# 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 I*

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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 Pontiff, an urban, upper-middle class, professional area of St. Paul, Minnesota. Players were males 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); SH - Sanford Heights (research conducted 1977); MB - Maple Bluff (research conducted 1977).

1. Ace — adj Excellent (BV)
2. Adoi — adj Stupid; e.g., "they have such adoi players." (BP, SH)
3. Ahoy — adj confused; in a "fog" (MB)
4. Angy — Thank you (SH)
5. Australian shit kicker — Tough boy (complimentary) (HW)
6. Asswipe — n Weak boy (SH)
7. Atomic Blast — Loud flatus (HW)
8. BF — vt Criticize or annoy. Abbreviation stands for "butt fuck", as in "don't BF me." (SH)
9. BJ — n Crewcut-type haircut (buzz, bowl job, butch) (SH)
10. Babber — n Baby; immature boy (MB)
11. Baby — n Immature boy (BV)
12. Bacon — n Police (derived from "Pig") (SH)
13. Bambi — n Girl who hangs out with boys; tom-boy. (HW)
14. Bazooka blast — Loud flatus (MB)
15. Belly slap — Prank involving boys stretching a companion and then slapping his naked stomach with their open palms (SH)
16. Bimbo — n Stupid person (HW)
17. Bite — vi (insult), with homosexual implications, as in "you bite". (BV, BP, SH) (used in expressions such as "bite my ass", "bite my bag") (BV, BP, SH)
18. Bitehead — n Expression used to refer to disliked boy (SH)
19. Blutchuck — vi Vomit (BP)
20. Board — n Girl with undeveloped breasts (SH)
21. Bogie — Exclamation of frustration, similar to "damn". (BV)
22. Boof out — Disgust, as in "boof me out" (SH)
23. Boob tube — Girl's tube-top in a two piece outfit (SH)
24. Boss — adj Excellent (BV)
25. Boog — vi Move fast, run (short for "boogie") (SH)
26. Booger — n Mucus (MB, HW, BP, SH)
27. Bowl cut — n Short haircut, especially one in which boy's hair is cut with the aid of bowl (cf. BJ, butch, buzz) (BP)
28. Bread-eater — n Catholic. Term used primarily by Jewish boys; presumably from Catholic ritual of communion (Derogatory) (MB)
29. Brower — n Effeminate boy (BP)
30. Buff — n Trouble (SH)
31. Buck — n Ride on a bicycle as the second rider (MB, SH, BP)
32. Bumpers — n Old sneakers (not stylish or manufactured by a "name" company) (BP, SH)
33. Buns — n Buttucks (MB, SH)
34. Burn — vt Insult, verbally cut (MB, SH)
35. Burn out — n Boy who smokes, drinks, or uses drugs (cf. Burnie) (BP, SH)
36. Burnie — n Boy who smokes, drinks, or uses drugs, (cf. Burn out) (BP)
37. Burden — n Naive boy; boy who doesn't know "what's what" (HW)
38. Butch — n Short Haircut (cf. bowl cut, BJ, buzz) (BP)
39. Butthole — n Disliked boy (from slang for anus) (SH)

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the children's FOLKLORE NEWSLETTER

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*(Pre-Adolescent Male Slang I - continued)*

40. Buzz — n Short haircut; crewcut (cf. BJ, bowl job, butch) (BP, SH)
41. Buzzboy — n Boy with a crewcut or short haircut (BP)
42. Buzz Conroy — Buzz haircut (variant term, from television series character) (SH)

# *International Society for Folk Narrative*

The Seventh Congress of the International Society for Folk Narrative Research met this summer, August 12-18, in Edinburgh, Scotland. Approximately one hundred and fifty papers were presented during the session and the evenings were taken up with films, story-telling performances, folk music, and overall socializing.

All areas of children's folklore are presently under the scrutiny of folklorists throughout the world, and there is special interest in adolescent urban legends and children's narratives. As one indication of this interest, 16 foreign scholars subscribed to the *Newsletter* at the meeting.

