

# PenChant

To increase awareness and appreciation of the Literary Arts

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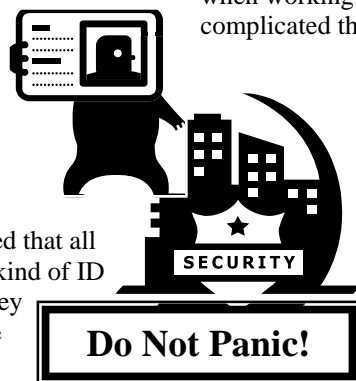
## HOMELAND SECURITY DISRUPTS PWLF

by Tim Sheehan

Dues are due and many of you have sent yours in to the Post Office Box. No doubt many of you were surprised to have your checks returned to you as undeliverable by the post office. DO NOT PANIC. We are still in business.

The Post Office requested that all PO Box holders show some kind of ID to prove that they are who they say they are and that they are not enemies of the people. There are rules about how this was to be done and I'll not bore you with the details except to say that they complicated things.

Our post office box is located at the downtown station which only has counter



help during business hours. That is, of course, when working people are working. This too complicated things.

So after several missed connections we learned that all of our incoming mail had been returned to sender.

ARGHHH!

To shorten this epic, I thank Job Conger for his special effort that satisfied the Post Office but that still leaves us in an odd place. We need your dues to continue operating. So if you sent them in and had

them returned, please, send them in again.

We are hopeful that this kind of thing will not happen in the future but the post master tells me that Homeland Security will continue to change our lives for some time to come.

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## YOUR LANGUAGE NEEDS YOU

by Vicki Bamman

Did you eat a balti before 1984 or have a mullet before 1994? And do you know how they got their names? If so, contact the Oxford English Dictionary! Your language needs you!

Because writers are also readers, you are invited to participate in helping to solve "some of the most intriguing word mysteries in the language," according to the Guardian U.K.

The editors of the Oxford English Dictionary want to find the earliest verifiable usage of every single word in the English language. An extensive rewriting of the Dictionary is under way right now. A number of words of recent vintage are being included, and the OED is seeking the earliest usages of these words. They have published an "appeal list" of 50 words, with the

earliest date of usage known so far. They are looking for earlier appearances in books, magazines, movie scripts, fanzines, or even in private letters. Examples from the internet, including Usenet groups, are being cited as well. The most important thing is that the source can be dated.

Sometimes the OED can't tell *how* a word or phrase was invented; they have to indicate that a word's origin is uncertain. Some of these words, such as "posh," have been around awhile without having their origins explained. In their appeal, the OED say "If you can fill us in, so much the better....If you have a convincing theory, we'd like to hear from you."

Some of the words and phrases

(Continued on page 2)

*After all, the advantage of an art in which there is no money is that there should be no reason to sell out.*  
—A.E. Stallings

## YOUR LANGUAGE

they are interested in are:

back to square one [1960]  
 boffin [1941]  
 bog-standard [1983]  
 bouncy castle [1986]  
 chattering classes [1985]  
 codswallop [1963]  
 cyberspace [1982]  
 cyborg [1960]  
 ditsy [1978]  
 full monty [1985]  
 handbags (at dawn) [1987]  
 mullet (hairstyle) [1994]  
 nerd [1951]  
 nip and tuck [1980]  
 posh [1915]  
 ska [1964]

A couple of examples:

### codswallop

Wanted: printed evidence before 1963; information of the word's origin  
 Codswallop sounds as old as the

English countryside. But it's unknown before 1963. Is there a connection with Victorian fizzy drinks guru Hiram Codd, or can you prove a better theory? According to the OED's record, the term makes a quiet first appearance in an issue of the Radio Times!



### nerd

Wanted: printed evidence before 1951; information of the word's origin

The first nerd was tracked down to 1951. The previous year Dr Seuss's

story *If I Ran the Zoo* included a picture of a 'nerd'. Just chance? There are other explanations circulating. Earlier evidence would scotch the Seuss theory — or maybe it's true?

### snazzy

Wanted: printed evidence before 1932; information of the word's origin

Why is something stylish and attractive snazzy? The word's a bit outmoded now, but it was the word to use in the 50s and 60s. First recorded in 1932 (is it earlier?), the OED would like to be able to say more about its derivation than 'Origin unknown'!

