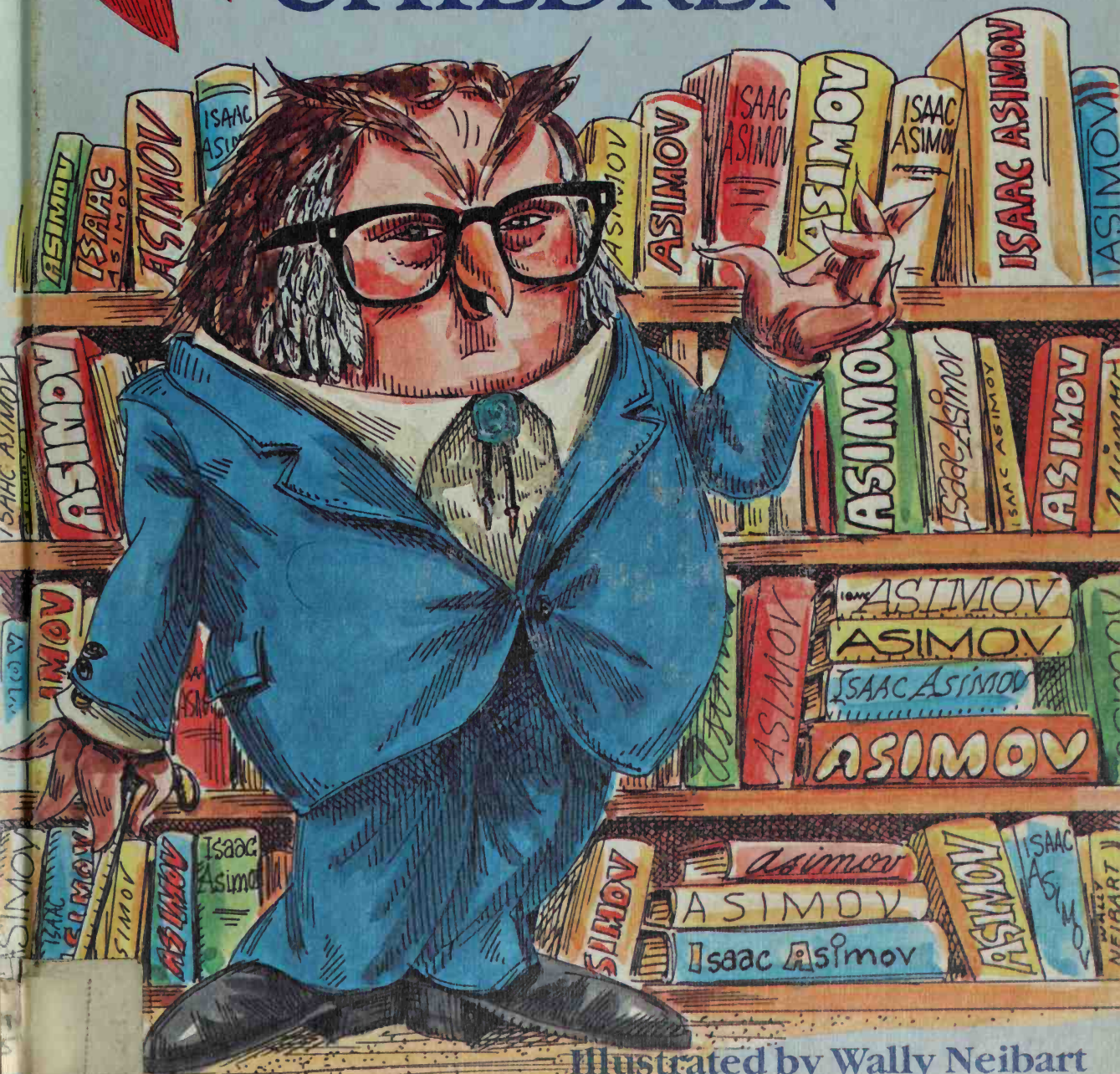


# ISAAC ASIMOV'S LIMERICKS FOR CHILDREN



Illustrated by Wally Neibart

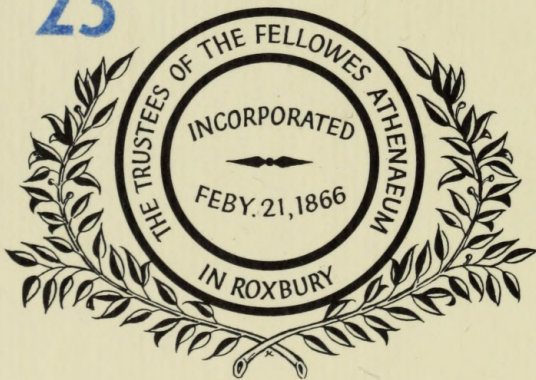
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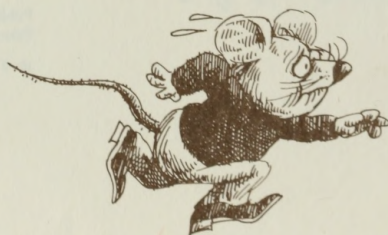
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ISAAC ASIMOV'S  
LIMERICKS  
FOR  
CHILDREN

Illustrated by Wally Neibart



To Ward Botsford,  
on whom I lean, and vice-versa

Art direction by Carlo De Lucia

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New York

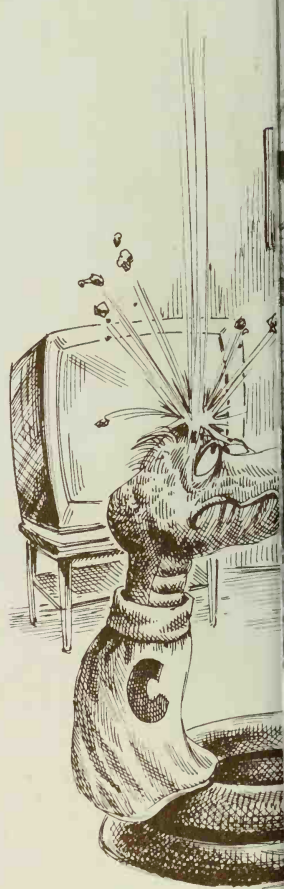
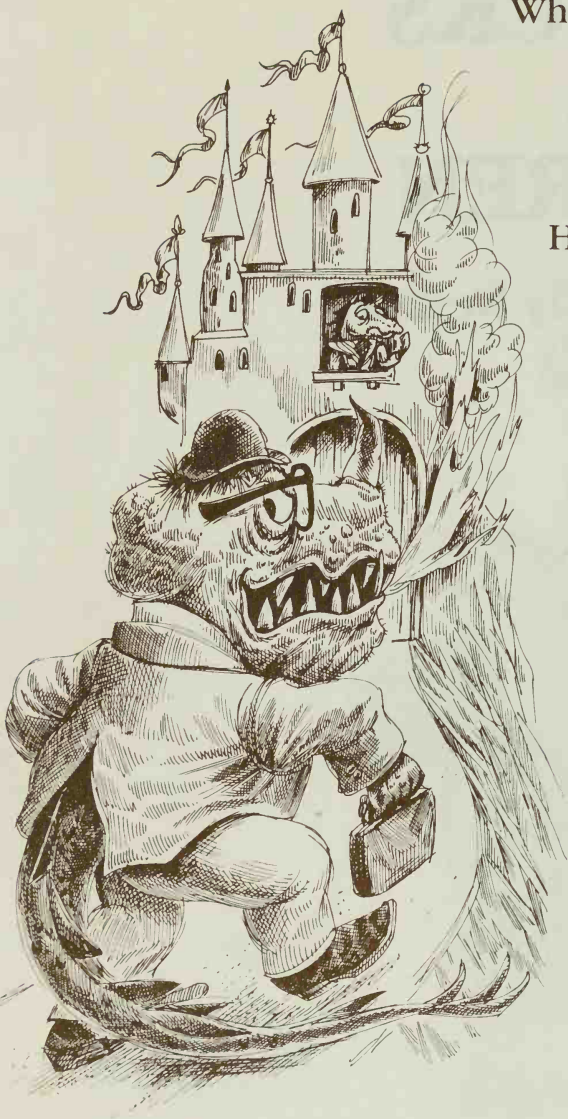
*Expensive*

