AMONG THE NEW WORDS

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In this installment, we report on the nominations for Words of the Year 2003 that did not win in any category. We give thanks to Kathleen E. Miller for help in finding a William Safire column. Nominators and contributors include William J. Kirwin, Michele Mooney, Thomas M. Stephens, and others whose names we failed to record at the annual meeting.

asshat n Thoughtless or stupid person 2002 Dec 20 http://www.asshats.net/jihad.html Praise be to Allah, who revealed the Book, controls the clouds, defeats factionalism, and says in His Book: “But when the forbidden months are past, then fight and slay the owner of asshat.com wherever ye find him, seize him, be.leaguer him, and lie in wait for him in every stratagem of war”; and peace be upon our Prophet, Frank Blotto, who said: “I have been sent with the sword between my hands to ensure that no one but Allah is worshipped, Allah who put my livelihood under the shadow of my spear and who inflicts humiliation and scorn on those who disobey my orders.” 2004 Jan 22 Right-Thinking from the Left Coast http://right-thinking.com/comments.php?id=P3910_o_1_o_C Ivory Tower Asshat [¶] And the Celebrity Asshat du Jour award goes to: Gwyneth [sic] Paltrow. [¶] American actress Gwyneth Paltrow said she will not raise her child in the United States because her homeland is too dangerous. May 11 (accessed) http://www.confusednation.com/asshat/ There’s no telling where some words come from. . . . From what I can trace back from archived IRC chats, the term ‘asshat’ was first used in the large European country of Sweden as an alternative for the word ‘asshole.’ From Sweden, by way of both train and ship, the word found it’s [sic] way to the shores of western France, where it was used by a software coder named Louis (LOO-ee) in a telephone conversation with his second cousin in Newfoundland. . . . Americans were, at first, wary to this new word. They had grown up using ‘asshole,’ ‘assclown,’ (premier in Office Space) and even ‘asshead.’ What was to force them to add yet another word to their vocabulary? The Internet, of course! Using radiocarbon dating, we have determined that some of the first widespread usage of the word ‘asshat’ was in several Kevin Smith fan newsgroups, all located in California. Luckily, there are also Kevin Smith fans in the northeast United States, so the word quickly bounded an entire continent and made it to New York City. [¶] Disclaimer: I made all of this up. I did absolutely no research whatsoever to come up with this. If you have a problem with the way I wrote this, you are in fact an asshat [italics in orginal]. (Most Useful)
Among the New Words

**Bennifer; Bennifer J. Afflo**  
**n**  
[Ben Affleck + Jennifer Lopez; Bennifer + Jennifer + Affleck + Lopez]  
Ben Affleck and Jennifer Lopez, a famous Hollywood couple.  
*2002* Dec 26 James Verniere *Boston Herald* E13 (Lexis-Nexis) Due to killer buzz, Bennifer went belly up on opening day when “Gigli” bombed in theaters all over the nation.  
*2003* Aug 4 Richard Roeper *Chicago Sun-Times* News spec ed 11 (Lexis-Nexis) In the new Bennifer J. Afflo movie “Gigli” (pronounced “Showgirls”), he plays a meathead hit man—and she’s a lesbian assassin. My favorite scene is when J. Lo’s lesbian/stalker/lover shows up and slits her wrists, thus illustrating the urge I was fighting while watching the film.  
*2004* Apr 17 Jess Cartner-Morley *Guardian* (London) Final ed np (Lexis-Nexis) Matchy-matchy fashion—as in, a jacket that matches your skirt and shoes that match your bag—is as dated now as an invite to Bennifer’s wedding. (Most Unnecessary)

