

wordnik

Notes from an Online Dictionary Project

eLex Bled 2011

# What's Wordnik?

*Wordnik is billions of words, 971,860,842 example sentences, 6,810,380 unique words, 229,038 comments, 173,439 tags, 121,385 pronunciations, 70,079 favorites and 980,017 words in 31,698 lists created by 76,151 Wordniks.*

wordnik

**NEED**

**TOOL**



**CAPABILITY**

w♥rdnik



w♥rdnik

Users prefer  
published imperfection to  
unpublished perfection.

[Burnett, 1979]

w♥rdnik

(graph for entertainment purposes only)

— desire to know about a word  
— chance it is in a dictionary

w♥rdnik

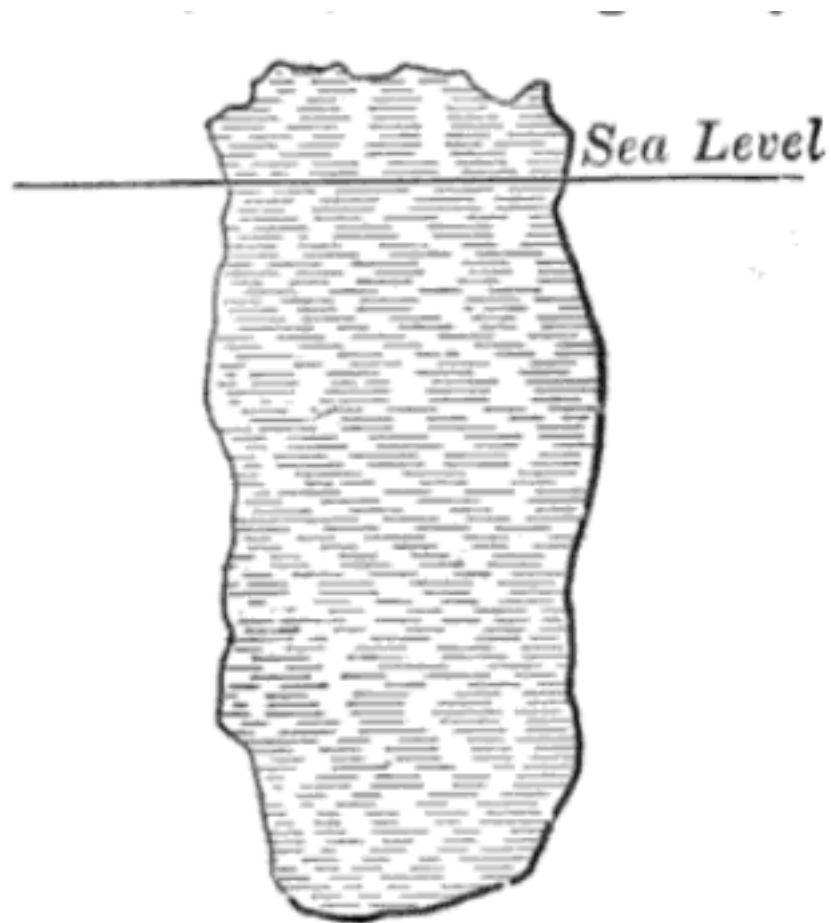


FIG. 183.  
Diagram to show relative proportion  
of submerged ice in an iceberg.