A large income becomes fundamental  
When you live in a place with high rental.

If your landlord says, "Pay!"

And you ask for delay,

His expression is seldom quite gentle.





### *Generous*

A wealthy young lass named Vanessa

Once said to her father confessa,

“I don’t think it’s funny

“To give away money.”

And all I can say is, “God blessa!”



### *Apprehension*

I get the most curious feeling

Whenever I look at the ceiling.

My Dad says it won’t fall

Or annoy me at all,

But why does the plaster keep peeling?

## *Self-reliance*

Young Susan had reached a decision,

Avoiding her teachers' derision.

She proceeded to yelp

To her father, "Don't help!"

And that's how she learned long division.





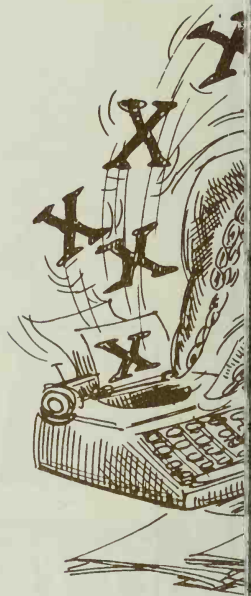
*Affectionate*

The mistletoe custom on Christmas  
Is something I don't want to miss, Miss.  
If I stand on the dot  
That marks the right spot,  
Will you come here and give me a kiss, Miss?



*Hope*

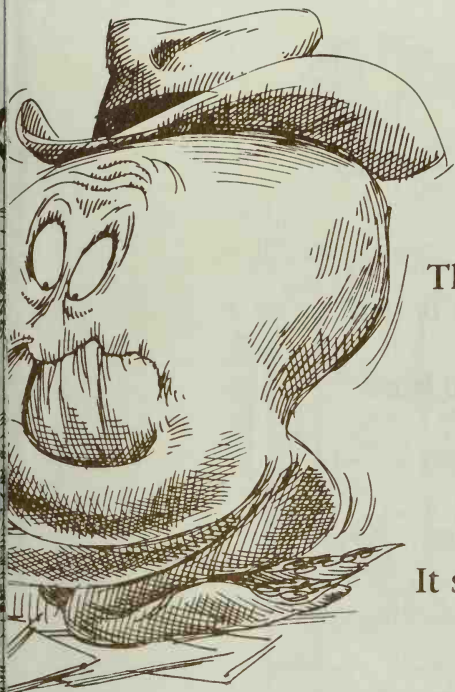
I have written a great many books;  
I have style, also brains and good looks.  
So please acquiesce  
(I mean, just say, "Yes!")  
To a date, for I'm on tenterhooks!



### *Racing*

A young athlete who lived in Beirut  
Ran the mile in his best Sunday suit.

The result, you can guess,  
Was a wet, wrinkled mess,  
And he ended up second, to boot.



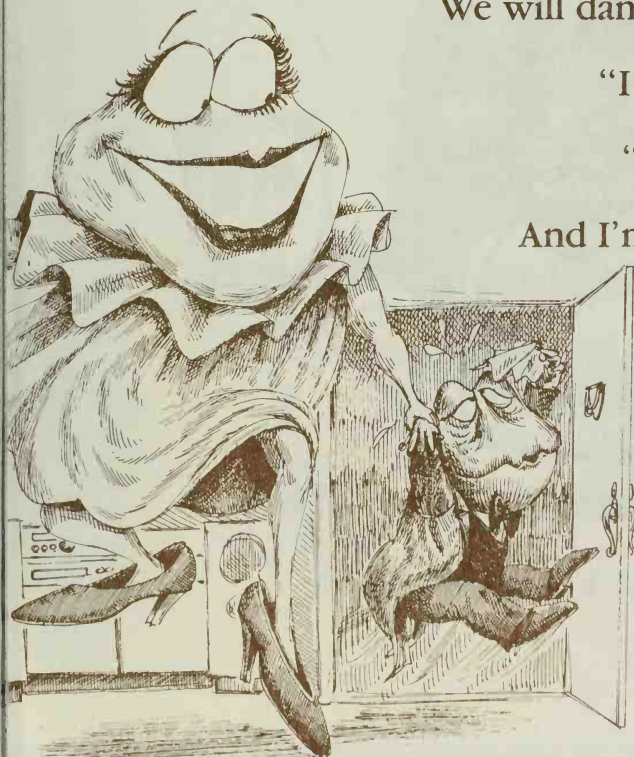
### *Mistakes*

There is one thing, when typing, that vexes  
That industrious fellow, Alexis.  
There is xxxxx small cause for bliss  
When his xxxx work looks like this.  
It seems xxx messy with that xxxx many x's.