**Collyer**  
**n**  
Pack rat; person who collects and stores an unreasonable number of things  
*1983* Feb 8 Michael Kernan *Washington Post* B1 (Lexis-Nexis) Maybe your mother said it, maybe your best friend in college: “My God, your room looks like the Collyer mansion!” [¶] People speak of “the Collyer brothers” without the slightest idea of what the phrase means, except that it’s a synonym for pack rat. [¶] Homer and Langley Collyer are part of the language now. They have achieved immortality because they kept a messy house. [¶] The story came to light almost 36 years ago, on March 21, 1947, when Homer Collyer was found dead of malnutrition at 70 in the unbelievably cluttered four-story brownstone at Fifth Avenue and 128th Street in New York, deep in a once-fashionable Harlem neighborhood. [¶] It took police three hours to force their way into the place with crowbars and axes. All the entrances were blocked by wrapped packages of newspapers, hundreds of cartons and other junk. The rooms and hallways were honeycombed with tunnels through the debris, all of them wired with booby traps that would bring them crashing down on an intruder.  
*2000* Sept 10 Dennis Hevesi *New York Times* Late ed sec 11/1/1 (Lexis-Nexis) The map indicates such esoteric sites as the brownstone on Fifth Avenue at 128th Street where the reclusive Collyer brothers lived—and died…. “Langley and Homer Collyer kept towers of newspapers, piles of junk in the apartment, an old automobile chassis in the basement,” Mr. Tauranac said—120 tons in all, including 14 pianos, with booby-trapped aisles between the piles. When the police answered an anonymous call on March 21, 1947, they found Homer Collyer sitting bolt upright, but very dead. Langley Collyer’s body was found two weeks later, under a collapsed mountain of debris.  
*2003* Nov 6 J Wynn Rousuck *Baltimore Sun* Final ed 5E (Lexis-Nexis) And now Rep Stage in Columbia is taking a look at two of the Mizners’ early 20th-century contemporaries—those pack rats to end all pack rats, the Collyers. [¶] A pair of New York recluses who achieved posthumous infamy after their bodies were discovered amid more than 100 tons of carefully accumulated debris in 1947, the Collyers were the inspiration for Richard Greenberg’s 2002 play The Dazzle.  
(Best Revival of an Old Term)
DILF n [Dad I'd Like to Fuck] Attractive older man 2000 Feb 20 Valerie Barry http://www.smoe.org/lists/support-system/v03.n046 re: MILF /… [ellipsis in original] all well and good, but what about ‘DILFs’? like the hot dad with three cute kids sitting next to us at the mexican restaurant yesterday … [ellipsis in original] oh, sorry, i’m back! anyway, why should boys have all the fun? 2002 May jemm http://www.dogbomb.co.uk/board/showthread.php?threadid=2505 It got me thinking after posting on the milf post on sex board [sic] if the guys had milfs when they were at school have Dilfs……. [sic] i dont [sic] ever remember seeing one of my mates [sic] dads and thinking about shagging him [sic] anyone else? 2004 Apr 12 access date http://www.dilf.com/t1/index.html D.I.L.F. / DAD / D.I.L.F. / DAD'S [sic] I LIKE TO FUCK / My best bud Drew has an unbelievable lust for DILF—guys who are married, have a couple of kids and pretend that they would NEVER have sex with another guy—SURE! Join in on Drew’s escapades, topping these hot and horny Dads! (Most Outrageous)
downer adj [NOAD] (Of animals) unable to stand because of illness 1990 June 26 Larry Thompson Washington Post Z11 (Lexis-Nexis) In 1985, a Wisconsin mink rancher changed his feed to include bone meal and meat from so-called downer cattle, animals unable to stand because they are dead or dying. Dec 12 James Erlichman Guardian (London) np (Lexis-Nexis) YOU are a beef farmer gradually going broke in a depressed market, and you wake up to find another ‘downer’ steer or heifer. The animal has been poorly. Now it is on its side, near to death. It is time to cut your losses. 1996 Mar 26 Alex Bellos & Michael White Guardian (London) 7 (Lexis-Nexis) THE US faces a similar crisis to that of mad cow disease in 10 years time, a leading US environmentalist warned yesterday. [¶] Howard Lyman, of the US Humane Society, said that a mysterious condition, Downer Cow Syndrome (DCS), which kills 100,000 cattle in the US every year, has been linked to an encephalopathy disease. 2003 Dec 31 Edward Epstein & Pia Sarkar San Francisco Chronicle Final ed A1 (Lexis-Nexis) The Bush administration took sweeping action Tuesday to rebuild public confidence in the nation’s beef supply by banning the use of meat from all sick or lame animals—including so-called downer animals—like the cow that tested positive last week for mad cow disease. (Best Revival of an Old Term)
extraordinary rendition n Deportation to a country that will receive a person unkindly 2002 Dec 26 Washington Post Final ed A01 (Lexis-Nexis) U.S. officials oversee most of the interrogations, especially those of the most senior captives. In some cases, highly trained CIA officers question captives through interpreters. In others, the intelligence agency undertakes a “false flag” operation using fake decor and disguises meant to deceive a captive into thinking he is imprisoned in a country with a reputation for brutality, when, in reality, he is still in CIA hands. Sometimes, female officers conduct interrogations, a psychologically jarring experience for men reared in a conservative Muslim culture where women are never in control. [¶] In other cases, usually involving
lower-level captives, the CIA hands them to foreign intelligence services—notably those of Jordan, Egypt and Morocco—with a list of questions the agency wants answered. These “extraordinary renditions” are done without resort to legal process and usually involve countries with security services known for using brutal means. 2003 Nov 6 Susan Delacourt Toronto Star A07 (Lexis-Nexis) The Washington Post, citing unnamed U.S. intelligence sources, reported yesterday that Arar was deported because “he had been put on a terrorist watch list after information from ‘multiple international intelligence agencies’ linked him to a terrorist group.” The officials said the case fit the profile what [sic] the Central Intelligence Agency describes as extraordinary rendition—“the practice of turning over low-level, suspected terrorists to foreign intelligence services, some of which are known to torture prisoners.” 2004 May 9 Robyn E Blummer St Petersburg Times A07 (Lexis-Nexis) Bush and Rumsfeld were also full participants in the practice of “extraordinary rendition,” whereby terrorist suspects are extradited under a presidential order to foreign nations where security services are known for their brutal interrogation techniques. (Most Euphemistic)