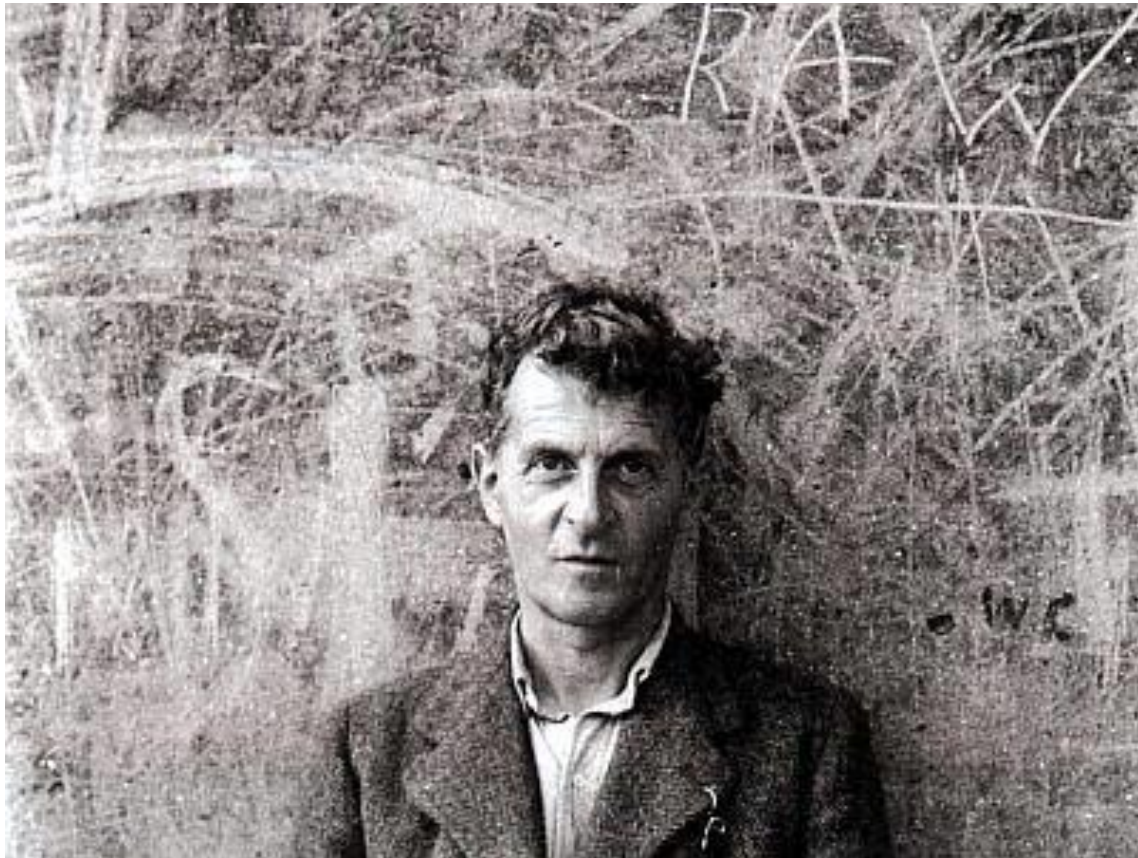
52% of words  
are  
undocumented  
in English  
dictionaries

*aridification*  
*slenthem*  
*deletable*

Michel et al., Quantitative Analysis of  
Culture Using Millions of Digitized  
Books, Science 2010



# Obligatory Wittgenstein Reference



The meaning of a word is its use in the language.



# Not-So-Obligatory Trench Reference



Let the quotations yield as much information as they can be made to yield, in subordination to their primary purpose, which is, to illustrate the word, and not to tell us about the thing; and in the due and happy selection of these, so as, if possible, to combine both objects, the lexicographer may display eminent skill.

# brodeo

 DEFINE

 RELATE

 LIST

 DISCUSS

 SEE

 HEAR

 SHARE

 LOVE

---

## DEFINITIONS

*Sorry, no definitions found.*

---

## EXAMPLES

“The floor was a rowdy, sweaty, brodeo, with a XY-to-XX ratio no better than 3: 1.”

*[The Washington Post: In concert: Robyn and Kelis at 9:30 Club](#)*

“I also noticed that the place was filled with mostly guys, a veritable bromantic brodeo.”

*[kirida dot com](#)*

# détournement

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## DEFINITIONS

*Sorry, no definitions found.*

## EXAMPLES

“Debord's concept of **détournement** a word the Situationists coined to describe the recycling of artistic elements in a new context to express a different meaning than the original artist is subtly different from Godard's approach to pastiche and genre homage.”

*[Society of the Spectacle](#)*

Show 10 more examples...

