

focus

# LOOSELY SPEAKING:

## A Selection of the Dormitory Slang Used at Carleton College

A NEW EDITION

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Northfield





The following report is a compilation of words and phrases used at Carleton College, Northfield, Minnesota. The expressions appearing below were collected over a period of eighteen months, from December 1971 to May of 1973. Some of the entries were edited and revised from earlier Carleton lexicons. The final draft of the paper was done as an independent study in the history of the American language.

What is included is basically "an informal non-standard vocabulary composed of coinages, arbitrarily changed word meanings and extravagant figures of speech." The terms were chosen from the general Carleton word hoard and more specifically from the slang used at Carleton. However, at this type of residential college, it was difficult to find slang words uniquely indigenous to Carleton. While I have tried to choose expressions typical of Carleton, any time idiolects are fused phrases will be recognizable outside of their standard frame of usage. Thus some words may already be familiar to the reader.

I have tried to indicate parts of speech where I could. Many of the entries are, however, multitasking and can serve as noun, verb or adjective depending on the tone of voice and phrase construction.



# A

ace -- v. to receive a grade of A upon a test.

ace -- n. an almost unbelievably clumsy person, often used in the phrase, "Way to go, ace."

action -- n. has no meaning until coupled with another noun which gives it a sense of direction, e.g. libe action, muni action, wench action.

all-nighter -- n. to spend a whole evening in non-somnic pursuits, esp. booking; "to pull an all-nighter."

apartment -- n. term used to describe various expansive living arrangements on campus.

arb -- n. the Carleton arboretum.

arb -- v. to enter the arboretum for non-academic purposes, esp. to enjoy nature with a member of the opposite sex.

arb equipment -- n. any item used in arbing, esp. a sleeping bag.

artsy-craftsy -- adj. and n. a person engaged in theatrical or artistic pursuits, esp. a person possessing a flair or talent for these pursuits.

artsy-fartsy -- n. any person who carries artsy-craftsiness to a foppish extreme.

artsy-veggie -- n. a person engaged in organic pursuits who is a vegetarian type; that is, docile and sensitive persons referred to by this term need not actually be vegetarians. See veggie.

ass -- n. esp. horse's ass -- a stubborn fool, a plain dumb bastard; "there are more horse's asses than horses."

asshole, flaming -- n. a person deriving existence and pleasure from frivolous behavior. See flamer.

assistant -- n. shortened form of Assistant to the Dean of Students; person occupying this position is usually a young college graduate who serves as a combination ombudsman and shit-kicker for the Administration.

asterisk -- n. a typewriter mark found on one's diploma signifying failure to complete the college's physical education requirement.

# B

bag -- v. to have intercourse;  
to be intoxicated to great lengths;  
to spoof, "Are you bagging my ass?"

balls, to have -- v. to be extraordinarily courageous.

bear, kissy-face huggy -- v. to engage in harmless sexual relations.

beerball -- n. softball played while imbibing; games are often played between academic departments to test both diamond skill and consumptive prowess.

'bery -- n. 'Hue speak for the Carleton Library.

bip -- v. to apply body english to pins.

bird, to flip the -- v. an expression of either salutation or disgust, indicated by raising the second finger from a fist.

bite -- v. to fall to the dust in failure.

-- v. to cause consternation, "that really bites."

bladder, biggest or bladder of the year -- n. the competitor in the marathon Rottblatt game (a game in which one inning of Rottblatt softball is played for each of Carleton's commencements) who longest postpones urination. See Rottblatt or 'Blatt.

'Blatt -- n. the Marvin Rottblatt (a Carleton grad. who once played professional baseball) Softball League, a group of teams composed of upperclassmen who play an aberrant form of softball.

'Blatt talk -- n. descriptive language derived from Rottblatt conversations, e.g. THTH -- too hot to handle.

blitzed -- adj. to be very drunk.

blitzed, to get -- v. to have an exam beat you.

blow -- v. to completely allow good fortune to slip from one's grasp; to choke or bite.

-- v. to exit, e.g. "let's blow this popsicle stand."