frog-march v [OED Online 1871 Frog’s March, 1884 frog’s-marched, 1894 frog-marching; see also CIDE, MW10 WNWLD, NOAD, RHWLD] Walk awkwardly under police restraints 1993 May 22 Nicholas Ionides Ottawa Citizen Final ed E3 (Lexis-Nexis) When Andrew Penny was laid off last month from the company he spent four years with, there was no ill will. [¶] That’s because Telesat Mobile, where Penny was national sales manager since 1989, commissioned an out-placement firm to help him and the 28 other laid-off workers through what could have been a stressful period. [¶] “They treated us as professionals,” said Penny in an interview at TMI’s temporary outplacement office on St. Laurent Boulevard. “They didn’t sort of frog march you to the front door and throw your belongings after you.” 1995 July 27 Maol Muire Tynan Irish Times City ed 4 (Lexis-Nexis) As the Cabinet yesterday formally approved the decentralisation plan, Fianna Fail claimed that the Minister for Agriculture, Mr Yates, had “attempted to frog-march[“] his Department into moving[.] 2005 Oct 1 David Montgomery Washington Post Final ed C01 (Lexis-Nexis) At the end of the day it’s of keen interest to me to to [sic] see whether or not we can get Karl Rove frog-marched out of the White House in handcuffs. [¶] —former ambassador Joseph C. Wilson IV [¶] You’re not sure exactly what it means—to be “frog-marched,” the white-hot verb of the moment in Washington—but you can tell it would not be fun, even without handcuffs. Nov 2 Ryan Bigge Toronto Star D14 (Lexis-Nexis) Saying too much about Diary, a suspense novel with Literary Ambitions, risks exposing its numerous “gotcha” moments that double as plot points. The rush of curiosity is, as usual, what frog-marches the reader through another grotesque carnival courtesy of the febrile, flippant mind of Chuck Palahniuk. (Best Revival of an Old Term)

