



Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation
5th Floor, Hunt Library
Carnegie Mellon University
4909 Frew Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15213-3890
Telephone: 412-268-2434
Email: huntinst@andrew.cmu.edu
Web site: www.huntbotanical.org

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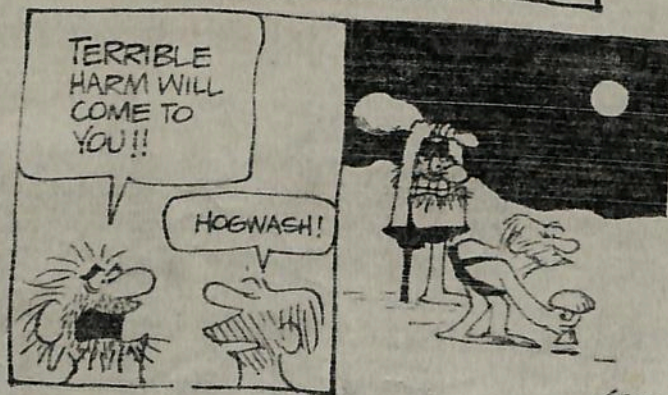
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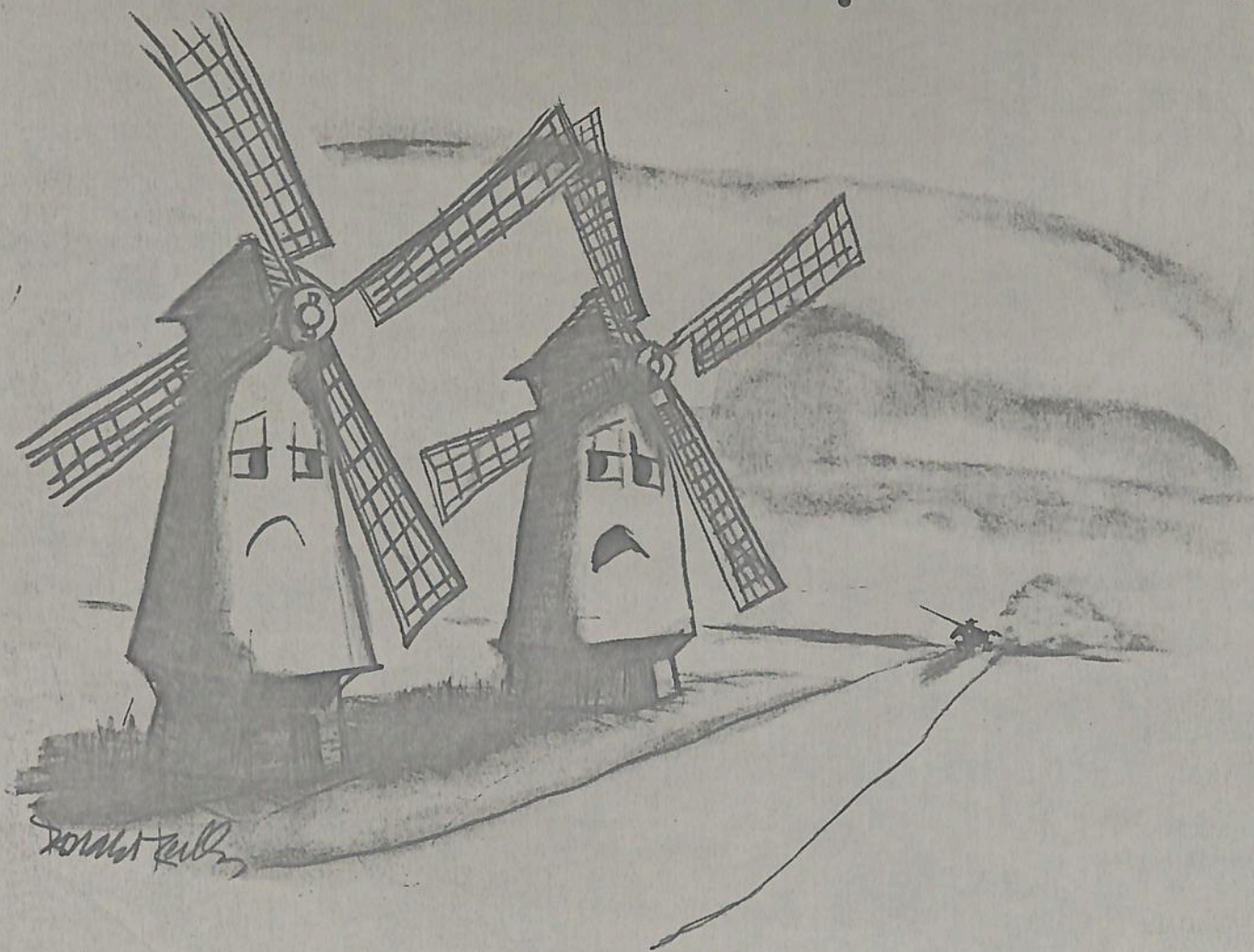
About the Institute

The Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, a research division of Carnegie Mellon University, specializes in the history of botany and all aspects of plant science and serves the international scientific community through research and documentation. To this end, the Institute acquires and maintains authoritative collections of books, plant images, manuscripts, portraits and data files, and provides publications and other modes of information service. The Institute meets the reference needs of botanists, biologists, historians, conservationists, librarians, bibliographers and the public at large, especially those concerned with any aspect of the North American flora.

Hunt Institute was dedicated in 1961 as the Rachel McMasters Miller Hunt Botanical Library, an international center for bibliographical research and service in the interests of botany and horticulture, as well as a center for the study of all aspects of the history of the plant sciences. By 1971 the Library's activities had so diversified that the name was changed to Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation. Growth in collections and research projects led to the establishment of four programmatic departments: Archives, Art, Bibliography and the Library.



ROU



"En garde! A nut!"
Digitized by the Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation

The New Yorker, Nov. 21, 1947

MYCOLOGICAL TEACHING HUMOR

Edited by Michael R. Tansey (Department of Biology, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana 47401) and Donald J. Niederpruem (Department of Microbiology, Indiana University Medical Center, Indianapolis, Indiana 46202). All rights reserved. No part of this compilation may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopy, xerography, recording, or any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from the editors.

Introduction

This compilation of mycological teaching humor has been assembled from material supplied by colleagues who responded to a solicitation in the *Mycological Society of America Newsletter* [24 (2): 26-27, 1975], as well as from our own contributions. Please continue to send us anecdotes, cartoons, humorous presentation techniques which increase teaching effectiveness, and jokes suitable for use in lecture and laboratory courses in mycology. If possible, please include the reference for published materials, especially cartoons. Due to space limitations, we have "crowded" the entries and have not included most of the poetry which we received. Poetry will be included in a subsequent compilation if space allows. We have tried to credit sources of published material, but have not been able to determine the source of much of the material sent to us. Many items were received from anonymous contributors, some contributors do not want their names associated with their contribution, and many contributors were unclear as to whether their material was original to them. We shall therefore list contributors here rather than associate their names with their individual contributions. We thank the following people for contributing material (directly or indirectly) to this compilation and/or to the posters presented at the Second International Mycological Congress, Tampa, Florida, Aug. 27-Sept. 3, 1977. (There is nothing special about the order of names in this list.)

R. Robinson, C. Nessler, C. Heintz O'Connor, G. Rall, H. Aldrich, R. Kenneth, J. Deploey, G. Neish, A. Nelson, I. Salkin, E. Landecker, J. Appleton, J. Kohlmeyer, T. Moench, J. Doyle, M. Mau, J. Cläusz, M. Sherwood, V. Marteka, the staff of the Institute for Sex Research (Indiana University), R. Sanborn, A. Mullen, D. Speer, C. Plautz, G. Modlin, R. McBride, R. Gohn, M. Clark, R. Maciak, M. Shirley, M. Gossard, J. Dey, J. Butler, E. Nelson, B. Lowy, V. Demoulin, A. Funk, W. B. Kendrick, J. Peterson, R. Gustofson, M. Sherwood, G. E. Baker, J. Brewer, K. Aronoff, several anonymous persons, and some whose names we have misplaced or couldn't read.

1. If it's true that ancestors of the Rhodophyta gave rise to the Ascomycetes, we could call that success a "Horatio Algae story."
2. Then there was the mycologist who had to stop working on motile spores--his lab was too small.
3. You don't see half as much moldy bread these days as you used to, now that preservatives are used. Oh well, hyphae loaf is better than none.