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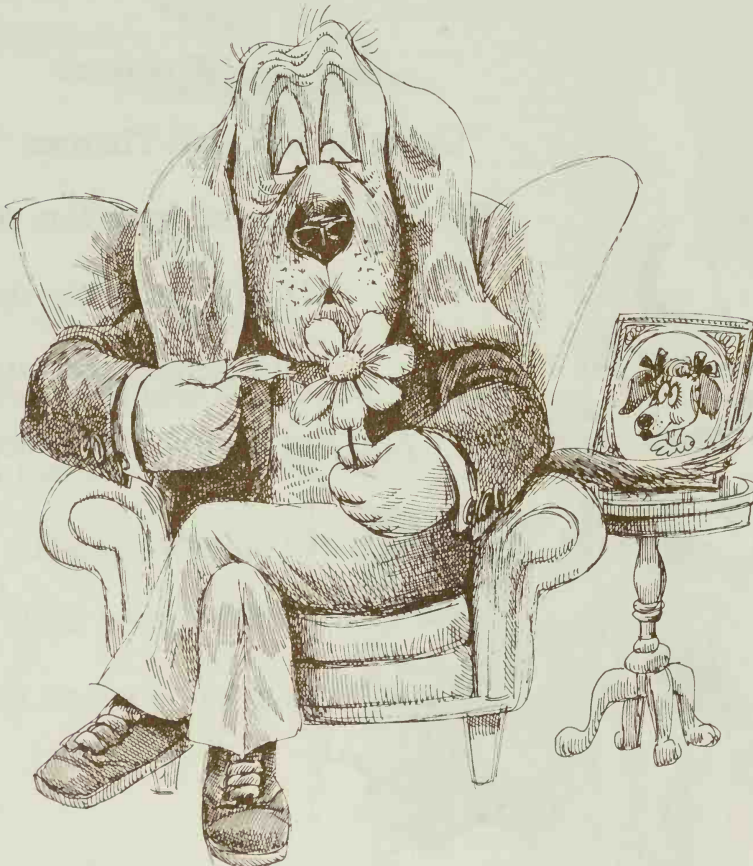
### *Weariness*

“Come on in,” said Theresa, “let’s step it.  
We will dance and have fun; let us pep it!”  
“I can’t,” said her date,  
“It’s getting too late,  
And I’m feeling a little decrepit.”



*Uncertainty*

Some roses are red, it is true,  
And violets often are blue,  
And people repeat  
That sugar is sweet,  
But, dear, I don't know about you.





### *Gamble*

A young risk-taking fellow named Jim

Made a bet—and he's out on a limb.

“Sure, a turtle,” he'd say,

“Beats a hare any day.”

So his chances of winning are slim.



### *Directions*

If you want to become number one  
And make sure everybody has fun,  
Just be nice and sweet,  
Don't lie and don't cheat,  
And don't act like Attila the Hun!



### *Poverty*

These days, at the house where I'm boarding,  
There's little I can be affording.

The furniture's old,  
The room is ice-cold,  
And mealtimes are *quite* unrewarding.





*Inattention*

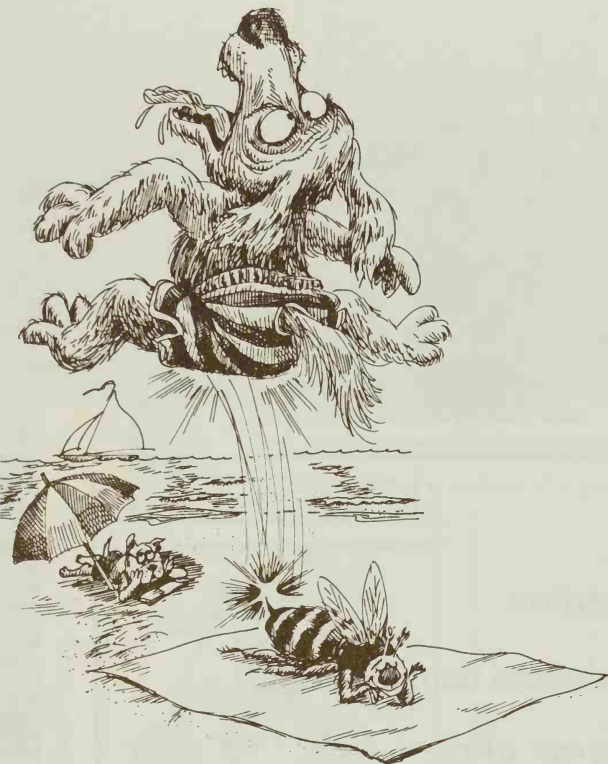
There was a young woman named Linda

Who loved looking out of the winda.

Her stove, I might mention,

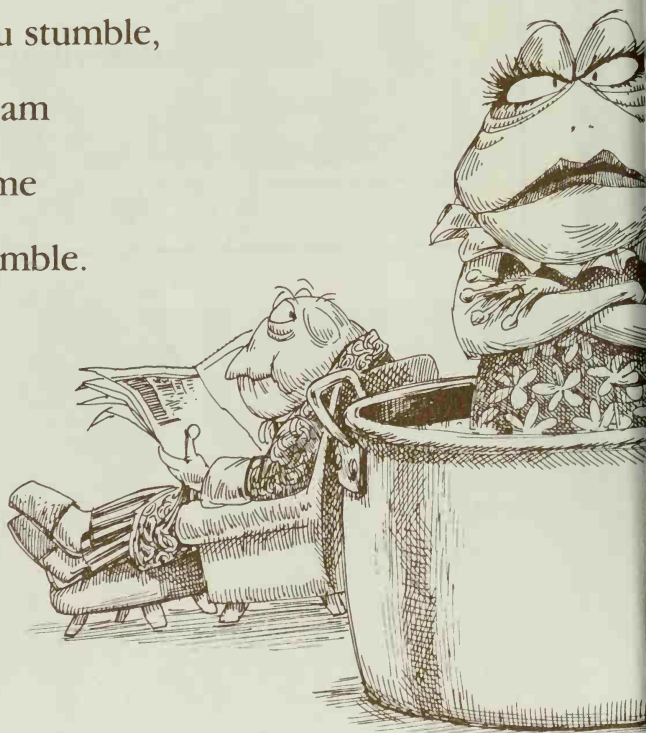
Got little attention,

Burning most of her meals to a cinda.



### *Pain*

I suppose that it's all right to grumble  
After stubbing your toe makes you stumble,  
But I'm sure that your scream  
Will be much more extreme  
If you sit on a bee that's a bumble.





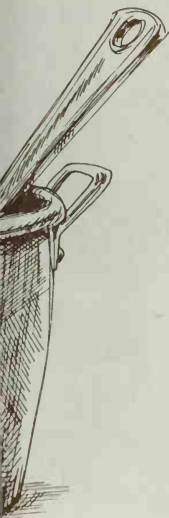
### *Drawback*

When it's spring and the sun's shining brightly,  
And it turns out that you're feeling spritely,  
You will dance, with a smile,  
But for just a short while,  
If your shoes fit a little too tightly.