# wagpastie

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---

## DEFINITIONS

**NOUN** (1)

*Century Dictionary and Cyclopedia*

---

1. A rogue.

---

## EXAMPLES

*Sorry, no examples found.*

# tapioca

 DEFINE

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---

## RELATED WORDS

---

### hypernyms

*Words that are more generic or abstract*

food product

foodstuff

### same context

*Words that are found in similar contexts*

cornstarch

isinglass

currant

cassava

hominy

farina

lentil

molasses

barley

semolina

cocoa

yeast

sago

cornflour

macaroni

gelatine

lard

nutmeg

suet

flavoring

arrowroot

### reverse dictionary

*Words that contain this word in their definition*

cassava

### tags

*Free-form, user-generated categorization*

food

# bison

[DEFINE](#)
[RELATE](#)
[LIST](#)
[DISCUSS](#)
[SEE](#)
[HEAR](#)
[SHARE](#)
[LOVE](#)

## RELATED WORDS

### synonyms

Words with the same meaning

[wisent](#)

### hypernyms

Words that are more generic or abstract

[bovid](#)

### hyponyms

Words that are more specific

[wisent](#)

[buffalo](#)

[bison bonasus](#)

[bison bison](#)

[aurochs](#)

[american bison](#)

[american buffalo](#)

### same context

Words that are found in similar contexts

[buffalo](#)

[venison](#)

[elk](#)

[moose](#)

[ox](#)

[mastodon](#)

[tabuk](#)

[kangaroo](#)

[buffaloe](#)

[giraffe](#)

[boar](#)

[rhinoceros](#)

[porcupine](#)

[beaver](#)

[gazelle](#)

[stag](#)

[ibex](#)

[walrus](#)

[panther](#)

[wapiti](#)

[yak](#)

[caribou](#)

[hyena](#)

### reverse dictionary

Words that contain this word in their definition

[wisent](#)

[buffalo](#)

[bison](#)

[beefalo](#)

[buffalo robe](#)

### tags

Free-form, user-generated categorization

[range](#)

[color:#352816\\_2hsa](#)

[animal](#)

[brown](#)

[meat](#)

[food](#)

[mammal](#)



---

## STATS

Glyptic has been looked up 653 times, favorited twice, [listed](#) 6 times, [commented on](#) 0 times, and has a Scrabble score of 15.

### Recently favorited

cacozelia

blue straggler

jellyroll

kaif

dermatoglyphics

scrip

duckshoving

broddle

supercontinuum

Chaldean

### Recent pronunciations

aibohphobia

fantoccini

astrobleme

blue straggler

meliorism

argiope

stemmatics

hag-ridden

Aubrey

devil-dodger

# guggle

[DEFINE](#)[RELATE](#)[LIST](#)[DISCUSS](#)[SEE](#)[HEAR](#)[SHARE](#)[LOVE](#)

## LISTS

### 19 c.

*some of the interesting words i've had to look up while reading 19th century lit*

[maugre](#), [connate](#), [alembic](#), [azote](#), [vaticination](#), [valetudinarian](#), [dight](#), [scutcheon](#), [lammergeyer](#), [chamois](#), [asseverate](#), [prebendary](#) and [199 more...](#)

### ripples

*wave words*

[riffles](#), [undulate](#), [burble](#), [guggle](#), [crispation](#), [shimmer](#), [crinkle](#), [purl](#), [fret](#), [billow](#), [wrinkle](#), [scollop](#) and [6 more...](#)

### Clarissa, Or, The History of ...

*These words are from Samuel Richardson's novel Clarissa, Or, The History of a Young Lady, 1747-48*

[adumbrate](#), [virago](#), [varlet](#), [rencounter](#), [akimbo](#), [palliate](#), [amanuensis](#), [amok](#), [equipage](#), [cully](#), [se'ennight](#), [resentments](#) and [560 more...](#)

### Discordial

*Annoying, loud, or awful sounds.*

[portamento](#), [scroop](#), [clangor](#), [plangent](#), [stentorian](#), [hubbub](#), [cacophony](#), [burble](#), [guggle](#), [donder](#), [sough](#), [racket](#) and [82 more...](#)

# Words to Try to Use in Colloquial Speech Without Sounding Like a Pretentious Ass

A list by [pedalinfai](#)

[pedalinfai](#) has created [19 lists](#), listed 611 words, written [53 comments](#), and added 0 tags, [16 favorites](#), and 0 pronunciations.

