

FIRST CLASS

From: AMERICAN DIALECT SOCIETY
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Address Service Requested

NEWSLETTER OF THE
AMERICAN DIALECT SOCIETY

**NADS
35.1**

Vol. 35, No. 1

January 2003

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NADS is sent in January, May and September to all ADS members. Send news and queries to editor and executive secretary Allan Metcalf, English Department, MacMurray College, Jacksonville, Illinois 62650, phone (217) 479-7117 or (217) 243-3403, AAllan@aol.com. Erin Klee, administrative assistant.

ADS Annual membership for 2003 is \$50, students \$25; plus \$10 outside the United States. Write Customer Service, Journals Fulfillment, Duke University Press, Box 90660, Durham, NC 27708-0660; phone 1-888-387-5765 or 919-687-3602; fax 1-919-688-2615; subscriptions@dukeupress.edu.

ADS Web site (Grant Barrett, webmaster):
<http://www.americandialect.org/>

ADS-L discussion list: To join, send to listserv@listserv.uga.edu the message:
Sub ADS-L Your Name

Calls for Papers: ADS Fall Meetings

ROCKY MOUNTAIN

In association with RMMLA, Oct. 9–11; Missoula, Montana, Holiday Inn Parkside.

March 1 is the deadline for 300-word abstracts. Papers dealing with any aspect of the dialects of English or other languages spoken in the U.S. will be considered. Please send one copy if submitting through e-mail, or send two abstracts by regular mail (one with the author's name, one anonymous) to the meeting chair, **Janna Graham**, 802 West Wyeth St., Pocatello ID 83204; phone 208-233-6918; grahjann@isu.edu.

ADS Regional Secretary 2002-2003: **Mary Morzinski**, Dept. of English, University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, La Crosse WI 54601; morzinsk.mary@uw lax.edu.

Membership in RMMLA is \$30 faculty members, \$20 students and emeritus. Write RMMLA, Washington State Univ., P.O. Box 642610, Pullman WA 99164-2610; rmmla@rmmla.wsu.edu; <http://rmmla.wsu.edu/rmmla/>; phone (509) 335-4198; fax (509) 335-6635 ext. 54198.

MIDWEST

In association with MMLA, Nov. 7–9; Chicago, Congress Plaza Hotel.

March 1 is the deadline for submitting abstracts on the topic of "Current Research in Dialect Variation and Change" to the meeting chair, **Kathryn Remlinger**, Associate Professor, Grand Valley State University, English Dept., 1 Campus Dr., Allendale MI 49401; remlingk@gvsu.edu. E-mail submissions are preferred.

ADS Regional Secretary 2003-2004: **Kathryn Remlinger**.

Membership in MMLA is \$35 full and associate professors, \$30 assistant professors and school teachers, \$20 adjunct and part-time faculty, \$15 students, retired, and unemployed. Write MMLA, 302 English-Philosophy Bldg., U. of Iowa, Iowa City IA 52242-1408; phone (319) 335-0331; mmla@uiowa.edu; www.uiowa.edu/~mmla/.

Future meetings: 2004 St. Louis; 2005 Minneapolis.

SOUTH CENTRAL

In association with SCMLA, Oct. 30–Nov. 1; Hot Springs, Arkansas, Arlington Resort Hotel & Spa.

March 15 is the deadline for submitting either full papers or 500-word abstracts on any topic to the meeting chair, **Shelisa Theus**, Dept. of English, Louisiana State Univ.-Baton Rouge, Baton Rouge LA 70803; theusshelisa@hotmail.com.

ADS Regional Secretary 2003-2004: **Michael R. Dressman**, Dean, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Houston-Downtown, One Main Street, Houston TX 77002; phone (713) 221-8009; dressmann@uhd.edu.

Membership in SCMLA is \$30 full professors, \$25 associate and assistant professors, \$20 instructors and students. Write SCMLA Membership Secretary, Texas A&M Univ., Dept. of English, College Station TX 77843-4227; phone (979) 845-7041; fax (979) 862-2292; www.english.tamu.edu/scmla/; scmla@tamu.edu.

Future Meeting: 2004 New Orleans.

SOUTH ATLANTIC

In association with SAMLA, Nov. 6–8; Atlanta, Marriott Marquis.

March 31 is the deadline for submitting 500-word abstracts (including bibliography, if needed) on any topic (those on language variation in the media are especially encouraged). Send abstracts to the meeting chair, **Lamont Antieau**, Linguistic Atlas, 317 Park Hall, Athens GA 30602; antieau@arches.uga.edu. E-mail submissions are preferred; please allow two weeks for postal mail.

