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"Our MacDonald Had a Dream"

Western Michigan University

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"Our MacDonald Had a Dream"

CHARACTERS IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

1. C.B. MacDonald - Zack York
   6. Dorothea Snyder - Alice Gernant
   2. Leah Smith - Bernice Cleveland
   7. Lewis Crawford - John Pruis
   3. Eunice Kraft - Hazel Saye
   8. Homer Dunham - Milt Greenberg
   4. Lloyd Jesson - Bob Limpus
   9. Helen Master - Eleanor York
   5. Grace Gish - Leona Hefner
   Director - Dorothy Kester

The action takes place in Mac's office. The retirees are waiting in the waiting room to ask for money for their pet projects.

Mac is taking a nap. All sing.

"Our MacDonald had a DREAM
Ei Ei Oh
And in that dream they asked for FUNDS
Ei Ei Oh
With a little money here and a little money there
And here a million, there a billion, everywhere a trillion zillion
Our MacDonald had a DREAM
Ei Ei Oh."

Leah comes in and drops her book on the typing table and wakes Mac up.

MAC - Leah Smith, what are you doing in my office?

Leah - I'm retired and demoted, Mr. MacDonald, from the top level to the lowest.

MAC - I wouldn't call it that. I'd put it this way -- you've left the clouds and are now securely anchored on the ground floor.

Leah - Anyway, I'm here and ready to start work. Did you know that you have a lot of people already waiting to see you?

MAC - Really. They probably all want money. Who's the first Moses to strike the rock of public credit? Send him in.

Leah ushers EUNICE KRAFT in who steps in confidently and raises arm skyward.

Eunice - Ave, Macus, veteris puer. Ego Pecuniam volo!

MAC - Oh, hello Eunice. So it's you. Just repeat that sentence will you?

Eunice - I said, Ego pecuniam volo.

MAC - I know you mean to tell me you want some money. Actually your Latin idiom is way off. In that context you don't say volo, you say desidero.

Eunice - O.K., Macus desidero. (To audience) Everybody knows that a comptroller is always right.

MAC - What do you need money for, Eunice?
Eunice - For our Roman Banquet

MAC - For what?

Eunice - For our Roman banquet. We have it every year. You can't serve a banquet for nothing you know.

MAC - Eunice, how many times do I have to tell you? Local funds can not be used for food.

Eunice - Not even for Latin food? Listen Mac, this food has to be highly cultural; actually it's food for the SOUL.

MAC - Well, tell me. What is this cultural food?

Eunice - Everything from soup to nuts.

MAC - No, not who it's for, Eunice, just what is it?

Eunice - Well, we start with jus.

MAC - I know--Soup--go on.

Eunice - Then we have acetaria.

MAC - Of course--Salad. I get it what's next?

Eunice - Porcillus cum malo.

MAC - AH, yes, a pig with an apple in his mouth. Eunice, this sounds just fine. I think we can help you.

Eunice - Wonderful Mac. Shall I have Luyendyke's Meat market send the bill direct to you?

MAC - Luyendyke's No--you take care of the meat. But you sit right down here and write out a requisition for an apple. Help her will you please Miss Smith.

LLOYD JESSON

MAC - NEXT NEXT - Who's sulking out here? Come in man. I'M not a monster; I'M just the comptroller here.

Lloyd - (scared) - Is there .... a ..... difference?

MAC - (walks over to Lloyd and blasts him) NO!

Lloyd - (crouches behind a chair) All I want is a little money.

MAC - (returning to desk) All he wants is a little money. Money--money--money. Come over here--COME! What's your name?

Lloyd - It's Lloyd--L L O Y D.

MAC - We'll get along without the first L. How long have you been here?
Lloyd - 42 years.

MAC - Boy, the typewriter ribbon that's gone into that extra L. Get the L outta there.

Lloyd - How long have you been here?

MAC - Uh? 39 years.

Lloyd - (grows in confidence) Hm. I just said hm. Can't I say Hm if I want to? After all, I'm just the president's secretary. I've just been secretary to all three presidents, that's all. I have a little file up stairs in the office; it's just a little file. And in the second drawer of the third stack are filed the M's. I believe we have a file on You, MacDonald. I'm fairly close-mouthed about it all. I never let out any secrets from those files--no indeed, not about my friends.

MAC - Did---did---did you say you wanted just a little money?

Lloyd - Just a small million to build our emeritus bridge club house. We don't need a very large building. Stop shaking MacDonald. I never breathe a word about my friends.

