

m.m. memos

Margaret Miller

How can Americans understand English?

Everyone knows the English language as spoken in this country isn't a bit like the one you find on the other side of the Atlantic. I've heard all my life that when in England you say "petrol," "lift," and "serviette" instead of "gasoline," "elevator" and "napkin."

Those and other usages were firmly in mind when I headed for Great Britain a few weeks ago. By the time I finished touring, I had added a wealth of others to my lexicon of Englishes as opposed to Americanese.

To begin with, I have to mention the fine Englishman who drove us along the highways and byways of his country. In one respect at least — there probably were more — our group of travelers frustrated him completely. The last day he was with us, he still was trying to get us to call his vehicle a coach instead of a bus.

Where he drove that coach was another point of revelation for us. The thing Americans call expressway is a motorway, we learned. When a divided highway was coming up, it was clearly marked "Dual Carriageway." Egress from the motorway was marked "Diversion." (I kept looking for the entertainment value.)

DRIVERS IN ENGLAND are directed to "Give way" instead of "Yield." And when they park their cars or cabs they go into a car park instead of a parking lot. If there isn't room for them to get in, they are greeted with the sign "Car Spill."

We found ourselves getting used to the terminology of our host country. We were all referring to motorways as we sped along. "You're really getting into it," announced one of the teens in our crew. "Before you know it you'll be talking about having an incident." That's the word for accident in across-the-Atlantic parlance.

Plenty of other usages made it onto our lists. We laughed all the way about the signs that said "Way Out" when we would say "Exit," but by the time we had negotiated countless tourist crowds and subways we were learning to look eagerly for the British signs. (I'm reverting already, though. That subterranean transportation in London is the tube or the underground. A subway is an underground walk beneath a busy intersection.)

We knew about loos, but were delighted to spot "Portaloos." We got quite a kick out of the sign "Disabled toilet" over the facility for the handicapped. "Litter Please" signs on the trash baskets also brought a chuckle. Excuse me, they were not trash baskets at all. In England they're called dust bins. And ashtrays hold cigaret ends, not butts.

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community calendar

SUMMER CHAMBER CONCERT
Monday, July 28: Summer Chamber Concert sponsored by St. Aidan Cultural Society in St. Aidan Church, 17500 Farmington Road, Livonia, at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$2 at the door.

JUST YOU AND ME KID
Tuesday, July 29: "Just You and Me Kid" is the free movie at 10 a.m. sponsored by Livonia Mall Merchants Association in the mall cinema, Seven Mile and Middlebelt roads, in the series that runs Tuesdays through the summer.

CASTLE KEEP
Tuesday and Thursday, July 29 and 31: "Castle Keep," program for all elementary school children at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday in Farmington Hills Community Library on 12 Mile Road and at 2 p.m. Thursday in Farmington Community Library on Liberty Street. No charge. Pre-registration is not necessary.

MONSTER MOVIE
Wednesday, July 30: Free monster movie at 10 a.m. for children only in Livonia Mall Cinema, Seven Mile and Middlebelt Road, sponsored by Livonia Mall Merchants Association.

THE LADY'S NOT FOR BURNING
Friday and Saturday, Aug. 1-2: "The Lady's Not for Burning," staged by Farmington Players in the Players Barn on 12 Mile Road between Orchard Lake and Farmington roads. Curtain at 8:30 p.m. both nights. Tickets are \$3 each available through the box office, 477-1066. No reserved seats for summer performances.

FARMERS MARKET
Saturday, Aug. 2: Farmers Market, with about 25 vendors who offer fresh produce, eggs, jellies and jams, honey, herbs and crafts from 9 a.m. to noon on the grounds of Farmington Community Center, Farmington Road north of 10 Mile Road. Farmers Market continues on Saturdays through October.

SPORT-A-THON
Saturday, Aug. 2: Sport-a-thon for runners, walkers, joggers and bikers runs all day in a partially developed subdivision in Farmington Hills, sponsored by American Diabetes Association, Michigan Affiliate. Participant application blanks and rules will be sent on request by calling the association, 342-9353.

JUNIOR WALTER HAGEN GOLF TOURNAMENT
Monday through Friday, Aug. 4-8: Second annual Junior Walter Hagen Championship Golf Tournament, for boys and girls from 13-18 years played on courses throughout the Detroit metropolitan area to benefit American Cancer Society. Fee of \$20 includes T-shirt and greens fee. Application blanks sent on request by calling the society, 557-9353.

CINDERFROG
Tuesday and Wednesday, Aug. 5-6: "Cinderfrog" staged by Gayle Vasku's drama workshop for young teens for all preschoolers and early elementary school aged children at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday in Farmington Hills Community Library on 12 Mile Road and at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday in Farmington Community Library on Liberty. No charge.

DOLL AND TOY SHOW
Sunday, Aug. 10: Exhibition of dolls and toys from more than 40 dealers sponsored by Comix Tree and Sports Collectables, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Knights of Columbus Hall, 21900 Middlebelt Road. Admission of 75 cents asked at the door.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
Monday through Friday, Aug. 11-15: "Jesus and You: The Winning Team" is theme for Vacation Bible School that runs from 9:15 a.m.-11:45 a.m. each morning in Hope Lutheran Church, 39200 12 Mile Road. Open to all children from kindergarten through sixth grade. No charge. Registrations taken now by calling the church office, 553-7170.

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Congratulations, Al Kalline

We invite you to join us in congratulating Al Kalline, former Detroit Tiger baseball great, on his upcoming induction into baseball's Hall of Fame, and on the retirement of his uniform — number 6 — by the Tiger organization on August 17. Kalline will be the first Tiger player in history to have his number retired. Congratulations to Al Kalline on these newest achievements in his outstanding professional baseball career.

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