Governator; Groppinator; Gropenfuhrer n [governator fr Ital governatore OED Online 1522, diff. def.; here governor + Exterminator, film series starring Arnold
Liberal talk radio called the Governor of California, 2003–2004 Oct 1 Andrew Billen Times (London) Features 8 (Lexis-Nexis; head) Arnie, The Governor Oct 2003 Oct 12 Gwen Floria Denver Post Final ed F-13 (Lexis-Nexis) Headline writers and columnists might have had a field day—Gov. Gropinator, Conan the Vulgarian, Der Gropenfuhrer—but even among women, the late-breaking ‘scandal’ really wasn’t; Schwarzenegger lost but a fraction of his female support. Only if the women accusing him of serial boorishness take their cases to court will the issue have, uh, legs, said Kathleen Hall Jamieson, dean of the University of Pennsylvania’s Annenberg School for Communication. 2003 Dec 29 Thomas Cesarski letter to ed Tampa Tribune 14 (Lexis-Nexis) On Tuesday morning, one of the characters in the strip [Doonesbury] called the governor of California the Gropenfuhrer, an obvious swipe at the new governor. 2004 Mar 21 Janice Kennedy Ottawa Citizen Final ed C2 (Lexis-Nexis) Consider some of the classic cases we have elevated to star status…. Muscleman Arnold Schwarzenegger—at least in a host of female recollections and as Doonesbury’s comic “Herr Gropenfuhrer”—getting himself elected governor. (Most Creative)

Lib Radio n Liberal talk radio 2003 Feb 24 Leonard Pitts Jr Houston Chronicle 3 Star ed 2 (Knight Ridder; Lexis-Nexis) SO I saw the other day in the New York Times where a group of wealthy Democrats is thinking about starting—get this—a liberal radio network. That same day, I ran into Osama bin Laden ogling girls in bikinis while having a bacon cheeseburger in Miami Beach. Preposterous? Utterly absurd? OK, you’re right. And the thing about bin Laden eating a bacon burger is a little far-fetched, too. Of course, that one I made up. On the other hand, “Lib Radio”—my name for it—is apparently as real as solar-powered cars, Earth Day and tofu. Evidently, actual rich people ready to spend actual money have been in talks with actual potential air talent (Al Franken’s name has been mentioned) about putting together an actual slate of programming designed to counteract the Oliver Norths and Rush Limbaughs of the world. We’ll have blowhards on the right balanced by blowhards on the left. Your radio will put out so much hot air you’ll never need a hair dryer again. But at least one radio executive, Kraig T. Kitchen, a purveyor of conservative programming, doesn’t think Lib Radio will fly. He doubts it will have mass appeal because liberal blowhards don’t blow hard enough. They present issues with too much complexity. (Least Likely to Succeed)

 lite post-poset adj Light, superficial, less than genuine 1988 Sept 30 Michael White Guardian (London) np (Lexis-Nexis) Candidate Quayle is actually quite a good campaigner in the [s]tyle dubbed ‘Bush Lite’ in honour of those taste-free [sic], low-calorie beers which now clutter the US market. 2002 Jan 18 Tony Lofaro Ottawa Citizen Final ed F2 (Lexis-Nexis; head) Patriotism lite: U.S. advertisers will spend big at Super Bowl XXXVI, but flag-waving will be mixed with levity, Tony Lofaro writes. Jan 26 Ellen Goodman Washington Post Final ed A23 (Lexis-Nexis) But just a few months ago the entire country was soberly and communally attentive to real suffering, to firefighters rushing into
Manly and to families in mourning. Now, faster than you can say "closure," Suffering Lite is entertainment, and endurance is a contest. I am not going to report [John] McEnroe et al. to Amnesty International. After all, on the Amnesty Web site it says "torturers rely on not being seen." Torture Lite depends on being seen.