4. Nervous comment by teacher after lecturing to laymen on identification of edible and poisonous mushrooms: "I sure wish that they sold malpractice insurance for Ph.D.s."
5. Identification of fungi is often like the problem of being able to recognize your own grandmother among the residents of a nursing home for the elderly; you can pick her out in a crowd but no one else can, even when given her description.
6. What would happen if the 12th letter of the alphabet were deleted? There would be no more L.
7. Many species of yeasts reproduce sexually by making asci out of themselves, and asexually by budding.
8. How can you tell edible from poisonous mushrooms? Easy: Edible mushrooms are standing out in a field; poisonous mushrooms are in the stomach of a dead person.
9. A mycologists' favorite filling station: Standard ("as you travel, ascus.")
10. For a corn plant, resistance to Ustilago maydis means never having to say you're sori.
11. That Irish mycologist, Mike O'Toxin.
12. What did the parrot say when asked why he lived in a tree? "Polly poor."
13. Why was enrollment so low in your mycology lab course this semester? Because of the hyphae.
14. Dissolve away the rest of the world, and it would be outlined in fungi.
15. The following story circulated among the graduate students at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill concerning Dr. W. C. Coker. He is alleged to have been walking with one of the myriad nieces and nephews in the Coker family one fall afternoon when he stopped, picked up a mushroom, and gave it to the child to eat. After eating they continued their walk. Later he looked down at the child and asked how the child felt. The child responded, "I feel fine." Whereupon Dr. Coker said, "Good, we have another edible mushroom."
16. Some students refer to medical mycology laboratory courses as "suicide courses."
17. Said Mucor to Pilobolus: "You're always losing your head over a pile of feces."
18. When showing projection slides of corn smut, can we refer the pictures as "cornographic pictures?"
19. SMUT is TUMS spelled backwards.
20. In reference to hermaphroditic species: "There's nothing wrong with bisexuality --it immediately doubles your chances for a date on Saturday nite."
21. Seen on a tee-shirt: MYCOLOGISTS MAKE BETTER LOVERS.
22. Dormant spray = pesticide used for 6-legged creatures in dormitory cafeteria.
23. If sporangia of Pilobolus orient and discharge toward the early morning sun, why haven't species of this genus all migrated to the east coast? Can it be that cows walk mostly westward?
24. In reference to the obfuscous terminology that students must cope with, one teacher reminds us: "Instead of describing in English what we can see, we prefer to describe in Greek what we can't." Or in the words of M. H. Fischer, "Whenever ideas fail, men invent words. Scientific terminology is mental garbage."
25. In discussing the role of thermophilic fungi in self-heating of stored agricultural products, D. G. Cooney and R. Emerson (1964, Thermophilic Fungi, W. H. Freeman and Company, San Francisco) point out (p. 132) that: "Indeed, there has been a continuing controversy about the causes of spontaneous combustion of stored plant materials... Much heat has been generated by the argument itself..."
26. Every teacher is forced to teach some topic which he considers boring, but which must be included in the course. Instead of trying to conceal my attitude, I go to the opposite extreme and introduce the topic with the comment (used by D. N. Jenkins in a speech at the AIBS meetings in Tempe, 1974) that I feel the same way Marilyn Monroe's fourth husband must have felt on the honeymoon. I know what to do, but I'm not so sure how to make it interesting.
27. What do they call "petite yeast" in France? "Littles".
28. "Microbial classification is scientific..the word endings show it."

29. (Regarding the increased interest during the Vietnam War): "a rash of research on dermatophytes." Also: "Dermatologists often make rash decisions."
30. Regarding fungal nutrition: Where you are is what you eat.
31. Regarding a problem in Single Cell Protein production: SCP may have so much DNA and RNA that we are poisoned..you might call this "committing nucleoside."
32. Lichens growing on tombstones are of grave concern.
33. "When identifying field specimens in the introductory mycology laboratory, I tell students not to spend a disproportionately long period of time attempting to identify particularly recalcitrant LBMs (Little Brown Mushrooms), typically specimens which are too old, immature, etc., I point out that identifying mushrooms is like attempting to seduce a member of the opposite sex; 90% of your time is demanded by 10% of your subjects, and they are likely to be the least rewarding ones."
34. (Said with a straight face after comparison of relative advantages of different kinds of mating systems and parasexuality, and after a rigorous definition of sex.) "There may be some things that are better than sex, and some things may be worse, but there is nothing exactly like it."
35. And then there was the man who acquired a fortune from edible mushrooms..at least his wealthy relative thought that they were edible mushrooms.
36. Lectures on symptoms of ringworm of the body can be illustrated by inclusion of a color slide made from a pin-up type nude or semi-nude person (male or female). Red ink (or borrow your children's colored pencils and do a professional job) for ring-shaped lesions, etc., added to an arm of Botticelli's Birth of Venus, an old Johnny Weismuller still (or even better, Douglas Fairbanks, Jr.), a Varga calendar girl, etc., seems to offend no one, and is a good opener for presenting data on the common occurrence (in different cultures, times in history, or geographical regions so romantically illustrated) of particular dermatophytoses.
37. A microphotograph of a tender fungal relationship is published in the Journal of Irreproducible Results 20 (4), 1974, page number not available. The micrograph illustrates the Trichomycete Asellaria ligiae Tuzet et Manier, from the hindgut of Ligia italica, and was made by J. J. Kohlmeyer.
38. "Allomyces--the Irish fungus."
39. Inoculation of agar plates with Penicillium claviforme in a particular pattern (word, design, etc.) will result in production of synnemata according to the same pattern.
40. Students sometimes have trouble getting their eyes "screwed down" to finding interesting mushroom species in the field. One mycologist stimulates anticipation and enhanced attentiveness (perhaps due to fear of being caught napping) by "planting" a spectacularly large wax model (originally a candle, now with added structures, labelled) of Amanita muscaria in the vicinity of the first class field trip. The students are primed for particular species to search for, including A. muscaria. After discovery of the fake specimen, a noticeable change occurs in the class; the students search more effectively.
41. A mycologist, while hiking with non-mycologists in the Rocky Mountains, came upon superb specimens of a cup fungus growing beside the trail. He hastily gathered them up, placed them in his hat, then replaced the hat on his head and ran to catch up with the hiking party. As they proceeded up the trail, he entertained them with tales of active spore discharge in the Ascomycetes, including stimulation of discharge by such factors as changes in relative humidity, aeration, etc., using the standard examples of opening of cellar doors, etc. When the group at last stopped to rest, they gathered around to observe the fungal treasures carefully carried in the hat perched on his head. A moment after he removed the hat and thrust it forward, full of ascocarps, for all to see, a puff of "smoke" rose as myriad asci obediently demonstrated their abilities.

43. A teacher relates that: "For plant pathology students who have difficulty in remembering why loose smuts of wheat and barley (Ustilago tritici and U. nuda) are so refractory to seed treatment with most of the common fungicides (the fungus being in the scutellum and embryo), whereas other seed-borne smuts are easily controlled by such treatments, as they are mostly carried on the seed: the situation may be compared with two miners, one of whom goes down into a coal mine and comes up covered with coal dust. He takes a shower and is now clean. The other goes down but just sits around in the damp and doesn't get dirty; he gets pneumonia instead, but a shower would not help--he needs deeper therapy."
44. A teacher relates: "To illustrate the importance of the imperfect state names of many fungi for which perfect states have been found, names which the purists tend to reject or relegate to...limbo, I tell the following: pointing to whom I assume to be the prettiest lass in the class, I say that 'here is your class-mate Ruth Smith, who has gone through school with you and will later get married to a man named Dan Jones. She will then be Ruth Jones,, but I am sure that you will always prefer to remember her in her asexual state.' If they still don't get the message, I'd quote...from Shakespeare: "Romeo, oh Romeo, wherefore art thou Romeo; deny they father and refuse they name.' I'm not suggesting that Juliet was correct in demanding that if they were to be married, he'd have to take her family name, but at least Ms. Capulet should continue to hold on to her own name."
45. As a visual method for teaching differences between Penicillium and Aspergillus. for the former one teacher holds up a broom, and for the latter a toilet brush of the type used in some countries (—).
46. One teacher states: "Visual method for illustrating a cleistothecium (a ball), perithecium (a water syringe) and apothecium (a cup); for hysterothecium, I beg their pardon and go on to the next subject." Other teachers report that they refer to hysterothecia as "fungal obscenities."
47. A teacher relates that, "To bring out the historical importance of plant diseases, I mention the potato murrain in Ireland 1845-8. I inform them that if it were not for that disease, the late President Kennedy's great-grandfather would have stayed in Ireland and that [President Kennedy] himself would probably be sitting at this moment outside a thatched cottage, smoking a clay pipe."
48. Several correspondents claim to have had the courage to indelibly inscribe in their students' memory the name of the order by singing: "Come to me my Melanconiales." Even in the wrong "key."
49. One may tell students that they'll learn only the major characteristics of the more important groups and phylum away.
50. Is Peronospora common in Argentina?
51. Pteridologists occasionally received inquiries from agitated fern fanciers whose favorite house plants have developed a terrible disease characterized by (typically) powdery clusters of "fungal spores" on the underside of the fern leaf. According to the owners, washing with soapy water does not seem to effect a permanent cure.
52. It is sometimes claimed that human facination with mushrooms is sexually based, an erotic response to the phallic shape. This is surely not so, but for those who must find (and condemn) a pseduo-Freudian basis for all human actions, we recommend consideration of the following, in hope that it will blunt your criticism of the mushroom-loving community:

"Eroticism is...one of the few activities capable of providing the kind of diversity and substance previously associated exclusively with

consumerism without, at the same time, consuming the non-replacable...The tired slogan of the 1960s may become fact in the future -- 'Make love, not war'." -- I. H. Bucher, Intellect 103: 405.