For the complete list with explanatory comments, and contact info, see <http://www.oed.com/bbcwordhunt/list.html>

## A WORD OR TWO FROM VICKI

*Check out the Classifieds on page 5*

“Quick” is one of those little words in common use that we take for granted. If you ask someone what it means, they have a ready response: fast, rapid, etc. You don't have to look it up; you know what it means. But when you do look in the dictionary, you find a surprisingly long list of definitions. Quick is used as an adjective, an adverb, and a noun. As an adjective, it means “fast and sudden; swift.” It also means begun and ended in a very short time, as in a quick visit, or a quick look at the paper, and so on. Further down the list, you find “not patient, hasty;” the example given is “a quick temper.” Then there are meanings like “acting quickly, ready, lively, active,” “keen in perception,” and “understanding or learning fast.” While you may not define the word in these terms, you recognize them when you hear them used: a quick wit, a quick ear(!), and

“quick in school.”

But then there are some odd ones: the archaic quick, meaning “living, alive.” It's almost never found any more except in the works of Shakespeare and his contemporaries. In use but still surprising are the following meanings: sharp, as in a “quick curve”; productive, as in a “quick vein of ore,” readily convertible into cash, and having some quality or feature suggesting a living thing. Readily convertible into cash? The dictionary didn't give any example of that use, mores the pity.

Another dictionary has a similar list but also includes “pregnant, with child; specifically said of a pregnant woman when motion of the fetus is felt.”

As a noun, the word quick is used for the tender sensitive flesh under a fingernail or toenail. It is

also used figuratively to refer to “the tender sensitive part of one's feelings.” Two other definitions: living persons, as in “the quick and the dead.” That expression does not refer to those who move fast and those who are unable to move. Then there's another use, quick for “quickset,” which refers to a “plant or cutting, especially of hawthorn, set to grow in a hedge.” I don't know how hawthorn propagates, but wonder if it is one where you cut off a small branch, trim off the side branches, and stick it in the ground.

Another “quick” word is ephemeral. From Greek, it literally means “lasting but a day,” and is defined as “fleeting, short-lived, transitory.” The mayfly is a member of an order of insects called ephemera or ephemerids, whose lives last only a few hours or days. The dictionaries I

*(Continued on page 6)*

# July 2005

Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat

					1	2
3	4	5	6 Open Mic @ IMO's 7p.m.	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16 Poets in the Parlor @ 3 pm @ the Vachel Lindsay Home with
17 Music @ Comer Cox Park - 7 pm	18 PWLf Board Meeting @ IMO's 7pm	19	20 Open Mic @ IMO's 7p.m.	21	22	23 PWLf Annual Meeting 4 pm @433 W. Vine Street
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

# August 2005

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 Open Mic @ IMO's 7 p.m. --AND -- H-Bomb Poetry @ Lincoln Library 7	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 PWLF Board Meeting @ IMO's 7 pm	16	17 Open Mic @ IMO's 7 p.m.	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31 Open Mic @ IMO's 7 p.m.			

## CORPORATE SPONSORS NEEDED

Dues alone cannot sustain an arts organization. PWLF counts on dues to provide basic member services. We print PenChant, publish Prism, and pay postage.

For other events, special publications (NTM), and presentations, we require different revenue sources. Some of the spondulix we use for these services comes from fundraising, grants, and charitable contributions (*I haven't started panhandling in front of Trout Lily yet, but...*)

The Forum is currently exploring another reservoir of cash. We are looking at Corporate Sponsorships.

Cultivating corporate involvement benefits the Forum by improving our visibility within the community, demonstrating community commitment to our mission, and then of

course there is the money that we can use to anchor our position as a full member of the arts community in Springfield.

The sponsoring organization receives a subscriptions to, and free ad space in, PenChant, a link from the PWLF website, access to a motivated customer pool, and the warm fuzzy feeling that comes from supporting an arts and educational component of the community.

This project also provides an opportunity to someone in the Forum to contribute. We will need someone to "grab the bull by the horns" and ride roughshod over the project. Is that you? Yes! Contact your treasurer: Tim Sheehan @ 753-3178 to make this happen.

## SING YOUR ODE TO THE MUSHROOM NIGHTMARE

The same folks who organized the March 23<sup>rd</sup> reading of poetry against the war are pulling artists together for the 60th anniversary commemoration of Hiroshima/Nagasaki, the first use of nuclear weapons, and in celebration of the fact that Atomic bombs have not since been used in open warfare. All are invited. Reading begins August 3, at 7:00 PM at the Lincoln Municipal Library.

Call David Pitchford to volunteer to be the master of ceremonies at 529-9244 (David will act as Master of Ceremonies in the absence of other volunteers, or as the Fallback Fallout guy should a volunteer miss the event).

How has fallout from the use of nuclear bombs affected your life? Many of us grew up sticking our heads between our knees in schoolroom hallways, drilling for the day the missiles came. Others of us remember the Bikini bomb tests and

all the Red Fear following. How do these things affect us?