ADS Regional Secretary 2003-2004: **Michael Picone**, Dept. of Romance Languages and Classics, Univ. of Alabama, Box 870246, Tuscaloosa AL 35406-0246; mpicone@bama.ua.edu.

Membership in SAMLA is \$40 individual (\$30 first year), \$25 graduate student, adjunct, and emeritus. Write SAMLA, Georgia State Univ., University Plaza, Atlanta GA 30303-3083; phone (404) 651-2693; www.samla.org; samla@samla.org.

Future meetings: 2004 Nov. 12–14 Roanoke, Virginia, Hotel Roanoke & Conference Center; 2005 Nov. 4–6 Atlanta, Sheraton Colony Square.

First Call for Boston, January 2004

On to the Hub of the Universe! where the Reverend Samuel Clarke Bushnell (1852–1928) is said to have said,

I come from good old Boston,
The home of the bean and the cod,
Where Cabots speak only to Lowells,
And Lowells speak only to God.

And, in his toast at the Harvard alumni dinner at Waterbury,

I am from Massachusetts,
The land of the sacred cod,
There the Adamses snub the Abbotts
And the Cabots walk with God.

Boston is indeed our destination for the American Dialect Society Annual Meeting 2004, January 8–10. There, as usual, we are guests of the Linguistic Society of America, whose meeting extends to the 11th. We'll be at the newly renovated Sheraton Boston at 39 Dalton Street in the Prudential Center. "Nestled in charming and historic Back Bay," we are told, "the Sheraton Boston Hotel is ideally situated for business and leisure travel." The LSA room rate is \$109 single or double. For reservations, call the hotel at (617) 236-2020 or Sheraton Central Reservations at (800) 325-3535 and tell them you are with the LSA Annual Meeting group.

As for us: **Friday, August 15** is the deadline for proposals for the ADS meeting. Send 150–300 word abstracts by email to Executive Secretary Allan Metcalf at AAllan@aol.com. If you must use the postal service instead of email, send four copies of the abstract, with your name on an accompanying letter but not on the abstract, to Allan Metcalf, English Dept., MacMurray College, Jacksonville Illinois 62650-2590.

Along with your proposal, tell us if you will need a tape or CD player. All sessions will have an overhead projector, so you need not request one. None of our sessions, unfortunately, will have an LCD projector, so be prepared to do without it. They cost about a thousand dollars to rent from the hotel.

Proposals will be judged anonymously by a committee chaired by ADS vice president **Joan Hall**. If your proposal is accepted, you'll be asked for an abstract of no more than 200 words for the LSA program.

We will follow the usual outline for our meeting: program sessions Thursday afternoon, Friday afternoon, and Saturday morning and afternoon; open Executive Council meeting early Friday morning, and Annual Business Meeting early Saturday morning; Words of the Year nominations late Friday morning and final vote late Friday afternoon, followed by our Bring-Your-Own-Book exhibit and reception. **Charles Meyer** (U.of Massachusetts, Boston) will be the speaker at our luncheon on Saturday.

Future LSA-ADS meetings: 2005 Jan. 6–9 San Francisco Hyatt; 2006 Jan. 5–8 Houston; 2007 Jan. 4–7 New York Hilton; 2008 Jan. 3–6 Chicago Hilton.

Committee on Teaching: Call for Proposals

The Committee on Teaching is calling for proposals for the pedagogy panel at next year's annual ADS meeting in Boston. We were delighted by the success of the ADS-COT sponsored panel focusing on pedagogy ("Teaching Varieties of English in America") at this year's annual meeting, and we are excited about sponsoring a panel/roundtable again next year. The specific focus of the panel/roundtable will be strategies for approaching the language attitudes—both about standard and nonstandard varieties of English—that students often bring to the classroom. We are seeking 15-minute talks that address specific issues and pedagogical strategies related to this subject. If you are interested in presenting at the panel/roundtable, please submit an approximately 300-word abstract by **May 1**. Abstracts should be sent to **Anne Curzan**, either by e-mail (acurzan@umich.edu) or by snail mail (English Department, 3187 Angell Hall, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1003).

Council Ponders Publications, Awards, Appoints

The Executive Council meeting is where most of the society's decisions are made. No more than nine people at one time belong on the Council, but all members are invited to attend and participate in the meeting, held Friday morning during the ADS Annual Meeting. On Friday, January 3, 2003, all but one of the Council members were present for the meeting, as well as 14 others.