53. (Lead-into role of fungi in nutrient cycles): If you think that you've been degraded by the Army, the University, or your most recent date, you should know what the fungi and other microorganisms have in store for your body, your burial clothes, and your wooden coffin.
54. "formication" -- A medical term referring to a form of paresthesia marked by an irritating sensation resembling that made by the creeping of ants on [some references say under] the skin. Used to describe one symptom of ergotism.
55. There are old mycophagists and there are bold mycophagists, but there are no old, bold mycophagists.
56. Everybody knows the story of Puss-'n-Boots. Few, however, recall what the king said to Puss after knighting him on bended knee: "Rhiz-O-Pus."
57. Grandma so consistently cooked Quaker Oats for breakfast that her breakfast dining room could accurately be called a mush-room.
58. When do zygothores of Rhizopus experience zygothorgasm?
59. One of the nation's hottest dance attractions is a group of ex-Dartmouth athletes whose dance company, "Pilobolus," (named for a phototropic fungus notable for the forcible ejection of its ripe sporangium) excites its audiences through its energetic athletic eclecticism, more in common with circus gymnastics and acrobatics than conventional dance movement.--Wall Street Journal, May 20, 1975. Perhaps this is an example of parallel evolution in response to a similar habitat?
60. Do you work with Pythium? Yeth.
61. Playboy, Dec., 1975, p. 167, has a large color photograph of a fly on the nose of a very angry person. With suitable comments, this photograph can be used (in the form of a projection slide) to bring up the subject of biological control of pests.
62. Cartoon: Projection slide of incredibly fat, mean, ugly human-like creature (Playboy 21 (7): 114; July, 1974) with caption added by teacher: "Don't you have some other mushroom that can change me back into Orphan Annie?"
63. Cartoon: Teacher's choice of textbook illustration of plasmogamy, with caption added "Please, not here! Not in front of those mycologists."
64. Cartoon: Physician examining patient with fluoroscope; viewing screen reveals that patient is full of demon-like creatures: "It's as I suspected -- Mr. Harding, here, is possessed by demons." Color. Playboy 21 (6): 201; June, 1974. (For use in medical mycology when making the point that sometimes an "inside view" --biopsy, X-ray, etc. -- is needed for diagnosis.)
65. Cartoon: Restaurant customer to waiter; background a collage of colors: "Not bad as hallucinogenic mushrooms go." Color. Playboy 11 (10): 192; Oct., 1964.
66. Cartoon: Wierd looking person in basement with mushroom trays; visitor speaks; "Fred, I think you're spending altogether too much time down here with these mushrooms. Color. Playboy 18 (8): 179; Aug., 1971.
67. Cartoon: One toad (on one basidiocarp) to another toad (half on, half off, a second basidiocarp): "Don't sit there, Larry. That's a mushroom" Color. Playboy 17 (3): 97; March, 1970.
68. Cartoon: Dutch boy with finger in hole in dike, but other side of dike is not water. Color. Playboy 20 (8): 205; Aug., 1973. (This cartoon is useful when lecturing about need for accurate diagnosis prior to treatment, avoiding shotgun treatment with broad-spectrum antibiotics, overtreatment, etc.; i.e., be sure that there is a problem before you start to treat it.)
69. Cartoon: Scientist in laboratory full of monsters: "I spend twenty-seven years making monsters and what does it get me? A room full of monsters." Color. Playboy 19 (6): 251; June, 1972. (Useful in lectures in industrial mycology and research planning to help drive home the point that research goals must be clear and reasonable.
70. Cartoon: Enormous production fermentor, open top, with female nudes (quite inoffensive) frolicking in the broth; technician to visitor: "The formula for

- the special ingredient has been a closely kept family secret for generations," Black & White. Playboy 21 (10): 220; Oct., 1974.
71. Cartoon: Alchemy lab, one alchemist to another: "Gold and silver from base metals is OK, but what I'm trying to transmute is angelica root, mugwort and tincture of marigold [change this to names of mushrooms] into an effective aphrodesiac." Black & White. Playboy 22 (1): 214; Jan., 1975.
72. Cartoon: Two children at breakfast table, to mother: You lied to us about Santa Claus, marijuana, and sex [change to "the site of meiosis in the Myxomycetes"]--how do we know you're not lying to us about granola [change to "where the Oomycetes do it."]. Black & White. Playboy 21 (12): 232; Dec., 1974.
73. Cartoon: Very tiny man on psychiatrist's couch: "I suppose that my size has something to do with it." Color. Playboy 21 (11); 235; Nov., 1974. (Used when emphasizing correlation between small size and some other property; e.g., conidial size and nuclear number in certain species.)
- Company, Inc., Belmont, Calif., page 344:
 There was a young fairy named Bloom,
 Who went to a lesbian's room,
 They argued all night
 About who had the right
 To do what, when, with which, and to whom.
 (This limerick is relevant to discussions of the biology of sex in *Achlya*.)
75. Cartoon: Woman in supermarket, looking at produce bins which have signs, "Mushrooms 39¢ lb" and "Mushrooms (?) 5¢ lb." Black & White. Playboy 12 (11): 212; Nov., 1965.
76. Cartoon: Rocket, astronauts, mushroom-like creatures with faces and feet. One astronaut to another: "You know anything about mushrooms, Joe?..." Reprinted in Emerson, R., 1969. Plant Sci. Bull. 15 (1): 1-8.
77. Cartoon: GI to GI, surrounded by mushroom-like coolie-hatted crowd: "The mushrooms are South Vietnamese--they are good. The toadstools are Viet Cong--they will kill you. You'll know if it's a toadstool if it kills you." Reprinted with #60 (above).
78. Bumper sticker: STAMP OUT SMUT. Ours originated from local Knights of Columbus.
79. Folks with tinea cruris are just itching to be cured.
80. Hawker, L. E. 1974. The lighter side of truffle hunting, or, the story of the 'Bristol rakes.' Bull. Brit. Mycol. Soc. 8 (2): 62-65. The article cited above describes raking for truffles in England. Among humorous and instructive items are:
 Reference to rabbit pellets masquerading as fruit bodies: "false truffles!"
 "The practice of biting through a fruit-body as a preliminary to identification, recommended by our predecessors, was soon abandoned after one 'rake' bit through a rabbit pellet by mistake..."
 "Some days were lucky,..., but often, as one 'rake' aptly said, 'never was so much dug by so many for so little'."
 "Dogs and pigs are unreliable...[for truffle hunting]...since not only do they show interest only in ripe and therefore smelly specimens, but I am reliably informed that a hound belonging to Dr. [P.H.] Gregory became so enthusiastic that he stole mushrooms from a greengrocer's shop. Students are usually more reliable, will hunt for immature 'nothings' and do not usually steal specimens except from each other."
81. Cartoon: Animal-like (camel or giraffe) drawing of spore of aquatic hyphomycete. Ingold, C. T., 1974, Tripospermum camelopardus Ingold, Dann & McDougall. Bull. Brit. Mycol. Soc. 8 (1): 32.
82. Ingold, C. T. 1973. Balloons as ballistospores. Bull. Brit. Mycol. Soc. 7 (2): 62-62. Use of balloons to demonstrate spore discharge.

83. Cartoon: Soviet soldier to peasant woman, viewing a comical robot mushroom picker as it approaches a mushroom which stands near an obvious fly agaric: "Don't worry, Grandma, the fly agaric is excluded from my program" (transl.]. Color, Krokodil, Sept., 25, 1967.
84. Told to us by a farm boy from rural southern Indiana: Turtles are caught and eaten ("seven different flavors in the different muscles") by some "locals," but not in the fall when Amanita muscaria fruits: turtles eat the basidiocarps, and a person who eats the turtle becomes "intoxicated." (Certain groups of American Indians were also aware of this.)
85. There are several reports that various societies have been aware that deer eat Amanita muscaria, become intoxicated, and are then easier to hunt and kill.
86. There are unconfirmed reports that the mycology class of a noted expert on mushrooms consumed Chlorophyllum molybdites at a party (held in the absence of their teacher). Upon belated examination of a spore print of their presumed "Lepiota," they reportedly consumed an emetic to induce vomiting. If the teacher concerned would care to confirm and amplify this story, it would make an excellent anecdote for a future version of this compilation. Used in conjunction with the respected teacher's name, it would warn introductory mycology students (who might become overconfident of their ability to identify specimens) that (by implication), even those who sit at the feet of the experts are not themselves expert.
87. One mycologist recalls a childhood experience in England: his mother stepped into a seldom-used room in an old house (several hundreds of years old) and stepped right through the floor. Where she fell, a fruiting body several feet in diameter soon appeared.
88. Cartoon: Physician to patient who has enormous mushroom emerging from his back: "Get out in the sun more often." Science Digest, May, 1970, page 98.
89. Cartoon: Crowded housing development of mushroom-like houses; one passerby to another: "Was this development here yesterday?" Origin unknown. If you can provide reference, please do.
90. Cartoon: Living room with enormous fruiting bodies emerging from floor; visitor to owner "Apart from a little dampness, Herman, how's everything else!" Origin unknown. If you can provide reference, please do.
91. Cartoon: Physicians gathered at side of patient in hospital bed: "We can't make up our minds whether to give you a shot of penicillin [change to amphotericin B] or have you wear a bag of garlic around your neck." Origin unknown. (In reference to increasing number of reports of anti-fungal effect of garlic.)
92. Why did the slime mold cross the stage? To get to the other slide.
93. Cartoon: Mushrooming couple, husband sprawled out on ground (looks dead), wife holding up a mushroom: "I just had it backward, Fred. With this kind, it's pirk that's poisonous." The New Yorker Magazine 35 (16): 150; June 6, 1959.
94. "lethal lollipop"--attributed to Professor W. H. Weston, Jr., by many persons. Used in reference to sticky knobs which trap rotifers, e.g., the rotifer trap of Zoopagus insidians (Whisler, H. C. and Travland, L. B., 1974, Arch. Microbiol. 101: 95-107).
95. For short, informal, notes in correspondence with ones colleagues, postcards are much less expensive than letters. For approximately 1¢ per card (if you cut them yourself from sheets of 3), one may have a postcard with personalized propaganda produced by photo-offset. One of our favorites boldly proclaims "THINK THERMOPHILES." We have seen more expensive postcards imprinted with an attractive photograph taken from a research publication of the originator; the writing side of the card included the citation of the publication.
96. Mycology needs a catchy slogan. The "FOSSIL POWER" buttons worn by paleobotany delegates at a convention awhile back was a stroke of brilliance and wit. Students would benefit from an analogous slogan for mycology (agreement or disagreement with us on this pretty much depends upon your attitude toward the values and powers of advertising). Buttons are cheap to produce in quantity. Any ideas?
97. "A pinch of dirt, a wisp of hair,
And thou beside me in the petri dish!"
(In reference to mating types of dermatophytes.) Page 9. : In Rebell, G.