Bob, golly gee Buffalo -- exclamation of patronizing astonishment.

book -- v. to acquire knowledge through the perusal of printed academic material.

-- v. to do anything resembling schoolwork, e.g. to read.

booker -- n. a person who studies obsessively for the purpose of receiving good grades.

boppers -- n. 'Hue speak for teeny-boppers, esp. any group of people who enjoys the music of the Osmonds.

boot -- v. to vomit.

boot, to get the -- v. to be expelled from a class or from the college.

bozoette -- n. a female who chases jocks, esp. an underclasswoman.

buckets -- n. basketball.

bull -- v. to intentionally fabricate or flatulently enlarge academic responses, esp. on papers and tests (bullshit).

-- n. the product of such fabrications or enlargements.

bunny piss -- n. 3.2% beer.

burgers, to cruise for -- v. to meander away time.

# C

carl -- n. a student of Carleton College or a graduate of the same institution; a non-Ole, a non-townie.

'cept -- n. 'Hue speak for a concept, e.g. Turner thesis, feudalism.

choke -- v. to crack under pressure. See blow.

cits, the -- n. Minneapolis and St. Paul.

climb, wall -- v. to literally (in Musser Hall) or figuratively propel one's self up a wall, esp. to release pentup frustration and physical energy, most common during winter term.

clunkers, funky -- n. a variety of red-soled saddle shoes.

computer date night -- n. a vanished tradition of matching compatible male and female carls.

comps -- n. comprehensive examinations.

Co-op -- n. the social organization dedicated to amusing the inmates of Carleton; it provides movies, concerts and dances.

cranial-anal insertion -- n. head-in-ass syndrome, a condition resulting in impaired vision and judgement.

crank -- n. a penis, usually used as a term of disparagement or disbelief, e.g. "Ah, bite my crank."

crash and burn, to -- v. to fall prey to an unresponsive cold-hearted female.

cunt struck -- n. a low form of love, usually disprized, by a male for a female; it renders the male rationally inoperable.

currency, common -- n. standard procedure, a common occurrence

cutlets, dreaded weasel -- n. any of a variety of Saga Food Service protein dishes, esp. their breaded veal cutlets. See meat, mystery.

## D

damn straight -- an intensive form of "that is correct."

dialogue -- n. a sarcastic term for a meaningful conversation.

dicked, to get -- n. intercourse from the female point of view.

dickt -- v. to have gotten the shaft in the guise of any misfortune.

distro -- n. abbr. for distribution requirements, the compulsory dispersal of students in various academic disciplines.

dog -- n. a real rover, an ugly female.

down the river, to go -- v. an expression indicating problems that threaten to break a student, esp. mentally.

dump on -- v. to deride a fellow student, usually vocally, "to give a person shit."

## E

eat my shorts -- v. a phrase of deprecation and/or displeasure indicating that the provoking phrase or action is not pleasing to the listener, syn: to gobble trou, bite me.

eat the big one -- v. an insult for all seasons.

## F

fall over -- v. to drop out of sight, to disintegrate, to be quickly drunk.

fatuous blather -- n. any worthless statement, esp. administrative drivel.

fire, fire-up -- v. to rally a group or just one's self to an enjoyable task, e.g. "'Zer, could you fire for a 'za?'"

flag -- v. to fail miserably.

flame -- v. to idle hours away, esp. in raucous or frivolous endeavors; merry prankstering, e.g. water fighting.

flash -- v. to vomit, usually preceded by excessive consumption of intoxicants.

flic, Co-op -- n. the weekend movie in Olin Science Hall.

flic, townie -- n. the film shown at the Grand Theatre in Northfield.

fox, a real -- n. an attractive girl.

fox -- v. to outwit.

-- v. to charm, e.g. "she's really got him foxed."

frōōt -- adj. contraction of far out.

fuck -- a versatile word for either despair or exultation; it rarely means to have intercourse. See shit.

fuckoff -- n. a lazy person, usually a pejorative term.

fuck off -- v. leave me alone.

fuckstick -- n. an ineffectual person; a character of flamingly frivolous bearing.

fucked-up -- adj. a state of being without stable mental foundation, esp. to be under the influence of mind altering substances.

