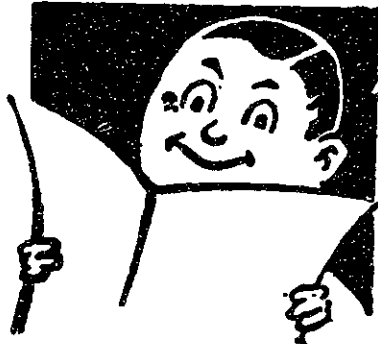


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### College World

### "Will SLUTS Meet GUTS At Harvard?" Tiddlywinkers Ask Smith President

By Toby Zidle '63

The SLUTS will soon visit Harvard. In fact, according to The Sophian of the Smith College, they have already had informal practice at Harvard.

The SLUTS are the Smith Ladies' Undergraduate Tiddlywinks Society. The Society, in its formation, sought the advice of the Smith president because college rules prohibit intercollegiate athletic competition.

Said President Thomas C. Mendenhall: "The great threat is overemphasis, and to prevent this we must avoid high pressure tactics in favor of occasional, informal, amateurism . . .

"Training should be under direction of the College Librarian, not the Athletic Department; and the selection of the team would be done by the Fire Captains and the Grass Cops . . .

"If any instruction is needed I am sure the Dean stands ready to appoint a committee for the purpose." The purpose, of course, is to play tiddlywinks.

SLUTS was formed initially to meet a challenge from MHUTS, the Mount Holyoke Undergraduate Tiddlywink Society. Its schedule has been expanded recently, however, to include matches with GUTS (Harvard's Gargoyle Undergraduate Tiddlywink Society) and with a team from Simmons.

The captain of the Smith team, in a telephone interview with The Tech, admitted that the name of the club was picked to fit the initials. When asked if she thought the name would be used to characterize Smith girls, she replied that "we don't care what reputation we have, actually."

Although dates have not been finalized, win or lose, the SLUTS will play at Harvard within the next few weeks.

#### Male Must Go Thru

There's another male versus female contest going on in British Columbia, but this time it's a single male against a host (or maybe hostess) of women.

The Ubysey of the University of British Columbia reports that Alfred Forrester sometimes feels a bit tense when his name is called out for attendance in class. The reason? Alf's the only male member of the Ryerson Home Economics course.

The 6' 2", 170-lb. former high school athlete is taking the course because it's the only one there which leads to his chosen vocation — public school teaching. Alf reports that in general everything moves along very pleasantly: "Even the dress-making instructress told me not to feel out of place."

Alf's girl friend wants him to be a school teacher, but she doesn't especially like the idea of his taking the all-female course. Nevertheless, Alf goes on; besides, "the girls are nice."

#### Learning By Degrees

If Alf seems to be taking an unusual course to get his degree, how much more unusual would seem certain theses submitted by academic hopefuls both past and present — e.g., the Harvard thesis of 1655 which earned the first Master of Arts degree awarded in the New World was entitled, "Every Perfect Being Can Be Perfectly Defined."

Along with this classic goes an effort of 1765 labeled, "Did Adam Have an Unbilical Cord?" The author, a Cantabridgian named Belknap, took the negative and came out with a gleaming M.A.

But the unusual thesis is not the sole possession of bygone centuries. Witness such recent titles as "Metamorphosis of the Nervous System in the Lumbrosacral and Caudal Regions of the Frog" (Harvard), "The Survival of Adrenalectomized Cats in Experimentally Induced Pseudo-Pregnancy" (Princeton), and "A sexual Inheritance in the Violet" (Cornell).

Everywhere there appear what seem to be ridiculous these on what are most definitely obscure

subjects. The reason is, of course, the requisite of original research; and with 9,829 PH.D.'s awarded during one recent year, it's becoming more and more difficult to find something truly original.

As Clifton Brock wrote in a recent edition of the NY Times Magazine, "most students consider the process of obtaining a Ph.D. in a modern university a cross between an extended desert march and a medieval inquisition." And indeed it is more difficult than during the early days when "all a Harvard man had to do for his master's degree was to pay five dollars and stay out of jail."

Another difference between the present-day degree seekers and those of yore is that the latter were required to adopt a position and could be called to defend it; today, however, one can choose a topic regarding which argument would seem impossible, such as "Some of the Factors Which Influence the Composition of Cabbage and Their Relation to the Quality of Sauerkraut."

Thus, while the writers are in most cases completely serious, and while their products, obscure as they be, may yet be of benefit to some small segment of humanity, one still wonders when confronted with a modern-day thesis on "Uses of the Subjunctive in King Alfred's Old English Version of Boethius's 'De Consolatione Philosophiae'."

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