- and D. Taplin. 1970. Dermatophytes. Their Recognition and Identification. Enlarged and revised edition. The University of Miami Press, Coral Gables, Florida.
98. Smith, C. E. 1967. Reminiscences of the Flying Chlamydospore and its allies, xii-xxii. In Ajello, L., ed., Coccidioidomycosis, The University of Arizona Press, Tucson, Arizona. This article contains numerous humorous and instructive anecdotes of interest to the medical mycology teacher. A more general anecdote follows (from page xx):
Dr. Smith recounts his experiences as a consultant studying the coccidioidin reaction of military personnel in California during WWII, and the difficulty one has in locating individuals for testing and retesting as they changed duty stations. One night a new medic gave him some inkling of the validity of the data which were accumulating: "When I told the [new medic] that I was working over the coccidioidin records to get the First Sergeants to track down the coccidioidin stragglers, he said, 'Well, at my last Field, all we did was put down on the records, that we thought ought to be the reaction of the missing guys'."
99. Following presentation of a paper discussing possible effects of moonlight on fungi (subsequently published: Tansey, M. R. and M. A. Jack, 1975, J. Theoret. Biol. 51: 403-407), Professor Kenneth Raper observed that in certain parts of Kentucky it had long been common knowledge that there was a correlation between moonshine and growth of certain yeasts.
100. The late Professor John Raper (1966, Genetics of Sexuality in Higher Fungi, The Ronald Press Company, New York, on p. iii) notes that the title of his book was something of a second choice. The first choice, not entirely facetious, would have been: Sexes by the Thousands.
101. Cartoon: Scientist to self, peering through microscope: "Why, the little rascal--she shouldn't have spurned him.: Black and White. Trans. Brit. Mycol. Soc. 60: 365, 1973. (Suitably presented, students will remember that Allomyces in anisogamous, after seeing this.)
102. Cartoon: Mushroomers, one to another, examining underside of mushroom: "Hello! What's this? 'Caution: Ingestion of This Mushroom May be Hazardous to Your Health.'" Reprinted (Black & White) in Trans. Brit. Mycol. Soc. 60: 368, 1973.
103. "The population mushroom is everybody's toadstool." Quoted in Trans. Brit. Mycol. Soc. 60: 372, 1973.
104. Emerson, R., 1973, Mycological relevance in the nineteen seventies. Trans. Brit. Mycol. Soc. 60: 363-387. The meaning of the following section is best gathered from a reading of Professor Emerson's essay. Page 381: "...tale about Roland Thaxter who, so the story goes, was addressing a Boston Ladies Club long years ago on his superb researches into the technicalities of the Laboulbeniales. Weston...has characterized Thaxter as 'a man of great dignity and self restraint,' and yet when at the close of the lecture an irate dowager rose to inquire of Professor Thaxter what possible practical application his studies might have, he drew himself up to his full austere height and replied, 'None, thank God, madam!'"
105. And similarly, from the same source as #104 (above), pages 382-383:
"The message I have endeavoured to give you can be encapsulated in a story from one of Weston's memorable lectures. He was completing his account of Penicillium and speaking of the blue and green citrus rots. It seems he was consulted in the early days by a shipper of oranges whose box cars were arriving at New York a solid mass of Penicillium. Weston, well aware that these moulds make their entry only through breaks in the rind of the fruit, was asked to inspect the shipping plant. At the end of the inspection tour he called for a hammer, pounded down a nail that projected into the shute down which every orange passed on its way to the packaging division, and took his departure. Later, when he submitted a bill for one hundred and one dollars, the shipper, now no longer troubled by mould, was only too pleased to pay but was puzzled by the specific amount of the charge. Weston's reply was prompt: the dollar was for pounding down the nail, the one hundred dollars was for knowing which nail to pound!"
106. Why do the soredia cross the road? Because they lichen the other side.

107. Do British Soldiers use Pilobolus cannons?
108. What advice did the mycologist give to his son who was ready to go out into the world to seek his fortune? "Go yeast, young man, go yeast."
109. Why did the mycologist take the stairs up to the 10th floor?
There wasn't mushroom in the elevator.
110. What do you get when you cross a mushroom with a clam? Little chlamydo spores.
111. What do a lousy trombonist and Phallus impudicus have in common? Both are stinkhorns.
112. Why did the mushroom need a psychiatrist? He had a trama.
113. What do you get when you cross Auricularia auricula with Arachis hypogea?
A peanut butter and jelly fungus.
114. Holocarp: a nice fish dinner for two.
115. Floccopus: a group of cats.
116. I know a mycologist who always won at poker because he hid Hydnaceae up his sleeve.
117. Antibuse - the cause for demonstrations by parents in Boston.
118. When talking about biochemical feedback: I bought my son a new boomerang last week, but it's driving us crazy trying to throw away his old one.
119. I don't mind it when the people upstairs have loud parties, but when I'm trying to sleep they had better not pound on mycelium.
120. In discussions of germination of ascospores of Neurospora, one can usually find the opportunity to work in an exclamation: "All for one and furfural!"
121. From a student essay on the "Rise and Fall of Caesar Claviceps":
Roman Law based on acropetal succession whereby the youngest rise to the top.
The River Tuber.
...the defeat of the Emperor was a mere truffle.
...his wife, Cystidia, proved to be sterile and could bear no heir.
Pontius Pileate.
122. A well-circulated story which several sources swear that they have seen in print somewhere: (Does anyone know a reliable reference?) A college professor and his family planned to dine on their collection of wild mushrooms, but decided to test them for toxicity by first feeding them to the family cat. Finding that the cat was ok after a few hours (an inadequate test period!), the family ate their wild mushrooms. Later that same day, they noticed that the cat lay on the floor, writhing in apparent agony. Realizing that mushrooms poisoning sometimes involved a lag period of many hours before symptoms appeared, the family rushed to the hospital and had their GI tracts emptied. Returning home, they discovered that their cat had delivered a litter of kittens--the writhing having been her labor pains.
123. Another often-told story for which we would appreciate a source: A group of Italian laboring men were working on a road in California. They discovered a patch of wild mushrooms that looked "just like the coccoli (Amanita calyp-troderma) that we loved to eat back in the Old Country." Wanting to be careful to avoid errors, they first fed some of the mushrooms to a dog. Seeing later that day that the dog was not ill, they proceeded to eat a large batch of the wild mushrooms for supper. The next day the dog became ill and eventually died, and several of the workmen followed the dog by only a few hours in development of symptoms and in death.
124. We have received an anonymous and lengthy contribution entitled "A Glossary of Pathological Terms (Sick-Sick-Sick) Compiled by Mike Rotome and Sir Cospora." We have selected what we believe are the most appropriate of the many items in the glossary.
Acrasiales--the demented fungi (cf., also the schizophrenic bacteria (Schizomycetes), Saprolegnia, and the mixed-up Myxomycetes.
adenose--plastic surgery on a individual with missing proboscis.
etiology--the study of food.
agar-agar--two portions of agar.
Agaric--famous English actor (1717-1779), David A'Garic.
Agaricaceae--surname of daughter of A'Garic who married a Ben Casey (Susan A'Garic-Casey).
foray--selective-service classification.