## G

gangbusters, real -- n. a pulchritudinous young woman.

good -- adj. a term for favorable but not excellent appearance, esp. used in comparisons, e.g. "a good but not a great."

'glish -- n. English, 'Hue speak.

grad recs (wrecks) -- n. the Graduate Records Examinations, the equivalent of big league S.A.T.s.

grovel -- v. to act as if in a drunken stupor;

-- v. to make semi-love, i.e. without intercourse.

gummer -- n. a geriatric bummer.

guts-balls -- n. to possess an unusual measure of intestinal fortitude.

## H

hammer -- v. to demolish or be demolished with fervor.

handle -- v. to dispatch a nasty or difficult situation before it becomes damaging, to take of something in a studly manner. See stud.

hill -- n. a pile of unknown material upon which St. Olaf college reclines; St. Olaf College. See Ole.

hit -- v. to approach intently, e.g. "to hit the 'bery."

honey, a real hot -- n. a girl of outstanding physical or loose moral endowment.

hooters, little cupcake -- n. small breasts, as opposed to bit bazongas, which are large breasts.

horny -- adj. a rising of natural juices producing a great craving for companionship of the opposite sex; lustful; applies to both sexes, e.g. "Girls get just as horny as guys."

'Hue speak -- n. a method of speaking using only final syllables, e.g. "'Zer, could you fire for a 'za?" which means: "Jim Ginzer, would you like to assist in purchasing and partaking of a pizza?" See fire.

hum -- v. a verb which indiscriminately implies action, e.g. one can hum (get) a za, or hum (throw) a baseball.

hummer -- n. thing, an unspecified object.

## J

jock -- n. any male person who owns a pair of athletic-type shoes, e.g. tennis shoes, more specifically a person who exerts physical effort, esp. in the attempt to win an athletic contest.

-- n. when coupled with an adjective, jock indicates a focus or facility in someone's life, e.g. English jock, Twinkles (Astronomy) jock.

jockeyette -- n. a female jock.

## K

'key -- n. 'Hue speak for hockey.

# L

lavaliers -- n. a pair of well developed mammary glands.

libe -- n. abbr. of library, esp. the Carleton library.

# M

mams, little big -- n. a small girl with big tits.

-monster -- n. a suffix attached to inanimate objects to denote something that thwarted or hindered one, e.g. treemonster.

moon -- v. the act of lowering one's trousers and u-trou to display one's naked ass.

mung -- n. anything disgusting and/or repulsive.

munl -- n. the Northfield Municipal Liquor Store.

munl-run -- n. a term applying to the aforementioned store, esp. to the purchase of intoxicating beverages for **consumption**.

mystery meat -- n. any unidentifiable protein dish.

# N

'nads -- n. 'Hue speak for gonads, actually any vital area.

nail -- v. to have intercourse from a male perspective.

'ner -- n. dinner.

'nis -- n. tennis.

no shit -- a phrase signifying: are you telling me the unadulterated truth?

nookie -- n. sex.

nordic -- any blue-eyed blonde, esp. an Ole.

# O

Ole -- n. a student of St.Olaf College.

# P

piggypoke -- v. to have anal intercourse.

pimp -- v. to disappoint or thwart.

pimp job -- n. to have gotten the shaft.

pinch of pupshit, ain't nothin' in this world worth a' -- an archaic expression meaning "I'm depressed."

pins -- n. pinball, e.g. "Pins?" meaning: "Anybody want to play pinball?"

pisser, a real -- a phrase meaning a difficult task, esp. a tough class or test.

piss off, to -- v. to anger or frustrate.

pissed off -- adj. to be angry or frustrated.

pit -- n. a dark study room, a dungeon of academia.

-- v. to study intensely.

'pong -- n. ping-pong.

popsicle stand -- n. any location, esp. one that has become boring. See blow.

p.w. -- adj. penis whipped, to be infatuated with a male.