First on the agenda were matters concerning *American Speech*. **Connie Eble** has announced her wish to finish her term as editor in calendar year 2005, so a search committee was appointed to find a successor. She was appointed chair of the committee; the other members are **William A. Kretzschmar, Jr.** (U. of Georgia) and **Robert Bayley** (U. of Texas, San Antonio). That committee was also asked to help Eble find a review editor for *American Speech* right away. Managing Editor **Charles Carson** explained that the review editor's main job would be selecting books for review from the large number that arrive at the office.

Debra Kaufman, Journals Editorial/Administrative Manager for our publisher Duke University Press, was on hand to help as the discussion turned to memberships and revenue. She provided this information on membership at the end of publication year 2002:

individuals	391
students	43
life members	54
Total	488

For the most part, membership has held steady at around 500 for a long time (i.e. several decades), but Duke records show:

- From 1999-2000: 1% membership decline
- From 2000-2001: 16% membership decline
- From 2001-2002: 2% membership decline

Was there really an anomalous decline in membership between 2000 and 2001? Actually, Kaufman said, it's not clear. The press has had a "problematic" membership and subscription fulfillment system. At considerable expense, the press is getting a new system, and then we'll be able to know.

Several members pointed out that it has been difficult to find out how to join ADS. So we resolved to

do better: Put a simplified direct link to Duke UP on our website, and have flyers to distribute at future annual meetings. The first has now already been accomplished.

In other matters, there was considerable discussion of the Hans Kurath Fund for the Linguistic Atlas, administered by Kretzschmar at the Atlas headquarters at the University of Georgia. It was agreed that the workings of the Fund would be made more widely known. [IN THIS ISSUE? OR IN FUTURE?]

The Council took these official actions:

1. Kept dues for 2004 at the same level as for 2003 (\$50 for individuals, \$25 for students, \$1000 for life).

2. At the request of **Michael Picone** (U. of Alabama), co-organizer, approved a contribution of \$500 for the April 2004 conference on Language Variation in the South.

3. Approved \$3500 in support of a faculty member at the 2005 Linguistic Institute. The appointment will be negotiated with the Harvard and MIT organizers by Dennis Preston. Last year we approved \$3500 in support of a faculty member at the 2003 Linguistic Institute at Michigan State U. **Natalie Schilling-Estes** (Georgetown U.) was chosen to be the first American Dialect Society professor.

In 2007 the Linguistic Institute will be at the University of Colorado, and we expect to support a professorship there too.

4. Reappointed **Allan Metcalf** (MacMurray Coll.) executive secretary for the two-year term 2004-2005.

5. Reappointed **Connie Eble** (U. of North Carolina, Chapel Hill) editor of *American Speech* and **Michael Montgomery** (U. of South Carolina, Columbia) associate editor for the two-year term 2004-2005.

6. Appointed regional secretaries for two-year terms 2003-2004: South Central, **Michael Dressman** (U. of Houston, Downtown), reappointment; South Atlantic, **Michael Picone** (U. of Alabama), reappointment; Midwest, **Kathryn Remlinger** (Grand Valley State U.).

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7. Appointed **Ellen Johnson** (Athens, Georgia) for three-year term 2003–05 as trustee of the Hans Kurath Kurath Fund for the Linguistic Atlas, replacing Lawrence M. Davis, as recommended by Editor William A. Kretzschmar, Jr.

8. Appointed to the *American Speech* advisory board for three-year terms 2003–2005, as recommended by Editor Connie Eble: **Sherry Ash**, U. of Pennsylvania; **Patricia Cukor-Avila**, U. of North Texas; **George Dorrill**, Southeastern Louisiana U.; **William Kretzschmar**, U. of Georgia. Eble sent her thanks to the four outgoing members of the Editorial Advisory Board: "They have all been extremely conscientious, and I will continue to call on them from time to time. They are Richard Bailey, Ellen Johnson, Erik Thomas, and Rudolph Troike."

9. Once again appointed **Michael Adams** (Albright Coll.) to organize our sessions at MLA, which meets in San Diego this December. Anyone wishing to organize ADS sessions at MLA in future years is invited to write the ADS executive secretary.

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

All members of the Society are invited to participate in the Annual Business Meeting, which takes place the morning after the Council meeting, in this

Call for Papers: Language Variety in the South III

LAVIS III, Language Variety in the South: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives, a symposium, will be held at the U. of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, April 15–17, 2004. **Michael D. Picone** and **Catherine Evans Davies** are the organizers.