[word feed](#) | [comment feed](#) | sort: [alpha](#) / order added | [favorite](#) | [comments](#)

< [prev](#) words 1 through 100 of 239 [next](#) >

**truculent**

---

**sophiology**

---

**syncretion**

---

**theophanic**

---

**noetic**

# gossypiboma

 DEFINE

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 LIST

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## COMMENTS

**grogga**  
Jun 18, 2009

I'm with Quinion on this one. It's less likely that someone (Williams, Bragg & Nelson 1978?) created it with a specific Swahili word in mind, than that it's suffixed with a semi-arbitrary *-b-* (an error or echo of *-bi(o)-?*) and ordinary Greek *-oma*, then they (or someone) fortuitously noticed *boma* in an English dictionary.

**rolig**  
Jun 18, 2009

The unreferenced Wikipedia page for this word says that it combines 'the Latin "gossypium" (cotton) and the Swahili "boma" (place of concealment)'. Now that is truly a bizarre hybrid.

**Prolagus**  
Nov 3, 2008

It sounds to me like a very good way to hide the truth when people read the patient's file.

(Why do I have a feeling of *déjà vu* about my comment?)

**sionnach**  
Nov 3, 2008

Just stopping by to admire the remarkable specificity of this word.

**uselessness**  
Jan 14, 2008

Maybe *that's* why I'm always thirsty!

**sionnach**  
Jan 14, 2008

A surgical sponge accidentally left inside a patient's body.

---

## TWEETS

"#twiz A782: Guy Fawkes; Q783: What is a Gossypiboma?"

[@raghuveer\\_v](#)

---

# Hateful Business Words

A list by [yuri\\_g](#)

[yuri\\_g](#) has created [9 lists](#), listed 166 words, written [18 comments](#), and added 0 tags, 0 favorites, and 0 pronunciations.

[word feed](#) | [comment feed](#) | sort: [alpha](#) / [order added](#) | [favorite](#) | [comments](#)

**impact**

---

**enable**

---

**deploy**

---

**utilize**

---

**leave behind**

---

**takeaway**

---

**munge**

---

**leverage**

---

**monetize**





Search results for *Ulysses*

Ulysses

search

? matches any one character, \* matches multiple letters [ [more options](#) ]

searching:

**Everything**

Lists

**Words tagged *Ulysses***

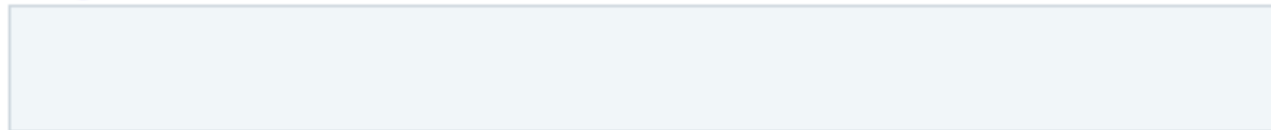
[honorificabilitudinitatibus](#)

[troath](#)

[warningfully](#)

[poppysmic](#)

*Ulysses* [+]



**Lists matching *Ulysses***

[Joyce - \*Ulysses\*](#), by [TenaciousKory](#)

[Ulysses](#), by [johnk](#)

[Ulysses](#), by [chris4d](#)

[—more→](#)

**Lists containing the word *Ulysses***

[One word book titles](#), by [lbeaumont](#)

[Theophilus North](#), by [ruzuzu](#)

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VISUALS





## TWEETS

“Take pride and be confident in what you do #swagtics”

*@bobbyhindman*

“Keep your sneakers wiped down #swagtics”

*@bobbyhindman*

“Don't lose your cool over something somebody said #swagtics”

*@bobbyhindman*

“Be original in your style #swagtics”

*@bobbyhindman*

“Nobody has "popped" their collar since 2004. That's unwanted attention. #swagtics”

*@bobbyhindman*

“Mandals and socks.. You should know better #swagtics”

*@bobbyhindman*

“Treat hygiene like your phone. You won't leave the house without it #swagtics”

*@bobbyhindman*

“Shower AT LEAST once a day #swagtics”

*@bobbyhindman*

“Swag + tactics = #swagtics” *@bobbyhindman*

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# What Have We Learned?



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# Panel Discussions at WordienKon

An open list by [leaden](#)

leaden has created [14 lists](#), listed 532 words, written [168 comments](#), and added [131 tags](#), [190 favorites](#), and 0 pronunciations.