MAC - Are---are you sure a small million is enough? Just a measly small million? After all, what's that between friends. And I'll tell you, Lloyd, we'll just put three L's at the beginning of your name. Would you like that, Lloyd? Would you like that, Lloyd?

Lloyd - (pauses and leans on the desk than blasts) NO

MAC - (puts his head down on the desk while he holds up a hand full of greenbacks.)

Lloyd - (grabs the money counting it on the way out)

GRACE GISH AND DOROTHEA SNYDER

MAC - Well, who's the next "unusually deserving case", Leah? I'll bet someone wants $50,000 to investigate the varities of nightingales in South Vietnam. Just for a change, I wish someone was interested in a plain, old-fashioned project like Technical Education in Nigeria, or Audio-Visual Aids to Learning.

Leah - Oh, you're going to like this one. Dorothea Sage Snyder and Grace Gish are outside. And they want only $337 for an Audio-Visual project.

MAC - Only $337? Why that's like the old country. Show them in before they raise the price.

MAC - What's the project girls?

Grace Gish and Dorothea Snyder speak in unison - Singing Kodachromes, Mr. Mac! We proprose to join pictures to songs, to strengthen the image and double the impact. And it costs only $337. We have some samples to show you.
MAC - Good! Economy and foresight! Let's see them.

Grace Gish and Dorothea Snyder together: Carl Snow may we have the magic lantern now please with the first picture.

(Picture #1-Giraffe) Grace Gish - This we call...
"Brown and Gold we sing to thee
And in our hearts your standards hold."
Dorothea will sing it for you....

(Picture #2-Zebra) Grace Gish - This we call ... Sing it for the man, Dorothea.
(Prisoner's Song)
Dorothea sings - "O if I had the wings of an angel
From these prison walls I would fly."

(Picture #3-Hippopotamus) Grace Gish - We call this .... Once more Dorothea.
(Tune: London Derriere)
"Would God I were a tender apple blossom
That floats on high in springtime o'wer the vale."

(Picture #4-Lion) Grace Gish - This is ... Dorothea will sing it for you.
(My Fair Lady)
"I could have danced all night
I could have danced all night
And still have begged for more."

(Picture #5-Owl) Grace Gish - And the last one .... Once more Dorothea.
(That Old Feeling)
"I saw you last night and got That Owl Feeling
When you came in sight I got That Owl Feeling."

MAC - Girls, you've really got something there. This has unlimited possibilities. Leah, please write them out a check.

Grace Gish and Dorothea Snyder together - Thank you Mr. MacDonald. You're a true friend of Progressive Education. Goodbye.

LEWIS CRAWFORD

Leah - Mr. Lewis Crawford, the Dean of the Chapel, to see you Sir.

MAC - Hi Lewis.

Lewis - Hello Mac.

Mac - Say, Lewis, what's your secret in bowling? It seems strange to me for the Dean of the Chapel to be the champion bowler too. Is there a hidden relationship?

Lewis - Well, yes there is, and since my answer is to one who returns no more, I'll tell you without fear. I roll with double strength...
because I see at the end of the alley, not simple maple pins, but Satan in the fore supported by Mammon and Beelzebub and behind them the seven deadly sins. It's the spirit that strikes. (Rolls imaginary ball toward audience)

MAC - Well, what do you know! That's really interesting. What's on your mind otherwise, Lewis?

Lewis - Yes, what I wanted to see you about is a little home missionary work among the faculty. Like you, I'm retiring this year, but I want to be sure that there's someone carrying on. I'm worried about some back-sliding in my own department—fellows like Lawson and Rice. And then there are some AAUP free-thinkers around here too. So, since this has been a good year on my onion farm at Grant (imagine onions retailing at 25¢ apiece). I'd like your office to administer a little fund for the theological strengthening of the staff. No string attached except that there's to be no proselyting for Presbyterians; we've enough of them already.

MAC - My gosh, Lewis. I may have need for your clerical services right now. We're not used to having people give us money. Yes, I'm sure something can be worked out for your purpose. Thank YOU.

(Lewis exits)

MAC - Miss Smith, take a memo. We ought to be planting some of those onions on campus instead of all that shrubbery.

HOMER DUNHAM

Homer Dunham rushes in.

Homer - HEY, Mac, we just got a bid to the Weevil Bowl for next year. What do you think?

MAC - Golly, Curly, that sounds great, but we'll have to take it up with the board. Thank heavens, this isn't Ohio State with its faculty-ridden control. At least we have a chance here.