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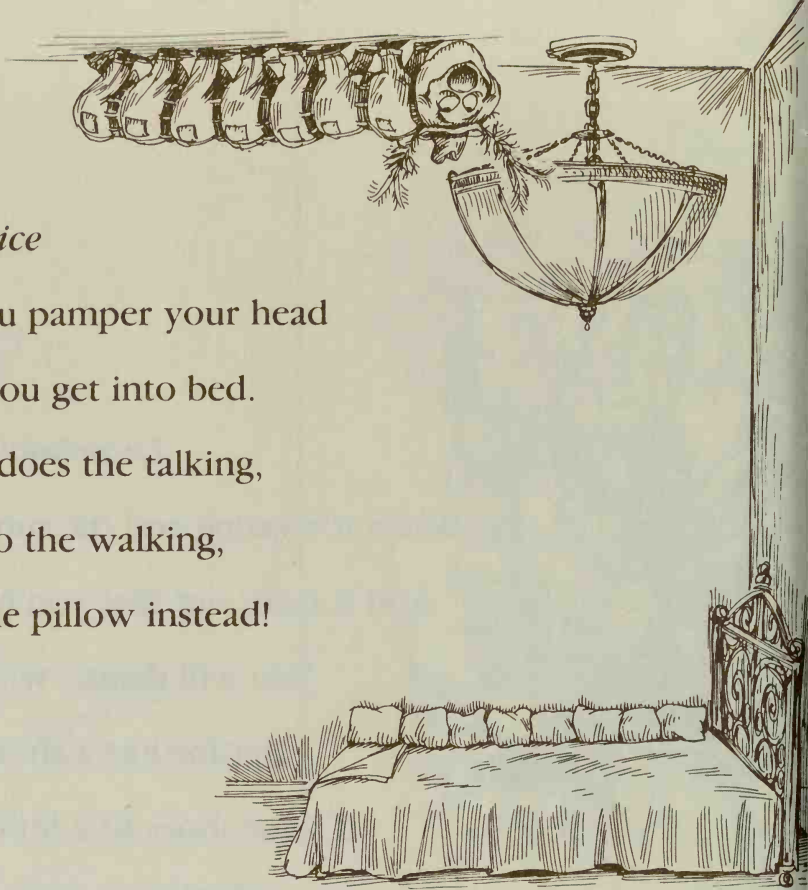
### *Cooking*

There once was a bad-tempered boor  
Whose orders were always obscure.  
His wife never knew  
What he'd want in the stew.  
It made her feel quite insecure.



### *Justice*

It's so strange that you pamper your head  
Every time that you get into bed.  
While your head does the talking,  
It's your feet do the walking,  
So put *them* on the pillow instead!



### *Flowers*

It's a sure sign a fellow is lazy,  
When he talks about love to a daisy.  
"She loves me; she does not"  
Daisies *don't* know a whole lot!  
If you don't ask the girl, you are crazy!





### *Heartbreaker*

There's a certain young lady named Robyn  
Whose notion of life is hob-nobbin'  
With some good-looking men,  
Pick just one of them, then  
Leave all of the rest of them sobbin'.



### *Punishment*

A determined young hunter named Bruce  
Took his rifle in search of a moose,  
But they weren't in season,  
And that tells you the reason  
He is now in the town calaboose.





### *Frustration*

There was a young lady named Flo  
Who wondered what made her watch go.

She took it apart  
And now it won't start,  
So I guess that she never will know.



*Unreasonable*

If you bang on your drum without pause,

It will seem you are breaking no laws.

Yet your parents will shout

And chase you about,

And you'll certainly get no applause.



### *Kindness*

How dearly I love my pet mice!  
I make their lives comfy and nice.  
They make nests in my shirts  
And they eat my desserts.  
I don't care—it's called self-sacrifice.





### *Puzzle*

That Oliver Twist is a bore;  
He always keeps asking for more.

Surely only a fool  
Would keep wanting more gruel.

What can he be using it for?

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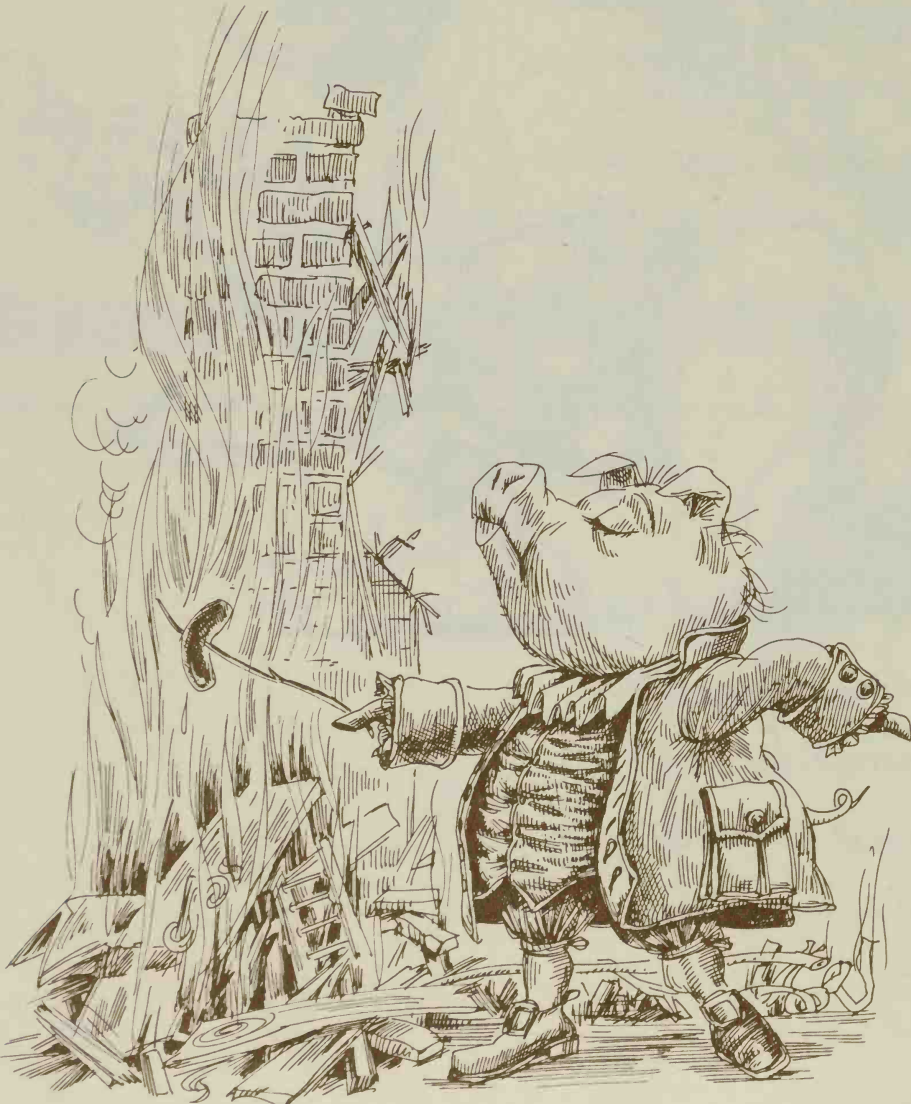
### *Warning*

