

American Dialect Society WOTY Nominations for 2006

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Not all candidate words in the Word of the Year deliberations by the American Dialect Society are from politics this year even though it was an election year. Among the terms that seem to have gained increased usage during 2006 include:

The word *boomeritis* applies to the condition in adults (especially members of the Baby Boom generation) who do not exercise sufficiently to ward off injury.

Three related words, *blognut*, *moonbat*, and *wingnut*, rose to popularity, especially among bloggers, to apply to commentators at the extreme end of the political spectrum; *blognut* and *moonbat* signify far-left politicians, and *wingnut* is for a ultra-conservative.

Clark Clifford moment applies to the replacement of Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld withGates. It is reminiscent of the replacement of Secretary of Defense Robert MacNamara with Clark Clifford during the Vietnam War.

The troubles arising from counting mechanically registered votes at election time has spurred interest in *e-voting*—the use of computers to compute the results of elections.

The combining form *Islamo-* (as in *Islamo-fascist*, *-ism*, etc.) gained attention in particular due to a certain President's usage.

Jumping vote is a term that arose from e-voting when a choice is made but the designated choice “jumps” to another candidate than the one chosen.

Partial continuous attention describes the state of mind of a person who is multi-tasking.

The scientific communities wrestling with the classification of Pluto brought up a discussion of the scientific definition of *planet*.

Rumsfeldian, while not a brand-spanking new word (It appeared as early as 2001), rose to attention in the deliberation as to the conduct of the war in Iraq.

Some folks have adopted the term *sudden Jihad syndrome* (abbreviated *SJS*) to describe the situation in which an outwardly calm Muslim abruptly becomes violent.