akaryote--a restaraunt order to go.
Albugo--musical instrument (brass) used to signal soldiers.
alternation of generations--father--great-grandfather--great-great-great-grandfather, etc.
amixis--a jumble, mess, disorder.
amoeboid--type of bird found in the Brooklyn area.
anaerobe--a series of garments, e.g., "He bought a suit, a tie, anaerobe."
anastomosis--a superlative expression used by hipsters, e.g., "I heard that cool music, man, anastomosis."
antigen--dislikes dry martinis.
antibody--a spirit.
Actinomycete--to dramatize in my chair.
ascus--inquire of us.
apical--a preserved cucumber.
apomyxis--a blending of apples, cf., applesauce.
aplanogamete--an ordinary, undecorated gamete.
aplanetism--air sickness.
apressorium--a dry-cleaning shop.
Armillaria--an armored animal found in Texas. (also: city in Texas)
autogamy--automobile racing.
automyxis--traffic jam.
aversion--a maiden.
bacteriology--study of backs.
Bakanae disease--sunburn while wearing a brief bathing suit.
Beauveria--Southern Germany
bio-type--useful in typing genetic codes.
Bipolaris--farewell to an atomic submarine.
birds' nest fungi--moldy Chinese soup.
bacteriocidal--side of bacterium (usually the right).
blister rust--type of rust associated with chrome bumpers.
Bordeau mixture--pipe tobacco.
bunt--a baseball play.
dwarf bunt--a Little League baseball play.
Calonectria--puppy-love.
calyptra--type of music played by West Indians.
Candida--type of camera.
pileus--laymen's term for hemorrhoids.
Catenaria--cat after swallowing canary.
chitin--flying a kite
chitinase--a champion kite flyer.
Cicinnobolus--city in Ohio.
cilia--foolish
cirrus--a grave situation, non-levity.
cluster-cup--a common drinking vessel.
coagulation--education at a co-education agricultural school.
cochliobolin--"Who killed cochliobolin?" "I," said the sparrow, etc.
complement fixation--personality disorder whereby one must constantly say pleasant things to another.
halo blight--theological term pertaining to the fallen angel, Lucifer.
conk--to strike sharply on the victim's head.
copulation--law enforcement study.
corticum--a legal summons.
crenate--to consume in fire.
crown gall--a disease of royalty.
culture medium--an education spiritualist.
cytology--optometry.
dermatophyte--a quarrel between two dermatos.
diplanetsim--holding to the archaic belief that the solar system is composed of two planets.
discoid--to throw away.
discocarp--a circular fish.

lichen--to be fond of.
 dual phenomenon--twins.
 Echinobotyrum--a type of sailing vessel.
 ecology--the study of shrieks.
 endophyte--prize-fighting term--to clinch.
 erose--pointed sticks shot from a boy.
 truffle--a trifle troubled.
 fertilization tube--part of a manure spreader.
 fission--the act of catching fish..
 flocculent--referring to sheep-loaning.
 fungistatic--caused by moldy radio transistors.
 puffball--inflatable children's toy.
 gene-for-gene hypothesis--a basic law of the free enterprise system which takes its name from the primitive type of barter system whereby certain aborigines traded trousers.
 germ pore--expression of poverty, e.g., "He was germ pore."
 gibberellin--nickname for a mental defective named Ellen.
 Gnomonia--a severe respiratory disease.
 gummosis--a habit commonly observed in adolescent girls consisting of the rapid chewing and cracking of gum.
 Gymnoascus--i.e., Jim did not inquire of us.
 higher fungi--molds growing on ceilings.
 glume--depressed mental state.
 germination--another name for Deutschland.
 hanging drop--an acrobatic maneuver.
 hirsute--clothing possessed by a female.
 honey agaric--nickname (see entry under "Agaricaceae").
 guttation--obesity.
 haploid--Harold Lloyd's brother, Hap.
 haustorium--a house with a built-in auditorium.
 hilum--high-protein Pablum.
 host--department head.
 host range--stove belonging to department head.
 hyaline--high altitude violin.
 imperfect stage--graduate student.
 perfect stage--major professor.
 infection thread--non-sterile cotton.
 invasion--mother-in-law.
 lesion--a select group, e.g., American Lesion.
 life cycle--a two-wheeled vehicle with a lifetime guarantee.
 local infection--an infection of locals.
 mummy--antonym of daddy.
 mycorrhiza--Gaelic spelling of "Mike O'Riza."
 mycology--joyful reminiscence of Alma Mater.
 necrosis--decorative floral neckpiece.
 nematode--toad taxonomy.
 nucleus--replacement of an old cleus.
 ospore--"ospore" pronounced by a stutterer.
 palea--light-colored.
 pathogen--road to distillery.
 pathology--the study of paths.
 pathologist--a pathfinder; sometimes used as alternative term for Boy Scout.
 pesticide--the side of pests, usually the wrong side.
 photosynthesis--artificial photography.
 physiologic race--a running contest for physiologists.
 phyto--a common name for a dog.
 pistil--usually a Webley-Smith .44 cal. magnum.
 primary infection--initial stage of a political disease.
 radicle--a person of extreme political or sociological beliefs.
 saprogenesis--the birth of a sap.

scab--a non-union pathologist.
scion--an unhappy sound.
secondary infection--infection of high school students.
seta--a chair.
Hyaloria--a race track located in Florida.
infect--New England pronunciation of "in fact"
lumpy jaw--misshapen physiogamy due to gum-chewing (cf., gummosis).
matrix--pranks perpetrated in the month of May.
monazial--a unicycle.
Monilia--capital of Phillipine Islands.
monotypic--one fingered typing.
mother of vinegar--wife of the father of vinegar.
Munkia--a hairy primate animal.
mutualism--a type of insurance company.
mycetes--chairs belonging to me.
needle cast--theatrical company composed of skinny people.
Nees--female counterpart of nephew.
Nocardia--common complaint of poker players.

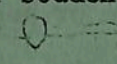
node--proboscis of individual suffering from a cold.
nurse cells--found in Communist hospitals.
operculum--coffee pot.
oyster cap mushroom--a fungus found on oyster caps (rarely, if ever, observed on oyster hats).
Pasteur effect--luxuriant growth of grass in areas grazed by cattle.
Phoma--comprising head on a glass of beer.
phototropic--filmed in darkest Africa.
phylum--order given to records clerk.
phytopathology--study of the diseases of dogs.
pigments--small pieces of pig.
plaque--opposite of white
plum pockets--caused by carrying over-ripe plums in trousers
poly--a girl's name.
cephalous--venereal disease.
prohybrid--formerly an amateur hybrid.
racket cell--Communist untouchables.
ray fungi--famous Azerbaijan mycologist (married Mary Mold).
reindeer moss--vegetative growth occurring on reindeer.
resting spore--produced by tired mycelium.
resupinate--poor restaurant manners.
rhizoblast--rocketry term (NASA).
ringworm--a disease of rings (if wedding rings, equivalent to divorce).
saprobe--a garment worn in mental institutions (cf., strait jacket).
axial--Norwegian male name.
powdery scab--non-union pathologist addicted to use of cosmetics.
sessile--first name of famous Hollywood producer (Sessile B. DeMille).
shoestring fungus--also known as "cobbler's disease."
sigmoid--first name of famous composer, Sigmoid Romberg.
stink horn--disparaging reference to Harry James.
stolon--past tense of stole--to rob.
suspensor--devices to hold up trousers.
syndrome--synonym for "drive-in movie."
take-all--Internal Revenue Service.
taxis--plural of taxi.
taxonomy--Federal Withholding.
Tuber--a large, brass, band instrument.
Unger--painful association associated with diets.
serology--the study of nobility.
Tulasne--pertaining to roads, e.g., a Tulasne highway
smut--pornography.
loose smut--unbound copy of "Tropic of Cancer."

*why is this study of corn smut prohibited?
R's cornography*

covered smut--bound copy of "Tropic of Cancer."
sorus--my wife and I after skiing.
spot--common name for a dog.
substrate--a cut-rate subway.
thermal inactivation point--synonym for "spring fever."

vascular--having muscular veins.

Vector--first name of famous French author, Vector Hugo
vein banding--medical operation, similar to bird banding.
witchs' broom--woman's hair style (cf, pony-tail).
zooglea--delight at visiting zoological gardens.