[word feed](#) | [comment feed](#) | sort: [alpha](#) / order added | [favorite](#) | [comments](#)

At Indiana University Bloomington. Get your tickets now for the Wordienik old-time fiddle and banjo performance (as soon as that other concert clears out and [ruzuzu](#) shows up, unless [hernesheir](#) wakes up first).

See [tsunamis](#) for details and other fanciful natural disasters.

[what's with wordies and tsunami-related pages](#) was added by [ruzuzu](#) and has been listed 1 time with 0 comments

---

[The Joy of Umbrage](#) was added by [ruzuzu](#) and has been listed 1 time with 0 comments

---

[why do you hate freedom](#) was added by [hernesheir](#) and has been listed 17 times with 31 comments

---

[The Dangers of Epileptic Lagomorph Driving](#) was added by [leaden](#) and has been listed 1 time with 0 comments

---

[Swaddling vs. Mitts](#) was added by [leaden](#) and has been listed 1 time with 0 comments

---

[Fuflunology](#) was added by [ruzuzu](#) and has been listed 1 time with 0 comments

---



# sleightgeist

 DEFINE

 RELATE

 LIST

 DISCUSS

 SEE

 HEAR

 SHARE

 LOVE

---

## COMMENTS

**dontcry** \*word\*  
Feb 19, 2011

**hernesheir** A hidden plan to change the *status quo*, subtly or otherwise, without informing or consulting with the constituents. **madeupical**  
Feb 19, 2011

---

## TWEETS

“unbury nastier sassaby dupery loongtoongs dirrrtier goddidit blatta truckle as the sleightgeist underflow-slitheration hirples ting-a-ling”  
**@PaulKraus1**

# madeupical

[DEFINE](#)[RELATE](#)[LIST](#)[DISCUSS](#)[SEE](#)[HEAR](#)[SHARE](#)[LOVE](#)

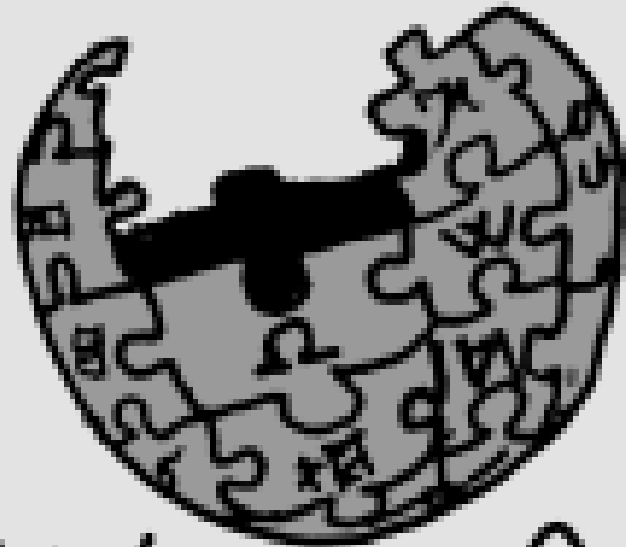
---

## STATS

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Madeupical has been looked up 2,391 times, favorited 8 times, [listed](#) 39 times, [commented on](#) 70 times, and is not a valid Scrabble word.





WIKIPEDIA  
THE FREE ENCYCLOPEDIA

NAVIGATION

- MAIN PAGE
- CONTENTS
- FEATURED CONTENT
- CURRENT EVENTS

ARTICLE

DISCUSSION

EDIT THIS PAGE

HISTORY

# MALAMANTEAU

FROM WIKIPEDIA, THE FREE ENCYCLOPEDIA

A MALAMANTEAU IS A NEOLOGISM FOR A PORTMANTEAU CREATED BY INCORRECTLY COMBINING A MALAPROPISM WITH A NEOLOGISM. IT IS ITSELF A PORTMANTEAU OF

EVER NOTICE HOW WIKIPEDIA HAS A FEW WORDS IT REALLY LIKES?

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# malamanteau

DEFINE

RELATE

LIST

DISCUSS

SEE

HEAR

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LOVE

## COMMENTS

**utarcher**  
May 14, 2010

Discovered this word because of an XKCD comic to be found [here](#).

**john**  
May 12, 2010

But not a **mallomanteau**.

