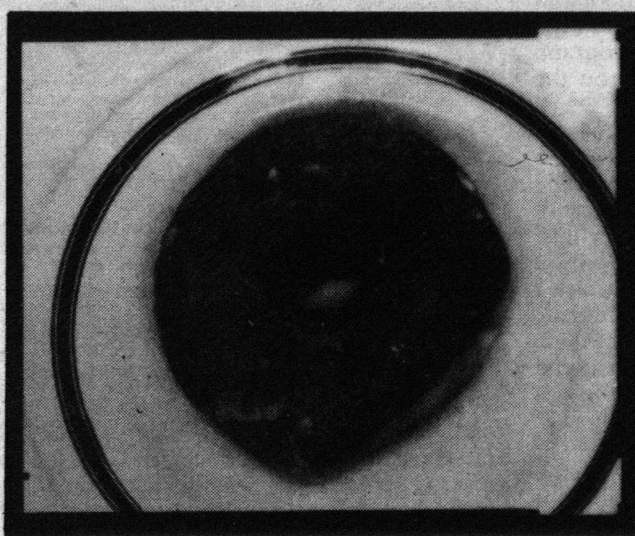
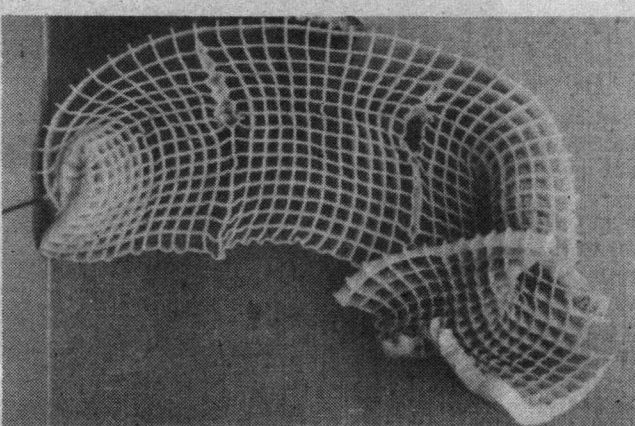


# ARTS

## Spot the fraud survey!



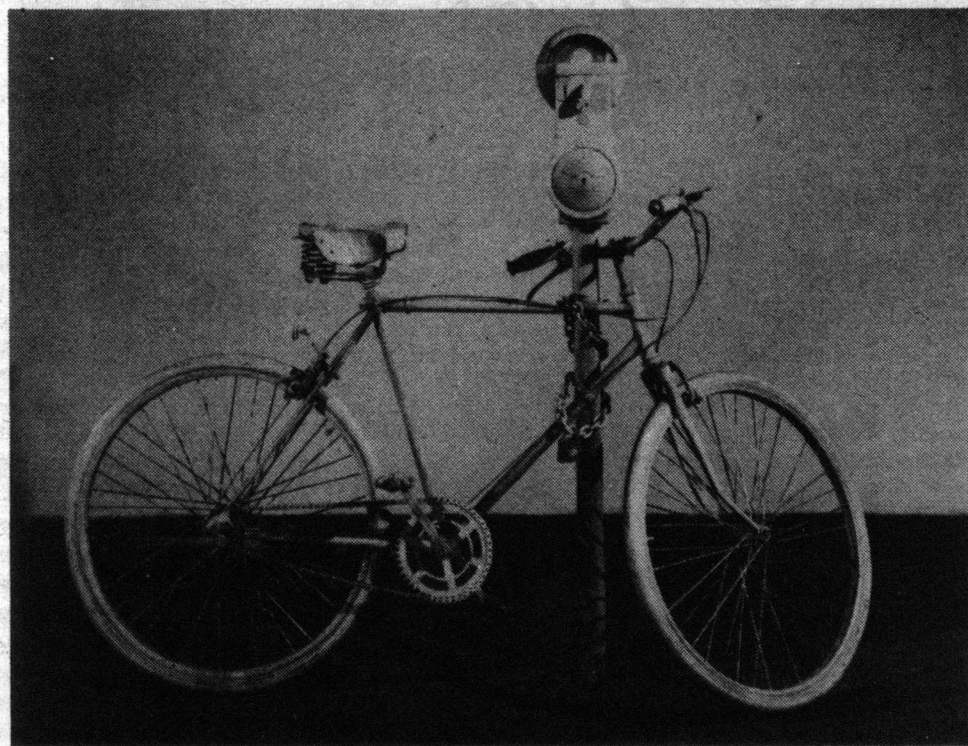
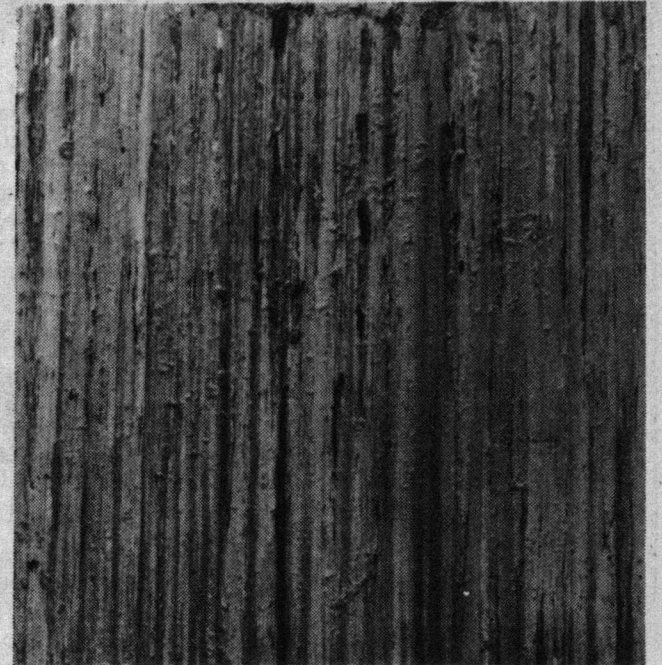
**BALLOT**

