

LITERARY ATTEMPTS

How to Sleep in the Class

By NAPOLEON T. VERGARA

So you want to sleep in your class? Well, here are some dope, free, from an experienced sleeper. If you're a new hand at this trade, brother, you better read this because you'll need it.

I never slept in my classes before, but it all started the day after a big dance. Having lost sleep the previous night, I unknowingly dozed off right under the nose of my professor. My eyes must have liked the idea, because that moment marked the beginning of my bad habit of sleeping in class. "Break a habit while it is young," they say. I tried to, but it broke me instead, so I became a habitual class-sleeper. You can therefore rightly conclude that I'm talking from experience.

Class-sleeping is a risky, costly and embarrassing experience. Risky, because some professors simply don't feel happy to see you sleeping while they are trying to talk their heads off, so if they catch you at it, you're a goner. You either receive a barrage of razor-sharp, superlative-degree words or a piercing look that would bring you nightmares in your sleep. Costly, because you are missing a lot of your lecture. Let's say the professor talks at the rate of sixty words per minute. In an hour you'll be missing three thousand six hundred words. Or let's say you're good at boiling down wordy lectures into half. Still, your sleep costs you one thousand eight hundred words missed per hour. And if your professor happens to be the bookish type who wants his test questions to be answered word for word as he gave in his lecture, to hell you go. The lecture you miss spells the difference between a red and a blue mark in the final reckoning. Embarrassing, because you become the object of ridicule in your class.

Worthwhile

By ALFREDO A. EUGENIO, '56

*Not what you get,
But what you give,
Not what you say
But how you live;
Giving the world
The love it needs
Living a life
Of noble deeds.*

*Not whence you came
But whither bound,
Not what you have
But whether found,
Strong for the right—
The good—the true.
These are the things
WORTHWHILE to you.*

Usually, you go to sleep in class when you think nobody is looking. As soon as you start, however, your sleep comes deeper than you think, and before long, you are oblivious of everything around you. When already asleep, you either have your mouth open with your tongue showing and saliva oozing out or you rock and nod back and forth like a pendulum. In either case, you look funny, and I'll be darned if you still escape notice by then. The whole class will be laughing at you, and if your professor has some sense of humor or if he is in the mood for fun, he may even stop the lecture to let your classmates poke fun at you. You suddenly wake up to find everybody laughing and staring at you, and by then, you'll know how a goldfish in a bowl feels. Or, granted that nobody notices you, your rocking back and forth soon gains acceleration so that you'll fall too far forward. If your forehead doesn't hit something, you are lucky, but more likely, you'll wake up to

find a bump on it.

In order to be able to sleep in class and get away with it, therefore, here are some pointers:

So that you wouldn't get your professor's goat, pretend that you are awake while you are sleeping. There are several ways of doing this, but we'll see only the practical ones: Rest your head on the backrest of the seat in front of you and go to sleep, but don't forget to keep your pen in motion, as if you're writing. Your professor will think that you have a headache, but you're attending his class nevertheless, because you are interested in his subject, so he will feel flattered and he'll excuse you. Or, if you could hold yourself firmly at sitting position without showing any sign that you are asleep, provide yourself with dark-colored eyeglasses so that your eyes could not be seen and go to sleep. Your seemingly attentive position will fool your professor. He will be led to believe that you're absorbing every word that he is saying, and the chances are that he won't shoot you any questions. You see, the professor stops the lecture once in a while and asks questions to find out whether or not you are listening to him, but if he sees that you are attentive all the while, he would feel foolish to ask you questions yet.

Here are some precautions, however. Be sure not to overdo your acting. It requires some practice to be able to keep your pen in motion while sleeping. But if you overpractice, you might overdo by moving your pen even when the lecturer has paused, so that he might get wise to your antics. Don't use a trick twice consecutively, otherwise your mentor sees through it. He would not believe that you have a headache everytime you are in his class.

If after trying all of these for size, still you don't succeed in sleeping undetected, then quit. You don't measure up to a class-sleeper's standard. The only thing left to do is to sleep like a log at night and stay awake in your class.

Tribute to Mother

*Asleep in silence and unseen as a breeze,
She flies to heaven; her heart of gold
And soul so pure, her passport to the Lord.
Her unstained and virtuous life unfold,
That all's well done, worthy of praise.*

*Our Mother gone! Her loving care we'll
miss—*

*We fell as trees struck by blows
Of heartless storms and lightning bolts;
But all is not lost, as every dawn
Come Mother's heavenly love and caress.*

*Still now, oh Mother dear, to you
We offer gifts precious as gold can be.
Like flowers dancing in the breeze and free,
Like sweet ilangilangs fresh with dew
Our love for you dear, shall remain aglow.*

—Francisco N. Tamolang

In Hours Dark

*We all have hours that are dark
When everything goes wrong,
And there is only sadness in
The singing of a song.
We can not reach the helping hand,
Or see the sunny smile,
And we begin to wonder if
This life is worth the while.
Our ship is weaker than the storm
We can not hold our sail,
And so the lonely voyage of
Our life is sure to fail.
But there has always been an end
To every storm and rain.
And as we keep our courage up,
Our soul is bound to gain.
So, let us put our trust in God
With faith and hope and prayer,
And He will bless and lift us from
The depth of our despair.*

F. V. D.