**Labrynian Rebel**  
May 12, 2010

Malamanteau is itself a malamanteau :P

**rabbitwho**  
May 12, 2010

Malamanteau is a combination of two words: malapropism and portmanteau. It first gained notoriety in May of 2010 when it was mentioned in the popular web comic XKCD

Examples of malamanteau include:

"to misconscREW it up"

"to flustrate"



## STATS

Malamanteau has been looked up 3,442 times, favorited 5 times, [listed](#) twice, [commented on](#) 4 times, and is not a valid Scrabble word.

## EXAMPLES

"The comic in which it appeared - self-described as a "webcomic of romance, sarcasm, math, and language," and beloved by Web geeks - showed the word **malamanteau** as the subject of a Wikipedia page, with the caption: "Ever notice how Wikipedia has a few words it really likes?""

[Boston.com Most Popular](#)

"Randall Munroe talked about a fancy neologism and said if Wikipedia was a professional it wouldn't delete **malamanteau** no matter what."

[Slashdot](#)

"It's not the clearest definition ever written, but the idea is that a **malamanteau** blends one or more not-quite-right words to create a completely new one."

[Boston.com Most Popular](#)

## SHARE

Give this word the attention it deserves by emailing it, tweeting it, or posting it to Facebook!



# What's Real?

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## STATS

---

**Malamanteau** has been looked up **3,442** times, favorited 5 times, **listed** twice, **commented on** 4 times, and is not a valid Scrabble word.

---

## STATS

---

**Agley** has been looked up **600** times, favorited 0 times, **listed** 7 times, **commented on** twice, and has a Scrabble score of **9**.