2003 Jan 25 Duncan Campbell Guardian (London) 17 (Lexis-Nexis; head & text) US interrogators turn to 'torture lite': The second half of our investigation finds America bending the rules in the wake of September 11 / Wayne Madsen, a former US navy intelligence officer, points to two forms of what he calls torture being practised by America or its partners in the wake of September 11. The first consists of techniques such as sleep deprivation and shining harsh lights at detainees which, Mr Madsen labels "torture lite". (Most Outrageous)

**manscaping** [manscape OED2 Online 1927, diff del] n Male body shaving

2003 Sept 4 Lesley Kennedy Denver Rocky Mountain News 3D (Lexis-Nexis) If your body hair is freakishly long, try trimming it with an electric hair trimmer. Manscaping done well can make a midsection look trimmer and just about anything else look bigger. Dec 28 Tom Kuntz New York Times S1/2 (Lexis-Nexis) M is also for metrosexual, an urban male who spends a great deal of time and money on his appearance (likely to engage in manscaping, the artful shaving and trimming of a man’s body hair). 2004 Jan 4 Observer 10 (Lexis-Nexis) Manscaping is not for ‘meanderthals’ (men who wake up and just wander around, bedraggled). It is for the serious groomer, whether or not he also wears a ‘he-string’ (a male g-string) or ‘manscara’ (male mascara).

Manscaping, a term popularised in America by Bravo TV’s makeover show Queer Eye for a Straight Guy, refers to the maintenance of male body hair; not it’s [sic] overall elimination but it’s [sic] selective control and artful trimming. Manscaping has been judged as everything from ‘the final nail in the coffin of the alpha male’ to ‘the 21st century’s first popular art form’. A man may begin with a ‘bare-backing and front trim and buff’ (to become smoother behind and more geometric in front), learn the value of a regular ‘waist hair touch-up’ (to aid an appearance of slenderness in the mid-section), venture into ‘serious leg work’ and even go ‘nether-sculpting’. A ‘shave Guevara’, for instance, is the crafting and maintenance of a ‘topiary’ of male pubic hair while removing all other growth. Current manscaping slogans include ‘Don’t call it vanity when I [sic] snip my humanity’ and ‘How much trim-time to how much gym-time?’ Apr 8 Lauren Beckham Falcone Boston Herald Edge sec 060 (Lexis-Nexis) As one man put it, it’s like “straightening up the house before you have visitors.” It is “manscaping,” the “Queer Eye for the Straight Guy” buzzword that means landscaping the male body—trimming, waxing, brushing, raking, whatever. Apr 24 Bruce Ward Ottawa Citizen Final ed L14 (Lexis-Nexis) Chewbacca, meet Carson. Robin Williams is so fed up with his hairy body that he’s turned to the most annoying star of cult TV show Queer Eye for the Straight Guy for advice. The comedian has always mocked himself for being hairy, but now he wants a smooth chest. He tells Carson Kressley
in US Weekly, "I'm basically the Queer Eye poster child. Hello, manscaping! How can my body hair be trimmed down without a backhoe?" Kressley answers, "No need to rent heavy equipment, Robin. Manscaping can be easy, fun and painless (well, not totally painless). Simply clip the chest hair with a beard trimmer." (Most Creative)

**population reduction**  *n*  Combat duty 2003 Oct 6 Christian Parenti *Nation* 14

Now Crawford is helping us put on body armor and soon we'll be on patrol. As we move out with the nine soldiers the mood is somewhere between tense and bored. Crawford mockingly introduces himself to no one in particular: "John Crawford, I work in population reduction." (Most Euphemistic)

**recoculous**  *adj*  Ridiculous 2002 Sept 25 http://www.metafilter.com/comments.mefi/20297 Mullet Talk, FM morning radio show comedy at it its [sic] finest. Of course, in Pittsburgh we appreciate the finer things in life. Sadly, this is the only episode I could find on the web. / posted by Recoculous at 7:38 AM PST[] 2003 Aug 25 http://nerdgroupie.diaryland.com/theybeback.html I have had to say goodbye to a recoculous number of people this summer. Recoculous. What's even more ridiculous [sic] is that I didn't even get to officially say goodbye to some of them. 2004 Apr 19 (access date) http://www.angelfire.com/ca2/acarolla/faq.html Is Recoculous a real word? / Say "ridiculous" on Loveline and Adam will be quick to say "It's what?" The correct response would be "RECOCKULOUS!" Adam invented this word simply replacing the "dic" with "cock." Something that is recoculous is even more extreme than ridiculous. Add it to your vocabulary, your spell checker, spread the word! (Least Likely to Succeed)

