

# A Legacy of Laughter

University of Oklahoma has been given  
the life's work of a famous cartoonist

SAM COBEAN, '37, made people laugh. With a sharp pencil and an even sharper mind, Cobean drew laughter from readers of *The New Yorker*, *Saturday Evening Post*, *Colliers*, *Harpers* and other national magazines which published his cartoons.

In July, 1951, Cobean was killed in an automobile accident. Last year his wife (the former Anne McCool, '36ba) and her mother Mrs. R. M. McCool established the Sam Cobean Collection. This 900-piece collection of original Cobean cartoons, both published and unpublished, has been placed in the manuscripts division of Bizzell Memorial Library. Included in the collection are many cartoons which did not appear in any of the eight books of Cobean cartoons, which include his best seller *Cobean's Naked Eye* and *The Cartoons of Cobean*, published by Harpers in 1952 after his death.

Cobean got his start in cartoon humor when he was at O.U. When he first came to the University, he enrolled in pre-law, but he soon switched to journalism. In 1936-37 he was editor of the *Covered Wagon*, campus humor magazine. He was also a member of the Sooner yearbook staff, the Ad Club, Ruf-Neks and Kappa Sigma fraternity.

After leaving school, Cobean began the real job of breaking into the cartoon field. He worked with Universal Pictures, Columbia Pictures and spent seven years at the Walt Disney Studio. In the Army he did animation work for signal corps training films.

In a singularly simple style Cobean produced a mass of subtle cartoon humor that placed him among the top cartoonists in the country. The Cobean style—the dream balloon, the helpless little men, the indignant peacocks—was a well known feature in American magazines for over ten years. Cobean exposed the inner thoughts of the male and female minds. His scope of humor spanned the thinking of dogs, children, peddlers and sportsmen.

Although his career was centered around city life, Cobean was a country man. He and his wife had a home in Connecticut, and Cobean commuted to New York for his new work in television and advertising.

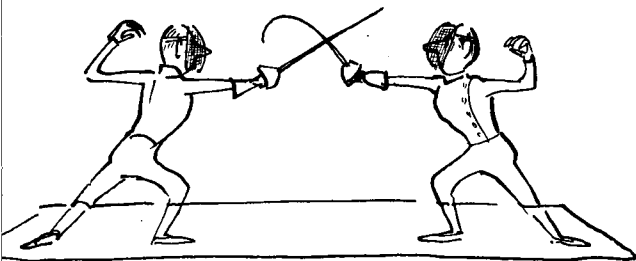
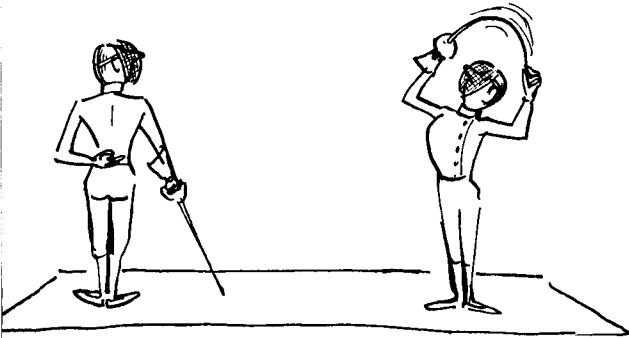
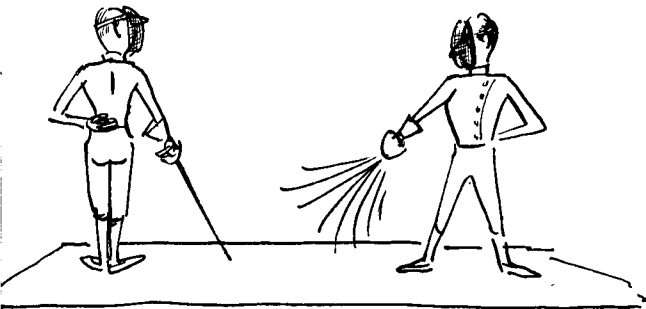
Cobean's style has become an integral part of the cartoon world, not soon to be discarded. In the last book of Cobean cartoons, Charles Addams, fellow-cartoonist and close friend of Cobean, commemorated his friend in the introduction by saying that Cobean will be remembered as "one of the great comic artists of all time."

Some of Cobean's Best,  
Published and Unpublished,  
Appear on the Following Pages

