

Slang

The New York Times

ON LANGUAGE

By **WILLIAM SAFIRE**

Gifts of Gab

Published: August 19, 2007

- Most popular female names: Maggie, Molly, Daisy, Bailey and Abby. Males: Buddy, Jake, Max, Hunter and Cody. Both sexes, raining both cats and dogs, but probably mainly cats: Tiger.
 - What ever happened to Spot and Rover and Kitty? They went the way of yesterday's kids named Jack and Jill.
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Campuspeak

Published: September 30, 2007

Ah-ite!

“Would you do this for me?” - “Ah-ite.”

The meaning is “O.K.” The sound is an amalgam of *all* and *right*, which used to sound like “aw-rite” but now is compressed into a sliding “a’ight,” as the teen-slanguist Fred Lynch transcribes it

Campuspeak

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humongous

huge and monstrous and/or tremendous

She lives in a humongous house on the hill

ginormous

gigantic + enormous

Campuspeak

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chillax

The new slang blend submitted by members of Professor Eble's English 314 class only a few months ago is *chillax*, from the adjective *chill*, “easygoing,” and the verb *relax*, the combo meaning “do nothing in particular,” an activity widely practiced in centers of learning throughout the nation.

Campuspeak

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Butterface

“Great body, but her face. . . .”

Campuspeak

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blockamore

nose wide open

thigh five

sketchy

Those middle-aged men are so sketchy. They creep me out.

all up in your grill

Schlep

September 16, 2007

He's such a *shlep*!