**-shoring**  *gerund*  Moving a business across a national border 1998 July 2 Annie Warburton *Hobart Mercury* (Australia) np (Lexis-Nexis) SHAKESPEARE did it, politicians and bureaucrats do it all the time, but sensitive souls who cherish the English language continue to bewail the modern fashion for changing the grammatical function of words. [¶] One of my colleagues did it for a joke the other day, when he converted the perfectly good adjective offshore into a verb in the following slug (radio-ese for headline): government under attack for offshoring tourism advertising contract. 2003 Aug 25 Robert Trigaux *St Petersburg Times* South Pinellas ed 1 E. (Lexis-Nexis) Instead of helplessly watching the "offshoring" of so many white-collar jobs from Wall Street, for example, Ronne wants to redirect some of those better jobs right here. He calls the task "nearshoring." 2004 Apr 27 Warren Vieth *Los Angeles Times* Home ed A13 (Lexis-Nexis) The business of finding low-cost substitutes for American workers is getting more complex—and so is the terminology. They don’t just call it "offshoring" anymore. [¶] At a recent conference in the palatial Venetian resort, the people who help U.S. companies shift white-collar work overseas offered potential clients a Vegas buffet of outsourcing options: "nearshoring," for those willing to stray no farther than Canada or Mexico; "inshoring," for those who prefer to bring foreign workers to America, [sic] and "rightshoring," for
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those desiring a custom package of in-house and offsite, foreign and domestic. (Most Useful)

tanorexia n 1: Inability to tan 1989 Feb 8 Tom Weir USA Today Final ed 3C (Lexis-Nexis) Even those of us who look like Larry Bird and Chris Mullin, and have a skin condition that should be described as tanorexia, will be hitting the beaches sometime this year. And we’ll need help. 2: Addiction to tanning 1991 June 23 Robert Brody St Louis Post-Dispatch Late ed 13 (Lexis-Nexis) ARE YOU hooked on a suntan? Yes, it is possible. The most extreme of the so-called tanning addicts are afflicted with a condition known—albeit unofficially—as “tanorexia.” … As psychotherapists describe tanorexia, the compulsive tanner has a passion for the sun that blinds her to the dangers of overexposure…. Thanks in part to such behavior, a new field has cropped up: psychodermatology, the study of the psychology of skin. 2001 Sept 23 Adrian Bradley Sunday Telegraph (Sydney) 11 (Lexis-Nexis) MEDICAL experts fear thousands of Australians could be suffering from a disorder where their self esteem depends on their suntan. [¶] Doctors worry that increasing popularity of solariums and tanning studios could be fuelling a condition known as “tanorexia”. 2003 Oct 26 Mia Freedman Sun Herald (Sydney) 44 (Lexis-Nexis) I’ve been hitting the bottle with enthusiasm lately. The fake tan bottle. And it’s not just me. If you wandered into my workplace, you could be forgiven for thinking you were at a cast party for The Lion King. We are a bunch of very, very brown people. [¶] In fact, some of us are so devoted to brownness that we are in danger of developing fake-tanorexia. (Most Creative)

text v Send a text message; write 2004 Apr 6 http://www.news.com.au/common/story_page/o.4057,9211711%255E13762,00.html (head) Church ‘texted’ new commandment Apr 13 Julia Stuart Independent (London) 7 (Lexis-Nexis) At the end, a group of us were talking about funny text messages and I forwarded him one. We texted each other for three months, and then I got the job on Holby and we decided to celebrate. May 9 Tom Templeton Observer (London) 12 (Lexis-Nexis) Number of digits Jon Wright, 29, of Stourbridge omitted from the phone number when sending a ‘Happy New Year’s Day’ text message to a friend in 2003 1 [¶] Number of miles’ distance from Wright that Becky Dale, 33, of Cottingham, East Yorkshire, lived—she replied: ‘Happy New Year to you too, but who are you, because I don’t know your number?’ 150 [¶] Number of weeks after the first text that they met—during which time they texted back and forth. In one text Dale wrote that she hadn’t found Mr Right. Wright responded, ‘You’ve found me, Jon Wright’ 7 (Most Useful)

familiar vegetarian favorites such as soy burgers and tofu, the soy-based turkey substitute is among a host of products synthesized from the lowly soybean that are becoming more easily available at health food stores and supermarkets.  

