



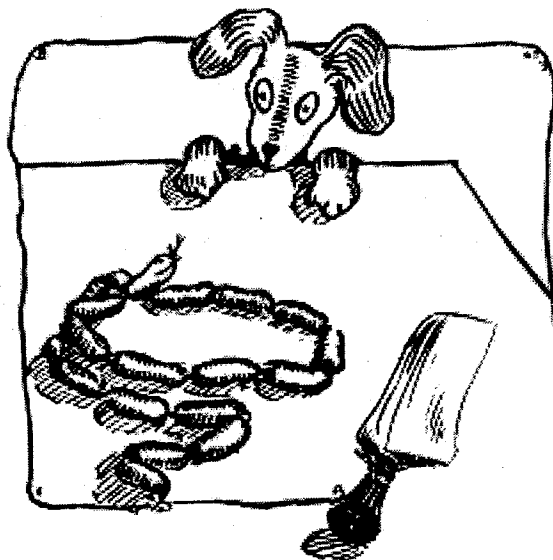
Weirde Olde Yale

As readers of this magazine are aware, the *Record* is filled with half-truths and nonsense, designed solely to amuse. Reality makes fleeting appearances, but is rudely shown the exit as soon as possible. This page, however, is different – its contents are 100% authentic, genuine nuggets of Yale (and *Yale Record*) history. Many of you will insist that we are trying to pull a fast one; this is only logical given our penchant for lying. But this is the real story, taken from the books, magazines and emails of actual people who do actual research. If you don't believe us, look at the writings of Barry Popik and Gerald Cohen (<http://www.jerry.net.com/ads/adsl.htm>) from the American Dialect Society. – *The Editors*.

A Dog's Life

A fixture of the American diet for decades, few people have heard a history of the hot dog, and if they have, it's probably wrong! Linguists say that the custom of calling sausages snuggled in a bun a "hot dog" originated at Yale in the 1890s, and was first printed in the pages of *The Yale Record*.

First, the myth. New York City, 1900 – a caterer named Harry Mozeley Stevens was selling ice cream and soda at the Polo Grounds. It was early April and still quite cold. Needless to say, no one was buying ice cream. On a whim, Stevens told his vendors to go the markets around the ballpark to buy all the dachshund sausages and rolls they could find. Stevens figured that if he kept the sausages in the rolls they would stay warm. To advertise this, he told his men to yell out "They're red hot. Get your dachshund sausages while they're red hot!" as his men went through the stands. Upstairs in the press box, Tad Dorgan, a famous cartoonist of the day was desperate for an idea. When he heard Stevens' vendors, Dorgan went to work



Kith or Kin?

at once and concocted a cartoon of two dachshunds in rolls barking at each other. Dorgan, never a confident speller, simply wrote "hot dog." This story is pleasant,

Continued on page 49



TO JOIN The Record is always looking for new staffers; you can contact us through our website (www.yale.edu/record), call any member of the staff or come to any meeting throughout the year. Look for us at the Freshperson Bazaar! **TO SUBSCRIBE** send \$25 to the Yale Record, P.O. Box 204732, New Haven CT 06520-4732. Subscriptions are tax-deductible and entitle you to all Record material issued during that academic year (magazines, table-tents, etc.) as well as discounts on T-shirts, posters and the like. **DONORS** Alumni or friends interested in donating time, expertise, or money to the Record can contact Michael Gerber DC '91 at (212) 691-4964. **CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES** All proceeds from the sales of this issue are being donated to Lifehaven, an organization that aids homeless women and children. For more information, please call Lifehaven directly at (203) 776-6208.



A Dog Wagon

Continued from page 50

easy to remember, fun, and, as any historian will tell you, that means it's probably false. First, Harry Stevens didn't invent the idea of a sausage in a roll. (He did however, earn a place in hot dog history by coming up with the idea of adding condiments). Second, the Dorgan story is complete fiction. The first Dorgan hot dog cartoon did not appear until Dec. 12, 1906, after the phrase had been in common use for over a decade.

So where did the name "hot dog" come from? In the 1800s, it was commonly thought, and not entirely without reason, that meat for sausages come from dogs. For example, a New York newspaper declared in 1836, "Sausages have fallen in price one half, in New York, since the dog doggers have commenced operations."

Recently, David Shulman, a consultant to the Oxford English Dictionary, had an idea that the term was actually traceable to college slang. More specifically to Yale, where the Yale Kennel Club opened in 1894. This was a night lunch wagon or, more colloquially, a "dog wagon." The name Kennel Club was clearly a pun on dog wagon.

Since "dog wagon" implies that sausages were referred to as dogs, and since the Kennel Club started in the fall of 1894, Yalies must have been using the term prior to that point. This is the earliest evidence of sausages being called "dogs" except for

a single reference in *Vogue* magazine several months earlier. The linguists say that it is highly likely that the *Vogue* writers first heard dog used to describe sausages by Yale students in the winter of 1894, if not before.

Enter the *Yale Record*, which has the best claim to the honor of adding "hot dog" to the English language. In the January 19, 1895 issue on page 73, the *Record* printed a joke referring to low-quality lunch-wagon meat:

Dr. Jones: Our friend, Dr. Smith, is making a snug fortune.

Dr. Brown: How?

Dr. Jones: He has rented an office directly opposite a night lunch wagon.

This was followed by the first reference to a sausage as a dog, in the October 5, 1895 issue:

ECHOES FROM THE LUNCH WAGON

"Tis dog's delight to bark and bite,"

Thus does the adage run.

But I delight to bite the dog

When placed inside a bun.

All that remained was for the *Record* to add "hot," which it did in the October 19 issue, in a tall tale about abducting the "dog wagon." The owner supposedly woke up in the relocated lunch wagon at chapel time "and did a rushing trade with the unfortunates who had missed their breakfast... They contentedly munched hot dogs during the whole service."

The word hot dog quickly spread to other colleges (and to other humor magazines) and ballparks in the next few years. By the early 1900s it had become the standard name for a sausage on a bun despite stiff competition from red hot (1896), frankfurter (1894) and wiener (1900).

At this point you may be asking why we went through the trouble to write an article about hot dogs. Well, we are not doing this for us, we are doing it for Barry Popik, word researcher/attorney who has spent many years on this project. Yet every summer, Mr. Popik hears about T.A. Dorgan and his incredible invention. Here's to setting the *Record* straight.



SAY, MISTER, WHERE'D YOU GET THAT DOG?
 "OH, HE COMES FROM A MIGHTY GOOD KENNEL."
 "THE KENNEL CLUB?"