```
/spank/
/horsewhip/beat/area/course/
/flow/drift/clutch/grasp/
/hug/
```



We used to play this game, where we flipped a coin between a wooden spanking paddle and her worn out horsewhip. This was our way of stopping beating around the bush, our formula for overcoming the awkwardness of starting a play midday.

The area we lived in was dead quiet around noon, on account of everyone being at work, or at the golf course I suppose. We were swimming against the flow, fighting the current, clutching to old habits and games, grasping at straws. The bear hug of the machine eventually wins. At least it won us a basement. Heads or tails, never fails.