

## Another Challenge to West U Sophistication!

Right next to Wonderland and just left of the magnificent city of Oz lies an amazing place called West U. The residents are considered special [mostly by themselves] as they are viewed as having it all – (1) the perfect location, (2) complete sophistication, (3) money and (4) brains. They are called West U. Sophisticates, or "WUS's" for short. If the following story is based on truth, there may be some doubt about an abundance of at least the fourth attribute.

One of the local youngsters reported home with a small dark lump on his head. After careful consideration, it was determined to be a tick, well attached and having lunch. Such a thing is quite unthinkable in West U. society, so it was imperative that the tick must go. A neighborhood conference was called to determine the proper course of action as the tick would not respond to verbal direction like: "Go away, you aren't wanted here." Something would have to be done immediately since it would be quite unsophisticated to own a child with a tick attached. Pulling it out would be too crude and disgusting. Unscrewing it using a twisting motion was beyond their level of sophistication, [and would require *touching* it] so alternate solutions were required.

Alcohol was suggested first. "Soak the tick and it will just back out" was the logic. Well, several minutes and half a bottle of the best brand of rubbing alcohol passed, yet the tick showed no sign of wanting to leave. Next, someone suggested gasoline as it was much more powerful than alcohol. The child's head was then soaked with gasoline. The results were no better and it really stunk up the place in the process. Finally someone suggested touching a lighted cigarette to the tick. Even though cigarettes are no longer fashionable among WUS's, one was nevertheless produced in short order.

When interviewed afterward about the condition of the child, the mother was heard to respond: "Everything is fine. The insurance company paid for everything except the smoke damage to the ceiling. We were going to change the color in there anyway. Somewhere in the excitement between the ambulance and the fire department, the tick apparently went away, so we clearly did the right thing."