2003 Jan 2003 Daryl Kirby Georgia Outdoor News 10 I'm not exactly sure what a Tofurkey looks like, and I'm pretty sure you can't fill it with stuffing, but I do know that if I ever sit down for Thanksgiving dinner and find one on the table, there's going to be big trouble.  

(Most Creative)

**transfer tube**  
*n*  
Body bag  
2003 Nov 2 Tim Harper Toronto Star Ontario ed F03 (Lexis-Nexis) (highlight & text) Even body bags are now sanitized as ‘transfer tubes’ / But today’s military doesn’t even use the words “body bags”—a term in common usage during the Vietnam War, when 58,000 Americans died.  

[¶] During the 1991 Persian Gulf War, the Pentagon began calling them “human remains pouches” and it now refers to them as “transfer tubes.” Nov 30 Toronto Star Ontario ed D10 (Lexis-Nexis) And the media go along, after raising nary a peep about how the Pentagon, after banning coverage of the returning “transfer tubes” (a.k.a. body bags), now forbids journalists from getting close to funerals at Arlington National Cemetery.  

Dec 22 Ben Sandilands New Zealand Herald np (Lexis-Nexis) Mr [Don] Watson’s examples of management English include a vogue for bland euphemism. What were “body bags” in the Vietnam War became “human remains pouches” in the Gulf War and are “transfer tubes” in the war on Iraq.  

(Most Euphemistic)

**useful idiot**  
*n*  
Human shield for the enemy  
2002 Sept 8 Adam Lusher Sunday Telegraph (London) 9 (Lexis-Nexis) Bernard Jenkin, the shadow defence secretary, criticised the planned peace mission. He said: “These people are what the communist Soviet Union used to refer to as useful idiots. They will simply be serving the propaganda interests of an evil dictator.”  

2003 Feb 24 Alison Rowat Herald (Glasgow) 14 (Lexis-Nexis) The human shields in Baghdad (those useless, as opposed to useful, idiots) could do with some more volunteers to replace the ones who have fled in tears because they can’t pick up The Archers in Basra.  

May 29 Shmuley Boteach Jerusalem Post 9 (Lexis-Nexis) Remember the human shields? Those guitar-strumming, dope-smoking, do-gooder, hippie types that Lenin would have called “useful idiots”—who offered themselves up as human sacrifices in order to obstruct the war?  

(Most Outrageous)

**weapons of**  
———  
[jocular reference to weapons of mass destruction “ATNW” AS 78: 231–32]  
1996 Nov 17 Marisa Guthrie Boston Herald 4 (Lexis-Nexis) Big screen leading man Gabriel Byrne—who has etched out a lucrative career playing extremely likable, tender-hearted bad guys (“Miller’s Crossing” and “The Usual Suspects”)—is set to grace the little screen.  

[¶] Byrne (left) will star in the HBO movie “Weapons of Mass Distraction,” a black comedy about two feuding media moguls who clash while vying to buy a Los Angeles sports franchise. Maybe Ted Turner and Rupert Murdoch will have cameos.  

