

## American Dialect Society 2007 Words of the Year Nominations

These are the words chosen as candidates for the 2007 words-of-the-year categories. The final votes in all categories will take place from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 4, 2008, in the third-floor Private Dining Room 2 at the Hilton Chicago. A reception will follow immediately after. The Word of the Year is usually nominated from among winners of the categories below, although new, passionate, last-minute nominations have sometimes been accepted from the floor.

### —MOST USEFUL—

**bacn** Impersonal email such as alerts, newsletters, and automated reminders that are nearly as annoying as spam but which one has chosen to receive.

**celebu-** *prefix* Indicates celebrity, as in *celebutard*.

**connectile dysfunction** Inability to gain or maintain a connection.

**green-** *prefix/compounding form* Designates environmental concern, as in *greenwashing*.

**wrap rage** Anger brought on by the frustration of trying to open a factory-sealed purchase.

### —MOST CREATIVE—

**boom** An instance of a military explosion in the phrases **left of boom**, which describes the US military's efforts to root out insurgents before they do harm, and **right of boom**, which describes efforts to minimize attacks with better equipment, systems, and medical care.

**Googlegänger** Person with your name who shows up when you google yourself.

**lolcat** On the Internet, an odd or funny picture of a cat given a humorous and intentionally ungrammatical caption in large block letters.

**tapafication** The tendency of restaurants to serve food in many small portions.

### —MOST UNNECESSARY—

**Happy Kwanhanamas!** [*Kwanza* + *Hanukka* + *Christmas*] Happy holidays!

**truther** Someone who espouses a conspiracy theory about the events of 9/11.

**vegansexual** A person who eats no meat, uses no animal-derived goods, and who prefers not to have sex with non-vegans.

### —MOST OUTRAGEOUS—

**nappy-headed ho** An expression used on the Don Imus radio show, and repeated by the host, about the women's basketball team at Rutgers University.

**make it rain** To drop paper money on a crowd of people, especially in strip clubs, nightclubs, or casinos.

**toe-tapper** A homosexual. Senator Larry Craig was arrested in June for an encounter in a public restroom in which toe-tapping was said to have been used as a sexual come-on.

### —MOST EUPHEMISTIC—

**human terrain team** A group of social scientists employed by the US military to serve as cultural advisers in Iraq or Afghanistan.

**shmashmortion/smushmortion** Abortion.

**va-j-j** Also **va-jay-jay** or **vajayjay** The vagina.

### —MOST LIKELY TO SUCCEED—

**global weirding** An increase in severe or unusual environmental activity often attributed to global warming. This includes freakish weather and new animal migration patterns.

**green-** *prefix/compounding form* Designates environmental concern, as in *greenwashing*.

**Super-Duper Tuesday** Feb. 5th, the day 23 US states will hold primary elections. Also known as **Tsunami Tuesday**.

**wide stance, to have a** To be hypocritical or to express two conflicting points of view. When Senator Larry Craig was arrested in a public restroom and accused of making signals with his foot that police said meant he was in search of a anonymous sex, Craig said it was a misunderstanding and that he just had a wide stance when using the toilet.

### —LEAST LIKELY TO SUCCEED—

**Billary/Hill-Bill** Bill and Hillary Clinton.

**earmarxist** A congressman or senator who adds earmarks—money designated for a particular person or group—to legislation. Coined by the blog Redstate to refer to Democrats.

**quadriboobage** The appearance of having four breasts caused by wearing a brassiere that is too small.

**strand-in** Protest duplicating being stranded inside an airplane on a delayed flight

**strike beard** facial hair grown by talk show hosts during the duration of the television writers' strike.

### —REAL ESTATE WORDS—

**exploding ARM** An *Adjustable Rate Mortgage* whose rates soon rise beyond a borrower's ability to pay.

**liar's loan/liar loan** Money borrowed from a financial institution under false pretenses, especially in the form of a "stated income" or "no-doc" loan which can permit a borrower to exaggerate income.

**NINJA** *No Income, No Job or Assets*. A poorly documented loan made to a high-risk borrower.

**scratch and dent loan** A loan or mortgage that has become a risky debt investment, especially one secured with minimal documentation or made by a borrower who has missed payments.

**subprime** Used to describe a risky or poorly documented loan or mortgage.