125. When a good-natured student on a field trip points to a specimen of an obscure Psathyrella (etc.) and asks, "What's that one's name?", one mycologist drops to his knees beside the mushroom, gently touches it upon the pileus and exclaims, "Why it's Sarah!---Hi there Sarah, how are you, how's Edgar and the kids!" If handled properly so as not to insult the student, this is a humorous way to get into a discussion along the lines of "What's in a name?"
126. One mycologist, when demonstrating a specimen of a lichen which is used as a spice in India, points out that if you used this in a sauce for basting roast chicken, it would make the chicken finger-lichen good.
127. One algal pun simply has to be sneaked in here: What is the State Alga of Georgia? Carteria
128. Agaricologist's bumper sticker: THINK RAIN!
129. One mycologist occasionally invites his laboratory students to provide new insights into the "real" identity of laboratory material. A piece of paper is placed next to the exhibit microscope, etc., and students enter their new ideas. This not only engenders humor, but typically helps the students remember the specimen. Examples of student identification of a germinating uredospore of Puccinia graminis (): pregnant worm, antler trophy, winged egg, etc.
130. Ever since we got into hallucinogens, attendance (in laboratory) has been mushrooming.
131. You can always get a rise out of your class when you teach about Saccharomyces cerevisiae.
132. When describing Max Delbruck's research on Phycomyces, it is appropriate to mention his "principle of limited sloppiness": it is necessary at times to adopt less than perfect measures, as long as the scientist is aware that his measures are crude.
133. You can always tell the medical mycology laboratory students: they are the ones who wash their hands with soap and water before they step into the bathroom stall.
134. One mycologist uses humorous negative selectors (wrong choices) on multiple choice exams. For example, after describing symptoms of Amanita phalloides poisoning, and listing possible emergency treatments under the heading, "The physician should:", he includes "empty his own G.I. tract." A possible definition of climax (in the ecological sense) is "a little hatchet used for going up mountains." This is a good place to use many of the humorous definitions given in this compilation, which otherwise would be too forced to use as humor in a lecture.
135. In what fungal genus can we place the Cincinnati Reds [1976]? Geastrum (earthstars)
136. Let not my mind wander asci study the Pyrenomycetes.
137. Why don't folks eat more pate de foie gras? Because the ingredients are too much truffle to find.
138. A glossary of botanical terms, useful in mycology courses:
cover slip--to hide a mistake.
depression slide--what the stock market did in 1929.
fixation--done to parking tickets at city hall.
low power objective--B.A.
high power objective--Ph.D.
whole mount--entire hill.

free hand section--part of date reachable with hand not on the steering wheel.
macrophyte--large altercation.
Agar-Agar--preceeds a macrophyte.
higher plants--Cannabis, etc.
recombination--second try at opening a gym locker.
eukaryotes--command to feed horses [You carry oats.]

139. Bumper sticker: FUNGI CHANGED MY LIFE.
140. When first keying out Fungi Imperfecti in a large and complicated key, one mycologist, anticipating initial failures, comforts his students by telling them that it might be best to fail a few times at first, because if you do something right the first time, nobody appreciates how difficult it was.
141. Two hyphae of the same mating type were growing through the soil, when they spotted a filament of a compatible mating type. One said to the other, "Get a load of those nuclei." The other responded, "They're alright, but I'm a septum hypha, myself." [Some reviewers did not understand this joke, whereas others thought that it was very funny.]
142. After describing the accumulation of cesium and strontium from fallout through the food chain (lichens → reindeer → Eskimo), one mycologist points out that now we know why Rudolph's nose is so bright.
143. Roland Thaxter teased plant pathologists by calling them "squirt gun botanists." (Horsfall, J. G., 1975, *Annu. Rev. Phytopathol.* 13: 1-13, p. 2)
144. In a lecture in which he was listing keratinous substrates useful for baiting for the Gymnoascaceae, instead of saying "horse hooves, feathers,....", one mycologist said quite seriously, "horsefeathers." This slip certainly helped the class remember the intended material.
145. An anecdote which we would like to find out more about: is it true that a particular person's foot is the type locality of one fungus, and that the fungus is named after that person? This story circulates, but the details are vague.
146. There is a cartoon about women and phallus-shaped mushrooms, in *Playboy*, probably Aug., 1975, vol. 3, no. 3.
147. Cartoon: Moses on mountain with tablets, looking up to God and speaking. Change original caption to read "But just think how much suffering you'd save them if you outlined the correct system for classification of the Phycomycetes!" *Playboy*, July 1976. p. 158.
148. Cartoon: Familiar cylindrical salt box, figure of female carrying large mushroom with falling spores. Labels in appropriate places on box: "Basidio Salt. When it rains it spores." [This last line may have wider use.] Private collection.
149. Students often have trouble remembering the plural of fungus. One student finally came up with "fungis. Which leads to the question and answer: "Are mushrooms fungis [fun guys]" "I don't know, I've never been out with one."
150. When students express dismay at the thought of eating lichens (as spices, or in rock tripe soup), encourage them thusly: "Try'em, you'll like 'em." [lichen]
151. A subtle technique, sometimes useful for breaking the tension after a session of medical mycology clinical horror photographs is to project a slide which at first looks like one more of these, but is a photograph of a well-known (and distinctive) faculty member, with the standard black rectangle covering the eyes. As the class catches on and laughs, a valid point can be voiced, that so often in clinical studies one lacks appropriate control patients--so you thought that you would introduce one here.
152. When students obtain a spore deposit, for use in obtaining cultures of Coprinus, etc., the large number of spores obtained causes them to become overconfident about their possible success in picking single spores and obtaining pure cultures. One mycologist advises his students, "Don't count your spores until they germinate."
153. Why was the yeast exiled from the colony? Because it kept budding in.
154. Why can't Brazilian coffee be brewed in a metal pot? Because it might rust.
155. Why wasn't corny literature sold in the campus bookstore? Because it was

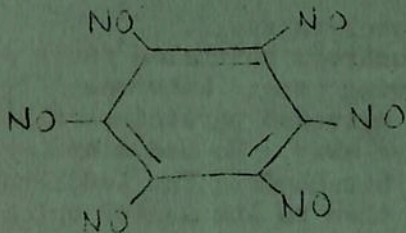
- was too smutty.
156. Unlike stinkhorns, frogs are lucky: they can eat what bugs them.
 157. Bumper sticker: HELP YOUR LOCAL AGARICOLOGIST: PRAY FOR RAIN.
 158. Before class mushroom forays, when appropriate it is helpful to remind the students to prepare for meeting their state bird, the mosquito.
 159. What would Holmes say to Watson concerning the solution of the Claudius Caesar mushroom poisoning mystery? "Alimentary, Watson, alimentary."
 160. Why was ergotism such a scourge during the Middle Ages? Because it rot (wrought) such suffering.
 161. A prude and a mycologist were drinking brew at a local pub. The inebriated mycologist chanced upon a girly magazine and was studying the lewd photographs, when the still sober prude protested, "Sir, must you exhibit that smut in public?" To which the mycologist slurred, "Speaking of smut, my friend, you still lag in ales." (Ustilaginales)
 162. Why is there such a high mortality among species of Psilocybe? Because they join in so many joy rides.
 163. What did the student with thrush say to his girl friend? "I'm afraid that we've been too Candid."
 164. To emphasize the pits-and-ridges morphology of true morels: True Mor-r-r-els have pits and r-r-ridges." [Role the r's]
 165. Southern members of the MSA are encouraged to ponder over possible puns based on "boletes" and "bowl-a-eats."
 166. The most common fungus found in contemporary dance emporia is the disco-mycete.
 167. If you were a species of Schizosaccharomyces, what would be your favorite sport? Fission. [fishing]
 168. You heard about medical mycologist who moved to Ottawa because he wanted to study candidosis? [Canada]
 169. Said of the woman who ate rye grain infected with Claviceps purpurea: "Her acts like 'er got ants in her pants."
 170. In choosing a wife, the adage, "Better a fresh weed than a wilted rose," may be true, but in choosing specimens for plant pathology lab, the wilted rose may be more appropriate.
 171. Lost in a peach orchard in the springtime? Turn your ear to the wind and ascospore where you are.
 172. What did one lichen say to the other? There's a fungus among us.
 173. Have you heard about the unfortunate mycologist who was absorbed by his work?
 174. Someone complained that his research species wouldn't go sexual on Richard's Solution (see the media section of Ainsworth & Bisby's Dictionary). You might not either, if every liter of food and drink you took in each day had 10 g of saltpeter.
 175. At the 1974 North American Mycological Association foray in North Carolina, a mycologist was carrying away a box of chanterelles after the collection was duly recorded on the species list by the official recorder. Just as he was about to dump the specimens into the growing pile of excess mushrooms, a small, wiry woman from New York City rushed up to him and demanded to know what he was going to do with those mushrooms. After being told, the woman indignantly asked, "How could you do that to such delicious mushrooms?" Whereupon she immediately whisked the box away from the man and retreated to a bench underneath a large tree, where she patiently sorted and cleaned all of the mushrooms. After drying the mushrooms, she took them back to the city with her, where it is rumored that she is still enjoying the fruits discarded by the chagrined mycologist.
 176. More definitions;
 - dungus--coprophilous fungus.
 - lungus--fungus causing pulmonary disease.
 - tungus--fungus growing on Aleuritis fordii.
 - mungus--fungus growing on mung beans
 - filzpilz--fungus growing on or among leaf hairs
 - exasperomycetes--unidentifiable fungus
 - celestiomycete--far-out fungus
 - sintype--kleptotype

