

## College to sex to taxes: Parody is in vogue

By SCOTT KRAFT  
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK — First there was Mummy, Muffy and the absolutely-to-die crew that made "The Preppy Handbook" a nationwide success. Now the joke's on everything from college life to macho men to sex manuals and tax guides.

Parody is in vogue. Publishers who say "the best humor is what is true" are finding success in books that poke fun at the familiar. You might call it 101 uses for a paperback book.

Examples abound. For the home handyman, there's "Do-It-Yourself Brain Surgery & Other Home Skills." The "other skills" include inventing a

miracle drug, building an ocean liner, crocheting your own suspension bridge and cloning yourself.

Before you start home cloning, the guide advises, "Wash your hands and put out your cigarette." For brain surgery, you need a sharp knife, a hand drill and boiling water.

To crochet your own bridge, you need 1,622 tons of 20-ply synthetic yarn and 980,000 large buttons. To invent a miracle drug, you need a Swiss bank account ("to make provisions for your staggering profits"), a pill-making machine and a gross of white mice.

Parody's resurgence began with "The Preppy Handbook," which has sold 1.3 million copies at \$3.95 each

and is in its 24th printing. Several new parodies already have risen to the top of the trade paperback sales lists and more than a dozen others are due out this fall.

Two of Preppy's co-authors have written "Welcome to Mount Merry College," a college catalog that offers courses in small talk, applied sexuality and Yiddish for gentiles. There's also Physics for Dilettantes, Laundry Problems and Remedial Television. The entire description of one English course reads: "f u cn red ths sntnce y cn tak ths cors."

For those who have trouble recognizing members of the opposite sex, an illustrated sex manual called "How To Do Sex Properly" might

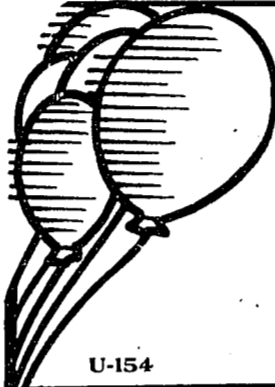
help. It has a chapter on "learning to kiss right," "fumble-free undressing" and "it pays to advertise." The intimate details are illustrated with teddy bears.

"The Original Up Your Income Tax" advises taxpayers with four spouses to "declare yourself a religious institution" and claim non-profit status.

"Real Men Don't Eat Quiche," a spoof of the macho image, is No. 2 on The New York Times list of trade paperbacks. In a similar vein is "The Manly Handbook," with a cover showing a muscular, tattooed arm crushing a beer can. Rule No. 1 for being a manly man is: "Don't wear designer jeans."

