

**2006 Word of the Year Nominations  
American Dialect Society, Jan. 5, 2007**

Benjamin Zimmer  
Editor, American Dictionaries  
Oxford University Press  
ben.zimmer@oup.com  
(212) 726-6106

**auf** (v.): to dispatch in the manner of Heidi Klum on “Project Runway,” who sends off booted contestants with a terse “Auf Wiedersehen.”

**book**: a blog turned into a book, or a book published on a blog. The Lulu Blocker Prize is a literary award devoted to books. Also: **blovel** or **blogel** (blog + novel), **blogfic** (blog + fiction).

**brokeback**: of questionable masculinity; insufficiently heteronormative.

**clickprint**: a uniquely identifying pattern of Web surfing habits. Also: **clickstream**.

**climate canary**: something foreshadowing catastrophic climate change (after ‘canary in a coal mine’).

**climate refugee**: someone forced to relocate due to catastrophic climate change.

**dwarf planet**: new International Astronomical Union designation for Pluto and other not-quite-planetary bodies in the solar system. Also: **pluton**, **plutonoid** (proposed terms for planetlike objects beyond Neptune, with Pluto as their prototype).

**ego-surfing**: surfing the Web by searching on one’s own name. Also: **ego-googling**, **ego-feed**.

**fauxtography**: the journalistic use of misleading photographs, either via digital manipulation or the staging of subjects. Conservative bloggers accused a Reuters freelance photographer of committing fauxtography in the Israel-Lebanon conflict.

**Fed-Ex**: nickname for Kevin Federline, the erstwhile Mr. Britney Spears.

**firecrotch**: pejorative term for someone with red (pubic) hair. Popularized by a widely circulated video of Brandon Davis drunkenly ridiculing Lindsay Lohan.

**fishapod**: humorous name for the newly discovered fossil *Tiktaalik roseae*, representing a transitional stage between fish and four-legged land animals, or tetrapods.

**Freying:** fictionalizing one's memoirs in the manner of James Frey.

**Hamastan:** nickname for Palestinian state under the control of Hamas.

**lancing:** the forced public outing of a closeted gay celebrity, after 'N Sync singer Lance Bass.

**mancation:** a male-only vacation; popularized by Vince Vaughan in "The Breakup."

**moonwalk** (v.): to withdraw troops from Iraq while giving the appearance of maintaining a long-term military commitment; after Michael Jackson's signature move of appearing to walk forward while actually sliding backward. (Washington Post, Nov. 20)

**pink taco:** (purported) slang term for female genitalia. A Mexican restaurant chain with that name was deemed offensive by some residents of Scottsdale, Arizona.

**pornament:** a pornographic Christmas ornament.

**purple drank:** codeine-based cough syrup mixed with a soft drink. Popular in the South and on the Texas rap scene, the drink received new attention when Terrence Kiel of the San Diego Chargers was arrested for attempting to sell it. Also called **lean**.

**rapture right:** epithet for Christian conservative movement believed to be motivated by concerns for the end times. Also: **rapture rightist**, **rapture righter**.

**SMiShing:** the new practice of phishing (fraudulently acquiring sensitive information) via SMS (Short Message Service, or text messaging).

**statement ring:** fashion industry term for a woman's ring with an ostentatiously large gemstone, to be worn at cocktail parties (formerly called a 'cocktail ring')

**turkey peek:** a glance around a corner from a concealed position; used by Marines to describe the movements of Iraqi insurgents.

**waterboarding:** an interrogation technique in which the subject is immobilized and doused with water to simulate drowning; reported to be used by U.S. interrogators against terrorism detainees.