

Wördos? About 20 persons who meet once a month in Minneapolis and talk about our English language. Abbreviations: ST = Minneapolis Star Tribune, PP = St. Paul Pioneer Press, NYT = N.Y. Times, WSJ = Wall St. Journal, unatt = don't know source, undtd = don't know date, nsltr = newsletter, newsrsls = news release, AHD = Am. Heritage Dict. III, GMAU = Garner's Mod. Am. Usage, OED = Oxford Dict. Of Eng. Lang. II, Warriner = Warriner's English Grammar & Composition, YFIO = you figure it out., Stringer = contributor. Italics used freely for emphasis. We have a Web page: <http://www.wordos.net>. Our motto: *Claritas super omnia*: clarity above all."

Brave new start

- "Snow fell, *and the tow trucks followed.*" (P-P, 12-11-09)
- "Instead, show them to someone you can *trust from October 21-23.*" (Ad, ST, 10-20-'09 for Price My Coins & Collectibles) Wördo Fred Webber: "Can't trust them at any other time."
- "Police responded to the couple's townhouse ..." (Chao Xiong, ST, 11-4-'09)
- "Paige Johnson of Rushford had a Champion Dairy Market Goat selected. *Mark and Carolyn Johnson are the parents.*" (Cutline, Tri-County Record, Rushford, 9-24-'09) Re: Winners of the Purple Ribbon Auction at the state fair.
- "It's trying to empty the ocean *one-eye-dropper (drop) at a time.*" (Guest on NPR, 11-12) Wördo Marlene Reuber: "No water in the ocean. Just eye-droppers."

Good work!

To Wordo Mark Warner, for his collection of current **redundancies**: "Working as a team *together*, the reason *why*, the reason we *should*, other *alternatives*, *safely* secured, continue to *persist*, entering *in*, diverting *away*, horribly *tragic*, we recycle our water *again and again*. "To Michael Gerson (Wash. Post, 9-11-'09) for an apt **metaphor**: "... bloggers would have little to collect or comment upon without the costly enterprise of newsgathering and investigative reporting. *The old media dinosaurs remain the basis for the entire food chain.*" More good **metaphors**: "He has the charisma of an arthritic pet bull." (Gail Collins, NYT, 3-7) "We are the pioneers, and as we shape the course of the stream near its head, our efforts have infinitely more effect." (David McCullough, quoting Theodore Roosevelt, "Mornings On Horseback", p. 349) "The feeble pulse of moderation in the Republican Party is in danger of flattening in the Nov. 3 election." (NYT, 10-26) To WCCO-TV (12-3-'09) for getting **lay/lie** correct: "She *lay* down next to Evan." To Dave Phelps and Liz Fedor (ST, 12-3-'09) for **copy that is fun to read**: "Tom Petters, the onetime stereo salesman whose ability to work a room helped make him a business mogul, sat with his chin on his hands and stared straight ahead Wednesday as a federal jury in St. Paul *gave him the ultimate no-sale.*" (Thanks, Wordo Fred Webber)



Able, ability to: A late fad. Four examples collected by Wördo Fred Webber: "If you want *to be able* to get..." If you want to get ... (Home Shopping Network, 9-19-'09) "At least *get able* to square his shoulders." ... can square his shoulders. (TV, unatt., 9-24-'09) "If the watch band has this *ability* to wrap around your wrist." If you can wrap it around your wrist. (Shop NBC, 10-2-'09) "If the power goes out you have the *ability* to hear the weather." ... you can hear the weather. (Jim Bakker, TCT Network, 9-30-'09)

Huh? "Of the two companies each *are* (is) taking on responsibilities." (ST, 10-23-09) "The others added to the roll-call ... *is* (are) (ST, 10-12-'09) "Its scope of care, research, terminology ... *are* (is) unrivalled." (ST, 10-24-'09) "...he saw a pickup truck *driving erratically.*" (Paul Walsh & Abby Simons, ST, 11-4-

