



OLD MAULY'S ALMANACK For 1936

An astrological forecast of what is in store for Greyfriars, by Lord Mauleverer, the slacker of the Remove. We fear the effort of writing his predictions was too much for his lordship, and he had to take forty winks, thus leaving his great work incomplete.

THIS is an astrological forecast, chappies, but don't be put off because you don't know what that means—to tell you the shameful truth, I have only the foggiest ideas about it myself!

Such slight information as I do possess I picked up last vac. from an aged and somewhat frenzied aunt who actually believes you can tell what's going to happen by studying the jolly old stars!

I've spent several evenings recently, examining the heavens from the porch at Mauleverer Towers to find out what 1936 holds in store for us at Greyfriars. It has been fearfully fatiguing, and I hope you all appreciate it. Thanks, dear men—I knew you would!

Now let me set down all that I've found out.

Predictions

JANUARY. Jupiter crosses Saturn and the New Moon turns over on its back. This may convey nothing to you sportsmen, but to an astrological student like myself it conveys an awful lot. It conveys that the peace and quietude of the Christmas vac.



JANUARY.—The heart-rending return to the old school takes place.

will give place at the end of the month to a violent and devastating upheaval. In other words, my hearties—the heartrending return to the old school takes place. Oh, gad!

FEBRUARY.

Mars and Uranus do a jog-trot round Mercury and the Moon suddenly reverses. There will be staggering expenditures of energy on football, and Coker will be thrown down the Remove stairs at least forty times. What larks!

MARCH. Venus bumps Mercury in the rear and Saturn nose-dives into Pisces. This is a very evil portent and denotes a furious outbreak of cross-country running accompanied by much exhaustion. A young lord is likely to fall in love with a young lady assistant in a bun shop. Help!

APRIL. Mercury and Mars turn double somersaults, and the Moon heaves a brick at Neptune. These are ominous signs, dear men, and we may expect expenditure in materials of war to rise and shares in pea-shooter manufacturing concerns to show sensational gains. Saturn making a long nose at Uranus as it rises out of Aries obviously indicates that a



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APRIL.—An outbreak in dormitory warfare is highly probable.

dangerous situation will arise between Fourth and Remove, and an outbreak of dormitory warfare is highly probable. Ye gods! Think of the energy we shall have to expend, lads!

MAY. The Moon takes a zigzag course across the Milky Way and Jupiter starts doing hand-springs backwards. This indicates a violent earthquake in the Remove passage caused by a fat youth collapsing as a result of being attacked by a crowd of sportsmen whose rations he has purloined. And that reminds me of Bunter. I had a feeling when I started, begad, that I'd be reminded of something unpleasant before long!

Following on the earthquake, famine will reign in the Remove—and if Bunter has been around previously, I can quite believe it!

Midway through the month there will be a plague of impots. and floggings. What frightful things do come out of the Abysses of the Infinite, old sports, don't they?

(Don't blame me for "Abysses of the Infinite"—it's my frenzied aunt's pet phrase!)

JUNE. Jupiter and Uranus conjoin in Scorpio, the Sun turns green and Neptune jumps over the Moon. These are very unfavourable signs, meaning public robberies, thefts, pilage, earthquakes and famine. Evidently dear old Bunter will be on the war-path again. Ah, me!

Oceans of energy will be

expended on cricket, rowing, hiking and other fearfully exhausting pastimes, and lots of fellows will be rushing about, shouting and cheering and what not. From my point of view, the mere thought of it is sufficient to send a shiver down the good old spinal column. Ugh!

JULY. Halley's Comet hits the Greyfriars Clock Tower, a shower of meteorites falls over the tuck-shop, and the Man in the Moon pokes out his tongue at Highcliffe. Fearsome portents, these, my dear old horses, believe me! War will break out between Greyfriars and Highcliffe and the highways and byways will be littered with bits and pieces of the gallant warriors. Fearfully energetic youths will sock each other on the nose, the excitement will be terrific and opportunities for forty winks will be non-existent. Noise and tumult will be going on alarmingly, gory battles will be a daily occurrence, compulsory cricket practice will, of course, fill in all the time between scraps and—help, old scouts...

I believe I'm coming over faint—

(Lord Mauleverer was found lying beside his uncompleted manuscript in a state of semi-consciousness, brought on, obviously, by the thought of the hectic times ahead of him. Friends removed him to the sanatorium.

The doctors have prescribed a long rest!



MAY.—A violent earthquake in the Remove passage, caused by a fat youth collapsing, is indicated.



JULY.—War will break out between Greyfriars and Highcliffe.