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**FOREWORD**  
By Debra Taylor

**ANALYSE THIS >> THE BOYFRIEND ARM PILLOW**

**THE STORY**

Behold the Boyfriend Arm Pillow, cuddly friend to single Japanese ladies who prefer their bedmates without the baggage. At a smidge over \$100 (more for the vibrating deluxe model), this uncomplaining quarter-man is reported to be doing enormous business in its native land. Now, with its makers sizing up export markets, the solo slumberers of Australia must ask themselves a serious question - why would anyone take such a disturbing object to bed?

**MIND**

"This is what we call cloth comfort," says psychologist Dr Lissa Johnson. "That's usually in respect to children who have a teddy bear or a comfort blanket. In studies, these children develop perfectly well emotionally, so the man pillow may not necessarily be a bad thing. But there is something unsettling about a quarter of a fake man. It's rather sanitised. Perhaps odour and belching functions would prepare the single woman for the real thing."

**SOUL**

"The hard-core belief would be that if you have something like this in your bed, it will be a block to getting the real thing," says Feng Shui master Gayle Atherton, outlining a position she is in no rush to endorse.

"If you feel cuddled and comforted by it, then I don't see the harm."

**HEART**

"A warm torso on a cold night, hmmm ... " Relationship expert and author Sue Ostler sounds dubious. "I can see the pros - it doesn't snore, squabble or sleep around, and you know it's not going to turn into a madman.

But wouldn't the investment be better served by a night out on the town to meet a real guy? It's one step forward for Japanese ingenuity, one step back for singles everywhere."

Debra Taylor