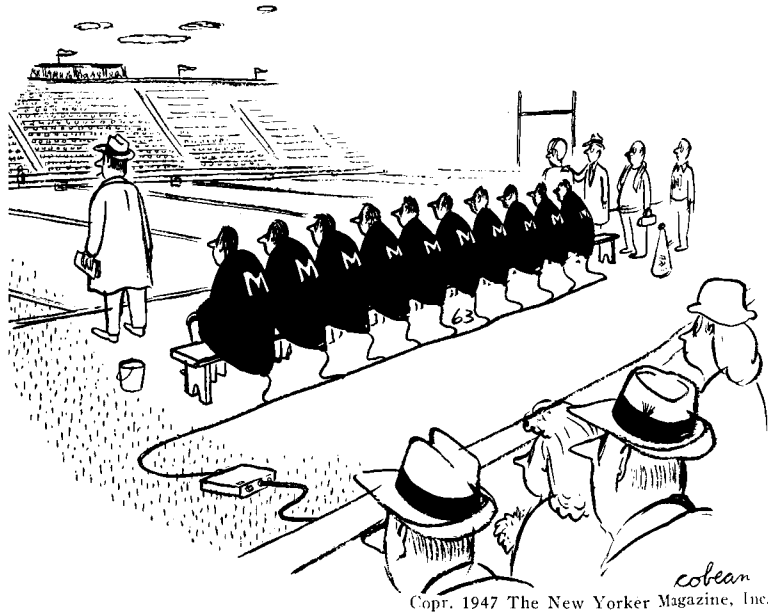
A LEGACY OF LAUGHTER

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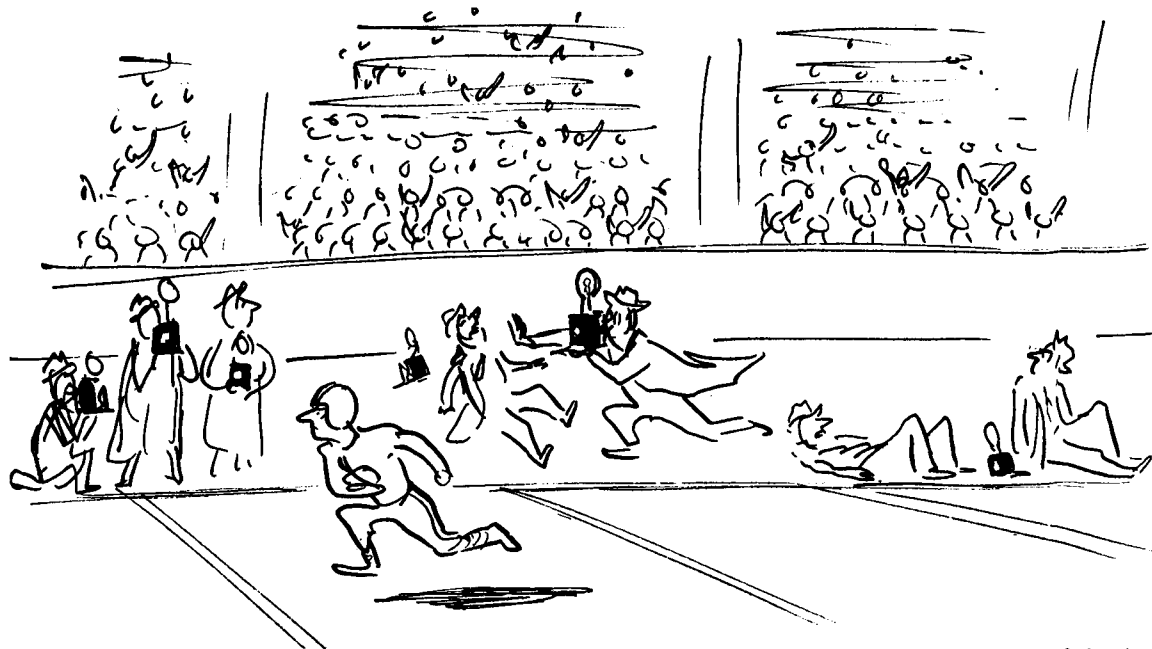
*sam cobean's published cartoons  
have become modern classics in  
the field of magazine humor*



Copr. 1949 The New Yorker Magazine, Inc.



Cobean  
Copr. 1947 The New Yorker Magazine, Inc.

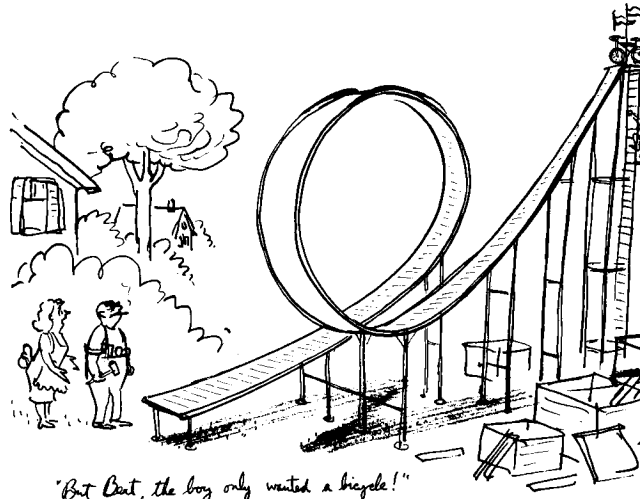


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"SO YOU SPENT THE AFTERNOON WITH ALICE, EH?  
NICE BRAND OF CIGARS ALICE SMOKES!"

*but the unpublished part of the  
cuban collection possesses the  
same unique charm and chuckles*



"But Bert, the boy only wanted a bicycle!"



"They're always a little stiff at first, I suppose?"