Abstracts of up to 500 words (plus references), for 20-minute papers, must be submitted electronically to picone@ua.edu by **March 15, 2003**. Use MS Word to compose your abstract. In addition to sending your abstract (with title) as an attachment, please paste a copy of the abstract into the body of your e-mail message. If you use phonetic symbols in your abstract, select either Lucinda Sans Unicode (which is included with most applications of MS Word) or SILDoulosIPA (freeware available from SIL) as your IPA font. Your name, affiliation, and current contact information must be included in your e-mail message but should not appear in the attached abstract. In your e-mail message, please also include an

case on January 4. The only official actions on the agenda were 1) to elect **Joan Hall** (DARE) vice president for 2003 and 2004, to elect **Robert Bayley** (U. of Texas, San Antonio) to the Executive Council for four years 2003–06, and to elect **Bethany Dumas** (U. of Tennessee) to the Nominating Committee for 2002 and 2003, as recommended by the Nominating Committee; and 2) to approve the updating of the ADS Bylaws proposed by Ronald Butters and published in the September 2002 Newsletter, p. 22.

But there was concern about the archives of the Society and archives of members' dialect studies, so a quorum of the Executive Council being present, President Michael Montgomery was authorized to appoint a person or persons to inquire into the state of the archives, that is, "to seek out old ADS stuff and find a happy home for it." **Joan Hall** (DARE) and **Beverly Flanigan** (Ohio U.) were appointed to this committee.

CALL FOR MLA PROPOSALS

As usual, ADS is allowed to sponsor two sessions at the annual meeting of the Modern Language Association, this year in San Diego Dec. 27–30. As usual, if you're interested in being on our program, by **March 14** get in touch with our program chair, **Michael Adams**, MAdams1448@aol.com.

New Book: Persian to English

indication of your equipment requirements for your proposed presentation. Abstracts will be judged anonymously.

For further information, see www.bama.ua.edu/~mpicone/LAVISIIIsummary.htm.

If you have recently published a book, send pertinent information to Executive Secretary Allan Metcalf (address on cover), and we'll mention it here.

Garland Cannon and Alan Kaye. *The Persian Contributions to the English Language: An Historical Dictionary*. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz Verlag, 2001. x + 190 pages. Broschier 49.80 Eur-D. ISBN 3-447-04503-5. Includes a historical dictionary of 811 Persian loans, a short dictionary of 133 distant loans, analysis of the data in 35 semantic fields, and earliest known English literary use.

Weapons of Mass Destruction Loom Over Words of 2002

The grim forebodings of the past year were reflected in the American Dialect Society's choice of "weapons of mass destruction" and its abbreviation "WMD" as word (or phrase) of the year 2002.

In the 13th annual vote among members and friends of the society, conducted this time in Atlanta Jan. 3 during the society's annual meeting, "weapons of mass destruction" received 38 votes of the approximately 60 cast. Vote numbers are approximate because voting was by show of hands.

Other candidates for Word of the Year were:

"google" (verb) — to search the Web using the search engine Google for information on a person or thing: 11 votes.

"blog" — from "weblog," a website of personal events, comments, and links: 6 votes.

"Amber alert" — public announcement of a missing child: 4 votes.

"regime change" — forced change in leadership: 3 votes.

Words of the Year are those that reflect the concerns and preoccupations of the year gone by. They need not be new, but they usually are newly prominent.

Before the voting on Word of the Year, words were also chosen in particular categories. These were the categories for 2002:

- *Most likely to succeed:* "blog" (30 votes). Other candidates: "Amber alert" (20); "Axis of _____," alliance (8); "teen angstrel," angst-ridden popular singer (1).

- *Most useful:* "google" (verb). All 60 votes in this category were for this word. Other candidates, with no votes, were: "dataveillance," surveillance using computer data; the prefix "war-" as in "wardriving" or "warchalking," finding locations for unauthorized wireless Internet access; "My big fat _____"; "like no other," extremely.

- *Most creative:* "Iraqnophobia," strong fear of Iraq (38 votes in a runoff). Other candidate in the runoff: "walking pinata," a person subject to relentless criticism, most recently Trent Lott (25). Other candidates in the first vote: "dialarhoea," inadvertent dialing of a cell phone in a pocket or handbag (8); "201 (k)," a 401 (k) retirement account ruined by

stock losses (8); "apatheist," someone believing that God or gods exist but are not of any use (7).