ALL  
RIGHTS  
RESERVED\*

w♥rdnik



wordnik



wordnik

Flickr: BY- NC-ND 2.0 donnagrayson

meliorate

recrudescence

vin

mantuamaker

fantoccini

hemiplegia

confounded

hoi polloi

mirthquake

Nasturtium

fait accompli

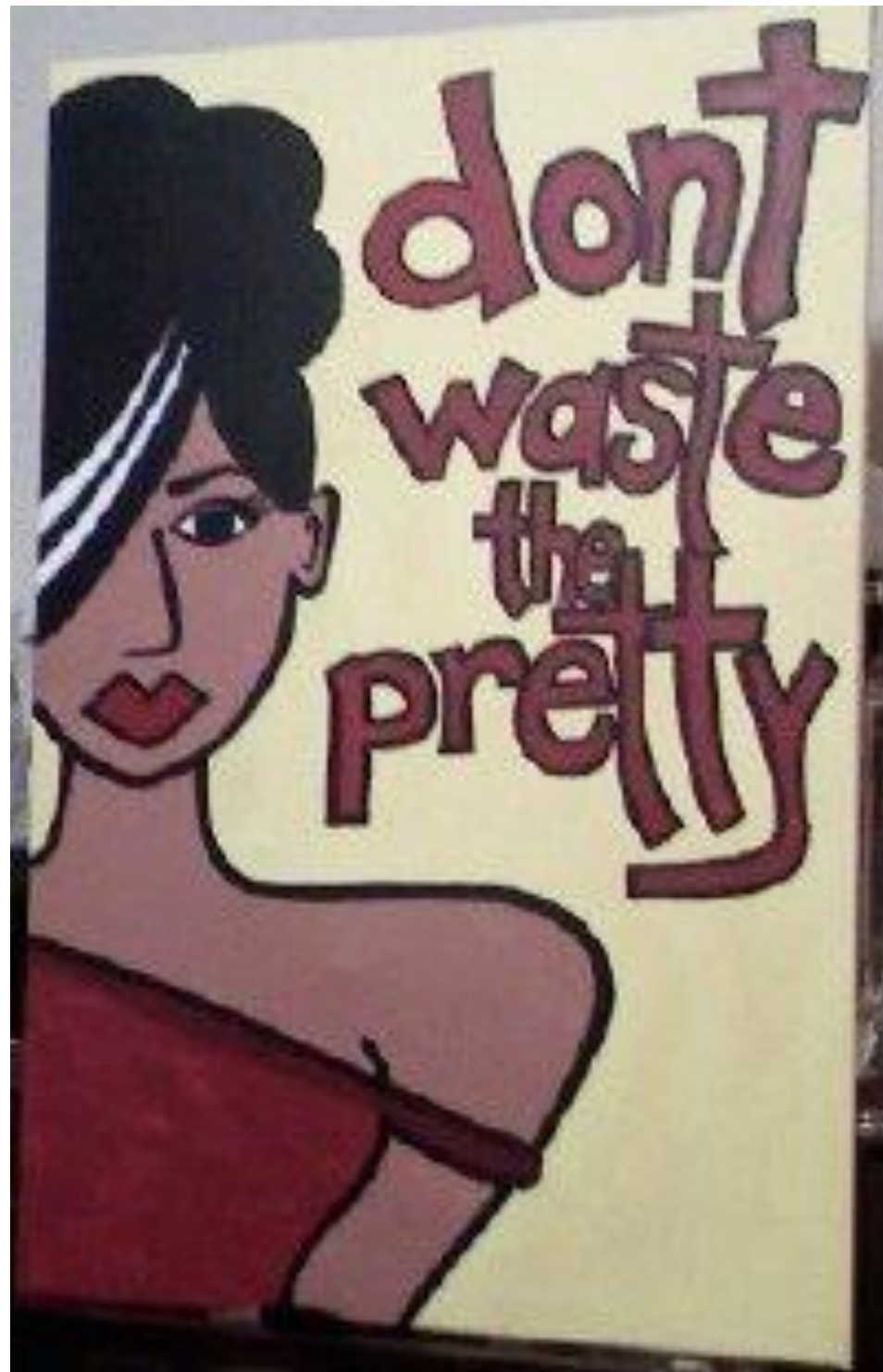
gallbladder

machination

jury-list

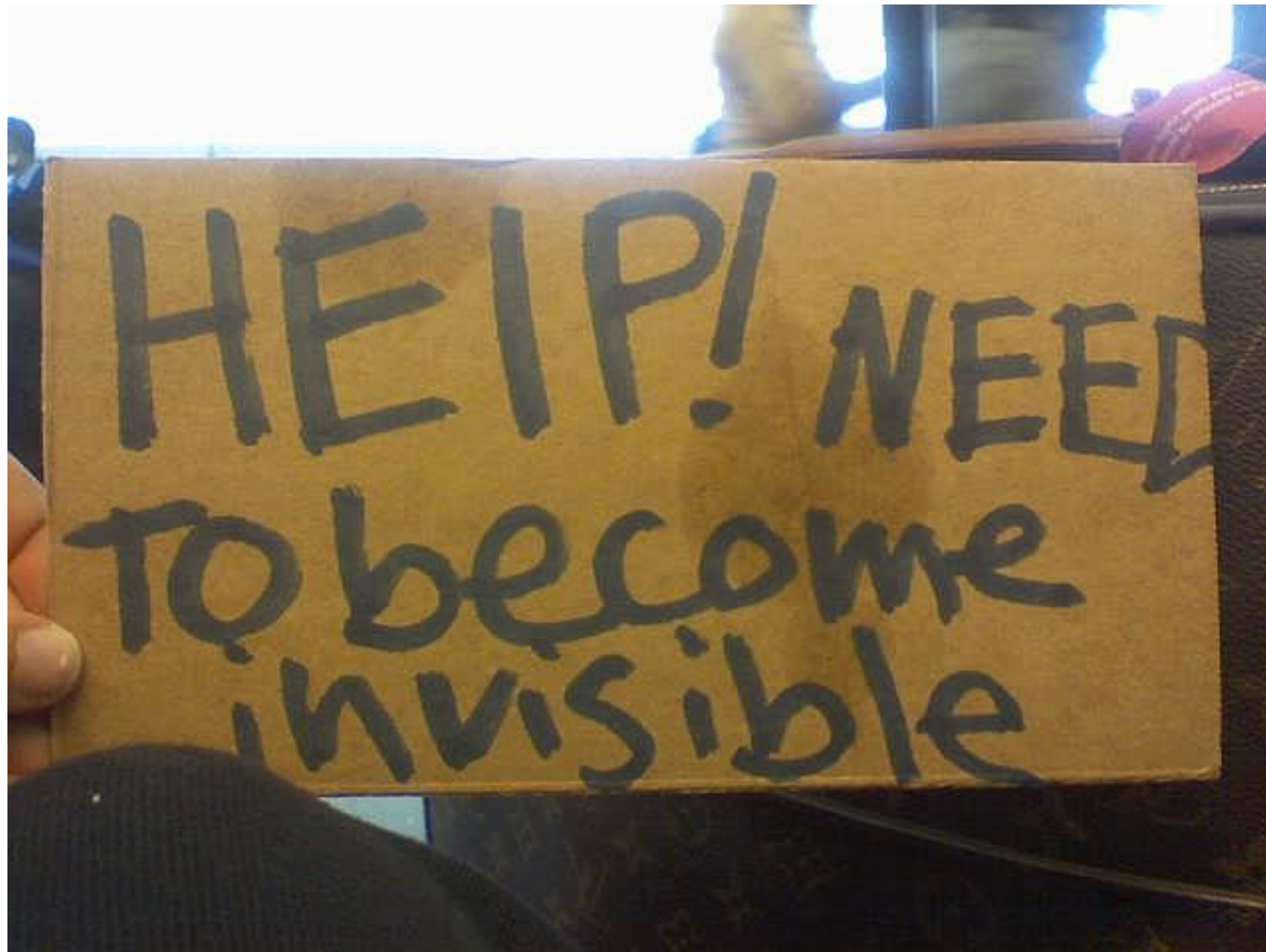
convention





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Flickr: BY- NC-ND 2.0 fabfunkydiva



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# The New York Times

Sunday, September 25, 2011 Last Update: 1:29 AM ET

