

American Dialect Society
2004 Words of the Year Nominations

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Notes: Dennis Baron [University of Illinois] would like to see "roadside bomb" on the list. I know "wingman" from Top Gun, but the Algeos [John and Adele Algeo, former chair of the ADS New Words Committee] sent me an article explaining how the term is used to mean someone who helps you meet a possible partner in a bar. I have also heard the term used on CNN to mean something like "helper." There is also "wingperson" and "wingwoman."

girlie man, girly man—Effeminate male (Best Revival of an Old Term—we have a citation for 1894 that obviously antedates the SNL use in the Hans und Franz skit ca. 1987)

fisking—Responding point by point in a blog to a speech or news article (after Robert Fisk, a British journalist who was a frequent target of such treatment)

Poddict—iPod user

Pac-Manhattan—Pac-Man played out in the streets of Manhattan by students in colored rain coats

strategic ambiguity—Not letting the enemy know for sure about one's military (esp. Nuclear) capabilities (citations go back to the early 70s)

Lexus lane—High-occupancy toll lane

movieokie—Version of a movie allowing would-be actors to perform the dialogue

Mammogrammy—Grammy award for someone abreast in her field (like Janet Jackson or Dolly Parton)

Janet moment—Unplanned bodily exposure at a public function (after Janet Jackson)

Boobgate—Scandal over Janet Jackson's exposed breast

Nipplegate—See BOOBGATE (but used earlier in squawk over John Elway's possible nipple ring)

wardrobe malfunction—Overexposure in a mammary way

DOMA—Defense of Marriage Act (around since at least 1996)

South Park Republicans—Republicans with Libertarian sympathies (as opposed to Christian beliefs)

Google-aire—Millionaire from investment in Google

Futopia—Unrealistic vision of the future

Clinton syndrome—Heart attack symptoms (with an earlier meaning of "politician who acts on impulse")

proclaimer—"I am _____, and I approve this message." (Now that's got to be the phrase of the year.)

partner reduction—Divorce

hillbilly armor—Makeshift armor added to military vehicles

up-armored—Equipped with hillbilly armor

527—Independent political action committee of the kind that must surely rankle McCain and Feingold

traditionally built woman—Big chick