

THE CHILDREN'S GLOSSARY

In each issue we hope to publish a list of items of folk speech used by children in the course of their informal speech. Words should be defined according to their definition in use. Also, where possible, part of speech, age of users, location in which the words were heard and collected, and other background information available should be noted. Contributors should use the glossary form in the journal, *American Speech*. Hopefully, if this section of the newsletter proves to be a success, after several years we can consider a full compilation of all terms collected in a published glossary. Contributors should attempt not to contribute words or phrases used by both children and adults with similar meanings, although this distinction is never a clear one.

Pre-Adolescent Male Slang V

Gary Alan Fine
University of Minnesota

The following examples of folk speech are derived from participant observation research in five American communities during the period 1975-1977: (1) Beanville, an upper-middle class professional suburb of Boston, Massachusetts; (2) Hopewell, an exurban township outside the Providence, Rhode Island, metropolitan area, consisting of a string of small towns, beach-front land, farms and a campus of the state university; (3) Bolton Park, an upper-middle class professional suburb of St. Paul, Minnesota, similar to Beanville except for geographical areas; (4) Sanford Heights, a middle-to-lower-middle class suburb of Minneapolis, Minnesota, consisting of a large number of modern mass-produced homes, and (5) Maple Bluff, studied by Harold Pontif, an urban, upper-middle class, professional area of

St. Paul, Minnesota. Boys were between the ages of ten and twelve.

Terms included in the glossary were all part of the active vocabulary of male pre-adolescents during the years studied. However, it is probably true that several of these terms are also used by females and those of other ages. The most obvious examples of adult folk speech have been eliminated from this list.

Terms included herein are defined through their usage in context. Abbreviations employed in this report include: BV - Beanville (research conducted 1975-1976); HW - Hopewell (research conducted 1976); BP - Bolton Park (research conducted 1977); MB - Maple Bluff (research conducted 1977).

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|--------------------|--|-----------------------|---|
| 1. Nail | vt Hit (as in "nailing" a car by throwing an egg at it) HW,SH | 26. Plasm | n Awkward, uncoordinated boy (probably related to "spaz", "spastic") (SH) |
| 2. Nasty | adj Obscene, "dirty", "rude" (BP) | 27. Plug | n Tampon (SH) |
| 3. Neat | adj Excellent, good (BP,SH) | 28. P.O.ed | Angered, annoyed, pissed off (BV) |
| 4. Nickles | n.pl Breasts (usually preadolescent girl's breasts) (SH) | 29. Polish Cannon | Device made by taping several tennis ball cans together, drilling a hole in the side of the bottom can, placing a tennis ball in the cans, placing lighter fluid on the hole, attaching a string wick to it, and lighting the wick. The explosion causes the tennis ball to shoot out from the cans like a cannonball. (SH) |
| 5. Nifty | adj Excellent, good (BP) | 30. Polish Rope Trick | Prank involving two boys pretending to hold a rope or string across a street at dusk, hoping that cars will stop (SH) |
| 6. Nigger lipstick | Oil stain on clothing (SH; white usage) | 31. Poop | Excrement (SH) |
| 7. Nigger knocking | Prank, involving ringing doorbell and running before owner opens the door (also known as "Ring and Run" and "Ding Dong Ditch") (SH; white usage) | 32. Pork | 1. vi run slowly (SH) 2. n police (SH) |
| 8. No way | Absolutely not (MB) | 33. Potty can | Toilet (SH) |
| 9. Numbskull | n Stupid or foolish boy (HW) | 34. Prang | vt Engage in sexual intercourse, obscene (as in "prange me") (SH) |
| 10. Nut cup | Athletic supporter (SH) | 35. Prang Boy | Boy considered effeminate (SH) |
| 11. Nuts | Scrotum, "balls" (BV, HW, BP,SH) | 36. Prima-Donna | n Boy who is considered to be a show-off (MB) |
| 12. PPSH | General obscene interjection, apparently has no specific denotation (SH) | 37. Prissy Girl | Effeminate boy (HW) |
| 13. Palsy | adj Weak, incompetent (SH) | 38. Psych Out | Trick, deceive (MB) |
| 14. Pansy | n Effeminate boy (SH) | 39. Prostie | n Disliked or ugly girl (from "prostitute") (SH) |
| 15. Past-tense | adj Old, ancient (MB) | 40. Puff | n Effeminate boy; homosexual (HW) |
| 16. Peanut | n Small boy (BP) | 41. Pugie | n Boy who is considered excessively wild; boy who drinks or smokes (negative implication) (BP) |
| 17. Pecker | n Penis (BP,SH) | 42. Puss | n Disliked boy (possible effeminate implication "pussy") (BV, BP, SH) |
| 18. Pee | vi Urinate (HW,SH) | 43. Pusslick | n Disliked boy (possible effeminate implication; derivation from slang for cunnilingus) (BP,SH) |
| 19. Peewee | n Small boy (HW) | | |
| 20. Pencil prange | Placing a pencil up a boy's anus or girl's vagina (obscene usage) (SH) | | |
| 21. Pet | n Boy who is considered a "sissy", excessively obedient (as in teacher's pet) (SH) | | |
| 22. Piece of cake | Easy (BP) | | |
| 23. Pig | n 1. Ugly or disliked girl (BV) 2. Policeman (SH) | | |
| 24. Piss | vi Urinate (HW, BP) | | |
| 25. Pisser | adj Excellent, good (BV) | | |

