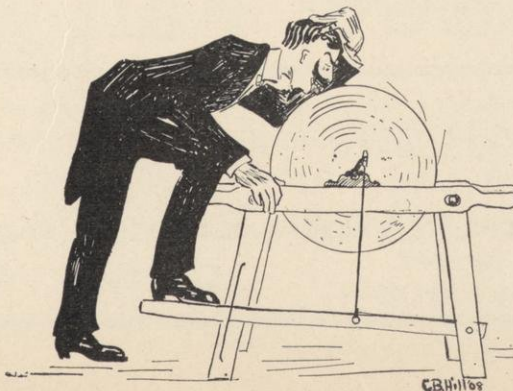
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"THE VILLAIN GROUND HIS TEETH."



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There was once a pair of young beaux,  
Who sported the loudest of clothes,  
And the noise that the made,  
Put the sea in the shade,  
By the sound of the serge, I sup-  
peaux. —Punch Bowl.

I can satisfy the most fastidious taste in the smoking line.

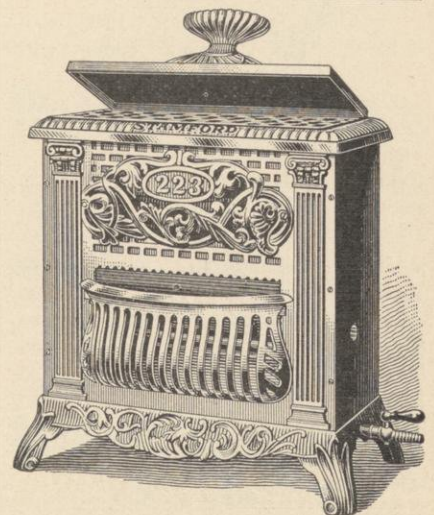
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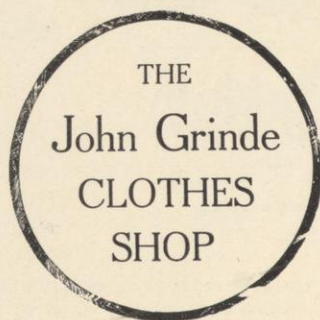


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Rozan, 25c. 4½ lb.....	\$1.00
Hotel Blend, 22c. 4¾ lb.....	\$1.00
Bourbon Santos, 20c. 5½ lb....	\$1.00
Jamaica, 18c. 6 lb.....	\$1.00
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### The Danger

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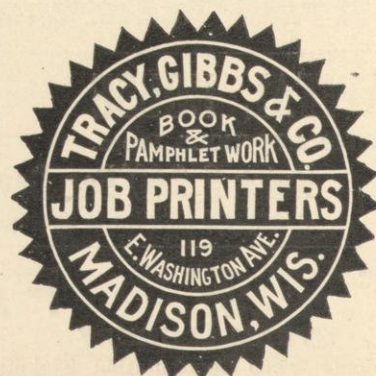
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