- splumper--middle-of-the-road taxonomist
177. There is a mushroom cartoon published in Playgirl, August, 1975, vol. III, no. 3, no page number available. The subject is the Phallales and recent loosening of sexual inhibitions. We are also informed that there is a mushroom cartoon in Oui, July, 1975, p. 105.
 178. The humor published in the Bulletin of the British Mycological Society is a favorite source for many teachers.
 179. Bar conversation overheard: "I'll tell you why I'm drinking: I've had 3 wives die on me in the past 8 months. The first wife died from eating poisonous mushrooms. The second wife died from eating poisonous mushrooms. The third wife died from a fractured skull--she wouldn't eat the poisonous mushrooms."
 180. Following tradition, the warden offered the condemned man his choice of foods for the final meal. The doomed man requested but one item: mushrooms! When asked the reason for such a peculiar choice, he replied, "I've always been afraid to eat them."
 181. A budding yeast geneticist can't work with Schizosaccharomyces.
 182. An advertisement for a "female mushroom picker" in the MGA Bulletin led to a spate of poems in that same journal (e.g., May, 1957, and June, 1958), and the observation that the cultivated mushroom of North America was obviously male because it is "big-headed" and quite bald.
 183. What does a whistling teakettle have in common with the asci of the Helotiales? Both are inoperculate and unitunicate.
 184. Schizosaccharomyces has a split personality.
 185. A source of scientific humor is American Scientist. A collection is available as: Harris, S., 1977, What's So Funny about Science. Cartoons from American Scientist, William Kaufmann, Inc., Los Altos, California.
 186. One contributor attracts audiences to his lecture by announcing that the topic (sexual stages of zoopathogenic fungi) will be "The erotic behavior of small eukaryotes." In this lecture he observes that:
Sex in these fungi is not as important to humans as it is to the fungi.
People engage in much sex and less reproduction; with the dermatophytes it is the other way around.
 187. An outstanding example of witty poetry concerning yeast physiology is that of Professor Ralph A. Lewin, in Chemistry and Industry, 1963, p. 481.
 188. Do you get a rise out of bakers' yeast? Does brewers' yeast make you hop?
 189. For the extrovert, the following provides guidelines for advertising a course: Jacobs, F., and D. Reagon, 1976, The Alfred E. Neuman University competitive hard-sell 1976 catalog. MAD, March, 1976, pp. 33-39. Discussed in Current Contents, Life Sciences 19(14): 7.
 190. One good thing about mushroom hunting: there's a morel to it.
 191. To emphasize that a large proportion of supposed mushroom poisoning cases are "false alarms", I tell my students about the following case: Late one Saturday evening I was reached in my lab by a very agitated physician calling from the emergency room of a hospital 3 hours' drive away. He had a hysterical, vomiting toddler and two hysterical parents on his hands. The toddler has been noticed eating mushrooms (or at least placing them in its mouth) which it picked on the front lawn that evening, was rushed to the hospital by her frightened parents, and was exhibiting the symptoms mentioned. Upon learning that the mushrooms were small in stature, did not have pure white gills, occurred in great numbers in rings, had a tough stipe, and had grass adhering to hairs at the base of the stipe, and considering that the symptoms were so rapid in appearance, and that it was early spring, I ruled out any need for immediate drastic treatment. I advised the physician to keep the child under close observation, but not to traumatize her by pumping the stomach, administering high enemas, etc. I also asked that the parents be instructed to return to their lawn and obtain more mushrooms, soil and all. When I arrived at the hospital emergency room 3 hours later, there was a table so covered with the soil, grass, and mushrooms that there was barely room for the physician's medical textbooks -- all open to pages which described the dire consequences of Amanita phalloides poisoning. Faced with a very worried young physician and the still hysterical parents, I examined the mushrooms carefully

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compared them with the fragments taken from the toddler's hands and mouth, took my most professional stance, and began munching on the excellent collection of Marasmius oreades, commenting that I had enjoyed several hundred on pizza and in soups during the preceding week. No words could have brought greater peace than those actions. (Later, I did explain that most wild mushrooms should be cooked before eating, but I doubt that the parents will try wild mushrooms anyway. I suspect that the child's symptoms were a response to her parents' hysteria, or possibly an allergic response. I did immediately return to my lab and make microscopic and chemical observations of the fragments from the child's mouth.)

192. A general reference for those without access to the journal: McConnell, J. V., and M. Schutzer (eds.). 1971, Science, Sex, and Sacred Cows. Spoofs on Science from the Worm Runner's Digest. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, N. Y.
193. Each teacher can find his own favorite place to insert the following when drawing analogies in teaching fungal genetics: Children are hereditary--if your parents didn't have any, you won't either.
194. The following has been recommended as a source for humor: Weston, W. H., 1941, Lower plants and higher education, Amer. Biol. Teacher 3: 189-195.
195. We are informed that there is a German cartoon book in which fungi and "other plants" are drawn like people; we would appreciate learning the full reference if you are familiar with this work.
196. Some of the humor--visual and spoken--which is effective in teaching mycology is clownish, and might lead to misunderstanding of the serious intent of the teacher. I therefore point out to my students that I use whatever techniques are effective in helping them understand and remember the subject matter, and that the humor should be accepted in this spirit.
197. You can't teach about fungi without including the names of a few insects, so here is a tale about two entomologists: The crotchety Harrison Dyar feuded with most of his colleagues, including the rotund John B. Smith, after whom he named a species corpulentis. Smith is said to have got the better of this exchange, dedicating a species to Dyar and calling it dyaria (pronounced of course, diarrhea). (Science 175: 162-163, 1972)
198. Teaching about the use of fungi to cause structural changes in steroids for pharmaceutical use provokes student objections that they cannot be expected to remember the chemical structures presented. I encourage them to make a word game of the structures to help them remember them, and point out that they would have no trouble remembering the structure of the following perfect contraceptive:



(NO in every position)

199. If an ambitious student charts a curriculum which suggest too-extreme specialization in a highly technical field, point out this wisdom which guides management when placing and promoting: The narrowly trained specialist should be on tap, but never on top.
200. Bumper sticker: MYCOLOGY IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY.
201. If students begin attributing human motivations to fungal activities, you might remind them that this is a well-known pitfall in biological research. Furthermore: It may be true that love is the answer, but while you're waiting for the answer, sex raises some pretty good questions.
202. The following has been recommended as a source of humorous anecdotes: Oesper,

- R. E., 1975, The Human Side of Science, Univ. Cincinnati Press, 218 pp.
203. Our favorite tee shirt slogan: MYCOLOGY IS BETTER THAN YOURS. Other contributions: MYCOLOGY IS MUSHROOMING.
204. Several items of general biological humor:
You can tell a dogwood by its bark.
The noted anatomist, Dr. Katherine Esau, proved that a woman's place is in the phloem.
Ripened ovaries are the fruits of the Earth.
Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.
Pollen tubes are in style in spring and summer. There must be some stigma attached to that.
205. An epitaph which reminds students that fungi play an important role in the cycle of energy and matter in terrestrial ecosystems:
Beneath this stone an MSA friend
Serves his subjects to the end.
He will not be food for vultures,
Instead, he's growing his final cultures.
206. Donnelly, R. B., 1932, Just like the Flowers Dear. A Botany for Parents, Coventry House, N. Y. Page 41, Plate VII, has a line drawing cartoon ("Love's Old Sweet Song among the Mildews") which should appeal to specialists.
207. For the serious collector of erotic fungal humor, a reference librarian at the Institute for Sex Research, Inc. (the old Kinsey Institute) at Indiana University, provides the following information: There is an index to erotic humor in Rationale of the Dirty Joke (G. Legman, 1968, Grove Press, N.Y.). His Horn Book may also be useful. The Journal of Erotic Folklore and its editorial staff are also good sources for locating humor. We have used none of these sources. The Institute itself has an elaborate index system and what is reported to be the second largest collection of erotic literature and material in the world; these facilities are available to qualified investigators.
208. The following household hint was published in a newspaper, the Phoenix "Arizona Republic":
Moldy Cheese: Cheese that has become moldy should not be discarded. Put it in a covered container with a few lumps of sugar; the mold will leave the cheese and go into the sugar. Then eat the cheese and throw away the sugar.
209. Some folks in southern Indiana like springtime because they believe that they can raise more 'el then.
210. Do arrogant mycologists act hypha-lutin?
211. In our area, Puccinia's aecia to find than other rusts.
212. Can anyone send us the lyrics of the "lacto-phenol cotton blues," rumored to have originated at the University of Georgia?
213. "This is an audacious stunt, but I have done it yearly for some time now, and it works: it helps students perceive the importance of certain lines of research. First, the lecture subject must be one which describes a multi-step progression of research achievements, some completed and some yet to be done, which can reasonably be expected to yield results of enormous benefit for mankind. Examples which I have found suitable are the development of safe and effective biocontrol agents for insect pests (focusing on the Coelomomyces story), the development of new antifungal drugs for use in human medicine (focusing on polyoxin-like approaches), etc. After reaching the dramatic climax (control of malaria, etc.), I repeat key steps thusly: 'When Coelomomyces is successfully grown in pure culture with efficient production of massive amounts of effective inoculum, we will all celebrate, and heap praise upon the successful scientist.' [Now I begin to ring a cow bell.] 'And when field trials are successfully completed, with eradication of parasite-carrying mosquitoes in selected areas, we will celebrate even more, giving great honor and glory to that successful scientist.' [Now I begin to ring a second bell. I must now shout excitedly to be heard.] 'But when that final goal is attained, and malaria is essentially eliminated throughout the world, through use of Coelomomyces, it will not be for us to honor the successful scientist.' [Now I stop ringing my 2 cow bells.] 'For surely that great person will deserve the

no-bell prize]. [This has never failed to receive wild applause and, since I am rather formal in my lectures, amazement. On final exams, when asked my standard question 'Predict 5 important advances in mycology in the next decade, and describe the likely steps toward each,' students always include the subject of my no-bell address.]"