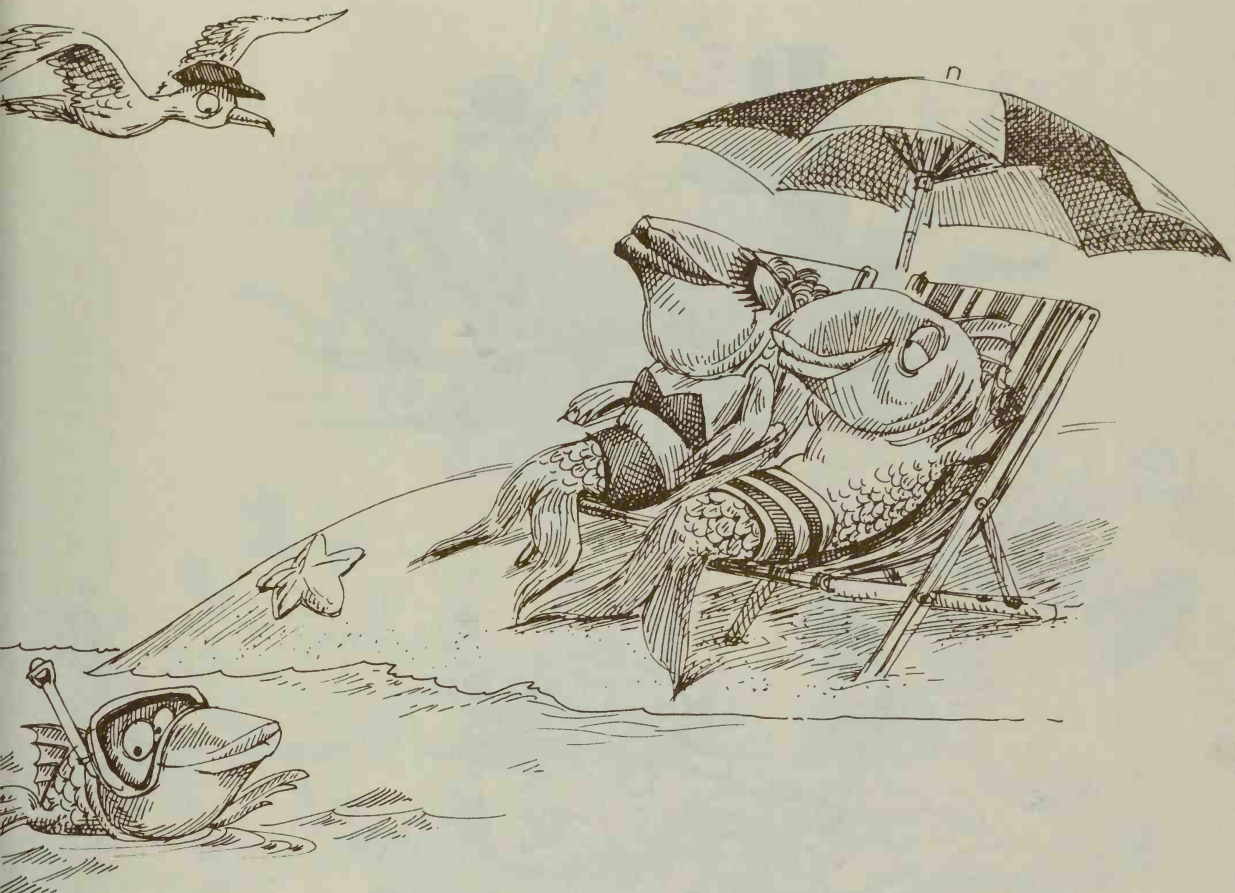
Do not trust that immense crocodile  
As it rests on the banks of the Nile,  
And you'd better start running  
When he's finished his sunning  
And opens his jaws in a smile.



## *Disaster*

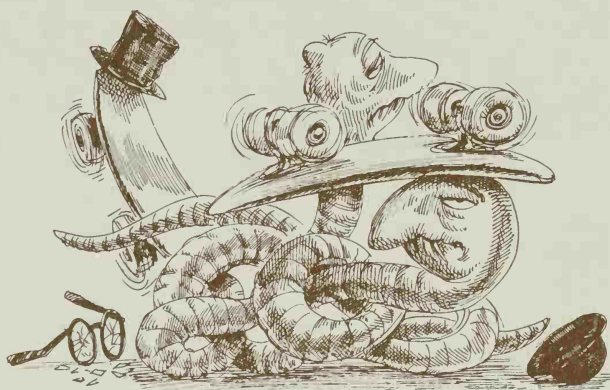
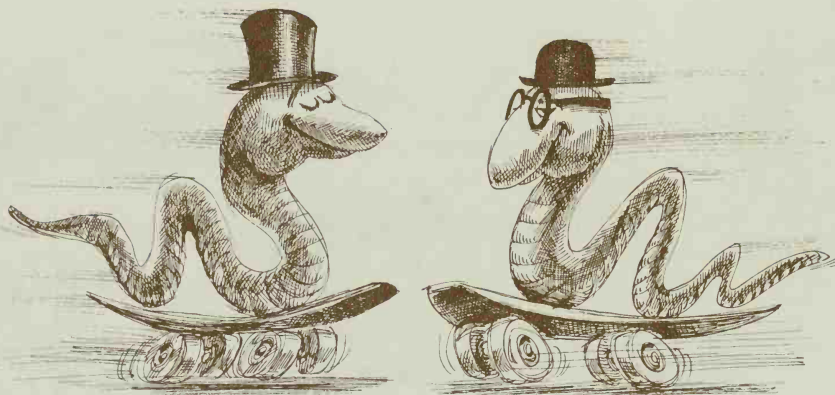
A soft-spoken fellow named Lloyd  
Once found that his home was destroyed  
By lightning and fire  
In a horrible pyre.  
He said, "I am rather annoyed."





### *Seasons*

They say that the shores of Lake Erie,  
In winter look icy and dreary.  
In the summer, I've found,  
It's the other way 'round,  
For everything then seems quite cheery.



### *Collision*

If two skaters should chance to collide,  
Interrupting their smooth, steady slide,  
And should tumble and fall  
And be pushed to the wall,  
They can't help but seem undignified.



### *Ugly*

Almost all of the village kids jeered  
At a man with green streaks in his beard.  
That wasn't quite right,  
It was *most* impolite,  
But I sure must admit he looked weird.

*Loss*

There was a young lass named Nanette

Who once made a very large bet

That elephants fly

On the Fourth of July,

And now she is deeply in debt.





