

# NYU may make Poe's old home nevermore

NEW YORK (AP) — For four to eight months in the mid-1840s — just how long isn't clear — Edgar Allan Poe and his ailing wife lived in a four-story brick home in Greenwich Village, at the center of New York's thriving literary scene.

Basking in the acclaim that followed the publication of "The Raven" a short time earlier, the master of Gothic horror either did — or didn't — start a major new short story, produce important poems and soak up experiences that influenced his later work.

The details aren't just academic. In a neighborhood where real estate now commands the rapt interest literature once enjoyed, the West Third Street home is at the center of a dispute between Poe devotees and the

building's powerful landlord, New York University.

NYU, which dominates the area near Washington Square Park, uses the Poe building for law school offices and student workspace but is considering knocking it down.

Quoth the Poe devotees, "Nevermore!"

"This is the last tangible connection to Poe in Manhattan," said Jeffrey Savoye of the Edgar Allan Poe Society of Baltimore.

NYU contends the building has little literary significance.

No one disputes that Poe lived in the 85 W. Third St. home — then known as 85 Amity St. — in late 1845 and early 1846.

But university officials point out

that the master of the macabre moved several times a year for much of his life — sometimes just a few steps ahead of the rent collector — leaving communities up and down the East Coast boasting of "Poe houses."

Closer to Greenwich Village, Poe fans can trek to the Edgar Allan Poe Cottage in the Bronx or visit a cafe named for him at the site of one of his other homes, on the Upper West Side of Manhattan.

"He lived in nine places in Manhattan alone in the decade of 1837 to 1846," said Lynne Brown, an NYU spokeswoman.

"This happens to be one of them. The university's position is that the building itself is not of historic or architectural significance."

Moe Green built this town.  
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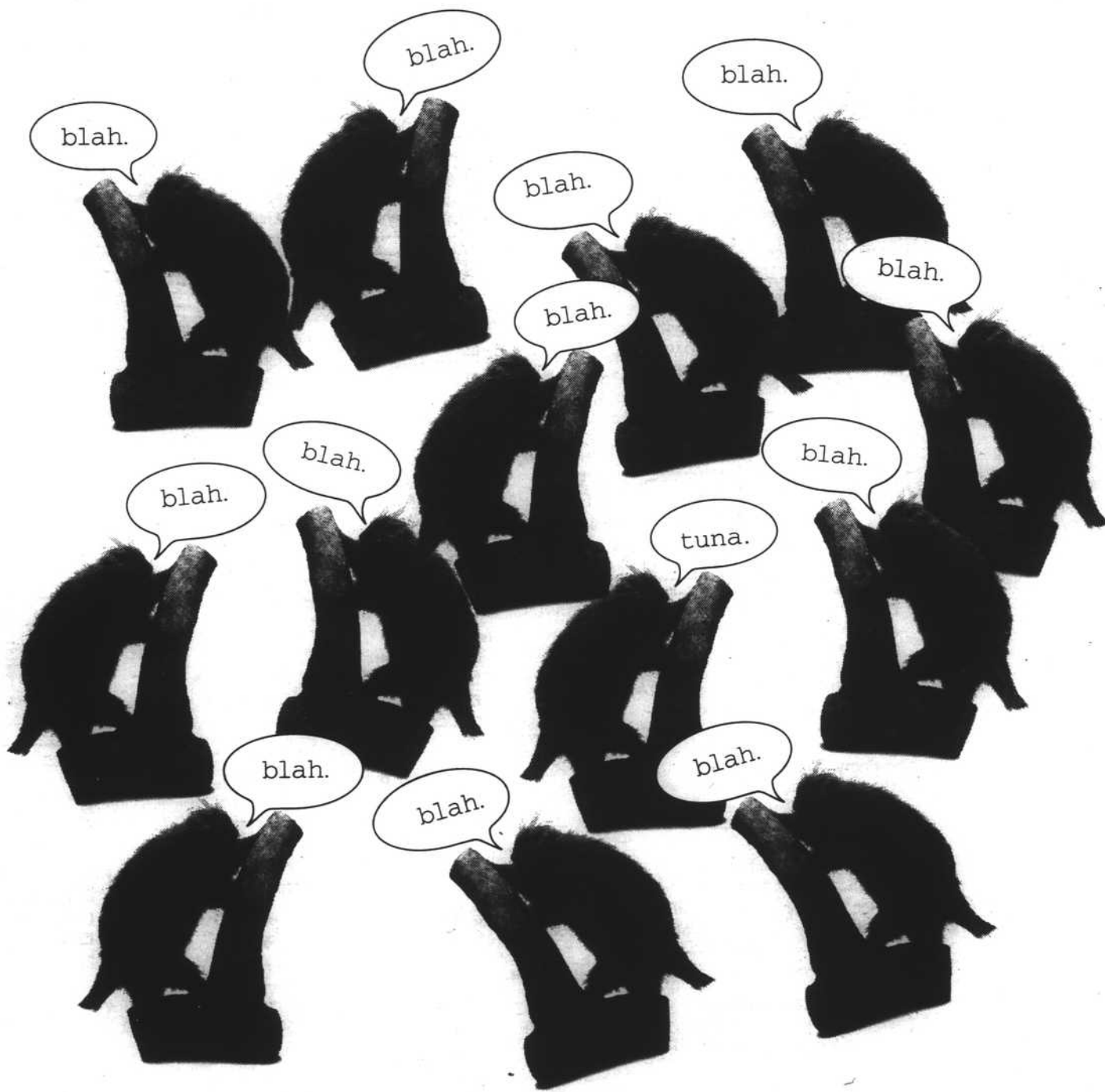
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