214. "After describing 12 advantages of use of Neurospora crassa in biochemical genetics (e.g., it will complete its sexual cycle and produce numerous 'offspring' in a small space such as a petri dish, which is cheaper and more convenient than, say, human subjects), I seriously list a 13th advantage: it's a fungus. After the students have smiled politely at this example of chauvinism, I seriously explain to them that a scientist must use rational criteria in selecting an experimental system, but must also consider that he will be "living" with his organism day and night for years. He should consider aesthetics and his own prejudices: if he enjoys working with, say, the beautiful fungus Allomyces, then he will be a bit more willing to spend those extra hours of work and thought on his creature than he will if he detests the organism per se."
215. "As I lead into a discussion of why biocontrol of insect pests, using fungi, other organisms, or viruses, is advantageous, I begin to spray a student in the front row (after secret prior arrangement) with a (harmless) spray from a pressurized can. The student makes a big fuss as he is dosed with what, according to the prominent fake label on the can, is a "POISON!". This drives home the point that, among the reasons for altering conventional approaches to pest control, is the fact that many insecticides are poisonous to people, and people do not want this situation to continue without effective regulation. [As an aside: one year I incorrectly used a can of liquified air. I failed to notice that the inverted can was literally freezing my finger. It was difficult to explain to my colleagues how I had suffered 3rd-degree 'burns' and resultant necrosis of tissue as a result of a classroom lecture.]"
216. Mycology students' favorite 7-course meal: a 6-pack and a fried mushroom.

FIRST CLASS	<input type="checkbox"/>	INDIANA UNIVERSITY Bloomington, Indiana 47401
AIR MAIL	<input type="checkbox"/>	
THIRD CLASS	<input type="checkbox"/>	
PARCEL POST	<input type="checkbox"/>	
SPECIAL FOURTH CLASS	<input type="checkbox"/>	
RATE _____ (Indicate Contents)		FROM: Department <u>Dr. Michael Tansey</u>
LIBRARY RATE	<input type="checkbox"/>	Acct. No. <u>29-246-77</u>
PRINTED MATTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	For B. Lowy Dept. of Botany Louisiana State University Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70803
FIRST CLASS LETTER ENCLOSED	<input type="checkbox"/>	

POSTMASTER:—This Parcel May Be Opened If Necessary Return Postage Guaranteed

Tansey & Niederpruem - IMC2, 1977

Anyone who has had the pleasure of hearing a lecture by the great educator and mycologist, Professor William Weston, must appreciate how much a teacher's rich sense of natural humor can add to the enjoyment of learning about--and of teaching about--fungi. After hearing Professor Weston lecture, I ^{was} determined that when I was a professor, I would emulate him, to help create as enjoyable an atmosphere as possible in the lecture room and teaching lab. I believed--and I still do--that this tactic would stimulate students, and help them learn about fungi. I am naturally a rather serious type, so I consciously collected humor for use in class-- I cannot rely on on-the-spot creation of humor, and I suspect that Dr. Weston did not, either--the lectures I heard were meticulously prepared.

Don Niederpruem, like most teachers, I suspect, had been accumulating creatively humorous material for teaching, and had attained some renown by circulating some of this. So we pooled our material, and added material contributed by colleagues who read our invitation to join us in compiling mycological teaching humor. Thank you for sending such excellent material. Much of this material is included in the handout available right here--please take a copy. Other material is on view as a poster display, or in the binder at the poster display--I hope that you enjoy this material, and that you are stimulated to use some of it in your own classes. References to the place of publication of many of the poster display cartoons are in the handout.

I believe that it is counterproductive to be a clown, and some of the humor available is clownish. So I ask my students to accept this in the spirit intended--as an aid to learning. Some of the humor deals with fungi, but doesn't teach anything in particular--that sort of humor simply

helps establish rapport with students. I challenge my students to give me their own humor, and almost every student creates puns, cartoons, or jokes concerning fungi. Some of these are very good, and I use the material, and have shared it with you. More importantly--and students often mention this--by trying to think up clever puns, or cartoons, or jokes involving names, life cycles, or other aspects of the biology of fungi, the students are actively thinking about class material; and remember it better. Student attempts at humorous poetry are usually not very good, but the students enjoy it and are proud of their efforts.

J. V. McConnell, the creator of the Worm Runner's Digest, has observed that, ... intropunitive wit... can thrive only when its author is fairly secure emotionally and intellectually. People who neither understand nor appreciate humor are probably threatened by those who do. Most of them have based their entire approach to life on the premise that seriousness is next to godliness. But humor, particularly that directed against ourselves, keeps us humble in the face of our own too-well-perceived incompetence. The totally serious person fears this kind of insight full perception into his own behavior and fears humor because he cannot afford to be humble. Humor is also somehow anti-scientific: the Establishment never questions its own motives; the true humorist always does.

In the face of these conclusions, one must on occasion expect hostility from ones peers and administrators when applying humor as a teaching tool.

Please continue to send mycological teaching humor to me or to Don. I shall build a new collection and, God willing, shall bring it before you at our next Congress--not as a clown, but as a teacher who enjoys humor and is personally stimulated by the challenge of helping students enjoy learning.

Members of the New York Mycological Society examine and sample dried wild mushrooms brought in for identification. From left are Hiroyuki Saito, Dr. Walter Deitch, Bill Dill, Arline Deitch and Emil Lang.

Mushroom Lovers Indulge in A Feast Of Fungi

By PATRICIA WELLS

Everyone brought a dish to pass around, but it wasn't just one of those Sunday night suppers. Arline Deitch prepared her cognac-rich *Cantharellus infundibuliformis* dip and Bill Dill shared this year's batch of *Clitopilus multiceps* "post office" pickles. For variety, others added pate de foie de volaille aux chanterelles, morel crepes and the popular *Armillaria* in soy.

It was the 15th annual banquet of the New York Mycological Society—the local wild mushroom enthusiasts—and a chance for the 130 or so members to show off and share their culinary inventions, while telling tales of mushroom hunting.

Heywood Hale Broun, the television sportscaster, was there in full color, reminiscing about the time he and his wife, Jane, hopped a fence in London's Hyde Park to harvest wild fungi.

"When we got back to the hotel, we got a gas plate and some utensils from the kitchen," explain Mr. Broun. "We gave them a good saute and had a royal feast."

The Brouns, new members of the society, said they had been interested in wild mushrooms for 10 or 12 years

and were, as Mr. Broun explained, "privileged by God" to have a chanterelle patch just outside their house in Woodstock.

A Mushroom Boon

Gary Lincoff, known fondly by some of his colleagues as the Euell Gibbons of Central Park, was there telling of other sorts of city forages. It seems that the cut in funds for the maintenance of city parks has been a boon for mushroom lovers. Leaves are raked less often, natural debris piles up, offering perfect growing conditions for some very edible mushrooms.

"People claim to have found morels in Central Park, but I've never been so fortunate," said Mr. Lincoff, who leads hunts for wild edibles in area parks and teaches courses in mushroom identification and edible wild plants at the New School.

Mushroom madness runs in the Lincoff family. Mr. Lincoff's wife, Irene, has been known to return from her morning jog in Riverside Park with a sackful of mushrooms.

The society's banquet, held at New York University's Bobst Library, is an annual end-of-the-year celebration, following a season full of weekly field

trips. From June through November the group is out in search of the hundreds of species of wild edible fungi growing in public places within about a 100-mile radius of New York City. It's not unusual for individuals to return from day trip with 50 pounds of mushrooms.

Members were quick to warn the uninitiated against picking and eating any wild mushroom without positive identification; they noted that experienced mycologists lead each of the society's walks, so that novices can learn the intricacies of mushroom identification.

Anyone seeking assistance in identifying wild mushrooms or interested in attending mushroom lectures or walks can contact the society through Stephanie Hawthorne, 132 West 13th Street, New York, N.Y. 10011.

'Edibility Ratings'

As with any gathering of people who love good food, there was much exchanging of recipes. But among those consumed with mushroom madness, "edibility ratings" were also a concern.

species of edible mushrooms, some, it appears, are more edible than others.

"There are many nonpoisonous mushrooms I wouldn't touch," explained Emil Lang. "Not because they will harm you—many of them just don't taste good. Some are sour and soapy, inedible. The bulk, in fact, are quite mediocre."

Mr. Lang heads the group's "project edibility," and it is his aim to learn how to make the poor, edible mushrooms taste better by experimenting with different recipes and cooking techniques.

In time, of course, talk turned to the morel, king of wild mushrooms. Being among the best of the wild fungi, morels are, naturally, rare. And among mycophiles it is a display of bad manners to ask, "Where do you find your morels?" That, one quickly learns, is a secret.

As Dr. Walter Deitch, a podiatrist and one of the society's leaders explained: "Members here share a great deal—recipes, helping identify strange mushrooms, good books on the subject. But no one, on one, ever reveals where



The New York Times/Paul Hosefros