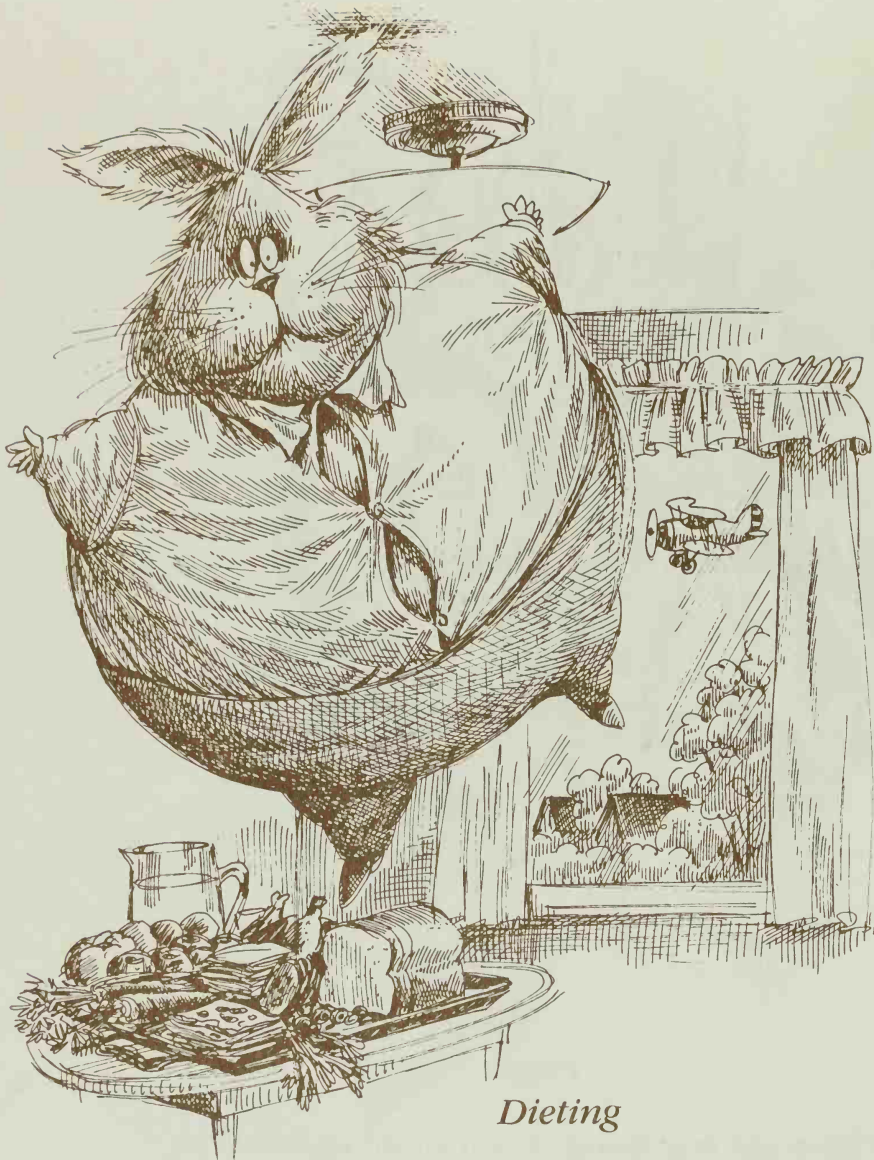
*Fright*

There are few things I fear quite as much as  
The proud scorn of an angry old duchess.

I turn blue to my toes

When she turns up her nose.

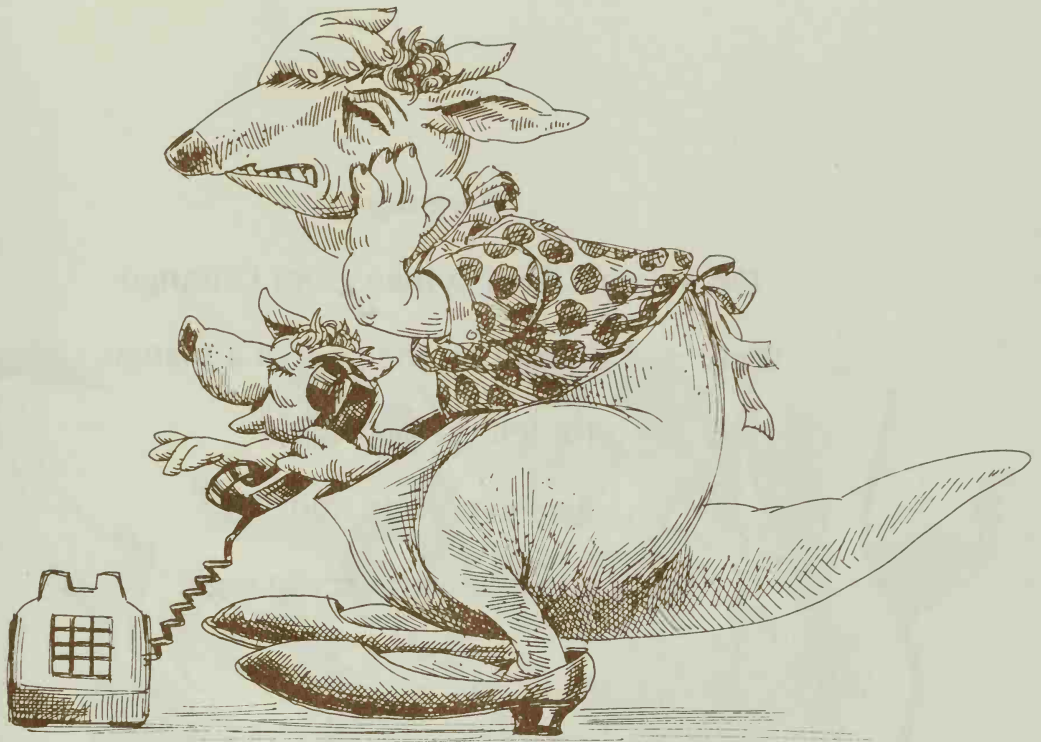
Won't you help me get out of her clutches?



### *Dieting*

Please do not ask me what is the matter;  
There is all this good food on the platter.

Just inhaling the smell  
Will be making me swell,  
And I'll quickly grow fatter and fatter.



### *Teen-ager*

I must soon have a very large loan  
For the bills on my dear telephone,  
Or they'll stop all the service,  
And the thought makes me nervous.  
I can't *live* if there's no dial tone.

*Dancing*

On a dance floor, a man from Durango  
Went and slipped on the peel of a mango.

He fell on his head,

And everyone said,

“What a truly magnificent tango!”



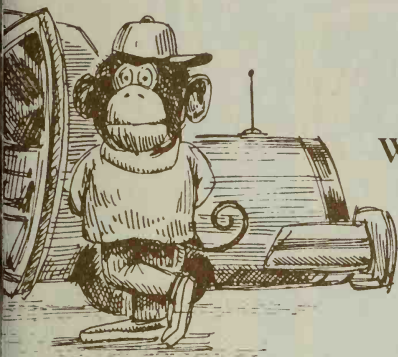




### *Rescue*

An astronaut lost on the moon  
Was found not a moment too soon.  
There's no water or air  
Or anything there,  
And it gets pretty hot around noon.





### *Name*

Do not ever feel you must show shame  
When you're asked to tell people your name.  
Though it's hard to pronounce,  
You should say it with bounce,  
Just as though you're the creme de la creme.