- *Most unnecessary:* "wombanization," feminization, from Alexander Barnes' book "The Book Read Backwards: The Deconstruction of Patriarchy and the Wombanization of Being" (46 votes). Other candidates: "Saddameter," meter on television showing daily likelihood of war with Iraq (13); "virtuecrat," person both politically correct and morally righteous (10); "black tide," large-scale oil pollution at sea (0).

- *Most outrageous:* "Neuticles," fake testicles for neutered pets (40 votes in a runoff). Other candidate in the runoff: "grid butt," marks left on the buttocks by fishnet pantyhose (30). Other candidates in the first vote: "sausage fest," slang term for a party with more males than females (7); "diabulimia," loss of weight by a diabetic skipping insulin doses (3); "Botox party," party at which a physician injects guests with Botox (2); "comprendo-challenged," unable to understand the U.S. Constitution (0).

- *Most euphemistic:* "regime change" (38 votes). Other candidates: "V card," slang term for virginity (14); "newater," sewage water purified and recycled into the fresh water system (7); "unorthodox entrepreneur," panhandler, prostitute, or drug dealer in a Vancouver park (4); "Enronomics," fraudulent business and accounting practices (1); "dirty bomb," conventional bomb laced with radioactive material (0).

In the previous year, the special category Most Inspirational had been added to incorporate Todd Beamer's "Let's roll!" attacking the hijackers of United Flight 93 on September 11, 2001. For 2002, President Bush's "embetterment" as in "the embetterment of mankind" was proposed as justifying another Most Inspirational, but it was rejected 45 votes to 12. Another candidate for Most Inspirational was proposed, "grid butt," the runner-up in the Most Outrageous category, but the chair, who favored "embetterment," arbitrarily ruled it out of order.

Next January at the Annual Meeting in Boston ADS will do it again. Nominations for words of the year 2003 are welcome any time. Send them to the chair of the New Words Committee, Wayne Glowka, at wglowka@mail.gcsu.edu.

2 Get Honorary Memberships; Nominations Invited for 2004

At the ADS Annual Luncheon, President Dennis Preston announced his award of Presidential Honorary Memberships 2003–2005 to two students: **Lamont Antieau** of the University of Georgia, nominated by William A. Kretzschmar, Jr., and **Bartek Plichta** of Michigan State University, nominated by Preston himself.

The four-year complimentary memberships are awarded to outstanding students, graduate or undergraduate, to encourage their interest and participation. Any ADS member may nominate a student. Usually there are three awards each year.

Our new president, Michael Montgomery, will be making the awards for 2004. To nominate a student, send a letter of recommendation, with supporting material if you wish, to him at Dept. of English, Univ. of South Carolina, Columbia SC 29208.

Tamony goes Presidential

“Presidential Voices” will be the topic of the 18th annual Peter Tamony Memorial Lecture on American Language at the University of Missouri, Columbia, on Thursday, April 3.

Allan Metcalf of MacMurray College, ADS executive secretary, will be the speaker. His talk in Ellis Auditorium will begin at 4 p.m. A reception will follow.

From George Washington to George W. Bush, the presidents of the United States have attracted attention not just to what they said but to how they said it. Starting as long ago as Grover Cleveland (president 1885–89 and 1893–97), their speech has been recorded. The various voices, dialects, speaking styles, and vocabulary of those chosen to speak for America over the past 214 years reflect the changing ideals and preferences of the Americans who chose them.

The Tamony lecture series commemorates the gift of the extensive collection of citations of American slang by Peter Tamony (1902–1985) of San Francisco. These files are now housed in the Western Historical Manuscript Collection at the university.

Metcalf is author of four recent books on language, the latest being *Predicting New Words: The Secrets of Their Success* (2002).

Committee on Teaching Invites Articles for Newsletter

The Committee on Teaching is very pleased to announce the revival of the newsletter column devoted to pedagogical issues. The goal of the column is to provide a forum for sharing innovative and effective strategies for teaching students about language, including topics such as the technical aspects of dialects and language variation, issues in language ideology and language policy, history of English, language and gender, discourse studies, and other related fields.

We invite submissions of approximately 500–700 words, with specific teaching strategies and practices whenever appropriate and possible.

Please send submissions to **Anne Curzan** by e-mail, as Word attachments, if possible (acurzan@umich.edu); if this is not possible, please send submissions by snail mail (English Department, 3187 Angell Hall, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1003).

