

# NEOLOGISMS FOR THE NEW MILLENNIUM

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*Editor's Note: This is an excerpt from his recently-finished manuscript Verboddities.*

My friend Lois Fischer refers to a one-sided conversation as a **unisation**. Another friend once suggested that **affluential** describes influence obtained by affluence. The killing of a book by negative reviews or poor promotion could be referred to as **bibliocide**. Comedic suicide could be called self-induced **comicide**. The act of home-wrecking could be a case of **domicide**. I envision the word **webster** as the shortened form of webmaster. **Agnesia** is the state of forgetting one's agnosticism when threatened by mortal danger. An **andrivore** is a man-eater. A **love potato** is rich in sentiment or affection but otherwise useless. A **mouse potato** is a person who seldom leaves the computer keyboard. The **silver ceiling** (by analogy with the glass ceiling) discriminates against the middle-aged or elderly. **Tanorexics** are people addicted to tanning salons. **Unitaskers** can do only one thing at a time. Word-watchers report the following recent coinages, some of which are in actual use:

**afterism** a delayed aphorism; a concise, clever statement that you didn't think of until too late (James Alexander Thom, US author)

**fuzak** the music generated by a jazz-rock fusion band (J. Poet, in the San Francisco area newspaper East Bay Express in the early 1980s)

**generonym** a brand name that becomes a generic name for its product category (Paul McFedries)

**gimmage** an apparent blend of gimmick and image (Bob Saget, guest host of "Saturday Night Live" on May 6 1995)

**nuzak** non-news, by analogy with muzak (San Francisco columnist John Carman, in reference to the November 2000 ballots feud between Gore and Bush)

**oddenda** odds and ends, miscellany (quote from Carl Calvert Bettis, "Tosca" in the cyberworld)

**oropodiatry** therapy for foot-in-mouth disease (writer Jeff Burdick)

**pregnesia** memory loss caused by pregnancy (according to many women)

**skategoats** people who didn't vote because they believed their votes wouldn't make a difference (Bonnie L. McCafferty, "New Words For \$200, Alex" in the October 1995 Louisville Magazine)

**unclude** to exclude by nominal inclusion, token representation (quote from Carl Calvert Bettis)

**vacolumnist** a writer who fills in for a vacationing columnist (Bonnie L. McCafferty, "New Words For \$200, Alex" in the October 1995 Louisville Magazine)

**wasm** past tense of "ism" (British historian John Lukacs who, after the USSR fell, commented "all the isms are now wasms")