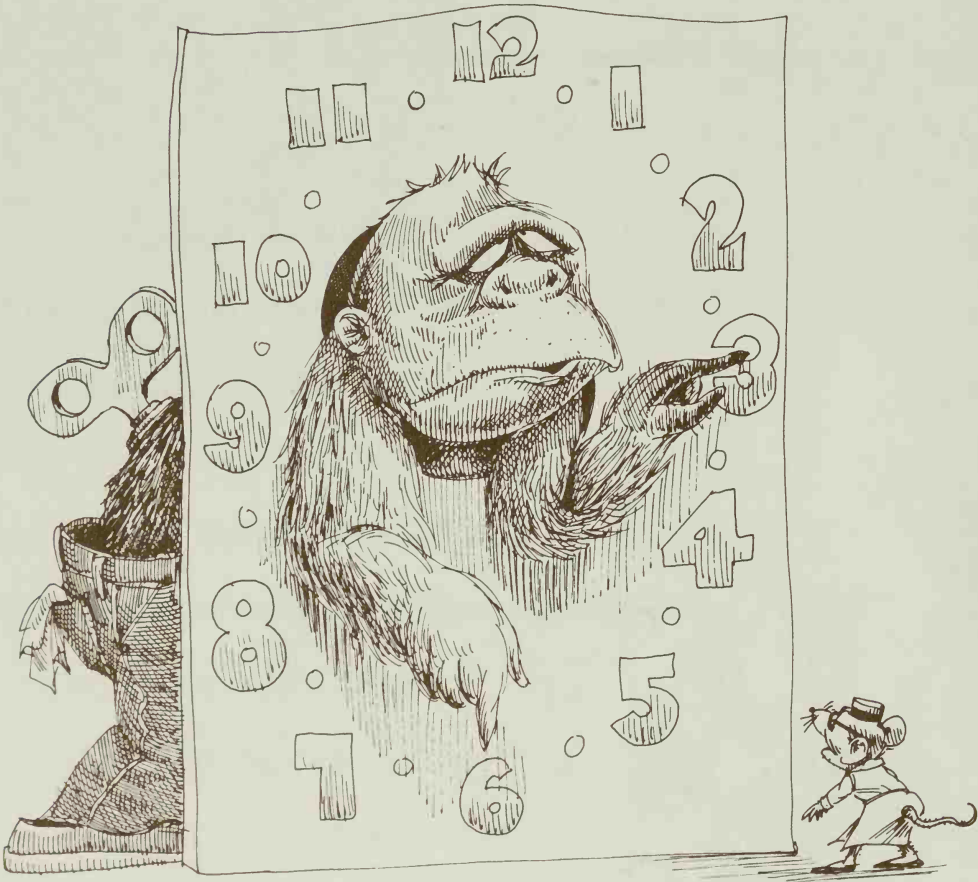
### *Uncivilized*

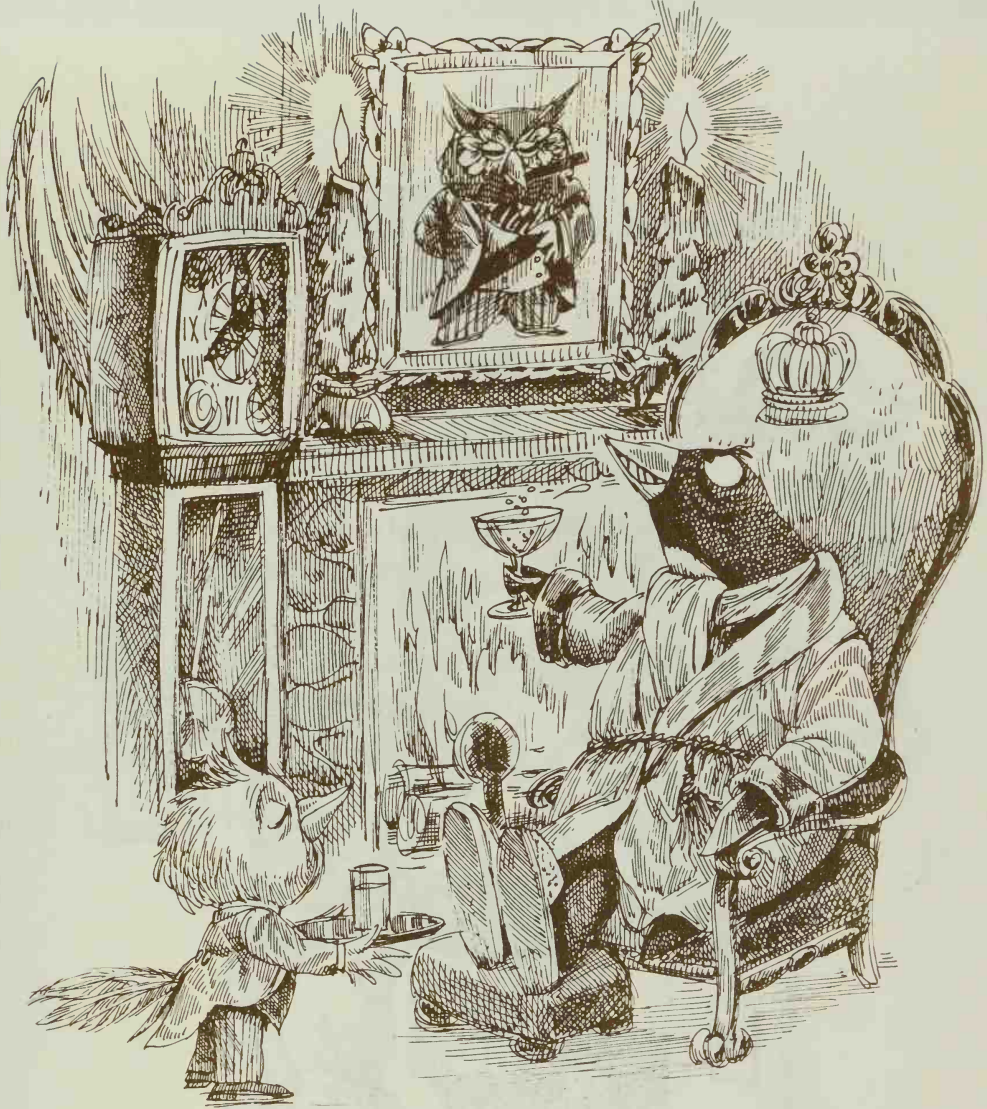
There was once a young man named O'Neill  
Who would kick, bite and scratch with great zeal.  
When told to desist  
And just use his fist,  
He would say boxing wasn't genteel.



*Old-fashioned*

There was an old man of Bangkok  
Who had a most curious clock,  
The old-fashioned kind  
You can no longer find,  
With a winder, and hands, and tick-tock.





### *Nobility*

Said the servant, in heated rebuke,  
To his master, the surly old duke,  
“If your parents were mine,  
’Twould be *I* drinking wine.  
You are just a genetical fluke.”