'09) "...same *regiment* (regimen) practiced by Lance Armstrong." (ST, 9-1-'09) *Regimen* is often confused with *Regime*. "(The fee) will *cost* \$70." (Jim Buchta, ST, 8-28-'09) "Some of the common *ailments* that acupuncturists try to relieve are back, neck and joint pain; headaches; *female* fertility (infertility), and stress reduction." (ST, undtd) Example of *unparalleled* construction. "From his opening number ... to a *reprisal* (reprise) of his online character ..." (ST, 9-21-'09) No. AHD: "*Reprisal*: 'Retaliation for an injury.' *Reprise*: To repeat or resume an action." "His shots per game *was* (were) *up* ..." (ST, undtd, '09) The correct pronunciation of *reprise* is *ray-PREEZE*. "Shelby *sprung* (sprang) for steaks from Murray's..." (ST, 12-12-'09) "(Rodriguez) was the latest *benefactor* (beneficiary) of the team's largesse, getting \$37 million ..." (Peninsula Daily News, WA, 12-14-'09) No. "*Benefactor*: One who gives financial aid." AHD: "*Beneficiary*: 'The recipient of funds.'" This, from an anonymous Wördo: "Isn't it nice to bestow largesse on the owners by accepting the \$37 million?" "This year the event is already *on par* (on track) to break the attendance record ..." (Seattle Times, 8-8-'09) AHD: "*Par*: equal to the standard, normal." "Baucus was separated *with* (from) his wife at the time." (ST, undtd) "Nearly one in seven parents with grown children *say* (says) that (he or she has) had a ..." (ST, 11-25-'09) "He went *further* (farther) west." (KARE, 11-28-'09) "I wish they (had) caught me six years ago." (Madoff quote, unatt., 10-31-'09) "Chevy: Compare it to *anyone* ..." (Tagline for Chevy ads, 12-7-'09) "A copy of the disc was *only given* to the trustee's office." (Dee DePass, ST, 11-12-'09) What is the meaning? That only a copy, but not the original, was given to the trustee's office?

TV people: oh, how they talk! "This went on *for a bunch of years*." (CH2 News Hour, 9-17-'09) "Romney knows what economics *are* (is)." (TV, O'Reilly, 10-29) "...*completely unique*..." (CH9 commercial for Wedding Day Store, 11-9) As opposed to only partly unique. "The *amount of* (number of) sobs created ..." (Fox News, 10-29) "The driver was *blind-sided by the sun*." (CH5, 9-18) Dictionary .Reference .Com: "To catch or take unawares, especially with harmful results." Was he temporarily blinded or merely caught unawares? "... a *smelly odor* was coming from their water." (CH4, 9-14) "I want you and *I* (me) to go have lunch with Obama." "... among people being *intrude* (intruded) upon." (Both, O'Reilly, Fox News, undtd) "George Will has *wore* (worn) a long tie two *weeks in a row." (Guest, Geo. Stephanoplous's TV program, unatt, 11-1) "One in three *people* (persons) *aren't* (isn't) confident." (Chas. Gibson, ABC, 10-22) "... kills *bacteria* that *causes* (cause) acne." (Commercial, TV, 10-28) "The emergency crew *sprung* (sprang) into action." (Steve Shaw, CH5, 2-10) "Her lyrics *sprung* (sprang) from the words of Jackie Lyden." (MPR, 5-24) "A *contention* (contingent) of students standing near the fence." (Broadcast of U football game, 9-26)

Words we double-checked in the dictionary: Scofflaw, as in "HECKER A SCOFFLAW..." (ST, undtd) AHD: "*Scofflaw*: One who habitually violates the law." **Marquee**, as in "OREGON RUNS AWAY FROM USC IN MARQUEE PAC-10 MATCHUP" (ST, 11-1) AHD: "*Marquee*: (1) A large tent, (2) A rooflike structure, and (3) Being an athlete of exceptional skill and popularity." **Dilutive**, as in "(John G. Stumpf) has no intention of raising *new common equity, which might be *dilutive*." AHD: "*Dilute*: To lessen the force, strength, purity or brilliance of.... having the effect of reducing earnings per share. (From Investorwords. com) We could not find *dilutive* in our dictionaries.

YFIO: Too much for us. "The lingering *wash of emotions* runs strong..." (ST, undtd) "GRENADE FIRED AT BUILDING WITH VOTES," (ST, undtd) A grenade was fired at a building housing ballots for an election in Honduras. (ST, undtd) "I had an eight-year *diaspora* when I wasn't there." (Henn. Co. Att'y. Bill Freeman, CH2 Almanac, 10-2) No. AHD: "*Diaspora*: (1) The dispersion of Jews from Israel from the sixth century B.C., when the Jews were exiled to Babylonia to the present time," and (2) A dispersion of an originally homogeneous entity." "AFTER MONTHS ... WHITE HOUSE IS COUNSEL OUT" (ST, 11-14).

--your humble & obt svt Robert MacGregor Shaw