At the special session, "Storytelling by Children," the following papers were presented:

- "Some Uses of Tradition in the Stories of Young Children," John Niles, University of California at Berkeley
- "The Influence of Comic Books and Television on American Children's Narratives," Sylvia Grider, Texas A&M University
- "Danger and Control in Children's Storytelling," Elizabeth Tucker, SUNY at Binghamton
- "The Role of Children's Narrative Tradition in the Process of Enculturation," Reimund Kvideland, Etno-folkloristisk Institutt, Bergen, Norway

Other papers relating to children and adolescents were:

- "Children's Jokes," Rainer Wehse, Gottingen, Germany
- "Adolescent Legends in Europe and the United States," Sue Samuelson, UCLA
- "Urban Legend, Personal Experience Narrative, and Oral History: Literal and Social Truth in Performance," Georgina Smith, University of Sheffield, England
- "From Social Regulator to Art Form: Case Study of a Modern Urban Legend," Stewart Sanderson, University of Leeds, England
- "Modern Migratory Legends in Oral Tradition and Daily Papers," Bengt af Klintberg, Lidingo, Sweden

(Selected papers from the Congress will be published in a forthcoming special issue of the journal, *Studia Fennica.*

And a final note, the Eighth Congress will be held in 1984 in Bergen, Norway.

**Gary Fine**
**Sylvia Grider**
**Elizabeth Tucker**

# *Children's Area 1979 Festival of American Folklife*

**OCTOBER 1 - 8, 1979**

The Children's Area this year will present two traditions which represent intersections of children's culture with the culture of the school, May Day and Hallowe'en. These are events for which children prepare in eager anticipation both during and after school. May Day will be exemplified by traditions from the Lumbee Indian schools of Robeson Co., N.C. including May Pole wrapping and competitive games and races. Eighteen Lumbee children from three public schools, aided by retired Lumbee teachers, will demonstrate and teach May Day activities and traditional neighborhood games many of which derive from physical education programs.

Hallowe'en will be viewed through several traditions: Hallowe'en grave yard and harvest figure making from Pittsburgh, "A trick for a treat" from St. Louis, costume making, "Trick or treat", haunted house and children's scary stories from Falls Church, Va.. Workshops will be presented by Texas A & M prof., Sylvia Grider. Haunted house and children's stories have been researched by students of George Mason Junior and Senior High School of Falls Church. Ghost stories and superstitions will be shared with festival visitors by a variety of participants. In addition to Hallowe'en costumes children will be able to design and compare the costumes made for Carribean Carnival. These will be worn at the Carnival parade on Columbus Day.

Adding to the party atmosphere, Stu Jamieson, scholar of Southern old time dance and musical styles, will teach Appalachian running sets. There are circle dances which break into and out of square dance formations. Mr. Jamieson will be accompanied by an old time string band. Also on the Children's Area Stage, Bessie Jones and Douglas Quimby of St. Simon Island, Georgia, will teach games from Southern Afro-American tradition.

Representing neighborhood traditions from Washington, D.C. and suburban Maryland and Virginia, children will teach Vietnamese, Hispanic-American and Afro-American street games. The child inventors of a planetary fantasy world from Gaithersburg, Md. will explain how they carry out their fantasy play, and a children's folk art show will represent the artistry of area children.

Traditional folk dolls such as limberjacks, grass dolls, corn cob-and-shuck dolls, rag dolls and nut-faced dolls will be made in workshops with Bessie Jones, Edna Fey Young and Pemperton Cecil. When the children have fashioned their own limberjacks, Mr. Cecil and Ms. Grider will teach them how to make the limberjacks dance to their own singing.

Finally, the children's area will have a sand castle building area, a cumulative children's art exhibition drawn by festival visitors, and a hay fight ring for letting off steam. We are hoping to have Stanley Hicks, story-teller extraordinaire, from North Carolina to tell Jack Tales. He will not be able to confirm his participation in the festival until he has someone to care for his ailing mother.

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