Yes, I know that five of these pictures are genuine works of art, and one is a phony contrivance made by the Arts Editor. The fake is a) b) c) d) e) f).

I am a student in the ..... Faculty  
 I am not a student. I am a .....

Bring this ballot to Room 282 SU building.

Can you see which one of these pictures is not a work of art?



### ARTS QUIZ

Today, children, a history quiz: determine which of the two following descriptions of Catherine the Great's ascension to the Russian throne is taken from the forthright and unflinchingly detailed high-school text *Our European Heritage*, by Lawrence, Mix and Wilkie; and which is taken from Will Cuppy's superficial history book, *The Decline and Fall of Practically Everybody*.

a. Peter III (r. 1762), (Empress) Elizabeth's nephew, ruled for only a few months before his German wife Catherine (r. 1762-96) deposed him and ruled in the manner of Peter the Great.

b. When she arrived in Russia, Figchen threw away her old clothes and dressed in splendid silks, furs, and jewels given to her by the Empress Elizabeth.<sup>1</sup> Figchen's name was changed to Catherine Alexeievna, and the next year she married (Grand Duke) Peter at the grandest wedding ever seen. She wore a diamond crown and a dress of gold and silver, and it was too marvelous, except that she didn't care much for the bridegroom. There's always something.<sup>2</sup>

By 1762 Catherine had been in Russia eighteen years and was getting into a rut. But look what happened. The Empress Elizabeth died of her cherry brandy, and Peter succeeded her as Peter III. Six months later Catherine dethroned and imprisoned him and had herself proclaimed Empress with the aid of Gregory Orlov and his brothers.<sup>3</sup> In the excitement the Russians forgot that she was a total outsider with no rights to the crown, so there they were with a German lady ruling them, somewhat to their surprise.

As Catherine learned that same night, Russia makes strange bedfellows. Peter got into bed with his boots on played with his collection of dolls for an hour or so, and told the Grand Duchess about his new mistresses.<sup>4</sup> Then he rolled over and snored.<sup>4</sup> This routine went on for nine years, until Peter took to his own bed — he hadn't thought of it before, I suppose. Some years later, when he was found dead, with symptoms of murder, Catherine was thought to be partly responsible. Why, the very idea!<sup>5</sup>

It was pretty sad about Peter. A few days after his arrest he died suddenly at Ropsha while Alexis Orlov and some other friends of the Empress were with him. Catherine announced that he died of hemorrhoidal colic, and people who went to the funeral wondered why, in that case, the large bandage was tied around his neck. And that, gentle reader, is what comes of playing with dolls at the wrong time. At first glance the pastime may seem as safe as the next one. It just doesn't work out in actual practice.

Meanwhile, there were no children around the house, and Russia needed more heirs to the throne. Peter kept right on playing with dolls, but in 1754 Catherine had a baby boy who looked a lot like Sergei Saltykov, a young man with whom Catherine often discussed current events. Some historians think Peter may have been the father because the child grew up to resemble him in character and general uselessness. They were both fools, but what does that prove?<sup>6</sup>

1. Elizabeth had stolen the throne from the Baby Tsar Ivan in 1741. She liked drinking cherry brandy, having the soles of her feet rubbed, and - uh - chatting with a certain Razumovsky.

2. Peter was the grandson of Peter the Great. Elizabeth made him heir because she was so hard up for an heir that she would take almost anybody.

3. He had no mistresses really, but he thought he had. It was all in his head.

4. Peter was not technically an idiot, but he had a touch of it.

5. Speaking of murder, Peter played the violin - "pretty well," we are told. Now are you convinced?

6. This child was afterwards known as the Mad Tsar Paul. He was murdered by some other mad people and was succeeded by the Mad Tsar Alexander.

7. "God knows where she gets them" exclaimed Peter at a State banquet.

8. Peter had planned to divorce her, shut her up in a nunnery, and marry Elizabeth Vorontzov. That was one of the things you couldn't do to Catherine.

Then Saltykov moved away and Catherine got interested in Poland, or rather in Count Stanislaus Poniatowski. Her next baby was called Anna. Her others were a son called Bobrinsky and a couple of little girls born after she had met Gregory Orlov, a handsome giant of the Guards. I don't know whether she had any others or not, and I consider it none of my business. "One goes farther than one would wish," says Catherine in her *Memoirs*. Besides, she was afraid of the dark.

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