2003 Feb 6 Ben English Daily Telegraph (Sydney, Australia) 5 (Lexis-Nexis) A CRUCIAL element of the Iraq crisis is the UN document focusing on Saddam Hussein’s weapons of mass distraction—reso-
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zeta-jonesing pres part [Catherine Zeta-Jones + jonesing 'craving'] Craving food 2003 May 11 William Safire New York Times Late ed-final sec 6/24/1 (Lexis-Nexis) Preoccupied of late with war words, I have not kept up with the jonesing. . . . On Gawker Stalker, a Web site that observes, and leers and snickers at, personalities in the news, a notably slim fashion editor was spotted “zeta-jonesing on a McVeggie at the gaudy, fou-fou McDonald’s on 42nd btw 8th & b’way.” [¶] Thus does the language come full circle. The allusion is to the actress Catherine Zeta-Jones, cattily scolded for adding a few pounds since her Oscar-winning performance in “Chicago.” Cruelly but creatively, the blogger applies her hyphenated last name to the lusting after a tasty burger by the hungry editor. To take the meaning of this nonce variation from the context, zeta-jonesing is “indulging in a craving for (meatless) food.” This specialized usage returns jonesing to its original state of a proper noun in participle form. May 21 tmonkey http://www.saturation.org/saturationblog/archives/000906.html “Fruit from the new Meat Trees, developed by British scientists using gene-splicing technology, closely resembles ordinary grapefruit. But when you peel the large fruit open, inside is fresh beef.” [¶] This only confirms my suspicion that most vegetarians abhor meat because they imagine they can hear the screams of the animal it comes from, but really, deep down, they are zeta-jonesing for a bacon cheeseburger. Nov 27 Fleshbot http://www.fleshbot.com/archives/010515.php We think we finally discovered the secret of what keeps Catherine Zeta-Jones slim, trim, and away from zeta-jonesing all those high-caloric Thanksgiving treats . . . [ellipsis in original] and it’s not the Atkins diet. (Least Likely to Succeed)

zhush, tjuzs, jeuge v [(303, 30)] Fluff up, primp up 1999 Jan 15-21 Judith Lewis LA Weekly http://www.laweekly.com/ink/printme.php?eid=3359 The word, near as I can figure it, is jeuge pronounced going in like the jeune in

olution 1441. May 20 caption (for story on lawn mower race) CNN Weapons of grass destruction 2004 Jan 27 Mary Magouluck pers comm At New York’s Kennedy International Airport today, an individual, later discovered to be a public school teacher, was arrested trying to board a flight while in possession of a ruler, a protractor, a setsquare, a slide rule, and a calculator. [¶] Attorney general John Ashcroft believes the man is a member of the notorious Al-gebra movement. He is being charged with carrying weapons of math instruction. [¶] “Algebra is a very fearsome cult, indeed,” Ashcroft said. “They desire average solutions by means and extremes, and sometimes go off on a tangent in a search of absolute value. They consist of quite shadowy figures, with names like ‘X’ and ‘Y’, and, although they are frequently referred to as ‘unknowns’, we know they really belong to a common denominator and are part of the axis of medieval with coordinates in every country. As the great Greek philanderer Isosceles used to say, ‘there are 3 sides to every triangle.” [¶] When asked to comment on the arrest, President Bush said, “If God had wanted us to have weapons of math instruction, He would have given us more fingers and toes.” (Word of the Year)

jeune fille; ending like the ge in rouge. Its adjectival meaning has something to do with glamour; as a noun, it describes glittery publicity galas and schmoozy champagne toasts. “It’s a kind of term for a bit of fancy stuff,” Emily Watson explains, basking—appropriately enough for a rising star of her order—on the lush garden patio of the Chateau Marmont. “I think I’ll wear a bit of jeuge tonight, get jeuged up.” 2001 Aug 4 Mark Cousins Herald (Glasgow) 20 (Lexis-Nexis) Which is what he [Jeff Bridges] was in the Fabulous Baker Boys. He and brother Beau play bottom of the bill cocktail lounge pianists, who hire a singer, Michelle Pfeiffer, to zhush up their act. 2003 July 15 W Stephen Gilbert Guardian (London) 21 (Lexis-Nexis) Some years ago, a good working form was established for a term the first consonant of which was pronounced like a French j and the rest rhymed with “push”: viz “zhush”. It’s a charming and flexible word, embracing other slangy terms—frou-frou, glam—along with the notion of being elaborately decked out, especially in the accessories associated with drag. Then it can be used figuratively, as you might zhush up a tired salad by adding some garnish, or stick some zhush in an article for the Guardian by adding a couple of dubious jokes. Nov 18 Sharon Fink St Petersburg Times 2B (Lexis-Nexis) HERE COMES THE TJUZS: That’s pronounced “zuuzhsh” for the Queer Eye for the Straight Guy uninitiated (the spelling is Queer Eye-sanctioned), and Sideshow proclaims this to mark the return of new episodes tonight. (Most Likely to Succeed)