- 44. Pussy Lip Disliked boy (effeminate implications) (SH)
- 45. Quake 1. **adj** Excellent, good (BP), 2. **vi** Engage in sexual intercourse, obscene (see "prang") (SH)
- 46. Queer **n** Homosexual, effeminate boy (used also as **adj**) (BV,HW,BP,SH)
- 47. Queero **n** Homosexual, effeminate boy (BV)
- 48. Quibby **n** Quarterback in football (from abbreviation "QB") (SH)
- 49. Raga **n** Large, awkward, uncoordinated boy (BV)
- 50. Rash **n** Disliked boy (as in "you rash") (BP)
- 51. Razz **vt** Insult, tease (SH)
- 52. Retarded **adj** Stupid, foolish (BP)
- 53. Retread **n** Stupid, foolish boy (possibly from retarded") (BP)
- 54. Ring and Run Prank, involving ringing doorbell and running before owner opens the door (also known as "Nigger Knocking" and "Ding Dong Ditch") (BP)
- 55. Rip off Steal (BV,HW,BP,SH)
- 56. Rip Roaring Flying Mountain Lion Ahem Flatus, "fart" (euphemism) (BV)
- 57. Roadmap Face Boy with acne (BP)
- 58. Rocky Mountains Breasts (usually preadolescent girl's breasts) (SH)
- 59. Roger Dodger Phrase signifying agreement between two boys; "OK" (BV)
- 60. Rot **adj** Bad, poor, "stink" ("This rots") (HW)
- 61. Rowdy **n** Wild, disobedient boy, one who drinks or smokes (used both positively and negatively) (BP,SH)
- 62. Royal Patoon Older boy who protects a younger boy from trouble (SH)
- 63. Rude Obscene, "dirty," "nasty" (BP)
- 64. Rumble **n** Fight (BV,HW)
- 65. Ruminant Remain Disliked or ugly individual (general insult term) (BP)
- 66. Sad **adj** Unsatisfactory, bad, poor (BV,BP,MB,SH)
- 67. Scabby **adj** Unsatisfactory, bad, poor (BP,SH)
- 68. Schmedley 1. **vt** Smoke ("Let's go schmedley") (MB), 2. **n** Weird or disliked boy (SH)
- 69. Schmuck **n** Incompetent or disliked boy (MB)
- 70. Scorch **vt** Beat, cheat, deceive (SH)
- 71. Screw off Idle, loaf ("goof off") (BP)
- 72. Screwy **adj** Crazy, weird, insane (BP,SH)
- 73. Scum **n** Disliked boy (general insult) (SH)
- 74. Scuzz **n** Lucky boy (also "scuzzy" as **adj**) (BP,SH)
- 75. Scuzzed-out **adj** Lucky, fortunate (SH)
- 76. Shit Fit Angry outburst (SH)
- 77. Shitting Bricks Scared, frightened (SH)
- 78. Shit Kicker Tough, aggressive boy (complimentary) (HW)
- 79. Shove It An insulting interjection, meaning "go away" ("shove it up your ass") (MB)
- 80. Shrimp Small boy (HW,SH)
- 81. Shut Your Face Shut up, be quiet (BP)
- 82. Sick **interj** Disgusting, gross (SH)
- 83. Siff **n**. Disliked boy (BP)
- 84. Sissy **n** Effeminate boy, boy who is considered too obedient (HW,MB)
- 85. Sit On It Shut up, be quiet (MB)

For reason of lack of space the following items were omitted from the Glossary in Volume III, Number 3 issue of this newsletter.

- 1. Log **n** Feces (BV)
- 2. Looper **n** Stupid or disliked boy (SH)
- 3. Lucked out Got lucky (BP)
- 4. M.O. Make out; sexual activity (generally kissing and petting) (BP)
- 5. Maggot **n** Disliked boy (seems related to "faggot") (BV)
- 6. Mar me Challenge from one boy to another (see "Head me") (SH)
- 7. Meat **n** Penis, male genitals (SH)
- 8. Meathead **n** Stupid boy (SH)
- 9. Mental **adj** Crazy, insane (sometimes with violent overtones) (BV,HW,BP,SH)
- 10. Mint **adj** Good, excellent (also "mint city") (BP)
- 11. Mo **n** Homosexual (see "Homo") (BP,SH)
- 12. Mole **n** Small boy (MB)
- 13. Monk **n** Ugly boy (short for "monkey") (HW)
- 14. Monkey Bump Bruise which comes from one boy holding another's arm and rapping it (a prank) (SH)
- 15. Mooning **n**. Pulling down trousers, while facing away from traffic (a prank) (BV,SH)
- 16. Moop **n** Stupid or disliked boy (also "mooper"; see "looper") (SH)
- 17. Moron **n** Stupid boy (MB,BP,SH)
- 18. Motormouth **n** Boy who talks constantly (BP,SH)
- 19. Muff-muff **n** Stupid or disliked boy (BP)
- 20. Mumbo-jumbo **n** Nonsense; meaningless talk (BP)
- 21. Munchkin **n** Small or young boy (affectionate) (SH)
- 22. Mutt **n** Disliked or ugly girl (BP,SH)

NOTES & QUERIES

■ While observing some children "playing house" recently, I noticed an interesting role reversal. The boy (husband/daddy) stayed home, while the girl (wife/mommy) went off to work. If anyone else has observed a similar situation among pre-school or early grade-school children, I would like to hear about it.

C. W. Sullivan III
English Department
East Carolina University
Greenville, NC 27834

■ I am completing a bibliography on adolescent folklore. Of anyone has some obscure reference or information about forthcoming/ in press articles and books, please send them to:

Sue Samuelson
614 S. 48th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19143