-- adj. pussy whipped, to be infatuated with a female.



# Q

quickie -- n. a five week course or a ten minute session of lovemaking.

# R

real -- adj. a pejorative term, usually implying ineptness.

real down home -- adj. something which is both pleasing and rustic, i.e. not sophisticated.

real world -- n. anything off the Carleton campus.

ream -- v. to achieve resounding results.

reamed, to get -- v. to be destroyed, usually to do very poorly on a test.

'rents -- n. 'Hue speak for parents.

'ries -- n. 'Hue speak for memories, literally to recall the good old days of high school, esp. by poring over old high school yearbooks.

right or You're right, you fox -- a gentle cut appropriate whenever a friend is belaboring the obvious.

ringer -- n. an illegal noneligible participant, usually a superior athlete or student who competes in a less difficult bracket or course.

rocks hauled, to get your -- a phrase meaning to establish a relationship in which sex plays an important role.

rocks off, to get your -- a phrase meaning to have sexual intercourse.

rube -- n. a schlump, a loser, a chumpola. Someone who asks, "What is a Buckhorn?" (Buckhorn is a brand of cheap beer.)

# S

shaft, to get the -- a phrase meaning to be treated cruelly by fate.

sheeyit -- an all purpose intensive.

shit -- n. can mean just about anything from feces to food to drugs.

shit-faced -- adj. to have consumed an alcoholic beverage to such excess that the consumer's facial muscles become lax and numb; to wear a shit-eating smile.

shoot-down -- v. to reject sexual advances.

shove it -- an interjection urging that a recent suggestion be handled rectal-insertively.

slip the fang -- v. to ball, i.e. to have intercourse.

straight arrow -- n. anyone who believes in adherence to rules of taste and college regulations, usually does not smoke, drink or engage in illicit activities.

streak -- v. to run naked, esp. on the night of the first snowfall.

stud -- n. a paradigm male: "I may not be much of a cowboy, but I'm one hell of a stud"; adj. studly.

# T

'tion -- n. distinction, more specifically to graduate with honors in one's major field of study.

'toon -- n. a martini.

townie -- n. an inhabitant of Northfield, Minnesota.

toys in the attic -- adj. addle brained.

train, to pull a -- a phrase meaning to have intercourse with more than one person consecutively.

tray -- v. to ride a tray down a snow-covered hill.

trou, to drop -- v. to lower one's pants and undergarment.  
See moon.

truck -- v. an all purpose verb for motion. Cf. Latin "ago."

tuna -- n. a clod or boor.

--v. to do something clumsily, to tunafish, e.g. to drop an easy pop fly.

turkey -- n. a term applied rancorously to a person lacking common sense.

288 -- an expression of mock disgust, supposedly in reference to something too gross for words.  
288 = 2 x 144 or two gross (too gross).

typical, that's -- an expression of displeasure.

## U

U, The -- n. abbr. for University of Minnesota.

unpack -- v. to elucidate.

unreal -- an all purpose adjective of envy, approval, respect, etc.

unreal burgers -- n. someone or something fantastic.

## V

veggies -- n. sincere individuals of cosmic persuasions, friends to all animals, generally like their food, unappetizing.

## W

whirlies -- n. a terrifying sensation of rotation and nausea induced by going to bed drunk.

willie, the wet -- a phrase meaning a seldom used gesture of waving a dampened finger in the air to signify disagreement and a threat.

wily -- adj. used most often ironically or sarcastically, rarely means shrewd.

Who's Milt -- an expression of astonishment.

Wombats -- n. an intramural girls' softball league.

workie -- n. an employee of the college usually assigned to a custodial or maintenance crew.

## Y

You Say -- n. a rock song produced by a Carleton band, The Nightcrawlers.

## Z

'za -- n. 'Hue speak for a pizza.

zzzz out -- v. to fall asleep; pronounced zee out.



Tim Sullivan, now a junior at Carleton College, undertook the compilation of the 4th edition of Loosely Speaking as an independent study project.