Celebrities and editors enjoyed plenty of “swag” at [New York Fashion Week](#) — perhaps not understanding it means “stuff we all get.”

A version of this article appeared in print on September 25, 2011, on page ST10 of the New York edition with the headline: Alphabet Soup.

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subject glasnost

to [feedback@wordnik.com](mailto:feedback@wordnik.com)★

Why don't you recognize it?

Thanks.



# What's Next?

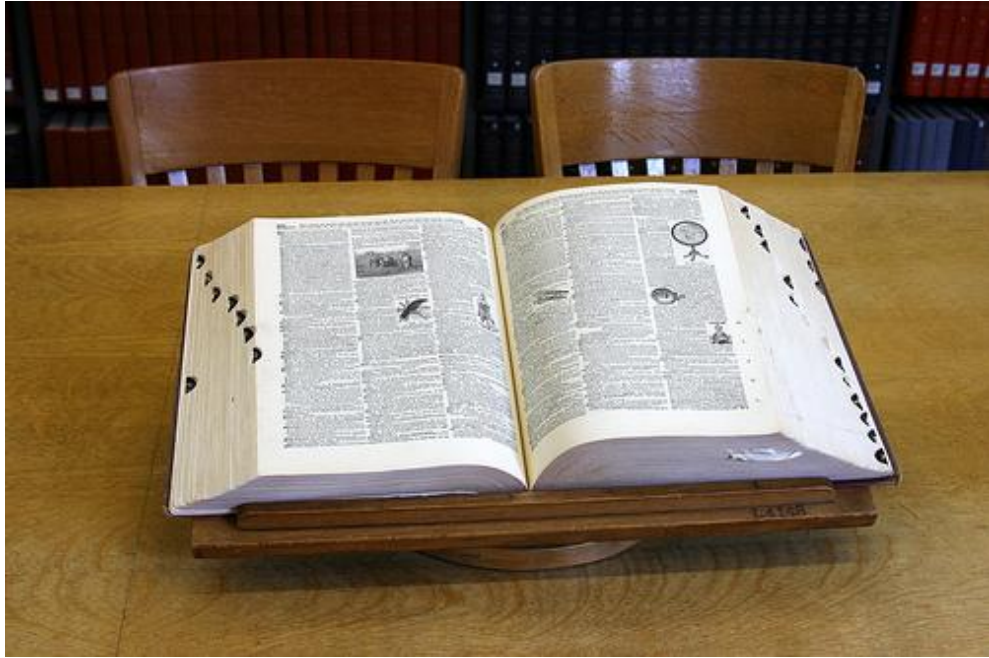
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[erin@wordnik.com](mailto:erin@wordnik.com)

@emckean

@wordnik