Come to the Library on August 3<sup>rd</sup> and let us hear your voice. Here are some facts about 3 August 1945:

- ~ Monday
- ~ Enola Gay, a B-29 bomber, dropped the A-Bomb, named Little Boy on Hiroshima at 8:15 AM local time (local to explosion)
- ~ Little Boy exploded 2000 feet above the city (a point now commemorated as the A-Bomb Dome)
- ~ Hiroshima was more greatly devastated by the bomb because of its geographic location (the shockwave rebounded from mountains back into the city's center)
- ~ Far too many people died very ugly deaths both immediately and lingeringly

## The Classifieds

**Help Wanted:** Looking for an out-spoken liberal minded individual to serve as emcee for the H-Bomb Poetry Reading on August 3, 2005 at the Lincoln Library. The event is scheduled for 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. Interested parties should contact David Pitchford at prez@pwlf.com or by phone 217/529-9244.

**Poetry and Prose Wanted:** The editors of the literary quarterly, Prism, are seeking quality writing for the pages of Prism. Information on deadlines and submission guidelines available at www.pwlf.com and www.pitchblackbooks.com Submit your work for consideration today!

**Willing to Work:** Two teenage boys available from July 13th through August 13th for yard work and odd jobs around your place. Hourly or flat fee - prices negotiable. Please contact Colin or Ian at 217-529-9244.

**This space for 'rent':** Poets & Writers Literary Forum of Springfield is looking for Corporate Sponsors. If you know of a business that might be interested, please contact one of the PWLF board members to discuss this fantastic opportunity.

**Writers Sought:** Do you write? Do you have something you want to say to the writing community of Springfield or the world in general? PWLF is looking for (more than) a few good writers to contribute articles, book reviews, sketches and cartoons to the monthly newsletter, PenChant. If you believe you are the writer we're looking for, please contact the editor of the newsletter at submissions@pwlf.com for information on how you can get your work published monthly.

**For Sale:** Black lacquer headboard for Queen size bed and dresser with mirror. Great condition! Comes with a two drawer nightstand. If interested, contact Siobhan at siom1@hotmail.com - price negotiable. Let's make a deal!



Poets & Writers Literary Forum

P. O. Box 5666  
Springfield, IL 62705

Email: [submissions@pwlf.com](mailto:submissions@pwlf.com)

If you are interested in contributing to the PenChant, please contact any PWLF Board member.

It is through the contributions and energy of all that we are successful.

*PWLF*

*To increase awareness and appreciation of Literary Arts*



## Poets & Writers Literary Forum of Springfield Calendar of Events

July 6th—7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Open Mic at IMO's

July 18th - PWLF Board Meeting @ IMO's 7 pm

July 20th—7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Open Mic at IMO's

### JULY 23RD—PWLF ANNUAL MEETING

Every Thursday night at 7:00 p.m.—Open Mic at Sunsup Koffee Kafe  
hosted by Jill Manning



## A WORD OR TWO FROM VICKI

*(Continued from page 2)*

used don't reflect it but the term ephemerae, plural of ephemera, is used specifically for paper and other objects that are used for a short time and then disappear. They include such things as notes you took for a college course, and

recipes for tomato aspic. Well, some things deserve to be ephemeral and quickly forgotten.

"Quickly forgotten..." Sharply forgotten? Productively forgotten? Impatiently forgotten? Hmmm.

## UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST

**What?** Rhythm & Blues Celebration

**Where?** Comer Cox Park

**When?** Sunday July 17 at 7 PM

**Who?**

- ~ The Debbie Ross Band,
- ~ John T Crisp's Chahrm featuring Ada Lou,
- ~ Razin' Kane

*Sponsored by:*

*Springfield parks Foundation, Springfield Park District, Conn's Catering, Bank One, Fletcher Farrar and Mary Jessup, Horace Mann, and R.W. Troxell,*

**What?** Poetry in the Parlor

**Where?** Vachel Lindsay Home

**When?** Saturday July 16th at 3 PM

**Who?** Siobhan & David Pitchford

**What?** PWLF Annual Meeting and Picnic

**Where?** 433 West Vine

**When?** Saturday July 23rd @ 4 PM until ?

**Who?** All PWLF members—if you have someone who wants to join the organization please bring them (and their dues) to the meeting or contact a board member before hand to establish their membership.

Tentative Agenda for the Annual Meeting includes:

- ~ President's Award
- ~ Project Budgets
- ~ Board Member salaries
- ~ Fundraising ideas
- ~ Goals for the upcoming year
- ~ Membership Input