*Vicious*

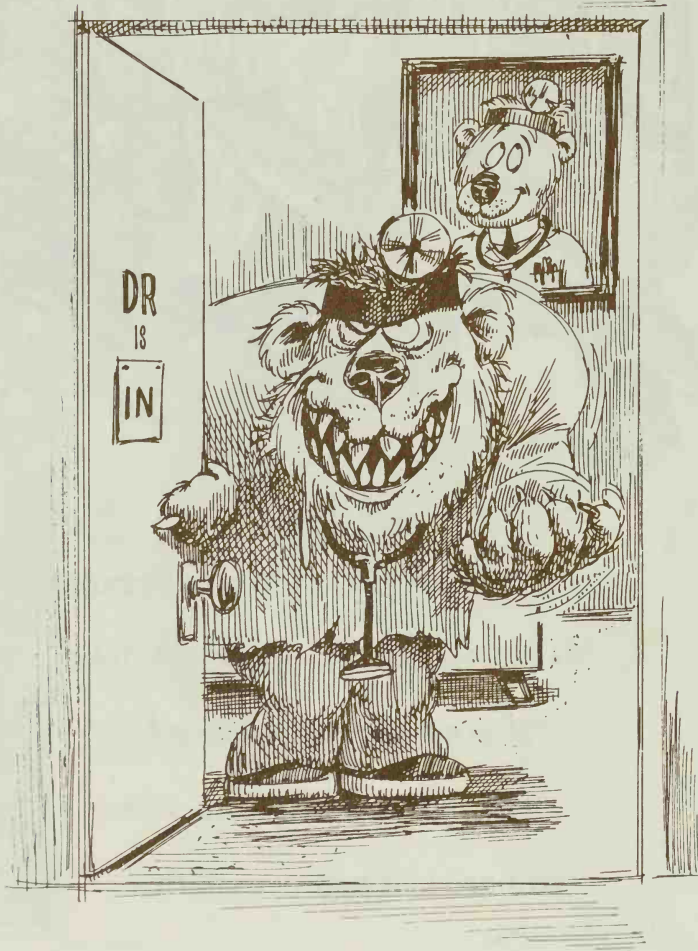
Can a man, do you think, subdivide

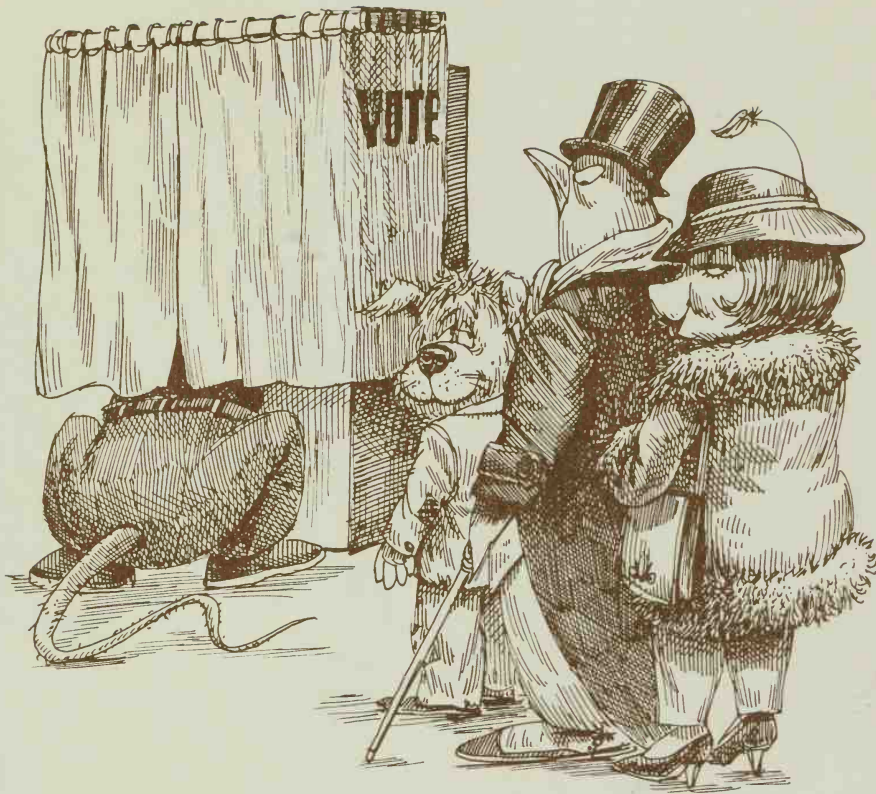
Into Jekyll and bad Mr. Hyde?

If that be the case,

Then you're a disgrace—

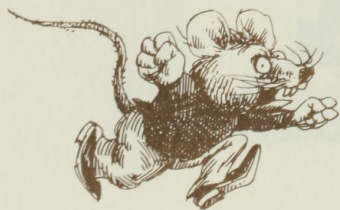
You've left Jekyll entirely untried.





### *Equality*

One person may well be a rat,  
Another an aristocrat.  
Be they what they may,  
Let each have his say,  
For that's where democracy's at!











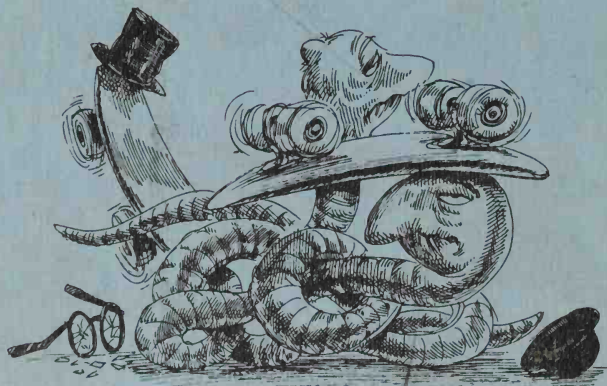
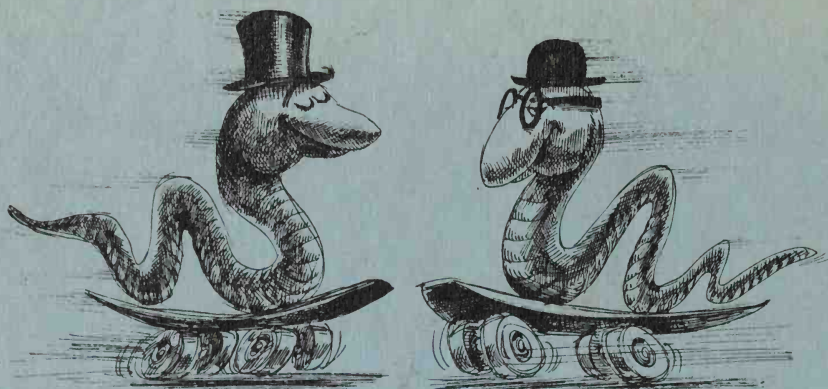
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