

Guide...

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Midwest. I'm starting to pick up what people are saying when they're talking to their "mates" (friends) and, when people address me, I sometimes have to ask them to slow down so I can understand.

When somebody is drunk and they start talking fast, it's almost impossible to figure out what they're saying. You just learn to nod and laugh occasionally.

At the bar or "pub," a "shout" is what one does when one buys a round of drinks. When one downs a drink in one gulp, it's called a "skull." And when one gets sick and loses all the beer he has "skulled," it's said that he "chundered."

"Don't worry about it" is "no worries" down there. A typical greeting on campus like "Hi, how are ya doin'," would be "G'day, mate." "Drop dead" or "take a hike" is "bugger off." You can also be "buggered" if you're in trouble or upset. A guy is a "bloke" and a wild party or a wild time is a "rage."

Australians also have a tendency to change words around and add "ie" or a "y" to the end. Breakfast is "brekkie," an umbrella is a "brullie," television is "telly," Woolworth's discount store is "Woolies," and biscuits, which we would call cookies (their biscuits are called "scones"), are "bikkies."

A small beer is called a "midge," bikers from the western Sydney suburbs or from western New South Wales are "Westies," a can of beer is a "tinny," Kellogg's Sugar Frosted Flakes are "Frosties," vans are "combies," Australia's favorite candy, a mint-flavored ("flavoured" here) taffy, is called "Minties."

Some derisive terms include "choppers" for little kids, "pouftas" for homosexuals, "pommies" or "poms" for Britons, and "drongo" and "shagger," whose meanings are unclear.

"Bonza" means "good," as in "He's a bonza bloke." "Bastard" is a general term for a male. The word preceding bastard is most important; "he's a skinny bastard" or "an intelligent bastard" or "an amusing bastard." Only when it is used alone is bastard considered derogatory.

"Bloody" is used as an adjective for something that isn't liked, such as "bloody lecture" or "bloody rain" or "bloody assignment." "Bloody nose" means the same thing as it would back home, though.

The strangest phrase I have run across is "fair dinkum." It means truly or really or honestly. If one person says something another doubts, the doubter asks, "fair dinkum?" and he or she is answered with "fair dinkum." It's also used as an adjective: "That's fair dinkum Aussie" for something genuinely Australian.

There are more, I'm sure, but that's about all I've heard. The one non-fair dinkum thing in my last letter was the size of the wave that came in close to shore - it was only about five feet high, not 10. I'm still peeling, by the way, and that was from March 5! Bloody sunburn.

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Letters

Androgyny is questionable goal

In her column "Androgyny is movement goal" (Daily Nebraskan, March 15), Becky Stingley stated plainly the reasons why I oppose the feminist movement.

Feminists would be overjoyed if they could change men and women into a sterile society of humans. Apparently the columnist thinks they are approaching their goal ("... we are beginning to emphasize the male characteristics of women and the female characteristics of men..."). That, in a nutshell, is why I want nothing to do with the so-called women's movement.

Personally, I can't see what's wrong with being either male or female. Yet, in the feminist camp, there are males and females trying hard to make themselves into members of a third sex. Androgyny is not progress, but a perversion of God's plan for mankind, which is set forth in the Bible.

One does not have to be a feminist to believe in equal rights for women. Men and women are equal; I cannot agree with a theory that says they should become one and the same.

Tad Stryker
senior, journalism, history



American Heart Association

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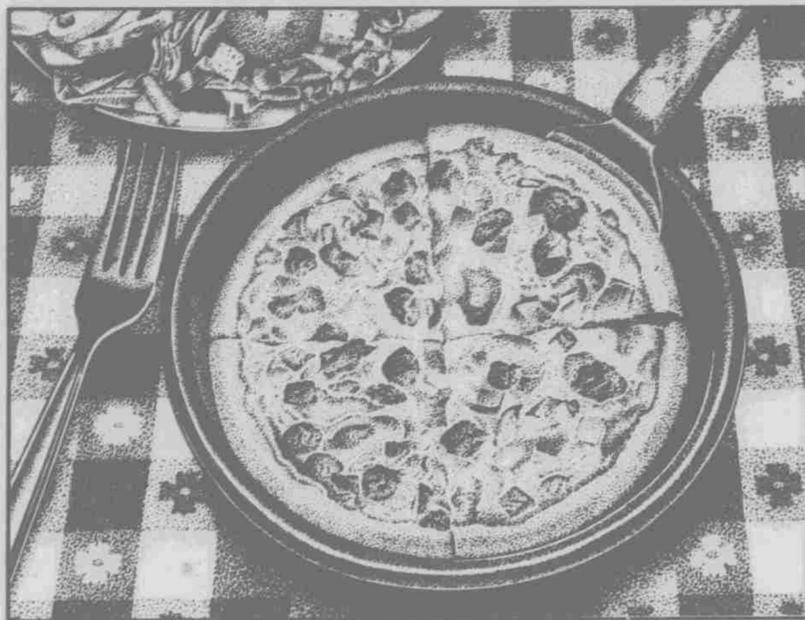


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