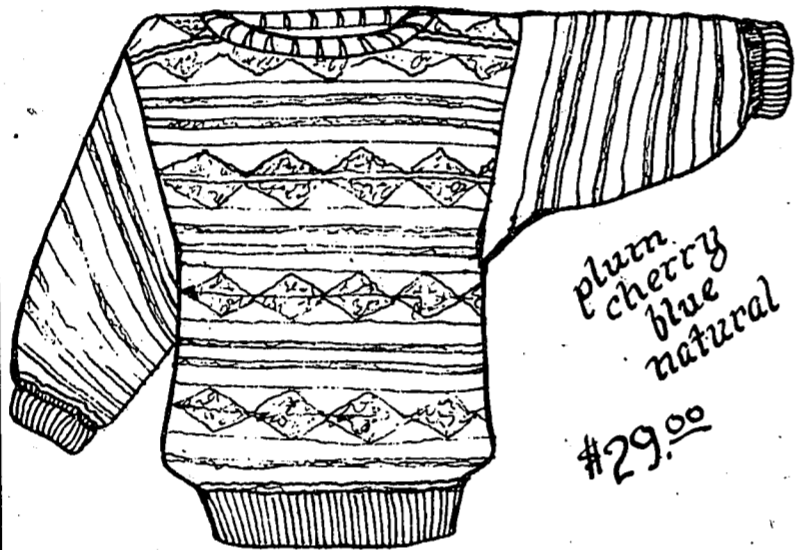
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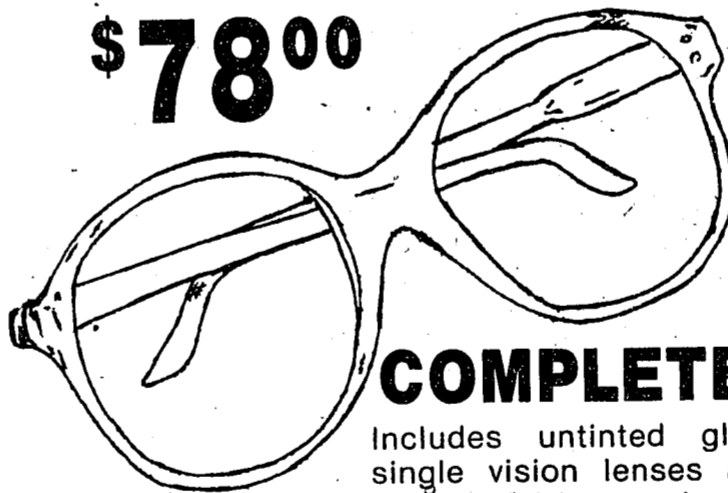
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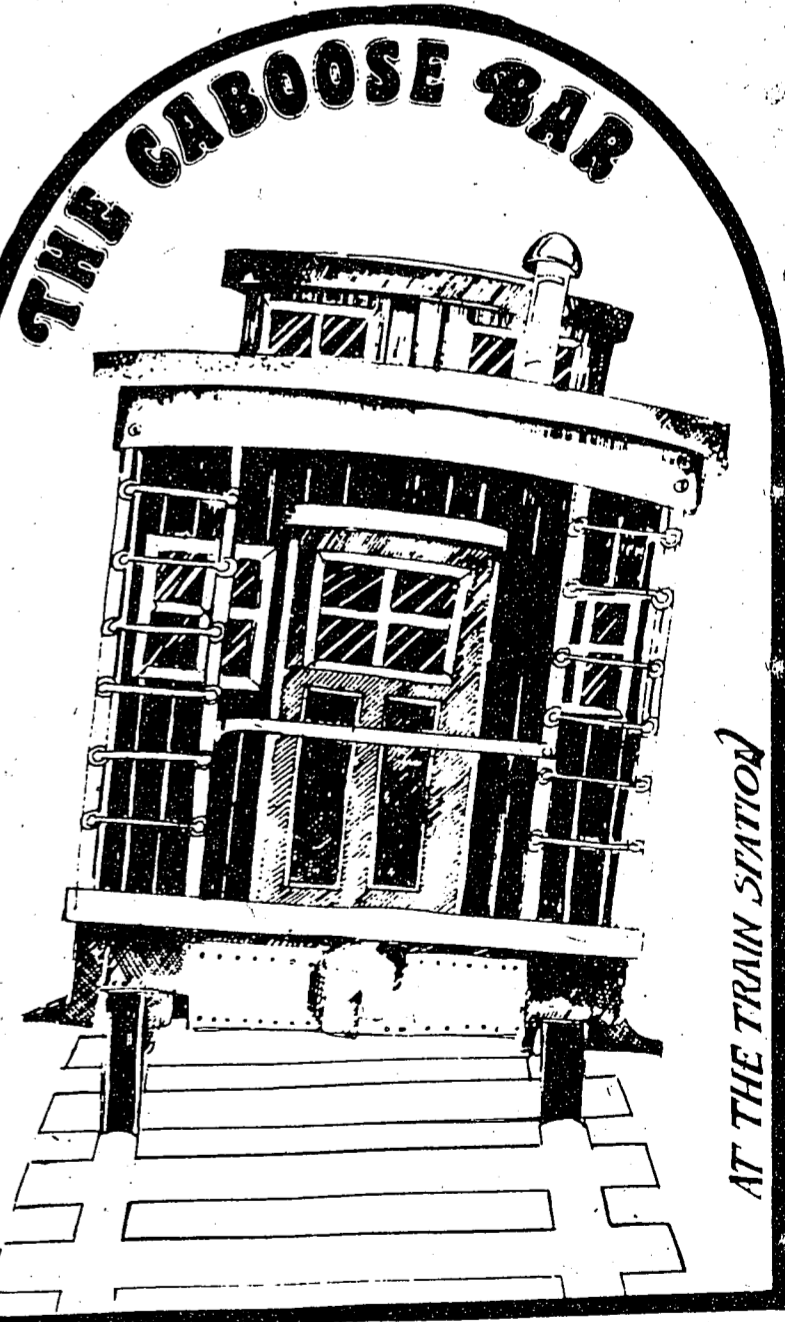
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