April 1, 1928

The Gay Sub-Deb
By W. E. HILL

Eleanor is artistic, and till she comes out, which won’t be for a couple of years, is studying art. A girl has to keep occupied in some way. Here she is busy as a little bee, making a pen and ink copy of a drawing.

Billie, the little loud speaker, is one of those nerve wracked sub-debs with plenty of money and practically no inhibitions. When cross at her parents, she goes into the sweetest hysterics you ever listened in on, and gets her way every time. Just now Billie is having a tantrum—a loud, destructive one.

Mary, the highbrow sub-deb, worries the life out of her parents—Mary’s idea of snappy repartee being “what do you think of Proüst and Keystoning?” This will get Mary about minus ten on flaming youth with the college boys at the Yale-Harvard game.

Alma is still a simple school girl, but if they upset her again she’ll probably stay home and be a sub-deb for a year or so. Alma matured early, and at the age of 10 knew everything the average man of 40 knows about life. Twice now Alma has been asked to leave school. Once for arsine and general delinquency, and once again for upsetting the teachers’ morals.

Winifred is a very romantic sub-deb and has been Prime Charmer at one time or another in every male under 60 on her father’s staff, including three chauffeurs in quick succession, though it nearly broke her parental hearts to part with them. She has had so many in three crushes at once on her school teachers, and just now is practically going into a decline over the pictures of John Gilbert in the movie magazines. Mama is hoping to switch her to a few hand-picked college youths before her bow to society.

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Dorothy is one of those unfortunate sub-debs whose families will insist on shielding them from the cruel, coarse world. Dorothy is not nearly as servings as you might suppose, because, being a resourceful girl, she manages to lead a double life and sneaks off now and then with a favored swain to a night club for a couple of dances. “What the old folks don’t know,” argues Dorothy, “won’t give them heart failure!”

Shirley is awfully tactless. She has just been very, very rude to an advertising man, which is a terrible thing for a sub-deb to do.
The advertising man is the boy who gets up the cold cream ad, embellished with a photo and testimonial of a popular debutante or a needy queen, and it may be years after her debut before Shirley gets any publicity. Won’t her dear mother be furious!

Eva’s papa and mamma are most exclusive and are giving her the benefit of a perfect 1860 upbringing. She goes to a select finishing school where the girls are forbidden to bob their hair and even the printed laundry lists are expurgated. Dear little Eva thinks petting is something you do to a dog or a kitty.

Just to prove once and for all that the good old days were not so hot, we offer this group of sub-debs. The ends are from the dim past when mother was a girl, the center duo is the 1920 model.

Francis is all for the outdoors and dearly loves to fly. She has beaten her way into more planes than you can shake a stick at. Sometimes they have to use brute force to get her out of them. Francis debuts next year, if her bones are intact.