Final Call: Louisiana Purchase

LOUISIANA PURCHASE special issue: Anyone who might be interested in contributing to a special issue of *American Speech* that will coincide with the 200th anniversary of the Louisiana Purchase (December 2003) should immediately get in touch with editor **Connie Eble** at cceble@email.unc.edu.

INTERNATIONAL LINGUISTIC ASSOCIATION—“Dialects and Dialectology” will be the major theme of the 48th annual conference of the ILA at New York University April 4–6. **Walt Wolfram** (North Carolina State U.) and **Joan Hall** (DARE) will be the guest speakers, and **David K. Barnhart** (Lexik Books) is the program chair. For information see www.ilaword.org or write the conference coordinator, Johanna J. Woltjer, 511 West 112 Street #14, New York, NY 10025-1634, e-mail jwoltjer@earthlink.net.

DICTIONARY SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA—at Duke U., May 29–31. See www.duke.edu/web/linguistics/dsna.htm or write Marge Wolfram, Linguistics Coordinator, DSNA XIV, Duke Linguistics Program, Box 90015, 307 Allen Building, Durham NC 27708.

DARE Seeks Sleighty Explanations for Volume V

If you are familiar with any of the following words or expressions, please let us know. It is most helpful if you can give an example or examples of how it is (or was) used, and as much detail as possible about when, where, and by whom. Other data, such as references to written works, are welcome, but if it appears on the Web we have probably already seen it. Send your responses to George Goebel at *DARE*, by e-mail to ghgoebel@facstaff.wisc.edu (please put "NADS queries" in the subject line) or regular mail to 6125 Helen White Hall, 600 N. Park St., Madison, WI 53706.

slang-jang—a dish containing oysters, onions, pickles, peppers, etc. We have a single citation from Arkansas, but a Google search suggests that this is still known, especially in the South and South Midland. Is this part of your culinary background?

sleighty—nimble, dexterous. We have some New England evidence, but it is not clear whether this is still in use.

sloomy—meaning? We have two citations which seem to attest different senses, but neither context text is very illuminating. John McPhee quotes a woman in Maine who says, "It's like hot coals in me... It goes right down through here, all sloomy, like a burn." One of our fieldworkers reported that for an informant in southern Indiana, "A full skirt, not so full as it ought to be, is 'long and sloomy'." (There does not seem to be any connection with British dialect *sloomy* meaning "sleepy, sluggish.")

slop worm—Our only evidence is from six LAGS informants, all from Alabama and Georgia. One identifies it as a "red wiggler," while another says it is "light or white." Can anyone give more information?

slow, slough (rhymes with *plow*)—to strike, attack, kill. We have a handful of scattered citations, beginning in 1911, but we would welcome further evidence on its distribution and meaning. (As far as we can tell, it is not recorded in any dictionary and has no obvious antecedents; any evidence for its earlier history would also be very welcome.)

slumpy—muddy, slushy. We have mostly New England evidence up to around 1920; is it still used there or elsewhere?

slurt—to squirt (transitive or intransitive); to blurt (out). We have a handful of scattered examples, but we need more data to know if it's regional.

smooch, smouch, smouge—to cheat, finagle; to steal. Are any of these forms still in use?

snake-biscuit blossom—meaning? This occurs in a novel set in northern Oregon.

spar, spar-bird—sparrow. All of our evidence is from Kentucky, North Carolina, and Virginia.

spear-hog—porcupine. This was given by a single Georgia informant.

speckled britches—an edible green. A source on the Web identifies this as "evening primrose," but we'd like to know if anyone else knows this term and what they apply it to.

speckled jack—an edible green. Probably the same as the preceding, but we'd like more evidence.

spew (up)—in reference to frost or its effect on plants or soil. If you know this sense, we would appreciate examples of how it is used.

spider hawk—mud dauber (wasp). We have a single citation from the Dallas TX area.

sprag—to slow or steer a sled by dragging the feet. Our only evidence is from the 20s and 30s in northeastern Pennsylvania. (We are not concerned with the many technical senses of *sprag*.)

Technology Gift Helps Editing, Electronification of DARE

A group of anonymous donors has generously provided the *DARE* project with funds for a major technological upgrade. The project will involve software development and integration services to migrate from the current procedures to new database structures and editing procedures, using a Content Management System. Text of already published *DARE* volumes will be converted to XML for greater functionality and to look towards an electronic version of the Dictionary.

To do the work, *DARE* has selected Stephen Perkins' company dataformat.com, which has extensive experience with dictionary projects. Senior Editor Luanne von Schneidemesser is coordinating the project for *DARE*.