Homer - Oh, Yes, our board will come through. I was more concerned about your reaction to the Weevil Bowl. I wasn't sure how you would cotton to it.

(Homer laughs and Mac groans)

Homer - Another thing, Mac. Did my check from the Chicago Tribune come to your office? I've got quite a piece of change coming from them. You know they've been taking a lot of my stuff lately.

MAC - Yes, I heard that you had let the Tribune know that your sister, Sophy Moore, is a leader among our local Republicans ......

By the way, Homer, I hear that you had quite a little donnybrook down at Western Kentucky.
Homer - Yes, you know those guys down there have a drink or two on holidays.
   One of them was pretty cocky, and I had to take him down a peg or so.

MAC - Well, what did you do?

Homer - Oh, I just let him know he couldn't get away with anything. I
   took off my glasses and assumed a pugilistic stance. That's all it took.

MAC - But how big was he?

Homer - Oh, six one or two, 220 pounds or so.

MAC - And you were all alone?

Homer - Well, Mike Gary was right beside me, but he didn't say a word.

MAC - Now I understand. Well, we'll have a board meeting right away about
   the Weevil Bowl.

Homer - Good! I'm glad you cotton to it. (laughs) (exits)

HELEN MASTER

Leah - Well, we're down to the last one, Helen Master. She wants something
   for Children's Literature.

MAC - O.K. Probably she wants a hundred or so. Show her in.

Helen - Good Morning, Mr. MacDonald. Do you have a hundred thousand dollars
   you are not using?

MAC - A hundred thousand dollars, why that would get us that best football
   team in the middle west. How could you use it for children's
   literature?

Helen - (always sweetly) Very easily, Mr. Mac, very easily. For years
   and years I have thought our Mother Goose Rhymes were no longer
   in step with current trends. Why should the dear little creatures
   learn about bramble bushes, four-and-twenty blackbirds and all
   that when they must soon face international education, budgets,

MAC - Don't ask me -- that's not my line. But what do you propose to do?
   Can you give me some samples?

Helen - That is precisely why I'm here. Let us first consider Webster's
   Third Unabridged. Just listen to this:
There was a girl in our town
And she was wonderous wise
She went all out for Webster's Third
And praised it to the skies
And then to bring the gospel home
To every little critter
She organized a course for kids
And called it Kiddy Litter.

Isn't that current?

MAC - Current? Shocking, I call it. Shocking.

Helen - Now get his one about the broadening effect of international exchange of scholars. This is particularly apropos.

Taffy was a Welshman, Taffy was a scholar
Taffy came to Western with hardly half a dollar
I went to Taffy's town in trans-Atlantic greeting
But Welsh was very difficult—our program took a beating.

You will notice Mr. Mac that I have removed all reference to the larcenous nature of the Welshman, Taffy.

MAC - Yes indeed. Let us tear down the artificial barriers between nations.

Helen - Just one more, Mr. Mac. Just one more. This one introduces the little creatures to budget-making when their minds are still plastic. Listen:

Sing a song of sixpence
A budget full of sighs
Badly mangled items we don't recognize
When the school is open
And rooms begin to jam
It may be advisable
To take it on the lam.

Ain't it good, Mac? Ain't it just unbelievably excellent?

MAC - Not bad, but your grammar! You've been taking Webster's Third Unabridges too seriously. We'll cut you down to seventy-thousand. Leah, make out a check for seventy-thousand for Kiddy Litter.

Helen - Thank you, Mr. Mac. Thank you a lot.

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Mac - Phuw! Leah, add these on the adding machine. A hundred for Eunice, a small million for Lloyd, three thousand for Grace and Dorothea, twenty for Lewis, two dollars for Homer, seventy thousand for Helen's Kiddy Litter. What does that come to?

Leah - The total comes to two trillion, two million, two thousand, two hundred and twenty-two dollars.
MAC - Say, Leah, you're retiring too. What do you want?

Leah - Not a thing, Mr. Mac. Where I come from there is plenty of money.

MAC - You mean - THE MAN UPSTAIRS?

Leah - Yes, I think he can solve all your problems. Here's a blank check that might help you.

MAC - Pay To The Order Of Everybody--Anything Anybody Wants.
     Signed, Otto Yntema

   Hooray, We're all set, come on gang let's go.

Everyone sings:  "Our MacDonald had a DREAM
    Ei Ei Oh
    And in that dream they got their dough
    Ei Ei Oh
    With a little dollar here and a little dollar there
    And here a dollar, there a dollar, everywhere dollars
    Our MacDonald had a DREAM
    Ei Ei Oh."